

Baptist

Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

January 15, 2015

www.bmaofmississippi.com

Vol. 69 No. 2

National Association Information

President Encourages Attendance New Format For 66th Annual Meeting of the BMA of America

by President Jason Aultman

Greetings to the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America! I hope this letter finds you doing well and enjoying a wonderful beginning to 2015. I wanted to make you aware that we will be gathering in Springfield, Missouri, on April 20-22, 2015 for the 66th Annual Meeting of the BMA of America. I hope that you and/or some representatives from your church will be able to attend. The meeting will be held at the University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center.



Jason Aultman

This year we will be making what I believe are some exciting adjustments to our meeting. In addition to providing time to conduct the business of the association, attendees will also have opportunity to receive some practical instruction and equipping. It is our hope that this will serve to encourage and sharpen us all as we return to our places of ministry. In order to provide time for these elective sessions we will abbreviate departmental reports. (The various department and agency directors have voiced unanimous support of this change.)

We do want to make sure that messengers have every opportunity to receive any information needed and desired from our directors. So, in addition to the abbreviated reports, extended reports will be available by way of:

1. The printed material in the Reports & Recommendation Booklet.
2. Video reports that can be accessed before, during, and after the meeting at www.bmalife.com.
3. Special breakout sessions during which directors will be available for more personal discussion.

It is our hope that these plans will provide even better access to information than was previously available to our messengers and churches. (Included elsewhere in this issue you will find a preliminary schedule of the meeting.) This does not include specific details, but rather a broad overview to help in your planning.

I hope to see you in Springfield as we gather to conduct business, worship the Lord, and prepare to serve Him even more effectively.

Church Information Requested

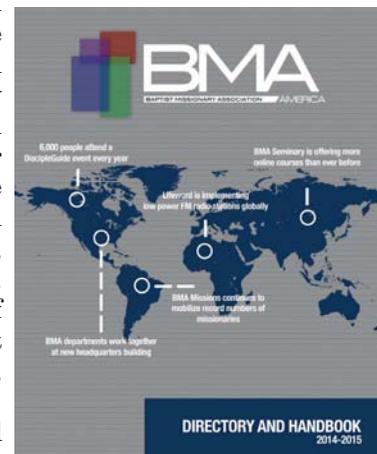
Directory & Handbook Deadline February 15, 2015

Pastors and church clerks are reminded that the deadline for submitting completed annual church letter forms for the BMAA Directory and Handbook is February 15, 2015. If your church has not submitted your 2014-15 DiscipleGuide Church Letter form and offering between July 1, 2014, and the present, please do so quickly. If you already have sent your report and offering, we are most grateful.

You may complete and submit the form online at www.BMALife.org/ChurchLetter until February 15. The church letter form also can be found in the back of the 2014-15 BMAA Directory and Handbook. The church letter form must be submitted to

Information Services to be included in the next BMAA Directory and Handbook. (As in the past, the national association clerk will mail the one-page Letter of Representation form to churches prior to the BMAA annual meeting in April.) This annual church letter form is our principal source of information to keep your church listing correct and accurate in the Directory and Handbook.

If you need to contact information Services, you may reach Linda Cary, Assistant Editor at lcary@discipleguide.org, Office: 501.358.4007 or Toll Free: 800.333.1442 Thank you for supporting this ministry of the BMA of America.



2015 Pastor's Conference Set

by Justin Rhodes

I hope everyone is getting ready for this year's retreat at Lake Tiak O'Khata in Louisville, Mississippi, on January 26 - 27. Registration will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Monday afternoon, and the retreat will kick off at 2:00 p.m. and conclude around noon on Tuesday.

The registration this year is \$60 if staying in the bunkhouse. This includes the retreat, one night in the bunkhouse, and your three meals.

If you choose to reserve a hotel room, then the registration will be \$40, which includes the retreat and three meals.

You are responsible for reserving and paying for your hotel room. The number to Lake Tiak O'Khata for reservations is 662-773-7853.

Please make all checks payable to RLF - Pastor's Conference.

The theme of the retreat this year is "**I Am Determined!**" Justin Cameron and I will be leading worship throughout the retreat, and The Camerons will share with us during the Monday evening service. Speakers and Topics will include:

Todd West - *I Am Determined To Run The Race* (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Blake McCain - *I Am Determined To*

Preach The Word (2 Timothy 4:1-4)

Wexford Parmer - *I Am Determined To Finish The Race* (2 Timothy 4:5-8)

Todd West - *I Am Determined To Worship The Lord* (John 4:20-24)

Wesley Martin - *I Am Determined To Share My Faith* (Acts 1:7-8)

Grover Laird - *I Am Determined To Pray Believing* (Luke 11:1-10)

Todd West - *I Am Determined To Disciple Others* (2 Timothy 2:1-2)

We are excited about this year's retreat, and we hope that you are as well. If you have any questions about the Pastor's Retreat, please give me a call, text, or email at 601-498-6692 or pastorjustinrhodes@yahoo.com.

