

Baptist

Mississippi

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Volume 76

No. 2

Missions in the Middle East

Zarqa Baptist Church Building Dedication



Ministry center dedication in Ammon, Jordan

A Call to Serve

And do not forget to do good for others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased (Hebrews 13:16).

Inspired by this verse, the ministry team at Zarqa Baptist Church in Jordan responded to God's call to serve their community. Two years later in March of 2007, they began doing just that through a free medical clinic. Since that time four additional areas of service have been established to provide physical and spiritual healing in their community and beyond.

The original medical providers were a dentist, a nurse and a clinic manager, but in 2013 circumstances changed dramatically as their work expanded to include thousands of refugees crossing into Jordan from Syria.

With an increasing number of patients, an average of 2,500 people per month, the working team added two physicians, a

general practitioner, a family doctor, and nine nurses. A pharmacy was eventually added, and they began doing minor surgeries and emergency operations followed by hospital referrals.

Because Pastor Samer is humbled and grateful to God for blessing their efforts, providing supporters, and raising up prayer partners, the church began planning a building dedication and invited BMA Missions personnel to attend.

An Urgent Need

As they began medical services to Syrian refugees, it was increasingly obvious that the mostly women and children who fled their war-torn country needed help beyond the physical. Pastor Samer says, "We treat them through a post-trauma recovery program as many of them have lost their husbands, chil-

see Dedication on page 8

What it Means to Truly be Broken

by Dr. John David Smith
Executive Director
BMA of America Missions

As we build toward World Missions Day 2022 and its theme, "Broken," let's consider what lessons we learn from Jesus and brokenness? Philippians 2:7 explains the connection between the two:

"... rather, he made himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men."

The first part of this verse literally means that Jesus emptied himself. The second part is that He became a servant. In this divine act of the incarnation



Dr. Smith



where God became flesh, these two actions help us understand brokenness and its absolute necessity in fulfilling the mission Christ has given us.

We must be broken to the point that we empty ourselves of personal goals and ambitions and embrace the mission of Christ to truly give all... like Christ.

The first Christ-like essential in brokenness is an attitude of casting off all self-sufficiency and self-promotion. The second essential is all about action... He

became a servant. Brokenness reflects a deep relational dependence on God where self is put aside. Brokenness is also unbridled service to God and others in and through His mission.

Incarnational missions demands brokenness, and brokenness is evidenced in our emptiness and servanthood. During this World Missions Day 2022 time of emphasis, our prayer is that you would seek a deep relational dependence on God and wholly embrace his mission.

SOAR 2022 - Have you put your "yes" on God's table?

My Call to Ministry

by Chris Vines

There are two distinct times in my life that I knew without a doubt God was calling me. The first was during an intentional conversation with my grandmother about Christ's sacrifice for me, a sinner. It was then that God called me to Himself, and the Holy Spirit opened the eyes of my heart to believe the gospel and simply trust Christ's atoning work on the cross for my salvation.

The second call to ministry was seven years later. I remember sitting in a service and being under strong conviction to give up my life's pursuits and dedi-



cate my life to His ministry. I will admit that at that moment, my role in ministry was unknown. But I did know the Lord was calling me to say "yes" to serving His church in whatever role He would show me.

By that time in my life, I had heard many people give their testimonies of running from the

Lord and experiencing intense, difficult years before they finally surrendered to God's call. Part of my conversation with the Lord was, "Why in the world would I

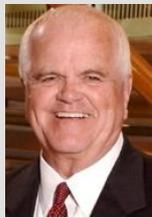
ever run from you when I know you will just bring me right back to this moment?" So I said yes right then.

Since then, I have discovered a reality that has become more clear the longer I live: God truly does have a hold on me. I have not attempted to kick loose from this call, and I have never regretted saying "yes". The reality is that God has a firm grip on me, and I am compelled to serve Him and make Him known. There is a burning desire within me to preach the gospel and to make

see My Call on page 2

Mississippi Baptist

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Holidays, Weekends, Covid (?), and the USPO

We publish your Mississippi Baptist twice each month and those publishing dates often occur on days that fall on weekends, holidays, and certainly not on the same day of the week each time.

This causes the paper to be put in the mail at odd times for each issue. Normally this is not a problem, but holidays, new Post Office staff and practices do play havoc at times.

This past holiday season is a good example of the problems we have with mailing delays. This issue will be at our printer in a timely manner, but we are again dealing with a federal holiday with delayed mail delivery. We hope you understand the issues we deal with.

COVID? I hope not, but as I am working on this issue I am recovering from 'something'. I have been around some who have tested positive and our daughter is an RN who is constantly around those infected with it. Some churches are back to canceling services as this virus has raised its head once again.

Let us pray for this to be gone soon and pray for those who are finding themselves with this latest type.

COMMISSION ON SENIOR ADULTS

P. O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441 - Don Brown, Director - 601-426-3293 senioradultcommission@gmail.com

Prime Timers With A Purpose

Yes, we are Prime Timers. Not old folks, or just Senior Citizens, but those individuals who have a Prime Opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others and to continue to work for the cause of Christ.

I have heard of some Senior Citizens, who having retired, get the idea that they no longer feel 'worth'. I think people need something to do. Doing or Working gives an individual the feeling of purpose and the feeling of being needed. Be a 'doer of the word' and not just a retired hearer!

Conference Plans Ongoing

The South Conference is set for Big Creek Church on March 8. The church is making plans and final preparations are nearing completion. The only obstacle we foresee is the possibility of Covid becoming a problem. Pray that the Lord will part the way and we will be able to have two good conferences this year.

