

FEBRUARY 15, 2022

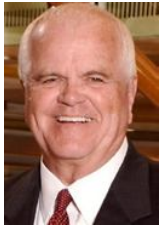
Volume 756 No. 4

www.ms baptist.org

Commission on Senior Adults

Back To The Future!

Many of you may remember a series of movies based on the title "Back to the Future". Your Senior Adult Commission is not 'going back' in history (except to remember the good conferences we have experienced) but we are going forward to the future conferences we have scheduled.



Your director and Senior Adult Trustees have planned the 2022 conferences and are hard at work finishing a few details for the South Conference. We will meet at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso (on Highway 84 10 miles west of Laurel) on March 8. We will begin at 9:00 am and finish around 3:00 pm. The good folks of Big Creek Church are making preparations and looking forward to hosting this meeting.

We will have good preaching, good music, a catfish and chicken lunch with all the trimmings, and an afternoon gospel concert! Door prizes will be awarded throughout the day with a few specials thrown in. The cost for each one attending is still just \$15.00. We encourage the local church to pay this for your seniors or at least help with some of the cost.

Ministers who have served 50 years in the ministry will also be recognized. If you know of someone who has been in the ministry for 50 years or longer, please contact Director Don Brown at 601-426-3293 as soon as possible.

The North Conference planning is also underway. We will have more information on that meeting in future issues.

Preregister

We are asking churches to also call and give a number coming from your church. This will help in our preparation and make sure there is ample food (mmm good catfish). Call 601-426-3293. Even if you do not preregister, COME ANYWAY! What a great day we are anticipating!

Prime Timers with a Purpose

Our Theme for this year is to encourage our Senior Adults to 'remain on the front line' of service. We all have a purpose in our spiritual lives. Make sure you are open to God's calling and make sure you are 'purposeful' in your spiritual service.

We look forward to seeing you all at Big Creek Church on March 8!

Baptist

Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Preach the Word!

by Cliff Johnson, 1st Vice President
BMA of America

It is with great honor and joy that I invite you to the 73rd Annual Meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association on April 18-20, in Springfield, Missouri, as we gather together to celebrate what God has done in the last eight months through our association of churches and to look forward to what lies ahead.



Cliff Johnson

Friends, the only time during the year that the entire BMA seeks to gather in a representative format is during this meeting, so make plans to be with us to worship together, to learn together, to be refreshed, and to conduct our business together.

Preach the Word! is this year's theme

for the association, so the entire time we are together, this theme will center our thoughts.

We live in a day where many talking heads compete to rent space in our minds and hearts, and in the hearts and minds of our people. But one voice must silence all the others, and that is the voice of God. How does God make His voice known today? The proclamation of His Word must stand in a primary position in answer to the question.

At our upcoming meeting, you will be able to attend breakout sessions that build on this theme:

Preaching the Word and the Mission of God (presented by BMAA Missions)

We Tell the Creation Story (presented by Lifeword)

Cut it Straight by Justin Peters (sponsored by BMA Seminary)

Pastor Your Family Well by Tim Brewer (sponsored by Ministers Resource Services),

Study the Word (presented by Baptist Publishing House)

Pray the Word (presented by Activate)

Keeping the Word Central in Student Ministry (presented by Daniel Springs Camp)

What I am most looking forward to are the four worship times we will share together. Are we there to conduct our business? Absolutely, and we must do this. But as you read earlier, this is the only time in the year that we, as like-minded brothers, gather together. Why wouldn't we worship together every chance we get? Included in those worship services will be sermons on the necessity of the Word, the power of the Word, the sufficiency of the Word, and the mission of all the Word to all the world.

Our joining together is a major highlight of my year, and I pray it will be yours as well. See you in Springfield!

New Enrollment Method for the National Meeting

by Grant Barnett
Chairman of Enrollment and Finance

In an effort to streamline the enrollment process, our committee recently met with the Coordinating Council and began asking hard questions. After much discussion it was determined that certain changes could save us both time and money as well as speed up registra-

tion lines at the meeting. This year for the first time there will be no pre-registration, no letter to fill out and send in, and no online registration. You will simply elect messengers within your church and come to the meeting.

When you come to the registration table, tell us the name of your church and the number of messengers and visi-

tors. If you have any "minute funds" we can collect that at the registration table or you can send it by mail to BMA America LLC, P.O. Box 1188, Conway, Arkansas, 72033. If you are a church or know of a church petitioning to join BMA America, please fill out the online form found at bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you in Springfield!



Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



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Thank You to All

from the editor

The Special Emphasis drive for your Publications Department was held in January. We are so very thankful to all who have given to this annual fund raising effort. Your gifts are certainly needed and deeply appreciated. We will be printing a list of those giving in the near future.

Future Publications

At our annual meeting this past October we shared the increased cost in operation. These costs are all ones that we have no control over. They include printing cost increases along with increased postage charges.

During our report we shared the department's suggestion that at times we would only print one issue per month. This would be done at times that should not delay pertinent information or reports from our departments.

The months of April and May are looking like prime times for this move. The National Meeting is held in April near the middle of the month and the biannual state meeting is held in May. This would allow us to have an issue at the beginning of each of these months and still be able to report on both of these important meetings in a timely manner.

We will consider a 12 page version for these two issues. This will reduce both printing and post costs and allow us to continue to include color pages.

We would appreciate any feedback from our readers considering this probability. Our purpose is to provide a quality publication to you and to be good stewards of our resources.

Deadlines

For those needing to announce events here are some deadline dates. If you have an event in April, we need your content before March 25. For anything occurring in the month of May, we need your content by April 25. Please be aware of these dates so your announcements are published in a timely manner.

News of Interest

East Main to hold Revival Services

East Main Baptist Church in Lumberton will hold revival services beginning March 13. They will have lunch at the church that day with an afternoon service to follow. Week night services will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a covered dish supper and services at 7:00 p.m. through Friday night. All are invited to attend.

