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Baptist

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Department

Your Help Needed

LifeWord Cost Savings Paying Dividends

The following is a portion of Lifeworld's mission-world article, written by Steve Crawley with contributions from the Lifeworld team. For the full report, see the March/April issue:

Since 2013, the cost savings associated with the integration of departments have enabled Lifeworld to divert overhead costs to the funding of additional ministry opportunities. Tactical moves made by Lifeworld and other BMA entities have certainly brought extensive change and required considerable effort, yet they have reduced overhead costs significantly, resulting in an increase in ministry funds. The following are just a few examples of new initiatives implemented in the past two years:

Community Radio (Low Power FM or

LPFM): In the last two years, dozens of affiliate stations have been added in the United States and abroad. These efforts have resulted in many professions of faith, baptisms, and disciples being funneled into existing BMA missions and churches, some even resulting in new church plants.

Over the last two years, Lifeworld has conducted training in Honduras, Guatemala, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Tanzania, Dominican Republic,



Lifeworld's Rick Russell working to spread the Word through radio.

Costa Rica, Africa, and the Philippines, which prepares believers effectively share the gospel with their communities using media. Additionally, Bible Institute classes in the Philippines and Guatemala have incorporated Community Radio training into their curriculum. Students learn broadcast/program production, recording, editing, and setting up and troubleshooting the stations.

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Another Successful Mission Trip

by Ben Temple

"Water for Christ" marketing

Water for Christ just returned from a mission trip in Ghana, West Africa where we drilled 3 successful water wells and saw 1,068 professions of faith. The water ministry has truly been blessed this year, as we have seen many people hungry for the Word of God. In addition, the water wells are supporting the mission efforts of BMA missionaries Dale and Celia Broom.

Reflecting upon Water for Christ's November 2015 trip to Ghana, West Africa, one thing was clear—the hand of God was upon the team from the moment we left Arkansas until we landed. On the previous trip we drilled 3 water wells in 2 weeks time while having numerous problems. Yet on the this trip

we drilled 3 water wells in less than a week without any problems.

This trip was a challenging logistical journey, but as usual the missionaries Dale & Celia Broom had everything under



Sharing the Gospel in Ghana, West Africa

control from pickup to takeoff. When we arrived in WaleWale, we were welcomed around the table for a wonderful home cooked meal by Ms. Celia to rejuvenate us.

Every morning the Tim Tyler whis-

ting alarm went off at 4:30AM, in fact, if we weren't at the table by 5:00, we missed breakfast. For those of you who are unfamiliar with Water for Christ's director Tim, his work ethic is like none other than we have ever seen. The team gathered for breakfast and devotions every morning and by the first African sunrise the team began drilling the first of three water wells.

The first water well project was digging a well at the Missionary house. The Brooms hope to use this house as a base for church planting in northern Ghana. In addition, Water for Christ will use this house to run operations out of northern Ghana. The bad quality of water along with the cost of water at the missionary house was a true hardship, thus, Water for Christ was able to drill a well about 100 feet deep at this compound to provide clean water. Lord willing, this well will also be used in the community as well.

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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
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Danny & Brenda
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“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things? For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.” 2 Cor. 2:14-17

The passion to share the gospel can sometimes diminish over time. When new believers first possess the good news, the natural desire and passion is to share that good news with others. Even without training or encouragement the urge to tell others about Jesus propels them into an amazingly effective overpowering of all the negatives to bring people to Christ (Matt 9:31). But soon they realize that the sweet smell that this passion emits into the nostrils of our Heavenly Father is a smell of death to the unbeliever. Often the continual rejection of the good news and personal familiarity with the good news, along with other distractions, cause the good news to become old news to the believer and the urgency for the lost

slips away.

It is true that many unbelievers may respond to our good news as a stench of death. They may despise our message and become offended by it. Often, it is because they love their sin and the message of redemption is a call to repentance. When the believer tries and tries again and is rejected again and again, his or her enthusiasm can diminish. But, we must remember that while we may carry the stench of death to some, we carry the odor of life for others.

John Phillips explains that, “The mystery of how the fragrance of Christ draws some and damns others can be seen all through the Bible. The smell of Abel’s burnt offering goaded Cain to fury. Isaac and Ishmael were equally loved of Abraham. Isaac became a believer and Ishmael a mocker and a rebel. Esau and Jacob were twins. Jacob chose the birthright and the blessing. Esau grew up profane, a veritable Old Testament prodigal. Ruth and Orpah both married Elimelech’s sons. Both were exposed to truth regarding Israel’s God. Both heard how God had visited His people. Both made a “decision” to respond to the good news. Ruth went on to marry Boaz, that great prince of the house of Judah; Orpah went back, back into the dark, back to the demon gods of her people, back to a Christ-rejecting world.

The fragrance of Christ savors of life to some and death to others. The same sun which melts the wax, hardens the clay. “Who is sufficient for these things?” Paul exclaims.

