

Baptist

Mississippi

Journal

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

January 15, 2016

www.bmaofmississippi.com

Vol. 70 No. 2

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Your

Mississippi Baptist

January 2016
Special Emphasis
Project

National Association Meeting in Gatlinburg, Tennessee

by Jason Aultman, President
BMA of America

Greetings to the churches of the BMA of America!

I hope 2016 has gotten off to a wonderful start and proves to be a year that overflows with God's abundant blessings on you and your church family. I wanted to remind you that on April 25 – 27 we will gather in beautiful Gatlinburg, Tennessee, for the annual meeting of our national association. I hope you will make plans to be there for what I believe will be an enjoyable and exciting few days together.

As an added feature at last year's meet-



Jason Aultman

ing some opportunities were offered to attend workshops on various topics. The hope was that this would provide attendees a time to receive practical instruction and help, allowing us all to return to our fields of ministry better equipped to serve and lead effectively. The response was overwhelmingly positive and we look forward to offering additional workshops at the upcoming meeting. Of course, these are provided in addition to the times of conducting business and opportunities to gather for worship.

Attached is a preliminary schedule (see page 8 of this issue) for the meeting in Gatlinburg. I trust this overview will be helpful to you in planning your schedule and travel.

If the Lord returns before April 25 I will see you in Heaven. Otherwise, I look forward to seeing you in Gatlinburg!

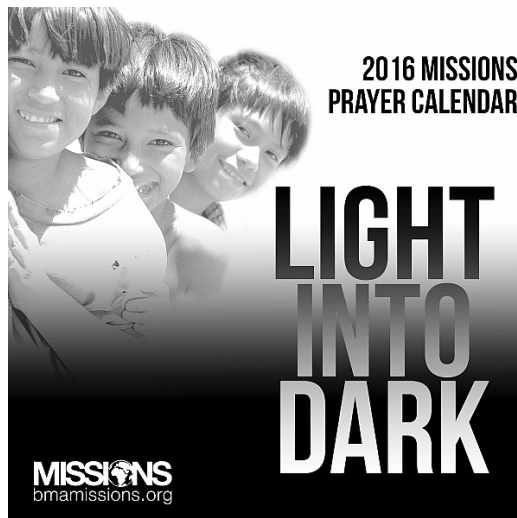
2016 Missions Prayer Calendars

Missions Prayer Calendars for 2016 have arrived at the Global Ministry Center and are available to be shipped to you or your church. They feature sixty-eight BMA missionaries and their families and include contact information (except for those in closed access nations), prayer requests and praises.

Your global partnership is vital to our ministry, so we ask that you not only pray for our missionaries and indigenous pastors, but also subscribe to mission:world magazine (missionworldmag.com) for updates from them. In addition, visit our website (bmamissions.org) and Facebook page for videos and worldwide reports from missionaries. Personally corresponding with our missionaries will give you an even better insight into their ministries and can offer much needed encouragement.

Order calendars and the missions video at the following website: www.bmamissions.org/worldmissions This site also provides the opportunity to make a donation to world missions. You may also place your order by calling the missions office at 501-455-4977.

Thank you so much for your global partnership and don't forget about World Missions Sunday on February 28!



National Meeting Registration and Financial Information

by James Ray Raines, Recording Secretary
Baptist Missionary Association of America

The 2016 Annual Session of the Baptist Missionary Association of America meets April 25-27, 2016 at the Gatlinburg Convention Center, Gatlinburg, Tennessee.



Gatlinburg Convention Center

Official registration forms have been mailed to our churches. Please complete and return these forms in the enclosed self-addressed envelope provided.

All letters should be mailed by April 15 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 letter to be listed in the official roster of churches in the yearbook. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Please remit funds for meeting and minute expenses.

All expenses for facilities, equipment and supplies for the annual meeting plus travel expenses for several committees and the printing of the yearbooks are paid from this fund. The total cost is \$35,000-\$40,000 each year. It is imperative that we increase contributions to this fund. Thanks to your response last year, we made it. However, our balance is dangerously low. We still need extra help.

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

Hotel & Other Information
continued on Page 8



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



Anders & Carla
Lee



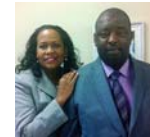
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Estuardo &
Yasmine Marroquin



Elvis & Wendy
Garcia



Ed & Patricia
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“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.” Jer 33:3

My prayer in 2016 is for those things which we do not comprehend (know).

Paul would tell us in Phil 3:12, “Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.”

We should be driven by a faith that is so large that it compels us to seek those things which are beyond our comprehension. Hebrews 11:8 tells us that, “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.” I am asking all of our BMA of Mississippi churches to join me in praying to a God who, “...is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,” Eph 3:20, that he will, shew us great and mighty things which we do not know about.

