

# Mississippi Baptist

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## Two Faithful Workers Gone Home

by the Editor

### Hello My Brother

It is with a heavy heart that I will never hear those words again from Danny Pitts.



Danny Carrol Pitts

His greeting to me, and I am sure to all, was, "Hello, my brother", as he held out his hand for a shake.

Bro. Danny Pitts, president of Southeastern Baptist College, passed away on December 21. He never fully recovered from earlier heart bypass surgery.

Danny was my pastor and friend. When I retired from Big Creek Baptist Church, Bonnie and I joined First Baptist Church of Shady Grove. It is the closest church to our home, but that is not why we worshipped there.

We were drawn by the teaching ministry of Bro. Pitts. He was not a hellfire and brimstone preacher, but his messages were always rich in truth and took the listener to great depths in God's word. You never left church without taking valuable spiritual truths with you.

He was a great teacher and he loved to

teach. His presence will be missed at Southeastern College.

Our prayers and thoughts are with his wife Mrs. Helen Pitts, their children Nancy and Jeff and Danny's mother, Mrs. Betty Pitts.

### A Christian Gentleman

Bro. Harold Holifield recently passed away at the age of 90. He was a friend to all who



Harold A. Holifield

knew him and will be greatly missed. Bro. Holifield faithfully served his Lord and a number of churches during his ministry. His family gathered for an early family Christmas on Saturday, he was in church on Sunday morning and early Monday morning December 19,

he left for Heaven.

When the news of his passing became known, more than one response was, "He was a Christian gentleman." How true that is. What a legacy he left. Remember his wife Mrs. Ann Holifield and the rest of the family in their loss.

Obituaries on page 4 of this issue

## Blessings at Lifeword in 2016

BMA churches have been a great blessing to Lifeword during the 2016 Lifeword Sunday season, and we are very grateful for those who have given so generously to the ministry.

Because of the support partnership of BMA churches and their members, four

languages have been added this year, bringing the total language count to forty and the total program count to fifty-nine. (There were thirty-six languages and fifty programs at the end of 2015. The following languages, broadcast areas, and programs have been added in

2016:

**Vietnamese** – Lifeword Community Radio (LCR) broadcast in Phnom Penh, heard in Cambodia and Vietnam and called Children for the Great Commission

**Jarai** – broadcast heard in Vietnam and Cambodia and called The Rich Earth

**Swahili** - broadcast heard in Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi (98% Muslim area) and called Word of

Life

**Leemeh** - LCR broadcast heard in West Africa (99.9% Muslim area with fewer than twenty-five known believers)

## Team Work: Breaking Down Barriers!

by Paul R. White, President  
BMA of America

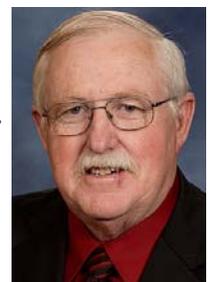
The timely and accurate sharing of data is vital for the success of any organization, especially a national association with over 1,200 churches such as ours. Yet, there are often many barriers that stand in the way of consistent communication. Data is often paper based or stored in a decentralized location. Barriers arise in the mode of information sharing and how to tailor the data for the use of each member.

How do we break down these barriers and streamline information sharing between all members of our group? TEAMWORK! A team effort lets everyone from every part of our association be involved. Our team wins when we all take part. Timely collection and sharing of data is imperative for the success of the National BMA. Membership numbers, church happenings, and special occasions are all important, as well as some statistics being necessary for meeting IRS and governmental requirements and managing our organizational statistics.

So, churches and members, I challenge you to take part in insuring open and timely sharing between our churches and association. Please take time to complete and return the associational letter for your home congregation. By improving our data collection we improve our ability to perform our mission of "Bringing the good news of Jesus to a lost and dying world."

New formats added in 2016 were a Fante language (Ghana) program, a Khmer language Bible reading format and the "Day by Day" Facebook daily devotional. Also, twelve new Lifeword Community Radio stations were installed in Asia, Africa, and Central and South America.

Please join us as we praise the Lord for his provision through Walk and Lifeword Sunday giving, and join us in prayer for wisdom as we seek his will in other opportunities to spread the gospel.



Paul White

Lifeword  
MEDIA MINISTRIES

# Ministering To Young People

by Anders Lee

## Numbers Do Not Equal Success!

What would you consider to be the litmus test for success in youth ministry? In my next three articles I want to share my heart on what I discovered to be true success after 15 years of doing youth work. I hope what the Lord taught me will challenge some student pastor out there.

Back in my youth ministry days we did this thing called "Pac Da House Nite!" Most of them were very successful. The purpose was to connect new teens to the group permanently. We would see 135-155 attend. Normally it was a big food night, with kooky games, crazy videos, funny skits, our Praise Band led in worship and I preached.

