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BMA of America 2019 National Meeting A Means to An End?

by Jeff Swart, President
BMA of America

The officers of your national association have been concerned about the dwindling representation of our churches at the national meeting for several years now. Charting the meetings over the last 17 years, the highest number of churches represented by messenger was 345 in 2002, in Joplin, Missouri, and the lowest number of churches repre-

sented by messenger was 204 in Jackson, Mississippi, in 2018. Concerning the number of attendees, the highest attendance was in Joplin in 2002, with 1,172 people present



Jeff Swart



and the lowest was in Arlington, Texas in 2017, with 369 people present.

Although we do not pretend to know the reasons that the majority of our churches are simply deciding not to attend the annual meeting, the department directors and officers of our association believe that if we offered our churches more reasons to attend the national meeting—our participation might actually increase.

I first remember discussing the restructuring of our national meeting at a Coordinating Council meeting in May 2015. We talked about making the annual meeting less about business and more about offering our churches resources to enhance their ministries. The department directors, and officers of our association, believe the time is now to act upon that discussion and restructure our national meeting.

In previous years, the national association has actually been an end in itself. We have

see Meeting on page 2

Help Needed for Annual Meeting Fund

by James Ray Raines
BMA Recording Secretary

We need your help. Our roster shows that we have 1,260 churches who are affiliated with the B M A A . However, the representations in our Annual Meetings reflect the participation of only about half of them. We recognize that the Association is the servant of the churches. Each church is autonomous and participation is voluntary. However, there are many benefits offered to the member churches. Below is a list of some of those benefits.



Raines

1. Legal certification that the church is a registered

member of a non-profit association, (the BMAA is a registered non-profit organization with the IRS.)

2. Certification to assist if the church chooses to incorporate for legal or tax purposes.

3. Gives the church a voice in the actions and decisions of the BMAA.

4. Encourages and strengthens the voice in their stand on moral, political and doctrinal issues.

5. Offers fellowship with other churches of, "Like Faith."

6. Opportunity for involvement in fulfilling the great commission on a world wide scale.

Please remit funds for meeting and minute expenses

All expenses for facilities, equipment and supplies for the annual meeting plus travel expenses for several committees and the printing of the yearbooks are paid from this fund.

The total cost is \$35,000-\$40,000 each year. It is imperative that we increase contributions to this fund. Thanks to your response last year, we made it. However, our balance is dangerously low. We still need extra help.

Brethren, you are our first line of communication with our churches. Your help will be deeply appreciated. If you have suggestions for helping us communicate with the churches, we invite your input. Please know that we are praying for you, and stand ready to serve in any way possible. Even when attendance is not possible, the letter of registration affirms their membership. The registration letters need to be forwarded to: James Ray Raines: P. O. Box 17872, North Little Rock, AR 72117.

Your Church Can Help Leave a Legacy of Hope

BMA Missions is hoping that this World Missions Day, you will consider how you will outlive your life and leave a Legacy of Hope for future generations. One way that you can help leave a godly legacy is by supporting BMA Missionaries around the world. Each BMA Missionary, supported by our churches and the Missions Department, needs prayer and funding to continue their gospel work. Investing in ministries today will produce followers of Christ and eternities-changed in the future.

As you consider the idea of "outliving your life," remember the ministry of Bobby and

Ruth Bowman. They are a missionary family that has truly left a Legacy of Hope. They were elected to be missionaries in 1976 and served in Honduras for 20 years, primarily in the village of Sula, working to plant churches and produce disciples.

They, along with several other BMA Missionary families, worked to organize the BMA of Honduras in 1995, which at its inception included 15 churches and 12 missions. Soon after the organization of this association, they retired from the mission field and moved to Greenbrier, Arkansas.

"Just a couple of months ago, I had the privilege of going to Honduras," said Dr. John David Smith, BMA Missions Executive Director. "I was overwhelmed at the fruit of their ministry, and that of many other faithful missionaries through the years in Honduras - to see the Hondurans' churches growing, and to see them starting new churches. And the process just continues and continues! And so, the Bowmans and other faithful missionaries to Honduras are able to see their legacy even now."

World Missions Day is a day of celebration, prayer, and giv-

ing that is vital for the ministries of BMA Missionaries.



Both American and ChangeMaker missionaries hope that your church will participate in this special day, which will be held February 24, 2019. To register your church, visit bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday. You will be provided with bulletin inserts, posters, and a promo video to help promote your event.

2019 Annual Meeting

From page 1

the meeting, go out to eat with friends, talk in the display room, and all go home when the meeting is over until the next national meeting the following year. What we are suggesting is a radical new idea—let the national meeting become a means to an end. The “end” is the strengthening of the ministries of our local churches.

We are proposing that the national meeting become a ministry resource for our pastors, church leaders, and churches sharing practical information that can be taken home, implemented into the ministry of the local church, and then, we return to the national meeting the next year and receive further equipping skills for ministry. We anticipate that the result will be healthier churches whose ministries are reaching more people than

ever before. We are praying that the national meeting will become a resource for our churches instead of just a meeting where we conduct business.

We are planning two new features for this year’s national meeting—a BMA Town Hall Meeting and a Pastors Table Talk Forum. At the BMA Town Hall Meeting, our directors will cast their vision for the future of their departments and our association. Then, your input will be welcomed concerning what

...we would like to repurpose national meeting as a church conference where we do business

you have heard. And you will also have the opportunity to ask the directors any questions that you might have. The DiscipleGuide trustees will also be in attendance to talk about the future of DiscipleGuide and explain how certain decisions have been reached.

At the Pastors Table Talk Forum, pastors will enter the room and be allowed to choose to sit at one of twenty different tables, each table discussing a different ministry related topic with other pastors. After twenty minutes, church leaders will have the opportunity to move to a different table to discuss a different ministry related topic. This will be an occasion when we will learn from one another. We anticipate this to be a very practical, helpful, and popular session for church leaders.

