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Completing the Task

Lifeword

by Holly Meriweather

Lifeword exists to help make disciples through the creative proclamation, production and promotion of biblically sound media that communicates in the heart language of every tongue, tribe and nation.

Lifeword fully understands that the Great Commission of making disciples of all nations was given to the local church, the only authorized body to fulfill this great task. These are her marching orders as given by Jesus, so Lifeword, rather than doing the work for the local church or doing things for the local indigenous peoples, has come alongside with media tools, training, and various forms of support.

The men and women who create gospel media content for lifeword.org serve their own communities, their own cultures, and their own languages and dialects. There are currently more than 160 community radio stations and seven online radio stations run by local churches in their communities and for their communities.

The evangelistic gospel presentations they create are broadcast in 140 languages and led by local indigenous believers in our churches. Hundreds of these programs are 100% produced by churches for ministry to their own communities. Meant to be exten-



sions of church outreach, these videos are produced for the various cultural niches in their own context.

In each of the four regions, Lifeword global partners work to create these relevant videos. In Africa, the BMA Ghana, BMA Liberia, and BMA Nigeria associations are reaching their own communities using tools Lifeword has provided. Nigerian Joseph Eniowo's use of smartphones distributed in three mission points to help evangelize children and families then begin discipleship.

In the Americas (Central and South), the Gaitans (Nicaragua) produce marriage

and family videos in a culture where infidelity and bigamy are acceptable lifestyles. Valmori Zelaya ministers in an area of El Salvador that is hungry for the gospel, so he produces 60-90 second evangelistic videos and is seeing positive results. Peruvian Paul Tinoco installs powerful transmitters as close as he can to people groups in Peru's remote jungles when he hears of those without access to evangelical radio stations.

In Asia, Filipino Pastor Pete Etabag is helping BMA churches there to reach communities from the cities to the jungles. Most of his trainees only have cell phones,

so he teaches them how to produce gospel content with them. In Lebanon, Joe Costa records programming for several niche cultures in Arabic including Muslims, women, Armenian diaspora, and agnostics.

In the European region, Lifeword has come alongside Brother Bogdan Bilav with media tools that share the gospel. Using gypsy-language Bible recordings and translations of the four Gospels, he targets this marginalized people group. Also, Ukrainian Pastor Pasha Onatsko continues ministering to refugees and produces videos explaining why the war with Russia is happening instead of what is happening. His content is for people who need hope and an understanding that God is in control.

Lifeword Director of Operations Luis Ortega says, "It is an honor for Lifeword to be invited by the local church to help fulfill the great task given to her by her leader, Jesus. Making disciples of Jesus in the heart language of every tongue, tribe and nation requires believers in each of those areas to do their part, and who better than local indigenous believers who are passionate about the task and familiar with their own context, traditions, beliefs, and needs, serving their own immediate neighbors."

CO:MISSIONED - A shared mission - A shared responsibility

TOGETHER LET'S REACH THE NATIONS!

February 26, 2023
World Missions Sunday

God's mission to make disciples in every nation, tribe, and tongue has united BMA churches for over 70 years. We believe this mission was given to local churches and that those local churches are both the source and goal of God's mission.

TOGETHER we partner to send missionaries that make disciples and train leaders to plant churches among their own people. Your ongoing support of BMA Global missions allows us to partner with over 500 missionaries in 60 countries around the world.

Last year you collectively gave \$500,000. The goal for 2023 is \$600,000! I encourage you to challenge your congregations to prayerfully give big and give sacrificially. Register to participate in World Missions Day and find promotional resources at bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday. In addition to a link for ordering World Missions Day T-shirts, you'll find downloadable prayer cards and graphics.

If you'd like someone to speak at your church during World Missions Day season, contact Sidney Vines at sidney@bmaam.com.

Sidney Vines, BMAA Relationship Manager



Publications Special Emphasis

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Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

Trustees

Adam Sloan - Rayburn Freeman
Danny Bartlett - Clell Allen
Corbey Jones - Joseph Bain

E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org
Web site - www.msbaptist.org

USPS 353-960
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It is that time of the year!

As you can tell by the Special Emphasis notice next to this article, our Annual Special Emphasis Drive has begun!

January of each year is set aside by the Association as a time for your Publications Department to raise critical operating funds. The financial income for this ministry has three sources -

1. Subscription costs. The cost is \$1.30 per month per subscriber on the Church Family Plan. It is \$20.00 per year for a mailed individual subscription and \$15.00 per year for an Email subscription. NOTE: These charges do not cover the cost of operation...

2. Monthly Church Budget Support. A number of churches have this ministry in their regular monthly budget just as they do our other departments and ministries. We are so very grateful for this regular support. We ask all of our churches to follow this method and put us in their monthly budget **above** the cost of their subscriptions. This helps to offset the cost of operation.

3. Annual Special Emphasis. We rely on our annual Special Emphasis to support our work. Giving an annual offering during January keeps us afloat financially.

Your Choice

We have mailed literature to our churches that shares our need. We urge all of you to give a special gift during January. By supporting your Mississippi Baptist Paper you are supporting all of the work of the BMA of Mississippi. Our ministry is a support work sharing the needs, work, and blessings of each ministry of the BMA of Mississippi.

Won't you give in January 2023?

Pastor's Wife Passes Away

Cynthia "Cindy" Ann Smith Jones, wife of Bro. Corbey Jones, went home to Jesus on December 11, 2022, at age 60. She passed away peacefully in her sleep right next to her Christmas tree with Christmas music playing.

