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Promoting WMA Growth

Reaching Women for Christ

by Charlotte Johnson
National WMA 1st VP

February is the month that the Women's Missionary Auxiliary promotes growth and enlistment to our ministry groups.

God's Word is filled with stories of how He has worked in and through the lives of women of all ages. These are great stories of women who were faithful in service. Many of these stories portray women of different ages learning from each other and growing in their faith. Remember



Charlotte Johnson

Miriam, the big sister who watched over her little brother Moses hidden in the reeds along the Nile, yet she dared speak to the princess to protect him (Exod. 2:1-10)? Then there are the stories of relationships like Naomi and Ruth (the book of Ruth) or Elizabeth and Mary (Luke 1:39-56).

When I read these stories in Scripture, I am reminded that God's message is for every woman — no matter her age or season of life. But when you look inside, we are still women with similar needs, desires, hang-ups and worries. By focusing on God's message and encouraging women from each generation to serve and learn together, we will all be blessed and much richer for the experience.

These are things to remember when building an inter-generational ministry for women:

- Be intentional to reach and involve all ages, and minister to women of every generation.

- Make sure women from every age group are part of the planning team and get their input and ideas.

- Have women from each generation carry out the plan — serving in every area, side-by-side, using their gifts to the benefit of all, but especially the Kingdom.

- Produce growth, friendship and to be a blessing to each

"Is your women's ministry intent on creating a welcoming atmosphere for the regular attenders as well as guests?"

other.

We have so much to learn from each other during every season of life. Focus on what each generation has to offer and allow these strengths and gifts to be used to the fullest. What a wonderful time we will have!

Here are some questions to think about when looking at your women's group:

- Is your women's ministry

intent on creating a welcoming atmosphere for the regular attenders as well as guests?

- Do you know what criterion first-time guests use to decide if they will return to your church next Sunday, or if they will return to a service after visiting your women's ministry?

- What kinds of things draw them; what pushes them away?

- How do the women in your church relate to each other?

- What does a guest see when she walks in the door? Are there age-cliques?

- Does she overhear gossip?

Christ, even if it means stepping out of comfort zones?

- Is there involvement out of love for the Lord and others? "Now the God of peace... equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen" (Heb. 13:20-21).

To reach women for Christ, we must give a little and help a lot. Women need spiritual nourishment and Biblical truths taught to them. We need to use faith-building social media to keep them informed about things happening in our ministries. Our groups should be a sisterhood of women who can share prayer requests, a listening ear, nonjudgmental advice, and a shoulder to cry on when needed.

So get busy and call that lady and invite her to come with you to the next meeting. Make her feel welcome and encourage her to become involved. Sometimes all it takes is a text and asking to reach those ladies.

-via Baptist Trumpet

SENIOR
ADULTS
MINISTRY

- Revival Fires -

2020 Senior
Conference Schedule

South Conference -

Tuesday, March 10th at 9:30
Big Creek Baptist Church
Soso, Mississippi

North Conference

Tuesday, May 12th at 9:30
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church
Fulton., Mississippi

by Dr. Joe McKeever
November 4, 2015
printed with permission

Trusting God is our calling as Christians. Jesus asked the disciples: "Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?" (Mark 4:40)

Not long ago, I arrived early at the church where I was to preach that morning and found that a Sunday School class was meeting in the auditorium. I made my way to a chair and joined the dozen or so adults of various ages.

Whatever scripture they were studying that day, they had

wandered far afield from it. Class members were excitedly speaking against abortion, gay marriage, transgender acceptance, hate crime

laws, political shenanigans, the coming world government, the Antichrist, President Obama and the possibility of an armed uprising in America so everyone had better have plenty of ammunition. Also, blood moons, Armageddon and Joel Osteen.



Joe McKeever

At one point, during a lull, I asked, "So, what is the scripture for today's lesson?" As far as I could tell, only the teacher caught the irony (and gentle rebuke) of that. He named some place in one of the prophets.

As the members of the class fed on one another's fears, something occurred to me from the Lord. "This is what happens when Christians quit praying and trusting Me."

They fear.

These believers were frightened out of their wits.

It spoke volumes about their failure to trust the Lord.

Let's admit the obvious here:

God is never happy when His people live in fear. Fear shows a distrust.

"God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7).

How many times in scripture does an angel begin a conversation with "Fear not"? And how often does the Lord Jesus tell us not to be afraid?

"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee; so that we may boldly say, the Lord is my helper and I will not be afraid" (Hebrews 13:5-6).

see FEAR on page 4

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

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Psalms 90:12

The reality of the brevity of life swept through the hallways of Southeastern Baptist College this week. Saturday night, as I was recovering from a very long week of challenges and blessings at work, I received a text message. I almost did not look at it since it was the weekend, but I decided to read it. It was shocking news about one of our fine young men! As I read the text I was appalled at how quickly someone's life can be altered. One of our student athletes was visiting his parents during the weekend. His father asked Trajan if he would be so kind and pick up his sister who was at an official high school function. Trajan dutifully jumped in his car and went a little early so that his sister would not have to wait for him in the dark.

Trajan arrived a few minutes early and was waiting inside his car when an altercation broke out nearby. Suddenly, a young man pulled a gun and began to shoot people at random. He saw Trajan and shot him in his knee and hand. As of today, the shooter has not been apprehended. Praise the Lord there were no deaths, but several were seriously wounded.

Trajan was taken

immediately to the hospital in Jackson where he underwent surgery. His knee was repaired quickly but his hand had extensive damage. Trajan left the hospital only a couple of days later walking on his own, albeit on crutches. But his hand will require extensive therapy and long-term healing. Trajan was the



Dr. Scott Carson
President

number one, three-point thrower in the National Association of Christian Colleges last year. There are 89 colleges in the Association. It is clear that Trajan will not be playing any more games this year, and his future on the court is in doubt pending the success of his rehabilitation. Please pray for Trajan and his family during these difficult times of healing, emotionally and physically.

