

Mississippi Baptist

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WORLD MISSIONS DAY - FEBRUARY, 25, 2018 Every Church - Every Nation

There are 7.5 billion people that inhabit our world.

Those people make up 12,000 people groups spread out over 196 countries.

For Christians, these are daunting numbers because we know God has called us to make disciples of all nations. God has tasked his followers with sharing his hope of salvation with all people—to the very ends of the earth.

At BMA Missions, we are your partner in this global, Great Commission command. We have hundreds of missionaries in over 72 nations, and our vision is to connect every church to the work of global missions so we may continue sending missionaries to reach the lost. That is why this year's theme is "Every Church – Every Nation." If we are going to expand to EVERY NATION, we need EVERY CHURCH fully committed.

Seventy-six percent of the world lives under religious oppression, struggling to find hope



in the midst of chaos. Yet, from the Syrian Refugee crisis in the Middle East to underground homegroups in China and Cuba, the gospel is flourishing because the message of Jesus offers the only true hope for mankind.

Our goal for this World Missions Day is \$500,000. If we are going to reach this lofty goal, we need every church to help us get there. So join us and encourage your church family that we do indeed serve a missionary God that has given us a missionary calling.

If your church will participate in this year's World Missions Day on February 25, 2018, register at bmamissions.org/

worldmissionsday.org. Churches who register will receive one free BMA Missions polo shirt for their pastor. They will also be able to request additional promotional materials such as bulletin inserts and posters.

Additionally, one pastor and his wife (or a couple of their choice) will receive an all-expenses paid mission trip with Dr. John David Smith just for participating in World Missions Day. To be eligible, your church's World Missions Day offering must be received by May 1, 2018. The drawing to determine the winner will be held at the 2018 BMA National Meeting.

Help us take the message of the gospel to EVERY NATION through your generous donation on World Missions Day. Visit bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday for more information.

If we are going to reach this lofty goal, we need every church to help us get there

Helping Hands

By Paul White, President
BMA of America

After we have prayed for others, we might need to put legs on our prayers.

Pastors, you probably know of churches in your area that might love to be represented at the meeting, but they can't afford it and the pastor would never ask for help to do so. I encourage our churches to help some of our smaller congrega-

tions be able to be represented at the national meeting. An investment like that could not help but be a win-win situation for everyone involved.

Be creative — share a ride or a room when possible. After all, preferring our brother is not a bad thing.

The boy throwing the starfish back in the sea was told, "There are so many out there. Do you really think you can

make a difference?" The boy simply bent down, picked one up, threw it in the water and said, "I made a difference to that one!"

Pastor, you can't help every church afford to go to the meeting, but maybe you could help one. It would surely make a big difference to that church!

I also want to encourage individuals and families to consider providing a way for your pastor or church members to attend. Each one giving a little can also make a big difference.

FROM LIFEWORD BROADCAST MINISTRIES Meet Rick Russell

It was in a Fort Scott, Kansas, radio station that Rick Russell first caught the "radio bug." When an uncle returned from the army and began work-

he worked in radio through high school and into his young married life.

Rick and his wife Angela served in volunteer youth minis-



During a recent training trip to Romania, Rick Russell visits a gypsy village with Lifeword speaker and BMA missionary Bogdan Bilav and one of the gypsy trainees.

ing as a radio announcer, Rick's visit to the station sealed his fate for life. He was completely fascinated with all aspects of radio, and his life was marked by listening to, learning about and dreaming of radio.

"I was amazed at the power of radio and how far away the signals came from. My dream," he said, "was to be a radio personality at one of the big stations." It was many years later that God would reveal more about that dream.

In the years that followed, his family moved to Georgia where Rick met a kindred spirit in sixth grade named Danny who had already built a radio station. They collaborated on the project and Rick became Danny's programmer, which gave him the experience for his first radio job at WNGA in Nashville, Georgia. From that point

try together while Rick continued in radio and sold life insurance. During this time, they attended their first BMA church at Meadowside in Pittsburg, Kansas, and became youth leaders there. It was at Meadowside where Rick met the man who would become a life-long mentor - Bro. Paul Mooney.

At the 1983 BMA national meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi, Angela and Rick went as messengers and heard about the BMA's radio ministry, Harvest Gleaner Hour, for the first time. Rick says, "I remember Bro. Paul telling me that I would enjoy this next report at 3:00, so don't miss it. There was a slideshow and voiceover with music. Bro. Paul was right."

When Bro. Mooney accepted a pastorate in Laurel, Mississippi,

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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



Phillip & Dawn Burns



Kenneth & Carole Pollock



Bobby & Lesa Elliott



Danny & Brenda Bartlett



Sidney & Becky Farmer



Dale & Celia Broome



Wesley & Holley Martin



Anders & Carla Lee



Bob & Edie Burch



Estuardo & Yasmine Marroquin



Ed & Patricia DuVall



Will & Kelly Hutchinson

“Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well: Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles..” 3 John 5

The scriptures are replete with examples of how the early churches supported missions. In this case, the church was commended for their love bestowed of those that went forth. Those that went forth did so, “...for his name's sake...”. The supply of the churches, referred to as something they did, “...faithfully...” enabled these truth bearers to focus on sharing the gospel without depending on the “Gentiles.” Now, it appears, they had come back around to share a report of the work they had done. John challenges the church to, “...receive such, that we might be fellow-helpers of the truth.” (Excerpts

for 3 John vs 5-8)

I like the last part of vs 8, “...that we might be fellow-helpers of the truth.” That's what we do, we help missionaries. I am reminded of what Jesus said in John 4:37, “And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.” Also, in John 4:36, “...both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.

