

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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Mississippi Hosting 2018 National Meeting

by the editor

The 2018 annual meeting of the BMA of America will be held at the Convention Center in Jackson on April 16-18. The national association rotates the annual sessions between Mississippi, Texas and Arkansas.

Attendance at national meetings is vital to the churches having their voices heard and in keeping up and supporting the ministries of the BMA. Every church should always have messengers present at each meet-

ing, but 2018 presents the opportunity for each Mississippi church to be represented. Travel to national meetings can be expensive, but the costs this year should be minimal for most of our churches.

This issue contains information concerning the meeting schedule, hotel reservations, and other news concerning this meeting.

We hope every church will make efforts to be represented at this year's meeting.

“Stand in the Gap”

69th Annual Meeting of the BMA of America

by BMAA President Paul White

We will be meeting in Jackson Convention Center in Jackson, Mississippi on April 16-18, 2018. God is doing great things through our departments, agencies and churches. Our local, state, national and foreign ministers are hard at work carrying out the mandates of the great commission. We have seen and continue to see the impact we, as individual churches, can make when we come together.

This year on Monday night we are in for a blessing as Dr. John Adams director of Moral Action will be bringing a very flag-raising patriotic God and Country Rally entitled “America 1969-2018!” I know this will be an exciting time and who knows who may show up?

There will be the opportunity

to choose between several great breakout sessions. It is the desire of all those involved in the planning of these sessions to provide you with materials that will prove beneficial in your day to day ministry and service.

What I have dubbed “The National BMA choir” will be singing Wednesday afternoon

before my message. This is for every singer in the building. I want to encourage our churches to have their singers to attend. It would be a great opportunity to expose more of your people to the association. Come and help us blow the roof off.

Also, again this year we will be recognizing our ministers who have been in ministry for over 60 years who have not already received a Lifetime Certificate Award. Let me encourage our pastors to see that the enclosed



Paul White

All Churches Invited to Participate Mardi Gras Mission Effort Opportunities

BMA Missions is pleased to join the ministry of Campground Baptist Church in Gulfport, Mississippi to share the love of Jesus on the Mississippi Gulf Coast! Each year thousands of people attend the annual Mississippi Gulf Coast Mardi Gras Parades. The 2018 parades will be held February 9-11. Campground Baptist has leveraged this opportunity to serve and share Christ with

the people who attend the parades. Pastor Bryan Atwood has invited the people of the BMA to join them in this ministry. This is an excellent opportunity for

form is filled out. If you are one of those to be honored be sure and check at the registration desk to confirm your name is on the list and if it is not write it down. Your help will be appreciated. The theme this year is “Stand in the Gap” with special emphasis on intercessory prayer. If you are unable to attend, please set aside a time during one of your regular services to offer up a prayer of intercession for the meeting and those involved. May God bless our time together. Last, the worship services will be live-streamed for your pleasure.

National Meeting Information

Information from the Committee on Arrangements and the national clerks is included throughout this issue.

Hotel information, financial needs, and the schedule of the meeting are listed for informational purposes.

We encourage our readers and churches to make preparations to attend the meeting in Jackson.



the people who attend the parades. Pastor Bryan Atwood has invited the people of the BMA to join them in this ministry. This is an excellent opportunity for

churches to experience a short-term mission trip that is close in location, inexpensive and very effective.

All BMA churches are invited to join in this effort. However, because of limited space, the first 150 people who apply for each weekend

will be eligible to participate. Training and lodging will be at Campground Baptist Church, 20577 Highway 53, Gulfport, MS 39503.

A Facebook Broadcast Event SOAR 2018 First Look

It may be the dead of winter, but DiscipleGuide is bringing the excitement of summer a little early this year with SOAR 2018 First Look.

On January 31, the SOAR team from DiscipleGuide will be hosting this free event on the SOAR Conference Facebook page as a broadcasted event.

Tune in at 6:30 p.m. to get important details about this summer's SOAR conference, including introducing the featured speaker and getting a “First Look” at the lessons he will cover during the sessions.

We want people to get excited about the upcoming conference, not only because we love to see students worshipping together, but also because we believe the topic of this year's conference is so important.

Register for this free, online event in order to be entered in to a drawing for one FREE SOAR registration. Register at gosoar.com/firstlook, and don't forget to tune in to the SOAR Conference Facebook page at 6:30 p.m. on January 31. Registration is open through January 31.

The SOAR 2018 First Look will be an online event we hope church youth groups from all around the country will attend.



BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



Larry Geraldson
Director



www.bmams.org - 601.428.8616



State Missionaries and Wives



Phillip & Dawn Burns



Kenneth & Carole Pollock



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Danny & Brenda Bartlett



Sidney & Becky Farmer



Dale & Celia Broome



Wesley & Holley Martin



Anders & Carla Lee



Bob & Edie Burch



Estuardo & Yasmine Marroquin



Ed & Patricia DuVall



Will & Kelly Hutchinson

“And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.” Acts 16:9

I have begun the new year with a very focused prayer. I am asking God to raise up men who will, “...Come over...and help us.” God has provided the means and has opened the doors of opportunity across the State of Mississippi for us to plant churches. We have so many locations where we need to be planting churches right now. We have identified many specific locations that we are praying over regularly. Please join me in praying, each day, that God will communicate our prayer to the hearts of good men, who will respond to the call and “...Come over...and help us.”

I am available to come to your church and share, firsthand, what God is doing through missions across the state. Please feel free to give me a call so we can schedule a time for me to visit your church in 2018.

