

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

February 15, 2019

www.msbbaptist.org

Vol. 73 No. 4

World Missions Day is February 24! Free Mission Trip Opportunity

When your church registers for World Missions Day 2019, to be held on February 24, your pastor and his wife, or a couple of their choice, will be entered in a drawing to win a free mission trip.

In order to be eligible, churches must submit their offering to the Missions department by April 1. The drawing for the mission trip will be held at the 2019 National Meeting. The winning pastor and his wife, or couple that they choose, will

take their mission trip with BMA Missions Executive Director, Dr. John David Smith. The destination of the trip is to be determined.

At the BMA Missions Department, our prayer this World Missions Day is that churches will take time to pray for the many missionaries around the world who are working daily to share Christ, develop leaders, and make disciples. We also pray that your church will be generous in giving to these ministries, so that these missionaries can leave A Legacy of Hope like so many have in the past.

One of these families that have left A Legacy of Hope are the Kidds. Bro. Jerry Kidd and his wife, Sue, served as missionaries to Bolivia for about ten years. From being a church planter, to a disciple-maker, to a missionary aviator, Bro. Jerry Kidd was able to share the hope of Christ with many in Bolivia.



Jerry & Sue Kidd

In 1982, the Kidds came back to the United States on furlough and attended the BMA National Meeting. There, Bro. Jerry Kidd was nominated as the Assistant Director of Foreign Missions. He took the position and moved back to the States with his family to serve in that capacity.

“We had never in the BMA had anyone who had specifically given full attention to the foreign missionaries. And so, I began to work with them,” said Kidd. “Through the course of

the years, my position changed to Director of International Missions, then Bro. Phil Knott came on as Assistant to Director of International Missions, and we worked together for several years. Then he became the director a few years ago, and I became the Director of Missionary Care.”

We thank God for the many incredible legacy missionaries, like the Kidds, that have served in the BMA. This World Missions Day, let’s invest in the missionaries that are serving today, so that they can leave A Legacy of Hope in the future.

To register your church for World Missions Day, visit bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday and fill out the form. You can also register by calling the Missions department at 501-455-4977, or by emailing Paige West at paige@bmamissions.org.

BMA Annual Church Survey - deadline is April 15!

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

Providing your feedback has never been easier.

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

1. Complete the survey online at bmaamerica.org (under “BMA

Churches”).

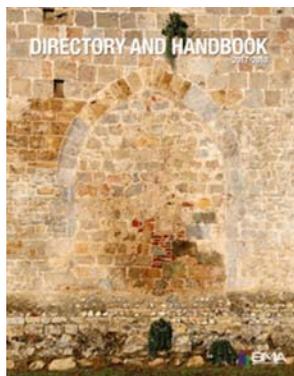
2. Fill out the pre-populated survey that was mailed last fall.

3. Request a new survey. Updated surveys can be mailed or emailed.

For questions about logging in to the website or to request an updated survey, contact Tasha Waites at 501-358-3860 or tasha@bmaamerica.org. Completed surveys can be mailed to: BMA America, PO BOX 1188, Conway, AR 72033.

Will you help us keep our

records updated and preserve the history of our association?



Abortion Recovery Ministry Dir. Speaks at Jacksonville College

Recounts her personal journey to Christ

On January 23, the day after New York passed the Reproductive Health Act, BJ Garrett, Executive Director of Christ-centered Abortion Recovery & Education (CARE), spoke in Chapel at Jacksonville College. As she addressed students, faculty, and staff, BJ began to recount the tragic story of her childhood: “When I was twelve years old, my mother sold me for a bag of groceries. I was being sex trafficked by my own mother before sex trafficking was a thing. When I was twelve years old, there had been so many men that had been given access to my body that I was basically a shell of a little girl. There was no real ‘me’ left at twelve years old.”

BJ felt like her life was out of control, and she made one terrible choice after another. Those choices led to four pregnancies, the first when she was only fourteen years old. She kept two of the babies, Ashlei and Austin, but she had two abortions. She still struggles with the memories of her first abortion. She explained, “I can still feel today the pressure in my gut from me lying on that table and



BJ Garrett

continued on page 3

BMAA Annual Meeting Housing Info

Editor’s note: Some are having difficulty with reserving rooms in the Embassy Suites Hotel for our Annual meeting in May. I asked Bro. Jerome Cooper of the Arrangements Committee to share some additional information concerning this issue. He says that not as many rooms may be available for Wednesday night, but Monday and Tuesday are still available.

The 2019 session of the Baptist Missionary Association of America will meet May 6-8 at the Northwest Arkansas Convention Center in Rogers, Arkansas. The Embassy Suites Hotel, 3303 Pinnacle Hills Parkway, Rogers, AR, will serve as our headquarters hotel for the annual meeting in Rogers. The Embassy Suites adjoins the convention center to provide the easiest access to all of the association meetings and activities.

Rooms remain in the BMAA block of rooms at the Embassy Suites, and if at all possible our group needs to fill its block of rooms there in order to avoid any penalties. Rooms are still available at the Embassy Suites for Monday and Tuesday nights. If that fits your travel plans, please consider using the

continued on page 3

Southeastern Baptist College

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

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

President's Perspective

"...For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." James 4:14

I'm almost 60 years old and I ran almost four miles this morning! Most people would tell me that this is a wonderful sign of good health, and I pray that it is. However, none of us are guaranteed our next breath. Our life is in God's hands and none of us know how or when He will call us home.



Dr. Scott Carson
President

In just the last couple of months two of my friends that are my age have had unscheduled open heart surgeries. One of my friends had begun running again. He just had a physical and the doctor declared him healthy. After having run several half marathons, last month he was within 150 feet of finishing a race when he suffered a massive heart attack that put him on the ground. A nurse was also running the same race and was just behind him. She stopped and rendered CPR which saved his life. Praise the Lord for her being so close by when my friend went down. The hospital discovered he had 100% blockage in

one artery and 90% in another. He is now home recovering from his successful surgery.