A few days after receiving the report on Trajan, our Athletic Director, Buddy Duke received a phone call informing

him that one of his longtime friends was killed in a horrific head on collision the night before! Buddy's friend is Forrest Phillips, a well-known sports figure that has refereed numerous sports games all across the Pine Belt for several decades and called for many of our basketball games.

As one of our referees, Forrest particularly stood out to me, as he always made it his habit to come directly up to me before the start of a game and greet me by my first name. I will miss Forrest and his energetic calls on the Chargers' court. Pray for his loved ones and friends during this time of mourning.

Both the men's and women's teams, our coaches, and the staff of SBC were shaken by both events this last week. We know we have a Great God

who heals broken bodies and broken hearts. We trust in His wisdom and timing, and we know that those who walk with the Lord are not forgotten by Him in life or in death.

Pray also for our students as they process these tragedies. I believe the Lord will do a wondrous work in their lives as they process how quickly circumstances can change a person's life. Pray they continue to realize that we all must keep our eyes fixed upon Jesus in the good and the bad of life, as He is the great healer of all our grief and pain.

"The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe." Proverbs 18:10

Equipping the Saints!
Dr. Carson

Why Are You Even Thinking of Attending Another School?

Southeastern Baptist College is designated by Intelligent.com as the "Best Two Year University" for Online Bible Colleges out of 201 institutions across the U.S. for 2020. That's twice in the last 4 years we have been ranked number one out of hundreds of colleges and universities. And we have consistently been in the top 25. SBC is also one of the top 10 least expensive schools among thousands of colleges in the country. You really need to contact the SBC Admissions Officer today! What on earth are you waiting for? 601-426-6346.

Amazon Smile

Our Amazon Smile account is fixed! Anybody shopping on

Amazon can select Southeastern Baptist College as your charity. When you do this a portion of your purchase price will go directly to SBC as a donation from Amazon!

Lighthouse Café

Praise the Lord! The SBC Lighthouse Café is open to everyone! Hours of operation are Tuesday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come and make lunch at the café a regular part of your week's activities. Of note, the Lighthouse Café can be contracted to provide catered meals or can be reserved for special activities. Contact Roderick Hollis for more information at: 601-652-1613. Thank you to all who contributed in money, materials, and labor toward this two-year project.

Mark Your Calendar!

The annual SBC Donor Dinner is scheduled for Thursday evening, March 26, 2020 on the SBC campus and catered by the Lighthouse Café. This year, we are combining the individual and the church donor dinners into one combined event. Invitations will soon be sent.

TNT

Each Tuesday evening the SBC student body gathers together for a meal and a spiritual lesson. We invite churches and ministries to sponsor a Tuesday Night Talk (TNT) by providing a nutritious home cooked meal (church pot luck style) OR, you can contract with the SBC Lighthouse Café to provide the

meal, with a spiritual 15-minute lesson. This program is a huge success with an average of 50 attending each week. Contact our Fellowship of Christian Athletes Ambassador, Coach Lyon at 601-506-2880, to schedule your night of ministry.

SBC Choir

Now is the time to reserve dates for a performance at your church or other venue during the Spring Semester. Hurry, their schedule is filling up quickly. Contact Krista McKenzie at 601-426-6346.

Veterans Benefits

SBC possesses the Gold Award level as a military friendly college! Have you served in America's armed forces? Then you probably have Veterans Administration tuition benefits that you can use toward a free education right here at SBC. I urge you to contact your local VA representative for an evaluation of your benefits. You earned them! SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

Bobby Thornton Memorials

Brother Bobby Thornton, former BMAA Chaplaincy Dept. Director and retired Air Force Chaplain (Colonel), passed away recently. His lovely wife, Dovie, has designated SBC to receive memorial gifts in his honor. Memorials gifts can be sent to Southeastern Baptist College, 4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440. Please

annotate the gift in memory of Brother Thornton. Thank you Linda Collins for your generous donation in memory of Brother Thornton!

SBC Foundation

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

Love to Preach the Word!

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

Discovering Your Spirit for Missions

Southeastern Baptist College will host a "Discover Your Spirit for Missions Conference" on February 20, 2020. This day is designed to enlighten others concerning mission opportunities. Students, pastors and youth ministers are invited to attend and learn more about becoming involved in supporting or participating in missions across the globe. Dr. John David Smith (Director of BMAA Missions), Mrs. Angela Rice (Director of Volunteer Student Missions), and Mrs. Alicia Samson (foreign missionary), among others will be guest speakers. Mark your calendar and contact SBC today to reserve your seat!



Angela Rice



Dr. John David Smith

More Southeastern
News Continued
on Next Page

COMMISSION ON Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt
Director

Good preaching during the worship hour and special singing from Heavenly Highway Hymnal. Most will remember these from days long gone by. "When the roll is called, I want to be there".

We will perhaps have a "Request Time" and you can ask for your favorite. Special singing will bless our hearts.

People who have not seen each other for a year will come together to rejoice once again with each other. "When the Saints go marching in, when the saints go marching in, I want to be in that number, when the Saints go marching in."

If you can, call 601-763-8100 and give the number attending from your church. If you fail to do this, come on anyway, no big problem.

Theme Song, "I bowed on my knees and sang Holy,
I clap my hands and sang Glory".

The oldest man present and the oldest woman present will be recognized with a special gift. People of all ages are welcomed at these conferences.

Love Offering

We will be receiving a love

offering for the Commission during the conference. Thank you for your continued support!

Let's make this a great day in the Lord and one day we will go to a land where we will never grow old. Plan to come. Bring a friend!

