

Baptist

Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

JANUARY 1, 2014

www.bmaofmississippi.com

Vol. 68 No. 1

DiscipleGuide "Town Hall" Meeting First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel to host

DiscipleGuide Church Resources is conducting a series of "town hall" style meetings to communicate with BMA churches regarding plans to relocate offices from Texarkana, Arkansas, to the Lifeword building in Conway, Arkansas. Last April, the BMA of America overwhelmingly approved a similar proposal for the BMA Missions office to



First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel

also relocate to the Lifeword building.

According to Executive Director, Scott Attebery, "Our Trustees believe the move will not only save us money, but will also help us to do a better job working in cooperation with the other BMA departments. But we don't want to do anything without communicating with the churches of the BMA first."

On January 13, 2014, First Baptist Church of Shady Grove in Laurel, Mississippi, will host a DiscipleGuide town hall meeting at 11:00 am. Scott Attebery will share details and answer questions regarding the proposed relocation. Steve Crawley, Executive Director of Lifeword, will also be available at the meeting to answer questions regarding current renovations to the Lifeword facility to accommodate multiple departments.

In April of 2013, the BMA of America approved a recommendation by the DiscipleGuide board of trustees to conduct a feasibility study regarding the issue of possible relocation. The resulting study investigated the logistical, financial, personnel, and strategic implications of relocation. As a result of the study, the board determined that relocation of the publishing offices from Texarkana to Conway, Arkansas, was in the best interest of DiscipleGuide and the BMA. The recommendation will be made to the BMA of America at the national meeting in April of 2014

Pastor's Family Suffers Tragic Loss

BMA Pastor Nathan Brown and his family suffered a tragic loss Thursday night, December 12. The home that the Browns were renting burned. The family lost their 2 year old, Austin, in the blaze and all of their possessions. Nathan suffered minor burns and smoke inhalation and was hospitalized for a few days in Mobile Infirmary, but has since made a full recovery. Pray for this family in the tragic loss of their child.

Nathan pastors Leakesville Missionary Baptist Church and is the son of BMA pastor Donald Brown of Movella Baptist Church in Lucedale, Mississippi, and the grandson of former BMAA missionary and pastor James Brown.

A special account has been set up at Community Bank in Leakesville, Mississippi, to receive donations to help the Browns recover. Donations may be sent to Community Bank, P.O. Box 910, Leakesville, MS 39451. Donations may also be sent directly to the Brown family at P.O. Box 242, Leakesville, MS 39451.

Funeral services for Austin were held at Leakesville Missionary Baptist Church and conducted by Bro. Justin Cameron and Bro. Donald Brown, Nathan's father.



Photo by Larry Geraldson

Site of deadly fire

News from DiscipleGuide's Conference Division

December is a month of planning, phone calls, emails and preparation for the Conference Division of DiscipleGuide. Producing conferences takes a lot of time. There are thousands of details that make the difference as to whether a conference will be just another meeting or an event that impacts lives. National Meeting, SOAR, Pastors Oasis and National Senior Adult event planning is in high gear during the month of December. Eight simulcast workshops are planned for 2014 to help train volunteers in BMA churches. In addition, there is a SOAR simulcast that was planned on December 18th to inform all BMA Student Pastors and

Student Leaders about the plans for SOAR 2014. Also, the Great Escape Student Leaders Cruise looks to be well attended again this year. The cruise is scheduled for January 18-23 with ports of call in Progreso, Yucatan and Cozumel, Mexico!



Donny Parrish

New FREE Course from BMATS!

BMA Seminary is offering a free online, non-credit course for Spring 2014: Life of Christ (NT213cf). This eight-week course taught by Dr. Tony Cleaver is an examination of the factual basis of Christianity as it is found in the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. The purpose of the course is to promote subjective comprehension and response to the basic truths of Christianity which emerge from the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Students will receive a certificate of completion. Textbooks: The Holy Bible – Student selected English translation A Simplified Harmony of the Gospels – George W. Knight, Broadman and Holman Publishers, ISBN 0805494235 Sign up online at: <http://bmats.edu/other-educational-opportunities/free-courses/>



Larry Geraldson
Director



Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Department of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund



State Missionaries and Wives



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Looking Forward With Anticipation

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Phil 3:13-14

I love this passage because it conveys Paul’s deep spiritual motivation and testifies to the journey of faith he had begun in Christ, his tireless labor of love for Christ, and his expectation that one day he would obtain that for which he hoped for by Christ.

As I look forward to the New Year, there is one thing I can say with certainty, our journey has just begun. Yes, God has blessed us this past two years but we have much more work to do. Let me share just a few of the things I anticipate will happen, Lord willing, in the year 2014 through our State Missions efforts.

I anticipate, and I am praying for, 5 new missions to start and 1 of our missions to be organized into a church, this year. This will give us a net of 20

ongoing projects by year’s end. We will be supporting, directly and indirectly, 23 men involved in these projects. We are praying for additional support and an above average special emphasis in order to accomplish these goals but we will accomplish these goals as the funds are available. God always supplies and I know how to wait on the Lord.

I anticipate the completion of the building project in Burnsville, MS for Freedom Baptist Church, and their relocation to the new building. I anticipate the purchase of property for the future needs of Day Star at Sumrall, MS. It is possible that South Forrest might begin their second phase building sometime this year. We are hoping to relocate Crossway Baptist in Clinton to a new and better location and we are looking for land for this mission’s future needs.

