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# Baptist

## Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

## A ChangeMaker in Jordan



The following is an interview with a Jordanian ministry leader and ChangeMaker, Fadi, who is on staff at Zarka Baptist Church:

It was at the end of my engineering studies at the age of twenty that a close friend came to Christ and I noticed a great change in his life that touched my

Because of my friend, I began to study the Bible, and six months later I was completely obsessed with the character of Christ

life. At that point I had never read the Bible and didn't know about the four Gospels or anything else. I had been raised in Christian schools, but the Islamic faith was taught to us there.

God and the ethics behind this war issue, which is a very troubling thing in the Middle East with the Arab/Israeli conflict. Most believe the God of the Old Testament is aggressive and desires wars. If he's a loving God, people ask, why did he order the wars?

For almost twenty years I have taught an online course on how to share the love

of Christ with Muslims in Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon and online. I received training from godly men by going into the streets and putting their teaching it into practice until it became a completed course.



Zarka Church worship service

Because of my friend, I began to study the Bible, and six months later I was completely obsessed with the character of Christ and the Savior who came and gave his life for me. I asked God to change my life to serving him, but my family did not accept it. They believed I had been brainwashed, especially my Father, who was an atheist.

After receiving my university degree and beginning my professional career as an engineer, I took seminary classes as my job allowed and, during that time, met my wife Mervat and we have four children.

I finished my seminary degree in 2003 then my PhD and dissertation, which was a comparison of Jihad and Islam and the conquest of Canaan. It addresses the issue of whether war was ordered by

My involvement in attending the Zarka church is an amazing story. I was without church for a long time and working as an engineer in Aqaba, but decided to leave and take early retirement. We moved back to Jordan and began attending there, but I had met Pastor Sam when he was one of my students.

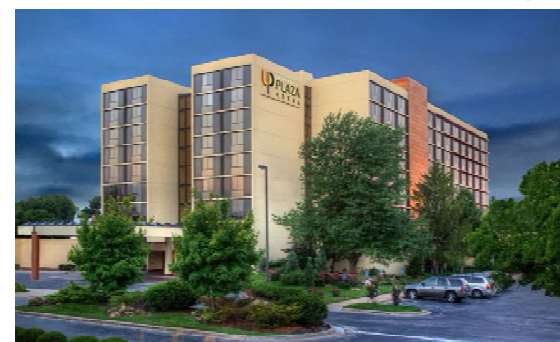
Along with Pastor Samer, we have now created online bachelors and masters degree courses for Arabic-speaking believers who want to speak into the lives of non-believers from Muslim backgrounds. Called Arabic Center for Biblical Studies, it will soon go through accreditation. Because of security issues most students cannot go to the West and

continued on page 2

## It's Time to Make Reservations

### BMAA Committee on Arrangements

The 2022 session of the Baptist Missionary Association of America will meet April 18-20 at the University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center in Springfield, Missouri. Please make your reservations early. Call the local hotel directly to make your reservations. The local telephone number is included below. You must identify that you are with the Baptist Missionary Association of America and that you are booking reservations in the BMA block of rooms. Also, when making your reservations, be sure to let them know you want rooms in the block for the BMAA that begins on April 17, 2022. Your stay does not have to include the night of the 17th, but that will make sure you get the BMA block rate.



The University Plaza Hotel will serve as our headquarters hotel for the annual meeting in Springfield.

University Plaza Hotel, 333 John Q. Hammons Parkway, Springfield, MO: (Single/Double, \$124 per night; King suite, \$159.00). Telephone reservations: 417-864-7333. Reservation cutoff date is March 19, 2022. The rates shown above will be available for three nights before and after the meeting if you would like to extend your stay in Springfield.

All room rates quoted above are subject to all local taxes.

This information and additional news about the national association meeting can be found on the BMA website at [www.bmaamerica.org](http://www.bmaamerica.org). Check that website for news and updates about the meeting and reports from the national departments as they become available.

— BMA Arrangements Committee: Jerome Cooper, Daniel Williams, and Jerry Fulton

## Senior Adult Conference Information

The trustees of the Commission on senior Adults met recently and reviewed plans for our 2022 conferences. It was unanimously agreed on that we WILL go forth with both the South Senior Adult Conference and the North Conference.

The South Conference will meet with Big Creek Baptist Church near Laurel on March 8, 2022. The North Conference will meet with Mt. Pleasant Church just outside of Fulton on May 10, 2022.

The cost for both meetings will remain at \$15.00 per person. Catfish and chicken is still on the menu. Door Prizes, special prizes, and some surprises are in store for those who attend. Special music and groups are scheduled along with some good Gospel preaching.

We know some may be concerned about the current Covid situation and we will follow safety protocols.

We are urging our churches to pre-

register if possible. Please call Director Don Brown at 601-426-3293 and let us know the number coming from your church. NOTE: Even if you do not pre-register, be sure to attend. We will have plenty of room and food.

### Honoring 50 Years of Service

The Commission will continue our practice of honoring those men who have been in the ministry for 50 years or longer. If you have not been recognized please contact the director and share this information with us.

Churches and members, we ask that you inquire and contact us if you know of one of our ministers who should be recognized.

See the block on page 7 of this issue for more information.

*Prime Timers with a Purpose*

# Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



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## From Broken to Redeemed

by Dr. John David Smith  
Executive Director  
BMA of America Missions

When I arrived in Cape Verde as a missionary on the island of St. Vincent to begin ministry at the only Baptist church there, I did not expect that Pastor Manuel Ramos to retire and that I would fill his role. It was a small church with a congregation of fifteen, half of them children. Among the adults, there was a young man I noticed who came in after services started, sat in the back, and left during the closing prayer.



