

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

Eccl. 3:1

# Baptist

## Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE  
BAPTIST MISSIONARY  
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## A Timely Gift

*from BMAA Missions*

The first Everlasting Smiles Shoeboxes were given to the driver that delivered the container in El Salvador. The delivery driver was so excited to receive boxes for his two children. I can not tell you how excited I am to send in this report. This year has been really tough on many of our missionaries in many countries. Countless hours have been given to serving hurting people, sick people, starving people. Added to the pandemic, our friends in Central America also were hit hard by 2 hurricanes. This caused more needs.



Everlasting Smiles Shoeboxes, this year more than any other, will be used to bless people in Central America. Our prayer is that they provide joy in the midst of hard times and that many will come to know Christ because of the message delivered with the gifts.

Today, Pastor Rigoberto and his team in El Salvador are working on getting boxes transported to Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala. Please pray for each of these areas as they share the love of Christ with others. I am so thankful for each of you who packed a shoebox or donated funds this year. At the time that we sent out information on this year's shoeboxes, most churches were not even meeting. I am thankful for churches who called to let me know that they already had a plan to get them completed. We sent around 75,000 boxes this year. What a blessing and a timely gift for our friends in Central America. Please pray for Pastor Rigoberto Cruz in El Salvador, Pastor Oscar Gaitan in Nicaragua, Pastor David Marroquin in Guatemala, and Pastor Denis Lopez in Honduras along with the teams of pastors and church members as they prepare to share THE EVERLASTING SMILE.

Mark your calendars



World Missions Day 2021 on February 28, and join BMA Missions in celebrating, praying for and giving to global missions.

## Low Power FM Radio Reaching the Philippines

*by Pedro M. Etabag  
Lifeword Philippines*

Before the year 2020 ends, we were able to install the last radio station in Daan Banua (Old Town), Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental. This radio station will reach thousands of potential audience, because it covers a distance of around 25 to 30 kilometer radius. In these times of Pandemic where our movements are very limited due to the Community Quarantine, the Low Powered FM Radio is one of the answers to the urgent need of spreading the Gospel.

We still have around 4 more FM Stations to install, but it could wait until next year depending on the situation of the Covid 19 Pandemic. May the Lord use the Low Powered FM Stations to reach more people with the Gospel. I believe we are living in the last of the last days and very soon, the Lord will rapture us home. May we do our very best to further the Gospel because the harvest is still plentiful and the laborers are few. Pray ye therefore that the Lord will send more laborers to the harvest.

Thank you Lifeword for this blessed project that amidst these trying times, we can continue to push the preaching of the Gospel. Thank you to the Churches of the Lord Jesus Christ who have the vision to do whatever they can to fulfill the Great Commission. Thank you to God's children who have the burden to pray and support the radio and media ministries.

Thank you, most all to our loving God who gives us the strength and wisdom to continue and survive this ministry, until He comes! God bless us all.



**Above:** Pastor and Lifeword Philippines Director Pete Etabag installing equipment - **Below:** Celebrating the completion of another low power FM station to reach out with the Gospel



## Covid-19 has us Stranded!

The Scroggins and the Lees have had Covid-19 and are thankful our symptoms were mild and we recovered quickly. Maybe living in a third world country has galvanized our immune systems. After experiencing so many difficulties leaving the country, we are now faced with the complicated issues of re-



Missionaries to the Philippines Left - Donna & Stan Scroggins and right - Diane & Doug Lee

entry. The government is beginning to reopen the borders for certain visas. We have 9G (missionary) visas and are praying we qualify. Our possibilities are looking good to return in January and no later than the middle of February. God is in control and we are trusting Him.

# Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown  
Editor

## What A Time!

Solomon tells us in Eccl. 3:1 *To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:*

I know most of us are looking for a better time in 2021 than we experienced in 2020. It is often difficult to accept and deal with those events that we do not expect or desire.

This Covid virus has turned our world upside down and changed so many aspects of our daily lives. Beginning last Spring many events and meetings were cancelled due to the unknown. The more information made available to us the more we began to understand the seriousness of this pandemic. Church has certainly been affected with many cancelling or altering services. Our prayer for 2021 is that God will show mercy and grace and life can return to normal.

He makes no mistakes even when we do not understand. Ministry goes on with the preaching of the Gospel both at home and around the world as adjustments are made. May God grant understanding and salvation to those who are still in darkness.

### Special Emphasis

As you will note by the ads in this issue, and with the literature that has been sent to our churches, January is the Special Emphasis month for your Publications Department. We ask each of our churches and our readers to help us reach our needed goal. Monthly support from our churches and this annual Emphasis drive make up a major portion of our operating budget. Thank you in advance for your support.

### New Web Site Coming

Our website at [www.msmbaptist.org](http://www.msmbaptist.org) is a valuable tool to help keep our churches informed and to share pertinent information. We are updating the site and will soon have the new site activated. It will be more intuitive with an up to date appearance. Articles will be classified by category making searching easier for our readers. We are excited about the update and its appearance. If you would like a "preview" you may check it out at [www.newmsmbaptist.org](http://www.newmsmbaptist.org). This is a temporary address and when the site is put on-line live, it will be moved to our current web address.

Your comments and feedback are appreciated. Let us know if there is a feature you would like to see added to our site.

