

Mississippi Baptist

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Executive Director to Step Down at Lifeword

After serving the past six years as Lifeword executive director, Dr. Steve Crawley shared with BMA staff his decision to step down on Wednesday, February 1, 2017. He will continue to serve in his current role through the dates of the 2017 BMA national meeting (May 1-3) then transition back to his former position of chief financial officer.



Crawley

"I am thankful to the churches of the BMA for allowing me to serve in this capacity. While I felt led to accept the position in 2011, I feel the assignment God gave me in the role of executive director has been completed, and it is now time to step aside and let someone with more media experience lead the ministry into the next chapter," said Crawley.

In November of 2004, Dr. Crawley began serving at Lifeword in development and finance. Following the retirement of George Reddin in 2011, the Lifeword board appointed him as executive director. Prior

to joining Lifeword, Crawley worked in the field of finance as corporate controller for Cellu Tissue Holdings, Inc. He holds a BS (Southern Mississippi), a MBA (William Carey University) in business, a MAR in religion (BMA Seminary), and a PhD in leadership (Dallas Baptist University). He was ordained into the ministry by Vardaman Street Baptist Church of Wiggins, Mississippi, in October of 2004.

During Dr. Crawley's six years at Lifeword, the broadcast language count has increased to forty, and more than fifty

Lifeword Community Radio stations have been implemented. In addition, integrated operations with sister BMA departments at the new BMA Global Ministry Center has occurred, reducing overhead costs to Lifeword by \$150,000 annually. The ministry has also eliminated \$605,000 of debt and increased ministry expansion funds by \$700,000. Further, the Lifeword team worked to assist in the migration of the former Lifeword Foundation to become the BMA Foundation in an effort to benefit other BMA departments long term.

Dr. Crawley will continue to be involved in the work of the BMA. "I've come to accept that my call into ministry is somewhat unique, as I find fulfillment working in the roles of finance and administration within the kingdom. Though I'm stepping down from my current position, my heart's desire is to do all I can to assist the BMA with its missional mandate—making disciples."

Team Work - Helping A Sister church!

by Paul White, President
BMA of America

Have you ever helped someone in need? Remember how that made you feel? It's no wonder the Bible says it is better to give than to receive.

Many churches, like people, have limitations much like those present when Nehemiah and the people rebuilt the wall around Jerusalem. There were things that some of the people would have loved to have done, but it was simply beyond their ability. It's not that they weren't willing to help, but they simply couldn't.



Paul White

Wouldn't it be wonderful if churches who could, would consider making it possible for a sister church to become more involved in our associational work. Wouldn't it be neat if each local association would partner to help a church in their area to be represented in person at a national meeting? Even if it meant rotating between churches in your area from year to year. True team work involves becoming vested in the other members of the team. Your church might even consider budgeting a scholarship for such a purpose. The question is not why, but why not? Together we can make a difference. Looking forward to our time together in Arlington.

But be careful sharing love like this. It could lead to a revival in your church!

Evaluation + Implementation = Multiplication

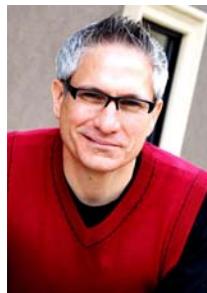
by Todd West, director
Activate, DiscipleGuide

Evaluations are very familiar to most of us today? Students are evaluated through testing, employees are evaluated by their employers, teachers are evaluated by administrators, and we conduct our own self-evaluations; but have you ever considered the value of evaluating the ministries of your local church? Author and Pastor Dr. Hal Seed says, "To have a healthy church, you must have an intentional

evaluation system."

Evaluating your church ministries is a very biblical practice. When Jesus wrote the letters to the seven churches in Revelation, he evaluated their works and encouraged self-awareness and repentance. Jesus wanted these churches to celebrate what was good but to also address what needed to improve. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said that "Every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree

cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them" Matthew 7:17-20. During Jesus' talk with his disciples in the upper room, Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gar-



Todd West

dener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful" (John 15:1-2). Jesus is clearly saying that the farmer regularly evaluates his vines to see if they are bearing fruit. As he evaluates, he takes action to cause them to be more productive. The farmer's job is to evaluate and make adjustments.

Evaluation and correction is the job of everyone who is responsible for producing fruit.

Again Dr. Hal Seed makes this observation, "Whether you've been intentional about it or not, your church has an evaluation system. Every service is evaluated by every attendee. They talk about it afterwards in the lobby. They share their impressions between friends. If it's really good, others hear about it. If it's really bad, even more 'others' hear about it. We can't help ourselves; we are made in the image of a God who has evalu-

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BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



Larry Geraldson
Director



www.bmams.org - 601.428.8616



State Missionaries and Wives



Jimmy & Suzie Daugherty



Phillip & Dawn Burns



Kenneth & Carole Pollock



Bobby & Lesa Elliott



Danny & Brenda Bartlett



Sidney & Becky Farmer



Wesley & Holley Martin



Anders & Carla Lee



Bob & Edie Burch



Estuardo & Yasmine Marroquin



Elvis & Wendy Garcia



Ed & Patricia DuVall

“O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God of Jacob. Selah. Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed. For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.” Psalms 84:8-10

It is a great honor to serve the Lord. Every time I think about the great privilege that God has given me to serve the churches of the BMA of Mississippi by supporting the missionaries sent out to plant churches, I stand in awe. God is good, all the time!

Prayer Request

As our newest State Missionary family, Jimmy & Suzie Daugherty, are seeking to relocate to the Pontotoc, Mississippi, area. They face the challenge of finding suitable housing. They have already exhausted much of the normal avenues and we are asking folks to make this a matter of prayer. They are anxious to get in the community and begin their missionary activity in earnest. We know God has a place for them and we wait (Ps 27:14) with expectation for what He will reveal. If you can help in any way please don't hesitate to give them a call at 662-228-1233.



Jimmy & Suzie Daugherty

presence in the community.

