

# Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE  
BAPTIST MISSIONARY  
ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

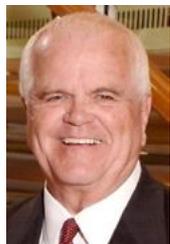
January 1, 2020

www.ms baptist.org

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## Your Help Is Needed!

January of each year has been designated as “Special Emphasis Month” for your Publications Department. We rely on your gifts each January to help meet our financially needs. The fee we charge for each subscription does not cover all of our costs - it actually never has met all of our needs. This ministry operated in ‘red’ this past fiscal year. Due to this shortfall the Association approved a rate increase at our recent annual meeting. This is our first increase in over 15 years. The new rate is \$1.50 per month for the Church Family Plan. Individual subscriptions remain \$20.00 per year. This increase was necessary, but we still rely on monthly support from our churches above the cost of subscriptions. The monthly support of many of our churches and our annual ‘Special Emphasis Receipts’ are most important to our budget.



Don Brown  
Editor

We urge each of our churches to take up a special offering for this ministry in January. We ask you will help us with a this effort. Another need is for more churches to put this ministry in their monthly budget.

The churches of our Association is our only support group and your help is needed. May the Lord bless you in this new year and may He bless you for your support.

## A Brand New Start - A Brand New Year

by Dr. Gary O’Neal  
Pastor, Oak Park Baptist  
Little Rock, Arkansas

How long has it been since you blew it? Most of us can count the time in hours—not days; definitely not years. We have great intentions—but then we’re blind sided by the unique coalition of repressed desire and opportunity, and before we know it we have a major mess on our hands. Yep—that’s me, standing in the middle of a mess of my own making.

One day Jesus was teaching in Jerusalem when a commotion was heard down the street. Looking up, He saw a crowd coming toward Him, led by a group of priests pushing a woman in front of them. One look revealed that she was not an honorable woman. The religious leaders threw her down in front of Jesus and quickly presented the charges against

her—“We caught this woman in the very act of adultery. She deserves to be stoned.”

Their solution was to exact death. She’s despicable. She’s useless. She’s ruined. Get rid of her. But Jesus looked with other eyes. Instead of seeing her past and the multitude of bad decisions she had made, He looked at her future and saw the lady she could become. Yes, she had sinned. Yes, she had brought shame to her family. Yes, she would carry the scars of her actions for many years to come. But none of her accusers were innocent either. Though their sins were covered from human eyes by scheming and position, Jesus saw through it all and right into their very hearts



Dr. Gary O’Neal

filled with prejudice and hatred.

What she needed was not condemnation, but a new start. And that’s exactly what Jesus gave her. Jesus was the only one in the scene who was without sin and His response was, “Go and sin no more.” Jesus was not ignoring her sin. He wasn’t giving her license to continue in immorality. He was extending grace and forgiveness because He knew that the greatest motivation to real change doesn’t come from judgment but mercy.

Do you need a new start? The New Year is a great time to experience God’s mercy in a fresh way. Come with the mess you’ve made of your life—with your humiliation—with your scars. Acknowledge them all to Jesus and let Him give you a brand new start. Then go and show the world the reality of a grace-changed life.

## BMA of the Philippines Disaster Relief Fund

On December 2, Typhoon Kammuri brought damaging winds and heavy rain to the Philippines after making landfall in the Bicol region, about 240 miles southeast of Manila. The Category 4 storm affected approximately 250 families from BMA Philippines churches in that region.

Widespread power outages have displaced storm victims and resulted in a lack of work that is affecting their livelihoods.

BMA Philippines and local BMA churches in Bicol are helping coordinate and carry out the response to the affected area. If you would like to donate to these individuals and families in need of assistance you may give online at [bmamissions.org/disasterrelief/](http://bmamissions.org/disasterrelief/) (Designate “Philippines” in “add a message.”) or send to BMA Missions, P.O. Box 878, Conway, Ark. 72033.



Thank you for your steadfast support of BMA Missions

## WORLD MISSIONS DAY - February 23, 2020!

by John David Smith

World Missions Day is a significant event for BMA Missions as churches around the association pray and give a special offering to support our partnership in global missions. Pastor, this year I am personally asking if you will lead your church to prayerfully support global missions on World Missions Day with a special offering.

### BMA Missions – Your PARTNER in global missions

In the New Testament we get a picture of the early church and a multiplication movement that was fueled by missionary endeavors supported through the partnership of local churches. Partnership is at the heart of our missions philosophy. Here’s how it works:

Local Churches are both the source (sending) AND the goal (planting) of missions.

BMA Missions provides the assessment, training, and support missionaries need for effective global ministry.

U.S. Missionaries spread the gospel, make dis-



ciples, and plant churches around the world.

ChangeMaker Missionaries are the product of our missions partnership. They are local missionaries planting churches in their native countries.