Cindy was born to Arthur and Shirlene Smith on February 8, 1962, in Neelyville, Missouri. Cindy started dating her husband, Corbey Jones, at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, Mississippi. They married July 3, 1981, and had four beautiful children and seven even more beautiful grandchildren. Cindy loved to play the piano and sing with her family, especially her children, her favorite thing in the world, was to spoil her grandchildren no matter how many times her children told her to stop. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Cindy joins her father Arthur, and her son Andrew, in Heaven, where they are certainly praising the Savior together. She is survived by her husband, Corbey, her mother Shirlene Smith, her children, Carey Jones, Cera Thomp-

son, and Bethany Hinton (Patrick), her grandchildren, Abigail, Kadey, Ellie, Isaiah, Ryleigh, Leigha Claire, and Weston, and her siblings, Lisa Hudson (Matt), John David Smith (Kim), and Rhonda Tilly (Steven).



Cindy Jones

Funeral services were held on Friday, December 16, 2022, at Good Hope Baptist Church in Stringer, Mississippi. Bro. John David Smith, Bro. Collin Jones, and Bro. Matthew Hudson officiated.

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Luke 6:45

JANUARY 2023

Mississippi Baptist

Our Need - \$10,000

Your gift to this ministry supports the outreach ministries of the BMA of Mississippi

Mississippi Missions Department - Southeastern Baptist College

Baptist Children's Home - State Youth Department

Moral Action - History Commission - Senior Adult Commission

State WMA, GMAs & State Brotherhood

And the Worldwide Mission Efforts of the BMA of America

SPECIAL EMPHASIS

Anders Lee - Director - 901-343-3293 - ander.lee571@gmail.com

Anders Lee

telling us they were taking up Christmas offerings to send in towards the department's goals! WOW!

Our next goal, which includes this \$10,000 goal, is \$40,000 by June 1, 2023. All this money will go to paying half of our camper's fees, evangelistic efforts on the campus of Southeastern, mission trips that will be organized at camp and prayerfully our Winter Blast December 27-29, 2023. Pray about how you and your church can help with this effort! Consider adding us to your budget for 2023!

TIME TO GET TEENS SIGNED UP & REGISTERED FOR CAMP

YES!!! IT'S TIME! Don't wait till later! Parents are planning vacations as we speak! They need to know camp is July 17-20, 2023, so they can plan around that. Pastors and Youth Pastors - get that sign up list in your bulletins and in your youth meetings! Our goal is to have 200 to attend as we start camp back in 2023. If we all start signing up teens now, we will be full before Memorial Day. So, let's do this!!!

Churches can NOW begin registering for camp. **YES NOW!!!** We are ready to sign you up and get you started! In fact, we already have one church registered for 20 teens & sponsors. Please contact our registrar Rosemary Davis to begin registering your group! Her email is rosemaryfdavis@yahoo.com. You may also call or text her at 601-433-2424.

CAMP FEE

As announced, all campers (teens & sponsors) will have half of their camp fee paid by department funds. Lake Tiak-O'Khata is a beautiful place with great reviews on food as well! There are different types of lodging available there, some are more costly than others. For instance, the bunkhouse is \$145 for the three nights including meals and the hotel rate is \$190 for three nights and meals. We are averaging the costs for campers & churches. The lodging will be on a first come first serve basis. The camp fee is going to be set at or under \$200 per camper which means you will only have to pay \$100. At this time, we want to at least release this to you as promised so that you have an idea of cost.

In this economy, camps have been raising their fees because of the rising cost of food. The camp that I have been affiliated with since 2000 in Northeast Arkansas is also raising their rates to offset cost in 2023. Our committee will be meeting on January 16th and at that time we will finalize costs and publish the exact fee in the February paper.

FACEBOOK PAGE

The department has a brand-new Facebook Page. It is titled as you may suspect. "BMA of Mississippi Youth Department." You can find it on my personal page. I have invited many to "like" the page already. Some of your friends may have already found the page and "liked" it. I encourage you to do the same! I hope to have our web page up by February. More information will be shared about that in coming articles and on our Facebook page.

MY CONTACT INFORMATION

I want to keep this in front of you all because I am new. My cell number is 901-343-3293. My email is Anders.Lee571@gmail.com. Please feel free to contact me at any time with thoughts or questions!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

It is hard to believe that its 2023! Time flies when you are having fun! There is much to anticipate happening in 2023!

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST PAPER GOAL

I love our fellow department leaders & ministries. Right off the bat in 2023 the paper has a goal to reach in January! I want to encourage you all to give to this goal! If each church gives and adds them to their budget in 2023 it will go a long way for that department in the New Year! I just rolled off being a trustee for that department, so I know

how important it is to them and Bro. Don Brown! Please help them reach this in January!

\$10,000 Goal

As you may have heard already, our department had a goal of raising \$10,000 by the end of 2022. I am pleased to tell you that with the help of a lot of people, churches, and associations... **WE REACHED THAT GOAL!!!** At the writing of this article (December 15th), we had just over the goal in already, or being mailed in. THANK YOU so much to all who gave!!!

Also, at the writing of this article we had many churches

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

Christmas Hope

During this season of hope, my thoughts are filled with both joy and sadness like many of you. While joy is felt so intensely with the sights, sounds, fragrances, emotions, and the spirit of Christmas, the pain of loss sharply contrasts with these times of celebration.

I'm thinking of some of you who celebrated this year with the long-awaited birth of a baby, who was added to your family circle with joy.

I'm thinking of some of you



who experienced the sadness that came with the loss of a loved one when life changes forever.

I'm thinking of some of you who are dealing with difficult times which can bring us feelings of overwhelming hopelessness.

But I'm thinking, too, of that first Christmas and that beautiful Star of Bethlehem, the Star that brought hope of light and rest. Mary and Joseph must have felt that exceeding great joy of the long-anticipated event, the joy shared by lowly shepherds who hurried to find that babe.