Revival Fires Senior Conference

March 10th at Big Creek Baptist Church in Soso

It's almost time! We will gather once again for a glorious time together. Senior citizens will gather from all over to come for a great time in the Lord. Beginning at 9:30 a.m. on March 10th at Big Creek Baptist Church. When the roll is called at Big Creek, I hope you will be there.

Registration fees \$15 for each

person. This entitles you to a full course meal catered by Mac's - enough said! He always does an excellent job. Just think, all you can eat for \$15 plus all the other benefits of the day's program. Don't miss it! Maybe a surprise or two during the day.

Door prizes will be given twice during the day - you might get one!

Master's Builders Annual Retreat

by Rose Bittner, Reporter

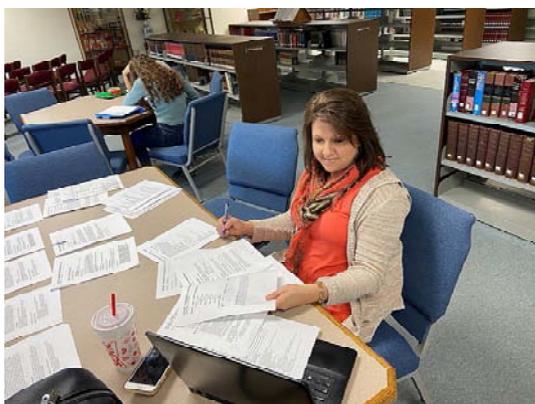
The Master's Builders met for their 2020 annual retreat in January at Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment in Gary, Texas. They once again stayed in the Daniel

Dorm which is the ideal meeting place for retreats and conferences. Camp Director Jason Prewitt says that the

Brother John Mangum can join us for retreat and business meeting. This year, Brother Mangum informed the Builders that he will be stepping down as Office Coordinator for the group with the



Acaemics and Athletics at Southeastern



Professor Rosemary Davis helps with some of the heavy paperwork our staff is working through in order to field a new Bachelor's degree.



Pastor Jason Webb of Goodwater Baptist Church in Magee, MS was a visiting professor for the day in Professor Ryan Reed's New Testament Survey class.



Coach Jenone Bell instructs the Lady Chargers in their win over Trinity College of Florida



The SBC Lady Chargers finished their home schedule with their 6th win in a row! Alex Singleton is with her Charger heroines. Pictured (L-R) are Rashida Cheddick from the Island of Grenada (NCCAA currently ranked #1 in rebounds); Deseree Moore of Gulfport MS (NCCAA currently ranked number #4 in scoring); Tyra Conerly of Columbia MS (NCCAA currently ranked #1 in scoring)



Members of the SBC men's team cheer on the Lady Chargers in their win over Coastal Alabama North.

is open to large groups to enjoy and encourages those who need a retreat or meeting center to contact him. The dorm offers large sleeping quarters, a full kitchen, and a large multipurpose room for use. The Master's Builders really enjoyed this retreat and had 33 Builders to attend this year. What a blessing! All the Builders certainly missed the big hole created in the group with the passing of Jesse Payne in October. He will be missed by all and left big shoes to fill on the saw!

A good time was enjoyed by all with several wonderful meals prepared in the large dorm kitchen, snacking and grazing on many homemade goodies, and playing games. This is the second year the Builders joined together to put together a very large puzzle which was very rewarding. It is always a special treat when

responsibilities going to Eddie Sikes, current Field Coordinator. The Builders also have elected two addition Field Coordinators, Mike Green and David Axe. These two will help direct and oversee future projects alongside Eddie Sikes.

The Master's Builders have a busy Spring coming up. Each year the Builders also work at Daniel Springs Camp doing remodeling and construction work prior to the camp season kick off. This year they are schedule to work at the camp in March for two weeks. The Builders will also work once again at Stone Ridge Baptist camp in Smithville, Arkansas, in April. We will then start building a new sanctuary at New Liberty Baptist Church in Emmett, Arkansas, in May!

If you are near any one of those jobs, come out to see them. They would love to meet you and share a meal with you if it is convenient. If you have questions about the Master's Builders Ministry, or if your church has any building needs, please contact our office coordinator Eddie Sikes at 903-725-6549 or 479-462-1675. You can also keep up with them on Facebook at "The Master's Builders". You will see the church arbor logo on the page and they encourage you to "LIKE" the page and follow their building projects there. The Builders hope to be able to connect with many of you at the state meetings in the Fall or the Nation Meeting this Spring.

SBC Chargers Basketball Schedule

Men's Schedule

Feb 18 @ LSU Shreveport
7:00 PM
Shreveport, LA
Feb 21-22 @ Oakland City Univ
TBA

Lady Chargers

Feb 18 @ LSU Shreveport
5:00 PM
Shreveport, LA
Feb 21-22 @ Oakland City University
TBA
Oakland City, IN



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Lindsey

118 Lowe Road, Laurel, Mississippi 39443 - (601) 426-3928
Dwight Lindsey - Director

From Abandoned to Assured - Part 3

While Ezekiel 16 is one of my favorite passages in scripture it remains one of the most heart-breaking. The picture of the abandoned child in the first five verses is bearable when contrasted with the rescue provided in verses six through fourteen. But, this passage is a lengthy one. The twists and turns are not over. It will be a bumpy ride.

What do those who have been rescued and blessed by God's goodness do with what they have been given? God describes the abundance of His affections poured out in beauty in verses

six through fourteen. One would expect a joyous appreciation for all the good gifts that have been given. Imagine a child opening a birthday present to see exactly what they had been wanting. The child would not be indifferent, but elated. When we enter verses fifteen through thirty-four we do not see the picture of a joyous appreciative child. We see what can be described as an entitled brat to put it nicely. Ezekiel 16:15 says, "But thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown,

and pouredst out thy fornications on every one that passed by; his it was." If it is in the Bible we need it, but I do know that often times we may not be ready for it. God is extremely blunt in these twenty verses. For the sake of space I will not quote the whole passage in this article, but go and read it for yourself. Be prepared for a grim reality. He references His people's infidelity twenty-two times in these twenty verses. Hardly a verse goes by without Him making mention of their unfaithfulness.