### We want to be YOUR partner!

Will you help us send more missionaries to develop more disciples and train more local ChangeMaker missionaries to plant more churches so more people will hear the gospel?

Register your church for World Missions Day 2020 at <https://bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday/> and we will send your pastor a FREE rain jacket!

# Turning It All Over To The Lord

by Bro. Grover Laird

*"Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."* (Psalms 37:5)

In the first part of Psalm 37, there are four statements concerning our Lord that are very meaningful. We would greatly enhance our life if we daily lived by them. Notice: "Trust in

the Lord." (Verse 3) "Delight thyself also in the Lord." (Verse 4) "Commit thy way unto the Lord." (Verse 5) "Rest in the Lord." (Verse 7) This message, as you notice, will be based upon the one we find in verse five.

To commit our way unto the Lord simply means, to turn every thing over to the Lord. Whatever problem we are facing, whatever need we have, or

whatever opportunity of service that is before us will always be too big for us. But our text is telling us that it will not be too big for the Lord. We can therefore turn it all over to Him and get help.

But committing our ways unto the Lord is not all that is required for the Lord to take care of our needs. The text goes on to say, "trust also in him." We cannot expect the Lord to "bring it to pass," if we do not "trust also in him."

Now consider four different times when one will be blessed by taking advantage of this provision.

## I. When One Is Lost And Needs To Be Saved

The Bible is clear enough for all to understand that until Jesus saves us we are in trouble. We are lost in sin. I am not speaking of certain ones; the Bible says that all are sinners--"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23)

God hates the sin in our life and requires that it be accounted for--"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23) This death involves the second death, which is hell. (Revelation 20:14) Outside of Christ, man is therefore in serious trouble.

There is no way that we can solve this problem on our own. We cannot undo the past, nor live free of sin in the future. But the great God of Heaven and Earth has provided a way of salvation for us. John 3:16 tells us all about it--"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." This verse is saying that Jesus has gone to Calvary and paid our sin debt, or the wages for our sins, and we can be saved by believing in Him as our Savior.

To believe in Jesus to save us does not mean to obey a list of commandments. Since man is so prone to think this, the Bible repeatedly tells us that doing good works has no part in getting right with God. (Titus 3:5; Romans 3:20,27; 4:4,5,16; Galatians 3:21,22) Believing in Jesus to save us from our sins is to turn it all over to Jesus. Or to commit our ways unto the Lord, and "trust also in him." Paul tells us that this is how he got saved. "...for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." (2 Timothy 1:12)

To clear up the sin problem between us and God is too big for us. To determine where we spend eternity is out of our hands. But when we commit it all to the Lord, and "trust also in him," He will "bring it to pass."

## II. When We Do Not Know Which Way To Go

The Bible teaches that the Lord did not make us wise enough to make our own decisions. Here is what it says,"O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." (Jeremiah 10:23) Even Spiritual men like Samuel and Nathan would have made the



Bro. Grover Laird



Don Brown  
Editor

# Mississippi Baptist

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January of each year is designated as the "Special Emphasis Month" for your Publications Department. Our churches and people are asked to receive a special offering during January to raise funds for the continued operation of this ministry.

to help fund this work. Your gift is spe-

informed about the work God is doing of Mississippi and America.

**SPECIAL  
EMPHASIS  
NEEDS**

**\$10,000  
JANUARY 2020**

**74 YEARS  
of MINISTRY**

**KEEPING YOU  
INFORMED**

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

DON BROWN, EDITOR

see Sermon on page 4

# Southeastern Baptist College

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

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

## President's Perspective

*"Study to shew thyself approved unto God..."* 2 Timothy 3:15

We are very proud to announce that we have many students who have made the Honor Roll for the Fall 2019 Semester. This is a positive result of a strategically planned collaboration between the Dean of Academic Affairs, the Dean of Student Affairs, the Coaches, the Information Technology Manager, the Registrar, and the Professors in order to create better learning opportunities for our students. This group effort enabled us to acquire donated computers and these were made available to the students in our Academic Success Center and in common areas within the dormitories. Each student's academic record was reviewed and personal counseling performed.

Also, a mandatory study period was created where students were required to wisely use their time for completing assignments. Grades were closely monitored and when potential issues were identified for individual students, Professors,

Deans, and Coaches directly engaged the students, offering ideas on how to improve their academic performance. Admittedly, this dedication meant more time and effort was sacrificed by our leaders toward individual students, but the payoff for their efforts was a dramatic improvement of our students' grades.

I have heard it said that SBC is now "all about sports". This is a tragic misconception. SBC is first and foremost a Bible college, leading and directing students to the Lord and the study of His Word through biblical knowledge and application. Our students are challenged daily to meet the scriptural directive for followers of Christ in living out their lives above and beyond average human expectations. At SBC, our students are required to take many more hours of biblical courses than are required at Christian liberal arts schools.