A few years ago, an Army chaplain and friend also had a heart attack on a run. He was within a few weeks of retiring from the Army after many decades of service and ran almost every day of the week, often for eight or

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

ten miles at top speed. He would often ask me to go for a run with him, but because of the pace and distance, I would turn him down. I knew my limitations. On his final run, he was by himself and suffered a heart attack. Two soldiers found him lying in a ditch. They too rendered CPR and he survived but with quite a bit of heart damage. His life radically changed that day.

I never really have taken much notice of my age. Maybe I'm in denial, but over the years it just wasn't that big of a deal to me. Birthdays come and go and a digit changes for my age. But with these recent incidents with my friends, well, I guess I have begun to realize "time is a tickin". We should all be aware of the time we have left on

this earth and determine to make better use of it for God's glory. Soon we shall walk the streets of gold, but until then, we should be mindful of our responsibility to share the good news of Jesus with those about us. We should be well versed in the scriptures to help our brothers and sisters who need council and direction in this sinful world

and we should be actively praying for others while engaged in ministry that exalts the Lord and His church.

"The days of our years [are] threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away... So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Psalm 90:10, 12

I pray that with as many days that God has planned for us on this earth, we would sharpen our vision of living for Jesus until our last day comes. May we stand before the Lord hearing His words, "...Well done, thou good and faithful servant." Matthew 25:21

Equipping the Saints!
Dr. Carson

2, on our campus to help us tidy up the SBC grounds? You may have noticed that bushes have been removed from in front of the library building. It has made a little bit of a mess with all the rain we have experienced. However, Mrs. Delight Jefcoat has a plan to restore and beautify this area of our campus. If you would like to participate in this project, please contact Delight at 601-763-4952.

Are You a Handyman?

Having been blessed with numerous students living in our dormitories, and the infrastructure being old, we often have minor plumbing, electrical, window, door, and miscellaneous other items needing repairs. We are offering an opportunity for someone to bless us with their handyman skills to assist us with these needs. Please contact Dr. Carson at 601-426-6346 if you would like to help.

You Left Free Money on the Table?

Thinking about taking courses at SBC? 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 and available for you! Our recruiter, John Blackledge, 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.

VA Educational Benefits Accepted

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

Volunteer Towel Man!

Right is Reid Lindsey son of Dwight & Lindsay Lindsey. Below he is cleaning the court after a spill during an SBC basketball game



End of Season

Wow, after a 30-year hiatus, our first basketball season is rapidly coming to an end! Come support the SBC Chargers. Below are the final home games of the season:

Thursday, Feb 14 Tougaloo College 5pm (women) & 7 pm (men)
Saturday, Feb 23 CMP Prep 2 pm (men)

Thank you!

The Washington Association donated a new washer and dryer for the women's dorm and Dean Walker donated a washer to the men's dorm. In addition, Dean Walker donated lockers and furniture for the common area of the men's dorm. What a wonderful blessing for the practical needs of our students.

Mark Your Calendar

We are planning a church donor dinner currently scheduled to be held on Monday evening, April 8, 2019. Invitations will be sent and the Laurel, Mississippi, location for the dinner

Available to Preach

Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit for preaching or to provide an update about the great things the Lord is doing at Southeastern Baptist College. You can reach him at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu

announced as we get closer to the April event date.

Ice Machine

We have an immediate need for an ice machine for the college. Ice is used in support of the sports program as well as the many other activities we hold on campus. It is most urgent for injuries incurred in games or practice. Can you assist us in this need? Contact us at 601-426-6346 if you would like to help.

Student Honor Roll

Congratulations to our students making the Honor Roll! In order to achieve the Dean's List, full time students must have a 3.5 to 3.9 Grade Point Average. To be on the President's List, full time students must have a perfect 4.0 Grade Point Average. See adjacent photos for our recognized scholars.

Campus Grounds Work Day

Will you consider joining us on Saturday, March



President's List (Spring and Fall 2018): L to R: Dr. Carson, Thomas (Jess) Jackson, James McGhee, Jr., Zech Rogers. Not pictured: Kristen Gray



Dean's List (Spring and Fall 2018): L to R: Dr. Carson, Jalen Lett, Tameshia Gray, Zech Rogers, Bro. Leon Carmical. Not pictured: Charles Meadows, Jr., Jeremy Wilkerson, Noah Clark, Mae Evans, and Angle Colon

From The Mind of Chuck Lee**Not Who I Am**

Listening to the news the other day, I heard a mother defending her son from the crimes he had committed. She seemed very sincere in her pleas for mercy by declaring that her son was normally a peaceful, good-natured boy and this was a side of him she had never seen. "It was as if he was a different person!"

It's hard to not feel sorry for a brokenhearted mother as she witnesses her son accused of atrocities that she would have never believed he could have committed. Being a father of four myself, there have been times when

my children acted in a way that I never dreamed possible. I'm not naive to the fact that children may "get into stuff". Most of the time, I knew the secrets they were trying to conceal simply because of being a child once myself. To be honest, most of the times I was surprised by their actions was because I chose to be deceived.

It is interesting to study how when people declare "that's not who I nor-



Bro. Chuck Lee

mally am", it is never because of some good, decent act they have done. Who wouldn't want the world to know that they are a generous, loving, hard working person? But generally, when people say they do not normally display certain characteristics, it is so others will think they are always a good person. They are in as much shock as everyone else when they commit some atrocity.

Perhaps we should say, "this is who I really am" and humble ourselves before a merciful God and ask Him to transform us into His likeness. Because that is the only way we will ever not be who we truly are.

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

Housing Info

from page 1

BMA block.

No matter which property you chose for your housing needs, please identify that you are with the Baptist Missionary Association of America. Identifying yourself as a part of the BMA group will help not only is fulfilling our contracts with the properties in Rogers, but will also help in planning the annual meeting in the years ahead. Following you will find the contact and rate information for the May meeting in Rogers, Arkansas.

Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas (Headquarters Hotel), 3303 Pinnacle Hills Parkway, Rogers, AR: (Single/Double, \$149 per night; Triple, \$159.00; Quad, \$169) (Standard Double or Kingroom). Telephone reservations: 479-254-8400. Complimentary self-parking for all guests (Valet parking is available). Full breakfast included. Reservation cutoff date is April 14, 2019.

Candlewood Suites, 4601 West Rozell, Rogers, AR: (Studio suite, 2 full-size beds: \$99.00). Telephone reservations: 479-636-2783. Reservation cutoff date is April 19, 2019.

Country Inns & Suites, 4304 West Walnut, Rogers, AR: (Standard two queen or one king suite: \$129.00). Telephone reservations: 479-633-0055. Use Group Code: 0505BMAOFA. Reservation cutoff date is April 5, 2019.

Hyatt Place, 4610 West Walnut, Rogers, AR: (\$116.00). Telephone reservations: 479-633-8555. Reservation cutoff date is April 1, 2019.

Fairfield Inn & Suites, 4611 Rozell Road, Rogers, AR: (Single: \$99.00; Double/Double: \$99.00; Executive King: \$109.00). Telephone reservations: 479-936-5900. Use Group Code: SMERF. Reservation cutoff date is April 20, 2019.

Hampton Inn, 4501 West Walnut, Rogers, AR: (Double Queen: \$144.00). Telephone reservations: 479-986-0500. Reservation cutoff date is April 6, 2019.

Aloft Rogers-Bentonville, 1103 S 52nd Street, Rogers, AR: (King: \$119.00). Telephone reservations: 479-268-6799. Reservation cutoff date is April 5, 2019.

Abortion Recovery Ministry

from page 1

them ripping my child from my body . . . Every time I hear the sound of a vacuum cleaner or an air conditioner turn on, I can hear the sound of them literally taking the life of my child from my body. It was horrendous."

BJ then married a man who was an alcoholic. The marriage seemed unlikely to last, until BJ and her husband became Christians. "I cannot tell you what it was like for me to go from such ugliness and such brokenness to meeting Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior," she said. "He is the Healer of all things."

BJ and her husband, Jay, have now been married for 21 years. The two have a daughter, Alex, who is attending Jacksonville College. Ashlei, BJ's first child, is a Jacksonville College graduate. She is now 28 years old and is a beautiful reminder of how precious life is. Ashlei attended the January 23 Chapel service to support her mother.

When BJ became involved with CARE, she was able to talk about things from her past that she had kept hidden from even those closest to her, including her abortions. God used CARE to help her heal, and she is now able to offer support to other women who are struggling with the same decisions she

had to face. BJ explains, "CARE's mission is to restore lives wounded by abortion and to educate the community of its consequences. In short, we minister to both men and women who are hurting from a past abortion experience. We help them understand the truth of abortion, and we offer real help and resources for those facing an unplanned or crisis pregnancy."

In 2016, BJ accepted the position of Executive Director of CARE. She is also a graduate of the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, and she welcomes opportunities to share her testimony of restoration and abortion recovery.

When asked for her response to New York's Reproductive Health Act, BJ answered,

"First, and most importantly, taking your child's life at ANY stage of development comes with life-altering, heart-breaking physical, mental, and spiritual consequences. I know this because I've made that choice not once, but twice. We have to educate our nation about the truth of abortion.

Second, full-term abortions are already legal in several states, and there are even non-profits that raise money just to help women pay for and end their

children's lives. This is not new. New York just joined the list of these states. Heartbreaking? Yes, but I feel that educating our communities and our nation is key to stopping the heartache caused by abortion."

Jacksonville College's stance on abortion is that human beings are created by God in His image; therefore, every person, from conception to natural death, possesses inherent dignity and immeasurable worth—including pre-born children, elderly individuals, those with special needs, and others marginalized by society. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Christians, then, are called to defend, protect, and value all human life.

New York's Reproductive Health Act that legalizes even full-term abortions was signed into law on the 46th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. JC President Mike Smith lamented, "Christians were asleep in 1973 when abortions became legal." It is the prayer of Jacksonville College that Christians will wake up and support ministries like CARE that work with women who find themselves in "crisis pregnancies" and who help men and women who have suffered from the spiritual and emotional complications of abortion.

For more information about CARE, visit careabortionrecovery.com.

Scripture Notes from Tony Cleaver

Revelation 11.18 "...The time has come for the dead to be judged... both small and great..."

A VIP is a Very Important Person. VIPs have special parking, special meeting rooms, special tables, and other VIP amenities that accrue to that status. Sometimes I wish I could be a VIP. However my financial, social, and cultural status will never allow me into the VIP circle.

I have made up an acronym for my status: NAVIP. This stands for Not A Very Important Person There is yet

another common acronym: RIP. This stands for Rest In Peace. I see it on many tombstones, grave markers, and flower arrangements at funerals.

A person who is VIP status will always be sooner or later - RIP status. VIPs have some ability to acquire health care to prolong life a few more heartbeats. Nevertheless the life clock also ticks with final seconds for them even with all human



Cleaver

power trying to hold back the hands on the clock face. At the end of the struggle the VIP always becomes RIP.

Those of us in this class of NAVIP will also become RIP - some of us sooner than later. The Bible says: "...it is appointed for people to die once—and after this, judgment..."

Dear Reader, evaluate, consider, and make ready your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ before your VIP or NAVIP status turns to RIP status.

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

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Jerry Wilson

Jerry Wilson recently surrendered to the ministry and was licensed by Rock Creek Baptist Church, Union, Mississippi. He surrendered to the call after much prayer by him and his wife, Patty. They are both dedicated Christians. Bro. Jerry is ready for pulpits supply as the Lord leads. He may be contacted at 601-480-6806.

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

GUEST EDITORIAL The Holocaust Continues

by Bro. Sidney Davis
former pastor of Mineral Springs Baptist Church,
Taylorsville, Mississippi

January 22, 1973. The day the Supreme Court legalized abortion. A day that may well be described by the words of President Franklin Roosevelt, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, "a date that will live in infamy."

Since that day there have been some 60 million abortions, a staggering and an unbelievable number. Does this disturb and shock you? Is it a bad thing? Is it a crime against humanity? Is it murder?