The descriptions of unfaithfulness are disturbing enough, but how they are accomplished seems to make them even worse. The people rescued by God used their beauty and reputation to create relationships with just any passer-by. Verse fourteen says their beauty and renown came from God. They were using the gifts of God to cheat on God. Verses fifteen through twenty one continue describing all the blessings of God's clothing, jewels, food, and even chil-

dren that were used against Him in their infidelity.

This is the unavoidable truth of Foster/Adoptive ministry. To do justice for the fatherless we must give everything. We must see that we could be the only physical hope for a child and be an instrument that brings them to their only spiritual hope. While living out this truth we must never lose sight of what to expect in return. Even in the light of God's goodness, we are not faithful to Him. When we pour out the blessing of God on less fortunate children we should never expect them to treat us better than we have treated God. Heartache and pain will always be a part of showing God's love in this world. It is what He did and still does for us.

Second Placement Received

Thank you to those who have supported this ministry through some very difficult times. We are thankful to see some fruit for our labor and see your sup-



port go to good use. We have now received our second placement since starting our tenure here at the home. We are often fielding calls, sitting in courtrooms, driving kids to appointments and we look forward to being able to share more details in the near future about what the Lord is doing. It has not been fun waiting on paperwork to get completed so that we can share more details about our new children, but we are thankful for your patience. We can share some details when we are in person that we cannot otherwise in print or a public forum. If you would like us to come and share with your church please contact us to set an appointment. We would love to share the Gospel and about the work of the Children's Home.

Fear

from page 1

The faithful do not live in fear. Period.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for Thou art with me" (Psalm 23:4).

I will not be afraid.

OK. Everyone on the same page about that? God's children are not to fear. Fear is giving too much credit to the enemy and not enough to the Savior. Fear occurs from a failure to trust Him.

To rebel against God, or to fail to believe in Him, sentences one to live in fear.

Fear of what? Fear of everything, fear of anything and even fear of nothing.

People can fear nothing? Yes,

they can.

"I will put anxiety in the hearts of those of you who survive in the lands of their enemies. The sound of a wind-driven leaf will put them to flight; and they will flee as one flees from a sword, and fall though no one is pursuing them. They will stumble over one another ..." (Leviticus 26:36-37).

The sound of a leaf blowing in the wind panics them.

That's fear.

Same with blood moons, Middle Eastern skirmishes and the latest candidate for the Antichrist.

What's wrong with Christians? Why do they fear every little thing that comes along?

Writing in the September 24, 2015, New York Review, Professor Marilynne Robinson takes on the fear she sees among God's faithful today. (I confess to be-

ing ignorant of this well-known teacher and author who is so highly respected among the intelligentsia. Yet, she writes as a born-again Christian.)



—When people forget God, "they make irrational responses to irrational fears."

—"Fearfulness obscures the distinction between real threat on one hand and on the other the terrors that beset those who see threat everywhere."

—"To fear indiscriminately" is a "very costly indulgence. Likewise, trying to stimulate fear in others is a bad proposition."

—"No one seems to have an unkind word to say about fear these days, un-Christian as it

surely is."

(Note: I find it amazing this purely Christian sermon is to be found in a secular publication like the NY Review of Books.)

What a terrible statement we Christians make to the world when we live in fear.

I love what Ezra said.

This spiritual leader had received permission from the king to return to Babylon and retrieve all the holy vessels taken from the Temple in the days of Nebuchadnezzar. Their value was easily a king's ransom. This lengthy journey could be risky indeed.

Ezra thought of asking the king for an armed guard. He would have granted the request, he knew. But there was a problem with that. "For I was ashamed to request from the king troops and horsemen to protect us from the enemy on the way."

Why was he ashamed to ask for protection? "Because we had said to the king, 'The hand of

our God is favorably disposed to all those who seek Him, but His power and His anger are against all those who forsake Him.'"

So, what would they do? "We fasted and sought our God concerning this matter, and He listened to our entreaty."

Then, they "manned up" and "the hand of our Lord was over us, and He delivered us from the hand of the enemy and the ambushes by the way" (Ezra chapter 8).

We make the same choice as Ezra every day of our lives: Whether to live up to the claims we make for our Lord. Whether to live by faith.

"When the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith on earth?" (Luke 18:8).

Or, will He ask us as He did the disciples on the Galilee: "Why did you fear? Where is your faith?" (Mark 4:40).

Lord, help us to be strong in the Lord and act like we believe in Thee. The leaves are always quivering and you are not pleased when they panic us.



- Revival Fires -

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New Website Has Been Launched

I am so excited that our new website is finally up and running. You can visit it at www.bmams.org and browse around and see all the resources. It features a "List of Churches" under the resource tab which contains our most recent information on all our churches and missions. If you visit this area and find a need to update something, just click on the link under the map and fill in the update. When you click "Submit", it will automatically email us your recommended changes. From the "About" tab you can access information about our State Association such as: Officers, Departments, Yearbooks, Doctrinal Statement, History, Church Letter. You can also visit the page which contains information about all of our current Missionaries, Coaches and Coordinators. We also provide a list of "Available Preachers" and a list of

"Churches Without Pastors." These lists are constantly being updated. Any new information is always welcomed. Soon, we will be adding a place where churches can upload information about positions they are hoping to fill and there will also be an option for an individual to create a resume on the site.