Grace Baptist Mission Organized

On December 9, 2017 folks gathered at the new facility on Clinton-Tennan Road in Clinton to partici-



Grace Organization



Grace Organization Presbtery

pate in the organization of the Grace Baptist Mission. The presiding counsel elected Bro. Dwight Sibley to serve as the Moderator. He led through the organization which included the preaching of the charge to the new church by their Mother Church Pastor, Bro. Bob Conrad. Bro. Bartlett, the Missionary Pastor, was elected to be the



Dwight Sibley

Pastor of the newly organized Grace Baptist Church. Grace was the fourth State mission project to organize in 2017.

Grand Opening

On January 21, 2018, Central will have a “Grand Opening” with ribbon cutting ceremony for their newly completed facility. They have invited local officials, as well as representatives from the Association and others who have participated in the project, to attend this special event.

Matching Fund Update

I want to express, on behalf of our missionaries, our appreciation to all who gave to the Matching Fund Campaign for Day Star and Sumrall, Missionary Phillip Burns, and Redemption at Diamondhead, Missionary Wesley Martin. Both have received the total of \$50,000.00 each and we will match this and apply \$100,000.00 each to their building projects. This will go a long way to help these missions get a permanent presence in their communities. It will not, by any means, cover all the costs and the missions will still need to carry much of the burden. But this will help tremendously. Praise the Lord!



Will Hutchinson presenting vision of new mission in D'Iberville

Training Conducted for Hispanic Missions

El Camino Baptist Church hosted DCPI training, led by Bro. Buddy Johnson and coordinated by BMA of Mississippi Hispanic Missions Manager, Estuardo Marroquin, during the month of December. In January, Bro. Johnson returned to South Green Baptist Church in Tupelo to complete the second half of the training. A number of people completed the training



and received certificates of completion.

Missions & Evangelism Conference

Please mark your calendar now for our upcoming Missions & Evangelism Conference. It will be held at Evergreen Baptist Church in Seminary, Mississippi, on May 4, 2018 beginning at 9:00 am and we will be finished by 2:00 pm.

Prayer Request

Please pray for the family of Bro. Neil Murphy. Bro. Murphy is a former State Missionary and is still the

pastor of Grace at Guntown, the church he founded. Over the Christmas holidays Bro. Murphy lost his son-in-law. Please pray for his daughter and her children.

Help Needed

We maintain a list of available preachers and a list of churches that are without pastors. As you might imagine, it is a great challenge to keep these lists updated. Please contact us, if you have any updated information that would help us with this task. Call Kim at 601-428-8616.

Revolving Loan Fund

The Revolving Loan Fund continues to be very strong. Gross assets have now exceeded 22 million. A number of opportunities for loans are already on the

continued on page 3

Reports for Dec 2017				
	High Attendance	Membership	Total Offerings	Mother Church
BMA of Mississippi (Church Planting Coach)				
Dr. Robert Burch (Caledonia)	111	117	\$7,158.00	Missionary Coach
Sidney Farmer (S. Forrest)	75	51	\$7,772.00	Missionary Coach
BMA of Mississippi (Church Planters)				
Bobby Elliott (Burnsville)	38	64	\$2,285.00	Forked Oak
Danny Bartlett (Clinton)	23	11	\$5,503.00	Wilderness
Phillip Burns (Sumrall)	33	16	\$2,842.00	First Bay Springs
Wesley Martin (Diamondhead)	60	27	\$6,077.00	Campground
Anders Lee (Southaven)	264	152	\$17,477.00	Charity
Dr. Kenneth Pollock (Batesville)	14	9	\$8,054.00	First Baptist Mantachie
Dale Broom (S. Hattiesburg)	6	2	\$237.00	Evergreen Seminary
Will Hutchinson (D'Iberville)	n/a	n/a	n/a	Campground
BMA of Mississippi Hispanic Missions (Estuardo Marroquin - Manager)				
<i>(Estuardo Marroquin is also the Co-Pastor of El Camino, which serves as the mother church for the church plants listed below.)</i>				
El Camino Marciano Montalvo (Laurel)	136	131	\$6,866.00	Mother Church
Church Planters				
Leo Adan (Hattiesburg)	36	18	\$918.00	El Camino
Jorge Galicia (Biloxi)	18	2	\$42.50	El Camino
Lucas Gomez (Canton)		2		El Camino
Way, Truth & Life Byron Morales (Ripley)		95		Mother Church
Church Planters				
Humberto Regalado (Tupelo)		14		Way, Truth & Life
Luis Huchin (Oxford)	58	7	\$1,180.00	Way, Truth & Life
Daniel Polanco (Horn Lake)		2		Way, Truth & Life
BMA of Mississippi African American Missions (Ed DuVall - Coordinator)				
<i>(Ed DuVall is also the Sr. Pastor of Homestretch which serves as the mother church for the church plants listed below.)</i>				
Homestretch (Cleveland)	31	60	\$3,201.00	
Church Planters				
James Cook (Olive Branch)		22		Homestretch
Collectively, our missionaries reported 261 new contacts, 46 opportunities to share the gospel, and witnessed 2 professions of faiths, 4 baptisms and 21 joined by letter in Dec 2017.				

BMA Theological Seminary, Jacksonville, Texas

An open letter to BMA Readers

by Dr. Charley Holmes, BMA Seminary President

The Seminary staff and administration are praying that all our churches and their families will experience Christ's peace during 2018. I'd like to take just a few minutes to update you on some matters of prayer for your BMA Seminary.

