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New Date for South Senior Adult Conference



We had to change the date of the South Senior Adult Conference. The new date is **Tuesday March 14th**. We will meet at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso and have a great program planned.

See more information on page 2.

2023 National Meeting Features Missions Dinner

"...share a meal with our American missionary"

The 2023 BMA National Meeting (April 25-27 in Conway, Arkansas) will offer several exciting schedule changes for those who attend. One of those "firsts" is the chance to visit and share a meal with our American missionary personnel from around the world.

On Wednesday night, April 26, the meeting location will shift from Antioch to the Conway Expo Center located on Highway 64, east of Conway. This "Dinner on the Grounds" missions celebration includes a catfish/chicken dinner, night of worship, and inspiring message by BMA Missionary Buddy Johnson. What an opportunity to meet, celebrate,

and find out more about your missionaries!

This Wednesday evening event will be a special time for the association to come together and celebrate our missionary God and encourage our missionaries. At the conclusion of the national meeting our missionary families will depart for a conference sponsored by Missionary Care.

Cost for the dinner is \$25.00/person for food and event setup. Registration and payment is required for "Dinner on the Grounds" at bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting. Make plans now to be a part of this exciting evening of worship and fellowship!

Come to Conway!

by Clif Johnson, president
BMA of America

I am overjoyed to invite all of our BMA Churches to Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas, for the 74th Annual BMA National Conference on April 25-27 (Tuesday through Thursday). We are an association of churches who have banded together to fulfill our Lord's Great Commission. We are churches who GO to the WORLD, with THE WORD, and we GO TOGETHER. With that in mind, on Tuesday night, for our opening session, we will be thinking along the theme of "Go to the Word", and the need to be a strong doctrinal people. On Wednesday afternoon, Bro. David McMurray, pastor of Blackwood Baptist Church in New Jersey, will be preaching on the theme of "Go to the World"—our commission as churches. That evening will be a special night where Bro. Buddy Johnson will address our churches on the theme of "Go Together", emphasizing how we fulfill the commission as an association.



These three biblical commands will guide our worship services throughout the week, along with breakout sessions addressing real-world problems and the Bible's guidance and answers to them, such as mental health in our membership, addressing sexual abuse within the church, and leadership in the church.

One feature that is certain to set this year's meeting apart will be our Missionary Dinner on the Grounds to be held on Wednesday night at the Conway Expo Center. All are invited to attend this landmark evening where you will be able to meet each of our mission-

aries. You can register for this dinner at <https://bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting>. (All dinner reservations must be made by April 1.)

Additionally, we will be hosting a new pastor's orientation, as well as a call-to-action meeting for all of our state and local associational officers to be held on Wednesday morning at Central Baptist College.

This association of churches is YOUR association. So let us gather together with great joy as we celebrate all that God has done through her and let us also come prepared to strengthen our bonds even more as we GO!

ReCharged in Prayer

ReCharge Conference is over and behind us. However, the impact and inspiration from this wonderful time where our souls (spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual, and relational) were ministered to through worship, God's Word, fellowship, laughter, and just having some fun. We prayed over one another, for one another, and with one another. Our keynote speaker, Bill Elliff, reminded us that the most powerful person in any room is the one who is praying. Bill stated, "The man who prays brings God into the equation."

His challenge was to make a major adjustment in our daily prayer practices simply beginning by praying more right now. The greatest classroom for learning how to pray is on our knees praying. First Thessalonians 5:17 tells us to pray without ceasing. That means we can pray without an intermission. Bill stated, "God knows that your life will not work



if you are not talking to Him." Pastor, we are in the midst of a battle for the souls of our churches and the devil's number one priority is to stop the Lord's church from moving forward and advancing His kingdom. Honestly, have you ever known anyone who said that they prayed too much?

Unfortunately, we talk about prayer, we say we believe in prayer, we challenge people to pray, but do we pray? God has called us to live a supernatural life that requires His supernatural presence. He has called us to a supernatural work that requires supernatural power, the Holy Spirit.

This requires prayer and praying without ceasing for a divine invasion of God's presence in your life and in your church. Are you willing to submit to this constant, ruthless evaluation of your life and your church: Is God present? First Thessalonians 5:17 is an imperative command and reminds us of how much God desires and wants our prayers.

It is easy to focus so much on what to pray that we forget to focus on how to enter His presence in order to pray. Bill did a wonderful job of showing us out of Matthew 6 (see his book *Simply Prayer*) how to enter in, because prayer is such an unnatural lane for us. The best classroom for prayer is praying and before Jesus tells us what to say He shows us the essential, preparatory elements.

First, enter in with sincerity. In Matthew 6:5 Jesus makes it very clear that pride must not be in our hearts. Bill states, "He (God) actively stands in opposition to

Continued on page 5

World Missions Day is February 26, 2023

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bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday

Jerry Kidd Missions Offering

MISSIONS

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Senior Adult Ministry

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South Mississippi Senior Conference all set

Our South Senior Adult Conference is shaping up to be one of the best yet. We have had to change the date, but we are still on track for a good meeting. March 14 at Big Creek Baptist Church!

Bro. Brandon Wilson will be directing our music for the day, Bro. Anders Lee, our new state Youth director, will be our guest speaker. Our special music group is one you will enjoy. **Avenue** is their name and they will bring our afternoon concert.

Mack's Fish House will again provide our meal and the good folks of Big Creek Church are again our gracious hosts.

We are asking something special of our churches and senior saints...we again want to take special projects. BMMI (Baptist Medical Missions International) will be our guests and one of our projects. They do outstanding work and will share their min-

istry. Our State Youth Department is back and things are looking up! They too will be a project.

Here is what we are asking of our churches. Would you send a special offering with your Seniors to be shared by these two ministries? Seniors, will you come prepared to also give a personal offering for these? What a great opportunity to share in the reaching of souls both in Mississippi and around the world!

Cost Increase

All costs in every area of our lives have gone up. This will cause us to raise the cost to \$20.00 per person this year. Churches, would you pay your Senior Adults' fees? This will help them out and be such a blessing to them.

Pray for God's blessings on this meeting. See You At Big Creek Church on March 14!



Brandon Wilson



Anders Lee



Avenue

BMA "Dinner On The Ground" at National Meeting

Reservations must be made by April 1, 2023 to attend

The BMA National Meeting, scheduled for April 25-27 in Conway, Arkansas, will feature a night of fellowship, food, inspiration and worship at the first ever BMA "Dinner On The Ground". The event will be Wednesday night, April 26 at the Conway Expo Center. According to Dr. John David Smith, Executive Director of BMA Global Missions, this promises to be the highlight of the 2023 National Meeting. "For the first time in many years all our American-based missionaries will be home from around the world. We want all of our BMA family to join us in honoring them and encouraging them that night. It's going to be a special time."

The event will take place around an all-you-can-eat catfish/chicken dinner. The cost for the meal is \$25/person. To ensure the appropriate amount of food is ordered, reservations and payment must be made before April 1, 2023 at <https://bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting/>. Payment will not be accepted at the door.

The night will also feature the presentation of the Gerald Kellar Award presented annually by the BMA Seminary, a special message by veteran BMA Missionary, Buddy Johnson, and a wonderful night of music that will include the Central Baptist College Choir.