First Baptist, Bay Springs Report

by Ann Knotts

Things at First Baptist Church of Bay Springs, pastored by James Sprayberry, have finally begun to return to a normal schedule for this Covid navigating lifestyle we now live. We have gradually re-

turned to our pre-Covid schedule of Sunday school at 9:45 AM, Sunday worship services at 11:00 AM, a Men's Sunday Bible study at 5:00 PM, and our Sunday night worship service at 6:00 PM. We recently resumed our Wednesday night meals at 6:00 PM with Wednesday night prayer meeting and worship services following at 7:00 PM. The worship services continue to be live streamed on Facebook for those who cannot attend.

Over the past couple of months, the women have organized a Tuesday morning Bible study. This group meets at 10 AM on Tuesdays in the fellowship hall, and we invite anyone interested to come and participate in our study. It is amazing how we grow and stretch one another in THE WORD.

The WMA project for January was to put together Valentine bags filled with items for our shut-ins and our nursing home residents. What a blessing to experience the joys of giving, even in the smallest of ways. Our youth will have the pleasure of delivering these bags of goodies to those who will be surprised to receive them, and these same youth will learn just a little about being the hands and feet of Jesus.

In addition, The Banner was awarded to our WMA for having the highest attendance at the Big Creek WMA meeting.

Texas Church Seeks Pastor

First Baptist Church of Omen, Texas is seeking a bi-vocational pastor to share all aspects of a small Baptist church, with par-

ticular interest in a family-oriented ministry. We prefer some seminary training, but more importantly a true calling by God and led by the Holy Spirit to discern the Word of God and love his congregation and a commitment to Biblical Christian principles.

Omen Is located between Whitehouse, Troup and Arp, Chapel Hill, and located about 23 miles from Jacksonville, Texas.

Please send resumes to firstbaptistchurchomen@gmail.com or mail to P.O. Box 508, Arp, Texas 75750. If available, please attach any links of video or audio clips of your recordings.

Former National Missions Director Wife Dies

Grace Williamson Branham, 92 of Springdale, Arkansas, passed

men and some of you ladies always carry a knife with you. You'll understand that his knife was special to him. All of his grandchildren and great grands were special, too. One great grandson was special because he was named after him.

Most people called my daddy

Pat, but hometown friends and relatives called him Patrick. To hear his great grandson called Patrick always brings warm memories. Any picture of the young Patrick shows him helping his PaPa. The knife that Patrick now carries is worth a fortune in love and memories.

Another special item that Daddy wanted to give a little girl named Laurie was a Christmas present. They learned to love each other when Daddy spent a lot of time in Hattiesburg. He called her often from his home to talk, but his calls here were for play dates or Baskin-Robbins Ice Cream dates.

Every holiday he wanted to give her a gift. All he wanted to do, though, was pay for them; I was responsible for finding them. I dreaded holidays, but Sister No. 1 usually came through with

see **PASS IT ON** on page 3

In His Grip

by Carolyn Hagler

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



Pass It On

Do you have a two-dollar bill (\$2) tucked away somewhere? Or, at least, do you remember them?

We used to say that someone was as phony as a \$2 bill. And then the Government made the statement obsolete when they reissued the \$2 bill in 1976. They're only scarce today because they've been collected and taken out of circulation by people who believe the bill is rare or maybe "lucky." Only the older bills are worth anything (1862 through 1918).

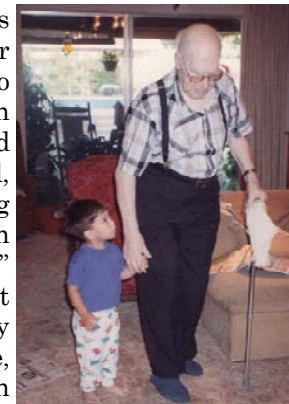
I have one that is worth \$2, but it's worth much more in memories of an old couple (the Polks), who were neighbors and fellow church members. I still remember the last Sunday JB was in church and greeted the Polks, "Hello, Neighbors."

Several years later, Mr. Polk gave me a \$2 bill with his instructions for me to remember

him, and I do. I remember visiting him in the nursing home; he shared how thankful he was for his younger daughter who was so good to him. With concern in his eyes, he looked at me and asked, "What are you going to do, Carolyn, when you're my age?" Sometimes you just have to laugh. I may be getting to his age, though, when I can say whatever I think, too.

I also remember that we learned not to ask Mother to leave us something when she died because she would immediately give the item to the person with these words, "I don't want you waiting around for me to die."

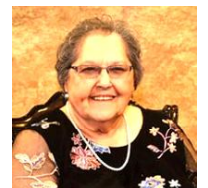
A special item recently passed on is Daddy's knife. Most of you



Carolyn Hagler



Daddy's knife



Grace Branham

away on February 4. She was the widow of former BMA of America Missions Director Craig Branham. Bro. Branham pastored churches in Arkansas, Missouri and Texas. He served in many positions in the BMA, including assistant director of Missions for 13 years, director of Missions for 13 years and director of BMA Pastor's Retirement Fund for over four years.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the Baptist Missionary Association of America, P.O. Box 1188, Conway, AR 72033 or Circle of Life Hospice Springdale, 901 Jones Rd., Springdale, AR 72762.



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Lindsey

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

We are blessed to continue this great work. God is providing both means, through your support, and children in need of care. As I write this article I have been on the phone today with a possible family placement. Please pray for this family as they wade through their decision of how to best care for this sibling group.

These truths are what makes my reporting both good and difficult. It is good to be able to help families and children in need, but it is difficult to hear of the circumstances requiring our need to exist. We try to paint a picture of the positive work of the grace of God while often being heart broken. I am quite certain our own brokenness never matches the ache God has for His creation, but helps His children gain a better glimpse of a loving Father's heart.