Financially, things are steady and we have a small operating surplus for the fiscal year to date. Our end of the year giving seems to have been a little stronger than the past few years which helped us go from a moderate deficit to a surplus. One substantial source of income for the last seven years will be unable to help us for the immediate future. With that in mind, we are making final adjustments now for next year's budget year which begins June 1. One of our trustees has informed me that the Lord has led their church to vote to increase their current support to the Seminary by an excess of 100%. Another long-time board member gives regular generous designated offerings through his church in addition to helping with special projects. This kind of news is greatly appreciated by me and other administrators.

I haven't studied the support of each individual BMA church, but I know that many of them do support the Seminary in some way. As you enter the new year, consider leading your church to support the Seminary to at least the level that it supports other denominational efforts. I would be glad to arrange a visit to your church in the next year and report on the Seminary. It is amazing what God can do through faithful stewards who see a need and meet it.

Dr. Attebery is currently very

Missions

from page 2

horizon for 2018 which, if they come to fruition, will even further strengthen the fund. What a blessing to be able to help our churches and provide resources to our missionaries! Since the beginning of the fund, we have made 577 loans totaling \$71,178,260.00 to churches across the BMA of America. Does your church need a new loan or refi? Give us a call at 601-428-8616.



Dr. Charley Holmes and Rhenatus Kanunu in class in Tabora, Tanzania.

busy with enrollment for the spring semester. There are not yet any enrollment projections available as it is too early in the process.

Matters of prayer - Please include these items in your family prayers and share them with your church:

1. Doctrinal and spiritual stability for our administrators, staff, teachers and students.
2. Financial stability for our supporting churches and individuals.
3. I taught a one-week preaching class starting January 8. Special thanks to Bro. Brent Summerhill, Bro. Clif Johnson, and Bro. Keith Brown for assisting with this class. Dr. Ronnie

Johnson also taught a Christian counseling course that week.

4. Our Bible-institute type ministry around the world, especially in Tanzania, Jordan and Tunisia. Our alumni around the world have several others we pray for, but these are the newest and most fragile. I will be leaving January 14 for a week-long class in Tanzania. The leader of that association, Bro.

Rhenatus Kanunu, will be returning with me to attend courses on campus during the spring semester.

5. On Thursday, February 15, we will be rededicating the refurbished Dorman Memorial Chapel. Everyone is invited to attend. The service will begin at 10:00 a.m. Watch for more details in your state paper.

6. The Pascal Lectures this year will be presented by Bro. Justin Peters on April 3 and 5, 2018. Bro. Peters is a premier speaker on the topic of the errors of the modern prosperity/healing movement. If anyone associated with these tendencies visits your church, this would be a great event for them to attend. This

Refurbished Dorman Memorial Chapel



Platform chairs donated by Dr. John Adams and the congregation of First Baptist Church, Mantachie, Mississippi.

would also be an occasion to bring a group from your church to strengthen them in their beliefs.

7. The annual meeting of the BMAA will be in Jackson, Mississippi, April 16-18, 2018. The committee on arrangements has not yet given us the schedule, but we do know the Seminary Singers (Philip Attebery, David Hellwig, and Keri Southern) will be leading singing for the afternoon session on Tuesday, April 17. They will also sing for the Seminary Dinner, which should be Tuesday evening in the Jackson Convention Complex.

8. The Seminary will be hosting a golf tournament benefitting Seminary scholarships on Saturday, May 5, 2018. Trustees

Tom Mitchell and Elaine Beal are taking the lead in this effort. Raise a team from your church or come over and help with the logistics of the day.

9. Graduation Saturday will be May 19, 2018. Seminary Sunday will be Sunday, May 20, 2018, and we are asking that each church has a time of special prayer for the school and the new graduates as well as a special offering for scholarships.

Thank you for praying and leading your church to pray for our spring semester. If I may be of assistance to you, please contact me at the Seminary - 800-259-5673 or president@bmats.edu.

Information on National BMAA Meeting

Hotel Reservation Information Available

It's Time! To Make Your Reservations for the 2018 BMAA Meeting in Jackson, Mississippi

The 2018 session of the Baptist Missionary Association of America will meet April 16-18 at the Jackson Convention Complex, 105 East Pascagoula Street, Jackson, Mississippi. The facilities and hotels are looking forward to our meeting there. Jackson's accommodations offer 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 on-line, but you must identify that you are with the Baptist Missionary Association of America.

Headquarters Hotel

Jackson Marriott

• Jackson Marriott (Headquarters Hotel), 200 East Amite Street, Jackson, MS
\$129 per night (Standard Queen or King room)
Telephone reservations: 800-228-9290 or 601-969-5100
Complimentary parking in hotel parking garage (buses or vans will require metered parking).
Reservation cutoff date is March 25, 2018

Hilton Garden Inn

• Hilton Garden Inn, 235 West Capitol Street, Jackson, MS
\$119 per night (Single or double); \$129 (triple); \$139 (Quad)
Telephone reservations: 877-782-9444
All parking is valet, \$14.95 per day.
Reservation cutoff date is March 15, 2018

Our association has had to pay extra in the past years because we did not use our full block of rooms. Please help us avoid a situation like that this year. We appreciate your help.

Jerome Cooper, Charles Attebery, Bill Thornton
BMAA Committee on Arrangements

Clerks Share Information with Churches

by James Ray Raine, Clerk
BMA of America

We need your help. Our roster shows that we have 1,260 churches who are affiliated with the BMAA. However, the representations in our Annual Meetings reflect the participation of only about half of them.