A limited number of hotel rooms have been acquired at a special rate that will expire on March 25, 2023. You will find booking links at <https://bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting/> or you may call the hotels listed below and ask for the special rate under the group name BMA National Meeting:

- Holiday Inn Express - 501-205-1315 - \$94
- Hampton Inn by Hilton - 501-327-0200- \$104
- Courtyard Marriott - 501-358-3300 - \$114
- Hilton Garden Inn - 501-329-1444 - \$119
- Home2 Suites by Hilton - 501-504-2602 - \$124

The BMA National Meeting will look different this year with much more of a "conference" atmosphere. BMA President Clif Johnson says he is expecting a great response from BMA churches across the country, adding, "The format for the meeting is completely new this year. There will be plenty of time for us to take care of the appropriate business at hand, but more importantly, we will be worshipping our God and hearing from wonderful speakers. In addition, all of our American missionaries from around the world will be home! It's going to be a great couple of days!"

2023 BMA National Meeting Schedule

BMA Global Ministry Center opens at 9:00 am for tours.

April 25			
6:00 pm	Worship- Clif Johnson & Antioch Worship Band Antioch Baptist Church		<i>Leading for Growth</i> Pastor, Bill Elliff <i>Spanish speakers Breakout</i> Elvis Garcia
7:30 pm	Meet Your Missionaries Fellowship Time	10:30 am - 1:30 pm-	Global Missions Center Tours
8:45 pm	Close	12:00 pm-	State and Local Leaders Lunch BMA Global Missions Center
April 26		1:30 pm-	Worship Service Pastor David McMurray Antioch Baptist Church
7:30 am	Breakfast provided by Central Baptist College CBC	3:00 pm-	Legacy Missionary Service Antioch Baptist Church
8:00 am	New BMA Pastors Orientation Central College		Introduction of New BMA Missionaries
9:00 am	WMA Meeting Central College Brotherhood Antioch Church	6:00 pm-	"BMA Dinner On The Ground" Conway Expo Center
9:30 am	Pastors Conf. Antioch Church <i>The Leadership Imperative</i> Dr. Steven Crawley <i>Preventing Abuse and Protecting Your Church</i> B'hood Mutual <i>Helping Members with Mental Health Needs</i> Lee Poe	8:30 pm-	Close
		April 27	
		8:30 am-	BMA Department Reports Antioch Baptist Church

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Jerry Kidd Missions Offering

MISSIONS

Anders Lee - Director - 901-343-3293 - ander.lee571@gmail.com

Anders Lee

pare to the glory days. Will teens even come?

Well... I want to give you a sneak peek at what will be part of my message at the Mid-year meeting in May. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." I also remember what Paul said to the Ephesians. He said God can "do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think."

I believe that God is **NOT DONE** with the Youth of the BMA of Mississippi. I believe there will be more "glory days." I know that there are teens out there that need the Lord. I know there are some who already love Him, and they want to see God do something great. I know there are pastors and youth pastors that want to see God work in mighty ways in THIS GENERATION! Those glory days are gone... yes... but God is ready to do things NOW! He is the same God today as He was then! He is up to something! Get ready for what He is about to do!

What is your part? It is to not accept the way things are! It's to see God at work and have faith in Him! It is to work hard in your church and be diligent to get teens involved there on a local level. It is to motivate teens to come to camp! It's to be part of what is about to happen! It is to PRAY and ask God to start something in our day that we know will glorify Him and bring souls into His kingdom! It's to be a leader and get them on board! After that we leave the rest up to Him! Sit back and watch Him work! I think you get the point!

I'm excited about the future. I love the past... the glory days... but I'm excited about the future!!! Will you join me on a journey to rebuild and restore our youth department? If you will let me hear about it! 901-343-3293 or Anders. Lee571@gmail.com. I need your help and prayers to see it come to pass!

are going to be alright. You can go in for a short visit now." That is good news to an anxiously waiting soul! There is joy in the morning as those words flow from the physician's lips to eager, waiting ears. It is a joy of relief. It is a joy of thanksgiving. Your family member is going to get well! They are going to be able to continue to be a part of your family.

At this point after the ordeal of the long night, there must be pause - pause to remember the Great Physician who brought all this healing and miracle to pass. "Sing to the LORD, you his faithful ones, and praise his holy name." How this event brings us to Him in praise! Even if we cannot sing a note, our hearts sing to the Lord in gratitude for His graciousness in this hour after our hours of deepest darkness. "...there is joy in the morning."

came to our youth committee and gave a devotion for us January 16th...) says that just those churches would have over 200 teens come to a meeting. It was amazing! That was back in the "glory days." When we moved back to Mississippi in 1977, my dad became the pastor at Leetown. We attended camp in Mississippi. I remember a big bunch of kids and teens! It was the glory days, right? It was!

Fast forward to 1999... I was the youth pastor at Calvary in Horn Lake, Mississippi. We took our teens to camps and things all over. 1999 was my first year to take the youth from Calvary to camp here in the State. I was stunned that there were nearly 500 teens jammed up into the auditorium at Perk. WOW! I mean I was really surprised by that. It stayed that way for 5 or 6 years. Those were some special days... yes... "glory days!" Lots of teens were saved and many of them are still active in our state work. They remember those days too! In fact, since I have become the director, some have shared their memories! It's been great hearing those stories.

But that was then... and this is now... It's been a weird time. We haven't had camp since 2019. COVID... yeah that... Youth aren't as interested in camp and meetings anymore. Snap Chat... TikTok... they all dominate our days. Can we even expect anything to happen that would com-

The Glory Days

I have made it three months into being the State Youth Director and I have to say it's been fast, yet it's been super fun and we haven't even had a youth event yet. WHY has it been fun? I know some of you are hearing that we have seen God work in the amount of money being raised for the department. But that is NOT why I am excited. To tell you why, let me rewind back in time a bit. Here we go...

It is 1974. Yes, I was alive then. I was three years old. In the heart of our state were 5 churches. Sharon, Big Creek, First Shady Grove, Lebanon, and Springhill. I think they all belonged to the Big Creek Association then. I am sure there were others, but this is not my story. Not my memory... right... how can a three-year-old know this. I was in New Mexico where my dad was working for Vermejo Park and planting a church in Raton. My only concern at the time was eating my oatmeal and corn flakes for breakfast. Not sure why, but I loved that as a kid... mixed them together. Everyday... yup! But that is not the glory days I'm referring to here.

So back to the thought. Oh yeah, the five churches... Those churches and others would gather up for monthly meetings in the Big Creek Association. Then it was called "Youth in the Harvest." Remember those? Bro. Leon Carmical, the one I heard this from (he

Leave It To Cleaver

By Tony Cleaver

Dr. Tony Cleaver is a retired U.S. Army Chaplain and Director of Distance Learning for BMA Seminary. He may be contacted at jstmcleaver@gmail.com

Joy in the Morning

Psalm 30 verses 4 - 5: "Sing to the LORD, you his faithful ones, and praise his holy name. For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor, a lifetime. Weeping may stay overnight, but there is joy in the morning."

Most of us in life's journey have had the long night at the hospital - waiting in the coldness on hard chairs with furtive thoughts regarding a loved one who lies on the bed sick, deathly sick, in unconsciousness. The doctors and specialists have said "We don't know but will wait to see how it is

in the morning." Morning comes, and it comes early to the waiting family. Slowly, without any alacrity or dispatch, the doctors make their rounds hours after the expectant family has been up.

Finally, after delaying for what seems like countless, mind-numbing, soul hammering hours, the doctors and nurses gather around the pensive family. The chief doctor speaks: "It's good news. Your loved one is awake now. The danger has passed. They



Dr. Tony Cleaver

2023 STUDENT CAMP INFORMATION

by Anders Lee, State Youth Director

Just as a reminder, student camp this year is at Lake Tiak O'Khata in Louisville, Mississippi, July 17-20, 2023! It is time NOW to get your teens signed up for camp! Start a sign-up process at your church and push it in your bulletin and monthly publications/handouts!

