

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

January 1, 2015

www.bmaofmississippi.com

Vol. 69 No. 1

Annual Emphasis Time

by the Editor

January of each year has been designated as a "Special Emphasis" Fund-raising time for the Publications Department. The Association has set aside this time to help your Mississippi Baptist Paper raise additional operating funds.



Don Brown

The monthly subscription fee that the paper charges its readers does not cover all of the operating expenses of this department. Our budget is maintained by monthly offerings from our churches and by the funds given during January of each year. Each ministry of the BMA of Mississippi depends on financial support from the local church and this holds true for this ministry as well.

The churches have done a great job over the years in giving an extra offering each January. Some churches designate a certain amount from their church treasury. Others take up regular weekly offerings to raise funds. What ever method your church uses, we urge you all to participate.

God will bless your efforts and the funds will allow this ministry to continue to operate in a fiscally responsible manner. Thank you in advance for helping in this effort.

Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary
1530 East Pine St / P.O. Box 670, Jacksonville, Texas 75766
Phone: 903-586-2501 - Web: bmat.edu

Free Online Course Offered by BMA Seminary

BMATS ONLINE
Online Degrees
Master of Arts (Religion)
Bachelor of Arts in Religion
Associate of Divinity

BMA Seminary will offer a free online course in Baptist Doctrine during the spring 2015 semester. The eight week study will conduct a theological-historical survey of Baptist teachings as found in historical Baptist confessions of faith and doctrinal statements. In addition to the Bible, the course will use a textbook entitled Baptist Confessions of Faith by William L. Lumpkin. The course also serves as a good introduction to the online education process.

Interested individuals should contact the dean's office on the seminary's main campus to register or go to <http://bmat.edu/other-educational-opportunities/free-courses/>

The course begins January 26, 2015.

A Brand New Start - January 2015

by Dr. Gary O'Neal

Pastor, Oak Park Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas

How long has it been since you blew it? Most of us can count the time in hours—not days; definitely not years. We have great intentions—but then we're blind sided by the unique coalition of repressed desire and opportunity, and before we know it we have a major mess on our hands. Yep—that's me, standing in the middle of a mess of my own making.



Dr. Gary O'Neal

One day Jesus was teaching in Jerusalem when a commotion was heard down the street. Looking up, He saw a crowd coming toward Him, led by a group of priests pushing a woman in front of them. One look revealed that she was not an honorable woman. The religious leaders threw her down in front of Jesus and quickly presented the charges against her—"We caught this woman in the very act of adultery. She deserves to be stoned."

Their solution was to exact death. She's despicable. She's useless. She's ruined. Get rid of her. But Jesus looked with other eyes. Instead of seeing her past and the multitude of bad decisions she had made, He looked at her future and saw the lady she could become. Yes, she had sinned. Yes, she had brought shame to her family. Yes, she would carry the scars of her actions for many years to come. But none of her accusers were innocent either. Though their sins were covered from human eyes by scheming and position, Jesus saw through it all and right into their very hearts filled with prejudice and hatred.

What she needed was not condemnation, but a new start. And that's exactly what Jesus gave her. Jesus was the only one in the scene who was without sin and His response was, "Go and sin no more." Jesus was not ignoring her sin. He wasn't giving her license to continue in immorality. He was extending grace and forgiveness because He knew that the greatest motivation to real change doesn't come from judgment but mercy.

Do you need a new start? The New Year is a great time to experience God's mercy in a fresh way. Come with the mess you've made of your life—with your humiliation—with your scars. Acknowledge them all to Jesus and let Him give you a brand new start. Then go and show the world the reality of a grace-changed life.

Only Two Months Left

by Pat Spriggs

National Brotherhood Project Promoter

We only have a little over two months left to raise funds for the 2014-15 National Brotherhood Project — 65% Bolivian Riverboat, 25% National Galileans and 10% General Fund. Treasurer Robert Bynum reports that \$1,495 has been collected for Bolivia's "River of Blessings;" and another on-going project, the Arthur Smith Scholarship Fund, has received \$1,636.88.

The books will close the end of February, so we don't have any time to lose! Offerings may be sent to Robert Bynum, 43 Bear Pen Creek Rd., Laurel, MS 39440.

Let's get behind our project, Men!



Larry Geraldson
Director



Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Department of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund



State Missionaries and Wives



Bob & Edie Burch



Kenneth & Carole
Pollock



Bobby & Lesa
Elliott



Danny & Brenda
Bartlett



Sidney & Becky
Farmer



Wesley & Holley
Martin



Phillip & Dawn
Burns



Estuardo &
Yasmine Marroquin



Elvis & Wendy
Garcia



Ed & Patricia
DuVall

601.428.8616

www.bmams.org

“Father, glorify thy name.” John 12:28

As I thought about the upcoming year I remembered this prayer offered by Charles Spurgeon, that great prince of preachers, offered on 30 December 1877, and I felt I should share it with you.

“O LORD, OUR GOD, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth! Some of us have to thank Thee for many mercies bestowed. We thank Thee for them, for we feel that we are entirely in Thy hands in all respects. Others of us have been brought very low, bruised full sore, but having a little strength remaining, we desire to praise and bless the Giver of every gift. Thou art good when Thou givest, and Thou art good when Thou takest away. Thou art good when the night gathers heavy about us. Thou art good when the sun shineth and gladdeneth our pathway. Thou art always good and doest good, and blessed be the name of the Lord from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof, and through the night watches let His praise be still celebrated.

