

# Baptist

## Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE  
BAPTIST MISSIONARY  
ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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## BMA Global: Who We Are

by Dr. John David Smith  
President of BMA Global

With humble beginnings and a great focus on God's mission, BMA Global began in 1950 through the efforts of the churches of the newly formed Baptist Missionary Association of America (NABA at the time). That first year, there were six North American church planters and two international missionaries elected. All glory to God, that through the years of faithfulness and focus on that great mission, BMA Global has grown to a ministry of over 400 missionaries working in 70 countries of the world. Hundreds of thousands have been reached with the gospel, disciplined, trained, and empowered toward a church planting ministry that now includes well over 2,000 established churches in addition to 400 current church plants.



Dr. John David Smith

**The mission of BMA Global is to see God's glory and love to the nations through church multiplication.** Our values must reflect in writing, and in practice, that everything we do leads to the fulfillment of our purpose/mission. **BMA Global is motivated by the Mission of God.** God's Mission (singular) is indeed all about his glory and love to all nations. Missions (plural) is everything we do, such as evangelism, discipleship, church planting, leadership development, and all philanthropic efforts to fulfill that Mission. **BMA Global practices discipleship-based multiplication of disciples, leaders, and churches.** In following the example of Christ in his ministry, we seek to make disciple makers who will then be leaders and the foundation for church multiplication. **BMA Global is local church-centric.** We believe that local

churches are both the source and the goal of New Testament missions. **BMA Global practices indigenous mission principles.** We invest heavily in the local leadership in order to partner for locally led ministries that will not be dependent on us intellectually, emotionally, or financially. **BMA Global seeks to be driven by Holy Spirit-led risk.** Mediocrity and status quo maintenance are the unrelenting enemies of excellence and fruitfulness. May we not bury our one talent, and when the Master returns may he say to BMA Global, "Well done."

BMA Global seeks to fulfill its mission, as guided by our values, through three specific tasks: **send, start, support.** BMA Global comes alongside local churches to help send missionaries to those places they are called to serve. The basic root word for missions is the word "send." We help the local church send missionaries by offering help with assessment, training, coaching, partnering with other churches, accounting services, missionary care, etc.

The essential nature of the local church in the missionary process compels us to start more churches that become the manifestation of Christ in those communities. Christ is glorified in and through his church. BMA Global plants churches!

The supporting of the missions enterprise includes supporting both personnel and missions structures. Missionary logistics that include leadership through directors and regional coordinators, financial services, security training and briefings, and missionary care all help to make our missionaries' lives a little easier and potentially more fruitful on the field. Missionary care seeks to strengthen the lives of our missionaries in all facets of life: spiritually, emotionally, and physically. As it pertains to the structure of missions, BMA Global is able to do more with less, many times with very low overhead and a dedicated, high-capacity team. Eighty-five cents out of every dollar given to BMA Global goes directly to a missionary. A big portion of the other 15 cents pays for the support structures for missionaries. We are committed to the highest possible level of excellence while maintaining our focus on the mission field. BMA Global has a rich history that is attributed to God's favor and the faithfulness of many churches, missionaries, and leaders. As we give undying thanks for the past, let's look with unlimited expectation for the future! **God's glory to the nations through church multiplication!**

## Jerry Kidd Missions Offering Set



### Plan Your Support for February 25<sup>th</sup>

With a large number of Muslims in the Middle East, those who serve this people group are careful not to attack Islam. Doing so only creates barriers to understanding and accepting the gospel. But there is one "language" that breaks those barriers: showing the genuine love and care that Christ had for people during his earthly ministry, love that touches people where they hurt.

So, they speak that language to Muslims, even when it's obvious they're attending church and making professions of faith just to receive something in return. Middle East Coordinator Charlie Costa says, "In a volatile area such as the Middle East, our strategy is to stay in the thick and thin of circumstances. We accept war and conflict as one of the realities of the region, and as bad as war is, we also consider it a great opportunity to spread the gospel in times of trouble. Grace has risks and takes risks."

Pray that the Holy Spirit will touch the hearts of Muslims to genuinely commit their lives to Christ.

Pray that missionaries, ChangeMakers, and churches in the Middle East continue being called to plant the seed, water the seed, then see growth and fruit through the Holy Spirit's work.

### Meeting the Need

God has been so faithful to meet our needs each year, and one way he does that is through your support of the **Jerry Kidd Missions Offering**. This annual giving campaign is so vital, providing almost 20% of our annual expenses. Challenge your church to give a special offering to global missions.

The campaign culminates on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, and we would love to send free promotional resources and a pastor's polo as a gift. Simply go to the BMA Global website and register online to order your resources, then encourage your church to take up a special offering.

2024 Annual BMA of America - Branson, Missouri  
(Schedule listed on Page 2)



### We Need Your Email Address

This ministry is instituting a new ministry help. Since we only print one issue per month we will be sending out 'news alerts' and notices when there is information that needs to be shared with our readers. Your email will not be shared with anyone and will only be used for Enews or Alerts.

Please send a message to  
[editor@msbaptist.org](mailto:editor@msbaptist.org)  
stating you wish to be added  
to our email notice list.

We wish to include all of our churches and readers. Thank you for helping us keep you informed!

# Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



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## Would you just look at that!

Oftentimes when we see something that appears out of the ordinary or that we do not notice regularly we use the phrase, "Would you just look at that!" It could be something such as a great athletic play on the field, an act of unusual compassion by someone we do not know, a beautiful view like a stunning sunset, or the view from the rim of the Grand Canyon.

Too often we overlook some of the simple day-to-day things that if we stepped back and took a close look, would cause us to exclaim, "Would you just look at that!"

That is what I am trying to get our readers to see in this issue of your Mississippi Baptist. Most of you know of the various ministries and happenings of our Association and many of our churches and departments. I want you to carefully view each report, activity, blessing, need, and activities of so many of our state and national works presented in this issue. If you look at all the reports and carefully read of the blessings and needs, you will see the great and mighty works our Lord has put in our hands.

Please look at the photographs, listen to the department workers, carefully consider the missionary's hearts as they share their work. Look for areas in which you can personally be involved and be the helping hand that each of us needs. I think if you will deliberately take a closer look then you too will say, "Would you just look at that!"

### Special Emphasis

Your Publications Department Emphasis has got off to a good start. We have received donations from some individuals that have been a real blessing. Our churches and associations are also donating, and each gift is greatly appreciated. Typically, we will not know our total receipts for a few more weeks. I hope you and your church will partner with us this year in helping us reach our goal of \$10,000. Each month the emphasis changes to another work. They need your help also. Remember, the Lord's work depends on the Lord's people and His churches providing the funds to continue to reach the world for Christ.

## Service Opportunities and Available Positions

### Available for Service

Bro. James W. Brown is available for pulpit supply, interim pastor or fill in. Bro. James most recently was the pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Florence. He may be reached by calling 601-209-1502 or email [jameswbrown50@gmail.com](mailto:jameswbrown50@gmail.com).

### Church Seeking Youth Pastor

East Amory Baptist Church is searching for a Youth Pastor. Interested applicants can contact Brandon Johnson at 662-640-2348, Jeremy Carroll at 662-640-9834 or Pastor Roger Akers at 662-231-4025. Please send resumes to East Amory Baptist Church, 905 Hatley Road, Amory, MS 38821.

### Lucedale Church Seeking Pastor

Oak Grove Baptist Church, Lucedale, Mississippi, is seeking a God-called full-time pastor with a vision for growth. Our congregation is primarily 50 to 80 years young and we are seeking to attract a house full of young families with an active youth ministry. If God is calling you to south Mississippi contact us by calling 251-422-5817 or 601-394-9191.

### Part Time Children's Ministry Director Sought

Midway First Baptist Church, Sumrall, is seeking a part-time director of our children's ministry. Below is information from the church.

-Priority one is the spiritual growth of our children.

-The position includes directing the planning, coordination, operation, and execution of a comprehensive Children's Ministry. This includes, but is not limited to, Wednesday night classes, Vacation Bible School, Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas program, and Children's Church.

Send resume and questions to [midwaychildrensdirector@gmail.com](mailto:midwaychildrensdirector@gmail.com).