COST: \$75 per camper! The department will be paying approximately \$125 on your behalf per camper! That's huge!

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: May 15, 2023, You can give us an estimated number when you register now, but we must have your actual and final number on this date in May.

THEME: A NEW BEGINNING!

REGISTER: Get registered by contacting Rosemary Davis. Her email is rosemaryfdavis@yahoo.com. You may also call or text her at 601-433-2424.

DEPOSIT: There is a **\$25 deposit for all campers upon registration. Send the deposit to our financial secretary, Brandy Riley at 454 Lebanon Rd. Laurel, MS 39443.**

CALL ME: You can contact me any time at 901-343-3293!

Honor To Whom Honor Is Due

by Anders Lee
State Youth Director

Bro. Latrelle Windham was an excellent leader in our midst for many years. He was faithful to the task of putting quality events on for our association's churches and teens. His hard work and legacy should never be forgotten in our midst. We were so blessed by him! His kind spirit, constant planning and his encouraging ways deserve something in a way of recognition for his posterity!

I am pleased to announce that the youth trustees and I have officially and formally named the annual March Youth Department Special Emphasis Offering after him. In our March paper we will be sharing photos and facts from his time as director. We feel this will honor him as well as inspire individuals and churches who knew him to give in his name and for the continuance of what drove him to serve every day! We want to recapture his vision and passion in 2023 moving forward!

So, next month we will take up the first annual "Latrelle Windham" Special Emphasis Offering. Our goal will be \$15,000!!! I want to ask all of you who knew him to pray about giving! Individuals who were touched by his life can give. Churches who have leaders in them that surrendered to ministry at camp. People who own companies etc... Give as you are led and blessed. Any amount helps the department and will be used for goals and events in 2023!

At the Mid-year meeting and at summer camp this year we plan to unveil a special honor for him as well. By doing so leaders of today's association and the youth of today can see the past while enjoying the present!!! I look forward to honoring him in such a way. If it is permissible, we want this display to be permanently located in the lobby of the BMA of Mississippi building in Laurel.



Bro. Latrelle Windham

Mississippi Galileans Prepare for Camp

by Mark Jones, Galilean Promoter

The Mississippi Galileans still exist. After not being able to do anything during the Covid years we are trying to get everything restarted in the Mississippi Galileans.

We will have Galilean Camp March 10-11, 2023, at Campground Camp in Gulfport, Mississippi. Our theme this year will be EXAMPLE. Our theme verses will be 1 Timothy 4:12, 1 Peter 2:21.

I will be contacting our churches about camp, and if your church is thinking of starting a Galilean program or just want to bring your young men to a camp please contact me. My cell # 662-322-65165 and my email is stonwall@yahoo.com We would love to have you at camp.

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION MISSIONS OF MISSISSIPPI

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440
Phone: 601-428-8616 Email: missions@bmams.org
Chris Yager, Interim Director

The fields are white unto harvest!

by Bro. Chris Yager
Philippians 1:27

Jesus told His disciples to pray that the Lord of the Harvest would send forth laborers into the fields for they were white already to harvest. So often, we do not see Mississippi as a "true" Mission Field, but it is! In our state, we have at least 5 cities with over a 70% unchurched or de-churched ratio. These statistics reveal that less than 30% of Mississippians, in these areas, are not in any "church" on a Sunday morning.



Chris Yager

Across Mississippi as a whole, the statistics tell us that 67% of Mississippi households *do not have even 1* born again believer living in the house. This statistic tells that 2/3rds of Mississippians are without a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. To put this in perspective, we would send missionaries to a foreign country in a hurry with statistics like these. Mississippi is in dire need of Missionaries, and a renewed focus on reaching our Jerusalem and Judea. Will you pray with me that the Lord of the Harvest would send forth laborers into the fields of Mississippi? Will you pray that the Lord would reenergize the local churches and believers in Mississippi with a renewed vision of local evangelism? The Fields are ripe and ready for harvest; Let us pray and share with confidence!

We want to equip you to this end!!

On Tuesdays, beginning February 7th at 7:00 am at the missions office, we are going to host a weekly Coffee and Prayer fellowship. This will be a time to begin praying for laborers, as well as the needs of our local churches. Come be a part of the Lord stoking the fires of revival in our state as we pray for His will and work to be accomplished.

Additionally, after those Tuesday Coffee and Prayer times, we will be offering ministry training and development for anyone who would like to attend. We will be concentrating on practical topics such as church revitalization, community outreach, leadership, handling the hard questions within our culture, as well as other topics.

On top of these weekly helps, we are planning an ACTS 1:8 development Conference in August themed "Reaching Our Jerusalem". This will not be your traditional missions conference! This conference will be designed to motivate, equip, and prepare our churches to return to their home churches on fire to make a difference in their own backyard. We will have breakout sessions for pastors, youth pastors, missionaries, leaders, laymen, ladies, teens, and children. For our churches in the South, the dates will be August

20-22. For our churches in the North, the dates will be August 23-25.

Revolving Loan Fund Update:

God is continuing to bless our Revolving Loan Fund. Since the inception of the RLF, God has used this unique ministry to fund over \$80,000,000.00 in loans to missions, churches, pastors, and missionaries. These funds have allowed many a mission, church, pastor, missionary the opportunity to buy or build when a traditional bank would not even consider. With so many helped, it is hard to quantify the number of souls that have been saved, or the number of believers that have been encouraged, discipled, and restored. The Lord is using your personal investments to invest in eternity. The

Revolving Loan Fund is an awesome opportunity to invest in missions while investing in your personal goals. God is so good. He takes our investments and multiplies them with eternal dividends.

Because of a large loan that we have taken on, we have removed any deposit limit and **are accepting all deposits at any amount.** With the changing rates, we are working to keep our deposit rates competitive. Please call or email the office for current adjusted deposit rates.

We are so blessed to serve you! If there is any way that we can be a blessing to you or your church, please don't hesitate to call our office. May the Lord do great things in and through us as we strive together for the faith of the Gospel!

Applications Being Taken for

BMA of Mississippi Director of Missions

The Committee Chairs for the BMA of Mississippi Missions and Revolving Loan Fund, in accordance with the state handbook, are seeking resumes for the position of Director of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund. You can send your resume to the Missions Office at 4226 Hwy 15 North Laurel, MS 39440. If you have any questions, please feel to contact Bro. Harold Floyd, the Chairman of the Missions Committee, at 601-323-1887, or Bro. Kenneth Lott, the Chairman of the Revolving Loan Fund, at ken.lott1955@att.net. Please have your resume submitted by February 28th, 2023.



SOAR 2023
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DEVOTED
DEVOTED
DEVOTED

JULY 3-5, 2023
GAYLORD TEXAN, GRAPEVINE TEXAS



REGISTRATION

\$135.00 PER PERSON
DEADLINE IS JUNE 4, 2023

\$150.00 PER PERSON
AFTER JUNE 4, 2023 DEADLINE

GAYLORD TEXAN

\$139.00 PER ROOM
UNTIL JUNE 10, 2023



CHRIS VINES



NATHAN BREWER



SOAR COLLECTIVE



STEPHEN CASTLEBERRY



DONNY PARRISH



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

The Ones That Got Away

Do you ever think about the one that got away? It might have been a fish the size of Moby Dick. Or that trophy deer that some of you still seek. It might have been an old boyfriend or girlfriend or a job that was going to establish your career. But some things have just gotten away from all of us.