Special Emphasis

Our Special Emphasis for State Missions is just around the corner. April and May are the months the Churches of our Association have set aside to emphasis State Missions. I would like to challenge our churches to make preparation to participate in this emphasis. I am available to come to your church and give a report and preach. If you would be interested in me coming to your church, please give me a call at 601-428-8616. Also, a number of our missionaries are available on Sunday evenings as they may not yet have Sunday evening services started. I encourage you to invite on of our missionaries to attend your Sunday evening services. In addition, we will be mailing some promotional material soon. We hope this will aid you in informing your church about the missionary activity that is going on across the State of Mississippi.

Missions & Evangelism Conference

It's time to mark your calendar for the upcoming Missions and Evangelism Conference. This year's conference will be hosted by Evergreen Baptist Church at Seminary, Mississippi, on May 4th beginning at 9:00am. The theme of this year's conference is, “Biblical Baptist Distinctives.” More information will be printed in the next issue.

Update on Redemption Baptist Mission at Diamondhead

We now have a signed contract for the existing building where Redemption currently meets. We have 90 days to complete our due diligence which includes appearing before the Planning Committee for the City of Diamondhead. We are scheduled to appear on March 27th and we need your prayers. We are asking the City to give us approval to permanently reside the church in this location and this request requires some waivers to certain City zoning ordinances. Please pray that all will go well.

Update on Day Star Baptist Mission at Sumrall

Bro. Burns is in the process of getting the power company to run a power line to the property so that we can begin site preparation and constructions. Site plans have been submitted and we have a target date of April to actually erect the building. Bro. John Prickett, RLF Trustee and Deacon at Paramount Baptist Church, and owner of Advanced Engineering, is overseeing and organizing the single day erection of Day Star's new church building.

We are recruiting volunteers to serve on teams to help with specific tasks on that day. If your church has a group of men who would like to serve, please call Bro.



Day Star Mission Property

Phillip Burns at 601-670-6191. Each team will need a Team Leader and Bro. Burns will need the Team Leader's contact information and the names of each person on the team and any special skills they may have.



Above - Redemption Baptist Mission Building



Missionary Lucas Gomez Prepares to Move

Bro. Estuardo Marroquin, our Manager of Hispanic Missions, reported that Missionary Lucas Gomez is preparing to move his family to Canton, Mississippi. After a number of months of driving every weekend to Canton, Bro. Gomez now feels the time is right to move to the field. El Camino in Laurel, the mother church for this new mission project, will be assisting with his moving expenses. We encourage churches to consider

continued on page 3

| Reports for Jan 2018 | | | | |
|---|-----------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| | High Attendance | Membership | Total Offerings | Mother Church |
| BMA of Mississippi (Church Planting Coach) | | | | |
| Dr. Robert Burch (Caledonia) | 107 | 117 | \$5,350.00 | Missionary Coach |
| Sidney Farmer (S. Forrest) | 65 | 53 | \$8,369.00 | Missionary Coach |
| BMA of Mississippi (Church Planters) | | | | |
| Bobby Elliott (Burnsville) | 40 | 64 | \$1,958.00 | Forked Oak |
| Danny Bartlett (Clinton) | 19 | 11 | \$4,608.00 | Wilderness |
| Phillip Burns (Sumrall) | 28 | 18 | \$3,041.00 | First Bay Springs |
| Wesley Martin (Diamondhead) | 53 | 27 | \$4,620.00 | Campground |
| Anders Lee (Southaven) | 263 | 153 | \$12,928.00 | Charity |
| Dr. Kenneth Pollock (Batesville) | 12 | 9 | \$1,166.00 | First Baptist Mantachie |
| Dale Broom (S. Hattiesburg) | 67 | 2 | \$917.00 | Evergreen Seminary |
| Will Hutchinson (D'iberville) | n/a | 3 | \$250.00 | Campground |
| 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 | 131 | \$5,086.00 | Mother Church |
| Church Planters | | | | |
| Leo Adan (Hattiesburg) | 37 | 18 | \$1,075.00 | El Camino |
| Jorge Galicia (Biloxi) | 20 | 2 | \$133.00 | El Camino |
| Lucas Gomez (Canton) | 6 | 2 | | El Camino |
| Way, Truth & Life | | | | |
| Byron Morales (Ripley) | 72 | 96 | \$3,820.00 | Mother Church |
| Church Planters | | | | |
| Humberto Regalado (Tupelo) | | 14 | | Way, Truth & Life |
| Luis Huchin (Oxford) | | 7 | \$1,180.00 | Way, Truth & Life |
| Daniel Polanco (Horn Lake) | 9 | 2 | | 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) | 30 | 60 | \$2,695.00 | |
| Church Planters | | | | |
| James Cook (Olive Branch) | | 22 | | Homestretch |

Collectively, our missionaries reported 250 new contacts, 60 opportunities to share the gospel, and witnessed 7 professions of faiths, and 6 joined by letter in Jan 2017.

Ministering To Young People

by Anders Lee

What To Look For In A Student Pastor

In the life of a church there will come a time when you need a new youth guy. Recently here at Central (Church in Southaven, Mississippi), we found ourselves in that place. It was exciting to begin the search and think through what we needed. That excitement waned fast! I was a little bummed out to find that getting a new guy is a tough thing to do. After six months of searching, meetings, and interviews, we ended up choosing someone within our church who was ready to serve in the position.

It's tough to find a youth guy who has all the credentials necessary, who will be willing to accept the pay that's available, and faithfully serve with you as a staff member. Trust me when I say, when you begin the process you are in for an interesting

journey. Be prepared to have plenty of ups and downs along the way.