There is a part of me rejoicing

that one of our children is being granted the grace to return to her mother. Damiya has been with us since she was three months old. She will be ten months old before this reunion. We are more known to her than her biological family right now. We have watched her learn to rollover, sit, crawl, pull-up, and nearly take her first steps. She enters the living room each morning with shouts of bubba and a wave in great anticipation of all the boys in the house. She has shared a few mamas and dadas that easily makes our hearts melt. We know she belongs to God and not us.

These truths lead us to 2 Samuel 12:16-23 "David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth. And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up

from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them. And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead? But when



Damiya

David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead. Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed

his apparel, and came into the house of the Lord, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat. Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread. And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether God will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

I would not dare insult the grief of parent's who have lost the life of a child. Prayerfully, Damiya has much life left to live, but it is the closest comparison that we have to how we feel already and even more so in the coming weeks when she returns home. It is because we know she will continue to live, but not get to continue to see her grow that we find ourselves like David lying on the ground hurting from the unknown. Will she come to know Christ? Will all the times of scripture being read in her presence take root? Will the tune of "Jesus Loves Me," being sung to her as she drifts off to sleep

echo in her heart as she grows? Will her mother be committed to having her hear the right teaching of Scripture as she grows? Only God knows if we will one day go to her after she does not return to us.

It is in these unknowns that we find difficulty to arise from the earth to worship though we never doubt God's worth deserving worship. I hope you can forgive my words if they seem full of doubt. I do not doubt God, merely my own understanding in the moment. My lack of clarity leaves me in this place of deep sorrow. My only hope is in knowing that one day God will wipe away every tear, but until then this hurt will remain. Join us in praying for Damiya and her mother. We pray that God would grant both of them wisdom, grace, and life everlasting through the blood of Christ.

If you would like us to come and share more about our ministry don't hesitate to contact us to schedule a time. If you or someone you know feels led to send a resume as a possible house parent please reach out. Pastors, readers, poke and prod at those you may see as having a gift in this area. Contact us at info@msbch.org, 601-426-3928, 662-605-0996.

Pass It On

from page 2

suggestions for most of her presents. I don't remember any of those presents.

I do remember the one that Daddy selected and ordered himself—a Christmas nativity scene. He made me promise to tell no one! Every day, he would ask if it had arrived. Several weeks before he died, the present was delivered. Christmas was coming for Laurie.



Laurie's Nativity

As with so many of our plans, it didn't happen the way Daddy thought it would: He was hospitalized before Thanksgiving. He really wanted to give his gift to Laurie that week, but I wanted

him to wait for Christmas. One of my biggest regrets was not letting him give it to her. But it was passed on after he died, and

What do I want to pass on? A legacy of love and faith because those are eternal and will last forever

I'm sure she considers it a legacy from an "adopted PaPa."

Most people consider a legacy to be an inheritance of money or property or simply expensive items. The legacies I'm thankful for are items I store in my old trunk or I see every day as I walk through my home or yard: Daddy's billfold, JB's childhood thumb guard to prevent his sucking his thumb, Mother's chenille robe that Sister No. 1 made into pillows for all of us, and a little metal chicken from Middle Sister that she thought was a bird.

I'm thankful, too, for a crystal chicken the Diva thought was an owl; a metal rooster and large stone from my yardman who died recently; a cross-stitch map of the USA stitched by Sister No. 1, showing where we've been; a chime from Sharon, that reminds me of church and her; and a wooden plaque, "Speak Your Peace but Ride a Fast Horse," that we bought on our first trip out West. The list could go on and on.

My legacies passed on by friends and family that mean the most to me have little or no monetary value, but they're

priceless to me; they remind me of the love of the giver.

With thoughts of the legacies that have been passed on by family and friends, I remember the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31, who left quite a legacy.

We're going to leave a legacy of some kind, too. In fact, we're building a legacy every day. What do you want it to be? Don't you want to pass on something that will endure from generation to generation?

I want to spend every day building a legacy and passing on those things that will have lasting value. What do I want to pass on? A legacy of love and faith because those are eternal and will last forever.

"Will your children spend your treasures on things that will not last? Or will you leave them a legacy that they too can pass (Leaving a Legacy, Collingsworth Family)?"

Surrounded by a legacy of love and faith, I remain in His grip.

National Galilean Officers Meet to Plan Camp 2022

by Kenneth Colvert, National Galilean Director

The National Galilean Officers met on December 11-12 at the beautiful Mount Magazine State Park Lodge and Conference Center to make plans for National Galilean Camp this summer. The meeting was truly a mountaintop experience physically and spiritually.

The main plans are to meet June 24 -27 at StoneRidge Baptist Camp, Smithville, Arkansas. The fee will be \$88 per camper with Larry Tramel serving as our camp speaker. Our theme is 'Seeking the Truth' based on John 17:17. The 2022 camp is dedicated in Loving Memory of Hank Burroughs



Officers attending were President-Hayden Leonard, First Vice President-Charlie Martin, Secretary-Aaron Blacksmith, Historian-Will Miller, Mr. Galilean Senior- Clay Cagle, National Galilean Director- Kenneth Colvert and Assistant Director Dan Williams. Adult officers and Sponsors present were James Laminack, Marvin Owen, Rueben Santiago, and Larry Tramel. Also attending was Carolyn Colvert, who served the evening meal and her delicious homemade desserts. Dan and I want to offer a special thank you for the outstanding effort and participation from all who attended. The national director has made reservations to return to Mount Magazine on December 10 and 11, 2022, to make plans for National Galilean Camp 2023.

The officers hope your church will make plans to attend National Camp this summer and look forward to seeing you there. Detailed information will be posted on galileans.com. Feel free to contact me about camp or the Galilean Ministry at krcolvert@cox.net or text or call me at 479-629-3258.

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

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36

We won an exciting men's basketball game on our home court last night against our arch rival Pensacola Christian University. It was wonder-



Dr. Scott Carson
President

ful! As I watched the game I noted the many infractions the referees caught that I did not. In fact, I was totally unaware of how or why some of the fouls even occurred. It is important, however, that our coaches and our team players know the rules and follow them as best they can. Too many fouls in a game can actually tip the winning scale in favor of an opponent.