Dr. Scott Carson  
President

Being a ministry of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi, our professors and staff are actively engaged in the personal lives of each of our students and each student is challenged to surrender their lives as a disciple of Christ. All are asked to become involved in a ministry and must report on their weekly service.

We are excited about the many who have moved from being merely a Christian student to a student involved in Christian ministry! In the near future we will be hosting a "Discovering Your Heart for Missions" day on our campus. We are inviting exciting representatives of missional ministries to come to SBC and share opportunities of ministry for students. This event will be held on February 20, 2020 and we will provide more information in the near future. We pray that this event will encourage our

Fall Honor Roll			
PRESIDENT'S LIST			
RANK	NAME	HOURS	GPA
1	Mikayla Laster	16	4.00
2	Nathaniel Brown	15	4.00
	Thomas "Jess" Jackson	15	4.00
3	Mae Evans	12	4.00
	Christopher Spence	12	4.00
DEAN'S LIST			
1	Antonio Bilbo	16	3.81
	Ramirez Cooley	16	3.81
	Averli Cotton	16	3.81
	Daylyn Croom	16	3.81
2	Deseree Moore	16	3.63
3	Patti Armour	13	3.77
	Rashida Cheddick	13	3.77
4	Chelsa Anderson	13	3.54
	Temeshia Gray	13	3.54
5	Charlie Meadows	12	3.75

students' mindfulness in serving the communities around them.

In order to make the Honor Roll, a student must take 12 class hours or more for the semester. To achieve the President's List, a student must hold a perfect 4.0 grade point average. In order to achieve the Dean's List, a student must have a 3.5 or higher grade point average. We are proud to present the

Honor Roll for the Fall 2019 Semester (see chart).

Congratulations to each of these students for achieving this milestone in their academic endeavors!

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Colossians 3:17

Equipping the Saints!  
Dr. Carson

## Spring Semester Registration

You may complete your application online today at: <https://southeasternbaptist.edu/application-for-admission>

Registration for classes may be made online or by calling the Registrar at 601-426-6346. In person registration is available on campus from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday, January 6-9, 2020.

Classes begin January 13, 2020.

Late registration closes on January 16, 2020.

These dates include both online and in-classroom courses.

## Veterans Benefits

SBC possesses the Gold Award level as a military friendly college! 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! SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

See **Southeastern**  
on Page 5

## Charger Basketball

### Men's Schedule

Jan 9	@ Pensacola Christian	7:00 PM
Jan 11	@ LSU Eunice	4:00 PM
Jan 16	@ Univ. Of Mobile	7:00 PM
Jan 25	Trinity College of Florida	3:00 PM
Feb. 13	@ Pensacola Christian	7:00 PM
Feb 18	@ LSU Shreveport	7:00 PM
Feb 21-22	@ Oakland City Univ	TBA

### Lady Chargers

Jan 9	Pensacola Christian -	5:00 PM - Home
Jan 11	@ LSU Eunice - T	BA - Eunice, LA
Jan 18	@ Coastal Alabama South	2:00 PM
	Bay Minette, AL	
Jan 24	Johnson University of Florida	5:00 PM - Home
Jan 25	Trinity College of Florida	1:00 PM - Home
Jan 28	Judson College	1:00 PM Home
Jan 28	Judson College	6:00 PM Home
Jan 31	Costal Alabama North	4:00 PM
	Monroeville, AL	
Feb 13	@ Coastal Alabama South	6:00 PM - Home
Feb 18	@ LSU Shreveport	5:00 PM
	Shreveport, LA	
Feb 21-22	@ Oakland City University	TBA
	Oakland City, IN	



Laurel High School Choir performs with SBC's Choir at the Cornerstone Christmas Celebration



A nice turnout at the Cornerstone Christmas Celebration held in the SBC Library

**Right** - Bibles purchased by SBC supporters were distributed to our students at the Cornerstone Christmas Celebration



# Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown  
Editor

## Laird Scholarship Update

by Don Brown

As many of you are aware an 'endowed scholarship' has been established in the name and memory of Bro. Grover Laird at BMA Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas. The generosity of those who have donated to this cause so far is greatly appreciated. The total received as of December 31, 2019 is \$20,730.00. This amount will earn enough annual interest to help provide scholarship help to a ministerial student. Of course, the larger the endowment the more funds available to help students.

We have had donations from churches, individuals, ministers, friends, and family members of Bro. Laird. One church that had Bro. Laird preach a number of revivals over the years gave two separate donations. They expressed their love and respect for him and how he had been a blessing to them through his ministry.

One couple sent a donation along with a note sharing the following, "Bro. Laird was real special to us. He married us 58 years ago and was our first pastor. He taught us a great deal about the Bible and we have always admired his dedication to God's Word." What a tribute to Bro. Laird and his ministry!

We are encouraging churches, pastors, and individuals that benefitted from the ministry of Grover Laird to donate to this cause. Send your gifts to Grover Laird Scholarship, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441.