In the Old Testament the priests were required to put “holy anointing oil” on their garments (Exodus 30:30-31) before they came into the presence of the Lord. This was a daily activity and the odor stayed with them as they left the temple and traveled in and out among the people. The odor would precede them and the people could know of their presence before they ever saw them.

As we move into 2016, I hope you will join me in setting a personal goal to gain a fresh awareness of the urgency of sharing the “good news” with the lost. May we prepare ourselves daily by first spending time in our “holy of holies” with the Lord and then go forth with the odor of life on us. Let us go forth fearless of rejection, remembering that Ephesians 1:6 tells us that we are, “...accepted in the beloved...” and according to Rom 8:37, “...we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”

Our Vision

Our vision for State Missions in 2016 remains the same as last year: “In partnership with churches and local associations, of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi, we will seek to plant new churches through any biblical means possible.” We are driven by this vision to challenge our churches to focus outward, step out on faith, invest in Kingdom work and influence the world around us with the power of

BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund Report (As of Dec 28, 2015 and since August 1, 2015)	
Gross Assets	\$21,146,800.00
New Loans Made	8
Total of New Loans	\$1,921,969.00
New Loans In Process (not yet closed)	3
Total of Funds Obligated for Loans in Process	\$723,000.00
Cash Reserve (percent of shareholder deposits)	18%

the gospel.

I remind you that the work of State Missions is settled upon the following principles: Our Mandate: The Word of God; Our Message: The Gospel; Our Method: Preaching; Our Means: The Churches.

Sometimes the Holy Spirit will speak directly to the heart of a man and place a burden on his heart for the work of missions. Sometimes the Holy Spirit moves in a congregation and a passion to reproduce the church is born. Sometimes the Holy Spirit draws a person, congregation or a group of churches to take interest in a specific site or location. Sometimes, an offering is given from the heart of a church, local association or person that becomes the catalyst for prayer and missions awareness. The Holy Spirit can use a variety of ways to initiate the missions/church planting process, but to constitute a mission project supported by the association, the following things must be in common in every case:

THE LOCAL CHURCH

A church, which has the sole authority for sending, led by God, must see a need. They must be willing to sponsor a person who will be called a missionary. That missionary must be a member of that church. The church must vote to endorse the missionary, thus giving him the authority to do missions work. The church must vote to initiate a new church in the area determined to be the mission field. The church must be willing to pray (as much as possible), participate (however possible), promote (as often as possible), provide support (as providentially as possible), and protect (as prudently as possible) the missionary and missions congregation.

THE ASSOCIATION

The association, represented by its Missions Department, works with churches to select a potential area for a church plant; to assess and interview a missionary candidate; to train, prepare and supervise the missionary before and while on the field, on behalf of the sponsoring church and the association, to raise funds to help support the financial needs of the missionary and his work.

THE MAN

The church planter will be accountable to the association through the Missions Director. The church planter will be in a collegial relationship to other churches in the association, but his primary account-

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Reports for December 2015				
	High Attendance	Membership	Total Offerings	Mother Church
Church Planters				
Bob Burch (Caledonia)	64	45	\$3,688.00	East Fulton
Bobby Elliott (Burnsville)	51	42	\$1,992.00	Forked Oak
Sidney Farmer (S. Forrest County)	70	42	\$4,608.00	Paramount
Danny Bartlett (Clinton)	16	12	\$5,994.00	Wilderness
Phillip Burns (Sumrall)	21	8	\$1,735.00	First Bay Springs
Wesley Martin (Diamondhead)	32	27	\$3,091.00	Campground
Anders Lee (Southaven)	161	83	\$10,604.00	Charity
Hispanic Missions – South (Estuardo Marroquin – Coordinator) <i>(Estuardo Marroquin is also the Sr. Pastor of El Camino, which serves as the mother church for the church plants listed below.)</i>				
El Camino (Laurel)	107	121	\$6,726.00	
Church Planters				
Marciano Montalvo (Hattiesburg)	34	14	\$1,186.00	El Camino
Rodolfo Galicia (Biloxi)	9	2	n/a	El Camino
Hispanic Missions – North (Elvis Garcia – Coordinator) <i>(Elvis Garcia is also the Sr. Pastor of Way, Truth & Life, which serves as the mother church for the church plants listed below.)</i>				
Way, Truth & Life (Ripley)	90	86	\$3,747.00	
Church Planters				
Humberto Navarro (Tupelo)	24	18	\$959.00	Way, Truth & Life
Luis Huchin (Oxford)	35	5	\$978.00	Way, Truth & Life
African American Missions – (Ed DuVall – Coordinator) <i>(Ed DuVall is also the Sr. Pastor of Homestretch which serves as the mother church for the church plants listed below.)</i>				
Homestretch (Cleveland)	23	50	\$2,476.00	
Church Planters				
James Cook (Olive Branch)	13	13	\$1,325.00	Homestretch
Collectively, our missionaries reported 198 new contacts, shared the gospel 112 times, and witnessed 8 professions of faiths, and 8 joined by letter in December.				