As I pondered the rules of basketball, I began to think of all the policies we must follow as an

institution. These are rules that, if we are not fully educated on, and meticulously observant of, can lead to huge negative consequences for the college.

In the sports program alone, there are rules about recruiting, procedures on statistics, when to turn them in, and rules on eligibility. There are limitations on how to raise and spend money. There are instructions on post season participation. Some violations are rarely committed, but still must be avoided. Rules, rules, rules! An infraction due to ignorance on our coaching staff could suspend our team from future participation.

There is a tremendous amount of guidelines and procedures that the college staff have to be knowledgeable of and in compliance with in regard to the Internal Revenue Service, the Mississippi Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Education, both the Mississippi and the U.S. Veterans Administrations, the Department of Labor, the U.S. Government's System for Award



SBC Staff excited to start another weekly meeting

Management, and a myriad of regulations provided by our accrediting agency. This list is only a sample of offices providing SBC oversight for compliance. If we fail to follow a set policy, we could find ourselves in a difficult position with any one of these agencies.

All these requirements can easily overwhelm our staff. It reminds me of the many directives found for God's people in the Old Testament. There were

many rules for proper worship and sacrifices. I find it difficult to comprehend how they could consistently meet them all, which was the whole point of the Law; to establish the fact that no one could follow it completely. But Jesus fulfilled the entire Law and released us from its requirements. We are a blessed people who now, need only to approach God's throne through His grace because of what Jesus did for us on the cross of Calvary. Praise

the Lord that we are no longer under the bondage of sin and the Law but have freedom and full access to God's love and mercy through faith in the perfect blood of our Savior!

We are blessed to have tremendously gifted and dedicated staff members on the team here at Southeastern Baptist College. Please pray for them as they observe the many policies of running an accredited college while they also plan for its future.

God continues to bless your college with tremendous opportunities and we appreciate everyone who supports the school with their words of encouragement and financial support.

"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." Galatians 2:16

Equipping the Saints,
Dr. Carson

Seeking Sponsors

We are seeking sponsors for the twelve Southern Gospel groups that are coming to perform in the Southeastern Gospel Fest in April (see the separate announcement in this paper). Contact Rosemary Davis for more information at 601-426-6346 on how to support SBC through this exciting opportunity to promote your college!

Now Hiring

We are in search of our next head women's basketball coach and a future women's volleyball coach. If you are interested, please go to our website and upload your resume' at <https://sbchargers.com/employment-opportunities> or contact the SBC Athletic Director, Coach Lopez at 601-426-6346.

Memorial Gift

God bless the following for their donations to purchase books in memory their loved ones: Betty Gibson Winkler in memory of Doris Gibson; Linda Hayles in memory of Richard Lawrence Hayles. Your gracious gifts enable SBC to continue preparing young Christian men and women to live their faith in an ever increasingly godless society.

Holloway's Dairy Bar

Holloway's Dairy Bar is open and the public is welcome! The Dairy Bar is located on the campus of SBC. There is an expanded menu and it is open Monday thru Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Come for a delicious meal and support SBC and Holloway's!

Coffee with the President

We invite folks, and especially alumni, to meet with Dr. Carson to discuss any topic that might be on their mind. If you are interested in meeting with Dr. Carson, contact him at 601-426-6346 to make an appointment.

Need a Preacher?

Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit or to make a presentation about the work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. Chaplain (Colonel) Carson can also provide an update on the BMAA Chaplaincy and deliver a related message. Thank you to Pastor Wesley Whitworth of Ware Prairie Road Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, and an SBC Trustee for recently inviting Dr. Carson to speak. You can reach Dr. Carson at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu

Upcoming Athletic Schedules

Women's Softball

The historic first season of SBC Women's Softball has begun! The Lady Chargers play their home games at Coca Cola Field, 2500 Airport Dr, in Laurel. Here's the next few home games:

Saturday, Feb 26, 1/3 p.m. double header vs Stillman College

Wednesday, Mar 9, 2/4 p.m. double header vs Faulkner University

Saturday, Mar 12, 2/4 p.m. double header vs William Woods University

Saturday, Mar 19, 1/3 p.m. double header vs Rust College

Men's Baseball

The Chargers play their home games at A.W. Watson (Black Cat Field), 2400 Queensburg Ave, Laurel. There are numerous home games scheduled this month:

Friday, Feb 18, 1/3 p.m. double header vs Kansas Christian College

Saturday, Feb 19, 1/3 p.m. double header vs Kansas Christian College

Friday, Mar 4, 1/3 p.m. double header vs Tougaloo College

Always Promoting, Always Teaching



Athletic Director, Coach R.E. Lopez and Softball Coach Ulmer, recently updated the Laurel Sertoma Club on SBC sports



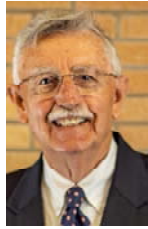
Ben East, Pastor of Youth and College at West Ellisville Baptist Church, puts the students through kinetic exercises in preparation to his chapel message

More SBC on Next Page

Leave It To Cleaver

Traditions that Trap

As good as our traditions might be, sometimes they become a trap. I need to examine some of my own traditions that might trap me. I have traditions because of family, past experiences, or denominational attachment. Some of these place God in a box of being a God of "then but not now." Hezekiah (2 Kings 18.5) showed great courage to put away a tradition that had been imbedded in the soul of the nation



Tony Cleaver

for decades (Numbers 21.4-9). I hope I have the courage to be like him in my walk with God.

There is great surprise and amazement in examining traditions. Some need to be kept. Some need to be abandoned. Let me share some traditions that I am wrestling with right now:

Time of worship service - At one point in my life I assumed God had commanded we worship at 11 o'clock on Sunday morning. What a surprise when I went to a service at 8:15 a.m., then to Sunday School after that! Wow, I was awake.

