

Mississippi Baptist

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ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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BMA of America 2020 National Meeting

Missions: Think Globally But Act Locally

by Jeff Swart
President of the BMA of America

The 2020 annual meeting of the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America will convene on April 27, 28, and 29 in Waxahachie, Texas. We will meet in a local church for the first time since the early years of our association. Pastor Richard Smith, and the members of Farley Street Baptist Church, have been preparing for your arrival for nearly a year now. We think that you will find the facilities warm, inviting, and conducive to worship.

The theme of this year's meeting will be, "Missions: Think



BMAA President
Jeff Swart

Globally But Act Locally." It seems both scriptural and logical to "think globally"—support missionaries around the globe and yet at the same time "act locally"—share the Gospel with our neighbors next door or across the street. During the time we are together, we hope to share some ideas that will increase the effectiveness of missions in our local churches that will impact our mission's footprint around the

world.

The officers of your national association, and the Committee on Arrangements, were pleased the way the changes made last year to the structure of the national meeting were received. Therefore, we decided to use the same format for the 2020 BMAA of America national meeting.

We are planning to repeat three of the new features that were introduced at last year's national meeting—an orientation to the BMA for new pastors and churches, a BMA Town Hall Meeting, and a Pastors Table Talk Forum. At the orientation for new pastors and churches, we will introduce the newest members of our association to our association, to our department directors, and explain what can be expected during



Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas

the national meeting.

At the BMA Town Hall Meeting our directors will cast their vision for the future of their departments and our association. Then, your input will be welcomed concerning what you have heard, or you may ask any question that you might have.

At the Pastors Table Talk Forum, pastors will choose to sit at a table with other pastors and discuss both the theoretical and pragmatic aspects of a ministry related topic. Then, church

leaders will have the opportunity to move to a different table to discuss a different ministry related topic of their choice. This will be an occasion when we will learn from one another. This was a very practical, helpful, and popular session for church leaders last year and we expect the same this year.

One new feature that we will unveil at this year's meeting is

see **National Meeting page 3**

A Message From the President

Reminders for Mississippi Meetings

by Greg Medenwald, President
BMA of Mississippi

Here are two important dates for your 2020 calendar: the BMAM Mid-year Meeting on Tuesday, May 19, and the BMAM Annual Meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 20-21. Greg Medenwald The session on Wednesday morning will be held only if necessary. Both meetings will begin at 9:30 a.m.



The Midyear Meeting will be hosted by Dr. Scott Carson and Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, Mississippi. The WMA will meet on Monday evening, May 18, 7:00, at SBC, and President Theresa Reus has announced that Philippines Missionary Jimmy Walker will be the speaker. The Brotherhood

meeting, as announced by President Mark Jones, is also scheduled for Monday night, 7:00, at SBC. Pastor Justin Cameron of Good Hope Baptist Church in Columbia will be the midyear speaker, and BMA Seminary President Dr. Charley Holmes will serve as the alternate.

The Annual Meeting will be hosted by Pastor Blake McCain and Midway First Baptist Church, 77 Midway Church Road, Sumrall, Mississippi 39482. Pastor McCain will also be the annual speaker, and Children's Home Director Dwight Lindsey will serve as the alternate.

May God graciously bless you, your family, and your church with a wonderful New Year, and may God use the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the Magnolia State in 2020.

SENIOR
ADULTS
MINISTRY

- Revival Fires -

2020 Senior Conference Schedule

South Conference -

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

North Conference

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

Information Services Deadline is March 31, 2020! Annual Church Survey Important

Hello, my name is John Meriweather, Director of Operations for BMA America. A key service we provide our BMA family is information on our churches and all the ministries of the BMA. Keeping our information records accurate helps us connect, communicate and understand the impact BMA churches are making through their local communities with the gospel.

I am personally asking for your help to ensure we have the most current and accurate information on your church. We are asking for your church to validate their church information for our Annual Church Directory which will be published this summer. To make this process as easy as possible we have provided multiple ways to validate your information.

Options to update your information

Login to update your church information at bmaamerica.org/church-survey

Fill out the form online at bmaamerica.org/onlinechurchform
Request a pre-populated survey by contacting Tasha Waites at 501-358-3860 or tasha@bmaamerica.org

Update the pre-populated survey you received in the mail and mail back to us at BMA America, P.O. BOX 1188, Conway, AR 72033.

Southeastern Baptist College

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

Serving Christ With A Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

President's Perspective

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." 2 Corinthians 9:6

Many years ago in a faraway place call South Korea, I was a young chaplain assigned at a remote site where no other American units were stationed. No family members were permitted to be with us. The chapel program was well attended by young soldiers and as with any worship program, we routinely took up an offering as an act of worship for the congregants. Some of our chapel attendees sent their tithes and offerings to their home churches, others, because they earned a small military paycheck gave frugally. Because of this, we often only received small amounts in tithes and offerings each Sunday.

One particular Sunday, a soldier came to me immediately after the service and presented me with an envelope. When I opened it, it contained a large sum of money in the thousands of dollars. With shock I asked, "What is this?"

The young man said that he felt led of the Lord to give this amount to the chapel program. I knew by his rank how little he made and I also knew he had a wife and child back in the states. I thought that his generous donation might bring hardship to his family, so I challenged him in order to make sure he knew what he was doing.

After a discussion about the need for him taking care of his family, there was a long pause before he answered me. He told me that he had indeed discussed the decision to give this specific amount and he and his wife were under conviction to donate it to the chapel. He explained that both he and his wife prayed a great deal and together they concluded that the Holy Spirit was compelling them to give this monetary gift to our chapel program.

I guess I could have intervened on his family's behalf and refuse to accept the offering by allowing my personal concern for them to influence the situation. But I too came under conviction that I should not step between the Lord and what He was leading this trooper to do, even if there might be signifi-

cant financial pain involved. So, I accepted the donation.

With great happiness and a smile, this young soldier went bounding away from my office waving as he went. As before, he was routinely in chapel with joy in his heart for the Lord.