In the recollection of all that Thou hast done for us, Thy people, we are filled with amazement as well as with gratitude, that Thou shouldst have loved us before the foundation of the world, that sovereign love should have pitched upon us poor unworthy ones, that Thou shouldst love us as to redeem us with the blood of Jesus and give the only

Begotten to die for unworthy creatures like to us; that Thou shouldst love us notwithstanding our sins and transgressions, that Thou shouldst love us despite the hardness of our hearts and the rebellion of our nature. It is strange, it surpasses belief at times, yet do we know it to be so. And since the hour when we knew Thy love and learned to say Abba, Father, we do confess we have been unworthy still. We have but little felt Thy goodness; we have often acted very ungratefully, very distrustfully. But Lord, Thou hast not changed, but still doth Thy faithfulness abound to Thy servants; for which again we can only say, Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Especially would we make mention of the goodness of the Lord during another year. Each believer here has trodden a different pathway: to some it has been a very smooth road, too often a very rough climb: to some a deep descent into the valley of sorrow and humiliation. But Thou hast led Thy people by a right way. With all the twisting of the wilderness march, we are persuaded that when Thou ledest us about, still we go the nearest way. Thou knowest best, and oftentimes to retreat is to advance, and to be beaten back is to make surest headway. We would again in the recollection of the whole year, whatever it may have been, lift up the song of grateful praise, raise another stone of help to record the loving-kindness of our God.

And now do we hoist sail and draw up anchor to sail into another year. O Thou blessed Pilot of the future of the past, we are so happy to leave all to Thee; but in leaving all to Thee we have one wish, and it is that Thou wouldst in the next year glorify the Father's name in us more than in any other year of our lives.

Perhaps this may involve deeper trial, but let it be if we can glorify God. Perhaps this may involve the being cast aside from the service that we love; but we would prefer to be laid aside if we could glorify Thee the better. Perhaps

this may involve the ending of all life's pleasant work and the being taken home well, Thy children make no sort of stipulations with their God, but this one prayer ascends from all true hearts this morning, 'Father, glorify Thy name.'"

This is my prayer for the people, the churches, the missionaries and all of our Baptist Missionary Association associated work for 2015. Our future is good because our God is good.

Growth Anticipated

Another prayer that has always been precious to me is the prayer that Jabez prayed in 1 Chron. 4:10, "And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldst bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldst keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested." I pray this prayer now for all our associated work in 2015. We believe that God will give us enlargement in the area of missions. All of our present mission projects are growing. The new mission project at Diamondhead will begin in January. Site plans for the building of a first unit building for Grace Baptist at Clinton have been submitted to the City of Clinton and we await their decision to give us a conditional use permit. Day Star at Sumrall is making regular

progress.

Caledonia Baptist, South Forrest, and Freedom Baptist are all growing stronger and stronger. Bro. Marroquin, Bro. Garcia, and Bro. DuVall are all experiencing the discovery of new opportunities for the upcoming year. We anticipate a new Hispanic work in Olive Branch, Mississippi in 2015. We anticipate new additions to the Great River Association, under Bro. DuVall's leadership. Other locations have been identified and resources are available for us to plant new churches all across Mississippi, and we anticipate that God will give us men to go and plant these new churches in these areas. We have much to be excited about.

My Heart Goes Out To Our Churches

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace. For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ. And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God." Philippians 1:1-11

Too often churches are seen as part of the establishment in an era and culture of anti-establishment everything. Little thought is given to the ongoing challenges involved in the daily life cycle of the church. For all her compassion, selflessness, sacrifices, longsuffering, endurance, persistence, and generosity, she never asks for recognition or reward. She never asks for attention or praise. Most churches simply fight the good fight of faith in humble devotion

Reports for November 2014			
	High Attendance	Membership	Total Offerings
Church Planters			
Bob Burch	74	33	\$3,547.00
Bobby Elliott	52	47	\$2,722.00
Sidney Farmer	65	33	\$5,804.00
Danny Bartlett	15	6	\$2,746.00
Phillip Burns	11	7	\$2,224.00
Wesley Martin	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hispanic Missions – South (Estuardo Marroquin – Coordinator)			
Hattiesburg	22	11	\$1,261.00
Biloxi	7	3	n/a
Laurel	135	107	\$5,789.00
Hispanic Missions – North (Elvis Garcia – Coordinator)			
Tupelo	55	17	\$286.00
Oxford	25	3	\$712.00
Ripley	110	77	\$5,636.00
African American Missions – (Ed DuVall – Coordinator)			
Olive Branch	15	13	\$1,802.00
Cleveland	38	50	\$3,595.00
Collectively, our missionaries reported 331 new contacts, shared the gospel 193 times, and had 23 professions of faiths 5 baptisms and 3 join by letter.			

BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund Report	
(As of Dec 23, 2014 and since August 1, 2014)	
Gross Assets	\$19,405,079.00
New Loans	4
Total of Loans Made	\$342,611.00
Loan Rate	4.25%
Shareholder Rate of Return	2.67%
Reserve	20%

2014 Top 20 Churches Giving to State Missions	
1	Paramount, Perkinson
2	Bethel, Fulton
3	Midway First Baptist, Sumrall
4	Canaan, Richton
5	Evergreen, Seminary
6	Lebanon, Laurel
7	Magnolia, Hattiesburg
8	South Forrest Mission, Hattiesburg
9	Good Hope, Columbia
10	Buffalo, McClain
11	Tiger Creek, Ovet
12	Hillcrest, Yazoo City
13	First Bay Springs, Bay Springs
14	Campground, Gulfport
15	Greenwood, Fulton
16	First Mantachie, Mantachie
17	Wilderness, Vicksburg
18	Corinth, Lucedale
19	Big Creek, Soso
20	Lee's Chapel #2, Picayune

continued on page 4

McDonald's and Churches Have More in Common Than I Thought

by **Shane Raynor**

Those pesky millennials. They're ruining everything. Even fast food behemoth McDonald's can't figure them out. And it's not because the restaurant chain isn't spending millions of dollars trying.