Let me tell you about one of these things. One Spring we had a "Pac Da



Anders Lee

House" planned and intended to blow the roof off the previous attendance record, which was 162. Everyone worked on the event for over a month. Our goal was to have 200! Every teen in the universe was invited! We also had a goal of connecting with 50 new teens. Nothing wrong with that, right? Oh and by the way, it cost us nearly \$1,000.

The big day rolled around. I couldn't sleep the night before.

I got up early and headed to church. On my way I got a text: "Have you watched the weather?" I had been so busy I had no clue what was looming. Memphis was in a high risk area for bad weather including possible tornadoes. NO!!! "LORD, PLEASE PUSH THIS STUFF THROUGH BE-



FORE TONIGHT!" I pled! At church that morning parents were asking me if it would be postponed. We had a guest speaker coming so I told everyone it was on!

It started at 5:00 PM. At 4:00 PM the heaven's burst open and I think Noah's Ark floated by. My phone was blowing up with parents telling me they couldn't let their kids drive in this. I was crushed!!! Tornado sirens started going off all around us. My guest speaker called saying he wasn't gonna make it.

WOW! By 6:00 PM it had blown through. We ate, the band played, and I preached an impromptu sermon. We ended up having 51 teens. There was ONE visitor! All that effort "down the drain."

Parents started picking up kids, the team started cleaning. I sat on the stage like someone had shot my new puppy. Then it happened... Jacob Guenrich sat down by me. He said "I need to tell you something." He sat there and told me he knew that I was

disappointed but he said; "God wanted me to hear the sermon you preached." As it happened, it confirmed that God was calling him. We had previously discussed this. I was floored!

Just for perspective, Jacob surrender to ministry. He attended Williams Baptist College and Mid-America Seminary. During that time he became Children's Pastor at First Baptist Walnut Ridge, Arkansas. Later he became Youth Pastor and now he is their Senior Pastor.

God did what He wanted to do that night! When everyone was gone I was left to think. God whispered to my heart. He convicted me! On this particular occasion I was more worried about the number that would show up on one night than I was nurturing some that were already there. That was tough for me to swallow, but it was true.

It's great to have nights when you try to connect with new teens. But know this, it's just not about the numbers!

*Lee is a church planter for the BMA of America and Mississippi. He is a pastor and former youth minister.*

*Lee may be contacted at anders.lee571@gmail.com*

# BMA of Mississippi Pastor's Retreat

## January 16-17, 2017

Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville, Mississippi

Theme: Do The Work of an Evangelist - II Timothy 4:5

### Monday, January 16th

- 1:00 p.m. Registration
- 2:00 p.m. Music
- 2:15 p.m. **Sidney Farmer** "The Need for Evangelism"
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:15 p.m. Music
- 3:25 p.m. **Jared Cox** "The What of Evangelism"
- 4:00 p.m. Break
- 4:15 p.m. Music
- 4:25 p.m. **Blake McCain** "The How of Evangelism"
- 5:15 p.m. Supper
- 7:00 p.m. Music
- 7:25 p.m. **Josh Daniels** "The Desire for Evangelism"
- 8:00 p.m. Prayer Groups



### Tuesday, January 17th

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:15 a.m. Music
- 8:25 a.m. **Ed Steele** "The Holy Spirit's Role in Evangelism"
- 9:00 a.m. Break
- 9:15 a.m. Music
- 9:25 a.m. **Larry Geraldson** "The Role of Prayer in Evangelism"
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. Music
- 10:25 a.m. **Jess Jackson** "The After of Evangelism"
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch

### Registration Information

\$65 if staying in bunkhouse (conference, 3 meals, & 1 night stay in bunkhouse-must bring own bedding, towels, etc.)

\$45 if staying in the hotel (conference & 3 meals-you are responsible for your hotel room. Contact Lake Tiak O Khata at 662-773-7853 for hotel reservation.)

For more information, contact Blake McCain @ 662-610-1039

Jeremy Wilkerson, Worship Pastor of Campground Baptist Church, will lead music



Larry Geraldson  
Director



# Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Department of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund



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Peter opens his second letter by reminding us, in 2 Peter 1:1 that Jesus is our "...Saviour.", and that, "...to them that have obtained like precious faith...., "...through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord," ...we now have, "...Grace and peace...". Peter will describe this transformation from our previous state, which is referred to by Paul in Eph 2:12, this way, "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:", as "...our Lord Jesus Christ,...hath begotten us again unto a lively hope..." parts of 1 Peter 1:3.

So, Peter reminds them of the precious gift of salvation which they now have, but then stirs them up to remember that it is a "...lively hope..." which seems to speak to the experiential aspects of salvation.

In the verses to follow in 2 Peter 1, he will state that God has given us: "...by his Divine Power..." all that we need to be "...partakers of the Divine Nature..." having been given, "...[Divine] precious Promises..." which ensure our victory as we live out this Divine Life.