As we move closer to that day when they will organize, my heart swells with gratitude for the people of East Fulton Baptist Church, who then under the leadership of Pastor Gary Smith, assumed the role as the Mother church for this mission. With respect, I say they have done a wonderful job and have faithfully supported this work. Even after the passing of Bro. Smith and the new Pastor, John Lewis assumed the role, the church did not miss a beat in their faithful-

59th Annual Missions & Evangelism Conference
Theme: Contending For The Faith

Sponsored by
BMA of Mississippi Missions Department
Hosted by
Caledonia Baptist, Caledonia, Mississippi
Music by
Bro. & Mrs. Jeff Dixon

April 22, 2017 - 10:00 AM

- 10:00-10:10 Music
- 10:10-10:30 Introduction of Theme
Bro. Larry Geraldson – Jude 1-3
- 10:30-10:40 Music
- 10:40-11:15 Contending For The Faith:
Rejoicing In Our Woes - Jimmy Daugherty
1 Pet 1:1-9 (vs 7)
- 11:15-11:30 Break
- 11:30-Noon Contending For The Faith:
Relying On God's Wisdom – Josh Daniels
1 Cor 2:1-5
- Noon – 1:30 Lunch (Provided by the Host Church)
- 1:30-2:00 Missionary Reports
- 2:00-2:15 Music
- 2:15-2:45 Contending For The Faith:
Redeeming Our Weakness – Gary O'Neal
2 Cor 4:1-11
- 2:45-3:00 Break
- 3:00-3:15 Music
- 3:15-3:45 Contending For The Faith:
Recalling the Wickedness – Leon Carmical
2 Tim 3:1-17
- 3:45-4:00 Music
- 4:00-4:30 Contending For The Faith:
Praying While We Work – Grover Laird
Eph 6:18
- 4:30 Dismissal

Just Around The Corner

Caledonia Baptist Mission will organize on March 18th at 1PM. Missionary Pastor Robert (Bob) Burch, now Dr. Bob Burch, traveled with me to Caledonia 5 years ago this March. We did not have a single contact and Bob did not know a single person. But after praying together Bob expressed that this was where God wanted him to be. He, Ms Edie and their youngest son, Justin loaded up and headed to Caledonia. Now, 5 years later Caledonia Baptist Mission has grown to be a strong permanent



Bob & Edie Burch



Bob and Edie Burch

ness and dedication. Caledonia Baptist Mission, with the blessing of her Mother church, has already begun mission activity by sponsoring Bro. Jimmy Daugherty to plant a church in Pontotoc and will assume the role of Mother church for this project as soon as they organize. Praise the Lord!

Other Missions Scheduled to Organize This Year

South Forrest Baptist Mission will organize on June 3rd, and Freedom Baptist Mission will organize on July 29st. Please mark your calendar with these events.

Special Emphasis

Special Emphasis for State Missions is just around the corner (March-April). Our prayer is that we will have the best Special Emphasis yet. I want to encourage our churches to make plans to emphasize

Continued on page 3

Reports for Jan 2017				
	High Attendance	Membership	Total Offerings	Mother Church
Church Planters				
Bob Burch (Caledonia)	92	87	\$4,935.00	East Fulton
Bobby Elliott (Burnsville)	42	51	\$2,500.00	Forked Oak
Sidney Farmer (S. Forrest County)	53	51	\$5,061.00	Paramount
Danny Bartlett (Clinton)	19	12	\$4,362.00	Wilderness
Phillip Burns (Sumrall)	22	11	\$2,404.00	First Bay Springs
Wesley Martin (Diamondhead)	39	27	\$3,261.00	Campground
Anders Lee (Southaven)	164	119	\$17,387.00	Charity
Kenneth Pollock (Batesville)	12	9	\$1,491.00	First Baptist Mantachie
Jimmy Daugherty (Pontotoc)	n/a	n/a	n/a	Caledonia Baptist
BMA of Mississippi Hispanic Missions (Estuardo Marroquin – Manager) <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)	126	124	\$5,714.00	
Church Planters				
Leo Adan (Hattiesburg)	34	14	\$1,857.00	El Camino
Jamie Galicia (Biloxi)	58	4	\$168.00	El Camino
Lucas Gomez (Canton)	4	2		El Camino
(Elvis Garcia – Coordinator) <small>(Elvis Garcia is also the Co-Pastor of Way, Truth & Life, which serves as the mother church for the church plants listed below.)</small>				
Way, Truth & Life Byron Morales (Ripley)	84	95	\$5,313.00	
Church Planters				
Humberto Regalado (Tupelo)	32	13	\$1,328.00	Way, Truth & Life
Luis Huchin (Oxford)	37	7	\$1,257.00	Way, Truth & Life
Daniel Polanco (Horn Lake)	n/a	2	n/a	Way, Truth & Life
BMA of Mississippi African American Missions (Ed DuVall – Coordinator) <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)	36	50	\$2,125.00	
Church Planters				
James Cook (Olive Branch)	20	19	\$1,925.00	Homestretch
Collectively, our missionaries reported 294 new contacts, 173 opportunities to share the gospel, and witnessed 23 professions of faiths, 12 baptisms and 16 joined by letter in January 2017.				

BMA of America News

Missions With A Boat

The boat slowly comes to rest near the river bank as the crewman throws the rope to one of the men in the anxiously awaiting crowd in the tiny village. The people are excited to see the boat and all that it brings to their remote population. The villagers are welcoming with a bounty of food including roasted pig and bananas. The sweltering heat, along with the dense vegetation, houses built on poles, and unique bird sounds, makes it very clear that this is the Amazon jungle. This is also the home of BMAA national missionary David Flores and the ministry of the M.S. Arrington riverboat.

Bro. David and his wife Jennie, live in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, but the riverboat ministry takes him many miles away all through the Amazon basin to multiple villages on the Bolivian/Brazilian border. Bro. David's ministry offers medical care, nutrition, and clean water assistance to the people. Of course, for these many villages on the river, this ministry offers the "living water" found in Jesus Christ. Presently, the riverboat carries on ministry in thirty-seven villages with numerous churches planted.