## Mississippi Girls Retreat

March 15-16th, 2024

Campground Baptist Church in Gulfport

Speakers: Bro. Noah and Mrs. Sarah Clark

We'll have crafts, missions, games, and worship.

## South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference March 5, 2024



Guest Speaker  
Buddy Johnson



Worship Leader  
Brandon Wilson



Special Concert  
New Ground

Great Fellowship - Music - Food - Prizes - Surprises  
and a Wonderful Day of Worship

Big Creek Baptist Church - Soso, Mississippi

## BMA AMERICA NATIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE

APRIL 16-18, 2024

CHATEAU ON THE LAKE RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER

BRANSON, MISSOURI

### TUESDAY, APRIL 16

1:00 - 2:00 pm - Registration Open

5:00 - 6:00 pm - Registration Open

6:00 pm - Concert & Worship with Point of Grace

6:45 pm - President's Address - Clif Johnson

7:30 pm - Opening Business

Registration Open 30 minutes following opening business

8:00 pm - Fellowship

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

7:00 am - New Pastors Breakfast and Orientation

8:15 am - Department Committee Meetings

8:30-9:30 am - Registration Open

9:00 am - WMA Meeting

Brotherhood Meeting

9:00-11:00 am - Pastors Conference

12:00 noon - WMA Sponsored

Ladies Luncheon

1:30 pm - Service with Pastor Kirk Shelton

2:30 pm - Break

2:30-3:30 pm - Registration Open

3:00-4:00 pm - Legacy Missionary Service & Missionary Commissioning

4:00-5:00 pm - Business Session

5:00-7:00 pm - BMA Theological Seminary Dinner

6:30-7:30 pm - Registration Open

7:30 pm - Evening Worship and Annual Message- James Schoenrock

Registration Open 30 minutes following evening worship

8:45 pm - Business

### THURSDAY, APRIL 18

8:00-8:30 am - Registration Open

8:30 am - BMA Department Reports

Noon - Close of National Meeting



Anders Lee

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

## STATE YOUTH RALLIES AROUND THE CORNER

### RENEW WAS A WONDERFUL SUCCESS!!!

#### NORTH & SOUTH STATE YOUTH RALLIES

I am super pumped about having two new events on the calendar in MARCH! We have arranged two youth rallies! Please help me spread the word as it is coming up FAST! Share our Facebook post about this and bring all the youth you can to these events!

#### South Rally -

Our South State rally will be held **March 9, 2024, at 5:30 PM. Magnolia Baptist Church** and Pastor Greg Medenwall has

agreed to host! It is located at 148 King Rd, Hattiesburg, MS 39402. A meal will be provided and then the service follows the meal. I will be preaching at this event. A band from Midway First Baptist will lead in worship!

**North State** - Our North Rally will be held **March 15, 2024, at 6:30 PM. Mt Pleasant Baptist Church** and Pastor Tim Holsonback has agreed to host! It is located at 1822 Mt Pleasant Rd, Fulton, MS 38843. A meal will also be provided here, and the service follows the meal. I will be preaching at this rally also and Maverick Hendricks from Bethel Baptist will be leading worship. SPREAD THE WORD and COME JOIN IN!!!

#### RENEW WAS A BLESSED EVENT

My heart rejoices to share with you that there were **5 saved** at RENEW! WOW!!! Praise the Lord! The conference was designed to be for believers, and it was beneficial in that way with teens & sponsors. Several decisions were made among teens at the conference. Many mentioned how they indeed needed the spiritual challenge and renewal in their walk with Christ! One young man acknowledged his potential calling into the ministry and is going to be praying through that. So, I am so pleased with the outcome of the conference.

Good Attendance...  
but there was a Flu Effect

The FLU hit badly at Christmas all over the state. Most churches reported to me that they had less attend with them because of students and/or sponsors having it. One church did not get to come because both their key sponsors had it, which eliminated an entire group. It's just that time of year. Even our church had four teens missing and two sponsors because of the FLU. Why do I say this? From reading that you might think we had very poor attendance. Well... **We ended up with 276 total attending**

**RENEW.** By the count that I had reported to me of those that missed due to the FLU or sickness, we would have been well over 300 for the conference had it not been so bad. Yet, God is in control! When preparing for it, I never even thought about people missing this way, yet that is the case. So, even though I hated that folks were sick & missing, I came away greatly encouraged that we had that many attend.

#### Thank You, Bethel Baptist

I must admit, there is no way I can thank Bethel in Fulton enough. WOW! Did they ever roll out the red carpet! **Bro. Tracy McMillen** did an outstanding job sharing from God's Word! I appreciate him for being faithful to the theme and really challenging the teens to walk with Christ! His messages were powerful and personal! Thank you, Bro. Tracy!



Renew Worship Time



Tracy McMillan

Everyone at Bethel worked hard in being such a gracious host! The men in the sound room were there for every session and way ahead of time to work to get things prepared for each session. Many men & ladies who volunteer for their youth group were there at mealtime to serve and prepare the food and served in many other ways as well! Bro. Doug, their interim youth pastor, helped in numerous ways. Their staff was always setting up tables and just doing everything that was needed! WOW!!! Seriously... Thank you to this wonderful church!

#### RENEW Personalities

I know they probably won't read this article, but we all owe sincere appreciation to **Preston Jones, Ben Brandon and Tyler Sellers** for doing a fabulous job with the worship! I also want to thank our youth director, **Zac Lee** (my son) for planning and coordinating all the games that were done in the prelude to worship sessions. Also, my thanks to my other son **Reagan Lee**, who is (by the way) the incoming youth director at Bethel for doing "Free Stuff From The MAN!" Many church youth guys & pastors in attendance helped with invitation and various duties, I sure couldn't have done it alone, my thanks to all of you! Finally, my appreciation to our youth trustees who were able to help out in so many ways, **Viola Hunt, Brody McCool & Brian Prochaska.**

#### RENEW 2024

I am thrilled to report that this year's RENEW conference is already scheduled. Midway Baptist Church just outside of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, has graciously agreed to host it. Since we held RENEW in the north last year, we wanted to shift it south this year. Our thanks to them for hosting. It will be held on December 29-31, 2024. The schedule will be similar to this past year. Bro. Josh Daniel's will be our key speaker and Bro. Preston Jones will be with us again for worship. All information and details will be on our website as it develops.



Bethel Church Workers



Late Night Activities



Meal Time

#### CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS & THE LATRELLE WINDHAM MARCH EMPHASIS

I want to thank everyone who sent in Christmas offerings to the department this past season. At the present time, we have raised a little over \$14,000 for the needs of the ministry! Some churches are adding us to the budget in 2024 and that is encouraging, but we still need more to do so to help us reach our goals this year.

Our **Special Emphasis**, which is called the **Latrell Windham Special Emphasis**, begins in MARCH! Our goal is much higher than last year, in fact double! **\$30,000** is our goal and it is much needed with two camps coming this summer and another RENEW this December! Please pray for how you can participate as BMA people, churches, associations, and WMA & Brotherhood groups all over the BMA of Mississippi!

#### CAMPS ON THE HORIZON

I will write more in our next article on camps, but I want to keep it before you in this article just by saying, June & July will be here before you know it! Please visit our website to get the details and **YES... you can register already!**

**Kids Camp** - This camp is at Waukaway Springs just outside Meridian, Mississippi, on June 10-13, 2024. Kids coming out of 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade can attend this camp!

**Teen Camp** - This camp is located at Lake Tiak O'Khata in Louisville, Mississippi, on July 8-11, 2024. Students coming out of 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades and College students can attend this camp!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me!



Bob Smiley



### Upcoming Youth Rallies!

#### South Rally

**March 9, 2024, at 5:30 PM.**  
**Magnolia Baptist Church**  
**Hattiesburg**

#### North Rally

**March 15, 2024, at 6:30 PM. Mt Pleasant Baptist Church**  
**Fulton**

## A Perfect Day

These “brrrrrrr” days we’ve been having have been perfect days; and you say for what? The children I know have certainly enjoyed them. These cold, cold days with dreary skies have been perfect for me, too, because I’m a bibliophile. And I believe that I’ll always be one. I hope so; but before you start praying for me, read on.