We recognize that the Association is the servant of the churches. Each church is autonomous and participation is voluntary.

However, there are many benefits offered to the member churches. Below is a list of some of those benefits.

1. Legal certification that the church is a registered member of a non-profit association,

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Don Brown
Editor

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Special Emphasis Month

We have already received Special Emphasis gifts from some of our churches! We appreciate the 'early' response from those churches and encourage each church to participate.

There are many ways to help in this effort. Some churches take a special offering, some vote to give a specific amount, and others give their members the opportunity to give a little each week.

Whatever method you choose, we hope you will participate and help us reach our goal.

Special offerings and monthly support are vital for our financial success. Subscription charges do not cover the operating costs of this work and like every other ministry, we rely on the support of our churches and our readers.

Thank you for any help you can give.

Central Church in Southaven to hold Grand Opening

Central Church located at 7100 Getwell Rd Southaven, MS 38671, will hold their official Grand Opening on January 21, 2018. Breakfast will be available at 9:20 AM. Worship will begin at 10:00 AM. Following the service will be an Open House from 11:30 AM until 2:00 PM. The public is invited to attend. A lite lunch will be offered and donated by General Contractor Steve Gross of C&M Builders from 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM. Guest packets will be available to all who visit.

The official "Ribbon Cutting" will be held from 1:30-1:45 PM. Dignitaries include Keith Lewis, Pastor of Central's sponsor church, the honorable Mr. George Payne, Alderman for Ward 3 City of Southaven, the honorable Mrs. Whitney Cook,



City of Southaven Planning Director, the honorable Mr. Darrin Musslewhite, Mayor of Southaven, Bro. Vernon Newman, Revolving Loan Fund of the BMA of Mississippi, Bro.

Larry Barker, Director of North American Missions Director for the BMA of America, and Mr. Steve Gross, Owner of C&M Builders.

All are invited to attend!

Mississippi Baptist



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

Your gift is used throughout the year to help fund this work. Your gift is special to us and very much appreciated.

Your gifts help us continue to keep you informed about the work God is doing through the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi and America.

**SPECIAL
EMPHASIS
NEEDS
\$10,000
JANUARY 2018**

**72 YEARS
of MINISTRY**

**KEEPING YOU
INFORMED**

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI
DON BROWN, EDITOR

Hello, Fellow Christians

By Paul White
President BMA of America

I encourage your church to begin making plans to attend our national meeting April 16-18 in Jackson, Mississippi.

One of the things that makes our association unique is the fact that each of our churches, no matter their size, is represented by the same number of messengers. So before you say your vote doesn't matter, I beg to differ. Your vote is as important as anyone's.



Paul White

Your attendance will not only encourage our departmental leaders and serve as a visible witness to those in the areas where we meet, but when someone comes back and reports on the meeting, it can serve as a needed bridge between our associational work and your local church. Having representation at a local, state, and national meeting should be the norm.

Each year the recommendations to be considered at the meeting are mailed out so each congregation can bring their votes concerning them to the meeting. If it is not possible for your leadership to attend, consider empowering others to stand up for your church family.

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Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

President's Perspective

Prior to the holidays, I shared four of five talking points for the promotion of Southeastern Baptist College. The first four talking points are:

1. SBC Equips the Saints.
2. SBC Exalts Christ.
3. SBC Expounds God's Word.
4. SBC Pursues Excellence.

Point number 5 is: SBC is Endorsed. "The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge." Proverbs 18:15

Southeastern Baptist is endorsed by and holds accreditation with the Association for Higher Biblical Education (ABHE). This organization is officially recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as one of several accrediting agencies of college education. ABHE is a North American agency, made of approximately 200 post-secondary institutions throughout North America specializing in biblical ministry formation and professional leadership education. ABHE exists to enhance the quality and credibility of higher educational institutions that engage students in biblical, transformational, experiential, and missional higher education through accreditation, professional development, and collaborative engagements benefiting the Kingdom of Christ.

Decades ago, when I was a young graduating high school student, I saw no need for an accredited degree. I had listened to my pastor and other spiritual leaders in our circle of believers who adamantly declared accreditation a wicked and evil devise invented by the government to control and manipulate Bible colleges into compromising their conservative doctrines. I attended two non-accredited Bible colleges and graduated with honors. When the Lord called me into the military chaplaincy, I quickly discovered that my hard-earned credits were nearly worthless in pursuit of ministry in the Army. It is a long story, the Lord worked it all out (in spite of my foolish self) and the rest is history. I now greatly value accreditation. I also discovered that accrediting agencies, like ABHE, have no intent on pressuring a Christian institution to change their statements of faith, but rather, are tremendous supporters and encouragers for schools like Southeastern Baptist College to keep their standards high in all areas of scholarship and administration.

SBC received its accreditation in 1988

from the forerunner of ABHE and we are proud to be associated with this prestigious organization. Accreditation is exceedingly important for proper academic credentialing which legitimizes student's hard-earned credits within their fields of study.

A major point that we must continually emphasize is that our credits are transferrable to all 200 of ABHE postsecondary schools. In addition, SBC credits are transferrable to many other religious institutions that are not accredited by ABHE such as Liberty University and William Cary University.

In most cases, a student need not leave the Christian system for higher education in order to secure their desired degree. Like Southeastern Baptist College, many of these schools offer online courses wherein the collegian need not leave their home in order to earn a degree. They can begin their basic level college courses at SBC and later transfer them to another one of these colleges.

