

# Mississippi Baptist

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WORLD MISSIONS SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 25, 2018

## Skyway Hills Baptist Church – Living Out God’s Mission

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations...” Matthew 28:19

This is the verse that Skyway Hills Baptist Church uses to fuel their heart for missions, both locally and globally. Their pastor, Steven Clark, says that since their Savior has commanded this of their congregation, of course they’re going to be a Great Commissions church.

“We can’t be everywhere at all times,” explained Clark, “So we have to support Missions financially and through prayer, or else we would never be able to fulfill the Great Commission.”

Skyway Hills Baptist Church has been faithful to not only participate in BMA Missions’ World Missions Day, but they also support Lifeword in the Walk for the World, and support the ChangeMakers program of BMA Missions.

In their local community, this congregation of Christ followers is also very active in missions. Though they have an elderly congregation with few youth,



they use Evangelism Explosion to go door-to-door and share the gospel in their community. They also put on a program for youth called “Refuge” (Reaching Everlasting Friends through Understanding God’s grace Eternally). They feed the youth in their community, as well as lead them

to know Christ,” explained Pastor Clark.

This mission-minded pastor wants to encourage churches to participate in and support BMA Missions because God is a missions-minded God.

“Without missions no one would be saved,” said Clark.

“Missions is the heartbeat of Christianity. Without it, there’s nothing left. If the original disciples hadn’t been missions-minded, Christianity would have died. It’s important to be involved in missions both locally and internationally, because the fields are white unto harvest.”

Would you follow Pastor Steven Clark and Skyway Hills Baptist Church in becoming a missional church? BMA Missions is striving to reach EVERY NATION with the gospel, but we need EVERY CHURCH’s support to accomplish that goal. Let’s join together on February 25, 2018 for World Missions Day and commit to carry out the Great Commission. Register your church at [bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday](http://bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday).

Every Church. Every Nation.

## Stand in the Gap

(Intercessory Prayer)

By Paul White, President  
BMA of America

We are only a few months away from our annual BMA of America meeting. This year BMA of America will gather in Jackson, Mississippi, to conduct the most important business on earth — God’s business!

Our theme this year is “Stand in the Gap.” It will center on our need — as individuals, churches and an association — to be actively involved in praying for others.

Have you prayed specifically for someone other than yourself today? What about yesterday? Individuals, churches and associations have no greater offensive weapon at their disposal than that of heartfelt prayer.

Please join me in praying for our association and her leaders every day until April.

Monday evening, before the official opening of the meeting, our service will kick off with a God and Country Rally that you will not want to miss. It should be an exciting and uplifting event, and a special mystery guest could very well show up!

Also, Bro. Jeremy and I need your help! Wednesday afternoon, I have asked that we have a “BMA of America Choir.” This is for anyone present, so make plans now to participate. Please consider loading up your church choir and letting them be a part of this time of worship.



Paul White

## NATIONAL MEETING INFORMATION

### It’s Time to Make Your Reservations

from The Committee on Arrangements

The 2018 session of the Baptist Missionary Association of America will meet April 16-18 at the Jackson Convention Complex, 105 East Pascagoula Street, Jackson, Mississippi. The facilities and hotels are looking forward to our meeting there. Jackson’s accommodations offer plenty of space for all of our meetings and lodging. We hope that you will make your reservations early. Most of the hotels can make your reservations either by phone or on-line, but you must identify that you are with the Baptist Missionary Association of America.

• **Jackson Marriott (Headquarters Hotel)**, 200 East Amite Street, Jackson, MS: \$129 per night (Standard Queen or King room). Telephone reservations: 800-228-9290 or 601-969-5100. Online reservation link: Book your group rate for BMAA 2018 Annual Spring Convention. Complimentary parking in hotel parking garage (buses or vans will require metered parking). Reservation cutoff date is March 25, 2018.

• **Hilton Garden Inn**, 235 West Capitol Street, Jackson, MS: \$119 per night (Single or double); \$129 (triple); \$139 (Quad). Telephone reservations: 877-782-9444. All parking is valet, \$14.95 per day. Reservation cutoff date is March 15, 2018.

• **Westin Jackson**, 407 S. Congress Street, Jackson, MS: \$149 per night (Double or King). Telephone reservations: 601-968-8200; Online reservation link: Baptist Missionary Assn of America (or copy and paste the following link into a web browser) <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1801157013&key=26CA8A96>. All parking is valet, \$10.00 per day. Reservation cutoff date is March 16, 2018.

Our association has had to pay extra in the past years because we did not use our full block of rooms. Please help us avoid a situation like that this year. We appreciate your help.

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



Larry Geraldson  
Director



www.bmams.org - 601.428.8616



State Missionaries and Wives



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Hutchinson

The "Missions" of the BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund

by Vernon Newman, RLF Manager

The Lord continues to provide His blessing on our work at the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Missions and Revolving Loan Fund departments. He has laid the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) on the hearts of our churches and individual church members and they have followed through with becoming a part of the effort to support Missions. I ask you, "Will you be a part of the Lord's work through the efforts of the RLF"?