Back in the days of trying to teach students to write clearly, I would tell them, “Don’t use a ‘fifty-cent word’ when a simple word is clearer.” I was just testing you, though, because I normally would have said, “I love to read.”

Born into a family of readers, I wanted to learn to read because nobody seemed to want to read to me. That desire to read led to a love of reading that has lasted throughout my school days, my teaching days, and my retirement days. I’ve got to admit that I probably will be like my mother, who said in our last conversation, “I’m reading the best book”—a perfect day.

When I got home a few hours after being notified of her death, I found that book still on her bed. I was reminded of the many times I would reach home after driving from Hattiesburg to hear her say, “Let’s go



to Natchez and find some books.” On a trip to Houston many years ago with her, we stopped at every bookstore we passed. I don’t remember how many books we found, but we took advantage of every opportunity. What did she leave me? A love of reading, for sure.

Some of my favorite people are readers, too. Just listen to conversations of book lovers; they’re probably discussing the books they’re currently reading. A group of ladies became friends during a water aerobics class years ago at the Wellness Center, and we still meet every two weeks for lunch. Whenever I’m sitting near one lady, one of us will usually ask, “What are you reading?” Sharing the name of a good book is one of my signs of friendship.

Another Wellness Center friend (a retired librarian) has a special page in my “Books-to-Read” notebook because she recommends the best books. When I bump into her and after I say hello, my first question is, “What good books are you reading?”

Many of my favorite memories relate to books, such as the “book mobile.” I don’t remember going to the library (I guess we had one), but I remember the excitement when the book lady came by. I also was bribed with books to stay home when Mother went to town; book bribery also worked to get me to the doctor without too many complaints.

It all started with the Bobbsey Twins and moved to Nancy Drew and Judy Bolton. And no, I didn’t like the Hardy Boys. Imagine how I felt when I learned the same person(s) wrote all but the Judy Bolton books. Mysteries of all types soon became my favorite books, and they continue to be my choice. Only the authors have changed. Losing a favorite author is almost like losing a close friend. I don’t even like for my favorite authors to remain “creatively active” after they die.

Maybe I love mysteries because “crime and mysteries are as Southern as haunted mansions and sleepy magnolias” (Joe Atkins, n.d., “South Is Home to Mysteries,” *The Clarion-Ledger*). Maybe it’s because Mississippi boasts a strong tradition of mystery writers with ties to Mississippi, such as William



Faulkner’s great-grandfather, Faulkner himself, Ace Atkins, John Grisham, Carolyn Haines, Charlain Harris, Greg Iles, Charles Wilson, and Julie Smith.

But my love of reading probably came from my parents and sisters. Our entire family shared that love of reading.



## In His Grip

By Carolyn Hagler

We differed somewhat in that Sister No. 1 liked spy novels and English authors; Middle sister never wanted to try new authors; both sisters shared a love of Louis L’Amour books with Daddy (I saw the movies); and I loved to find a new author who had written a ton of books.

The biggest change over the years has been to electronic books. You know you’ve accepted e-books when you try to swipe or tap the pages of a real book.

Why is reading so important to me? Two quotes come to mind: “The man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot read” (Mark Twain), and “reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body” (Joseph Addison). I’m thankful for my love of reading.

First-hand experience, though, taught me that reading is beneficial in school and in all stages of life. Research has indicated that students who read perform better in school across all grades and that pleasure reading is an essential component for academic and future success. I’ve always thought that my reading helped me in school except in math; it didn’t seem to do anything for my math ability or disability.

I’m not sure whether my love of reading came first or my recognizing that I learn best through reading and writing, not hearing. Regardless, my notetaking in school started as a way of self-preservation to make good grades. Notetaking continues today even during sermons. Not only does it make me focus on the sermon but also it keeps the message from “passing through my mind.”

Too, I believe reading is important because it’s one of those gifts that keep on giving. Garrison Keillor once said, “A book is a gift you can open again and again.” I’ve always thought books are better than any movie made from a book because we’re limited by only our imagination when reading—not some screenwriter’s imagination. And you don’t have to leave home to take a bookcation.

In the final analysis, I’ve got to admit that I’ve never read a mystery and thought, “I really want to read that one again.” Never! But there is one book that’s different. It seems to me that every time I read God’s Word, I learn something. His Word is timeless; “it’s stood the test of time through the endless ages” (I Believe the Book by Lee Black, Kenna Turner West, and Joseph Habedank).

I always felt guilty when people talked about reading the Bible in its entirety many times. So, I read it once in our traditional format and again in chronological order. I



Carolyn Hagler

found that I was just reading to meet the day’s goal—I’m not sure I learned much. But I joined the ranks of those who have read it cover to cover.

I decided after those experiences that I would not read it again with a plan and a deadline. Have you heard, “Never say never”? Recently, my niece sent me a chronological plan designed to make one think more and do more active reading. Once again, I felt the need to learn more about God Himself from reading His Word beginning to end.

But my positive habit I’m working on is to read His Word every day. I may not finish my plan in a year, but I will read it every day. Reading through the Bible in a year isn’t what’s important; it’s the daily reading to know Him better and be in touch with Him. Psalm 119 certainly convinces me of that truth.

You may have gathered by now that I’m a creature of habit. I do better when I have a routine. One day several years ago, I was convicted that my morning routine put God in last order of importance. It was as if He opened my eyes to other things having a higher priority than He did. That hurt! Now, my favorite time of day starts in the predawn hours with Him and His Word.

Reading is one ingredient of a perfect day, especially on a cold morning with a fire keeping me toasty warm and a hot cup of coffee beside me. In His grip and with His strength, I will continue to be faithful to read His Word and put it in its proper place of honor. Only then can I enjoy my mysteries. What about you? The challenge is to read to your children, grandchildren, or any child so that their world might be enlarged and they will be better prepared to learn more about Him.



# SOUTHEASTERN GOSPEL FEST

EMCEE

**JOSH FRANKS**

PRESENTED BY **Southeastern Baptist College**

## APRIL 19th & 20th, 2024

**FRIDAY, APRIL 19TH**

CONCERT STARTS AT 6 PM | DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM

BIBLETONES

JEFF & SHERI  
EASTER

JOSH & ASHLEY  
FRANKS

KAREN PECK &  
NEW RIVER

DOWN EAST BOYS

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH**

CONCERT STARTS AT 5 PM | DOORS OPEN AT 4 PM

BRIAN FREE &  
ASSURANCE

MICHAEL COMBS

GREATER VISION

INSPIRATIONS

MARK TRAMMELL  
QUARTET

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR | \$25 NIGHTLY

YOU CAN ALSO PURCHASE TICKETS ON THE WEBSITE

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
607 WEST 5TH STREET  
LAUREL, MS 39440

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
601-426-6346  
[WWW.SOUTHEASTERNBAPTIST.EDU](http://WWW.SOUTHEASTERNBAPTIST.EDU)



# SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440 - 601.426.6346

Serving Christ With A Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

## Presidents Perspective

In the book of Nehemiah, we find a man of faith called by God to rebuild the destroyed city of Jerusalem. He begins his work with the full endorsement of the foreign king he serves. When he arrives in Jerusalem, he finds the city in ruins and goes about assessing and prioritizing the work that needed to be done. The work was an enormous effort that required the help of all the Jewish people in Jerusalem and the surrounding area. And, although Nehemiah had the blessing of the king, the king's local administrators were very much opposed to the project. Nehemiah and his team of volunteers experienced much grief and often were distracted from their task at hand in order to deal with those who opposed the work of the Lord.



Dr. Scott Carson  
President

Dwight Moody said, "Great work usually meets the strongest opposition." Satan's tactics have not changed over the centuries. We have a great work of the Lord advancing on the campus of your college, Southeastern Baptist College. As we experience God's blessings, we are also often distracted by forces that do not agree with the work of this ministry. I have been with SBC now for eight years, president for seven of those years and I believe the current spiritual attacks are at their highest

since the work of rebuilding SBC began eight years ago. This creates significant stress for myself and upon the staff. Our staff are dedicated servants of the Lord who are advancing the gospel through Christian education. We had six souls saved in our chapel program last semester with numerous other students challenged daily to grow their faith in Jesus Christ. The campus Christian atmosphere is the best it has ever been. Yet, opposition is also at its greatest.

