

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE
BAPTIST MISSIONARY
ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

January 2024

www.ms baptist.org

Volume 78 No. 1

Sent To The Nations – BMA Missions Offering Date



The Jerry Kidd Missions Offering is Sunday, February 25th. Mark your calendars and join us in celebrating World Missions Day and giving to BMA Global as together we pursue God's work around the world.

God has blessed BMA Global. Today we have over 400 missionaries working in 65 countries and we are currently starting 400 new churches. As we continue to grow, we must think forward about the future funding of our worldwide church planting ministry.

So join us for our annual world missions emphasis campaign that celebrates God's global mission by registering your church at bmaglobal.org to order promotional materials and receive a free pastor polo. Then on February 25, 2024 join with other BMA churches in celebrating what God is doing around the world, praying for missionaries, and giving generously!

We value your partnership and pray that you will lead your church in giving toward the Jerry Kidd Missions Offering.

Motives for Evangelism

By Larry Barker, Vice-president
Church Strategy and Training
BMA of America

Why do you do what you do? Our motives are very important and should not be overlooked. In *The Evangelism Handbook*, Alvin Reid says, "Surely there should be a connection between our motive and our method. Why share Christ? Too much emphasis on evangelism has to do with the "how to." Christianity is a movement. The best way to know your movement is in trouble is when all you do is create how-to manuals! For people to have a lasting commitment to something as personally challenging as evangelism, we need a clear understanding of "why" before proceeding to the "how."

First, our motive should start with God. Mark Liederbach wrote, "The supreme motivation for evangelism, then, finds its genesis in who evangelism is about, and all other motivations find deep and rich grounding and proper expression from that point alone." Why would we not want to share who He is with everyone just because of who He is? Christianity is not just a faith in faith. Faith has no value unless its object is legitimate, and our God is the only one who is

legitimate. Faith is not about feeling but fact. Faith is not about what is unknown but what is unseen (Hebrews 11:1).

It is not just about the task of evangelizing. We are not created to just be task-oriented people but to first be principle oriented. Unfortunately, you sometimes hear the remark, "I don't care about theology; I only care if it works." Everything we do is theological! The first question should never be, "Does it work, but rather, "Is it right? The right thing to do is realize that God desires all to worship Him, and because of that truth, we desire for as many others as possible to join us in that worship. We share Christ because of who He is, and there is none other like Him. We are first called to love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind.

Second, followers of Christ are the only ones who have the real answers to why humanity is broken and how it can be fixed.



Larry Barker

Continued on page 2

2024 Emphasis Time

Yes, it is the time set aside by the BMA of Mississippi to receive special offerings for your Publications Department.

Monthly donations and the annual Special Emphasis Drive are essential to our financial success. Together they make up a large part of our operating revenue.

We urge all of our churches and readers to make a special effort in January of each year to help us reach our goal. This year we need to raise \$10,000!

With your help - that is you as a reader along with your local church - we can reach our goal.

Will you give a personal offering and encourage your church to give also?

God bless you and your church in 2024 as you work in His Kingdom!



Don Brown
Editor

Mississippi Baptist

Special Emphasis January 2024

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

Our Need – \$10,000

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

Trustees

Adam Sloan - Rayburn Freeman
Danny Bartlett - Pat Davis
Corbey Jones - Joseph Bain

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

USPS 353-960

P.O. Box 8181
Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000
Phone 601-426-3293

Price

\$20.00 Per Year by Mail
\$15.00 Per Year by Email
Church Plan - \$ 1.50 Per Month per Family

Published monthly by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, MS 39402

Postmaster

Send address changes to Mississippi Baptist Paper P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441

Apology Due Southeastern College

I must take this time to issue an apology to Dr. Scott Carson and the faculty and staff of Southeastern Baptist College.

Due to a software malfunction with our publishing program while working on our December issue, I had to restart the layout process. To do this I began a new copy of my work and copied over those items that had been completed. Frustration had certainly set in and in the process I failed to include the completed article from the college.

I was unaware of the omission in the new copy. I did remember completing the article and 'knew' it was included. I received a call and was asked why it was not included and was shocked to find that I had not brought it forward to the new copy.

I did send it out to a few of our readers, but that did not make up for the fact that the college had included information that would have been needed by donors before the end of the year.

We will certainly be more aware of this type of issue in the future. We truly regret our error.

Motives

from page 1

Mankind has figured out many things through reasoning and science, but no one has ever figured out how to fix their relationship with God. Salvation is His plan on His terms. What a child of God has to offer to the world, no one else has to offer. We need to know what we believe and why we believe it, because Christianity is being asked the hard questions. Theology is important because we must make sure our language is precise, clear, and biblical. Do you know how to show someone how to be born again? If you don't, learn!

Third, our motivation for evangelism is a concern for those who are lost. The New Testament term "lost" is not a derogatory one. It actually denotes how valuable "lost" people are to God and the effort He gives, and we should give to find them. Just check out Luke 15! What is it about us that has so little concern for our neighbors and acquaintances who do not know Christ? It appears that many find it far easier to go on a mission trip and witness there than to witness to the people they know. Personal evangelism is not only theologically sound but also the most effective way to reach "lost" people. Evangelism is important because it is important to God.

Quoting from Alvin Reid's book, again he says, "The Western church has too often seen Christianity as a means to personal fulfillment, a way to find your best life now. Many believers demonstrate a lack of passion for the gospel stemming from a consumer ethic. After all, sharing Christ will bring

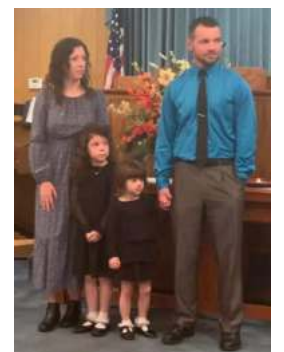
rejection. The gospel, no matter how winsomely you share it, will be a stumbling block to some and scandalous to others (see 1 Corinthians 1:23). So if you or I are driven by a Christianity that is fundamentally about our happiness, we will hardly be motivated to be rejected, which will happen if we share Christ faithfully."