John David Smith

I didn't have the opportunity to meet him until one Sunday after service when he came and introduced himself as Claudino Gomez and explained that he was a new believer. He also said,

"My common law wife, Francelina, is not a believer. Would you please pray for her?" It was clear that he loved her very much, and I agreed to pray for her. I also invited him to my house to talk about his new faith in Christ and we began meeting during the week for Bible study.

During one of our meetings, I asked Claudino if he wanted us to go talk to her and share the gospel, but he said no because she was very antagonistic to the gospel. So instead we continued praying as he studied the Bible.

Claudino grew rapidly in his faith and told me one day, "I can't continue in this lifestyle of immorality because it doesn't honor God." When he told Francelina they should get married, she didn't want to do it and refused to quit going out to parties. Later Claudino knew God wanted him to issue an ultimatum, so he told Francelina she



Claudino and Francelina Gomez had three months to change her lifestyle or he would move out. Despite his love for her, he had to follow through with his decision and didn't believe she would

accept the gospel. I had lost track of Claudino's deadline, so I was unprepared when late one night he came to my house weeping, telling me "the time is up" and that he had moved out of the house. I watched his profound sadness in the next weeks as he prayed for her. He

accepted the gospel.

I had lost track of Claudino's deadline, so I was unprepared when late one night he came to my house weeping, telling me "the time is up" and that he had moved out of the house. I watched his profound sadness in the next weeks as he prayed for her. He

knew it was her brokenness that caused her to continue in a lifestyle that did not honor God, but he went through with the ultimatum, difficult as it was.

In the meantime, the church had grown and Claudino had to

**see Redeemed on page 8**

## Service Opportunity for BMA of Mississippi Ministers

by Chaplain (Colonel) Scott R. Carson

Recently, two chaplains endorsed by the Baptist Missionary Association of America, Chaplain (Colonel) Scott R. Carson, Command Chaplain for the Mississippi State Guard (MSSG) and President of Southeastern Baptist College located in Laurel, Mississippi, and Chaplain (First Lieutenant) Glen Pace, a chaplain for the First Brigade of the MSSG and Pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, participated in the Chaplain Annual Sustainment Training in Gulfport with the Mississippi National Guard chaplains. Pictured L-R: Chaplain Netterville (MSSG 2nd Brigade), Chaplain Pace, Chaplain Carson, Major General Boyles (The Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard), Chaplain Partin (Command Chaplain of the Mississippi National Guard), Chaplain Johnson (MSSG 3rd Brigade), and Command Sergeant Major Tatum (Senior Enlisted Leader of the Mississippi National Guard).



The Mississippi State Guard is one of three military organizations that fall under the authority of the governor. The word "State" is key in understanding the mission of the Guard. Two similar organizations are the Air National Guard and the Army National Guard, and while these two can be federalized by the President of the United States, the State Guard cannot be federalized. The State Guard's mission is primarily disaster relief and is voluntary in nature and unpaid unless called to service by the governor.

BMAA ministers interested in military, prison, institutional, or corporate chaplaincy opportunities and qualifications can contact Dr. Scott Carson for more information at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu.

## Dr. Medrick Savell Retires from Pastorate

Riverside Baptist Church announces the retirement of Pastor Dr. Medrick Savell due to health issues. Dr. Savell was licensed to the ministry by East Philadelphia Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Mississippi on August 5, 1956 and ordained by Bethel Baptist Church of Jackson, Mississippi, on April 5, 1958.

He received his Bachelor of Arts in Bible from Southeastern Baptist College of Laurel and a Master of Education and Doctor of Education from the University of Southern Mississippi. He also studied at the BMA Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas.

In 1985 Dr. Savell toured the Holy Land, including Jordan, Israel, and Egypt. In 1996 he studied Biblical History and Geography at Jerusalem University College in Jerusalem.

He has pastored the following churches, all in Mississippi: Parkview (now Oakland), Vicksburg; Mt. Olive, Union (2 times); Central, Richton; First Baptist of Calhoun, Laurel, and Riverside, which he pastored for the past 26 years.

On January 9, 2022 the church held an appreciation service for Dr. Savell honoring his years of dedication. The church presented him with an engraved musical mantel clock. May God bless him in his retirement.



## A ChangeMaker in Jordan

from page 1

study at world-class seminaries, so the courses will quench their desire to both study the Bible and be trained to reach Muslims. Today there are 60 students, not all of them Muslim, so please pray for these men and women with a strong calling to reach the lost.

The church has recently had a surge in attendees. Six months

ago there were only 25 to 30 people. It has now just exploded and we have a larger group, so we need to move. Nothing different was done, except with continued prayers people have been coming and the Holy Spirit has been leading them to Zarka Baptist Church.

We're enjoying the ride: There are many salvations, baptisms,

and people coming back to church who haven't been there in several years. Without planning or any human effort we now have a congregation of around 130 including children. We found favor in God's eyes.

Please pray that those we're training will take the lead for the church in the Middle East.



## Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Lindsey

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

## Competition can be healthy

Businesses competing can provide the customer with great value. Athletes competing with each other can make each other better at their sport. Often times we think it can be old versus new. Do we want old fashioned or new and improved? In reality cooperation is biblical. In scripture we are told we do not war with flesh and blood. Churches competing do not grow the Lord's Church. People working together in love in what God is doing in

the Great Commission is where the Church succeeds.

Isaiah 43:18-21 tells us, "Remember ye not the former things, Neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; Now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, And rivers in the desert. The beast of the field shall honour me, The dragons and the owls: Because I give waters in the wilderness, And rivers in the

desert, To give drink to my people, my chosen. This people have I formed for myself; They shall shew forth my praise." Here the Lord speaks of what He has done in redeeming His people in the past and how a greater new redemption lies ahead. The old and new redemption do not compete with each other, rather they complement each other in the great work of God.

