

Baptist

Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE
BAPTIST MISSIONARY
ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

February 15, 2021

www.ms baptist.org

Vol. 75 No. 4

Lifeword and the mission of God

by Holly Meriweather
BMA Global Missions Center

Four years ago, when the Lifeword Cloud was being conceived and implemented, Executive Director Donny Parrish gave team members their roles in its development. An exciting time for all of us, we prayed for God's guidance and favor as his plans became a reality. Thankfully, Donny is not just a vision caster; he's also a "prayer." And pray we did . . .

Looking back at that time period of the unknown, we can see how God worked in incredible ways including the addition of a team member, Director of Internet Broadcasting and Digital Strategy Jon Dodson, who had many years of experience in marketing, website management, and digital strategy.

He brought many new ideas to the table and knew that the success of a ministry included both video and print content. That meant someone would need to manage the daily blogs published on lifeword.org.

With guidance and advice

Blogging has allowed Lifeword.org to daily publish content that search engines absolutely devour and visitors continue to love to read more and more.

from Jon and the Lifeword team, I am honored to be that person. There was a lot to learn in the months before Lifeword went

Lifeword

live in September of 2018. So, I began assembling a talented team of people that includes more than just professional bloggers and writers. That team also includes ministry leaders, stay-at-home moms, pastors, church planters, retirees, missionaries, BMA staff members, counselors, and high school and college students. Currently English only, Lifeword's blog will soon include more languages, meaning more people reached with the gospel.

Jon says, "God has truly blessed Lifeword.org with an amazing team of writers that daily produce gospel centered content. Blogging has allowed

Lifeword.org to daily publish content that search engines absolutely devour and visitors continue to love to read more and more.

"Of the 574,000 visitors to Lifeword.org in 2020, the main

"Help Lifeword.org spread the gospel and share the amazing content..."

blog page at lifeword.org/blog was the number two most visited page in the website. Given current trends, Lifeword.org will receive over 1.5 million visits in 2021 and the blog articles will undoubtedly continue to deliver glory to our God and the good news of the gospel to our visitors.

Spreading the gospel couldn't be more critical right now, and the purpose of all Lifeword blogs

is to point non-believers to Christ and encourage believers to action. Our BMA state papers have begun including Lifeword's blogs in their publications, and we appreciate their help in promoting them.

"Your Lifeword team desires to equip you to minister online to your friends," Jon Dodson says. "Help Lifeword.org spread the gospel and share the amazing content – blogs, video, audio, Bible study lessons and much more— that God is allowing us to produce. To share Lifeword.org blogs on your social media accounts, simply go to lifeword.org/blog/, click on a blog title then on any of the social share buttons you'll see below the blog title to start sharing now. All of us at Lifeword.org hope the blogs are a blessing to you and to your personal ministry online as 'We Tell the Story' together."

A labor of love—and sacrifice

by Paul Gauntt

-from Baptist Progress

In late summer of 2020, Buddy and Taffy Johnson sold their home in Waxahachie (Texas), their truck, and other personal effects, in order to travel to Ecuador for a task with which they are very familiar—mission work.

Ecuador is a small country with a population of 18 million, and located north of Peru and south of Columbia in South America.

"Not far from where we live, you can stand with one foot on the northern hemisphere and one foot on the southern hemisphere," Johnson said, noting that although the Equator is known as the hot spot of the world, their home, which is in the mountains at an altitude of

10,000 feet has a constant, mild temperature year-round.

"There are no seasons here—and where we live, the temperature ranges from 50 to 75 degrees all year long," he said.

The mission work in Ecuador was the vision of Trevor Morris, who had been pastor of Union Hill, Brownsboro. He spent two years making contacts and gathering a group to begin a work in the 400,000 population city of Cuenca in the mountains of Ecuador. After returning from Ecuador, Morris worked for Burton Oil Service Operations. On the morning of July 13, 2017, he



The Johnsons

lost his life in a plane crash. He had just departed Tyler for Midland when the crash happened. It was just a couple of months before he was to turn 40 years of age.

Morris had been working with Buddy and Eric Johnson in getting the mission started in Ecuador.

"We had been in and out of Ecuador since that time working with the group," Johnson said. "We knew that if somebody didn't volunteer to go work in the mission, we were going to lose it."

Johnson said a lot of people in Cuenca were disillusioned with their churches, and gravitated to the new BMA mission. "We had a two or three night workshop of doctrinal studies with the group," said Johnson. "We



Bro. Buddy Johnson leading a men's bible study

were studying the doctrine of the security of the believer one night when some of the people became angered at the discussion and 27 of them walked out."

One of the issues at hand was the fact that the pastor of the church, who had come from a Pentecostal background, had

never been scripturally baptized. One night during a meeting of 12 men in the church to study Bible doctrine, the pastor began to weep and told the group that he was taught all his life that a person was first saved

continued on page 3

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

In His Grip

by Carolyn Hagler



Traveling Life's Road Together...

Have you thought of your life as a book? Read mine with me as I travel down the road the Lord has sent me.

I suppose my travels would be Chapter 9 of my book. Settle in and reminisce with me.

My traveling companions are two sisters and a brother-in-law. We traveled mainly west because my sister's compass always pointed in that direction. We planned many trips east but

We all had our roles on the trips: As the youngest, I was assigned the task of navigation. If you know me, that's one thing I can't do; but I wasn't getting a free ride. But let's just say that I'm directionally challenged. I've been lost in most of the places



Carolyn Hagler

As I remember those family trips, I recognize our ability to remember as a gift of God.

never made any of them. We saw Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, Kansas, and South Dakota together. We did manage to see Tennessee and North Carolina. Do you see my point about my sister?

We saw Cadillacs planted in Texas and camels off the road in Texas; we tasted green chili hamburgers in New Mexico. We saw animals and God's creation all through our travels. We laughed our way through state after state.

I've traveled.