Why should we be motivated to evangelize? Francis Schaeffer said it well when asked about how to answer all the critics, skeptics, doubters, and false teachers, "We don't do it to win, we do it because our risen Savior commanded us!" Change occurs not by being told what we need to do for God but by hearing the good news about what God has done for us. Gospel change is the Spirit of God using the story of God to make the beauty of God come alive in our hearts. The focus is on believing and not behaving, so we need to share with others what it means to repent and believe.

If you are still unsure where to start, allow me to suggest taking a look at the *Good Soil* training materials we utilize with our missionaries, church planters, and several churches. Email us at larry@bmaam.com, heidi@bmaam.com, or eli@bmaam.com for more information. Zacchaeus was not transformed by a command of Jesus but by an encounter and experience with Jesus. How will you maximize kingdom leverage in the lives of those God has placed in your circle of influence? Are you intentionally focused on using your gifts, time, and opportunities to bless others with the knowledge and love of God?

Church Welcomes New Pastor

Forked Oak Church in Booneville is pleased to welcome their new pastor, Bro. Cale George and his family. The George's live in Golden, Mississippi. Bro. Cale and his wife Clarie have two daughters, Carolesa, and Calla. Forked Oak Baptist Church would like to invite you to their church if you are in the Booneville area.



Bro. Cale and family

Dr. D. N. Jackson's Daughter passes away

Ermagene Jackson Sullivan, 96, of San Dimas, California, passed away on October 17, 2023. She was the wife of the late BMA Pastor Dr. S.T. Sullivan and daughter of the late Dr. D.N. Jackson. Dr. Sullivan pastored numerous churches through the years, including Jefferson Heights and Crestview, both in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; First in Jacksonville, Texas; and Calvary Baptist Church in Lavern, California.



Ermagene Sullivan

Mrs. Sullivan used her musical talents to serve in her local church and trained to be a concert pianist in college. She served as president of the National Women's Missionary Auxiliary (WMA) for two years (1967-1969) and wrote *Mama Said*, a study course book, during her work with the WMA. She served alongside her husband as a faithful pastor's wife for 48 years. A graveside service was held at Resthaven Memorial Park in Jacksonville, Texas on November 11.

Dr. D.N. Jackson pastored Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel, Mississippi in the 1940s and was the founding president of Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel.

SOUTHEASTERN GOSPEL FEST

PRESENTED BY

Southeastern Baptist College

APRIL 19th & 20th, 2024

FRIDAY, APRIL 19TH CONCERT STARTS AT 6 PM | DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH CONCERT STARTS AT 5 PM | DOORS OPEN AT 4 PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR | \$25 NIGHTLY

YOU CAN ALSO PURCHASE TICKETS ON THE WEBSITE

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
607 WEST 5TH STREET
LAUREL, MS 39440

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
601-426-6346
WWW.SOUTHEASTERNBAPTIST.EDU



Anders Lee

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR

I don't know about you, but I love a New Year calendar! I love to think about all the possibilities and start praying and planning for everything in our personal lives and in ministry. There is indeed much to do for the Lord in this New Year! Paul said to the Ephesians to "redeem the time, because the days are evil." I'm a firm believer in making our time and efforts count for the kingdom! So, let's get to planning!!! What's on the calendar for the

Youth Department? If you haven't heard, we have TWO camps planned this year!

First, **Kids Camp**, for kids coming out of 1st grade - 5th grade, will be held at Waukaway Springs Christian Retreat Center in Vossburg, MS from June 10-13, 2024! Make plans and register now for this great experience for your kids. Our camp speaker is Brody McCool, Youth Pastor of First Baptist, Bay Springs. Maverick Hendricks, from Bethel Baptist in Fulton, Mississippi, will be our worship leader.

Since this will be the first camp for this age group since 2019, we will use the theme "A NEW BEGINNING" with them as we did the teen camp this year.

Registration is open now and the deadline is **February 1, 2024**. A 35% of balance fee is due no later than February 1, 2024. This is a requirement of Waukaway Springs. Your group payment will be credited to your overall balance. The camp will maxed out at 200 campers. Registration is on a first come first served basis. So book now and book early!!! If you have any questions, please contact me!

Second, **TEEN CAMP** is once again at the beautiful **Lake Tiak O'Khata**. The dates are booked for **July 8-11, 2024!** Our speaker is Jacob Gunerich who is the pastor at First Baptist Church in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas. He did an outstanding job last year and he will be back to preach the Word of God to all our teens! Max Sullivan and the band will also be back! They were such an incredible blessing this past year and you will love them all over again! Our theme this year will be "NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD!"

Go to our website www.bmamsyouth.org for all information! You can register for either camp on this website! If you have any questions, please contact me and I will be glad to help! Hit me up at 901-33-3293 or email me at Anders.Lee571@gmail.com.

COMMUNICATION

Be sure to follow us on our Facebook page for on going news. Also, we have a texting service through which you can receive information from the department. If you would like to get texts from us, please contact me so we can add you to the system!

RENEW

At the writing of this article (December 18, 2023), RENEW has not yet taken place! Look for photos and information that happens at the conference on our Facebook page. It should already be posted!

From our house to yours! **Happy New Year!** We love you all!!!

Reports from BMA National Work

BMA Seminary 2023 Recap

by Philip Attebery, Vice-President/Dean

The Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary continues to be blessed as it provides accredited theological education to those interested in developing skills needed for leadership roles within varied Christian ministry contexts. In 2023, BMA Seminary completed its 66th year of operation.