In recent years, many secular schools have stopped accepting ABHE credits. This is not because their standards are lower. In fact, in many cases their standards are higher. And, when an ABHE student such as one from SBC does attend a secular college, they fair



Dr. Scott Carson
President

much better than those who did not begin in an ABHE institution. However, there is a "work around" to this type of religious discrimination and I am pursuing it as long as I am the president of Southeastern Baptist College. The work around is for SBC to become accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). SACS is accepted nearly universally in colleges across the nation. It will take several years to achieve this objective, but through perseverance we will achieve this goal. When SACS accreditation is secured, students who attend SBC will be able to transfer to virtually any college they want. And I anticipate that with this accreditation, SBC will enroll many more students.

This is an expensive undertaking which requires SBC to operate in the black for three consecutive years before application to SACS can even be made. We have achieved the first year. We must endeavor to remain in the black over the next two years. After having operated in the black for three consecutive years, we then can apply for SACS accreditation. The Application fee alone is \$10,000. There will be many other expenses in addition to this as we make adjustments to SACS requirements, however, because ABHE is an accredited agency under the Department of Education, many requirements are already met and we will be on the fast track to SACS accreditation.

So, the bottom line is: SBC is accredited and our credits are transferrable to over 200 other institution. In the future, we will also have SACS accreditation enabling our students to transfer universally to nearly all colleges throughout the United States.

Can you help us attain this goal? We welcome your tax deductible donations.

Not Too Late!

Delay no longer! Register now for the Spring Semester! We will accept students through January 25, 2018. Call today! 601-426-6346

Why did you Leave Free Money on the Table?

Wow! If I were you, I would not hesitate to take advantage of God's gracious gift toward my college education at one of the finest Christian institutions in the United States! Thinking about taking courses in the Spring semester? There are several scholarship opportunities available for our student body that supporters of the school have graciously provided. In addition, if you are a BMA minister, there are scholarships specially set aside available for you! Our recruiter, Justin Rhodes, has all the information you need to sign up for classes or contact Brother Ronnie regarding financial aid. Both can be reached at 601-426-6346.

Carson's Army

Brother Chris Floyd introduced a special individual donor concept named Carson's Army at the SBC Donor and Volunteer Dinner. Each person has the opportunity to "enlist" their pledge at various levels of rank representing their ability to give toward Southeastern Baptist College. If you feel led of the Lord to enlist, call 601-426-6346 today! Please refer to the "Carson's Army" giving chart in this publication. Praise the Lord! We already have our first Major and our first General enlisted into Carson's Army!

Landscaping Project

Mrs. Delight Jefcoat has graciously volunteered to lead a project to beautify the landscaping of our campus. A major initiative she is promoting is the transferring of flower bulbs from private gardens to SBC. If you would like donate bulbs and participate in this project, please contact Delight at 601-763-4952.

Affordable!

SBC is rated the 6th most affordable Online Christian College in the nation for 2018! Why spend big bucks at other colleges when you can earn your amazingly affordable accredited degree here at Southeastern Baptist College? Contact us today; it's not too late to register for the Spring semester, but you must register NOW!

VA Benefits

SBC possesses the 2018 Gold Award level as a military friendly college! Have you served in America's armed forces? Then you probably have Veterans Administration tuition benefits that you can use toward a free education right here at SBC. I urge you to contact your local VA representative for an evaluation of your benefits. You earned them! And remember, many benefits are now fully transferable to family members. SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

Please fill in the following information and return to Southeastern Baptist College to enlist in Carson's Army:

<p style="text-align: center;">SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE CARSON'S ARMY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Levels of Donor Giving</p> <p style="text-align: center;">General - \$10,000 ★ \$833 per month over 12 months \$461 per month over 24 months</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Colonel - \$7,500 ★ \$625 per month over 12 months \$312 per month over 24 months</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Major - \$5,000 ★ \$416 per month over 12 months \$208 per month over 24 months</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Captain - \$2,500 ★ \$208 per month over 12 months \$104 per month over 24 months</p>	<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">At which level would you like to enlist?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Colonel</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> One time gift <input type="checkbox"/> One time gift</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 12 month <input type="checkbox"/> 12 month</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 24 month <input type="checkbox"/> 24 month</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Major <input type="checkbox"/> Captain</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> One time gift <input type="checkbox"/> One time gift</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 12 month <input type="checkbox"/> 12 month</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 24 month <input type="checkbox"/> 24 month</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THANKS for your faithful support!</p>
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continued on page 6

From The Mind of Chuck Lee

Confession Time

There comes a time in everyone's life that a decision has to be made concerning right and wrong. For example - You buy a new pistol to target shoot with the guys and your wife finds the receipt while cleaning up the mess on your night stand. Do you, A) Deny that you have ever seen a pistol,

B) Bow groveling at her feet asking for forgiveness for yet another lack of judgment on your part, or C) Say, "Happy Birthday, Dear! Thanks for ruining the surprise.



Bro. Chuck Lee

Oh well, because I love you so much I will forgive you this time, but you will have to wait until your birthday to see it". CAUTION! If you use plan C, which is of course the right answer, only use it once a year. Opt for plan A on the other occasions through the year in which you buy something your wife disapproves. As a last resort, such as when she is using her birthday present to convince you of the error of your ways, use plan B.