In those days we used a paper map. While we were in Jackson, Wyoming, we decided to go to the Grand Tetons. My trusty map and I plotted our course. It looked wonderful. We traveled on a great blacktop road before we changed to a gravel one. When we reached a dirt road, my heart sank. I kept saying, "It's on the map." My brother-in-law who always took my side became a critic. I guess I could say we took the scenic backway

The upside to that trip was I

found a great rock! My sister and brother-in-law dug it up because it was like an iceberg: about 90 percent was below the ground. I think they traded vehicles after that trip so that I could get my own rocks.

The other upside was that we finally reached Moose, which was on the edge of the Tetons. We three sisters bought hiking sticks to remember all our adventures. When I look at mine, it always reminds me of our trips because it is covered with tags commemorating the places we saw.

Once we reached Moose, I breathed a sigh of relief and lived to travel another day. We tried several times to find that same route but never did

The four of us traveled ten years together with wonderful memories. As I remember those family trips, I recognize our ability to remember as a gift of God. I am blessed with memories, and I cling to His promise that "We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed...death is swallowed up in victory." (1 Corinthians 15:51, 55a) We'll be together again.

Until next time, I remain
In His Grip

Carolyn Hagler is a retired educator and a member of Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg. You may contact her via email at cmhagler@bellsouth.net

New Feature Column

To the right of these comments you will find the new feature column "In His Grip" written by Mrs. Carolyn Hagler. Carolyn is a retired educator, a member of Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, and a friend. My wife and I met Carolyn Hagler through a mutual friend many years ago.

She is undertaking this mission at the request of this editor, but she shared that others had encouraged her to 'write' a short time before I approached her. That encourages me that God is always working in our lives even when we are unaware of what the future holds.

We welcome Carolyn to our 'staff' and look forward to her contributions. You may contact her by the email address listed in her work.

Fairness Act

Many of you are aware of the direction our nation is headed in regards to athletic competition in girls sports by so-called transgender athletes. These are biological boys who claim to be girls or 'identify' as girls. These boys then begin competing in previously 'girls only' sports.

From an Associated Press report we read that Mississippi is one of a dozen states with lawmakers proposing restrictions on athletics or gender-confirming health care for transgender minors this year. Democratic President Joe Biden signed an executive order Jan. 20 — the day he took office — that bans discrimination based on gender identity in school sports and elsewhere.

There was little discussion of Senate Bill 2536 before the Republican-controlled state Senate late Thursday night passed it 34-9. Four senators voted "present," which does not count for or against the measure. Five did not vote.

"I've had numerous coaches across the state call me and believe that they feel there's a need for a policy in Mississippi because they are beginning to have some concerns of having to deal with this," said the bill's sponsor, Republican Sen. Angela Hill of Picayune.

In response to Biden's executive order, Mississippi Republican Gov. Tate Reeves, the father of three daughters, tweeted Feb. 4: "I am so disappointed over President Biden's actions to force young girls like them to compete with biological males for access to athletics."

We encourage our readers to contact their representatives in state government and encourage the passage of this law.

We live in a time when societal changes are being pushed that deny science, common sense, and most of all the laws of our Creator. Pray for Senator Hill and those in government to stand firm on this and other moral issues.



Senator Hill

Obituaries

Dr. Dugger's daughter dies

Lilly Mae Stark, 80 of Little Rock, passed away on December 20. She was the daughter of the late Dr. John & Maxine Dugger. Dr. Dugger, who passed away in 1998, served the BMA in many ways, including pastoring churches, as missionary to Brazil, and as president of BMA Theological Seminary, where the library annex was named in his honor.

Mrs. Stark retired from the State of Arkansas Social Security Disability office after over 30 years of service. She was always active in her church, teaching, playing the piano and in many other capacities. She loved



Lilly Stark

sending cards for every occasion, and her favorite activity was reading books, especially the Bible.

Survivors include: a granddaughter, Krystina Stark; a sister, Lucy (Don) Burns; a nephew, two nieces and many great-nieces and great-nephews. Funeral services were held December 31, and interment was at Pinecrest Memorial Park. Memorials may be sent to South City Church, 10710 Interstate 30, Little Rock, Arkansas 72209.

Obituary for Leland Callaway

Leland Callaway, 90, of Magnolia, Arkansas passed away February 4, in El Dorado, Arkansas.

Leland was born on August 29, 1930 in Hollywood, Arkansas to the late Joel and Gertrude (Bridges) Callaway. Leland surrendered to the call of ministry in his early twenties. He pastored Trinity Baptist Church for 36 years and was in ministry for

more than 70 years. He also was a professor of business and retired from Southern Arkansas University.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son Kevin Callaway; brothers Joe Callaway and Charlie Callaway; sister Florence Travis; special friends and brothers in Christ, Bro. Don Collins and Dr. Gene Medley.

Leland is survived by his wife of 61 years Val Callaway, his children Kelli Harwell and husband Mike, Khalin Callaway, and Kyle Callaway and wife Vicki all of Magnolia, along with numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, along with brothers Clell Callaway of Little Rock and Willis Callaway of Conway; a host of extended family and friends.

Services were held Feb. 7, 2021.



Leland Callaway

Special Emphasis

We are greatly appreciative of each individual, church, and group that has given to our annual Special Emphasis effort. We will be listing each gift in our next issue. Many do not send in their Special Emphasis gifts until the month after.

Currently we have received over \$8,000. Each gift, regardless of size, is greatly appreciated and needed. Our financial strength depends on monthly payments for subscriptions AND the monthly support from our churches and our Annual Special Emphasis success.

God bless you all for your giving... It is needed, appreciated, and is used to sustain this ministry.

	USPS 353-960 P.O. Box 8181 Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000	Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, MS 39402.
	Phone 601-426-3293	
Don J. Brown, Editor E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org Web site www.msbaptist.org	PRICE \$20.00 Per Year by Mail \$15.00 Per Year by Email CHURCH PLAN \$ 1.50 Per Month per Family	Postmaster: Send address changes to Mississippi Baptist Paper P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441

Missionaries to Transition Back to the United States

from Jimmy & Julie Walker

Big News — As you know, we came home on furlough in March in hopes of returning to the Philippines in August. Due to travel restrictions set forth by the Philippine government we are still unable to return. It has been nearly 11 months and at this time we feel that God has closed the door on a possible full-time return to the Philippines. We will continue to stay involved in a logistical support with the work there and I (Jimmy) plan to travel back and forth a couple times a year. While this was not our plan when we returned home, this was the Lord's plan, and we trust that He is working all things out.

