

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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That Special Time of the Year

by Editor Don Brown

The end of the year holidays are always special times. Christmas celebration, time off from school, time off from work for many, family gatherings and looking forward to the New Year.

Celebrations and fun times are enjoyed by many. The New Year always brings opportunities and expectations.

Each January also brings the opportunity to help your Publications Department with its annual Emphasis Drive.

January of each year is designated the “Special Emphasis Month” for your Publications Department. This time is set aside by the Association to allow us to raise additional operational funds.

The Mississippi Baptist Paper costs only \$1.30 per month per subscriber. Our cost to operate is



Don Brown
Editor

much more that. The cost difference is made up in two different ways. The first is by monthly offerings that many of our churches give during the year. The other way is by funds given during January of each year.

Monthly offerings and Special Emphasis gifts are a **major part** of our support.

I have enclosed some posters to place around your church to help remind your members of our need. The Trustees and I ask that you give your members an opportunity to give to this ministry in January.

Some churches vote to send a specific amount for our needs. Some take an offering at a specific time during the month and others let individuals give weekly or as they feel led.

Whichever method you choose, we hope you will help us during January. Our success depends on the giving of our churches and our members.

Thank you for your consideration and may the Lord bless your church and her ministry.

Ministers Resource Services Board Nominates Crawley

Ministers Resource Services (MRS) board of trustees has announced the nomination of Dr. Steve Crawley for the position of executive director. He will be recommended at the 2018 BMA national meeting, as the current director, Bro. Ron Chesser, announced his retirement effective May 31, 2018. Crawley's occupational background includes working thirteen years in corporate finance and accounting, as well as working thirteen years for Lifeword as chief financial officer and executive director. He has also served BMA LLC as financial team leader. His educational background includes a BSBA, MBA, MAR, and PhD. He is a member of Antioch Baptist Church and resides in Conway, Arkansas. “I'm thankful to be nominated by the board for this position. I'm also thankful for the work of Bro. Ron and his staff—Alice, Jane, and Sharon. They, along with others before them, have laid a solid foundation. If approved by the churches, I pray God will bless our efforts to build on this foundation as we strive to serve BMA ministers and their families.”



Dr. Steve Crawley

BMA of Mississippi Pastors Retreat Set

by Jeff Dixon

The 2018 BMA of Mississippi Pastor's Retreat is set for January 22-23 at Lake Tiak O'Khata (LTOK.com) in Louisville, Mississippi.

This year's program will be very productive for the ministry of our pastors. Dr. Mark Livingston will be the guest speaker. He is a native Mississippian, serves as pastor of First Baptist Church of Keltys in Lufkin, Texas, and is a professor at BMA Seminary. The theme is “Nothing But Christ: Recapturing Christ Centered, Expository Preaching — I Cor. 2:2.”

All materials will be provided, and sessions will cover the following:

- Defining Expository Preaching
- Defending Expository

Preaching

- How to Develop Christ-Centered Sermons
- Christ-Centered Preaching Examples in the Old Testament
- How to Outline a Book When Preaching a Series

There will be a couple of Question & Answer Sessions, and participants will have an opportunity to break off into groups and develop a sermon.

For those that would like to participate, we are asking that attending pastors bring a prepared sermon from the Old Testament. Two pastors will be chosen to preach their sermon, and the other attendees will have the opportunity to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the

sermon based on an evaluation sheet provided by Dr. Livingston. We hope there will be a few brave souls.

Registration begins at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, January 22 and first session begins at 2:00 p.m. The retreat ends at noon on Tuesday, January 23.

The registration fee, which includes three meals, is \$60 per person if staying in bunkhouse or \$40 per person if staying in the motel. Attendee is responsible for the

cost of the motel. Motel reservations can be made by calling Lake Tiak-O'Khata at (888) 845-6151 and let them know it is for the BMA Pastors Retreat.



Dr. Mark Livingston

Lifeword Training in Romania



Missionary Bogdan Bilav (far left), Lifeword Programming Director Rick Russell (behind him) and Bryan Risner (missionary-elect to Romania, third from left) pose with the ten Romanian trainees and a helper in a Nusfalau, Salaj, Romania, church.

For eight years, Drom de Romangue, Lifeword's thirty-minute gypsy broadcast, has aired on Saturday nights to gypsies all over Europe and beyond. Bogdan Bilav is Lifeword's

visionary leaders (and BMA missionary) in Romania maintains that broadcast and ministers to its listeners. Now that ministry will expand even further thanks

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Southeastern Baptist College

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

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

President's Perspective

Happy New Year! In the last few Mississippi Baptist publications, I shared four of five talking points for the promotion of Southeastern Baptist College. I'm going to take a break from this series in order to share a message the Lord has laid on my heart. I will share the final talking point in the next issue.

"Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him." Proverbs 30:5

Wham! Oh wow... that was startling! Yay for safety glass!

I have been traveling a great deal over the last couple of years and nearly all of it has been interstate driving at higher speeds. I see some crazy things on the highway, and most of them are drivers! I never realized how much debris was on the highway until I drove it more. I have taken more stones to the windshield over the last eighteen months than I have in total over the last forty years of driving!