Seven break-out sessions will be offered on Tuesday for all church leaders. The WMA changed the format of their meeting last year, and will do it again this year. They will conduct busi-

ness on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning will be dedicated to a women’s conference for all ladies.

An altered format may also prove beneficial to our bi-vocational pastors. They may be able to attend one day of the meeting, and if so, they could choose to attend the business session or several of the breakout sessions that are offered.

We are praying that our churches will view our national association in a new light. Instead of being merely a meeting where we conduct business, we would like to repurpose the BMA of America national meeting as a church conference where we do business.

Our prayer is that the BMA of America national meeting will become a means to an end—the national meeting is the “means” and the “end” is the edifying of the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ. We hope that you will agree and ask that you begin even now praying for your leaders and the upcoming meeting.

Ministering To Young People

by Anders Lee

First Impressions

We recently moved from our house to a new place. For 17 years I’ve known my neighbors and of course they know us. We could be ourselves with no worries. I could go outside, sit on the porch in my favorite old shirt and my ugly old khaki shorts without fear of getting weird looks. We all knew each other and it was all ok.

When we moved we became the “new people” that everyone was watching. While we were unloading a lady near us was peeking through the blinds. Talk about awkward! From that moment I knew we would have to make a good first impression. So I set out to wear some nice button ups for the first few days, thinking maybe someone would stop by to welcome us. A couple of days went by, then a week, and no one came. The trend kind of made me put my guard down a bit.

If you know me, you may know I drive a bus. We get up real early! One night I stayed up unboxing stuff and I went to bed at 12:15 AM. The next morning I jumped up a little late, throwing clothes on nearest to me. Once back at the house, a little coffee and an “Ahhhh” moment to recover. The doorbell rang. It was a neighbor!!! Our first visitor!!! YES!!! Finally!

She had a plate of goodies and a smile! We introduced ourselves and had a good conversation. But, I noticed in the conversation she had a strange look on her face. The chat ended and I thanked her for coming. I wonder what was up with the odd glances? I went on about my office work. About an hour

later I passed by a mirror. My polo was on inside out and my pants had dirt stains all down the front from moving a dog pen. What a horrible first impression. How embarrassing!!! I will never get that one back!

In youth ministry, first impressions are important! You don’t want to find yourself not being able to recover from a bad experience. Here are a few tips to avoid a bad first impression with parents or teens.

Directional Signs

If a new family arrives on your church campus and they don’t know anyone to lead them to the right locations, it will be awkward for them if they don’t have clear signs to tell them where to go. If you have a big campus (some do), you don’t want them wandering around guessing where to go. I’ve known families who told me that they visited a church, walked around a bit, and left. It doesn’t cost a lot, a local sign shop can fix you right up!

Greeters

Who is the first person that someone meets when coming to your youth group? You certainly need to have someone with a congenial disposition to be that person. Years ago, we selected the friendliest Mom in our group to be there to talk to new parents when dropping off their teen and we picked out the most outgoing teens in the group. They didn’t smother them, but

welcomed them, showed them around and always introduced them to me as the youth pastor.

Meet the Youth Pastor

In 2012, I was in-between church positions and we were visiting churches. We went to a local Baptist church on Wednesdays so my 16 and 13 years old sons could go to a youth group. They went to this youth group for 5 straight weeks.

Not once did the youth pastor introduce himself to them... or us. He saw us, got a card from us, but NEVER graced us with a hand shake or hello. WOW! As a

former youth guy that made sure I greeted everyone that walked thru the door that spoke volumes to me. It didn’t surprise me to hear that they dismissed him from his position not long after that. Make sure you give time as a youth guy to brand new people!

Clean Buildings

I hate to be the negative Nellie, but the Lord’s house ought not to be the place that’s junked up. Yes, it ought to be decorated in a way that appeals to the youth themselves, but, don’t let your youth room be the junk heap. Most parents will appreciate organized and clean places. I’ve preached in youth rooms and buildings that looked like someone didn’t have time to do basic stuff. Pizza boxes and trashed stacked in the corner from last week, floors nasty and dirty, the chairs with stains all over them, and sometimes ugly ole couches with holes in them that looked like someone’s Grandma donated them in 1981. I get it... sometimes youth budgets don’t allow the best or the newest, but the youth room can be clean and organized! It doesn’t have to

look like Fred Sanford decorated the place.

Organized & On Time

Ever been to that youth meeting where the guy running it says; “What do y’all want to do tonight?” or.... “What do y’all want to talk about?” Oh my... makes me want to walk out. Be well prepared and prayed up for the meeting. You and your team need to know

what’s going to happen before you ever open the doors. When the teens or parents walk through the door they need to see that you take seriously what you are doing. If par-

ents see a pattern of being unorganized and ill prepared... they’re gone! Teens today want to see things ready too. They want to walk into an atmosphere that’s fun, happening, energetic, alive, and organized.

One last tip... start on time and end on time. Youth meetings, most of the time, are on a school night. If you think you can hold them over until 8:45 PM every week because what you are doing is going to usher in the Kingdom of God, you will probably do it without half of the kids whose parents want their teens at home in a timely manner. Plus, they don’t want the ones that drive out on the roads late either. A good time frame for most youth meetings is around an hour and a half.

I’m not the expert on first impressions as the first part of this article proves, but I know if you follow these tips, and be honest about some other things in your youth group, you will make a great first impression!

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



Anders Lee



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

President's Perspective

"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?" Psalm 2:1

It has been my observation that hatred toward all things godly has increased tremendously in recent years. Every day I see people railing against biblical standards that were the cultural norm just a couple of decades ago. Their anger is captured on camera as they scream at others who may not agree with their world view and vision for the future of humanity.

Psalm 2 gives us good insight as to why the "heathen" rage. Verses two and three tell us why they rage, "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."