New Mission Activity West of Oxford



Dr. Kenneth Pollock

The Missionary Committee has approved the reinstatement and change of status for Dr. Kenneth Pollock to serve as the missionary pastor of Midway Baptist Mission, a new mission project located ten miles west of Oxford, Mississippi, in Panola County.

Dr. Pollock and his wife, Carole are members of First Baptist Church of Mantachie, Mississippi. First Baptist Mantachie is their sponsor church. Dr.



Sanctuary of Midway Mission

Pollock has been serving as our State Missions Reserve Missionary for a number of years and is simply changing status to that of State Missionary.

Dr. Pollock has over 21 years of pastoral experience and holds a Doctorate in Christian Counseling, a Doctorate in Ministry, a Masters in Christian Education and a BA in Biblical Studies from Luther Rice Seminary.

The sale of the Westview Baptist Church property in Oxford is complete, making this new mission activity possible. A new completely furnished church property has been purchased between Oxford and Batesville and services are being held under the name of Midway Baptist Mission with Dr. Pollock serving as the missionary pastor.

This new mission project represents the beginning of what I pray will be

a broader opportunity in the Oxford area. We are praying that God will open the doors for us to start a second mission project soon. Hillcrest Baptist Church in Yazoo City has agreed to serve as the mother church for a church plant in Oxford and we are praying/talking with prospective missionaries at this time.

Also, the Way, Truth & Life Hispanic mission continues to grow in Oxford. They were co-located with the Westview Baptist Church and continue to meet in the old facility until March. This was a part of the negotiations for the sale of the West View property.

We will be looking for a new meeting location for them.

What God is doing in the Oxford area is amazing. Please pray for us as we continue to see God unfold before us things which we did not know.

Hispanic Missions Program Restructured

We have already begun the restructuring of our Hispanic Missions program. The proposal to restructure the Hispanic Missions program was presented and approved at our last annual State Association meeting. Here are some of the highlights:

Bro. Estuardo Marroquin will now serve as the overall Manager of BMA of Mississippi Hispanic Missions throughout the state. Bro. Elvis will serve as the Coordinator of BMA of Mississippi Hispanic Missions throughout the state. Each will have specific roles that capitalize on their strengths and share those strengths with all of the Hispanic missions. Both will continue to maintain a relationship and role with their respective churches and their churches will continue, as in the past, to provide part of their support.

We have completed planning for 2016 and a goal has been set to establish 3 new Hispanic missions in the State; ordain 3 men and license 3 others. On January 23rd at 2:00 pm, Way, Truth and Life will conduct an ordination service for Bro. Byron Morales, Associate Pastor at Ripley and Bro. Humberto Navarro, Missionary Pastor at Tupelo. Bro. Byron will assume a Co-Pastor role with Bro. Garcia at Ripley. At this



Byron Morales



Humberto Regalado



Luis Huchin



Leo Adan



Rodolfo Galicia



Marciano Montalvo

meeting Bro. Luis Huchin, Missionary to Oxford, will be licensed to the gospel ministry. On February 13th, El Camino in Laurel will conduct an ordination service for Bro. Marciano Maldolva. Bro. Marciano will assume a Co-Pastor role with Bro. Estuardo at El Camino. At this meeting, Bro. Leo Adin and Bro. Rodolfo Galicia will be licensed to the gospel ministry. We invite all who can attend and participate in these services.

We are confident that these changes will enhance our Hispanic Missions program and will enable us to move forward with additional new church plants. Bro. Byron and Bro. Marciano have surrendered to the ministry, completed the Bible Institute program and have been serving faithfully as associates to Bro. Elvis and Bro. Estuardo for the past 5-8 years, respectively.

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Midway Baptist Mission 27971 Hwy 6 Sardis, Mississippi
(midway between Batesville & Oxford on Highway 6)

DiscipleGuide - The BMA Source for Ministry Activity, Helps, and Opportunities

Sunday, December 20, 2015, was set aside as DiscipleGuide's Kingdom Investment Sunday. Churches across the BMA took a special offering of which half went to a local ministry of their choice and half to DiscipleGuide. Thank you to the churches that invested in their communities and in DiscipleGuide. With your offering, DiscipleGuide will be able to continue investing in and helping churches as they maximize their Great Commission potential.

Your prayers and support help DiscipleGuide invest in churches through Conferences, Church Solutions, Curriculum, and Camps. Here is just a glimpse of what your support enables us to do:

Conferences

Throughout the year, DiscipleGuide offers conferences to reach the variety of people and age groups in our churches. Each conference is designed with the Great Commission in mind. The Great Escape and Pastors Oasis provide leaders and pastors an opportunity to connect with other leaders and pastors. Students at SOAR connect with God in a high-energy atmosphere through teaching and worship. At the National Senior Adult Conference, senior adults have the opportunity to worship and learn with fellow believers. If you have never attended a DiscipleGuide conference, do not miss an opportunity in 2016:

January - Great Escape Children's

Ministers and Youth Leaders Cruise (January 16-21)

July - SOAR Youth Conference (July 6-8)


October - Pastors Oasis (October 3-5)

October/November - Senior Adult Conference (November 7-9)

For more information on conferences,

DiscipleGuide

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Attebery

visit www.discipleguide.org or e-mail conferences@discipleguide.org.