### Assistant Editor Corbey Jones

Trustee Corbey Jones was chosen as our assistant at our Trustee meeting in October. Bro. Jones is currently a patient in ICU at our local hospital with the Covid virus. He is seriously ill, but seemingly making slow progress. Pray for our brother and his family. Ask our God to heal him and return him to his family and his ministry.

## Obituaries

### Bro. J.T. Byrd, Jr.

Bro. Byrd passed away December 8th at the age of 97! After serving his country during WWII, his churches through faithful dedication, and family during their needs, he's now with his bride in Glory.



Bro. J.T. Byrd

He was preceded in death by his wife of almost 63 years, Dorothy "Dot" Byrd; parents J.T. Byrd, Sr. and Frances Hempstead Byrd; brother James Byrd; son in-law Don Herring.

He is survived by his daughters; Wanda (Mark) Necaise, whom he lived with and were his sole caregivers, Charlotte Herring, Laquido (Kerwin) Necaise, and a number of grandchildren.

As a faithful servant of God, he followed his dad's path, Preaching the Gospel. He was Licensed to Preach in 1966 and became an Ordained Minister in 1972.

He served as Pastor of Eastlawn Baptist Church, Bethany Baptist Church and O'Neal Road Baptist Church, where he reluctantly resigned in 2014 at the age of 89, due to declining health. A part of his heart was always with O'Neal Road Baptist Church. Although Mr. Byrd's declined health didn't allow him to be active, his membership was at First Baptist Church of Orange Grove.

A private family service was held on December 16th, with Bro. Dewitt Bain officiating.

### Robert Bullock Sr

Bro. Bob was a member of Temple Baptist Church, where he served as pastor for 36 years. He was a loving father and spouse, and he loved his grandchildren and great grandchildren dearly.

Bob was a veteran of the United States Navy and served active sea duty in the Korean War. After returning from war, Bob worked at Masonite and

surrendered to the ministry in 1960. He also was a rural carrier for the USPS for many years.

Bob loved his wife, family and spending time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren, as well as visiting with members of the community.



Bro. Robert  
Bullock

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Ann (Sumrall) Bullock, parents, William Bergen Bullock and Suda Samantha (Graham) Bullock, and his brothers Neil Bullock and John Bullock.

Survivors include his children, Robert (Suzi) James Bullock, Jr. and Susanne (Greg) Bullock Stenzel. Grandchildren, Bobby (Sara) Bullock, Katie (Hans) Wolf, Becky (Layne) Collins, Betsy (Blake) Powell, Mollie Stenzel and Annie Stenzel. Great grandchildren include Caroline, Jonah, Oliver, Sawyer, Evelyn, Blakely, Charlie, Anna Clayton and Brinley. Bob's brother-in-laws include, Charles Clayton (Mildred) Sumrall and Thomas Edward (Elaine) Sumrall and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held at Ellisville Funeral Home on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 10:00-10:30am, with a graveside service to follow at 11:00am at Springhill Baptist Church Cemetery, Laurel, Mississippi.

### Maggie Chandler

Margaret Ann Kinley Chandler (Maggie) left us for heaven in the late afternoon of December 1, 2020. She was 71 years old, born January 5, 1949, to the late Emma Elizabeth and Farmer Guy Kinley in Little Rock, Arkansas.



Maggie Chandler

She is survived by her husband of 53 years Don R. Chandler; and three children, Lori Kulbeth (Donnie), Michael Chandler (Shelly), and Marlo Atwell (Cory) and seven grandchildren.

Maggie is also survived by two brothers, Carroll Kinley (Elaine) and David Kinley (Sandra) and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Maggie had a varied career in work and ministry. She was Governor Mike Huckabee's administrative assistant, worked for several years in state government, wrote and took part in TV

shows for LifeWord Broadcast Ministries interviewing many well-known Christians. For almost 30 years she wrote a weekly article entitled, "I Wish I Would Have Said That" for the Baptist Trumpet newspaper.

Maggie's impact on everyone she met is her legacy. She was the definitive pastor's wife! She loved! She gave! She encouraged! She taught! She Helped! She was a godly woman who made a remarkable impact on her husband's pastoral ministry. They worked and worshiped together for 55 plus years.

### Dr. Johnny Craig Pryor

Dr. Johnny Craig Pryor, 61, died Dec. 21, 2020 at his home in Shady Grove, Mississippi.

Dr. Pryor was born February 27th, 1959 in Laurel, Mississippi to Jean and J.N. Pryor.

Dr. Pryor studied to be a medical doctor at the University of Southern Mississippi and UMMC, before performing his residency and fellowships to be-



Dr. Johnny Pryor

come a renowned neurosurgeon. He spent 20 years in the New York City and Boston working at the best brain surgery hospitals in the world. In 2016, Dr. Pryor came home to Mississippi to take care of his ailing mother and father.

He recently was serving as an instructor at Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel.

He is survived by his sons, James and Jesse; his daughter, Cathryn Olivia; and his brother Jay.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dr. Betty Davis Pryor.

A family graveside burial service was held on Wednesday December 30th. A memorial service to celebrate his memory will be held in 2021.

### Quentin McCardle Pastor dies in traffic accident

Bro. Quentin McCardle, 39, of Poplarville, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on December 14, 2020, in Poplarville. He was the pastor of Silver Run Baptist Church, a



Quentin McCardle

piano teacher, and a teacher for

Mississippi Baptist

Don J. Brown, Editor

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see Obituaries on page 6

# Southeastern Baptist College

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

*Serving Christ With A Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere*

2020 was quite a memorable year for most of us. Southeastern Baptist College successfully closed out our Fall Semester with 24 students achieving the Honor Roll! The staff and faculty have worked hard to set the Spring Semester for a successful start in January. We then shut down the college for the holidays.