STAFF SEARCHES

Seeking Pastor

First Baptist Church of Calhoun near Laurel, Mississippi, is seeking a pastor. For those wishing to inquire concerning the church and this position please contact Chairman Paul Welborn at 601-319-6353 or 601-729-8397.

Texas Church Seeking Pastor

Friendship Baptist Church of Mesquite, Texas, is prayerfully seeking our next full-time pastor. Interested parties should send a resume to office@friendshipmesquite.org. Please enter Search Committee in the subject line. Also include a recent video of a sermon, on a DVD or by a website link. You may also mail the requested information to Friendship Baptist Church, 820 Pioneer Road, Mesquite, TX 75149. Information about our church can be found on our website at www.friendshipmesquite.org.

AM I TOO OLD?

by Larry Barker

The scriptures are clear: You are never too young to serve the Lord. God uses us in the midst of our lack of experience, knowledge, and readiness for the assignment He has given us. But do we ever get too old for the Lord to use us? Never! Yet we all wonder when is it time to step aside, retire, and not hold on so long that it begins to hurt the church or ministry?

You actually cannot find retirement in Scripture. Genesis 15:5 says, "He (God) took him (Abraham) outside and said, 'Look at the sky and count the stars.'" Mark Batterson cautions that, "If we are not careful, we stop gazing at the stars, and start staring at the ceiling."

God loves using you before you think you are ready and after you think you are done. When you stand before the Lord one day, you will not hear Him say, "well said," "well thought out," "well planned," or "well studied." What He will say is, "well done!"

Christianity is about action, and orthodoxy is having the right

beliefs, but orthopraxy is doing the right things. Dr. Dave DeVries reminds us in The Multiplication Workshop of the reality that you need all the right ingredients:

- The Cross + the Culture - the Community = No Church.

- The Community + The Cross - Culture = No Mission.

- The Culture + the Community - Cross = No Hope.

In Genesis 15, God promises a 99-year-old Abraham that He will keep His covenant and promise to him. Then God takes him outside so he will quit functioning only by what he could see in his tent and focus instead on the limitless vastness of the stars and His universe. Let's refuse to simply stare at our ceiling assuming that age, experience, qualifications, credentials, and education (all important and good things) can limit our limitless God. Logic questions God, but faith refuses to put limitations on Him. Spiritual maturity is not determined by your



five-year plan, but rather your ability to remain sensitive to the moment-by-moment nudges of the Holy Spirit.

Think about Abraham again. Hebrews 11:8 says, "By faith Abraham, when was called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going." At least I'm not the only one who doesn't always know where they're going. The will of God is not always easily discerned and takes much prayer, soul searching, and willingness to yield to whatever the Lord says. It is wrong to think you will always know where God is leading you,

what He is up to, and what He is doing. Scripture is clear that we are to walk by faith and not by sight.

In his book Younique, Will Mancini describes the three ages we are especially susceptible to crisis moments in discerning God's will:

- In our twenties, we are at our biological peak in almost every area.

- In our forties (unless you're a professional athlete) we still have zeal and energy but much more experience and knowledge, so we're probably at peak performance.

- In our sixties, energy begins to drain and our days begin to be numbered. You now have far more opportunities behind you than opportunities in front of you.

Will says, "Fortunately, the Bible doesn't view the trajectory of a person's life as a ballistic arc to a pathetic crash. Rather, Psalm 92 promises, 'The righteous thrive like a palm tree and grow like a cedar tree in Lebanon. Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish and will bear fruit in old age.'"

see Too Old on page 8

My Call

from front page

King Jesus known to all people. Overwhelming thankfulness floods my heart for this grace.

Sixteen years later, the reality is that God keeps calling. He continually calls me to surrender my pride, personal desires, and earthly pursuits to Him. Truthfully, God's call has always been to put my "yes" on His table.

Have you put your "yes" on God's table?

There are many reasons a person hesitates to say "yes" to God's call. Some think He owes them a detailed plan of what they are saying yes to. Others simply don't want to say "no" to their own plans or the plans other people have for them.

SOAR 2022 will be all about God's call on our lives. God is calling, but are we saying yes?

SOAR Student Conference: June 29 - July 1, 2022, Hilton Anatole - Dallas, Texas
Lowest price since 2015: \$100 per person.
www.soarconference.com

In His Grip by Carolyn Hagler

Carolyn Hagler is a retired educator and a member of Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg. You may contact her via email at cmhagler@bellsouth.net



Walking with the Lord

Welcome to a typical beginning for 2022: the blooming of Mahonia shrubs, Sweet Olive trees, paper whites, and Japanese Magnolias. And snow, ice, and heat waves—sometimes within a 24-hour period. That's life here in South Mississippi.



Carolyn Hagler

But I'm thinking, too, of the favorite pastime of many men and women in the South: watching and talking about football, basketball, and baseball, depending on the season.

I've got to admit, though, that while I've given my loyalty to all three at various times, basketball has always been my preferred choice, probably because I played basketball in junior high and high school. I would have loved playing basketball in college, but that was before the time of women sports at the collegiate level. But the major reasons were that I was too short and too slow to have played even if there were teams back then.

Basketball memories today go back to growing up and attending school in the country, with basketball played on a dirt court. Sister No. 1 and Middle Sister

played; I took piano lessons. This musically challenged sister was not gifted, so my musical career ended quickly.

When our county schools consolidated (our senior class still had only 30 students), I was exposed to football, basket-

... I face 2022 with the reminder to "exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things"

ball in a gym, baseball, and a wilder crowd, which meant a few boys drank. When I told Mother after a senior party on the Natchez Trace that we had mixed drinks, I meant cokes, Dr. Pepper, etc. What a different time that was!