Preacher attire - As a young Christian, I assumed preachers were born in a black suit. They came straight from the factory dressed that way. I saw a preacher the other day without a tie. Probably he did not get the memo. However, he preached a great sermon in the worship time. I also heard a superb sermon from a pastor in a pulpit robe. I saw a cowboy church preacher in boots, blue jeans, with a really big belt buckle. Mercy me - what a wide choice of preacher apparel!

Pews in the church house - The first time I worshiped without pews was an uncomfortable experience for me. However, there is no requirement to sit in

rows facing forward. Some congregations choose chairs for worship. They place them in a semi-circle. Making eye contact with other congregants is a good experience for me. This encourages me on to do the work of worship. I like both. I don't have to have it one way or the other as my tradition.

Hymn books/screen hymns - This is a tough call. I don't read music to know what those little markings on the pages indicate. I know what I like to sing. I know my comfort zone in worship. There are others who are in worship with me who might enjoy some other music process. I think I might be open to some

"thinking out loud here" regarding a few of traditions that might trap me.

Other music instruments - This is a fact of my life: The piano and the organ have always been on certain sides of the auditorium. What challenged me last month was the orchestra in the service. It not only had drums, it also had strings, brass, reeds, and cymbals. I tapped my foot - only one foot - during worship! Worship music is at times A Capella. The point here is the worship of God, not the instrument.

Liturgy - Our kind of Christianity prides itself that we are not liturgical. What happened to me in a recent service was this: They received the offering just before the benediction! What were they thinking? I heard responsive readings and prayers. It touched my heart as we said aloud together the Model Prayer. Don't tell anyone, but in my private devotions I have begun to read aloud some of those readings in the back of the hymn book.

movement in this area. I know when I get to His presence I will sing, and sing with great gusto. Why shouldn't I practice that now?

As I consider my walk with God, I'm simply "thinking out loud here" regarding a few of traditions that might trap me.

We all have them. I am looking at mine. If I need to abandon some of my traditions, let me be like Hezekiah!

Lord Jesus, call to my mind those traditions that trap. If I need to, may I smash that tradition! Set me free! May I find fresh worship with You and You alone. May I find that bonded link with You while it is today!

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



Dr. Matt Olson, teaching New Test. Survey



Congratulations to Racheal Revette of Morton, Mississippi, who hit SBC's first historic home run while playing University of Mobile!



The first historic women's softball game was played February 5, on Coca Cola Field in Laurel

Southeastern Gospel Fest Support Needs

GROUPS and COST

- Dixie Echoes**
Thursday, April 21 \$1500
- Tim Lovelace**
Saturday, April 23 \$2000
- Jeff & Sherri Easter**
Thursday, April 21 \$3500
- The Guardians**
Saturday, April 23 \$2500
- The Lefevre Quartet**
Thursday, April 21 \$3000
- Brian Free & Assurance**
Saturday, April 23 \$3000
- Michael Combs**
Friday, April 22 \$2200
- The Perrys**
Friday, April 22 \$2700
- The Old Paths**
Friday, April 22 \$2700

SPONSOR CATEGORIES

- PLATINUM** - \$3000-\$3500
8 Artist Circle tickets for ALL PERFORMANCES with Back Stage Passes
- GOLD** - \$2500-\$2999
6 Artist Circle tickets for ALL PERFORMANCES with Back Stage Passes
- SILVER** - \$2000-\$2499
4 Artist Circle tickets ALL PERFORMANCES
- BRONZE** - \$1500-\$1999
2 Artist Circle tickets ALL PERFORMANCES

Southeastern Gospel Fest

presented by Southeastern Baptist College





3 Nightly Concerts
April 21-23, 2022

Thursday
APRIL 21



Friday
APRIL 22



Saturday
APRIL 23



CONCERTS START AT 6:00PM / DOORS OPEN AT 5:00PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

\$20 NIGHTLY / \$50 3-DAY PASS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Laurel, Mississippi †
607 West 5th Street, Laurel, MS 39440

For more information:
601.426.6346 or visit
www.southeasternbaptist.edu



Baptist Missionary Association Of Mississippi Missions Department



Go Tell It On The Mountain

BY LARRY GERALDSON | DECEMBER 14, 2021

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:8-11



"Go, Tell It On The Mountain, Over the hills and everywhere; Go, Tell It On The Mountain, That Jesus Christ is born." When I was a boy, we sang this old spiritual every year at Christmas time. It has one of those catchy tunes that sticks in your head and doesn't easily go away.

My prayer for each of you is that the message of this short tune will stick in your head and heart throughout the Christmas season, and as you find yourself singing it, that you will remember that this is our greatest purpose.

Each of us, who serves the churches of the BMA of Mississippi in the work of missions, are all about going and telling people the story of Jesus. He is and will always remain that most precious of all gifts. So, please join me this Christmas, "Go, Tell It On The Mountain, Over the hills and everywhere; Go, Tell It On The Mountain, That Jesus Christ is born."

Cherita and I want to wish all of you a very Christ filled holiday season. God bless each of you.

Loved With An Everlasting Love

BY JEFFREY DIXON | DECEMBER 13, 2021

Recently, I was privileged, as your Revolving Loan Fund Manager, to do a site visit with a BMA church that had requested a substantial loan from us to build a new worship facility. As part of the visit, Bro. Geraldson and I joined them for a morning worship service and it was such a joy to

experience their enthusiasm for the greatness of God as revealed in the Scriptures. The pastor was passionate about expounding the Word of God to believers and calling sinners to repentance. Something he said during his sermon made me think about the mercies



of God to give us what we don't deserve. He said, "[Believer], you have been loved and saved with an everlasting love before the foundations of the world. And based on that knowledge of the God who loves you and saved you like that and calls you out to be His people, now walk worthy of that love that is everlasting . . . I am in God's presence, and I remain in God's presence because of Jesus. Period."