Not only did Nehemiah face forces from outside the work, he also faced significant challenges from within the work. However, by seeking godly wisdom through prayer, he eventually accomplished his God given mission. I pray that the Lord will look down upon this work and continue to bless it as He already has over the decades, and the last eight years. I sense we will see significant forward progress over the next couple of years, and this is why such opposition has increased in order to try to impede the Lord's work. Please pray for the Board of Trustees, the college leadership, staff and faculty of your college.

I went to a local dentist today for a routine check. As we conversed, the dentist and assistants all praised the work of the college and how it is again a significant part of our community. As he concluded his check up, and not knowing the issues we are facing, he shook my hand and said, "Be not weary in well-doing". He nearly brought tears to my eyes.

Equipping the Saints,  
Dr. Scott R. Carson

## Southeastern Gospel Fest

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we have shortened the annual SBC Gospel Fest to two nights. The concert will now only be Friday and Saturday nights, April 19-20, at Laurel First Baptist Church. Mark your calendars now to attend this wonderful and uplifting worship event. This is our third year to promote this SBC scholarship event through Southern Gospel music. Please refer to the updated Gospel Fest flyer also adjacent to this article for each night's lineup of musicians.

April 19-20, 2024

First Baptist Church of Laurel, MS

\$25 / Nightly, Call 601-426-6346 or Order online @ southeasternbaptist.edu

## Spring Semester

We are off to a great Spring Semester! The staff and faculty are excited as we welcome our students back onto campus after a long holiday break. We have had some wonderful blessings during the break with a new floor installed in the classroom building hallway and computer lab. This has been a long-time goal of mine to replace that old worn out carpet, but we always had to divert funds for more urgent college needs. It looks great! See adjacent pictures.

## Special Gifts, Thank You!

To Dwight Pipes for your generous donation to SBC in memory of Brother Dwight Sibley.

To Midway First Baptist Church, Sumrall for your tremendous "gift for Jesus" offering donated to SBC.

To the family of Dorothy Greenwood for the estate gift in memory of Brother W.E. Greenwood for use in helping young men and women who are called to spread

the Gospel of Jesus Christ to others. I will provide more information as this donation becomes finalized.

## Free Tuition for BMA of Mississippi Members

Big News! The SBC Board of Trustees have approved a new BMAA Legacy Scholarship that provides free, yes you heard that right, free tuition to members of BMAA churches! Although there are other standard fees and requirements, tuition is waived beginning the 2024 Fall Semester. Spread the word and sign up today! Remember, SBC is YOUR college! Help us make this college a continuing and growing success while giving God all the glory.

## Available Scholarships for BMA of Mississippi Ministers

The Arnold Knight Memorial RLF Scholarship is available every semester to Baptist Missionary Association ministers who take classes at Southeastern Baptist College. These funds are administered by the BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund. Our Financial Aid Officer has all the information you need to sign up for classes and financial aid.

## VA Educational Benefits Accepted!

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

## New Flooring in Main Classroom Building



Left Photo  
Removing old flooring



Right Photo  
Beautiful new flooring



Dr. Carson Meets  
U.S. Congressman Mike Ezell



Chargers Pregame Prayer  
at Delgado College

## Upcoming Men's Basketball Games

Feb. 2	@Pensacola Christian	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 8	Bob Jones University Laurel, MS	TBA
Feb. 10	@Trinity Baptist College Jacksonville, FL	3:00 p.m.
Feb. 16	Southeastern Illinois CC Laurel, MS	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 22-24	*Regionals Tournament Pensacola, FL	TBA

## Upcoming Men's Baseball Games

Feb. 1	@Southern U at NO New Orleans, LA	12 & 2 pm
Feb. 6	@Tougaloo College Tougaloo, MS	12 & 2 pm
Feb. 8	@Oakwood U Huntsville, AL	7 pm
Feb. 9	@Oakwood U Huntsville, AL	11 am & 1pm
Feb. 17	Tougaloo College Laurel MS	12 & 2 pm
Feb. 24	Southern U at NO AW Watson Field	12 & 2 pm
Feb. 27	@William Carey U Hattiesburg, MS	3 pm
Mar. 2	Rust College Laurel MS	12 & 2 pm



Staff Planning for the Spring Semester



Professor Brooke Warren Leads the Spring Psychology class

# BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION MISSIONS OF MISSISSIPPI

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

## Acts 1:8 Boot Camps

We have finished our first round of Acts 1:8 Boot Camps for the North (November 10 & 11, 2023) and for the South (January 19 & 20, 2024). Our focus for this first round of Boot Camps was Evangelism. Both Boot Camps were a success with 12 in attendance from 5 churches from the North, and 38 in attendance from about 10 churches from the south.

On Friday night, the trainees were challenged with a heart for Evangelism in the first session, and the second session began the practical training on "how to" evangelize. On Saturday, the trainees were given more details in the practical and then given opportunities to step out of their comfort zone with practice sharing. Each individual was able to walk away with a simple but effective tool to help them share their faith more proficiently.

Please keep your eyes, ears and schedule open for more Boot Camps to come! We are in the process of detailing our next Boot Camp that will be for men in



Chris Yager

ministry (whether contemplating the call to ministry or newly called or long-time veterans). Men, mark your calendars for Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. This Boot Camp will be an encouragement, a challenge, a time of fellowship and fun for every minister. Campground Baptist Church will be hosting the Boot Camp; I pray that you will make the time to come be refreshed and challenged.

### Revolving Loan Fund:

The Revolving Loan Fund had an excellent year, and we are excited for an even greater year in 2024. If you have not taken advantage of our tiered interest rates, I hope that you will come invest in eternity with your RLF. If you have any questions about the security of the RLF, or the interest rate that would work best for you, please do not hesitate to call the office, and speak with Brianna or me. We would love to answer your questions and help you get an account set up.

### Revitalization:

By the end of January, we should have our Revitalization process finished and ready to put into full swing. In February, applications and an explanation of the process will be available on the mission's

## Hispanic Missions

By Estuardo Marraquin

We have begun a new year, and so have new plans for Hispanic missions. Each Hispanic field ended the year 2023 full of gratitude to our God for the goals achieved. New people have been added to every church, new people have been discipled and baptized. More people made choices in their lives to serve God. Now we move forward putting



Estuardo Marraquin

everything in the hands of our God so that this year 2024 will be one of many blessings and continue to enlarge the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Earlier this month of January I had the privilege of traveling to Guatemala where I was given the opportunity to train the pastors and missionaries of the BMA of Guatemala. The topic we were developing in this training was about Associative Work. I had the privilege of teaching how partnership work is based on the way the BMA of Mississippi works in partnership to do missions. The brethren in Guatemala were very happy with what they had learned, ready to put it into practice in the same way that the BMA of our beautiful state of Mississippi does.

Thank you for your prayers and all the support for the Hispanic work in our association and we ask that you continue to pray for the Hispanic community so that it can be reached with the glorious gospel of Salvation in Christ.

### Salt Light Mission report by Bro. Doyle Moore

At Salt Light Mission, we are filled with a sense of anticipation and enthusiasm for the upcoming year, as it holds many opportunities for us to make a positive impact in our community. Week after week, we are excited to welcome new visitors in our services.

Admittedly, the past couple of months have not been without their



Doyle Moore

website: [bmams.org](http://bmams.org). Come learn how you and your church can experience the excitement of the Revitalize Ministry that is being offered by your missions department.

### Timothy Ministries:

Also, by the end of January, we will have the application and training opportunities for Timothy Ministries (a training, discipling, and mentoring ministry for new or young ministers desiring further development in the ministry) available on the mission's website. If you know any new or young ministers, please direct them to this incredible opportunity that is being presented by your missions office.

### Giving:

We know that there are so many ministries and organizations asking for your support. At the missions office, please know that we appreciate all the support that you are able to give. Also with that knowledge, we know that some churches are looking for more ways to be involved, so we would like to make you aware of this opportunity.

With the additions of the Revitalize ministry and the Timothy ministry, our missions budget has doubled. Your support of these ministries would help us accomplish the vision that God has directed us toward. Like our missions budget, if you would like to give specifically to Church Revitalization or to the Timothy Ministries, your giving will be designated 100% to that specified fund.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve your Churches. It is an honor to serve the Lord alongside of you! May the Lord bless the work of our churches, missions, revitalization, and the training of men for the ministry.