Carolyn Hagler

During these cold, rainy days, I've been thinking about the trips that got away from me and my traveling sisters. But even before those sister trips, an eventful trip with friends started me down memory lane.

Years ago, two friends, LCB and M, and I decided it would be wonderful to take a trip to the coast and go to Ship Island, something we had never done before. The first hint of trouble came with a phone call.

A dear friend's mother was hospitalized that morning after a severe stroke. With a detour by the hospital, we headed for the coast. With time to spare, we decided to eat before boarding the ship.

With M going to the restroom before we left the restaurant, we

were all prepared to leave. Have you ever had your plans interrupted by a mentally unstable person saying that one of you had stolen the tip money from her table? It happened. Talk about embarrassing! With everyone watching, we had to explain that the accusation was not true. Because there's seldom a way to prove quickly that a lie is a lie, it helped that the lady was obviously unhinged. But the story didn't end. She started following us as we left the restaurant.

With a security guard escorting us to our car, we decided that obviously we had missed God's direction to stay home that day. The trip to Ship Island certainly got away from us, and we left it unfinished.

But the sisters had their own trips that went awry, from east to west and north to south. They almost happened, but they didn't.

The one that I remember most vividly was a planned trip to Arizona for the Southwest Gospel Music Festival in Phoenix. We were excited because of all the southern gospel groups we would hear and because of a side trip to Tombstone (one of our favorite destinations) one more time. With Middle Sister not feeling well, we left Natchez to pick up Sister No. 1 in Houston.

Middle Sister was one of those people who thought "Mind over Matter." She was not going to let a little sickness keep her at home.

We made it all the way to West Texas where we were introduced to 80 mph speed limits before we turned back. So close, but we just couldn't make it. Driving



80 allows you to make good time, but I've got to admit I kept it on 80 for all of 5 seconds. We could have killed Middle Sister for that wasted trip with few results except laughter. The highlight of the trip on our way back to Houston was a stop at Walmart to buy cooler clothes, a necessity because it was easier than unpacking the car. I may still have the shirt I bought in my closet.

Another trip on our bucket list was to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, for Singing in the Sun. Six days of gospel music sounded heavenly to all of us. This time, I got sick; and we didn't even make it out of Hattiesburg. That trip is still on my bucket list!

The other memorable trips that didn't happen were cruises that Sister No. 1 and I planned and had reservations. One trip was a gospel cruise to the Caribbean, I think. We learned that insurance is a necessity for cruises because ill-



ness once again reared its ugly head. So, another trip was canceled because of Sister No. 1; the circle was complete. All three sisters were responsible for some wonderful trips getting away from us, making it easier to spread the blame.

The last cruise we canceled was an East Coast Cruise from

With trips that didn't happen with friends and the three sisters, I learned that God uses things, people, and circumstances to interrupt our plans for reasons we may or may not understand. As with many trips and plans that go astray, I wonder if God doesn't protect us from accidents, mishaps, or catastrophes that might have been. I don't know. I wonder.

One thing I've learned is how important prayer is in the planning stage of our desires. When things happen, then we can be sure that God is always with us; His love never changes; and each moment we have is a gift from our sovereign Father. Experience has been a good teacher for me.



Boston into Canada, one that we had dreamed about for a long time. We almost made it to Maine, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec City, and Montreal. Common sense prevailed when we looked at flights and realized that the return trip would have us docking in Montreal. Getting back to Texas would be neither simple nor quick. I'm often quoted as saying, "God gave us a brain and expects us to use it"; we did and canceled that one, too.

The last trip we three sisters planned was to the place we never tired of seeing--Yellowstone; brain cancer intervened.

Disappointed over some of those trips that got away? Yes, but my joy in music and traveling continues. I have a bucket list of big and small memories I want to make this year.

At the top of my list is the Southeastern Gospel Fest, April 13-15 at First Baptist Church, Laurel. You can go to Arizona, South Carolina, Hawaii, and all points in between to hear encouraging and praiseworthy music; or you can hear that same wonderful music in Laurel. Don't let this one get away. I've got my tickets; do you? In His grip, I've ready for "singing and making melody" (Ephesians 5:19).

Prayer

from page 1

those who approach Him in arrogance."

Second, we must enter in seclusion (Matthew 6:6). Our sole desire must be to commune with Him, and that requires a singular focus on Him whether you are in your prayer closet or a crowded sanctuary. Every time you pray you should imagine stepping into God's throne room. Your total focus is on Him just like the prophet's was in Isaiah 6:1-5. Bill states, "As you enter, the greatest one is before you and He's the only audience you need. As you enter, God is waiting for you on His throne and longing to reward you in His presence." Approach His presence with sincerity and the seclusion of a singular focus on Him.

Third, enter with simplicity (Matthew 6:7). Rosalind Rinker defines prayer as, "... the expression of the human heart in conversation with God. The more natural the prayer, the more real He becomes. Simply put: Prayer is a conversation between two persons who love

each other." Bill describes a very ordinary, normal exchange where you are aware of each other and take turns talking and listening. Your conversation stays on subject as you give full attention to the topic at hand. God is certainly concerned and attentive to what you have to say as you strive to pause in His presence and listen to Him as well.

Fourth, enter in with simple faith (Matthew 6:8). Bill states, "As you enter, God hears you and you don't have to impress Him. Pray in faith, for God already knows your needs and has perfect provisions prepared." In faith we should pray the conditional promises of God, and there are many. Don't allow the things that God was willing to change go unchanged because you refused to meet Him in a private place and ask. There are things that God plans to do through no other means but prayer. James 4:2 makes it clear, "You do not have because you do not ask." Ask in faith believing that He is able.

You enter His presence through sincerity, seclusion, simplicity, simple faith, and as sons and daughters (Matthew 6:9). We are

instructed to pray, "Our Father which art in heaven." He is our provider, protector, and promise keeper. You enter into His presence because of relationship, then His presence because of His rule: "Your kingdom come, your will be done." As His child you gladly submit to His rule in your life and allow His standards to govern your life. Entering His presence is all about relational communication with Him and intimacy, not a long-distance, occasional interaction.

Colossians 4:2 says that we are to be devoted to prayer. That means to be ceaselessly active and to be courageously persistent. Remember, God believes that we need to pray with no intermission. First Thessalonians calls us to pray without ceasing. The challenge is to never stop praying, but to be continually in fellowship and communication with Him. Praying should become as natural to our spiritual lives as breathing is to our physical lives. Maybe your next step should be to order Bill's book, *Simply Prayer*, and begin the journey of more prayer to the God of the universe and His Son who loves you unconditionally.

SOUTHEASTERN GOSPEL FEST

2nd Annual
PRESENTED BY SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE
APRIL 13 - 15, 2023
CONCERTS START AT 6:00 PM / DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM

Special Guest: JOSH FRANKS

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THURSDAY

APRIL 14
FRIDAY

APRIL 15
SATURDAY

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\$30 NIGHTLY
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
607 WEST 5th STREET, LAUREL, MS 39440



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

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"
Psalm 133:1

I have always believed in win-win scenarios. I have learned that organizations fare much better when mutually supporting each other. There are often tremendous opportunities to begin new ventures of expansion. In the way of ministry, this is the very purpose of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi! We are able to accomplish much more when our churches associate together for the same purpose and vision in service to our Lord.

Most recently, SBC hosted a reception for two of our newest department directors; Chris Yager of the Missions Department and

Anders Lee of the Youth Department. Each possess fresh visions for the future of their departments and both have reached out to my office to discuss ways we can partner together for the purpose of evangelism and discipleship. Chris, Anders and I are greatly encouraged with the possibilities and the developing plans for near and future events that will benefit our church ministries and our departments. We had a great turn out of support for the reception with people attending all the way from North Mississippi to Mobile, Alabama.