January 2015 - Special Emphasis Time for Your Mississippi Baptist Paper



Larry Geraldson
Director



Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Department of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund



State Missionaries and Wives



Bob & Edie Burch



Kenneth & Carole
Pollock



Bobby & Lesa
Elliott



Danny & Brenda
Bartlett



Sidney & Becky
Farmer



Wesley & Holley
Martin



Phillip & Dawn
Burns



Estuardo &
Yasmine Marroquin



Elvis & Wendy
Garcia



Ed & Patricia
DuVall

601.428.8616

www.bmams.org

“Thou crownest the year with thy goodness;...” Ps 65:11a

Off To An Amazing Start

January 5-6, some of our State Missionaries and I attended and participated in the first, “Joshua Project” sponsored and hosted by Campground Baptist Church near Gulfport. The purpose of the conference was to encourage, equip and involve those who are serving the Lord. Pastor Bryan Atwood asked us to take a part, along with other State and National Department workers, in a program that was organized under three categories: 1) The Tool Box - Equipping; 2) Dealing With Hardships in Ministry - Encouraging; 3) A Successful Ministry - Inspiring. In addition to myself, Sidney Farmer, Missionary at South Forrest; Wesley Martin, New Missionary to Diamondhead; and Bob Burch, Missionary at Caledonia; we heard from

Bro. Bryan Atwood, Pastor of Campground Baptist Church; Bro. Josh Daniels, Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church; Bro. Greg Medenwald, Pastor of Magnolia Baptist Church; Bro. Ken Riley, Pastor of Lebanon Baptist Church; Bro. Bryson Hayden, Pastor of Berean Baptist Church; Bro. Danny Pitts, Pastor of First Baptist Shady Grove & Interim President of Southeastern Baptist College; and Jeremy Wilkerson, Minister of Music at Campground; Sidney Smith, John David Smith, Donny Parrish, Dr. Charley Holmes, and Steve Crawley. We enjoyed wonderful music led by Bro. Justin Rhodes, Pastor of Big Creek Baptist Church and Bro. Justin Cameron, Pastor of Midway Baptist Church. Campground Baptist Church provided lodging and meals and a good amount of time was given to fellowship. It was an excellent conference and everyone with whom I spoke, said they

really benefitted from being there. I personally want to thank Bro. Atwood and the folks at Campground for all that they did to make this event a success.

State Missionary Meeting

On January 22-23 our State Missionaries from all over the state will come together for a time of fellowship, reflection, planning and inspiration. I am excited about this event because it gives our newer missionaries a chance to interact with our veteran missionaries and the time of sharing, alone, is priceless. Our goal is to be an encouragement to our Missionaries.

Pastor's Conference

The BMA of Mississippi annual Pastor's Conference will be on January 26-27 at Lake Tiak-O'Khata in Louisville, Mississippi. You can see the details of this event on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/events/830370146995782/> I hope you will plan to attend. Speakers on the program include Bro. Todd West, Bro. Blake McCain, Bro. Wexford Parmer, Bro. Wesley Martin and Bro. Grover Laird. I am sure you will receive a blessing, so please mark your calendar now. Hope to see you there.

Professional Development (Evangelism Explosion)

Each year, your State Missions Department, and the BMAA Seminary, work together to provide professional development for our Missionaries. This year, we will be hosting the Seminary as they conduct Evangelism Explosion Training. The training will take place onsite at the mission field of Grace Baptist Mission in Clinton, Mississippi on March 5-7. The course can be taken for credit through the Seminary and possibly through Southeastern Baptist College. We always open these professional development opportunities up to our pastors and churches and encourage anyone, who wishes to take part, to sign up. If you have someone in your church that needs to be trained in evangelism, this would be the perfect opportunity. Many of our missionaries are already trained and will be serving to help train others. However, we will need others who have been trained, to help. If you would like to participate in this event, contact us at the Missions Office at 601-428-8616 and we will make sure you get information about how to sign up. So, mark your calendar now.

Missions & Evangelism Conference

Our annual Missions and Evangelism Conference will be held on May 1 and will be hosted by Hillcrest Baptist Church in Yazoo City. The conference will begin at 10:00 a.m. to allow folks to drive in and will end by 5:00 p.m. so that folks can get home before too late. Transportation has been arranged through various churches whose pastors have agreed to bring a van or church bus to enable folks to carpool. So far, we have transportation arranged with: Paramount, Wiggins; Campground, Gulfport; North Gautier, Gautier; Midway, McClain; Big Creek, Soso; First

Information Update From EIM

by Rocky Goodwinm Director Evangelistic International Ministries

I would like to share the activities of Evangelistic International Ministries. It is easy to report when God has been so good and lives have been changed by the power of the Gospel. As I have said many times, that is the purpose of the existence of our ministry is to win people to Christ, teach them the Word of God and to strengthen the believers.

Over the past few months we have been asked these questions many times. Is EIM a part of the missions program of the BMA of America? Are we a member of the BMA? As founder and director of EIM for 18 years I feel that we should

be known by now by our BMA churches and brethren as to our affiliation with the BMA. In order to answer these questions for those we meet within the BMA that don't know, I'd like to answer your questions.

Yes! We are a member of the BMA of America. Our Sending church is First Baptist Church of Magnolia, Arkansas. I personally have been BMA all of my adult life. I was saved and ordained to the ministry in a BMA church and always pastored BMA churches. I hope this answers some of your questions. And now to the report.

I realize that many do not like numbers so all I will say is that God has reached down and touched the lives of countless thousands. Heaven has gained many souls because of churches that have given to the ministry of mission evangelism as well as individuals that have gone with us and shared the Gospel to those that we've ministered to. It is impossible to know exactly how many people have responded to the invitation to accept Christ as Savior. But I realize that it is our responsibility to share Christ and to make known the path that leads to Heaven and it is their responsibility to respond to the invita-

tion.

The Shepherd Bags Ministry has proven to be anointed of God and we all stand amazed at how God uses such a unique tool to get the Gospel out. Thousands of lives have been touched by the Shepherd Bags Ministry. To all of our friends who have participated and supported us we say thank you.

The Teaching Ministry, also known as The Barnabas Touch Ministry, has been one of excitement and joy for all of those that have participated. Only eternity will reveal the great things that have been accomplished because preachers have gone and shared the Word of God with their brethren in different countries. Thank you men!