We were both assigned to Korea for only a year and he departed a couple of months before I did. I happened to run into him several years later in the Post Exchange at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. After exuberant greetings, and an introduction to his wife and children, we said our goodbyes, but then he thanked me again for allowing him to do God's will in his life with that significant offering he had made years before.

This soldier's understanding of allowing the Spirit's leading in his finances, no matter the personal challenge, indicated a well-developed level of spiritual maturity, even beyond what many believers in Christ are ever able to achieve.

I share this story because Southeastern Baptist College needs your financial support. I sense there are individuals who may be wrestling with God's

leading in their personal gifts to the college. I want to encourage you to do what the Lord has asked of you. If He has asked you to keep your hard earned money for the future of your loved ones, I encourage you to do just that! Follow the Lord and what He asks of you. But if He is leading you to give a substantial personal donation to the ministry of SBC, then I encourage you to do as this young soldier did, listen to the Lord and act upon His direction. I assure you that the Lord will bless you for obeying His will in your life!

"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

Equipping the Saints!
Dr. Carson



Dr. Scott Carson
President

Newest Award!

Southeastern Baptist College is designated by Intelligent.com as the "Best Two Year University" for Online Bible Colleges out of 201 institutions across the U.S. for 2020. Congratulations faculty and staff!

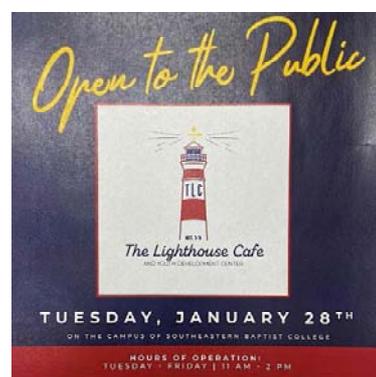
Amazon Smile

Our Amazon Smile account is fixed! Anybody shopping on Amazon.com can select Southeastern Baptist College as your charity. When you do this a portion of your purchase price will go directly to SBC as a donation from Amazon!

Lighthouse Café

Praise the Lord! The SBC Lighthouse Café is open to everyone! Hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come and make lunch at the café a regular part of your week's activities. Of note, the Lighthouse Café can be contracted to provide catered meals or can be reserved for special activities. Contact Roderick Hollis for more information at 601-738-0025. Thank you to all

who contributed in money, materials, and labor toward this two-year project.



TNT

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

Report continues on page 3

Campus Events at SBC



Dean Walker discusses the future of implementing the Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with interested professors and students in the A.R. Reddin Memorial Library



Chef Rodrick Hollis and staff serves the first cooked meal to SBC students in the Lighthouse Café.



Pastor Blake McCain of Midway First Baptist Church, Sumrall MS, brings an inspiring word at TNG. Thank you Midway First church family for continuing to support this ministry of SBC!



Pastor Ken Regan of Heritage Baptist Church, Laurel MS, delivers the message at Tuesday Night Talks (TNT). Thank you Heritage church family from providing this meal and ministry to our students!

Community Advisory Committee hears future plans



Athletic Director, Buddy Duke presents future plans of SBC athletics with the Community Advisory Committee. Pictured are L-R: Buddy Duke, Pastor Leon Carmical, Pastor Leander Bridges, Risher Caves, Pastor Randy Turner, and Mayor Magee of Laurel, Mississippi

National Meeting

from Front Page

what we have called the BMA Missions Experience which will afford attendees the opportunity to see missions in a whole new way! The BMA Missions Experience, located in the Farley Street Baptist Family Life Center, will be designed to allow participants to both see, understand, and relate to God's great mission around the world. We encourage each person attending the BMA National Meeting to check the schedule for times that the Missions Experience will be open and stop by. We anticipate that God's people will be inspired by God's heart for the nations of the world.

There will be **two special sermons** during our meeting. On Monday evening, BMAA President Jeff Swart will speak on the theme of this year's associational meeting:



Above - Coach Bell providing guidance to the Lady Chargers during a timeout in their win over Trinity College of Florida

Below - SBC Lady Chargers and Trinity Lady Tigers pray together after their game



SBC Chargers Basketball Schedule

Men's Schedule

Feb. 13	@ Pensacola Christian
	7:00 PM
Feb 18	@ LSU Shreveport
	7:00 PM
Feb 21-22	@ Oakland City Univ
	TBA

Lady Chargers

Jan 31	Costal Alabama North
	4:00 PM
	Monroeville, AL
Feb 13	@ Coastal Alabama South
	6:00 PM - Home
Feb 18	@ LSU Shreveport
	5:00 PM
	Shreveport, LA
Feb 21-22	@ Oakland City University
	TBA
	Oakland City, IN

"Missions: Think Globally But Act Locally." On Tuesday evening, the annual sermon will be preached by Luis Ortega, Director of Operations for Lifeword Media Ministries.

The **National WMA officers** will meet Monday morning and the WMA business meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. Monday afternoon. Both meetings will be held at the nearby Heritage Baptist Church. The WMA will host a women's conference open to all ladies attending the national meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning also at Heritage Baptist Church.

Also, on Tuesday morning, your departments will sponsor **eight break-out sessions** that are open to all who desire to attend. You can find these break-out sessions listed on the meeting schedule.

During the week, the Erwins and the Martins will be ministering to us through their music and we think that you will also enjoy the wit and wisdom of Jason Earle.

Another added feature will occur on Monday morning April 27th. The **BMA of Texas is sponsoring a leadership conference entitled, "Using Your Edge."** All early arrivals are invited to attend this conference in the facilities of First Baptist Church of Red Oak, a handful of miles north of Waxahachie.

We learned last year that it is possible to conduct all associational business in one session of the association and so, on Wednesday morning, the business portion of the na-

tional meeting will be conducted.

BMAA Clerk James Ray Raines has been warning us for years that we cannot continue our current rate of support and spending out of the Minute and Meeting fund or it will be depleted. Bro. Raines' warning has gone unheeded, and now we have come to the place where we do not have the funds to print the annual Reports and Recommendations booklet.