A few days ago Mickey D's announced its latest round of changes to stop declining sales. And boy are sales declining. Last month, sales fell 4.6% from November a year ago. The chain hasn't seen a sales increase in over a year, and its third quarter earnings dipped 30%.

If you're McDonald's CEO Don Thompson, you've got major McProblems. And according to one restaurant expert, the biggest one is the company's positioning with millennials.

It will take some time to know whether or not the latest changes have a positive impact on business, but given the sales trends over the last year, staying the current course would probably have been a much bigger risk than trying new things.

Through research, trial and error, McDonald's is learning a few lessons about operating a 60 year old company (some would call it an institution) in the

twenty-first century.

And like many principles from the world of business, these lessons are also applicable to the church world:

Bad perceptions are hard to overcome. That's the problem with being an institution. If you get a bad reputation, it's hard to shake it. For years, McDonald's courted families with kids, and the chain made its name on unhealthy fast food. Now it finds itself in a decade where young people are staying single longer and having fewer kids. And more of them actually care about the quality of the food they stuff in their face. If you're McDonald's, that means

you have to change your brand (and risk driving away your base), create another brand to compete with yourself, extend your brand (but risk diluting it) or double down and own your brand (risking continued decline.)

It's not easy to decide which way to go, and many churches find themselves in a similar situation. Do we start a new service? Plant a new church? Change our name and get rid of the pews? Start a "Doctor Who" small group? Or keep doing what we've been doing but do it better?

Cut your losses and move on when

you've tried a really bad idea. So the 6 a.m. worship service didn't attract the multitude you thought it would. Give it some time and make a few adjustments, but once you see the handwriting on the wall (someone may have to point it out to you), don't be afraid to shut it down so you can try something else. McDonald's rolled out McLobster and McPizza once. And the chain also spent \$100 million marketing the Arch Deluxe sandwich in the mid 90's. Had an Arch Deluxe lately? Neither has anyone else, because it crashed and burned.

Serving gourmet coffee won't fix all your problems. Oh, the coffee increased sales for a while. It found the middle ground on price between convenience store sludge and the top-shelf bitter brew at Starbucks. And the thing is, McDonald's coffee is actually pretty good. But after they rolled it out to most of the stores, the big sales bump disappeared after a couple of years. These things happen. People can only drink so much coffee.

McDonald's serves coffee, but that's not what McDonald's is known for. I've been to churches that serve good coffee. Some of the bigger ones even have coffee bars. Those things are great to have but

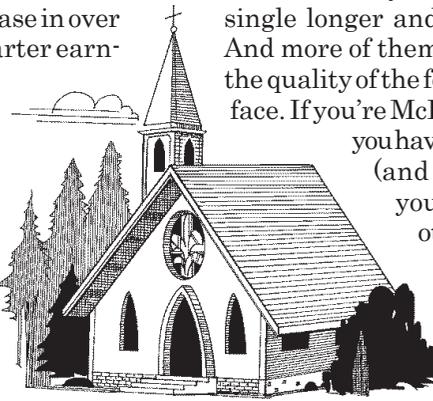
they won't bring people to church and keep them there.

You can't get rid of the Big Mac. It's McDonald's signature sandwich, and even if the rest of the menu gets overrun with concoctions made of kelp and tofu, the Big Mac isn't going anywhere. The sandwich and the brand are just too interconnected.

Churches don't have a flagship sandwich, but many do have certain things they do well that set them apart from other congregations. High-quality kids programs, relevant preaching, solid small groups, effective missions and service projects, etc. What is your church known for? What is its Big Mac? Figure out what it is and don't let it get crowded off the menu.

More people are wanting a customized, participatory experience. Restaurants like Chipotle and Subway allow you to be involved in customizing your food. McDonald's has moved toward this but not quickly enough. I'm old enough to remember when ordering a burger at McDonald's without a pickle or onions would bring the kitchen to a halt. They didn't particularly care for special orders and if you dared try one,

continued on page 8



Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

**January 2015
Special Emphasis**



Don Brown
Editor

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

Our Need - \$10,000

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

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
www.bmaofmississippi.com

DEPARTMENTS & COMMISSIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Don Brown

Mississippi Baptist

Opinion Page

www.ms baptist.org

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Don Brown - Editor

New Year, Great Anticipation, Same Purpose

2015! Wow, for someone born in the first half of the 20th Century (barely) it seems odd to be this deep into the 21st Century. Do you remember when everyone was anticipating the year 2000? We worried about computer crashes, etc. I don't recall any great problems along those lines. The world continued on seemingly without any great interruption in its daily cares.

Each year seems to open up on its own with the only fanfare made by those who celebrate the turning of the calendar. Individually, we all have expectations with the new year. We have plans for progress, new adventures, reaching goals not attained in the recent year, and many other areas of concern.

With eyes upon our Lord and with a dedication to serve Him and being found in His Perfect Will, we will have a successful 2015. May God's blessings be yours as you lift Him up and serve Him this new year.

Special Emphasis Time

We mentioned our 'special emphasis' needs in the article on page one of this issue. We hope each reader and each church will participate in this year's effort. We need to have a good Emphasis Drive. We thank you in advance for your personal participation.