Their joy may have been mixed with some sorrow, too, because they were away from home for the birth of that child or maybe because of their unusual circumstances after the miraculous conception of that special child or maybe because of what they understood was ahead for that precious baby boy.



Carolyn Hagler

Gifts have been a part of our Christmas celebrations ever since the Magi brought the gifts to the Christ Child, I suppose. I've noticed that the gifts I cherish most are heart gifts, those that remind me of the giver.

One of the most precious gifts is the gift of friendship. I lost a special friend twice: I lost her some three years ago to Alzheimer's disease; I didn't really lose her last week because I know she's gone on ahead to eternity. She changed her address from a memory care unit to her new home.

Why was Carole special? Because she loved life, her husband, her family (especially her grandchildren), her friends, and her Lord and Savior. As my oldest friend, she and I were different but still shared so many things: fun

times of basketball, tennis, fitness classes, walking, and gardening.

Beginning in high school where she was described as "a charming girl, a lovely face, always merry and full of grace" and continuing throughout college as roommates, our friendship lasted for a lifetime. I'm reminded once again that memories are precious, and I do believe memories are one of God's special gifts to us.

She was the only friend I ever had who would go to the college infirmary for me when I was sick, take the first dose of whatever medicine I needed, and bring the rest to me. That's friendship! Or maybe a "blond moment for her."

Back in those days we had to be in our room studying from 7 until 9, but we always needed our Dr. Pepper fix about 8 o'clock. You could see us almost every night sneaking down to the machine while watching for the "den mother." One of us would get the drinks; the other one would flush the toilets so that no one would know we were getting drinks. I'm pretty sure we didn't fool anyone. But we never got detention either!

Years later we shared a love of gardening and spent many hours going to gardening shows and nurseries, or just walking around our yards talking about our plants. She would always want me to look at her yard. In fact, our last visit at her home before Alzheimer's led to a memory care unit, she said, "Let's go look at my yard." With her leaning on my arm, we walked together, talking about everything we saw.



That same love of gardening led her to volunteer us for a presentation. "Won't that be fun?" No, it wasn't. It was a lot of work; but she talked me into it. We called it "Carole and Carolyn's Quicky Gardening Course."

Quirky would be a better description. Afterwards, I told her we needed to do it again because it was so much work to just end. Nope. We never did.

One special reminder of Carole is a cherished note from years ago that ended with, "You are such a good friend. Thank you for being there for me." The feeling was mutual. She was special even during Alzheimer's.

For those of you who are dealing with losses, illnesses, or other catastrophes, I'm praying that you will find your memories one of the great gifts God has given you, too.

I'm celebrating the Twelve Days of Christmas (Carroll Roberson) throughout this season by remembering the gifts Jesus has given to me. You know the tune, but you can sing along on YouTube:

On the first day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me salvation, full and free.

On the second day, He gave me everlasting life.

On the third day, peace in my heart.

On the fourth day, love for all men.

On the fifth day, joy for my soul.

On the sixth day, power from on high.

On the seventh day, a body glorified.

VISITING ASSOCIATIONS

I am visiting as many local associations as possible. Please let me know when your local meets so that I can plan to come! I have been to the Big Creek, Oak Grove and the Hoblochitto allowed me to speak via the phone. I sure appreciate them allowing me to do so since I had a Christmas conflict with their meeting schedule in December. Their moderator Bro. Beau was super helpful! I look forward to being with others in the New Year!

May the New Year be filled with fruit and blessing and many souls saved! Thank you all for your prayers and support!

On the eighth day, a robe and a crown.

On the ninth day, mansions above.

On the tenth day, streets of pure gold.

On the eleventh day, a thousand tongues to sing.

On the twelfth day, eternity to praise.

Let's continue celebrating as we begin a new year because Hope was born at Christmas, our hope was secured by His death and resurrection, and our hope is focused on His promise to come again.

Because of our hope, we remember our loved ones at Westover (Baptist Church, Hattiesburg) every year with a display of beautiful, red poinsettias; those Christmas flowers remind us that we will be reunited with them because of that Blessed Hope. In His grip, we have continuing joy. Glory to God in the highest!



SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE

Serving Christ With A Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440 - 601.426.6346

President's Perspective

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." Jeremiah 29:11

This is one (of many) of my favorite Bible passages. In the context, the Lord is reassuring the people of Israel that He has not abandoned them in their struggles, but that He fully intends to bless their future. The latter part of the verse reads in the KJV version, "...to give you an expected end." In the Hebrew, these words can be understood as a promise, "...to give you a hope and a future."

The Lord constantly amazes us with hope and a future here on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College with new opportunities for growth and influencing others with the Gospel of Christ!

The challenges for the Southeastern Baptist College over 2022 have been significant, but God has graciously provided us with the ability to have navigated each one. Some seemed insurmountable, others were very disappointing, but in the end, the Lord has guided us with wise counsel and great insight.

As we move into the Spring Semester of 2023, we anticipate that our dropout rate between last semester and this one, to be low and enter this semester with great anticipation of greater blessings.

Our new certificate program, Foundations in Ministry, has received great interest and several ministerial students have signed up for this Spring Semester. We anticipate continued growth in and through this new venue. If you are interested, please reference the SBC announcements found in this publication.

We are finding success with the process of possibility fielding an aviation degree in the next school year. Should this degree path come to fruition, it could mean substantial growth in our student body population. In addition, we have been approached about partnering with a Hispanic, higher educational program in another area of the United States. We have recognized for years that there is a tremendous opportunity for outreach in this community of believers and this is an exciting development, but may mean a great deal of additional work for the staff to achieve approval through our accrediting agency. Please pray regarding these prospective growth opportunities.