Bro. Grover Laird

## Sermon

from page 2

wrong decision had not the Lord directed them. (1 Samuel 16:6; 1 Chronicles 17:1-4) David often cried out to the Lord for direction. (Psalm 5:8; 25:4,5; 27:11) If we do not therefore obtain guidance from Heaven

## Col. Bobby Thornton Passes Away

Col. Bobby Thornton, 86, passed away on Sunday, December 15, 2019 in Tyler, Texas. He was born February 16, 1933 in Raleigh, Mississippi to the late Tom B. and Minnie Ishee Thornton. Services were held December 18, 2019 in the chapel of Jackson's Burk Walker Tippit Funeral Home with Dr. Edwin Crank and Gary Doss officiating. He was buried with Military Honors at Cathedral in the Pines Cemetery.



Col. Bobby Thornton

He received his Master's Degree in Theology and served in the United State Air Force for over 24 years as a Chaplain. Prior to serving in the Military he pastored many churches in Texas and Mississippi. Along with his ministries he enjoyed many hobbies, including, golf, racquetball and running. He also had a passion for gardening. He was formerly a member of Rose City Baptist Church and most recently had attended New Harmony Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his son, Jeffrey Lynn Thornton.

Surviving him are his wife, Dovie Thornton of Tyler; a sister, Mary Smith of Hattiesburg, Miss. and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family requests that memorials be made to Southeastern Baptist College, 4229 Hwy. 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440.

we will make a lot of mistakes.

But as can be seen in David's prayers, (Psalm 27:11) obtaining this help is not always easy, and there are reasons that this is true. For one thing, the Lord may wait until we get some things in place that are factors in obtaining direction from the Lord. Let me explain what I mean.

Being humble is a factor in getting guidance from Heaven. The Bible says, "The meek will he guide in judgment; and the meek will he teach his way." (Psalms 25:9; see also Matt. 11:25) Walking in the fear of the Lord will also make it easier--"What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose." (Psalms 25:12) Making our prayers longer and more earnest is very important--"And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?" (Luke 18:7) Giving God time to reveal His will can also be a factor. (Jeremiah 42:1-7)

Though some are slow in doing this one, fasting can also help--"Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our

little ones, and for all our substance." (Ezra 8:21) Being filled with the Spirit is surely important, since He is the one who leads us. (Ephesians 5:18; Romans 8:14) Getting more acquainted with the Bible is important, since the Bible is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. (Psalm 119:105)

But there will be times when a decision must be made almost immediately and we are not sure what to do. When this is true, an earnest prayer with total trust in the Lord will surely take care of the situation. Here is a verse that will encourage us in those times of uncertainty--"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:6) In other words, "Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." (Psalms 37:5) When we completely turn our decisions over to the Lord, trusting also in Him, we will get help.

### III. When We Are Tempted To Get Vengeance

When we have been badly mistreated and we continue to relive the hurt, we need some help from the Lord. While it is natural to want to see those

continued on page 6

*Faith is the response of the heart  
to the character of God.*

## Submission Policies

Your Mississippi Baptist is the voice of the BMA of Mississippi, her churches, and her ministries. We are pleased to publish reports from all related entities, including the world-wide ministries of the BMA of America. We do not publish news or notices of secular or outside groups.

Article submissions should be sent by email to [editor@msbaptist.org](mailto:editor@msbaptist.org) or in typed format by mail to P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441.

Photos should be emailed in jpg format. Photos lose resolution when printed on newsprint, therefore the original quality is vital. Photos should be well lighted, in focus, clear and sharp. Photos should contain people if at all possible. There is no guarantee that all articles and/or photos will be published. Unsolicited items will be given consideration, but publication is not guaranteed. Date sensitive articles will take priority.

We publish on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of each month with the exception of December. Articles announcing events should be in the issue that is published at least 2 weeks prior.

## Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"I'm Brother Eli, and I approve this message!"

# Mississippi Baptist

Don J. Brown, Editor

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## It's The Bad News That Makes Good News Good

by Bro. Rayburn Freeman

A renown preacher once said it is the bad news that makes the good news good. That statement generates two very important questions. One, what is the bad news, and two, what is the good news? The bad news according to God's word in Ecclesiastes 7:20 is, "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." The Apostle Paul in Romans 3:10 sheds light on the Ecclesiastes verse by stating, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one." Then goes further in Romans 6:23 to intensely clarify the bad news by saying, "... for the wages of sin is death..." The word "death" is bad news and in Paul's writings has two meanings, the first is spiritual death which is the separation of a person from God, and the second is physical death

which is the separation of a person from this world, from earthly family and friends. Hebrews 9:27 says, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Therefore the bad news is that we all are born being spiritually dead, and all will die physically, and yes, all will stand before Christ our judge.