Reminding us of these things Peter says, "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:" 2 Peter 1:10

Quite frankly, there is nothing like living out the experiential life of a Christian. Diligence, devotion, dedication, and determination, all serve to enrich the experience of the believer. Some serve out of duty, but duty is a dull allusion of the reality that is available to those who will go deep with God. Service done as duty may give you a sense of inclusion but will fall far short of the full experience reserved for you in Christ. Duty often serves up a false narrative that diminishes the dignity and honor of the opportunity. We don't just have "hope", we have a "lively hope". As we move out of 2016 and into 2017, may we be "stirred up" by the challenge of who we are and what we have been called to do.

*"...I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance:..."*

2 Peter 1:12-13

## A December to Remember

Wow! What is normally a soporific month, was all but this year. When tragedy came to Bro. & Mrs. Leon Carmical at the loss of their son, Pat in late November, and we were reminded of the brevity of life, and the reality that each of us, though we think we will go home before our children, may one day face this greatest of challenges, burying our own children, we thought December would give us a respite. But not so!

We lost another of our "Old Soldiers" (both figuratively and literally) with the passing of Pastor Emeritus of Calhoun Baptist Church, Bro. Harold Hollifield. He was not only an "Old Solider" in the BMA work, but was one of the remaining few from that "Great Generation" of WWII Veterans. We grieved when we heard of the passing of our friend and coworker, in the Association, President of Southeastern Baptist College, Bro. Danny Pitts.

But, a word of commendation to Bro. & Mrs. Carmical, Mrs. Ann Hollifield, and Mrs. Helen Pitts for demonstrating to us, for reminding us, of just how Christians are to act in the face of such challenges. Each of them demonstrated exemplary Christian character and encouraged us all to remember the bigger picture. They deserve our respect. They have reminded us of 1 Thess 4:13 which says, "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. They have reminded us that our hope is in Christ who said in Matt 5:4, "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."

The month also brought challenges to a number of our State Missionaries: Bro. Elvis Garcia's wife, Wendy had surgery on her brain stem; Bro. Bob Burch's wife, Edie ended up in the hospital with pneumonia; Bro. Danny Bartlett's wife, Brenda lost her Mother

on Christmas morning. All of these things made December a month to remember.

I commend these Missionaries and their families because they remind us of what the Apostle Paul said in 1 Thess 3:3, "That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto." Also, in 1 Cor 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

## Congratulations

We did get to rejoice with Missionary Sidney Farmer and his wife, Becky at the wedding of their oldest son, Austin. We wish the best for Austin and Caitlyn Farmer.

## Exciting Things Ahead

We are planning our 2017 Missions and Evangelism Conference which will be held at Caledonia Baptist Church April 22nd. This will be our second year to host the conference at one of our State Missions locations.

## Two Missions Scheduled to Organize in 2017

Caledonia Baptist Mission is planning to organize into a New Testament Church, March 18, 2017 at Caledonia. South Forrest Baptist Mission is scheduled to organize June 3rd at South Forrest. We hope you will make plans to attend.

## New Missionary Interview Set

Please continue to pray as we move into the new year. We have a number of opportunities available to us to begin new church plants. We have scheduled the interview of one new missionary candidate in January and will have more information for you about this later.

## Looking Forward to the Annual Pastor's Conference

January 16-17, 2017, Pastors from BMA churches all across the State will gather for a time of preaching, prayer and fellowship. I always love this event. If you haven't registered or if you would like more information, call Bro. Blake McCain at 662-610-1039.

## Revolving Loan Fund Has Money To Loan

If your church is considering an expansion, enlargement, addition or the construction of a new facility in 2017, please consider the Revolving Loan Fund as your source for financing. We believe we can offer better terms than any commercial institutions and interest returned to the Revolving Loan Fund is used to help subsidize the purchase of land and construction of facilities for our State Missionaries. While none of the proceeds from the Revolving Loan Fund go into the Missions Department Operational Fund, the availability of the RLF to our Missionaries is huge. So not only will your church benefit from the best rates available, but you will be helping with the advancement of our efforts to construct permanent facilities for our mission congregations. If your church already has a loan, we can refinance and pay it off and move your note to the Revolving Loan Fund. This is often done with little to no fees for refinancing. If you would like more information, please call Bro. Vernon Newman at 601-428-8616.

## New Year's Resolution

I want to personally encourage you in the upcoming year. Let us be resolved to a Christ centered focus. Let us be resolved to serve the Lord faithfully. Let us be resolved to fellowship which provokes brotherly love, kindness, and unity among our people. God bless each of you in this upcoming year. My prayer is simple, "...Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Rev 22:20

**[I am resolved no longer to linger, charmed by the world's delight; things that are higher, things that are nobler, these have allured my sight.]** - Author: Palmer Hartsough



Don Brown  
Editor

# Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

## January Is "Special Emphasis" Month for Publications

The Association has set aside certain months for each Department and Commission of our state work as a time to raise extra operating funds.