January 2016 - Special Emphasis

Our Need - \$10,000



Don Brown
Editor

Mississippi Baptist

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On The Web at www.msbbaptist.org

Your Support & Gifts Are Appreciated!

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

Water For Christ from page 1

The W4C team did crusades in this area reaching about 400 people and seeing around 50 professions of Christ in this area.

The second well project was drilled at the police station in the center of downtown WaleWale. What a honor it was for the team to be able to serve civil

authorities in foreign lands. This mission effort was very well received by the commander. The commander along with his team was very grateful for the team's efforts. We believe this well will bless the community of which we will be serving in the future. It is our hope that this well will also bless the missionary's relationship with the police department.

The W4C team did crusades nearby in the GBIMSI area outside of Wale Wale where we reached over 1,000 people. We ran out of Bibles and saw several hundred people come to Christ.

The third and final well the team dug was in the community of GBIMSI, a village about 5 miles outside of WaleWale. We drilled a well 154 feet deep near to a well that was only about 30-40 feet deep, that the village used for drinking and bathing water. The well was in working condition, but the water was very con-

taminated. The well we dug for them will give them clean drinking water. The payment given to the team for these services was one goat accompanied by cokes and cookies while we were working.

The last crusade the W4C team did was in a community far from WaleWale, that frankly, looked like no one had ever visited them before. We were able to reach about 400 people in this community and see about 30 professions of faith.

During the first week in WaleWale, the W4C team visited several schools reaching over 1,000 children and seeing several hundred professions of faith. We were always amazed at the Ghanaian culture that even schools where Islam is preached allowed us to witness about Christ. In fact, at the first school we visited there was a mosque behind it. We testify it was here that many of the students were excited to receive a spiritual tract of salvation after hearing brother Rodney give a message of the Good News.

In conclusion, the greatest takeaway is simply the truth of Matthew 9:37 - "...The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." In America, I see a nation proudly running away from God. Perhaps it is not the majority, but the empowered have hardened their hearts. In Ghana, I see a poverty struck nation

Missions Report from page 2

ability will be to the Director of Missions and his primary responsibility will be to his sponsoring church.

The role of the Director, which you have so graciously honored me with, is to serve the churches by supporting her missionaries. The task is great as each missionary faces unique challenges, but with common expectations. We presently have 17 men that we support, directly or indirectly, who are involved in church planting. Each of them needs your prayers and support as do I.

As I look forward to 2016, I am excited about what God has in store for us. I am anxious to get out among the churches to share the good news and report on missions. If you would like to have me visit your church in 2016, please give me a call at 601-428-8616.

with open hearts and eyes for Jesus. The children are looking for something good to believe in. One man told me by observing the actions of Christians, he came to love and follow Christ. Not always do we have to be a missionary, a preacher, or an evangelist; rather, sometimes we just have to show the love of Christ.



Drilling a new well in Ghana

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Don Brown

Mississippi Baptist

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Don Brown - Editor

Opinion Page

www.ms baptist.org

A New Year - Continued Needs

2016 has arrived! We ended 2015 by celebrating the advent of the Messiah and look forward to the blessings that He will send our way in this new year.

We look to each new year as an opportunity to begin some things afresh and determined to continue those things that are our responsibility. We look for new opportunities and the new adventures that God will put in our paths.

Your Publications Department must continue to pursue the ministry of information. As with any endeavor, funding is a necessity.

January of each year is set aside by the churches of our Association to raise additional operating funds for this department. Promotional literature has been mailed to our churches to the attention of the pastor.

We encourage each church to post the flyers around your church and encourage your members to give a special

offering to this department in January.

Here are some suggestions to provide your members an opportunity to give:

1. **Simply vote** to give a specific amount during January...
2. **Take an offering** each week...
3. Designate a **Special Offering Sunday** during January...
4. **Set a Specific Goal** and promote it during each service...

Whatever your church decides to do, we encourage you to provide your members an opportunity to give a love offering to this work.

The gift is needed and will be put to good use sharing the "good news" of the work of the BMA of Mississippi in the Lord's Kingdom.

God bless you as you labor for Him and may He bless you and the ministry of your church during 2016.

Church Honors Former Pastor

Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Tishomingo, Mississippi, would like to express our most thankful appreciation to our former pastor and brother in Christ. We invite everyone to join us in expressing our love and appreciation to Bro. Grover T. Laird in celebration of his 50th year milestone with the "Revivalist" publication.

Bro. Laird was born on January 11th, 1929, ordained into the Ministry on January 23rd, 1946, and began publication of "The Revivalist" paper on January 28th, 1966

Bro. Laird pastored our church from 1996 to 2002. He, along with his faithful wife, was a blessing and inspiration to our community and us during this time. However, Brother Laird's Preaching, Teaching, and Influence was never limited to just only one church or community. His efforts to share the wonderful word of God and man's hope of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ have been varied and versatile. His influence has been felt in many ways.