Church Solutions

DiscipleGuide cares for our churches and our pastors, and we show this by offering the following solutions:

Activate is a church revitalization plan. Under the direction of Todd West, Activate helps declining churches with the regrowth process.

Tuesday Talks take place the second Tuesday of each month. Tuesday Talks

is an online training session designed to help churches maximize their Great Commission potential. These webcast sessions are taught by experienced ministry personnel and target wide-ranging topics.

Pastors Help Line is an anonymous help line offered in cooperation with Focus on the Family. Pastors, staff members, and their spouses can call 1-844-877-4262 and speak with someone about any struggle they are going through.

For more information on Church Solutions, visit www.discipleguide.org.

Curriculum

Even as more avenues to fulfill the Great Commission have been added to our ministry, the publication arm of DiscipleGuide is still a large and vital part of what DiscipleGuide does. DiscipleGuide offers curriculum for students in preschool through adulthood. If your church is not currently using any curriculum produced by DiscipleGuide, consider one of the following:

DiscipleKids is for preschool through 6th grade.

SoarLit and our latest product, Launch Kit, are designed to teach students in 7th-12th grades how to make

an impact on their schools, families, friends and churches.

Compass Adult Study is a quarterly, in-depth Bible study divided into weekly lessons that help adults grow in their walk with Christ. To order any of these publications, visit www.discipleguide.org or call 1-800-333-1442.

Camps-Daniel Springs

Daniel Springs, located in Gary, Texas, in the heart of the piney woods of East Texas, offers summer camps starting in June and going through the first part of August. Daniel Springs has been under the direction of Jason Prewitt since January 2015. Jason has brought a fresh and energetic spirit to Daniel Springs. Thousands of campers come to Daniel Springs each summer and encounter God in a unique way. Registration is now open for the 2016 camp season.

Visit www.danielspringscamp.com to plan your camp experience.

For more information on DiscipleGuide and the ways DiscipleGuide is helping churches maximize their Great Commission potential, please visit www.discipleguide.org.

Missions

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Update On Property In Clinton

We have faced our second rejection by the city of Clinton, to approve our plans to build a church on the property we are hoping to purchase. The owner graciously extended our due diligence time and we are going back again. We are on the calendar for February/March and we need your prayers. If we can secure approval from the City of Clinton, we will be ready to move forward with the purchase and then, on to the building of a first unit building for this mission.

Revolving Loan Fund

The Revolving Loan Fund of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi makes loans to BMA Churches. Our lowest interest rate is currently 4.25%. If your church is in need of a loan to build, remodel or refinance, please call us at 601-428-8616.

Visit Our Website and Facebook Page

Our website is www.bmams.org. Like our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/bmamsmissions>.

January 2016 - Special Emphasis

Our Need - \$10,000



Don Brown
Editor

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

On The Web at www.ms baptist.org

Your Support & Gifts Are Appreciated!

That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works.
Psalm 26:7

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www.bmaofmississippi.com

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Commission on Senior Adults
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Don Brown

Mississippi Baptist

Opinion Page

www.ms baptist.org

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Don Brown - Editor

An Update on Travis Plumlee's Health

From Editor Don Brown: Our people are very familiar with Bro. Travis Plumlee. His writing has appeared in our publication for years. He has ministered in Mississippi in revivals, conferences and camps. We encourage our readers to take notice of this article provided by the Baptist Trumpet and to respond to the prayer and financial needs that are obvious.

The Mississippi Baptist has had some calls requesting how people and churches could help and where to send funds. I am sure any financial help would be greatly appreciated by the Plumlee family.

Here is their address: Travis Plumlee, P.O. Box 163, Mountain View, AR 72560.

From Arkansas Baptist Trumpet - *At the editor's request, Bro. Plumlee gave the following update on his situation. I know he would appreciate any help you can give him, especially your prayers:*

"I have been sick since August. Right in the middle of doing my summer camps, I became ill and six months later, we still do not know what's wrong. I tried doing one revival this fall, and then was in the hospital for 21 days. I've spent nearly the entire month of December at a hospital in Little Rock. I've had six hospitalizations.

"I have several teams of different doctors and they have run every test known to man. There is no known answer. I am currently getting blood transfusions every other day.