A little over three and a half years ago our



Walker Family

family said yes to God's call "to go." While we had a location on a map, we had no idea the adventure that God had ordained ahead of us. We could not have dreamed or imagined all that we would get to be a part of! As we prepared to go, there were four primary areas we felt the Lord had called us to be a part of:

Setting up a model of discipleship.

Julie and I were able to disciple around 65 future pastors and church planters. This was a 13-month process of meeting weekly. Not only were we teaching them what it meant to walk with Jesus daily, but we were also able to show them how they were to disciple others. Many of them are already making disciples today!

Establishing a 1st-12th grade academy.

In August of 2019 this became a reality with the beginning of a first grade on our college campus. In August of 2020 a second grade was started, and the plan is to continue adding a grade each year until we reach grade 12. From the beginning, it has been our desire for the academy to be run by the Filipinos. Today they are in full control of the daily operations of the academy.

Helping the BMA Bible college to be more financially self-supportive.

While this process is not complete, things have been set in motion for this to happen over the next several years. For now, it is vital that funds from the US continue to come to support the Bible college. The new academy will eventually underwrite around 40% of the college's operating budget. 40% will continue to come from the US through student scholarships and the remaining 20% will slowly be taken on by the Filipino churches. Last month, one of the Philippine churches gave over \$1,000 to the college — the largest gift ever received from one of our churches there!

Helping plant new churches.

We have had many opportunities to help and partner with new church plants in the Philippines, but we have worked directly with two of them regularly. It has been encouraging to see Pastor Genesis and Pastor JR grow to love the community they are working in, and God is doing an incredible work through them even in the midst of a pandemic.

Throughout our time in the Philippines, we have seen God do some extraordinary things! Many have placed their faith in Christ, disciples have been made, churches have been planted and a new grade school began. We give God all the credit for the work that has been accomplished.

We also want to thank you for your prayers and financial support during our time on the field. Through your willingness to be used by the Lord, souls have been saved and lives have been changed. Without you, we would not have been able to do the things we were able to do! You have truly made a difference to the uttermost parts of the world. So, we are asking that you continue to give through April as we officially end our full-time missionary status in June. (If you want to continue to support mission work in the Philippines there are several areas of need. I'd love to talk with you further about how you can help.)

I'll continue my teaching responsibilities at the college, remotely, through this spring semester and finish in June. We pray that you will continue to be involved in missions. As for the future, we are praying through that right now and covet your prayers for next steps for our family and ministry. (bmabcphilippines@yahoo.com)

Johnsons

from Front Page

and then the Spirit came later.

"We got permission from the mother church to baptize the pastor and ordain him," Johnson said.

Another issue in the church was the marital status of many couples. Some had not been properly married.

"It is a big problem, and so we determined that we wanted to do it right, and have couples to be scripturally married," he said.

The Johnsons invited a couple to their home for a meal each week, and during one of the visits, they were able to lead the wife to the Lord. Many others have accepted Christ as a result of the ministry of the church.

When asked what his long-range goals were, Bro. Johnson

said that his top priority was to get the Cuenca church stabilized and equipped to plant many other churches. The church's name is 'It's for You Jesus Baptist Church'.

The Johnsons began their missionary work in Mexico in 1973, and after 27 years, 53 churches and groups were planted, with the flagship church being Primera Iglesia Bautista of Huejutla, Mexico. When they returned to the states in 2000, Buddy was invited back to the church he had left in 1973 to become missionary—Hillcrest Church in Texarkana.

For 10 years, Johnson has served as the Hispanic field coordinator for the BMA of America.

BMA OF AMERICA CHAPLAINCY

The chaplaincy, in coordination with BMA Missions, endorses and cares for chaplains, both civilian and military, as they carry the gospel.

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

Email - scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu



Dr. Scott Carson
Director

Chaplain Receives Award and Promotion

Christopher Grizzle and family recently returned from an overseas assignment to Germany and is now assigned to Fort Polk, Louisiana. As Chaplain Grizzle wrapped up his duties in Europe, his command presented him with a Meritorious Service Medal in recognition for his effective ministry and noteworthy contributions to the mission of his unit.

Having relocated to Fort Polk, Chris received an additional, and very significant career honor as he was promoted to the Field Grade Officer level of Major. As a Major, Chaplain Grizzle will assume a greater level of responsibility and, for his first duty as such, he has been appointed as the Fort Polk Religious Support Office Resource Manager. His duties include the proper accounting of the Chaplain's Office financial affairs and the resourcing of every religious activity in their sphere of responsibility. This is a very technical job that requires attention to detail while working with the various ministries to meet their fiscal requirements. Keep the Grizzle's in your prayers. Congratulations Chaplain (Major) and Mrs. Chris Grizzle!



BMAA Army Chaplain, Chris Grizzle is awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (Chris and Denise Grizzle)



Chris Grizzle's wife, Denise, pins onto him a gold oak leaf that represents the rank of Major



Present Chris' promotion Left to Right: John Mark (husband of Ramona Volkots, Chris Grizzle's mother), Ramona Volkots (mother to Chris Grizzle), Chris, Denise Grizzle (wife), sister Tessi Center, and her husband Rick Center. My mom Ramona and John Mark live in Fuquay-Varina, NC; my sister and brother in law live Fairhope, Alabama. The flowers represent family and dear friends who could not attend due to COVID and military missions

Position Available

Mississippi Baptist Children's Home seeking a couple to help with house, parenting, and maintenance duties. Please send resumes to info@msbch.org



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

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Chaos! It seems that we are constantly reacting to rapidly changing conditions and expectations. I just read that we are approaching the date for the first two week lock down to "flatten the curve" of the Corona Virus plague. I remember that government officials reassured us it was a temporary situation. But, after a year, we are still reacting to ever changing requirements that continue to dis-

rupt every aspect of our lives.