I anticipate we will have an outstanding Missions and Evangelism Conference for 2014. It will be held on Saturday, May 3rd and will be hosted by Shady Grove Baptist Church in Laurel, MS. More information will

follow but please mark your calendar now. Our speakers include: Dr. John Adams, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Mantachie; Bro. Justin Cameron, Pastor of Midway Baptist Church of McClain; Bro. Dewitt Bain, Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church; Bro. Bryan Atwood, Pastor of Campground Baptist Church; Bro. Johnny Williams, Pastor of North Gautier Baptist Church; Bro. Gary Smith, Pastor of East Fulton Baptist Church; and Dr. Charley Holmes, President of the BMA Theological Seminary.

I anticipate the gospel will be preached, souls will be saved, people will be baptized, disciples will be made and the overall membership in our missions will go up. I am excited about the New Year and, “...I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

High Attendance, Membership and Total Offerings for November 2013 Church Planters

Bob Burch 58 -10 - \$2,062.00
Bobby Elliott 35 -28 - \$1,493.00
Danny Bartlett 22 -5 - \$1,857.00

Kelby Johnson 21 -12 - \$659.00
Ray Boone 42 -42 - \$2,015.00
Sidney Farmer 50 -28 - \$4,981.00
Phillip Burns n/a -4 - \$459.00

Hispanic Missions - South

Hattiesburg 14 -5 - \$502.00
Biloxi 12 - n/a
Laurel 117 -94 - \$6,102.00 (Pastor Estuardo Marroquin, Coordinator)

Hispanic Missions - North

Tupelo 72 -16 - \$231.00
Oxford 64 -6 - \$254.00
Ripley 98 -68 - \$3,040.00 (Pastor Elvis Garcia, Coordinator)

African American Missions

Indianola 35 -30 - \$830.00
Olive Branch 12 -9 - \$1,450.00
Cleveland 17 -50 - \$1,937.00
(Pastor Ed DuVall, Coordinator)

Collectively, our missionaries reported 593 new contacts, shared the gospel 507 times, had 60 professions of faith and had 4 baptisms and 7 join by letter for the month of November.

Revolving Loan Fund (as of Dec 18, 2013 and since August 1st, 2013)

Gross assets are now at \$17,804,790.00, an increase of \$337,869.00 since August 1st. Net assets are now at \$3,025,906.00, an increase of \$76,666.00 since August 1st. We have 7 new loans totaling \$831,172.00 since August 1st. Our current rate of return to our shareholders is 2.67 or 2.7 APY.

Praying for God’s Mercy and Grace

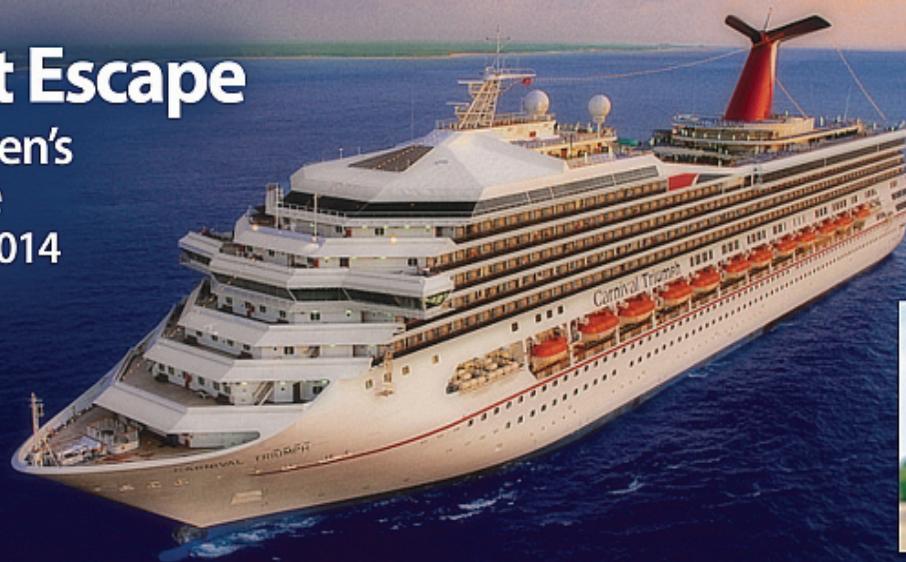
Our hearts go out to Nathan & Dawn Brown, and their immediate and extended family, on the loss of their son, Austin. Nathan is the pastor of Leakesville Missionary Baptist Church in Leakesville, MS, and recently experienced the awful tragedy of losing a loved one in a house fire. We extend our deepest sympathies and love to this family and stand ready to do whatever more we can do to ease their pain and assist in their recovery. God bless you!

Visit Our Website and Facebook Page

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

The Great Escape

Youth & Children’s
Leaders Cruise
January 18–23, 2014



Keynote Speaker
Donny Parrish

Departing from Galveston, Texas
Ports of Call Progresso, Yucatan & Cozumel, Mexico
Cabin Prices – Starting at \$356 & Up Per Person
Registration - \$50 Per Person
See all the details at www.DiscipleGuide.org/thegreatescape
or contact DiscipleGuide at 501-513-3726 or triciak@conwaycorp.net.

DiscipleGuide
CHURCH RESOURCES



Editor's Appeal

I hope you will take a moment to look over the poster to the right of this page.

It gives you the basic information we want you to have to encourage our readers and churches to help us during January.

The BMA of Mississippi has designated particular months throughout the year



Don Brown
Editor

for each department and commission to make an appeal for additional operating funds. January of each year has been set aside for Publications.

The monthly fee that is charged for subscriptions does not cover the entire cost of operation for your *Mississippi Baptist* paper.

Many churches give a monthly 'support offering' throughout the year to help this ministry.

Offerings, in the form of monthly donations and annual Emphasis Gifts, are vital to the financial health of this ministry.

Each of our state ministries, departments and commissions rely on regular support offerings as well as special gifts.

The Trustees and this editor hope you will see the need and give a special offering through your local church in January 2014 and designate it for your Publications Department.

