

# The Mississippi Baptist

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## Lifeworld Moving Forward in Faith

*“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1*

“But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” Hebrews 11:6

The Lifeworld team is moving forward into 2022 through faith in God alone. Ambitious plans call for steadfast faith! We have a clear mandate to assist the churches of BMA America in obeying His Great Commission, and we have faith that He will provide for us as we follow Him.

The following are the goals Lifeworld will pursue in 2022:

### A New Discipleship Portal

The Lifeworld Cloud has proven to be one of the most effective efforts to reach the world for Christ ever employed by Lifeworld. In 2021 alone, over six million people visited lifeworld.org to discover the wonder of Jesus Christ. In the next phase of cloud development, Lifeworld

intends to invite visitors to engage in a discipleship process with the goal of linking them with a local church! Presently Lifeworld’s Director of Audience Engagement Yalanda Merrell is leading our efforts to create and produce content in our Discipleship Portal. In 2022 we intend to move into the actual build, testing, and implementation of the Discipleship Portal.

### A New Video Studio

Lifeworld’s move into Internet ministry four years ago necessitated the introduction and production of video content. This called for the redesign of the Lifeworld audio production studio to be used for video. The move has served the ministry well! Thousands of hours of video content have been shot in that small production area. As the need for video content continues to increase, the need for more studio space has become critical.

The warehouse space on our present campus was originally designed as a television production area. Lifeworld in-

tends to build a warehouse at the back of our present facilities and reclaim the present warehouse area for the purpose it was originally intended. This will give us four times the video production area that we have presently and will allow for more gospel programming to be produced.

### More Languages to Reach More People

Presently Lifeworld has a gospel presentation in 134 different languages of the world. In 2022 we expect to increase that language count to at least 20 new languages. Our goal within the next five

years is to share the story of Jesus in at least 200 languages.

We need your continued support and prayers to meet all of these ambitious goals! We need faith that our God will provide for our needs financially as we follow His plans. Please remember the ministry of Lifeworld as you pray and give. We pledge to continue to take the gospel to places where people have never heard and share with them in their heart languages. We have only one job at Lifeworld . . . to tell the story. We are trusting that 2022 will be the greatest in Lifeworld history.

## Typhoon hits Philippines affecting BMA missions and ministries

by Doug & Diane Lee  
BMA Missionaries to Philippines

Super Typhoon Odette pummeled the island where we live packing winds from 125-150 miles an hour and tons of rain. There have been 375 casualties reported and numerous injured. There is much devastation especially to substandard structures of nipa and bamboo.

President Duterte visited the island on Monday and because of the destruction of rice and sugar cane crops, which were ready to be harvested, the storm damage will have a major impact on the economy and the livelihood of the people.

The American missionaries here on the field are assessing damage to our churches and reaching out to our pastors to see how we can help. We have roof damage to several buildings on the campus of the BMA Bible College and are waiting for estimates for repairs.

If you would like to help in recovery efforts, please send funds to Mill Creek Baptist Church, Typhoon Relief, 11 Old Kiln Road, Picayune, MS 39466.



75 YEARS of SHARING  
THE GOOD NEWS FOR  
THE BMA of Mississippi

2022 SPECIAL EMPHASIS  
YOUR PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT



# Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown  
Editor

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## It's That time of the year again

God gives numerous opportunities to be a blessing to others. I have seen strangers help pay for someone's food in the checkout line at grocery stores. Many are approached by individuals with a sincere need and they respond by buying food, purchasing baby items, helping with utility bills, providing a place to sleep, buying gas for someone traveling across the county....the list could go on

and on.

Nothing is more valuable than sharing the good news of Jesus with a desperate soul or comforting those who are hurting and just needing someone to listen and have understanding and compassion. Providing the means for missionaries to travel and minister to those who have never heard the Gospel is something we are called on to do. We are blessed to

be called upon to support a variety of ministries whose sole purpose is to help get the good news of salvation to those in greatest need.

The Baptist Missionary Association does this in a number of ways - through sending out missionaries, through the education ministry of our colleges, by caring for those who need a safe Christian home, and by ministering in a

number of other ways.