May 2024 be our best year ever as we "strive together for the faith of the gospel" (Phil. 1:27)

## South Acts 1:8 Boot Camp



## Training in Guatemala



challenges. Our community, like many others, has been grappling with the repercussions of the flu, COVID, and RSV. It was disheartening to see some of our regular attendees succumbing to these illnesses, but we are immensely grateful that they have now recovered and returned to join us in our mission.

As we embark on this fresh chapter at Salt Light, we humbly ask for your prayers. We firmly believe that with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the collective power of your heartfelt prayers, we can see souls saved and lives changed as our Mission serves this community, spreading the message of love, hope, and faith. Thank you for your support and prayers.

### Restoration Jail Ministry Bro. Paul Spurlin

Thank you for your continued support of Restoration Jail Ministry through your prayers and financial gifts to the Missions department.

In December, we had a special gift given to our work to purchase bibles to distribute to prisoners, so we plan to begin doing that on a regular basis. We have only distributed bibles sporadically in recent months. Thank you for this special gift.

For this report, I have been asked to speak about goals for this ministry. Many of you may know that we began our work in the jails just before Covid became widespread in 2020. I had the opportunity to preach once in the Jasper



Paul Spurlin

County jail before all jails were closed to visitation due to Covid risk, including ministerial visitation to hold preaching services. We trust God's direction in all things, and He reopened Jones County jail to gospel ministry more quickly than other jails. Therefore, I began focusing on work there. God has continued to bless our work in that jail, and I would like to find a church (or churches) in Jones County willing to take responsibility for the work there so I may begin working regularly in another jail. Our team will happily assist you in getting started, and I truly believe that anybody who engages in this activity will be encouraged as he works to help prisoners. Each service is enjoyable as the prisoners join in singing, hearing God's Word preached, and praying as we try to take into the jail what parts of a regular worship service that we can. I ask you to pray for God to raise up a church(es) for this work so that we may be more pleasing to Jesus as He considers ministering to His brethren in prison equivalent to ministering to Him (Matthew 25:39-40). If your church is interested in visiting the jail with me to investigate the work, please contact the Missions office.

As to our recent work, we were able to go to the Jones County jail twice during December. On December 8, I met with five prisoners and preached from Luke 23: "What Type of Person Goes to Heaven?" Within the last year, my favorite part of our jail services has been the time at the end of service when we ask the prisoners for their individual prayer requests. This is

Continued on page 7

# Missions Report

From page 6

an opportunity to encourage each man about God's faithfulness as he hears someone caring for him by praying to God for his specific concerns. During this service, four men had prayer requests. Please pray for Antoine, Michael, Will, and Junior.

On December 22, five prisoners met with me and Bro. Ken Riley as I preached from 1 Timothy 1: "Celebrating More than Jesus's Birth." Near the end of this service, a teary sixty-year-old man named Jameson told all of us that he wanted to be saved *again*. After gently explaining to him about conversion being a one-time event, I sensed that he may need pastoral counseling and asked Bro. Ken to address him. Jameson continued referring to the good he has done. Even after Bro. Ken spoke to his concerns, Jameson seemed not to be able to abandon all trust in self to embrace the gospel message of trusting only what Christ did for him. Please pray for Jameson as God appeared to be working in his heart as he recognizes his own sin and desperately wants to be saved. As great as this was, there was more encouragement in this visit.

When we sensed that we could go no further with counsel to Jameson until God helps him fully understand the gospel, I wanted to help Jameson by leaving with each prisoner a tract that does an excellent job of presenting the true gospel. Not knowing what Jameson's reading skills may be, I generically said to the group that if some of you do not read well, you may want

to ask someone to help you with this tract. A younger man named Robert emphatically said, "I will help him." We took this to mean that Robert understood that I was specifically encouraging Jameson when speaking to the group and that he was willing to continue working with Jameson to help him understand the gospel. How wonderful! One man who appeared to know the Lord based on comments he had made earlier in the night was willing to help one who seems not to know God. Please pray for Robert in this good work and may we all join him in an effort to reach with the gospel all whom God puts in our sphere of influence.

### Living Hope Baptist Mission Update

By Samuel Yager

*"If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence."*

This is the statement of Moses asking God to lead the children of Israel only where His presence would be with them. As we walk into another year, this attitude of wanting nothing behind or beyond where God is should be found in us as well.

While planning for the new year, one ministry we have been brainstorming ideas of how to be more effective in reaching people was our Wednesday evening Bible study and Teen night. However, there was no peace from God to make any of the changes that we were considering. This seeming roadblock soon became the very thing for



Sam Yager

which I was praising God. For the next few weeks, God continued to grow the effectiveness of our Wednesday evening Bible study. Through this, I was reminded that all my planning means nothing unless the presence of God goes with me.

God is continuing to bless and lead at Living Hope Baptist Mission. We are excited to see what God has prepared for the days ahead, and we are thankful for the prayer and support from our fellow churches.

### Refuge Baptist Mission

Bro. Josh Daniels

Greetings churches and associations of the BMA of Mississippi.

Anyone else feel the winter blues?? No? Maybe it is just me, but this time of year can be a tough season in ministry. We go from the busy and festive time of Thanksgiving meals, Christmas services, and New Years visions back to regular schedule and routine of life and ministry. It can be a challenge! This year, we at Refuge Baptist Mission have decided to embrace this challenge and view ministry as anything BUT routine. God is raising up people that have the potential to lead and serve like never before and the future is looking well at Refuge. Here are a few goals that we have that we ask you to help us pray for. CONNECTION, DISCIPLESHIP PROMOTION, EVANGELISM, RAISING LEADERS, RECOVERY MINISTRY, & COMMUNITY WORSHIP. I will share a new one each month in our mission article.



Josh Daniels

church at a Sunday morning service alone. It takes small groups, fellowships, outreach days, and more time together for relationships to build. We recently had a game night for all ages, and it was incredible to see so many work together, laugh, and cheer each other on that had previously not known each other. If we are going to be a united church that strives together to fulfill the great commission, then we need to know one another on more personal levels. The church body is more than acquaintances, we are family!

### Canaan Land Mission

Bro. Scot Brocius

Greetings from Canaan Land Mission! We pray all of you had a great start to the new year! We started off the new year with a new member! She was born on Christmas Eve! Please remember this new family of 3 in your prayers as they embark on this new journey the Lord has blessed them with. We will have another little one born in a few weeks, and we are so excited for his arrival! Please keep his parents in your prayers, he will be their first little one and they are both excited and nervous. Babies are a blessing from the Lord!



Scot Brocius

With the new year brings new opportunities. We at the mission church are starting to plan out our future outreaches and youth activities. It's always exciting to have eager members anticipating and planning the upcoming activities. They are planning some fun things for the community and members.

As always, we covet your prayers. Pray the Lord continues to guide and grow our mission. He has been so faithful. If your church would like us to visit to give an update of our progress, please don't hesitate to reach out. We would love to visit! If you find yourself in the Buckatunna area, please stop by and visit. We would love to have you. Thank you all for your continuous support!

### CONNECTION

We desire our people to continue to connect in new ways outside of the morning worship service. Most would agree that it is not easy to get to know new people in the

## Mississippi GMAs

Lakelan Jenkins, GMA Promoter  
P.O. Box 1694, Collins, MS 39428  
lakelanflynt@gmail.com - 601-517-1476

## GMA Camp Is Near!

### A Word From GMA Secretary

Hello there! My name is Olivia Spradley and I am your GMA State secretary. Can you all believe that camp is only six weeks away? I can hardly wait! I'm writing to inform you of some very important dates and deadlines!

Be on the lookout for your registration packet. Registrations and T-shirt orders are due by February 25th. And don't forget that your church's project money is due by February 1st. All girls wanting to participate in the Queens Coronation must respond by March 1st.

For girls who would like to volunteer with special music, contact Emily Carroll at [emilycarroll0128@gmail.com](mailto:emilycarroll0128@gmail.com) or sign up online at [sites.google.com/view/msgma](https://sites.google.com/view/msgma). That's a lot to remember so mark your calendar!