"My wife and I are unable to work, so we have had no income since August except what individuals and churches have given. We thank the people, through God, for meeting our needs. We cling to Phil. 4:19 that God will meet our needs through Jesus Christ.

"I have already canceled all of my appointments through the middle of March for 2016 and I am waiting for God to lead me about my future ministry. The future is uncertain, but God's will for me is not.

"My wife and I are growing even stronger in our faith. Each day it is easier to trust God because we know He holds the answer, even if the physicians can't find it yet. We are just waiting and resting in the Lord and loving praising and thanking Him for His blessings.

An Unexpected Blessing

One of my granddaughters plays on her high school soccer team. It's the varsity. She is only in the 8th grade, but starts some games and usually gets plenty of playing time. You might think I am a proud grandfather and have taken to bragging on this talented, lovely girl. You might be right!

I recently attended one of her games. It was cold. I was sick. I felt bad. They won by a lopsided score. With them being ahead 4 to 1 at halftime, and me feeling worse by the minute, I turned to my daughter and son-in-law and told them that I was going home. They understood and I reluctantly left.

As I was making my way out of the stadium I rounded a corner and found myself facing two young boys. They were hurriedly making their way to the stands to watch the game and were already digging in to the nachos and cheese that they were carrying.

I am not good with ages, but I would guess these two young men were about 10 to 12 years old. As we approached each other one of the boys said, "Hello sir." I said hello and without any other words this young man said, "Have a blessed day." I was caught a little off guard and before I could respond they rounded the corner and were gone.

"Have a blessed day," he said. Even though I was feeling bad, I can assure you his words had an immediate effect. Thank you young man for my 'blessed day'.



For Better - For Worse

If you read the last article, I wrote about how I will not give up with all my disease process. I have strong faith in God and I praise and thank him. This article goes with that one. It is a testimony about spouses and their response to crisis and hard times. On your wedding day everyone looks good. You may never see your family dressed that nicely again. Ha. Everyone is happy. And they should be. Marriage is a celebration of a Sovereign God bringing two people together and making them one. Only He can do that.

But after the dating and honeymoon, that moonlight and roses quickly turn into daylight and dishes. I don't think

"It has made me sad and heartbroken to cancel my conferences because I so love teaching God's people from His Word. I know that His will for me is good, acceptable and perfect, so I will do as He leads me to do.

"I pray that I might be healed just to share wisdom with the people He brings to me. It may not be hundreds at churches. It may just be my family. Either way, we look only to God and praise Him. Physically and financially, we are at the bottom. But God is at the top and will deliver His people. All glory in this trial be given to God."

we listen very well to the vows spoken on our wedding day. We have so many other happy thoughts we forget some of the vows. I like the traditional vows. For better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish. Marriage is a holy covenant between

two people and God. Only He can make them one. Only He can give them agape – unconditional love. He is the author and finisher of love. His greatest display of unconditional love was sending Jesus to die for us and give us the gift of eternal life.

During the last four months of much sickness and 5 hospitalizations; I have come to appreciate what a blessing my Godly wife has been. There are many of you out there. She is not the only one. And while there are thousands of spouses who fight the fight and stick with their spouse, there are hundreds who abandon their spouse at the first sign of hardship. Couples need to commit to their family. They need to commit to God to bring them through tough times. They have to seek God when they are weary or don't know what to do. But many spouses today in a self-centered society will only be there for their spouse as long as it is pleasing and they get

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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

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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.

It's Cold

Just a week or two ago, I was complaining because of the unseasonably warm weather we were having. Now I'm wondering if it's too late to recant my hasty opinion and consider that seventy degree weather in January is not so bad after all.

As a kid, cold weather didn't bother me as much as it does now. Not that I would have had a say in the matter, if it did. I could walk uphill, through two feet of snow barefooted, on my way to school, in a blizzard, for two miles, and almost break a sweat. Now, some of you that know I was raised in south Louisiana might find that little narrative a bit difficult to believe, but let me assure you, there were a few hills where I grew up.

Today, I have trouble walking out the back door to my truck, clad only in long johns, insulated socks, three sweat shirts, two pairs of pants, a toboggan, and gloves. Granted, most of the trouble lies with me barely being able to move with all the layers of clothes on, but mainly it has to do with being exposed to the cold weather for the full thirty seconds it takes to crank the vehicle and

get back in the house where it is warm. I don't think I'm as tough as I used to be. I've heard there are some people rich enough to afford a vehicle that they can start from inside their home. That seems a lot like cheating to me, but then again I'm not rich, so maybe the rules are different.

In the summer, I prefer colder weather. In the winter, I prefer warmer

weather. Spring and Fall is sandwiched in between my two favorite and least favorite seasons of the year. It just depends on which season it is at the moment that determines my favorite.