Also, I am personally encouraged with the new leadership at the Missions Department and the Youth Ministries Department. Both Chris Yager and Anders Lee have approached me to seek new paths of partnership in order to advance the Gospel throughout Mississippi. The SBC staff is hosting a free Welcome Luncheon for BMA of Mississippi pastors and spouses in honor of Brother Chris and Brother Anders here on the SBC Campus on Monday, January 23, 2023 beginning at 11:30 to 1 p.m. Please reserve your lunch meal by calling 601-426-6346 or emailing lporter@southeasternbaptist.edu

I pray this new year will be a blessed one for you and your loved ones and, as always, I greatly appreciate your prayers, kind words of support to all the Southeastern Baptist College staff, as well as your continued financial support to this vital ministry of the BMA of Mississippi.

"Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." Psalm 37:5

Equipping the Saints,
Dr. Scott R. Carson



Dr. Scott Carson
President

Spring Courses

It's not too late to sign up for courses for the Spring Semester! We are accepting students until January 17, 2023. Classes begin January 8. What a great opportunity to begin or return to your accredited college degree path! Go to our website at <https://southeasternbaptist.edu/future-students/application> to begin your college education journey today! Or call SBC at 601-426-6346.

Online Bible Degrees

Did you know you can earn your accredited Bible college degree in the comfort of your own home? You can take one class (3 hours) or up to 18 hours completely online each semester. And you need not be living in Mississippi to take classes at Southeastern! You may want to have a discussion with your children or grandchildren today about taking classes with SBC. We are conservative and Bible centered. Our credits are transferable to other accredited colleges. Go to our website at <https://southeasternbaptist.edu/future-students/application> to begin your college education journey today! Or call SBC at 601-426-6346.

Available Scholarships

The Arnold Knight Memorial RLF Scholarship is available to Baptist Missionary Association ministers who take classes at Southeastern Baptist College. These funds are administered by the BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund. Contact our Financial Aid Officer for more information.

Foundations in Ministry Certificate

SBC has fielded a certificate for new ministers who are interested in gaining knowledge in the basics of theology and church ministries. This is a 29-hour program and the student may take one class or a full load. Numerous ministers throughout Mississippi have already begun their studies and the classes can be taken fully online. Once the certificate is earned, all credits are transferable toward an Associate or Bachelor degree should the student desire to continue in their education with SBC. Contact our Admissions Officer today! 601-426-6346, or apply online at www.southeasternbaptist.edu

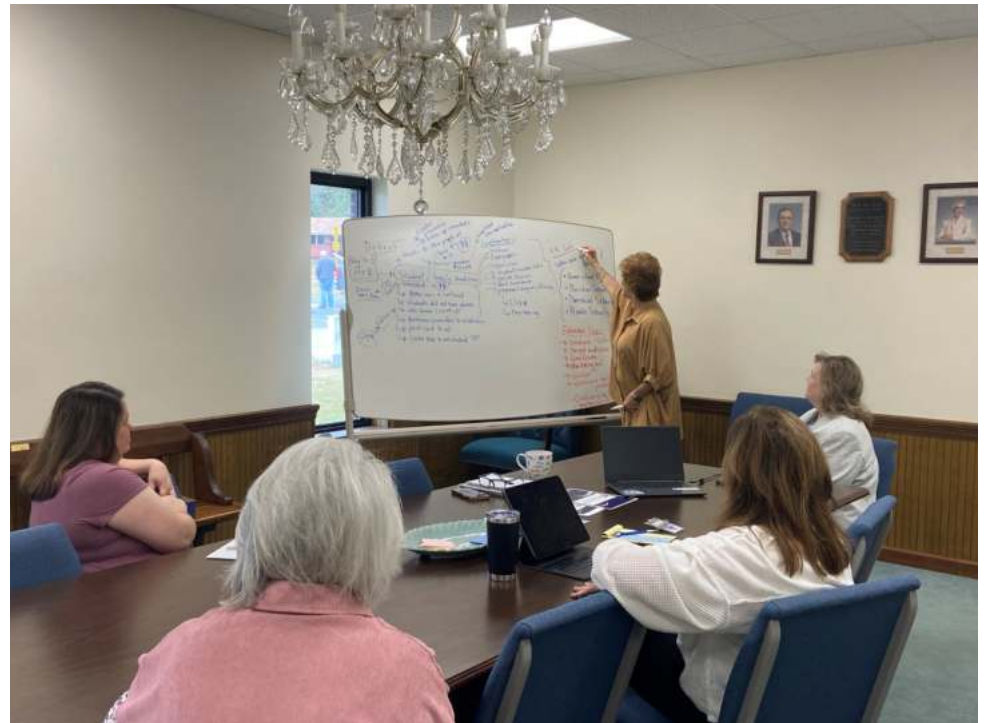
Estate Planning

Does your personal estate planning include a donation to Southeastern Baptist College? Contact Rosemary Davis at 601-426-6346 discuss with her how you can bless SBC with your special gift.

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. Chaplain (Colonel) Carson can also provide an update on the BMAA Chaplaincy and deliver a related message. Thank you to Good Hope Baptist Church of Springer and Big Creek Baptist Church of Soso to preach their Sunday messages. You can reach Dr. Carson at 601-433-4736 or scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu

Recruiting Home Schoolers Strategy Meeting



All BMA of Mississippi Pastors Invited!

Southeastern Baptist College is hosting a Welcome Luncheon for the BMA of Mississippi's newest department directors: Chris Yager with the Missions Department and Anders Lee with the Department of Youth. This free event will be on Monday, January 23, 2023 on the campus of SBC.