The Children's Home has been at work a long time, but in our newness we have experienced something even new to us. Just yesterday a thirteen year old mother from Guatemala and her seven month old child has come into the home. We don't know how long we will be aloud to help

them, but your prayers are appreciated. We have already begun to coordinate with Bro. Estuardo Marroquin to facilitate the care of their spiritual needs

while we care for their physical needs. There is much learning and patience from both sides to be developed. This case only continues to solidify our need of more house parents.



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

## Are You Listening?

by Larry Barker

Revelation stresses the importance of listening. All seven churches mentioned in Revelation 2 and 3 are told, "Anyone who has an ear should listen to what the Spirit says to the churches." How do you know if you are listening to the Spirit well? Revelation 1:3 says that if we "hear the words of this prophecy and keep what is written in it we are blessed."

The message to the seven churches is clear: "Listen and repent."

To the church at Sardis the Lord says, "Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; keep it, and repent!" What does He say to them? You have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead." How sad!

What are you doing in your church to evaluate your present reality and face any individual or corporate sin in your congregation?

To the church at Laodicea the Lord says, "If anyone hears my voice." Once again, the question must be asked, "Are you listening to what the Spirit is saying to your church? What did the Lord say to Laodicea? You say you are rich and need nothing, but you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked! Talk about a total lack of self-awareness. They were not listening at all and believed they were fine.

What might the Spirit be saying to you through His Word and the Holy Spirit?

The problem is, can you even

hear His voice? Is His voice the loudest voice in your life? Are you learning from what the Lord said to these seven churches? In his commentary on Revelation, John Phillips refers to them as . . .

the fallen church (Ephesus)  
the fearful church (Smyrna)  
the faltering church (Pergamos)  
the false church (Thyatira)  
the fruitless church (Sardis)  
the feeble church (Philadelphia)  
the fashionable church (Laodicea).

Whenever you are willing to listen to what the Lord is saying, it can be quite painful, but godly sorrow is necessary to bring about godly repentance.

Healthy Church Solutions has the Church Lifecycle Tool to help you hear the Spirit's voice on exactly what your church's present reality is. What do you need to celebrate and what do you need to repent of? This tool will help you discover if your church is in a state of incline, recline, or decline. Every church falls into one of those positions. You can clearly see the evidence of these three positions in the book of Revelation, and Jesus had a report card for each one of these churches. Even to the church at Laodicea the Lord says, "If you will hear my voice . . ." and then tells the church He will respond.

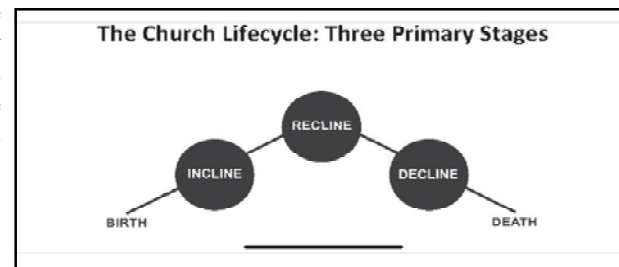
The church at Sardis was actually a declining church, but it's interesting that they didn't

even realize it. They thought they were alive, but Jesus said, "Look! You're actually a declining church and there are some things here that need to be worked on." He said to them, "You need to strengthen what remains."

The church at Laodicea was a reclining church. Here's a church saying, "We're fine, we don't need anything!" They were a church that had plateaued. They were not moving forward, but in their minds, they thought they had arrived. They probably had a lot going on and were very busy with structures and programs.

Jesus quickly pointed out that they had some blind spots. Unfortunately, churches who plateau or begin to recline will eventually decline. When a church begins to relax and let their guard down it is very easy to get comfortable and begin accepting the status quo. One pastor remarked that one of the most difficult things in his ministry was to watch on-fire, committed members to sit down in their pews to never get back up. So a church that is reclining is in a dangerous position. Bob Roberts, Jr. says, "There is only one thing worse than God's judgment on the church, and that is His absence from it!"

To the church at Philadelphia, an inclining church, Jesus says many complimentary things in



Revelation 3:7 and encouraged them to "hold on to what they have." He said they were one of two churches out of the seven that received a favorable report card. They had momentum going and were living out their calling and purpose in the community where they were placed.

This is what every church should desire and want to see. God is in the business of strategically positioning us in the right place, at the right time, with the right people, for the right purposes.

Are you willing to listen to what the Spirit says about your church? Are you an inclining church, a reclining church, or a declining church? It's very important for you to discover this in order to be able to listen, repent (if needed), and move forward. You must have an awareness of where you are and be willing to own your present reality. You must be able to say, "This is where we are, these are our strengths, these are our weaknesses, and these are the things we need to be focused on that God has revealed to us." Revelation 3:19 says, "As many as I love, I rebuke and discipline. So be committed and repent." May all of us be willing to listen to what the Spirit is saying and

## Church News & Information

### Big Creek Auxiliaries to meet

The Big Creek District Brotherhood and WMA will meet on February 7, 2022 at Lebanon Baptist Church, Laurel, Mississippi, at 7:00 p.m. Ladies will meet in the sanctuary and men will meet in the old fellowship hall.

### Gospel Sing set in Meridian

Broadmoor Baptist Church, 5426 Highway 39 North, Meridian, Mississippi, will host The Whisnants' on Thursday, February 10, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. The Whisnants' have appeared on the Gaither videos and Gerald Wolfe's hymn sing videos and concerts. Admission is free and everyone is invited to attend. A love offering will be taken. For more information, please call 601-323-4400 or 601-482-2229.

### Church Seeking Pastor

Spencer Memorial Baptist Church in Pascagoula, Mississippi, is a small church family of faithful people that are prayerfully seeking the leadership of a part-time pastor. If interested, please call Deacon Mike Powe at 228-623-3586.