Not all decisions about when to confess to a wrong are as straightforward as the above example. Once, as a child around six or seven years old, I took a piece of gum from the grocery store aisle while mom was paying the cashier. I may have gotten away with the crime

had not I proceeded to blow bubbles in the parking lot. Mom immediately became suspicious (considering I had no job and source of income) as to where I had procured the funds to buy the piece of gum. At this age, I had not yet perfected my excuse making techniques,

Sure, I was going to take the shot, but being small in stature the gun was wrestled away from me.

so I resorted to the ever so common, "Uh....uh...I...uh". Surprisingly enough, that excuse didn't work, so she marched me right back into the store and made me confess to my crime (by the way, I thought I was heading to jail). Then she made me spit out my gum and told Dad about it when he got home from work that day. That day didn't end well.

Confession is not only good for crimes you have committed, but also for crimes for which you have taken the blame and have not committed. I wish to do that now. It has weighed heavy on my conscience for years now, these two crimes that my brother committed and for which I took the blame. Sorry, Darrell, but I need to sleep at night. Mom, Dad, I didn't shoot the window out with the BB gun. That was Darrell. Sure, I was with him, and sure we were standing on the porch together, and sure, I was going to take the next shot, but I did not pull the trigger when the window was shattered. I still find it amazing how the BB ricocheted off the tree and came right back in between us to burst the window. We were fortunate that our eyes weren't put out. You would think a parent would have dwelt on that little bit of information, instead of a stinking window. What about the window to our souls! (Maybe I should have thought of that thirty five years ago when, for some reason I was convinced to take the blame).

I also didn't shoot the neighbors dog with rat shot. Again, that was Darrell. Sure, it was my dog that the neighbor's dog was trying to, ummm...well, anyway their dog shouldn't have been in our yard. Sure, I was going to take the shot, but being small in stature the gun was wrestled away from me. Sure, I laughed when he went howling through the neighborhood. Served him right for taking the innocence of my sweet little mix breed angel. But, I didn't shoot the dog. It was just rat shot. And at the distance he was hit, it just stung him a little. (Don't ask me how I know what it felt like. There is only so much confes-

Southeastern

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Alumni

We are about to launch a major effort to reorganize and reenergize our Alumni Association. We will attempt to identify and contact every alumnus who has ever taken courses at our great school. In the near future, the Alumni Association will be provided a task to perform and accomplish over the course of each year. Will you participate? Alumni Sam and Judy Oglesby have graciously accepted to lead this effort. Please contact them at 601-550-8513 or pastor_1@comcast.net to verify that your current contact information is correct.

Available to Preach

What a wonderful experience it is to visit and preach for so many of our congregations throughout Mississippi! Thank you for the many churches providing me an opportunity to preach the Word of God and to share the work and vision here at Southeastern Baptist College to your church family! If you need someone to fill your pulpit, I can be reached at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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



SIDNEY DAVIS

God Is Love

God is love. Isn't that an amazing thought? It is not enough just to say He loves, because love describes His very nature and being. The Word of God shares the glorious news that He loves us and wants to share that love with us. Jesus demonstrated that love by giving up His glory to come to this world and offer His life as a sacrifice for our sins. It is good to know that in Jesus we have a Savior and friend.

God's love is available to everyone who trusts Jesus as Savior. One must simply obey Him to become a recipient of His divine love. What a promise!

A New Year Is Before Us

After the Christmas break the girls and boys are back in the regular routine of all the school activities. Remember them in prayer as they finish out the remaining time they have in this school year. It will be over in just a few short months. Everyone is doing well at the present time.

Special Offering From Ten Mile District WMA

The Home was presented a check from the Ten Mile Association WMA by Shelia Dodd. We are very appreciative to all the WMAs and individuals who were involved in the fundraiser for the Home.



Ten Mile WMA presents special offering

Remember In Prayer and Focus Verse

Continue to remember the ministry of the Home in your prayers. "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God." 1 John 4:7.

Hallmarks of Great Leaders

By Dr. Allen Tilley
from Texas Baptist Progress

Dan Southerland said, "The difference between a leader and a martyr is two steps. A leader stays one step ahead while a martyr is three steps ahead." Sadly, most pastors understand this all too well. To keep from being a martyr in your church, here are eight leadership tips for pastors.

Walk intimately with Jesus. Don't make the mistake of leading on empty. Only by inundating yourself with Jesus will you find the strength and courage

sion I can take at one time).

Boy, it feels good to get that off my chest. Perhaps, and I'm sure Mom and Dad would be interested, I can confess to other crimes my siblings committed. I'm starting to enjoy this confession thing. But for now, I need to go try out my wife's new birthday present. Lee serves as pastor of Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis. He may be reached by email at leecharles47@yahoo.com

to lead wisely. Each day, spend ample time in prayer, Bible study, and personal worship. More than you, your people need to see Jesus in you.

Develop a compelling vision for your church. Inspire your people with a God-sized dream. Although most don't admit it, people long for divine challenges. Dreams unify; bring your people together by setting your sights on lofty but achievable goals. To get the momentum started, start small, celebrate, and then plan your next step.

Serve as a role model. If you want certain behaviors to be evident in your church, you should be the one modeling them. Practice generosity, forgiveness, and patience. Most of all, be a soul winner. Let your example stir the fire within the hearts of your followers. Remember, a picture is worth a thousand words.

Be a cheerleader. Good leaders are always quick to offer words of praise. Nothing will destroy the morale of your

continued on next page

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY**President**

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

Corresponding Secretary

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

National WMA Project Update

The National WMA Project Committee wants to encourage each local WMA group to send their offerings in by February 28, 2018. Our project amount is in great need of your offerings.

Our project is the BMA Bible College in the Philippines. The College is close to being accepted by the country of the Philippines as a certified college and will be able to accept elementary children as well as college students. God is blessing the college students as they go out and share the gospel of Jesus to others in many lands.