I had a particularly scary moment a few months ago when, in a split second, a large portion of a tire came flying at my head, impacting and destroying my driver's side windshield wiper. The chunk of tire ricocheted and struck the windshield with tremendous force, and to my surprise, the window held. There were no cracks and no marks but the windshield wiper was in pieces.

The other day, I was traveling down I-20 behind three pickup trucks. The first truck ran over some debris and it went flying. The second and third pickups also struck the objects and pieces went everywhere. I had nowhere to go but straight as we were all passing other cars that were to my immediate right. A large metallic object came at my vehicle and struck the windshield at head level on the driver's side! Wham! I fully expected the windshield to go. I even ducked to the right that it might miss my head as it came through the window. Again, to my great surprise and relief, the windshield held. This time there were gouge marks on the window, and there was a crack on the right passenger side, but I was safe. A little unnerved, but all was well!

The Bible often refers to the Lord as our shield and buckler. I think we all know what a "shield" is. A buckler is also a shield, but a much smaller version that is often attached to the forearm. It can be quickly moved in all directions to deflect the blows from an

attacking enemy. This is what the Lord does for his children! He protects his followers from the attacks of the wicked one. He guards them and shelters them from every weapon and projectile hurled their way.

In Job 1:10, Satan tells the Lord that he cannot harm Job in anyway because, "Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side..?"

Far better than an auto's windshield, our Lord is constantly alert and working on our behalf to fend off our enemy. We can trust that He will protect us from all the fiery darts the devil will throw at us.

As we enter the New Year, remember that God is watching out for you and always on guard and ready to protect



Dr. Scott Carson
President

you. He knows the future and you can trust Him with it!

"He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler." Psalm 91:4

Carson's Army

Brother Chris Floyd introduced a special individual donor concept named Carson's Army at the SBC Donor and Volunteer Dinner. Each person has the opportunity to "enlist" their pledge at various levels of rank representing their ability to give toward Southeastern Baptist College. If you feel led of the Lord to enlist, call 601-426-6346 today! Please refer to the "Carson's Army" giving chart in this publication.

Landscaping Project

Mrs. Delight Jefcoat has graciously volunteered to lead a project to beautify the landscaping of our campus. A major initiative she is promoting is the transferring of flower bulbs from private gardens to SBC. If you would like donate bulbs and participate in this project, please contact Delight at 601-763-4952.

Yes!

SBC is rated the 6th most affordable Online Christian College in the nation for 2018! Why spend big bucks at other colleges when you can earn your incredibly affordable accredited degree here at Southeastern Baptist College? Contact us today; it's not too late to register for

the Spring semester.

Special Projects

If your church or ministry activity would like to take on a special project to help the college, we have several that need addressed. Some projects include: updating the gym's entrances and bathrooms; fixing the exterior of the men's dormitory; upgrades to our apartments; new flooring in offices and hallways. This list is not exhaustive, but these are some of the projects that are toward the top of our list.

Alumni

We are about to launch a major effort to reorganize and re-energize our Alumni Association. We will attempt to identify and contact every alumnus who has ever taken courses at our great school. In the near future, the Alumni Association will be provided a task to perform and accomplish over the course of each year. Will you participate? Alumni Sam and Judy Oglesby have graciously accepted to lead this effort. Please contact them at 601-550-8513 or pastor_1@comcast.net to verify that your current contact information is correct.

You Left Free Money on the Table?

Wow! If I were you, I would not hesitate to take advantage of God's gracious gift toward my college education at one of the finest Christian institu-

Continued on next page

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE
 ★★★★★
CARSON'S ARMY
Levels of Donor Giving

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| General - \$10,000 | |
| ★ | \$833 per month over 12 months \$461 per month over 24 months |
| Colonel - \$7,500 | |
| | \$625 per month over 12 months \$312 per month over 24 months |
| Major - \$5,000 | |
| ★ | \$416 per month over 12 months \$208 per month over 24 months |
| Captain - \$2,500 | |
| | \$208 per month over 12 months \$104 per month over 24 months |

Please fill in the following information and return to Southeastern Baptist College to enlist in Carson's Army:

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

At which level would you like to enlist?

| | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General | <input type="checkbox"/> Colonel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One time gift | <input type="checkbox"/> One time gift |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 month | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 24 month | <input type="checkbox"/> 24 month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Major | <input type="checkbox"/> Captain |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One time gift | <input type="checkbox"/> One time gift |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 month | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 24 month | <input type="checkbox"/> 24 month |



THANKS
 for your faithful
 support!

Ministering To Young People

by Anders Lee

Fund Raising - UGH!!!

Happy New Year!!! So... you've planned all these exciting things for the summer calendar! You are pumped up about it, but then it hits you... you are gonna have to do fund raising!

It's the most dreaded phrase in youth ministry. Listen, I get it! It's the pits! But you and I both know that God does great things at camp and SOAR and other youth ministries we carry our kids to. Fund raising is a labor of love!

Through the years I have lost track of how many different things I've done. Let me confess something to you... I've had some colossal failures! Fund raising is all trial and error! You definitely will find out what works in your church and community! What works for one of your youth pastor friends at 'First Baptist somewhere' may not work for you.