James Kennedy, late pastor of the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church says, "yes, it is murder." William Perkins, editor of the Baptist Record likens abortion clinics to the gas chambers of Nazi Germany.

I believe abortion is murder. It is a crime against humanity. It is the shedding of innocent blood. The killing of 60 million human beings is a horrible blot on the history of America.

If abortion is murder, then who are the murderers? Are the murderers only those who

perform the abortions? Or, are others guilty? What about the politicians who helped to make it legal with their laws and their promotion of immorality? What about the judges who declared the killing of babies constitutional? What about the Presidents who approve and promote it?

What about the people who voted for the politicians and who sat silently while the laws were being passed and the judges were making their rulings? What about the churches who do not cry out against this monstrous evil? What about God's people who vote for men and women who believe it is alright to kill babies? Are they not also guilty?

In January of this year, the New York State Senate cheered and applauded the passing of a state law that guaranteed abortion (the killing and murder of babies), up to and even beyond the baby's birth.

"Did not He who made me in the womb make my servant. And did not the same One fashion us both in the womb."

The law states that even non-medical people can perform abortions. If a botched abortion occurs the baby can be killed.

These people are fools to be applauding the destruction of God's work. Job 31:15 makes it clear that birth and life come from God. "Did not He who made me in the womb make my servant. And did not the same One fashion us both in the womb." How clear that is. The same truth is found

in Psalm 139. The Bible clearly condemns what these people are praising.

According to the Baptist Record, January 24, 2019, several law-makers are presenting bills that would hinder or cut funding for abortion. Millions of tax-payer funds have supported abortion. In this article it was stated "the Republicans efforts to gain pas-

see Holocaust on page 5

There is no justification and no words to use...

In our last issue we addressed the subject of abortion with a testimony from our granddaughter and her thoughts on giving birth and the unthinkable action of destroying the life of an innocent child.

For over 40 years the majority of our nation, and many in our churches, have seemingly just accepted that our nation and society (and most of the world) allows abortion on demand. How chilling a prospect that is. It is as if we have turned our backs on the most helpless of all individuals and "just moved on". Shame!

Our legal system is so humanistic and liberal that when laws are passed to limit or restrict abortions they are quickly struck down. The recent news out of Albany, New York and the cheering that went on when the bill was signed into law that permitted abortion up to the moment of full-term birth has seemingly lit a fire under those who are 100% pro-life and find abortion to be a fancy word for murder. Let us know that New York is not the only state that has such a law.

It is never proper to kill a child. It is never the 'right thing' for the mother or for the unfortunate 'situation' a woman finds herself in. Never, Never, Never!

Medical professionals tell us that there is never a reason for a late term abortion to 'save the life' of the mother. Let us be honest, the saving they speak of is the 'convenience' they seek or, as they may admit, the 'inconvenience' that child might be to their desired lifestyle.

Action Required

The Mississippi Legislature is in session and considering what is called "The Heartbeat Bill". Let us do all we can to save lives and not destroy them. Over 60 Million innocent babies have died because of the desire of the mother to not be burdened with a child. God help our nation for our paganism.

The Heartbeat Bill, if passed, will no doubt be challenged in court. Other similar laws around that nation have met that fate. Some of our state representatives say this is a futile effort knowing that the law will be overturned in some court, be appealed, cost much money to pursue and defend, etc. Abortion is legal in our nation because of the efforts of those who would not give up their goal until it was reached. They won. If we do not give up the quest to see abortion abolished, then we too can turn this evil tide.

If the lives of innocent children aren't worth defending, then what is life really worth? This editor urges you to contact your representatives in Jackson, your state senators, Lt. Governor Tate Reeves, and House Speaker Philip Gunn and urge them to not give up the fight. This fight is winnable, even if it goes to the U.S. Supreme Court. The more we fight the more optimistic the outcome will be.

We must also determine that the real answer to abortion is the conversion of those who promote and benefit from it. The changed heart is the answer.

We must fight and not give up on innocent lives.

For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

Psalm 139:13

From Sofilthy's Attic

by Mrs. Barbara White



What Do You Drink With Your Meals?

When I was much younger, actually about 70 years ago, I used to get to go spend a few days in the summer with Aunt Eunice and Uncle Sim. That was always fun. Aunt Eunice was a good cook and Uncle Sim kept us laughing all the time.

When it came time for dinner or supper he would ask, "What do you want to drink; sweet milk, buttermilk, whey, or clabber?" That was the choice.

I was made to remember this not long ago when I was invited to have lunch with some folks whose grandchildren were also guests. The grandmother asked the kids what they wanted to drink then named, along with tea, every soft drink ever imagined.

I'm thinking, "What about sweet milk, buttermilk, whey, or clabber?" I got to thinking about thirst and that is a common denominator for all humans. Think of the times in the Bible when people's thirst figures into the story: when Moses struck the rock, when Jacob went looking for a wife, when Elijah camped by the brook and the brook dried up and Jesus on the cross said, "I thirst", and on and on....

But Jesus is the living water. John 4:14 "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

Mississippi Baptist

Don J. Brown, Editor

E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org

Web site www.msbaptist.org

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

Phone 601-426-3293

PRICE

\$20.00 Per Year by Mail

\$15.00 Per Year by Email

CHURCH PLAN

\$ 1.30 Per Month per Family

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

Postmaster:

Send address changes to
Mississippi Baptist Paper
P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS
39441

15 things young (and older) preachers need to know about seniors

by Dr. Joe McKeever

"They will still bear fruit in old age. They will be full of sap and very green..." (Psalm 92:14).

All generalizations are false. Including this one.

Every rule has its exceptions. Including this one.

Even so, I'm going to make some general statements about seniors. Readers will think of exceptions. But by and large, these statements have been found to be solid and trustworthy throughout long years of ministry.

One

Seniors are not against change; but they dislike abrupt change.