RLF History, Intent, & Vision

The RLF was organized in 1955 for the purpose of providing funding to purchase property for mission congregations. The RLF is a non-profit, private-association sponsored fund. It was created to solicit and safeguard funds primarily from individuals and churches. Those funds are then used to make loans to churches and missions. Since inception, the RLF has made over

582 loans to our churches totaling over \$72,500,000.00 being loaned out. As a loan is paid back, those funds are then 'revolved' back into the fund to make future loans.

RLF Operations

We practice a very simple funding and financing process that allows individuals/churches to deposit, earn interest, and withdraw funds. We maintain a large enough reserve of cash-on-hand to meet the day-to-day demands of withdrawals and the need for loans. When an account is opened, we agree to pay interest to the shareholder on the account balance at a certain variable amount of interest. The interest received from the loans is then used to pay the shareholders, operate the fund, and reduce or subsidize debt on Mission congregations.

RLF Loans in Support of Missions and Churches

Over the past year, we have made 15 new or refinanced loans to assist our Missions and Churches. These loans ranged from a small loan to repair a HVAC unit; purchase a church van; purchase land for a Mission; construct two (2) new Mission buildings, etc...; all the way up to a loan for over \$1,000,000.00 to build a new Church.

RLF 2018 Missions Support

We are presently in the Construction

Loan phase for Day Star Baptist Mission, Sumrall, Mississippi and Redemption Baptist Mission, Diamondhead, Mississippi. Through the strength of the RLF deposits and reserve, we have already purchased the land for Day Star and we are in the process of securing a property for Redemption. Through a matching fund campaign for both of these missions, the RLF has been able to provide \$50,000.00 to each of these missions....matched with the \$50,000.00 that each Mission raised, they are now \$100,000.00 closer to completing their building program!!

RLF 2018 Projected Loans

We already have eight (8) loan requests that are being reviewed with numerous other churches having contacted us with loan inquiries about future loans. With the size of some of these prospective loans, we have a need to increase the amount of funds that we have on deposit. So I refer back to my original question to you, "Will you be a part of the Lord's work through the efforts of the RLF"?

RLF Needs

Presently we have over \$22,000,000.00 in Gross Assets... but...looking to the future, we need to grow our deposits so that we can meet the demand of the future loan requests. Churches or Individuals who would like to invest in the work of the Revolving

Geraldsons Welcome New Granddaughter



Bro. Larry and Ms Cherita have been very busy this week taking care of their granddaughters in preparation for the birth of their new granddaughter. Daniel and Nikki Geraldson, four (4) sisters, and proud grandparents welcomed Rachel Elizabeth Geraldson on January 25, 2018.

Loan Fund (supporting our Missions and Churches) and earn a good return on their investment can do so by opening an account. Contact Bro. Vernon Newman at 601-428-8616 or rlf@bmams.org

Current Rate on Deposit Accounts – Presently 2.17% (posted Quarterly)

BMA Annual Church Survey Deadline is March 31st!

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

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

What Can My Church Do?

1. Visit [bmaamerica.org](http://bmaamerica.org) to view and edit your church information. Once on the website, select the "BMA Churches" tab listed at the top, then click on "BMA Church Log In."
2. Fill out the pre-populated survey you received in the mail and mail to: BMA America, P.O. Box 1188, Conway, AR 72033
3. Request an email or paper copy of the survey by contacting Lauren Noland in the Information Services department at 501-358-4007 or [lauren@bmaamerica.org](mailto:lauren@bmaamerica.org)



**From The Mind of Chuck Lee**

**UNTIL I'VE HAD MY COFFEE**

The word "coffee" had to have been invented by a Baptist minister, at least as far as I can determine. Twenty four years ago, when God called me into the ministry, I was informed by many well-meaning friends that I would have to drink coffee in order to be a good preacher. No problem,

considering that I was already going through two pots a day anyway. I'm pretty sure the words "casserole" and "fried chicken" originated in the Baptist work as well, but there are probably some Methodists that might dispute this claim.

Anyway, back to coffee. Not only was coffee a requirement for qualification into the ministry, according to the third epistle to Timothy, but it also had to be ingested in a certain way before it could be effective. I made the mistake of asking for sugar to add to my coffee one revival and had the week shortened to only go through Wednesday night. Some of you may attribute Friday night football as the reason we shortened our revivals to only go through Wednesday night, but it was me asking for sugar in my coffee. I was informed that a minister should never add sweetener or cream to his coffee. "You have to drink it black,

man"!

Imagine my concern when after a lifetime of drinking coffee, I had to quit drinking coffee. I went for years pretending to drink coffee just to prevent the ostracizing that would occur when this knowledge was brought to light.



Bro. Chuck Lee

**"Hold that thought until I've talked with the Lord"**

Eventually my deceit was found out after pouring my cup into the dog dish. Fido bounced off the wall for a good ten minutes before coming to a landing and depositing the churned remains at the feet of his master on the living room carpet. Again, revival was shortened to Wednesday night.