Please sign up by noon, Thursday, January 19, by calling 601-426-6346 or emailing lporter@southeasternbaptist.edu

Around the SBC Campus



Rosemary Davis in action at BMAA Senior Adult Conference



Students field float in Laurel's Christmas Parade



Tougaloo & SBC athletes praying led by Charger Omarion Carson



Students studying for Fall Semester finals

Upcoming Charger Basketball Games

Men

Friday, Jan 6, 6 p.m. home vs Toccoa Falls

Thursday, Jan 12, Time TBA, @ MS University for Women, Columbus, MS

Saturday, Jan 14, Time TBA, home vs Delgado College

Tuesday, Jan 17, 7 p.m. @ University of Mobile, Mobile AL

Saturday, Jan 21, Time TBA, @ Delgado College, New Orleans

Wednesday, Jan 25, Time TBA, home vs MS University of Women

Friday, Jan 27, 6 p.m. home vs Holy Patriot University

Thursday, Feb 2, 7 p.m. home vs Trinity Baptist College



Women

Saturday, Jan 14, 2 p.m. home vs Delgado College

Saturday, Jan 21, Time TBA, @ Delgado College, New Orleans

Tuesday, Jan 31, Time TBA, @ Blue Mountain University, Blue Mountain MS

Thursday, Feb 2, 5 p.m. home vs Trinity Baptist College

Student Christmas Celebration in the Charger Café



Be a Missionary Care Giver

by Holly Meriweather

“Our prayer is that we can encourage and strengthen missionaries so they can spread the gospel as effectively as possible, to as many as possible, for as long as possible.”

Former International Director (and Missionary Care Director) Jerry Kidd established the BMA's missionary care initiative years ago and has a love for missionaries and their unique needs while on the field. During his time leading missionary care, he organized regional conferences, which involved a great deal of planning and outside support, but these conferences were so beneficial for our missionaries.

Brother Jerry has always dreamed of a global conference for all our missionaries. That goal will become a reality April 27–30, 2023, as missionaries from around the world plan to come to the States for the BMA National Meeting and Global Care Conference to follow.

Current Missionary Care Director Jonathan Montgomery has a passion for ministering to our missionaries so they can minister



Jerry & Sue Kidd

to others. He says, “You cannot pump water from a dry well, so our Global Care Conference aims to pour into our missionaries and their families and replenish their spiritual, mental, and emotional needs so they can return to their fields with a stronger passion for making disciples and planting churches.”

After the 2016 Asia-Pacific Care Conference, one missionary said that the conference came “just at the right time” for him and his family. He explained, “We were physically exhausted, spiritually down, and feeling all alone in ministry. The messages were encouraging, the songs were inspiring, and the fellowship with the other missionaries was exactly what we needed.”

Studies show that 70 percent of missionaries leave the field earlier than planned and for reasons

that could have been prevented had there been adequate support and care while serving. Burnout is one key reason missionaries leave the field early, but if provided an opportunity to connect with their peers, there is mutual encouragement, immediate connection, and beneficial fellowship.

Our goal is to give every BMA Missionary the opportunity to attend this global conference by covering every missionary family's expenses for this conference through donations, which will ensure that every BMA Missionary has an opportunity to attend. Expenses include international airfare, lodging, and meals. Breakdown of expenses:

Average Meals – \$150,
Average Lodging – \$500,
Average Airfare – \$1,250

Expenses per family:
Individual – \$2,000,
Couple – \$3,500,
Family of Four – \$6,000
Overall estimated cost:
\$250,000.

If you would like to donate to this ministry, please visit bmamissions.org or mail checks to BMA Missions, P.O. Box 878, Conway, AR 72033, and in the memo line

SOUTHEASTERN GOSPEL FEST

PRESENTED BY SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE

APRIL 13 - 15, 2023

CONCERTS START AT 6:00 PM / DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM

Emcee: JOSH FRANKS

APRIL 13 THURSDAY

APRIL 14 FRIDAY

APRIL 15 SATURDAY

<small>GREATER VISION</small>	<small>MARK TRAMMELL QUARTET</small>	<small>GUARDIANS</small>	<small>DIXIE ECHOES</small>
<small>KAREN PECK & NEW RIVER</small>	<small>JOSH & ASHLEY FRANKS</small>	<small>JEFF & SHERI EASTER</small>	<small>THE HOPPERS</small>
<small>INSPIRATIONS</small>	<small>BIBLETONES</small>	<small>MICHAEL COMBS</small>	<small>TRIBUTE QUARTET</small>

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Mississippi Missions

Mission Director's Report Happy New Year!!

Lamentations 3:22-23 says, It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. God has been so faithful to me and to this association over this past year! It is amazing to think all that the Lord has brought us through, and what He is continuing to accomplish through us. In 2022, God blessed us through a major transition within this department. We have seen the whole department change over, and by God's grace, we have not really missed a beat. God is so good and faithful to us!! I am excited to see what God is going to do in 2023 as we seek to "Strive Together for the faith of the Gospel."

2023 Theme

As stated above, our theme for 2023 is "striving together for the faith of the Gospel". As the Missions Department of this great association, my hope and prayer for this year is that the Great Commission becomes again our driving force. There are always going to be things that strive to drive us apart, but the missionary outreach of the Gospel will unify us in ways that no

other philosophy or agenda could. With that being said, let me burden your heart with some matters to be in prayer about. In Mississippi, we have 67% of our households that do not have 1 born again believer. We have 6 cities within our state that have over a 70% unchurched or de-churched ratio. We need to again reach our state with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We cannot be divided in a time when our state needs us to stand and strive together for the gospel's sake. We need missionaries! We need Church planters! We need men to surrender to the ministry and answer God's call to Go and Tell!