Report Booklet Information

Therefore by Mid-March we will make the following avenues available for you to receive this very important information:

- The annual Reports and Recommendations booklet can be accessed online at www.bmaamerica.org.
- The annual Reports and Recommendations booklet can be accessed by downloading the free Lifeword app.
- The recommendations of each department will be printed in our state newspapers.
- A limited number of printed copies will be available during the national meeting.

We anticipate saving approximately \$10,000 by not printing the Reports and Recommendations booklet.

As in recent years, we will be offering the extended reports of your departments by way of: (1) Video reports by our directors that can be accessed before, during, and after the meeting at www.bmaamerica.org. (2) A special BMA Town Hall meeting where you may ask the directors any question that you might have. (3) And as always, our department directors will be available in the display room at various times throughout the meeting where you may converse with them privately.

Our goal is to share as much information with our churches as conveniently and as economically as possible. After all, these ministries are your ministries!

The week will be jam packed with something for everyone. Make plans now to attend this very important meeting. We look forward to seeing you in Waxahachie on April 27th.



The SBC gymnasium sports a new Chargers banner

President's Report

from page 2

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

Mark Your Calendar!

The annual SBC Donor Dinner is scheduled for Thursday evening, March 26, 2020 on the SBC campus and catered by the Lighthouse Café. This year, we are combining the individual and the church donor dinners

into one combined event. Invitations will soon be sent.

SBC Choir

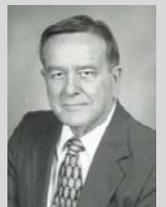
Now is the time to reserve dates for a performance at your church or other venue during the Spring Semester. Hurry, their schedule is filling up quickly. Contact Krista McKenzie at 601-426-6346.

SBC Foundation

The Southeastern Baptist College Foundation is a fantastic way to support your college well into the future. Interest

COMMISSION ON Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt
Director

- Revival Fires -

Senior Conference just around the corner!

Don't forget the dates! South Conference is Tuesday, March 10th at 9:30 am at Big Creek Baptist Church and the North Conference is Tuesday, May 12th at 9:30 am Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Fulton. Let's pray for a spiritual blessing for all.

50-year plaques, pastors if you are completing 50 years in the ministry please call Mrs. Kim at the Missions Office and let her know, this needs to be done now!

Registration begins at 9:00 am or upon arrival, the registration fee remains at \$15 per person, this includes the noon meal. Mac's of Hattiesburg will cater the noon meal at Big Creek.

Revival Fires is our theme! Our theme song "I bowed on my knees and Sang Glory... Glory to the Son of God"! Singing, Preaching and fellowship will fill the day with Praise, you will want to be a part of it.

Once again, the oldest persons present will be recognized, and special prizes will be given.

Wheelchairs, walking canes, will be welcomed. This indicates long years of service to our Master!

If you will provide special singing, please be ready and you will be given the opportunity to do so. We have many seniors who have been blessed with many talents, singing is one of them. Please be ready to honor God with your voice.

These conferences promise to be the best, remember the dates! Pastors encourage your seniors to attend and come with them. Looking for you at the Revival Fires Conferences, invite a friend to come with you. It will be a glorious time together!

We need a strong spiritual revival in our nation, in our homes and in our churches. If revival doesn't come, we are in trouble!! Pray and come with a spirited heart!

Our Commission Trustees are: Jerry Overstreet, Bennie Clark, Medrick Savell, Tim Holsonback, Cotton Hillman and Frank Everett.

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

Bobby Thornton Memorials

Brother Bobby Thornton, former BMAA Chaplaincy Dept. Director and retired Air Force Chaplain (Colonel), passed away recently. His lovely wife, Dovie, has designated SBC to receive memorial gifts in his honor. Memorials gifts can be sent to Southeastern Baptist College, 4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel MS 39440. Please annotate the gift in memory of Brother Thornton. Thank you Dr. Edwin Crank for your generous donation in memory of Brother Thornton!

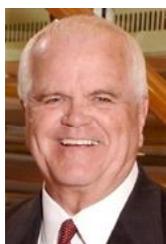
Love to Preach the Word!

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



Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

MINISTERING TO YOUNG PEOPLE Church Security... for Youth?

by Anders Lee

It has been a while ago, but on the evening of September 15, 1999, just before 7:00 pm, a crazy gunman entered the youth services at Wedgwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas and began shooting. That gunman killed seven and wounded seven others. Among those were several youth who were attending a "Saw You at the Pole" prayer rally. From the time he entered the building, the gunman fired over 100 rounds from two different handguns, and exploded a homemade pipe bomb in the Worship Center where the youth activity was being held. The gunman then sat down in the back of the Worship Center and ended his own life. That single event stunned Americans and large churches began putting together security teams from then on.

Two years ago I was introduced to Vaughn Baker at the BMAA National meeting in a breakout session. I learned a lot in short amount of time. Since then I have watched some of his videos to gain further insight on church security. Here at Central (Church, Southaven, Mississippi) we have put together a great team of qualified people to run our security team along with polices learned from Baker and others. I am sure thankful for the resources this organization provides to small churches like Central.

Vaughn Baker is the president of Strategos International. He has over 20 years of experience in law enforcement including patrol, investigation, SWAT and special operations. He has trained thousands of school, church, health care, government, law enforcement and military personnel. If you have never heard of him please check out their web site at www.strategosintl.com.

After praying through what we would do at Central and implementing our team and strategies, one Wednesday

night I drove up to the church and in the parking lot sat a complete stranger. Our youth meet on Wednesday nights. Some of them were already there clowning around and hanging out. My heart sank... who is this??? Lots of thoughts rushed through my mind. It turned out that the individual was lost and needed directions.

Later that night at the house I thought back to it and was ashamed because as a church leader we had gone to great links to take care of security for Sun-



Anders Lee



days, but had done nothing about Wednesday nights. As a newly organized church we are having to think through all of these things. It couldn't wait... I messaged our security team leaders sitting in my recliner watching the news that night and we begin to correct that problem. It is sad that we have to make policies and plans like this today.