Each church has certain desires and descriptions of the exact guy they want to fit them. It's perfectly fine to hear from



Anders Lee

Fact... kids connect easily, but they commit themselves ultimately to the nurturer!

your people what they would love to see happen in a new hire. However, one thing you need to communicate with your people, in particular your parents, is that you are not going to find the perfect guy! The guy that fits all that they want doesn't exist! If

you do, I want to hear about him! So don't set yourself up for disappointment. If you are in the average BMA church, that is you don't have a big budget for a youth guy, let people know up front what type of person that will land for the position.

Now that the dose of reality has been served, what fundamentally should you look for? Here are five things that should be in your thought process! Now

walls and reach into the schools and community.

Some call this quality the "it" factor. He has it! This kind of guy was once described to me as one who has a "magnetic personality." Indeed God has gifted certain ones to have "it." When you find this guy coupled with the quality of being a discipler, your youth group is going to explode!

NURTURER

One of the weaknesses of many youth guys is that they are great connectors, but bad nurturers. To be a nurturer one must not only connect, but must intentionally deepen relationships. A connector only does so to grow the numbers in his youth group. A nurturer LOVES his kids! He connects in order to love! You can't have one without the other! A youth guy must genuinely care for his group and he must develop intentional ways to do this!

Wow, if you have a discipler, connector and a nurturer, your youth group will explode and grow exponentially. If he is only a connector, through time kids see through a shallow person and once the newness of the connector wears off, they will find a nurturer. Fact... kids connect easily, but they commit themselves ultimately to the nurturer!

COMMUNICATOR

How many times have you heard of or experienced personally, a youth guy who constantly fumbles the ball on communication. Boy!!! It is a critical habit to develop! Youth guys operate off the seat of their pants a lot. They are creative and fun. Many times they speak directly with their kids about everything, but they don't get the same facts to the staff, parents or the pastor. Student Pastors are rarely strong in this area, if you find one that is gifted administratively, he will probably be weak in another area. Typically he won't be, but he needs to develop this! If he can't he needs to delegate it to someone who will!

this isn't a complete list, but these categories should be near the top. Look for a...

DISCIPLER

The number one duty of a pastor/staff member is to be a man that leads people to Christ, teaches the Word faithfully when they preach, and plans an intentional way to give everyone in his care an opportunity to grow spiritually to the point that they become able to disciple someone else as well! That's the goal in ministry, making disciples!

If you don't find this to be the number one quality in the guy you are talking to, you might as well stop considering him. If that candidate doesn't find this to be your priority, he should stop considering your church. It goes both ways!!!

CONNECTOR

A huge characteristic of a student pastor is his ability to network, build relationships, and develop a connection to key kids and parents in the church, community, and school system. It starts within the church first! He should be willing to invest a huge amount of time in his early months growing his relationships within the body before he launches an outreach. Eventually once this is established he should go outside the proverbial

RESPONSIBLE

Student guys are dealing with YOUR KIDS!!! I once heard of a guy who almost caught the whole church on fire because they were SHOOTING BOTTLE ROCKETS inside the church gym. LOL! What a goof!!!! Seriously!!! He was just starting out in ministry and thought it was ok because it was a "metal" building. He fail to recognize that there were flammable materials ... everywhere.

I love being around youth guys still today since I used to be one. They are fun, spontaneous, a blast to be around... but oh my, they have to be responsible!

I don't have space to mention more (Bro. Don Brown gave me a word limit - ha), but if I did I would say youth guys need to be teachable, humble, studious, servants, reputable, approachable... well think on those things!

If you are searching for a youth guy! Consider these things. Most importantly get on your knees and find the one the Lord would have you to call. He might actually ask you to call one who needs to be mentored by the Senior Pastor and given a place to start ministry. I'm sure glad Dr. Kevin Clayton at Calvary Baptist did that for me way back in the day!

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

Missions Report

from page 2

helping by sending a one time offer to our office mark Hispanic Mission Fund - Gomez moving expense. Also, we continue to encourage our churches to put the Hispanic Mission Fund in their budget for regular monthly support.

Churches Needing A Pastor

We are mandated to maintain a list of churches that are in need of a pastor and a list of available preachers. This is a challenging task unless we have the help of our churches to keep us informed. We currently have a number of churches that are seeking a pastor or youth pastor. If you have information about someone who might be available, please let us know. Also, if your church is without a pastor please give us a call so we can update our list. You can reach us at 601-428-8616.

Praise the Lord!

We are rejoicing with Bro. Vernon Newman, our Revolving Loan Fund Manager, and his wife Tammy at the arrival of their first granddaughter and first child of their daughter Morgan and husband Johnathan. Baby Collins was born prematurely at 24 weeks and only weighed in at 1.8lbs. Since then she has been doing great. While she still has challenges ahead, and the Newman family covet your prayers, she is making great progress.



Daughter of Revolving Loan Fund Manager Vernon Newman, - Morgan Newman holding Collins Reese Eddy

Thanks you!

Cherita and I want to take all of you for your kind words on the arrive of our newest granddaughter, Rachel Elizabeth Geraldson. Our Son, Daniel and his wife, Nikki, have expressed their appreciation for your prayers and kind thoughts. We are truly blessed.



2018

Senior Adult Conferences Schedule

South Mississippi Conference

March 20, 2018 - 9:30 AM

Big Creek Baptist Church
Soso, Mississippi

North Conference

May 8, 2018 - 9:30 AM
Hopewell Baptist Church
Fulton, Mississippi

Make plans now to attend!



Don Brown
Editor

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Missions is Our Mission

Missions is the theme and job of every New Testament church, each ministry of the BMA of Mississippi and BMA of America.

In this issue there are a number of articles dealing with the mission of sharing Christ with the world. That world starts in our own families, continues across the street, in our schools, on our jobs, across our nation and ultimately around the globe.

We are told by our God to share Him and His Good News with everyone.