David & Jennie Flores

When you determine to be a change

maker and contribute to the World Missions Fund on World Missions Day (February 26, 2017), you partner with ministries just like the M.S. Arrington and missionaries like David and Jennie Flores. Please pray and give so that BMA Global Missions can continue to help plant more churches in this remote region of the world. #partner #changemaker

Costa Rica Missions

World Missions Day is very close! On Sunday, February 26, 2017, churches all over the world will unite in declaring through our prayer and giving that the mission of making God great to the nations is our reason for existence! Through gifts to the World Missions Fund on that day, we will continue to support missionaries in over seventy countries. That number includes faithful national missionaries like Carlos Olivas in Costa Rica.

After serving as a pastor for numerous years, Carlos Olivas was lead to plant a church in northwest Costa Rica when he was sixty years old. With leadership from our national association in Costa Rica and participation from BMA Missions here in the U.S., a vibrant, self-sustaining church has been planted in Esparza in a region where there are almost no churches. Now, that church is an active participant in BMA Costa Rica and their efforts to plant more churches. Recently, Carlos joined the church planting fraternity of BMA Costa Rica where it is a requirement that you have a "Timothy" in order to participate. In other words, you have to be pouring your life into another potential church planter to take part.

The church at Esparza also assists in the sending of a missionary to Mozambique, Africa. This is an example of the partnerships made possible through the World Missions Fund.

We want to connect with people just like Carlos all around the world in order to partner in church multiplication. We do not seek dependence from our partners where they become dependent on outside funds. We do not even really seek independence from them where they are planted and then forgotten. Interdependence is the desire. Interdependence is where churches all over the world (including Costa Rica and the seventy other countries of BMA Global Missions) partner, lean on one another, and mutually support the multiplication of more disciples, leaders and churches! We encourage you and your church to be changemakers by connecting to these world-wide ministries on World Missions Day!

New Spanish Day by Day

Lifeword's Spanish Facebook page (Lifeword en Español) is only a month old, and it will soon include the Hispanic version of Day by Day with a slightly different twist: With the blessing of their pastors, young people will be used as social media missionaries to create vlogs (video blogs) to package the work of the BMA in a culturally relevant way for Hispanics in the United States and the Americas. Lifeword's Programming Director Luis Ortega is leading this initiative, and the first broadcast will be sometime in the first quarter of 2017.



Luis Ortega

"I'm here to serve our churches and I want to serve them better by providing more information about BMA work using the translated version of Lifeword's newsletter, a synopsis of the Lifeword portion of mission:world and monthly

visits to Hispanic churches around the BMA," explains Luis. He went on to say that teenagers in Guatemala and Mexico have already created the first vlogs for broadcast. "I have challenged these young people to figure out how to tell their friends about Jesus and make catchy, appealing videos of less than five minutes. They are at an age where they need to be positively engaged in social media conversations about Jesus."

Eventually, they will also be used to translate Lifeword's newsletter and mission:world, so all American and Central and South American Hispanics can know what's going on in the BMA and how to pray for their churches and the departments. They will travel within their countries to interview church members and others, young and old, gathering stories to share with their American counterparts.

Luis began to see this need for information among the Hispanic churches, church members, and pastors as he met people interested in Lifeword Community Radio during his media-training trips to the Americas. They often felt disconnected from what was going on in BMA departments. All print and visual media was in English, and information about BMA departments was not understandable for Hispanic church members.

"Now, more than ever, some Hispanics have fears of the unknown in the States and I need to connect with my own church members and those around our work so they can feel at peace in this country. For example, we want them to stay connected to BMA happenings by participating in World Missions Day and Lifeword Sunday, for example, so they need something in their hands that tells them about Lifeword, that we have 40 languages and many broadcast areas they can pray for."

To invite Luis to speak, individuals, churches and groups can contact him at luis@lifeword.org or call 501-358-3835.

State Missions

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State Missions during this time. Our State Missionaries and myself, are available to attend your church and share what God is doing through our missions' efforts. Feel free to contact us at 601-426-8616 to schedule a date.

Revolving Loan Fund Update

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

Contact Us

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

Evaluation

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ated everything he's ever made. Just read Genesis 1 and you'll see. At the end of every day, he graded his work."

One of the greatest surprises I've had in the past few years has been the reluctance of some churches and even pastors to take a closer look and evaluate what's going on with the ministries of their local church. I am so surprised because many of these same churches are either plateaued or in a state of decline. Many churches and even some pastors seem to be content to complain about the condition of the church and lack the motivation to look closer at why the church is not moving forward. I'm not sure why this fear or reluctance

exists, but we cannot deny that church evaluation is a biblical principle. Evaluation is a critical first step toward becoming a healthier church. As many have stated over the years, "Great things seldom happen accidentally."

There is a great church revitalization movement happening now nationwide. Church leaders across the board know that now is the time for churches to take a closer look. Activate is a BMA church revitalization effort that is available to you right now! Our goal at DiscipleGuide is to come alongside any church, regardless of size or age, to help you systematically evaluate the health of your church and provide the tools to becoming healthier.

For more information please contact heidi@discipleguide.org or call us at DiscipleGuide, 1-800-333-1442.

Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White



Remembering & Forgetting

We spend a lot of time trying to remember some things, but forgetting seems to come naturally. I came across some advice about both. Here it is:

Always remember to forget
the things that made you sad,
But never forget to remember
the things that made you glad.

Always remember to forget
the friends that proved untrue,
But don't forget to remember
those who have stuck with you.

Always remember to forget
the troubles that passed away,
But never forget to remember
the blessings that come each day.



Don Brown
Editor

Mississippi Baptist

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Special Emphasis 2017

The people of the BMA of Mississippi are very supportive both prayerfully and financially of the overall ministry of sharing the Gospel across the state and around the world. Each department and commission of our state work is assigned a time each year to raise additional operating funds. January of each year is set aside for your Publications Department.

Again you have rallied to our needs and have given graciously of your finances. It is both thrilling and humbling to receive your gifts. What is a special blessing is the individuals who have given. Members of our churches have given of their personal assets through their local church and some churches vote to give a specific amount. Some individuals, both in Mississippi and from other states, have also given directly to this ministry. We are truly blessed by all gifts, both large and small.