The ministry of your Publications Department and the Mississippi Baptist Paper is best described as a 'support ministry'. Our support comes through the reporting on the blessings, needs, and progress of all the ministries of the BMA of Mississippi and America.

We depend on our churches and readers to provide the fi-

nances needed to maintain this work. January of each year has been set aside by the BMA of Mississippi to give special offerings to this work.

We are asking each reader and each church to give a once per year special gift during January 2022. Will you give so this ministry can continue its mission of sharing the good news of God's blessings?

## Looking Backward and Forward

During the season of winter when we witness short days and long nights, we experience the joy of celebrating the birth of our Savior and sometimes the sorrow over losses and struggles. You may find your feelings roller-coasting from moment to moment. The past and the present and the future seem to affect our emotions more and more during holidays.

In looking backward to those wonderful childhood and adult memories of Christmas, I especially remember the laughter and love we shared, not the presents. In fact, I don't remember many of the gifts, just the warmth of love.

To those of you who are finding the joyful season bringing a sadness to mind which some

### In His Grip by Carolyn Hagler

Carolyn Hagler is a retired educator and a member of Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg. You may contact her via email at cmhagler@bellsouth.net



friends and loved ones might not understand, I'm looking backward to my struggles during the holidays.

JB, a joy in my life, took his final journey on December 23, which forever changed my view of life and Christmas. Back in church even before the funeral, I was fearful of falling away because I knew it would be an easy choice. I knew, though, my church family could be my source of encouragement if I would let them.

That first Christmas between his death and funeral was spent with family at the old home place. After that one, I spent several

Christmases with friends but found that I needed something else. Remembering my first Christmas without Daddy when JB and I went to a state park, I decided to spend my first Christmas completely by myself at Cheaha State Park.

Cheaha is located on the southernmost tip of the Appalachian Mountain chain and is the oldest park in Alabama (established in 1933). Considered by many to be one of the most unique parks in the nation, Cheaha, with its granite boulders and wind-warped ancient trees, is surrounded by forest. Seemingly removed from civilization, it seemed perfect for my desire of solitude.

As I approached Cheaha at dusk in a drizzling rain, I decided that I must have lost my mind. My family thought so, too. But nearing my destination, I saw a deer on the side of the road. When the deer lifted its head and looked in my direction, I thought, "I can do this."

I had decided before I left home to spend the first day fasting and praying (I had never tried fast-

ing before), wanting God to tell me His will for the rest of my life. It was quite an experience; but at the end of the day, I did not have that detailed map of my remaining days. Instead, I had only the distinct impression that I needed to be faithful and obedient every day.

The rest of my stay in that beautiful, mountainous area was spent hiking, reading, and wandering through the small towns in the area. And I found a healing that reminded me that all of us find our way differently through the season of grief to the peace of God.

I spent several other quiet Christmases, one at F. D. Roosevelt State Park in Pine Mountain, Georgia. Touring his

Little White House and the museum and seeing the treatment pools and an iron lung reminded me of the sugar cubes given to us during school. I also met a ranger who had polio as a child; she was one of those befriended by the President, who often shared the treatment waters with her and others.

A special Christmas Eve was spent on an open-air trolley on the drive-through "Fantasy in Lights" of Calloway Gardens. I don't believe I've ever been that cold by choice, but what a special night. The hot cocoa at the end of the sights and all the layers of clothes helped me survive!

That Christmas was the first time I was brave enough to stay in a cottage. And you know that was the night I came in late from

continued on page 3



Cheaha State Park Lake



Tannehill State Park Cabins



## MINISTERING TO YOUNG PEOPLE

by Anders Lee

### Numbers Do Not Equal Success!

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



Anders Lee

Back in my youth ministry days we did this thing called "Pac Da House Nite!" Most of them were very successful. The purpose was to connect new teens to the group permanently. We would see 135-155 attend. Normally it was a big food night,

with kooky games, crazy videos, funny skits, our Praise Band led in worship and I preached.