Some people claim that they can't function without their cup of morning joe. There are T-shirts that threaten bodily harm if you talk to the wearer before they have had their coffee in the morning. It's a scary world for us non-drinkers because we have to determine the crazy in a person's eyes before we can approach them. "Have they not had their morning coffee, or are they just on

**Central Southaven Holds Open House**

by Anders Lee,  
pastor

Sunday Jan 21, 2018 was a special day at Central! We officially opened our new facility with over 260 present for the occasion! We were thrilled to have Bro & Mrs. Keith Lewis and two other couples from our sponsoring church with us for this moment! Vernon Newman from the Revolving Loan Fund in the BMA of Mississippi was also present, along with Mayor of Southaven Darren Musselwhite, Alderman of Ward



3 in Southaven George Payne, & Steve Gross owner of C&M Contractors!

Our thanks to Don Brown, Editor of the Mississippi Baptist, for being there and taking all the pictures for the day! You can see many more by visiting the church's Facebook page.

some sort of hallucinating drug"?

As a child of God, I don't believe our acceptance of company should be on the basis of whether or not we have been filled with coffee, but rather or not we have been filled with the Spirit of God. Perhaps we would be better suited for the day by drinking in the word of God. It's amazing how spending time with Him can change our mood. I might even jump on board the T-shirt movement if there was one that said, "Hold that thought until I've talked with the Lord".

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



We thank all of you in the BMA for helping us along the way; the Mt. Calvary Association in Arkansas, the BMA of Mississippi & the BMA of America & our Sponsoring Church, Charity Baptist in Ward, Arkansas! They have all worked together to help Central become what it is today! All praise to God for what He has done! Ultimately He deserves all the honor and glory!!! Without Him we are nothing!!!

Continue to pray for the ministry here in Southaven!

**Pastor's Retreat Most Profitable**

by Jeff Dixon

From the 2018 Pastor's Retreat Committee, we want to thank the guys who attended this year's retreat. We were missing a lot of familiar faces, but it did not diminish the tremendous impact the retreat had on those who attended. Dr. Mark Livingston was used mightily by God to challenge us as ministers to expound the Scripture and exalt the Christ of Scripture when we preach. Many said the content of the retreat was some of the best, if not the best, they had ever experienced. As an added bonus, we enjoyed some great fellowship! Hope to see you next year!



Mark Livingston

**2018 WORLD MISSIONS DAY  
FEBRUARY 25, 2018**

**ARE YOU READY TO CELEBRATE WORLD MISSIONS DAY? DON'T WORRY YOU STILL HAVE TIME! BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FEBRUARY 25, 2018 AND JOIN CHURCHES ALL ACROSS THE WORLD IN CELEBRATING OUR MISSIONARY GOD.**

**OUR THEME THIS YEAR IS EVERY CHURCH – EVERY NATION. OUR VISION IS TO SEE EVERY CHURCH ENGAGED IN GLOBAL MISSIONS. IF WE ARE GOING TO EXPAND TO EVERY NATION, IT WILL TAKE EVERY CHURCH FULLY COMMITTED.**

THERE ARE 3 WAYS TO LET US KNOW THAT YOUR CHURCH WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN WORLD MISSIONS DAY AND GET YOUR FREE BMA MISSIONS POLO:

1. CONNECT AT [WWW.BMAMISSIONS.ORG/WORLDMISSIONSDAY](http://WWW.BMAMISSIONS.ORG/WORLDMISSIONSDAY)
2. CALL 501-455-4977
3. EMAIL [PAIGE@BMAMISSIONS.ORG](mailto:PAIGE@BMAMISSIONS.ORG)





Don Brown  
Editor

# Mississippi Baptist

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

## A Note From A Reader

I received a note recently from the daughter of one of our long time readers. She wrote to inform me of her father's passing and to ask that we remove his name from our mailing list. I respect the family's privacy, but would like to share part of her note.

After sharing that he had passed away, she shared these words, "He was 96 and always read (the paper) from cover to cover."

From time to time a reader will tell me that they enjoy the paper and "read every word" of it. Those are rewarding times and encourage us in this ministry. The importance of sharing the work of the ministries of the association with the churches and those individuals who are the backbone of our work cannot be overstated. It is vital that the members of our churches know the needs, blessings, and work involved in sharing the Gospel of Christ with the world.

We have already received Special Emphasis funds from many of the churches and individuals who support the Mississippi Baptist. We are almost half way to our goal of \$10,000. Your support is greatly appreciated.

There are individuals counting on this ministry to keep them informed about the overall work of the BMA of Mississippi and BMA of America. Your support through our annual Special Emphasis effort keeps this ministry working. Thank You!

## World Missions Day

Support for BMA of America missionary families has changed over the last few years. New missionary families must now raise their own funds for both salary and health insurance benefits along with other financial requirements. Even with these burdens, families are answering the call to go and tell the world about Christ. The last Sunday in February is World Missions Day. Funds received on that day will go toward supporting the world-wide missions effort by the Baptist Missionary Association of America.