Camp is always full of lots of activities and contests. I mean, who doesn't like a friendly competition? First is our camp themed poster contest. Come up with your most creative expression of our theme "Highway to Heaven". Next, make sure to bring your GMA scrapbook filled with all the activities and service projects you've done this past year. And Lastly, prepare your "tackiest tourist" costume for the house party! We are also going to have a craft table, silent auction, and an officer competition, so crack open those piggy banks! All proceeds will go toward the BMA Bible Institute of Mexico.

Our theme for this year is based off John Bunyan's "The Pilgrim's Progress". A fun activity to prepare for camp is to have a movie night with your group and watch the cartoon that is playing on Amazon Prime. And if you do, take pictures, and put them in your scrapbook before camp!

I'm so beyond excited about this year's State camp and I can't wait to see you all there!

One Special Note: We will be having a special service to induct Mrs. Barbara White and Mrs. Shirlene Smith into the GMA Hall of Fame at 10:30 on Saturday morning. We hope you can be at this special event.



## LATRELLE WINDHAM SPECIAL EMPHASIS OFFERING BMA OF MISSISSIPPI STATE YOUTH DEPARTMENT MARCH 2024

# \$30,000 GOAL

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THIS MINISTRY IN 2023! THE "LATRELLE WINDHAM" OFFERING IS CRITICAL IN 2024!

In 2023 we saw God do many things...we anticipate MUCH MORE in '24!

- 25 teens & young adults got saved!
- 302 attended Teen Camp!
- 276 attended RENEW!
- 36 churches attended events!
- On Campus at SBC 4 times!
- Visited 16 association meetings!
- South & North Youth Rallies March 9<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024!
- Kids Camp June 10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> 2024 at Waukaway Springs!
- Teen Camp July 8<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> 2024, at Lake Tiak O'Khata!
- RENEW Dec. 29-31, 2024, at Midway First Baptist Church!

WE ASK ALL OUR CHURCHES TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS OFFERING TO REACH THE GOAL!

**NEED: THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT NEEDS 40 MONTHLY SUPPORTING CHURCHES! WE CURRENTLY HAVE 24! PRAY ABOUT BEING ONE OF THOSE!**

**PLEASE SEND OFFERINGS TO  
BRANDY RILEY, 454 LEBANON RD.  
LAUREL, MS 39443**

[www.bmamssyouth.org](http://www.bmamssyouth.org)



## Women's Missionary Auxiliary

WMAofMS20@gmail.com  
**President Dawn Freeman**  
 cdfreeman7327@gmail.com  
 601-325-7226



Dawn Freeman  
President

**Treasurer Mrs. Theresa Reus**  
 1264 Dean Nursery Rd.,  
 Lucedale, Mississippi 39452

### WMA National Project Information

Last year, Lydia Dunlap, went on a mission trip to South America. She wrote about the experience. In the article she talked about giving out shoeboxes, and being asked to teach some of the local kids how to jump rope. After showing them how to swing the rope for themselves, she teamed up with a young mom to swing a longer rope for them to take turns jumping. She went on in her article to describe her feelings on realizing, the young mom was actually her age and the differences in their lives because of the cultures they were raised in.

I enjoyed the article very much, but it sent my thoughts in a different direction. Thinking about the two girls swinging a rope for the kids to jump gave me a mental picture of how we can work with others too. Each person has a job but on different ends of the rope. You have to work together in a good rhythm to get the right results.

This is a great example of how the WMA can work together with the workers at the Jeevan Prakash School to provide for their students. We can't all go to India to help with this ministry or education of the children. But we can work on our end, doing what we can to keep the rope swinging. If we raise money for the much-needed renovations, there are plenty of laborers in India ready to do the renovations. We will be working together to provide the kids with a safe, comfortable place to learn.

The children are attending school now in a building that needs foundational work to be safer. There is no ventilation for the building that houses all grades. The temperatures in their area often exceed one hundred degrees. The school is unable to provide safe drinking water. Most of us would agree this alone is a dangerous combination. We would not want our own children in this situation.

Those that run the school have stepped out on faith and have begun renovations. Already the lack of adequate restrooms has been addressed. As money comes in they will continue to do any repairs they can without disrupting ongoing classes. The bulk of the construction would need to be done when the school year ends for them in April. Let us try to have our funds in and ready for them to draw from by then. Our hope is that more than enough will come in for the building repairs. The extra can be used to replace the well-worn furniture. New tables and chairs would be such a blessing and brighten up the school. Maybe these renovations and updates will attract more students to the school.

Surely a familiar verse in a situation like this is Ecclesiastes 4:9, "two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor." Over the years we have worked together to raise money for many projects. This year is no different, let us work together to bless the children and staff of Jeevan Prakash school with a safe and comfortable learning environment. We can do our part in swinging the rope on our end and have faith the Lord will provide someone to swing the other end.

Please send any contributions to the national WMA project, c/o Janet Widger, P.O. Box 23, Salem, MO 65560.

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## Rocky Branch Church Gospel Sing

Rocky Branch Baptist Church, Sumrall will host a Gospel music concert featuring Zions Way and Four the King on February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. The church is located at 2401 Rocky branch Road, Sumrall. A love offering will be taken.



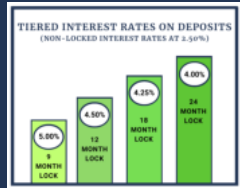


[www.rlfbmams.org](http://www.rlfbmams.org)



**If you could invest your finances to get a solid immediate return while producing an incredible eternal return, would you?**

For over forty years, our investors have enjoyed competitive interest rate returns while supplying the funds needed for the RLF to be able to provide loans to our missions, churches, pastors, and missionaries. These loans are used to purchase property, construct sanctuaries, build family life centers, pave parking lots, and fund smaller financial needs such as purchasing a church van or bus. It is through the RLF that many of our local BMA churches have been constructed.



**IF YOU'RE PLANNING ON INVESTING, WOULD YOU CONSIDER INVESTING WITH US?  
 LET YOUR TALENTS WORK TOWARD AN ETERNAL RETURN! (MATTHEW 25:22-23)**

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## Senior Adult Ministry

8 Reagan Lake Road, Laurel, MS 39443 - 601-426-3293

### South Senior Adult Conference

Your 2024 Senior Adult Conference Season is here! Our South Conference is just about 4 weeks away and will be meeting at Big Creek Baptist Church, Highway 84 West, Soso, Mississippi, on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. We will begin at 9:00 am and have a Grand Ole Time!

Our guest speaker will be former BMA Missionary to Mexico Bro. Buddy Johnson. Bro. Buddy will bless our hearts with God's word. Our music will be led by Bro. Brandon Wilson and our afternoon musical guests will be New Ground. The noon meal will be provided by Mack's Fish House will all the trimmings.

There will be special recognition to certain folks, door prizes, some possible surprises, and much more. You don't want to miss this year's meeting.

I hope you will make it a priority to be at this meeting AND make it a high priority to bring others with you. Our churches could really show our Senior Adults some appreciation by paying the fee for each one from their church.

Seniors, this meeting is not limited to members of your church. Be a friend and reach out to your friends and invite them to come with you. You will be a great blessing to them by extending a personal invitation.

I look forward to seeing a record crowd at Big Creek Church on March 5<sup>th</sup>!



Don Brown  
Director

### Project

Each year we ask our seniors and their church to bring a special offering for our annual mission project. We will be supporting an area of need with this offering.

### Support Needed

This ministry is just like every other ministry of our great Association. We rely on regular monthly support from our churches. The fees we must charge for our meetings do not come close to covering the costs. We ask each of our churches and local associations to put us in their monthly budget. We are asking each church to put this Commission in their budget for a minimum of \$25.00 per month. If you can do more then please do.

Your regular monthly gifts will make this ministry much more effective. God bless you for your support.

## Mississippi Girls Retreat

### March 15-16th, 2024

Campground Baptist Church in Gulfport

Speakers: Bro. Noah and Mrs. Sarah Clark

We'll have crafts, missions, games, and worship.

continue to do any repairs they can without disrupting ongoing classes. The bulk of the construction would need to be done when the school year ends for them in April. Let us try to have our funds in and ready for them to draw from by then. Our hope is that more than enough will come in for the building repairs. The extra can be used to replace the well-worn furniture. New tables and chairs would be such a blessing and brighten up the school. Maybe these renovations and updates will attract more students to the school.