Often, we as Christians may take their fomenting personally. The unbelievers vent their anger toward follow-

ers of Christ because we directly represent Him on this earth. We are followers of Jesus. They rant and rave at us because we are His ambassadors to the lost (2 Corinthians 5:20). We are His disciples and we discipline our lives after His teachings. The "heathen" rage because they reject the teaching of the Lord. They reject biblical truth. They totally disallow all godly principles as presented in the scriptures and because our nation was founded on these teachings, their vision for the future of American and the world, is devoid of these truths. As described in Psalm 2:3, their perfect image of the future is having cast off all biblical truth and replacing it with flawed, sinful, human reasoning.

Notice in the passage that the rulers take counsel together against the Lord



Dr. Scott Carson
President

and against his anointed. We should keep this in mind, while the "heathen" direct their hate toward us, they are simply, yet unfortunately, rejecting the Lord. Oh the foolishness of their rejection of God's ways because the Lord is not passive in their rebellion. Psalm 2, verse four says this, "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision."

So, in this age of rage against divine truth what are we as Christians to do? The Apostle Peter tells us, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." 1 Peter 3:15

We should continue to be faithful witnesses of the Gospel sharing the Lord's redeeming power through the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus. As we face the rage that is directed toward our Lord, we should continue to represent Him with "meekness" and with "fear". We are not to fear the lost as in

the scared sense, but rather this word "fear" in this passage means to possess reverence or respect. In contrast to the rage directed toward Christians, we respond with respect to opposing viewpoints. We do our best to realize that the good news of Jesus is in God's hands and we are privileged to be allowed by Him, to share with the "heathen", His work upon the cross. We will be far more effective witnesses by presenting eternal truths of God's Word with gentle and respectful responses than by allowing our human nature to get the best of us in the face of ugly and forceful rejection.

The Lord is not blind as to what is happening to our society. Rather, He laughs at the rage of the lost, and yet lovingly offers salvation to all who will accept Jesus as their Savior. The time is coming soon when unbelievers will have to give an account for their rejection of God's eternal truth.

"For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Romans 14:11-12

It is not our fight, it is God's!

Equipping the Saints!

Dr. Carson

Hello to Our New Staff Members!

SBC welcomes two new staff members! Mrs. Jan Bustin Walker joins our team as our new Academic Dean. Jan comes to us with extensive administrative experience in the realm of public



Mrs. Jan Bustin Walker

education and administration. She is a native of this area and has her spiritual roots at Big Creek Baptist Church in Soso, MS. She has a passion for the advancement of SBC and has already had a huge positive impact on our strategic positioning for our future. And, in order to enhance our recruiting efforts of prospective students, Mr. John Blackledge joins us as a part time recruiter. John has big plans for attracting new prospects to our student rolls.

Mark Your Calendar

We are planning a church donor dinner currently scheduled to be held on

Monday evening, April 8, 2019. Invitations will be sent and the Laurel MS location for the dinner announced as we get closer to the April event date.

Please Excuse Our Progress

You may have noticed that bushes have been removed from in front of the library building. It has made a little bit of a mess with all the rain we have experienced. However, Mrs. Delight Jefcoat has a plan to restore and beautify this area of our campus. If you would like to participate in this project, please contact Delight at 601-763-4952.

Are You a Handyman?

Having been blessed with numerous students living in our dormitories, and the infrastructure being old, we often have minor plumbing, electrical, window, door, and miscellaneous other items needing repairs. We are offering an opportunity for someone to bless us with their handyman skills to assist us with these needs. Please contact Dr. Carson at 601-426-6346 if you would like to help.

Urgent Need of CDL Drivers

We have away games both in state and outside of Mississippi through the end of February. We have a 30 passenger bus (without air breaks). If you can help please contact Coach Phillips at 601-426-6346.

Welcome to Southeastern Baptist College!

We are excited to have 80% more students over last year at this time! And, we have our first foreign student in many years. We welcome Rashida Cheddick who is citizen of the Carib-



New Girls basketball player (left) and women's team coach

bean island of Grenada. Rashida comes to us as a transfer student and will join the Lady Chargers basketball team. See adjacent photo.

The Chargers Basketball Schedule Changes!

Changes to the season schedules for the Men's and Women's Varsity Games and Men's Junior Varsity Games can

be found adjacent to this article and is also posted on our sports website: <http://athletics.southeasternbaptist.edu/> and on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SBCChargers>

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.

Available to Preach

Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit for preaching or to provide an update about the great things the Lord is doing at Southeastern Baptist College. You can reach him at 601-433-4736 or scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu

Southeastern Baptist College - 2019 Basketball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	TEAM
Jan. 31	Crowleys Ridge College, Paragould, AR	5/7	MW
Feb. 1	Trinity College(FL)	HOME 6:00	M
Feb. 2	Judson College	HOME 2:00	W
Feb. 4	Blue Mountain College	HOME 4:30/6:30	MW
Feb. 9	Trinity Baptist College (FL)	HOME 2:00	M
Feb. 12	Selma College	HOME 5/7	MW
Feb. 14	Tougaloo College	HOME 5/7	MW
Feb. 23	CMP Prep	HOME 2:00	M
	M-Men W-Women JV-JV Men		



Don Brown

Fulton Lindsey Dies

Fulton Eugene Lindsey, 75, passed away January 19, 2019. He was born January 17, 1944 to Elvie Reid Lindsey and Timey O.V. Cossey Lindsey in Pontotoc County. He attended Southeastern Baptist College with an Associate Degree in Christian Ministry. His last ministry was with New Directions Prison Ministries as Executive Director for 22 years.



Bro. Fulton Lindsey

Bro. Lindsey had a fierce passion for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and did so through daily ministry and missionary work. He constructed numerous church buildings and roofs for many congregations, both locally and abroad. Bro. Fulton was in the ministry for 58 years. He was a current member of Hopewell Baptist Church near Fulton.