The words of this pastor remind us of how much God has given us and of the great love with which He has loved us, even though we don't deserve it. As we enter this Christmas season, just think about the fact that the eternal, sovereign Lord of the universe clothed Himself in mortal flesh and revealed Himself to us in the person of Jesus. The angel of the Lord told Joseph, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins" (Mt. 1:21). What a gift! What love! Peace was born and salvation came for all who will believe. Our hearts should be gripped with awe, wonder and worship this Christmas season, and all year long at the thought of this!

Angels On A Tree

BY WESLEY MARTIN | DECEMBER 13, 2021

Each year after Thanksgiving, we put up a Christmas tree in the



foyer of the church building. The purpose of the tree is not decoration but to hold paper angels. Each angel has the information of a child in our area. We take a name and buy gifts for these kids, who otherwise wouldn't get much. We buy them things they need and things they want. In some cases, we put together baskets with everything

needed for a Christmas meal.

We are able to be a blessing to these families. We are able to show them that Redemption Church loves them, but more than that, God loves them. I'm thankful for the angels that hang on that tree. Each one represents a child we are able to impact in some way.

Some Assembly Required

BY JOSH DANIELS | DECEMBER 13, 2021

As we go further into the holiday season, families seem to become busier. It can be a struggle to gather the assembly together for worship, classes, and outreach.



At Refuge, we continue to be encouraged by the many who still make assembling to worship a priority. The first Sunday of December was one of our highest attended services. Many spent time in sweet fellowship, worship, praying, preaching, and even responding to the Lord in various ways.

I pray for all of our churches and missions through this season. It's easy to become stressed and distracted. May our minds be on JESUS this season and all seasons!

Growing In Fellowship

BY CHRIS YAGER | DECEMBER 13, 2021

Fellowship was foundational to the early church in Acts 2. Scripture says that they "met together daily and in bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart." It was fellowship like this that the Holy Spirit used to bind the early church together in unity.



The Lord is working this precious process in Living Hope! We meet together weekly for dinner after church. And on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we meet for our first Thanksgiving dinner in our new building. The atmosphere was electric, and the worship and praise was precious. But the moment that will stay with me was the laughter and family togetherness that was seen during our time of fellowship; this new mission acting like the early church was amazing!

The Lord is building his church,

and I am awe struck at seeing Him accomplish it in a similar blueprint as the early church! To God be the glory!

Teen Prisoner Faces Seemingly Impossible Situation

BY PAUL SPURLIN | DECEMBER 13, 2021

After a recent Bible study, a prisoner in a juvenile detention center asked me for counsel and prayer. He is facing a difficult situation when he is released to go home.



This teen relies on his older brother to give him a ride to school each day as the older brother drives to work. They had been caught with marijuana because the older brother regularly smokes marijuana on his way to work. Because this teen does not want to get into trouble again, I suggested he stay away from his older brother but his brother was his only way to school.

We prayed for God to provide the teen a way out of this situation, which may seem impossible. However, as Jesus said: "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26)

Reaching Rural Mississippi

BY SCOTT BROCIOSUS | DECEMBER 14, 2021

Throughout the month of November we have been maximizing the outreach efforts at Canaan Land. We are in a more rural part of town, so it has taken some thinking outside the box to make sure we are reaching our entire community with the Gospel of Christ. It is paying off!



These outreach efforts have included the launch of our radio program, over 1400 church invitations mailed out locally, and our biggest outreach effort to date; our Winter Festival. God has honored and blessed all of these efforts. He has provided the monetary support and physical support from our churches.

We have seen an increase in visitors, and we have also made new contacts within the community. In the month of November

and thus far in December, we have had first time visitors and repeat visitors in our Sunday morning services. God is seeing these efforts and honoring them.

Jesus Loves The Little Children

BY JASON HOWARD | DECEMBER 7, 2021

What a great day at Canaan Land Baptist Mission! Truly Jesus loves little children. There were many kids who came out with their parents to enjoy the Winter Festival.



This little boy was one of many who left with a big smile on his face! He just finished fishing for his prize - a cross necklace and some other goodies.

It was great to be able to spend a few hours at the festival and help share the love of Christ at Christmas time. May God bless the efforts to spread the gospel!

Christmas Party

BY JOHNNY WILLIAMS | DECEMBER 13, 2021

This past Sunday we had a Christmas party for our youth. Each one received a stocking full of toys and was very appreciative.



Salt Light Baptist Mission also started taking up a youth offering after our tithes on Sunday. The youth chose to sponsor another child from an angel tree with some of their money.

We hope that through the Christmas season our youth will understand the principle that it is better to give than receive. Christ is the better gift! Let's share Him!

What Is The Best Gift For Christmas?

BY DANIEL ALLEN | DECEMBER 21, 2021

Christmas is a time to reflect on our Savior's birth. He was the greatest gift man could receive. We have to be careful not to get caught up in the busyness of the holidays and forget the true reason for the season.

When our Savior was born, it was a glorious day. Luke 2:13-14 says

continued on page 7

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 - fbcjdmaj@yahoo.com

Abusing a Child

Matthew 19:13-15

"Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven. And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence."

Why Are Children Abused?

It is all because of sin, whatever the excuse. "Wickedness proceedeth from the wicked" (I Samuel 24:13). If sin is not condemned, repented of, and forgiven, it gets worse. A sinner who hardens his heart against God does not know the extent to which he will go in sin. A nation which turns her back on God will be abandoned to her own ways as Israel was. A society which does

not recognize sin for what it is will become more depraved and perverted (Romans 1:21-32). Child abuse is caused by selfishness. Some who bring children into the world do not want to be bothered with them. Children require time which parents could spend in the pursuit of pleasure, money which they could spend on themselves, and work which some want to avoid at all costs. Those who abuse children could not be thinking about the welfare of others (unless they are thinking about the welfare check which the children make available). They seem to think of nothing except gratifying their own lusts. Child abuse is caused by sadism. One who can get pleasure of any kind from hurting others is sadistic. Grown men take advantage of helpless children. Wicked people take pictures of all sorts



Dr. Adams

eral store and included removing all the equipment in their purchase. After the equipment had been cleared out and the floors had been degreased, the most obvious roadblock had been conquered before the full renovation even started.