Missionary families who have been commissioned by our churches visit local churches and associations to inform about their field of service and to solicit support for their family and their personal mission needs. We need to take their needs to heart, invite them to tell us about their ministry, and financially support them as they go and tell the world about Christ.

Pictured below is the Jimmy Walker family. Jimmy and his wife Julie along with their children will be serving in the Philippines at the Philippine Bible College to train church planters and other workers. The Walkers have dedicated themselves to ministry and are worthy of your support as are many other missionary families that are also on the field and in need of financial help to maintain their ministry.

We cannot all go, but we can all help to send those called to go.



## Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



## Letters From Our Readers

Letters reflect the opinion of the writer and not necessarily this publication or the BMA of Mississippi

## Respect for God

Dear Editor,

I, like Paul, greet you in the name of the Lord: "Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (Gal. 1:3-5)

As a concerned pastor, I would like to share my heart with you concerning how we associate ourselves with our Almighty God. This past week I saw a young teenager wearing a shirt that said "God IS DOPE". Well now you can just imagine what this ole country preacher's mind began to do after reading this. I was confused for sure, at a loss for words, and ultimately appalled at such a description of my Lord. I was so troubled at the saying that I googled the phrase to try and understand what I was missing out on. I learned that the phrase means to be cool. I realize that I am old fashioned and way out of the loop when it comes to communicating with this younger generation; however, I fear that we preachers, parents, grandparents, and the church have dropped the ball when it comes

to teaching our children a proper respect for God.

Therefore, let me begin by defining the God that we serve. In order to do this I had to resort to my daily manual for living, THE HOLY BIBLE, and I discovered that God is defined as LOVE. The Bible said nothing about God being dope; instead, it said that God is Love. Friend, it is better that we say nothing at all concerning our Almighty God than to say something that is not accurate concerning Him. I can hear someone saying now, but Brother Steve, it is describing God as being cool. Well let's just head back to our daily manual for living, yes, you guessed it; The HOLY BIBLE, and see how our God is described. I find in the Bible, that God is gracious, merciful, loving, redemptive, forgiving, righteous, judging, and etc. However, the one thing that I failed to find anywhere was the fact that my God is Dope, Cool, Funny, somebody's Homeboy, etc. Friend, I believe that we have a lot of teaching to do concerning our Lord!

*In Christ Alone,  
Steven Clark, pastor  
Skyway Hills Baptist Church  
Pearl, Mississippi*

## Missionary on Leave Available to Visit Churches

Dear Pastor, Church members, and praying friends,

Greetings to you from India. I trust that you are doing well and continue to enjoy God's blessings upon your lives. We are all doing well and thank God for his protection, wisdom and blessings.

The ministry is doing well. Continue to keep us in prayers. Last month we had the opportunity to have Bro. Phil come and be a part of church Christmas and our Bible Institute graduation. The vision is to disciple individuals to be disciple makers and obey the great commission.

Ministry to do God's work God's way is important. It needs much prayers, wisdom, commitment and supporting partners to reach a world that needs the love to Jesus. You are privileged and blessed to be a part of church or have access to God's word any given day and time, but not many have this opportunity. The world out there is seeking to hear The Word and many are dying with no hope in their lives. I feel this is our responsibility to train, disciple and equip individuals to be fulfillers of the great commission.

We will be on furlough April & May 2108. We will take this opportunity to visit churches and supporting friends to give a report and also to visit new churches/individual to raise partners to support the BMA work in India. If you are a church, prayer group, or individual that would be interested in having us to come and share about the ministry, it would be an opportunity for both to be collaborators to further the kingdom work.

Please feel free to contact me through email or Facebook Messenger for any information needed.

I Cor 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry..

In His Service  
Prashant Prakash



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# Southeastern Baptist College

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

## President's Perspective

So here they are; the five talking points for the promotion of Southeastern Baptist College. I call them the five "E's"

1. SBC Equips the Saints.
2. SBC Exalts Christ.
3. SBC Expounds God's Word.
4. SBC Pursues Excellence.
5. SBC is Endorsed.

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." 2 Timothy 4:2

In this verse, the word "instant" means to "stand." It carries the meaning of preparedness at all times. Christians are charged to constantly ready themselves to share the Word of God with others whenever the opportunity is present. Southeastern Baptist College readies its students in God's Holy Word. We do this in our general educational courses, business classes, and with preeminent emphasis in our ministry studies.

Long ago, in an Army training session, I was challenged to formulate an "elevator" speech to promote whatever endeavor I wanted others to know about. It follows the concept that, if lacking an appointment to discuss one's project with an important person, one should have succinct bullet points prepared to share should a brief opportunity present itself with that person... as in, one just happens to be on the same elevator with the person you wanted to talk to and he asks how things are going. With that opportunity, and with prepared talking points, one could quickly share with the person the most important information about your activity before the elevator reached its destination.