I traded unsuccessful piano lessons for basketball and played for six years. Back then, we played half-court, and I found I was much better at it than music. As a guard who was not very fast, was only average in height, and who played under the goal, I fouled out nearly every game.

People today thought women's bas-

ketball was a very limited contact sport back then, but I beg to differ. Seeing a picture of our team of three guards brought a laugh recently when I compared uniforms of today with their knee-length shorts with our uniforms. Ours were kind of scandalous.

After high school, sports became a spectator event. At home, we pulled for favorite teams with Daddy always pulling for the underdog.

The change came when JB joined the family. He and Daddy became Chicago Bulls fans, but Daddy was mainly a Michael Jordan fan. They watched the games together in their Bulls t-shirts. But when Jordan was playing poorly, Daddy went to bed. He would rejoin us only if we told him they were winning; otherwise, he stayed in bed.

The most unusual part of our "sports life" was working in the press box for Southern Miss football, mainly because JB was the only person able to keep the old mimeograph and "ditto" machines working. That was during the days of mostly manual typewriters.

But the big change came when we were asked to keep stats for Southern Miss basketball—women's and men's—with a buddy. Stats were kept on a typewriter. For those of you who have never kept up with sports, every turnover, jump ball, shot taken, score, foul, and rebound (did I miss anything?) had to be recorded.

Typing all that information was ok EXCEPT when we had to work the NBA Houston Rockets/Denver pre-season game at the Coast Coliseum. Just typing Hakeem Olajuwon's name with his 24 points, 15 rebounds, and 8 blocked shots

was bad enough; but if I tell you the final score was 156 to 126, you probably understand how stressed I was. Not only could they play faster than I could type,



Daddy & JB watching the Bulls

but also faster than JB could talk or think. I just wanted to quit and go home. The only thing I can say about that game is that I got the score right at the end of the game—only because I looked at the scoreboard.

Changes came when Southern Miss went to the computer for keeping the stats. There were so many codes and so much brain work that it took us forever to learn the system. I'm pretty sure we were one of the few, maybe the only husband-and-wife stats team in the country along with our good buddy Gene, our third partner. Our "Stats-R-Us" team (JB even had a plaque for us that he displayed at every game) worked together until JB died.

JB's banking buddy joined our team. And the show went on. When our other buddy died some 18 years later, it was time for a change of direction.

This time of the year is when my sports memories take me on a walk down memory lane. Even though my involvement lasted for many years, I really don't enjoy any of the games today. I still like my teams to win though.

Those enjoyable days of involvement with sports changed to exercising most of the week. Belonging to the Wellness Center, walking, and working in my yard make up my routine to stay healthy both physically and emotionally. I'm one of those people who has apps on my phone and watch to keep up with my activity every day.

But I face 2022 with the reminder to "exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things" (1 Timothy 4:7-8). Therefore, I don't ever want physical exercise to take precedent over "godly exercise."

The Bible's reminders about running the race and finishing the race make me realize that my walk with the Lord is more important than any other exercise I do. That old song of unknown origins reminds me, too, to ask the Lord daily to walk with me and be my friend. Even though I don't run any more, I want my spiritual race this year to be faithfully run.

As I look forward to opportunities in 2022 to continue the race, I remain in His grip.

January 2022 - Special Emphasis

Our Need - \$10,000

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE

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

Serving Christ With A Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

President's Perspective

I was recently reminded of a Corrie Ten Boom quote. Corrie was featured in a 1975 movie called "The Hiding Place". Corrie and her sister were living in Holland during the Nazi occupation and being faithful believers in Jesus, they helped to hide their Jewish neighbors in their home. Eventually, they were discovered and Corrie and her sister were sent to a concentration camp. Corrie miraculously survived her imprisonment, but her sister did not. Corrie Ten Boom then spent much of her remaining years telling her story and being a witness of the Lord's grace even in the most impossible and trying times. Corrie famously said, "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."

As we move forward into 2022, we must walk by faith and not by sight. Here at Southeastern Baptist College, we never know what the future holds for us. As with every college, we also lose students between the Fall and Spring semesters for a variety of reasons. Some students that depart have come to us right out of high school and discover that



Dr. Scott Carson
President

Perhaps the Lord is speaking to you about helping Southeastern Baptist College reach these goals. The investment in the Christian education of young people at a biblically sound college could not be more needed!

college is not for them. For others, finances become an issue and there is a plethora of other reasons, such as family illnesses and the like. Every college is faced with this same challenge of retention. We will not know how many we have for this semester until registration closes later this week. Retention is one of the most unsettling parts for forecasting the future of SBC. We never know how the Lord is going to bless us from semester to semester. If we have many students, then we can grow and expand. If we have fewer, then we need to pull back and constrain our forward momentum.

However, God is in control of SBC!

Clearly His hand is upon this institution. He has led us this far and we believe He will lead us toward growth well into the future. I believe it is possible to have as many as 130 to 150 full time students in the Fall, should the Lord bless our efforts. We are currently working to acquire seven apartment units on five acres of land. If the sale to us is successful, it will enable us, without additional renovations, to house up to 20 students, and more with minor renovations. The Board of Trustees Officers are scheduled for closing on this opportunity by the time of publication for this issue of the Mississippi Baptist Newspaper. Perhaps I will

have good news regarding this purchase in my next article!

The purchase of these apartment houses is only a band aid toward current housing needs. Having these additional living spaces will enable us to continue the forward momentum of more student growth for only a short period. We still need a new dormitory that will enable us to grow toward the 200 mark in student population. Perhaps the Lord is speaking to you about helping Southeastern Baptist College reach these goals. The investment in the Christian education of young people at a biblically sound college could not be more needed! Will you help ground a new generation of believers in God's Holy Word as they prepare for a future in our ever increasing godless society? Contact me to discuss how you can help with donations and estate planning.

"Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." Psalm 55:22

Equipping the saints,
Dr. Carson

Around SBC

Men's Basketball

Come support the Men's Chargers! Upcoming Home games:

Saturday, January 22, 4 p.m. vs Delgado College

Tuesday, February 8, 7 p.m. vs Pensacola Christian University

Thursday, February 10, time TBA vs Bob Jones University

Year End Giving

God bless all who responded to our year end giving appeal! God is doing amazing things on the campus of SBC. Thank you for allowing Him to move you to support this great ministry of the BMA of MS.

Memorial Gift

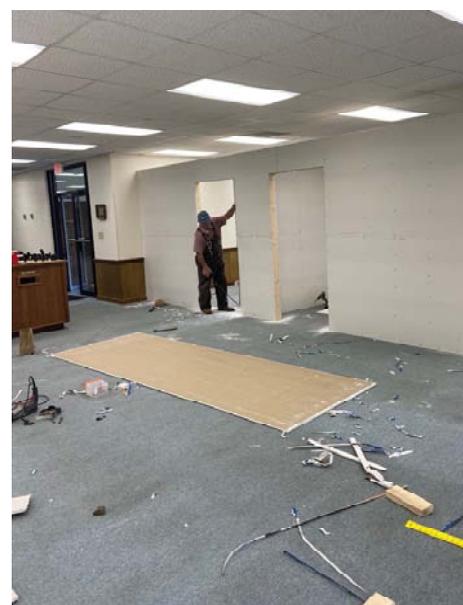
God bless Pamela and Donald Phillips for their generous donation to Southeastern Baptist College in memory of Elsie and Milford Magers, and Paul Kellar. Your gracious gift enables SBC to continue preparing young Christian men and women to live their faith in an ever increasingly godless society.

God bless the following for their donations to purchase books in memory their loved ones: Jim Fulton in memory of Ann Fulton; John and Dian Rainey in memory of Christine Corrias; Jo and Tim Alford in memory of Billie Jo Miller.



Bible professor Dr. Matt Olson kicks off the 2022 Spring Semester chapel series with the theme, "Blessed to be a blessing".

Below - Anderle Foster, Dean of Student Affairs, recently discovered SBC students enjoying the 2022 Magnolia Center Pro Rodeo in Laurel



Eddie Walker creating new office spaces in the A.M. Wilson Building



New Financial Aid Officer and alumnus, Tiffany McCarty and newly appointed Admissions Officer, Ginny Singleton enrolling a Spring Semester Student

Fall Semester 2021 Honor Roll

Congratulations to our students who have achieved scholastic honors for the 2021 Fall Semester!

PRESIDENT'S LIST (4.0 GPA)

- Sherlita Babineaux, Laurel MS
- Bayleigh Busby, Laurel MS
- Mae L. Evans, Louin MS
- Dakota R. Harper, Brandon MS
- Emma Harrell, Mobile AL
- Emma Jones, Louin MS
- Lori Kilgore, Hattiesburg MS

List continued on next page

More SBC News

Holloway's Dairy Bar

Holloway's Dairy Bar is open and the public is welcome! The Dairy Bar is located on the campus of SBC. There is an expanded menu and it is open Monday thru Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Come for a delicious meal and support SBC and Holloway's!

Coffee with the President

We invite folks, and especially alumni, to meet with Dr. Carson to discuss any topic that might be on their mind. If you are interested in meeting with Dr. Carson, contact him at 601-426-6346 to make an appointment.

Need a Preacher?

Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit or to make a presentation about the work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. Chaplain (Colonel) Carson can also provide an update on the BMAA Chaplaincy and deliver a related message. You can reach him at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu

Academic Lists from page 5

Emmanuel Lockhart, Collins MS
McKenzie Pruitt, Van Cleave MS
Melyjah M. Windham, Laurel MS

DEAN'S LIST (3.5 to 3.99 GPA)

Kania Arrington, Newton MS
Dylan Barnette, Laurel MS
Lexi Bullock, Ellisville MS
Haylee Clause, Foley AL
Ramirez Cooley, Long Beach MS
Dane P. Deas, Waynesboro MS
Matthew Dimmick, Mobile AL
Cole Eckhoff, Crystal Springs MS

Mia Hall, Nettleton MS
Sacario Hamilton, Jackson MS
Cody Hilton, Gulfport MS
Brianna Holcomb, Jackson MS
Jas Hutchins, Laurel MS
Christian Inshetski, Stonewall MS
Parker Jones, Laurel MS
Brock Kizzar, Laurel MS
Madison Kizzar, Laurel MS
Hannah Newsome, Excel AL
Anna Pierce, Van Cleave MS
Rachael Revette, Morton MS
Cy Rushing, Carthage MS
Matt Thompson,
Ocean Springs MS
Chanceton (Champ) Woodall,
Jackson MS

Southeastern Baptist College Softball Schedule 2021-2022

Date	Opponent	Location	Time(s)
January 29	Louisiana Christian University	Home	1:00/3:00
January 30	Xavier	Away	1:00/3:00
February 5	Louisiana Christian University	Home	1:00/3:00
February 9	Mobile College	Away	3:00/5:00
February 12	Alcorn State University	Vicksburg, MS	TBA
February 15	MUW	Home	2:00/4:00
February 19	Stillman College	Away	1:00/3:00
February 25	Talladega	Home	1:00/3:00
February 26	Stillman College	Home	1:00/3:00
February 27	Louisiana Christian College	Away	1:00/3:00
March 3	Southwest Community College	Away	3:00/5:00
March 4-6	Mobile University Tournament	Gulf Shores, AL	TBA
March 9	Faulkner University	Home	2:00/4:00
March 12	William Wood University	Home	1:00/3:00
March 19	Rust College	Home	1:00/3:00
March 25	MUW	Away	3:00/5:00
March 29	Faulkner University	Away	2:00/4:00
April 13	Xavier University	Home	3:00/5:00
April 16	Rust College	Away	1:00/3:00
April 22	Coahoma Community College	Away	2:00/4:00
April 25	Coahoma Community College	Home	2:00/4:00
April 30	Talladega	Away	1:00/3:00