Here at Southeastern Baptist College, we currently have in-person classes as well as online options for our students. This has brought a sense of normalcy to this aspect of the school's operation. However, we have had several staff members and employees quarantined over the last 12 months, disrupting daily work requirements. Government agencies that SBC must report



Dr. Scott Carson
President

to, seem to always lose our first and sometimes second attempts to meet their suspense dates. We do the work while short-handed, and miraculously meet the due dates, only to be told the agency has no record of receiving the data!

Our basketball season has been a nightmare. Games were not confirmed until 24 hours before hand and sometimes later! Numerous games were cancelled or rescheduled. Each of the other colleges and universities had differing requirements for our team in regard to COVID 19 testing that we had to meet before they would confirm the games. And, of course,

without paying spectators, our financial support for games increased substantially, and then there's the weather. Our very first home baseball game was rained out. In addition, I have received notice after notice of SBC supporters being ill with a spectrum of causes, and the sad news of deaths.

It seems like we have had challenge after challenge, and disappointment after disappointment. But I learned many years ago, that God knows what is happening, He is and will always be on His throne and in total control. We can rest in His eternal promises and encourage ourselves of His living presence in our lives.

The scripture says, "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." Confusion and chaos come from another source. That source is Satan, the god of this world, that attempts to distract us from our resource of

peace and comfort. As we face these perplexing days, may we focus on our living Savior, Jesus Christ. The Bible and history testifies that we are not the first believers to live in challenging times. We can endure and overcome chaos by the power of the Holy Spirit living in us! We are on a life-course that God has set for us. May we determine to push forward as He leads us towards our heavenly reward.

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us," Hebrews 12:1

Let us pray as Paul recorded in Philippians 4:7 that the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Equipping the Saints!
Dr. Carson

Golf Cart Needed

Campus security volunteers need convenient transportation for making rounds about campus, especially at night. A golf cart would be ideal. If you would like to donate a golf cart, or similar transportation to the college, give us a call at 601-426-6346.

Thinking of Attending Another School? Think Again!

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. In the last 4 years we have been ranked number one out of hundreds of colleges and universities two times! 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. Contact the SBC Admissions Officer today! What on earth are you waiting for? 601-426-6346.

Chargers Baseball

Chargers baseball has begun! Come out and support the first year of Chargers baseball. They are playing on Wooten-Legion Field, 1215 West Drive, Laurel, 39440, MS. The season schedule is located near this announcement.

Home Basketball Games

Knowing the scheduling of our home basketball games has been a challenge under COVID 19 conditions. Many other colleges wait until a day or two before a game to inform us whether or not they will participate in a previously scheduled game against the Chargers. We have no control over the other school's decision making. Therefore, we can only project if the next scheduled games will actually occur. Currently, under the

Governor's directive, we are only allowing SBC student spectators into the gym. You can view all games live on the Facebook Southeastern Baptist College Athletics page.

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.

Amazon Smile

Anyone 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 Smile! Thank you for those who are already using this unique method to benefit SBC. Be sure to choose Southeastern Baptist College and NOT the Southeastern Baptist College Foundation. Also, be careful which you choose because numerous organizations have "Southeastern" in their name.

Need A Pulpit Filled?

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

Pictured Below - Chargers Baseball team praying together before their first seasonal game against Rust College



Above - Professor Justin Rhodes delivers a dynamic chapel message on the Eternal Truth of God's Word

Photo on right - Professor Sharon Howard was recently awarded a \$460.00 mini grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission



Photo on left - Coach Jody Babineaux sharing SBC's new baseball program with Laurel Sertoma Club members

MINISTERING TO YOUNG PEOPLE

by Anders Lee

Dealing with Teens who Use Self Harm

It is no secret that youth ministry has its moments where it is very difficult. Most times we see the youth pastor or the youth director's job as the easiest in the church. Not true! Yes, they get to be with all the fun loving teens at church and have all the activities that are light hearted & stress free. But then... there comes those moments when a teen comes to them with the worst problems of life, or a parent comes thru the door crying over what they have found out is true.

Years ago after a youth service I had a parent walk in needing to talk. Once we sat down the tears began to flow. "I have no idea what to do or why this is happening!" Before I say this, I want you to know I had never in my ministry, at that point, dealt with this. She shared with me she had discovered by the providence of God that her daughter had been cutting herself.

She was from a good home, they were faithful to church, she was normally a bubbly young lady, involved in everything at school and youth group.

Suddenly she was quiet, withdrawing, and had a total 180 on disposition. I had noticed it, but at age 15 I dismissed it as girl hormones and the changes of life. I didn't have a clue what to tell the Mom. I felt so inadequate to help her. I had to seek help to help her. We did get that young lady help and she got through her situational pain and emotions.

WHO?

Teens and College Students (very few adults) really do this! Up front let me say that most of the time it is a teenage girl who will do this before a boy. Boys tend to fight, cuss, or lash out instead. They want to harm someone else because that testosterone pushes them to do so. Statistically it's a girl that will



Anders Lee

do this. In fact, since 2005 the guru's tell us that out of 10 teens that cut themselves, 7 of them are girls. Cutting for girls is up 11% over the last 5 years as of 2019.

WHAT IS SELF HARM?

They cut themselves on their arms or legs. Most of the time they hide it from everyone so it's a private act done late at night or closed up in their room or



bathroom. It's their little secret until someone finds out or they get to a breaking point where they can't handle it any longer themselves. It varies how each person cuts themselves. They

may use a knife, sharp paper edges, or the end of a paper clip. I even knew of one who used their cat's claws. And, yes, they may use the obvious razor blade. Newsflash!!! Some people actually get a lot of tattoos or multiple piercings to achieve the same result as cutting. Don't let that one slip by you. It may not be the case, they may just like tattoos, but if your college student suddenly spends all their cash getting tats, you may look into it.