Students from more than 15 of the United States and 18 foreign countries took courses during the 2023 academic year. Nineteen students graduated in May 2023 with either an Associate of Divinity, Bachelor of Arts in Religion, Master of Arts (Religion), Master of Arts (Pastoral Theology), Master of Arts in Church Ministries, or Master of Divinity degree. Graduates included students from Arkansas, Illinois, Mississippi, Oklahoma,

Tennessee, and Texas. Graduates also came from Cape Verde, China, the Philippines, and South Korea.

Several new projects began in 2023. First, Leadership Jacksonville sponsored and completed a project to renovate the seminary's playground. Second, the Seminary introduced two programs of study in disciple making that are especially favorable for laypersons: the Master of Arts in Disciple Making degree and the Certificate in Disciple Making. Third, the seminary began a capital campaign that will continue through 2024 with plans to provide much needed renovation to student housing and the seminary's main parking areas.

Those interested in developing skills and strategy essential for disciple making are encouraged to contact the seminary dean's office for more information on how to enroll in Spring 2024 classes. Those interested in helping

to improve the seminary's campus are encouraged to contact the seminary president's office.

Also, BMA administrators and faculty visited countries in Africa, Central America, and South America to provide advanced religious studies for various Bible institutes. Visits to Africa will continue in 2024 for the purpose of equipping local pastors associated with BMA mission work. Financial support for this ministry is also appreciated.

BMA Seminary provides accredited theological education to qualified individuals by seeking to equip them for Christian service and leadership roles. The seminary supports the educational needs of the Baptist Missionary Association of America and other groups who share a like commitment to the authority of Scripture by offering certificates, associate, bachelor, and masters' degrees.

2023 Ministry Report



Baptist Publishing House

Dear friends, I want to personally express my gratitude for your faithful prayers and support over the past year. This year has been full of ministry and service to local churches all over the globe. I would like to share an encouraging report with you concerning the ministry work completed in 2023.

Here is the 2023 ministry report for Baptist Publishing House:

We have printed thousands of Gospel tracts and built a Gospel website. Our tracts present the Gospel message clearly and biblically. They also connect people to our new evangelism website (knowthegospel.net). On this website, the Gospel is more fully explained, new believers can download a Bible study to help them grow, and they can

get connected to a BMA church in their area. BMA Global (Missions) will help connect new believers to a BMA churches in their area.

Our new children's curriculum, DiscipleKidz, has been very well received. Churches all across the US and world are using DiscipleKidz to teach their children about the Bible and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Book 1, which covers the Old Testament, was released this past March. Book 2, which covers the Gospels and Acts, is currently being written, and is scheduled to release in spring 2024. We are excited to see how this new children's curriculum is helping churches minister to children. You can visit disciplekidz.com to learn more and download a free sample pack!

We have continued to support missionaries and church planters all over the world. Whether it is sending free curriculum or purchasing a printer and supplies, we stand behind BMA missionaries and church planters as they work to fulfill Christ's Great Commission. We have begun selling DiscipleWay Materials. DiscipleWay is one of the most thorough and effective disciple-making resources available. This study course consists of seven small studies which cover different spiritual disciplines (Bible Study, Prayer, Worship, Giving, Witnessing, Serving, and Leading). This curriculum is perfect for developing new

leaders and helping believers mature in their relationship with the Lord and grow in knowledge of the Bible.

We have provided churches with a verse-by-verse study over the book of Judges, completed our study through the book of Genesis, and began a three-part study on the Gospel of Mark.

We provided Bible study and teaching workshops in Mexico, Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Louisiana.

Here is what is coming in 2024!

DiscipleKidz Book 2 will be released in the spring. This book will provide 52 Bible lessons on the Gospels and Acts.

We will print Sunday School studies on Mark 5-9, 1 Corinthians 12-14 (about spiritual gifts, Mark 10-16, and begin a study through the book of Exodus (tentative). Reprinting J.E. Cobb's "Brief Studies in Christian Doctrines," Dr. Joe Pendleton's "The Joy of Bible Study," and printing a book about Baptist churches and associations adapted from D.N. Jackson's writings.

Please continue to pray for us as we enter a new year. If I can help you or pray for you in any way, please reply to this e-mail and I will be happy to serve you to the best of my abilities. God bless you and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE

Serving Christ With A Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440 - 601.426.6346

A Report from Vice-president Bob Burch

What a fast and wonderful year at Southeastern Baptist College! We finished the year with four young people completing their Bachelor and/or Associate degrees. We had five make a profession of faith during chapel services, plus we enjoyed many people coming to visit chapel, and enjoyed great speakers. We had hope and faith shared throughout the offices and classrooms, with our staff and students. We had many churches that brought to our campus Christmas shoeboxes that we in turn delivered to our National BMA Office in Conway, Arkansas, for overseas mission work. We wish to thank all the volunteers that helped during this semester. We had churches, brothers and sisters, and even Moms who gave us *motherly advice*. So, we hope that all had a great semester and a Merry Christmas.

Sports Program

Sports are very much alive at SBC! The Chargers basketball team has been giving their all. Baseball is just around the corner, and we are expecting a good season as well with our baseball team. Mike Milligan has been hired

to be our girls' basketball coach. Chase Jones will be our new girls' softball coach. We are actively searching for a girls' volleyball coach, and a golf coach. Come and support our Chargers as we move forward in the sports' arenas.