Our Feeding Program has enabled us to go into places that we never dreamed that we would go. God has given us a tool to open the door for the Gospel to be preached. At this time we are feeding between 20-25,000 children per day. To God be the glory.

God keeps opening doors for EIM to minister. I will ask that each one pray that we will be sensitive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit as we enter those doors remembering that EIM is a full-time Mission Evangelistic Ministry.

BMA of Mississippi
Pastor's Retreat
January 26 & 27, 2015
Lake Tiak O'Khata
Louisville, Mississippi

continued on page 3

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

**January 2015
Special Emphasis**



Don Brown
Editor

Your Help Is Needed
To Keep the
"Good News" Flowing!
We ask that you give a
Special Offering to your
Mississippi Baptist Paper
In January

Our Need - \$10,000

Publications Local Church Children's Home
Southeastern Baptist College Galileans
Moral Action
**Sharing The
"Good News"**
History & Archives State Missions Youth Department
WMA Senior Adult Commission Sunbeams
Brotherhood GMAs
National BMA News

Missions

from page 2

Midway, Sumrall; East Fulton, Fulton. Speakers at this year's event will include: Ben Dixon, Dwight Sibley, Dr. Kevin Clayton, Holden Stegal, Bro. Greg Medenwald, and Dr. Charley Holmes. During the lunch hour we will hear reports from all of our State Missionaries. This year, in addition to awarding the Arnold Knight Scholarship, we will announce the first inductee into our

State Missionary Hall of Faith. This person will be selected by our current State Missionaries and his photo will be placed in the Missions Office as a permanent reminder of his labor of love and the inspiration that it is, for those serving today.

Huge Thank You!!

Eighty of our BMA of Mississippi churches gave more to State Missions last year than they did the year before. Also, the percentage of churches giving to State Missions has gone up. We are deeply grateful and continue to work

hard to be good stewards of what you entrust to us. My dream is to see a BMA church in every community in the State of Mississippi and for that BMA church to be the most influential organization in the community. I believe we can turn our world upside down. Thank you for your support.

Personal Challenge to Our Churches

I am asking every BMA church in the State of Mississippi to get a map and draw a circle, 1 to 5 miles out from the church and set as a goal for 2015, that you meet everyone in that circle. That is my personal challenge to you. If you accept this challenge, call the office and let me know that you are going to work on this, 601-428-8616. If you would like for me to come to your church and deliver this challenge in person, just give me a call.

Update on Bro. Rodolfo Galicia

Over the Christmas holidays I received a call from Bro. Estuardo Marroquin informing me that Bro. Rodolfo Galicia, El Camino's missionary to Biloxi, and his mother, Margarita,

were involved in a car accident. By God's grace, they are both doing okay, and Bro. Rodolfo has already returned to his mission work in Biloxi. Margarita did suffer a broken arm and was banged up pretty bad. She is now in Laurel recovering. Please pray for her recovery. Bro. Rodolfo has said this will not stop him from doing the mission work. I also want to thank Bro. Johnny Williams, Pastor of North Gautier Baptist, who responded to this incident, immediately and went to the hospital to check on Bro. Rodolfo and his mother.



Bro. Rodolfo's vehicle

BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund Report (As of Jan 9, 2015 and since August 1, 2014)	
Gross Assets	\$19,435,544.00
New Loans	5
Total of Loans Made	\$363,611.00
Loan Rate	4.25%
Shareholder Rate of Return	2.67%
Reserve	20%

Reports for Dec 2014			
	High Attendance	Membership	Total Offerings
Church Planters			
Bob Burch	74	33	\$3,534.00
Bobby Elliott	52	47	\$2,228.00
Sidney Farmer	50	34	\$5,409.00
Danny Bartlett	15	6	\$2,318.00
Phillip Burns	15	7	\$2,298.00
Wesley Martin	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hispanic Missions - South (Estuardo Marroquin - Coordinator)			
Hattiesburg	26	11	\$842.00
Biloxi	7	3	n/a
Laurel	145	107	\$3,038.00
Hispanic Missions - North (Elvis Garcia - Coordinator)			
Tupelo	41	17	\$272.00
Oxford	23	3	\$645.00
Ripley	89	77	\$4,636.00
African American Missions - (Ed DuVall - Coordinator)			
Olive Branch	15	13	\$1,600.00
Cleveland	27	50	\$1,639.00
Collectively, our missionaries reported 158 new contacts, shared the gospel 100 times, and had 5 professions of faiths 1 baptisms and 1 join by letter.			

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
www.bmaofmississippi.com

DEPARTMENTS & COMMISSIONS

Mississippi Baptist Paper
P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441
601-426-3293

Southeastern Baptist College
4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-426-6346

State Youth Department
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
662-397-6832

Baptist Children's Home
118 Lowe Rd., Laurel, MS 39443
601-426-3928

Missions & Revolving Loan Fund
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-428-8616

Commission on Senior Adults
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440

History & Archives Commission
4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-729-8098

Moral Action
P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855



Don Brown

Mississippi Baptist

Opinion Page

www.ms baptist.org

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Don Brown - Editor

National Meeting & Special Emphasis

The 2015 Annual Meeting of the BMA of America will be held in Springfield, Missouri in April. Information concerning the program, hotel reservations, and the individual church letters is listed on page 8 of this issue.

Clerk James Ray Raines points out the need for sufficient funds to pay for the expenses of the meeting. As a former national clerk, I have seen first hand the need for funds. I urge our churches to review the amount of money you have been sending for the minute and association fund. Costs continue to increase and many times we just send in "whatever we sent last year". Last year's offerings are usually not enough. If your church has not increased its giving in the last year or so, please consider giving more. Costs have gone up and the funds are needed.