### Texas Church Seeks Pastor

First Baptist Church of Omen, Texas, is seeking a bi-vocational pastor to share all aspects of a small Baptist church, with particular interest in a family-oriented ministry. We prefer some seminary training, but more importantly a true calling by God and led by the Holy Spirit to discern the Word of God and love his congregation and a commitment to Biblical Christian principles.

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

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

be willing to repent. May we take Psalm 139:23-24 to heart and openly ask the Lord to do the following:

1. Search me.
2. Test me.
3. Point out to me.
4. Lead me!"

Contact us at [larry@bmaam.com](mailto:larry@bmaam.com) or [heidi@bmaam.com](mailto:heidi@bmaam.com) if you want to know more about how to implement the Church Lifecycle Tool at your church.



# 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

Praise the Lord! The Southeastern Baptist College Board of Trustees recently closed on the property near Soso, Mississippi. The property includes just over five acres with seven apartment units that can house more than 20 students. Acquiring these living spaces enables SBC to continue to grow our student body and, should the Lord bless our efforts, we believe we can exceed a total of 130 students in the 2022 Fall Semester. Having purchased these dorm spaces also enables us to begin to recruit toward two additional sports programs that include women's

*God is providing tremendous opportunities to promote Jesus in many ways through Southeastern Baptist College. His hand is clearly upon the future of SBC!*



Dr. Scott Carson  
President

volleyball and men's soccer. This, God willing, will attract dozens more in-classroom students desiring to attend a God centered Bible college.

A major online advertising campaign is being developed that

will focus on our conservative Bible and ministry degree programs. Because these degrees can be earned entirely online, and approved to educate students in all 50 states and every U.S. Territory, we believe it is

possible to grow our online student population into the hundreds. This will be an expensive venture, but with the right help and approach, the possibilities are tremendous.

While we are working on those projects, we continue to promote SBC through other avenues. I continue to report on the college at local associations and churches. This past week I was honored to be invited to be the guest speaker at Laurel Christian High School chapel service to promote SBC and bring the morning message. More than eight students responded to a hand raise Gospel invitation (I lost track as to how many hands went up!). Our relationship with the local community continues to grow. Our coaches are invited to speak at a local civic organization called Sertoma. I have been approached to speak at the local Rotary Club and also for the Laurel Main Street business owners association regarding the vision and future of SBC. As our choir professor was working on organizing an area wide choral festival for late April, the Jones

College music director offered his department to join in the festival and even proposed the use of their wonderful facilities for the program.

As advertised in this paper, SBC is sponsoring the Southeastern Gospel Festival, a three-night event of Southern gospel music for the Jones County community. Many local businesses, individuals, and churches have joined together to sponsor this event and SBC will be the benefactor for all ticket sales.

God is providing tremendous opportunities to promote Jesus in many ways through Southeastern Baptist College. His hand is clearly upon the future of SBC! Perhaps the Lord is speaking to you about supporting His ministry that is conducted both on and off our campus. Feel free to contact me anytime to see how you can help in these many opportunities. God bless you!

"Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ..." Philippians 2:16

Equipping the saints,  
Dr. Carson

### Seeking Sponsors

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



Pictured are Dr. Carson and Laurel Christian High School Headmaster James Armistead. Dr. Carson recently spoke in the LCS chapel service

### Now Hiring

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

### Holloway's Dairy Bar

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

### Coffee with the President

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

### Need a Preacher?

Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit or to make a presentation about the work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. Chaplain (Colonel) Carson can also provide an update on the BMAA Chaplaincy and deliver a related message. Thank you to the Pastor Corby Jones and Good Hope Baptist Church, Stringer, for recently inviting Dr. Carson to speak. You can reach Dr. Carson at 601-433-4736 or at [scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu](mailto:scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu)



Serious fans prepare their noise makers for the first SBC Women's Softball game

## Sports Team Schedules

### Men's Basketball

Come support the Chargers! The final two home games for the season are:

Tuesday, Feb 8, 7 p.m. vs Pensacola Christian University

Thursday, Feb 10, time TBA vs Bob Jones University (Final Home Game)

### Women's Softball

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

Saturday, Feb 5, 1 p.m. & 3 p.m. double header vs Louisiana Christian U.

Tuesday, Feb 15, 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. double header vs MUW

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

### Men's Baseball

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

Friday, Feb 11, 1 p.m. & 3 p.m. double header vs Trinity Baptist Col.

Saturday, Feb 12, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. double header vs Trinity Baptist Col.

Friday, Feb 18, 1 p.m. & 3 p.m. double header vs Kansas Christian Col.

Saturday, Feb 19, 1 p.m. & 3 p.m. double header vs Kansas Christian Col.

**Pictured Below** - Chargers praying with Delgado College basketball team after a recent home game



# SOUTHEASTERN GOSPEL FEST

## First Annual Praise Event!

In an effort to give praise to our Lord and Savior by means of a music fest that includes widely known Southern Gospel groups [listed below] while establishing our first annual fundraising event, we are seeking SBC Partners.

This Fest is to be held at the First Baptist Church of Laurel for three nights, April 21, 22, 23 of 2022, as an evening opportunity in our area opposite the day activities of the annual Laurel Community Bank's Crawfest. Please consider donating in support of bringing these dedicated singers and musicians to our area.

Below, you will find a listing of each group, their performance date, and the cost to have them participate. All supporters will be recognized in promoting this event

via website, social media, and other media, unless requesting anonymity. ANY AMOUNT OF SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED.

Thank you in advance.  
NOTE: Southeastern Baptist College is a 501-C3 nonprofit entity relying on support of churches and community.