1. From the Pulpit: Bro. Laird has pastored churches in Mississippi, Texas, and Kentucky. He has conducted many



Grover Laird

revivals in several different states. Although retired from the pastorate, he continues to actively preach and serve the Lord.

2. From the Prison Cell: Bro. Laird left the pastorate for twelve years.

During this time he was engaged in both evangelistic work and a prison ministry. Averaging 18-24 revivals per year and between revivals visiting 10-12 jails per week sharing the counsel of God's Word with many inmates, in prison and jail cells, in numerous towns and States.

3. From the Radio Microphone: Bro. Laird began utilizing the Radio to spread God's Word in the late 70's and

continued to do so until September of 2015.

4. From the Printed Word: Bro. Laird began publishing the "Revivalist" monthly paper on the 28th of January 1966. The paper's mailing reached some forty different states as well as three foreign countries, encouraging many in God's Word.

5. From the Published Word: Bro. Laird's Book "Sermons, Devotionals, Thoughts" was published in 1996. Short, but profound admonishments were presented for concerns in life. It is all about God's Word and sharing it with others. His motivation in spreading the Gospel is reflected in the books preface: "It is therefore hoped that no one will neglect the Bible in order to read this book, but that many will be moved by this book to read the Bible."

6. From the World Wide Web: Bro. Laird began using the Internet as a means of sharing the "Revivalist" monthly publication around 2011. His monthly Sermons, Short messages, Selected articles, and Thoughts from scripture, can still be found each month (along with many archives) on his web page, The Revivalist. Just go to www.grovertlaird.com

7. Last but not least...From his Personal Testimony: If, as a casual guest in someone's home, or as often occasions his visits...to those lost and in need; his humble manner and soft spoken approach cannot be overlooked. While he may not always have a solution to a problem, he always knows where to find it, and there he does resort. His faith in, and practice of,

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Larry Geraldson

Publications Department Special Emphasis - January 2016

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

MORAL ACTION

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John Adams

Sanctity of Life – January 17, 2016

The sanctity of life defines humanity as being more sacred than the rest of God's creation. In Genesis 9:3 God told humans that they have the authority to kill and eat other forms of life; but in Genesis 9:6 the murdering of other human beings is totally forbidden with the penalty pronounced as death.

God's churches and individual believers should pause on Sunday, January 17, 2016, and reflect on the beauty of life in the womb and to pray for the proponents of abortion and euthanasia.

While the sanctity of life ethics may be disparaged by the world, it is God's voice. The Bible is clear: human life is precious at all ages.

We are reminded by Ethics leader Dr. Russell Moore that we have to say things to each other that Christians shouldn't have to say:

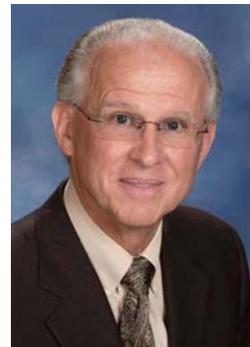
1. Mothers shouldn't kill their - babies.
2. Fathers shouldn't abandon their - families.
3. No human life is - worthless.

The very fact that these thoughts should be proclaimed is a true reminder of the horrors of this present world's darkness. So may we join millions of others on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 17, 2016 and love life.

Times of Celebration and Thanksgiving

In October 2015, Magnolia Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, celebrated its 65th anniversary as a BMAA church with a fellowship meal and groundbreaking ceremony for a Family Ministry Center. Magnolia was organized in October 1950, as Westside Baptist Church. After 47 years in the origi-

nal location on West 4th Street in Hattiesburg, with changes in the community and westward growth of the city, the church was able to purchase over 19 acres, build a beautiful new building, and relocate to its current



Greg Medenwald

location at 148 King Road in the Oak Grove community. The physical, financial, and most importantly the spiritual growth of Magnolia is all due to the awesome love and power of God, and we give Him all

the credit and glory.

On November 22, 2015, Magnolia reached another milestone with the celebration of the 40th anniversary of Brother Greg Medenwald as our pastor. It is almost unheard of for a pastor to remain at the same church with continued growth of the church for 40 years, and we know that this is evidence that God Himself placed Bro. Greg with us. Brother Greg and his wonderful wife Teri began their ministry and service at Magnolia on the Sunday before Thanksgiving in 1975. He has been a wonderful Spirit-led minister, leader, and most importantly a great pastor. The congregation expressed their great appreciation and love for Bro. Greg and Teri with a surprise gift of a new 2016 Nissan Frontier truck. We thank God for placing Bro. Greg and Teri at Magnolia, and pray for God's continued blessings under His leadership and guidance through Bro. Greg.

Church Honors Pastor

from page 4

prayer are worthy examples that reflect his confidence in the Word of God and in the Power of Prayer.