We hope this will give our churches and preachers better and faster access to each other. Under the "Resource" tab you can download fillable pdf forms for opening a new account in the Revolving Loan Fund. Our "List of Churches" features a map with the exact physical location of each church and the current mailing address if it is different from the physical address. Our "Events" tab will keep you informed about current events including monthly Local Association meetings. Please visit the site and let us know what you think.

Big Creek Association Revival
(March 29-April 2)

We are grateful that the Big Creek Association has decided to emphasize State Missions during their Association Revival this year. Each night will be hosted by a different church and one of our State Missionaries will be speaking. You can find the exact location and times of services on our website under the "Events" tab. I hope you will plan to attend.

Mission Changes Name

The Canaan Baptist Mission is now Patrick Creek Baptist Mission. The mission received the commitment of a



Missionary Scott Brocious preparing to give away over 300 free meals

piece of land that is located along Patrick Creek, hence the name change. With the addition of Associate Missionary Scott Brocious and his family, the mis-



Folks at Patrick Creek Mission, Waynesboro getting ready to give away free meals

sion has been able to begin holding Sunday morning Sunday School and Worship services. Bro. Scott is leading in the morning services and Bro. Jason Howard is continuing to bring the afternoon services with a focus on Baptist Doctrine and Distinctives. Recently, they cooked food and provided over 300

free meals to people in the Waynesboro area.

Refuge Baptist Mission
Kiln, Mississippi

I recently had the opportunity to visit again with the Refuge Baptist Mission and was impressed with God's presence and power in the service and after. I



Br. Josh Daniels leading a young man to Christ witnessed Bro. Josh Daniels lead a young man to the Lord immediately after the service. (Glory!) Recently, they began their new members call and have approximately 30 attending. This mission is meeting at the Kiln public library and even though they have seating for approximately 60, they typically have many who have to stand through the entire service and yet, they keep coming back. Bro. Daniels is focused on establishing discipleship training and leading his people through appropriate biblical polity to help prepare them for God's ministry work in and through them. Please keep them in your prayers. Recently, they received a donation of a van from Lebanon Baptist Church at Soso, Mississippi. They have expressed their deep appreciation for this gift and have already begun planning for a van ministry to reach more people.

Midway Baptist Mission
Batesville, Mississippi

"Greetings from Midway Baptist Mission. We are enjoying great services at Midway. Attendance in the morning service last Sunday was 19, with 4 staying for discipleship training in the afternoon. The average attendance in the morning services has been in the teens for the last two months. Seven are enrolled in the Disciple Way course. Everyone is growing spiritually, and all

are seriously reaching out to the surrounding communities. We are expecting great things to happen this year. In His service, Dr. Kenneth Pollock, Missionary Pastor."

Salt Light Baptist Mission
Waveland

"Salt Light is continuing to see growth in several different ways. We're having visitors nearly every Sunday. We had one to join us last Sunday by transfer of letter. Last Sunday morning there was great Spirit. Everyone was so happy to be there worshipping the Lord and to fellowship with each other. Wednesday night DiscipleWay training is going really good. Ten to fourteen people are coming regularly with some couples not missing once. We're just before getting a more permanent church sign installed in the front. I'll send pictures when it is complete. Salt Light Church is going to be giving out Bibles and information about the Mission during the upcoming parade in Bay/Waveland. Looking forward to meeting new prospects. In His Love, Power and Grace, Bro Johnny Williams"

From Bro. Ed DuVall
Cleveland, Mississippi

God is continuing to bless Homestretch. We are having a great time in our DiscipleWay study on Saturday morning. Our people are excited, and I can see their growth. That encourages me. We are planning on doing another training session for Bro. Cook at Harvest Baptist Church in Olive Branch and Bro Donnie Loggins at All Nations Baptist Church in Indianola, on the first Saturday in March. I am contemplating on opening it up to some area pastors, limiting it to perhaps twelve at most. We are planning a baptism in March. God is working in the hearts of some individuals who hadn't been in church for a while. He is drawing them back. Overall things are encouraging at Homestretch.

Redemption Baptist Mission
Diamondhead

"The Lord continues to do great things at Redemption. We have been in a planning mode to start the year. We are organizing different ministries through-

continued on page 6

BMA Missions Value Statements

By Holly Meriweather

Discipleship is alive and well in the Central American countries of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. According to the pastors there, this generational repetition of men pouring into each other's lives has been the single most impactful thing in their ministries.

When I ask our national missionaries about their salvation, calling and ministry stories, they always mention the older men who have poured into their lives and they younger men whose lives they are pouring into. For most of them, they have trouble controlling their emotions when talking about



Erick and Denilsobn-disciples of Oscar Monterosso

these relationships.

Sunday February 23 is World Missions Day, and if you have been watching the videos sent by email or posted on the BMA

Missions Facebook page, you have seen Executive Director John David Smith explaining the five value statements of BMA Missions. The second one says this:

Discipleship-based Multiplication - The entire context of the New Testament is one of multiplication. All healthy believers and churches will multiply. The multiplication of disciples is the most important factor in the formula for multiplication.

Although Central America is where I have most recently witnessed intentional discipleship in action, it is also "alive and well" in places like China, the Philippines and Cambodia.

Our ChangeMaker missionaries are living proof of "Discipleship-based Multiplication."

In El Salvador Bro. Rigoberto Jimenez Cruz is currently discipling Valmori Zelaya, a disc jockey who also produces Lifeword programs.

In Guatemala, Pastor Oscar Monterosso is discipling two young men, Erick and Denilson

In Cambodia, John Page has been discipling Sam-At for several years as they travel around the Ratanikiri province visiting villages.

In Nicaragua, Reynaldo has been discipling Emilio, although neither man is able to read or write.

In India Prashant Prakash and other men at the Bible institute are discipling fifteen young men who are burdened to go and fulfill the Great Commission and be disciple makers.