Heavy Hearts

Two of our friends have passed from this life into eternity during the past month. David Busby passed away after a long illness. We first met David when he came to Southeastern College many years ago. He was a very friendly and humble person. He even helped us out by joining the basketball team at SBC. He was loved by all of team members and was affectionately given the nickname of "The Buzz". He was a faithful servant of the Lord and will be greatly missed.

Bro. Winnie McMahan, pastor of East Main Church, Lumberton, passed away a few days before Christmas. He was a kind person and a personal friend. Pray for his wife Louise and their children in this time of loss.

Ministry Opportunity

Washington State Church Seeks Pastor

Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Tacoma, Washington, about 35 miles south of Seattle, is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. The church pays housing and utilities for the pastor. The beautiful church facilities are debt free and about 8 years old. Sunday morning attendance is about 60, and the music program is a combination of hymns and praise with a band of guitars, bass viola, keyboard, piano, and drums. There are about 20 youth in our Youth Program led by excellent volunteer workers. This is a great opportunity for God's man.

Interested pastors may contact Terry Holcombe at jacquelyn13@comcast.net. Thanks for your help and may God bless you.

Mike Holcombe

Missions

from page 2

with one goal and that is to bring glory to Jesus Christ.

She is the "...apple of (his) the eye...". She is the ornament about His head; she is the chain about His neck. By her and through her shall He receive glory throughout all ages! He brought her forth, loves her, cares for her, and keeps her by his divine power. I cringe when I hear people so casually criticize her today. Little care is given to remember that her groom, her love, her care giver and keeper is Jesus Christ. As reminded in Revelation 1:6, "...Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,..." and Eph 5:25b, "...Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it:..."

I have a deep respect and great honor for our churches. I pray for our churches and I remind myself regularly that without you, there would be no "...fellowship in the gospel..." no "...defence and confirmation of the gospel..." no "...furtherance of the gospel:..." To you the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi, I again thank you for the privilege of serving you by supporting our missionaries in the work of the Lord.

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"I'm Brother Eli, and I approve this message!"

Mississippi Baptist

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

Phone 601-426-3293

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

Don J. Brown, Editor

E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org

Web site www.ms baptist.org

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the *Mississippi Baptist Paper*, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441-8000.

Changes Discussed for 2015 BMA National Meeting

BMA President, Dr. Jason Aultman, along with the directors of the four national BMA departments, are in the process of discussing changes to the agenda of the 2015 National Meeting in Springfield, Missouri. "We are seeking for ways to make our meeting more inviting, appealing and beneficial to our attendees," according to Aultman. "Attendance to meetings such as our BMA National Meeting are on the decline across all denominations and the BMA is no exception. I, along with our department leaders, have been listening to suggestions from our pastors on how to make our meeting more meaningful to our people. We're hoping to hear from even more of them in next few weeks."

Dr. Aultman spoke to the pastors of the BMA on Tuesday Talks on December 16 to discuss several proposals. Some of the changes include options for investing in those in attendance through various workshops and focused training opportunities. In the Tuesday Talks webcast Dr. Aultman discussed how this new look for the National Meeting could work. He stressed that all of these ideas have come at the urging of the national directors and pastors across the BMA. "It has become apparent to many that the time to look at some new options for our meeting has come. I'm hoping to get as much input from our pastors as possible."

Tuesday Talks can be found on your web browser at www.bmalife/tv. This broadcast is produced monthly by DiscipleGuide Church Resources.

David Busby Passes Away

Brother David Allen Busby of Groves, Texas, formerly of Laurel, passed away December 2, 2014 at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans. Funeral services were held December 6, 2014 at Lebanon Baptist Church in Laurel. Rev. Harold Floyd and Rev. Jeff Dixon officiated.

Brother Busby was an ordained Baptist Minister, a licensed EMT and an Air Force Veteran. He was born in Laurel and graduated from West Jones High School and Southeastern Baptist College. He was the pastor of Bellair Baptist Church in Port Arthur, Texas from 1996 to 2007. He also worked for Acadia Ambulance Service for many years in Beaumont, Texas.

David was a loving son and brother and he loved his church family at Circle Drive Baptist Church in Bridge City, Texas and at Lebanon Baptist Church in Laurel. He is preceded in death by his father, Gene Austin Busby and his sister, Deborah (Debbie) Jean Busby. He is survived by his mother, Hazel Busby Welch and stepfather, Harold Welch of Laurel; sister, Darlene Busby of Hattiesburg; aunt, Jennie Bell Cummins of Kosciusko; step brothers, Tony Welch and wife, Dana of Ellisville, Robbie Welch and wife, Sherri of Saucier and Rene' Welch and wife, Laura of Louisiana.

Editor's Note: The following was presented by a coworker and friend of David's at his funeral. Too often funerals do not include special thoughts from special friends. These words give us insight into the type of person David Busby was and the influence his life had on others.

Words From A Coworker and A Friend

My name is Katrina Dickens and I work for Acadia Ambulance Service in Southeast Texas. I not only worked with David for about 10 years in EMS, but he was also my

friend. I guess the reason I wanted to stand in front of you and talk about David is I wanted you to know that your son, your brother, your family member and your friend was a TRUE HERO. David absolutely LOVED working on the ambulance.

I know he had many stories of different calls he's helped with. Some with good endings and some with bad. Some you may have heard about but knowing David most he kept to himself. Like a silent hero.

After a bad day on the truck some of us may go grab a beer to help forget about the day or the person we just couldn't save. Not David. David would go to church or go scream at his TV for his Mississippi State Bulldogs or he would stay at the station and talk to other medics or his partner to help them feel better about how the shift went. David was one of a kind. A silent hero

I went to David's Facebook page and looked at all the descriptive words from his friends and I would like to share a few with you. "A true man of God", "The most caring man", "A great partner on the truck" and that says allot in the EMS world, "an AWESOME person" and so on and so on.