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Please send any contributions to the national WMA project, c/o Janet Widger, P.O. Box 23, Salem, MO 65560.



# mission:world

## NEWS

## ONE LOCAL CHURCH'S HEART FOR THE NATIONS

By Adam Thomas  
Pastor of Wyatt Baptist Church  
El Dorado, Arkansas

I wish I could say that as a pastor I always expect God to do the impossible. But if I am honest I find myself constantly surprised by a God who does so much more than I ever expect him to do. Wyatt Baptist Church is an average-sized church tucked away in South Arkansas, an hour away from the nearest interstate. And yet over the last couple of decades, I've seen God privilege our church time and time again with a global reach for his kingdom. This all started and is sustained by our short-term mission efforts. I want to take a few moments to talk about how our church has embraced short-term missions, which has led to a long-term impact globally.

First, we teach our people to go. Over the years we have provided our people with opportunities to learn about missions. We have had mission conferences that promote God's heart for the nations. We try to work missionaries and our mission directors into our Sunday services frequently. In preparation for mission trips, we require team members to attend a missions boot camp where they learn how to travel as well as why they are going. We also take frequent opportunities to preach on missions. We have made Urgency in Global Gospel Missions one of the core values of our church, and it is important to help our people understand why we value it like we do.

Second, we plan for our people to go. Our church has a long history of financially supporting missions. We also have a long history of being a friend to missionaries. However, it was always easy for our people to feel a little distant from the missionary efforts we supported. But in 2005 something happened that would change that. In 2005 our church planned our first short-term mission trip to put our people's boots on the ground in another culture in Nicaragua. Then in 2006, we added a trip to Ukraine, and then in 2007 we added interstate trips. This emphasis on short-term missions has continued until today. If your church lacks the resources to plan such trips you can contact BMA Global and promote their medical and VSM trips to your people.

Third, we help our people to afford to go. We have established a scholarship called the Go! Scholarship which exists to help people afford to go. Travel can be expensive and we want to remove as many obstacles as possible for people to get on the mission field. Our goal every year for the Go! Scholarship is for anyone going on their first trip to have their plane ticket fully paid for. We know that if we can get someone on their first trip the chances are likely that it will awaken a missionary heart within them that will last a lifetime. Others who apply for the scholarship will usually have half of their trip paid for. This scholarship serves a twofold purpose. Those that go have help in getting there and those who don't go have the opportunity to send someone. This allows more people to participate in our short-term mission efforts.

Fourth, we encourage long-term mission endeavors. Early on in our short-term missionary endeavors, we had John David Smith speak at one of our boot camps. A phrase he shared was one that has governed our efforts in short-term missions. He told us to make sure that our short-term efforts had a long-term goal. We tend to go to the same places over and over again. Why? Because our goal isn't to provide new and exciting places for our people to travel to, but rather to present to them long-term partnerships that have long-term impacts. Our financial and prayer support goes far beyond our week-long trips. When it comes to these partnerships our people step up to support time and time again.

After almost 20 years of short-term missions, I can say without a doubt that the places we go have had more of an impact on us than we have had on them. Something happens to your church when a majority of your church

puts their boots on the ground to take the gospel to another culture. Missions has always been a part of our church, but over the last 20 years, it has become the heartbeat of our church. Our short-term mission trips have led to all kinds of mission ministries. We have had people on these trips go on the field long term. We have seen our church welcome internationals from the college down the road which led to their conversion. One man on one of our first trips came home and set out to learn Spanish so he could establish a Spanish ministry here in our church. Most recently we have had one member launch a ministry of missionary care.

If you encourage your people to go and participate and see for themselves what God is doing globally, you will see God do through your church what you never thought possible.



# mission:world

## NEWS

## LEAST LIKELY

By Danny Ballard

BMA Missionary to the Philippines  
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Scripture is filled with examples of how the Lord will use the weak, the unlikely, and those whom you would never foresee Him using to accomplish His will and purpose in the world. I would like to begin my story by saying I am one of those examples.

As a young teenager my dream was to become an archeologist. I love history and trying to understand things from the past. I pursued that dream until one day I found out that part of the requirements of being an archeologist was to be a teacher. My dreams were crushed at the time for one simple reason: I was afraid to speak in front of anyone. I had a fear of public speaking. That fear literally gripped me to the point that I would stutter, lose all train of thought, and shake all over.

Little did I know at that time that God had a special plan for me and my life that would bring me to do the one thing I feared the most. The lesson to be learned was that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

My family attended Vardaman Street Baptist Church in Wiggins, MS. I loved helping with the youth and was always volunteering to help, never leading, always just a helper. One day our youth director came to me and asked me if I would be willing to be the Awana Commander at our church because we were implementing the program for the first time. She told me that I would just be the figurehead and she would take care of everything. I thought about it and prayed about it for several weeks and again was reassured that I would basically be the figurehead as commander, so I said yes. Little did I know that was the beginning of God's plan for my ministry and the beginning of my story that led me to be a missionary to the Philippines.

You already can imagine that I was not just the figurehead but actually I was the leader, the commander of the Awana program. Mrs. Robbie later told me that she saw something in me that no one else had seen and how the Lord laid it on her heart to ask me and convince me to be the commander. During my seven years as the Awana commander I worked with several youth pastors. I always loved working with the youth and helped in any way that I could. The current youth pastor had resigned and the church had been searching for a replacement for months. Each candidate would come in view of a call, preach before the church, and one by one the church always voted not to call them.

One particular Sunday evening another candidate had just come in view of a call and that night the church voted; again it was a no. I was up in the balcony of the church, at that time kneeling down on the floor leaning against the rail and was praying asking "Lord, why won't you give us a youth pastor?" At that moment as I prayed, something happened that would alter my life forever. It felt like the Lord had placed His hand on my shoulder, leaned over and spoke into my ear, "because I want you to do it."

At that moment I turned around to see who was behind me and no one was there. I remember it just like it was yesterday. I said, "Lord, you know I can't do that. You know I can't speak in front of people. You know I am not smart enough to be the youth pastor." I was scared to death to be honest but I began to pray about it for many weeks and then asked our pastor to pray as well. I knew the Lord was calling me but I was afraid to say yes. Then I finally prayed, "Lord, you know I can't speak in front of a crowd. You know I am a very shy person at heart but I am willing to surrender. It is You who will have to do the work in me and give me the ability to speak in front of people."

As I began my journey as the youth/missions pastor, my idea of missions was to give money. But all that was soon to change. I volunteered to lead a VSM mission team one year. I was assigned to co-lead a team to China. The trip to China was the beginning of the Lord calling me to full-time mission work. I knew at that time while I was in China that one day, I would be back in Asia somewhere doing some kind of mission work. Over the next several years I would lead teams from our church on mission trips in the states and globally. Year after year God was working on my heart, but at that time, I was not sure if it was to continue doing what I was doing or to surrender to be a full-time missionary, but I would soon find out.



One day our pastor, Bro Eugene Anderson, was going to the missions office for some training they were offering. There were several missionaries going through the same training at that time. He asked me if I would come along to help with the driving and keep him company. I agreed to go and asked if I could go through the training also. God was busily working all along in all of this to get me there to the training. At the training there was a missionary to the Philippines, Bro Robert Murphy. This was the first time I had met him and it was like our spirits were drawn together. We would sit up until 2-3 am just talking about the ministry and people of the Philippines. I was a sponge and his words were a vast amount of water that I was soaking up and could not get enough of. The burden continually grew and grew.

The following summer I had planned three different mission trips. One was to Trinidad and Tobago, one was to Nicaragua, and the last one was to the Philippines. I begin to pray to the Lord, "God, please give me an answer to the question: do I stay where I am and keep doing what I am doing or do I surrender to full-time missions? Please give me an answer before the Nicaragua mission trip is over." The first trip came and went. It was a great trip and God blessed very much but no answer. Then came the trip to Nicaragua. God again was working and blessing in so many ways. There were just two days left of our two-week trip and still no answer from the Lord. I was laying in my bed that night begging for the Lord to give me an answer before that trip was finished because I already felt like if He was calling me to the mission field full time that it would be to the Philippines.

