

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

February 1, 2017

www.msbbaptist.org

Vol. 71 No. 3

World Missions Fund

by Dr. John David Smith
Executive Director BMA Missions

As the small (and very crowded) passenger van rattles across the cobblestone road, it finally struggles over the last mountain top after the hour-long trip from the tiny airport, and the destination for this trip.... the small, seaside village of Tarrafal (Tare-a-fall) comes into view. Descending the mountain and entering the village brings sights of many cement-block buildings and houses that appear to be only partially complete. The village is quiet, yet picturesque. The collection of buildings and houses hug the seashore as they curve around the natural bay, and a number of multi-colored fishing boats on the beach, with the setting sun across the ocean as their backdrop, provide a window into life in this place. Tarrafal is located on the island of Sao Nicolau in the Cape Verde Islands, and it is the home of the BMA national missionary family of Eudo and Celi Rodrigues.

Eudo and Celi both came to



Eudo and Celi Rodrigues

Christ through a BMA Missions ministry on a different island in Cape Verde. After they were married, they moved to Tarrafal

to preach the gospel and plant a church in this place where the only religious expressions were nominal Catholicism and a lot of animism. The move from their island was tantamount to leaving their country since they had never ventured far from their birth island. God has honored their obedience these past few years by allowing them to build a very strong church. This couple and their three children are totally committed to making disciple makers among their people.

Did you know that the World Missions Fund allows BMA churches to partner with Eudo and Celi..... and HUNDREDS of other national missionaries in over seventy countries of the world? February 26, 2017, is World Missions Day! Every dollar given on that day will go the World Missions Fund. We are asking churches and individuals to partner with missionaries like Eudo and Celi all around the world!

Will you join us in reaching the nations for Christ?

BMA Missions is sending and God is blessing. With over 70 US missionary families and hundreds of national missionaries in over 70 countries and 5 continents, God is blessing. Churches are being planted. Leaders are being raised. Disciples are being made. God is blessing. Will you consider becoming part of our team? Thirty percent of the World Missions Fund is raised through our World Missions Day program. Pray with us that through your support, HIS Kingdom will be greatly expanded!

Join your church on Sunday, February 26, in supporting **World Missions Day** Or Donate directly your one-time gift or recurring support to BMA Missions

How seeker-friendly churches hurt America

by Bryan Fischer

Bryan Fischer hosts "Focal Point with Bryan Fischer" every weekday on AFR Talk (American Family Radio) from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (Central)

OneNewsNow - The plain truth of God's Word – when America's pastors no longer have the courage to preach it, America begins to drift from its moorings. It loses its moral center.

Many churches in America, sadly including many megachurches, pride themselves on being "seeker-friendly," by which they mean they are not judgmental and mean like those angry fundamentalists. Carrie Underwood famously supports same-sex marriage and attends a church whose pastor has so blurred the edges on the issue of homosexuality that his parishioners likely are confused about whether God is concerned about the issue at all.

Such seeker-friendly churches typically try to appeal to the unchurched by giving short shrift to the hard sayings in the Scriptures and the firm, fixed, and unalterable moral standards that are found there. This is because they fear seekers will find them too harsh, too difficult, and too out of phase

with contemporary culture. Because such controversial truths might run seekers off, it's best to avoid them entirely and talk endlessly and exclusively about how nice, kind, and understanding God is.

And so, as G.K. Chesterton observed, "Christianity has not



been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried."

Now there is nothing wrong with being friendly toward those who are seeking the truth. Of course we want to have open hearts to all, and patiently explain the truths of Christianity to all who have a sincere desire to find out more about God. But patiently explaining the hard

When America's pastors no longer have the courage of their convictions, America begins to drift from its moorings. It loses its moral center. Its conscience becomes dull

truths of Scripture to seekers is much different than avoiding them altogether or so twisting them that they are explained away.

It's one thing for a man to be a friend of sinners, but it's another for him to be such a friend of sinners that he becomes an enemy of God by betraying His word. Such a "friend" of sinners may only be paving their way to a Christ-less eternity.

Now seeker-friendly churches assure us they will eventually get around to introducing fresh converts to the edgier truths of Scripture. But my question has

continued on page 3

Life Time Achievement Awards

by Paul White, president
BMA of America

There is a group of men that all of us are indebted too. These are those men who have given their lives in the service to the ministry. This year at the national meeting we want to recognize those brethren who have been in the ministry for more than sixty years. But, for us to do this we need your help. We would love to have their picture with their names and the number of years they have been in the ministry. Just send this information to our clerk James Ray Raines along with your church letter or email them to my office at bmaofarkfrontdesk@gmail.com. If you do not have a photograph, please send the other information.

The dead line for turning in this information is April 1st. As we have stated before, the Association exists to serve our churches and their members.



BMA President
Paul White

BMA of America News

Annual Church Survey We Want To Hear From You!

At the end of August 2016, Annual Church Survey forms were sent to the approximately 1,250 BMA churches on record with a due date of December 31. Information Services has received updated information from almost half of them, but the goal is for a much higher percentage. It's not too late to send in the form or go to <http://bmaamerica.org/annualchurchsurvey/> to give up-to-date church information online.

As an added value to all BMA churches, a church search feature has been created to make it easier for people to locate BMA churches in their area. Find your church listing at <http://bmaamerica.org/church-locator-map/> and let us know of any feedback you might have.

Director of Information Services John Meriweather says, "The goal of Information Services is to build lasting and strong relationships with all BMA churches that enable us to effectively communicate, connect to and work with each other. Having accurate information from each churches is critical to meeting this goal."

If you have any questions regarding the information above, please contact Lauren Noland in the Information Services department at 501-358-4007 or lauren@bmaamerica.org.

New Discipleguide Books Don't Like Fill-In Blanks? Try Compass Commentary!