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

On The Web at www.msbbaptist.org

**January 2014
Special Emphasis
Our Need - \$10,000**

**Extra, Extra
READ ALL ABOUT IT**

LAUREL, MS - Editor Don Brown urges all of the supporting churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi to make a special effort to help raise **additional operating funds** for the Publication's Department *Special Emphasis Drive* during **January 2014**.

Brown stated that the January Emphasis offering each year needs to raise about 10% of the department's annual operating income. "*Our goal for this year is to raise at least \$10,000,*" Brown said. He continued, "*We are asking each church to give a generous offering to help us maintain a good fiscal operation.*"

That I may publish ... and tell of all thy wondrous works.

Pslam 26:7

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

www.bmaofmississippi.com

DEPARTMENTS & COMMISSIONS

Mississippi Baptist Paper

P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441
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4229 Highway 15 North Laurel, MS
39440 - 601-426-6346

State Youth Department
P.O. Box 4247, Laurel, MS 39441
662-397-6832

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

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

Commission on Senior Adults
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-729-3198

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

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

Mississippi Baptist | **Opinion Page**

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Random Notes and Thoughts

by Don Brown, editor

Pastor & Family In Need of Support

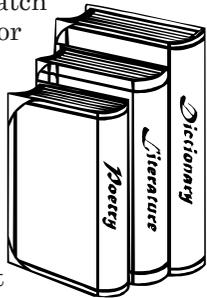
Most of our readers are aware of the tragedy that the Nathan Brown family experienced recently. They lost their two year old son in a house fire. They need our continued prayers. The family also lost all of their personal belongings in the fire. Many individuals and churches have given to the Browns in this time of need. A special account has been set up at Community Bank in Leakesville, Mississippi, to receive donations for the family. To contribute to this special fund mail your check to Community Bank, P.O. Box 910, Leakesville, MS 39451. On your check note that the funds are to be deposited in the Special Account for the Nathan Brown Family.



Don Brown
Editor

Library Needs - A Challenge To Pastors

Several years ago a pastor friend of mine lost his entire personal library in a church fire. I saw the effects of having to start from scratch to rebuild a library for a veteran pastor. Pastors usually build their libraries over a period of several years. Bro. Nathan Brown pastors the Leakesville Missionary Baptist Church and lost his entire library in the recent fire. I do not know the extent or size of his personal holdings, but any loss is a blow to a preacher's ability to study and prepare himself.



I am encouraging our pastors to

help Bro. Nathan rebuild a library collection that will help him in his personal ministry. Two suggestions come to mind. One is to send him funds designated to help purchase books and study material. The other is maybe a better alternative and one that I personally will use. We preachers can go to our own collection of study material and choose two or three good books that have helped us and ship them to Nathan Brown. I would suggest that the box include a note of encouragement to Nathan to let him know we are thinking of him and his family, praying for healing, and praying for his preaching ministry. The address to send funds or packages to Nathan is P.O. Box 242, Leakesville, MS 39451. What a blessing it will be to both Bro. Nathan and to those who give.

Sin Is The Problem

It is almost (and I said almost) funny to see the uproar that Phil Robertson's recent comments have caused. I was unaware of Duck Dynasty and the Robertson Family until about one year ago. My daughter's family watch the show and while talking about how they enjoyed it they realized that I did not know who or what they were talking about. I have since learned who the Robertsons are and I even admit to recording their show to watch at my own leisure.



Duck Dynasty's
Phil Robertson

The family, by their own testimony, hold strong Christian beliefs and do not hide from their faith. In fact, they are quite outspoken about their faith

in Christ - especially by the head of the family, Phil Robertson. In a recent interview Robertson shared some biblical truths concerning homosexuality. His words were somewhat crude, but truthful nonetheless.

The A&E Network felt immediate pressure from the homosexual lobby and put Phil on "suspension". Cracker Barrel Restaurants pulled much of their Duck Dynasty merchandise from their shelves. They felt the economic pressure from their customers and immediately apologized and put it back. The uproar and response from the pro-homosexual lobby, from news commentators and other talking heads was immediate and strong.

Much has been written and said about who was right and whose rights were trampled on, etc. The Bible has been quoted (and misquoted) and the interpretation of scripture has been twisted, added to and taken away from. The problem with most folks and their attitude is that they do not know God - the Holy God of the Bible. They do not know His Son as their Savior and they do not understand the one word that is at the center of this so-called controversy. That one word, in my humble opinion, is the little 3 letter word 'sin'.

Most don't really understand that sin is sin and God hates all sin and will forgive all sinners. People don't want to be called a sinner. They don't want to be judged. Let us pray for these that they will understand we are all sinners, we are all in need of repentance and salvation. If we are adulterers, murderers, thieves, liars, homosexuals, or whatever sin we may list - the fact remains there is none righteous, no not one. We must all come to repentance - yes all of us. Jesus will save those who call on Him in faith and forgive that small three letter word that haunts us all - sin!

Let us speak as boldly as Phil Robertson has spoken, let us do it in love and let us pray for the harvest of souls.