I was told one time, to just be thankful that I could be miserable. Some people aren't able to go outside in the winter and have the option of being cold. Others may not know what it's like to have to sweat in the summertime. I guess they are right. I'm glad I get to enjoy the cold. Deer season is open during the cold. Camp fires are more enjoyable in the cold. Snuggling your wife and babies is more enjoyable in...well, you get the point.

Anyway, it's cold. Might as well deal with it.

From The Mind of Chuck Lee

Lee pastor's Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis. He may be reached by email at leecharles47@yahoo.com



Publications Department Special Emphasis - January 2016

Among the many ways in which we at the Missions Department communicate with the people of the BMA of Mississippi, the Mississippi Baptist paper is unique. This paper has the only consistent chronicled bi-monthly reporting of State Missions activity. It is a must for the person who is serious about praying and supporting the work of missions.



Larry Geraldson

Plumlee

from page 4

something out of it.

Sometimes in marriage, it is not better; it is worse. Sometimes, there is enough money and then other times you find yourself poor. There can be many years of good health for both, but eventually all marriages will have sickness enter in. It isn't shocking that it has happened. The bible tells us it will happen. John 16:33. I Peter 4:12 "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you."

My Christian wife never left my side. We have spent probably a total of several weeks in various hospitals. She

never left me. She slept for weeks in a fold down chair. It wasn't even a little bed. She woke up every two hours as I did, when they came to draw blood or do another procedure. I would beg her to go down to the cafeteria. She would not. She would just pick at my tray since I wasn't eating. She left a few times to go get something to drink and snack on when they were going to wheel me away for test.

I was in isolation, so no one could see me. Yet, a couple of churches called and were down in the lobby. She would go down and pray with them and thank them and then immediately return. The greatest blessing was her reading the Bible to me throughout the day. She would pray for me. And if I ever felt like it, we would pray together. She never went back home to get more clothes, but washed a couple of things during the hospital stay.

Southeastern Baptist College

Danny Pitts - President

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Danny Pitts

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

New Semester Begins

The new semester began on January 11th. Our initial numbers were not clear when this article was written. The last day for registration is January 20th. Late registering students often miss the first week's classes, but a number are always added, and they catch up with a little work. The schedule of courses is listed on our website at www.southeasternbaptist.edu.

Online Classes Available

Remember that all courses taught on-campus will also be available online. This includes New Testament Survey which I will be teaching. An outline of each of the 27 books of the New Testament will be given to all students. Also an audio copy of each week's lectures from the on-campus class will be posted online. A common slogan is "all online courses should have the same quality as on-campus classes." Although accomplishing this is a challenge, the availability of a full classroom experience allows the diligent student to raise the bar in what can be learned. In fact, the lectures are also posted online for the on-campus student so he or she can re-listen to sections which were not understood during class.

Another criticism of online learning is the lack of ability for students to ask questions and share their ideas with one another. Through the forum and discussion sections of our online connection, the class members and teacher can interact with each other on any issue mentioned during the lecture. Clearly the profit from any study is shaped by the effort invested. Pastors, Sunday School teachers, and Christians who desire to know the New Testament better are encouraged to sign up immediately. Since our Sunday School literature is surveying the books of the Bible, our course would prepare teachers and class members for the upcoming series on the New Testament. Call 601-426-6346 for more information and ask for Ronnie Kitchens.

New Dean's First Class

During the Spring Semester 2016 Bible Geography will be taught online by Dr. Scott Carson. This will be his first course for our school. In the future some of you might be able to brag that you took his very first class. He hopes to arrive on campus during April. Pray for his transition from his position as Chaplain with a rank of Colonel to being Academic Dean at Southeastern. We are excited about the difference which someone with his credentials and experience can make on the lives of our students. Lift him up in prayer.

The worst part, and her greatest expression of mercy, was taking care of me. This is not to denigrate nurses, but we had some very uncaring nurses and techs who probably should seek another line of work. You have to care about people if you are a health care professional. At night, they would never respond to help to the bathroom. Over an hour's wait, and then I would wake her up to help me with my IV poles etc.... When I was really sick (and I will spare you all the details) it was my wife who put clean gowns on me and got down on her knees and cleaned the floors. She was vigilant in asking what meds they were giving me, and a few times they were wrong and she saved me. She would put a wash cloth on my head. After several days of no water, she fed me ice chips. She never quit. But most importantly - and please read this carefully - she never complained!

God loves a cheerful giver. Do all things without murmurings and disputings. She just gave me uncondi-

tional love, and an outpouring of mercy. Since I am not able to work now, the richer or poorer vow, has entered the poorer side. She has never complained one time. She and I both know God will meet all our needs. Phil.4:19. But it helps me as the head of the house for her not to ever bring anything about that up. So when we were happy on our wedding day and said for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health; I have seen it put into action by a woman of faith.