Dr. Scott Carson
President

In addition, SBC recently hosted a meeting with Dr. Burnett, the new president of William Carey University. It was a very productive session with both envisioning renewing old partnerships and beginning new ones that will benefit both colleges, and more importantly, our students. I will endeavor to announce any mutual program as soon as they come to fruition.

We have also been notified that the University of Southern Mississippi has renewed and expanded our Memorandum of Understanding for the acceptance of SBC's credit hours. The expansion now includes all of our business classes in addition to our general education credits. We will have an official signing event in the near future.

Brother Cliff Jenkins, Pastor of Temple Baptist Church of Laurel, has approached the SBC staff with a proposal to partner with us for a Sunday School Teacher Training event. We have tentatively set Saturday, March 25 as the date of training on the campus of SBC. There will be more news about this very soon.

Please pray for our selected staff members as we will be traveling to Orlando,

Florida, to the annual aviation industry accreditation conference. This is an exciting development that is rapidly moving forward towards reality. The end goal is to establish an aviation degree program on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College! Please pray for the many administrative requirements to be met quickly.

I believe the Lord is about to greatly expand the influence of your college through these partnerships. I also believe we can increase the number of our ministerial students by scores, if not hundreds, simply by going nationwide with an effective advertising campaign. I believe there are many across our nation looking for a solid conservative, Bible centered college like SBC. With the proper approach, we have the potential to grow our ministerial program substantially. Please keep this project also in your prayers as we seek the financial support for the advertising that is needed.

"Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Ephesian 4:3
Equipping the Saints,
Dr. Scott R. Carson

Spring Courses

What a tremendous blessing! Every college experiences a falling out of students between the Fall and Spring Semesters. This Spring Semester, SBC has the same number of students for both semesters! We have 100 students for this semester. Praise the Lord!

Online Bible Degrees

Did you know you can earn your accredited Bible college degree in the comfort of your own home? You can take one class (3 hours) or up to 18 hours completely online each semester. And you need not be living in Mississippi to take classes at Southeastern! You may want to have a discussion with your children or grandchildren today about taking classes with SBC. Qualified students can take classes while still in high school and get a head start in their college

studies with our dual enrollment program. We are conservative and Bible centered. Our credits are transferable to other accredited colleges. Go to our website at <https://southeasternbaptist.edu/future-students/application> to begin your college education journey today! Or call SBC at 601-426-6346.

Available Scholarships

The Arnold Knight Memorial RLF Scholarship is available to Baptist Missionary Association ministers who take classes at Southeastern Baptist College. These funds are administered by the BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund. Contact our Financial Aid Officer for more information.

Foundations in Ministry Certificate

SBC has fielded a certificate for new ministers who are interested in gaining

knowledge in the basics of theology and church ministries. This is a 23-hour program and the student may take one class or a full load. Numerous ministers throughout Mississippi have already begun their studies and the classes can be taken fully online. Once the certificate is earned, all credits are transferable toward an Associate or Bachelor degree should the student desire to continue in their education with SBC. Contact our Admissions Officer today! 601-426-6346, or apply online at www.southeasternbaptist.edu

Estate Planning

Does your personal estate planning include a donation to Southeastern Baptist College? Contact Rosemary Davis at 601-426-6346 discuss with her how you can bless SBC with your special gift.

Land Donation

Thank you to Brother Chuck Blackwell, a member of the SBC Board of Trustees, for your donation of ten acres of land to the college! Praise the Lord!

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 Central Church in Southaven, Mississippi; Broadmoor Baptist Church in Meridian, Mississippi; and Parkview Baptist Church in Pensacola, Florida, for inviting Dr. Carson to preach their Sunday messages. You can reach Dr. Carson at 601-433-4736 or scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu



SBC hosted a reception for BMA of Mississippi's newest directors (L-R): Anders Lee; Dr. Carson; Chris Yager



Campus chaplain Tyrone Rogers leads the students in an eye-opening game during chapel



The Lady Chargers pray before every practice



Students Shelby Price (L) and Jodie Giancontieri enjoy a break while bowling

Fall 2022 HONOR ROLL

PRESIDENT'S LIST (4.0)

Dane P. Deas, Waynesboro MS
Jodie Giancontieri, Abita Springs LA
Deion Gibson, Downsview LA
Miah Hall, Nettleton MS
Malaya Harlan, Hattiesburg, MS
Emma Harrell, Mobile AL
Kevin Price, Laurel MS
Meagan Rambo, West Palm Beach, FL
Anthony Sanders, Brookhaven MS
Matthew Thompson, Ocean Springs MS
Baylor Wells, Greenwell Springs LA

DEAN'S LIST (3.5 to 3.99)

Jhamario Bassett, Vaughan MS
Laiken Davis, Natchez MS
Matthew Dimmick, Mobile AL
Roderrian Evans, Hickory MS
Jayden Gunn, Hickory MS
Cody Hilton, Gulfport MS
Jasmine Hutchins, Philadelphia MS
Mason McCraw, Enterprise, MS
Conner McKay, Elton LA
Shelby Price, Utica, MS
Rachael Revette, Morton MS
Gabriel Roberts, Columbia MS
Ethan Russell, Hickory MS
John Sullivan, Mize MS
Charity Walley, State Line MS

More from Southeastern College



Below - Mia Hall scores on Taccoa Falls. **On the left** Brandon Singletary sinks a three pointer in a recent game hosting The W...



BMA OF AMERICA CHAPLAINCY

In coordination with BMA Missions, the Chaplaincy endorses and cares for chaplains, both civilian and military, as they carry the Gospel

Dr. Scott Carson, Director

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440

601-426-6346 - Email - scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu

Chaplain Guthrie Awarded "The Order of Martin of Tours" Medal

Chaplain (Colonel) Kevin Guthrie, a BMA Chaplain and 2003 graduate of the BMA Seminary, was recently awarded "The Order of Martin of Tours" medal, a prestigious U.S. Army Chaplain Corps regimental award during the 2022 Religious Leader Symposium in Southbridge, Massachusetts. Chaplain Guthrie was awarded for "Demonstrating the highest standards of integrity and moral character, displayed an outstanding degree of professional competence, selflessly served soldiers and families, and contributed to the promotion of the Army Chaplaincy."

"I've learned from my service in the Army, that the success of individuals is due to the many team members who support them.", stated Chaplain Guthrie. "I've been incredibly blessed through the years to have served on so many great teams that were singularly focused on the mission as well as taking care of their people, along with the great support of Chaplain Assistants who serve with absolute commitment to the Army. It has been my honor to be able to influence the shaping of the Army to become more receptive to religious freedoms and religious expression among our military service members."

Chaplain Guthrie went on to say, "Chaplains represent two professions, the profession of arms as a military officer and the profession of the clergy. While chaplains minister to the chapel congregants, they also minister to people at their job sites, whether on post or on a patrol in combat. The respon-

sibility of advisement to our commanders regarding religious matters, is part of our professional duties, as well as the mentorship of many young chaplains. Lastly, our acumen is tested daily as we navigate the bureaucracy of the largest employer in the world."

Chaplain Guthrie is scheduled to retire from active duty on November 1, 2023 after serving over 36 years in the Army, with the last 20 years as a military chaplain representing the Baptist Missionary Association of America. Guthrie noted, "A chaplain's primary job is to nurture the living, care for the wounded, and honor the fallen. Our day-to-day jobs insert us directly into the lives of soldiers and army civilians who are giving everything they have to ensure the United States stays protected from our enemies." He continued, "As chaplains, we are honored and privileged to be able to serve the best our nation has to honor...our soldiers and their families. We meet people where they live and work, when they are at their best or at their worst during life's most important events."