In all eighty countries of the world where there is BMA Missions presence discipleship-based multiplication has and is sustaining seventy years of reaching the world for Christ.

We invite you to celebrate with BMA Missions on February 23rd, World Missions Day 2020. For more information go to <https://bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday/>

Motivated Mission of God

from BMA National Missions

You probably follow at least one or two on Facebook. And likely one of them has been to your church talking about what they do. Or maybe you've met one on a VSM or BMMI trip. American or national, our missionaries are motivated by God's mission, which is one of the five core values of BMA Missions:

Motivated by the Mission of God

The Mission of God, defined specifically as making God's glory and love known to the nations. This aspect of the nature of God is expressed in the expansion of his kingdom (missions) to all peoples and is the primary motivational piece in all that we do.

Our ChangeMaker missionaries, more than 550 strong, are the heart and soul of seven decades of work all over the world. BMA history proves that God's mission has been the most im-

portant aspect of its associational work, which officially began in April of 1950.

That was when an association of 465 churches was formed. Originally called North American Baptist Association (NABA), the association's first meeting was held just one month later.

The first item of business after choosing officers was the elec-

BMA history proves that God's mission has been the most important aspect of its associational work, which officially began in April of 1950.

tion of the first secretary of missions followed by the election of missionary committee members.

In his book recounting the association's history, Dr. John W. Duggar makes clear that from the very beginning the association's emphasis was missionary endeavors: "As will be seen in the later pages of this



history, missions was to be the main thrust of the association throughout the years to follow."

In 1969 the NABA became Baptist Missionary Association of America to reflect that mis-

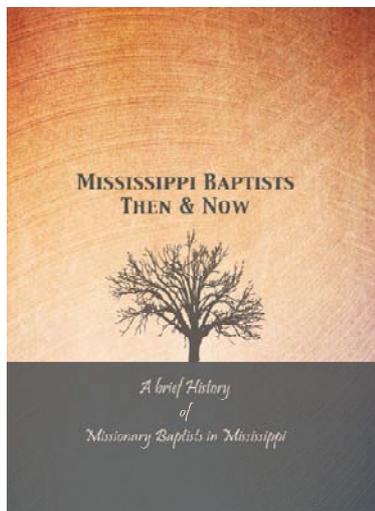
so churches, that certainly reflects the BMA's strong emphasis on the mission of God, and we praise Him for that.

I encourage you to go to the BMA Missions website, find the list of countries and missionaries, then follow missionaries on Facebook. Invite them to your church or go one step further and join a BMMI or VSM team. I promise you that a visit to the mission field will help you understand what really goes on as these missionary families fulfill the mission of God in their own cultures.

We invite you to celebrate with BMA Missions on February 23rd, World Missions Day 2020. For more information go to <https://bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday/>

Mississippi Baptists - Then & Now

Republished by the Commission on History and Archives Books will be available at Association meetings I am able to attend!



Cost of book is \$5.00. For additional purchasing info contact Jason Howard at 601-394-8723 or by email at jasonowenshoward@gmail.com

Mississippi Missions Report

from page 5

out the mission. I am excited about the dedication and service that our people are showing. We continue to have great attendance and meet new families. We are looking forward to Mardi Gras outreach at the end of the month. We plan to give out over 300 Bibles and share the gospel with whoever we can. Thank you for your prayers and support. - Missionary Wesley Martin"

Hispanic Missions Report - by Bro. Estuardo Marroquin, Hispanic Missions Manager

El Camino, Laurel - January 25th, we had evangelism train-

ing. Over twenty members came to receive the training and the first weekend in February we went on outreach. We shared the gospel with over twenty people. Two people accepted Christ as their personal savior and four will start home Bible study. Sunday attendance at El Camino in Laurel Sunday is averaging 110.

El Camino, Hattiesburg - The Sunday attendance is averaging around forty. They are also involved in outreach. Recently, they shared the gospel with over thirty people with five accepting Christ.

El Camino, Canton - Bro

Lucas continues to disciple two new believers and do outreach every Sunday evening. Their average Sunday attendance is twelve.

El Camino, Biloxi - I had the privilege of attending this mission in the last four weeks and I enjoyed the opportunity to preach the Word and worship with them. Their average attendance on Sunday is in the twenties and they have had new visitors. Please pray for me, as I am making plans to visit the Hispanic missions in the North of the State in March.

Please pray for me. I am making plans to visits the Hispanic missions in the North of the State in March.

Discovering Your Spirit for Missions

Southeastern Baptist College will host a "Discover Your Spirit for Missions Conference" on February 20, 2020. This day is designed to enlighten others concerning mission opportunities. Students, pastors and youth ministers are invited to attend and learn more about becoming involved in supporting or participating in missions across the globe. Dr. John David Smith (Director of BMAA Missions), Mrs. Angela Rice (Director of Volunteer Student Missions), and Mrs. Alicia Samson (foreign missionary), among others will be guest speakers. Mark your calendar and contact SBC today to reserve your seat!



Angela Rice



Dr. John David Smith

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 20-21, 2020
Camp Garaywa
 Clinton, Mississippi
"Lei Your Burdens Down"

by **Jessica Haden**

Matthew 11:28-30

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 speakers this year will be Bro. Donny Parish, Director of Lifeword & Angela Rice, Coordinator of Short-term missions.

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 12th.

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 Febru-

ary 26th.

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

You will find a T-shirt order form enclosed. Please fill out and return before the deadline given.

We want to encourage all GMA groups to decorate a story board, highlighting your GMAs. Include pictures of your class time, mission outreaches, camps, & retreats. This will take the place of the poster and scrapbook judging.

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 2019/2020 Project was Moral Action & Cris & Alicia Samson. Make sure you send in your money for this project to Mrs. Beth Caldwell at 166 Twin Creek Rd, Lucedale, MS 39452. The Deadline is Feb. 26th.