Southeastern College

I think the future of Southeastern College can be bright if God's people will get behind it with the support it deserves. Students and financial sup-

continued on page 5

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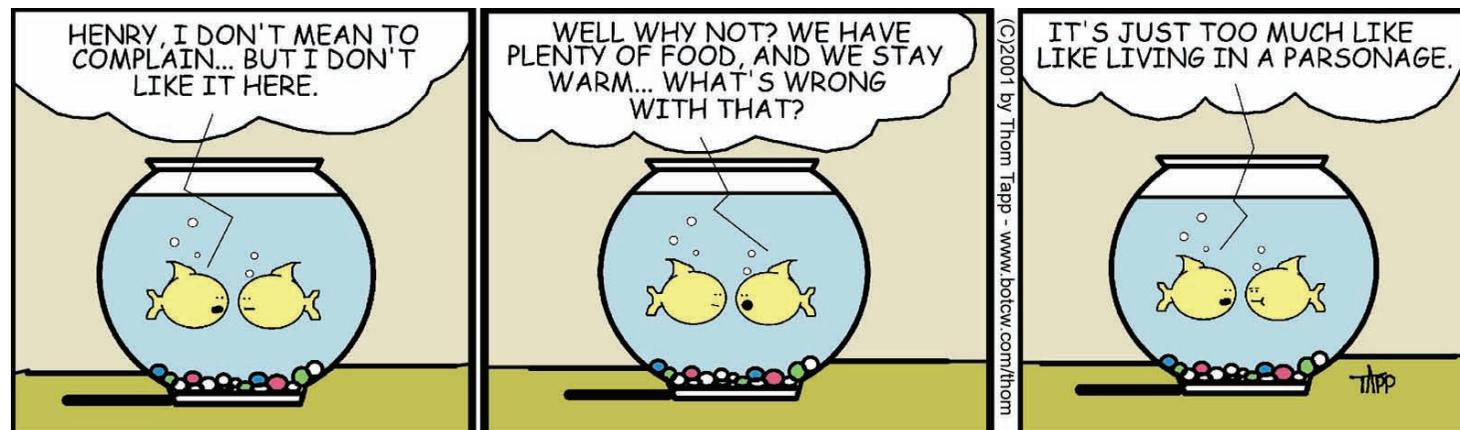
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Don J. Brown, Editor

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Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



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**AVAILABLE
FOR SERVICE**

Listing of names does not indicate endorsement. This column is for information purposes only.

Dewitt Bain

Bro. Dewitt Bain has resigned as pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, Mt. Olive, Mississippi after more than 4 years of service. He is available for service as the Lord leads. He and his wife Brenda reside in Mt. Olive and may be reached at 601-707-9161.



Bro. Bain bringing 2013 annual message at BMA of Mississippi meeting.

Kenny Mitchell

Bro. Kenny Mitchell is available for service as the Lord directs. He has pastored 4 churches, 3 in Mississippi and 1 in Slidell, Louisiana. Bro. Kenny surrendered to the ministry in June of 1993 and was licensed by Sycamore Baptist Church, Carriere, Mississippi and was ordained by First Baptist Church of Henleyfield. Bro. Kenny and his wife have been married for 38 years and have 2 children and 7 grandchildren. Bro. Kenny is enrolled in the Slidell Baptist Theological Seminary in Slidell, Louisiana. He may be reached at 601-798-7273 or by cell phone at 601-347-6980.

**Editor's Notes
& Thoughts**

from page 4

port are high on the list. Facilities are also needed. We have adequate sized facilities its seems for the foreseeable future, but the condition of some of those is lacking. Bro. Dennis Rankin, a trustee of SBC and a cabinet maker by trade, has an appeal in this issue concerning the need to 'upgrade' our facilities. God gives us talents and many of you have the 'trade talents' that Bro. Rankin is appealing to. Read his article and respond with support, both fiscally and physically. You will be glad you did.

Happy & Blessed New Year

2013 brought what every year usually brings: surprises, blessings, disappointments, and challenges. May your 2014 be one that is blessed of the Lord and may He be magnified in all that He allows us to be a part of. Happy New Year!

Out of the Mouths of Babes

(Well, Really My Ten Year Old Son)

It is generally not my custom to write about my children, unless, of course, I can brag on them or embarrass them. Let me preface this by saying that I think my children are the smartest, most likable, handsomest, greatest, and, well, the list goes on and on. The amazing thing is that they are all uniquely different from one another in their characteristics, excluding the obvious fact of their awesomeness.

When my oldest daughter came along, after several months of two hours of sleep a night because of crying, whining, and general fussing (the baby was irritable also), I figured we would be a family with a single, spoiled child with no siblings. She quickly changed my dream of having an even dozen to fulfill my hopes of one day coaching my own baseball team with a few in the bullpen. In fact, I attribute my wisdom and sage like qualities to having had children when I freely give advice to young married couples, whether they want it or not. We named her Charity in the hope that names mean something.

My next child was my oldest son. He was such an easy going child. Nights were slept all the way through, he loved sports and the outdoors, and eventually liked going to church, although that didn't happen until about eighteen years later. I figured, hey, I have got this parenting stuff figured out. He always complained because we didn't give him a biblical name, so every now and then I call him Delilah. It's the least I can do.

We lost a child between him and my next daughter, so a few years separated the second from the fourth. We never saw our third child, but we know God has all that handled. I often wonder how that reunion will take place. But I digress. Faith has the middle child task of finding a place in the family. To be honest, she settled in quite nicely right in the center of my heart. It's crowded in there, what with her mother and the other children, but there is plenty of room. When people found out we had a daughter named Charity, and one named Faith, many asked if there was going to be a Hope. Ha! That's original.

We didn't have Hope, but we did

**From The
Mind of**



Chuck Lee

**James Burch
Passes Away**

Brother James Edwin Burch, of Conway, passed away December 14, 2013, at Conway Regional Medical Center in Conway. He was born December 10, 1920, to the late Homer G.



James Burch

Burch and Floy (Tilley) Burch. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Frances Gunnels Burch; his brothers, Gilbert and Albert Burch.

He was an ordained Baptist minister and a member of Eastside Missionary Baptist Church in Conway. He graduated from Wewoka High School in Wewoka, Oklahoma; Jacksonville Baptist College in Jacksonville, Texas; and East Texas Baptist College in Marshall, Texas.