Just as a reminder, be sure to involve and use your support team to help organize and pull off fund raisers you do. You need them! Trust me when I say,

fund raising will wear you out. You most definitely need to be involved in most of them because you are the leader. But, don't be afraid to back off on two

school, and to all their friends & family.

You can also get Butter Braids online. Man! Those things will make you slap yourself! Go to



Anders Lee

...be sure to involve and use your support team to help organize and pull off fund raisers you do.

or three on them on the calendar and let your team lead in the effort. It keeps you from being burned out and it gives them something important to accomplish for the youth they love!

Here are some of the things that have been a huge success for me at times.

Go online and order "World Class Candy Bars!" www.worldsfinestchocolate.com. Talk about success! I've seen kids make over \$200 each on these things over the course of a month or two, selling them at

butterbraid.com/fundraising/! They sell themselves! My kids have done this recently and made over \$100 in a week on profit for their summer trips.

Then there is the good ole CAR WASH! They are always a "roll of the dice" when it comes to weather. The key is to set two dates for it on your calendar. If you have to cancel one due to rain the other is bound to hit for you. Advertise ahead of time! Get a public location! Many businesses will gladly let a local church use their corner lot. Make

sure you organize your kids so that a good job is done! The biggest amount I saw raised for one of our Car washes was a little over \$1100. I was stunned that day! Hint, I also had donuts available for people while they waited for their car to get done!

One Easter we sold Boston Butts. I was leary at first to be honest. We marketed them as an idea for Easter lunch about a month ahead of Easter. I sought out a guy that was well known in the community for his BB's. His name and product proved to be a huge success for our kids. Not one kid sold under 10 Butts. Delivering them is a little work, but that raised over \$1800 for camp that year.

Don't judge me for this one! We held "Teen Auctions!" We literally had a Sunday night fellowship after church one night. Offered free goodies & drinks for people to stay and buy a teen! The teens wrote up a bio for themselves that was read as they walked on stage. People bid on teens openly! It was fun to watch the competition! The first time I did this we literally raised over \$3200. Teens were bought to do odd jobs for people. They mowed yards, pulled weeds out of flower beds, pressure washed decks, baby sat, cleaned out gutters, you name it they were

auctioned off to work!

You are gonna think I'm crazy when you read this one. "The Envelope Box!" Many times people don't want their car washed or to be pestered by candy bar sales etc... they just love the teens in their church. So we put this out there one year not knowing if it would work. The "box" has envelopes with a dollar amount on the front (usually starting at \$5 and going up to \$50). The envelopes are NOT in numerical order. The person picks an envelope randomly from the "box" and gives money or a check for the amount on the envelope to the youth fund for camp or SOAR. I always divide the money collected from this evenly to all youth going to camp. Are you ready for this... one year this raised over \$1900! Yep... it did!

I hope this will get your creative juices flowing for the fund raising ahead of you in 2018! Have fun!!! Oh and by the way... Get to work!!!! Camp/SOAR is TOMORROW and you don't have all the money raised yet!!! LOL!

Lee is a church planter in Southaven, Mississippi. He is a pastor and former youth minister and may be contacted at anders.lee571@gmail.com

SBC

from page 2

tions in the United States! Thinking about taking courses in the Spring semester? There are several scholarship opportunities available for our student body that supporters of the school have graciously provided. In addition, if you are a BMA minister, there are scholarships specially set aside available for you! Our recruiter, Justin Rhodes, has all the information you need to sign up for classes or contact Brother Ronnie regarding financial aid. Both can be reached at 601-426-6346.

Yes to "No Discrepancies"

Yes! What a relief to recently have these two words voiced to our staff! We were given ten day's notice by the Veterans Administration of Mississippi for an inspection of our records. We passed with flying colors. Congratulations to our staff for their tremendous record keeping! And while we are talking about the VA, SBC has been elevated to

the Gold Award level as a military friendly college for 2018! Have you served in America's armed forces? Then you probably have Veterans Administration tuition benefits that you can use toward a free education right here at SBC. I urge you to contact your local VA representative for an evaluation of your benefits. You earned them! And remember, the Post 9-11 GI Bill is fully transferable to family members. SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

Available to Preach

What a wonderful experience it is to visit and preach for so many of our congregations throughout Mississippi! Thank you for the many churches providing me an opportunity to preach the Word of God and to share the work and vision here at Southeastern Baptist College to your church family!

If you need someone to fill your pulpit, I can be reached at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu

2018 Pastor's Retreat

Join us for the 2018 BMA of Mississippi Pastor's Retreat on January 22-23. Located on beautiful Lake Tiak O'Khata in Louisville, Mississippi, pastors from around the state will gather to grow in God's Word and enjoy some great fellowship.

Our keynote speaker this year will be **Dr. Mark Livingston**, pastor of First Keltys in Lufkin, TX. He is also a professor at the BMA Seminary in Jacksonville, TX. Dr. Livingston brings a wealth of biblical knowledge and practical application that will be a great benefit to all who attend. This year's theme is "NOTHING BUT CHRIST: RECAPTURING CHRIST-CENTERED EXPOSITIONAL PREACHING."