President Jason Aultman shared the following concerning this year's meeting, "In addition to providing time to conduct the business of the association, attendees will also have opportunity to receive some practical instruction and equipping. It is our hope that this will serve to encourage and sharpen us all as we return to our places of ministry."

Attendance has been dropping off in recent years and it is this writer's hope that the change will encourage more of our churches and pastors to make a

special effort to be represented.

Special Emphasis

The Publications Department Special Emphasis has only a couple of weeks left. These funds are vital for our operation. For the past 37 years I have asked our churches for their support and for 37 years you have rallied to our needs. Your gifts during January of each year have always been sufficient for our needs. Thank you in advance for supporting this ministry with your special offerings during January!

A World Spinning

Daily we are reminded of the need to follow Christ and to maintain a truly Christian World View! The world is spinning out of control and seemingly getting worse by the day. We know that the sinfulness of mankind and the rejection of God and His Son are nothing new. We are well aware that the thoughts of man's heart are continually evil.

This knowledge just encourages us to share His word, speak His name and do His work. The need is greater than ever and the time is short.

Pray for those in authority, pray for the lost, and lean on the Lord in all of your ways.

Surely He is coming soon.

Mission Opportunities Abound English Teachers Needed For Short Term Trips

by **Danny Bullock**
Barnabus Touch coordinator

Last February I wrote the "Tanzanian Call" on the way home from that country. The response from our pastors and churches has been great.

Mike Goodwin and I have already led three teams of nine preachers back to teach several subjects along with the Old and New Testament surveys. When I was there in November, Renatus Kanunu appealed to me on behalf of the 24+ preachers to please bring someone back with me each time to teach the men English. He had mentioned that when we were first there last February, but Mike and I dismissed that since our desire was to teach the men the Bible and how to better pastor their churches. We felt that teaching English would just be a distraction for us.

However, when he mentioned this again, I asked him why they were so concerned about learning English. Was it just a novelty for them? He then explained that the men would like to be able to study Bible commentaries and reference books, but most of them are in English. I then understood their desire for our language. It is to help them better understand the Bible and be better pastors and teachers.

I am wondering if there are some who might be qualified to teach English as a second language who might be willing to go to Tanzania with us three times annually through 2017 to fill this need. You would have 15-20 hours Monday-Saturday to cover the material each time we go. Maybe you can tell me whether or not this is even feasible with adult men who would be at various levels of English proficiency. So far God has been putting everything together for this ministry in East Africa. Maybe He has been burdening some to want to have a part, but you know you are not a Bible teacher and had no idea how to get involved. Would this be your opportunity to use your gifts and expertise?

Contact me at 870-904-5032 or danbull0550@gmail.com if you would like to discuss this. I am leaving again February 20 to return so do not know if it is possible to work this out quickly enough for this trip, but I will be going back again in July.

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"Can you remember way back when sin was a BAD thing?"

Mississippi Baptist

USPS 353-960
P.O. Box 8181
Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000

Phone 601-426-3293

PRICE
\$20.00 Per Year by Mail
\$15.00 Per Year by Email
CHURCH PLAN
\$ 1.30 Per Month per Family

Don J. Brown, Editor
E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org
Web site www.ms baptist.org

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402. Postmaster: Send address changes to the *Mississippi Baptist Paper*, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441-8000.

Southeastern Baptist College

Danny Pitts - Interim President

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



Danny Pitts

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Education Opportunity & Options

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. II Timothy 2:15

An old slogan says: A call to preach is a call to prepare. Surely this is true. The reference to STUDY means Work. Workman later in the verse suggests the idea. I teach in Discipleship that Devotional Reading (Quiet Time in the Bible) should be a pleasure, but Bible Study will be work. In order to do the work of understanding Scripture with the Three Step or Inductive Bible Study Method, much work is required to do the Observation, Interpretation, and Application. By the way the Three Step Method is taught in Discipleway as well.

To please God and not be ashamed, the one called must work at enhancing the authority and gifts from God. A bible college education can help the one called to prepare. God has a life purpose for you. This life purpose will be connected to your gifts.

A Call to preach is a call to prepare.

What is the profit in a person seeking a degree from the structure of a College and Seminary.

It Forces Work

In 3-7 years or more there, you will read and memorize much for courses and tests that you would not in general discipline of independent study. The accountability to deadlines forces most to do work they would not on their own.

It Forces Broad Knowledge

In 3-7 years or more there, you will become familiar with information in a broad range of beneficial subjects.

As part of earning my degree at BMA Seminary, I was forced to take a music class and learn how to beat time. I thought that class was much more difficult than Hebrew. Now I recognize when a Worship Leader is flapping his wings and never going over the measure bar that he does not know much about music. He may have a lot of natural talent, but he does not know much about music. That knowledge has been valuable for a non-musical person.

It Forces Credentials

In 3-7 years or more there, you will gain the credentials that allow you to serve in other opportunities. In education it allows a person to be prepared by God for other opportunities. Our accrediting agency, ABHE, requires a Master's Degree in most subjects for a

person to teach. We need teachers available in all fields with degrees. Getting the credentials to better prepare to serve the Lord has opened up many expected doors.

Almost everyone involved in the work do not recognize many of their weakness. I assume this story, which I read years ago is not true. After complaints about the sermons, a Pastor told his people that he meditated on his messages as he walked the 3 blocks from the parsonage to the church building. The church leaders sold the parsonage and bought one a mile away from the church. They thought that he needed more time to prepare.