Academics

Southeastern Baptist College will always strive to create a learning environment that will challenge our students to excel in their field of study, as they learn about our Lord Jesus Christ. We have classrooms that we believe are more than adequate for learning and studying, but most of all, we try to keep our class sizes small so our teachers and students can build an educational relationship. Our goal is to meet the needs of our students spiritually and academically. We are preparing future leaders for our churches, mission fields, and workforce. Along with our business degree in marketing, and our business media and communication degree, we are now offering classes in airport management, and agribusiness as well.



Dr. Scott Carson
President

In the music department, we hired David Hook to teach music and once again establish ensemble and choir. These are great add-ons to our programs already in place that will enhance business environment and the area farming industries. The Bible is and will always be the main study at our college. We also have many online opportunities, for those who find it more favorable for their particular situation.

In my closing thoughts, please pray for us as we look for the Lord to lead, seek the Lord's guidance and purpose for our very own local BMA institution. We look forward to serving our churches, students, and staff. Come grow with us in this new year as we seek God's blessings.

Two things to note

There have been changes made to the Gospel Fest in April. Thursday night of the three-day event has been cancelled. More updates to come.

The college had a very good audit report. This was one of the best audits in the history of the college.

Students & Activities



Ice Cream Social with Dr. Burch and Dr. Olson



Students who helped with the 75th Anniversary Gala

From the 2023 Annual Meeting

Trustees Recognized for Service



Above - SBC recognized outgoing trustees Arthur Broadhead (left) and Dwight Sigley (center) for their service. Also picture are Board President Glen Pace (back) and SBC President Dr. Scott Carson (right)



Student Johnny Sims
with Admissions Officer
Ginny Singleton

Fall 2023 Honor Roll

President's List (4.0)

Daniel Allen, Biloxi, MS
Kendan Allen, Stonewell, MS
Sherita Babineaux, Laurel, MS
C. Donald Brown, McLain, MS
Conner Hicks, Laurel, MS
Charles Krabbe, D'Iberville, MS
Jacob Long, Hattiesburg, MS
Ashton Peters, Beaumont, MS
Rachel Revette, Morton, MS
Patrick Rivers, Marrero, LA
Mark Schmidt, Clinton, LA
Katt Ulmer, Laurel, MS

Dean's List (3.5 – 3.9)

Mason Bonono, Metairie, LA
Garrison Breedlove, Philadelphia, MS
Herb Collins, Lake Charles, LA
Armand Daigre, Addis, LA
Laiken Davis, Natchez, MS
Cole Eckhoff, Crystal Springs, MS
Cody Farr, Houston, MS
Hayden Fontana, Houma, LA
Anfrenee Hardy, Laurel, MS
Rox Horton, Conway, AR
Georgia Jones, Laurel, MS
Emma Jones, Louin, MS
Parker Jones, Laurel, MS
William LaRocca, Morgan City, LA
Gage Lewis, Philadelphia, MS
Mason McCraw, Enterprise, MS
Braylon McMillian, Conehatta, MS
Jonathan Nicholson, Richton, MS
Keanan Peoples, Collinsville, MS
Caleb Polk, Houma, LA
Damon Putnam, Purvis, MS
Tyrone Rogers, Laurel, MS
Ethan Russell, Hickory, MS
Weston Wales, Clinton, LA
Michael White, Shreveport, LA

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION MISSIONS OF MISSISSIPPI

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440
Phone: 601-428-8616 Email: missions@bmams.org
Chris Yager, Director

Happy New Year!

2024! It is incredible to think that we are beginning the year 2024! Maybe my age is catching up to me, but I remember thinking how cool it was to start a new millennium in 2000. Now, here we are in the blink of an eye only one year away from the first quarter of the first century in the new millennia being over. Time does seem to fly!

In that thought, it is crazy to think that it has been over a year that I have been blessed to serve this wonderful association of

churches as your Missions and RLF Director. Though this year has flown by as well, I praise the Lord for all that He has accomplished in 2023. Through God's grace and your prayers, the office staff and I have been able to learn so much.

Going into this new year, we feel much more confident in our positions and responsibilities. We



Chris Yager

feel a firmer grasp on the nuances of the Revolving Loan Fund and the mission side of the office. Through the transition, God still allowed the mission endeavors to increase, the Revolving Loan Fund to stabilize and grow, and a fresh vision to be introduced to our association of churches. Praise the Lord for His goodness to us! I am excited for what God has for us in the year to come!

2024 Vision Plan

Even though I have already shared these things with you, I would covet your prayers as we set forth an ambitious vision for this new year. In 2024, I am praying that the Lord will bless our two additional church plants (one new and one reclaimed). This year, we are blessed to bring back into our state missions work the Salt Light Mission in Waveland, now under the leadership of Bro. Doyle Moore. He is doing a phenomenal job, and we are looking forward to those who will be saved, discipled, and added to this mission this year.

Please pray that the Lord would raise up an assistant to help Bro. Moore in this Mission. Likewise, we are anticipating Bro. Oscar from Guatemala to be arriving here in Mississippi to begin a new Hispanic church plant on the coast. Please pray for all the hoops that we must jump through to get him here.

In 2024, we will continue to work with our other church plants in Bukatunna, the Kiln, Meridian, as well as our Hispanic works across the state. As you have been able to read in their updates, God is doing a miraculous work in every one of the missions. With God's grace and your prayers, I am confident that the Lord will continue to bring these missions to the goal of organization shortly.

Other Vision goals that have been laid out for you to continue to pray about this year are new ministries of Church Revitalization and our training ministry: Timothy Ministries. We are praying that we will be able to launch and establish these

ministries effectively this year. Please pray for the churches that will be a part of our revitalization ministry this year, and please be in prayer for the young men that we will be recruiting to participate in the Timothy ministry training. Neither of these ministries will be successful without the mighty hand of God establishing them. We need your prayers for wisdom and discernment as we begin.