One of the most popular items coming from the recent updates to Compass is the addition of Compass Commentary. This new quarterly can be used in place of Compass or as a supplement to Compass. Either way, it works in sync with the Compass Leader Guide. That means each Sunday school class has options: An entire class may choose to use Commentary for their lessons, individuals may choose to use Commentary while the rest of the class uses Compass, or individuals may want to use Commentary strictly for extra study at home.

Compass Commentary mirrors the Compass Study Guide lesson without fill-in-the-blanks and discussion questions. The Commentary content is more extensive and features the full lesson Scripture text printed in KJV. Classes who prefer the previous Compass format have found Commentary to be a great fit for their needs.

To learn more about Compass Commentary and the entire line of Compass products, go to discipleguide.org or call 800.333.1442.

Daniel Springs Campground 2017 Camp Schedule Features New Combo Camp

The 2017 Daniel Springs Camp schedule has been set with an exciting new addition. The second week of camp, June 20-23, has been transformed from "Student Camp" to "Combo Camp."

Camp Director Jason Prewitt explains: "Combo simply refers to combining two age groups: (4th-6th grade) and (7th-college). We realize that some churches have difficulty planning two separate trips to camp

Learn *Spiritual Boldness* This Spring

Everyone admires those who display great strength and courage. Newspapers praise firefighters who brave the dangers of a burning house to save lives. Television and cinema recreate scenes of brave soldiers risking their lives in battle. And social media proclaims the courage of cancer survivors who have "beaten the odds."

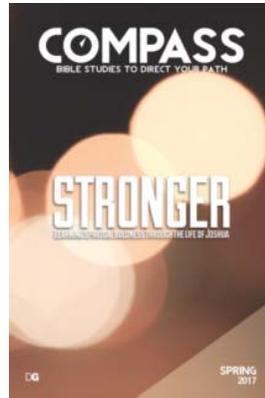


Dr. Gary O'Neal

It's easy to assume that strength and courage are traits reserved for a few select heroes. But did you know that the Bible commands strength and courage for all believers? This type of spiritual boldness

is not based upon trusting in ourselves but, instead, trusting in our God.

This spring, Compass uncovers spiritual boldness through a study of Joshua. From the entrance to the Promised Land to its possession, each story will highlight God's work and connect you to the larger picture of Scripture. This study will show how God fulfills his promises not only to Israel but to us as well. Each lesson will focus on the Christ-centered application that God's promises are true and firm. God's faithfulness in Christ Jesus is the ultimate basis of the Christian's strength and courage.



Lessons in the spring edition of Compass are written by Dr. Gary O'Neal, pastor of Oak Park Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, and adjunct professor for the BMA Theological Seminary and Southeastern Baptist College. Dr. O'Neal brings over thirty years of pastoral and teaching experience to the written page.

To learn more about Compass or to order, visit discipleguide.org/compass or call 800.333.1442.

each summer for preteens and students. We believe that by combining the two camps, Preteen Camp and Student Camp, more churches will be able to attend without having to make two trips."

For churches who prefer the age-segregated camps, Daniel Springs offers two Preteen Camps and one Student Camp this summer. "Our Ark-La-Tex Camp has proven that combining the age groups works well," says Prewitt. "So Combo Camp is simply an attempt to do more of what seems to serve the churches best."

Every camp week features music, preaching, devotionals, recreation, and meals. For more information on Daniel Springs, visit danielspringscamp.com or call 903-685-2433. Be sure to put camp on your summer calendar today!

Daniel Springs 2017 Schedule

GMA Camp	June 13-16
Combo Camp - (4th-college)	June 20-23
Preteen Camp 1 - (4th-6th)	June 27-30
Preteen Camp 2 - (4th-6th)	July 11-14
Ark-La-Tex Camp - (all ages)	July 18-21
Student Camp - (7th-college)	July 25-28

The World Missions Fund partners with Armenia

The awe-inspiring view of a snow-capped Mt. Ararat (yes, the one from Noah's ark fame) is visible from almost every vantage point throughout the country of Armenia. With a population of slightly more than three million, Armenia is a land rich with biblical history and the home of a present-day church multiplication movement. It is also the home of national missionary Asatur Nahapetyan, his wife Jasmine, and their three children who live in the capital city of Yerevan. Bro. Asatur is a long-time partner with BMA Global Missions. He also serves as the leader of the Baptist Union in Armenia and the president of the European Baptist Federation.



Asatur & Jasmine Nahapetyan with their three children

Armenia was the first country in the world to claim Christianity as its official religion. Bro. Asatur likes to greet fellow believers with his famous, "Welcome home!" upon their arrival to his beautiful country. Since most Armenians belong to the Armenian Apostolic Church (Eastern Orthodox), it is considered a Christian country, but it is almost completely surrounded by non-Christian neighbors.

Bro. Asatur reports that in the early 1990s when the former Soviet Union fell, there was one Baptist church in all of Armenia. Today there are almost 150 Baptist churches and about sixty church plants. There is a robust church multiplication program, a well-developed seminary, and ministries to some of the creative access countries on their borders. All of these churches have been planted without the help of an international missionary and through partners like the BMAA. Bro. Asatur speaks very fondly of BMA Missions as being one of the primary partners throughout the years with key men like Grady Higgs, Jerry Kidd, and Jeff Franks having high esteem in the hearts of our Armenian brothers and sisters.



BMA Global Missions desires to continue supporting this worthy church multiplication movement! Your gift to the Global Missions Fund on World Missions Day (February 26, 2017) will make that possible. Pray and give for eternal change! #worldmissionsday #changemaker.