What is the good news? Even though we were born spiritually dead, there is good news as expressed in the old gospel hymn "Jesus Saves." written by Priscilla J. Owens and published in 1882. The beginning of the first stanza goes like this, "We have heard the Joyful sound: Jesus Saves! Jesus Saves!" God's word in John 3:16 shares with us why and how salvation is possible when it says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that

whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." In 2 Peter 3:9 the apostle Peter who was very emphatic and out spoken in behalf of Christ' love for us says, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Through the bad news and the good news man is informed that he is a sinner, and because he cannot redeem himself, God by Grace through Faith (Ephesians 2:8-9) has made provision. The decision now lies within the sinner's heart and mind. Would that be you? If so, what will your decision be? It will be helpful for those who are not saved to consider what Paul stated in Romans 10:9, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead,

thou shalt be saved". For a person to admit that he is a sinner doomed to an eternal separa-



Rayburn Freeman

tion from God in hell is a difficult, but essential, first step in trusting Jesus as savior. Trusting Christ as savior is admitting that you are lost, you are wrong, that you are a sinner who is not right with God. Our loving God (John 3:16) has

never, and never will, send anyone to hell. Those who go to hell do so by their own choice.

A sinner who by faith believes, repents and calls upon Jesus Christ to forgive and save him will be saved, (Romans 10:13). It's what Christ did for the sinner and not what the sinner can do for Christ. Titus 3:5, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost..."

By one believing and confessing his sin nature while calling upon the Lord Jesus Christ to save him he will receive Salvation, the perfect and eternal life as a gift. When a person is saved he can say with the Psalmist in Psalms 103:12, "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us". Sins are forgiven, righteousness is imputed and all guilt or liability of judgment for sin is forever removed. All praise to Him who suffered and died for us that we might live eternally with Him.

## Southeastern College

from page 3

### TNT

SBC is gearing up for the TNT Spring Semester schedule. Each Tuesday evening the student body gathers together for a meal and a spiritual lesson. We invite churches and ministries to sponsor a Tuesday Night Talk (TNT) by providing a nutritious home cooked meal (church pot luck style) with a spiritual 15-minute lesson. This program is a huge success with an average of 50 attending each week. Contact Fellowship of Christian Athletes Ambassador, Coach Lyon at 601-506-2880, to schedule your night of ministry.

### Lighthouse Café

We are completing the final touches on the SBC café. Of note, the café passed the initial health inspection and we are cleared to open operations! Keep a lookout for an announcement when we will hold the grand opening for the Lighthouse Café. The café will serve both our students and employees, and will also be opened to the public.

### Pew

Praise the Lord! Thank you Don and Delight Jefcoat for donating a used pew to be utilized as a waiting area in the café. What a great blessing!

### SBC Choir

The SBC Choir "Cornerstone" was recently featured on WDAM Channel 7 at the Laurel Christ-

mas Tree Lighting Event. Does your church or ministry want to host the SBC "Cornerstone" Choir? Now is the time to reserve dates for their performance during the Spring Semester. Hurry, their schedule is filling up quickly. Contact Krista McKenzie at 601-426-6346.

### SBC Foundation

The Southeastern Baptist College Foundation is a fantastic way to support your college well into the future. Interest from the Foundation helps sustain the financial needs of the college.

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

### Available to Preach

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



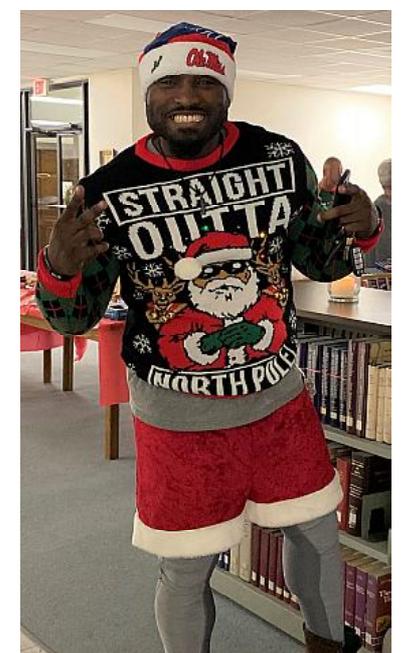
Dean of Academic Affairs, Jan Walker, shares student policies and activities with the SBC professors and staff during the In-Service Training Session



Coach Broderick Hall in action during one of SBC's home basketball games



SBC's Cornerstone Choir performs at the Christmas Celebration they sponsored for the SBC family



Coach Overby wins the "Ugly Sweater Contest" at the Cornerstone Christmas Celebration

# Sermon

from page 4

hurt who have caused us to hurt, this is wrong.

Jesus taught us to love our enemies and pray for them-- "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;" (Matthew 5:44) When we begin to pray for the welfare and good of those who have mistreated us, we get ourselves in better shape and begin to recover from the hurt done to us. Things began to change in the life of Job when he prayed for the welfare of those who had done him wrong-- "And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before." (Job 42:10)

If we do not experience a healing when we pray for those who have hurt us, it is probably because we are not praying right. We should continue to pray for their good until hate has been completely replaced by a sincere love. Then we will feel better and the Lord will begin to work.