January of each year is for your Mississippi Baptist Paper.

We have sent literature to each church sharing our need and encouraging a special offering to this work.

We encourage each church to participate. The paper is a ministry like no other - it is a support ministry for the entire work of the BMA of Mississippi. Our mission is to promote the overall work of the churches of our state work. We are here to inform, promote, and encourage each department, commission, and ministry.

Your gift in January helps to keep this work on its feet. The \$1.30 per month that we charge for each church subscriber does not come close to covering the actual operating cost of this department. Just as all of our other departments rely on offerings and special gifts, we do also.

We challenge each church to place this work in your monthly budget. We also ask for a special offering of any size during January.

With each church doing something, we are confident God will provide our needs.

The Best Thing you can do for this work is to be a Subscriber.

We ask for your prayers and your support.

## Letters From Our Readers

Letters reflect the opinion of the writer and not necessarily this publication or the BMA of Mississippi

### In Appreciation

The Pat Carmical and Don Hurst family would like to express our sincere appreciation to each church, group, and persons who have responded to the home going of our beloved Pat.



We have received more than we can count of personal visits, phonecalls, cards, emails, food and Facebook responses. We would like to personally respond to each, but find that almost impossible. We want you to know that each one has been such a comfort to each of us and your prayers have sustained us.

We ask that our Precious Lord bless each of you!

Leon Carmical

### Thank You from the Milton Wright Family

Our family would like to thank all of you in the BMA of Mississippi for the prayers, cards, flowers and wonderful words of sympathy that we received following Daddy's death. Daddy loved the BMA and particularly the BMA of Mississippi and Southeastern Baptist College. His admonition to all young ministers was "Keep on loving, praying, studying, and learning."

Our loss is Heaven's gain.

Family of Milton "Crowbar" Wright

### Adams Shares Thanks Dear Churches,

Please accept our sincere thank you's and love for your concern and prayers during my recent brain surgery in Tupelo. We've had good reports on the tumor being removed from the brain stem area. The family wishes to ask your continued prayers during therapy. God bless.

John "Trey" Adams  
Mantachie, Mississippi

## Servants Gone Home

### Rev. Danny Carrol Pitts

Danny Carrol Pitts, 66, of Laurel, went home to his heavenly Father on December 21, 2016. Danny was a faithful minister, a great Bible teacher, scholar and a loving husband, father, grandfather and son. He served the Lord throughout his life as a pastor in churches in Mississippi, Texas and Florida. He was a member at First Baptist Church Shady Grove. He was most recently the President of Southeastern Baptist College.



Danny Carrol Pitts

He enjoyed teaching and mentoring and had a love for Jewish backgrounds. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Helen Cole Pitts, his son, Jeff Pitts and his wife Tracy of Red Oak, Texas and his daughter, Nancy Pitts

Hinoa and her husband, Ricardo of Irving, Texas. He is also survived by his mother, Betty Pitts of Ellisville and two grandchildren, Jacob and Emma Pitts.

He is preceded in death by his father, E.J. (Buddy) Pitts and his brother, Richard Pitts.

Funeral services were held at Big Creek Baptist Church on Friday, December 23. His close friend Dr. Gary O'Neal officiated. Interment was at Big Creek Cemetery.

Memorials may be given to Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel.

### Rev. Harold A. Holifield

Rev. Harold A. Holifield, 90, of Laurel, passed from this life to his heavenly home on December 19, 2016. Bro. Harold was a faithful servant of the Lord as a minister for over 68 years, serving most recently as pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church of Calhoun. Bro. Harold also retired from Jones County Junior College, where he taught in the vocational school for 20 years. Bro. Harold exemplified the love of Christ in his ministry and in the way he lived his everyday life. He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

He is preceded in death by his

father, Abb Holifield and his mother, Pearl Wiggington Holifield, and his sister, Azalene Holloway.



Harold A. Holifield

his daughter, Pat Holifield Davis (Sidney) of Laurel. He is also survived by four grandchildren, Kristen Martin (Daryl) of Lau-

rel, Rev. Danny Davis (Jennifer) of Meridian, David Davis of Laurel, and Kelly Bigham (Jason) of Starkville. He is also survived by five great-grandchildren, Connor Davis, Anna Davis, Sarah Cantrell, Levi Cantrell, and Audrey Martin; and two adopted grandchildren Alden Brunty, and Desi Brunty.

Funeral services were held at First Baptist Church of Calhoun. Brothers Leon Carmical, Sidney Davis and Danny Davis officiated.

The family requested memorial be made to the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home, 118 Lowe Road, Laurel, MS 39443.