Vaughn Baker gives us some statistics that will make us think more about security for youth on Wednesdays nights (really anything that goes on church wide during the week). They conducted a thorough study of all church incidents/attacks in 2017. There were 261 incidents in 2017. They increase every year! Here's what they found.

1. 61% of incidents/attacks took

place during the week. Not on Sundays when most people are there and you are more alert and have more staff to serve. No, they happened on Wednesdays when we are more relaxed, less people serving, and we don't have our guard up.

- 1 out of 4 attacks that occurred involved a church member or teen that attended the church.
- 23% of the time the incidents involved a Baptist Church.
- An amazing 91% of churches that had an incident during the week had NO security plan for mid-week events. Yet many of them had a plan in place for Sunday mornings.

Now I know what you are thinking; "Something like that won't ever happen here!" That is one of the first things Baker confronts in his training. He is emphatic when he says; "Don't EVER say 'It won't ever happen here!'" I get it, a lot of our churches are rural. Who would ever think that an attack would happen at Rocky Branch in Oak Grove, Paramount in the Big Level Community, Hopewell in Fulton, or Farmington in Corinth? The list of our churches goes on... BUT IT COULD!!!

I'm not a security guru by any means... but I know one thing; churches that are prepared end up with a much better story than churches who aren't! Just look at the differences between the events at First Baptist Sutherland Springs, Texas (Nov. 2017) and West Freeway Church of Christ in Fort Worth, Texas (Dec. 2019) and how they ended. Both of them were tragedies like the one at Wedgwood years ago. Just imagine if First Baptist and Wedgwood would have had a security team how differently that would have ended.

So, youth pastor, director, pastor... it's time (if you haven't already) to put together and implement a security team to protect one of the most valuable yet vulnerable parts of your church, those kids that drive us crazy on Wednesday nights!

continued on page 5

A Gracious Gift . . .

The use of the internet is vital in most businesses and this is certainly true with the Mississippi Baptist paper. Most of our work is internet based. Email to and from our churches, our printer, and others, is a necessary part of our operation. Depending on where an individual or business is located, internet service is spotty and/or very expensive. Many sources are not of a quality that are viable.

We have been using USA Internet Services in Laurel for some time. The service is good and we have been satisfied with their quality and company. In order to lower our costs of operation we were considering a change in service. When I talked to the owner of USA Internet to discuss this with him, I explained our financial situation and decision.

I must share first that the owner, Mike Rivers, is a member of First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, where this editor is also a member. After talking to Mike and sharing our reason for stopping service, he graciously said the following, "Bro. Don, God has blessed me and I will just offer the paper the service for free. Consider this a donation."

Wow! God is good and Mike Rivers has blessed the work of this ministry with his donation. If you are in the Jones County and Laurel area and in need of Internet service, I recommend you talk to Mike Rivers of USA Internet Services.

Thank you Mike for your gift!

Lighthouse Cafe

You will see in the Southeastern College article on page 2 an announcement concerning the "Lighthouse Cafe". The college needed to be able to offer a food service to the students. The result is this on-campus cafe that serves the students and the general public. The first official day of operation was on Tuesday January 28. This editor joined President Carson and a host of others for the first meal. It was great! We had pot roast with all the trimmings. Their menu is a plate lunch each day plus a large selection of sandwiches and other items.

What a great concept! I encourage our readers to drop by and have lunch. Support this new effort. If you do, you will not be disappointed and will make it one of your regular lunch spots. Congratulations to Dr. Carson and the staff for their vision and innovation.

Laird Scholarship Update

I am regularly surprised by the response to the Grover Laird Academic Scholarship established at the BMA Seminary. Donors have given over \$21,000 to this effort as of January 28. Mrs. Ester Laird and the Laird family thank those who have given.

If your church has not given or if you would like to make a donation (of any amount) please consider sending a one time gift in honor of Bro. Grover Laird. Make your check payable to Laird Scholarship Fund and mail it to Grover Laird Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441.



- Revival Fires -

2020 Senior Conference Schedule

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

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



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Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Lindsey

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

From Abandoned to Assured Part 2

If no one read ahead further, into Ezekiel 16 after my last article, my words then may have seemed a bit bleak. In the first five verses, God tells the story of the abandonment and unwantedness of a child. It is heartbreaking to think that this is the physical state of some and the spiritual state of all.

As devastating as those first five verses were the next nine are vital. Ezekiel 16:6-14, "And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live. 7 I have caused thee to multiply as the bud of the field, and thou hast increased and waxen great, and thou art come to excellent ornaments: thy breasts are fashioned, and thine hair is grown, whereas thou wast naked and bare. 8 Now when I passed by

thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord God, and thou becamest mine. 9 Then washed I thee with water; yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil. 10 I clothed thee also with brodered work, and shod thee with badgers' skin, and I girded thee about with fine linen, and I covered thee with silk. 11 I decked thee also with ornaments, and I put bracelets upon thy hands, and a chain on thy



neck. 12 And I put a jewel on thy forehead, and earrings in thine ears, and a beautiful crown upon thine head. 13 Thus wast thou decked with gold and silver; and thy raiment was of fine linen, and silk, and brodered work; thou didst eat fine flour, and honey, and oil: and thou wast exceeding beautiful, and thou didst prosper into a kingdom. 14 And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord God."

God gives life. The picture God is giving Ezekiel parallels Jerusalem as a city, Israel as a nation, and the people of God. Jerusalem had no claim to fame. Israel was unrecognizable to the world as a nation. God's created people lay destitute and unclean. BUT, like at the time of creation, God speaks life into existence where there was none. Live, yes live! This is a consistency God has shown though out His story. In Genesis chapter one God said, let us make man, and He explained further in Gen-

esis chapter two that He breathed into man and made him a living soul. Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." God spoke, speaks, and will speak life into His people individually and corporately. Thank you Lord that whether we look to the city of Jerusalem, the lives of your people, or at the lives of the lost we can trust You to speak life into the dead.

God does not stop at giving life. He gives abundant life. Jerusalem blossomed and flourished as a capital. It has been fought over for centuries as a treasured possession. Abraham went from childless to a nation. In the eyes of the world, Jesus was a religious teacher in Galilee. He is the Messiah, The Lord of all creation. He has all the Father has given Him. His inheritance is the earth and all nations. This is more than life. It is abundant life.