Let me tell you about one of these things. One Spring we had

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

The big day rolled around. I couldn't sleep the night before. I got up early and headed to church. On my way I got a text: "Have you watched the weather?" I had been so busy I had no clue what was looming. Memphis was in a high risk area for bad weather including possible tornadoes. NO!!! "LORD, PLEASE PUSH THIS STUFF THROUGH BEFORE TO-

going off all around us. My guest speaker called saying he wasn't gonna make it. WOW! By 6:00 PM it had blown through. We ate, the band played, and I preached an impromptu sermon. We ended up having 51 teens. There was ONE visitor! All that effort "down the drain."

Parents started picking up kids, the team started cleaning. I sat on the stage like someone

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

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

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

*Lee is pastor of Central Church, Southaven, Mississippi and may be contacted at anders.lee571@gmail.com*

I WAS MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE NUMBER THAT WOULD SHOW UP ON ONE NIGHT THAN I WAS NURTURING SOME THAT WERE ALREADY THERE

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

It started at 5:00 PM. At 4:00 PM the heaven's burst open and I think Noah's Ark floated by. My phone was blowing up with parents telling me they couldn't let their kids drive in this. I was crushed!!! Tornado sirens started

had shot my new puppy. Then it happened... Jacob Guenrich sat down by me. He said "I need to tell you something." He sat there and told me he knew that I was disappointed, but he said "God wanted me to hear the sermon you preached." As it happened, it confirmed that God was calling him. We had previously discussed this. I was floored!

Just for perspective, Jacob

## In His Grip

from page 2

the tour to find my light by the cottage door burned out. I've got to admit my fear got me through the door quickly with a racing heart.

Another Christmas was spent at Tannehill State Park, in Alabama, completely different from the others; but it added to my peace at Christmas. With firewood delivered each morning by a ranger, I was able to enjoy my time reading by the fireplace and hiking in the cold, rainy weather. I did manage to find a slave graveyard on the grounds. You know me and old cemeteries!

Those trips, which could have

been sad and lonely, showed me that I could make it by myself and be contented with God's help. I also learned that I might be by myself, but I was never alone. Only then did I start enjoying Christmas at home again.

Several years ago, I started celebrating Christmas with family, some who remember Momma's table of plenty and Daddy's love of Christmas. And my love of Christmas seems to have made a complete circle starting with family and ending with family.

With Christmas behind us and 2022 ahead, I don't make New Year's Resolutions; but I've been thinking of the word I want to guide me in the new year. And my stored memories are guiding me to my goal.

Because of the faithfulness

that I've witnessed in my family, friends, church, and God, I want 2022 to be my year to be FAITHFUL and FAITHFUL every day!

As faithful as Old Faithful in Yellowstone National Park. Every trip to Yellowstone took us to see Old Faithful, which has erupted more than a million times since the park became the first national park in 1872. I wouldn't mind being called "Old Faithful" this year.

While I've been looking backward today, I'm also looking forward to 2022, the year the Lord may return. With my desire to have more faith and

to be more faithful by reading His Word, talking with Him, attending His church, and serving Him, I ask that He teach "us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). While waiting for His return, I remain In His Grip.



Old Faithful in Yellowstone National Park

### Available for Service

Bro. Leon Carmical is available for preaching appointments and pulpit supply. He has been in the ministry for 60 years, pastored a number of churches in Mississippi, served as President of the BMA of America and on a number of department trustee boards.



Leon Carmical

He and his wife Sandra live near Ellisville, Mississippi. He may be reached by phone at 601-466-2782. If there is no answer please leave a voice mail or send a text to the same number.

### Laurel Church Seeking Pastor

First Baptist Church of Calhoun near Laurel, Mississippi, is seeking a pastor. For those wishing to inquire concerning the church and this position please contact Chairman Paul Welborn at 601-319-6353 or 601-729-8397.

### Texas Church Seeking Pastor

Friendship Baptist Church of Mesquite, Texas, is seeking our next full-time pastor. Interested parties should send a resume to office@friendshipmesquite.org. Please enter Search Committee in the subject line. Also include a recent video of a sermon, on a DVD or by a website link. You may also mail the requested information to Friendship Baptist Church, 820 Pioneer Road, Mesquite, TX 75149.