The biblical meaning of the number seven is "Completeness." We congratulate Bro. Laird in his many achievements for the Lord over the years, and in particular for these seven, which truly reflect his complete devotion to a ministry and service to God.

It is with grateful appreciation and in the hope that as we acknowledge his past efforts and continuing contribution to the cause of Christ, that those in Christ will be encouraged and that those who may need Christ will turn to Him.

Knowing Bro. Laird's reservation toward personal praise, we trust that he can say "Amen" to our following conclusion: May God alone receive all glory and honor for this humble servant's dedication and devotion to Him.

Finally, it is only fitting and proper that we note that Bro. Laird does have other two helpers: The Holy Spirit, and his most faithful wife. We wish Brother and Sister Laird the continued blessings of the Lord and thank each of you for your most faithful love and service to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Southeastern Baptist College

Danny Pitts - President

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Danny Pitts

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Extension Classes Offered in Meridian This Spring

Southeastern will be offering classes in Meridian at Mt. Olive Baptist Church beginning in January. Johnny Qualls will be teaching Old Testament Survey on Tuesday nights, and Dr. Melvin Hendricks will be teaching Introduction to Psychology on Thursday nights from 6:30 to 9:15PM. Registration will be from 5 to 7PM on Tuesday, January 5th. Those who desire to be full time students can take online classes.

Pell Grants and VA Benefits are available to those who qualify. Contact Ecclesiastes Goodwin at 601-604-6846 for more information. To see a complete schedule of classes taught check our website at www.southeasternbaptist.edu.

Anyone who will need Pell Grants or V.A. Benefits is encouraged to begin the registration process as early as possible. All non degree seeking students will need to fill out an application and pay a \$15 Application Fee. Some items which Degree Seeking students need to bring to register include:

Proof of graduation from high school or GED

Transcripts of previous college work sent to Southeastern Baptist College

A letter of recommendation from your pastor

Or if you are a pastor, a letter of recommendation from a pastor friend

Two personal reference forms

Application fee of \$25.

Lifeword

from front page

Testimonies from around the globe offer an encouraging response:

Honduras: The Garifuna, who were among the first recipients of Community Radio, have set up five additional stations in their communities. In cooperation with BMA Honduras, they have also traveled outside the country to set up stations for other indigenous people groups and are training others to do the same.

Guatemala: The Garifuna have set up a station in the jungle. Consequently, a number of Kekchi villages are hearing the gospel in their language for the first time, resulting in many reported professions of faith. Pastors and leaders in other Kekchi villages are being trained in the use of Community Radio, which should yield even more results.

Peru: Because of the concerted efforts of BMA Missions, Lifeword, BMMI, and BMA Peru, the Lord blessed with professions of faith in the community of Picoy. One of these converts was the mayor, who is currently being disciplined and has offered a place to set up Community Radio where a new mission/church is being launched this year by BMA Peru. Picoy, previously known to locals as the seat of paganism, will now have a church and a Christian radio station.

Eight hours from Picoy, in Mazamari, the Community Radio station opened the door to a hundred tribes, where BMA Peru leader and Lifeword repre-

sentative Paul Tinoco has been following up. He reports many professions of faith, and both BMA Missions and Lifeword now have a presence in the communities of Shevoja, Bagua Grande, and Concepcion Huancayo.

Philippines: Open Door Baptist Church in Pandan (a small Filipino village) and Pastor Jonathan Arturo started its Community Radio station two years ago to share the gospel with nearby villagers. After a few months, station managers began receiving text messages from listeners in Melendrez, a place no one had ever heard of. It was only five miles away on the other side of a jungle so thick that no one had ever gone, but radio waves from Open Door Community Radio were able to penetrate! Melendrez now has a church with dozens of members. Since that time, Open Door has planted a mission church in the nearby village of Kalubihan and the people down the road in Hilonga have also begun to respond to the gospel.

Africa: Among the Swahili-speaking people of Tanzania, twenty-five pastors in a small association of Tanzanian Baptist churches are working with Lifeword and the following individuals and entities to spread the gospel: BMA pastors, BMA Seminary professors, Evangelistic International Ministries (EIM), and BMA Missions. Lifeword has the opportunity to step in and help with a new Swahili broadcast that should be airing in 2016.

Please pray with us as Lifeword continues to co-labor in the kingdom work God has given us the privilege to be a part of.

I Mashed My Fob in Church

Let me start at the beginning before I got to the fob mashing at church. I recently traded my older pickup for a newer model. When the eager salesman brought the truck to the driveway, I asked for the key in order to test drive it.

“Sir, this pickup does not have a key.”

“Then how do you start it?”

“Sir, it has a fob.”

“What’s a fob?”

The salesman who looked like he would celebrate his first birthday as an adolescent smugly held up what looked like a cocoon of some chrysalis process and proudly (yes, it was in a condescending manner) announced to me this thing he called a fob would do all I needed to drive this new model pickup. I took the thing called fob.

“Where do you stick it in to start it?”