Below are listed our receipts for this year's Emphasis Drive. We have honored the request of some individuals by withholding their names and have listed the total of all personal gifts.

God bless both the individual and churches who gave and thank you for your support of this ministry.

2017 Special Emphasis Receipts

Church	Total
Antioch Baptist Church, Taylorsville	\$150.00
Ballardsville Baptist Church, Tupelo	\$50.00
Bethel Baptist Church, Wiggins	\$100.00
Buffalo Baptist Church, Mclain	\$100.00
Calvary Baptist Church, Taylorsville	\$100.00
Centerville Baptist Church, Mantachie	\$347.00
Community Baptist Church, Poplarville	\$77.00
Cypress Creek Baptist Church, Brookland	\$100.00
Evergreen Baptist Church, Seminary	\$100.00
First Baptist Church, Bay Springs	\$561.00
First Baptist Church Of Calhoun, Laurel	\$500.00
First Baptist Church Of Shady Grove, Laurel	\$500.00
Good Hope Baptist Church, Moss	\$100.00
Liberty Baptist Church, Belzoni	\$100.00
Little Creek Baptist Church, Perkinston	\$103.00
Mantachie First Baptist Church, Mantachie	\$100.00
Palestine Baptist Church, Bay Springs	\$100.00
Plainview Baptist Church, Poplarville	\$200.00
Riverside Baptist Church, Ellisville	\$130.00
Rock Creek Baptist Church, Union	\$1000.00
Spring Hill Baptist Church, Ocean Springs	\$53.80
Washington Baptist Church, Neely	\$110.40
Wilderness Baptist Church, Vicksburg	\$25.00
Individual Gifts Total	4,010.00
Total through February 13, 2017	\$8,717.20

National Meeting Business To Address in Arlington

The National Association will vote on the following change in our Doctrinal Statement at the 2017 meeting in Arlington, Texas in May. We share the proposed change here along with a suggested action each local church should consider taking.

Doctrinal Statement Changes Proposed

Baptist Missionary Association of America Coordinating Council

The following proposed amendments to the BMAA Doctrinal Statement presented by Springhill Baptist Church, Greenbrier, Arkansas.

Article III – CREATION

C. Man – As the crowning work of His creation, God created humankind (man and female) in His own image (Psa. 8; Gen. 1:27, 2:7). Consequently, every person from conception is of inherent dignity and worth and merits the respect of all other persons (Psa. 51:5; Psa. 139:13-16; Gen. 9:6; Matt. 10:28-31; James 3:9)

D. Marriage – God created marriage (Gen. 1:27-28; 2:23-24). Jesus Christ declared the Creator's intention for marriage to be the inseparable and exclusive union between a man and a woman (natural man and natural woman) (Matt. 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9). Marriage testifies of the union between Christ and the church (Eph. 5:31-32; Rom. 1:25-27)

Churches Encouraged to Protect Themselves

Dear BMA Churches,

As the amendment to our doctrinal statement is presented again via our BMA papers, we urge every church to adopt these changes by a motion, second, and recorded vote in the church's minutes. This is to be done and recorded by the church to validate the churches' and pastors' stand on Holy marriage.

Legal advice shares that our marriage stand should be simply stated and Biblically backed. This same advice declares a need for a positive position and not to camp on the negative. We Christians know our positions on divorce, homosexuality, and the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender).

We all know of the boy Scouts of America resolution to remove the gay restriction in denying membership and the litigation against its Christian Boy Scout leaders who refuse to accept the homosexuals.

We also read of the 70-year-old Barronelle Stutzman who was sued for refusing to provide flowers for a same-sex wedding. There have been numerous lawsuits, according to One News Now, being filed for declining to compromise their conscience by not filling orders for gay/lesbian wedding cakes.

Can churches be forced to perform gay marriages? Eric Johnston, President of the Southeast Law Institute, said that churches may be in for legal challenges over gay marriages. Johnston advises churches that haven't done so to clarify their stance and to make it Biblical.

So, as the Moral Action's Director, I urge all BMA churches to adopt in writing these proposed Amendments of Creation and Marriage presented by our BMA Seminary faculty. God will see us through!

Please read the following carefully:

EXAMPLE OF MARRIAGE/CHURCH MOTION

_____ Motion and second that _____ Church, its pastors, preachers, staff, and members adopt the Doctrinal Statement Article III D "Marriage-God created marriage" (Gen. 1:27-28; 2:23-24). Jesus Christ declared the Creator's intention for marriage to be the inseparable and exclusive union between a man and a woman (natural man and natural woman) (Matt. 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9). Marriage testifies of the union between Christ

and the church (Eph. 5:31-32; Rom. 1:25-27).

We declare that our pastors, ministers (licensed and ordained) not marry gay or lesbian couples while being a member of _____ Church of _____, and that our building and grounds not be used in gay marriages.

Footnote – this is an example that our B.M.A. Churches can use to adopt in their church.

Dr. John Adams
Executive Director
Moral Action – B.M.A.

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



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Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Interim President's Perspectives

Early in my Army chaplaincy ministry I developed a technique to have large chapel services in the field. It was not uncommon to have up to 200 soldiers attending my field services and I became known among senior leadership as the young chaplain who swayed the masses. One Friday afternoon I was contacted by a First Sergeant asking me to perform a chapel service for the next Sunday which happened to be in two days. That being very short notice, not only did I have to cancel my planned weekend activities, but so did my assistant, all in order to accommodate the request. This I did, but with the stipulation that the First Sergeant would follow my plan for having many soldiers at the field service. When my assistant and I arrived in full battle gear to the

unit's sight, we were escorted to the location where the service was to be performed. However, only one soldier arrived! No one else! I was beside myself with frustration. All I could think about was the time I had spent on the preparation for the service, not to mention the canceling of family plans for this one soldier.

As I fumed a few yards away from the chapel tent, the Lord spoke to my heart. He said, "Get back in that tent and talk to that soldier!" I obeyed and told the soldier there would be no service that morning, but that we could talk. I soon discovered this soldier had many serious life issues. As we talked I shared the saving grace of Jesus Christ with him.