Survivors include his wife of 15 years, Sharon Warren Lindsey of Fulton; two daughters, Paulette Koepp and her husband Greg of Pagosa Springs, Colorado and Pam Dusza and her husband Hugh of Ewa Beach, Hawaii; three sons, Duane Lindsey of Fulton, Tom Warren and his wife, Bobbie of Lake Village, Arkansas and Dwight Lindsey and his wife Lindsay of Laurel; 14 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; sisters, Mae Marino of Frankford, Illinois and Shelia McLaughlin of Atlanta, Georgia; brothers, Richard Lindsey of Mantachie, Dan Lindsey and his wife, Cheryl of Corinth, Anthony Lindsey and his wife, Sheryl of Mooreville, and Ronald Lindsey and his wife, Sharon of Guntown; sister-in-law, Beverly Lindsey of Jackson; and numerous extended family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Reid and Timey Lindsey; his first wife of 39 years, Frances "Joyce" Hester Lindsey; daughter, Lia Warren Alexander; and brother, Clifford Lindsey.

Memorials may be made to New Directions Prison Ministries, P.O. Box 4010, Laurel, Mississippi 39443.

We Are Killing Our Children

Most of you have heard or seen the recent report about the State of New York passing a law that allows an abortion up to the moments right before delivery of a healthy child. What a blight on those who promoted and passed such a law. While many have shown outrage over this, there are a number of other states who already allow this practice. As I write this column, the state of Virginia is debating such a law. What a shameful place to which our nation has fallen. God's wrath is surely to come.

The following post was made by our granddaughter-in-law (we count her as our own) recently on Facebook. Katie is an attorney, our grandson's wife, and the mother of our great-granddaughter. She is as much a part of our family as if she were our very own. She is a sweet and most thoughtful person. I am so proud of her for sharing her thoughts on the direction our country has taken concerning life.

I use this space and some personal family information to highlight the terrible direction our nation took over 40 years ago. We continue the downward spiral of morality in so many areas, but the accelerated disregard for life is frightening. It speaks to the blatant defiance of common decency and the rejection of the God of creation and His love for us.

I have asked her for permission to share her thoughts with our readers and she has agreed. I encourage you to read it and let it speak to your heart. O,

that more people held the view that life is precious - so very precious that our God has done all He can to preserve life for eternity. May God forgive us for our inhumanity.

Here is the post from Katie...

"I've never shared this picture before, mostly because I believe that our most precious moments are deserving of the honor of privacy - a rare and fleeting commodity these days. I have never before been someone who posts about politics, and I have no plans to change that tendency.

This is a photo of the day our daughter was born. We both cried that moment because we are now and were both human beings for quite some time before that moment she took her first breath in this increasingly frightening world. I'll never forget my fascination with her movements in my belly. I'll never forget how it amazed me to no end that she was born so complete that she had eyebrows. Eyebrows!

I apologized to God in my prayers as I laid this sweet, now 2 year old spitfire in her bed to sleep tonight. I feel responsible. Against the weight of my legal training in logic and in separating emotion from the black and white of any given situation, I feel responsible.

Parents, God has given us the most precious gifts and we, albeit implicitly, have allowed ourselves to simply continue on to the next day, seeking our selfish desires, in a world where it is now acceptable in a state in this coun-

try to end the lives of babies as old as the one you see in this photograph. Babies who, if otherwise healthy, unequivocally are capable of sustaining life on their own. That's not politics or even religion talking, folks. That's science. Hard fact.

I feel responsible, and I hope you do too. I don't know how we fix this. I know there's no way to do it simply through our own power or intelligence or posting on social media. All I know is that each and every baby formed in the womb is a gift from God. Plain and simple. Perfectly healthy or terribly ill, planned or surprise, or even the result of a tragic event, each one is deserving of the chance to cry his or her way into this world.

What is happening in New York is a weighty kind of sad and depraved. I decided tonight that not to talk about it was to imply that I agreed.

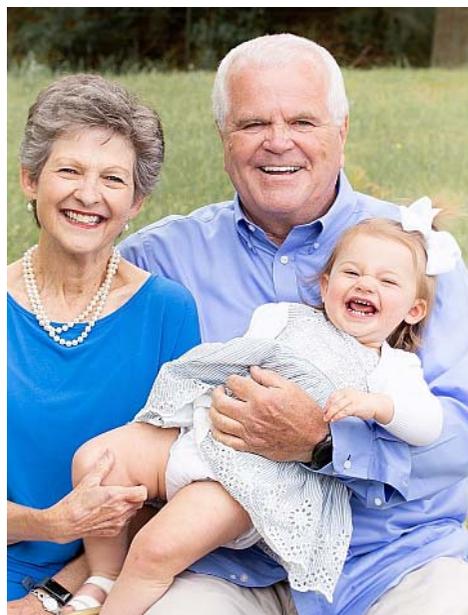
We have to do better. We have to pray so much harder. Our children (no matter their age) deserve it. God definitely deserves it."



Above are pictured our granddaughter Katie just after giving birth to our great-granddaughter along with her daughter, her husband's hand on her cheek, and the pediatrician at the top.

Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

Jeremiah 1:5



Leigh Caroline and her great-grandparents. What a Joy!

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Getting old—a day at a time—and loving it

“Lord, teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.” (Psalm 90:12)

“Lord, make me to know my end, and what is the extent of my days; Let me know how transient I am.” (Psalm 39:4)

“They will still bear fruit in old age; they will be full of sap and very green.” (Psalm 92:14).

by Dr. Joe McKeever

The Bible has a lot to say about getting old. And most of it is great.

As a child, I would lie awake wondering about the future. For one born in 1940, the turn of the 21st century was several lifetimes away. “In the year 2000,” I thought, “I’ll be 60 years old. Almost at the end of my life.”

When that momentous time arrived, I was scarcely out of my teens. I was anything but old. Surely not. No way was I ready to cash in my chips, to hang it all up. To call it a day. To head for the house. And a lot of metaphors like that.

I was still young and alive and working.