God's gift of life comes with much more than immediate blessings for our consumption and comfort. God gives a covenant. He gives us life and in His abundance, he covers our nakedness. He covers our shame. He promises His love for us with the marital commitment that will not be broken. When

one has been abandoned it can become very difficult to believe anyone would keep their promise. God proves His love over and over, not because He has to, but because of His great love and character.

The proof of God's covenant is seen in His extravagance. God gives an extravagant covenant. He covers, cleans, and anoints His love. His extravagance is seen in brodered work, badger skin boots, fine linen, silk, and all the extras. The provisions of fine flour, honey, and oil are offered to sooth the past hurts. When a child of God is seen in all of the gifts given by God they share in His fame and reputation.

In the first fourteen verses of Ezekiel sixteen, we see God identify us as abandoned in death. He comes to the rescue as only He can and assures of His love and care. The ministry of the Children's Home and the ministry of every Christian is to show this assurance of love to the abandoned. We must live as imitators of Christ our savior and brother. Pray for us as we show this love to those God has already sent our way and for those who come in the future. We will pray for opportunities for you to do the same.

Church Security

from page 4

Three tips:

1. Go to Bakers website for help and suggestions. I learned a lot from that organization! By the way they offer training on the local level.
2. Talk to your local police or sheriff's department to see if they offer any help or training for churches. If they don't, they may can point you to people in your area who can.
3. Call a lunch meeting of area pastors and youth pastors and see what they are doing already and learn from what works for others!

I pray that whatever you put in place (have in place) will NEVER have to be used at your church! May the Lord put His mighty angels around us and protect us from our enemies!

Lee is a church planter in Southaven, Mississippi. He is a pastor and former youth minister and may be contacted at anders.lee571@gmail.com

Bro. Chris Freeman returns to service as Chaplain

Chris Freeman is from Laurel, Mississippi. He is married to Megan, and they have three boys—Isaac (13), Luke (10), and



Seth (6). Chaplain Freeman has previously been enlisted in both the Mississippi Army National Guard and the United States Air Force and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to Afghanistan in 2003. After an 8-year military career, he was honorably discharged in 2005.

He was licensed and ordained

into the Gospel Ministry by Pine Ridge Baptist Church in Laurel, Mississippi and has served in several BMA churches over the last 15 years. Throughout the years, Chaplain Freeman has struggled with his own Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder from his time in service but has managed to keep the faith. He prayed he would one day return to active duty as a chaplain to help other soldiers navigate the pitfalls of military life.

Chaplain Freeman earned an Associate's in Bible from Southeastern Baptist College, a Bachelor's in Religion and Business, and a Master's in Divinity from Liberty University. After gaining the education and experience necessary to become a military chaplain, Chaplain Freeman was unable to do so due to the severity of his PTSD symptoms. That is when a friend told him about the Mississippi State Guard.

The Mississippi State Guard is the State Defense Force of Mississippi, and it falls under the Mississippi Military Department, along with the Missis-

SENIOR ADULTS MINISTRY

2020 Senior Conference Schedule

South Conference -

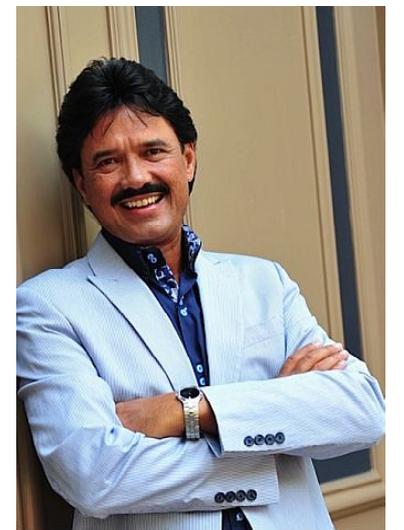
Tuesday, March 10th at 9:30
Big Creek Baptist Church
Soso, Mississippi

issippi Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. The State Guard is trained to respond to natural and man-made emergencies around the state and to augment the National Guard as needed. The State Guard is made up of volunteers from around the State—doctors, lawyers, chaplains, police officers, firemen, and others—coming together to serve their State and communities.

The State Guard is non-deployable outside the borders of the United States. Chaplain Freeman sees the State Guard as a great opportunity to continue serving the Lord and serving his home state and community while ministering to the spiritual needs of the volunteer soldiers serving alongside him.

Laurel Church to Host Ivan Parker in Concert

We are so excited to announce that Pine Ridge Baptist Church will be hosting the one and only Ivan Parker on Friday, Febru-



ary 21 at 7:00 p.m. You know Ivan from seeing him on the Gaither Homecoming videos. He has traveled many miles with Gold City, The Trio, and his own solo ministry. Admission is free but a love offering will be received.

For more information contact Bro. Brandon Wilson at 601-580-1304.

Thoughts From The Scriptures

by Bro. Grover Laird
from January 2006 issue of *The Revivalist*

We often pray for the Lord to put His mighty hand upon us. We know that wonderful things will happen when the hand of the Lord is with us--"And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord." (Acts 11:21) One way to get His mighty hand upon us is for us to humble down under it-- "Humble

yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:" (1 Peter 5:6)

The Lord invites us to cast all of our cares upon Him. This really sounds good when our problems overwhelm us. However, if we try this and nothing seems to change, it may be we are forgetting that we cannot cast something until we turn it lose--"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

The Lord says, "...but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." (Isaiah 66:2) Could not this be one of the reasons why the Lord permits tribulations to come and soften our heart? "For God maketh my heart soft, and the Almighty troubleth me:" (Job 23:16)

When the Lord carries us through severe trials, it can be a sign that the Lord has something good for us up ahead--"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perished, though it be tried by fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:" (1 Peter 1:7)

Every church that Paul wrote to, he brought to them the blessing of grace and peace. He added one more blessing in the letter he wrote to the pastors. He added the bless-

ing of mercy. Maybe pastors do not have it as easy as some seem to think-- "To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour." (Titus 1:4)