Dr. Scott Carson
Interim President

Doctrinal Statement Proposal Addressed

In preparation for the 2017 Annual Meeting we have been asked to again run this paper by the faculty & staff of BMA Seminary

Baptist Missionary Association Seminary White Paper

During the August 2014 meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of America's (BMA) Coordination Council, Dr. John Adams presented a report on behalf of the Moral Action Agency. The report included a sobering description of current trends that contradict biblical teaching on marriage. The council discussed the issue and requested that the faculty of the BMA Seminary compose wording for a proposed amendment to the BMA Doctrinal Statement that articulated both scriptural teaching and the persistent belief of BMA churches regarding the institution of marriage. Following consultation with Moral Action's executive director, the seminary faculty adjusted a prior statement, Article IIIC, and prepared a new statement, Article IIID, for the council's consideration. Chairman Ed Stephenson presented the statements to Springhill Baptist Church, Greenbrier, Arkansas, for approval. Subsequently, Springhill Baptist Church chose to recommend that the BMA adopt the statements during its annual 2015 meeting as an amendment to the association's Doctrinal Statement.

"Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them

male and female. And said, for this cause shall a man leave father and mother and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?" (Matthew 19:4-5). In this passage, Jesus referred to Genesis 2:23 and quoted from Genesis 2:24. Because God created both humans and marriage, humans must recognize themselves as accountable to His intent for marriage.

Genesis 2:24-25 identifies the special and exclusive relationship of the adult human male and female, joined together as husband and wife (Gen. 2:24, 25), as the most fundamental and basic human relationship. This relationship is said to have been designed directly by God and serves as the sole basis for a distinct family unit in perpetuity (Gen. 2:24, 25; Gen. 4:1, 17) and is even intended to be interminable except under specific, extreme circumstances (Matt. 19:8). These passages declare that God's reason for creating male and female finds its ultimate purpose in the ability of male and female to become one flesh. The concept of one flesh includes physical (i.e., sexual), spiritual, mental, and emotional components. While some may argue for the possibility of such oneness outside the bounds of the monogamous heterosexual union, such arguments simply lack legitimate support from the Bible.

A marriage is to be comprised of a biological (i.e., "natural") man and woman. Because of the brokenness of creation as a whole, and the human race in particular, humans made in God's image sometimes face difficult disorders of sexuality which call for great compassion and sensitivity among

Right there, in that tent, with just him and me, he placed his faith in Jesus as his Lord.

This spiritual lesson reminds me of Philip and his witnessing opportunity to the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:29 which says, "Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot." There were no multitudes gathered to hear Philip preach. There were only the eunuch, Philip and the Holy Spirit at that desert location and heaven rejoiced over the Ethiopian's conversion.

I departed the field site that day rejoicing that only one person came to chapel! And I learned a valuable spiritual lesson. I believe God does not focus so much on how many souls a preacher can gather together in a service. Rather, He cares more about each person as and in their individual needs! I doubt that I would have had the personal one on one contact with this soldier had others come to the service. Since that day in the field, I have never been disappointed by low turnouts at programs, but rather have focused on the individuals whom the Spirit brought there to hear Gospel truths.

Available Scholarships

If you are thinking about taking college level courses, I encourage you to contact our recruiter, Brother Ronnie Kitchens at 601-426-6346. Ronnie has

all the information you need to sign up for classes and information on financial aid. There are \$1000 scholarships available to Baptist Missionary Association ministers who take classes here at Southeastern Baptist College. Contact Brother Kitchens for more information.

In Memoriam Donations

Mrs. Helen Pitts asks for donations in memory of Brother Danny Pitts to be sent to Southeastern Baptist College. You can bless your memory of Danny by supporting the institution and students that Brother Pitts so loved and dedicated his life to. You can make your donation by mailing your check to the college at: Southeastern Baptist College, 4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel MS 39440, or using a credit card online at our website: <http://southeasternbaptist.edu/web/99/SpecialEmphasisDonationPage.aspx>

Accreditation Conference

Dr. Carson attended the annual Association of Biblical Higher Education



Dr. Enlow of ABHE and Dr. Scott Carson

in Orlando, Florida. The conference is specifically designed to assist colleges accredited by them in strategies for increasing enrollment, fund-raising and tackling contemporary challenges that Christian schools may face.

Fixing Things Up

Thank you Dennis and Sylvia Rankin for your continued support of Southeastern Baptist College! You have graciously donated your time and talents to make repairs around the campus. God bless you for your service. We continue to be in need of two new HVAC units and there continues to be more work needed throughout the campus. Please contact us if you are willing to assist us physically or monetarily toward these needs.

Faculty Position

Southeastern Baptist College is looking for an adjunct professor to teach business classes both in the classroom and online. Applicants must possess an MBA or equivalent. Send resumes to scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu or mail your resume to the college.

God's people. First, there are some who perceive themselves to be the opposite gender in spite of their physical sexual characteristics (i.e., a biological male identifies psychologically as a woman, or vice versa). As noted in article IIIC., God has designed the human race to be male and female, and he has prohibited same-sex sexual behavior. Accordingly, Scripture does not make possible the separation of sex and gender as the transgender movement has done. One who is biologically male must strive, by God's redeeming and sanctifying grace, to live as a man, and likewise one who is biologically female must strive to live as a woman – hence the language "a natural man and a natural woman" in the doctrinal statement proposal.

It is important to note that cases of sexual or marital union outside the bounds of a monogamous and heterosexual marriage, even if found in the Bible, simply deviate from God's intention for marriage and should not be considered as examples for living or doctrinal truths. A great deal of thought, study, and debate has gone into the particular wording of these revisions in hopes of presenting well-articulated statements that both reflect biblical teaching and address important issues related to personhood, marriage, and sexuality.

The need for such clarification of biblical teaching, as described in the proposed amendments, comes amidst increasing political and social pressures to accept and promote ideas and actions that violate biblical truths. BMA Seminary faculty has made the entire paper available at <http://bmats.edu/marriage>.