But do not worry about the wrong doers getting by. The Lord will take care of wrong doing. The Bible says, "But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons." (Colossians 3:25) But it will be to our advantage if we will remember that this is God's business and not ours-- "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." (Romans 12:19) You see, those who have done wrong are God's creatures, or servants, and not ours-- "Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand." (Romans 14:4)

Another thing to consider is, we may have failed in some other Christian duty as those who did us wrong have failed. And the Lord will be easier on us if we are easier on them-- "With the merciful thou wilt show thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt show thyself upright; With the pure thou wilt show thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt show thyself froward." (Psalms 18:25,26)



## Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Lindsey

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

### Every Good Gift

I pray the holidays have left each of us thankful. We can be thankful for the Messiah sent to save us from our sins. We can be thankful for another day in a New Year to faithfully serve our savior, Jesus Christ. These are great gifts! "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

When we therefore feel that wrong doers are getting by with their sins and should be punished, there are some things we should do. First, remember that judgment against sin does not always come immediately. (Ecclesiastes 8:11) Also, God sometimes waits until they change before sending the judgment. (Isaiah 33:1) Then, we are to commit all of that to the Lord with our faith in Him. God will then "bring it to pass," or, correct the wrongs, deal with those who sin, and put everything back right.

This does not mean that God never uses us in the process of solving problems. It just means that everything has been turned over to the Lord, and we only do those things that He impresses us to do. Whatever, or Whoever, He chooses to use in making everything right is now totally left up to Him.

### IV. When We Have Burdens Too Heavy For Us

Though trouble is not always the result of sin, many times it is. A close study of Israel in Bible times will reveal that the more out of line with the Bible they became, the more trouble they had. As we therefore get deeper into the falling away from God of the end time, (2 Thessalonians 2:3) the more our world seems to suffer. But regardless of the cause, there is a danger of God's people becoming overloaded with the "cares of this life" in these last days. (Luke 21:34) Therefore comfort for times of trouble, as can be found in our

text, should especially interest people in our day. Many are the times that God has promised help for His people in times of trouble. Psalm 46:1 says, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Again we read, "The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." (Psalms 34:18) Another verse says, "He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds." (Psalms 147:3) Still another verse says He is "touched with the feeling of our infirmities." (Hebrews 4:15) God does care when we hurt, and He is ready to help us.

Though many of our troubles do come as a result of our own doings, God still deals with us in mercy-- "The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy." (Psalms 103:8) He actually delights in dealing with us this way-- "...he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy." (Micah 7:18) This surely means that anyone else who hated sin as much as God, would not let us off as light as He does-- "...seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve...." (Ezra 9:13).

All of this gets better when we realize that our Heavenly Father wants to help us with our problems. He must, since He has repeatedly urged us to bring our burdens to Him. He moved the Psalmist to write, "Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer

they are surprising. We don't know how they are coming. We don't know when they are coming. Sometimes we may not even identify them as gifts at first. This is how God works.

Through God's story people looked for a son, then a king, and finally a redeemer. When Christ arrived he was all of those things, but he was not in the packaging the Pharisees, Sadducees, and even at times, His disciples expected. None the less, the gift of redemption and eternal life came through Christ. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

### Placement Blessing

This past year at the Home has been a constant search for how to serve God and families at this place and a search for how He is going to bless. Just before Thanksgiving, we received our

first placement. It didn't come packaged the way we expected, but we are thankful for God's gifts. This new chapter in our history has left us in another transition. It is going to be a lengthy process to finalize all the paperwork for this placement. This leaves us at a disadvantage in communicating details in a public forum for now. We look forward to seeing how God works out the details and letting everyone in on this wonderful blessing. Thank you for your support through our special emphasis and thank you for all who blessed the children with extra Christmas gifts. We fully trust that God is working on behalf of those who so desperately need Him. Please contact us if you would like us to come to speak with your church in the future, and may God's gifts be evident to you this New Year.

## Scripture Thoughts by Cleaver

John 3.27 "...A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven."

Why am I not promoted as my friend, I have a better resume? What caused their family to be healthier than my family, we follow a better diet and exercise more? There are more and better musicians in the shadows than there are lesser musicians who are stars—why is that?

These questions come to all humankind when we compare our lives to others. John responded in a straightforward manner—as he always did—it is from God that we have a "position" or place in life. John knew his place.

John filled his days with trying to fulfill his mission. He did not worry about the other person. He focused on his own responsibilities being the one who was to announce the coming of the Messiah. God had

given him life and that life was to focus on his task.

Good Reader, God has given you a task, a place in life, and has given you



Tony Cleaver

from heaven a unique life. It does not matter if someone is in the limelight more than you. Remember John's words regarding Jesus: "He must increase, but I must decrease."