Don't give up on your family. Don't pull away or leave. Cry out to God and ask Him to give you an outpouring of his love and mercy and strength and help your partner. That is the real test for the strength of a marriage. And all the people around will give glory to God when you let your light so shine before men that they see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

I want to finish by saying thanks Sharon, my bride, you have shown me Jesus.

Eight Things Your Church Website Must Have

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The information below is a good guide if your church has or is considering a church website. A church website makes sense in today's world. A great many folks actually look for a church on-line or try to find information about a particular church on-line. A website is a great tool for outreach.*

By Jonathan Howe

"Must" is a strong word, and I realize that. But hear me out.

Over the past few years, when we've written or discussed church websites, Dr. Rainer and I have continually stated "the two most important elements you need to have on the front page are the church address and service times."

Many of you have agreed and even complied when your church's site was lacking one or both. Others have asked "what next?" So here are the next eight things to include on your church's website:

Staff Names and Titles

Most of the viewers on your church website will be visitors to your church, not members. In fact, a church's website should be more geared to visitors than to the members. Post names and titles of your staff so when a visitor arrives, they at least have a frame of reference for whom they will be meeting. I would also strongly encourage you to list contact info, and include a picture of your staff members if at all possible. Putting a name with a face always helps, and being able to contact a staff member directly lowers barriers with guests who may have specific questions.

Information about Your Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry

Since the front door of the church is now the website, make sure parents will know what to expect when they arrive with kids or youth. Millennials are highly interested in knowing their kids will be safe and cared for well at church. They also want to know they

will be receiving sound instruction while at your church. Let them know what their kids will experience before they show up on Sunday morning.

Sermon Archives

While video is best, audio is acceptable as well. Theologically astute guests will do a greater amount of research on a church before visiting. What is being preached from the pulpit on a Sunday is of utmost importance. There should be no hesitation in posting sermons online, not only to inform potential visitors, but also to benefit those who might not be able to make it to the service each week.

Church Calendar

You can only mention so much in your announcements, and only so many things can fit in a bulletin each week. But with an online calendar, you can list as much as you'd like. The key is keeping the calendar up-to-date. Weekly calendaring meetings might be necessary at first, but once a routine is established, your church members and guests will always have the most up-to-date information at their fingertips.

Contact Info

This may seem like an obvious inclusion. But if it were obvious, I wouldn't visit so many church websites that lacked a contact page or contact information. An important follow-up to this item is having someone responsible for responding to inquiries. Every contact to a church should receive a response within 24 hours, if not sooner. We live in a connected society, and there is no

reason why a church can't respond to inquiries in a timely fashion.

Statement of Beliefs

This is not only for the theologically minded, but also for those who move from another church or town. A Methodist church in Iowa might not have the same beliefs as one in South Carolina—just as a Baptist church in Texas might not have the same beliefs as one in New Hampshire. And with the proliferation of non-denominational churches, and those with indiscernible denomination affiliation names (e.g. First Community Church), a statement of beliefs helps clarify that for guests. Also, if you are affiliated with a denomination, it's better to list it than to give the appearance you are trying to hide it.

Links to Social Media Profiles

The inclusion of this item would mean that your church would need to be active on social media. These links do no good if your social media channels are inactive or defunct. I will be writing in the future about social media strategies for churches. But at the very least, a church should be present where its people are—and that place is on social media.

Major Church News Items

Not everyone is present each at church week. So if you roll out a major initiative, make a major announcement, or just have news that's really important, put it on the website and make it easy to find.

These are just eight non-negotiables I find missing on many church websites. Does your church have these on its site? What would you add to this list?

Missionaries Visit & Share Work



Missionaries to Ghana, West Africa, Dale & Celia Broom (left) and Water For Christ Director Tim Tyler and his wife Robin visited First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel, recently. They shared the work and progress of missions in Ghana and the role that Water For Christ has in opening doors to share the Gospel by providing clean, fresh water to those in need. Tyler makes at least two trips each year to drill wells in Ghana.

Women's Missionary Auxiliary

President
Linda Smith
2816 Old Bay Springs Rd.
Laurel, MS 39440
601-470-1398



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

Big Creek District WMA/Brotherhood To Meet

The Big Creek District Brotherhood/WMA meeting is February 2, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. at Berean Baptist Church, Soso. Please mark your calendar for this meeting.

If your Brotherhood/WMA in your church have not been attending the meetings, or if your church does not have a Brotherhood/WMA, we would invite you to join us. We have special guest speakers and inspirational programs that are sure to bless and inspire you.

We look forward to seeing you at Berean Church. Pray for our meetings.

