

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

July 15, 2017

www.msbbaptist.org

Vol. 71 No. 14

SOAR - Ministry for Every Believer

Church vans piled in to the Gaylord Texan Resort the afternoon of July 5 for three days that would change lives forever. Nearly 2,000 students came together for the first session that evening, where Ryan Storey, Jordan Bowen, and McKenna Marlow hyped up the youth and kicked off the conference. Afterward, the keynote speaker, Dustin Wisely, entered the stage to give the students a foreshadowing of the sessions to come: that all followers of Christ are called to ministry, no matter what. The evening was concluded with a worshipful set from We the Union, then students emptied out of the Texas Ballroom and filled the SOAR Village.

Thousands of students roamed the different stations in the Village, which included a bookstore, a café, a “Built to Build” station which helped students discover their natural ministry gifting, a VSM Experi-



ence and Prayer Walk, a blogging center where students shared their hearts, and many other stations from impactful ministries. The Village Stage featured music from Raquel, smooth acoustic tunes Tyler Sellers, and even Youth Pastor Karaoke, through which Dave Vandergriff emerged as victor.

The following sessions walked through Philippians 1 and 2, and Dustin Wisely explained how even though Paul was in prison when he wrote these let-

ters, he was ecstatically joyful in Christ. Why is this? Because God was his true treasure, and his only desire was to make Christ known. Paul had full confidence that God was in complete control, and in life or death his circumstances would work out for his good and Christ’s glory.

Session three brought a panel of people who grew up going to SOAR, and who are now living a life that serves the Lord outside of vocational ministry. The panel

included foster parents, an NFL football player, a businessman involved in training up godly men, and a short-term missionary. All of these people built upon and solidified the calling that all Christians must live a life of ministry, even if they don’t enter vocational ministry.

The final session drove home an essential point for students: faithful Christians should not be the exception. Followers of

C h r i s t should live a life of sacrificial, joyful ministry because they live for some-

thing greater than this world. They have the BEST news: the gospel. Wisely closed out with a challenge for SOAR students: how are you going to live a life of ministry when you leave SOAR? Because, as a follower of Christ, it’s what you’re called to do.

SOAR 2017 had several other

opportunities to learn and grow, including five different SOAR Workshops, which were a smaller, more focused time of discipleship. SOAR Serves included three different mini mission trips, which served communities and BMA church plants in the area, reinforcing the concept of living a selfless lifestyle.

The results left in the wake of SOAR 2017 are salvations, com-

... in the wake of SOAR 2017 are salvations, commitments to ministry, and many lives impacted for Christ

mitments to ministry, and many lives impacted for Christ. DiscipleGuide is excited about the impact from this year, and is looking forward to SOAR 2018, when the theme will be “Local,” challenging students to get involved in their local church.

Lifeword VIs Around the World

Part 4

October 22 is Lifeword Sunday, and church registrations, T-shirt sales, and video production are in full swing. This season of giving to Lifeword has been going on since 1980, but this media ministry’s gospel reach has changed as technology has grown by leaps and bounds in almost four decades. One way Lifeword is using technological advancements is the plan to make Lifeword broadcasts and discipleship materials available to anyone around the world at lifeword.org. The work-

ing title of this new initiative is the “Lifeword Network on the Lifeword Cloud.”

Whether it’s Lifeword Community Radio, traditional broadcasting, or the Lifeword Cloud, without indigenous leaders around the world—our “boots on the ground”—the goal of expanding Lifeword’s footprint could not be realized. In this final article about these global visionary leaders, we will highlight Romanian missionary and Lifeword speaker Bogdan Bilav: **Name: Bogdan Bilav**

Country/Region: Romania
Bio: Bogdan and his wife Daniela have a heart for Eastern Europe’s most despised people group—the gypsies. For seven years, he has supervised the recording and distribution of Lifeword’s Romany-Kalderash broadcast, heard on Friday evenings across a network of Romanian-language Christian radio stations.

Through the years, many listeners have been encouraged and inspired by the broadcast, but now the Bilavs see great poten-



tial for introducing Jesus using Lifeword Community Radio stations to unite the tiny gypsy villages spread across Eastern Europe.