### GROUPS and COST

- Dixie Echoes**  
Thursday, April 21 \$1500
- Tim Lovelace**  
Saturday, April 23 \$2000
- Jeff & Sherri Easter**  
Thursday, April 21 \$3500
- The Guardians**  
Saturday, April 23 \$2500
- The Lefevre Quartet**  
Thursday, April 21 \$3000
- Brian Free & Assurance**

- Saturday, April 23 \$3000
- Michael Combs**  
Friday, April 22 \$2200
- The Perrys**  
Friday, April 22 \$2700
- The Old Paths**  
Friday, April 22 \$2700

### SPONSOR CATEGORIES

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

# Lessons Learned on a Plane

*Lifeword.org is the source of this article at lifeword.org/blog/lessons-learned-on-a-plane/*

One thousand six hundred seventy-two.

That is the number of Sundays in a row that I did not attend church. It is a figure that now shocks my conscience. With the importance that I place on church today, it is almost beyond belief to me.

But that was my life until I encountered Jesus one Sunday morning in an old gravel parking lot. In an instant, I knew that church was something I needed in my life.

So now I only miss Sunday morning church for two reasons – an occasional vacation or illness. Even during the Covid quarantine months, I was there on-line every Sunday. But I'm not bragging. You see, my insistence on being in church is really somewhat self-centered. I need what church offers to me weekly. It benefits me. My life is better for being there.

Recently, my wife and I took a much-anticipated vacation. It was one of those bucket list "once in a lifetime" trips. It did not include plans for church. And no, I didn't feel any guilt about that. But still, I had the nagging feeling that I hated to miss church.

But as we sat on the plane and the flight attendant began reciting the safety instructions for the flight, I had the overpowering feeling that I was hearing my sermon for the week. Pretty bizarre. But every single point of her talk seemed to point me to a nugget of spiritual truth that I needed to hear.

So before you write me off as nuts, let me explain the seven points I gathered from her "sermon"/safety instructions:

### 1. Listening

As she talked, it seemed to me that no one was listening. Perhaps they had heard it before or just didn't care. Even though what she was saying could have

life or death consequences, it seemed irrelevant to most everyone. Their attention was everywhere but on her words.

Could it be that we often treat the words from our spiritual leaders the same way? After all, we've heard it all before. Even though their words could have spiritual life or death consequences to us, do we really see them as relevant in the moment? How often is our attention everywhere but on the words that these leaders have been entrusted by God to speak to us?

And what about us listening for God Himself as He tries to communicate with us. How many of us can truly say that we intentionally concentrate on hearing God's voice in our lives? Or do we, all too often, treat Him with the indifference that these passengers treated this flight attendant?

### 2. Safety Instruction Material

On every flight I have been on, there is a safety instruction folder in the holder on back of the seat in front of me. I think that it is required by law to be there. And she pointed it out to us. It tells us what we need to know in case of an emergency. Yet nobody looks at it, let alone studies on it.

You probably have already guessed where I am headed here. Yep – we all have access to the safety instruction book for our lives which we call the Bible. And not only does it tell us what to do in case of emergency, but it also provides guidance to us in every situation. Yet often, we treat it with the same indifference that the passengers treated the plane safety folder.

### 3. Lights

In the safety presentation, the attendant pointed out the lights along the floor that activate in

**see Lessons on page 7**



Dr. Carson presented certificates to the 2021 Fall Semester Honor Roll students

## In His Grip by Carolyn Hagler

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



# WITH NO REGRETS

February, the month of love, reminds me of birthdays, Valentine's Day, and losses. Many of our family were born in February, with Middle Sister celebrating the entire month and Mother and Diva celebrating just one day.

Valentine's Day is really a special holiday for most people. Commonly dubbed the "greeting card holiday," it comes in second place for the number of greeting cards purchased and sent each year. The most popular gifts are chocolates, flowers, jewelry, and cards.

JB was the least romantic man I knew. I dug through a trunk of memorabilia to see if I found any gift cards or greeting cards from him on Valentine's Day. I didn't find anything. Surely he did, but I'm just saying I didn't find any.

I do remember one birthday that he called me at work and sang, "Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you. I bought you a chainsaw; happy birthday to you." It took the second singing before I finally heard what he was saying. Now you know why I don't have anything to

remember from Valentine's Day.

But the month also reminds me of losses suffered in February: Diva and my Gabi 2 died on

*... the closer we are to the Lord and the more obedient we are to his guidance, the less we will have to regret.*

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Carolyn Hagler

the same day, close to Valentine's Day. The other loss occurred to my daddy. His mother, Alzena, died in February when she was only 16 years old, 5 months after Daddy was born. Raised by her parents with some cousins and aunts that were dear to his heart, he probably had little contact with his father until he was about 12 years old.

The saddest words I ever heard him say were, "My daddy never loved me." I don't think it was not hearing, "I love you" but never seeing any evidence of that love.

Daddy left home at a young age and worked many different

jobs. When his grandmother died, he bought the tombstone for her grave.

After Mother died when he was in his mid-80s, he started grieving over his mother having no marker for her grave. It broke his heart that he didn't do the one act of love for her that he could have. It broke our hearts to see his grieving.

Of course, he had nothing of his mother to remember her by. On his last birthday, though, he was given a few things that we

still have: some clothing, a pair of shoes, a few locks of her hair, a purse, and a cape. One thing we cherish is a picture of her that reveals how much Middle Sister looked like her.

Daddy's regret was one that could be set right. Our search began. We knew how old she was because of the census records. We knew what day she was buried because of a newspaper article. We knew that her parents were buried beside her grave.

After diligently searching, we still had to guess the day she died. That was a secret we never told Daddy. But we had her tombstone prepared with what we

knew.

On a memorable day, Daddy, JB, Sister No. 1, and I made the trip to the family cemetery in the boonies to install a tombstone some 87 years after the fact.

JB was experienced by then in installing tombstones. With a friend in the monument business giving him instructions, he had already installed Mother and Daddy's double monument and the Diva and her husband's double monument.

With JB doing most of the work and Daddy "helping," Alzena's burial place was marked. But we had nothing to guide us in placing the tombstone but Daddy's memory. We placed her marker beside her parents. It may not be exact, but it's close.