State Missions

from page 6

Grease Pit To Auditorium

BY SAMUEL YAGER | DECEMBER 13, 2021

The commercial kitchen equipment that had gone uncleaned for over 6 years has been cleared out of the space that will become the



future auditorium for Living Hope Baptist Mission.

Since purchasing the former Village Kitchen restaurant to turn into the new church building for Living Hope, the commercial kitchen has been the place to keep hidden and avoid. Figuring out what to do with all the equipment had been the most obvious roadblock in the early stages of renovation. Because of this, it was a great joy when someone purchased all the equipment for their own gen-

eral store and included removing all the equipment in their purchase. After the equipment had been cleared out and the floors had been degreased, the most obvious roadblock had been conquered before the full renovation even started.

What once was a grease pit has taken a large step in becoming an auditorium, and we are praising God for how He continues to work.

Who Are You?

BY SIDNEY FARMER | DECEMBER 13, 2021

Every Paul needs a Timothy and every Timothy needs a Paul. Whoever you are, discipleship is



the key to growth and success in the Lord's work.

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." II Timothy 2:3

God has given some trustwor-

of child abuse. Those who make those pictures and those who take any pleasure in seeing them are about as low as one can get. Mothers beat their children, not to make them better, but to satisfy their rage.

Child abuse is caused by sickness. That may be nothing but sin-sickness which can be cured by conversion to Christ. But surely some of the child abuse must be the result of mental illness, maybe even demon possession. One who is guilty of abusing little children is not controlled by sound reasoning.

By Whom Are Children Abused?

The Bible gives some examples of child abuse. Tyre and Sidon (cities on the Mediterranean coast) were condemned because they sold the children of Judah and Jerusalem unto the Grecians (Joel 3:4-6). Perhaps it is not uncommon in many parts of the world today for captives of war to be sent into slavery. Some countries still have concentration camps which no doubt make use of slave labor, and children may be involved.

King Manasseh "made his son pass through the fire" as a religious ritual (II Kings 21:6), and Judah did the same. As wicked as that was, it is not uncommon to hear of some child's murder

and mutilation in connection with suspected devil worship today.

Pharaoh ordered the death of newborn Jewish boys. Herod caused the death of the children around Bethlehem in an effort to kill Jesus. Hitler also had political reasons for trying to wipe out God's chosen people, the Jews. Thousands of children were sent to death.

Matthew 18:6—Whoso

Joseph was seventeen when his brothers sold him into slavery. Most child abuse is still perpetrated by relatives. Children are beaten, battered, starved, neglected, sexually assaulted, burned, cursed, and exposed to all kinds of ungodliness – and much of it by those who claim to love them.

God remembers those who abuse children. Pharaoh lost his firstborn. Manasseh's and Herod's names have gone down in infamy. Joseph's brothers had to face him and "fess up." Judah went into captivity. Hitler died in the ruins of his country. Jesus said, "Whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:6).

starting a new mission field in Biloxi area. It is a great reason to thank God.

El Camino church in Laurel has taken a few weeks to do maintenance on its facilities, with several brothers collaborating every Saturday to rebuild some parts of the building. Their work reflects gratitude to God for the blessings that have been received in the congregation and in each family. Increasing attendance at worship meetings has brought much joy and blessing in recent weeks, with new families joining the church. We continue to give thanks to God.

We also thank God for the Hispanic Association Nueva Esperanza. They recently had their association meeting which is held every three months. The reports from the Hispanic mission fields were of encouragement to all present. At the end, Way Truth and Life Church in Ripley prepared a good Hispanic-style lunch with lots of tamales and hot chocolate. God has been good, and it is a reason to continue giving thanks, because so far, He has helped us to carry the message of Salvation in Christ. We hope that this Christmas season will bring much blessing and joy to your lives. Thank you for your prayers and support for the Hispanic work in our association in Mississippi.

thy men to the BMA of Mississippi Missions Department to carry out the work that is set before us. Let us never take for granted what the Lord has supplied for His work!

Hispanic Gratitude!

BY ESTUARDO MARROQUIN | DECEMBER 13, 2021

The Hispanic work in our association continues to advance, always thanking God for the doors that continue to open to share the gospel. Each Hispanic field, reports progress, and it is reason to



give thanks. Bro. Lucas Gomez reports a good follow-up on the mission field. The congregation remains faithful to worship services and continues to pray that God will guide them to find a place for their meetings. El Camino Church in Hattiesburg continues to advance. Bro. Leo Adan reports new contacts and new families attending worship meetings. After praying, Bro. Leo and the congregation in Hattiesburg have decided to start their first missionary project and we have discussed

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

WMAofMS20@gmail.com

**President
Stacy Smith**

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

Be Encouraged

Happy New Year!
by Stacy Smith

First, I would like to introduce myself for those who do not know me. My name is Stacy Smith, I live in Fulton, Mississippi where I am a member of East Fulton Baptist Church. My parents are Elaine Smith and the late Rev. Gary Smith. I am second grade teacher at Tupelo Christian Preparatory School in Belden, Mississippi. I am excited to serve the WMA of Mississippi as president.

Our theme for this year is "BE ENCOURAGED" the key verse is "And my God will supply ALL your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus". Philippians 4:19

I am excited to see what BIG plans God has for us in 2022! You can send information to us at WMAofMS@gamil.com you can also check us out on Facebook WMA of Mississippi.