Dr. Scott Carson  
President

A few days before Christmas, I turned into my driveway and as I was locking up the car I heard a cheerful, "Merry Christmas Dr. Carson!" I turned about and spotted our Biology professor, Dr. Johnny Pryor, waving at me with a great smile from our neighbor's porch. It was a

surprise and a blessing as I returned his greeting. Little did I know that it would be the last time I would be able to greet Dr. Pryor until we meet again in heaven.

I received the sad news on December 23, that Dr. Pryor passed away at his home. This was shocking news not only to me, but also to everyone at the college and the surrounding community. We were tremendously blessed for the Lord bringing Dr. Pryor to our campus last year and he quickly became highly respected by both his students and peers alike. Dr. Pryor engaged his students in a casual and friendly manner and the students grew to love him and his teaching methods. One of his students stated, "Oh, my this is so hurtful. I really liked talking to Dr. Pryor. He had so much knowledge and passion for people." Passion in-

deed. Dr. Pryor not only taught for SBC, but was also involved locally in the Kairos Prison Ministry, bringing hope through God's Word to the incarcerated and also donated his time to Love in Action, a drug rehabilitation program. He shared his calling for these ministries to the entire Charger student body during one of our Tuesday Night Talks (TNT).



Dr. Johnny Pryor Dr. Pryor's biography is extensive and impressive. He was a native of Laurel, Mississippi, and the son of J.N. and Jean Pryor, both deceased. J.N. was a prominent local pharmacist and Jean was a long time civics teacher at West Jones High School. Before coming to SBC, Dr. Johnny

Pryor worked for the best brain surgery hospitals in the world. His previous employment was:

- A Physician at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA.
- Assistant Professor of Endovascular Surgery at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY.
- Physician at St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital Center, New York, NY.
- Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA.
- Visiting Fellow in Diagnostic Neuroradiology at Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, Washington University, St. Louis, MO.
- Resident physician in General Surgery at Barnes Jewish Hospital, St. Louis, MO.
- Attending Physician in Endovascular Surgery and Neurological Surgery at the Institute for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Beth Israel North Hospital, New York, NY.
- Director, Interventional Neuroradiology and Endovascular Neurosurgery, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA.

-A physician at Partners HealthCare.

Schools attended include West Jones High School, Jones County Junior College, and University of Southern Mississippi

Bobby Murphy, an SBC alumnus, former West Jones High School professor, and son of Dr. Eugene Murphy, former president of SBC, said of Dr. Pryor, "He was a great student and wonderful person. No matter where he was in the world, he would always stay in touch with home."

Dr. Pryor was preceded in death by his parents and his spouse, Dr. Betty Davis Pryor. Dr. Pryor is survived by his three adult children, James, Jesse, Cathryn Olivia, and his brother Jay, a Vice President with Chevron.

Dr. Johnny Pryor will be greatly missed, but we are comforted in his passing by the Lord's promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Please keep his family in your prayers.

Equipping the Saints,  
Dr. Scott R. Carson

## Spring Semester

We are currently registering for the Spring 2021 Semester. Applications can be made online at [www.southeasternbaptist.edu](http://www.southeasternbaptist.edu).

In person registration will be January 4-8, and classes begin January 11. SBC remains one of the most affordable accredited Bible colleges in the nation. Come join the Charger family! 601-426-6346.

## Fall 2020 HONOR ROLL

RANK	NAME	HOURS	GPA
<b>PRESIDENT'S LIST</b>			
1.	Sherlita Babineaux, Laurel MS	17	4.0
	Averii Cotton, Heidelberg MS	17	4.0
	Dane P. Deas, Waynesboro MS	17	4.0
	Dylan R. Morris, Laurel MS	17	4.0
	Bailey Thibodaux, Berwick LA	17	4.0
2.	Cardrina Nolen, Conway AR	16	4.0
	Diamond K. Rayford, Kosciusko MS	16	4.0
	Christopher Spence, Lake MS	16	4.0
3.	Thomas "Jess" Jackson, Hattiesburg MS	15	4.0
4.	Dasheill J. Shelby, Purvis MS	13	4.0
	Emily R. Smith, Laurel MS	13	4.0
5.	Mae L. Evans, Louin MS	12	4.0
	Robertson (Rox) Horton, Fort Worth TX	12	4.0
	Toni J. Winston, Laurel MS	12	4.0
<b>DEAN'S LIST</b>			
1.	Dakota R. Harper, Brandon MS	16	3.81
	Briana Holcomb, Jackson MS	16	3.81
	Garrett W. West, Leakesville MS	16	3.81
2.	Kennedy K. Dale, Laurel MS	12	3.75
	Melyjah M. Windham, Laurel MS	12	3.75
3.	Glenn T. Grover, Jr, Luling LA	14	3.73
4.	John M. Sullivan, Mize MS	17	3.57
	Darrius A. McCullum, Laurel MS	14	3.57
	Deontay Q. Robinson, Hattiesburg MS	14	3.57
5.	Charles M. Meadows, Jr, Lake MS	12	3.5

## Improvements & Repairs Around Campus



Eddie Dear, resident handyman, installing a new drain line on campus.