All Home Games will be played at:
Coca Cola Field
2500 Airport Drive
Laurel, MS 39440

Southeastern Gospel Fest

presented by Southeastern Baptist College



EMCEE - JOSH FRANKS



3 Nightly Concerts
April 21-23, 2022

Thursday
APRIL 21



HOPE'S JOURNEY DIXIE ECHOES JEFF & SHERI EASTER LEFEVRE QUARTET

Friday
APRIL 22



JOSH & ASHLEY FRANKS MICHAEL COMBS PERRYS THE OLD PATHS

Saturday
APRIL 23



THE BIBLETONES TIM LOVELACE GUARDIANS BRIAN FREE & ASSURANCE

CONCERTS START AT 6:00PM / DOORS OPEN AT 5:00PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

\$20 NIGHTLY / \$50 3-DAY PASS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Laurel, Mississippi †

607 West 5th Street, Laurel, MS 39440

For more information:
601.426.6346 or visit
www.southeasternbaptist.edu



Southeastern Baptist College Chargers Baseball Schedule 2021-2022

Date	Time	Opponent	Location	4/2/22	12:00	Rust College	Holly Springs, MS
2/5/22	1:00pm	Spring Hill College	Mobile, AL	4/2/22	3:30pm	Rust College	Holly Springs, MS
2/5/22	3:00pm	Spring Hill College	Mobile, AL	4/9/22	1:00pm	Rust College	Laurel, MS
2/11/22	1:00pm	Trinity Baptist College	Laurel, MS	4/5/22	3:00pm	West Alabama	Livingston, AL
2/11/22	3:00pm	Trinity Baptist College	Laurel, MS	4/9/22	1:00pm	Rust College	Laurel, MS
2/12/22	11:00am	Trinity Baptist College	Laurel, MS	4/9/22	3:00pm	Rust College	Laurel, MS
2/12/22	1:00pm	Trinity Baptist College	Laurel, MS	4/12/22	3:00pm	Spring Hill College	Laurel, MS
2/18/22	1:00pm	Kansas Christian College	Laurel, MS	4/12/22	5:00pm	Spring Hill College	Laurel, MS
2/18/22	3:00pm	Kansas Christian College	Laurel, MS	4/16/22	1:00pm	MUW	Laurel, MS
2/19/22	1:00pm	Kansas Christian College	Laurel, MS	4/16/22	3:00pm	MUW	Laurel, MS
2/19/22	3:00pm	Kansas Christian College	Laurel, MS	4/22/22	TBA	Baptist Bible College	Laurel, MS
3/4/22	1:00pm	Tougaloo College	Laurel, MS	4/22/22	TBA	Baptist Bible College	Laurel, MS
3/4/22	3:00pm	Tougaloo College	Laurel, MS	4/23/22	TBA	Baptist Bible College	Laurel, MS
3/8/22	TBA	Stillman College	Tuscaloosa	4/23/22	TBA	Baptist Bible College	Laurel, MS
3/8/22	TBA	Stillman College	Tuscaloosa	4/30/22	TBA	Stillman College	Laurel, MS
3/19/22	1:00pm	Tougaloo College	Jackson	4/30/22	TBA	Stillman College	Laurel, MS
3/19/22	3:00pm	Tougaloo College	Jackson				
3/26/22	TBA	MUW	Columbus				
3/26/22	TBA	MUW	Columbus				

Home Games will be played at:
A.W. Watson (Black Cat Field)
2400 Queensburg Avenue
Laurel, MS 39440

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



Larry Geraldson
Director



www.bmams.org - 601.428.8616

State Missionaries, Coaches & Coordinators and Wives



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Pollock



Sidney &
Becky Farmer



Johnny & Neta
Williams



Scott and Susan
Brocius



Chris & DeeDee
Yager



Daniel & Sherri
Allen



Wesley & Holley
Martin



Jason and Kylie
Howard



Josh and Mary
Helen
Daniels



Estuardo &
Yasmine Marroquin

Not Everyone Is Happy!

By Larry Geraldson | December 9, 2021

“Give thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people.” 1 Ch 16: 8

As we approach the holiday season, I want to encourage you to count your blessings and take a moment to consider others, more than yourself. All of us have family and friends or know of someone who has suffered devastating loss or excruciating pain this past year. The holiday season will not be a joyous time for everyone.

As you journey through the corridors of memory, the joy, that should fill your heart, and should be the distinguishing mark of every Christian will be put to the test. We all know how to be thankful for the good things but have we learned how to be thankful for the tragic things? When we tell about God’s deeds, do we only mention the deeds that we classify as good? Have we learned to see value in the anxiety of suffering? We can only realize suffering’s full value if we endure the hardship with grace. Have we learned to redeem our pain for His glory? Do we see loss in every tragedy or do we draw upon the treasure that is concealed in these earthen vessels? As the weight of difficulty bears down on us, does it release frustration, anger, and bitterness or are we like the violet which sheds its fragrance on the heel that crushes it.