## Seminary Offers Free Online Class For Spring 2017

### Registration is now available.

So you are a new church worker, a new deacon, a new Sunday School teacher, a new youth worker, or any newly selected worker in your church. You feel you are in need of more information and study of the Scriptures to help you do your work.

Here is the FREE course you have been looking for. Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary is providing you a FREE course this Spring. All you need to do is sign up at the seminary website, purchase the book (listed below) and begin your eight-week study of the New Testament.

What is the course about? Glad you asked that question. Here is a brief synopsis: This course is a survey of the entire New Testament. The general background, authorship, and content of the various books of the New Testament are covered. The life and work of Jesus, the organization of churches and early missionary enterprises are

especially stressed.

Your place in this class is waiting for you. Class will begin on or about February 1, 2017.

TEXTBOOKS (Textbooks required)

The Holy Bible-Student selected English translation

Encountering the New Testament, 2nd edition Walter A. Elwell and Robert W. Yarbrough, Baker Books, ISBN 0801021561 (any edition new or used) (Text outline used by permission of Contracts and Permissions, Baker Publishing Group.)

Supplemental atlas suggested (not required)

Holman Bible Atlas, Broadman and Holman Publishers, ISBN 1558197095

Please follow the link below to fill out the registration form. <http://bmats.edu/other-educational-opportunities/free-courses/>

You may also contact the Seminary by phone at 903-586-250 or 1-800-259-5673.



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# January 2017 - Special Emphasis

## Our Need - \$10,000



Don Brown  
Editor

# Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

On The Web at [www.msbaptist.org](http://www.msbaptist.org)

## Your Support & Gifts Are Appreciated!

### Study: Fastest Growing Churches Have Modern Worship, Teach Literal Bible Interpretation

**ChristianHeadlines.com** - According to The Christian Post, the study, titled "Theology Matters: Comparing the Traits of Growing and Declining Mainline Protestant Church Attendees and Clergy," surveyed 2,225 churchgoers in Ontario, Canada, and interviewed 29 clergy members and 195 church attendees.

A number of pastors praised the study, saying it confirms what many Christians already know that theology matters.

"This study was important because it quantified empirically something that evangelical renewalists have been saying for decades — theology matters," said the Rev. Tom Lambrecht, vice president and general manager of Good News Magazine, a United Methodist publication, in an interview with The Christian Post.

Pastor John Daffern of MTV Church, a Southern Baptist congregation in Columbus, Mississippi, agreed.

"We are theologically conservative, according to that study, and yet we are unashamedly modern and we are in a sustained period of growth in our church, and that is in direct contrast to many of the Mainline churches and even some evangelical churches."

"And I think the wisdom of that study is the two parts," Daffern continued. "There does need to be a modern sense of an expression of the faith while at the same time a conservative, Orthodox view of Christianity."

In addition to a literal interpretation of Scripture and more modern worship services, the study also found that an emphasis on evangelism was key to church growth.

"One of the reasons that people are drawn to modern churches is because people don't want to be part of a monument," stated Daffern. "They want to be part of a movement.

One of the greatest beauties of Christianity is that it is living and active.

### Planned Parenthood closed more than 300 facilities

**OneNewsNow** - Planned Parenthood has been riding a downward spiral while enjoying increased federal tax subsidies year after year.

American Life League (ALL) has been tracking the abortion giant for many years. The pro-life organization has just completed its annual survey of locations for the abortion business to give Americans a better idea of the extent to which Planned Parenthood is shutting its doors across the United States.

ALL Executive Director Jim Sedlak has the numbers to prove Planned Parenthood's descent, noting that bad news for the world's largest abortion provider is good news for pro-life advocates.

"We are happy to report that they closed 27 more facilities in 2016, and they only opened eight new ones — so a net loss of 19 Planned Parenthood facilities in 12 months. That's the way we like to see it go."

Many of the closings involved clinics that are not making a profit, and those



customers must go to Planned Parenthoods elsewhere -- if they want the services.

"They're now down to 624 facilities across the country from a high of 938 — so they've lost one-third of their facilities," Sedlak pointed out.

Planned Parenthood received a little more than \$553 million from the federal government for the current budget year, yet the number of health services it provides has been decreasing annually. Instead, the non-profit — which makes a profit each year — is promoting its cash cow, abortion, to generate more revenue.

And it is noted by pro-life advocates that abortion has nothing to do with health care.

# Community Radio Back To Normal Broadcast

by Pedro M. Etabag, Lifeword Philippine Director  
(via Facebook)

One of the challenges of the Low Powered Community Radio is maintaining its operations. Not only that fixing this technology requires a lot of thinking, but also hard work and expenses. Two weeks ago, 80 percent of our equipment in Manara were damaged due to unexpected lightning. Of course nobody knows when a lightning should strike and providing an arrester is very expensive. So for almost two weeks, Manara Radio was off the air. Pastor Andrew received a lot of text messages from the listeners. The Lord provided and we were able to fix the equipment. Manara Community radio is now back to normal operation.



normal operation.