“Sir, you don’t have to stick it anywhere. Just have it in your pocket. The pickup knows you have your fob on you.”

“OK, so I have my fob on me. Does the pickup then know I want it to start?”

“Sir, you have to press the start button.”

“Where is the start button?”

“It’s right there by the steering wheel.”

I pressed the start button. Nothing happened.

“Sir, you have to have your foot on the brake pedal before you press the start button.”

Well, to conclude this fobic saga, let’s just say before I drove the pickup out of

Leave It To Cleaver



Dr. Tony Cleaver is a retired U.S. Army Chaplain and Director of Distance Learning for BMA Seminary. You may contact him at jstmcleaver@embarqmail.com

the dealer’s lot, I had to have a lot more lessons on “The Fob.”

Now, let’s switch to the church last Sunday. Keep all this fob business in mind. Obviously you are already way ahead of me in my telling this story. I was pulpit guest at a small rural church. You have heard of the old direction giving cliché of: “You can’t get there from here.” Well, this particular rural church is not on any GPS, Google map, or even U.S. Department of Interior satellite information. You have to know where it is. You will not get there by accident.

The moderator for the service announced, “We are glad to have our pulpit guest this Sunday. He will speak now. By the way we are all hearing a horn honking outside. Mrs. Jones tells me it is a newer model pickup truck parked under the big oak tree.”

Yes, when I stood up to speak, I had several things in my pocket. It must have activated the fob. I had mashed my fob in church. I quickly excused myself to go outside to take care of the horn

Women's Missionary Auxiliary

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Ten Mile WMA

by Maria Ochoa, Reporter

The Ten Mile WMA held their meeting on October 12, 2015 at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Saucier. We heard a testimonial from Brother Octove and his wife Lillian Gervil, missionaries from Haiti. Lillian blessed us with a beautiful song and Bro. Gervil gave his testimony. He is excited about serving God and following his lead. He shared that life is very different and hard in Haiti. He also shared the need for a new building, funds for purchasing land and

assistance for sending his daughters to college. We were encouraged to pass the word to all churches encourage our pastors to invite him to be speaker and share his testimony.

We gave a donation to he and his wife and also approved a gift to Nikki Prickett. Our new project for this quarter is Brother Phillip Burns and his mission work in Sumrall.

Our next meeting will be on January 11, 2016 7 PM, Paramount Baptist Church, Perkinston.

honking that was clearly audible even to the lady with two hearing aids who had told the moderator about the annoying horn.

When I came back in, everyone was aware of my fob mashing. In order to save a little piece of my dignity, I announced I bought the pickup from a dealer of another denomination, and the horn was programed to go off at a

certain time if the service was not concluded. That way they could beat the other congregations in town to the café. Listening to the muffled giggles, I felt this explanation satisfied the crowd.

I have several life lessons learned about “The Fob.” The most important one is: Don’t mash your fob in a country church before you get up to preach.



MISSIONS
baptist missionary association of america

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Down In The Valley

I vaguely remember the charge nurse coming in and saying we have coded you. Your room is about to fill up with many people. I do not want you to be scared of this. She turned to my wife and said, "We are transferring him to ICU/ Critical Care and you need to prepare to go with us." This was a two week struggle with bacterial pneumonia. With a weakened immune system, other opportunistic infections came upon me. With a temperature of 105 degrees, the Mountain View Hospital could not keep my fever down. They transported me to a large medical school hospital in Little Rock via ambulance. This was the beginning of a two week stay in Little Rock. I was out of the hospital for a week and then went back in. I have been in a deep valley for the last 4 months. I have been in 5 hospitals since August. I just finished a nearly two week stay in the hospital just before Thanksgiving week. After a multitude of tests and multiple blood transfusions; the doctors have simply said we don't know what is causing this.

I am not walking through this valley

alone. His rod and staff, they comfort me. I always want to learn and grow in my valleys. Hard times are growing times. They are grace events and a chance to learn more about His mercy and healing and comforting. I grow more dependent upon my Lord when I walk through the valley. Everything I have preached across the country has become a personal testimony in my life the past four months. I want to give God glory, and honor, and all praise and thanks. You are worthy O Lord, and worthy is the Lamb.

I have many testimonies of trials that the Lord has delivered me through. This time I was determined by His great might to totally trust Him and have faith in Him. Take for example, the financial trials. When I don't preach we have no income. I tried to do one revival this Fall and that was followed by 20 days of uncontrolled fever. Then there is the enormous looming mountain of hospital bills, doctor bills, and medications with no insurance. Yet, every time I had a thought of how we were going to have income I would

stop. I would tell myself that was a fleshly human thought. I must take captive every thought unto the Lord. If you repeat scripture in your head you do actually renew your mind. It drives out the worry and fears or wrong thinking. I hope many of you will try this.