What have you received from heaven? What are you doing with that gift from heaven? Are you comparing it to some other's gift from heaven or are you taking advantage of the gift of God to you in this life?

*Dr. Tony Cleaver is a retired U.S. Army Chaplain and Director of Distance Learning for BMA Seminary.*

*You may contact him at [jstmcleaver@embarqmail.com](mailto:jstmcleaver@embarqmail.com)*

the righteous to be moved." (Psalm 55:22) And then He moved Peter to write, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

But it is very important that we now look again at our text-- "Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." (Psalms 37:5) This verse reminds us that when we do come to the Lord with our cares, we must come in faith believing. While it is important that we COMMIT our ways unto the Lord, or CAST our burdens

upon the Lord, it is equally as important that we "trust also in him." Some who do a good job in turning it all over to the Lord, do not do so well in completely trusting in Him to "bring it to pass."

When faith is lacking, earnest crying to heaven will still help. (Psalm 34:6) The more Scriptural we are in our asking for help, (Psalm 34:17) and the better job we do in staying with it, (Luke 18:7) the more likely we are in obtaining the

continued on page 7

## Full preparation critical in response to active shooter

**OneNewsNow.com** - Quick action by a well-trained and armed church security team saved an unknown number of lives Sunday morning (December 29) in a suburb of Ft. Worth, Texas – but a security expert says that's only half of the training that needs to take place.

Three quick shots at West Freeway Church of Christ and it was all over: the first two shots were from the shooter, 43-year-old Keith Thomas Kinnunen; the third, which dropped Kinnunen, came from 71-year-old Jack Wilson, a member of the church's armed security team.

While he applauds the work of the church's security team, Ryan Dobson of Home Safe says the church was only half prepared.

"This shooting in Texas – I am stunned. I've seen the video – their security team was amazing," he tells OneNewsNow. "It was also very clear that nobody else in the church had any idea what to do during an active shooting situation."

In the video it appears Wilson dropped the gunman with a head shot after the gunman opened fire, and that some of those sitting in the pews were just beginning to take cover by the time Wilson reacted.

Dobson, who trained for years with his father Dr. James



Church security takes out shooter in Texas church

Dobson's security team, now instructs congregations and families how to protect themselves. The first step, he explains, is situational awareness.

"You walk into a room – [and] whether it's your church or Walmart or Costco or a concert venue, [ask yourself] Where would you go if trouble happened?"

Then, he says, follow a three-step plan in response to a shooting: Run, Hide, Fight.

"If you can run and get out of the line of sight, get out," Dobson advises. "If you can't run, put something large between you and the gunman [such as a locked or blockaded door] and then work your way out.

"[Finally,] if I was within arm's reach of the shooter, I'd

fight – because I'm too close to run and get shot in the back."

The gunman who opened fire in the Texas church shot and killed two church members before he was taken out by Wilson. The Associated Press reports today that Kinnunen had visited the church several other times this year and was given food, but got angry when officials refused to give him money.

## Louisiana law seeks to take care of women

**OneNewsNow.com** - An observer who has his eye on a particular Supreme Court case says the New Year will bring plenty of legal disputes.

"The biggest case right now that's on the Supreme Court's radar is a pro-life law out of Louisiana that requires abortionists to have admitting privileges," reports Steven Ertlet, editor of Life News. "Why is that needed? Because abortion is dangerous. We know that abortion kills children, but it also hurts women."

Medically speaking, he points out that there are a number of ways in which women can be injured by abortion.

"The sad truth is that the abortion industry has no interest in protecting women," Ertlet laments. "They go on and on and on talking about women's rights and women's health, 'abortion is healthcare,' but when it comes right down to actually protecting women's health, they refused to do that. So Louisiana passed a law saying you've got to take care of women if you're doing abortions."

## COMMISSION ON Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North  
Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt  
Director

### Senior Adult Conferences Coming Up Soon

2020 is fast approaching and so are the "Revival Fire" Senior Conferences. March 12th at Big Creek Baptist Church and May 10th at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Fulton. These special days for our seniors are truly special and you don't want to miss them. Mark your calendars now.

The registration fee remains the same at \$15.00 per person. This covers the catered meal by Mac's once again. The speakers have been selected and the musicians are ready.

Door Prizes are being collected. That fun time is always something to behold. Prizes for the oldest woman present and for the oldest man present will be given once again.

Plaques for those completing 50 years of ministry will be given. If you are completing 50 years of ministry, please call the Missions Office and let it be known. Mrs. Kim in the office will be glad to get the information.

Pray for the Revival Fires Conferences and make plans to be in attendance and don't forget, the old Heavenly Highway hymn book will be used!

The abortion industry, however, is challenging the law in court. One big argument involves the Supreme Court striking down what certain individuals, special interest groups, and news outlets consider to be "a very similar law in Texas" in 2016.