At that same time, our Community Radio in Capiz also stopped operating. But no matter how the devil tried to stop the radio ministry and do something to discourage us, the Lord continues to lift us up and gives the solution. I thank the Lord for providing us people who have the passion for the radio ministry. It turned out that Pastor Mert Cabahug of Agsilab Community Radio is a very skilled technician. He fixed the damaged FM transmitter and put it back on

air. He will be coming to Lifeword Studio here in Bacolod this coming January to fix all our broken



transmitters and inverters. Isn't God great? He has always provided us with solutions so the ministry will continue.

There are challenges in the radio ministry because Satan doesn't want the Gospel to be preached on the air, so he would try his best to hinder this ministry. But this is God's ministry, so I believe no one can stop it unless God says so. Even though the challenges are great, the fruit is greater than the challenges. Community Radio is reaching far and wide and bringing



Bro. Pete Etabag installing equipment at remote radio station

the Gospel to where no one dares. It opens a lot of doors to start a Mission and plant Churches. Please include Lifeword Community Radio in your prayer list. We are now slowly spreading this ministry in many places around the world. May the Lord continue to provide so that next year we will be able to install more radio stations.

Thank you all for your prayers and support.

# SENIOR SOURCES

by Becky Ulmer - becky.ulmer@jghms.com

## "House Calls"

There was a sick person in the house. The local doctor was summoned to come, either by going to get him or by phone when available. The doctor would go to the home, make his assessment and usually treat the patient with something right out of the "black



bag". Often this treatment was given without a means of payment. The doctor was aware of this and made the visit anyway out of his concern for those in his community. This visit was known as a "house call". With the access to transportation and population changes, visits are not made in

the home today except in rare circumstances.

Are doctors the only ones who can make house calls? Think about it. It takes a person with a need (physical or mental) that impairs his/her ability to travel outside of the home. Next, it takes someone with knowledge and concern for the one in need. Okay, in our day and time the person in need may be referred to our churches as a "shut-in".



The one who has something to offer this person is who? Can you write a card or note? Can you pick some flowers? Gather a "mess" of vegetables? Share a book or magazine? These items seem small and insignificant, but not to the one receiving them. People are often hesitant to request help from non-family members. A call to offer to run errands or sit with someone to allow the caretaker to be out of the house is priceless. The visit may be needed in their home, nursing home, living facility or hospital. Put these good intentions to action.

1 Corinthians 16:14: "Let all things be done with charity." Give of your time and self to others out of love, not expecting anything in return. Treat them as you would desire to be treated.

Luke 6:31: "And as you would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise".

### Procrastination

We are all guilty of it from time to time. Don't put it off. The opportunity may not present itself until the situation has adversely changed and we are left to deal with the feeling of regret. These feelings are difficult to "soothe". Don't want to go on a visit alone? Enlist friends or fellow church members to go with you. Share the blessings. Seize the opportunity to be used by God. Show his love. Lift a spirit. Make a heartfelt "house call". You will be glad you did.

Becky Ulmer is Nursing Home Administrator of Jasper County Nursing Home, Bay Springs, Mississippi. She is a member of First Baptist, Bay Springs.

## WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

### President

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

### Corresponding Secretary

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

## Ten Mile WMA Report

by Maria Ochoa, Reporter

The Ten Mile WMA held their meeting on October 10, 2016, 7PM, at Vardaman Street Baptist Church, Wiggins. The Meeting was called to order by our President Cathy Rhodes.

Louise Crawley presented a devotional on Prayer.

Our guest speaker was Senior Police Officer John Rhodes of Wiggins. He spoke on Personnel Safety. His warnings covered, Be cautious Internal Revenue Scams, these people like to catch you off guard. Beware of Internet Scams and phone calls with someone calling about personal information, door to door solicitation, and do not open your door to strangers. Be aware of your surroundings. Pay attention to your personal items, daily be alert. If in doubt of anything call the Police.

We enjoyed refreshments and a great fellowship with Vardaman Street Baptist Church.

Our next meeting will be on January 9, 2017 at Paramount Hill Baptist Church. This will be our GMA and Sunbeam Coronation

## GIRLS'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

### State Youth Auxiliary Director

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

### State GMA Promoter

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

## State GMA Camp Set for March

by Gracie Ingram, State Corresponding Secretary

Hey everyone! I hope you had a great Christmas and New Year. I am super excited for the 2017 State GMA Camp. We would love for you to join us March 17 and 18. Our theme for this year is the 'Peace of God' and the verse is Philippians 4:17. The officers are working hard so check the paper for more details. Hope to see y'all there!

# The Gift That Gives Back

by Charles Attebery  
Executive Director, BMA Foundation

Charitable Gift Annuities are often called "The Gift That Gives Back" and they are available now through the BMA Foundation. They will be issued by The National Christian Foundation on behalf of the BMA Foundation.