Every Kid Needs A Role Model

By: Richey Hester
National Brotherhood Editor & Promoter

Men, as I write this article I think of one very important thing that we all need to do as men and that is to be a great role models for all children.

Steve DeVore has built a multi-million dollar company on the principle of role modeling. DeVore is president of Syber Vision, a company that markets instructional video and audio tapes on everything from golf to skiing to weight control. When DeVore was in college, he happened to watch a bowling tournament on television.

As he paid close attention to the movements of the bowlers, the thought struck him that if he could emulate their movements, he could probably achieve the same results. After watching the bowlers closely for thirty minutes, he got in his car and drove to the local bowling alley. He got an alley, picked out a ball, and for the next thirty minutes he did just as the professional bowlers had done on TV. He threw nine straight strikes and recorded a score of 278. His highest score up to that point was 163. By emulating a proficient role model, he improved his performance by 115 pins. But the key was that he had to do it just as the pros had done.

With that in mind, I want to ask you a question. If your children, grandchildren or kids in your church were to emulate your life as closely as Steve DeVore did professional bowlers, what kind of life performance would the child turn in? Would the child improve his life by 115 pins or would they be throwing gutter balls?

If the child acted just as you did, what kind of a person would they be? What are the things they would value in life? How would they treat other people? Would they value a relationship with God? As I've thought about that question it's prompted me to reexamine the kind of example I'm giving to my child.

And if we are going to live lives like God, we're going to need role models to set the example on how to do it.

Grace Wins National WMA Meeting

2017 Tuesday, May 2
Arlington Convention Center
Arlington, Texas

This year we are excited to bring you an all new schedule to help empower you and your unique needs. For more information contact: Charlotte Johnson, 2nd VP.

Schedule of Events

Registration 8:45--9:00 a.m.
Welcome Business Meeting
10:00 am Break-out sessions & topics:
(You will be able to choose 2 and you will rotate in 10 minutes to another one of your choice.)

Grace wins in minister's families
Kristi Key

Grace wins in working with youth
Jayna Williams

Grace wins through sickness
Jennifer Barton

Grace wins in mission fields
Kelly Johnson and Golda Prakash

Grace wins in your golden years
Joan Decker

10:30 a.m. Guest presentation, chalk talk
Shirley Hoffpaur

For more information check out our website at
www.NationalWMAofBMAA.net
Find us on Facebook by searching
for National WMA of BMAA

Men, I'm here to tell you that you have the potential to be the greatest role model in the life of a child. There are three things to model for a child. That is Jesus, Purity, & Good Speech. Reference Ephesians 5:1-4

Also, men I want ask you to continue supporting The Moral Action Agency. Dr. Adams plans to visit Washington DC for the Watchmen on the Wall Conference the week of May 22-26. Dr. Adams has made plans to meet with four new US Congressman and four new US Senators. He will participate in a prayer walk at the US Capital building. Please consider sending checks to the Brotherhood Treasurer to help support Moral Action, which is our Brotherhood project for 2016-2017 year. God Bless you All!

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

President

Beth Caldwell
166 Twin Creek Rd, Lucedale, MS 39452
601-947-60118

Corresponding Secretary

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

Hobolochitto District WMA Report

by Jean Dunn, Reporter

The Hobolochitto WMA met at Lee's Chapel #2 on January 28 with 6 churches present. The meeting was led by new president Melissa Comeaux. The devotion was brought by Christy Lee from Phillipians 4:11-13 on being winterized. Being prepared for the bleak, dreary times that can creep into our lives by staying close to the Lord through scripture, prayer, fellowship, and God's guidance.

Our project for the next 2 quarters will be the Philippine Bible College. We also voted to send \$500 now to South Forrest for tornado relief in the Hattiesburg/Petal area. The District Ladies Retreat will be April 22 at Campground Church. The attendance banner was awarded to Benville WMA. Our message was brought by Bro. Jarred Lee on developing heavenly home - christian home and church home - from II Corinthians 5:1. The meeting was followed by fellowship. A great meal was prepared by the host church.

We give all glory to God our Father for His love and blessings.

GIRLS'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

State Youth Auxiliary Director

Becky Farmer
464 Churchwell Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39401
601-596-1005

State GMA Promoter

Lisa Christian
2315 Bankhead Rd., Fulton, MS 38843
662-322-1581

GMA Vice-president Promotes Camp

My name is Kayley Phillips from Bethel Baptist Church in Fulton, Mississippi. I am the current Vice-president of the Mississippi State GMAs. I am very excited about our upcoming state camp at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, on March 17-19th of 2017. Girls, don't forget to bring extra money for the snack bar, auction items, and the craft sales. This years state camp theme is "Peace of God." T-shirt order forms are due by February the 24th. We ask that you start praying now for camp and the girls that will be attending. The other officers and I cannot wait to see what God has in store.

Maximum Impact 2017

by Michel Poirier
BMA missionary to Canada and Haiti

As we begin a new year in Quebec, Canada, we are expecting the Lord to do great things with his people, especially through Maximum Impact, where we invite people in the area to Église Baptiste Missionnaire de Lévis. Those who have previously joined us for Maximum Impact know the work involved with distributing invitations so people can hear the gospel, but we are beginning a new work in a nearby town and the task is greater than before.



Michel Poirier

Each day from Monday to Thursday, February 27-March 2, we will distribute invitations in two locations beginning at 9 a.m. After a break for lunch at noon, we will walk the streets again until 4 p.m. then have dinner at 5 p.m. At 6:00 we will begin singing and preaching. On Friday, March 3, we will visit and tour Old Quebec City. If you're interested in a mission trip to French-speaking people, learning about French culture, touring the sights of Quebec and putting your feet to the work of spreading the gospel, please come and be a part of Maximum Impact. Contact us through the BMA at (844) 262-8637 or call my cell at (418) 209-3710.