Our Revolving Loan fund vision is loaded as well. Please pray that God will bless this fund to be able to grow to 30 million. We have at least 3 Mississippi churches that are in desperate need of loans to be able to grow their ministries. To accomplish this, we need to increase the RLF from around 25 million to 30 million, and your investment is vital! Please don't hesitate to call the office and ask about the 5% rate lock for 9 months. Come invest in your Revolving Loan Fund and Invest in Eternity!

Salt Light Baptist Mission

Waveland, MS
by Doyle Moore, Missionary

Thanks to the BMA of Mississippi for giving us the opportunity to serve God and the folks of Salt Light Baptist Mission, Waveland, as their missionary. After serving as a BMAA Missionary for 41 years based in the Philippines, we felt our missionary days were over. But God had a different plan.

God has given our ministry here at Salt Light several additions since we formally accepted the position as Missionaries. We have added 5 adults by letter and statement and 2 adults by baptism. The couple who became believers, were married, and submitted to baptism because of home Bible studies. We are praying for more opportunities for home Bible studies with other people in the community. If you have friends or relatives in this area, please let them know about this ministry and let us know so we might visit them.

Times are different!! Especially from 45 plus years ago when I last pastored in the States. We do regularly knock on doors in our community but have yet to see even one of them visit our Mission. However, we have had several people just walk in to one of our services. Almost half of them have stayed.

We were blessed this Christmas season to have the BMA Children's Home in our services. Brother Lindsey, his wife, and their children joined us for our Christmas services and our youth lunch fellowship. Our people have fallen in love with the Home and are excited to help them. What a blessing!

We are favored with members who have had church experience and are serving well in positions of responsibility. They have helped us organize a WMA and Brotherhood ministry. But we are also

thankful to have young couples with small children who are relatively new to church work, but enthusiastic. We have a good balance of workers.

Please pray for our ministry that God would continue to give us opportunities to reach new people with the gospel and those who have slipped away from God and his Church. Pray for Linda and me as we adjust

to new ways of ministry and reaching people. Also please pray for our health, for us to continue to be strong enough to do the work God has called us to do.

We are excited to deputize again among BMA Churches as we once did over 45 plus years ago, having a responsibility to raise support for us as we minister in Waveland. We would like to visit as many local associations as we can, to give you all an update on the Lord's work here. We

have Sunday evenings and Wednesday evenings available to visit churches. Just contact us at 601-347-8602 or 601-590-1196. We do accept texts and will respond if



Bro. Doyle Moore with Bro. & Mrs. Lindsey

Salt Light Mission Activities Baptism, Kids, Specials



Estuardo Mattoquin, Hispanic Coordinator

The year 2023 has been one of many blessings in Hispanic missions. We have seen the hand of God at work in every Hispanic field and through Him the goals that each church established for the purpose of continuing to carry the gospel of salvation in Jesus have been achieved. Each mission field has been strengthened, and many people have been added to each church and mission.

In 2023, Hispanic missions were able to present the gospel to more than 150 people throughout the state of Mississippi, 50 people received Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, and 20 were baptized. God is good! In early December, the Hispanic association Nueva Esperanza (New Hope) held its quarterly meeting at El Camino Church in Laurel. We had a good time of fellowship and planning for the new year 2024. As a Hispanic association, each Hispanic church continues to be encouraged to collaborate and support missions at the local, state, and national levels.

We ask for your prayers that these efforts will bear much fruit in the work of partnership. I thank you for your prayers and support for Hispanic missions and on behalf of my family we wish you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year 2024.



Mission Reports Continued on Page 6



Missions

continued from page 5

Canaan Land Mission Buckatunna, Mississippi Scott Brocius

Happy New Year! I pray all of you had a blessed Christmas! The mission church had a wonderful December. We held our first

Youth Christmas program and our first Walk-Thru "Life of Jesus" display. Both were such a blessing. Our youth leaders worked very diligently to make everything look realistic. We had a great turnout at both events, and we are



Scott Brocius

planning on having it again this year!

We continue to have several visitors, and we are so thankful! Please continue to pray for our mission church.

We are looking forward to what the Lord has planned for us this new year. If you are ever in the Buckatunna area, please stop by and visit.

As always, thank you for your support and prayers.

Holiday Outreach Living Hope Baptist Mission Update by Samuel Yager

For both Thanksgiving and Christmas this year, our focus has been reaching out into our community. This being a

continuation of our theme for the year to Lift Our Eyes and use every opportunity to point people to Jesus.

For Thanksgiving, we partnered with two local food banks, Feed by Faith and the Wesley House, in giving out Thanksgiving dinners to our community. In addition, we spent a day painting Feed by Faith's facilities.

For Christmas, we were able to put together 12 Christmas Hope boxes for the Center for Pregnancy Choices to pass out to the single mothers they help. We are also gathering cold weather supplies to deliver to Marion Park, a second chance school in downtown Meridian.

These outreach opportunities have allowed us to meet many



Sam Yager

more people in our city and to serve both our community and our Savior. For, Matthew 25:40 says, "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Please pray with us that in ministering to the physical needs of others, we would have opportunity to minister to them spiritually as well!

BLESSED IN THE KILN Bro. Josh Daniels Refuge Baptist Mission

Greetings to the churches and associations of the BMA of Mississippi! We are happy to report that Refuge Baptist Mission has ended the year on some great notes and highlights. 2023 has been an amazing year in the life of this mission. We were able to complete our physical building, baptize over 30, and meet many people in our community and share Jesus with most that we were in contact with.

Only God can know the impact that He has made through the obedience, faithfulness, and service of the people of Refuge and the many supporters we have. As we step into 2024 we have a full year ahead of working toward organization. Please pray for us, continue to support, and maybe even

consider supporting us as we push through some of the final phases of mission status into a church status. We have had a few doors open of better discipleship processes, new ministry opportunities, and prayerfully many more to share the gospel with. We thank you for all each of you have done to help us get to this point. May God bless you richly and see you through this new year!