Chaplain Guthrie is now assigned to the United States Army Materiel Command as the Command Chaplain. The Army Materiel Command consists of 190,000 soldiers and army civilians who ensure materiel readiness for a globally dominant land force. The Army Materiel Command oversees 10 major subordinate commands across the global Army footprint, including city management-like services of 73 Army garrisons, contracting services for the Army, financial management for the Army, foreign military sales, supply for all soldiers, aviation and missile maintenance and re-

supply, electronics and communication across the U.S. Armed Forces, bomb and ammunition production and storage for all U.S. Armed Forces, global distribution service over land and by sea implementing more ships than the Navy, and production and maintenance of ground combat systems for the U.S. Army.

The Order of Martin of Tours medal that Chaplain Guthrie was recently awarded, is titled in honor of a soldier's religious experience. Martin of Tours was the Roman soldier who served in the fourth century and was stationed in Gaul, now modern day France. One winter, he encountered a beggar outside of the city gates and although Martin did not have coins to give him, he cut his wool cape in half and gave it to the beggar. That night in a dream, Jesus, wrapped in the same cloak, appeared to Martin.

Today, the remaining half of Martin's cape is enshrined for protection in memory of that selfless act. In Latin, the word for cape is 'capella' and from it is where the military chaplain derives their title and where we also get the word for our military chapels.



Pictured are the U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains, Major General Solhjem presenting the Order of Martin of Tours award to BMAA endorsed chaplain, Colonel Kevin Guthrie

SBC Sports Schedules

Basketball Games:

Men

Thursday, Feb 2, 6 p.m. home vs Trinity Baptist College
Saturday, Feb 4, 4 p.m. @ Taccoa Falls GA
Thursday, Feb 9, 6 p.m. @ Miles College, Fairfield AL
Saturday, Feb 11, 4 p.m. @ Point University, West Point GA
Thursday, Feb 16, 6 p.m. home vs. Pensacola Christian College
Saturday, Feb 18, 12 p.m. @ Trinity Baptist College, Jacksonville FL

Women

Thursday, Feb 2, 4 p.m. home vs Trinity Baptist College
Saturday, Feb 4, 11 a.m. @ Taccoa Falls GA
Thursday, Feb 16, 4 p.m. home vs. Pensacola Christian College
Saturday, Feb 18, 10 a.m. @ Trinity Baptist College, Jacksonville FL
Thursday-Saturday, Feb 23-25 @ NCCAA DII Tournament (TBA)

Women's Softball Games:

Wednesday, Feb 1, 1 & 3 p.m. @ Miles College, Fairfield AL
Friday-Sunday, Feb 3-4, @ Louisiana Christian College Invitational
Thursday, Feb 9, 1 & 3 p.m. home vs Blue Mountain University
Wednesday, Feb 15, 2 & 4 p.m. @ Southwest Community College
Thursday, Feb 16, 1 & 3 p.m. @ Stillman College, Tuscaloosa AL
Friday, Feb 24, 1 & 3 p.m. @ Blue Mountain University
Monday, Feb 27, 1 & 3 p.m. @ Lane College, Jackson TN
Tuesday, Feb 28, 1 & 3 p.m. home vs Southwest Comm. College
Friday-Sunday, Mar 3-5 @ Mobile Tournament, Gulf Shores AL

Men's Baseball Schedule:

Friday, Feb 10, 12 & 2 p.m. home vs Arkansas Baptist College
Saturday, Feb 11, 12 & 2 p.m. home vs Arkansas Baptist College
Wednesday, Feb 22, 3 p.m. @ William Carey Univ., Hattiesburg MS
Tuesday, Feb 28, 5 p.m. @ Nichols State Univ., Thibodaux LA
Wednesday, Mar 1, 5 p.m. @ Nichols State Univ., Thibodaux LA

Chaplain Carson is recruiting
Chaplain Assistants!
Contact him if you are interested.



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Dwight Lindsey

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

God's grace is amazing. His saving grace that gives eternal life to all who believe is beyond compare. His common grace and patience given to all of creation that keeps His wrath from devouring all the sinfulness in the world in an instant is taken for granted far too often. Sanctifying grace like we see in 2 Peter 3:18, is given with the command to grow. This sanctifying grace may not get the praise of saving grace, but its beauty is in the fact that it is not just something we receive but now believers are partaking in this work of grace.

In 2 Samuel chapter nine a peculiar story unfolds. While not odd in some senses, in its historical context Old Testament hu-

manity would have thought this very strange and would have continued to think so for many generations. At the end of 1 Samuel and beginning of 2 Samuel we have the death of Saul. This divides Israel for a time with David being anointed King of Judah and Abner anointing Ishbosheth king of Israel. After many conflicts the kingdom was restored under David. Then in 2 Samuel 9, "And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" This is the picture of that sanctifying grace. It is the picture of showing kindness to other on someone else's behalf. David receives his answer, "And there was of the house of Saul a

servant whose name was Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, Art thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant is he. And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet. And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lo-debar. Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lo-debar." After the answer David pursues the object of his kindness, "Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant! And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually." Pursuit is not the end of the story, David follows through with the kindness he had promised, "So Mephibosheth

dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet."

We are thankful to report a new addition to the home as of January ninth. Bethany is a sweet soul who is learning to blend in with our house of boys. We are still learning her many interests, but she has a very fun loving personality. I have been meditating on this story from Second Samuel since her arrival and how it pertains to our ministry at the home and how it pertains to Christian sanctification.

The oddity of the story of David and Mephibosheth is that it is the opposite of how most kings in those days would have handled things. When a King has already had to battle for his throne and he has had to deal with another king trying to claim that power for himself, most would eliminate the entire family to remove any future rebellion. Instead of eliminating Mephibosheth, David welcomes him to the king's table continually. Society surely thought David's actions were odd, and his value of Mephibosheth was vastly skewed from the rest of the world. What value does a maimed grandson of an adversary hold? No one saw value in Mephibosheth but

the one who desired to show kindness.

Many of our children here at the home are not valued the same way as everyone else. This passage has encouraged me to see the heart of God through David and how we can partake in sanctifying grace to continue showing that heart in the world today. We show kindness to those who the world would not value and on the behalf of another give them a place at our table continually. There is no greater picture of the grace God gives through his son Jesus Christ.

Please pray for Bethany. She has many hurdles that are beyond her control and power to overcome. Thankfully we know there is a God who offers grace to overcome this world. Pray for us that we would show her the grace and love of Christ that would encourage, strengthen, and most importantly save her soul. This grace will give her more than a place at our physical table - it will give her a place at His eternal table. We would love to come and share with your church this wonderful ministry God has given us.

MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Director

P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863

www.macbma.net - Email fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com

America 2023

Christian problems in America in the 21st century are 1) Humanism, 2) Political correctness, 3) Atheism, 4) Darwinism, 5) W.O.K.E., 6) Critical Race C.R.T., 7) Black Lives Matter, 8) Gay Rights, 9) Open Drug Use, and on and on.

We believe America stands at a moral crossroad, a juncture that will define the future of this country. Christians are openly scorned and ridiculed by the media. When was the last time you saw a believer in Jesus Christ favorably portrayed by the entertainment industry?

Do you recall a single recent occasion when Christian virtues such as abstinence or marital faithfulness were treated respectfully by any major media outlet?