There are no 1948 Packards in your church parking lot. No 1952 DeSotos. But the seniors driving those Camrys and Corollas did not one day trade in that Packard for the Toyota. There were a series of incremental steps in between—like, first buying a 1955 Fairlane, then a 1962 Chevelle, followed by a 1972 Bonneville, and so forth.

I quote Rick Warren who said, "Do not use the word 'change.' Say 'experiment.' Because if this doesn't work

out, we'll try something else."

Two

Seniors are not against innovations in the worship service; but they dislike overdoing it.

It was an 80-year-old who told me we should erect those screens on the wall in front of the sanctuary where we would project texts and photos and videos. "It would help us be able to see the words of the songs better. And the Scriptures." Until then, I had been reluctant to suggest this change since I had been burned a few times by older people disliking anything different.



Joe McKeever

Three

Seniors love guitars and violins and even a little percussion in church music; but they don't like it to interfere with the actual singing.

One reason seniors love "The Old Rugged Cross" and "Amazing Grace" is simply that they know the words, recognize the tune, and find it singable. They will enjoy the occasional modern worship song too, so long as it's uplifting and worthwhile.

When I have visited churches with a contemporary service (with all kinds of musical instruments) followed by a traditional service (with nothing more than the organ and piano), invariably more seniors attend the first service than the second. Seniors love music.

Four

Seniors love to laugh and will be the first to get humor in sermons; but they don't want it overdone. As one who does a lot of senior events, I cannot imagine one with no laughter. They love to laugh. Did you hear about the elderly couple who got married? They spent their honeymoon getting out of

the car.

Seniors will laugh at that longer than anyone. There's just enough truth in that bit of silliness for it to work.

Five

Seniors don't resent the young people being featured and young adults coming to the front; they just don't want to be put out to pasture themselves. Most of them have grandchildren whom they adore, so they will appreciate efforts to reach them with the gospel. Seniors love being around young people and will enjoy events where both groups are included.

Six

Some of your seniors have read more books than you own in your library. You will start to quote something you read recently and it turns out that several in your audience have read everything that author ever wrote. A few may have known him or her personally.

Seven

Some of your seniors have traveled, been to places you never heard of and knew personally people you use as sermon illustrations.

I tell a story about Ty Cobb, the hall-of-fame baseball player who put in 22 years with the Detroit Tigers and set a lot of records, many of which are still on the books. He is said to have come to Christ before dying in 1961. His message to the men he had played ball with said, "Fellas, I got in the bottom of the ninth. I sure wish I'd come in the top of the first." I tell that and ask, "What inning are you in?" Once in Valdosta, Georgia, a lovely little lady came up and said, "I was Ty Cobb's nurse at Grady Hospital in Atlanta in those last weeks of his life. A sweet, sweet man."

Eight

Seniors can still go on mission trips and make a difference.

Becky Gilbreath Crumpton graduated from high school with my brother

continued on page 8

Mrs. Ina Mae Moore Passes Away

Former pastor's wife and missionaries mother

Funeral Services for Ina Mae Moore, age 90, of Picayune, Mississippi, who passed away Sunday, February 10, 2019, will be held Friday, February 15, 2019, at 11:00 am at Lee's Chapel #2 Missionary Baptist Church.

Visitation will be Thursday, February 14, 2019 from 6:00 pm until 10:00 pm at Lee's Chapel #2 Missionary Baptist Church.

Burial will be in Lee's Chapel #2 Cemetery under the direction of McDonald Funeral Home.

Bro. Willie Tebo will officiate the service, assisted by Rev. Jared Lee and Bro. Randy Shaw.

A native of Springfield, Louisiana, she was a Homemaker and a member of Lee's Chapel #2 Missionary Baptist Church. Ina Mae was a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great great-grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend, who will be truly missed by all who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, M.S. Bankston and Lasca L. Richardson Bankston; her husband, Rev. John E. Moore, Sr.; her daughter, Deborah Kaye Moore; her brothers, Calvin I Bankston and Truett L Bankston; and her sister, Lurline Bankston Threton.

Left to cherish her memory are her children, Carolyn Moore Bilbo, Doyle (Linda) Moore, John "J.E." (Bet) Moore, Jr., Travis E. (Karen) Moore, Rita Moore (Bruce) Willmer; 10 grandchildren, Travis II, Nathan, Rebecca, and Rachel, Joy, Fallon, Debbie, John III, Betsy, Kara, Tammie, Teresa, and Tommy Jr.; 28 great-grandchildren; 5 great great-grandchildren; and her brothers, Percy M. (Joyce) Bankston and Thomas (Frances) Blue.



Bro. Thelbert Hill passes away

Funeral services for the Rev. Thelbert Eudale Hill, 84 of Fulton, was held February 4, 2019. Bro. Frank Panzrino officiated with Bro. Frank Wilson delivering the eulogy.

Bro. Hill passed away February 1, 2019 at Sanctuary Hospice in Tupelo. He was born April 26, 1934 to Chet and Ludie Buchanan Hill. Rev. Hill served in many places across the South as pastor for 50 years, serving as State Missionary for 18 years. During that time he was responsible for starting, building and pastoring four churches and worked on seven state mission fields while helping complete several other churches. He was a member of Walnut Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Fulton. He was a wonderful Christian man that enjoyed serving the Lord.

He is survived by his daughters, Marsha Barry of Corinth and Martha Eden (Lossie) of Fulton; 5 grandchildren, Ricky Barry of Corinth, Phillip Barry of Corinth, Tyler Eden of Nashville, Tennessee, Tanner Eden (Serenity) of Fulton and McKenzie Eden of Fulton; 2 great-grandchildren, Presleigh Barry of Corinth and Jax Eden of Fulton; his brother, Marzell Hill (Sylvia) of Ellisville, Mississippi; numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and a host of friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Effie McCord Hill; his father, Chet Hill; his mother, Ludie Buchanan Hill; his brothers, Copeland Hill, Bonnie Hill, Alvell Hill and Lavern Hill; his sister, Venditta McCarty and his son-in-law, Dickey Barry.

The family requests donations be made to Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi, Mission Office, 4226 Hwy 15 N, Laurel, MS 39440.