Please keep this worthy project in your prayers.

In His Service,
Debbie Clark
Diana Morris
Kelly Williams

GIRLS'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY**State Youth Auxiliary Director**

Becky Farmer
464 Churchwell Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39401
601-596-1005

State GMA Promoter

Lisa Christian
2315 Bankhead Rd., Fulton, MS 38843
662-322-1581

GMA Camp Set for March 16-17

Hey girls! This is Barbara Jean Williams and I am your State President. Camp will be on March 16th and 17th. The theme is "The Fruit of the Spirit", and the theme verse is Galatians 5:22-23. The them song is 'Fruit of the Spirit'. Please be in prayer for the camp pastor, Bro. Ryan Anderson. I pray that all of you can come. We will also have a lot of fun singing karaoke at the house party. I can't wait to see you all.

Great Leaders

from previous page

church more than feelings of being unappreciated. With a pat on the back, a personal note, or a word from the pulpit, you can increase retention and improve productivity. As John Maxwell said, "People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care."

Model confidence. People won't follow leaders who are uncertain or wishy-washy, but they will follow those who carry themselves with an assured demeanor. Never mistake arrogance for confidence. Pride is selfish and self-serving while confidence comes from an intimate walk with Christ and knowing His will.

Make wise decisions. Instead of acting rashly or reactively, mull over all your options. Seek the counsel of mature believers. Bathe your decision in prayer, asking the Lord to lead you. Consider the feelings of others, the cost, and anticipate negative feedback.

Big Creek Association News**Big Creek Brotherhood to Meet**

The Quarterly meeting of the Big Creek District Brotherhood will meet on Monday, February 5, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Shady Grove. We look forward to seeing our Big Creek Association Brotherhood members, Galileans, and Pastors at this meeting. Dr. Scott Carson, President of Southeastern Baptist College, will have the program for the evening. Our annual project for this year is our college, so come prepared to help this worthy project.

Big Creek District WMA Meeting

First of Shady Grove Baptist Church, Laurel, will host the Big Creek District WMA meeting on February 5, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. Please mark your calendar for this meeting. We look forward to seeing you there.

God's Word For The New Year

by Brenda Hornaday
National WMA Third Vice President

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. – Psalm 119:11.

As we begin this new year of 2018, I urge each lady in the BMA of America to be committed to studying God's Word on a daily basis. The uncertain times we see around us should make us more dependent on God as the only source of direction and peace as we face crises in our nation, our churches, and in our families.

There are many methods of daily Bible study that have proven effective in the lives of Christians. As you seek a method that works for you, be much in prayer for God's guidance to fit the method to your level of spirituality, your time, your personality, and what He would have you to learn from the study. As you begin (or continue) your daily Bible study, I pray that God will give you a hunger for His Word and that you will continue to grow in your walk with Him.

Some suggested methods of daily Bible study include:

1. Through the Bible in a Year – Some editions of the Bible include plans for reading through the Bible in a year; the December 20, 2017, edition of the Baptist Trumpet lists one plan of this on page 8; Our Daily Bread @ ourdailybread.org lists one of these plans; Christian bookstores carry several versions of Bibles printed to read through in a year such as The Daily Bible in Chronological Order and Charles F. Stanley Life Principles Daily Bible; An online version can be read at oneyearbibleonline.com (you can select from several versions).
2. Pick a topic and read everything you can find in the Bible on that subject.
3. Pick a book of the Bible and read it through several times over several weeks or months. Learn everything you can by immersing yourself in the book.
4. Listen to the Bible on audio. This is a good option for those who cannot see well enough to read or have trouble reading.

Whatever method you choose to study the Bible, read it to understand it. Meditate on what you read. Share what you have learned with others. Devotional books, books by Christian authors, and commentaries can be good aids to Bible study, but cannot replace the reading of God's Word itself. Don't let reading about the Bible replace reading the Bible itself.

Your people's trust must be earned first, and that only comes when you make wise decisions.

Listen with your ears and heart. Great leaders are great listeners. Carefully weigh the fears and concerns of those you serve. Listening also involves watching for subtle signs like body language and what is not said.

**COMMISSION ON
Senior Adults**

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440

Theme "Let's Just Praise the Lord".

Greetings in the Master's name.

Here we are facing a brand new year. 2018 looms ahead and we anticipate a glorious year in the Lord. He is in control and we are challenged to be obedient to His word.

Many are going home. Almost every month one or more of the old soldiers go home. Going home to see our Savior and our loved ones is not a dreaded fact, that is our hope as God's children.



Kenneth Flynt
Director

Look what's coming!

Our senior conferences for 2018 are just ahead and with great anticipation we are looking forward to seeing you again.

The South Mississippi Conference is set for March 20th and will meet at Big Creek Church. We will gather at 9:30 am. Bro. Jeff Dixon will bring our morning worship hour message. A special trio is being put together for great singing. Door prizes will once again be the fun time of the day and special prizes will be part of the activities. Mack's Fish House will cater the noon meal. The registration fee remains at \$15.00 per person. If there is any senior member of our churches who wish to attend, but cannot because of limited finances, let me know by calling 601-729-2613 and we will see that you are in attendance. We want every senior present who wishes to do so.

The theme of the conference is "Let's Just Praise the Lord" and we want to do that all day long, we have much to praise Him for.

The North Mississippi Conference will be meet Tuesday, May 8th, at Hopewell Baptist Church in Dorsey. The Dorsey Volunteer Fire Department will once again cater the noon meal. Dr. Scott Carson, President of Southeastern Baptist College will bring the morning message. We will have more about this conference later.