As a part of our learning experience, we are asking pastors to bring a sermon and be prepared to preach, if selected. There will be two preaching opportunities. At the conclusion of the sermon, we will have the opportunity to graciously evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the sermon based on material provided by Dr. Livingston. THIS IS STRICTLY VOLUNTARY. If you don't want to be selected, you are under no obligation to bring a sermon.

All materials will be provided.

Jeremy Wilson, from Campground Baptist Church, will be leading us in worship each session.

GUYS, YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

\$65 if staying in the BUNKHOUSE. This includes the retreat, one night in the bunkhouse, and your three meals.

\$45 if staying in the MOTEL. This includes the retreat and three meals. You are responsible for reserving and paying for your hotel room. Room rate is \$81.75 (Includes Tax).

For Motel reservations call Lake Tiak O'Khata at (662) 773-7853.



Dr. Mark Livingston



Don Brown
Editor

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Romania Training

from page 1

to a recent media training involving Bro. Bogdan, Lifeword Programming Director Rick Russell, and a group of enthusiastic gypsies.

The first week in December, Rick and I, along with BMA Missions' Mati Spencer and missionary-elect Bryan Risner, traveled to Romania to witness a historic broadcast created by gypsies for gypsies: Rick to train them and me to witness and record this long-anticipated event. On the first day of training, Bro. Bogdan and the team met these men at a church in Nufalau, not far from where he lives in Simlieu-Sylvaneii.

With Bro. Bogdan translating, Rick welcomed them to with the following words: "For the very first time, there are two generations of men, young and old, that have grown up as believers. To me, it's just phenomenal, and I'm excited to be here and be part of it. Bogdan has been telling me how the gypsy community of believers is growing, and now we have the capability to reach beyond the villages. Since you all have the internet in your hand and can reach so many more, this week we are teaching you to share your faith through your phones. You will be the voice of the gypsy people."

Rick's first task for the men was to consider what their broadcast should include. First, he led them through a discussion of the best way to reach lost people. Their first suggestions for content were the obvious ones: sharing and preaching the gospel, Bible-reading, songs and testimonies. However, Rick explained, they were "thinking like Christians" instead of non-Christians. Once they began to think about their own cultural interests, skills and knowledge, they understood, as one man said, that Rick was not "here to tell us what is working in the States, but to get us to decide what can work for us."

At the end of Day One, they were given their homework: Create a one-and-a-half-minute broadcast without the "intros" and "outros." The app they use to create the broadcast is called "Spreaker" and comes complete with sound effects, music, and applause.

Day Two began with listening to those broadcasts and critiquing them. It concluded with an explanation of the different aspects and tools in Spreaker. Their homework for the next day was to create an entire broadcast except the intro and outro, then download music to include in it.

Day Three was spent "working out the bugs" in Spreaker and solving the technical problems they had run into. Rick told them to tag their broadcasts "Romanes" (the common name of their language) so gypsies searching on the Internet can easily find it. Their assignment for the last day was to complete their broadcasts and upload to Spreaker and Facebook.

Finally, on Day Four of training, they created a two-hour live broadcast. Ten faithful men, young and old, gathered on Saturday morning to debut a program designed for their own people group, the most despised in Europe. While several men listened in Bogdan's van and others on their cell phones, the rest recorded short sermons and songs they've been practicing throughout the week. Their excitement and emotion was felt by everyone in that small church.

Bro. Bogdan's vision, which he has been praying about for many months, was to train and encourage a new generation to use the "internet in their hands" to tell gypsies everywhere about the unconditional love of Jesus. At the end of training, he praised the Lord for answered prayer and Lifeword training and support; but Rick, Mati, Bryan and I were the ones blessed to witness the culmination of this ministry dream.

Not Even A Mouse...

Laurel, Mississippi - December 25, 2017 - Family get togethers are one of the main activities of the Christmas season. The larger a family gets with children growing up and having families of their own, and also inheriting extended families, the harder it is to have the intimate family time that we become accustomed to when our children are small and living at home.

My family is no different. We have two children, two sets of in-laws, and five grandchildren. We are also blessed to have our first great grandchild.

While traveling across the county to our grandson's house on Christmas day for some good "family time", I was taken back to a time long gone. It was a very enjoyable and uplifting experience. I noticed that all the business, with the exception of some 'quick stop gas stations' and a few scattered eating establishments, were closed. It was almost an eerie feeling!

What a wonderful thing it was to know that so many businesses were closed on Christmas Day! Even Walmart, McDonalds, all regular businesses were closed. The exceptions were very few.

I was reminded of a time in the past where all businesses were closed on the Lord's day. When I was a child practically nothing was opened on Sunday. Of course Christmas Day this year fell on a Monday. On the previous day - Christmas Eve, a Sunday - most every thing was open as is normal.

Time seemed to slow down and there was a feeling of calm and peace that was quite enjoyable.

I would that our society could go back to respecting the Lord's day of rest and slow down so that not even a mouse would be out shopping on Sunday.