Bro. Burch volunteered and served as a Corporal in the Army Air Corps in World War II, stationed in England from 1942 until 1945. He was a mechanic for the B-17 bombers.

He served as music director and pastor for churches in Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Oklahoma. He served as chairman of the music department at Central Baptist Col-

lege in Conway, Arkansas, and as assistant director of Harvest Gleaner Hour (Lifeword Media Ministries), also in Conway.

Bro. James was known for his beautiful tenor voice and piano stylings and he favored old hymns. He continued to sing and play until the closing days of his life.

He is survived by his daughters, Jerene (George) Reddin of Greenwood, Arkansas; Karen (Travis) Moore of Slidell, Louisiana; and Lynnette (David) Stanley of Greenbrier, Arkansas; his sister, Virginia Cecil of Hudson, Florida; grandchildren, Joanna (Wade) Allen of Bacolod City, Philippines; Travis (Tara) Moore II of Beaufort, South Carolina; Talissa (Danny) Smith of Greenbrier, Arkansas; Cory (Liesel) Stanley of Rogers, Arkansas; Nathan (Kelly) Moore of Horn Lake, Mississippi; Joy Moore of Charlotte, North Carolina; Fallon Moore of Oceanside, California; Samuel Reddin of Howe, Oklahoma; great-grandchildren, Carly and Caleb Allen, Caitlin, Christa, and Emily Moore; Lucas, Emma and Jackson Smith; Cooper and Kiptyn Stanley; Judah, Eliran, Selah and Tobiah Moore.

Funeral services were held December 16, 2013 in Conway, Arkansas, with his grandchildren officiating.

Memorials may be made to Central Baptist College or Lifeword Media Ministries.

have Paul. Let me describe Paul with a few of his own words. Heading to Laurel early one morning with the girls and Paul, out of a deep sleep, he suddenly wakes up, puts his leg on the console between the front seats, pulls his pant leg up, and proudly exclaims, "Hey, Charity! Daddy's teaching me how to shave"! Then goes back to sleep.

Just the other day, from out of nowhere, he says, "Daddy, there probably won't be 'hide and seek' in Heaven". I shouldn't have, but I asked, "Why not"? He said, "Well, the Bible says that there won't be any time, so you can't count to a hundred". Hmmm? My wife blames it on the fact that he is named after one of my best friends and also the fact he was born in Louisiana.

To my wife's chagrin, all of my children seem to have inherited my weird sense of humor. It can get awkward at times when this quality comes out at family reunions. Whenever these little moments of unease pop up, I just kind of back away and nonchalantly point at my wife, as if to say, "they get that from their mother". So far, no one has believed me.



**Sofilthy's
Attic**

by Barbara White

**The Things
We Can't Afford**

We can't afford the gain
That means another's loss;
We can't afford to miss the crown
By stumbling at the cross.

We can't afford the heedless jest
That robs us of a friend;
We can't afford the laugh that finds
In bitter tears its end.

We can't afford to play with fire
Or tempt a serpent's bite;
We can't afford to think that sin
Brings any true delight.

We can't afford with serious heed
To treat the cynic's sneer;
We can't afford to wise men's words
To turn a careless ear,

We can't afford to feed the flame
And make it fiercer burn;
We can't afford to hate, to give
Like hatred in return.

We can't afford to lose our souls
For this world's fleeting breath;
We can't afford to barter life
In mad exchange for death.

But blind to good are we apart
From Thee, all-seeing Lord;
Oh, grant us light that we may know
The things we can't afford.

-Anonymous

DiscipleGuide

Scott Attebery, Executive Director
 Email: scott@discipleguide.org
 Facebook: [Facebook.com/scott.attebery](https://www.facebook.com/scott.attebery)
 Twitter: @scottattebery



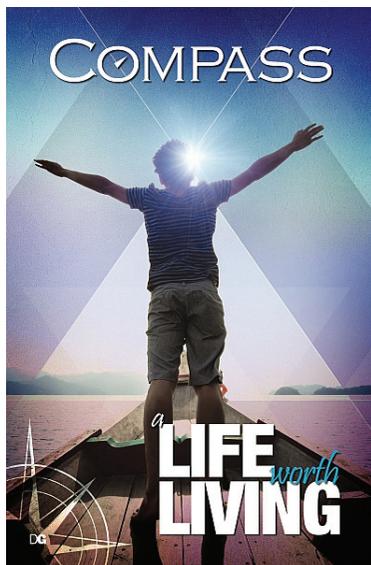
Scott Attebery

DiscipleGuide Spring 2014 Compass: "A Life Worth Living"

The spring adult Sunday-school studies from DiscipleGuide Church Resources began to take shape several decades ago when a nine-year-old boy headed out for Vacation Bible School with his mind on free candy. There he heard stories from the Bible for the first time in his life.

"On the last night," says Allen Tilley, "I heard about Jesus and His love for me, causing me to receive Christ as my Savior."

More recently Dr. Tilley culminated the plans for the spring quarter by writing the lead publication on "A Life Worth Living," based on Ecclesiastes.



Dr. Tilley now pastors First Baptist Church, Carthage, Texas. In the years since he found Jesus at VBS he has earned degrees at Dallas Bap-

tist University, the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he received his Doctor of Ministry.

Based on his own life story, his years of ministry in BMA churches, and his in-depth study of Ecclesiastes, Dr. Tilley gives this reason for getting into this Old Testament book: "We need God and His influence in our lives. With the declining moral values of our country, life can appear hopeless, resulting in a what's-the-use mentality. Jesus makes life worth living."

In Ecclesiastes, King Solomon bared his soul about the futility of life without God. Evidently in his declining years, he wrote this book after drifting away from God and falling into a downward spiral. According to Dr. Tilley, "In Solomon's attempts to explain life without God, life lost its meaning. Everything seemed pointless."