A past cover article of Newsweek featured the image of the Bible, with this headline: "The Religious Case for Gay Marriage." It denied the plain teaching of Scripture that homosexuality is sin, and termed the authoritative truth of the Scripture (and we who adhere to it) as the "worst kind of fundamentalism."

On the judicial front, our courts continue to grow increasingly hostile to any public expression of

Christian faith. Public schools, funded with the tax dollars of millions of Christians, make it difficult for Christian students to exercise their freedom of religion while accommodating and openly tolerating the belief system of other religions.

1. We begin with prayer and repentance.

We first examine ourselves and come to the Lord in true humility. "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14.) "We are God's people, and since He is holy we are to be holy as well". (Franklin Graham)

2. We must respectfully engage those in our circles of influence with the truth of the Gospel.

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the rea-

son for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander" (1 Peter 3:15-16). Christians should never resort to the divisive, hostile behavior often employed by those who demean our faith. We speak the truth in love.

3. While respectful, we nevertheless must be bold in our faith.

This is not the time to be ashamed of our faith, but to boldly confess Jesus Christ as Lord. That's why, with every opportunity we are given, we clearly articulate the Gospel message. I will never shrink back from proclaiming Jesus Christ as the only Name by which men can be saved (Acts 4:12) by those who are courageously standing up for their faith in Christ in their neighborhoods, in their schools and in the halls of political power. I believe the Bible stories of bold men and women will challenge and inspire us to take a strong stand for Christ in your world.

With God's help, we can make a difference. We must make a difference!

74th Annual BMA National Meeting
April 25-27, 2023
Antioch Baptist Church
Conway Arkansas

Women's Missionary Auxiliary

WMAofMS20@gmail.com

President Theresa Reus

264 Dean Nursery Rd., Lucedale, MS 39452 - 601-508-9697

Treasurer Mrs. Shirlene Smith

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

Mississippi State WMA Project Hope in India

In Mark 16:15 Jesus stated, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." With the help of our state WMAs or any women in our churches, we will be able to reach lost children in India. We are praying that God will supply the funds needed. Please pray for the project in India and work toward raising funds.



Date Change for South Senior Adult Conference

We had to change the date of the South Senior Adult Conference. The new date is **Tuesday March 14th**. We will meet at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso and have a great program planned.

See more information on page 2.



mission:world

NEWS

CO:MISSIONED: IN AND THROUGH THE CHURCH

BY: Dr. John David Smith
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

The mission of Christ is the focal point of the New Testament. It is interesting to watch as a group of unknown tax collectors and fishermen “turn the world upside down” in obedience to the mission of Christ. The book of Acts covers thirty-three years, and in that timeframe the gospel advanced from Jerusalem to Rome, Paul and his missionary teams started over twenty churches, and those churches started other churches. Almost every New Testament epistle is a letter back to a brand new church or to someone who was leading a brand new church. Hence, the opening line of this paragraph would be better stated as follows: The mission of Christ, in and through the church, is the focal point of the New Testament.

Mission: To fulfill God’s mission by sending and partnering to share God’s story, make disciple makers, and start churches that multiply among the nations.

The word commission has a few synonyms such as assignment, duty, responsibility, mandate, etc. Before we analyze the meaning of being CO:MISSIONED, perhaps the first step is to come to grips with the fact that, as followers of Christ, we have been “missioned.” A God of mission could only produce and expect a people of mission. We have a God-given mission!

Looking in the familiar passage that we refer to as the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20, we gain more insight to the importance of being CO:MISSIONED with emphasis on the fact that this commission is not of our origins, desires, or abilities. It is indeed a CO:MISSION with the colon communicating that this is from another and not our own invention.

Vision: To see every partner church around the world engaged in the process of starting a church.

In verse 18, Christ affirms that “all authority” has been given to him in heaven and on earth. The eternal God/resurrected Savior has inherent (it belongs to him by nature) authority because he is God. In verse 19, he then commands us to go and make disciples of all nations, and our authority is inherited from Christ—it is not our own. What a great encouragement! We are CO:MISSIONED and our authority is from the God who has ALL authority.

Another aspect of our CO:MISSION is that we have been commanded to make disciples of all peoples by Christ himself. Christ came in fulfillment of a mission; we go in fulfillment of a mission.

The last truth about our CO:MISSION is that we go with Christ. He is always with us, and we do not advance in our own power, but in his.

CO:MISSIONED is indeed to be “missioned” but not by ourselves. We are on a continuing journey with Christ to fulfill his mission. We do that with his authority (from), according to his mandate (by), and through his power (with).

The BMA worldwide family now includes close to 2,000 churches. BMA Global Missions has planted almost 800 churches and is currently planting 450 more! We are church planters! We do believe that “the mission of Christ, in and through the church, is the focal point of the New Testament.”

We are excited about 2023 to see more of the synergistic effect continue in worldwide church planting. Many faithful servants have sown and cultivated over many years in dozens of countries and now God is giving the increase through the multiplication of disciples and churches.

BMA Global Missions mobilizes churches and people to the mission field (send), helps plant churches that plant churches (start), and provides care and support for healthy leaders and churches (support). We are so grateful for the opportunity to partner with your church. Please continue to be faithful as you renew and refresh your church’s commitment to the basics of our CO:MISSION: pray, give, send, and go.

Please pray as BMA Global Missions reaches for new goals in 2023 and beyond. Some of these goals include a significant increase in the number of missionaries we send from our churches over the next ten years, specifically targeting urban areas of the United States for multiple church plants, increasing the number of language groups with church plants from seven to fifteen inside the United States, and assisting churches around the world to achieve maturity and multiplication.

Thank you all again for being faithful in our God-given CO:MISSION that is fulfilled from, by, and with the Lord Jesus Christ.

mission:world

NEWS



CO:MISSIONED IN LATIN AMERICA—CONTINUING THE LEGACY

BY: David Dickson
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

The churches and missions of Central America and the Caribbean face unique challenges as they labor to be effective in their evangelistic efforts, church planting, and discipleship of new believers. The region is known for its extreme weather, repressive governments, and poverty level. The BMAA has had a missions presence in this area for an entire generation, but in almost every country American missionaries have handed off leadership responsibilities to national pastors and leaders. As a result, each country has developed its own personalized method to conduct missions efforts in partnership with our association of churches in the United States.

In Nicaragua, churches and missions are prospering in cities and towns scattered around the country, but there is also a renewed effort to reach the more isolated areas of the Atlantic side of the country. Traveling on horseback or in boats down the jungle rivers, people are sharing the gospel and planting new works. Leadership training and Bible instruction is regularly conducted even in the most isolated areas of the country. A recent hurricane dealt a serious blow to the economy, especially on the Atlantic side of the country where crops and homes were devastated. But these strong folks are recovering and forging ahead with efforts to share the Word even in difficult circumstances.

The tiny country of El Salvador is considered one of the most violent countries in Latin America with street gangs holding enormous sway over everyday life and even local government. In spite of that, with strong local leadership, new missions are being planted and established churches are growing. BMAA medical missions has been a positive influence here, as has the shoebox ministry.

The churches and missions among the Garifuna populations in Honduras continue to reach out to other communities of their ethnic group, and a Garifuna language mission was recently established in the Bronx, New York.

In Guatemala, our churches that are concentrated in the capital area are expanding their facilities to accommodate growing congregations.

Costa Rica continues with a well-developed plan to train and send out new missionaries around the country.

In the Caribbean, Puerto Rico is still recovering from yet another hurricane but recently ordained a missionary/pastor and continues to plant new missions on the island.