Professional plumbers replacing ancient leaky water lines & valves behind the gym



Anyone shopping on Amazon can select Southeastern Baptist College as your charity. When you do this, a portion of your purchase price will go directly to SBC as a donation from Amazon! Thank you for those who are already using this unique method to benefit SBC.

## MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Director

P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863

On The Web at [www.macbma.net/](http://www.macbma.net/)

Email - [fbcjbmaj@yahoo.com](mailto:fbcjbmaj@yahoo.com)

### No Rules, No Punishment Leads to Anarchy

Proverbs 29:2 “when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.” It seems today that the wicked are ruling. So many true Christian believers are disillusioned. So many watch as the streets are filled with violence and corruption. Anarchy is defined as “a state of disorder due to the absence or non-recognition of authority. Synonymous words are revolution,



Dr. Adams

disorder, chaos, mayhem and mobocracy. There seems to be a lack of punishment and a lack of obedience to the laws of the land. Punishment for wrongdoing is operative in this world although man has not faced his responsibility in performing it. Paul the Apostle has summed up the principle in the words of Galatians 6:7: “For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” This axiom of truth is far-reaching, invading all of creation.

#### The Basis for Punishment

Historically the basis for punishment in our society has been man’s belief in God – the God Who is Sovereign over the universe, the God Who has revealed Himself as moral, having a standard of right and wrong with punishment for the wrongdoer. This punishment is not based particularly on its being a deterrent to wrongdoing, but rather as the wage for wrongdoing. Romans 6:23 bears witness in these words, “For the wages of sin is death.” Today the philosophy of unbelief with its rejection of the living and moral God and the exaltation of man to a supremacy that is subject to no higher power than himself is demanding a hearing in our land. Such a belief is not new, having always been present; but our intellectual climate and our growing freedom of expression have provided man with liberty to accept or reject the declarations of Scripture.

Our concept of right and wrong and the punishment of wrongdoers will be determined

on the basis of our belief or unbelief in the living God. Humanism does not believe in God.

Believing that God is and that He alone is the Director of this universe, we must submit to His dictates; and in the realm of punishment we must obey His commands. God rules according to His standard of right and wrong. This includes punishment for wrongdoers!

#### Manifestations of Punishment

##### It is Observed in Creation

Punishment is seen in the operation of natural law. Violation of these laws have their results. To jump off a cliff, expecting a reversal of the law of gravity, in no way stays off a broken body. Punishment is also manifest when one tampers with the animal kingdom. To antagonize the “king of the jungle” would be to receive a recompense of reward.

##### It is Observed in the Societies of the World

As societies develop, they include regulations and punishments. Even those which fall under the caption of being freedom fighters, a term which implies deep concern for the common man, have punishment – severe punishment – for all who do not conform to the rules. It is difficult to conceive of a society continuing which does not incorporate into its life a system of punishment for offenders.

It is interesting to note that before the Pilgrims landed on the shores of the new world, they covenanted to be ruled by a document which would control each member of the company.

##### It is Observed in the Scriptures

Believing that God has spoken and that the Bible is that message, we shouldn’t be surprised to find many passages dealing with the subject of punishment.

##### Punishment Inflicted Directly by God.

Consider the following as examples: Cain (Gen. 4:11-16). When God made His pronouncement, Cain responded, “My punishment is greater than I can bear.”

The Flood (Gen. 6:1-8:22). Re-

jection of God’s warning resulted in the removal of that society. When the door of the ark was shut, there was no change in the announced punishment.

Sarai (Gen. 12:17). In protecting His “chosen”, God inflicted punishment on Pharaoh’s house although his offense was in ignorance!

Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11). As a definite and shocking example of God’s righteous indignation toward lying – and that to God – these two met immediate physical death.

##### Punishment Administered by Man.

(Genesis 9:1-7) Disrespect and destruction of human life were the first offenses to be placed under man’s jurisdiction. Capital punishment was to be the consequence of murder.

This principle continues throughout Scripture, being affirmed in the New Testament by Christ and the Apostle Paul (Matt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1-14).

Exodus-Deuteronomy. “If we knew, we would do,” sums up Israel’s appeal to Moses (Deut. 5:27). This prompted God to give the Law, coupled with specific punishments for those who failed to comply. A careful analysis of Scripture will reveal the severity of punishment accompanying the Law.

##### Responsibility in Punishment

Man’s responsibility in punishment is divided between the family, the church and the state. When each is diligent in the task, the entire society functions with a measure of peace and prosperity.

##### The Family

Being ordained of God, the family stands as a very important part of God’s plan for mankind. Although some sociologists don’t accept the family as an absolute, God does. He calls for a man to leave his parents, cleave to his wife and, living together, rear their children according to God’s rules (Gen:24; Matt. 19:6)

##### Children Need To Be Trained.

No child comes into this world programmed to do that which is right (Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:23). Right actions are the result of right training, beginning the first day and including God’s plan of salvation. Life must be directed if it is to develop the

## SPECIAL EMPHASIS

# Mississippi Baptist

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### 75 YEARS OF KEEPING YOU INFORMED

January of each year is designated as the “Special Emphasis Month” for your Publications Department. Our churches and people are asked to receive 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 gifts are special to us and very much appreciated. They help us continue to keep you informed about the work God is doing through the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi and America.