I claimed two scriptures that I would just repeat over and over until I had no worry about finances, but had a peace that passed my understanding. I have told God that I trusted him to create a financial miracle. Not any other way. Only by Him. I have quoted so many times Philippians 4:19, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." And I also love Psalm 37:25, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor His seed begging bread."

Physically I worry if this is the end of my days. I tell people in sermons to not be discouraged. We have victory in Jesus. We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. In this valley I have learned that all of this is true. However, I have also learned that you will get discouraged. It just happens. I am human after all and broken. The difference is that we Christians will get discouraged or worry, but we don't stay there. When I get down, I am lifted up by reading my Bible, praying a specific prayer of thanks to God, and singing to my Lord. For physical healing I read these scriptures: Psalm 37:24, "Though he falls, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand." Psalm 34:17-19, "the righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." Psalm 41:3 "The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou will make all his bed in his sickness." Others verses to share with the sick are Psalm 103:1-5, Isaiah 41:10, Deuteronomy 31:8, I Peter 1: 6-9.

My ministry and future are unknown. I search God with my whole heart to see what He wants for me. It is not all the people saying you must renew your strength so you can come and preach to us. It is truly what God desires for me and I search for this daily from my beloved Father. Psalm 27:13,14. A pastor from Texas drove up to see me one day in the hospital. I told him that God was going to rebuild me according to His will for me because he has taken my health, he has taken my income.

Men enjoy hunting, working on cars etc. My great stress reliever was working out in the gym. God allowed that to be taken also. I lost 56 pounds and all muscle mass. But I also lost my pride. Yeah. He has taken my ministry from me. Yet, I fully trust He will restore me and rebuild me as He wants, and it will be the best thing for me. He will give me mercy and loving kindness because I am his son. This pastor said, he has not

taken your ministry from you. Your ministry will be in my pulpit Sunday. You led me to the Lord. I wanted to give up in seminary, but you called me every week and encouraged me to fight on. And then he named about 10 others that were pastors now and he said, "because of your teaching us, your ministry is alive and well this Sunday in pulpits all over America".

God is good to send encouragers into our life. I have no idea what is going to happen in my future. But I want to testify that I will trust only Him. I have faith in Him. He knows tomorrow. I am thankful I know Him. All thanks be to God for this growing and learning experience as I rest in His marvelous, wonderful, matchless grace.

Family Ark Ministries

Dr. Travis Plumlee is a full-time professional speaker and leads Family Ark Ministries. For more information or to contact him, visit www.travisplumlee.com.



Publications Department Special Emphasis - January 2016

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



Danny Pitts

Girls Missionary Auxilliary

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Mississippi Corresponding Secretary and Miss GMA

by Barbara Jean Williams

Hey girls! This is Barbara Jean Williams and I hope that all of you are as excited as I am for the upcoming GMA camp! All of the officers have been working hard to plan this year's camp to be fun and a blessing for everyone who attends.

Our theme for this year is "Anchor In Hope" and our main focus will be on pressing the truth and holding on to God's anchor in hope. For our house party, we have planned a talent show and the game, 'ships and sailors'. I hope

all of you are praying for the officers as we plan and that everyone who attends will receive a blessing for coming.

GMA State Secretary Reports

Hey GMAs this is Beth, your state secretary from Movella Missionary Baptist Church in Lucedale, Mississippi. I am writing to encourage you all to pray for us officers as we get camp ready. It's March 18-19 the theme is "Anchor in Hope", Hebrews 6:19. I'm excited and it's going to be lots of fun. Hope to see all of you there.

2 Timothy 2:15

Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White



Hang on or Fall Off

For years I have labored under the assumption that when Fall comes, things slow down. After busy summer days of picking and shelling and canning and freezing and mowing the idea of slower times is rather enticing!

But reality has finally hit! It seems as fall comes on folks get busier than rats in a corn crib! And then the Christmas season hits. From then on it's just hang on or fall off!

I think I enjoy the Christmas Season because it is such a joy to be in on the celebration of our Savior's birthday. We are not the first to feel this urgency because Luke said in his account of the Savior's birth that the shepherds "came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger."

I thank God that I can be up and busy.

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

Ecc. 3:1

Publications Department Special Emphasis - January 2016

Dear Mississippi Baptist Readers,

Darla and I enjoy receiving our state paper each time. It keeps us up to date on our Association events, the church's news, and always has timely articles. First Baptist, Mantachie members are well informed through the Family Plan! We need the paper. So hats off to Editor Don Brown and Trustees for a job well done.

Dr. John Adams, Moral Action



John Adams

Church dedicates new building

The Fountain of Faith Missionary Baptist Church of Creola, Alabama, held a dedication service for their new building on November 1, 2015.

The church had their first worship service on October 24, 2004. It was officially organized on June 26, 2005 with 46 members from the Belle Fountain Missionary Baptist Church in Mobile, Alabama. Today, the Fountain of Faith



Fountain of Faith Missionary Baptist Church

has over 200 members, a part of which includes a mission work in Chuuk, Micronesia. Bro. Al Moore was called as their first pastor in 2004 where he remains as pastor today.