But Attorney General Jeff Landry (R-Louisiana), Solicitor General Liz Murrill, and Louisiana Right to Life tell OneNewsNow that Louisiana's case is different, and they welcome the Supreme Court argument, which is scheduled for March 2020.

if they're using that, they should be using that in the Louisiana case, and the result should be different because of that."

Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone;

## Sermon

from page 6

faith to "trust also in him." Mark tells us of a man who trusted the Lord the best he could, as he ask the Lord in tears to help his unbelief. He got help. (Mark 9:17-27)

The Lord is not only able and willing to help with some of our problems, He invites us to cast all of our cares upon Him. (1 Peter 5:7) Since He is all-powerful, all-loving, and all-wise, God's Throne of Grace is surely the place to go when we are troubled.

One thing for sure: we will not carry as many burdens, we will not suffer as many defeats, and life will in every way be better for us when we learn to live by these words, "Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." (Psalms 37:5)

## Sofilthy's Attic by Barbara White



### My Ride

My mode of transportation is a '98 Camry with over 250,000 miles to its credit. But I've found that there are benefits to driving an old car.

1. License tags are much cheaper.
2. You don't have to take the keys out 'cause nobody wants a '98 Camry. Occasionally someone will tell me I ought to see about getting a newer car. I immediately tell them that I have asked

the Lord to make this car last as long as I do and if I went and got another one He would think that I didn't believe He could make it last that long.

3. When you drive an old car, people get out of your way when they see you coming and that helps you get where you are going quicker. I like to get there as quickly as I can because there's a Scripture that says "what thou doest do quickly."

4. Your friends have dreams about you and your car. One of my friends called recently and said he had dreamed that I had his family of nine packed into my Camry and I was driving them somewhere. Most folks would call that a nightmare, not a dream.

I usually like to end these little ditties with a scripture, but the only one that comes to mind is from II Kings 9:20. ".....and the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi' for he driveth furiously."



# 74 YEARS OF MINISTRY

# Mississippi Baptist

JANUARY 2020

SPECIAL EMPHASIS NEEDS

# \$10,000

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## Opertunities For Giving Grimsley Charitable Gift Annuity Announced

*by Charles Attebery, Foundation Director*

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Grimsley of Springdale, Arkansas, recently secured a two life \$1,000,000 charitable gift annuity through the BMA Foundation to benefit Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas, and BMA Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas. The Grimsleys are long-time BMA church members and have been generous donors to other BMA entities through the years. He has served as deacon at Spring Creek Baptist Church in Springdale for approximately fifty years and also served as church clerk, song leader, and adult Sunday school teacher for many years. Mrs. Grimsley is currently serving as organist, assistant pianist, and church clerk.

They funded their annuity with highly appreciated stock which allowed them to avoid capital gains tax on part of their gift, receive a significant income tax deduction the year of the gift, and part of their income from the annuity will be free from federal income taxation.

Charitable gift annuities provide a set amount of income to the donor and/or another specified person for the remainder of their lives, and after the Lord has called them home, the amount remaining from their gift plus earnings goes to the beneficiaries specified in the annuity contract.

Bro. Charles Attebery, BMA Foundation Executive Director said, "In giving permission to announce this gift, the Grimsleys made it clear they were not seeking recognition for themselves, but wanted to encourage others to consider taking advantage of what a charitable gift annuity can do for them and at the same time help BMA ministries."

Charitable gift annuities offer very favorable rates which are based on the donor's age at the time of their gift. For example, a single life annuity is currently paying 5.10% for a 65 year old, 6.20% for a 75 year old and 9.50% for a 95 year old.

For more information about charitable gift annuities available through the BMA Foundation, please contact Executive Director Charles Attebery by email, charles@bmaamerica.org or by telephone 501-472-2183.

## Progress Begins on the Darlene Carey Christian Academy

*by Stan Scroggins  
Philippine Bible College*

These workers are digging the footings for the two story building. No back hoe, no steel toe boots. Can you imagine how tough their feet are? WOW! We are still working and getting the word out about the Academy and the need for funds to continue building. Please consider helping with this much needed ministry.



**Right Photo** - Foundation digging 'old style'

**Below** - Proposed building for Darlene Carey Academy



A LITTLE DELEGATION COMES TO SEE THE PASTOR....

"YOU DON'T CARE FOR MY PREACHING? WOW, THAT'S REALLY ENCOURAGING-BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D BEEN LISTENING TO MY SERMONS! THANK YOU!"



Contact BMA Foundation Executive Director  
**Charles Attebery**  
for more information.  
charles@bmaamerica.org or cell 501-472-2183

### A Gift That Keeps Giving

Gifts to the BMA Foundation are never spent. They are invested and the earnings benefit BMA departments annually until the Lord returns.

**Some Ways to Give**  
Cash - Stocks and bonds  
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