As we consider God’s rich blessing upon us, I pray that our response will be more than an eschewal of all that is wrong and more than just a Pharisaical restatement like that of Luke 18:11, “God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are;...” Rather, I hope that our prayer will be a renunciation of self-centeredness accented with deep concern for others, and a high appreciation for the heart of love that our Lord lived to demonstrate before us, and then died to give us, and rose to teach us. Difficulty and tragedy often serve as the pathway that lead me to trust Him. May our hearts beat with appreciation and gratitude so hard and so fast that when we think about what God has done for us, it will seem as if it will beat right out of our chest.

A little bit of thinking about others quickly brings us to our knees. If you’re like me, you are truly humbled that God has blessed you so much, even if those blessings are painful. I pray that each of you will have a wonderful holiday season.

Iron Sharpens Iron

By Wesley Martin | December 9, 2021

The writer of Proverbs makes this statement, “Iron Sharpens Iron.” We sharpen one another. We sharpen each other’s minds and each other’s gifts.

I had the opportunity to preach to our Missionaries at a recent Missionary Meeting. It was a pleasure



to share God’s Word with them and encourage them in ministry. The sermon was from 2 Timothy 4. Paul gives us a list of men who he had worked with in ministry. We talked about the importance of making disciples and having servants in the church. There is also a warning about men who oppose the church and would harm the ministry. We must be vigilant to identify these men and protect the flock.

I love the group of missionaries that we have and the comradery between us. I pray that the men were strengthened and encouraged as they continue their work.

IDARE YOU...

By Sidney Farmer | November 30, 2021

I dare you to push yourself as hard as our church planters push themselves. These guys are doing things that they never thought possible. It’s amazing what we can accomplish when we set our goals on the impossible.

Luke 18:27



We Are Having A Butter Ball

By Josh Daniels | December 9, 2021

When Refuge began its ministry two years ago, one event took place that allowed us to meet many residents of Kiln. The event was a frozen Turkey giveaway. This helped Refuge begin to set a place in people’s minds of a church that loves their community & we strive to live up to that reputation.

Though prices and availability seem to be a potential hindrance to this connection outreach, we still plan to make every effort to accomplish it again this year. Please pray for us to be able to get the turkeys we need and to connect to the ones that God would have us to.

Can Everyone Move In? We Need More Space!

By Chris Yager | November 30, 2021

One year after our first service, we had our largest attendance so far! God blessed us with 42 in attendance the morning of October 17th.

As a church planter, you anticipate every Sunday morning to be an amazing Sunday. More often than not, the people that say they are coming fail to come. But there are Sunday mornings that everything aligns just right, and many of the people that you have been talking to end up coming. This is what happened that Sunday morning! As church began, we were already at our average, and families kept coming. For the first time, I had to stop service and ask our people to move in to make room. We also had to add another row of chairs to the back. The Sunday Morning was electric and exciting. It was a huge encouragement to the mission of what God wants to do through it.

This moment will be one that our church remem-

bers years down the road as a highlight. It is amazing when the Lord gives you a glimpse of what He is doing. It makes you want to keep going to see Him do more! Thank you for investing in us!

Y'all Brought The Peace Of God In Here!

By Paul Spurlin | November 30, 2021

During discussion time, a prisoner gave us one of the highest compliments that we have had in this jail ministry when he told us that we brought the peace of God into the jail that night.

On November 5, a believing prisoner shared that he and another prisoner (also a believer and present in our service) had a conflict with one another that morning. This conflict had kept them distant from one another all day, but when they had the chance to come to our worship service together, they set their disagreement aside and restored fellowship. May we believers who have the freedom to attend worship services on a weekly basis learn from this example.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! - Psalm 133:1



Tune In For More

By Scott Brocius | December 9, 2021

We have started a radio ministry! Upon talking with several of our members, I learned of a local radio broadcast out of Waynesboro. Listening to our people, we have decided this would be a great opportunity to reach the people local to our community with the Gospel message. It is also a wonderful opportunity to represent and let others know about our mission church.

At Canaan Land, we are striving to reach our community by every possible avenue. The “field is white” and we should be laboring. The station that we are broadcasting through is 105.5 WABO. It reaches Wayne County, Laurel, Meridian, as well as Hattiesburg. Tune in at 8:15 on Sunday mornings to listen.

We ask that you pray for this ministry, that God will be glorified, the lost will be saved, and that the program will promote church growth. We are truly excited about this radio ministry. We are thankful for the opportunity to reach our community with radio.



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Leave It To Cleaver

You Oughta Be a Preacher

On occasion as school counselor, I give classroom presentations on various topics. Today I was giving a presentation on anger management to a sixth grade class. I went through my series of slides, group presentations, class activities, and normal rhetoric. At the end I usually allow for comments - not questions - from the class. One little bespeckled, freckled, blond haired, and new-braces-in-the-mouth boy timidly raised his hand. "Charley, what is your comment?"



Tony Cleaver

"Dr. Cleaver, you oughta be a preacher!"

I took that as a compliment from Charley, obviously I already am a preacher. Secretly I always wanted to be a minister. It seemed to me ministers made more money than preachers. Anyway, when I talked to Charley to get some clarification on what he meant, I learned even more. Basically he told me what he meant was: 1 - I was clear and to the point. 2 - I was enthusiastic. 3 - I was not boring. 4 - He was able to understand the session. 5 - The conversation helped him to think about and change his behavior.

Even though he is only in the sixth grade, Charley's comments probably would be a good gauge

to measure a lot of things about preachers. I submit to you that his words are true in our day and

"When one is full of the Material, it is easier to preach with results..."

in our churches. Let me follow up on Charley's comments with a few off the top of my head, but bottom of my heart comments:

Preaching is a high privilege and is hard work. The work of preaching is not for the faint-hearted, the seasonal, nor the unqualified laborer. Being a preacher is a tough life. A preacher's family might have it even rougher.