OUR  
NEEDS

\$10,000  
JANUARY 2021

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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## BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



Larry Geraldson  
Director



www.bmams.org - 601.428.8616

### State Missionaries, Coaches & Coordinators and Wives



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

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

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

John Phillips explains that, "The mystery of how the fragrance of Christ draws some and damns others can be seen all through the Bible. The smell of Abel's burnt offering goaded Cain to fury. Isaac

and Ishmael were equally loved of Abraham. Isaac became a believer and Ishmael a mocker and a rebel. Esau and Jacob were twins. Jacob chose the birthright and the blessing. Esau grew up profane, a veritable Old Testament prodigal. Ruth and Orpah both married Elimelech's sons. Both were exposed to truth regarding Israel's God. Both heard how God had visited His people. Both made a "decision" to respond to the good news. Ruth went on to marry Boaz, that great prince of the house of Judah; Orpah went back, back into the dark, back to the demon gods of her people, back to a Christ-rejecting world. The fragrance of Christ savors of life to some and death to others. The same sun which melts the wax, hardens the clay. "Who is sufficient for these things?" Paul exclaims."

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

As we move into 2021, I hope you will join me in setting a personal goal to gain a fresh awareness of the urgency of sharing the "good news" with the lost. May we prepare ourselves daily by first spending time in our "holy of holies" with the Lord and then go forth with the odor of life on us. Let us go forth fearless of rejection, remembering that Ephesians 1:6 tells us that we are, "...accepted in the beloved..." and according to Rom 8:37, "...we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

Our vision for State Missions in 2021 remains the same: "In partnership with churches and local associations, of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi, we will seek to plant new churches through any biblical

means possible."

We are driven by this vision to challenge our churches to focus outward, step out on faith, invest in Kingdom work, and influence the world around us with the power of the gospel.

I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to remind you that the work of State Missions is settled upon the following principles: 1.) Our Mandate: The Word of God; 2.) Our Message: The Gospel; 3.) Our Method: Preaching; 4.) Our Means: The Churches.

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

#### THE LOCAL CHURCH

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

#### THE ASSOCIATION

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

#### THE MAN

The church planter will be accountable to the association through the Missions Director. The church planter will be in a collegial relationship to other churches in the association, but his primary accountability will be to the Director of Missions and his primary responsibility will be to his sponsoring church.

The role of the Director, which you have so graciously honored me with, is to serve the churches by supporting her missionaries. The task is great, as each missionary faces unique challenges but with common expectations. I

count it a joy to support the men, that we support, directly or indirectly, who are involved in church planting. Each of them needs your prayers and support as do I.

As I look forward to 2021, I am excited about what God has in store for us. I am anxious to get out among the churches to share the good news and report on missions. If you would like to have me visit your church in 2021, please give me a call at 601-428-8616.

I want to say thank you, to all of our churches, for your faithful support during a very difficult year. You are amazing! Even with all the challenges, you have been such a blessing to others. I consider it one of my life's greatest honors to have the opportunity to serve you. Again, thank you!

As you have the time, please visit our website at [www.bmams.org](http://www.bmams.org), we have added a number of new features and will be adding more just after the first of the year. I am confident that this resource could be a blessing to you and your church.



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

*A Gift That Keeps Giving*

Gifts to the BMA Foundation are never spent. They are invested and the earnings benefit BMA departments annually until the Lord returns.

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## Mississippi State WMA Report

by President Theresa Reus

Happy New Year! Aren't we all so glad to see 2021! So many have put their hope in this year being better than last year, but let's remember where our true hope should lie, in Jesus Christ. The bible tells us over and over of His love for us, how He knows us yet loves us (Psalm 139). It tells how He has good things for us. We can trust him our plans (Prvbs 16:2) for 2021. And if those plans should fail, we'll trust that He knows best (Psalm 37:23).

This year in WMA, I'd like to get back to the basics of our work. The foundations of the WMA work are missions, bible study, evangelism, benevolence, youth auxiliaries, and Christian education. Let's focus on bible study this month as so many are making plans and resolutions that usually include this. If you've done a good bible study, share that with others. If you want to try something new in bible study, don't be afraid to ask for help.

I have great news! WMAOFMS.COM is the new home of WMA of Mississippi on the World Wide Web. We hope to include all things WMA on this site so please feel free to share pictures, reports of recent events and upcoming ones with us. You can send information to us at [WMAofMS20@gmail.com](mailto:WMAofMS20@gmail.com). Being under construction, there will be plenty of changes so check back often to see what's new!

I'm praying for you all and I hope you have a great year!



Theresa Reus

## Where Do You Dump Your Garbage?

by Gina Harper

[www.wmaofms.com](http://www.wmaofms.com)

Sometimes life has a way of weighing you down...in one sense it is a good way to stay grounded. But for a person that likes to fly, that's like having a broken wing. I'm usually the person that can find the silver lining in any cloud, the one that doesn't mind the storm, because I know that when it blows over, everything will be refreshed on the other side.

Here lately though, it seems as if I've taken on the roll of a garbage truck. I'm driving around and without realizing it, I've lifted the trash from the lives of others and now the truck is full and I can't find my way to the landfill. I know that sooner or later I'm going to run out of gas and I don't want to be stuck holding this rubble. I don't want to dump it in some place that isn't built to accept it; I know that just creates a bigger mess in the long run. I guess I'm hop-

ing that a rescue truck will come along and ease my load, either by filling my tank back up and providing me with directions, or by hauling me and my load to the landfill.