Bro. Thelbert Hill

Holocaust from page 4

sage of all the bills face what appear to be insurmountable odds in a House now controlled by Democrats, who support abortion rights nearly across the board."

Notice the last sentence in the above paragraph. "...Democrats who support abortion rights nearly across the board." Would it be fair to say that anyone who supports Democrats and their abortion policies should be ashamed of themselves... and repent?

Is there forgiveness for the evil? Yes, thank God there is forgiveness. Jesus said, "all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men." Even the

sin of murder can be forgiven. That is good news. The abortionists, the politicians, the judges, the church members, all who are guilty can be forgiven. Forgiveness comes through Christ who is the author of life, even life in the womb.

Let us pray for America We have been on a killing spree since 1973. Let us pray for the men and women who have condoned this evil and sat silently while millions have died "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil."

Let's not allow America to destroy itself. Pray to end abortion!

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



Sidney & Becky
Farmer



Johnny & Neta
Williams



Wesley & Holley
Martin



Bob & Edie Burch



Estuardo &
Yasmine Marroquin



Ed & Patricia
DuVall

“...Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee...” Jeremiah 1:5

Recent developments in New York, where a law was passed that allows for the murder of the innocent unborn in the third trimester, and the discovery that there are those such as the Governor of Virginia, who clearly advocated infanticide, demands a response. These actions are merely fulfilling the strategic strategy of Satan, designed to accomplish his larger objective of destruction. Abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia are murder. Remember what Jesus said of him (the Devil) in John 8:44, “...He was a murderer from the beginning...” Most God-fearing people and most believers would agree. The absolute best way to push back against these radical advancements of the Devil is to plant churches.

God has blessed us to organize 9 new churches in the past 7 years, but we have so much more to do. Let's get busy in 2019 and do more than ever before, to plant churches across the State of Mississippi.

Missionary Committee to Meet

On February 19th, the Missionary Committee will meet to interview two new missionary candidates. More information will follow in upcoming issues. I am excited about what God is doing in our State. Please continue to pray with us about these new developments.

Update on Salt Light Baptist Mission in Waveland

First, I am excited to report that we successfully reached our Matching Fund Campaign goal of \$50,000.00 raised to help offset the Mission's indebtedness. This \$50,000.00 will be matched to total \$100,000.00 that will be applied to their loan. I want to personally thank those who participated in this campaign. Here is a list of those who contributed: Campground, Gulfport (their Mother Church); Paramount, Perkinston; Evergreen, Seminary; Midway First Baptist, Sumrall; Big Creek, Soso; Springhill, Ocean Springs; South Forrest, Hattiesburg; Divine Grace, Long Beach; Cypress Creek, Brooklyn; Day Star Baptist Church, Sumrall; Pine Ridge, Laurel; Berean, Soso; Little Creek, Perkinston; Oak Grove



Youth From Campground Baptist Church

Association; Ten Mile Association; Big Creek Association; Salt Light Baptist Mission; Wallace & Lois Williams

Second, I want to commend the folks at Campground for coming out to support Missionary Johnny Williams and the folks at Salt Light for a tremendous work day around the facility. Bro. Williams reports that a lot of progress was made as they prepare for their first Sunday service in the building.



Men from Campground

Third, I want to remind everyone that Salt Light will be having their first Sunday service in their building, at 100 Jeff Davis Avenue in Waveland, on February 17th at 10am. If you can attend, please come, and if you know of someone in the area, please invite them. Please lift this up to the Lord in your prayers.

Weekend of Celebration



Worship service during 17th Anniversary celebration

On Saturday, February 9th, 175 people gathered at El Camino in Laurel to celebrate their 17th anniversary. On Sunday, February 10th, 215 people gathered at El Camino to hear guest speaker David Dickson. El Camino has grown to become a mother church of three active mission projects: one in Hattiesburg, one in Biloxi, and one in Canton, who were all represented at this



Bro. David Dickson, Guest Speaker at El Camino's 17th Anniversary Service



El Camino, Laurel Celebrates their 17th Anniversary special meeting. God continues to grow their impact on the Hispanic community in Mississippi as they train men through their Bible Institute.

2019 Missions & Evangelism Conference

The 2019 Missions & Evangelism Conference has been scheduled for March 29, 2019 beginning at 9:30am. This year's program will be somewhat abbreviated, allowing us to hear some good preaching before lunch and then, after lunch, we will dismiss. The Conference Theme is, "Missions 101" and our speakers are as follows:

The Mission – Justin Cameron, Pastor at Good Hope, Columbia

The Message of Missions – Vernon Watts, Pastor at First Baptist Henleyfield

The Mandate for Missions - Brandon Burge, Pastor at College Heights, Poplarville

The Missions Minded Church – Jason Howard, Pastor of Canaan, Richton

The Call to Missions – Blake McCain, Pastor of First Baptist Midway

The Conference will be hosted by First Baptist Midway. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend. We will be mailing a promotional poster to all our churches soon. We hope that each of our pastors will encourage their people to attend.

Former Missionary/Missionary Coach Retires

It is bittersweet for me to share with you the news that Bro. Bob Burch has retired. His last day as pastor of Caledonia Baptist Church, the church he started, was January 27th. He and Ms Edie have relocated to Little Rock, Arkansas, to be near their youngest son, Justin. It is bitter in the sense that I hate to see him go. He has done a wonderful job as a missionary and missionary coach and God has richly blessed his ministry at Caledonia. It is sweet in that I know his desire is to take care of his

continued on page 8

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

118 LOWE ROAD, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39443 - (601) 426-3928
DWIGHT LINDSEY - DIRECTOR



DWIGHT LINDSEY

Fostering Faith . . . in You:

I am so thankful for the love of my Faith family. God has made so many beautiful local churches. The one phrase I have heard more than any other is, "Let us know how we can help." I feel blessed by the desire of God's people. I have no doubt our God can and will supply the needs of the Children's Home through His people.