Probably the most important thing about preaching is the process itself. The good preacher is a life long learner of his craft. Pulpit presence is an ever-expanding experience. When one is full of the Material, it is easier to preach with results - like Charley's comments indicated of my classroom session.

Getting people to change a lifestyle or to do something they are not accustomed to doing is something only God's miracle of regeneration and persuasion can do. Jesus did not win all he spoke to in His ministry. However, He did make his point with crystal clarity about life-choices.

Preachers come in many different outward appearances. Some have "big hair". Some are on TV. Some have a red Bible

and shoes - if they are evangelists. I formerly thought only full-time preachers were really doing His will. I've found out there are a lot of good preachers out there who are bi-vocational.

Father, You are the One who calls, equips, empowers, sustains, and rewards those who are called preachers in our

churches. Please send us more who are clear. Give us more who are able to speak with great clarity to the needs of the people. Lord, send preachers to those who are hurting and need Your solace. Send those with the words of evangelism to those who want to know the way of life. Propel into our nation the ones You have chosen for this time of crisis and time of national stirring. Let us who are pew sitters learn to pray for our preachers that their inner man may be strengthened and that they may be full of Christ. Let us who would criticize first give our financial resources to the support of their families.

Father, thank you for preachers who preach the beautiful Gospel of the Christ. We are glad and our souls rejoice that through men like these in our lives, we have heard and we have believed to the salvation of our souls.

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

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An Early Look at the National WMA meeting in April

All ladies also need to register and send \$15.00 for the luncheon on Tuesday if they plan on eating with us. Send registration for meal to Charlotte Johnson, 1044 S. Mimosa Rd, Gilmer, Texas 75644 or text her at 903-790-1385

All minister's wives and widows will eat free, but need to register for the meal in order for us to have a count of lunches.

Mississippi GMA Camp Set for March

by Lacie Clark, Corresponding Secretary

Who's excited for Mississippi's State GMA Camp? We know we are! To start with the preparing process all of our officers had a meeting at Temple Baptist Church in Laurel, where we were provided lunch by the Big Creek WMA. We discussed many exciting activities and ideas. This year our retreat will be located at Campground Baptist Church in Gulfport on March 25 and 26.



This year our theme is something that we think everyone will enjoy! With the title being "Kingdom of God" we are hosting a renaissance theme! Our theme verse is Matthew 6:33 which says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you."

We can't wait to see you there! We ask that you pray over this years camp and everyone involved in the preparation.

Missions

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Who Are They Working For?

By Daniel Allen | December 10, 2021

Discipleship can happen anywhere. Having studies in the morning on the job site before work is one way we can make that happen. This is what my sons and I choose on days that are busy.

Discipleship is a very vital part of the ministry. As a matter of fact, it is what our Lord and Savior told us to do in Matthew 28... "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations." Discipleship is necessary for someone to grow in God's Word. It is necessary for someone to live a life, carrying on the task of spreading the Gospel. Discipleship is what helps us grow in our relationship with the Lord. Therefore, I believe discipleship is important.

Discipleship is work, but it can be a joyous task. It can take place any-

where. Thanks again for your support.

The Best First Sunday Night

By Samuel Yager | December 9, 2021

On November 7th, God blessed Living Hope Baptist Church with an incredible first Sunday evening service.

Living Hope Baptist Church began its Sunday evening services with the desire to reach more people and to train preachers. As the assistant missionary at this mission, I have been given the opportunity to preach for these services, preaching what will be my first sermon series. Although we did not know what to expect for the first service, we were brought great joy to see 12 people come with two other families watching online. God's presence was truly evident as we enjoyed worshipping one with another. Going forward, these services will continue to be held at 6 p.m. every Sunday.

Our first Sunday evening service was better than we could have ever

expected, and we are excited to see how God continues to work through these services. Please pray with us that God continues to build a glorious church in Meridian!

Hispanic Missions On The Move

By Estuardo Marroquin | December 9, 2021

In Canton, Brother Lucas continues



to move forward sharing the Gospel and reports good attendance at worship meetings on Sundays and now they have started meeting for mid-week services. Also, Pastor Leo Adan and El Camino Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, remains very cheerful

and encouraged as they continue to reach more people for Jesus and plan to start new mission churches. Additionally, El Camino Baptist Church, Laurel, had the opportunity to meet and celebrate the independence of the countries of Central America and Mexico. It was a great activity full of joy with tons of regional food and the study of God's Word. We thank God for the continued growth we are experiencing.

Recently, the Hispanic association Nueva Esperanza (New Hope), held its Bible conference for men. It was very well attended, and many men responded to God's call and made commitments to serve faithfully in the different Hispanic churches.

It is our prayer to God that we can continue to advance in missionary work among our Hispanic community as we faithfully preach the gospel and disciple believers. I appreciate your prayers and financial support for the Hispanic work and pray that God will bless your lives, churches, and ministry.

The Back Page

One of my favorite stewardship stories

by Joe McKeever
via Facebook

When grandson Grant was 7, he was over at Grandpa's house. In my bedroom, he spotted the plastic cup into which I dumped my change at the end of each day. It was brimming with coins. "Grandpa, what is that?"

I told him.

He said, "What are you going to do with it?"

I told him sometimes I give it to missions at church, or to someone in need, various things. Then an idea occurred.

"Grant, would you like that money?"

"Yes! I really would."

I said, "Okay, have a talk with your mom and dad about what you would do with it. Call me when they say it's okay

and I'll bring it over."