We are at the following address: Église Baptiste Missionnaire de Lévis, 5129 Guillaume Couture, Lévis Qc Canada, G6V 4Z5

"Once Upon an Apron"

Northeast District
WMA Retreat
April 22, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

East Amory Baptist Church
905 Hatley Road, Amory, MS 38821



Speaker **Barbara White**
(Sofilthy's Attic)

A registration fee of \$10, due by April 1st, includes a catered lunch. A continental breakfast will be served from 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. and a silent auction will be held to benefit the "Water for Christ" well project.

For more information
call 662-322-6974 or 662-256-5650

The Electric Buggy at the Big Box Store

One of my knees is having a problem with me. So when my wife and I went to the big box store last week I decided to use the electric buggy to get around in the cavernous warehouse. That was the start of a chain of events that went awry and downhill quickly. Suddenly I had become one of “those people you have to watch for as they get into ramming speed on the paper goods aisle.”

One of the first challenges I met was a little lady lurking in aisle one. She was dressed in motorcycle gang regalia - black leather and all. She made eye contact and revved her electric cart up in a challenging and confrontational manner as if she wanted to race. I accepted the stark stare. I could have beaten her if one of my wheels didn't wobble and another pull to one side.

The store has a snack area with really good prices. My wife went to the counter to order and left me alone to park in my newly found set of “monster wheels.” Only after I had pulled into them did I discover the tables had no turning room between them! Reverse in an electric buggy - with no training or licensing procedure I might add - is not as easy as it looks. Unknown to me I had a section of men behind me - my wife saw it all - who were giving me help with their body language as I with no deftness manipulated the electric beast out of the table row. Their reinforcement

came verbally in a narrow-minded comment: “I hope you don't drive your car the way you are driving that buggy!”

I could add more regarding my adventure on the electric buggy in the big box store, but the non-disclosure agreement I signed with the manager of the store prohibits me from telling any more of the events. He had it all captured on surveillance cameras. He told me in his 30 plus years as manager of stores he had never seen so many displays wrecked and so many cans, boxes, and bottles scattered by one person. He not only strongly suggested I sign the agreement not to come back, but also offered me coupons to his competitor's store.

We live in a great country! Accommodations are made for many who have some limitations. Even if you have to dodge and get out of the way quickly next time you are in a big box store, remember the person coming at you in the electric buggy might be someone like me!



Leave It To Cleaver



Dr. Tony Cleaver is a retired U.S. Army Chaplain and Director of Distance Learning for BMA Seminary. You may contact him at jstmcleaver@embarqmail.com

COMMISSION ON Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt
Director

Senior Conference Theme

Tell Someone Joyously – Phil. 1-4

Wow! Can you believe it, the 2017 Senior Adult Conferences are just ahead and you don't want to miss these one-day conferences just for seniors. These people have served and kept our churches going down through the years and now we honor them with these special days. Some have attended every one and hopefully will be able to attend these. Amazing door prizes will be awarded throughout the day - always a joyful time! Special prizes will be given to the oldest man present and the oldest lady present and a special prize to the church with the most in attendance, excluding the host church.

The registration fee will be \$15 per person and this covers the all-you-can-eat-buffet provided by Mac's Fish House of Hattiesburg.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, March 21st at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso.

Plaques will be awarded to ministers completing 50 years in ministry, call Mrs. Kim Parker at 601-428-8616 with needed information.

Also, get ready to call in the number attending from your church. Call Big Creek Baptist Church at 601-763-8100. See you at Big Creek Church on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 9:00 am for registration.

Coming right behind the South Senior Conference is the North Conference. This will be held at Greenwood Baptist Church in Fulton on Tuesday May 9th. The program for the day will include practically the same format as the South Conference. More about this conference will be forth coming. The Dorsey Volunteer Fire Department will provide the noon meal and they always do an excellent job. Save the date, Tuesday, May 9th. This promises to be one of the best, don't miss it. Registration is \$15.00 per person!

BMA of Mississippi Youth Department

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



Kelby Johnson
Director

Special Emphasis

The Youth Department special emphasis month is March. We ask each church to prayerfully consider contributing a little extra to our department. We have 3 events this year and especially look forward to a great Summer camp. Your special emphasis offering will help us be able to ensure a great camp for many of our young people. Thank you for your consideration!

2017 Youth Department Event Schedule

Join Us For Sharpen 2017

Sharpen is a one night worship service that is intended to help our churches grow in ministry, specifically toward youth. Our theme this year is "The Necessity of the Word of God for Life and Ministry." All are invited to this event sponsored by the Youth Department on Saturday, February 18 at Temple Baptist Church in Laurel.

We will begin at 6:00 p.m. with music and then have a message. Our speaker is Bro. Josh Daniels. Bro. Josh is the Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church.

This event is for people of all ages so get a group together and come to Temple for a great night!

BMA of Mississippi State Youth Camp

June 5-7, 2017

Waukaway Springs Retreat Center
Speaker: Bro. Donny Parrish
Music: Bro. Mark Williams

It is time to sign up for Summer Camp! We have a great event planned and will even add a couple of new activities to camp this year. If you haven't been to our camp in a while, this is the year to come!

Contact Bro. Kelby at 662-316-6233 or kelbyjohnson@yahoo.com for more information and to sign up!

Register Early for SOAR and Save!

Right now, you can register for SOAR 2017 at the 2016 price of \$110 per student. Hurry, the price increases to \$120 after March 1. Take advantage of this limited time offer and register today.

All registration payments are final and non-refundable. Everyone in attendance at SOAR 2017 (regardless of age) must register and pay the registration fee. Call the DiscipleGuide office with any questions at 501-358-3530 or email conferences@discipleguide.org.

SOAR 2017 will be located at the Gaylord Texan Resort in Grapevine, TX. The conference room rate of \$129 plus tax per night is available for SOAR attendees until June 6, 2017. After June 6 rooms may still be reserved but will be subject to a higher rate and availability. A limited number of rooms are available at the SOAR Conference rate. Reserve your rooms by calling 877-491-5138 and ask for the “SOAR Conference 2017” group rate.