The people of God are able to see the workings of the Lord on every side, while the wicked seem to see nothing. People do need to be sensitive to what the Lord is doing-- "Because they regard not the works of the Lord, nor the operation of his hands, he shall destroy them, and not build them up." (Psalms 28:5)

A person who works for the Lord will doubtless be criticized and hurt by some. But has there not always been a certain amount of danger in work? "Whoso removeth stones shall be hurt therewith; and he that cleaveth wood shall be endangered thereby." (Ecclesiastes 10:9)

Some speak critically and hurt others without any reason to do so. Snakes are like that-- "Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment; and a babbler is no better." (Ecclesiastes 1:11)

If we had one glimpse of the lost in Hell, never again would we see a need like the need for men to be saved. Paul seemed to see no need in Israel like their need to be right with God -- "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved." (Romans 10:1)

We who preach should never forget the awesome responsibility that rests upon us. For one thing, each time we stand before a congregation, God is wanting to say something to those people through us-- "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us; we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." (11 Corinthians 5:20)



Bro. Grover Laird

Ronald Morgan Retires



Bro. & Mrs. Morgan

After serving as pastor of First Baptist Church at Springhill, Louisiana, for over 20 years, Ronald Morgan has retired, effective December 31. He and his wife Dianne were honored with a luncheon reception at the church December 29. They have moved to the Dallas, Texas area to be close to family.

Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White



WORDS

Words are fascinating. Just by adding or changing one or two letters you have a whole different picture.

I was thinking the other day about the difference between gripe and grip. Most of us know how to 'gripe' - we gripe about the weather, we gripe about the political situation in our country, we gripe about our kids and their cell phones, music video games, etc. Moses was familiar with griping Israelites.

Most often if we could just get a 'grip' on God's promises we wouldn't find so much to gripe about.

Oh, I just remembered another word 'grippe'. That's what they used to call influenza. So there you go, just by adding one letter you would have something to really gripe about.

Maybe we should really concentrate on Psalm 118:24, "This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Discovering Your Spirit for Missions

Southeastern Baptist College will host a "Discover Your Spirit for Missions Conference" on February 20, 2020.

This day is designed to enlighten others concerning mission opportunities. Students, pastors and youth ministers are invited to attend and learn more about becoming involved in supporting or participating in missions across the globe.

Dr. John David Smith (Director of BMAA Missions), Mrs. Angel Rice (Director of Volunteer Student Missions), and Mrs. Alicia Samson (foreign missionary), among others will be guest speakers. Mark your calendar and contact SBC today to reserve your seat!



BMA Missions Director
Dr. John David Smith

BMA Schools Recognized by Intelligent.com

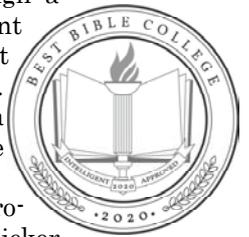
Intelligent.com, a trusted resource for online degree rankings and higher education planning, has announced the Top 60 Online Bible Colleges for 2020, including Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, Mississippi.



In addition, Intelligent.com also lists BMA Seminary as "Most Affordable Master's Degree" and Southeastern Baptist College as "Best Two-Year University."

The comprehensive research guide is based on an assessment of 201 accredited colleges and universities in the nation. Each program is evaluated based on curriculum quality, graduation rate, reputation and post-graduate employment.

The 2020 rankings are calculated through a unique scoring system which includes student engagement, potential return on investment and leading third party evaluations. Intelligent.com analyzed 201 schools, on a scale of 0 to 100, with only 60 making it to the final list.



Students who pursue any one of these programs can expect to gain employment much quicker in comparison to candidates without a degree. In addition to accessibility and cost, the steady job growth in this market is one of the many reasons Intelligent.com researched and ranked the Top Online Bible Colleges. To access the complete ranking, please visit www.intelligent.com/best-online-bible-colleges

Intelligent.com provides unbiased research to help students make informed decisions about higher education programs. The website offers curated guides which include the best degree programs as well as information about financial aid, internships and even study strategies.

Philippine Bible College Needs Support

by Doug & Diane Lee
Missionaries to Philippines

Looking back on past history, I find the finances for the college have decreased approximately 60%. Our total budget is \$6000 a month and monthly contributions have decreased to below \$2000. The shortfall is being made up by the Lees and the Scroggins. Sometimes contributions are up and down, but expenses for the operation is at a constant level. All we need is for 20 churches or individuals to give \$100 a month. That would be a great assistance to us.



Doug & Diane Lee

Some of the difficulties we as self-supporting missionaries face is, we must raise our own support before we start raising funds for projects and the Bible College. This puts us in a precarious situation. For which project will we ask help? It is imperative that we raise funds for our projects such as church planting, native missionaries and work funds. If we focus on our personal support, the other projects are lacking. If we emphasize the necessity for the Bible College or work funds, then our support decreases.

It is refreshing when we receive a call from a pastor asking what projects do you need help with? After naming them, the answer is "My church will take the project." We rejoice when this happens. Praise the Lord! This tells me there are people still interested in the work of missionaries and they are willing to step up to the plate and get involved.

Would you as a church or individual be willing to ask God to direct you where your support is needed? We are grateful for those who are faithful to support the Bible college, and we pray that others will partner with us to keep this great institution going, which touches lives not only in the Philippines, but all over Asia.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

President Theresa Reus

264 Dean Nursery Rd., Lucedale, MS 39452

Treasurer Mrs. Shirlene Smith

730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443 - 601-729-5638

Greetings everyone!

From Theresa Reus, State WMA President

I'm very excited about all the behind the scenes planning going into your WMA year. The mid year meeting in May will include a visit from the Walker family. Our ladies retreat this year will get a change in location. Garaywa was not available, so we will move to a hotel! We've already been to visit one that had lots of gathering places. I could just vision all the ladies visiting, and enjoying each other company.