Special Donation Received Recently

Penny Bond, the sister of former SBC President Dr. Jentry Bond, retired from Pearl River Valley Electric Power Asso-

ciation after 20 years of service. At her retirement luncheon, the company awarded her \$1,000 to be given to the charity of her choice. She chose for the gift to be given to Southeastern in memory of Dr. Bond. We are honored and thankful to Ms. Bond and to Pearl River Valley Electric for this donation.

New Semester Begins

Registration was held the first week of January and classes will begin the week of January 12. There is still time to enroll for the Spring semester. Contact Ronnie Kitchens to enroll and get additional information.

For those who are not able to take classes on campus, we urge you to go to Southeasternbaptist.edu and check out our online classes. For more information about on-campus classes or on-line classes give us a call at 601-426-6346.

Unacceptable Answers for Thinking Students

by **Klinton Silvey**

from Baptist Trumpet

I spent December 29–31 at the Youth Alive conference in St. Louis. About 300 students from Missouri youth groups were in attendance. It's been more than a week since the conference, but I'm still recovering as I was a room sponsor for my home church, was on the Questions and Answers panel, taught a breakout session and played bass in the band. I'd like to share with you something I learned at this conference.

The youth group students in your church are thinking on deeper levels than you realize. They have to think deeply because being labeled as a Christian is not something that generates respect. It generates animosity from the majority of their peers and sometimes from teachers as well. "Christian" teenagers are not given initial labels of "nice," "good kid," etc., but rather many teenagers associate Christianity with "judgmental," "closed-minded," "bigoted" and possibly "stupid." The Christian faith is not popularly assumed to be something that is true — it is not even considered morally good even if it was true — and so, for your students to hold firm, they need to be equipped to deal with hard questions.

Let me give you an example:

In my breakout session, I was speaking on Moralistic Therapeutic Deism (If you don't know what this is, I implore you to research it. It is the default religion of America, especially teenagers.) to 12-to-18-year-old boys. They understood the material just fine. I asked if anyone had a question, and then I got blind-sided.

A 12-year-old boy raised his hand and asked in all sincerity something to this effect: "If God doesn't want people to sin, but He knew that Satan would convince Adam and Eve to sin, and He knew that sin would cause all these terrible things in the world to happen to people, then why did He create Satan and allow him to go into the garden?"

Answer that off of the top of your head right now.

Having any trouble?

Now imagine being a teenager at school and being asked, "If your God is so powerful and loving, why are there children literally starving to death in Africa?" "If your Jesus loves you, why is he letting ISIS murder and rape thousands?"

"If your God loves me, why are my parents abusive?" "Why do you Christians care so much about stopping two men or women who love each other from getting married? Isn't 'the greatest of these' love? Aren't you supposed to love your neighbor as yourself?"

The speaker at the conference is the pastor of a large church in a suburb of St. Louis. He told a story where a teacher at his daughter's school literally made the class stand on separate sides of the room depending on their stance on same-sex marriage. Only his daughter and two or three others wound up on the opposed side. His daughter was later approached in the hallway by some girls from the class and was informed that because of her position, regardless of the reason, that she was a "f***** b*****."



Church breaks ground for new facility



The Fountain of Faith Missionary Baptist Church in Creola, Alabama, held their first groundbreaking on December 28, 2014. The church was organized 10 years ago as a mission from the Belle Fountain Missionary Baptist Church in Theodore, Alabama.

There were over 100 in attendance with many dignitaries present. This is the first phase of a three phase project.

Pastor Al Moore has been with the church from the very beginning. The church is a member of the BMA of Mississippi and is receiving assistance

from the Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund for financing..

Pastor Al stated that "God has been really blessing our church and our groundbreaking service was no exception. We have waited upon His timing and God is rewarding us for our patience. We give God glory and praise for all that He has done and will continue to do."

We appreciate all of your prayers as we complete our building and as we continue to be a witness to our community and surrounding area.

continued on page 7

Women's Missionary Auxiliary

President - Jessica Hayden
3208 Hwy 29 North
Soso, MS 39480
662-251-0455
Email: blhaden@gmail.com



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

Big Creek District WMA To Meet by Bonnie Brown, President

The Big Creek District WMA will meet February 2, 2015, with Lebanon Baptist Church, Laurel at 7:00 pm. Big Creek Baptist Church will be in charge of the devotion and Shiloh Baptist Church, Mt. Olive, will bring the resolution.

The 2015 theme for our district WMA is "Our Faithful God." In November,

the First Calhoun Baptist Church, Laurel, presented a wonderful program. Everyone who attended the meeting was truly blessed as the ladies of First Calhoun talked about how God brought them through serious sickness and about their salvation.

Please encourage your ladies of your local WMA to attend our February meeting at Lebanon. We look forward seeing you there.

Mississippi GMAs

State Youth Auxiliary Director
Beth Caldwell
166 Twin Creek Rd,
Lucedale, MS 39452
601-947-6011



State GMA Promoter
Becky Farmer
464 Churchwell Road
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
601-596-1005
becky@southforrest.org

GMA Song Leader Notes

Hey everyone my name is Hayley Smith, and I am in the wonderful program called the GMA's, the Girls Missionary Auxiliary. This program has been life changing for me and my family in so many ways. I have come to know the Lord better and on a whole new

level. I have made friends that will last a life time. I have been in the GMA's since the 4th grade and this year I am serving as Song Leader for the State GMAs. I am so ready for camp this year and I hope all of you get the opportunity to come to camp on March 20-21. It's a true blessing.

COMMISSION ON Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt
Director

Personal Appreciation

This article is being written the day after Christmas and let me take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to so many of you for coming to the visitation and to the funeral service at Big Creek Baptist Church on November 7th for my wife who passed away on November 3rd. She was God's gift to me for fifty eight and a half years. A helpmate in every church we served. Truly a pastor's wife in every sense of the word. To those of you who gave a memorial contribution to the Senior Adult Commission in her memory, thank you so much. This will be a blessing to many of our senior citizens.