Here's how they work. An individual makes a gift to the Foundation and then receives the following in return:

- A fixed amount of income for the remainder of their life
- A federal income tax deduction in the year the gift is made (if they itemize deductions)
- Part of the annual income received is tax free

The following are examples of rates a donor can expect for a single life annuity:

| Age | Rate |
|-----|------|
| 65  | 4.7% |
| 75  | 5.8% |
| 85  | 7.8% |

The fixed payments you receive are backed by the general resources of the National Christian Foundation and are typically reinsured. Reinsurance not only provides you with a higher level of certainty payments will continue for life, it also provides various BMA ministries the option to benefit from the charitable gift annuity at the onset as opposed to the time of the donor's death.



Executive Director  
Charles Attebery

Since gifts to the BMA Foundation are never spent and the annual earnings are distributed to various BMA ministries, proceeds from a Charitable Gift Annuity will help spread the gospel around the world until the Lord returns.

BMA Foundation Executive Director Charles Attebery stated, "We are very pleased to be able to offer this opportunity for individuals to secure income for life in exchange for their gift to the Foundation."

Contact Bro. Attebery by e-mail, [charles@bmaamerica.org](mailto:charles@bmaamerica.org), or by cell phone at 501-472-2183 for additional information.

## From The Mind of Chuck Lee

# The Headstone Tales

Walking through a cemetery the other day, I began to think about all the lives that had been lived out and laid to rest beneath the ground. The date of birth and the date of death separated simply by a dash, where the dash stood as a poet, a songwriter, or a novelist concealing a book that had already been written and read by the individual. The writer retired his pen with his last breath and closed the book.

Some of the books were short stories, with very few words, and even fewer adventures. Others told of love, laughter, and adventure while doing their best to hide the sorrow that comes with every life. Bitterness steamed the pages of many of whom the dash represented, with very few pages dedicated to the joys that tried to interrupt their otherwise dismal lives.

As I viewed the granite novels, I thought of all the changes that had to have been seen and experienced in the dashes between the dates of birth and death. I wondered if any had left pages unwritten because of fear. If they could go back and edit the book, would they tear out the pages of jealousy and hate? Would they linger a moment longer on a chapter before rushing into the next? If they were to come back and read their life story, would they pause in shame as they looked out over the audience and viewed their reaction, or would

they simply smile and reminisce on the joy of living.

The dash. The dash has been left blank for a purpose. The dash is for you to fill in with your very own words lived out in your life. Everyone you meet is a character in the book. Everywhere you go is described in detail. Every thought and every



Bro. Chuck Lee  
action is penned with accuracy.

There are no mistakes written down, for you wrote them and they are forever printed in the dash. No editor will make corrections or suggest perhaps a rewrite. When the book is closed it is sealed. It has been written and read and now is only available for the memories of those whose names found their way into your own personal



novel.

Everyone, young and old, are the writers of their own biographies. Everyone has a tale to tell. And soon, sooner than any of us can know, we will lay our pen on the table, and close the book.

Lee serves as pastor of Pine Grove Baptist Church, You may email Bro. Lee at [leecharles47@yahoo.com](mailto:leecharles47@yahoo.com)

## The Gift That Gives Back

It's a Charitable Gift Annuity offered by the BMA Foundation.

### Receive

- Income for life (partially tax free)
- A federal income tax deduction the year of the gift

### Current Rates

| Age | Rate |
|-----|------|
| 65  | 4.7% |
| 75  | 5.8% |
| 85  | 7.8% |

Contact BMA Foundation Executive Director Charles Attebery for more information.  
[charles@bmaamerica.org](mailto:charles@bmaamerica.org) or cell 501-472-2183



\*Annuities issued by the National Christian Foundation on behalf of the BMA Foundation



## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

### O, Christmas Tree

For good, fine entertainment you just can't beat riding around in a bus with Nursing Home residents looking at Christmas lights and singing Christmas Carols.

At one point, just after we had finished singing "Oh, Christmas Tree, I heard this little voice near the back of the bus singing "loosely" to the tune of "O, Christmas Tree":

O, BioFreeze, O, BioFreeze  
O how I need you badly.  
Will someone please rub it on me?  
Just hold your nose so tightly.

You'll fee much better, I promise,  
So just get used to the smell, quickly.  
O, BioFreeze, O, BioFreeze  
God always keep it close to me.

I learned later that this was Mrs. Arlene Brock singing her version of the song. This is just a reminder, that you can turn a bad situation into a fun situation with a little thought and a little Grace of God!!!