I took retirement at the age of 69. But I kept working. After all, I was (and am) a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. While we may retire from salaried positions, we stay with the calling. As of today—August 25, 2017—I’m a few months into my 78th year (translation: I turned 77 last March 28). Two days ago, I drove in from a week of ministry in the Carolinas. After a deacon training event in Charlotte, a weekend of ministry in Inman, S.C., and a prayer breakfast at Fort Bragg, I logged 1,918 miles on my little Camry. Every night, I was in a



Joe McKeever

different hotel. And I loved it. (For those who ask, my wife would have accompanied me but she’s teaching English in a community college. Next Monday, she has a birthday. We’ll be the same age. And yes, we are blessed indeed.)

We’ve laughed at the remark of the army chaplain’s five-year-old last Monday night. After we’d been to the post exchange for dinner and were saying our good-byes, little Elizabeth said, “Mister Joe. You are...almost dead.” I laughed out loud. “Well, honey—I’m closer than I’ve ever been. But I’m not quite there yet.”

To a child, 77 might as well be 700. I remember the feeling.

Last night, my good friend Joel Davis called from Atlanta. Joel is 85 now. Last January, a few days following our wedding, Bertha and I drove there for his retirement service. This terrific man, my roommate during college (I was the one in college, Joel was working; we shared an apartment a few blocks off campus), had been best man in Margaret’s and my wedding. His godly influence and sterling example had been a gift from Heaven for a 20-year-old trying to find his way in life. During his career as an engineer, Joel

constantly served the Lord as a part-time church staff member, first minister of music and later minister of seniors.

So, last night, this unemployed and retired friend said, “I’m taking music lessons.” And proceeded to describe what he’s doing and the excitement of his accomplishments. Did I say Joel is 85?

Anyone celebrating good health as he approaches his 80th birthday—well, it’s only two years and seven months a way!—should pause to acknowledge the part medical science and the health-care profession have played in that little accomplishment. I am all too aware that had I lived two or three centuries earlier—before x-rays, anesthesiology, and a hundred other advancements we take for granted—even if I were still kicking, I would be a cripple (I had hip surgery at the age of 9), toothless (man, the stories my dentist and I could tell!), blind (cataract and laser surgery last summer), and

an invalid (I take a handful of vitamins every day). Of course, I would also be dead from the cancer that threatened to end my life thirteen years ago.

Thank you, Lord, for medical science and the professionals who devote themselves to eradicating disease and seeing to the well-being of those of us who depend on them.

Bertha and I walk. As soon as we moved to this home, we located all the parks with walking trails and selected

the one we like best. Almost daily, when I’m at home, we walk the path, holding hands, talking nonstop. We are well aware that to keep our bodies healthy and functioning, we must use them.

“Use it or lose it” could be said about many things, including one’s physical strength.

Having started this article, I now find myself asking where I’m going

with it? What is the point of this? Short answer: To encourage friends who are complaining about getting old to stop the foolishness and seize the day and make the most of it.

Tomorrow Bertha and I drive to Mobile, around 3 hours away, where I’ll do a banquet for the wonderful



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Staff Openings

Gulfport Church Seeking Pastor

Campground Baptist Church of Gulfport, Mississippi, is searching for a pastor. Interested individuals should contact Ronnie Brewer, Chairman of the Deacons, at 228-861-6618 or write to him at 20577 Highway 53, Gulfport, MS 39503 for more information.

Pastor Search

Farmington Baptist Church, Corinth, Mississippi, is seeking a Lead Pastor. Resumes may be sent to randy.plunk@gmail.com or contact Randy Plunk at 662-415-6861. For more information about the church visit our website at <http://farmingtonbaptistchurch.net>.

Texas Church Seek Youth Minister

Greenpond Baptist Church in Como, Texas, is seeking a bi-vocational youth minister. Housing is included. Resumes may be emailed to terrywbolton@yahoo.com or the mailed to Terry Bolton, 123 Charles St., Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482. Inquiries by phone should call 903-348-6479.

A Very Special Sofilthy's Attic by Barbara White

A Gallon Jug, Surgery, and an Empty Head



FW

Boy, do I have a story to tell! I wasn’t going to tell it but since Chuck Lee told about his grand opening, I thought maybe I could divulge mine also.

My story starts with a reaction to Albuterol which I was breathing in a breathing machine because of a cough. One evening I broke out in hives until I looked like one big red splotch. After a visit to the clinic and many vials of blood drawn, it was determined that I was low on blood. So here we go to the hospital where 4 pints of blood were dripped into my veins, one drop at a time.

A colonoscopy revealed a growth on the colon. Now for those of you who have never had a colonoscopy, may I urge you to NEVER have one. I was given a gallon jug with a little powder in the bottom of it and told to fill it with water, mix and drink. Just like the instructions for the Lords’ Supper, I was told to “drink ye all of it”. The stuff tastes like snot, and it is most difficult to get a whole gallon down. My pastor’s wife said the Lord made hers taste like

a flavor. Well the Lord loves her more than he does me because mine never had any flavor. Well, the purpose of that is to clean the pipes out and that really works!!

After the colonoscopy, surgery was needed. Could they do the surgery while the pipes were clean? Of course not. We were told to go home and return in 3 days for the surgery. That involves another gallon of snot to be drunk.

When you go for surgery they get you all gowned and hatted up then place you in a small room away from all your family and friends which seems unfair to me because “where two or three are gathered together” – I want to be in the midst of them.

I can’t give you a detailed account of all that happened after I left that small room. I only know that when I woke up I was hearing that they got it all and would need no treatments. That caused a great deal of rejoicing in my heart!

Naturally when they slice your belly open, then staple it back together you will experience some soreness. But a

couple of mornings after the surgery, I was stumbling around in the room and got my feet tangled up and I fell head first to the floor. My head, being empty, made a terrible noise, like dropping a drum on the floor. The noise caused some excitement, but they were able to get a winch in

there and get me up. After a while, back in bed, I did not seem quite as sore, except for my head. My reasoning is that everything got jarred back into place and helped the healing.