Finally, after twelve chapters of depicting the emptiness of life from an earthly perspective alone, Solomon hit upon

the greatest insight of his famous wisdom: "Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (12:13). And devotion to that duty turns life into a fulfilling adventure.

For Dr. Tilley, writing this quarter was personal. Here is his testimony:

"I was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis five years ago. Pain is my constant companion. Studying Ecclesiastes has taught me that if I face each day in my strength, pain will rob me of joy and deplete my faith. However, if I give each day to the Lord, He can take my frailties and use them for His glory. There is no greater satisfaction than knowing God has a purpose in all things, and He takes care of His children."

To obtain materials on "A Life Worth Living" for your church, type "Compass" in the search box at www.DiscipleGuide.org or call 800-333-1442.

Then gather the people for a relevant series of Bible studies. If necessary, offer them free candy.

GMA Girls

GMA Promoter
 Beth Caldwell
 166 Twin Creek Rd,
 Lucedale, MS 39452
 601-947-6011

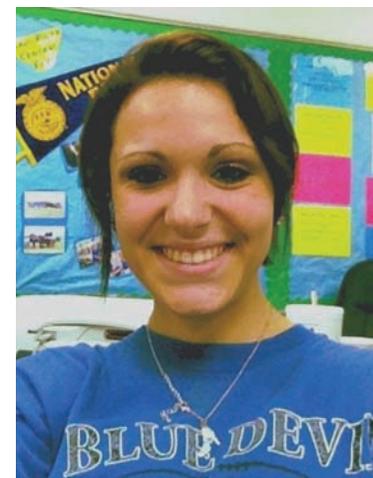
Sunbeam Promoter
 Linda Dertinger
 132 Howard Hill Road,
 Soso, MS 39480
 601-729-2908

GMA Camp News

by Tygh Roche

Mississippi GMA President

Hey girls, this is your GMA State President Tygh Roche. We have so much planned for you this year at camp! Our



Tygh Roche
 Mississippi GMA President

theme this year is "In God We Trust". Our Theme verse is Psalm 18:2 "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliver; my God, my strength, and in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower".

Have you ever really thought about what "In God We Trust" really means to you? I challenge you to think about that. Please be prayer for camp this year. We can not wait to see what God has in store for us. I hope to see each of your smiling faces there!

dren, Eli Dickey, Will Zumwalt, Charity Zumwalt, Luke Dickey, Seth Dickey and Silas Dickey.

Funeral service were held December 12 at Temple Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Memorials may be made to Central Baptist College, Conway or Baptist Medical Missions International, P.O. 30910, Little Rock, Arkansas 72260.

January 2014 Special Emphasis
 Mississippi Baptist

CHURCH NEWS

News articles should contain information that will be of interest to the general public who are not members of the church that is reporting.

Parkview, Laurel Sets Homecoming Service

Parkview Baptist Church of Laurel will soon be celebrating its 139th 'birthday'. In honor of the occasion, Homecoming Services are planned for January 12. Bro. Kenneth Flynt, who served as pastor from 2000 to 2003, will bring the morning message. A time for special music, shared memories, and testimonies is planned for the afternoon service. A fellowship luncheon is scheduled to follow the morning service. All former pastors and former members are encouraged to attend and an open invitation is given to all to come and be part of this special event.

Fulton Church Seeks Pastor
 Big Oak Baptist Church of

Fulton, Mississippi, is searching for a pastor. Those interested in more information should call Aaron Loden at 662-213-6918 or Robert Loden at 662-397-5395.

New Heart additions

God blessed New Heart Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, with another wonderful couple. Kent



The Kentons

and Elaine Kenton are welcomed into our fellowship.

Tombigbee Report

The Tombigbee Association met at Greenwood Baptist Church on December 5, 2013. We enjoyed a meal by the host church before Pastor Gary O'Neal welcomed the messengers and visitors. Bro. Jimmy Daughtery, pastor of Ballardsville Baptist Church,

Joe Dickey Dies

Joseph E. Dickey, 71, of Little Rock, Arkansas went to be with his Lord and Savior on Friday, December 6, 2013, at the home of his daughter in Percy, Arkansas. He was born to Joe and Mary Jane (Nalls) Dickey on November 8, 1942 in Camden, Arkansas.

Joe had served the Lord faithfully for the last 51 years as pastor of 14 Baptist churches in Arkansas and Texas. At the time of his death, he was pas-

tor of Perry Street Baptist Church, Little Rock. Other pastorates include Hilltop Acres, Camden; Judson, Camden; G u m Springs, G u m Springs; F i r s t, Rosston; Calvary, Marvell; Calvary, Stamps; Hillcrest, Texarkana, Texas; N e w



Bro. Joe Dickey

tor of Perry Street Baptist Church, Little Rock. Other pastorates include Hilltop Acres, Camden; Judson, Camden; G u m Springs, G u m Springs; F i r s t, Rosston; Calvary, Marvell; Calvary, Stamps; Hillcrest, Texarkana, Texas; N e w

Hope, Hope; Landmark, England; Grace, Bryant; Pine Crest, Pine Bluff; Calvary, White Hall; and West Main, Sparkman. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Bible from Central Baptist College in Conway and attended Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one grandchild, Sidney Zumwalt.