2015 Conferences Set

The 2015 conferences are planned. The South Conference will be Tuesday, March 24, at Big Creek Baptist Church in Soso. The North Conference will be held Tuesday, May 12, at Unity Baptist Church in Guntown. Both churches joyfully anticipate hosting these meetings. The registration fee remains at \$15 per person and the fee helps cover

the expenses of the day. Mack's Fish Camp of Hattiesburg will once again cater the noon meal for the South Conference and the Dorsey Friendship Fire Department will cater the noon meal for the North Conference. You will enjoy their services.

Good programs are in the offing, door prizes will be given away and the Gaither style homecoming music will once again bless each one attending.

Recognition

Preachers who have been in the ministry 50 years during 2015 will be recognized. We also will give special recognition to the oldest man and woman in attendance.

The theme for the Conferences this year is "His glory" and we hope he will be glorified to the highest.

Save the above dates, pray for the conferences and those involved and lets look forward to a great time in the Lord. May God's richest blessings be yours in 2015.

**All roads lead to a
Senior Conference!**

Looking For Leaders

by **Larry Barker**
Dir. of Operations North America
BMAA Missions Department
larry@bmaam.com

The lyrics from an old song said, "We're looking for love in all the wrong places." The reality is that we are often looking for leaders in all the wrong places or at least in the wrong ways. Quite often, I am asked, "What characteristics should we look for when seeking new leaders?"

One important thing to remember is to take it slow in the beginning. Never elevate anyone to a position without first observing how they handle small projects. Begin with entry-level responsibilities and see how they handle them. A necessary core value in leadership development must be that no one leads who does not first serve!

Carey Nieuwhof recently wrote a blog on "Five Signs You are an Insecure Leader." The signs he gave are:

1. You are constantly comparing yourself to others.
2. Your sense of self-worth is driven by your latest results.
3. You can't celebrate someone else's success.

4. You need to be the final word on everything.

5. You are unwilling to make room for people who are more gifted or competent than you. We must refuse to hold on to everything for the sake of control and safety.

Carey went on to say this about #5: "This is where your personal traits inflicts direct harm to your organization. (Not that the other traits don't, but this one has a direct and lethal impact.) The sign of a great leader is not that they are the most gifted or competent person in the organization. The sign of a great leader is someone who can attract and keep people more gifted and competent than themselves. The future will belong to people who can forge great alliances, make great partnerships and attract great people."

This is why discovering and developing the right leaders is so important. We all need others to help and assist in the work of ministry. The challenge of II Tim 2:2 — "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" — is not only biblical but also effective.

Here are a few other things to look for as you select individuals to invest your time in to develop as leaders. When looking for leaders:

- Look for self-starters. Watch for those who are already doing it and not just talking about it. You would rather have someone you have to say "whoa" to than someone you always have to motivate to do something. They are reading their Bible, studying, trying to share their faith, and actively pursuing God. They are making "rookie" mistakes, but someone who never makes a mistake usually is not trying very hard. They do not need a title or a position because they already have a mind and heart to work!

- Look for those who have a teachable spirit. Carey says this in his blog, "Insecure people end up being controlling people. They don't need experts because they want to be the expert. Know-it-alls weren't much fun in kindergarten, and they are less fun in the adult world." Look for those who desire the advice and counsel of others. Before elevating someone into a leadership role you need to ask these questions: "Do they value the counsel and input of others? Are they open to constructive criticism?"

- Look for someone who is passion-

ately pursuing God. They are abiding and walking in Christ daily. They are not perfect, but their hunger and thirst for "righteousness sake" is apparent. They daily spend time with the Lord, are the spiritual leader in their home and have a desire to help others live Godly lives. Because Jesus is Lord of their life, they do not have a problem with submitting to those God has placed in their life to oversee them. You can see the zeal in their walk, and whenever you are around them, they want to talk about what Christ is doing in their life.

- Look for someone who loves to worship at your church. They have a burden to see the Lord's name lifted up and praised in a worthy manner. They are not just observers of worship; they actively participate. James MacDonald, in Vertical Church, puts it this way: "Our main job is to usher in the Almighty — God forgive us when we settle for less." This potential leader may not see it as his "job," but he desires God's presence in every service. They are not "hung-up" on certain styles or methods, but desperately want to praise Jesus!

Healthy churches are looking for leaders to develop in all the right places and in all the right ways!

—from Baptist Trumpet

That's A Good Question

by Danny Kirk, Director
BMA of Missouri State Missions
(From Missouri Missionary Baptist)

I remember an experience from my youth when I was watching my Dad do some repair work on an automobile. He had his head under the hood and asked me (quite urgently) to get him a crescent wrench from his toolbox.

I ran over to the tool box and began digging around looking for a crescent wrench. My problem was I didn't have a clue what a crescent wrench was. I had this hope that I would recognize it when I saw it.

This of course did not happen and soon my dad asked me what was taking so long. With trepidation I told my father, I could not find it. He came over to the tool box, looked in, and said, "It's right there, right on top!" He then said, "Son, you don't know what a crescent wrench is, do you? Why didn't you ask me?"

I had great respect for my dad's mechanical abilities, and I simply didn't want him to know that I had very little knowledge of tools. I attempted to figure out what a crescent wrench was on my own. One good question on my part would have saved both my dad and me some time and energy.