I guess I'm lacking direction right now. Perhaps I've been relying on the wrong map. Sometimes I feel like I'm reading the right map, but somehow I'm doing it all wrong. It's kind of like having a GPS and putting in the zip code incorrectly. Now I'm way off course, and I lack the resources to get back on track.

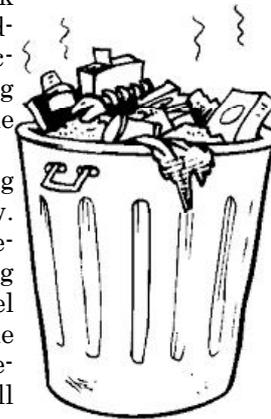
This is when I realize I can't do it on my own. I have to rely on someone else to assist me. I need someone else to help me find my way. It's hard for someone like me, so independent, to admit

that I need help because it's beyond my control.

It's hard to become the needy one when you've only ever been the strong one. The one that does the jobs that no one else wants to, like picking up the trash in other people's lives. I don't mean physical rubbish, but rather the worries and struggles and pain that they are suffering from. I have to allow someone to pick up my load and haul it away for me. Maybe it's not my job to carry it all the way to the landfill, but just to be there to get it out of the hands of those that can no longer carry it themselves.

I am reminded of scripture, Psalms 55:22 says, Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

We have to stop carrying things that we weren't meant to carry.



## Well, if the dictionary says it, it must be so! (Not!!)

by Joe McKeever

December 27, 2020

In "The Story of Ain't: America, Its Language, and the Most Controversial Dictionary Ever Published," David Skinner describes the hostile reaction that greeted the release of "Webster's Third Edition" in 1961. The incident provides an excellent lesson for all of us, particularly church folk.

But first, the context.

Skinner's book traces the development of dictionaries in this country and their struggles to determine what goes in and what stays out. Then it chronicles the work of G. and C. Merriam Company to produce a new kind of dictionary, one unlike all the others.

The editors had arrived at the interesting conclusion that no one had made them the authority over the English language. No one had put them in charge of English as spoken and written in America. In fact, they decided there is no authority.

Imagine that.

This must have come as a shock to every teacher I ever



Joe McKeever

*As a preacher, I find the whole business so revealing. Ministers are so much this way. We are notorious for condemning books we have not read, movies we have not viewed, and positions we have not studied, but have heard other people condemning.*

had in elementary and high school. Invariably, they would fault students for some breach of the language and add, "Check the dictionary." Yep, there it was, in black and white.

In the fifth grade, I was "set down" in a spelling bee because of "mama." I knew perfectly well how to spell that word because my mama spelled it that way when she wrote to her mama on the Alabama farm. But the dictionary spelled it "mamma," and that was good enough for Mrs. Meadows, our teacher.

Who would dare argue with a dictionary? If it's there, it's official, right?

These days, I'm finally experienced enough to want to say to the teacher, "Oh yeah? Who said? And who made them the authority?"

**Smiley-face here, please. I'm not upset, just making a point.**

When Webster's Third Edition was released, words like "ain't" and other frowned-upon slang words were included. Many were upset because the definition did not flag "ain't" as unacceptable, something spo-

ken only by the uneducated and uncouth.

It simply noted that "ain't" was "not standard."

"Editorializing has no place in definitions," said an internal memo at Merriam's. This Third Edition would contain no more snide putdowns of certain words as "colloquial among the uneducated and unsophisticated." "Illiterate." "Unacceptable in normal circumstances."

And that bothered the fire out of a lot of people.

If there is no authority to say what's right in language and what's wrong, what are we to do? (I hope you're smiling.)

The management of G. and C. Merriam, owners of the Merriam-Webster dictionaries, pointed out five important facts about our language:

1. Language changes constantly. It is forever transitioning, dropping off some words as obsolete, tweaking the definition of others, and inventing new words.

2. Change is normal. Every language of every civilization is

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## Obituaries

continued from page 2

Pearl River Central School District.

Quentin was a kind, loving husband, father, son, grandson, son-in-law, grandson-in-law, brother-in-law, and of course a friend to all.

He is survived by the love of his life, Nicole Herndon McCardle of Poplarville; his son, William Rhett McCardle of Poplarville; his daughter, Ella Claire McCardle of Poplarville; his parents, W.A. and Rose Mary McCardle of Poplarville; brother, R. W. McCardle of Poplarville; grandmother, Bernice McCardle of Poplarville; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Winston and Diane Herndon of Poplarville; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Daniel and Karen Herndon and grandmother-in-law, Marie Hollis of Poplarville and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

A Celebration of Bro. Quentin's life will be held in January 2021.

## 10 Mile Walk of Faith

by Sandra Smith

The Lifeword 'Make His Name Famous' walk of faith was sponsored by Bethel Baptist of Bassfield and Grace of Columbia. A large group of supporters assembled for the 10 Mile Association walk on October 17, 2020 at the Marion County Business Plex in Columbia. The Walk raised \$1,076 and will be used to support Lifeword. This ministry is spreading the Gospel in 56 languages and in 121 countries. *Editor's Note: This report was overlooked in our December issue.*

### Available for Service

Mike Nielson is a member at Campground Baptist Church, Gulfport. He has been preaching for a couple years now. The church has licensed him to the ministry and he is available for to our churches for pulpit service. His cell number is 228-731-1120 or you may contact his pastor Bro. Wallace Williams at 228-669-8969.