The funny part of JB's becoming a part-time tombstone installer is that all the tombstones he installed stand straight today; his own marker installed by a professional stands a little crooked.

What I've learned from Daddy's regret is that regrets not dealt with tend to linger and grow worse as we age. Most regrets, too, are from things left undone rather than what we have done. He never regretted time he spent visiting a father who didn't seem to love him. He always spent time with him and

showed him respect until his father died.

Some regrets can't be resolved: words left unsaid to a departed friend or family member; love unexpressed to someone; poor choices that can't be unchosen.



You may have some regrets of your own.

Regrets can certainly rob us of peace. How can we live a life of no regrets? We can't.

But the closer we are to the Lord and the more obedient we are to his guidance, the less we will have to regret. An old song reminds me, "And I don't regret a mile I've traveled for the Lord; I don't regret the times I've trusted in His Word. I've seen the years go by, many days without a song. But I don't regret a mile I've traveled for the Lord" Howard Goodman.

Making decisions with prayer and guidance will prevent many choices that we might regret later. But the quicker we respond to regrets, the less time we dwell on them. Our unresolved regrets don't go away but seem to grow and grow. And one day it may be too late to resolve them.

Many of my decisions are made and have been made with this question in mind: Will I regret doing this or not doing this? I remember my daddy and don't want to have lingering regrets.

Living a life of no regrets, or few regrets, might mean not dwelling on memories or mistakes unless they draw us closer to the Lord. It might mean that we have been reminded of changes we need to make (repentance), and we do. Or it might mean that Paul's words help us to focus on the future, "let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" Hebrews 12:1. I don't think Paul regretted his past.

With the desire to live my life with no regrets and to fill it with joy, I remain In His grip.

## Wrongly Accused and Imprisoned

by Holly Meriweather  
from MissionWorld Magazine

Pastor Bismark Trujillo is one of David Dickson's "jungle pastors." He and other pastors in this area of Nicaragua choose to work to plant churches in this difficult-to-access part of the country that, with very few exceptions, is only accessible by horse and cart.

Pastor Bismark pastors a church in the Wapi region where, according to Brother David, "someone always has something for you to carry to someone else." It was because of his willingness to carry a package - without knowing its contents - to someone at his destination that the worst happened: Military checkpoint police found drugs in his bag.

Although the drugs were not his, Bismark refused to defend himself or name the person who asked him to carry the package. He was told that if he gave any

information about the individual, his wife and children would be killed.

A lawyer pastor in Nicaragua helped with Bismark's defense fees, but his wife eventually had to sell everything they had to pay for his services. However, they were not successful, and he was sentenced to five years in prison.

He had decided not to let anyone in the prison know that he was a pastor. Even still, when he arrived at the prison, he told fellow prisoners that he would

His current ministry includes a family that is helping sponsor the work and has given him permission to use their building for a church plant

not be in prison for five years. "Why?" they asked. "Because I know someone," Bismark told them. "So who is it that you know?" his fellow prisoners asked.

"Jesus," Bismark answered.

Normally a new prisoner is

stripped, beaten, and humiliated, but for some reason, this did not happen to him, and he gives credit to God for being spared that beating.

While in prison Pastor Bismark says that he began repeatedly hearing God whisper to him, "Romans 1:16." Because God continued to whisper the verse, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ," he shared his faith with fellow prisoners and 32 men made professions of faith while he was there.

Bro. David recently visited

Bismark and says that he is a changed man who loves to plant churches like the other pastors in the Wapi area who choose to live in the jungle instead of cities. His faith has been strengthened, his attitude - Bro. David says, is completely positive and



Pastor Bismark and his wife

he's even more on fire for presenting the gospel to non-believers.

His current ministry includes a family that is helping sponsor the work and has given him permission to use their building for a church plant. Please pray for Bismark as he reaches the broken with his own story of brokenness, deliverance, and faith in God to use the worst of circumstances to glorify his name.

# WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

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## FEBRUARY - Enlistment Month for Women's Missionary Auxiliary

by Brenda Hornaday  
National WMA 1st Vice President

February is the month that has been set aside by the National WMA to encourage women to become active in their local church's women's ministry. Due to COVID, many of our churches and their ministries have experienced a decline in attendance during the past two years. Hope-fully we will soon see an end to this pandemic.

The National WMA theme for 2021-2022 is "INTENTIONAL". Ephesians 5:15-16 says "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil." As we try to build our attendance back up, I challenge each lady of your women's ministry to be "intentional" in encouraging new ladies to attend your meetings by making the most of every opportunity.

### Ways to be Intentional:

Individually invite each lady in your church to come to your meetings or Bible Study (in person, by telephone, text, or email)

Have the meetings or Bible Study times printed in your church's bulletin, Facebook Page, and website

Promote the topic of your meeting or study with colorful posters placed in strategic places in the church

Be excited about your ministry and share the things you are learning in conversations with those ladies not attending

Look for ways your group can meet the needs of all the ladies in your church

Poll the ladies of the church to see what they would like to get from your ministry

Have an informal get-together with finger foods to let the ladies of the church become more personally acquainted

Have special events such as Mother/Daughter teas, Valentine's Banquets, painting parties, etc. to get the ladies interested in meeting together

Make sure your meetings and Bible Studies are bathed in prayer and are structured to provide spiritual growth for each lady in attendance

Let's strive to enlist new ladies in our women's ministries during this new year.

## Lessons

from page 5

an emergency to lead passengers safely out of the plane. The dependability of those lights is crucial as they may be the difference between total chaos and getting to safety. They may be the difference between life and death.

The same can be said of Jesus. He made it perfectly clear that He alone is the light of the world. He is the answer to the chaos in our lives today. And He is the difference between spiritual life and death. So following that light is the most crucial thing that we can do for this life and the next.

"Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, 'I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you have the light that leads to life.'" (John 8:12)

### 4. Doors

Another important point in the safety presentation was pointing out the doors of the aircraft. It's certainly not difficult to understand the importance of knowing where the doors are as they provide our access to being saved in an emergency situation.

Jesus also referred to Himself as the door that provides the only access to our being saved. Period.

"I am the door; by me if any man enters in, he shall be saved."

### 5. Oxygen masks

The flight attendant went on to tell us about the oxygen masks that deploy should the cabin lose pressure and gave us two specific points that stood out to me.

First, she told us that the inflatable bag on the oxygen tube might not inflate, yet we could be assured that oxygen was flowing. Well, it takes faith to believe that. Just like it takes faith to believe that Jesus is always with us and providing for us even when we don't sense His presence. There will be moments in our life where we are unable see Christ working on our behalf, but He is. We have to make the choice to believe that.

The other point that stood out to me was the instruction to put on our own mask first before trying to help children or others dependent on us. That seems counterintuitive to me. But the truth is that we cannot take care of others that depend on us if we allow ourselves to become incapacitated. So we must take care of ourselves physically, emotionally, and spiritually in order to help others.

### 6. Seat belts

The safety talk always comes with the instruction to buckle our seatbelts in case of unexpected turbulence. Life, just like

flights, always carries the potential for unexpected turbulence. So we had better be prepared. And I know of no better companion amidst turbulence than Jesus.

### 7. Flotation device

Lastly was the instruction about using our seat cushion as a flotation device if needed. There will be times in our life when we will be in over our heads in some situation. We may feel like we are drowning and barely able to gasp for air. And Jesus may be our only hope of staying afloat. Just like knowing that cushion is there to keep us afloat physically, what a comfort it should be to know that He is there to keep us afloat when the waters of life are dark and rough.

So there you have it. Instead of a Sermon on the Mount, you have a sermon on the plane. Maybe not as theologically profound as I would have heard in church. Maybe you even think it silly. But possibly it contains a point or two that has some relevance to you. And hopefully, it encourages you to listen for God speaking to you even when you least expect it.

We are never promised a smooth flight in life. But with Jesus as our pilot, we can relax and enjoy the flight, having full faith in our final destination.

So buckle up.

## Ten Mile District WMA

by Maria Ochoa, Reporter

Our Theme: *Search Me and Know My Heart*. Psalm 139:23

The Ten Mile WMA met recently at Paramount Baptist Church, Perkinston. Our new officers are President Jean Knight, 1st Vice President Dena Ellzey, 2nd Vice President Cathy Rhodes, Secretary/Treasurer Lorna Shoemaker, Reporter Maria Ochoa, Song Leader Alana Woods, Pianist Jean Knight, Historian Maria Ochoa, District/State Project Promoter Kathy Rhodes.

Projects are as follows: 2021-2022 District Project Bro. Daniel Allen, St Martin/D'Iberville Mississippi; State Project Living Hope Mission, Meridian; National Project Darlene Carey Academy.

Paramount Baptist Church gave the Devotional, and the Program was presented by GMAs and Sunbeams.

Our next meetings are as follows: April 11, 2022, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church; July 11, Ten Mile Baptist Church; and October 10 Temple Baptist Church.

## GIRLS'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

State GMA Director Jessica Haden

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## GMA Camp Upcoming... The Kingdom of God

by Gabby Cochran  
2022 Junior Miss GMA

Good morning! My name is Gabby Cochran and I am Junior Miss Mississippi 2022. I am now completing my princess step and am so excited to move on to the queen steps to come! I was wondering...

Have you made plans for camp this year? We sure have! The current GMA officers and I, have planned the fun theme of The Kingdom of God, complete with renaissance decorations, games, and costumes! Our verse is Matthew 6:33 which says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Mississippi GMAs will host this year's girl's camp at Campground Baptist Church in Gulfport on March 25th and 26th.

Be on the lookout for your registration letter and camp shirt order form. There will be more information available there.

We will have games, fellowship, and most importantly worship Jesus!! We're so excited to come together again this year! We ask that you pray for our camp this year and our officers as they lead it! We hope to see you there!

## 50 Years in the Ministry

by Director Don Brown

Since the inception of the Commission on Senior Adults one of the highlights and blessings of this group is to honor those individuals who have been in the Gospel ministry for 50 years or more. We are looking for those men who have dedicated their lives to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Preacher, if this applies to you then please contact me soon with this information. Church member, if you suspect or know of a man who has been preaching for 50 years or more and has not already been recognized by this commission, please contact the Senior Adult Director at **601-426-3293**. We need to make sure that no minister is overlooked.

God bless those who preach the Gospel of peace. They are worthy of honor.

## Senior Adult Commission



# THE BACK PAGE

## MINISTERING TO YOUNG PEOPLE

by Anders Lee

### What Teens Need Today!

Teens are spoiled! Let's face it... they have iPhones, Xboxs, PS5s, flat screen TV's in their rooms, computers ... the list goes on. I honestly can't keep up anymore! This probably won't be a popular article with teens to be honest and some parents may disagree. But I think it is time to go back to the good ole days!

house." WOW! So, I taught him to mow.

#### Teens need us to stop doing things for them.

One of the worst things parents do is wake their kids up in the morning. Carla and I use to wake up Zac & Roo and we found out something. We



Anders Lee

**But in all seriousness, it's up to us to raise them to succeed and we are not doing them any favors if we do everything for them.**

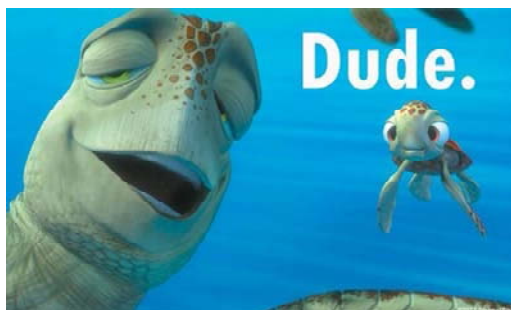
Back in the day teens worked. We mowed yards. We pulled corn and picked tomatoes and hauled hay in the summertime. We cleaned our rooms up. You get the point. We got a good ole whoopin when we needed it too! I'm sure I was spoiled to some degree... but oh my... these days these kids are spoiled ROT-TEN!!! So here are some things teens need today!