Emphasis Needs

We have addressed the Special Emphasis Drive on the front page of this issue. Our poster on the facing page shares our needs. We do ask that each of our readers give an offering to help us with our financial needs. We pray for a blessed 2018 to each of you.

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



When the sign said "If you park here, you preach today!" I thought it was a joke...

BMA of Mississippi Youth Department

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



Kelby Johnson
Director

Sharpen 2018

The 2018 Sharpen Conference will be on Saturday, February 10, 2018 at Shiloh Baptist Church in Mt. Olive. We will begin at 5:00 p.m. We encourage all churches to send a Youth Pastor, Sunday School teacher, or lay leader who can come and be encouraged and equipped in youth ministry. There is no cost for this event.

State Youth Camp Information

I am excited to announce that the State Youth Camp 2018 will be at Waukaway Springs Christian Retreat Center in Vossburg, Mississippi, May 31 - June 2. Our speaker this year will be Dr. John David Smith. The cost of our camp is \$100 per person.

It is time to preregister so contact me at kelbyjohnson@yahoo.com to reserve your spots!



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Some Observations from Steerage

My wife and I enjoy cruising, especially when we can find a really cheap cruise. This last cruise we got a steerage room. A steerage room is way, way down in the bottom of the ship. You get there through a series of ladders. Daylight has not come to steerage since the keel was laid. In fact, when you get up in the morning, you have to be careful about putting your feet on the floor if the sump pump has not started to remove the water from your room. Anyway,

enough about our room. Here are some observations from steerage:

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

Cruising is an environmentally rich venue for people-watching. Of course I am one of those people that “the other people” are also watching.

Actually on board ship, unless you're not of this world, you eat more than three meals a day. The cruise ticket includes your meal and snacks. So it seems the logic of some is “the more I eat, the cheaper the ticket.” I have seen some of the cruisers who really worked on getting a cheaper ticket.

At the end of the cruise not as many people fit on an elevator as at the start of the cruise.

Certainly there is a percentage of folks on the cruise - some say 7%, some say 15% - who are just plain “awf” or perhaps “off.” It is not the cruise that puts them in the awf/off category; they are simply behaving like they normally do at home, in their neighborhood, at work, even next to you in traffic. Let me illustrate:

These include the folks who get on an elevator before anyone can get off.

These folks also “graze” at the buffet as they choose a meal, often having eaten a full course meal before sitting down.

They crowd all lines, breathing down your neck or hitting you in the backside with their suitcases and backpacks.

I am convinced after being at poolside that the man who wears a Speedo (swimsuit) should first look down. If he cannot see his Speedo, then he has exceeded the speed(o) limit.

Elevators on board ship are interesting. For example, there is panoply of ladies with an assortment of sandals and flip-flops. When I was younger toenail polish came in two colors: red and pink. That concept is so last century! On the cruise I see all sorts of toenail colors. It is a rainbow! Some even have sparkles that glitter in the light. I think I saw one lady with electronic paraphernalia that allowed her toenails to beat to music with multicolor LED glow lights.

Lest you get the idea that a cruise is all fluff and nonsense, there is also time for meditation and reflection.

No matter how large the ship, no matter how many decks, no matter the length, even the tonnage, it is still a very small speck on the ocean.

I see the effect of the giant propellers driven by the powerful engines churning the waters behind the ship. That prop wash of water expands well behind the ship as it plows through the deep. Yet the prop wash soon disappears. Very quickly all traces of the ship passage are no longer there on the ocean surface.

Cruising can afford time to set aside for a special relationship with your spouse. Whether newly married or past a half century, being with that person is extraordinary.

Of all that you see and hear, there is also ample opportunity to set aside some thoughtful and contemplative moments with your Creator.

God has created an enormous world. The Bible tells me His creation was good as He made it. It is a good thing for me to see some of His creation. I am refreshed by being in places I'm not accustomed to in my daily routine. Not only am I fearfully and wonderfully made, so is the world. Let me think and ponder this.

Mississippi Baptist



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January of each year is designated as the “**Special Emphasis Month**” for your Publications Department. Our churches and people are asked to take up a special offering during January to raise funds for the continued operation of this ministry.

Your gift is used throughout the year to help fund this work. Your gift is special to us and very much appreciated.

Your gifts help us continue to keep you informed about the work God is doing through the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi and America.

**SPECIAL
EMPHASIS
NEEDS**

**\$10,000
JANUARY 2018**

**72 YEARS
of MINISTRY**

**KEEPING YOU
INFORMED**

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI
DON BROWN, EDITOR

MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Director

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On The Web at www.macbma.net/

Email - fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com



John Adams

OUR JUDEO-CHRISTIAN HERITAGE SERIES

Pornography – The National Shame

Ephesians 5:3-5

Some say that pornography such as sex magazines and videos is a victimless crime. The Bible exposes sexual explicit magazines for what they really are...smut and filth from Satan's domain.

Paul the Apostle told the Ephesian culture in Chapter 5 verse 3 not to even let impurity be named among them. Our modern era has to contend with sex parlors, topless bars, porno magazine stands, video stores, sex cable channels, regular TV programming, and dial-a-porn telephone services to satisfy one's lust for sex. Most in the American culture are willfully ignorant of just how vicious this moral plague has become and how devastatingly widespread it is.