## ADOPT A STUDENT: Make A Difference In Someone's Life

by Doug & Diane Lee

BMA Bible College, Philippines

The BMA Bible College is devoted to training, teaching, and mentoring young men and women to become pastors, missionaries, church musicians, and workers. After they graduate, they leave to carry out the Great Commission throughout the Philippines and Asia. We depend totally on the support of individuals and churches to continue the operation of this great institution. If you would like to make a difference in a young student's life, we have initiated a project in which you can "Adopt a Student" for their scholarship. You can be a lifeline to one of these students.

Our students come from impoverished backgrounds and only have the privilege of furthering their Christian education through the generosity of partners like you. The cost is \$100 a month, which is minimal, compared to the cost of attending college in the US. This includes their food, tuition, dorm, medical, and personal items. We will keep you updated on their progress and achievements. Contact us through e-mail, Facebook messenger (Elwin Doug Diane Lee) or by phone, and we can give you details and send you a photo and bio of your student.

Our Goal is 46 Scholarships for our 46 fulltime students. Will

you help? Their vision is to spread the gospel. Our vision is to help make their vision possible. We have so much and they have so little.

Donations for our work fund, personal support, BMA Bible College, and Scholarship Fund may be sent to either of the following: Mill Creek Baptist Church, 11 Old Kiln Road, Picayune, MS 39466 or BMA Missions Office, P. O. Box 878, Conway, AR 72033

Please designate your funds distribution on your check. If you would like to do a credit card payment, one-time or monthly, please contact the Missions Office at 501-455-4977.



Please designate your funds distribution on your check. If you would like to do a credit card payment, one-time or monthly, please contact the Missions Office at 501-455-4977.

## Dictionary

from page 6

a movable thing; none is static.

3. Spoken language is the language. No longer should written language be the official language and spoken language be considered second class.

4. Correctness rests upon usage. The context is everything.

5. All usage is relative. "It depends" is an iron-clad rule.

Well! The nation went ballistic when the Third Edition was released in 1961. Editorials in magazines and newspapers bemoaned the death of language in America.

Some editors listed slang words found in the Third (jazz, crazy, hot, dig, beef up, etc.) and wrote whole paragraphs using them. "Ain't ain't wrong any more," headlines announced. And that just would not do.

It turned out that almost every one of the slang words editors took exception to in the Third Edition could be found in the Second Edition which they were sanctifying as the divine standard of English usage. The naysayers who were rejecting the Third in favor of the Second had not even bothered to check the Second to see if the words had been listed there.

As a preacher, I find the whole business so revealing. Ministers are so much this way. We are notorious for condemning books we have not read, movies we have not viewed, and positions we have not studied, but have heard other people condemning.

In sermons, it is practically a

Mosaic law that we can say anything we wish so long as it's a quote. Any unusual position we take on a doctrine or text should have a reference to back it up. So long as we can cite someone else as the authority for the position, we're safe.

Strange, huh?

After the release of Webster's Third, never again would a dictionary be allowed to serve as the supreme court of the language. The die was cast, the gate was unlocked. No more would we be able to pen that



flock again.

It seems to be a human thing. We need an authority, don't we?

Without an authority—some one to say this is the standard—how do we teach English usage and proper writing? How does a teacher mark a paper, red-circling some words as unacceptable and blue-lining others as great?

When do we use like and when do we use as? How about the difference in will and shall? And who will decide?

When I was coming along in school, you said something is different from something else. But these days they say it is different than.

All of this has application to so many areas of life in our country....

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## SPECIAL EMPHASIS

# Mississippi Baptist

editor@msbaptist.org - 601-426-3293 - www.msbaptist.org

## 75 YEARS OF KEEPING YOU INFORMED

January of each year is designated as the "Special Emphasis Month" for your Publications Department. Our churches and people are asked to receive 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 gifts are special to us and very much appreciated. They help us continue to keep you informed about the work God is doing through the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi and America.

# OUR NEEDS

# \$10,000 JANUARY 2021

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

# Dictionary

from page 7

We look to the U.S. Constitution to do that and we grieve when told that “it is a living document, ever-changing to fit the needs of a growing nation.” Oh really? Who decided it was? (Answer: the Supreme Court did, for better or for worse.) A generation ago, the Court found “the right to privacy” inherent in the Constitution and ruled in favor of a woman’s right to have an abortion as a provision of that newly-discovered constitutional right. Once you start playing that game, you can make the Constitution say anything you like. And that’s exactly what many are attempting.

And that is why the battle over the definition and role of the Constitution has been raging for the past 40 years and is a life-or-death struggle for this country’s soul.

Americans look to Congress as our law-making authority. Alas, that ever-changing body,

*In sermons, it is practically a Mosaic law that we can say anything we wish so long as it’s a quote. ...So long as we can cite someone else as the authority for the position, we’re safe*

which seems as hopelessly lost as it ever was, keeps vacillating and back-tracking and deliberating. Every two years the American people will throw out a large number of Congress members and install new ones, only to repeat the process twenty-four months later.

We want authorities in our religion, and are lost without them. Each religion, to my knowledge, has some kind. The LDS has a body of ruling elders in Salt Lake City, the Jehovah’s Witnesses look to a mysterious ruling junta in Brooklyn, and most evangelical Christians turn to the Bible.