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!

GMA Officer Promotes Camp

Hi, I'm Anna Carroll, the Mississippi Girls' Missionary Auxiliary State Pianist. Our Girls' Retreat this year is March 20-21 at Camp Garaway in Clinton, Mississippi. Any girl is invited to come! Our theme this year is "Lay Down Your Burdens", and the theme song is "Come As You Are" by Crowder. The camp pastor this year is Donny Parish and I know that we are all excited to hear what message he has for us.

For the mission project this year, we will be assembling pillow case dresses to send with volunteer missionaries. We will have fun games, delicious food, and great fellowship. Be sure to bring some money for the snack shop, craft table, silent auction, and to pie an officer in the face! We will also be having a house party with an awesome lip sync battle this year, so be sure to sign up! We all hope to see you there!

State Galilean Camp Information

by **Mark Jones**
State Galilean Director

The Mississippi Galilean Camp will be held March 20-21, 2020, at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, Mississippi. The theme this year is **BONDS THAT LAST** Proverbs 13:20, Proverbs 17:17.

Registration will begin at 11:00 a.m. with activities starting at 1:00 p.m. We will have games, study times, and worship services.



We will have review board to elect the 2020 Senior and Junior Mr. Galileans for the state of Mississippi. If your church has a candidate for Mr. Galilean please contact me so we will be prepared. Any young man who is a member of a BMA church and has passed a Galilean step in the last year is eligible.

If your church does not have a Galilean program and would like to know more about Galileans or want to bring your boys to camp, you are welcome to come to camp. We would love to have you. For questions about camp or Galileans please feel free to contact me.

We need to know by March 16, 2020 if you are coming to camp. You may contact me at 662-231-1435 by text or call. Email is stonwall@yahoo.com. We need each young man to bring a 12 pack of drinks to donate to our snack bar. All money raised in snack bar goes to our project.

See you at camp!

Ladies Retreat Set

The Hobolochitto WMA will be hosting the 5th Annual LIFE (Ladies Interceding For Eternity) Retreat April 24-25, 2020. Registration starts at 5:00 p.m. The retreat is held at Campground Baptist Church, 20577 HWY 53, Gulfport, Mississippi. The cost is \$35.00 a lady or teen girl before April 10th and \$45.00 after or at the door.



Dori Drabek

This year's speaker is Dori Drabek. Dori is a Baptist speaker who travels all over the United States with her unique style of spreading God's Word. Her speaking and drama ministry is designed specifically for women.

For more information please contact Melissa Comeaux at 228-861-8308.

Scripture Thoughts by Cleaver

Philippians 1.3 *"I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you..."*

Sitting in quietness affords me time to think, recount, and to vividly remember some of the greatest, most memorable events of my short life. Complete with this thinking always involves the people around me who made those bright memories possible.

Without those people the events might not have been possibly the event would have been nonexistent in my life. But, no, there were people around me who brought me into that arena where good things could happen for me, my family, and even for those who will come after me.



Tony Cleaver

When in quietness I think about those who have been and continue to be so kind to me, I run out of time. Name upon name flashes on my mental screen. I see them who were and are so dear to the positive make-up to my life. Certainly and without question, *"I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you..."*

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

GMA Camp Registration Form

Name of Church _____
 Address _____
 Name of Counselor _____
 Address of Counselor _____
 Phone Number _____

Name of those registering

(Please indicate counselor with "C" and GMA girl with "G")

Name	Age	Last step completed
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____
11. _____	_____	_____
12. _____	_____	_____
13. _____	_____	_____
14. _____	_____	_____
15. _____	_____	_____
16. _____	_____	_____
17. _____	_____	_____
18. _____	_____	_____

Total Number of GMAs _____
 Total Number of Counselors _____
 Thursday Night Number _____ X \$28.00 = \$ _____
 Total Number _____ X \$65.00 = \$ _____
 Amount Enclosed _____ \$ _____

Make Checks payable to the MS State GMA

All meals will be \$10.00 for those that are coming for the Friday night services. Everyone is to pay a \$5.00 registration fee whether you are staying on the campgrounds or not, except our special guests.

Dealing With Difficult Subjects

by Dr. Allen Tilley

Barna Research (barna.com) reports that fifty percent of pastors feel pressured when speaking out on controversial issues, fearing their people will take offense. While I doubt that is a problem among BMA pastors, I do feel we must be careful in how we present the truth of Scripture. The goal of effective preaching is to elicit a positive response, not turn people off. Here are six steps that guide me when I preach on unpopular subjects.

Bathe the issue in prayer. I believe one of the reasons Jesus spent so much time in prayer is that His preaching/teaching ran contrary to mainline religion. Having the heart and favor of the Father is always essential for preachers, but when dealing with difficult subjects, it is crucial that we know His power and wisdom are resting on us. When we pray, we must not



Allen Tilley

17:20-21).

Conduct a thorough investigation of Scripture. The real power of effective preaching doesn't come from the words of the preacher, but the Word of God. By studying all the available scripture on a subject, you can deliver the whole counsel of God, along with preparing yourself for any questions. Even for the hardest heart, it's difficult to oppose an abundance of passages that refute bad doctrine.

Gather non-biblical support. While the Bible should always

only pray for ourselves but for those who will hear God's Word—that it will find a lodging place in the hearts of the hearers (Matthew

be the primary focus, try including secular data as a way of illustrating the dangers of opposing viewpoints for those in your congregation who may not have high regard for Scripture or who rely on emotions. For example, when preaching on the biblical prohibition of sex outside of marriage, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports that millions of new cases of sexually transmitted diseases are reported each year (<https://www.cdc.gov/std/general/default.htm>).