Larry Geraldson
Director



Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Department of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund



State Missionaries and Wives



Bob & Edie Burch



Kenneth & Carole
Pollock



Bobby & Lesa
Elliott



Danny & Brenda
Bartlett



Sidney & Becky
Farmer



Wesley & Holley
Martin



Anders & Carla
Lee



Phillip & Dawn
Burns



Estuardo &
Yasmine Marroquin



Elvis & Wendy
Garcia



Ed & Patricia
DuVall

601.428.8616

www.bmams.org

Note From Our Newest State Missionary to Pontotoc, Mississippi

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Churches of the BMA of Mississippi, My family and I have been faithfully praying about church planting. The Missions Committee approved me to serve as a State Missionary for the BMA of Mississippi on January 09, 2017. After much prayer, we feel God is leading



Jimmy & Suzie Daugherty

us to Pontotoc, Mississippi, to plant a church. We are very excited about the opportunity to serve God in Pontotoc. Please join us in praying for the hearts of the people we know God is already preparing. Over the next few months, we will be traveling around Mississippi, sharing the vision God has given us. We would love to come to your church,

share and have you as prayer warriors in this work. If you would like to have us visit your church to explain our vision, please contact me at 662-228-1233. We look forward to hearing from you soon, Jimmy Daugherty.

Three Missions Scheduled to Organize in 2017

Caledonia Baptist Mission will organize on March 18th at 1PM, South Forrest Baptist Mission will organize on June 3rd, and Freedom Baptist Mission will organize on July 21st. Please mark your calendar with these events.

Missions and Evangelism Conf. Scheduled for April 22, 2017

The Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Missions and RLF Department will sponsor our annual Missions and Evangelism Conference on April 22, 2017 beginning at 10:00 AM. The conference will be hosted by Caledonia Baptist Church (Mission) in Caledonia, Mississippi. This year's theme is "Contending For The Faith."

Our lineup of speakers includes Bro. Jimmy Daugherty, BMA of Mississippi State Missionary; Bro. Josh Daniels, Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church; Bro. Gary O'Neal, Pastor of Oak Park Baptist Church; Bro. Leon Carmical, Pastor of First Baptist Calhoun; and Bro. Grover Laird. Bro. Jeff Dixon will arrange the music. Soon, we will be mailing each church a poster to help promote this event.

Grateful

I want to express my gratitude to Bro. Dennis and Sylvia Rankin for giving of their time and energy to complete several tasks at the Missions Office that long needed attention. Their work is always superb and their spirit is always excellent. I praise the Lord for their friendship and devotion to our work.

Special Emphasis

Special Emphasis for State Missions is just around the corner (March-April). Our prayer is that we will have the best Special Emphasis yet. I want to encour-

age our churches to make plans to emphasize State Missions during this time. Our State Missionaries and myself, are available to attend your church and share what God is doing through our missions' efforts. Feel free to contact us at 601-426-8616 to schedule a date.

Revolving Loan Fund Update

Our RLF Fund continues to be sound with plenty of money available to loan. Our current rate of interest on loans is 4.25%. We can also loan money to refinance and pay off a loan which your church may have taken with a commercial bank.

Contact Us

You can email us at missions@bmams.org, or call us at 601-428-8616. Visit our website at www.bmams.org. Like our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/bmamsmissions>.

Seeker-friendly Churches

from page 1

always been, "When?" When exactly will you do this? Will it be in a main service where the bulk of seekers are? Or will it be in a small, little-publicized setting which minimizes the risk of too many people hearing it, as if these were truths that are too embarrassing for civilized society? Or will it happen at all?

Jesus was the seeker-friendliest evangelist who ever walked the earth. His whole mission was to "seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10). And yet there were times when his teaching was so hard for the average seeker to stomach that the crowds began deserting him in droves.

When he began urging his followers to eat his flesh and drink his blood, and declared that he alone was "the bread that came down from heaven" (John 6:58), they did not respond by saying

"where can I sign up?" ... "When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?' ... After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him." (John 6:60, 66)

Things got so bad that Jesus even wondered about the Twelve. "Do you want to go away as well?" (John 6:67). Peter's response suggests that they were thinking about it, but finally resolved to stay. "To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." (John 6:68)

This, of course, is not to say that we should be disagreeable or deliberately try to run people off. But it is to say that fidelity to the word is more important than church growth.

When Paul met with the Ephesian elders, he reminded them twice that he had declared to them the full revelation of God, even those parts that were hard for him to preach and hard for them to hear. "I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable... I did

not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God." (Acts 20:20, 27)

The fact that Paul said twice he did not shrink back indicates that he had to think about it and was tempted to do it. There was risk of blowback involved, and Paul was as human as anyone else. He had to make a deliberate decision to take a deep breath and teach things he knew would be controversial, even to leaders in the church of Christ, let alone to outsiders and to seekers.

The word translated "shrink" (Greek *hupostello*) literally means to "withhold under or out of sight." Yeah, it's there, and we have to keep it in stock, but we're going to keep it under the counter where nobody will see it and we're gonna hope we don't have to bring it out and actually show it to anyone.

But Paul steeled himself to teach not only the pleasant things of God's counsel but its difficult and challenging parts too. Why? Because the hard parts

are "profitable" just like the fun parts. Truth-hungry people benefit from hearing them, and conversely are deprived of something important and valuable by not hearing them.

There are many, many "hard sayings" in the Word of God, beginning of course with the quite exclusive declaration of Scripture that Christ and Christ alone is the way to God and eternal life. But that's just for openers.

There is the plain assertion that the world did not evolve, but that God created it in six 24-hour days around 6,000 years ago. The plain truth that homosexual behavior is not okay, but deviates from God's design for sexual conduct and brings God's judgment on any society that embraces it. The plain truth that marriage is exclusively the union of a man and a woman and that any other arrangement is counterfeit and should never be embraced in culture or in law. The plain truth that man is not naturally good, as the world wants us to believe, but born with a propensity to sin.

continued on page 4

Seeker-friendly churches assure us they will eventually get around to introducing fresh converts to the edgier truths of Scripture. But my question has always been, "When?" When exactly will you do this?

Ministering To Young People

by Anders Lee

THAT KID!!!