That night he phoned.

"Grandpa, I'm ready."

The plan they worked out was that 10% would go to the church, 10% to savings, and the rest he could spend. So, the next day, I drove over to their house with the coins in a bag.

Grant and his dad

Neil poured them on

the floor and sat there

counting them out

while Grandpa

played with Abby and

Erin, age 4, on the

swing in the front

yard.

The coins came to a little over \$30. (Neil and

Julie had made three "banks" for Grant to put the money in - church, savings, spending.)

A half-hour later, walking

through the house, I spotted

Grant on the floor in

his room depositing the

tithe coins into his "church

bank." He would slowly

pick up a coin, hold it

lovingly, and before

dropping it into the

bank, say, "Good-bye,"

with the awfulest long-

ing in his voice. Then,

another coin, "Good-

bye," and he dropped it

in. Again and again.

I burst out laughing. It was killing this kid to give 10

percent to the Lord, even though every penny had just been given to him.

Human nature is frightful, isn't it? First Corinthians 4:7 asks, "What do you have you didn't receive?" Nothing! So, why are you so tight-fisted? Help us, Lord.

-used with permission

January 2022

Mississippi
Baptist

Special Emphasis

Too Old?

from page 2

Lord, they thrive in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, healthy and green. Picture life not as an arc or a bell curve but as a series of rising stair steps." Around the age of twenty you begin to wonder what you will do with your life and must decide to follow Jesus and His plan or pursue your own. Unfortunately, some get off track here.

Then you reach your forties and again you must decide to follow Jesus or chart your own course? Will you passionately pursue God's calling on your life or will

you play it safe and pursue the comforts of this world as you become more financially secure?

Mancini adds this: "Around age sixty, people face one more crisis, this one hav-

"...at each crisis moment in your life, whether at twenty, forty, sixty or eighty, you have a decision to make: Will you remain faithful to the Lord and the leadership of the Holy Spirit?"

ing to do with their remaining years. It's about whether their productivity is based on activity or on generativity—that is, how they're preparing the next generation to carry on their legacy. The brilliant truth is that those who overcome this

crisis impact more just as they begin to work less.

Are you willing to claim this promise? "They will still bear fruit in old age, healthy and green?" Your impact in "re-

tirement" or even in death can be even greater than your entire life added together. Mancini continues: "Peak performance may be long gone, but peak impact is one step away."

You see, at each crisis moment in your

life, whether at twenty, forty, sixty or eighty, you have a decision to make: Will you remain faithful to the Lord and the leadership of the Holy Spirit? Every single day you have the opportunity to decide whether to choose the trajectory of the world's picture of aging or trust that God meant what He said.

There are no easy answers, and discovering God's will is not usually easy because we must pursue Him, seek Him, and keep knocking.

(The content of this article is greatly influenced by Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and two great resources, *Wild Goose Chase* by Mark Batterson, and *Younique* by Will Mancini.)

Dedication

from page 1

dren, and all their property in the war. We support them psychologically and financially, and we help with training."

Another goal of the recovery ministry is to teach life skills so they can eventually sustain themselves. They are taught sewing, embroidery, culinary arts, soap making, computer/administrative skills and learn how to market and sell their products.

An Educational Need

Many refugee children have lost both parents and either have a lapse in their schooling or have never attended, so there is a critical need to educate children in two refugee camps near the Syrian border. Through the ministry of Zarqa church, they now have that opportunity.

Two schools have been established for refugee children - ages six to fourteen - and each one offers Arabic, English, and

math instruction. Their teachers say the education gap is closing gradually, and they can now read and write, which creates an obvious growth in their confidence, self-esteem and attitudes.

In addition to the two refugee schools, there is another one at Zarqa church that serves the community's children, bringing the total number of school children to 200. There are also free monthly medical services and distribution of other daily needs to people living in refugee camps near the Jordan/Syria border.

A Marginalized Group

Although Jordan is taking many steps forward with better workplace and inheritance laws, some women find themselves in dire circumstances financially. Bro. Samer says, "We support several services that help people be financially self-sufficient. One of those groups began when our ladies started visiting and caring for widows and divorced and single women with medical and spiritual help. By God's grace we have dedicated one floor as a women's center to provide medical, spiri-

tual, and psychological help in a safe, comfortable environment."

Bro. Samer's wife Suzan manages the group and helps provide training for these women who want to be self-supporting despite their brokenness. Along with training women in sewing, making crafts, and cooking to pay their living expenses, the women of Zarqa Baptist Church make regular home visits to those who can't get out.

A Bible Training Initiative

In addition to these services, ministry leaders at Zarqa church have responded to a spiritual call to teach and train those they serve who want to understand Christianity and the Bible. According to their stated goals, the Theological Training Center was established "to prepare and develop new leaders for the progression and prosperity of the gospel message."

Through small group Bible studies, individual discipleship, and specialized programs conducted by certified trainers, they have established the Theological Training Center. For those who desire

deeper theological teaching, local seminary teachers volunteer their time, and some theological subjects are taught by professors.

A Blessing of Provision

Except for on-site refugee services, God has blessed the church with a five-floor building for these areas of service. Pastor Samer and ministry leaders are very grateful for those who partnered with them.

On November 4, 2021, a BMA Missions team attended the inauguration and dedication of the five-story ministry center to be used, as Pastor Samer says, "for God's glory alone." It was a time to praise God for those who were involved in this kingdom work and thank him for providing supporters for their vision. For Zarqa Baptist Church, the ministry center's goal is always to be salt and light for the lost and broken.

Please pray for BMA churches in Jordan and the broader Middle East as they take the gospel to their communities and beyond.