Let me be clear. I want Southeastern Baptist College to continue well into the future. I believe in the ministry of SBC and its impact upon each person who has had the privilege of having attended here. The testimony of SBC and its impact upon its students in its 70 year history is tremendous! I am amazed at the number of people I meet who, when they learn I am associated with the college, share how this institution has had a positive impact upon them personally or on other alumni they know who spent time on our campus. We have scores of pastors across Mississippi and beyond who received their foundational Bible education within our sacred halls

and in turn, share the transforming power of knowing Jesus to their congregations. I want SBC to continue this legacy of excellence for another 70 years!

It is my vision that Southeastern Baptist College becomes a school of first choice for those considering an undergraduate education and for us to become a voice of conservative believers to our nation. For this to happen, we must pursue cost effective ways that promote SBC to the general public. Advertising is expen-



Dr. Scott Carson  
President

## Your support of SBC and investment in our students can literally change their lives

sive, but it is a proven method to secure new students. These talking points assist in this effort, and I encourage all who read this article to keep them handy when an opportunity to share with others the good work of SBC.

Our professors are some of the best in the land. And their determination to keep SBC's focus centered upon our Lord Jesus Christ is unique. We might even say it is rare when compared to secular campuses. I think that each Christian, young and old alike, should seek to increase their understanding of the scriptures. As you read this article today, will you consider increasing your promotion of Southeastern Baptist College in your church; in your local association; in your family; and in your circle of influence? Your support of SBC and investment in our students can

## Landscaping Project

Mrs. Delight Jefcoat has graciously volunteered to lead a project to beautify the landscaping of our campus. An initiative she is promoting is the transferring of flower bulbs from private gardens to SBC. If you would like to donate bulbs and participate in this project, please contact Delight at 601-763-4952.



## Carson's Army

Brother Chris Floyd introduced a special individual donor concept named Carson's Army at the SBC Donor and Volunteer Dinner. Each person has the opportunity to "enlist" their pledge at various levels of rank representing their ability to give toward Southeastern Baptist College. If you feel led of the Lord to enlist, call 601-426-6346 today! Please refer to the "Carson's Army" giving chart in this publication. Praise the Lord! We already have our first Major and our first General enlisted into Carson's Army!



literally change their lives as we equip them to be dedicated followers of Christ who are active in the work of the Kingdom. Will you help us sustain this vision? We welcome your invitation to promote SBC, and we welcome your tax deductible donations.

## Hello to Our New Staff Members!

SBC welcomes two new staff members! After an absence of a few years, Mrs. Ginny Singleton has returned as our Financial Aid Officer. And, in order to enhance our recruiting efforts of prospective students, Mr. Brad Phillips is joining our team as our newest recruiting officer. Brad comes to us from Champion Christian College where he was a recruiter for the school. Both Ginny and Brad come on board with extensive experience as we launch exciting initiatives toward our recruiting efforts.



Ginny Singleton



Brad Phillips

## Honor Roll

Congratulations to our full time students attaining the Fall Semester 2017 Honor Roll! Making the Dean's List with a 3.5 grade point average and



Honor Roll students from the Fall 2017 Semester. Attaining the Dean's List with a 3.5 GPA or greater, and pictured are James McGhee Jr. and Mae Evans. Also recognized but unable to attend were Matt Crumpton and Hannah Mayerhoff; and achieving the President's List with a 4.0 GPA was Kristen Gray. Congratulations to each of you!

above, are James McGhee Jr; Mae Evans; Matt Crumpton; and Hannah Mayerhoff. Achieving the President's List with a 4.0 grade point average is Kristen Gray.

## Free Tuition?

Wow! If I were you, I would not hesitate to take advantage of God's gracious gift toward my college education at one of the finest Christian institutions in the United States! Thinking about taking courses in the Summer or Fall? There are several scholarship opportunities available for our student body that supporters of the school have graciously provided. In addition, if you are a BMA minister, there are scholarships specially set aside available for you! Our recruiter, Brad Phillips, has all the information you need to sign up for classes or contact Ginny Singleton regarding financial aid. Both can be reached at 601-426-6346.

## Affordable!

SBC is rated the 6th most affordable Online Christian College in the nation for 2018! Why spend big bucks at other colleges when you can earn your amazingly affordable accredited degree here at Southeastern Baptist College? Contact us today!

## VA Benefits

SBC possesses the 2018 Gold Award level as a military friendly college! Have you served in America's armed forces? Then you probably have Veterans Administration tuition benefits that you can use toward a free education right here at SBC. I urge you to contact your local VA representative for an evaluation of your benefits. You earned them! And remember, many benefits are now fully transferable to family members. SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

## Alumni Association

We are beginning a major effort to reorganize and re-energize our Alumni Association. We will attempt to identify and contact every alumnus who has ever taken courses at our great school and will meet briefly at the BMAA annual meeting in Jackson. We will

continued on page 6

## Court sides with fireman fired for his faith

**(OneNewsNow.com)** A recent ruling by the highest court in The Evergreen State is being viewed as an important reminder of First Amendment principles.

The Washington Supreme Court ruled on January 25 in favor of a former Spokane fire captain who was fired for refusing to self-censor his religious expression. The court held that the Spokane Valley Fire Department committed unconstitutional viewpoint discrimi-

nation when it admonished and ultimately terminated Jonathan Sprague.