What does success look like in youth ministry? In my last article I shared with you that “numbers don’t equal success.” In this article I want to give you some encouragement about the teens that you would love to choke to DEATH!

In an “ideal” youth setting, when all of your kids show up, they are from the best families. They are well behaved, A & B students, wearing really nice clothes. You know, the kids that wear the latest fashions so you can attract other students like them! They were raised in church and they know how things should be in the youth group. You can take them on trips and not worry about them getting arrested! I mean, the church is filled with perfect kids! That’s how my youth group always was, perfect BMA kids, the kind every student pastor at SOAR envies! Their parents

have all kinds of money, so a charter rental to Dallas for these kids is totally feasible! HA! Right?

Surely you sense the sarcasm. My youth group never was perfect. You should sit down and listen to some of the stories my wife and I have. It never fails, we all have “good kids” but most of the time we have “THAT KID!” If you haven’t had one yet, YOU WILL!

It’s the kid that cuts up during worship. The kid that brings his skate board and uses the church sidewalks as his personal skate park and his pants are hanging down in the back. Yep, the one that knocks over



Anders Lee

taught us (Matthew 18:15-20).

The cost to American culture from this kind of weakness and timidity is enormous. As Martin Luther King, Jr. observed, the church is the conscience of America. Its pulpits are to “flame with righteousness,” as a quote attributed to de Tocqueville has it.

When America’s pastors no longer have the courage of their convictions, America begins to drift from its moorings. It loses its moral center. Its conscience becomes dull. The American people, including its politicians, can no longer tell right from wrong because they aren’t being told the difference by those who are entrusted with the oracles of God.

Seeker friendly Churches

from page 3

The plain truth that there are two and only two genders, not 58 like Facebook wants us to believe. The plain truth that men and women are not interchangeable, but have distinctly different roles to play in marriage, family, and the church. (You want a hard saying, I give you, “I do not permit a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man” [1 Timothy 2:12]. How



many sermons have you heard on that, unless it’s to explain it all away?)

The plain truth that homosexual behavior will keep a man out of the kingdom of God as surely as any other sin. The plain truth that unrepentant sin in a believer’s life at some point must meet up with church discipline, as Jesus himself

A gyrocompass is an amazing device, used in ships and airplanes because no matter where it’s put, it always enables the pilot to find the horizon and identify true north, especially in rough weather. The Word of God is our cultural and spiritual gyrocompass. It’s time for America’s pastors to steer by it once again.

one of the oldest members of the church. The one that “flips the bird” out the window of the church bus headed to camp. She’s the girl that brings cigarettes in her luggage to SOAR. He’s the one that wears last year’s DNOW T-shirt to school who constantly cusses out their friends. Oh no... yep... he’s the one that showed up with a new tattoo!!! “THAT KID!!!”

Through my years as a youth pastor, I always had “THAT KID.” Goodness, one of them threw rocks at me once! Its ok, he missed! Let me ask you something. Are they welcome at your church? Do your parents try to get you to run them off? Are they treated well or do people create a natural distance from them? Do people complain that they only come to “youth group?” Are the money people in the church worried more about their stuff than they are these students? Have you had a meeting with your pastor over “THAT KID” yet? Well here’s something to think about.

I inherited a kid, actually a young man, from the previous youth pastor (John Newland). John had poured a lot into him. I came in on the tail end of his youth & college days. Dr. Kevin Clayton had invested in him also. People would strike up conversations with me and ask: “Have you met the Poulin kids yet?” The night I arrived at Calvary in Horn Lake, the

Poulin kids and a few others grew in the Lord (it didn’t happen overnight). “THAT KID” realized a call to ministry! “THAT KID” raised money to go to Bolivia with BMA Missionary



Missionary John Michael (*that kid*) Poulin (right in back) and family serving the BMA of America in Peru

met them!” I heard all the stories about them. “You gotta watch John Michael!” “He’s a rebel!” “He’s a Poulin!” “He ain’t gonna amount to nothing!” John Michael would bring a bunch of kids up to the church gym, break in and then proceed to stay until the police came by in the wee hours of the morning. He had a big mouth. He was disrespectful at times and stirred the pot on different occasions. Yep, he did all kind of things that made people want to choke him to death. He was “THAT KID!”

But through time, “THAT KID” got saved! “THAT KID”

Jimmy Swindoll. “THAT KID” spent a year on the mission field as a college student... and yes “THAT KID” (and his family) is currently a church planting missionary for the BMA in Peru!!!

We know that not every one of those kids will end up being a missionary. John Michael’s story is one of those grace stories! BUT, God has put “THAT KID” in your youth group by His providence. They need the Lord’s grace! They need genuine love! They need the truth! They need you and all of your youth ministry team to care! They need your church to be mature enough spiritually to invest in them willingly, despite all their flaws. When you do that, the face of your community changes because of the investment you make. Their lives are changed for the here-and-now and they are secure in the grace and eternal love of Christ! So, go find them, bring them in, teach them, help them, fight for them and lead them to the way everlasting!

Youth ministry success is all about “THAT KID!”

Lee is a church planter for the BMA of America and Mississippi. He is a pastor and former youth minister.

Lee may be contacted at anders.lee571@gmail.com

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



The Music Committee decided NOT to have a praise band this year!

Mississippi Baptist

Don J. Brown, Editor

E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org

Web site www.msbaptist.org

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

Phone 601-426-3293

PRICE

\$20.00 Per Year by Mail

\$15.00 Per Year by Email

CHURCHPLAN

\$ 1.30 Per Month per Family

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

Postmaster:

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

Southeastern Baptist College

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

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Interim President's Perspectives

One of my favorite passages of scripture is Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

The part of this spiritual guidance of which I have struggled my entire Christian life is the admonition to not lean to my own understanding. I am always trying to solve an issue, or thinking on improving something, or developing a new way forward. I don't think this is what this passage is addressing. God wants us to be creative and especially in the work of the Kingdom. However, sometimes the Lord changes our plans. And sometimes the change He brings is much different from what we expected.