Reports in this issue from our state Missions Department, from Southeastern College, from our Children's Home, from the Senior Adult Commission, and also from the ministry of Publications are all related to sharing the Gospel of Christ. In other words, **it's all about missions.**

As you read the various reports and requests for participation in these ministries it is our hope that your heart will be touched with the needs of the lost around the world. The prayers and financial support, along with the personal participation by local churches and individuals, is a great need. The ministry depends on people.

Sunday, February 25th, is World Missions Sunday. Many churches are pointing at this day to help raise funds for our national missions department.

Let us be reminded that **every day** is a mission day and let us be faithful and about the business of making 'missions our mission'.

**COMMISSION ON
Senior Adults**

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440

South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference

Tuesday, March 20th at Big Creek Baptist Church in Soso
\$15 registration fee.

The annual South Mississippi Senior Adult conference is just around the corner and seniors are anxiously waiting this time of fellowship together. A day of worship and praise will be the theme of the day.

Big Creek always does a super job in hosting this event and facilities are convenient in every respect.

Door prizes, fewer but better and more practical, will be given, and also special door prizes will be part of the activities.

Plaques will be presented to those ministers who have completed 50 years of services in 2018. Please call 601-428-8616 and give this information to Ms Kim Parker at the Missions Office.

Let's make this Senior Conference the most outstanding one we have had. It will be a blessed time together. All roads lead to Big Creek Church, Soso, Tuesday March 20, at 9:30 am. You don't want to miss it.

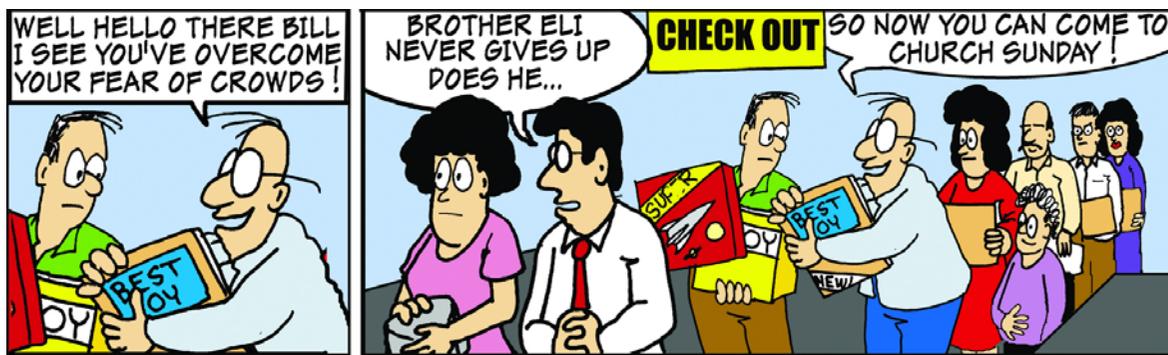
Thanks to our churches and individuals for supporting the Commission on Senior Adults.

Invite a neighbor or friend to attend with you, Mac's Fish of Hattiesburg will cater the noon meal.



Kenneth Flynt
Director

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



Lifeword Broadcast Ministry

from page 1

he asked Rick to join him as music and youth pastor, his first paid ministry position. It was in Laurel that passion and ministry collided when he noticed that secular rock music was negatively affecting the young people in his group. When Rick introduced them to Christian contemporary music, their attitudes changed along with their music styles. Later he bought air-time on a radio station so they could participate in gospel media ministry.

Four years later, Rick began his association with Bro. George Reddin at a Big Creek Association meeting in Laurel when he volunteered to be area coordinator for the Walk of Faith. Two years later in 1989, Bro. George asked him to be Lifeword's programming director when there were six broadcast languages.

After two months at Lifeword, Rick recalls that God gave him a clear picture of his life in ministry. Rick says, "My dream had always been to be a big radio personality on a big station." But while trying to find a signal

on an old, donated radio, Rick suddenly heard his own voice through its crackles. Rick said of that moment, "I'm not making this up. The first thing I heard was my own voice introducing the Lifeword program on WWL in New Orleans, and God spoke loud and clear: 'I have already given you the desire of your heart; it just doesn't look the same as you thought it would.'"

In the years since God allowed Rick to understand his purpose, he has witnessed many changes. Lifeword has evolved technologically, increased the language count and added new formats, social media being the most recent.

One of the most significant changes, he says, occurred when Dr. John David Smith became the Executive Director of Missions and led the new missions philosophy of a self-sustainable, self-visioning foreign missions model. Rick says this philosophy has moved Lifeword "toward a model similar to what Danny and I did in the sixth

grade - using low-power broadcasting equipment to speak to kids our age. Lifeword Community Radio (LCR) is all over the world reaching anyone within the sound of a tiny village radio station, in their heart language and with programs of interest to them. A LCR (Lifeword Community Radio) broadcaster is not someone who has learned to speak Ewe, but someone who was born speaking the Ewe language."

Although he has worn several hats in his 28 years at Lifeword, Rick is the Director of Broadcast Equipping and Training. His job includes training visionary leaders, broadcasters, programmers and station managers all over the world to create quality programming. Lifeword's new initiative, the Lifeword Cloud, will benefit from his training when that programming is uploaded to the Cloud, added to the Lifeword Network and becomes accessible 24/7 to anyone, anywhere who speaks that language.

"Lifeword team members have always prayed for that kind of accessibility, and now we can see God's hand pulling everything together. I have never been more excited for our future."

God's Word speaks for itself

OneNewsNow - The director of a new documentary insists the Bible provides "legitimate answers" to questions about God as well as adequate responses to cheap shots against His Word.

Last weekend, Salon.com published an article titled, "Why is the Bible so badly written?"

The obvious answer, the article concludes, is that "the Bible was not actually dictated by God." The piece goes on to present several arguments as to why the Bible is just an ordinary book.