The pastor of a Christian church may or may not have a body exercising authority over him. If he does—elders, deacons, administrative committee, whoever—then in all but the rarest of cases, he chafes at their intrusion. Biblically, God has given to the pastors the oversight of the church. See Acts 20:28 for starters.

Biblically. Interesting adverb.

That’s our authority. “What does the Bible say?”

That’s also our problem. People disagree as to the answer in many cases. (Not, we

hasten to add, 99 percent of the time. But that one percent contains some biggies.)

That’s where the rule of love comes in. “By this shall all men know you are my disciples that you love one another” (John 13:33-34). It’s the reason for submission. “Be subject to one another in the fear of the Lord” (Ephesians 5:21).

Love + submission = humility.

Without love and submission—and the humility they produce—it’s a constant dog fight.

I’ve known churches that were in “constant dog fights” as they struggled to decide who would call the shots.

Pastors and other leaders must personify love and submission by the humility they exhibit in their daily walk, their public preaching/teaching, and their leadership.

Congregations must live by the love-submission standard of humility if they would please the Lord and be used of Him to bring the gospel to the world.

Our Lord said, “I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18).

I think He’s saying He’s in charge.

What a revolutionary thought.

## Scripture Thoughts by Cleaver

Ecclesiastes 3.1 *To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:*

About mid-life I learned about a PERT diagram or chart. PERT stands for Program Evaluation Review Technique. It breaks down the individual tasks of a project for analysis. An example and use would be building a house with its many tasks. You cannot put the roof on before you lay the foundation. You cannot install windows before there are walls.

Life sometimes follows a pattern in a complicated lifespan on earth. However, human growth and development has many nuances from cradle to grave that can get jumbled up. Once again, about mid-life it dawned on me there are some things that cannot be “fixed.”

Life has limitations that are frustrating. Some things must be completed before other things get checked off on your to-do list. Realizing I have limited energy and realizing especially I have limited time — it struck me there are some things more important and significant than other things. Not all my energy and time must be distributed equally to the many moments that make up my life.

The wise writer of Ecclesiastes gives us some insight into our life footsteps in verse 11 as he reminds us how God relates to humankind: “He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also put eternity in their hearts...”

Good Reader, as we think about eternity, let us weigh our tasks carefully today. May we give precedence to the important ones.

*Dr. Tony Cleaver is a retired U.S. Army Chaplain and Director of Distance Learning for BMA Seminary.*

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Tony Cleaver

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**Moral Action**  
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662-282-7425

## Moral Action

from page 4

kind of character acceptable to God and one that will function in society. In order to accomplish this task there must be a penalty for disobedience (Prov. 22:15; Eph. 6:1-4).

Children Need to Understand Punishment.

Abraham must have been an example of this kind of parent (Gen. 18:19). Having made clear to the child the difference between right and wrong, the rewards and penalties must also be clearly presented (Prov. 22:6).

Parents Must Carry Through in Punishment.

Consider Proverbs 13:24 and 23:13, 14. When rules are established and broken, it is the parents’ responsibility to administer the punishment. If children don’t learn this lesson at home, will they learn it in society? If we neglect our responsibility as parents, can we rightfully criticize state officials who have become soft in administering punishment?

### The Church

It is an established principle in Scripture that all who are born-again believers are to be identified with a local church. In this communion there are certain rules laid down by God, including the discipline of the offenders.

The Guiding Principle (Matt. 18:15-17; I Tim. 3:1-16). A church congregation is responsible to maintain a good testimony in the community. This is possible only when each individual member keeps the rules. If sin is allowed to reign and situations are overlooked which scream for correction, the church is failing in its responsibility.

### The State

The state with its rule is ordained of God. It has been authorized to administer punishment on wrongdoers to protect society (Matt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1-14). This is a basic principle in the structure of our government.

According to Scripture, governmental officers are just as responsible to God as are gospel ministers. They are commissioned by God to “carry the sword.” They are guardians of human life and are to use all

means available to maintain decency and order including capital punishment of those committing deliberately planned murder.

### **Growing Softness in Punishment**

Today’s softness in punishment reigns from the home to the church to the state. It appears that all too frequently the offender received greater protection than does the offended! The older generation, observing the moral breakdown, blames the younger generation; and the younger generation, beholding the hypocrisy of the day, blames the older generation. Yet all the while there is a philosophy which is sapping the very heart of our great nation.

### **Why Such Softness Against Crime**

God and His Word are excluded. Once God’s Word controlled the decisions of our government and our courts. Punishment was meted out as the just penalty for crimes committed.

Walter Lippmann saw this change coming in his day. In

his book, *The Preface to Morals* (1929), he showed that a switch from the living and true God to the created god of the liberal mind would change the moral standards and stamina of America. His conclusion is apparent today!

To teach that man is the product of evolution without responsibility to the supreme God and that there is no destiny beyond the few days of this life which is destined to annihilation, is to foster an attitude of “eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die.”

Once again to the Scriptures we find that when “the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn” (Prov. 29:2). The designation “wicked” in this text is used in the Old Testament of those who walk apart from God’s Word and His authority! Without question the answer to our plight in regard to honest punishment for crimes committed will be realized only through a spiritual revival which enthrones God and His moral standard of right and wrong!