At issue were the department's e-mail and electronic bulletin board systems – forums that had been used by other employees to seek babysitting and sell concert tickets, but that Sprague's supervisors had told him not to use to announce religious meetings. The department had also shared newsletters by e-mail dealing with social topics like substance abuse and conflicts with chil-

dren, but Sprague's attempts to share biblical perspectives on the same topics got him fired.

"This is a terrific victory for Captain Sprague and an important reminder of First Amendment principles," says attorney Brad Dacus of Pacific Justice Institute, whose organization was asked to participate in the case as amicus and filed a friend-of-the-court brief. "No employee should be terminated for speaking on otherwise-permissible topics at

work just because he has a religious perspective."

According to Dacus, that is why Sprague was fired. "[It wasn't] because he didn't do a good job, but simply because he didn't keep his faith to himself," Dacus elaborates, adding that's exactly why the court's decision is so important.

"It sends a signal to Christians working for government agencies all across America that if they are fired or silenced simply because of a Christian biblical expression, that's likely going to be unconstitutional under the First Amendment."

Dacus adds that his group's case load reveals a "growing tension [and] hostility" toward individuals with a Christian biblical worldview – and a desire to silence that worldview.

PJI was assisted in the case by Seattle affiliate attorney Conrad Reynoldson of Washington Civil & Disability Advocate. Sprague is represented by Albrecht Law in Spokane.

## As Muslim population grows, Christians must rise

**(OneNewsNow.com)** According to the leader of a major network of pastors in the United States, the growing Muslim population in America should be a major concern for Christians.

American Pastors Network President Sam Rohrer contends that Christians in America should be concerned about any ideology and political system that is completely opposed to the concept of the God in the Bible and constitutional law.

With statistics showing that by 2040,



Muslims will replace Jews as the second-largest religious group in America, Rohrer explained that Christians need to do three things:

"Be aware that there are ideologies that are in direct competition to the Bible – to Christianity," the Christian leader urged.

Rohrer's second recommendation for American Christians is to defend their faith.

"We can push back against [the opposition] in a defensive fashion, which I think we need to do," he offered. "[This is] because Scripture says we are to contend for the truth, so we must speak the truth and call the contrasts out. That's a responsibility of the pulpit, but that is a responsibility of all believers, as well."

Rohrer asserts that the third thing – and perhaps the most powerful – for believers to do is to live out their Christianity.

"By our example, do what we say we believe," he recommended. "That is the power of the light of the Gospel. That is what it means to be salt in a corrupted world."

What is really needed, according to Rohrer, is for true Christianity to be lived out each and every day when an unbelieving world is watching.

### Read II Corinthians 9:6-8

There is an ancient saying which reads, "There remains clutched in the hands of the dead only the things that they gave away." It is not what we keep but what we invest that pays dividends. Back in the prosperous twenties, a wealthy man built a church for the Pennsylvania town where he lived. He lost all of his money in the depression; so, until times were better, he took a job as the church's sexton which was offered to him. Thereafter, he was often heard to say, "That which I gave away, I kept; that which I kept, I lost."

"Gracious God, make us as cheerful in our giving as the Master who said. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." In the Saviour's name. Amen

## Staff Opening

### Church seeking Youth Minister

Salem Baptist Church, a loving and growing BMA church in Bay Springs, Mississippi, is seeking to fill a newly created position of Youth Minister. The duties of the Youth Minister include taking an active role in the spiritual growth development of our youth as well as assisting our pastor with church business. This salaried position also offers use of a church parsonage. All applicants will be considered, however, each must possess a love and dedication towards serving Christ. Interested candidates should send a resume and letter of interest to [eric.williams@jcc.edu](mailto:eric.williams@jcc.edu).

## Southeastern College

from page 5

share our newest strategic initiatives which include asking our Alumni to consider giving \$56 per month in an effort to raise \$58,000 over the next 12 months. We have many infrastructure issues that must be addressed. Will you participate? Alumni Sam and Judy Oglesby have graciously accepted to lead this effort. Please contact them at 601-550-8513 or [pastor\\_1@comcast.net](mailto:pastor_1@comcast.net) to verify that your current contact information is correct.

### Have Bible, Will Travel

"Preach the word..." 2 Timothy 4:2. I am ready to fill your pulpit! If you are in need of someone as a guest preacher or to come and provide a report on the college, contact me at 601-433-4736 or at [scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu](mailto:scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu)

Experience a short-term mission trip close to home!

# MARDI GRAS MISSIONS

FEBRUARY 9 -10 GULFPORT/BILOXI, MS

\$100 per person and includes lodging, training, evening meal, Saturday morning breakfast, Bibles to hand out and a Mardi Gras Missions T-Shirt.

**REGISTER ONLINE NOW!**

[www.bmamissions.org/mardigrasmission](http://www.bmamissions.org/mardigrasmission)

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



## Christian voter turnout for midterms looks gloomy

(OneNewsNow.com) Christians are being urged not to squander the opportunity they have in November to again have a big say in who occupies seats in Congress come 2019.