But because such arguments are nothing new, the American Family Association has released a new documentary, "The God Who Speaks," to help answer questions like those raised in

the Salon article. For example, Pastor Alistair Begg begins the documentary by touching on Scripture's divine inspiration.

"The great wonder of it is without any violation of Paul's personality or his intellect, God, through the instrumentation of the Holy Spirit, both provided Paul and enabled Paul to write as he wrote," says Begg. "And that would be true of all the Bible authors."

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Southeastern Baptist College

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Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment..." John 16:7-8

The Greek word for "convicted" is used 17 times in the New Testament but is translated in six ways. It can mean reprove, rebuke, convince, tell, fault or convict. Jesus uses this word in John 16 in reference to an activity of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit convicts, or reproves, the world of sin, righteousness and of judgment.

Have you ever had your conscience convicted by the Holy Spirit? Boy howdy! I have! In the Christian faith, we often refer to an experience with the Holy Spirit as "being under conviction". Having our conscience stricken by conviction in regard to our Christian living, and then surrendering to God's will, is a mark of maturity. Believers with true spiritual maturity not only recognize the working of the Holy Spirit by conviction of conscience, but they also yield to His leading.

A few years back, while deployed to Korea, I was the only chaplain assigned to a remote location. I led a very active chapel program and tried to do my best preaching the Word of God each Sunday morning and shared the teachings of the scriptures in many other venues throughout the week. A young soldier came to me after a Sunday service and handed me a check for the morning offering. When I opened the folded check I was taken aback by the large amount he was giving to the unit chaplain program. It was over \$1500! I knew the soldier was married and had a child back in the states, and I also knew how little he made supporting his young

family. So I challenged him on the amount written on the check. He assured me it was correct and that he was under conviction by the Lord to give to the work of the chapel's ministry. I attempted to persuade him to reduce the amount, but his reply was that he was convinced the Lord was leading him to give this amount and that he must do what he believed God was leading him to do, even if it meant hardship.

Well, I could not argue with his spiritual conviction, nor with his dedication to follow the Lord in whatever He was asking this young soldier to do! How could I deny his obedience to the Lord? I accepted the check. I knew he struggled with his obedience. I also knew he was being stricken in conscience and did not want to deny God's will for his life in this matter. As a dedicated follower of Jesus, he had to yield to God. I could not, and would not, stand between the Lord and his understanding of following God in all matters in his life.

This story is a beautiful example of a Christian being fully surrendered to God. If the Lord places a believer under conviction, the Christian should yield immediately to the Spirit's leading. Blessings are ahead for the faithful who sense the guidance of the Lord and obey as led.

Recently, an alumnus of Southeastern Baptist College came under conviction that he should transfer 20 acres of land to the college. At first he was talking a discounted cost for the School to purchase the land. However, the board of directors and I quickly determined that we could not afford any cost for additional land. However, the alum



Dr. Scott Carson
President

was convinced that God wanted SBC to have this land and, after I reiterated to him that we could not justify any cost toward more land, he donated all of it to the school! Wow! Now that is another example of a mature believer in Christ yielding to a conviction of the Holy Spirit in his life.

This is how Christians should live their lives. We should be ready to obey the Lord in whatever matter or direction His Spirit is leading. These two stories are examples of faithful believers living their lives for the Lord.

"Quench not the Spirit." 1 Thessalonians 5:19

Equipping the Saints!
Dr. Carson

Fall 2018 Basketball!

Oh wow, oh wow, oh wow! The Lord is doing great things here at SBC! We



Dormitory hallway repainted to school colors of Royal Blue.

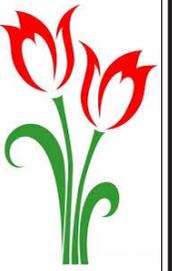
intend to restart the school's basketball program this Fall Semester. We are actively seeking men and women for Southeastern Baptist College basketball! Do you know of any students wanting to join the Chargers teams? Point



In anticipation of filling SBC Dormitories with student basketball athletes, a volunteer work crew worked hard on fixing up the Dormitories. L to R: Pastor Sean Piper; Pastor Justin Rhodes; Coach Brad Phillips; and Student Mark Lee

Landscaping Project

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



them our way. Sports scholarships are available. Contact Coach Brad Phillips at 601-426-6346.

Dorm Renovation

Our new recruiter, Brad Phillips, intends to fill our dorms with new students! Because many of the rooms and common areas have been unoccupied for a while, there is great need to bring them back to acceptable standards. Can you help? Do you have materials, or talent, or monetary donations to designate toward this project? Give us a call at 601-426-6346 or send Brad a note at coachbradphillips@southeasternbaptist.edu.

Free Tuition?

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

#6 in the Entire Nation!

SBC is rated the 6th most affordable Online Christian College in the nation for 2018! Why spend big bucks at other colleges when you can earn your amazingly affordable accredited degree here at Southeastern Baptist College? Contact us today!

Go for the Gold

SBC possesses the 2018 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! And remember, many benefits are now fully transferable to family members.

Carson's Army

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



continued on page 6

From The Mind of Chuck Lee

Near Miss Divorce . . .

My wife and I have had a pretty great marriage for the last twenty five years. Early on we decided that our house wouldn't be filled with discord and that our children would never have to see their mother and father yelling at one another. So far, so good. That doesn't mean that we haven't had disagreements, but I generally apologize and we carry on with our lives.

Years ago, however, we had a pretty close call at a failed marriage. My mother's side of the family decided to have a reunion



Bro. Chuck Lee

at a state park. All my uncles and aunts and cousins and siblings and, well, most everyone that could make it, showed up at the park and begin to reminisce about our former lives as younger people. Some had further back to go in their memories than others, but still, everyone knows that how you used to be was a lot more fun than the way it is in the present. For the present to

have any interest, a person has to allow it time to age and mature and be embellished upon.