Information about our church can be found on our website at www.friendshipmesquite.org.



## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

### The Wave

You know when you watch a football game on TV they show the fans doing the wave. A movement sweeps across the crowd. It's really neat to watch.

Well, I saw the original wave as I was watching from the choir at church on Sunday morning about 70 years ago. A mother had a toddler and she wisely sat on the back pew with him as he was very active! Somehow he got loose from her on the floor and he headed to the front of the church by crawling on the floor under the pews. From the choir it was rather amusing to watch the wave of surprised looks as Jim crawled between their feet on his way to the front of the church.

The first time I saw a wave of fans at a ball game, I thought: "I've seen that before!" And then I thought of the wisest man's comment in Ecclesiastes 1:9 "...there is no new thing under the sun."





# 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

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” Romans 1:16

We are constantly surprised by the low level of Bible knowledge students possess when they come to Southeastern Baptist College. The majority are greatly lacking in knowing the basics of the Bible. Praise the Lord that our staff and faculty have recognized this as a God given opportunity to faithfully share the gospel with our students. As a result, as in past semesters, we have again witnessed many coming to the saving knowledge of Christ this Fall Semester.

At last count we had 24 respond to the gospel invitation in the Fall chapel programs and others have trusted in Jesus as their Savior through one on one witnessing. Many more rededicated their lives to living for the Lord. The campus of Southeastern Baptist College is a major ministry for evangelism and discipleship and we thank the Lord for this privilege to influence these young people for Christ.

Many come to SBC believing they are Christians already because of their upbringing and occasional church attendance. However, after meeting up with genuine believers among our staff and teachers, they realize they have only been “churched” and are in need of salvation. After coming to know the Lord, we endeavor to help them grow in their walk with Him. As our student body population grows, the need for expanding discipleship opportunities also grows. We are working on plans for increasing in-reach activities through the office of the Dean of Students. Dean Foster will be providing oversight as we target areas we believe need additional focus on spiritual development. A chaplain will soon be added to our staff who will assist in these activities and we have established a connection with many local student ministers who are eager to assist.

## The campus of Southeastern Baptist College is a major ministry for evangelism and discipleship

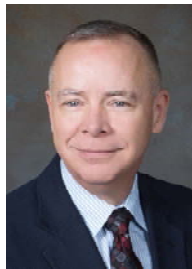
As we address this pressing need for spiritual growth, we are also endeavoring to focus on advertising our three online Bible degrees. SBC is approved to offer online classes in all 50 states and every U.S. Territory. This proposal will take some substantial time and finances in order to accomplish this effort, but the initiative has the potential of having hundreds of students across America learning the Scriptures from our dedicated Bible professors. Pray that the Lord will provide, as I already know He will, through readers of this article such as you, who desire to assist through financial giving in educating current and future ministers, who will be taking solid conservative Bible classes offered by SBC.

If you are interested in taking a class or two, or even a full course load, our online registration is open now for the Spring Semester at: <https://southeasternbaptist.edu/future-students/online-application/>

You can also register in person Monday through Thursday, January 3-6. Classes begin Monday, January 10, 2022.

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

Have a blessed New Year!  
Equipping the saints,  
Dr. Carson



Dr. Scott Carson  
President

## Men's Basketball

This first home game of this season for the SBC Chargers is January 13, 2022 at 6 p.m. Come support the Chargers as they take on the Toccoa Falls Screaming Eagles!

## Need a Preacher?

Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit or to make a presentation about the work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. Thank you Broadmoor Baptist Church of Meridian, Mississippi, for recently having Dr. Carson preach services. Chaplain (Colonel) Carson can also provide an update on the BMAA Chaplaincy and deliver a related message. You can reach him at 601-433-4736 or at [scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu](mailto:scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu)



Photo on right  
SBC recently hosted local student ministers for a discussion on mutual ministry opportunities



To the Left  
Southeastern Baptist Softball is excited to add Laiken Davis to our softball family

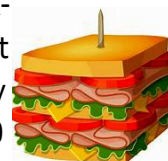
## On The Right

SBC staff enjoy a Christmas fellowship before breaking for the holidays



## Holloway's Dairy Bar

Holloway's Dairy Bar is open and the public is welcome! The Dairy Bar is located on the campus of SBC. There is an expanded menu and it is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Come support SBC and Holloway's!