WMA Project Information

Living Hope Mission, Meridian from State WMA Promoters

"Thank you so much for all the opportunities we have to share our heart for the mission work in Meridian. We are blessed and honored that you have chosen Living Hope for your state WMA project this year! We cannot wait to see how God is going to bless and work in and through each of our churches as we stay busy being MISSION MINDED.

Our goal is to reach Meridian with the gospel and disciple them in doctrine and the priority of worshiping Jesus Christ."

Chris & Dee Dee Yager, Living Hope Mission, Meridian

Let's get busy raising funds for this worthy state WMA project. Set goals, plan fundraisers and take up special offerings. Let's be MISSION MINDED!

THE BACK PAGE

Zarqa Baptist Church Building Dedication-November 2021 A Call to Serve

And do not forget to do good for others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased (Hebrews 13:16).

Inspired by this verse, the ministry team at Zarqa Baptist Church in Jordan responded to God's call to serve their community. Two years later in March of 2007, they began doing just that through a free medical clinic. Since that time four additional areas of service have been established to provide physical and spiritual healing in their community and beyond.

The original medical providers were a dentist, a nurse, and a clinic manager, but in 2013 circumstances changed dramatically as their work expanded to include thousands of refugees crossing into Jordan from Syria.

With an increasing number of patients, an average of 2,500

people per month, the working team added two physicians, a general practitioner, a family doctor, and nine nurses. A pharmacy was eventually added, and they began doing minor surgeries and emergency operations followed by hospital referrals.

Because Pastor Samer is humbled and grateful to God for blessing their efforts, providing supporters, and raising up prayer partners, the church began planning a building dedication and invited BMA Missions personnel, including Executive Director John David Smith, to attend.

He says, "What a joy it was to be present for the dedication of



Middle East Coordinator Charlie Costa and Missionary Sam Jordan

the beautiful ministry building in Zarqa. This great tool is being used for medical care for an average of 2,000 people each month, daily discipleship, and pastor training. It will be a vital piece of ongoing ministry and kingdom expansion in that region of the world."

Stan & Donna Scroggins in the Philippines

February 1st is Chinese New Year, typically one of the largest celebrations of the year. Our recent upgrade to lockdown level 3 will certainly make this year's celebrations difficult. One of the

traditions is gift giving of red envelopes with money inside. Donna and I are hoping for some of those.

We got our World Mission Day banner up. Now don't be confused in the United States. World Mission Day for you is Sunday, February 27. But we will celebrate and give our offering on the last Chapel Service of February.



Our work is completely focused on making sure the Gospel is taught in our weekly home Bible study, the sending of the Gospel to Southeast Asian countries, the training of pastors and missionaries at the Bible College and church planting in the Philippines and all over Southeast Asia. Would you help us? \$1,000.00 a year goes a long way here, helping us train church planters, send missionaries and train students. Click on the donate button below, locate the Scroggins/Philippine fund and prayerfully consider contributing to help us. We love you all.

Darlene Carey Christian Academy

There has been very good progress on the building this month. May I ask that you stop RIGHT NOW and say a prayer for the completion of the building. Right now we have a completion date of February 28.



Darlene Cary Christian Academy

Still Recovering From Typhoon Odette

We have worked hard to help as many churches and communities as we possible could. Thanks to the BMAA Missions Department for sending relief right away and also to the many American missionary supporters who have helped us meet food and water needs of communities still recovering. We are beginning to receive pictures of some of our missions and churches who've already started repairs - thanks to your help.



BMA of America National Meeting Schedule

April 18-20, 2022
Springfield, Missouri

Monday Afternoon, April 18

10:30 am Baptist Publishing House Trustee Meeting - Room: Kansas A
1:30 pm Seminary Trustee Meeting - Room: Kansas A
3:00 pm Missions Advisory Committee : Room: Kansas B

Monday Evening, April 18

6:00 pm Registration
7:00 pm Opening Session
Welcome - President
President's Message - Pastor Dr. Clif Johnson -
PREACH the Word; Preach THE WORD
Initial Associational Business

Tuesday Morning, April 18

8:30 am BMA Orientation for New Pastors and Churches - Room Kansas C
8:30 am Registration for National WMA Conference -
Grandview Baptist Church
9:00 am National WMA Conference - "Intentional" -
Grandview Baptist Church
9:00 am National Brotherhood Meeting - Room: Arkansas C

Breakout Sessions

9:30 & 10:45 am - BMA Missions
Preaching the Word and the Mission of God - Room: Colorado A
9:30 & 10:45 am - Lifeword
We Tell the Creation Story - Room: Oklahoma
9:30 & 10:45 am - Minister's Resource Services
Pastor Your Family Well - Tim Brewer -Room: Kansas A
9:30 & 10:45 am - Activate
Pray the Word as a Healthy Pastor - Room: Kansas B
9:30 & 10:45 am - BMA Seminary
Cut it Straight - Justin Peters - Room: Illinois
9:30 & 10:45 am - Baptist Publishing House
Study the Word - Room: Colorado B
9:30 & 10:45 am - Daniel Springs Camp
Keep the Word Central in Student Ministry - Room: Arkansas B

Tuesday Afternoon, April 19

3:00 pm Second Session
Justin Peters - Preach the Sufficient Word
5:00 pm Seminary Dinner

Tuesday Evening, April 19

7:00 pm Third Session
Election of Officers, Business as needed
Richard Smith - Preach the Powerful Word

Wednesday Morning, April 20

8:30 am Fourth Session
BMA Foundation
Moral Action Agency
Baptist Publishing House
Daniel Springs Encampment
Ministers Resource Services
BMA Theological Seminary
Lifeword
Missions Department
Miscellaneous Business

Wednesday Afternoon, April 20

12:00 pm Missionary Ladies Luncheon - Location TBD
12:00 pm We Are Free Luncheon - Location TBD
2:00 pm Legacy Missionaries
3:00 pm Fifth Session
Johnmichael Poulin - All the Word to All the World

Wednesday Evening, April 20

7:00 pm Sixth Session
Missions Commissioning Service