Chris Yager
Interim Director

2023 Goals

My number one goal for this department is that God would be glorified and magnified in all that is accomplished. Without God's favor, we can do nothing! My second goal is that God would raise up at least 2 (hopefully 6) new missionary church planters to begin training and

planting this year. My third goal is to work with our existing churches with revitalization. I would like to be a help to encourage and strengthen our churches that make up this amazing association. My fourth goal is to work with our departments and churches to bring an emphasis back on surrendering to full time ministry. We are in a critical situation when it comes to ministers of the gospel. As an association, we must strive together again in prayer that the Lord of the harvest will send forth laborers into the field.

Missions office update

In November, Mrs. Brianna Sumrall, Bro. Ken Riley's daughter, has come aboard as our replacement for Mrs. Kim Parker. Brianna is doing an excellent job, and is learning quickly the nuances of this position. Please continue to pray for us that we will get fully acclimated to the office, so that we can serve you to the best of our ability.

Revolving Loan Fund update

Our revolving loan fund is an amazing vehicle that God is using to help accomplish the work of the Great Commission. I can't wait to take a whole article to just tell you more about this amazing ministry of our association. But for now, our Revolving Loan Fund is doing well, but please know that we have

removed any restriction on deposits to the fund. You are welcome to deposit as much money as you would like. We are also open for new accounts. In December, the Revolving Loan Fund committee voted to increase our interest rate to 2.5%. This rate is still better than even many short term and long term CD's. We would love for you to invest with us. You will not only earn a great rate, but you will also be helping in a mighty way the cause of the Great Commission.

Our Missionaries

The Lord has blessed us with a great group of missionaries. In December, we were able to meet again for a wonderful time of Christmas fellowship at the missions office. God is blessing greatly these servants of God. Please pray for each of them!

I am so honored to serve you, and I am praying that 2023 is our best year ever! May the Lord use us to "strive together for the faith of the gospel", so that many people are brought to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Thank you again for allowing me to serve you! May the Lord bless you with an amazing new year!

For His Glory,
Bro. Chris Yager

Canaan Land Mission

Scott Brocius, pastor

It is our prayer at Canaan Land that you and your family have had a blessed and wonderful holiday season. The Lord has continued to bless and be very good to our church plant in Wayne County. We had a repeat visitor come forth at invitation on Sunday, December 10th and get SAVED, and birthed into the family of God. He also expressed his need to be baptized and desire for his family to join the mission. Please be in prayer for this young family and me as we begin the process of discipleship as well as baptism and church membership class. With that being said we do have a NEED that I would love and appreciate the help of



Scott Brocius

our wonderful churches of the BMA of Mississippi.

First, it has been expressed to me by several visitors that they have had a hard time locating our mission and that we need a sign. The signage that we currently have is a printed sign that blends in very well with political signs, especially at election time. I have currently obtained a quote from Headrick Signs in Laurel for a nice sign that has a three-foot by nine-foot fixed display that will have the mission's name as well as a three-foot by nine-foot electronic display board underneath the fixed portion. The quote for this sign came in at \$34,989.00 after taxes and installation. We have a wonder piece of property on a very busy four lane road, I would love for everyone to know who we are and where we are, and I think a great way of doing that would be by a nice sign to display that, as well as service times and special events and outreach that the mission may have.

Secondly, our parking area is gravel, this is the way it was when we obtained the



building. With that being said, there are patches of weeds and grass that come up during the summertime in this gravel that have to be cut and sprayed. After the replacement of several windows in our sanctuary, as well as a couple my own pick-up truck from flying gravel rocks, I would love to see us obtain a paved parking lot. I have a current quote on one-hundred-foot by one-hundred-foot concrete slab that would include a sixty-foot drive coming off Hwy 45 and two six-foot wide sidewalks

leading into the entry way of the building. The quote for the parking area was \$47,250.00. I do believe that paved parking would make our mission appeal more to the eye and help solidify our place within the community that the Lord has placed us in.

Finally, I do realize that the projects mentioned above are costly, and I know that as a mission we have to learn to stand on our own. So we are trying to do our part. We have currently started taking up a building fund offering for these needs. Also, we currently have a building fund account at the mission's office. As always, we appreciate the support of the churches of the BMA both, prayerfully and financially. If you or your church would like to help us with these goals it would be greatly appreciated. A check can be sent to the mission's office with a memo Canaan Land building fund. If there are any questions, feel free to give me a call 251-377-5412. Thank you and may God bless you and yours.

An Awning and An Opportunity

by Sam Yager

The next step in the renovations at Living Hope Baptist Mission is almost complete. This next step has already made a great difference in making our building look more like a church than a restaurant. However, more important than its appearance is that it has given us an opportunity to continue reaching people with the Gospel.

Since we cut a hole in the front of our building in to move the main doors to a central location, we have planned to build an awning that would extend in front of those main doors. This would allow cars to pull underneath and drop off people under the cover of a roof. In addition, it would

cause a box shaped building to look more like a church. On the first Sunday after the major framing had been completed, it rained. As you can imagine, all of the folks here at Living Hope more than enjoyed making use of the new awning that day.

This new awning has already been a blessing to our people, and it has given us an amazing opportunity. The father of one of the families that we have been working to reach with the Gospel is a trustworthy contractor. On his crew are others we have already made connections with as well. Because of these connections, we hired them to build this awning. While he and his crew have done excellent work, we are excited to have a captive audience to continue reaching them with the Gospel.

Please pray with us that God would continue to draw the hearts of these men to

Himself. I would love to be able to give a report soon that one or several of these men have come to know Christ as Savior, been baptized, and been added to the church. Thank you for your continued prayer and support! We greatly appreciate it!