Surgery was performed one week before Christmas and on Christmas Day, I was able to go eat with some of my family. And now one month to the day of the surgery, I’ve been given permission to go back to work. I am a walking miracle and all praise goes to my Heavenly Father!



...aday at a time

from page 5

Dayspring Church. The next morning, we'll sit in on the Sunday School class (at Cottage Hill Baptist Church) taught by my son Neil. He's asked me to teach Psalm 42 with him. I replied that he should do the play-by-play and I'll be his color commentator. Translation: I'll interrupt whenever I think of something interesting to add to his teaching. Smiley-face goes here.

Garson Kanin, playwright, told of the time artist Pablo Picasso entered an exhibit of his paintings through the years. They'd been arranged from the earliest to the latest. Kanin says Picasso entered with a lovely young thing on each arm. Someone greeted him, kissed him on the cheeks, and said, "Maestro, please explain something to me."

"Looking at your work," the friend said, "your earliest paintings are stiff and traditional and rigid. But as you aged, the paintings become more alive, more vivid, with brighter colors. Your imagination seemed to grow through the years. Please explain that."

Picasso said, "Oh, it takes a long time to become young."

That line—"It takes a long time to become young"—is the title of Garson Kanin's wonderful book about getting older. I recommend it highly.

This week, I've had to turn down a number of invitations from churches

due to a schedule already filled. What's going on? I wondered. And then it hit me. The churches know the clock is ticking on Joe, so if they're going to get me to come and speak and sketch people, they'd better get on with it!

The clock is ticking on all of us. It's how life is lived. And it's wonderful in every way.

Seize the day, friend. Take that class, learn that foreign language, go back to school, go help a child, volunteer at the hospital or church or school.

Go for long walks. Have that checkup with your doctor. Take your vitamins. And stay close to the Lord. Visit the library and check out some great novels. Read the entire 150 Psalms and see which ones have your name on them.

Don't let me hear you complaining about getting old. God is giving you a wonderful gift and you're complaining? You've won the lottery, friend. Think how many classmates of yours are no longer living. How did you happen to outlive them? So, while you're still vertical and mobile and breathing, while the mind is still functioning and the brain is still active, make the most of it.

In some orchards, the best fruit comes from the oldest trees.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

118 LOWE ROAD, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39443 - (601) 426-3928
DWIGHT LINDSEY - DIRECTOR



DWIGHT LINDSEY

Fostering Faith...one month in

"Release unto us Barabbas." What does this small sample of Luke 23:18 have to do with caring for children? Understanding why Israel went from shouts of Hosanna to Barabbas should give a clue. Israel had expectations of their Messiah. They were looking for a king that would save them and free them immediately. When Jesus made the plan clearer, the people chose a murderer instead.

We are NOT crying Barabbas! We definitely did not expect our first month at the Home to unfold the way it has. We have been blessed to fellowship, preach, share our vision, & discuss the ministry with churches and individuals from Laurel, Picayune, Fulton, & even Atlanta, Georgia. Our schedule is full for February. We have a few dates already booked in March and April. These are blessed answers to prayer.

There are a few things that we wouldn't qualify as blessings just yet. We did not expect Phillip to have our

first broken bone as a family. We didn't expect to all get a 24-hour stomach bug on different days. We didn't expect my dad to go home to be with the Lord. I want to say thank you for all the prayers and words of comfort and encouragement after his passing. The strength of our faith family is one of the greatest blessings God has given us as believers.

Believers have eternal life promised. The Bible calls this expectation of eternity HOPE! Knowledge of all the eternal details can't be known now, but believers do have an expectant hope. Hope in Christ exceeds every misplaced expectation. Caring for those in need of God's love is full of surprises. Believers should see reasons to cry, Hosanna, at every unexpected turn.

Please continue to pray for our transition. Pray for wisdom. Please give us a call if you would like for us to come to your church in March, April, or beyond. Contact the office, our Facebook page, or my cell phone at 662-605-0996.

Disaster Relief Opportunities

Even though it has been several months since Hurricanes Florence and Michael hit the Gulf of Mexico, there is still a tremendous need for disaster relief efforts in the areas that were affected.

The week of February 23–March 2, Lavon Haden, of Just the Crumbs and BMA Disaster Relief, will be traveling to Callaway, Fla. (near Panama City) to help with clean-up efforts and the building process. They will be working with a ministry called ACTS out of New Hampshire to help support them in their disaster relief efforts.

Volunteers will be provided with food and lodging for the duration of the trip. Showers will also be available, but volunteers will need to bring their own cot and bedding, and arrange for their own travel.

Just the Crumbs will be hosting another disaster relief trip over spring break, which will be held the week of March 11. This relief effort will also take place in Callaway, Florida.

"There is, and will be for a long time, a tremendous need," said Bro. Haden. "This place was devastated, and there are a lot of people in need. We just want

to go and help them as much as we can, and help as many as we can. If someone is looking for an opportunity to serve and be a blessing to those in need, we'll give that to them."



If you would like to volunteer to serve on either team with Just the Crumbs, contact the BMA Missions office at (501) 455-4977 and ask for Angela Rice. You can also email her at angela@bmamissions.org.



COMMISSION ON *Senior Adults*

4226 Highway 15 North - Laurel, Mississippi 39440

Time is moving on and the conferences for the Senior Adults are getting closer. Seniors all over the state are looking forward to a great day of fellowship with fellow saints.

South Conference

Tuesday, March 19, 2019 seniors will gather as Big Creek Baptist Church in Soso at 9:30 a.m. The registration fee remains at only \$15.00 per person. This covers an all-day experience plus the noon meal catered by Macs of Hattiesburg. An all you can eat buffet, a delightful meal, waiting just for you.