His survivors included his beloved wife of 51 years, Doris Sims Dickey; his daughter, Christi Zumwalt and her husband, Reverend Charlie Zumwalt of Percy, Arkansas; his son, Dr. Kevin Dickey and his wife, Sherri Waller Dickey of Thermopolis, Wyoming; and was "Papa" to six grandchil-

Matt Hudson, moderator
 Cathy Johnson, reporter

Southeastern Baptist College

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

New Possibilities

The possibilities of the New Year are often pictured as a child at the beginning of life. The Christian has many opportunities for new beginnings. Conversion is a New Birth. Many believers have responded to reminders about their sinful lifestyle earlier with "That was before I was saved." The old person is pictured in baptism as dead, and the new saved one is proclaimed to be "alive unto God." At any time a Christian recognizes sin and disobedience to the Lord, he can have a new beginning by repenting and confessing his sins. Forgiveness is assured and cleansing from all unrighteousness is promised. Amazingly he can go forward with a clear conscience. May we have a new beginning with the blessing of the Lord upon us in a new way.



Danny Pitts
Interim President

Enrollment

The enrollment at Southeastern Baptist, as well as most universities and colleges, normally declines in the

Spring. With our enrollment down to thirty eight for the Fall, increasing the number of students is paramount. Pre-registration looks very encouraging, but every additional student is important. Regular registration will be from January 6-8, with the first class starting on January 13th. Southeastern will reopen after the holidays on January 6th.

Study Online

Do not forget that you can take online or on campus classes. If you are a bi-vocational or a busy full-time pastor, you have unique opportunities. Obviously this makes it possible for those who live many miles away from the school to be a part of our college. Call 601-426-6346 to sign up. The special offerings by a number of churches and individuals is greatly appreciated.

God's Comfort

Finally, most of you have heard about the tragic fire at the Leakesville home of student Nathan Brown. We echo the thought shared at the funeral by Pastor Justin Cameron from II Corinthians 1:3-4 that "the God of all comfort" comfort them and use that comfort to comfort others. May God give His special Grace to all this family.

SBC Trustee seeks help and input from BMA tradesmen

by Dennis Rankin

I have a heartfelt desire to see Southeastern Baptist College succeed. To do this, we must have students. No matter how great our faculty, administration or camaraderie with fellow students is, the fact remains, there are issues with maintenance.

In surveying the campus, I have found that the physical condition of the dorms is lacking. My initial response to the condition was, "Who would want to stay here?" I am in the process of assessing the needs. As I stated in my earlier article, I am a woodworker. Most things that have to do with wood, I can address. However, I am not a plumber, electrician, roofer, flooring installer, sheet rock worker, glass installer, or house painter. Are you? We sure could use some skilled workers that could work along with me to get this place in shape. It might

WE should be supporting it, not just with money but with the talents God



Dennis Rankin inspecting door to room in Men's dormitory

has given us. My phone number is 251-666-5618 and I would like to hear from some tradesmen to voice the needs I have found and some suspected needs.

By the end of January, I hope to have an estimate of the cost to refurbish each room. You may also contact the school at 601-426-6346 to leave a message for me in case I am up there working.

Any money donated for this cause will be in a special account set up at the Revolving Loan Fund for maintenance at the school. Your contribution should be designated "Southeastern Baptist College Maintenance



More areas in need of repair and upkeep

require some sacrifice on your part, but I am hoping and praying that our churches will rally to the cause to provide some monetary assistance.

Southeastern is OUR school and

Fund." Those funds may be sent to the Revolving Load Fund, 4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440 or SBC, 4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440.

Hobolochitto Asso. plans Senior Adult Conference

The Hobolochitto Baptist Association will be hosting a Senior Adult Conference on Saturday, February 1, 2014. Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Picayune will host this event. There will be singing, preaching and food for all. Bro. Kenneth Flynt, former pastor of Mt. Calvary, and Director of the Senior Adult Commission



for the BMA of Mississippi will be the featured speaker. The "Men of Providence" singing group will be performing for us that afternoon. The noon meal will be catfish and chicken along with all the fixings. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the day.

The conference will begin with registration at 9:00 and end sometime around 2:00 or 3:00. Mark your calendars now.

CONSIDER THIS

On Bringing
All Men
By All Means:

Every program
is a
stretcher
to bring
people in on.

Highlights of the 2013 Brotherhood State meeting

President, Mark Jones presided over the meeting and Secretary/Treasurer reports were presented by Roy Caldwell and approved.

The following recommendations of the Executive Committee were separately approved by the Brotherhood.

1. Recommendation as nominees for officers for 2013-2014:

President: Mark Jones

1 VP: Vernon Newman,

2 VP: Josh Awtrey

Secretary/Treasurer: Roy Caldwell

Galilean Director: Mark Jones

Assistant Galilean Director: Larry Tramel

2. Recommendation for Project: BMA of Mississippi Missions Department designated for Bro. Elvis Garcia missions work funds (75%), Mississippi Galileans (25%).

3. Recommendation for Disaster Relief Committee member term ending 2016: Bro. Harold Floyd.

The Galilean Report was given by Bro. Larry Tramel and approved.

The Brotherhood approved paying the expense for the delivery of shoe boxes to the BMAA Missions Department in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The offering collected at the meeting was \$183.50.

The speaker for the program was Bro. Shane Atkins, from Purvis, Mississippi.

President Mark Jones
Secretary Roy Caldwell

It's The Bad News That Makes Good News Good

A renown preacher once said it is the bad news that makes the good news good. That statement generates two very important questions. One, what is the bad news, and two, what is the good news? The bad news according to God's word in Ecclesiastes 7:20 is, "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." The Apostle Paul in Romans 3:10 sheds light on the Ecclesiastes verse by stating, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:" Then goes further in Romans 6:23 to intensely clarify the bad news by saying, "... for the wages of sin is death..." The word "death" is bad news and in Paul's writings has two meanings, the first is spiritual death which is the separation of a person from God, and the second is physical death which is the separation of a person from this world, from earthly family and friends. Hebrews 9:27 says, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:" Therefore the bad news is that we all are born being spiritually dead, and all will die physically, and yes, all will stand before Christ our judge.