## Water For Christ Ministry Grows

# Ashanti Region Kumasi Water Well Drill Site



The Water for Christ (W4C) team traveled once again to the Ashanti Region of Ghana, West Africa in October to perform much needed maintenance on equipment and water wells. In addition, the team was able to drill one of the deepest water wells ever drilled by the Water for Christ team using the new air compressors! This well was This means more water for the village during the dry season!

### 'We Are Free' Water Well

Water for Christ is privileged to support We Are Free; an organization that provides housing and support for those freed from human sex trafficking. W4C



Drilling Water Wells is Messy Business

will be drilling a well on their site in Prescott, Arkansas, to provide clean and affordable water for those in need. We are very excited about this opportu-

## CHURCH NEWS IN BRIEF

### Oak Grove Association to Meet

The Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Association will meet with Good Hope Baptist Church in Columbia on January 12. The church will provide a time of food and fellowship beginning at 6:00 with the Association meeting starting at 7:00. Each year, the January meeting is designated as the time for a rally for the Children's Home. Each church is encouraged to be represented and bring special offerings for the Children's Home.

Ed Steele, Reporter

### Tiger Creek, Ovett

Tiger Creek has had a busy month but we're still in the saving business. By the time you read this we will be celebrated our Savior's birthday and have celebrated the New Year and will have sung the old year out and the new year in with the Down South Bluegrass gospel group. Tiger Creek wants to wish you a Happy New Year. Let's make 2017 the year to be a winner for Christ. God bless until next time.

Brenda Overstreet, reporter

nity, what a great way to help those who have been abused and mistreated. For this reason, W4C will be co-hosting fundraisers to raise money and awareness. We could not do this without all of you who have continued to pray and support the mission of Water for Christ. Give Water ~ Give Life ~ Give Christ

### The Privilege of Giving a Bible

What would you pay to have access to God's word? Can you put a value on that? God's word before our eyes is a priceless gift especially as we think about our Savior's birth.

Part of the mission of Water for Christ (W4C) is to provide clean water; in addition, to promote the word of God by visiting schools, churches and hosting village crusades. After hearing the gospel, both children and adults alike press against one another to ask for Bibles. We ask you to continue to partner with us to feed this hunger. God promises... "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." - Isaiah 55:11

W4C may plant the seeds of salvation but it is the word of God that is left with them that "accomplishes that which (He) pleases".

Before Jesus ministered his word to the thousands He met their physical needs first. W4C follows the same blue print: meet physical needs of clean water first, then share the good news. It is up to people what they do with that good news, but we have the promise that God



W4C Director Tim Tyler giving dresses donated by Needs Creek Baptist Church, Greenbrier, Arkansas

will "accomplish that which He pleases".

### W4C Forms Advisory Board

As a child grows in maturity so do its advisors and counselors. When it was a baby, only the mother and father would advise and admonish it. As that child grows, its grandparents, and other family members, come alongside the child for additional support, wisdom and counsel. When the child matures into adulthood, it seeks the counsel and advice of friends, colleagues, co-workers, classmates,

professors and spiritual mentors. In a similar way, Water for Christ has reached adulthood and is excited about the forming of an advisory board. Solomon understood this best when he said, "Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counselors they are established." - Proverbs 15:22

Water for Christ is excited about this new opportunity and inpouring of wisdom and counsel. As Proverbs 15:22 denotes, without counsel it is hard for plans to succeed. With the multitude of counselors (an advisory board) we look forward to plans being established. Please pray for Water for Christ during this time as the board forms and has their first meeting in 2017!

The Lord did great things, above and beyond what we could have imagined in 2016, and we look forward to embracing 2017 hand in hand with the Water for Christ advisory board.



A happy crew when the well is finished

## Some Guidelines For Photo Submission by the editor

### When You Send A Photo

I wish to address the type and quality of photos that submitted to the paper. Photos need to have at least the following attributes going for them to be of a printable quality!

One, They must be taken with a quality device. Older cell phones DO NOT produce photos that are of sufficient quality. Photos to be published should be taken with a quality digital camera or a recent, high quality cell phone.

Two, Photos should have "front lighting or be taken with a flash". Photos in front of a window, or in the shade with a bright background, do not print well. All photos, even those taken outside, will benefit with the use of a flash. Most late model cell phones have this capability. Photos printed on "newsprint" paper lose some quality by the very nature of the printing process which means the original photo needs to be of the highest quality.

Three, FOCUS. A photo that is not in clear focus, will not print well. When taking a photo with any device, it is necessary to make sure the photo is in focus.

A photo enhances any article and gives the reader a better insight to the subject matter. Please send photos, but help us by sending only those that are clear and will print well.

## AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

### Hunter Phillip

Bro. Hunter Phillip is available for service either to fill in or pastor. He and his wife Jessica are members of Tiger Creek Baptist church in Ovett, Mississippi. They have two children and are energetic to serve the Lord wherever he sends them. He may be reached at 601-550-1109 or through his pastor Bro. Jerry Overstreet at 601-735-0141.