WHY DO THEY DO IT?

How they do it is really irrelevant. It is the WHY that you want to find out! Here are a few reasons, but know that each teens situation is unique. I certainly can't give you an exhaustive list of whys in one article.

1. It's a Fad or Peer Pressure

Who your teen hangs out with at school, in the neighborhood, or (yes even) church is sooooo important! Teens as we know are so easily influenced. Just as a teen can hand your son or daughter a beer at a friend's party, or a joint in the bathroom at school, that same kid could be a cutter. You know the ole saying; "Misery loves company?" It's true. A kid that is going through things expects that other kids are too, that it's normal life for all. So when they get close enough, they expose

they own private habit and invite a friend to join in.

A guy in my youth group one time had a girl drawing on his arm at school, she suddenly took the pencil and pressed into and across his forearm. He yelled out; "That hurt! Why did you do that?" She replied; "I thought you might like it." Yep, his girlfriend was cutting herself and she viewed it as normal, she wanted the "love of her life" to join in.

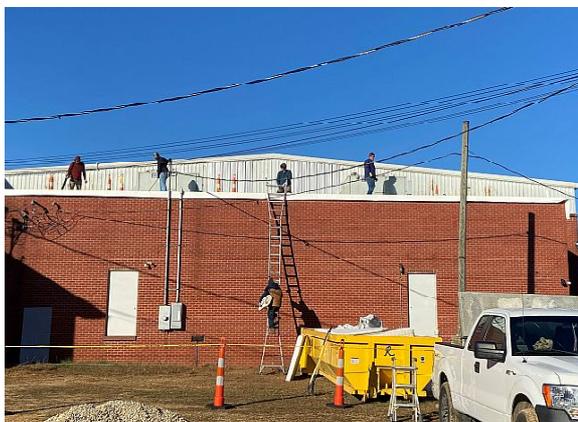
2. It's From Emotional Pain

Teens are not to the point in life where they know how to verbalize their emotional hurt. They may have seen their parents go thru a bitter divorce and have been hurt so deeply. They may have been neglected or abused by a parent at home. They may have been sexually abused by someone in their life. They could have endured verbal abuse from a parent or someone close to them. They may have lost a parent in death early in life.

They don't know how to verbalize it to someone close to them and they need so badly to release all the hurt, pain, and yes even anger. So they cut themselves. They don't understand their pain so they do something to themselves that they do understand. They know how to heal a simple slash on the arm. So they cut themselves to feel released and then they watch with

continued on page 6

More Southeastern Happenings



A new roof was installed over the stage area in the gymnasium



Chargers take a win at SBC's historic first home game while hosting Kansas Christian College



Photo on left - SBC's Deontay Robinson at bat



Photo on right - Coach Babineaux discusses a questionable call with umpire

Southeastern Charger Baseball Schedule

(Note: Home Games Played at Wooten-Legion Field, Laurel)

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
02/19/21	MUW	Laurel, MS	02:00 PM
02/19/21	MUW	Laurel, MS	04:00 PM
02/27/21	WILLIAM CAREY	Laurel, MS	03:00 PM
02/27/21	WILLIAM CAREY	Laurel, MS	05:00 PM
02/28/21	RUST COLLEGE	Rust College	12:00 PM
02/28/21	RUST COLLEGE	Rust College	03:00 PM
03/02/21	LSU ALEXANDRIA	Laurel, MS	02:00 PM
03/02/21	LSU ALEXANDRIA	Laurel, MS	04:00 PM
03/16/21	UNIV. OF MOBILE	MOBILE, AL	02:00 PM
03/16/21	UNIV. OF MOBILE	MOBILE, AL	04:00 PM
03/20/21	RUST COLLEGE	Laurel, MS	02:00 PM
03/20/21	RUST COLLEGE	Laurel, MS	04:00 PM
03/24/21	TOUGALOO	TOUGALOO, MS	01:00 PM
03/24/21	TOUGALOO	TOUGALOO, MS	03:00 PM
03/29/21	TOUGALOO	Laurel, MS	02:00 PM
03/29/21	TOUGALOO	Laurel, MS	04:00 PM
04/03/21	XAVIER	NEW ORLEANS	02:00 PM
04/03/21	XAVIER	NEW ORLEANS	04:00 PM
04/06/21	WILLIAM CAREY	HATTIESBURG	03:00 PM
04/06/21	WILLIAM CAREY	HATTIESBURG	05:00 PM
04/16/21	MUW	COLUMBUS, MS	02:00 PM
04/16/21	MUW	COLUMBUS, MS	04:00 PM
04/20/21	UNIV. OF MOBILE	Laurel, MS	02:00 PM
04/20/21	UNIV. OF MOBILE	Laurel, MS	04:00 PM
04/24/21	XAVIER	Laurel, MS	02:00 PM
04/24/21	XAVIER	Laurel, MS	04:00 PM
04/27/21	STILLMAN	STILLMAN	02:00 PM
04/27/21	STILLMAN	STILLMAN	



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Lindsey

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

The Calling of Children's Home Ministry

This ministry is a calling much more than just a career. A career is a profession or occupation chosen as one's life's work. A calling is listed as a strong urge to minister to the needs of others in a vocation. While a secular dictionary gets part of this right it ignores the most important part. Christians recognize that callings do not come strictly from our own suitabilities, rather they come from the Lord. Paul pens these gloriously soothing words in Acts 17, "...He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord..."

God has given every creature life, the things they claim to be their own, and the times and places they will live those lives. As God has appointed those things then it is only natural to deduce He has appointed our callings as well.

Scripture is rife with illustrations of God's calling to His people. He called Adam and Eve to forgiveness. He called Noah to build an ark. He called Abram to faith. He called Jacob instead of Esau. He called Moses from a burning bush. He called Joshua to follow the only leader Israel had known. He called Samuel to service. The list goes on and on through God's Word. In all these callings the people were not what made the calling special; it was the calling that

gave the people a special task.