Josh Daniels

Senior Adult Ministry

8 Reagan Lake Road, Laurel, MS 39443 - 601-426-3293

2024 Looking Good!

As we begin the new year your Senior Adult Commission is looking forward to our 2024 meetings. The South Conference is only 3 short months away! Please note the ad on this page and you will see the basic information about this meeting. Former Missionary to Mexico and current Missionary Trainer Buddy Johnson will be our speaker, Brandon Wilson will again lead



Don Brown
Director

our music, and we have a special group, 'New Ground', for our afternoon concert. There will be good food, door prizes, special recognition, and lots of fun. We will worship the Lord and praise Him for being our God and Savior and for all His abundant blessings. As Jerry Clower use to say, "God Is Good!"

I hope you will do your best to be at Big Creek Church in March. I also want you to encourage all your friends and senior adults in your church to come. One more thing that would be a real blessing to your church's seniors is for the church to pay the registration fees. It will again be \$20.00 per person

- I know our senior adults are worth helping with this expense.

Prime Timers With A Purpose has been our theme for the past couple of years and we need to make sure we as a group of believers live up to the purpose our God has for each of us. This past year we encouraged each senior adult to adopt a 'personal project' for personal service. Have you done this yet? If not, let 2024 be the year you start!

Let us worship, serve, and praise our Savior. May God grant you each a blessed 2024 and let us make our plans now to attend the South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference at Big Creek Baptist Church on March 5th.

North Conference

Our North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference will again meet with Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton on May 14, 2024. We have a great program planned and will share more about it soon. For those of you in North Mississippi, make your plans now to attend this meeting. It will be Great!

Support

We have asked each of our churches to put this Commission in their regular monthly budgets. It is so important for us to be able to have enough monthly income to operate responsibly. If your church would put this Commission in the monthly budget for a minimum of \$25.00 per month it would be a great benefit. If all our churches did this, we would be able to meet all of our obligations and do a better work for our senior adults. Talk to your pastor, treasurer, and others and try to make this a reality. God bless you as you give to His work.

MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Director

Mistakes John 20:24-28

The man who made the highest profession of faith in the Bible is mainly remembered as "Doubting Thomas". He was a doubter to be sure, but he defeated his doubts. His faith won out!

Why is it that most people are so quick to overlook the good things about a man, but recall in vivid, Technicolor detail his mistakes? Shakespeare had Marc Antony to say "The evil that men do lives after them; the good is often interred with their bones." How we all have made Technicolor mistakes! Let's look at these pictures:



Dr. John Adams

God would say to us, through the experience of Thomas, that doubts can be overcome, that faith, when assailed, can win; that it is possible for the same man who said "I will not believe" (vs. 25) to come to the point of saying "My Lord and my God!"

Thomas - a daring realist - John 11:7-16

Lazarus was critically ill and died. Christ had narrowly escaped mobs who demanded his death by stoning. Now Jesus was to return to Judea and the disciples spoke of fear for his life. Thomas said, "Let us also go!" He showed himself to be an unswerving loyalist. He had made his decision to follow Jesus.

Another picture:

Thomas - absolutely honest - John 14:4-5

We find Jesus giving his friends those wonderful instructions in chapters 13-17. The impulsive, honest voice of Thomas rings out in chapter 14. They did not know the destination, so how could they know the way. If Thomas had not asked the question, we may never have had these clarifying and comforting words of Jesus.

Next picture:

Thomas - absent from his place.

Everything has changed now. The shadow of the cross had ceased to be a shadow. Jesus was dead and in the grave. By that death, the disciples had been scattered. But by the news of the resurrection, they had been regathered.

We do criticize him for being absent from the meeting, but we look carefully and absolutely honest, for Thomas declined to profess a faith he did not have. He was an honest doubter. He was not playing mental gymnastics; he was a serious seeker of the truth. He was more than doubting Thomas, he was Seeking Thomas. This man wanted to know.

We admire Thomas for he was with the believers the next Sunday evening and there he cried out "My Lord and my God!"

Another picture:

Thomas - present with the saints.

He missed the first blessing because he was not with the saints, but received certainty in his own faith because he was present with them the second time. When Thomas was alone, he was doubly alone. Nowhere is one more likely to find Christ than in the company of those who love Christ.

You don't have to doubt!

South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference

March 5, 2024



Guest Speaker
Buddy Johnson



Worship Leader
Brandon Wilson



Special Concert
New Ground

Great Fellowship - Music - Food - Prizes - Surprises
and a Wonderful Day of Worship

Big Creek Baptist Church - Soso, Mississippi



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

The Best Is Yet to Be

As 2023 comes to a close, I'm looking back at the blessings of the year many of you experienced with me: the birth of babies, the marriage of special friends/family, the salvation of lost souls, and unexpected gifts. Many of you, too, experienced the loss of friends and family, illnesses, and complications in general. But God has a way of filling us with joy despite our circumstances because we are



Carolyn Hagler

the many we've shared! When I reminded her, "I've never experienced life without you," she replied that she has loved me most of the time!