Oak Grove District WMA Holds Quarterly Meeting

The Oak Grove WMA held its quarterly meeting at Good Hope Baptist

Church on Friday, January 8, 2016. The newly elected president Debbie Patterson presided over the first meeting of the new year. Betty Kendrick opened with a prayer blessing the food and Janice Ramshir welcomed those attending. Debbie Patterson presented a devotion encouraging us not to worry and that God is faithful using personal examples in her life this past year how God has been faithful in answering their prayers and blessing them.

The speaker was Missionary Esquardo Marroquin from El Camino Baptist Church in Laurel. Bro. Marroquin is originally from Guatemala and came to this area in 2002. This Hispanic church has rapidly grown and now their goal is to plant two more churches in this state this year.

Our next meeting is in April at Pine Grove Baptist Church.



SIDNEY DAVIS

Publications Department Special Emphasis - January 2016

In January 1945, "BIBLE TOPICS" issued its first publication. It was created to inform Missionary Baptists in Mississippi about the need of a **Children's Home**. Later BIBLE TOPICS became what we know today as the '**Mississippi Baptist**', the Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. The Mississippi Baptist Paper continues to inform its readers of valuable information concerning the various ministries of the BMA of Mississippi and the BMA of America as well as other interests of the Lord's work around the world. Thank the Lord for the news media of the Mississippi Baptist!

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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



SIDNEY DAVIS



Our kids at Christmas



Magnolia Pastor Greg Medenwald presenting special offering to the Home to Director Sidney Davis.

Greetings from your Children's Home

Well, the year 2016 has arrived! What a challenging and tremendous thought to realize the Lord is granting us another year to give to Him our service and worship. May we use the time God has given to us wisely. 1 Thessalonians

5:6 says, "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober."

If you really want to make wise use of your life, then live in the light of the soon return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You know, He may come



Magnolia Baptist Church, Hattiesburg Sharing Christmas with the Children

in 2016 for his own. Are you ready for Him to return? After all, one day all of us shall stand before the Lord!

Sharing with Children at Christmas

Every year during the Christmas season many of you share with the girls and boys at the Home so that they might have a joyous time during this most special time of the year. We are indeed grateful for the gifts and monetary offerings that you have given to extend to them a Merry Christmas. They are appreciated and we sincerely thank you.

Special Emphasis

We have received \$28,691.23 towards our 2015 Special Emphasis. Praise the

Lord! We exceeded our goal of \$25,000.00. The Lord truly used His people once again to be a blessing to the ministry of the Home by caring, sharing and praying for this worthy cause. We would like to convey and express to each church, auxiliary, class, and individual our appreciation for your generosity for your emphasis offerings during this Special Emphasis period.

Remember in Prayer and Focus Verse

Continue to pray that God's protective care will be with the girls, boys, staff, and the continued ministry of the Home. "Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9.



MISSIONS
baptist missionary association of america

**LIGHT
INTO
DARK**

WORLD MISSIONS DAY
FEBRUARY 28, 2016
BMAMMISSIONS.ORG/WORLDMISSIONS

National Meeting Hotel Information

from Front Page

Reservation Information

2016 BMAA Meeting Gatlinburg, Tennessee

by BMAA Committee on Arrangements

Leon Carmical, Charles Attebery,
Jackie Manasco

The 2016 session of the Baptist Missionary Association of America will meet April 25-27 at the Gatlinburg Convention Center in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

The Committee on Arrangements has made its review and plans for the 2016 annual Association meeting. The facilities and hotels are looking forward to our meeting there. There is plenty of space for all of our meetings and lodging. We hope that you will make your reservations early. Most of the hotels can make your reservations either by phone or online, but you must identify that you are with the Baptist Missionary Association of America.

- Glenstone (Headquarters Hotel): \$85 (800-362-9522) Group code: BMA 16; 2 block walk
- Edgewater: \$95 (800-423-9582); 2 1/2 block walk
- Graystone: \$95 (800-451-9202); 5 block walk

- Gillette: \$95 (865-436-5601); across from convention center
- Bearskin: \$90 (865-430-4330); 4 block walk
- Old Creek: \$90 (865-430-7200); 3 block walk
- Clarion: \$114 (865-436-5656); 2 block walk
- Court Yard (Marriott): \$129 & \$139

Churches, we need your help. When the BMAA Committee on Arrangements contracts with a convention center to host our annual meeting, the rental fee is normally tied to the number of hotel rooms we expect our attendees to use during the meeting. The rental fee in

Gatlinburg is contingent upon our use of rooms blocked at the designated hotels. The rental fee will increase by the daily cost of each room not used.

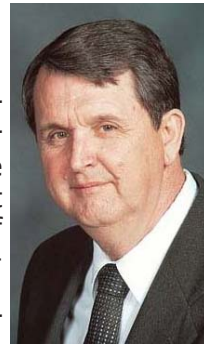
The Committee on Arrangements has negotiated terms in Gatlinburg that will allow the conference center space to be greatly reduced if we use the total number of rooms blocked at the designated hotels/motels. Please help us fill these first to cap the cost of the rental space.