I can attest to the fact that I am not special in my calling to serve at the Children's Home. God's calling to this ministry is the only thing that gives me courage and stamina to continue in what He has placed before me. I bring attention to this special task in hopes that I am a part of God calling other laborers to this harvest. While I desire qualified and competent help in this ministry, I know it will be short lived without the calling of God on this help. Parenting should not be taken lightly and the parenting of children with very unique needs definitely should not be taken lightly.

If these words begin to stir your heart toward the ministry of the Children's Home do two things for me, please. First, pray for us in our wisdom of hiring another couple to help with the duties of this ministry. Second, pray asking the Lord if He may be stirring "your" heart to the calling of this ministry. If it is you or you know of someone that might be fitting for the call please direct resumes to [info@msbch.org]. We appreciate all your prayer and support.

News Release -

Sharon Howard, Faculty Member of Southeastern Baptist College Receives Mississippi Arts Commission Grant

(Jackson, MS) --- Sharon Howard, Faculty Member of Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel has been awarded a \$460.00 mini grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) that will be used for art supplies. The grants are made possible by continued funding from the Mississippi State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

"Artists have been hit particularly hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, and as such, we are truly grateful to be able to provide grants to talented individuals across the state," said Malcolm White, executive director of MAC. "These artists infuse their communities with the creative spirit and inspiration we need during these times, and we are proud to support their efforts."

Professor Sharon Howard started an art program at Southeastern Baptist College, after receiving an MAE Art Education degree from William Carey University. Howard is also a professional landscape painter, specializing in the medium of oils. She believes in blending her talent and art education in an effort to teach her students how the visual arts are a means of self-expression.

The Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, serves the residents of the state by providing grants that support programs to enhance communities; assist artists and arts organizations; promote the arts in education and celebrate Mississippi's cultural heritage. Established in 1968, the Mississippi Arts Commission is funded by the Mississippi Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Mississippi Endowment for the Arts at the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson and other private sources. The agency serves as an active supporter and promoter of arts in community life and in arts education.

For information from the Mississippi Arts Commission, contact Anna Ehrgott, Communications Director, 601.359.6546 or aehrgott@arts.ms.gov.



Sharon Howard

Dealing with Teens from page 5

their eyes as their body heals itself. It satisfies them to release the pain and also to see that something in life can actually heal, even though they can't seem to heal emotionally.

3. They Feel They Should Suffer

Whatever happened in their life, they have blamed themselves for it. This type of teen doesn't want to heal. They feel they should continually suffer. Kids blame themselves for their parent's divorce. They may be bullied or picked on at school and have developed an inferiority complex. They feel inadequate & like a "nobody." They are failing school or got dropped off the football team or bounced out of the band and now they feel worthless. So they cut themselves and keep opening the wound or they cut themselves multiple times.

4. They Want Attention

I knew of a kid whose brother was a long term patient in the hospital with leukemia, he started cutting himself so the parents would notice him. Girls who feel unattractive or overweight will turn to this and of

ten reveal it to someone to get the love and attention they crave.

HOW DO I HANDLE THIS?

1. Don't Blow Up!

The last thing that teen needs is for you to blow up at them. This should be a non-judgment issue with pastors and parents! Parents get ashamed about what they have done and just let them have it. It may be true that a parent doesn't want anyone to know or think that something is wrong at their house. That parent needs a wakeup call!

We are all human! We all have mental, emotional, sexual or spiritual problems. To act like your kids can't have problems is being unrealistic! Parents get preachy and demand that this stop immediately. Some parents don't want to discuss the why or try to help they just put their foot down and say this is over now! Don't do this!

2. Talk in Love & Share Biblical & Personal Truths!

This kid/teen needs to talk. As we have said this is a result of not being able to communi-

cate what is going on inside of them. If you will patiently discuss and let them know its ok to share what's happening on the inside, let them know that we all have problems to deal with, eventually they will trust you enough to talk about it.

Provide scripture for them to see. Yep, post it on their mirror, or their dresser, or by their doorways. Once you know they are struggling affirm, affirm, affirm!!! Tell them how much they are valued & how much they mean to you!!! Love them with words & actions! Spend time with them!!! Make it abundantly clear that you are in this to help!!!

3. Connect Them!

If over time the teen isn't talking to a parent or to you as a youth pastor, you have to connect them to a solid Christian counselor who can help them and is qualified to do so! Every pastor or youth pastor needs to have at their disposal Christian counselors who can help where you can't. If you haven't already, take time in your schedule to find such a group or person. Sometimes larger churches have them on their staff. If the parent can't afford one or their insur-

ance doesn't cover it, get them financial help so they can be ministered to. Churches should look into budgeting this for their members in need.

4. Teach Them Alternatives!

They need to know there are other ways to express themselves without hurting themselves! Some of these may not seem right to you... but if you think about it and admit it... you might have had a time in your life when you needed to do one of these. It might be they need to get some anger out!

Punch a bed or a pillow (just not someone else HA)! Ever said, if this happens "I'm just gonna scream!" I have... does that make one crazy... NO! It makes us human. So scream, get that anger out (Eph 4:26-27)! They could do something physical, take a walk, exercise, punch a punching bag... etc... doing something physical often subdues the emotions.

Tell them if they can't talk about it to write it out in a journal. Girls are good at this! Listen to music, it soothes the hurt-

ing soul! Some experts tell teens to write the phone number of a friend on their arm instead and then call and talk to them. Alternatives work for many once discussed.

5. WARNING!!!

In extreme situations, this is a warning of suicide on the horizon! Teens or kids who dabble with this long term often admit to contemplating death. Don't let them be alone for extended periods of time. Don't let them be locked up in their rooms or bathrooms without accountability. Don't delay in handling this!

Although I have had to deal with this many times, I didn't learn all of this on my own. My thanks to Kelly Ross who helped me clarify my thoughts as I wrote this article. Kelly is our Editor Don Brown's daughter, she is also a member at my church and a licensed counselor.