Missions continued on page 7

Mission Reports Continued

Refuge Baptist Mission

Bro. Josh Daniels, pastor

"Greetings churches and associations of the BMA of Mississippi. It is with great pleasure I give you an update for Refuge Baptist Mission. It has been 3 years coming, but we will finally soon have a building on the property. Metal is going up as I type this update. It is truly a beautiful sight to see what has felt like such a long time of 3 years is finally happening. We are so thankful to the Lord for this taking place. We also give much thanks to you for the financial support, prayers, and encouragement along the journey thus far.

We know that a building is only a tool for the local church, but this is much needed tool. It will finally give us some stability, security, more opportunities to minister, and a more serious and solid presence in our community. We will hopefully begin the inside construction in January. Please continue praying for us and we also continue to need financial support should the Lord lead you to do so. Our greatest financial need would be to begin reducing debt accumulated through the building process as we grow closer to organizing in a couple of years.

The greatest news above all is that the Lord has saved souls in the last couple of months and they are ready to take the next steps of joining by baptism and membership classes. Please pray for these new converts as we disciple them in the Word of God. We have also had 6 people plan to join by either letter, baptism, or statement of faith. We rejoice in the Lord over the work happening.

There's a sweet spirit of fellowship and unity as we enter this building phase, and we pray that it continues. We know Satan desires to disrupt, but we continually put on the spiritual armor and go to work and battle each day. We continue to see spiritual growth and growth of fellowship among the people. God is putting together a good foundation of people that He can build on.

Thank you again for everything.



Josh Daniels



Update from Restoration Jail Ministry

by Paul Spurlin

We have been having some good times inside the jail and having some challenges. To start, I will share with you three good times that we have had since I last updated you on the status of the jail ministry.

First, you never know whom you may find as a prisoner when you visit the jail. One of my childhood friends was one of the recently sentenced inmates about to be transferred to a state facility who attended one of our worship services. It was good to see him, but not under those circumstances. There was a good spirit in the service that night, and I think several of the prisoners were believers. One asked for us to pray for the jail staff, and we had two prisoners sincerely thank us for coming that night. All these prisoners were being transferred to a state facility, so we encouraged them to try to find a group of God's people among the prisoners wherever they arrived so that they could encourage one another.

On another recent trip, a prisoner shared with the group in the service that he was a believer and had been clean and sober for eleven years, but that he had recently made some bad choices. He was worried that he had lost all he had gained through the Lord during the eleven years of work and that he had ruined his testimony. I encouraged him that the Lord can restore what has been devoured (Joel 2:25), and he prayed for me on his way out of the service.

On the final trip I mention here, we were studying reasons to thank God from Psalm 136. I was explaining how God brought His people out of Egypt with the tenth plague. Before I could say the word "Passover," a prisoner said it. After the service, I asked him if he had spent some time in church since he was obviously familiar with biblical narratives. He said that he was reared by his uncle who is a pastor and that being in jail had given him time to read through the Bible twice. Again, you never know whom you may find as you minister in the jail. Thank God for allowing us to encourage believers who find themselves in jail and for allowing us to preach the gospel to prisoners who are lost.

Now, I will share with you the biggest challenge I have been having. Beginning in August, I have been turned away from planned worship services at the jail a total of six times because of too few jail staff members being at the jail and/or because of the abundance of prisoners needing to be processed by jail staff during the time we are scheduled to have worship service. This has caused me to begin avoiding inviting people to accompany me to the jail because we may be turned away when we arrive. I am now calling at 6:00 PM to know whether I can arrive at the jail for a service at 7:00 PM. Therefore, I must be prepared without knowing whether we will have a service. Please pray specifically for this challenge because it is discouraging to prepare to visit the jail, but then not be able to do so.



Paul Spurlin

Missions Personnel Enjoying Some Holiday Fellowship



JANUARY 2023

Mississippi Baptist

SPECIAL EMPHASIS

Senior Adult Ministry

Commission on Senior Adults - 8 Reagan Lake Road, Laurel, MS 39443 - 601-426-3293

PrimeTimers with a Purpose and Passion!

Time Marches On!

Can you believe that our 2023 Senior Adult Conferences are just two months away? The South Conference will again be at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, on Tuesday March 7. The North Conference will meet at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Fulton on May 9!

I am excited for both meetings. Our 2022 Conferences were well attended after we missed two years due to the Covid pandemic. I look forward to record crowds for these next two meetings. Make your plans to attend AND bring a friend with you!



Don Brown
Director

Plans

We are currently putting our programs together. We have our speaker in place and are working on our music. We will have a worshipful time, great food, door prizes, grand prizes, music, fellowship, special recognitions, and an overall great day in the Lord. I think you will enjoy this year's meetings. Our desire is to minister to our senior adults and help them refresh themselves and draw closer to the Lord and His work.

PrimeTimers with a Purpose and Passion! Let's purpose in our hearts to do more for Him!

50 Years in Ministry

We will be recognizing those men who have served 50 years or longer in the Gospel ministry. If you know of someone that meets this standard, please let us know. Give me a call at 601-426-3293 or email me at djb1948@gmail.com or editor@ms-baptist.org. We want to make sure each one is recognized.

Mailing Address....

The mailing address for the Commission has changed. Some are still sending your support funds to the Missions Office and others to the P.O. Box of the Mississippi Baptist. The correct address for the Senior Adult Commission is:

**Don Brown, Director
Commission on Senior Adults
8 Reagan Lake Rd.
Laurel, MS 39443.**

Funds sent to any other address just slows down their delivery and costs the Missions Office extra postage when they forward your donations to us. Thank you for your help and understanding.