Our association has had to pay extra in the past years because many of the blocked hotel rooms were not used. Please help us avoid a situation like that this year.

We appreciate your help.

Publications Department Special Emphasis - January 2016

As one of the newest with the responsibility of writing articles for the Mississippi Baptist, I have been impressed with the number of people who have mentioned how they read the paper. Some say they read every word when it arrives. Others indicate that they browse through every page, but then they read all of several articles, including that of Southeastern. Their excitement about hearing about our work parallels Proverbs 25:25: "As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country." We have not greater source for good news in our work than in the Mississippi Baptist.



Danny Pitts

Setting a standard for Christians in 2016

OneNewsNow.com - American Christians are being singled out for their compelling work last year as a motivation for Christians in 2016.

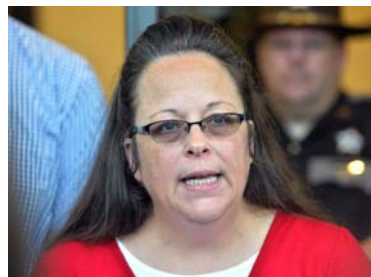
The honors are being bestowed by USA Christian Church and several ministries under the church's wing. Steven Andrew, pastor of USA Christian Church, tells OneNewsNow the big standout as a person of faith for 2015 is Kim Davis, the Kentucky county clerk who stood firm on her Christian faith in not allowing her name to be on a marriage license for homosexuals.

Andrew describes several characteristics about Davis that stand out.

"[There is] her boldness, her passion, and it's in her heart - it's not just something in her mind," he says. "You can see it's in her heart. She was willing to go to jail, she knew she might go to jail, she went to jail, she didn't know

how long she would be in there, and she decided to stand for God."

Davis spent five days behind bars but emerged with a strengthened faith. Her legal appeal continues. There were two runners-up for the church's "Person of the Year" award: GOP presidential candidate Mike Huckabee and Alabama Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore.



Kentuck Clerk Kim Davis

Huckabee stood by Kim Davis, arguing that Congress alone - not the Supreme Court - has legal authority to redefine marriage.

"And with Judge Roy Moore, as I'm sure you will remember, back in January and February he stood up boldly to Obama and the Supreme Court and told his probate judges not to sign same-sex marriage licenses," Andrew says.

Andrew contends that these three individuals have set a standard for other Christians in America to pay tribute to and imitate in the coming year.

Letters Needed for Directory & Handbook

from Information Services

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, 2016. If your church has not submitted your 2015-16 DiscipleGuide Church Letter form and offering between July 1, 2015, 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 until February 15. The church letter form also can be found in the back of the 2015-16 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 listings 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.

Church Welcomes Pastor

East Fulton Baptist Church has called Bro. John Lewis as their pastor. Bro. John comes to Mississippi from Texarkana, AR/TX. He will be moving on the field in January, 2016. We welcome Bro. John and his family to the BMA of Mississippi and to East Fulton Baptist Church.

Letters From Our Readers

Letters reflect the opinion of the writer and not necessarily this publication or the BMA of Mississippi

Reader shares blessing

A Good Way to Start Your Day

I would recommend the book, "Jesus Calling," by Sarah Young, devotions for every day of the year. I completed it in 2015 and started over in 2016.

It seems to speak to me every day; no matter what I might be going through or what experiences I have had. I have learned that God has plans for me. Plans to prosper me and not to harm me; plans to give me hope and a future. I have learned that the more extreme my circumstances the more I should keep my eyes and mind wide open to all that God is doing in my life.

As I go through each day, I look for tiny treasures strategically placed along the way. God lovingly goes before me and plants little pleasures to brighten my day. I look carefully for them and pluck them one by one.

When I have reached the end of the day I have gathered a lovely bouquet. I offer it up to God with a grateful heart. I receive God's peace as I lie down to sleep with thankful thoughts playing a lullaby in my mind.

Wanda Parmer,
Tupelo, Mississippi

Schedule of 2016 Annual Meeting Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Monday, April 25

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

Tuesday, April 26

8:00 a.m. - WMA, Brotherhood
9:30 a.m. - Committee Meetings
11:00 a.m. - Elective Session
Noon - Lunch
12:15 p.m. - Minister's Wives & Widows Lunch (Hosted by WMA)
2:00 p.m. - General Session
3:30 p.m. - Elective Session
4:30 p.m. - Dinner
7:00 p.m. - Worship Service
Annual Message (Jeff Swart)

Wednesday, April 27

9:00 a.m. - General Session
11:00 a.m. - Elective Session
Noon - Lunch
2:00 - General Session
5:00 - Dinner
7:00 - General Session
(Mission's Report)
Commissioning Service