I want to give you one clear directive that can make a huge difference in our transitioning ministry. You can help us find those who need our help. Listen to 1 John 3:16-18 "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."

I have no reason to doubt the love of God being in every soul that has spo-

ken to me about helping. I need you to SEE your brother in need and point them to us or point us to them. We all know people are hurting all around us. We must do the best job we can to identify them out of the loving compassion of Christ. We don't need to single out, snicker, or scold. We must be a helping hand and a warm embrace. No one desires to need the Children's Home, but so many need to know we are here and we can help.

Please pray with us each day. Continue to pray for our wisdom in prioritizing projects. Pray for opportunities to speak with churches and individuals about our ministry. Pray for our two pending cases. Both of these cases are very preliminary at this point. We hope that God will provide His children in His timing that we may plant the seeds of love, faith, and redemption. Please contact us if you would like for us to come to your church in March, April, or beyond. Contact the office, our Facebook page, or my cell phone (662-605-0996).

COMMISSION ON *Senior Adults*

4226 Highway 15 North - Laurel, Mississippi 39440

Time is moving on and the conferences for the Senior Adults are getting closer. Seniors all over the state are looking forward to a great day of fellowship with fellow saints.

Tuesday, March 19, 2019, seniors will gather at Big Creek Baptist Church in Soso at 9:30 am. The registration fee remains at only \$15.00 per person. This covers an all-day experience plus the noon meal catered by Macs of Hattiesburg. An all you can eat buffet, a delightful meal, waiting just for you.

The afternoon singing will be worth it all; "Calm Assurance" will be in concert. This quartet is under the direction of Bro. Larry Lott, a member of Mt. Gilead Baptist Church in Columbia. He has attended many of our conferences; you don't want to miss the "Calm Assurance" quartet.

Our speaker for the South Conference will be Bro. Ed Steele. A great time of worship awaits us.

Plaques will be awarded for those who complete 50 years of ministry in 2019 or before. Call the missions office and give the needed information to Mrs. Kim Parker.

Door Prizes will be given during the day.

The North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference will be held on Tuesday, May 14th at FBC Mantachie. Bro. Matt Hudson will be responsible for the music for the day. Bro. Don Brown, long time editor of the Mississippi Baptist will bring the morning message. A great day is awaiting us at Mantachie First Baptist Church. A catered meal during the noon hour will be served. All you can eat for the low price of \$15.00. Door prizes will be given throughout the day.

Let's mark our calendars for these conferences; you don't want to miss them. Encourage a friend to come with you.

March 19th at Big Creek Baptist Church of Soso and May 14th of FBC Mantachie.



Kenneth Flynt
Director



GIRLS'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

State GMA Director Jessica Haden
795 Highway 532, Mt. Olive, MS 39119
601-797-4597 or 662-251-0455
Email jessicahaden3@gmail.com

Girls Retreat

March 15-16, 2019

Camp Garaywa, Clinton, Mississippi
"Revival"

II Chronicles 7:14

We are excited about our girls camp this year and the new vision we have for our retreat. We are wanting to make our retreat open for all girls, not just those who are active in the GMA program. We have lots of fun times planned as well as mission outreach and spiritually uplifting sessions for our girls. Our guest speaker this year will be Cris & Alicia Samson, church planters in the Philip-pines.

Please fill out the registration form and return it to, Jessica Haden at 795 HWY 532, Mt. Olive, MS 39119. Deadline for registration is March 8th.

We are wanting to honor all of our girls and their hard work in completing their GMA steps. During our coronation service on Friday night we will be recognizing each group of girls with a presentation on stage and awarding them with a certificate of completion for their GMA step. The girls are welcome to dress up in their Sunday dresses for this presentation. Please be sure to turn in your girls' names and step completed with your registration, so that the certificates can be completed for camp.

Please be sure to fill out the Queen's coronation form and mail to Mrs. Jean Knight. The deadline for this form is February 22nd.

Please let me know if you need the Jr Miss and Miss GMA participant forms. I will get this form to you to fill out and return by the deadline.

Mrs. Lisa Christian will be mailing out T-shirt order forms soon. So please fill this out and return it by the deadline.

All girls are encouraged to decorate posters with the camp theme and to bring their scrapbooks.

We will have a snack shoppe open throughout the day and craft items for sale and a silent auction table, so be sure to let your girls know to bring extra money for these items.

Our 2018/2019 Project was Daniel Springs Camp and the Peru Orphanage. Make sure you send in your money for this project to Mrs. Shirlene Smith at 730 HWY 533, Laurel, MS 39443. The Deadline is Feb. 25th.

I will get you more information concerning camp whenever I get your registration forms in. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 662-251-0455 or 601-797-4597. You can also email me at jessicahaden3@gmail.com.

I am looking forward to all we have in store for our girls retreat. Hope to see you there!

In Christ,
Jessica Haden
GMA Registration

The Ant & The Straw

The Bible says, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise."

Yes, there is much we may learn from the ant. Here is one good lesson.

A biologist tells how he watched an ant carrying a piece of straw which seemed a big burden to it.

The ant came to a crack in the ground which was too big for it to cross. It stood for a time, as though pondering the situation, then put the straw down across the crack and walked over on it.

What a lesson to us. The burden became the bridge for progress. Our burdens can sometimes be turned into bridges, if we endeavor by God's help to live the overcoming life.

-Louisiana Baptist Builder

His Way

God bade me go when I would stay
("Twas cool within the wood):
I did not know the reason why.
I heard a boulder crashing by
across the path where I stood.

He bade me stay when I would go;
"Thy will be done." I said.
They found one day at early dawn
Across the way I would have gone,
A serpent with a mangled head.

No more I ask the reason why,
Although I may not see
The path ahead, His way I go"
For through I know not, He doth know
And He will choose safe paths for me.