A quick personal story - My daughters own Papa Levi's Snow Cones in Groves, Texas. When David found out they bought the snow cone stand to help pay their way through college, he frequented there often. VERY OFTEN. The girls would see his truck pulling into the driveway and start making his fuzzy navel snow cone before he even got to the window to order. They would always tell me when David came by saying "That super sweet man you work with came by today. You know, David."

They cried when they found out David passed away - and they only knew him through the drive-thru window. That says a lot.

There are so many wonderful words to describe what an amazing person David was and what an awesome human he was. I want you to know that I don't say this often, but I mean this with all of my heart. David was one of the kindest men I have ever known and I do feel that Heaven has truly gained an Angel. May you rest in peace my dear friend.

Katrina Dickens
Acadian Ambulance Service
Community Relations Supervisor/ EMT

Southeastern Baptist College

Danny Pitts - Interim President

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



Danny Pitts

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Spring Semester Registration Open

Registration for the Spring Semester will be January 5-7. Classes begin on January 12th. I encourage anyone who has an interest in courses or a degree from Southeastern to call during the week of registration. We do have Pell Grants available for those qualified. The overwhelming number of our students receive help on their tuition through a Pell Grant. Call Southeastern Baptist College at 601-426-6346 and ask to speak to Ronnie Kitchens who heads Financial Aid. His experience and access to the Federal Website usually results in a clear statement of the final costs to you as soon as classes are chosen.

More Financial Aid

Another source of financial help is available to those who have served our country. Regardless of which branch of the military, the VA Benefits were earned by you. Call the school and leave your contact information for Dr. Aaron Parker. He oversees this area and will be able to help you through the process.

Others are given scholarships to offset some of the costs. Whether they receive scholarships, Pell Grants, or VA Benefits, many are amazed at how af-

fordable an education can be. On the bases of Biblical truth and wisdom, we discourage the accumulation of substantial debts while attending school. Check us out. We may be God's answer for you.

Local Advertising

From December 15, 2014 until January 14, 2015, an eight second digital ad for Southeastern Baptist College will be showing at the Checker's billboard in front of Wal Mart in Laurel. The sign cycles to repeat the ads every two minutes. After considering several options, we decided on "Your Hometown College" as our standout phrase.

When stating their position at Southeastern, the members of the staff are constantly questioned by residents of Laurel who does not know of our existence. Other respond, "I thought that college was only for preachers." Help us spread the word that SBC offers three AA degrees which emphasize Bible, General Education, or Business. Also add that Bachelor Degrees are available in Business Administration and Christian Ministry. Word-of-mouth advertising from strong supporters is the best kind.

Winnie McMahan Passes Away

Bro. Winnie McMahan, 72, died Friday, December 19, 2014 at his home. Services were held Monday, December 22, 2014 at First Baptist of Oak Grove, Hattiesburg. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Bro. McMahan was the pastor of East Main Street Baptist Church in Lumberton. He had served as minister for over ten churches from Long Beach to Meridian during his ministry. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ance and Belle McMahan Sr. and three brothers: Richard McMahan, Winston McMahan, and Ance McMahan, Jr. He is survived by his wife, Louise McMahan; two sons, Bro. Wayne (Lee Ann) McMahan, and Tommy (Natalie) McMahan; a daughter, Kathy (Bro. Greg) Bennett; six grandchildren, Adam McMahan, Cami (John) Mitchell, Brooke (Lee) Windham, Courtney (Tanner) Jones, Connor McMahan, and Molly McMahan; three great grandchildren, Elizabeth, Selah, and Judah Mitchell; three sisters, Thelma (Hartwell) Lott, Theresa (Robert) Warren, and Lottie (Jeff) Vance; two brothers, Charles (Doris) McMahan, and James (Louise) McMahan; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers the family request that donations be made to Southeastern Baptist College at 4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440, or donate to The Gideons International at P.O. Box 140800, Nashville, Tennessee 37214.

Mississippi
Baptist

January 2015

Special Emphasis

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

The Antichrist and the Muslim Mahdi

by Michael Youssef

Editor's Note: I ran across these two articles a few weeks ago and found them quite interesting. While we do not endorse all of the beliefs of Michael Youssef, his comments concerning the Muslim belief and vision for their "Mahdi" or end time ruler, are very illuminating. God's people need to understand the views of Muslims in order to understand the efforts they are now making concerning world domination. I pray these two articles interest you as a child of God and I encourage our readers to educate themselves in the beliefs and objectives of those who seek to dominate our world.

Many people—religious and non-religious—are asking questions about a word they hear the media use when referring to ISIS and other Islamist jihadists. That word is apocalyptic, which is used when specifically referring to the fatalism of Islamists.

People wonder, why do so many Muslims (both Sunni and Shi'ite) operate with such an "apocalyptic," end-of-world mindset?

Our secular society, however, coupled with the media's carelessness, is bandying about words like apocalyptic with-

out using them properly and without explanation. That creates a great deal of confusion for some, many of whom just throw up their hands in resignation and say, "I don't understand this."

But for those who want to understand, I am offering this two-part column, taking excerpts from my newest book, *Jesus, Jihad, and Peace*. I hope this will put things into perspective, so when the media says that an Islamist entity (such as ISIS, al-Qaeda, Iran, etc.) operate with an apocalyptic vision, you can make sense of it.