What is the good news? Even though we were born spiritually dead, there is good news as expressed in the old gospel hymn "Jesus Saves." written by Priscilla J. Owens and published in 1882. The beginning of the first stanza goes like this, "We have heard the Joyful sound: Jesus Saves! Jesus Saves!" God's word in John 3:16 shares with us why and how salvation is pos-

As I See It

by Rayburn Freeman
rsfree39@gmail.com



sible when it says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." In 2 Peter 3:9 the apostle Peter who was very emphatic and outspoken in behalf of Christ' love for us says, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

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

eternal separation from God in hell is a difficult, but essential, first step in trusting Jesus as savior. Trusting Christ as savior is admitting that you are lost, you are wrong, that you are a sinner who is not right with God. Our loving God (John 3:16) has never, and never will, send anyone to hell. Those who go to hell do so by their own choice.

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

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

Laurel Church to open Christian School

by Chris Freeman, Pastor
Springhill Church, Laurel

Springhill Baptist Church in Laurel is planning to start a new Christian school beginning the Fall 2014. Springhill Christian Academy will be a mission of Springhill Church.

The church believes ministry and discipleship should take place every day of the week—not just Sundays and Wednesdays. With the decline of the family, and the drugs, immorality, degradation, and such that are prominent in public schools, it's not enough to expect our young people to become disciples of Christ if they are only exposed to the Bible and spiritual things one or two days a week for a couple hours at best. We need to be saturating these kids in the word of God. This is what we as a church hope to accomplish through the school.

The school's key verse which will serve as our motto: Luke 6:48, "He is like a man which built a house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock."

We wish to give the children that come through our school the grounding upon Jesus and a Christian world view that they need to live godly lives in an increasingly ungodly world. We

believe that as more churches see the need for the God-centered education of our children, many more of these church-schools will be popping up. Christ commissioned his churches to make disciples of Him, this is one valid way among many to do that.

The school will begin taking registrations for the upcoming school year in March, 2014. Registration is open to grades K-6th and spots are limited and on a first come, first served basis.

Currently, we are taking resumes to fill the positions of teacher, teacher assistant, administrator, secretary/bookkeeper. If you or someone you know would like to be considered, please send a written testimony of salvation and your resume to Springhill Baptist Church, 558 Springhill Rd., Laurel, MS 39443. Cut-off date for resumes will be February 1st. Please note that teaching experience and teacher certification is a plus, but not necessary. Teaching and administrator applicants however must possess at least a Bachelor's degree or be close to graduating.

If you would like to help the school and our church with offsetting the costs of starting up this ministry, you can send designated donations to Springhill Baptist Church at the above address. Please be in much prayer for this God-

Bluegrass Gospel by The Harper Family

The Harper Family Bluegrass Gospel Group will be making a tour through Mississippi in January. Their schedule is listed below.

If you would like to contact the Harper family for the year of 2014 please contact Gaylon Harper at HOME/OFFICE-573-689-2005 Monday through Thursday or, CELL-573-247-4374 on the weekends or EMAIL-theharperfamily@live.com

01/03/14 The Harper Family in Bay Springs, MS, New Home Baptist
Time: 7:00pm. Address: Smith Cnty. Rd. 11-A. Venue phone: (601)422-5064.

01/04/14 The Harper Family in Purvis, MS Okahola Baptist
Time: 7:00pm. Address: 3889 Old Hwy. 11. Venue phone: (601)337-0236.

01/05/14 The Harper Family in Ocean Springs, MS Ramsey Hills Baptist
Time: 1:00pm. Address: 13300 Joe Batt Rd.. Venue phone: (228)219-1593.

01/05/14 The Harper Family in Lucedale, MS Pineview Baptist
Time: 6:00pm. Address: 110 Ward Pineview Rd.. Venue phone: (601)408-0537.

01/10/14 The Harper Family in Olive Branch, MS New Beginnings Baptist
Time: 7:00pm. Address: 6125 Plesant Hill Rd.. Venue phone: (901)336-5293.

01/11/14 The Harper Family in Boonville, MS Forked Oak Baptist
Time: 7:00pm. Address: Cr. 2312 Hwy.365. Venue phone: (662)462-7511.

01/12/14 The Harper Family in Fulton, MS East Fulton Baptist Church
Time: 1:00pm. Address: 1200 E. Main St.. Venue phone: (662) 862-6151.

01/12/14 The Harper Family in Guntown, MS Unity Baptist
Time: 6:00pm. Address: 925 Cr. 1303. Venue phone: (662)282-4966.

01/17/14 The Harper Family in Pica-yune, MS Benville Baptist
Time: 7:00pm. Address: 12010 Lott McCarty Rd.. Venue phone: (601)916-3574.

01/18/14 The Harper Family in Long Beach, MS Divine Grace Baptist
Time: 7:00pm. Address: 5570 Red Creek Rd.. Venue phone: (228)669-8969.

01/19/14 The Harper Family in Pica-yune, MS Lee's Chapel # 2 Baptist
Time: 10:45am. Address: 27015 Leetown Rd.. Venue phone: (601)916-2988.

01/19/14 The Harper Family in Laurel, MS Lebanon Baptist Church
Time: 6:00pm. Address: 460 Lebanon Rd.. Venue phone: (601) 729-2123.

Church Sets Allen Family Concert

The Allen Family will be at First Baptist Church, Bay Springs, Mississippi, on Sunday, January 5, 2014. At the 11:00 AM service the family will be singing and Bro. Todd Allen will bring the message.



At 1:30 PM a concert of Southern Gospel music will be given. The concert is free, but a love offering will be taken.

For directions or more information call 601-764-2492 or 601-670-5005.