Our churches continue to support this ministry well and your support is deeply appreciated. Our senior members have served well and deserve our encouragement.

Save the dates, Tuesday March 20th for the South Conference and Tuesday May 8th for the North Conference.

Thank you and God Bless you as we get ready to praise the Lord together. Share a blessing with someone today.

Being a pastor and a leader means that you always hold yourself accountable to your people.

Communicate clearly and frequently. Elmer Towns said that a good leader has to repeat his message at least seven times before the message is taken to heart. As you lead the way, explain what you're doing, how you're doing it, and why you're doing it. More than your words, let them hear your heart.

Dr. Allen Tilley is pastor of First Baptist Church of Carthage, Texas.

Clerks Share Information

(the BMAA is a registered non-profit organization with the IRS.)

2. Certification to assist if the church chooses to incorporate for legal or tax purposes.
3. Gives the church a voice in the actions and decisions of the BMAA.
4. Encourages and strengthens the voice in their stand on moral, political and doctrinal issues.
5. Offers fellowship with other churches of, "Like Faith."
6. Opportunity for involvement in fulfilling the great commission on a world wide scale.

Please remit funds for meeting and minute expenses

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

We still need extra help.

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

2018 BMMI Schedule

By Dr. Ralph IZARD, Director

The following list of Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI) trips shows the dates of the trips planned, the mission field and the missionaries with whom the group will be working. All information is subject to change:

- Jan. 16-26 — Philippines-Iloccos Norte; Laoag, Philippines; Armand Corpuz
- March 16-24 — Haiti (men only), Michel Poirier
- April 15-18 — National Meeting, Jackson, Miss.
- June 2-10 — El Salvador, Rigoberto Jimenez Cruz
- Aug. 3-12 — Atalaya, Peru; Paul Tinoco, Johnmichael Poulin
- Sept. 15-22 — Mirnograd, Ukraine; Laura Kanaykina
- November (date not confirmed) — Greece? Israel?

Please check with Angela Rice at angela@bmaam.com or me at ralph@bmaam.com for more information on any scheduled trips, or to let us know if you would like to be part of any of the BMMI teams.

69th Annual BMA of America National Meeting

April 16-18, 2018

Jackson Convention Complex • Jackson, Mississippi
Program

Monday Morning, April 16		3:00 General Session — 2	
8:00	Display/Exhibit Set-up	BMA Seminary Singers Petitionary Churches Reporting: Master's Builders Brotherhood BMA Seminary Minister's Resource Services	
Monday Afternoon, April 16		5:30 Seminary Dinner Room: Gallery	
2:30	Registration Set-up (Enrollment and Finance Committee)	Tuesday Evening, April 17	
3:00	WMA Meeting Room: 209-210	7:00 General Session — 3	
Monday Evening, April 16		Special Music CBC Singers Annual Message Terry Kimbrow	
7:00	Pre-Associational, God & Country Rally	Wednesday Morning, April 18	
General Session — 1		8:30 General Session — 4	
President's Address Paul White		Reporting: Lifeword DiscipleGuide Coordinating Council Nominating Committee Committee on Arrangements WMA	
Tuesday Morning, April 17		10:10 BMA Departments Presentation	
8:00	Brotherhood Meeting Room:212	Reporting: Moral Action BMA Foundation	
9:00	Ladies' Retreat Room: 216-217, 218 Theme: "Outrageously Courageous Dare to Live Beyond Your Fears"	12:00 Missionary Wives Lunch and Session Lunch Room: 216-217	
9:30	Nursery Room: 211	Wednesday Afternoon, April 18	
	Committee Meetings	2:00 General Session — 5	
	Seminary Trustees Room: 201	Reporting: Revolving Loan Fund Missions Department Election of Officers BMAA Choir Led by Jeremy Wilkinson Lifetime Achievement Awards	
	Foundation Trustees Room: 202	Wednesday Evening, April 18	
	Moral Action Trustees Room: 203	6:30 General Session — 6	
	Missionary Advisory Room: 204	Missions Commissioning Service	
	Lifeword Trustees Room: 205		
	DiscipleGuide Trustees Room: 206		
	Nominating Committee Board A		
11:00	Breakout Sessions		
	1: Sharing Christ wih Muslims Charles Costa Room: 207		
	2: Multi-Generational Ministry Adam Thomas Room: 208		
	3: Opportunities... Hispanic Elvis Garcia Room: 209		
	4: How to Counsel Sam Bradley Room: 210		
Tuesday Afternoon, April 17			
2:00	Breakout Sessions		
	1: Sharing Christ wih Muslims Charles Costa Room: 207		
	2: Multi-Generational Ministry Adam Thomas Room: 208		
	3: Opportunities... Hispanic Elvis Garcia Room: 209		
	4: How to Counsel Sam Bradley Room: 210		

General Sessions	Trustmark Ballroom
Registration	Outside Trustmark Ballroom
Exhibits	Exhibit Hall A

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

Experience a short-term mission trip close to home!

MARDI GRAS MISSIONS

FEBRUARY 9 -10 GULFPORT/BILOXI, MS

\$100 per person and includes lodging, training, evening meal, Saturday morning breakfast, Bibles to hand out and a Mardi Gras Missions T-Shirt.

REGISTER ONLINE NOW!

www.bmamissions.org/mardigrasmission

Training and lodging will be at:

Campground Baptist Church
20577 Highway 53
Gulfport, MS 39503