\$110 THROUGH MARCH 1



Grapevine, TX July 5-7, 2017

[@soarconference](https://www.facebook.com/soarconference) #gosoar17 gosoar.com



SENIOR SOURCES

byBecky Ulmer - becky.ulmer@jghms.com

Not All Are The Same

The way the movies portray having a heart attack - sudden onset of severe pain in the chest, profuse sweating, the person grabs their chest and collapses.



Becky Ulmer

The symptoms are so obvious, even a non-medical person could diagnose the problem. These symptoms can be experienced, but there is much misconception about the symptoms of a heart

attack.

One astonishing fact is that less than two percent of all heart attacks (Myocardial infarctions) get diagnosed. What about the other ninety-eight percent? Some may take something for pain or indigestion, others may lie down until the pain (discomfort) eases, and the others may attribute the sensation to food, stress, or opt to do nothing unless "it gets worse or happens again". Damage can occur even when the symptoms

resolve without treatment. The ideal goal is to prevent heart attacks. If one

Warning Signs of Heart Attack



occurs, prevention and minimizing damage to heart muscle becomes priority.

This writer is concerned about the lack of knowledge regarding the early subtle signs of "heart trouble". There is evidence in the early signs and symptoms differing in male vs. female. This is very concerning. The symptoms that can be present with both sexes are: chest pain, heaviness/pressure in the chest, shortness of breath, nausea and/

through this Indonesian outreach team. The Bridge (our English learning center) is now directed by Fernando Dende. Fernando has served on our ministry team and worked at The Bridge for 3 years. He handles marketing and leads the adult English learners community. Fernando also leads the Wednesday night Bible study that meets at the Bridge each week. He is assisted by Ria Lowing who manages the accounting for The Bridge and oversees the women's outreach activities. New to the team is Ms. Jennifer Kaunang, the children's English teacher. Please pray for them as the new term of classes began in mid-January. What a blessing to see these three along with other local believers reaching out to their people to share Christ and His love! Please keep them in your prayers as they labor for the Lord in Indonesia.

It is certainly good to be back home. However, I do have plans to visit Manado for a few weeks in June. I hope to lead a team of volunteers in teaching an English workshop and sharing the gospel with the people of Manado. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact me at nickiprickett@yahoo.com. We would like to have you be a part of this team.

I would love to visit your church and show you more of the incredible things God is doing in Manado. If you would like to set up a time for me to visit, please contact me at one of the numbers below.

Blessings,
Nicki Prickett
(aka Lynn Perkinston)

or vomiting, sweating, heartburn and arm pain. In females the pain may be in the jaw, neck, one or both arms. Dizziness may also be a sign of impending problems. The early pain sensation may be excused as a "pulled muscle" which postpones concern and seeking medical attention. Chest pain, unexplained nausea, jaw/neck pain and/or shortness of breath are all symptoms that warrant immediate medical attention.

Prevention remains the most important aspect of heart care. Controlling weight, blood pressure, and cholesterol along with smoking cessation, are critical in the battle against heart disease.

Know your numbers... blood pressure, pulse, cholesterol, triglyceride, and BMI (Body mass index). Don't ignore the signs. Seek medical attention early. The sensation of shortness of breath while at rest or with minimal exertion warrants an immediate medical evaluation. Time is of the essence when dealing with cardiac emergencies.

Proverbs 4:23 "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it the issues of life"

Becky Ulmer is Nursing Home Administrator of Jasper County Nursing Home, Bay Springs, Mississippi. She is a member of First Baptist, Bay Springs.

Water for Christ Raising Money to Construct Well for Arkansas Human Trafficking Victims

Conway, Arkansas – After seeing the need for clean water firsthand during a mission trip to Ghana in 2011, Tim Tyler decided to take action and founded Water for Christ, a ministry that digs water wells in developing communities. Now, Tim is bringing that ministry closer to home by partnering with a local nonprofit called 'We Are FREE'.

'We Are FREE' provides refuge and relief to victims of human trafficking and is working to build a facility to house those needing support. Unfortunately the center is in a rural area and does not connect to the city water line. Together, these two ministries hope to construct a well on the property to provide clean water to human trafficking survivors.

"With a water well, 'We Are FREE' will be able to save money on water bills, which will allow more funds to be devoted to the women's personal, physical and emotional needs," said Tim.

The Water for Christ ministry hopes to raise \$15,000 for equipment and sup-

plies to build the well. To meet this goal, they have created an online fund-raising page through RedBasket.org that will run through March 8. To learn more about this project or to make a tax-deductible donation, please visit <https://redbasket.org/1211/we-are-free-water-well>.

About RedBasket.org

RedBasket.org, founded in 2012, is a web-based, non-profit 501(c)(3) public charity headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska, dedicated to helping individuals raise money for personal emergencies and community improvement projects in a fee-free environment. Red Basket is fully supported by WoodmenLife which covers Red Basket's administrative costs in their entirety so 100% of donations are directly passed through to the cause. To learn more about Red Basket, visit Redbasket.org.

Lauren Fischer
lauren@redbasket.org
420-449-7777

The organization hopes to raise \$15,000 to drinking water at aftercare facility



Tim Tyler drilling a water well in the West African country of Ghana

Letters From Our Readers

Letters reflect the opinion of the writer and not necessarily this publication or the BMA of Mississippi

Letters From Lynn

Manado, Indonesia

Happy New Year! I hope it is a blessed year for all of you thus far. It has certainly brought many changes for myself and The Bridge. And as always, God is so good.

At the end of November 2016, I moved back home to Mississippi. This was a bittersweet decision. When I moved to Indonesia almost 7 years ago, the hope was to open an English learning center and outreach ministry that could be sustained and operated by a local Indonesian ministry team. I am so excited to tell you that we have reached that goal. The only thing left for me to do was to step back and pray for our next generation of leaders to soar as they follow diligently after the Lord. Technology is a tremendous blessing during this transition, as I am able to still be involved in a mentor position via skype and messaging.

I want to thank all of you for your prayers, encouragement, and support throughout the years. It has been an honor and a wonderful blessing to be a part of starting up this ministry. Please continue to pray for the local team still serving in Manado. I cannot wait to see all of the amazing things God will do