We wish to investigate:

Adult Pornography:

The U.S. Justice Department in recent years authorized a study to determine what role Playboy, Hustler, and other sexually explicit pornography plays in juvenile delinquency, teenage violence, sexual abuse, and sexual exploitation of children. This research was sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Jus-

tice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The research is to be used by police to forecast behavior of juveniles exposed to pornography.

Jesus stated in Mark 7:20-23 that the natural-carnal man will have an evil eye of lasciviousness and foolishness, and He ends the quote that these things defile a man. Pornography in the end becomes ugly and sinfully dangerous. The sex business made Hugh Hefner worth more than \$148 million. Forbes magazine states: "The magazine Hefner founded, Playboy, was among the prime movers of the sexual revolution that helped legitimize pornography and the so-called soft-porno."

Christian News Network claims: "The 'naughty magazines' of the last generation bear little relation to the porn of today. Far from the skimpily clad or bare breasted models of yesterday, the more than 100 porno magazine titles available today depict: (1) sexual intercourse (2) homosexual acts, (3) explicit group sex, (4) sex between people and animals, (5) depictions of bondage, (6) torture sex, (7) and rape sex.

FBI reports that this past year the

"adult" film business at hundreds of X-rated theaters in the U.S. will attract 2.75 million admissions per week. No wonder the Apostle Peter cried out to the brethren in I Peter 2:11..."Dearly beloved, I beseech you... to abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul..."

Kiddie Porn:

The proper term is known as "pedophilia perversion" or child sex. Each year in America 704,000 children are reported missing. Some are runaways that will be home in 72 hours, but more than 2,000 per day will never be found. The FBI law enforcement bulletin describes these strangers abducting children are usually psychotics, baby sellers, pornographers, pedophiles, and serial killers.

Children have become a product for sale. A magazine of obscene pictures of children (2 to 13 years) can be produced for 50 cents and sold for as much as \$12.50. The two leading American publications are "Lust for Children" and "Child Discipline". The proliferation of internet child pornography has exploded in America.

A Los Angeles child pornographer produced a travel guide, "Where the Young Ones Are". It listed 378 places in 54 cities in 34 states where a child could be found for sexual services.

Book Recommendations by Dr. Adams:

1. "What's the Big Deal about Pornography?" Dr. Jill C. Manning
2. "Unfiled" Harry Schaumburg
3. "Pure Eyes, Clean Heart" Craig and Jen Ferguson
4. "The Bible" By God & His Son

GMA NEWS

State Youth Auxiliary Director

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601-596-1005

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Lisa Christian
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2018 State GMA Camp

by Gracie Ingram

State Corresponding Secretary

Hey everyone! I hope you all have had a great Christmas and a Happy New year. We are super excited for the 2018 State GMA Camp. We would love for you to join us March 16th & 17th. The theme for this year is "The Fruit of the Spirit" and the verse is Galatians 5:22-23. We have been working hard to make this a really fun camp. Please pray for the camp and for God's will to be done. Hope to see y'all there!

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Doyle Moore Available

Bro. Doyle Moore, former missionary to the Philippines for the BMA of America, is available for pulpit supply. Moore was instrumental in the building of a number of churches and other ministry activities in the Philippines and the Asia Pacific area. He is the founder of the Philippine BMA Bible College and served on the field for over 40 years. Bro. Moore may be reached at 601-590-1196 or by email at mooredoyle46@gmail.com.

He is seeking God's will and asks for prayer that God will reveal His will to him and his wife Linda as they continue to serve Him.

Oak Grove Association

The next meeting of the Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Association will be with Rocky Branch Baptist Church on January 18. The time of food and fellowship normally begins around 6:00 with the Association meeting beginning at 7:00.

The January meeting of the Association has traditionally been the time for a rally for Mississippi Baptist Children's Home. Your church can bring dry goods and canned goods to give to the home or bring an offering for the home they can use to purchase items that are most needed by them. All churches are encouraged to send messengers to this meeting.

Ed Steele, Reporter

A Golden Opportunity

From BMA Life

You've heard about the effectiveness of our overseas churches when they begin a low power fm Lifeword Community Radio Station. But American churches haven't been able to use this wonderful evangelistic tool because the FCC rarely allows new applications for licenses (It's only happened twice in the past 15 years or so).

With President Trump's selection of Mr. Ajit Pai to head up the FCC, conservatives finally have a friend in the FCC who MAY give us a new open enrollment period for LPFM's here in the USA. If it happens, the application window will likely only be open for a couple of months...and we may not get much advance notice.

If you think your church might benefit from having a 100 watt FM station to serve a 10 mile radius around your church (much more on many cases), you should do your research NOW and be ready to file an application "at the drop of a hat", so to speak. Figure it will take \$10,000-\$15,000 to get an LPFM

BMAA Foundation Financial Planning Seminar

Magnolia Baptist Church in Hattiesburg will host a BMAA Foundation financial planning seminar under the leadership of Executive Director Charles Attebery on January 21-22, 2018. Director Attebery and a co-worker representing the BMAA Foundation will be available at the church building, 148 King Road, on Sunday, January 21, at 4:30 p.m., to meet with people who are interested in their financial planning services and to answer questions and set up appointments.