The afternoon singing will be worth it all. "Calm Assurance" will be in concert. This quartet is under the direction of Bro. Larry Lott, a member of Mt. Gilead Baptist Church in Columbia. He has attended many of our conferences; you don't want to miss the "Calm Assurance" quartet.

Our speaker for the South Conference will be Bro. Ed Steele. A great time of worship awaits us.

Plaques will be awarded for those who complete 50 years of ministry in 2019 or before. Call the missions office and give the needed information to Mrs. Kim Parker.

Door Prizes will be given during the day.

North Conference

The North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference will be held on Tuesday, May 14 at First Baptist Church of Mantachie. Bro. Matt Hudson will be responsible for the music for the day. Bro. Don Brown, long time editor of the Mississippi Baptist will bring the morning message. A great day is awaiting us at Mantachie First Baptist Church. A catered meal during the noon hour will be served. All you can eat for the low price of \$15.00. Door prizes will be given throughout the day.

Let's mark our calendars for these conferences; you don't want to miss them. Encourage a friend to come with you.

March 19th at Big Creek Baptist Church of Soso and May 14th at First Baptist Church of Mantachie.



Kenneth Flynt
Director

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

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

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

GIRLS'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

State Youth Auxiliary Director **Becky Farmer**
464 Churchwell Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39401 - 601-596-1005

State GMA Promoter **Lisa Christian**
2315 Bankhead Rd., Fulton, MS 38843 - 662-322-1581

State WMA Project

The new project for our State WMA is Southeastern Baptist College. Dr. Scott Carson stated that the funds raised would be used to renovate the kitchen and cafeteria areas. This is a specific need that is requested by the student body since there is not a place for meals.

This will be a total renovation to bring everything up to code and will be completed in three phases. The estimated cost for phase 1 is \$8,600.00 with the 2nd phase estimated at \$5,500.00. The estimated cost of phase 3 has not been completed.

WMA ladies please support Southeastern Baptist College by helping to raise the necessary funds. Set aside a Sunday for a special offering. Have a bake sale, a meal after church (spaghetti, baked potato, soup & salad, etc.) or a garage sale. Do what works best for your church. Pray for Southeastern's success and get busy raising funds!

Dianne Rainey
Marilyn Welborn
State WMA Project Promoters

GMA retreat will be March 15-16

GMA Officer Report

Hey girls!! My name is Anna Myers, and I'm the GMA State Pianist. This year, camp will be open to all girls, even those who haven't been doing the GMA program at their church! The theme this year is "Revival". It's going to be a great opportunity for you to get to know other girls and get closer to God! I hope to see you there!

Girls Retreat March 15-16, 2019 Camp Garaywa, Clinton, Mississippi "Revival"

II Chronicles 7:14

We are excited about our girls camp this year and the new vision we have for our retreat. We are wanting to make our retreat open for all girls, not just those who are active in the GMA program. We have lots of fun times planned as well as mission outreach and spiritually uplifting sessions for our girls. Our guest speaker this year will be Cris & Alicia Samson, church planters in the Philippines.

Please fill out the registration form and return it to, Jessica Haden at 795 HWY 532, Mt. Olive, MS 39119. Deadline for registration is March 8th.

We are wanting to honor all of our girls and their hard work in completing their GMA steps. During our coronation service on Friday night we will be recognizing each group of girls with a presentation on stage and awarding them with a certificate of completion for their GMA step. The girls are welcome to dress up in their Sunday dresses for this presentation. Please be sure to turn in your girls' names and step completed with your registration, so that the certificates can be completed for camp.

Please be sure to fill out the Queen's coronation form and mail to Mrs. Jean Knight. The deadline for this form is February 22nd.

Please let me know if you need the Jr Miss and Miss GMA participant forms. I will get this form to you to fill out and return by the deadline.

Mrs. Lisa Christian will be mailing out T-shirt order forms soon. So please fill this out and return it by the deadline.

All girls are encouraged to decorate posters with the camp theme and to bring their scrapbooks.

We will have a snack shoppe open throughout the day and craft items for sale and a silent auction table, so be sure to let your girls know to bring extra money for these items.

Our 2018/2019 Project was Daniel Springs Camp and the Peru Orphanage. Make sure you send in your money for this project to Mrs. Shirlene Smith at 730 HWY 533, Laurel, MS 39443. The Deadline is Feb. 25th.

I will get you more information concerning camp whenever I get your registration forms in. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 662-251-0455 or 601-797-4597. You can also email me at jessicahaden3@gmail.com.

I am looking forward to all we have in store for our girls retreat. Hope to see you there!

In Christ,
Jessica Haden
GMA Registration

GMA Retreat Registration Form

Name of Church: _____

Address _____

Name of Counselor _____

Address of Counselor _____

Phone Number _____

Name of those registering. (Please indicate counselor with "C" and GMA girl with "G")

Name	Age	Last step completed
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____
11. _____	_____	_____
12. _____	_____	_____
13. _____	_____	_____
14. _____	_____	_____
15. _____	_____	_____
16. _____	_____	_____
17. _____	_____	_____

Total Number of GMAs _____
 Total Number of Counselors _____
 Thursday Night Number _____ X \$28.00 = \$ _____
 Total Number _____ X \$65.00 = \$ _____
 Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make Checks payable to the Mississippi State GMA.

All meals will be \$10.00 for those that are coming for the Friday night services. Everyone is to pay a \$5.00 registration fee whether you are staying on the campgrounds or not, except our special guests.

Free Online Course offered by BMA Seminary

BMA Seminary is pleased to announce that it will offer a free online course in Spring 2019. Dr. Tony Cleaver will teach the eight-week online course entitled: Introduction to the Minor Prophets beginning February 4, 2019.

Again, the course begins February 4, 2019 and continues for eight weeks. Textbooks include the Holy Bible and Handbook on the Prophets by Robert B. Chisholm, Jr. (Baker Academic, ISBN 9780801038600).

Interested individuals are encouraged to contact the seminary dean's office. BMA Seminary phone is 903-586-2501.