According to pollster George Barna, three segments of Christian voters went for Trump in November 2016 by substantial margins. Two segments in particular—SAGE Cons and "notional" Christians—went in very significant fashion for Donald Trump—and that's what put him over," Barna noted.

With the 2018 midterms right around the corner, control of Congress—and perhaps the future of the Trump presidency—is at stake. Once again, Christians could play a pivotal role... if they show up.

In the 2016 elections, just under 60 percent of those eligible to vote for the next president actually did. Jason Yates of MyFaithVotes, who did the math using voting models and recent research, predicts turnout for the midterms will be down considerably from the record 139 million 15 months ago.

"It found that roughly 40 million people who voted in the 2016 presidential election will not cast ballots in 2018 midterm elections," he tells OneNewsNow.

And that's despite the fact that the economy is booming and President Trump has kept every promise he made to the evangelicals who helped put him into office.

"The voting habits of Christians are not all that different, unfortunately, to the general public," Yates explains. "And when we applied that to statistics we were already working with in terms of how many Christians voted, the number came out to be about 51 million Christians who will opt out in 2018."

Several factors—such as a liberal media constantly at war with Trump, Democrats in Congress talking of

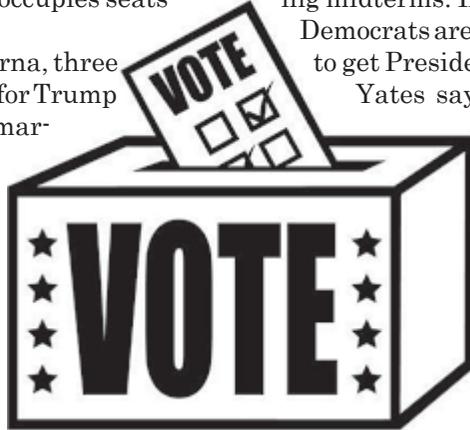
impeachment, and politically motivated investigations—have control of Congress in play in the upcoming midterms. If Republicans lose either chamber, Democrats are expected to try everything they can to get President Trump thrown out of office.

Yates says it's imperative that Christians come out to the polls—and he's offering help.

"We've got something called a personal voting assistant that enables us to remind... Christians about every voting opportunity that they have," he says. "[It's] not just to remind them but to help them get registered and to help them be informed about where their polling

place is, how to vote from an absentee perspective."

With such a resource so easily available, Yates adds "there's really no excuse" not to get out and vote.



### Three Kinds of People

There are three kinds of people in this world: those who are afraid, those who don't know enough to be afraid, and those who know their Bible.

- Adrian Rogers

## Galilean Camp Approaching

by Mark Jones  
Galilean Promoter

Mississippi Galilean camp will be March 16-17, 2018. Camp will be at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, Mississippi. Our theme this year is "UNITED" I Cor. 1:10. Our camp pastor this year will be Bro. Larry Tramel. We must pre-register for camp. I have mailed reminder letters to the churches that come to camp every year and will mail registration letters at the end of February. If your church does not receive a letter please contact me at 662-231-1435 or stonwall@yahoo.com.



## COMMISSION ON Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440

### 2018 Senior Adult Conferences Schedule

**South Mississippi Conference**  
March 20, 2018 - 9:30 AM  
Big Creek Baptist Church  
Soso, Mississippi

**North Conference**  
May 8, 2018 - 9:30 AM  
Hopewell Baptist Church  
Fulton, Mississippi

**Make plans now to attend!**

## WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

### President

Beth Caldwell  
166 Twin Creek Rd, Lucedale, MS 39452  
601-947-60118

### Corresponding Secretary

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

### National WMA Meeting & Ladies Retreat Jackson, Mississippi April 16 & Tuesday April 17

#### Monday afternoon

Officer's meeting at 1:30 p.m.-- 2:30 on Monday  
afternoon at the convention center in Room 209-210.

WMA Business meeting--Monday 3:00p.m.—5:00p.m.

Opening---Ruby Poteet, President

Welcome—Beth Caldwell, Mississippi President

Song—Judy Wallace (offering for general fund)

Song & Project Offering---Judy Wallace

Business Meeting—Ruby Poteet

Reports

Petitionary Letters

Treasurer's Report

Officer's Recommendations

Project Nominations & Selections

Election of officers

Officer's Reports—GMA & Sunbeam

Committee Reports—Registration, Finance, Resolutions

Installation of officers

Theme for 2018-2019—Brenda Hornaday

Promotion of Project

Closing Remarks

Outrageously Courageous Dare to Live Beyond Your Fears

Ladies' Retreat

Rooms 216-218

#### Tuesday morning

8:45—Registration

9:00—Welcome—Ruby

Devotional—Miss GMA—

Prayer---Jr Miss GMA—

Door Prizes

Praise & Worship—Judy Wallace

Special Music--Sabrina Clayton

Introduction of Program—Charlotte Johnson

Kim Crabill

Meal—(at convention center)

12:00-1:00 You must register and send \$17.50 for meal to Jodi Rhea by February 28, 2018. Jodi Rhea, 40156 E. CR. 1631; Wynnewood, OK, 73098

1:15----Breakout Sessions

45 minutes each /rotate to another session

Shirley Hoffpaur--Teaching in Sunbeams

Judy Wallace---"From Final to First"

Kim Crabill -----Roundtable discussion

Diana Morris-----Missions

Dismiss at 3:00 p.m.