In closing, I'd like to remind

everyone that our project is to renovate the BMAP publication building into a training center. Our theme this year, "Working together with God," is taken from 1 Cor. 3:9. For we are labourers together with God: ye are His husbandry, ye are His building. We will certainly need everyone working together with God to teach our lofty goal of \$25,000.

If you'd like to hear more on the project or starting a ladies group at your church I'd love visit and try to answer all your questions! Ps 40:1-3

Dear Ladies of the Mississippi State WMA

by Missionary Sam Freeman

We hope the ladies of the Mississippi State WMA are off to a great year in 2020! We rejoice with you in all that God is using you to accomplish for His Kingdom. Once again, we want to say thank you so much for selecting us as your mission project for 2020. We believe that your support, along with the National GMA's also supporting this project, will help us get the required funds to complete this project.



Sam Freeman

With your help we will be able to renovate a portion of the current BMAP Publications Building to make it usable as the BMAP Missions Department Training facility and model it to be able to house national missionaries while they undergo assessment, pre-field training, and yearly training sessions.

This Training facility will not only be used to train our national missionaries, but will be a vital location for The BMAP Missions Department, BMAP Missionary Committee, and BMAP Publications Department as they conduct meetings, planning sessions, and training events as well.

Here are some figures to give you an idea of what we will need to get this project completed:

Renovation of upstairs apartment and furniture and a/c \$5,000 (bedroom, bathroom, living room)

Renovation of downstairs apartment, furniture, a/c & appliances \$8,000 (2 bedrooms, bathroom, living room & kitchen)

Construction of 2 rooms downstairs in old printing area \$12,000 - (2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and furniture and a/c for bedrooms & bathrooms)

Furniture and electronics equipment for Training Center \$5,000 - (tables, chairs, video & audio equipment, and a/c)

Replacing old roof - \$10,000-\$12,000

We are praying God will supply the needs to accomplish this much needed project.

We thank you for everything you do to help us fulfill God's calling.

COMMISSION ON History & Archives

4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Jason Howard
Director

Baptists and Religious liberty / Freedom of the Conscience

Baptists have consistently stood for, defended, been persecuted on account of, and died for their tenacious adherence to the principle of religious freedom and freedom of the conscience. This is one of the foundational beliefs held by Baptist people; that every man should be free to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience, as well as to be free to not worship at all. It is hard for some people to imagine, but even in America, during the colonial days and even for some time after the Revolutionary War, Baptist people suffered for this idea; that men should be free to worship God. Some unbiased historians even credit the 1st Amendment of the constitution to Baptist influence. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." Understanding the plight of Baptist people during colonial America and shortly after, one can easily see the influence of Baptist principles upon our 1st Amendment. During Colonial times, there were established Churches in the colonies, excepting Rhode Island. In these colonies, vestry taxes were imposed upon all people to support the ministry or ministers of

the established Churches. Baptists were not exempt from these taxes, and at times had their property taken and sold for far less than its worth in order to pay these taxes; leaving them without home, land, or any way to provide for their families. Often, the Baptists were arrested, fined, whipped, or banished for holding meetings and preaching the gospel.

In 1768-1770 (different historians have given different dates for this account), Patrick Henry, who was no Baptist but a great friend of liberty, came to the defense of three Baptist preachers arrested for preaching in Virginia. The indictment read against them in court was, "For preaching the Gospel of the Son of God." Patrick Henry travelled 50 miles on horseback to defend these men of God. His defense was - "May it please your worships: I think I heard read by the prosecutor as I entered this house, the paper I now hold in my hand. If I have rightly understood, the king's attorney of this colony has framed an indictment for the purpose of arraigning and punishment by imprisonment, three inoffensive persons before the bar of this court, for a crime of great magnitude - as disturbers of the peace. May it please the court, what did I read? Did I hear it distinctly, or was it a mistake of my own? Did I hear an expression, as if a crime, that these are charged with, whom your worships are

about to try for a misdemeanor, are charged with - what!" and continuing in a low, solemn, heavy tone: "For preaching the Gospel of the Son of God!" Pausing, amidst the most profound silence and breathless astonishment of his hearers, he slowly waved the paper three times around his head, then, lifting up his hands and eyes to heaven, with extraordinary and impressive energy, he exclaimed, "Great God!" The exclamation - the action - the burst of feeling from the audience were all overpowering.

Mr. Henry resumed: "May it please your worships: In a day like this, when truth is about to burst her fetters; when mankind are about to be raised to claim their natural and inalienable rights; when the yoke of oppression which has reached the wilderness of America, and the unnatural alliance of ecclesiastical and civil power is about to be severed, at such a period, when liberty - liberty of conscience - is about to awake from her slumberings and inquire into the reason of such charges as I find exhibited here today in this indictment!" Another fearful pause, while the speaker alternately cast his sharp, piercing eyes on the court and the prisoners, and resumed: "If I am not deceived, according to the contents of the paper I now hold in my hand, these men are accused of 'preaching the Gospel of the Son of God.' - Great God!" Another long pause, during which he again waved the indictment around his head, while a deeper impression was made on the auditory.

Resuming his speech: "May it please your worships: there are periods in the history of man, when corruption and depravity have so long debased the human character that man sinks under the

Ladies Retreat Planned

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

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

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



Dori Drabek

weight of the oppressor's hand and becomes his servile - his abject slave; he licks the hand that smites him; he bows in passive obedience to the mandates of the despot, and in this state of servility he receives his fetters of perpetual bondage. But, may it please your worships, such a day has passed away! From the period when our fathers left the land of their nativity for settlement in these American wilds - for Liberty - for civil and religious liberty - for liberty of conscience - to worship their Creator according to their conceptions of Heaven's revealed will, - from the moment they placed their feet on the American continent, and in the deeply imbedded forests fought an asylum from persecution and tyranny - from that moment despotism was crushed; her fetters of darkness were broken, and Heaven decreed that man should be free: free to worship God according to the bible. Were it not for this, in vain have been the efforts and sacrifices of the colonists; in vain were all their sufferings and bloodshed to subju-

gate this new world, if we, their offspring, must still be oppressed and persecuted. But, may it please your worships, permit me to inquire once more: For what are these men about to be tried? This paper says, 'for preaching the Gospel of the Son of God.' Great God! For preaching the Savior to Adam's fallen race."