Holloway's is closed on Sundays

## Coffee with the President

We invite folks, and especially alumni, to meet with Dr. Carson to discuss any topic that might be on their mind. If you are interested in meeting with Dr. Carson, contact him at 601-426-6346 to make an appointment.



# January 2022 - Special Emphasis

## Our Need - \$10,000

# Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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



Don Brown  
Editor

## 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.

## Your Support & Gifts Are Appreciated!



BMA of America Resource

# Healthy Church Solutions

Healthy Church Solutions is the church resource ministry of BMA America. Our mission is to help strengthen existing churches to become who God intended them to be.

The status of the church in North America is pretty alarming and warrants our attention. We are told that 85% of American churches are either plateauing or declining. If these stats are true and we apply them to the number of BMA churches, there are only 180 to 200 churches that are healthy and actively moving forward on the mission of God.

It's so important for us to examine our spiritual health and our churches.

One way we strive to encourage pastors, leaders, members, and churches desiring to strengthen the ministry God has entrusted to them is through Healthy Church Podcast. There are now 59 episodes that drop on Tuesdays at our website <https://healthychurchpodcast.com> or on apps such as Spotify and others. These weekly episodes talk honestly about what it means to be part of a healthy church. There are no perfect churches, but by God's grace we can begin to dialogue about what changes can be made in our lives as leaders and in our churches.

Another way we are working hard to encourage pastors is through twice-a-month pastor Zoom calls where we zero in on topics that are close to the hearts



of pastors: prayer, discipleship, navigating a pandemic, leadership, and more. The goal of these Zoom calls, which have included pastors from more than ten states, is to create a culture of sharing ideas, asking questions, and giving helpful content to pastors and leaders through right-on-time training. In

our last two calls we discussed multiplying disciples and multiplying leaders.

The third way we encourage leaders is through our pastor encouragement videos that come out every two weeks on our Facebook pages. We have heard from many of our pastors and three BMA Executive Directors: John David Smith (Missions), Donny Parrish (Lifeword), and Steve Crawley (Ministers Resource Services). These videos remind leaders that they are not alone in this journey. Knowing that we cannot expect a healthy church if leaders are not spiritually healthy, Healthy Church Solutions is focused on the individual leader's soul care.

You cannot give what you do not possess, and leading on empty will eventually lead to burnout or worse.

Healthy Church Solutions has also been working to build a resource library through a partnership with

Right Now Media. Through our Church Dynamics Training alone we have resources to help churches learn how to develop and improve their systems, which are reproducible and interconnected processes by which a church actualizes its values and achieves its mission through quality control and growth engines. There are free trainings on the following systems: Reproductive, Outreach, Assimilation, Worship Service Planning, Spiritual Growth/Discipleship, Pastoral Care, Ministry Placement, and Finance. There are also trainings to help in the areas of pastoral transition, dealing with discouragement, evaluating your church's ministry, and dealing with difficult people and time demands.

If you are looking for training on one-on-one discipleship, we have that through Steve McCoy and Small Circle, and we continue to offer Activate, the revitalization arm of Healthy Church Solutions, which includes a church health survey. A Bible-based discovery process, Activate is led by the Holy Spirit, driven by the pastor, supported by a team within the church, disciplined by the Pastor's Huddle, and coached by Activate staff.

We agree with Mark Clifton's mission statement: "We are committed to decreasing the death rate of existing churches while simultaneously increasing the birth rate of new churches!" It is not an either/or choice, but rather a both/and solution. In Made for More he states, "The role of the local church is to be the mobilizing home base. This empowers all disciples to discover their personal calling and then deploy them to express the fullness of Jesus into every corner of culture and into every sphere of society."