#### Teens need to learn to be responsible.

Give them chores! We are raising a generation of kids that don't know how to mow their yard or make a bed! Now I'm going to call one out... well I already did at our church. Cullen Jackson is a super young man at our church. Really, he is... I was mowing at the church one day and he said I wish I could help. I said, "You can! Here, finish this section and I will weed eat." He said, "I don't know how!" I said, "WHAT?!?!?" He said, "I have never mowed before, I don't know how!" True story!!!! He continued, "We always paid someone to do it at our

were enabling them to depend on us too much. That was just one area in which we were doing it. We stopped. Guess what, we haven't woken up kids for school in over 4 years. Siera and Simon get up on their own.

I can hear someone say, "well mine would miss the bus." Let them! When they do, have a list of long chores for them to do and wear them out! You will teach them a lesson that day that they won't get at school! I guarantee you after a day of 15 chores including but not limited to: vacuuming all floors, cleaning all toilets, windexing windows, sweeping out garage, cleaning out cat box (we have one of those spawns of Satan - do you want her - I know I sound mean), cleaning shelves in the fridge, raking leaves,



etc... listen I promise you they will GET UP the next day! Ask Simon Lee... he decided to sleep in one day. When I got back, he had a list a mile long!

Which brings me to my next point.

#### Teens need us to let them grow up.

There is one reason they are spoiled... go look in the mirror and you will have the answer. For some parents it's about micro-management and control. They HAVE TO be the one calling every little detail of a teen's life. Let them grow up to be functioning adults! If we are the ones doing everything for them, they won't grow up. Studies have found that parents who teach their kids to do things, and then back off and let them do it, watch their kids succeed in life more than kids who had Mom pamper them!

They can do things on their own and they should! Teach them and then watch them grow & go! Once kids are 13, they should be making their breakfast, packing their lunch, filing out school paperwork and making their beds and doing their laundry. Yep... you read that right! Teenagers need us to stop doing things for them so they can grow up!

Let me ask you something. What is your parenting goal? Is it to raise competent and capable adults? If so, then let's work on backing off in areas where our teens can stand on their own two feet. I know they're our babies and it feels good to hover over them at times. But in all seriousness, it's up to us to raise them to succeed and we are not doing them any favors if we do everything for them.

Yes, there will be those moments when you want to show them love and do something for them, especially when

you know they are doing all they can to be responsible, but as a rule... let them grow up... make them responsible... stop doing it all for them! Take a deep breath and watch them go!!!

It's like that moment in Finding Nemo when Nemo sees Squirt, Crush's lil boy, loose control and get out of his dad's reach. Nemo panicked but Crush told him to chill out and see what the lil guy could do. Squirt did just fine! Why? Crush had trained him for the moment then let Squirt prove himself! Who are you? Nemo who does everything and protects them from everything, or Crush?

Sometimes kids/teens will fail. That's ok! But teach them, equip them, then release them to become what God is designing them to be!

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

## 2022 Master's Builders Retreat

by Nelda Malone, reporter

The Master's Builders annual retreat was January 11-14, at Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment, in Gary, Texas. Twenty-two of our group attended the retreat that gives us a time to reconnect and just enjoy our time together. We enjoy a few days of food, fun and fellowship.



We had our annual business meeting and learned of the upcoming jobs for 2022. It looks to be a busy year if all goes as planned. There are several projects planned in Texas and Arkansas. As we all know by now, these plans can change. We are trusting God with this.

Thanks to Jason Prewitt for all he does at Daniel Springs and to Morgan Sandifer for being available to help us with everything we needed.

There were so many of our group who were just not able to make the retreat this year. We missed you so much. Our prayer is that we can gather together this year and do the work that we have the privilege to do, if it's the Lord's will.

If you have questions about The Master's Builders ministry or if your church has building needs, please contact: Eddie Sikes at 407-462-1675, Mike Green at 972-935-3877, or David Axe at 903-918-0720

Also, like us on Facebook at "The Master's Builders".

## Redeemed

from page 2

sit up front during services, so he did not see Francelina come in one evening and sit on the back row. I was excited to see her, but there was no way I could get his attention that she was there, so instead I prayed, "Lord, let this night be the night of salvation for her."

God had been working in her heart, and during that service when the opportunity came to make a decision, Francelina almost ran to the front without Claudino even realizing it. Then he saw her at the altar, and his facial expression was indescribable. He joined her there and I knelt with them as she gave her life to the Lord that night.

Later Francelina was with a group of new converts "making a profession of faith," which was the tradition. After

her baptism with other new believers that night, she asked to sing a song: "At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light and the burden of my heart rolled away, it was there by faith I received my sight and now I am happy all the day." Many tears were shed that night.

A few weeks later they were married, and it wasn't long before Claudino made known his call to ministry. They were the best I'd ever seen at leading others to Christ, drawing people to church, and creating relationships. They love people and are very fruitful in ministry.

The first church plant where they served was in Salamansa, a little fishing village, then they went to another fishing village on the other side of the island



called Calahau. After that they planted a church in Santo Antao then returned to Saint Vincent where he is now interim pastor for that original church in Saint Vincent. Just recently they went to the island of Sao Nicolau where they are now pastoring a church.

I am so blessed to have walked that journey with them from their own brokenness to their call to serve broken people, and I'm proud to call them brother and sister.