Another thing we share is the love of our family, especially for our great, great nieces and nephews. She started honoring them a few years ago with a donation to help people who are hurting and in need. Only this year did we realize how much they



remembered and enjoyed it. She wanted them to select their own gifts this year; with catalog in hand, I gave them a choice. After much looking and debating, both sets of siblings chose to give a dairy goat and some chickens. What fun to watch and listen to them. They're learning what the Word teaches us: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

Another special blessing this year was attending and singing along at Gerald Wolfe's Carols of Christmas Hymn Sing. Something spectacular happened that night when a church full of gospel singers and believers sang of the birth of the Savior. If people walked away without being blessed, the late Glen Payne of the Cathedrals would have told them, "Your blesser ain't never been blessed." The plan of salvation was clearly presented, and I know God touched hearts that night.

himself in an high and holy state enjoying the fellowship of God. But because of his sin he fell into a sinful, depraved state, separated from God. But because of God's great love for the world, He fixed a way that man could experience a change that would give him peace with God and everlasting life in Jesus (John 3:16).

Because of this fall in Adam, man finds himself Spiritually dead (Romans 5:12). He therefore needs the everlasting life that comes when one receives Jesus-- "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1 John 5:12). He also finds himself in Satan's family (1 John 3:10). He therefore needs to be born again-- "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). He is living in the region of darkness and therefore needs to be moved to the region of light--"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:" (Ephesians 5:8) He also is experiencing bondage (Hebrews 2:15). He therefore needs to be set free--"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you

Facing the start of a new year reminds me of past celebrations when I gathered with my family to eat Mother's traditional meal of black-eyed peas with hog jowl (or at least some type of pork), cabbage, and cornbread. We always watched some college football games even though we had only four bowl games to choose from--can you name them? Today, with 43 bowl games sponsored by various businesses and ending with the College Football Playoff, it's just not the same. Do you feel as I do that 1 Timothy 6:10 is applicable to sports today?

As people start predicting which team will win which bowl and which team will

After much looking and debating, both sets of siblings chose to give a dairy goat and some chickens. What fun to watch and listen to them. They're learning what the Word teaches us: "It is more blessed to give than to receive"

be the overall champion, it reminds me of all the predictions by psychics, such as Jeane Dixon, Edgar Cayce, and others. They would predict the future of things such as presidential elections, assassinations, etc., and once in a while, they got it right.

As I look forward to 2024, I'm predicting we'll see the following:

1. We will all face some challenges in the New Year, such as health, finance, family, or in some other area.
2. God will bless us every day.
3. The sun will rise and set every day.
4. We will experience change this year.
5. We will see evidence of God's promises revealed.

What do you think? Of course, my predictions are based upon God's Word. If you want to check my accuracy, check your Bible, and see if you can find the verses on which I based my predictions. I get amused by so many people who believe the psychics of the world but don't believe the Bible with its 100 percent accuracy rate in prophecy, even for those future ones.

As I wait for 2023 to turn into 2024, I'm reminded that the Hope of Christmas leads us to the promises of Easter. While the world loves the Christ Child of Christmas, it hates and/or ignores the Christ of the

Cross. Yet without the Cross and the Resurrection, our faith is in vain, and we would not have these precious promises:

1. God loves us.
2. We are free and forgiven by Jesus' death.
3. Jesus defeated death so we don't have to fear it.
4. We have God's spirit inside us.
5. God has a greater purpose for our lives.
6. Jesus is coming back for us.
7. We have the assurance of eternal life.

Am I making New Year's Resolutions this year? One thing I've learned over the

years is that resolutions don't last very long. Instead, I choose to be grateful for the opportunity to be the person God designed me to be. I choose to ask Him to help me to be totally surrendered so that the fruit of the spirit (love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance) will be evident in my life. And when I fail, which I do regularly, I'm thankful for His grace and mercy.

2024 is a leap year, with February 29 the leap day, which was created in 45 BC by Julius Caesar to balance the inconsistencies in our calendar. But leap year or not, this year may be the year He comes back for us as He promised, or we may go and be with Him. Either way, I'm looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing (Titus 2:13). I can assure you that in His grip, "The best is yet to be...Our times are in His hand" (Robert Browning); and "the very best is yet to be" (Corrie ten Boom).

Happy New Year and Happy Leap Year!



Needing A Change

by Bro. Grover Laird, December 2000

"God shall hear, and afflict them, even he that abideth of old. Selah. Because they have no changes, therefore they fear not God." (Psalms 55:19)

Our text speaks of people who fear not God because they have not experienced some needed changes. One of those changes is an inward change that comes in conversion. Also, many of God's people are needing a change in their present way of living. All of God's children will experience a change of their body when this life is over. Consider with me these three needed changes.

When man was created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26), man found



Grover Laird

free." (John 8:32) He is suffering Spiritual blindness, and he needs to be able to see--"To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." (Acts 26:18)

All mankind is lost in sin until he experiences a change. And only by receiving Christ as his Savior can this change take place--"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;" (Titus 3:5)

Though we experience an inward change when we receive Jesus as our Savior, we continue to live in a depraved, sinful body. Many therefore neglect the things that aid Christians in living right, and therefore backslid. These need to make an outward change. Jeremiah called upon Israel to make this change--"Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the LORD, and I will not keep anger for ever." (Jeremiah 3:12) Many of

God's people need to hear this call of God and come back to their first love (Revelation 2:4). They need to change.

There is a third change that all of God's children will make one day. It will take place on that wonderful day when Jesus returns to earth for His people. Notice two verses that tells us about it--"Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." (1 Corinthians 15:52)

After battling with sin and experiencing physical and mental pain all of our earthly life, we should be ready for that wonderful change. Death still has its sting, but a new body like Jesus sounds good-- "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." (1 John 3:2)

But there is a great danger here. Some have never invited Jesus into their heart as their Savior. These therefore, will never experience this third change that assures one of eternal peace and happiness.

Women's Missionary Auxiliary

WMAofMS20@gmail.com
President Dawn Freeman
cdfreeman7327@gmail.com
601-325-7226

Treasurer Mrs. Theresa Reus
1264 Dean Nursery Rd.,
Lucedale, Mississippi 39452



Dawn Freeman
President

State WMA Project *Just the Crumbs-* **Disaster Relief Ministry** by Marilyn Welborn

Just the Crumbs partners with local community leaders and various disaster relief organizations to provide nutritious meals for volunteers actively responding to the affected area.