In each of these countries, the absence of an American missionary has not slowed efforts to fulfill the Great Commission. While it is true that American missionaries have had a significant impact on those efforts—in many cases by pioneering the first works in the country—national leaders have successfully stepped into leadership roles and assumed responsibilities previously held by American missionaries. And since the primary goal of cross-cultural missionaries is to “work yourself out of a job,” it all adds up to a missions success story!

The role of BMAA Missions has rapidly evolved over the last several years in this region. In the absence of American missionaries, national leaders have accepted the challenge to take ownership of their own missionary vision for their countries. As that vision is clarified, the BMAA has stepped in to encourage and facilitate the realization of each country’s particular vision. We have participated in joint efforts to fund missionaries from their countries that are sent out both locally and internationally. Medical teams have made visits to several areas to address health needs of the least fortunate and raise the profile of our local churches. Periodically, training sessions and Bible classes are conducted throughout the region. Through Lifeword the gospel is being preached in difficult-to-reach areas.

American missionaries are no longer “in charge” in Central America and the Caribbean, but as an association of churches we are providing resources to the men who are “leading the charge” in their respective countries. Many serve in areas where they walk a virtual tightrope to avoid being targeted by the government or violent gangs. All work with extremely limited budgets. They all have asked for our prayers. We should honor that request.





mission:world

NEWS

CO:MISSIONED in Europe - *Harvesting* the White but Difficult Fields

BY: Larry Barker
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What develops culturally, even spiritually, in Europe eventually makes its way to North America. In the United States nearly half of adults (48%) describe themselves as both religious and spiritual. That number has grown at an alarming rate from 19% to 27% of those who now say they are spiritual but not religious. Comparing that to Western Europe, 53% of adults say they are neither religious nor spiritual, and that philosophy is growing and spreading at an unprecedented speed.

Yes, the opportunities are plentiful, but the soil is very hard and requires a lot of cultivating because of the post-Christian culture that permeates. One country is the poster child for this sad lack of spirituality: Czech Republic, where missionaries Larry and Tammy Wood work alongside our ChangeMaker Milan Bulak. Almost 90% of Czechs aged 16-29 say they have no religion. Over 70% of the same age group say they never pray and only attend services on very special occasions.

Pray for Czech Republic.

Missions in France (Sean and Kendall Pasley) is very similar, and the reality of living in a secular culture is evident everywhere they look. Because the church has existed on European soil for 2,000 years, we might assume all is well, but the exact opposite is true. The terms that fit France and much of Western Europe are post-Christian culture, post-Christian society, post-Christian ethics, and post-Christian values. This is why our missionaries and ChangeMakers are so important to spread the gospel.

Pray for France.

Portugal's percentages are not as bad as France's or Czech Republic's, but in talking with ChangeMaker Marco Gaspar and other pastors, it is a difficult field where most men feel that going to church is not manly and is for women and children only. The churches there are small but determined to remain faithful to sound doctrine and to their calling no matter how difficult it might become. We recently held a leaders' retreat in Portugal focused on encouragement, and God moved mightily.

Pray for Portugal.

God is moving in both Western and Eastern European countries through the efforts of Larry and Tammy Wood and our ChangeMakers. Please pray for the people there. We hear reports that even though there are severe hardships, they remain resolved and encouraged that the Lord will be with them no matter what

happens. We talk about persecution here, but in our much easier lives we really do not understand nor can we relate to the hardships of those living in a war zone.

Pray for Ukraine.

Portugal, France, Czech Republic, Ukraine, and Romania comprise my region. Romania has a very dear place in my heart, after having lived there in 2000 and 2001. With the exception of the COVID year, we have been making trips there since 1997. Our ChangeMakers are Dani Bagosi and Bogdan Bilav. We have American missionaries, Bryan and Pam Risner and Cristian and Vanessa Martinez (He grew up in Mexico and she is Romanian). We also have two single ladies working in-country: Candra Barnett with the Risners and Sara Filimon (Vanessa Martinez's sister) working with the Martinezes.

Romania's population is decreasing. A country of 22 million not too long ago, it has decreased to 18 million. In a 98% Orthodox nation the Romanian Baptist Union recently reported that in the last ten years the number of Baptists has decreased from 120,000 members to 90,000. Obviously, Baptists are losing ground in their ability to effectively reach Romania with the gospel. Western Europe is challenged with secularism while Eastern Europeans (Ukraine and Romania) believe they do not need the gospel because they are "Christian" nations. However, their religion is works-based, very ritualistic, and ceremonial.

Pray for Romania.

Yes, the fields are white unto harvest, but they are difficult because people believe, from different perspectives, that they are okay and do not need to change. Pray for our workers there that God will raise up laborers (Luke 10:2), provide their needs (Phil. 4:19), open doors of opportunity (Col. 4:3), and produce fruit that will remain (John 15). Please commit to praying for them and their families that they will remain encouraged and focused on the task God has called them to and placed before them.

Pray for Europe!



A Digital Impact: Proclaiming God's Word and Making Disciples

BY: Donny Parrish
Lifeworld
lifeworld.org

2023 holds much promise for the ministry Lifeworld. Poised to make more global impact through the proclamation of God's Word and the making of disciples than in any time in Lifeworld's history, we are setting ambitious ministry goals for the coming year.

These are not academic goals; they are a track on which to run. Our goal is not that Lifeworld or the BMA of America can be made famous, but that the name of Jesus might be made known to the world. With those thoughts in mind we offer the following ministry targets for 2023.

Broadcasting

In 2023 Lifeworld will seek to increase the number of languages in which we broadcast to 160. Currently, Lifeworld offers a gospel presentation in 145 languages around the world. In the past we have measured our success by counting the number of countries impacted by our programming. However, with the advent of internet broadcasting, that matrix is no longer useful. Modern travel and world-wide immigration have allowed countries around the world to become much more diverse in languages spoken by their population. We will broaden our outreach through digital technology and through traditional radio where needed. Our goal will be to speak in the heart language of people around the world through whatever broadcast medium best suits that culture. The addition of 15 new languages will not only increase the number of languages in which we share the gospel, but it will exponentially increase the number of people who can hear and spread the gospel.

Programming

Creating new programming that taps into the interest and draws those who do not know God or are far away from God will be one of Lifeworld's top goals for 2023. We will use our expanded television production studios to produce more internet shows to speak the heart language of the viewer. We will use our new podcasting studios to produce new and exciting podcast formats. The goal for every Lifeworld production is to take the viewer or listener to the cross of Christ. Using media to cast a wide net through interesting and experiential programming will allow us to speak into different cultures and share with them the Good News of Jesus.

Discipleship

Lifeworld will use 2023 to refine and test our new discipleship portal called "Follow." This exciting project invites and equips those who engage with Lifeworld programming to become fully-devoted followers of Christ and to connect with a local church. We will also refine our digital discipleship process so BMA church members can use "Follow" as a personal discipleship tool.

Print

Lifeworld will continue to expand our efforts to introduce and challenge readers through blog content. We will seek out gifted writers who are faithful to God's Word and compelling in their writing style. Our goal will continue to be to use digital media to ask pertinent life questions and offer answers through the truth of God's Word.

Financial

The best estimates from missiologists are that nearly 3 billion people on earth have never heard the Good News of Jesus Christ. This gives you and us and the ministry of Lifeworld a daunting, but exciting task. We will need to increase our financial base to meet this global challenge, but may we never forget: God will fund His ministry.

Lifeworld sits in a strategic location at this pivotal point in history to tell the world the story of Jesus. What a joy to take part in this work! Thank you for joining us.