From an early age, we are often taught "not to ask too many questions," whether it be at home, school, or church. Sometimes questions are considered rude, inconsiderate, nosy, or a demonstration of a lack of faith in the other person. We therefore grow up with a fear of asking questions and find ourselves asking fewer and fewer questions as time goes by. We begin to develop the strategy of "I'll figure it out myself."

This fear can be particularly troublesome to leaders. Many leaders believe they must have all the answers to the questions that are asked of them and must never respond with another question. This belief may lead them to respond based on past and even irrelevant experiences. The answer/decision may be made without the input of those on the front line, closest to the problem. The quick answer provided may continue to promote an atmosphere of fear - the fear of asking good questions like: "Why do we do it this way?"

Successful leaders will not only ask questions, they will build a culture of encouraging others to ask questions. Michael Marquardt, in his book "Leading With Questions," states that people who work in a questioning culture exhibit the following 6 hallmarks:

1. People will be willing to admit, "I don't know."
2. People will go beyond allowing questions, but also encourage questions.
3. People will be assisted in developing skills to ask questions in a positive way.
4. People will focus on asking empowering questions and avoid dis-empowering questions.

5. People will emphasize the process of asking questions and searching for answers rather than finding the "right" questions.

6. People will accept and reward risk taking.

Some leaders have yet to experience the power that a question can unleash. There are many benefits not only for the leader, but for others as they work together in a questioning culture. The following are just a few

1. Asking questions of others will broaden our own perspective and escape the confining paradigms of our own past experiences and viewpoints.

2. Asking questions will help leaders let go of their own ego-driven need to have all the answers or to "always be right."

3. Asking questions will help develop leadership in others by in others by providing opportunities for others to search for answers and solutions that work.

One of the primary skills of a good coach in his or her ability and willingness to ask questions. During the coaching conversation, he or she will ask open-ended questions, clarifying questions, stimulating questions, probing questions, questions from multiple perspectives, and summarizing questions. The questions are designed to help the coaches find insight, discovery, and options which lead to an appropriate plan of action. In any conversation, I love to hear the words, "That's a good question."

If you would like to know more about Christian coaching, please visit my web site at www.youneedcoaching.com.

Thinking Students

from page 5

This is reality for the American Christian teenager. What is your church doing to equip them? Your youth group has to be more than a holding tank with pizza and games before college. It also has to do more than continually preach the dangers of sex, drugs and alcohol. Those things are easy to avoid compared to the intellectual attacks your students are facing.

It is time to focus on the battle for your students' minds more than just making sure they behave. Right thinking will lead to right behavior. I'm not going to answer these hard questions in this column, but I'll give three tips on what students don't need and do need.

Your students don't need:

1. Pat answers: Clichés, clever one-liners and "Christianese" are not help-

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

118 LOWE ROAD, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39443 - (601) 426-3928
SIDNEY DAVIS - DIRECTOR



SIDNEY DAVIS

The Rest of Your Time

The Apostle Peter admonishes us under the direction of the Holy Spirit that we as believers "no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God." 1 Peter 4:2. What a challenge!

Many people at the beginning of this new year made New Year's resolutions in an effort to improve on some part of their lives. Some vowed to quit a bad habit or to start a good one. Most resolutions probably addressed physical, intellectual, emotional, or even spiritual needs.

The psalmist made a vow that would be sufficient for all of these needs by declaring he would keep God's law. In His Word God gave to us the very instructions that will improve every area of our lives. Following the directions God gives will insure good conduct, healthy living, and a fulfilling relationship with Him and others. Read Psalm 119.

Have you made a resolution this year? It's not too late! Resolve to obey God's Word and experience the joy of obedience! "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and his commandments are not grievous." 1 John 5:3.

ful. Hard questions need real, thoughtful answers. I sometimes wonder if these are avoided because the faith of the person who is supposed to be the mature Christian is shaken a bit.

2. Teachers who know everything: You don't know everything and that's OK. You want to gain a student's respect and trust? Learn and live this phrase, "I don't know, but let's do some digging and let the Holy Spirit guide us to the answer together."

3. Watered-down theology: Youth are not as dumb as they sometimes act. They're not. They need deep theology now, not when they are older. Big topics take big amounts of time. Go slow. If you want mature students, start feeding them real spiritual meals. Sometimes, we get it backwards and won't take people off the "milk" until we think they are spiritually grown. How is a person supposed to grow to maturity on

continued on page 8



Kids enjoying Christmas Lights

Essay Contest Finalist

Our fourth grade girl at the Home was selected as a finalist in the "Char-



Derby Place Baptist Church near Poplarville and Pastor Nick Freeman visit Home

acter Counts" Essay Contest. She has been invited to attend a reception honoring the finalists. Her essay was on the character of "Gratefulness." She did splendid expressing the importance of gratefulness in one's life. We congratulate her in being selected as one of the finalists.

The Flu Bug

Over the course of the past month or so we have been battling with various illnesses at the Home. Pat and I both became victims of the flu. The children have had runny noses, ear infections, etc. Our oldest boy also had the flu during the Christmas break. We are thankful that all are well at the present time. Pray that God's protective care will be with the children and the workers during this time of the year when sickness is more prevalent.

Remember in Prayer and Focus Verse

Continue to remember the children and the ministry of the Home in your prayers. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105

Clerks Urge Early Return of Letters

by James Ray Raines
Recording Secretary
Baptist Missionary Association of America
P.O. Box 17872, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72117

The 2015 Annual Session of the Baptist Missionary Association of America meets April 20-22, 2015 at the University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, Springfield, Missouri. Your official form for use in registration has been mailed to the churches. Please complete and return that form in

the self-addressed envelope provided. Do not use the recently developed BMAA Letter form. This form was developed primarily for local associations and the Directory and Handbook. We do not need or use the statistics on this form.