Anyway, my brothers and I began to mist back in time to an occasion where we dared each other to shave our heads. We were known as the three cue balls back then. I wasn't married at the time,

It seemed a great idea until we drove back to the park and I had to approach my wife

so it wasn't a big deal. With shaved heads not being "in" at that time, my prospect of getting married wasn't too favorable either. One thing led to another and we found ourselves in an old fashioned barber shop.

Instead of a complete shave, this time we thought we might bring the flattop haircut back in style. It seemed a great idea until we drove back to the park and I had to approach my wife. True to our original agreement of not yelling at one another, she went above and beyond by not speaking to me at all. It was uncomfortable. Only then did I find out that my hairstyle was an integral part of our marriage. I'm not so sure the hairstyle was that big of deal, but rather the lack of hair that caused the consternation.

Twenty or so years have passed and now she is just happy for the little hair I have left. I think raising four children and having a grandchild helps you gain perspective. Little did I know at that time when I explained to her that it was just hair and that it would grow back, that with some people hair doesn't just grow back. In fact, the top part struggles with that these days.

She later took a deep breath and kept muttering under her breath, "I promised God, I promised God". Today, so as not to press my luck, I choose to just get a normal haircut. That, and I don't spend any time alone with my brothers.

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

Southeastern College

from page 5

SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

Alumni Association

We are beginning a major effort to reorganize and reenergize our Alumni Association. We will attempt to identify and contact every alumnus who has ever taken courses at our great school and will meet briefly at the BMAA annual meeting in Jackson. We will share our newest strategic initiatives which include asking our Alumni to consider giving \$56 per month in an effort to raise \$58,000 over the next 12 months. We have many infrastructure issues that must be addressed. Will you allow God to use you? Alumni Sam and Judy Oglesby have graciously accepted to lead this effort. Please contact them at 601-550-8513 or pastor_1@comcast.net to verify that your current contact information is correct.

Have Bible, Will Travel

"Preach the word..." 2 Timothy 4:2. I am ready to fill your pulpit! If you are in need of a guest preacher or desire personal a report on the college, contact me at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu

When the child of God loves the Word of God and sees the Son of God, He is changed by the Spirit of God in the image of God for the glory of God because he has found the truth of God.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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



SIDNEY DAVIS

The Proof of our Love

This past Valentine's Day I'm sure many expressed thoughts of love for that special person. Certainly, we as Christians should prove our love to the Lord. How can we do that? John 14:15 says, "If you love me keep my commandments." So, by obeying the Word of God we are proving our love to Him. May we be challenged each day to remind ourselves to tell Him and also thank Him for His love for us. May we also seek God's help in becoming obedient children.



Bro. Gary Blakeney, Woodlawn BC, presenting Check to Director Sidney Davis

Gulf Association Annual Rally

On February 8th, the Gulf Association had their annual rally for the Home. This meeting was held with the Woodlawn Baptist Church in Pascagoula. It was good to have the opportunity to report on the ministry of the Home and also share a message from God's Word to those in attendance. Our appreciation is extended to the Gulf Association and each church and individual who gave toward this rally.



Pastor Ray Lee, Spencer Memorial - Presenting Check to Director Sidney Davis

Remember in Prayer and Focus Verse

Continue to remember the ministry of the Home in your prayers. "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." John 14:21.



Children of Spencer Memorial helped in raising funds for Children's Home Rally

2018 Senior Adult Conferences

Schedule

South Conference
March 20, 2018 - 9:30 AM
Big Creek Baptist Church
Soso, Mississippi

North Conference
May 8, 2018 - 9:30 AM
Hopewell Baptist Church
Fulton, Mississippi

Make plans now to attend!

Some Random Thoughts on the Last Chapters of 1 Kings

1 Kings 18.8 "...Elijah is here!"

At least three times in this chapter the phrase, "Elijah is here" is spoken. What a presence of a man! What a presence he offered as he stood for God and for the things of God. Today there's little audacity, certainty, much less presence of the man of God! There is no respect for the man of God.

There is little awe in the preacher's presence. Why? Because the man of God is weak in his prayer life, lacking in his Scripture study, withdrawn from his pastoral care of his flock, and focused on all things bright, shiny, and on social media. He is probably involved in politics. He leaves no time for the important. Tell them Bob, Fred, or Manuel, is here—that produces laughter not respect. "Elijah is here" stiffened the spine of those who heard it.

1 Kings 18.17 "Is that you, the one ruining Israel?"

King Ahab blamed Elijah for the trouble his country was having. He told Elijah it was his fault that the country was in dire circumstances. However, it was Elijah who firmly told Ahab, "not true!" It is you and your family's wicked ways that have ruined our nation.

Today many so-called leaders point to the Christian Church to blame the old-fashioned beliefs to be the cause of the nation's trouble. The Church is out of date and out of step with society they say. No, it is not the church that is ruining our nation, it is those and their families who are out of step with God and following His precepts that are ruining our nation. The blame game stops here.

1 Kings 18.30 "Then he repaired the Lord's altar that had been torn down."

The miracle Elijah performed by calling fire from heaven began with repair of the Lord's altar. In our day there are many altars that need repair before the fire of God - the Holy Spirit of God - can be present to show the power of God. The altar has to be repaired before the people can see His miracles in their lives. When the altar is repaired, the people say, "Yes" to God by their turning to Him.

Dear brother, dear sister, is here an altar of the Lord that needs repair right now in your life, in your home, in your congregation, even in your business? Take those pieces of that broken down altar to put them back together to have and honor God. When you do this,

Anything that **DISTRACTS** us from vital prayer in our lives is a treacherous thing. It **STEALS** from us the *blessings the Father longs to bestow*, and it takes from the Father the *glory He so richly deserves*.

there's no telling what the difference will be in your home and community. Repair that altar now! Let the fire fall!