The word apocalypse does not, in fact, refer to a disastrous, catastrophic, end-of-world event. It's a Greek word, the root of which means revelation, or revealing things that are hidden. For instance, we know the last book of the Bible as Revelation, but in the original Greek language, it is Apokalupsae. It reveals what is happening in the heavenly realm, as well as events in the future.

Part 1 The Concept of the Antichrist

Both the Old Testament and New Testament spoke of an end-times figure, the Antichrist, some 600 years or more before Islam came on the scene. That timing will be important when I explain Islam's "end of time" coming of a Mahdi in my next column.

The Antichrist is known by various names. Paul calls him "the lawless one," "the man of lawlessness," and "the man doomed to destruction" who "will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God" (2 Thess. 2:1-12). The most detailed description of the Antichrist is in Revelation 13, where the Apostle John refers to the Antichrist as "the beast." The Old Testament prophet Daniel describes the abomi-

nable works of the Antichrist, but gives him no name or title (Dan. 9:27).

Who, then, is the Antichrist, whose brief but terrible reign is predicted in both the Old and New Testaments? He will be a world leader of unparalleled political, military and religious power. He will be charming, persuasive and popular beyond measure. The world will not know him as the "Antichrist," but by some attractive name and appealing title. But just as the word "Antichrist" suggests, he will be the opposite of the Lord Jesus Christ in every way. Everything Christ is, the Antichrist is not; everything Christ is not, the Antichrist is.

Jesus came from heaven (John 6:38); the Antichrist comes from the Abyss, the spiritual domain of evil (Rev. 11:7). Jesus came in the Name of the Father; the Antichrist comes in his own name (John 5:43). Jesus was despised by the world (Is. 53:3); the Antichrist will be worshipped by the world (Rev. 13:3-4). Jesus came in humility as a servant (Phil. 2:7-8); the Antichrist comes in pride, claiming to be God (2 Thess. 2:4; Dan. 11:36). Jesus is the truth (John 14:6); the Antichrist is the lie (2 Thess. 2:9-11). Jesus is the Son of God (Mark 1:1; Luke 1:35); the Antichrist is the son of perdition (2 Thess. 2:3, KJV).

The Apostle Paul tells us that the mystery (or secret) of godliness is that God Himself has appeared to us in human flesh (1 Tim. 3:16)—and that the mystery (or secret) of lawlessness is that Satan has produced a counterfeit Christ, the Antichrist, Satan wrapped in human flesh (2 Thess. 2:6-8). Jesus is the true Shepherd; Satan will have his evil shepherd, the Antichrist. Jesus is the Holy One of God; the Antichrist will be the lawless one of Satan. Jesus is the Man of Sorrows; the Antichrist will be the man of sin.

One Antichrist and many antichrists

First of all, the Antichrist is coming—a lawless man who will come in Satan's power, demanding to be worshipped as God, destroying all those who love God. But John tells us that there are many other antichrists, lesser deceivers who are also self-exalting, evil and destructive. They are antichrists, but they are not the Antichrist.

Jesus tells us that, shortly before His return, the Antichrist will arise during a time of global chaos and confusion, when the world is in political, social, financial and ecological upheaval. The terrified people of the world, desperate for a strong leader, will turn to this man and give him control of the governments of the world.

Daniel tells us that the Antichrist will speak "boastfully" (Dan. 7:8), yet it is clear that these will not be empty boasts. The Antichrist will appear to possess superhuman brilliance. He'll be the ultimate smooth talker, the greatest con man who ever lived, and he'll unite the nations under his rule. At first, he'll seem to be a wise and benevolent dictator, bringing peace, prosperity and hope. But once he is firmly in

continued on page 7



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Birthdays

I had a birthday the other day - as most people do.

They seem to come around faster and faster. Some one asked me how old I was and I told them I was 39 again and that this made 39 times I have been 39 again. If you're good at arithmetic you can figure that out pretty easy!

To be sure that I realized how old I am one of my offspring gave me a card that said: "You know you're getting older when..... Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work..... You feel like the morning after, and you didn't go anywhere the night before.... Your knees buckle and your belt won't..... You can only burn the midnight oil until 9 o'clock.... The twinkle in your eyes is the sun hitting your bifocals.... Your back goes out more often than you do... And another sure-fire way to know you're getting older is when CARDS LIKE THIS START SHOWING UP ON YOUR BIRTHDAY!

Oh, well, or as the kids say, whatever!

Aging is mentioned in the Bible, particularly in Proverbs 16:31 where it says "The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness."

So my feeling is: Birthdays? Just keep 'em coming!!!

Women's Missionary Auxiliary

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



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

Ten Mile WMA Report

The Ten Mile WMA met October 13, 2014, at Paramount Baptist Church, in Perkinston. Our theme verse was "The LORD is my Strength and my Shield; my heart trusted in him and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiced; and I am helped: Therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him." Psalms 28:7

Our 4th quarter project for 2014 is Missionaries Donnie and Jewel Loggins and Missionary Sidney Farmer South Forest Building Project. The National Project 2013-2014 is 40% I Am Woman

Center in Beirut, Lebanon; 15% Youth Fund; and 5% General Fund.

A devotion was brought by Paramount Baptist Church and the program was a report by Jessica Kirkland on her visit with missionary Nikkie Prickett.

We enjoyed refreshments and a great fellowship with Paramount Baptist Church. Our next meeting will be on January 12, 2015, 7:00 pm at Ten Mile Baptist Church in Perkinston. The program will be the GMA and Sunbeam coronation.