This is the heart of your BMA America leadership, and we desire to serve you and your church through Healthy Church Solutions.

**"We are committed to decreasing the death rate of existing churches while simultaneously increasing the birth rate of new churches!"**

## Freed Missionaries Tell How They Escaped Kidnappers



- via the Epoch Times

Escaping captors in the middle of the night, 12 Christian Aid Ministries missionaries hiked silently through the moonlit Haitian jungle, pausing at times to pray for the direction that led to freedom.

For roughly 10 miles, they pressed forward, through thick, thorny brush: a married couple, 10-month-old baby, 3-year-old, 14-year-old girl, 15-year-old boy, four single men, and two single women.

Until now, details of their October 16 kidnaping by the 400 Mawozo gang and their December 15 escape could not be told, for security reasons. Even now, Christian Aid Ministries, is not releasing their names. The missionaries are from Amish, Mennonite, and other Anabaptist communities in Wisconsin, Ohio, Michigan, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Oregon, and Ontario, Canada.

Originally, 17 missionaries were abducted while on a trip visiting an orphanage. The 400 Mawozo gang demanded \$17 million and threatened to kill the hostages unless they got \$1 million per person. In time they released five hostages.

## Search for Noah's ark continues



Above, "The Structure Claimed to be the Noah's Ark near the Mount Ararat in Turkey.

December 2021 – An unusual rock formation located in Turkey, 20 miles south of Mount Ararat near the Ira-

nian border, has long been proposed as the ancient resting spot of Noah's ark. Various expeditions to the site have failed to prove the validity of that proposition. But archaeologists associated with Turkey's Noah's Ark Project continue to study information gathered since 2019 using ground-penetrating radar (GPR) and electrical resistivity tomography (ERT) scans. They are especially interested in scans that depict a "boat formation" with the exact measurements of the ark given in the Bible – 150 meters or about 492 feet in length.

As a result of the scans, a consortium of scientists from Turkey and other nations has an extensive investigative plan for the next two years involving further scans, core drilling, and possible excavations.

**75 YEARS OF SHARING THE GOOD NEWS FOR THE BMA OF MISSISSIPPI**

**2022 SPECIAL EMPHASIS**

**BMA OF MISSISSIPPI PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT**



# BMA MISSIONS AROUND THE WORLD

## Abraham Cheyee: ChangeMaker in Africa

by Dr. John David Smith  
Executive Director of Missions

ChangeMaker Abraham Cheyee serves in the West Africa country of Liberia and has been part of BMA work for two decades. Brother Abraham is not only a church planter but also a Lifeword global partner, producing gospel video content for lifeword.org in his native language of Western Krahn.

Ten years ago, Liberians endured a civil war, followed four years later by the Ebola outbreak, which literally came to his front door: Liberia was the hardest hit country with 4,800 deaths, and Abraham Cheyee was on the front lines of the battle against the disease and its rapid spread.

At the time, Brother Abraham pastored Bible Baptist Church in Liberia's capital city of Monrovia, and both his home and church were directly across the road from the main treatment centers. He and his congregation were greatly affected by the shutdown of stores, the pile-up of bodies, and the anguished cries of victims and family members. The crisis was a definite turning point in his ministry.

Liberia was declared Ebola-free in September of 2015, and during the aftermath of that declaration, Bro. Abraham Cheyee realized God was calling him away from Monrovia with its better infrastructure, access to health care and education opportunities.

His heart had begun to ache for his own people group hundreds of miles away, so he and his family made the difficult journey to the eastern part of Liberia near the border of Cote d'Ivoire to minister to and plant churches among his people group. The Ebola crisis changed his pastoral values and his ministry to BMA Liberia churches.

In November of 2020, refugees of Ivory Coast election violence began to cross the border into Liberia, and BMA churches ministered to them when the government offered little to no aid. Thousands converged on a small border town, and churches shared what little resources they had, modeling the humility of Pastor Abraham.

Whether it's media ministry, relief work, or planting churches, Abraham Cheyee is truly focused on changing the lives of his people group.

Praise the Lord that he has surrendered to the call to be a ChangeMaker in Africa!