May your 2023 be one of Purpose, Passion, and Worship!

Financial Information for Seniors & Others



Understanding the basics

What is an estate?

An estate is the total net worth of an individual at death, which includes all of their personal assets, such as real estate, business equity, stocks, bonds and bank accounts. An estate can continue to grow after a person's death, such as with investments that continue to accrue interest.

What is estate planning?

Estate planning is an umbrella term that covers many different documents that are intended to determine what happens when you pass away or are unable to make decisions for yourself. While it can be a difficult topic to address, ultimately, it's an important one. Without the road map that an estate plan provides, your assets can wind up in legal limbo for years, putting a burden on your heirs and other family members who are left to deal with sorting out your finances. What you decide to have people do with your estate is up to you (within legal limits). Besides facilitating the transfer of your assets to those you choose, planning can help minimize income, gift and estate taxes among other things.

Essentials to get started

A simple checklist of essentials to get started should include:

1. Will (last will and testament)
2. Life Insurance
3. Medical POA (power of attorney), aka health care proxy
4. Financial POA
5. Living will
6. Beneficiary designations

Interested in learning more? We're here to help.

MRS is your trusted partner that can help bring clarity and understanding to whatever your situation may be. Let us help explain your options. *Our focus is on educating our churches and pastors to help them make well informed decisions about these very important topics.*

MRS is your trusted resource. Let us serve you today!

Contact:
Mark Bradley
Ministers Resource Services
(501)-499-4205
mbradley@bmaamerica.org

LIFEWORD AROUND THE WORLD

Imagine if we could see all God is doing around the world. While our current view of His activity is limited—we might see what He's doing in our own lives or in our family or community—we know if we could see the bigger picture, we would be amazed!

At Lifeword, we are able to see glimpses of the work of God and His people in many areas. Allow us to take you on a trip around the world, from continent to continent, to give you a quick snapshot of all He is doing through the ministry of Lifeword and the men and women committed to take Christ to the ends of the Earth.

The first stop on our "trip" is Africa.

In Nigeria, God's Word is bearing fruit in the lives of church members and disciples amid political and economic challenges. A former wizard, Bro. Job has not only come to know Christ, but he is growing and serving through Bible study, prayer, and witnessing! Their discipleship class is growing, and God is working through those who participate.

Many people accepted Christ or rededicated their lives to Christ at their Mid-year conference in Liberia. The Lifeword producers, pastors, and Church planters are planning to reach the distant towns and villages where there is no church. They are also using the Word

of God to resolve conflicts among tribal groups in Liberia after 15 years of civil conflict. Through prayers and with the help of God all the divided tribes are once more serving the Lord together in the churches.

The gospel is spreading in Ghana despite the ongoing security threats and difficult living conditions. The satellite churches are vibrant and increasing in membership. The main church has grown so much that the structure could no longer hold all the people who gather on Sundays. Praise God for the new Chapel being built. Six mission points have been opened in the nearby villages where more people can meet and fellowship.

The team in Tanzania is continuing to broadcast the Lifeword program each Sunday for the Swahili speakers around the world. They are continuing to add to their local languages on the Lifeword Cloud and YouTube.

Our brothers and sisters in Burkina Faso are undergoing terrorist attacks and turmoil. Many churches have been closed, causing pastors to come to Ouagadougou with their families to be cared for by the mother churches.

Traveling east, our next stop is Asia.

Some of the videos the Lifeword team in Lebanon have produced have

"gone viral" meaning thousands more are hearing about Jesus, and their number of online "followers" are growing. The team is also continuing their work on the one-minute apologetics videos. God is moving among the young people there as Lifeword workers are engaging those who watch their videos and respond.

Lifeword is sharing a devotional in Nepal that is growing in participation. Brother Paala Khan and his family came to faith and are now facing persecution, but they are still growing in the Lord faithfully! Because of this testimony, more of those from Muslim families are coming to faith and have opened their hearts to Jesus.

In the Philippines, the video "Who is Jesus to You," has been added in the Bloon and T'Boli languages. Radio transmitters and stations have been installed in strategic places to reach more tribal villages with the gospel. Through these radio stations, the people can hear the gospel and grow in their knowledge of Scripture.

People are coming to know Christ in response to Lifeword's ministry on Facebook and YouTube in Myanmar. The communicates with them on Facebook Messenger and continues to discuss and build relationships with them.

God continues to establish Lifeword's work in Japan. The local church there is getting stronger despite difficulties. They are

currently working on translating the "Who is Jesus to You" video into Japanese.

Next on our "trip" is Europe.

As God continues to work through the Lifeword team in Romania, they are seeking FM Radio Licenses for Simleu Silvaniei and surrounding areas. A pastor there is helping with this and has connections with the upper-level government decision makers. They are currently producing Ukrainian programming and sharing the gospel in four additional languages through social media and the radio.

Lastly, we return to the Americas.

In Nicaragua, the "Marriage Matters" content has been well-received. It is helping numerous marriages, resulting in many opportunities to share the gospel. Several of those couples are now actively attending the church services. Next, they will create a video on parenting to help parents

while also sharing Jesus. They will also assist team members who work with children in their churches.

Lifeword in the United States is growing and seeing unprecedented numbers. Millions are watching the videos produced, reading the daily devotional blog, and participating in social media. The Discipleship portal, "Follow," is complete and in final edits. We can't wait to share it with you soon!

Getting a glimpse of God's work and how He's using Lifeword around the world is astonishing.

We praise God for all He's doing; we praise Him that He is inviting many into that fruitful work; and we praise Him for giving us the ability to see His activity on this side of eternity.

We thank God, and we thank you for partnering with us!