Also, on Monday morning, January 22, at 7:30, Magnolia will host a breakfast for area financial advisers who are interested in meeting with Director Attebery and learning more about the ministry of the BMAA Foundation, and how to partner with the foundation. Magnolia pastor Greg Medenwald is available by cell phone (601-520-3135) if you need additional information.

Charles Attebery

up and running. An absolutely bargain basement price for having your own community radio station.

We also suggest you and your church family write to Director Pai, asking him to open an application window for new lpfm stations.

Don't let this possibility pass you by!

Lifeword will help you with initial planning ideas...and programming materials and ideas for when you get on the air. To discuss the idea and get an informational starter kit, call Rick Russell or Luis Ortega at 501.329.6891 or email rick@lifeword.org.

From The Mind of Chuck Lee

What Did You Do Today?

Some people love the feel of adrenaline coursing through their veins as they free fall from thousands of feet out of perfectly good airplanes. Others thrive on the roar of the wind as it tries to hold resistance against the speed of their car driving a hundred miles an hour. Many find exhilaration by scaling heights that mountain goats find treacherous. I, however, seize up when someone simply asks me what I have done today.

I'm not sure when I discovered I was boring, but somewhere over the last few years I just sort of fell into that role -

which I play very well. When someone asks me what I have done today, I immediately try to find some interesting event that occurred throughout the day and just simply come up empty. I've

gotten so good at being boring, that when something exciting actually happens, I can find a way to explain it that oozes with tedium. It really is a talent that is underrated.

I border on the edge of envy every time I meet someone who can make walking to the mailbox interesting. I will listen to their thrilling account and find inspiration to achieve excitement and think that maybe, just maybe, today will be the day that life finds its edge once more! But, nope, just another boring walk to the mailbox.

There are some people that find life too fantastic, and so just go on and on and on about mundane every day events to the extent it will make your eyes glaze over. The difference between

these type of people and the truly exciting type of people are that one just thinks their life is exciting, and the other's is truly exciting. Either way, both of these types can answer you when you ask them what they have done today.

After extensive and exhaustive research, I have discovered that many people over a certain age apparently suffer from this same malady as I and thus resort to drudging up old memories from more eventful times in their life. Their entire repertoire of exciting



Bro. Chuck Lee

I've gotten so good at being boring, that when something exciting actually happens, I can find a way to explain it that oozes with tedium.

content dates back to their youth. In fact, I have met very few people over this certain age, which will remain a vague reference, that can come up with a single current event in their lives that can even raise a single eyebrow. I must be between that time of youth and age of remembrance because I just can't summon up the communication skills to hold a decent conversation on what I did today, or transition the question to what I did years ago. Either that, or the statute of limitations is not up yet. I'm not sure of the legal ramifications.

I guess the better observation from all of this rambling, is that we better make the most of the day that we have, because we will never get it back to do it over.

Lee serves as pastor of Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis. He may be reached by email at leecharles47@yahoo.com

BMA Seminary Offers Free Course

BMA Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas, is offering a FREE course for Spring 2018. The course is Introduction to Christian Ethics -CE111cf.

Course Description is as follows: Ethics deal with the process of determining what is right and wrong morally. This course surveys the scope of ethics and emphasizes Christian ethics formulated from God's Word. The course gives attention to contemporary ethical issues, historical ethical writings, and the comparison or contrasts of Christian ethics with opposing ethical views.

The Textbook will be 'Choosing the Good' by Dennis P. Hollinger, Baker Academic, ISBN 0-8010-2563

The course will begin February 5, 2018. Interested students should go online to register or contact the seminary. To apply go to www.bmats.edu free.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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



SIDNEY DAVIS

A New Year Is Before Us

Jesus Christ is the source of all things and all beginnings. Colossians 1:16, 17. God created everything that exists by the power of His Word. John 1:1-3. The physical world owes its beginning to Christ. The same is true concerning spiritual life. Christ is life and only in Christ can a soul have life. Eternal life begins in Christ. All of these beginnings are secure in the fact that Christ lives.

The best way to begin this new year is with Christ. According to His divine will He has given this year to us. Resolve right now, as the year begins, to seek the Lord's will for your life and follow His direction. Trust Him to carry you through whatever this year may hold.

Snowy Day

Let it snow! Let it snow! Now, that is pretty unusual for South Mississippi so early in December, the 8th to be precise. By the time it stopped snowing about six inches of the white fluffy stuff had accumulated. The day was enjoyed by the boys and girls. Snow balls were thrown, snow men were erected. Needless to say it was a day that will not be soon forgotten!



Special Emphasis

We have received a little over \$18,000.00 towards our 2017 Special Emphasis thus far. Praise the Lord once again for using His people to be a blessing to the ministry of the Home. Thank you for caring, sharing, and praying. We extend our appreciation to each church, auxiliary, class, and individual for your participation in this year's Emphasis.