1 Kings 19.4 "I have had enough!"

Yes, Elijah was fed up, used up, and was ready to be done to die. He was ready for it all to be over. I know at points in my own life I felt it was all over and I was sick at heart enough to say, "I've had enough!"

Dear reader, possibly you feel the same way right now. You're ready to give up in your life. Things are not working out for you in your family, your career, or your business. At this point of giving up, an angel touched Elijah. His life was ahead of him to do good things! Dear

reader, look around for that angel who is standing near you. Be aware of the touch of that angel today.

1 Kings 19.19 "Elijah...threw his mantle over him."

Elisha was plowing with 12 teams of oxen. That's 24 oxen. He must have been a successful and well-to-do businessman. After he heard and felt the call of God, he left that business to become an assistant to Elijah. Can you imagine leaving your business behind to adopt a different lifestyle? That's what he did.

Dear reader, today you might be that successful and well-to-do executive, yet you know in your heart of hearts the mantle of God has been thrown over you. You struggle with that mantle being on you. Today make that declaration, make that purposeful move to begin that work of going with the mantle of God wherever it takes you. Perhaps you might leave a very valuable 12 yoke of oxen to follow him.

1 Kings 21.11 "...the elders and nobles who lived in his city did as Jezebel had sent word to them..."

The name Jezebel ever speaks of evil. No one would name their daughter Jezebel. Everyone knows of her wickedness in the Scriptures. Yet these men who were her contemporaries, and so-called elders - men of gravity and respect - and men who were so-called nobles - men of community standing through family lines - complied with wicked directions to have Naboth killed.

It is a sad thing today the elders and noble of our land are willing to conspire with wickedness for monetary gain. It is probably more to the point that they conspire with wickedness to gain political favor and standing.

1 Kings 21.20 "...you devoted yourself to do what is evil in the Lord's sight."

It is good to have goals and objectives in life, and work toward achieving them. Yet when those goals and objectives are evil in the Lord's sight, it is not! Most of us try to think what would be good and positive plans for the future.

King Ahab set to critical thinking to search out those things that were entirely opposite of good. He planned and put executive power to do the bad, the wrong, the profane, and the evil. The Scriptures tell us he succeeded in achieving his evil goals.. The Prophet Elijah told him he had reached his objective of evil in the Lord's sight.

Dear reader, what are your goals? Do they include the good for God or the evil for yourself?

SENIOR SOURCES

by Becky Ulmer - becky.ulmer@jghms.com

"JUST BREATHE"

How many times have you used this instruction while assisting others to cope? It's free and plentiful. Air is a God given necessity of life. The process of breathing is for cleansing and replenishing. Oxygen is taken in with inhalation and waste goes out with exhalation. Adequate time and effort must be given to both phases to maintain health.



Becky Ulmer

To "effectively breathe" takes a little thought and effort

We realize that Emphysema, COPD, Asthma, and Fibrosis affect one's ability to "breathe". Posture, obesity, (large abdominal girth), and/or arthritis can directly impact breathing. In the elderly population the word "atelectasis" is seen frequently on chest x-ray reports. This means an area (lobe) of the lung is without adequate air. The treatment requires deep breathing and chest exercises to re-inflate the lobe. Nature tends to take our shoulders forward and our shoulders slump.

To "effectively breathe" takes a little thought and effort. Proper inflation of all lobes can be enhanced by proper posture, intentional deep breaths, pause holding breath then slowly release breath to fully empty volume. Do this a couple of times then resume normal breathing. Practice until the process becomes a habit.

This exercise pairs well with prayer and meditation. Thank God for His provision of the air to breathe. Breathing is an unconscious effort until illness or an irritant is present. Let's make a conscious effort to preserve, protect and promote a healthy respiratory system.

Psalms 150:6 (KJV) *Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!*

Becky Ulmer is Nursing Administrator of Jasper County Nursing Home, Bay Springs, Mississippi and attends Palestine Baptist Church, Montrose, Mississippi..

GIRLS'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

State Youth Auxilliary 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 Pianist Urges Camp Attendance

Hey, girls! I'm Anna Myers, your state GMA pianist. This year, camp will be on March 16th and 17th with "The Fruit of the Spirit" as our theme. I hope you can come! It's a great opportunity to spend time with friends, have fun, and get closer to God! I'm looking forward to hearing great messages from our camp pastor, Bro. Ryan Anderson. Please be in prayer for him and everyone that will be attending our camp. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Three Churches Working Together for Missions Revival

Greetings to our sister Churches of the BMA of Mississippi. Good Hope Baptist Church and Mt. Gilead Baptist Church of Columbia, along with Bethel Baptist Church of Bassfield, will be sponsoring a missions revival February 25-27. Our speaker will be Bro. John David Smith, Executive Director of Missions for the BMA of America.



National Missions Dir.
Dr. John David Smith

The services will be hosted by Good Hope on Sunday the 25th at 6:00 PM. Bethel will host Monday night at 7:00 PM and the services will conclude on Tuesday night at 7:00 PM at Mt. Gilead Church. We want to invite everyone to join us for these services. Our prayer is that will bless each and everyone of you.

Pastors Justin Cameron, Joseph Bain and Dewitt Bain

NATIONAL MISSIONS DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT REPORTS *World Missions Sunday - February 25*

Garrett Memorial to Pray and Give on World Missions Day

“We believe that God has put us in this particular location at this point in time to reach this particular group of people that are within our vicinity.”

This is why Clif Johnson and his congregation at Garrett Memorial Baptist Church in Hope, Arkansas, participate in missions, both local and global. They strive to reach people personally, and they have a great desire to see people come out of brokenness into life in Christ.