All letters should be mailed by April 10 to pre-enroll your messengers. Upon arrival, they need only to report to the enrollment desk to be certified. Churches not representing by messenger, please return the completed letters to be listed in the official roster of churches in the yearbook. We appreciate your coopera-

tion in this matter. NOTE: Churches that have not returned letters for three (3) consecutive years will be dropped from the roster.

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. Some unexpected expenses last year depleted the fund. Thanks to your response last year, we made it. However, our balance is dangerously low. We still need extra help.

Thank you for your cooperation. May the Lord continue His blessings upon your church.

Thinking Students

from page 7

a diet of milk alone? Force-feed those kids some meat of the Word.

Your students need:

1. Authenticity: Kids can smell a setup from a mile away. Don't try to be cool. Just be yourself. If you are putting on a show for church, being hypocritical or your answers feel scripted, youth will tune you out.

2. Training in Christian philosophy: For many, these are uncharted waters. Why would I use the word philosophy? Because philosophy deals with logic and how to think. The world knows how to corner your students into a trap. Your students need to be able to recognize the flaws in logic that lead to the traps. For example, if a teacher asks students to pick sides on a moral issue, it's likely a trap that will ostracize those on the unpopular side. But what if a student refuses to choose, but instead says something like, "Teacher, I'm not going to choose a side unless we can first establish 'What makes anything wrong with anything?'"

3. You to do your homework: Are there things in this article that are foreign to you? Do you know anything

about Christian apologetics? If you answered "no," that's fine! Just pick a word and go type it in Google and learn. There is always more to learn about the things of God. Force-feed yourself some meat of the Word.

Ultimately, all of these things must be done with the intention of reaching a lost world. Our initial reaction might be to pull away from the world and insulate our youth from it, but they are salt and light to a big mission field. And while it is hard, the gospel living through them still reaches the lost. Right thinking leads to right doing, and right doing gives glory to God, even from the unbeliever. (Matt. 5:16)

Let me finish the story about the girl who had to chose sides on same-sex marriage in class:

A few weeks later, one of the boys from that class, who had sided with the majority approached her in the hallway. He told her that he saw her at a gas station where a homeless man was sitting outside. He saw her go in and come out of the convenience store, but then she sat her car for a few minutes. She then got out, went back in the store and bought the man a sandwich. He saw her also hand the man something else, hug him and say something in his ear. The boy asked her, "What did you give him? And what did you say?" She told the boy the same thing as the homeless man; "Jesus loves you," and handed him a card with the basic outline of the gospel on it.

Now, that boy has spoken up for her and those same girls that had called her a b**** have informed her that they think she is just about the nicest person they know.

Your youth can reach people whom you cannot. Let's look past their youthful goofiness and invest in their potential.

Hotel Information For National Meeting *Baptist Missionary Association of America*

The Committee On Arrangements has negotiated the rate and has blocked rooms at the University Plaza Hotel and at Holiday Inn. Please make reservations in these rooms. By using these rooms, you help with the meeting expenses. When we fail to use these rooms, the association must pay pro-rated costs for the meeting space to make up the difference. Please use the code BMAA to identify your reservations.

University Plaza Hotel

(www.upspringfield.com)

Kings & Doubles = \$99 per night (up to 4 people per room)

King Suite = \$134 per night

Reservation Information

By phone: (417) 864-7333 Use Group Code: BMAA

Online:

<https://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=1343030&hotelID=17728>

Holiday Inn

Kings & Doubles = \$99 per night (up to 4 people room)

Reservation Information

By phone: (417) 862-0070 Use Group Code: BMAA

Between now and February when the Holiday Inn is undergoing renovation, it is easier to book reservations by emailing Sandy Harrell. Please email hotel rep at sandy.harrell@jqh.com if you have any difficulty during the Holiday Inn's renovation.

Cut-off date for reservations — We are going to grant you an extension to April 1st for both hotels. We checked with our accounting person regarding tax exemption certificate. The federal tax exemption only exempts you from federal taxes. Unfortunately, it doesn't exempt you from state or city taxes.

We look forward to seeing you in Springfield, April 20-22. If you have any questions or difficulties with registration, you may contact Leon Carmical at (601) 268-9406, Jackie Manasco at (501) 268-2998 or James Ray Raines at (501) 945-2640. James Ray Raines, Clerk, BMAA Committee on Arrangements

66th Annual BMA of America National Meeting

April 20-22, 2015

University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center
Springfield, Missouri

Program (Overview)

Monday Evening, April 20

7:00 Worship Service
President's Message
(Dr. Jason Aultman)

Tuesday Morning, April 21

8:00 WMA Meeting
Brotherhood Meeting
9:30 Committee Meetings
11:00 Elective Session
Noon Lunch

Tuesday Afternoon, April 21

12:15 Minister Wives & Widows Lunch
(Hosted by WMA)
2:00 Elective Session
3:00 General Session
4:30 Dinner

Tuesday Evening, April 21

7:00 Worship/ Service
Annual Message
(Dr. Mark Livingston)

Wednesday Morning, April 22

8:30 General Session
11:00 Elective Session
Noon Lunch

Wednesday Afternoon, April 22

2:00 General Session
3:30 Guest Speaker (Tentative)
5:00 Dinner

Wednesday Evening, April 22

7:00 General Session
(Mission's Report)
Commissioning Service —
Missions Department

Enrollment Committee Schedule

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

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

Gerald Givens

Bro. Gerald Givens is available for pulpit supply or as the Lord leads. He may be contacted at 601-928-3796 or 601-528-2517. He is a member of Paramount Baptist Church, Wiggins. Dennis Knight is the pastor.