Reporter Maria Ochoa

Lebanon Church Welcomes New Youth Minister



Adam & Kim Parker

Lebanon Baptist Church welcomes their new youth minister, Adam Parker and his wife Kim. They are members of First Bay Springs Baptist Church. Adam has recently been serving at Victoria Hill Baptist Church in Ellisville working with the youth. He has over 6 years of experience as a youth minister, is a licensed minister and has preached at several churches in our work. He graduated from Southeastern College in May 2011 with his AA in Bible and General Education. Lebanon is anxious to see how God is going to use Adam and Kim in His work. This is an exciting time for Lebanon and they are very thankful that God brought them such a dedicated couple to join them in serving the Lord.

Antichrist and the Muslim Mahdi

control of the gears and levers of power, he'll reveal his true intentions.

The way has been paved for such a leader. Atheists, humanists, New Age mystics, Hindus, Buddhists and Islamists have little in common with each other—but they all share in the belief that Jesus is not the only way to salvation. There are even many self-styled "Christians" who deny the Lord's claim to be the only way to God. So it will be easy for the Antichrist to establish himself to many as an acceptable alternative.

In these days of muddled and confused worldviews, it is vitally important to know the truth. After all, Jesus said, "The truth will set you free." As events unfold, we need to see them not only through the camera's lens, but also through the lens of biblical revelation.

That the Antichrist is coming is known—only the timing is unknown. Although we know not the hour of night that the thief comes, we must be prepared nonetheless.

In next week's article (Part 2), we'll take a look at the striking parallels between the Antichrist and Islam's Mahdi (savior).

The Antichrist and the Muslim Mahdi - Part 2

In my last article, I explained the Judeo-Christian understanding of the Antichrist and that he will somehow be intertwined with Israel—and more specifically, Jerusalem.

Because Islam borrowed a great deal from Judaism and Christianity, it is not surprising that they too have a figure with a messianic complex—the Mahdi, or the Guided One.

Muslims see the Mahdi as a savior who will lead a global revolution and establish a worldwide Islamic empire. The Mahdi will rule the Earth as the final Caliph of Islam (a caliph is both a political ruler and a spiritual representative of Allah on Earth).

Muslims revere Jesus (whom they call Isa) as the Masih or Messiah. In Islamic eschatology, the Mahdi will arrive at the same time that Isa returns. Isa will descend to Earth in Syria, east of Damascus, dressed in yellow robes, and will assist the Mahdi, who will rule over the world for seven years (or, in some Islamic traditions, nine or 19 years). At the end of the Mahdi's rule, there will be a Day of Judgment for the entire human race.

The parallels between the biblical Antichrist and the Mahdi of Islam are chilling. Both are associated with the End Times and the Judgment. Both are said to possess political, military and religious power, and head up a one-world religion. The Mahdi will force all non-Muslim people to convert to Islam. Like the Antichrist, the Mahdi will establish Jerusalem as his capital, from which he will rule the Earth.

Islamic scholars Muhammad ibn

Izzat and Muhammad Arif write, in *Al Mahdi and the End of Time*: "The Mahdi will be victorious and eradicate those pigs and dogs and the idols of this time so that there will once more be a caliphate based on prophethood as the hadith states. ... Jerusalem will be the location of the rightly guided caliphate and the center of Islamic rule, which will be headed by Imam al-Mahdi. ... That will abolish the leadership of the Jews ... and put an end to the domination of the Satan who spit evil into people and cause corruption in the earth, making them slaves of false idols and ruling the world by laws other than the Sharia [Islamic law] of the Lord of the worlds."

Though Muslims revere Jesus as a prophet, they deny that Jesus is the Son of God. Jews and Christians are, to Muslim fundamentalists, "pigs and dogs" who must either convert to Islam or be eliminated. Bible prophecy makes it clear that the Antichrist will target Jews and Christians for destruction, just as Islamic prophecy states that the Mahdi will wage war against Jews and Christians. Those who oppose the Antichrist's worldwide religion will be executed.

Muslim scholar Imam Muhammad Baqir states clearly how the Mahdi will establish his one-world religion: "There must be bloodshed and jihad to establish Imam Mahdi's rule." And Ayatollah Ibrahim al Amini of the Religious Learning Center in Qom, agrees: "The Mahdi will offer the religion of Islam to the Jews and Christians; if they accept it, they will be spared. Otherwise they will be killed."

Daniel tells us (and Jesus affirms in the Olivet Discourse) that the Antichrist will establish "the abomination that causes desolation" in the Temple in Jerusalem. The apostle Paul adds that the Antichrist "will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God" (2 Thess. 2:4). Since the Temple was destroyed in 70 A.D., as Jesus predicted, this has led some (not all Christians) to suggest that the Jewish Temple must be rebuilt on Temple Mount before the Antichrist can be revealed to the world.

Yet the golden-topped Dome of the Rock shrine and the Al-Aqsa mosque stand on Temple Mount today. One of the Islamic Hadiths (traditions) records that their Prophet Muhammad said, "[Armies carrying] black flags will come from Khurasan [Iran and Afghanistan], no power will be able to stop them, and they will finally reach Eela [the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem] where they will erect their flags." In Islamic tradition, black banners symbolize violent conquest, and Muslims await the Mahdi's conquest of Jerusalem, when he establishes his reign from the Temple site.

Daniel 9:27 tells us the Antichrist will establish a seven-year covenant with Israel—but he will break the covenant after three-and-a-half years, defiling the Temple with "an abomination that causes desolation." The Hadiths of

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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



SIDNEY DAVIS

Happy New Year!