## Philippine Mission News & Views

Doug & Dianne Lee delivered 176 Christmas bags to the Ati tribal children. They honored us with a special welcome. We shared the Christmas story and were truly blessed by these sweet people. This is what Christmas is about. Giving what we have to show them we care!



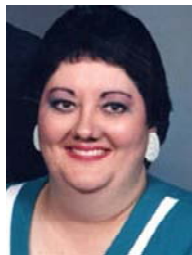
Below are photos of discipleship ministry of Danny & Rita Ballard, missionaries to the Philippines. Ministering to young folks through food, presents, and teaching



## Daughter of former BMA Missionaries passes away

Darla Gayle Moore, daughter of Frances and R.D. Heflin, has passed away.

Over the years she touched the lives of many people, leading them to Christ and loving all who entered her Sunday school classroom. She was a loving wife, a mom to many,



Darla Gayle Moore

and a friend to all. She is survived by her husband Elton of Fairfield, her daughter in law Ainsley Moore of Waco, her mother Frances Heflin of Fairfield, mother in law Barbara Storey of Fairfield, her brother Marshall Heflin and wife Debbie of Marshall, her brother David Heflin and wife Jenifer of Jacksonville, her sister Charlotte Hudler of Longville, Louisiana, and sister Gena Easterling and husband Robert of Nacogdoches, sister in law Linda Lott and husband Jimmy of Gainesville.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 22, 2021.

## From Mississippi Back to Mexico

## ChangeMaker in Mexico: Erlhin Andrey Pech Poot

from BMAA National Missions Office

In 2009 at the age of 25 I met the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior. Five years later I met my wife Karen Karina Kantun Cruz and we currently have a daughter, Mia. After I was saved we began attending church at Centro de Vida in Ripley, Mississippi, for the first time.

At first I was only attending church as a listener, but from the beginning there was in my heart the desire to serve the Lord even though I still did not know in what area. By the grace of God, Pastor Elvis García already had a strong desire to train leaders through a small Bible institute in the church. Without thinking twice, I went in to prepare myself for whatever God wanted.

Two years later while I was still attending the Bible institute, God called me to the ministry and put a heavy burden on my heart to return to my country to start a new work. I shared this desire with Pastor Elvis and since then he has been preparing me to return to Mexico.

We began to pray and God put it in our hearts to start a new work in the city of

Oxford, Mississippi, where I served for two and a half years with Brother Luis Huchin, who is now pastor of the church.

At the end of 2015 I left for Mexico to start the work God had told me to do. We began the work in February of 2016 in the town of Felipe Carrillo Puerto Campeche. By 2019 we had an average attendance of 60 people, but with the pandemic that affected the whole world we were a year without being able to have face-to-face services, only virtual.

We are currently starting anew in the ministry and encouraging the brothers to faithfully follow the Lord. At present we have a project in the church to train workers for the ministry. Since in this way we are going to grow, our goal is to teach them to win souls and disciple and



become servants for the Lord. We also have future plans to expand to other cities to open new churches and continue to carry the gospel of the Lord Jesus.

Pray for us because whenever the work of God is growing, the devil always wants to oppose and destroy the work of God. We know and we are clear that the work belongs to the Lord so that the projects and plans we have for the future can be carried out and be a blessing in people's lives.

Pray for our projects to prepare leaders and to add those who will be saved.



# The Back Page

## COMMISSION ON SENIOR ADULTS

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### Covid - Conferences - Confidence!

These three topics are at the forefront of our minds as we continue plans for the 2022 Senior Adult Conferences. It seems that each day we get new, and sometimes conflicting, information concerning the Covid virus and the variations. Confusion seems to be the key word in all of this, but we continue to remain vigilant and cautious.

While we will keep our eyes on this situation, we continue to plan and are hopeful for our 2022 conference schedule. Bro. Tim

Holsonback, a Senior Adult Trustee and pastor of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton, is making plans for the North conference to be held in May at Mt. Pleasant. The South Conference is scheduled for March and to be held at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso.