Master's Builders Hold Retreat

by Nelda Malone, Reporter



The annual retreat for the Master's Builders, was held in January at Daniel Dorm at Daniel Springs Encampment, in Gary, Texas. In April of last year, our men did some remodeling of the dorm and Daniel Springs can now offer a very nice facility for group gatherings. Camp Director Jason Prewitt says the camp is "wide open" for large groups to enjoy. Daniel Dorm and Retreat Center offers sleeping quarters, a full kitchen, and a large multi-use room. The Master's Builders will tell you that the facility is great for church groups, reunion, and retreats. You can contact Jason at 903-685-2433 or email him at: jason@danielspringscamp.com.

The Master's Builders have a busy spring coming up. Our plans are to be back at Daniel Springs in March; Kenwood Baptist, Siloam Springs, Arkansas, in April, New Liberty, Emmet, Arkansas, in May, and Riverview Baptist, Fulton, Arkansas, in June. If you are near one of these jobs, come see us, we would love to meet you!

If you have questions about the Master's Builders ministry, or if your church has any building needs, please contact our Office Coordinator, Bro John Mangum, at 318-202-5155 or (cell) 318-607-4100 or our Field Coordinator, Eddie Sikes, at 903-725-6549 or (cell) 479-462-1675.

Annual Pastor's Retreat Report

by Justin Rhodes

Seventeen men from across the state of Mississippi met on January 21-22 at Lake Tiak-O'Khata in Louisville, Mississippi, for the annual BMA of Mississippi Pastor's Retreat! It was two days of refreshing ourselves through worship, fellowship, and most importantly, the Word of God.

The theme for the retreat was Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Life, with messages being shared from Dennis Knight, Johnny Williams, Bryan Atwood, Frank Panzrino, Justin Rhodes, and Larry Geraldson. Justin Cameron, Jeremy Wilkerson, and Justin Rhodes led in worship throughout the retreat.



Next year's retreat will be announced in the future and we anticipate even more men coming together. It is never a waste of time to come together in Christian love, fellowship, and worship as we grow together in the Word of God! When the time and place is announced, make plans to join us at the next retreat.

70th Annual BMA of America National Meeting

May 6-8, 2019

Embassy Suites Hotel & Convention Center • Rogers, Arkansas

Monday Afternoon, May 6

- 1:30 National WMA Officers Meeting
- 3:00 National WMA Business Meeting

Monday Evening, May 6 • First General Session

- 7:00 Welcome - President
- Worship Service — House Band (Antioch Baptist Church, Conway, AR)
- President's Message — Pastor Jeff Swart

Tuesday Morning, May 7

- 8:30 Registration for Women's Ministry Conference (Temple Baptist Church, Rogers)
- BMA Orientation to New Pastors & Churches (Pastry, Coffee, Meet the Directors)
- 9:00 Women's Ministry Conference — "Catch the Vision" (Temple Baptist Church, Rogers)
- National Brotherhood Meeting
- 9:30 Trustee Meetings subject to Call
- 9:30 Breakout Sessions (7 breakout sessions)
- 10:45 Breakout Sessions (7 breakout sessions)

Tuesday Afternoon, May 7 • Second General Session

- 2:00 John David Smith (What It Means to be "On Mission")
- 3:30 BMA Town Hall Meeting (Directors and DiscipleGuide Trustees)
- 5:30 BMA Seminary Dinner

Tuesday Evening, May 7 • Third General Session

- 7:00 Worship Service — House Band (Antioch Baptist Church, Conway, AR)
- Annual Message, Dr. Clif Johnson

Wednesday Morning, May 8 • Fourth General Session

- BMA Associational Business
- 8:30 Song, Scripture & Prayer
- 8:15 Miscellaneous Business
- 8:40 BMA Theological Seminary
- 8:55 Ministers Resource Services
- 9:10 Lifeword
- 9:25 DiscipleGuide
- 9:40 Moral Action
- 9:55 BMA Foundation
- 10:10 Missions Department
- 10:25 Miscellaneous Business

Wednesday Afternoon, May 8 • Fifth General Session

- 2:00 Church Leaders Table Talk
- 3:30 Missions Commissioning Service

Wednesday Evening, May 8 • Sixth General Session

- 7:00 Worship Service — Central Baptist College Choir • Featured Guest Speaker

Enrollment Committee Schedule

- Monday** 2:00-4:00 p.m. • 6:00-7:00 p.m. and 30 minutes after session
- Tuesday** 8:30-9:00 a.m., 2:00-3:00 p.m. • 6:30-7:00 p.m. & 30 minutes after session
- Wednesday** 8:00-8:30 a.m.

2019 National WMA Meeting & Ladies Conference Rogers, Arkansas

Monday, May 6 • Convention Center

- 1:30-2:30 National WMA Officers Meeting
- 3:00-5:00 National WMA Business Meeting

Tuesday, May 7 • Temple Baptist Church

Just 5 minutes from the Convention Center at 1812 S. Dixieland Road

Women's Conference

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:00 Program — "Catch the Vision"
Keynote Speaker — Judy Wallace
Special Music — Sabrina Clayton
There will be a special time of honoring
Pastor's wives and widows.
- 12:00 Lunch will be catered and you can pay at the door
- 1:15-3:00 Breakout Sessions — You may choose 2
 - 1) Reaching out in Service through Missions - Belinda Caudle
 - 2) Reaching out in Service through Benevolence - Robin Tyler
 - 3) Reaching out in Service through Youth Auxiliaries - Valarie Fish
 - 4) Reaching out in Service to Minister's Wives - T'Shana Everitt

All ladies are encouraged to attend! Be sure and check our website (nationalwma.org) and our Facebook page (National WMA of BMAA) for updates. If you have any questions you can email me at jodiegrhea@live.com or call and leave a message at (501) 472-9490 and I will call you back. Hope to see you in May!



— Jodi Rhea, President