The congregation had been meeting in the Life of Christ Chapel in Creola.

All of the church furnishings were donated by the members of the church. This includes chairs, pulpit, pulpit furniture, communion table, the organ and a steeple for the building.

The church wishes to thank the Mississippi Baptist Revolving Loan Fund for helping to finance this project. They also wish to thank all those who have supported and continue to support the church with their time, prayers and financial contributions.

"To God be the glory, great things He hath done!"

BMA of Mississippi Youth Department

Phone 662-316-6233 www.facebook.com/bmamsyouth



Kelby Johnson
Director

State Youth Camp - June 6-8, 2016

Waukaway Springs, Vossburg, Mississippi

Speaker: Blake McCain

Pastor, Midway First Baptist (Sumrall)

Happy New Year! As we begin 2016, I am excited to announce some details about our State Youth Camp. We will once again meet at Waukaway Springs Christian Retreat Center in Vossburg, Mississippi. The dates for this year's camp is June 6-8 and the cost is \$100 per person.

We are very excited to have Bro. Blake McCain as our speaker this year. Bro. Blake is the Pastor at Midway First Baptist in Sumrall and will do a great job of challenging our students with the Word of God.

One new change for this year is that we are opening up camp for all ages. Many of the children who have attended our Junior Camps over the years are now reaching their teen years and we want to continue providing the camp experience that they have come to know and love.

For more information and to preregister, contact Bro. Kelby Johnson at 662-316-6233 or kelbyjohnson@yahoo.com.

COMMISSION ON Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt
Director

2016 looms ahead with the promises of God resting upon His children with assurance He will watch over us daily. What a blessing 2015 has been in the ministry of the Commission. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Both Senior Adult Conferences for the new year are complete with the South Conference to be held at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso on Tuesday, March 22, 2016, and the North Conference to be held at East Fulton Baptist Church, May 10, 2016.

The registration fee remains at \$15 per person, this will cover the noon meal and other expenses as well. Mac's Fish House of Hattiesburg will cover the noon meal at the South Conference and Dorsey Friendship Fire Department of Dorsey will cater the North Conference. Both do an excellent job in providing the noon meal.

The program of the North Conference will include a brief video remembering Bro. Gary Smith who was the pastor of East Fulton at the time of his death. He was a strong supporter of the Commission.

The program for the South Conference will include for the first time, the Southern Strings Dulcimers. This is a group of approximately 12-15 senior adults who play the musical instrument known as the dulcimer and they play old time hymns. The Southern Strings Dulcimers are from the Pine Belt area, mostly from the Dixie Community near Hattiesburg.

Plan now to attend the conference in your area. Local talent will be used in both conferences. Gaither Homecoming style music will be featured in the afternoon sessions. This has proven to be a favorite time for our seniors. Churches are encouraged to pay the registration fee for her seniors who attend these conferences.

Plan now to be in attendance and to fellowship with your fellow seniors from across our Association. Let's make 2016 the best year for the ministry of the Commission on Senior Adults. Encourage your fellow seniors to attend with you.

Oak Grove Association to Host Children's Home Rally

by Ed Steele, Reporter

The Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Association will meet with Rocky Branch Baptist Church near Sumrall on Thursday night, January 14. The meeting in January has been established for several years as the time for a rally for the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home. All churches are urged to send messengers to this meeting and bring gifts or a special offering for the Home.

Former pastor passes away

Bura "B.C." Kelly, age 88, of Loudon, Tennessee, passed away at River Oaks Assisted Living on December 8, 2015. He was born in Stringer, Mississippi, moved to Gulfport in 1963. Bro. Kelley served in the U.S. Army serving during the Korean War time. B.C. was an electrician before surrendering to the ministry. He pastored a number of churches in Mississippi.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dorsey and Susie Clark Kelly along with his brothers, Clyde, John, Dewey, William "Pete" and sisters, Troye Childers and Betty Moss. He is survived by his daughters, Rhonda (George) Towne of Knoxville, TN, Catherine (Mark) Bowen of Clayton, NC, and Donna Minor of Etters, PA; grandchildren, John Powell, Nathan Powell, Brent Powell, Kelly Rae Tyler, Kristian Smith, Kasie Cannon, Bridgette Lee, Breanna Bowen and Aaron Bowen; sisters, Floy Graham of Laurel and Lois Murphy of Bay Springs; and fifteen great-grandchildren.

A grave side service was held on December 12 at Liberty Baptist Cemetery in Stringer. The family requests that any memorials be made to the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home, 118 Lowe Road, Laurel, MS 39443.

Cooperation

It has been well said that the man who holds the ladder at the bottom is about as important as the man at the top. Everybody wants to be the man on the top, but he would not be there very long without the assistance he receives from the man at the bottom. If he is wise, the man at the top will recognize the importance of the man at the bottom. If he does not recognize it, he may find his ladder slipping away!

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