As an Army chaplain in charge of a chapel program, we once were struggling with securing Sunday school teachers and motivating congregants to attend. Many of our chapel leaders became frustrated. After all, isn't Sunday school an important program to provide to our people? It seemed we should try harder to make it successful. We pleaded with God to help us, but no matter our sincere efforts, we still came up short. Then the Spirit spoke to me to look closer where our efforts in ministry were effective. Our children's church

was doing well. So, I suggested we move away from Sunday school and increase our energy into the children's church program. When we did, that ministry took off! It became a flagship example of successful children's ministry within the European chapel communities.

The writer of Proverbs encourages us to always be mindful of the Spirit's leading. The Apostle Paul and his missionary companions wanted to take the Gospel to another area of modern day Turkey, then called Asia. It appears from a human point of view that Paul's course of action is the right thing to do. It is completely logical and good to take the gospel of the saving grace of our Lord Jesus to the lost who had never before heard the message. How could it not be God's will? To me, human logic and Christian teaching agrees that Paul should pursue this course of action vigorously no matter the obstacles. But the scripture tells us that they "...were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia." The Lord had other ideas. His strategic plan to expand the good news into Europe was far greater



Dr. Scott Carson
Interim President

than Paul's plan.

No matter how sound and good our plans may seem to be, every follower of Christ should ask the question, "Am I sensitive to God's leading in this instance or am I blinded by human logic or tradition?" God forbid that we should stubbornly ignore the Lord's direction because we lean to our own understanding. Isaiah 55:8 records, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord."

Spring Semester

The spring semester has kicked off and we are excited about the number of students we have. Ordinarily, the spring semester has fewer students than the fall. However, God has blessed us with 17 new undergraduates with 25 of our total student population being full time. In addition, the number of course hours attempted is 100 more than in the fall. The results of this successful recruiting effort have created a strong sense of positive energy throughout the school. Pray that the Lord continues expanding the number of students at Southeastern Baptist College!

If you are thinking about taking college level courses, I encourage you to contact your recruiter, Brother Ronnie Kitchens at 601-426-6346. Ronnie has all the information you need to sign up for classes and information on financial aid. There are \$1000 scholarships available to Baptist Missionary Association minister who takes classes here at Southeastern Baptist College. Contact Brother Kitchens for more information!

In Memoriam Donations

Mrs. Helen Pitts asks for donations in memory of Brother Danny Pitts be sent to Southeastern Baptist College. You can bless your memory of him by supporting the institution and students

that Brother Pitts so loved and dedicated his life. You can make a donation by mailing your check to the college at: Southeastern Baptist College, 4229 MS 15, Laurel MS 39440, or using a credit card online at our website: <http://southeasternbaptist.edu/web/99/SpecialEmphasisDonationPage.aspx>

I wish to thank all who have already given to SBC in the memory of Brother Danny Pitts. Your love and respect for his spiritual leadership is greatly appreciated by everyone associated with the school. I want to give a special "shout out" to the members of Good Hope Baptist Church in Columbia, MS for their generous donation of over \$6000. Money given to this institution are always prayed over and wisely applied toward its greatest needs.

Chapel Speakers

We were recently blessed with Dr. Charley Holmes, the President of the BMAA Theological Seminary as our guest chapel speaker bringing a personal testimony related to evangelism



BMA Seminary President Dr. Charley Holmes was a recent guest speaker in chapel

efforts while in Tanzania. We have developed a roster of guest speakers through the spring semester and it is posted on the college's website. You are invited to personally attend SBC chapel services or watch online. It is accessible both through the school's website and on our Facebook page. Chapel services are held each Tuesday, from 9:50 to 10:30 am.

Fixing Things Up

Thank you Dennis and Sylvia Rankin! They are graciously donating their time and talents to make repairs around campus. We continue to be in need of two new HVAC units and other work around the campus. Please contact us if you can assist us physically or monetarily toward these needs.

Faculty Position

Southeastern Baptist College is looking for a professor to teach business classes both in the classroom and online. Applicants must possess an MBA or equivalent. Send resumes to scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu or mail your resume to the college.

COMMISSION ON Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt
Director

Tell Someone - Joyously!" Philippians 1 - 4

Look what's coming!! 2017 Senior Adult Conferences won't be long now! The **South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference** will be held Tuesday, March 21 at Big Creek Baptist Church near Soso, beginning at 9:30 am. Registration will be at 9:00 a.m. The registration fee remains at \$15.00 per person, this covers the noon meal catered by Mac's Fish.

Plaques will also be presented to ministers completing 50 years in ministry in 2017. Please call 601-428-8616 and

give the information to Mrs. Kim Parker at the missions office. Call in soon so the plaques can be made.

Save the date - Tuesday, March 21, 2017.

The **North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference** is set for Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at Greenwood Baptist Church, Fulton. The registration fee remains at \$15.00 per person, this covers the noon meal catered by Dorsey Volunteer Fire Department.

50 years in the ministry plaques will also be presented during the North Conference to ministers completing 50

years in ministry in 2017, please call 601-428-8616 and give the information to Mrs. Kim Parker at the Missions office, call in soon so the plaques can be made.

People are already getting anxious and looking forward with great anticipation to be in attendance at the Senior Adult Conferences.

This once a year day is very special for our seniors who are very deserving of a special day just for them. Many churches pay the \$15 registration fee to show appreciation to their senior members.

Attendance at these conferences in the past has been above the 400 mark and let's do it again. Both the South and North conferences have proven to be exactly what our seniors enjoy being a part of.

We look forward to seeing you at Big Creek and Greenwood Baptist Churches.

Encourage your members and invite friends to come together for a great time in the Lord.