When I woke up the next morning, I began my daily devotions. I used the Charles Stanley Life Principles Daily Bible for my devotional. It breaks the Bible down to where you read the Old Testament, Psalms/Proverbs, and the New Testament every day. Normally on a mission trips things are so hectic that it is easy to fall behind on your reading, but this particular morning I was actually ahead by two days. As I sat down, I prayed again, "Lord, please speak to me and answer my prayer about the direction You have for me." Keep in mind I was ahead two days as I began to read. When I got to the New Testament

**continued on next page**

# mission:world

## NEWS

# SAVED PEOPLE ARE SENT PEOPLE

By John Meriweather  
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In a world inundated with noise and distractions, the profound truth that those saved by Christ are also sent to share his message often gets lost in the shuffle of daily life. The essence of Christianity lies not merely in personal salvation but in the transformative journey from redemption to responsibility, from being rescued to becoming a rescuer. Consider the words of Jesus to his disciple after his resurrection and before he ascended to heaven:

- John 20:21 "...As the Father has sent me, I AM SENDING YOU."
- Matthew 28:19 "Therefore, GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES..."
- Acts 1:8 "...YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Jesus has not only **saved** us but he has **sent** us to serve his mission by proclaiming his glory and salvation to all people!

**God's mission is not a suggestion to consider but a command to obey.**

Saved individuals are not mere recipients of a divine rescue mission but are integral participants in the ongoing narrative of God's redemptive plan. In exhorting his followers to take up his mission, Jesus was not offering suggestions for us to consider but commands for us to obey. God chose, equipped, and commanded his followers to fulfill his purpose.

**God's mission is an interwoven theme throughout all scripture.**

The entire narrative of scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, is God making himself and his mission known to man.

- As he chose Abraham to establish a new nation through whom "all the people on earth will be blessed."
- As he spoke through the Psalmist to "declare his glory among the nations."
- As we've seen through the redemptive work of Jesus who proclaimed his mission to his followers.
- As we read in the apostle's letters to the churches that we "have been given the ministry of reconciliation."
- As we see in Revelation 7:9, it culminates when one day "every nation, tribe, people, and language" will stand before the Lamb!

**God's mission is not just something we do; it is who we are.**

In Christ we have a new identity aligned to a new purpose. Our identity is not based on what we do, it is based on who we are in Christ. In Christ our identity is tied to our purpose. Therefore, God's mission cannot be relegated to a budget line item, a program, or an event. We are sent to live out our purpose every day, in all we do, in whatever way we are called, and wherever we are sent.



**God's mission was not given to a mission's agency but to local churches and disciples.**

I am proud to work for BMA Global where we exist to fulfill God's mission to all nations. However, we do not do this in isolation but in partnership and on behalf of local churches. Local churches are both the source and goal of missions. It's from, in, and through local churches that disciples and missionaries are sent, supported, prayed for, and served.

Saved people are sent people—sent to go, sent to give, sent to pray, sent to love, sent to share, sent to serve—all people—everywhere. In February 2024 the churches of the BMA will celebrate world missions and give to the Jerry Kidd Missions Offering. May God use this time to renew our hearts with a passion for his mission to reach every nation, tribe, and tongue.

## Least Likely continued

scripture for that day it was Romans 10:13-15: "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

At that moment I knew the answer to my prayer. I began to weep tears of joy, but at the same time I was scared. This was something totally new for me. I prayed and thanked the Lord for His answer and told Him, "Ok Lord, I am willing to go but like I prayed when you called me into the ministry as the youth/missions pastor it is You that has to lead me, guide me, and give me the strength to do what You have called me to do.

My wife, Rita, had been praying with me the entire time for God to give me an answer. I shared with her how the Lord had answered our prayers and it was one of the happiest moments in her life. Rita had felt a call to the mission field when she was a teenager but she had to wait until the Lord trained me and brought me through everything He did to get me to the place that I would be ready also.

People often say that others can see things about people that the person can't see themselves. When we returned from the trip I spoke with our pastor and told him that the Lord had called me to be a full-time missionary and his words to me, as well as the entire church were, "I know! I have seen it coming for a long time." Others saw what God was doing but it just took me a little longer to catch up.

My family and friends would ask me, "Are you crazy? You are moving to the other side of the globe away from all your family and friends. Are you not worried that something will happen to you?" My reply was simple. I told them, "I am more afraid to stay here out of God's will than to go to the other side of the globe and be in God's perfect will."

God worked in so many ways, with so many small things and using so many people to accomplish His task of calling a man who gave up on his dream of being an archeologist because he was afraid to speak in front of people, to become a missionary to the Philippines. Rita and I are going on eleven years of ministry here in the Philippines. We should never doubt what the Lord can do with someone who has a willing heart.

Let me end by saying if you have never been on a mission trip, go! It will open your eyes to this vast world we live in and the great need to reach the masses for the Lord. Allow the Holy Spirit to work in your life and the Lord to use you to do great and mighty things for His kingdom.

He takes the least likely to do His work and ministry. The Lord can do this for you, when you surrender to His calling!

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me" (Isaiah 6:8).



# REACHING THE NATIONS IN THEIR OWN CULTURAL LANGUAGES

By Heather Harrison  
Lifeworld  
lifeworld.org

Since its beginning, Lifeworld has been committed to sharing the gospel worldwide. Telling just one person about Jesus is a privilege; proclaiming the Good News to the multitudes is an overwhelming honor... and what an honor we've been given, now talking to millions via the Lifeworld Cloud and social media platforms.

Whether installing radio transmitters so listeners can hear the gospel in remote areas, sharing about Jesus on Facebook, or broadcasting gospel messages via the Lifeworld Cloud, Lifeworld team members constantly seek ways to reach the unreached in every culture. While the numerical reach God has achieved through Lifeworld is astounding, our focus is not simply utilizing these methods but also working in, within, and through culture and various contexts.

A person's culture, way of life, characteristics, beliefs, social norms, customs, and religion affect how they see the world, themselves, and most importantly, God. In essence, one's culture becomes the lens through which one sees everything. This is why Lifeworld seeks to share Christ in such a way that people not only hear but understand and respond. Language is one part of this, but we don't simply share in an understood language; rather, we share in the cultural and heart language of the listener—many living or moving into our backyards.

There are countless cultures, even within a small geographic area, and knowing the surrounding culture is important when sharing the message of Christ. The Garifuna living in Honduras have a different set of needs than the Garifuna living in New York, but they both need the gospel in their cultural language. The Venezuelans living in Arkansas or the Nigerians living in Houston, away from their native country, face challenges that open doors to sharing the gospel in their context and Lifeworld is helping with that.

Sociologists classify cultures in three ways: guilt, shame, and fear. The Good News is for all cultures, teaching that Christ took our guilt and shame and erases the need to fear. To the guilty, He imputes His righteousness; to the shameful, He restores honor; to the fearful, He proves faithful. Knowing the surrounding culture gives the messenger insight into the unspoken worldviews, motivations, and deepest questions. Lifeworld is poised to help local churches reach those of different cultures around them.

The apostle Paul understood cultural languages. Lifeworld is learning from these biblical examples. To the Jews, he quoted

what they were familiar with - the Old Testament. However, to the Gentiles, he met them where they were and quoted their philosophers but pointed them to the creator God and the work of Jesus on the cross and His resurrection. The same truth was presented but in the context of their cultural language.

Lifeworld intends to continue taking the gospel in more languages but focused on doing so in the cultural language of the viewer, like the Czechs, Ukrainians, and Spanish speakers in the USA from various cultural backgrounds.

One of the beautiful truths of the gospel is that even though its history was set in a specific time, place, and people, its message is for people in all times and places. While some may think coming to Christ includes assimilating into a specific culture, the differences among believers highlight the creativity of God in creation and the power of God to unite such diversity.

We read in Revelation 7:9-10 "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

Can you imagine it? The beautiful tapestry of His creation—all nations, tribes, people, and languages worshiping our God together. What an honor. What a privilege. Lifeworld is perfectly positioned to partner with your church in reaching everyone in their cultural language and context.