The year 2015 is before us! What we do during this coming year will depend on what each of us do in regards to the leadership of the Lord and His Holy Spirit in our lives. May we ever be mindful and sensitive to His guidance. Proverbs 3:5,6 would be a good motto for us to go by this coming year. Have a joyous and happy new year!



Magnolia Church, Hattiesburg Sharing Christmas

Christmas Sharing and Giving

We are thankful and grateful for those who shared with the girls and boys during this Christmas season. Those of you who gave gifts certainly thrilled and brought gladness to each of them and brightened their lives in a special way during this glorious time of the year.

Washington Association Rally

It was good to be with the Washington Baptist Association, which met with the Inspire Baptist Church in Hurley and Pastor Wade Ivy, for their annual



Washington Rally For Home

Islam also speak of a seven-year covenant that the Mahdi makes with Israel: "The Prophet said: There will be four peace agreements between you and the Romans. The fourth will be mediated through a person who will be from the progeny of Hadrat Aaron [Honorable Aaron, the brother of Moses] and will be upheld for seven years."

There can be no doubt: Muslims are preparing to accept the Mahdi as their leader—and the Mahdi is indistinguishable from the world leader we know as the Antichrist.

I bring all of this to your attention so we can have a knowledgeable perspective when viewing current events unfolding in the Middle East.

But Christians should not fear.

rally for the Home on December 19. We want express our thanks to each church and individual who gave to this rally.

Expression of Sympathy

We would like to express our sympathy to the family of Bro. Winnie McMahon. Bro. McMahon had served on the Board of Trustees of the Children's Home in past years. Our prayers and thoughts continue to be with the McMahon family during this time of sorrow.

Prayer and Focus Verse

Continue to remember the ministry of the Home in your daily prayers. "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." Philippians 3:13, 14.

Regardless of whether the Antichrist comes in this generation or a hundred years from now, those who have placed their faith in God's Messiah, Jesus the Christ, fear no one nor even death. Their eternity is secure in the One who is the only One to defeat death and rise from the grave.

Michael Youssef, Ph.D., is the founder and president of Leading the Way with Dr. Michael Youssef, a worldwide ministry that leads the way for people living in spiritual darkness to discover the light of Christ through the creative use of media and on-the-ground ministry teams. Youssef was born in Egypt.

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

January 2015 Special Emphasis



Don Brown
Editor

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

Our Need - \$10,000

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

The Church and McDonalds

from page 3

you'd pay dearly with your time. (Burger King capitalized on this weakness for years with its "Have it your way" ad campaign.)

Now more fast food and "fast casual" chains are making your food right in front of you and you get to call the shots. So in response to this trend, McDonald's is launching the "Create Your Taste" custom menu options with touch screen ordering. It's betting that millennials in particular will respond to this new "empowerment." I'm not sure that'll happen, but the touch screen order kiosks are a nice touch. (Said the Generation X writer.)

How participatory is your church? Is your congregation feeding everyone with a sermon that's been kept warm under a heat lamp or are there a number of fresh options for education and spiritual formation? Are you mostly presenting information to passive listeners or are you encouraging an environment where people interact with each other and with the word of God?

You never finish tweaking things. Almost 60 years after the founding of McDonald's, company executives are still making changes. Sometimes those changes work; sometimes they don't. But in today's competitive business cli-

mate where things fall out of favor quickly, companies like McDonald's can't afford to stop evaluating and tweaking, even when they're successful. It's the same with churches. Methods that are effective today may not be as effective next year. Or next week.

That's why it seems like the most influential fastest-growing churches are always trying something new and crazy (even to the point of being annoying.) Sometimes they see things the rest of us don't. While we're scratching our heads wondering why they don't just stick to a tried-and-true formula or make the obvious move, they're thinking a few chess moves ahead and planning for what's going to happen down the road.

Sometimes it's good to simplify. McDonald's finally wised up and realized that having 16 value meals is too much. So they're cutting five of them from the menu. They're also going from four quarter-pound options down to one. (Did you know McDonald's had four Quarter Pounders? Neither did I. That's probably why they're getting rid of three of them.)

Does your church have some sacred cows and Quarter Pounders that need to be yanked from the menu? Maybe now's the time to make the move.

Just remember to keep the Big Mac.

Special Mercy For Special People

by Grover Laird

"The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy." (Psalms 103:8)

Mercy has been defined as "kindness in excess of what may be expected." When we are sinners we have to have this in order to get saved - "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us..." (Titus 3:5) After we are saved we still need His mercy in order to live for the Lord.

After we are saved by God being merciful, we can determine to what degree God will continue to deal with us in mercy. If we ignore the teachings of God's Word, we can miss some of the special mercy of God that will make life easier and better for us. Consider some of those things that will help us to enjoy a greater measure of the mercy and grace of God.

1. We must be willing to confess our sins and forsake them - "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." (Proverbs 28:13 See also Isaiah 55:6)

2. We must be humble before God - "Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth

the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." (James 4:5,6)

3. We must live in the fear of the Lord - "For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him." (Psalms 103:11 See also Psalm 33:18; 103:13,17)

4. We must practice trusting the Lord for His help - "Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about." (Psalms 32:10)

5. We must be sincere about loving the Lord - "...the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;" (Daniel 9:4)

6. We must seek this mercy in prayer - "For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee." (Psalms 86:5 See also Hebrews 4:16)

7. We must be merciful to others - "With the merciful thou wilt show thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt show thyself upright;" (Psalms 18:25 See also Matthew 5:7)

It will indeed make life easier for us if God will deal with us in mercy. And while people may grow weary with putting up with our short-comings, God is different. His mercy is everlasting - "O give thanks unto the God of heaven; for his mercy endureth for ever." (Ps. 136:26)