Lee is pastor of Central Church, Southaven, Mississippi and may be contacted at anders.lee571@gmail.com

I'm Glad I'm A BMA Baptist

by Tony Cleaver

The last words my father-in-law spoke to me were these, "I'm glad I'm a BMA Baptist." Of all the words he could have used, of all the words that might have crossed his mind, of all the words he might have consid-

ered necessary, those are the words that he was able to speak in that private moment. I believe they are significant.

They were significant to him because it took great effort to speak the words. The words are significant to me as a hearer because of the great exhortation to pay heed to them. They are significant to our denomination because of the great expectancy that challenges us to continue the journey.

Any good leader is concerned for the organization. My father-in-law was always concerned for his denomination. He wanted the best that human beings could give through the grace of God. He raised himself in his wheelchair, and in his old normal preaching voice, told me those great words, "I'm glad I'm a BMA Baptist." The look in his eyes and the grip of his hand let me know that these were his life-held, soul-felt, Christ-blessed convictions. The words were of great significance because of the great effort of the life that produced them.

It seemed to me at the time I heard these words they were significant because he wanted me to live by them in my own life. The tradition of carrying on and passing the torch seemed to have taken place at that time. Upon his deathbed (in 2001), I asked God to send me a double

portion of the spirit that had been upon my father-in-law. I intently said aloud the request to place on me the spirit that God had so greatly used over his sixty plus years of ministry. I could not help but ask for that

The blessings of God on the denomination are staggering as we count what we have accomplished through His grace...

blessing to be mine because of the significant exhortation, "I'm glad I'm a BMA Baptist."

The men who were a part of my father-in-law's celebratory funeral service repeatedly spoke of his contribution to our denomination. Certainly, men of his caliber and conviction had given the BMA a good birth. Certainly, men of his stature and standard had nurtured it through infancy. Now the task for all of us is to continue a journey with great joy and expectancy for the glad and bright future of our denomination.

The principles of being a BMA Baptist are unique. The heritage of being a BMA Baptist is magnificent. The blessings of God on the denomination are staggering as we count what we have accomplished through His grace. Each denominational leader, from pastor to local association, from pastor to local association, can speak right now to recount the magnificence of God's blessings on our work. The challenge for us who inherit great traditions is to continue with them, embrace them, and uphold the life-principles that are proven.

O Lord God, thank you for the words of Gerald Kellar, "I'm glad

I'm a BMA Baptist." May I whisper it as my prayer. May I make it my mind-set. May I follow it as my guide. I ask you to use these words- "I'm glad I'm a BMA Baptist"- to bring honor to Your Kingdom. I ask you to use these words to remind all of us to earnestly contend for the faith that You have given to the

saints. Through the sufferings of the wounded Healer, through the death of the One who lives forever, through the watch of the empowering Ruler of the universe, through the Spirit of Jesus, through Him who holds the Baptist Missionary Association in His hands. Amen.

Tony Cleaver is the Kellar's son-in-law. He and his wife Jeri Sue live near Kileen, Texas.

A Note From Tony Cleaver

I have sent a piece I wrote in June 2001. The title is "I'm Glad I'm a BMA Baptist." I believe it has been published before. Nevertheless at this point in time it might be a good reminder for all of us that loyalty to what has brought us to this point is worth remembering, adhering to, and making a point of allegiance.

In this time of plague, when churches are shut down, people are scattered for faith. Our BMAA denomination has something to offer our communities and our world. There is a great political need. There is a great educational need. There is a great financial need. There is a great public health need. However, the greatest need is the spiritual need. Let us as a denomination respond to humankind's greatest need to preach and live the Gospel.

Kellar Notes Available for Download

by Tony Cleaver

The lecture notes on Romans compiled by Dr. Gerald Kellar are available for download from BMA Seminary Kellar Library. The hosted Kellar Library site is: https://bmats.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=59534673

These notes were used by Dr. Kellar in his early days of teaching at BMA Seminary. They are type written, many years old, but are in PDF form and provide a good copy. They may be read using Adobe Acrobat or any good PDF reader.

His daughter, Jerrie Sue, and son-in-law Tony Cleaver, found them as they were cleaning out some papers in their home where

the Kellars spent their last years.

These will be beneficial to both preachers and bible teachers. You are encouraged to make use of this great resource from one of the stalwarts of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. Dr. Gerald Kellar is

the only individual who served as president of each of the educational institutions of the BMA. His last service was as President of Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel.



Dr. Gerald Kellar

Position Available

Mississippi Baptist Children's Home seeking a couple to help with house, parenting, and maintenance duties. Please send resumes to info@msbch.org



MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Director

P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863

On The Web at www.macbma.net/

Email - fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com

"What is America's Hope?"

What is America's hope? We must claim God's promise of healing. II Chronicles 7:14. God says, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." We must meet several conditions before healing can come:

First, God's people must humble themselves before a holy and righteous God. We must become broken in our souls and spirits in order for our Father to renew us.

Second, we must pray. We must renew our daily fellowship with the Father. Our Father desires to spend time with us, but do we desire to be in His presence? Prayer is essential.

Third, we must turn from our sin. How can we do this? Dr. Adrian Rogers said that we must "name it, nail it and forsake it." We must identify and confess our faults to the Father. John said, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness". (I John 1:9).

Fourth, we must not carry our guilt around. Every believer must "nail" his sins to Christ's cross. They have been paid for by Christ's blood, and they will not be held against us. Paul declared, "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross" (Colossians 2:14). The songwriter wrote,

*My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought,
My sin not in part, but the whole;
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul.*

Fifth, we must "forsake" wickedness. When we forsake a wicked life, we literally run from it. Paul told Timothy, "Flee also youthful lusts..." (II Timothy 2:22). Are we willing to forsake the worldly lifestyle and embrace righteousness? Will we let Jesus lead us?

When these conditions are met, our Father will forgive us. He will wipe the slate clean, and give us a fresh start. He will fellowship with us and bless His children again. Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20). Glory! Our American and Christian hope is Jesus, God's only Son.