GIRLS'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

State Youth Auxiliary Director

Becky Farmer
464 Churchwell Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39401
601-596-1005

State GMA Promoter

Lisa Christian
2315 Bankhead Rd., Fulton, MS 38843
662-322-1581

GMA Officer Reports

Hey girls! This is **Barbara Jean Williams**, and I am you Second Vice President. Camp will be on March 17th and 18th. The theme is "Peace of God" and the theme verse is Philippians 4:7. I want to encourage each of you girls to read this verse and apply it to your life. Please be in prayer for the camp and those who are making everything come together. I pray that all of you can come and I hope you will. I can't wait to see you all.

Hey girls! This is **Neely Blackmon**, your recording secretary! I hope everyone is just as excited about camp as I am. Camp dates are March 17 and 18. The theme this year is "Peace of God". I encourage all girls and counselors to come join us for a wonderful time.

Mississippi Galilean Information

by Mark Jones

The Mississippi Galileans are excited for a new year. Last year we had new churches start Galileans and make commitments to disciple young men and train them up in the way they should go.

Mississippi churches we represented well by young men who love God. Braedon Martin was your Mississippi Mr. Senior Galilean and your National Mr. Galilean for which he received Scholarship to Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas. Braedon was also elected 1st Vice-president of the National Galileans. Maddox Hendricks was elected Mississippi and National Mr. Junior Galilean. Maverick Hendricks was elected state and national music director. These young men met in August with the other national officers and planned next year's national camp.

The Mississippi Galilean 2017 State Camp will be March 17-18 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. The fee this year will be \$60, our speaker will be Dalton McMillen and our camp theme is "STAND OUT" from Romans 12:1-2. We will be mailing out registration forms very soon.

Galileans is the BEST discipleship program in the BMA and we pray that more churches will use it to train their young men. We are in a fight for our young people so let us get in the fight and not stay on the sidelines and lose them to this world. You can contact me at 662-231-1435 and email stonwall@yahoo.com. I will be glad to do anything to help you start a Galilean program.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Life Begins at 80

I have good news for you. The first 80 years are the hardest. The second 80 are a succession of birthday parties.



Once you reach 80, everyone wants to carry your baggage and help you up the steps. If you forget your name or anybody else's name, or an appointment, or your own telephone number, or promise to be three places at the same time, or can't remember how many grandchildren you have, you need only explain that you are 80.

Being 80 is a lot better than being 70. At 70 people are mad at you for everything. At 80 you have a perfect excuse no matter what you do. If you act foolishly, it's your second childhood. Everybody is looking for symptoms of softening of the brain.

Being 70 is no fun at all. At that age they expect you to retire to a house in Florida and complain about your arthritis (they used to call it lumbago) and you ask everybody to stop mumbling because you can't understand them. (Actually your hearing is about 50 percent gone.)

If you survive until you are 80, everybody is surprised that you are still alive. They treat you with respect just for having lived so long. Actually they seem surprised that you can walk and talk sensibly.

So please, folks, try to make it to 80. It's the best time of life. People forgive you for anything. If you ask me - life begins at 80!

(NOTE: I came across this the other day when I was going through some "stuff" so thought I'd put it out there, thinking that some of YOU might identify with this. Just sayin'.)

Master's Builders Hold Retreat

The Master's Builders met recently at Springlake Baptist Assembly in Lonsdale, Arkansas, for their



2017 Retreat. A total of 27 Builders met for our time of relaxation, fun and food. What fun we have! We visit and eat, play games and eat, and a lot of carrying on and eating! Wayne Wimberly, of Joaquin, Texas, led in our singing and devotional time on Wednesday night. Bro. John Mangum, our Office Coordinator, came on Thursday to give us an update on our past year, upcoming jobs, and finances. Max and Wilma Adams of El Dorado, Arkansas, came with Bro. Mangum. Max will celebrate his 90th birthday on March 24th and he and Wilma are one of the couples who were the beginning of The Master's Builders in 1991.

We have 4 building projects already planned for the Spring! Please pray for our men as they try to serve the Lord in this ministry. 2016 was very hard for our group as 5 of our men and 2 of our women went Home. Losing them was a deep loss for us, but was definitely Heaven's gain.

CHURCH NEWS

New Staff Member

First Baptist Church of Shady Grove in Laurel welcomes S.D. & Linda Broome. Bro. S.D. is our new minister of music and has hit the ground running. Our services have been enhanced by his leadership in the music ministry of the church and he has already planned a children's music ministry as well as getting the church choir and staff ready for a great Easter presentation. An Easter drama will be presented during the Easter Cantata. We are blessed to have the Broome family with us at FBC of Shady Grove.



S.D. & Linda Broome

McLain Church Seeks Worship Leader

Midway Missionary Baptist Church, located off of Hwy 98 between McLain and Lucedale, is currently in search of a worship leader and is now accepting resumes and/or recommendations. Would like to have someone who could play a lead musical instrument. We currently have a piano, keyboard, guitar, and drums. Songs include a mixture of traditional hymns and contemporary praise and worship music. If you are interested or know someone who is interested please notify Bro. Johnny Williams via phone or email. 228-234-3121. brojohnnywilliams@att.net.

Oak Grove Association Report

Ed Steele, Reporter

The Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Association met with Good Hope Baptist Church in Columbia on January 12 with 11 churches answering the roll call.

Bro. Robert Arinder, Pastor of Rocky Branch Baptist Church, opened the service with Scripture and prayer. Bro. Donald Brown gave a report on the Prisoner's Bible Crusade. As State Missionaries, Bro. Philip Burns reported on his work with the Day Star Mission in Sumrall and Bro. Estuardo Maroquin on the Hispanic work in the State of Mississippi. It was great to have Bro. Dale and Celia Broom home from Ghana and have him report on their work there asking for special prayer for the continued work and safety of those who are serving the Lord in that country. Bro. Ted Quinby, as the Association's Missions Ambassador, encouraged the churches to support the special emphasis for the BMA of America. Bro. Sidney Davis gave a report on the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home. The message was also delivered by Bro. Sidney Davis.