After another pause, in tones of thunder he inquired: "What law have they violated?" Then, for the third time, in a slow dignified manner, he lifted his eyes to heaven, and waved the indictment around his head. The Court and audience were now wrought up to the most intense pitch of excitement. The face of the prosecuting attorney was pale and ghastly, and he appeared unconscious that his whole frame was agitated with alarm; and the judge, in a tremulous voice, put an end to the scene, now becoming extremely painful, by the authoritative command: 'Sherriff, discharge those men!'"

- Account taken from D.B. Ray's BAPTIST SUCCESSION

Scripture Thoughts by Cleaver

Observations from the book of Joshua

Joshua 1.2 *“Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them even to the children of Israel.”*

Wow, how could anyone imagine Moses being dead? After all, he had lead the nation for so many years. He had accomplished so many things and performed so many miracles.



Tony Cleaver

The nation might well ask: “How can we get along without him?” In many congregations after the long term pastor either retires, dies, or becomes unable to carry on with duties, the congregation could think: “How in the world will we ever go on without our beloved Pastor? We cannot find another to replace him. That would be unthinkable!”

Well, Moses was dead. Joshua was prepared to lead the nation now into the Promised Land. Good Church Member, when your congregation seeks a new pastor, understand and know the Lord can supply you a leader to go forward from where you are right now. It might well be the new pastor leads you to a place you might not have imagined under your former pastor.

Joshua 1.6 *“Be strong and of a good courage...”*

It is interesting to note God told Joshua to be strong and courageous, not only in this verse, but also two more times in this chapter (verses 7 and 9). Perhaps by this time Joshua “got it” that the Lord wanted him to be strong and courageous. It is also fascinating to note that after Joshua gave instructions to the people about what they were to do, the people then spoke to Joshua with some remarkable words.

The people told Joshua what they anticipated of him: “Above all, be strong and courageous (verse 18)!” So the very words the Lord had spoken to Joshua became the expectation of the people regarding Joshua’s behavior. The Lord wants pastors to be strong and courageous, for He is with them in their work.

Dear Pastor, your congregation expects no less of you. Being a pastor is not a job for the weak, the faint of heart, or the fearful. It is a job for those who will be strong and courageous. Dear Pastor, a word of admonition is needed here. Being strong

and courageous as a pastor does not mean you have an imperial position where the congregants are subject to your every whim or fancy. Being strong and courageous as a pastor does not mean you are impervious to people’s feelings. Strong and courageous does not translate to being unkind, flippant, or al-

ways right and unbending. The key to being strong and courageous three step process is presented in verse 8 (right between the previously mentioned verses 7 and 9): “This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything

written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do.”

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

71st BMA of America National Meeting

April 27-29, 2020

Farley Street Baptist Church - 1116 Brown Street, Waxahachie, Texas

Preliminary Program

Monday Afternoon, April 27

- 10:30 a.m. DiscipleGuide Trustee Meeting – TBD
- 1:30 p.m. National WMA Officers Meeting – Heritage Baptist Church (1000 Butcher Rd, Waxahachie, Texas)
- 2:00 p.m. Seminary Trustee Meeting – TBD
- 3:00 p.m. WMA Business Meeting – Heritage Baptist Church

Monday Evening, April 27 – Farley Street Worship Center

- 7:00 p.m. Welcome – President – Worship Service
- 7:05 p.m. Jason Earle
- 7:35 p.m. The Erwins
- 8:15 p.m. President’s Message – Jeff Swart
- *Missions Experience opens following service until 10 p.m. in the Farley Street Family Life Center

Tuesday Morning, April 28

- 8:30 a.m. BMA Orientation for New Pastors and Churches – TBD
- 8:30 a.m. Registration for Women’s Ministry Conference – Heritage Baptist Church
- 9:00 a.m. Women’s Ministry Conference – Heritage Baptist Church
- 9:00 a.m. Missions Experience Opens
- 9:00 a.m. National Brotherhood Meeting – TBD
- 9:30 a.m. Committee Meetings – TBD
- BMA Foundation, Missions Advisory Committee, Moral Action, Nominating Committee
- 9:30 a.m. Breakout Sessions
- & 10:45 a.m. BMA Seminary, Lifeword, BMA Missions and MRS will host breakouts
- Faithlife Corporation – Electronic tools for Bible study including Logo software
- Duane Orr, NASA – Defending Creationism
- Jon Dodson, Lifeword – Creating a Church Website
- Bruce Bruinsma, Envoy Financial – Retirement Reformation
- Larry Barker/Heidi Sorrells, BMA Missions – Developing A New Ministry Vision
- Dr. Philip Attebery, BMA Seminary – Teach for Results
- *Missions Experience will be closed during lunch

Tuesday Afternoon, April 28

- 1:30 p.m. Missions Experience Opens
- 2:00 p.m. Guest Artists – The Martins
- 3:30 p.m. BMA Town Hall Meeting with Directors & DiscipleGuide Trustees – Farley Street Worship Center
- 5:00 p.m. Missions Experience Closing
- 5:30 p.m. Seminary Dinner – TBD

Tuesday Evening, April 28 – Farley Street Worship Center

- 7:00 p.m. Worship Service
- Annual Message – Luis Ortega
- Election of Officers
- *Missions Experience opens following service until 10 p.m. in the Farley Street Family Life Center

Wednesday Morning, April 29

- 8:00 a.m. BMA Associational Business – Farley Street Worship Center
- BMA Foundation, Moral Action, DiscipleGuide, Ministers Resource Services,
- BMA Theological Seminary, Missions Department, Lifeword
- Miscellaneous Business

Wednesday Afternoon, April 29

- Noon Missionary Wives Lunch – TBD
- 2:00 p.m. Church Leaders Table Talk – TBD
- 3:30 p.m. Tribute to Darlene Carey – Farley Street Worship Center

Wednesday Evening, April 29

- 7:00 p.m. Missions Commissioning Service – Farley Street Worship Center