Dr. Adams

Mississippi State Guard Recruiting Chaplains

The Mississippi State Guard is recruiting chaplains. If you are interested, please contact Chaplain (COL) Scott Carson, Command Chaplain at 601-433-4736.

The Mississippi State Guard is an all-volunteer organization tasked with supplementing the forces of the Mississippi Army National Guard and/or air National Guard upon the order of the Governor of the State of Mississippi through the Adjutant General of the State of Mississippi. While its primary mission is to assist in coping with any man-made or natural disaster, the MSSG trains to be ready to meet any assignment. As a State Guard Unit, it is not subject to any federal authority, with regard to assignment and/or control.

More information about this professional organization can be found at www.msstateguard.us.



A Word From Daniel Springs Camp

by Director Jason Prewitt

Exciting things are happening at Daniel Springs Camp as we anticipate a busy spring and summer. We are so excited about summer 2021 and the amazing opportunities God has in store for all of us to be a part of sharing the amazing message of salvation.



Prewitt

February is busy as we continue to accept applications and interview for our summer staff positions. This is one of the biggest blessings each year, seeing high school juniors and seniors

and college students come from different walks of life to explore the possibility of investing in summer ministry at Daniel Springs. Over the last 5 years, it has been an amazing journey to see how God has brought some great young adults to invest in each other, campers, adult sponsors and then to watch their personal relationship with the Lord be strengthened. This summer adventure starts out as a group of individuals and as the summer progresses, we have seen life-long friendships form.

Plans and details are being worked on for the March Missions Month. March is set aside for individuals and groups to come and work on projects at the camp. No matter if it is just



Worship Time

you, your family, a small group or a large group we would love for you to come and spend time

with us at the camp and help us continue to make Daniel Springs Camp a place where people meet and grow in their relationship with each other and the Lord. These projects vary from construction, demolition, minor and major repairs, cleaning, sorting, painting, power washing and many other projects. If you want to come by yourself or bring a group of any size, we would love to see you.

I know many are wanting more details about what our summer schedule is going to look like. We are currently working out the details of the health and safety guidelines we have to follow. We will hopefully have

this information ready to begin sharing with you near the middle of February.



Camp Activities

If you have any questions about March Mission Month, have a student that would like more information about being a summer staffer, or have questions regarding the summer schedule, feel free to contact us by phone at (903) 685-2433 or email us at info@danielspringscamp.com.

EIM's Shepherd Bags Ministry News and Goals for 2021

by Fonda Norris, EIM Shepherd's Bag Ministry Coordinator

I know I'm not alone when I say I'm so glad that 2020 is in our rearview mirror and 2021 is here. While I'm not certain what the year 2021 will hold, I do know Who holds the future. Amen!

I wanted to give everyone a current update and praise report from EIM's Shepherd's Bag Ministry. Due to COVID-19 bursting onto the scene we had to cancel all of our 2020 overseas trips to go distribute



Honduras - Shepherd's Bags

Shepherd's Bags in Honduras. Needless to say, that was very disappointing when countries began to close their borders. But God was faithful and still opened the door to allow us to be able to ship to Ghana, West Africa. Bro. Tim Tyler, Director of Water For Christ, brought his truck in November and picked up 16,000 Shepherd's Bags. The Shepherd's Bags will go on the

shipping container when Bro. Tim makes his next shipment hopefully in early 2021. We are still awaiting a few logistics to be worked out before that shipment. Would you join with us in praying that God uses each and every bag to bring boys, girls, men and women to Himself with the Gospel being preached before the children receive their bag?

Plans and goals for 2021: We plan to keep doing what we've done since 1999 and that's keep assembling Shepherd's Bags. While we have been slower getting a shipment together due to the lack of work teams going and coming, with a few workers helping we currently have 8,000

assembled and boxed at our storage facility. We have supplies to finish up 8,000 more. When this shipment is complete we pray to be able to ship them into the Philippines by this summer or early fall 2021. In 2020 the border was closed for shipments due to the pandemic and we know only God can open it up this year, but we can't stop due to what may happen or what may be closed. We understand EIM's Shepherd's Bag Ministry is in God's Hands and He ex-

pects us to be faithful and let Him decide where these bags ultimately end up. I will purchase supplies for 16,000 more



Bro Rocky & Bro Tim - loading Shepherd's Bags

unisex Shepherd's Bags and we start all over again since we assemble bags all year long.

Thank you for all those who so faithfully give to EIM's Shepherd's Bag Ministry. You "give" so children around the world "get" to hear the Gospel while receiving a small one gallon zip loc bag filled with the same

items so boys and girls receive the same gift. Having each child receive the same gift has worked so well and is very cost effective. You entrust us with your offerings to know that the lost will hear the Gospel and we try to be the best stewards of your offerings. Please covenant to pray for us and with us that we will be faithful whatever 2021 holds for us because we know Who holds the future and that many will come to know Jesus as Savior.

You "give" so children around the world "get" to hear the Gospel...

Available For Service

Bryson Hayden

Bro. Bryson Haden is available for service as the Lord leads. He has been in ministry since 2003 and has served as pastor, music minister, and youth minister. He has served as pastor of Berean Baptist Church in Soso, Mississippi, and more recently at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Mount Olive, Mississippi for the past 5 years. Bryson currently lives in Foxworth, Mississippi, with his wife, Jessica and their three teenage children, Skylar (16), Jasper (15), and Jaycie (14). Bro. Haden may be reached by phone at 662-251-0443.



Youth Minister Position

Greenwood Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi, is searching for a part-time youth minister. Internship could also be an option. Any interested candidate should send their resume or experience history to Pastor Joseph Bain at the following email address - josephbain77@gmail.com.



Contact BMA Foundation Executive Director Charles Attebery for more information.

A Gift That Keeps Giving

Gifts to the BMA Foundation are never spent. They are invested and the earnings benefit BMA

Some Ways to Give

- Stocks and bonds
- Life insurance policies
- IRA Rollovers
- Bequests