We will have more definitive plans and schedules as we draw



Don Brown

closer to each conference date, but be assured that our goal is to continue the strong heritage of these conferences. There will be singing, preaching, fellowship, food, door prizes and maybe even a few surprises.

Make your plans now to help make the 2022 Senior Adult Conferences all that they can be.

Let us all remember that we are "Prime Timers with a Purpose"!

God bless you all and have a very blessed and happy 2022!

## What's the Future of Abortion in America After 'Roe'?

### U.S. Supreme Court Hears Mississippi Law Challenge

Following the United States Supreme Court's review of the Mississippi state law limiting abortion at 15 weeks gestation, most legal analysts agree that a change is coming to abortion policy in America.

For pro-life advocates, it will be a welcome change — a move towards promoting a culture of life and not death. But what exactly will the future of abortion policy be? The answer is complex and could look as different as the 50 states that make up this country.

In December, the Supreme Court reviewed *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* and considered whether a state can limit abortion at 15 weeks gestation. *Dobbs* allowed the justices to revisit *Roe v. Wade* — the case that legalized abortion across the country.

Pro-life groups responded optimistically to the court's review of the case and with good reason.

Oral arguments suggested that at least six justices are willing to uphold the 15-week abortion ban, and possibly five justices are willing to overturn *Roe* altogether.

That's right. After nearly 50 years of bad case law, there may finally be a majority on the Supreme Court who agree that *Roe*



was wrongly decided.

So, if they do, what will the status of abortion be in America?

Well, right now, under *Roe* and its sister case *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, abortion restrictions are generally not permissible until viability, the time at which point a baby can live outside the womb, which is currently 22-24 weeks gestation. The line of viability continues to move earlier in gestational development because it is based on medical advancements. Indeed, scientific advancements in neonatal care protect pre-born babies' lives and help the pro-life movement.

If the Supreme Court overturns *Roe*, abortion would not automatically become illegal in the United States. If *Roe* is overturned, decisions about abortion

**It is critical that we all do our part to promote the pro-life movement in our own state.**

**We must elect pro-life lawmakers**

policy would be made at the state level by the people of each state.

Some states, like Arkansas, already have pro-life laws in place that would immediately go into effect if *Roe* were overturned. Other states, like Colorado, have

### Update from Just The Crumbs

## Ministering to Tornado Victims



The aftermath of the Mayfield, Kentucky Tornado

Just The Crumbs is currently in Bowling Green, Kentucky, feeding those in need. We have moved our kitchen from Raceland, Louisiana, to Mayfield, Kentucky, where we began serving December 26. This is the community where 34 people lost their lives in the candlefactory. We will serve meals and distribute some supplies for at least 4 weeks. They have no power and no water.

We are being told it may be a month before power is restored. One of the town's water towers was blown away, as you may have seen on the national news. They are just not sure when they will have water restored. A lot of folks are in trouble and need our prayers. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Angela Rice at Mission Office in Conway. Donations to help with these supplies may also be made to the National Missions Department of the BMA of America.



Just The Crumbs Mobile Kitchen

never restricted abortion, and therefore unrestricted abortion access will continue to be the law of that state.

Family Policy Alliance, a Focus on the Family ally, has developed an excellent After *Roe* map to identify what abortion policy would look like for each state in a post-*Roe* world.

It is widely expected that 26 states are certain or likely to restrict abortion if *Roe* is reversed.

Make no mistake; this is not the end of the pro-life fight —

It is critical that we all do our part to promote the pro-life movement in our own state.

We must elect pro-life lawmakers. Lawmakers must enact laws that protect pre-born babies. And pro-life laws must be defended when the abortion lobby challenges them.

We must provide increased care for mothers and their babies.

We must continue to pray and be bold in our support of pre-born human lives. The next generation is literally counting on us to be their voice.

We must do more than make abortion unlawful; we must make abortion unthinkable.

### Psalm 139

*...thou hast possessed my reins: "thou hast covered me in my mother's womb." I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...*

this is just the beginning of the next chapter.

The abortion lobby will stop at nothing to legalize abortion in every state. They will go after pro-life policies and try to get them reversed.