“The sense of brokenness and ‘lostness’ is so great in our area,” explained Johnson. “We see it and are sensitive to it. Globally, we’ve developed a better biblical framework over the last ten years, knowing that we were not put here just to reach the community God has given us, but that God has given us a mission that is globally-sized.”

Garrett Memorial believes that even though they are not a large church, it would be just like God to do big, extraordinary things through a small congregation. They are involved in supporting the Hambrices in Papua New Guinea, The Poulins in Peru, and the Semedos

in Thailand. They are also the sending church of Jimmy Walker, who is a missionary-elect to the Philippines, and a supporting church of Vertical Life Church - Urdu, a Pakistani church plant in Atlanta, Georgia.

“We are also starting what we call a ‘Seed Church’ in our own community,” explained Johnson. “It’s a church planting effort that has already seen 30 people come out of that harvest.”

Their church is also involved in taking missions trips, and soon, when their assistant pastor becomes a missionary in the Philippines, they plan to send teams to that nation. Garrett Memorial also invests in Romanian Gypsy communities, sending shoes with their contact, Dalton Brewer, and he uses the distribution of this desperately needed item as a front door to the gospel in gypsy communities.

In their local context, Garrett Memorial works with “We Are Free” to raise awareness of human trafficking. They also invest in their local pregnancy resource center, which acts as a Christian alternative to Planned Parenthood.

There, expecting mothers receive Christian counseling and “Mommy Classes,” and are encouraged to carry the baby to term.

“Throughout the year we also target several neighborhoods,” continued Johnson. “We are a consistent contact for them, and we want to be their first call for any needs that they have.”

This World Missions Day, Garrett Memorial will not only be hosting a Mission service, but they will be hosting a “50 hours of prayer” event in the days preceding World Missions Day. This congregation has built a prayer room within their building, and for the 50 hours leading up to World Missions Day, they will have people constantly praying for missions around the world.

“The brokenness in our communities is so great,” shared Johnson. “God is a missionary God that raises up missionary people. That’s at the core of God’s people. And it’s not just in the areas that I can see with my eyes, but it’s the areas that God sees – globally.”

Would you join Garrett Memorial Baptist Church in praying for and supporting global missions on World Missions Day? We need every church to participate in order to reach every nation with the gospel of Christ. Register your local church at bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday.

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi www.bmaofmississippi.com

DEPARTMENTS & COMMISSIONS

Mississippi Baptist Paper
P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441
601-426-3293

Southeastern Baptist College
4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-426-6346

State Youth Department
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
662-397-6832

Baptist Children's Home
118 Lowe Rd., Laurel, MS 39443
601-426-3928

Missions & Revolving Loan Fund
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-428-8616

Commission on Senior Adults
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-729-2613

History & Archives Commission
4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-729-8098

Moral Action
P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855
662-282-7425

Local: SOAR 2018

The most important things in life run through the local church.

Things like hearing the gospel, trusting and accepting Jesus, following Christ in baptism, growing in discipleship, building friendships, worshipping with believers, and much more happen there.

Each local church holds vital importance because it belongs to Jesus. He paid a high price – his blood – for the church, and he built it with his power. Christ is the church’s unmoving foundation, and he loves it dearly.

No other institution has been given the privilege or responsibility of continuing God’s mission on earth and obeying his commission. Christ works



exclusively through his church!

That is why DiscipleGuide is excited about SOAR 2018’s focus on the local church. This summer’s conference will challenge students to think about:

Why every believer should belong to a local church.

Why active participation in a local church is vital to following Christ.

What the local church is called to do in the world.

What the local church needs from

students.

What students gain from the local church.

How to get involved in the local church.

DiscipleGuide and the SOAR team are praying that students will return home with a new love and appreciation for the church. They hopefully and prayerfully anticipate a movement of students becoming active, meaningful participants in Christ’s work on earth through the local church.

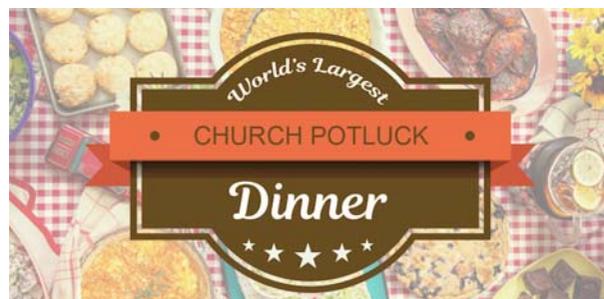
Have you registered for SOAR Conference 2018? Secure your spot NOW to get the early bird discount PLUS a SOAR t-shirt! <https://gosoar.com/register/>

Potluck Supports Ministry to Churches

The 2017 World’s Largest Potluck season was a time of great encouragement for DiscipleGuide. Their heart and goal remains to invest in local churches, providing services that equip them to carry out the Great Commission. BMA churches banded together during the Potluck season to support that goal, and DiscipleGuide is incredibly thankful.

Donations have been pouring in from participating churches, and because of that plans for future DiscipleGuide ministries are already in the works.

“We are so encouraged by the out-



pouring of love from our churches,” said Dr. Scott Attebery, Executive Director of DiscipleGuide. “It’s heartening to know that our churches are thankful for and supportive of our ministry. We are excited about the new ministries

that will come as a result of this year’s World’s Largest Potluck offering.”

If your church participated in the World’s Largest Potluck and has yet to send in your offering to DiscipleGuide, now is the perfect time to do so. As they plan for the upcoming ministry year, a complete tally of funds is necessary to fully serve the churches of the BMA.

Donations can be sent to DiscipleGuide, P.O. Box 1749, Conway, AR 72033.

Make sure to clearly specify that the donation is for the Potluck. Thank you again for praying for and supporting the ministries of DiscipleGuide.