Nursery Room 211

## 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

## State Song Leader Camp Notes

Hey girls! My name is Alexis Clark and I am your state song leader for the 2017-2018 year. I can not explain how excited I am for camp this year and the activities that we have planned for you all. We have an announcement to make on behalf of the GMA Auxiliary, it is our 50th anniversary. Encourage current and former GMA girls to come and join us! See you there!

Inviting Every WMA  
to Attend  
National WMA Meeting  
Jackson, Mississippi

# IT DOES MATTER HOW WE TREAT OTHERS

by Bro. Grover Laird

*"Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him."* (Proverbs 26:27)

Many mistreat others without realizing that this could determine how God deals with them. Many Scriptures teach this.

The Bible tells us that if we ignore the cry of the poor in their need, we can expect God to ignore our prayer for help--"Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard." (Proverbs 21:13) This verse could explain why our prayers may not bring us the help we ask for.

God will be merciful to us and will deal with us in an upright, pure manner. That is, if we show this kindness to others. But God will deal with us differently if we are stubborn and contrary to others--"With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright; With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward." (Psalm

19:25,26)

Sometimes a person will devise a plan to hurt another they dislike, only to find that what they had schemed for others come to themselves--"He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made. His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate." (Psalm 7:15,16. Look again at our text and also Ecclesiastes 10:8) When we plan trouble for others, we are planning trouble for ourselves.

On the other hand, if we are determine not to criticize and condemn others, we save ourselves of some of this unfair abuse--"Judge not, that ye be not judged." (Matthew 7:1) If we therefore want our Heavenly Father to forgive our sins and remember them

against us no more, we will need to do the same for others--"Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven." (Luke 6:37. See

also Matthew 6:14,15; Mark 11:25)

Actually, forgiving others should be easy, after having been forgiven of God. For you see, the sins of others against us is nothing, when compared with our sins against God. (Matthew 18:23-35)

We cannot survive in this sinful world without the mercy of God. And by failing to be merciful to others, we hold back much of the mercy of God we so badly need. Jesus preached, "Blessed are the merciful:: for they shall obtain mercy." (Matthew 5:7) This sounds like we must find a way to be merciful to

others.

The truth of this study shows up in another area. When we give liberally to the Cause of the Lord, God gives bountifully to us--"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. for with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." (Luke 6:38. See also Proverbs 11:24,25;19:17; 11 Corinthians 9:6) There is probably nothing that determines the material blessings that Christians have and enjoy, more than how much we give "to the Lord."

When we put all of these Scriptures together it is clear to see: one of the best ways to be good to ourselves is to be good to others. But there is another truth that is more important than being good to others - loving the Lord, (Mark 12:29-31) obeying the Lord, (I Samuel 15:22) and delighting in the Lord. (Psalm 37:4)



Grover Laird

## THANK YOU . . . NATIONAL WMA AND BROTHERHOOD

from Doug & Diane Lee, missionaries to the Philippines

A great big THANK YOU for adopting the BMABC as your project for 2017-18. Not only are you helping our students by providing a Christian Education, but also providing jobs for staff and faculty. With your much needed help, the Bible School will continue in the tradition with which it was started

some 40 years ago. We discover our students working and ministering to people all over the world.

### Our Church Planting Program

Our church planting program is going great. For the past five months, we have been sponsoring a Filipino Pastor to plant a church in a town where we have no BMA Church. His monthly report is showing great progress in growth. The average attendance for December is 26 in Sunday Worship with one profession of

faith. The children's and teen's programs are rapidly growing as well. Praise the Lord as He is working in the Philippines!



Our plans for them is to organize into a mission soon. We have 2 other possible locations with pastors ready to get onboard as soon as funds are available. Anyone wanting to help with these mission projects, please designate funds for Doug and Diane Lee Work funds.

**Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi**  
www.bmaofmississippi.com

#### DEPARTMENTS & COMMISSIONS

**Mississippi Baptist Paper**  
P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441  
601-426-3293

**Southeastern Baptist College**  
4229 Highway 15 North  
Laurel, MS 39440  
601-426-6346

**State Youth Department**  
4226 Highway 15 North  
Laurel, MS 39440  
662-397-6832

**Baptist Children's Home**  
118 Lowe Rd., Laurel, MS 39443  
601-426-3928

**Missions & Revolving Loan Fund**  
4226 Highway 15 North  
Laurel, MS 39440  
601-428-8616

**Commission on Senior Adults**  
4226 Highway 15 North  
Laurel, MS 39440  
601-729-2613

**History & Archives Commission**  
4229 Highway 15 North  
Laurel, MS 39440  
601-729-8098

**Moral Action**  
P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855  
662-282-7425



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