Speak the truth in love. Strong preaching touches the heart as well as the mind. I've found that if people know that I genuinely love them and want God's best for their lives, they give an honest hearing to God's Word. When our state legislators wrestled with the definition of marriage, I preached a three-part sermon on why I be-

lieve in the biblical definition of marriage: one man and one woman for life.

The second part of the series was against homosexuality. Word quickly spread through our small town, and I received a phone call from the leader of the gay community that they would be in attendance. In response, I shared two things with them: that they don't disrupt our services or they would be asked to leave, and that whatever I said would be in love. After the service, they

said they kept their word because I kept my word. One of the men even asked for help in breaking free from that lifestyle.

Provide hope and help. Every message should demand a response. In other words, more than telling them that they need to change or giving information, we must show them how change is possible. For example, Barna Research reports that pornography is the number one sexual sin among Christians. At the

end of the service, I directed those who struggle with this addiction to visit the website www.xxxchurch.com—a Christian organization who helps people with this problem. I also provided a list of licensed counselors that I had personally vetted. Don't beat a dead horse. Once I cover a subject thoroughly, I move on to another topic. Nothing will frustrate and irritate your congregation more than constantly revisiting a subject. Our job as pastors is to give them all of God's Word, not just one portion of it. Help your people flourish by feeding them a healthy diet—God's complete Word.

—from *Baptist Progress*

Dr. Allen Tilley is pastor of First Baptist Church of Carthage, Texas. He has over 30 years of pastoral experience, and God has continually blessed his ministry with dynamic spiritual and numerical growth. Contact him at allen@firstbaptistcarthage.com.

What is genuine worship?

by Paul Gauntt

Pastor of First, Palmer, Texas C.S. Lewis made this profound statement about a church service—He said, “The perfect church service would be one we were almost unaware of. Our attention would have been on God.”

I believe such a statement perfectly pinpoints the problem with the church “worship wars” today. We have become completely engrossed in worship instruments, worship styles, and worship philosophies, while totally ignoring the real thing that matters in worship—and that is to worship God the Father from the heart.

I was told of a concert hosted by a large Dallas church years ago. The famous Christian group, “First Call” performed their beautiful, a cappella hit, “O Sifuni Mungu,” a worship song in the Swahili language. A church group became offended and walked out of the building because they thought it was a charismatic group singing in “unknown tongues” even though some English lyrics were interwoven into the song. Just a wild guess—I would assume the group that left had hearts totally void of a spirit of true worship.

Now, I do have my preferences when it comes to worship style. I still favor the hymnal, pipe organ and piano—and a great choir that sings four-part

h a r m o n y and a guy up front who waves his arm. But that's me. Others can w o r s h i p when accompanied by t a m b o u r i n e s , e l e c t r i c guitars and drums.

Instruments, style, and philosophy are not synonymous with heart-felt worship!

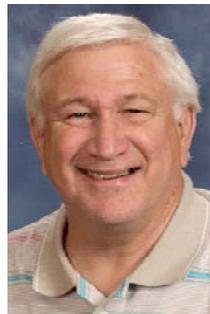
Just ask Paul and Silas, who found themselves, possibly hours from execution, sitting in a dingy, cold jail cell—at midnight, singing praises to God.

Just ask Moses, standing by a dried up, ugly old bush on fire in the desert who had an incredible confrontation with God.

Just ask the Ethiopian eunuch, who, after hearing a heart-stirring message from Deacon Phillip, received Christ, and, after the Spirit caught Phillip away, the Eunuch “went on his way rejoicing.”

Just ask David who was overcome with worship after the Lord blessed the house of Obedom because of the Ark of God. When the company that was carrying the Ark had gone six steps, and as David made the sacrifice of oxen and fallings, he “danced before the Lord with all his might. . .” (2 Samuel 6:14).

Just ask Abraham whose ex-



Paul Gauntt

pression of worship included sacrificing his only son Isaac on the altar.

How does one worship? In Old Testament times, an integral part of worship was to bring burnt offerings and sacrifices, as an expression of worship. Today, we bring the sacrifice of ourselves before the Lord, and offer that, along with everything in our possession to Him (Romans 12:1).

To worship is to acknowledge from the heart that the Lord is worthy to receive glory (Revelation 4:11). The people of Israel rose up and worshiped at the sight of the pillar of cloud in Exodus 33:9-10. To genuinely worship is to acknowledge that the life inside you is not yours, but rather Christ Who lives in you (Galatians 2:20).

Worship is a lifestyle—not some contrived motions we go through during a Sunday service. What did Jesus do in Gethsemane, the night before He was to give His life on Calvary?

He spent it in worship and calling out to the Father. It was a worship so intense, droplets of blood mixed with sweat beaded up on His head. Even as His physical life was fading away, he as still worshiping—and doing business for the Father. He was superintending the future well-being and care of His

mother: He took time to save the lost sinner hanging on a cross next to Him—while at the same time making Himself the ransom for the sins of the whole world.

I'm sorry, but in all of these instances of worship, it doesn't

seem that there was any concern about guitars, or tambourines, or pipe organs, or hymnals or giant screens. When worship is absolutely genuine, all those things fade into oblivion. AS C.S. LEWIS ONCE SAID, “I WANT TO KNOW THE SPIRIT OF WORSHIP THAT MADE DAVID DANCE.”

I'll add to that—I want to know the spirit of worship that made the eunuch leap for joy; I want to know the spirit of Solomon who lifted his hands toward heaven and said, “O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you. . .” I want to have the spirit of the woman with the Alabaster Box who brought her most prized possession and poured it out as an expression of love and worship to Christ. I want to have the spirit the widow had when she brought her meager amount to the altar of God—it was all she had—but Jesus said her heart revealed that she gave the most.



Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
www.bmaofmississippi.com

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