The next meeting will be Magnolia Baptist Church in Hattiesburg on March 16.

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Zechariah Rogers

Zechariah Rogers is available for preaching opportunities or pastoral work as the Lord leads. He is currently attending Southeastern Baptist College working on a Bachelor in Christian Ministries degree. He may be reached at 769-301-5004 or his cell at 662-372-5730.

From The Mind of Chuck Lee

Anxiety

Let's stop for a moment and breath. There is a lot of "heavy" stuff going on in this world and if we are not careful, we will allow it to consume who we are and those around us. We may even forget Who is still and will always be God.

Have you stopped, yet? Don't forget to breath, either, because that is a vital part of living. Today, I want to address a more serious issue that affects most people today, whether we want to admit it or not and whether you are a child of God or not. It affects you simply because you are human. That issue is anxiety. It is a no-no word in many of today's churches because we don't want to be known as worriers who aren't depending on God to handle our needs.

Don't get me wrong. I am convinced we can cast all our cares upon Him. Without a doubt, He will keep our minds and hearts through Christ Jesus. When He says we are going to the other side, you can know you will be at the landing despite the storms that may come your

way. But despite all the promises and commandments of God, we still find ourselves at the end of our nerves at times.

Some may say that doubt and fear is a sin. So is covetousness, fornication, drunkenness, lust, and the list goes on. If you sin, repent. It's amazing how quickly that will de-stress a person. Getting back in fellowship with God has a way of calming the nerves.

Others claim a medical condition for their unreasonable and irrational mood swings. Hospitals are full throughout the land with people that have imbalances caused from the human body going haywire (my own medical terminology, so feel free to use if you are a physician). We can't deny that an organ (the brain is an organ, right? Probably should have



Bro. Chuck Lee

gone to class that day) as complex as the brain won't have problems. Some of the brightest minds in the world still have no idea the depth of the workings of a human brain. A lot of stuff goes on up there. Those of you that never have aches and pains, that never get sick, that know nobody with cancer or heart problems, raise your hand. Those that didn't raise your hand, refer back to the former paragraph on repentance.

Whatever the reason, and whatever you stand on dealing with anxiety, and whatever those around you feel the answer may be, somewhere along the line you will have to deal with the problem. Stop. Breathe. I believe that a person should never make life changing decisions when emotionally charged. Just stop a moment and calm down so you can be reasonable.

Should you find yourself in a place where the whole world is falling apart around you, let me suggest, if nothing more than a temporary solution, some advice. Don't think about tomorrow. Don't think about the next hour or

minute. Don't think about what has to be done. Don't think about what might happen. Consider right now! Are you alive? Are you breathing? Right now. Are you safe, right now? In spite of all the problems you may have, or will have, right now just stop and breath.

Whew! Doesn't that feel good? Now that you have stopped, and now that you aren't worrying over things that haven't happened yet, take a moment and just be honest with God. Pray. Tell Him

what you can't tell anyone else. Know that even the feelings you can't express in words, God understands.

Problems will always come. There will always be moments of loss. Man that is born of woman is assured of a few days, and those days filled with trouble. If you can stop, and breathe, and pray, then for just a moment you can be alright. And after all, all we really have... is right now.

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

HELLO
my name is

Anxiety

SENIOR SOURCES

by Becky Ulmer - becky.ulmer@jghms.com

"It Was In The Apron"

In the fashion industry there is a great deal of emphasis on what you wear and how to "make a statement" with attire. One's occupation can often be identified by the clothing or uniform worn. Let's turn back the clock, say 40 or 50 years. In a time when clothing was less plentiful and generally homemade, a lot could be said about a person by their attire as well. Protection and

preservation of clothing was a must. One's item of that day is nearing extinction today... the apron.

The purpose of the apron was to keep one's limited supply of clothing clean while doing the chores of cooking, cleaning, washing and tending to children. In reflection, I understood what the apron was for, but I also knew that the pockets on those aprons held items that could fix, fasten, or free just



Becky Ulmer

about anything. Reflect back on the pockets on the apron of your mother or grandmother. They could contain scissors, a pocket knife, clothes pins, safety pins, New Testament Bible, rag/handkerchief, hairpin, coins or a piece of string. The young and old, toy or pet could be fixed with the contents of these pockets. I never worried about the contents of small pockets, but the large or "wrap around" pockets instilled a sense of fear at a young age. Those pockets could accommodate a limb from the fruit tree (especially if all the foliage had been stripped from it) or the feared fly

swatter with a metal wire handle.

The "tail" of the apron had its own versatility. Drying hands or dishes, wiping noses, fanning to get cool or fanning a fire, shooing away chickens or animals, used as hot-pads or to carry a bunch of vegetables or clothes from the line into the house. The list of uses was infinite.

Like clothing, the apron was a reflection of the one wearing it. The contents of the apron did a lot to form the mind-set of what was and was not "proper attire". The apron was designed to protect. What the wearer couldn't handle, the pocket contents could.

In thinking of ways to return our country to God, this thought has crossed my mind. Restore the mind-set of the importance of our outward image to portray Christ in actions and attire. Bring back the aprons and the desire to care for our families and provide them with a strong Bible-based foundation. The need is there.

"Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" Ephesians 6:11

"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." I Peter 3:3-4

Becky Ulmer is Nursing Home Administrator of Jasper County Nursing Home, Bay Springs, Mississippi. She is a member of First Baptist, Bay Springs.

WORLD MISSIONS DAY
2/26/17

YOUR CHURCH GOD'S MISSION

YOUR WORLD MISSIONS DAY OFFERING PROVIDES
MINISTRY DOLLARS FOR OVER 500 BMA MISSIONARIES
FAMILIES IN 70 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD.