They offer critical supplies, such as construction materials, cleaning, and hygiene products so families have the ability to restore their homes, sanitize their belongings and take care of themselves.

There are many ways to become involved:

-By sharing the gospel - Share the hope of Christ with the saints and the suffers when deployed with them through the word or your presence.

-Volunteering with them - Volunteers can stay in touch and join trips when possible. It is understood that a person cannot make each trip, but they need people on their roster who can rotate in as needed.

-By supporting the work financially - All the work is supported through private donations. They incur many costs during deployment. Every single dollar is appreciated and valued.

This is where our ladies' ministry comes in! This is our state project, obviously an important one. Our state WMA President, Dawn Freeman, has set a goal of \$40,000.

Just the Crumbs has cooked over 450,000 meals, provided supplies plus materials for 200 homes and churches and proclaimed the gospel in seven states and many cities. They support eight families financially and encourage and spiritually support countless people.

The ministry states, "Jesus is the bread of life, we are just the crumbs..." Set a goal for your church and let's work together. While we are raising funds for Just the Crumbs, remember to pray for them. They have recently been deployed to Clarksville, Tennessee in the area devastated by tornadoes. They need our prayers and financial support.

Funds for our state project can be sent to:

Theresa Reus, 1264 Dean Nursery Rd., Lucedale, MS 39452



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Dwight Lindsey

118 Lowe Road, Laurel, Mississippi 39443 - (601) 426-3928
Dwight Lindsey - Director

Thank you! Again and again I say thank you. The goodness of donors and fellow believers make the Christmas season a joyous time here at the Children's Home. Gifts and Christmas gatherings with churches show our kids the loving heart of God's people. Smiles are always big and plentiful this time of year because of your goodness.

As believers we know the Christmas season is not just about parties and gift giving. This time is about the celebration of the greatest gift of all given to the world, Jesus Christ, coming to be Immanuel with His creation. This greatest gift comes from the Father and ties us to Him as it says in James 1:17-18, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures." When we are warmed by the goodness of your giving and celebrating the joy in the children we are truly celebrating the Spirit of God seen in these good gifts.

The joy of these moments gives way to looking to the renewal of a New Year. We look to the potential growth of the children in the home. Physical growth, intellectual growth, and most importantly Spiritual growth are constantly on the horizon. We also pray for God to show us continued growth in sanctification as we follow Him and lead these children.

Pray with us for the continued and growing support of the Children's Home. Pray for the growth of children, numeric additions, added staff, and growing wisdom for future steps. We would love to come and share what the Lord is doing with your church and share the Gospel of Christ. THANK YOU and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Reach us at:
Info@msbch.org
Office - 601-426-3928
Personal - 662-605-0996

North Mississippi WMA Retreat Set

We are overjoyed to announce that the WMA of Mississippi is hosting a North Mississippi Ladies Retreat. All ladies of our North Mississippi churches are encouraged to come take part, whether you have an established WMA or not.

Matthew 11:28 says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Join us as we learn to Rest in the Lord. I know some of us are not good with resting or being still, but we all need a time of rest and renewal. These two topics are exactly what this retreat is going to teach us. The retreat will be at East Amory Baptist Church on February 17, 2024, starting at 9:30 am through 3:30 pm. Lunch will be provided. The cost will only be \$10 per attendee.

Ladies, start asking your church women to attend with you for this time of refreshing. Mark the date on the calendar, and pray for the speakers, that will be announced soon, and those preparing the day for you. Please contact Gina Harper at 936-668-6133 or skywayhills2@gmail.com to let us know that you are coming and how many you will be bringing as soon as possible.

Rest in the Lord

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28

Please join us!

Event: North MS State WMA Retreat
Place: East Amory Baptist Church
905 Hatley RD, Amory, MS 38821
Date: February 17, 2024
Time: 9:30 am - 3:30pm
For more information, contact:
Gina Harper, 936-668-6133 or skywayhills2@gmail.com

Mississippi GMAs

Lakelan Jenkins, GMA Promoter
P.O. Box 1694, Collins, MS 39428
lakelanflynt@gmail.com - 601-517-1476

GMA President Notes

Hello again! I'm Emily Carroll, the 2023-2024 Mississippi State GMA President and Song Leader. I am beyond excited that camp is coming up in just a couple of months! I just wanted to remind everyone that all churches are welcome! We want everyone to be involved and experience this with us. Your church does not have to have a GMA program, all can attend the retreat.

Also, the age limit is any girl from the fourth grade to the twelfth grade! This year's theme for the camp is Highway to Heaven and our verse is Matthew 7:13-14, which corresponds to the book, *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan. Throughout this year, our officers have been reading this book and we have encouraged our churches to read this along with us. If you haven't started yet, then there is still plenty of time to join in and learn about Christian's journey!

Our project this year will be mainly focused on the Bible Institute in Mexico. The project goal is \$5,000. We decided that seventy-five percent of the project will go towards the Bible Institute with the remaining twenty-five percent into the Mississippi State GMA's general fund.

Each year, we have such an amazing group of girls and we have so much fun together growing in Christ. Throughout this retreat, the girls will have opportunities to listen to messages and devotions and get to know our officers and each other. They will also have time for crafts and games, as well as a fun time at the house party. During missions, the girls will learn about our missions work and how they can help.

While the time is approaching, you can check out our state GMA website, <https://sites.google.com/view/msgma>, where the registration packet will be available to download. I can't wait until I see you all at the retreat on March 15th and 16th!



Special Emphasis January 2024