--The Sunday School Times

Seniors

from page 5

Ron's class, in 1954. That puts them both around age 80. A couple of weeks ago when I saw Becky, I said rather flippantly, "So, where are you off to next time?" She said something like, "In two weeks, we're headed to Nigeria." (I'm not sure which country she said.) Some years back when I spoke at the Alabama Baptists' annual convention, Becky was singled out as the Volunteer of the Year. She's not alone, of course. So many veteran workers with our denomination's Disaster Relief ministries are seniors and still making a great difference for Jesus. The point is, pastor, do not assume they're too old. Some of them are younger than you, no matter what the calendar says.

Nine

Missions Report

from page 6

precious wife and care for his family, which can only be described as honorable. We wish them the best. God speed, my friend!

The Passing of the Old Guard

Recently, we heard of the departure of two former State Missionaries: Bro. Fulton Lindsey and Bro. Thelbert Hill. Both men labored hard across our State and beyond to carry the gospel to lost people and plant churches. Circumstances precluded me from being able to attend either of their funerals. Had I had a chance to attend, I would have said then, what I say now, of both men, "Well Done!" Their families can live with the knowledge that they both left a legacy, which the children and grandchildren will hear rehearsed again and again in the years to come.

List of Available Preachers

We maintain a list of available preachers who are willing to supply or pastor. If you would like to submit a resume or have your contact information placed on our list, please send it to missions@bmams.org

Revolving Loan Fund

Is Open for New Deposits

If you would like to open a new account or if you would like to put more money in your existing account, the opportunity is now. From now till May 2019, we are receiving new and additional money. Our fund is currently paying 2.25%. We currently maintain a good reserve, so that, if necessary, you can withdraw your money on short notice with no penalty. If you would like to have more information about how you can be a part of this ministry, please call Bro. Newman at 601-428-8616.

They appreciate respect but despise being condescended to. Some of my friends remarked that they hate being talked down to like they are five-year-olds.

Another said he dislikes people calling him "young man" or "young fella." In most cases, "Mister Joe" or "Mrs. Mae" works.

Ten

Not all seniors in church know the Lord Jesus, so you should not assume they're all saved just because they're in church and active in the work. When you speak to senior groups, give them the plan of salvation from time to time and extend a gospel invitation. It can't hurt, and might make an eternal difference.

As I type this, today I will drive north 125 miles and address a group of seniors from a three-county area of south central Mississippi. They will be sharp, attentive, alert, and involved. But I would be making a serious error in assuming everyone there knows the Lord Jesus. So, even though some may feel it unnecessary, my message will be urging anyone in the audience who has not come to Jesus not to put this off any longer. Urging them to "finish strong"—a theme which every senior can appreciate—means making sure they are right with the Lord for the rest of the journey.

Eleven

Seniors love great Bible teaching. In fact, pastor, no one in your church will love a wonderful Bible study more than they. Many will remember when our churches held annual weeks of study of a book of the Bible, which were always well-attended. Announce that you are going to lead a similar study of a short book of Scripture for a weekday morning, pastor, and you might be surprised at the turnout.

Twelve

Seniors tend to be the best givers in the church. We are told by stewardship directors from our state offices that when this generation goes to

East Central Report

East Central Association recently met at Calvary Baptist Church of Leakesville. The evening message was brought by Bro. Jason Howard. We had a good meeting and after our business was concluded we adjourned early to attend a Bible conference at Canaan Baptist Church. We enjoyed refreshments at Canaan after that service. Our next meeting will be at Canaan Baptist Church in Neely in May.

Moderator: Bro. Jason Howard
Reporter: Bro. Jerry Overstreet



Prime Timers...

Heaven, churches are going to be in real financial crisis since they are not teaching giving the way we used to. Years ago, churches would actually have stewardship revivals. Their annual stewardship emphasis would last for weeks and culminate in a huge dinner with an outstanding speaker. Churches had tithing testimonies and people were urged to tithe. These days, fewer and fewer churches are teaching these principles. Then they wonder why the giving is so weak.

In many cases, pastor, you are reaping the benefits of previous pastors who got this right.

Thirteen

They are your best pray-ers. In churches where we have had round-the-clock prayer ministries, seniors carried the major part of that. It's a wise pastor who takes advantage of the prayingest people in his church and involves them in such a vital ministry. And by the way, this is not something you have to do "for them." Enlist one of them to come up with a plan for a prayer ministry.

Fourteen

The sweetest friends a pastor will ever have tend to be seniors. The preacher-father of Dr. Grady Cothen and Dr. Joe Cothen once told his sons, "The Lord has put a delicate balance in the church. He has put just enough headstrong, ornery members to keep you the pastor humble. And He has put just enough sweet godly saints to keep you from quitting." Joe Cothen would tell that and add, "Every church I ever served had both groups." Yes, and my observation is that the sweet humble ones who "keep you from quitting" tend to be the old-timers in the congregation.

Fifteen

Neglected or abused seniors can give a pastor more headaches than he ever thought possible. Oh man, the stories I could tell.

In my last pastorate, in the late 1990s we were conducting a self-study, led by a great guy from our state office, on how to gear ourselves up for the challenges of the future. Demographic studies showed a large percentage of young families living in driving distance of our church, but we were reaching few of them. So, the recommendations involved redirecting some of our efforts and energies in their direction. The seniors blew up.

Even though I was in my late 50s

and thus a senior myself, one would have thought I was a 25-year-old pastor dead-set on pushing the oldsters out. I found myself running from home to home, meeting with Sunday School classes and assuring seniors we were never going to neglect them. I still remember them as being some of the most self-centered church members I've ever worked with. So, No. 15 on my list of 15 should not be taken lightly.

I will never forget the night I answered the phone and a voice said, "Sir, we're conducting a survey on the television watching habits of our audience. This will take about three minutes. Could we do that?" I said, "Sure. Go ahead."

"First," the man said, "could I ask what group you are in. 25 and under. 25 to 35. 35 to 45. 45 to 55. Or, 55 and up." I said, "That one." He said, "Which one?" "55 and up."

"Click." He hung up. Not one word of explanation. He just ended the call once he found I was a senior.

That was as eloquent a statement as I have ever seen on how some people discount seniors. So, so foolish.

But this will not happen in a Christian church led by a God-called and Spirit-led pastor. Surely not.

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