MISSIONS
baptist missionary association of america

The Circus Is Closing

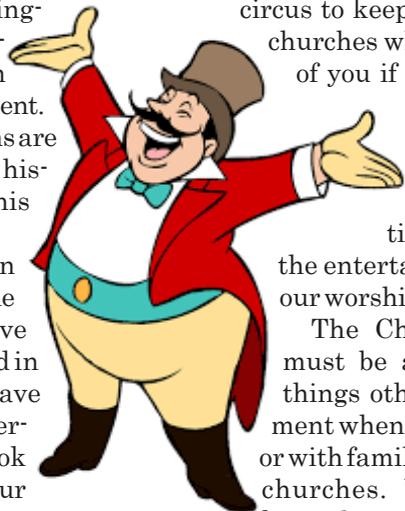
by Dr. Tony Cleaver

The big three ring circus is closing. It has been an American iconic entertainment venue for generations. Yet even with a new female ringmaster, attendance is waning due to lack of interest in the circus kind of entertainment. The circus lore and traditions are entrenched in our county's history. Yet in a little while, this circus will be no more.

Let's get rid of the circus in our churches! Christian people don't need nor do they deserve to be rigorously entertained in our worship services. We have devised several ways to entertain our congregants. "Look over here in the ring to your left...look over here in the ring to your right...look above you overhead...now in the center ring...get your peanuts here..."

Perhaps your church might think it

needs a circus to compete with the mega-churches around in your area. Perhaps you are in a mega-church and imagine you need a bigger and better circus to keep up with the other



churches who might get ahead of you if you don't get "new acts." Well even with a new and improved lady ringmaster this will ultimately fail. It is not the entertainment factor that our worshipers need.

The Christian worshiper must be assured of several things other than entertainment when she/he comes alone or with family and friends to our churches. Worshipers must know they will encounter God in a majestic and powerful way when they come - perhaps better stated God must be honored in the service. He is holy, awesome, and above all our thinking.

The worshiper needs to confess sins - both those things done and those things left undone. Confession can be included as a congregation or in an individual way.

Prayer in corporate worship is not to be mundane or rote from the pulpit or from the heart of the worshiper. The bowed knee might be symbolic of the bowed heart. Scripture read with the authority that belongs to Scripture is a mighty part of worship. Music that moves my heart toward God is more important than music that moves my feet toward the stylish beat.

The offering is more than "Hey you and Billy Ray come and take the offering." When the plate is passed may I have the opportunity to place myself as well as my cash, check, or credit card slip wholeheartedly in the plate because it is a reverent time of the service. I need a time of silence in the progress of the worship time. I need time to reflect on what is going on with me and with the

mighty acts of God in my world.

Preaching, well let it be saturated in prayerful study of the Scriptures from an overflowing and authentic heart of the pastor. May our pastors speak the truth in love and with full assurance of the Holy Spirit taking the words to the hearers' hearts. Give me a response time - both publically and privately. What must I do now that I have been here?

The big American circus is folding its tent soon. Does the circus still come to your church every Sunday? How about folding that tent? Christians do not need to be entertained. They deserve to be nurtured to grow and mature as real people of Christ and His Church to meet the challenges of their lives and witness in their world today and in their time.

Leave It To Cleaver



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

BMA of Mississippi Youth Department

Phone 662-316-6233 www.facebook.com/bmamamyouth



Kelby Johnson
Director

Join Us For Sharpen 2017

Sharpen is a one night worship service that is intended to help our churches grow in ministry, specifically toward youth. Our theme this year is "The Necessity of the Word of God for Life and Ministry." All are invited to this event sponsored by the Youth Department on Saturday, February 18 at Temple Baptist Church in Laurel.



We will begin at 6:00 p.m. with music and then have a message. Our speaker is Bro. Josh Daniels. Bro. Josh is the Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church.

This event is for people of all ages so get a group together and come to Temple for a great night!

BMA OF MISSISSIPPI State Youth Camp

June 5-7, 2017

Waukaway Springs Retreat Center

Speaker: Bro. Donny Parrish

Music: Bro. Mark Williams

It is time to sign up for Summer Camp! We have a great event planned and will even add a couple of new activities to camp this year. If you haven't been to our camp in a while, this is the year to come!

Contact Bro. Kelby at 662-316-6233 or kelbyjohnson@yahoo.com for more information and to sign up!

Maximum Impact 2017

by Missionary Michel Poirier

As we enter a new year we are expecting the Lord to do great things with his people. We plan to have a maximum impact in Quebec, Canada, in two different locations this year. We begin a new work in a nearing town and the task is greater than before. Those that have come to one of our Maximum Impacts in the past know about the work involved with the distribution to invite people to hear the gospel (It's a blessed experience). If you are interested in a mission trip to the French speaking people and not being afraid to put your feet to work in the service of our Lord & Saviour, please let me know. Our dates for Maximum Impact 2017

are JUNE 26-29.

Each day from Monday to Thursday we will be going out distributing invitations on foot from 9 am to 12. Have lunch and back to work at 12:30 in the streets till 4 pm. Then at 5 o'clock diner (supper) and 6 o'clock singing and preaching. For Friday the 29th in the morning, we will visit the old part of Quebec City as a reward. If you are interested to know about French culture come and be a part of the work.

Our work is Église Baptiste Missionnaire de Lévis, 5129 Guillaume Couture, Lévis Qc Canada G6V4Z5 You may contact BMAA 844-262-8637 or In Quebec Michel Poirier Cell 418-209-3710.

Your church can experience a short-term mission trip close to home!

MARDI GRAS MISSIONS

FEBRUARY 24-25 GULFPORT/BILOXI, MS



\$35 per person and includes lodging, training, evening snack, Saturday morning breakfast, Bibles to hand out and a Mardi Gras Missions T-Shirt.

REGISTER ONLINE NOW!

www.bmamissions.org/mardigrasmission

Training and lodging will be at:
Campground Baptist Church
20577 Highway 53
Gulfport, MS 39503