Remember In Prayer and Focus Verse

Continue to remember the girls, boys and the ministry of the Home in your prayers. Happy New Year!!! "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist." Colossians 1:16-17.

We're Ready for Spring!

Registration Week Jan. 8-12

Classes Begin January 29

bmats.edu



The Poirier's Ministry to Haiti

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest". Joshua 1:9

Time flies greatly when we are busy for the Lord. It seems like just yesterday that we had gotten involved with the work in Haiti. When I look back, I see from where we started and now we have two churches already flourishing for the Lord and maturing in Christ. This year we have seen over 20 people receive Christ, 15 baptized and added to the church. I will say the Lord has been good for the Haitian people. We had our ups and down but through it all we have seen the hand of God in action.

I met a man, 72 years old searching for a church while a native Pastor and I were walking home one day. I asked him if he was to die where would he spend eternity? He told me his testimony and how he was saved in a Baptist church Southwest of Haiti at a young age. Six years ago he moved to Port au Prince and had no good Bible believing

Baptist church to attend. He was glad to be invited to church and from that day forward he has NEVER missed a meeting.

In the other church in Onaville we met a couple that have 5 children and live in a tin shack, with a door, no windows and a dirt floor, no access to water and very little food. In fact we found this couple by going door to door with the gospel, and food. Our hearts were touched because they did not know Christ nor had any food for past three days. In seeing the poverty in the home we were saddened to see people living in



This is our 2015 GMC Sierra 3500 4x4 that the Lord gives us for the Haiti ministry.

such a condition. They never asked for anything except how to know Christ. They were saved, married, and baptized, within a short time and they still have no possessions, but now they have Christ, new church friends and a place of worship.

I could tell you more stories but these people, the lost and forgotten, is the reason why our Lord Jesus Christ called us to plant churches in Haiti. We plan to start 2 more churches in 2018 in a more remote part of Haiti. There are needs everywhere but a need is not a call, that is why we need your prayers to know the place where the Lord wants us to begin new works.

Finally I want share a blessing we received from one of our Baptist church partners. We have been blessed by receiving our truck, a 2015 GMC 3500 4x4, for the work in Haiti. The first time we took it we had put 25 people in it and this includes



This is the house of Sennel and Roseline with one of their sons.

the box in the back. Though it was a real test of faith getting it through customs we, through the Lord's grace and help financially, were able to finally get it all plated, insured and on the road. We are extremely humbled and honored for this great blessing. We never take this for granted. God bless you all!

We thank you for all for what you have done for us and the people in Haiti through your gifts and prayers, there is so much more to do, please keep us in your prayers.

May God bless you as you serve Him and seek to do His will for the coming year.

Your servant in Christ.

Mike and Ruth
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(418) 209-3710

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
www.bmaofmississippi.com

DEPARTMENTS & COMMISSIONS

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601-426-3293

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4229 Highway 15 North
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601-426-6346

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

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

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

Commission on Senior Adults
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-729-2613

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

Moral Action
P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855
662-282-7425

Missionary Radio Reaching the Unreached

In early 2014 Open Door Baptist Church in the Filipino village of Pandan began a Lifeword Community Radio station with the help of Lifeword Asia-Pacific. Pandan villagers immediately loved the station, which broadcasts from 5 a.m. until 9 p.m. and provides the only radio service in the area. After several months on air, Lifeword began receiving calls in response to the programs from a place no one had ever heard of—a place called Melendrez. Only four miles from Open Door, the village of Melendrez was unknown to the people of Pandan until they called with requests for more information on the Bible.

As soon as they could, Open Door's pastor and a deacon visited the village, bringing transistor radios to distribute and estimating that there were 90 households and 500 hundred people in Melendrez. After that initial visit, they planned to return during Christmas of 2014 and meet more of the people who had been listening to Lifeword.

Loaded with gifts from EIM (Evangelistic International Ministries), the young people from Tangub Baptist Church in Bacolod City and Open Door Baptist Church in Pandan played games and shared the gospel with the children during the trip. This was the first time they had been visited by any Christian group, and the first time these children

ever heard a Bible story or received a Christmas gift.

Pastor Pete (Pedro Etabag, director of Lifeword Asia-Pacific) said, "It is amazing what these small radio stations can do. Even though the signals do not travel a long way, they go places we have never been and reach people we have never met. Open Door Baptist Church was organized in 1978, but this nearby village was not known until the church at Pandan started its radio station. What a great way to reach people and plant churches. Our goal and challenge in the coming years is to use the LPFM Radio (Lifeword Community Radio) to reach more places and then start a mission that will eventually become a church. To God be the glory!"

The work in Melendrez continues to this day with an extension class held every Saturday by leaders at Open Door Baptist Church in Pandan. More young people and adults have been saved and are attending their Sunday worship services as well. Responses to the church's Lifeword broadcast continue,



Bro. Pete Etabag, director of Lifeword in the Philippines, setting up and giving instructions on low powered FM radio stations.

but since they have no available workers to start a new church, new believers attend Open Door Baptist Church. Pastor Pete says that he and other leaders are praying for the Lord to provide trained workers for a church plant in Melendrez. Please join Lifeword in that prayer as well.



Setting up equipment