In September, Rick Russell will conduct the first LCR (Lifeword Community Radio)

training as Bogdan begins to develop this vision. He says, “A few young men will form the team that will focus on using internet in sharing good news of salvation to the gypsy people. We want to give them skills that, along with the technology that is available today, will make a great impact on today’s young generation of gypsies.”

To participate in Lifeword Sunday 2017, a day to learn about, pray for and give to Lifeword, go to lifeword.org/lifewordsunday to register your church. Also, look for your Lifeword Sunday packet mailed to every BMA church the first week of August.

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



Larry Geraldson
Director



www.bmams.org - 601.428.8616



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We praise God for His rich blessings upon us as we continue to obey His command to "Go".

The Foundation Baptist Mission

As you know, Bro. Dale Broom has been in and out of the hospital and is now home recovering. He and Celia recently visited the Missions Office and all of the administrative things were accomplished to get things rolling. Our support of the Brooms began on schedule (July 1st) and we anticipate, and are praying for, his soon full recovery. The name of the new mission is "The Foundation Baptist Mission." Good support for the Brooms is coming in from others who previously supported them in Ghana.

Freedom Baptist Mission To Organize

On July 29th, Freedom Baptist Church, under the leadership of Missionary Bobby Elliott, in Burnsville, Mississippi, will organize into a New Testament Church. This will be the third Mission to organize this year.

Grace Baptist Mission Building Project Update

The building project at Grace Baptist Mission in Clinton, Mississippi, is moving along very well. The building is now in the dry and should be completed by



Grace Baptist Mission Building

September. Grace could possibly schedule their organization before or just after the first of the year.

Great Visit at Redemption Baptist Mission

I recently visited with Bro. Wesley Martin and Redemption Baptist Mission in Diamondhead. They



are experiencing an upturn in interest and attendance with high attendance numbers in the middle of the summer. This is an exciting development and a welcome outcome for a devoted missionary.

Hispanic Missions Update

Our Hispanic Missions program is doing great under the leadership of Bro. Estuardo Marroquin. We visit often and talk regularly about each of the Hispanic Mission points. Recently, a decision was made to support Bro. Daniel Palonco at Horn Lake, Mississippi, purely from offerings in the Hispanic Missions Fund. This is a wonderful development as our Hispanic Churches and Missions begin to collectively work together to provide financial support.

New Opportunities On The Horizon

We have other developing Mission fields and I am talking with some prospective missionaries even as I write this report. Please continue to pray for us.



Close Out Approaching

July is budget and audit preparation time. Our Special Emphasis Offering was actually better than the previous year and we are grateful for this. I am a fraction away from claiming my 90/10 efficiency goal for the year.

Revolving Loan Fund Has Money To Loan

If your church is considering an expansion, enlargement, addition or the construction of a new facility in 2017, please consider the Revolving Loan Fund as your source for financing. We believe we can offer better terms than any commercial institution and interest returned to the Revolving Loan Fund is used to help subsidize the purchase of land and construction of facilities for our State Missionaries.

While none of the proceeds from the Revolving Loan Fund go into the Missions Department Operational Fund, the availability of the RLF to our Missionaries is huge. So, not only will your church benefit from the best rates available, but you will be helping with the advancement of our efforts to construct permanent facilities for our mission congregations. If your church already has a loan we can refinance and pay it off and move your note to the Revolving Loan Fund. This is often done with little to no fees for refinancing. If you would like more information, please call Bro. Vernon Newman at 601-428-8616.

Reigniting a dying church

Dr. Allen Tilley is pastor of First Baptist Church of Carthage, Texas. He has over 30 years of pastoral experience, and God has continually blessed his ministry with dynamic spiritual and numerical growth. Contact him at allen@firstbaptistcarthage.com.



Dr. Allen Tilley

The death rate of churches is at an all-time high. Across America, scores of churches are shutting their doors permanently every day. If your church is in a state of declining or plateauing, here are five keys for reigniting your church.

Recognize that your church is dying. While this may seem simplistic, many churches refuse to accept reality until it is too late. All things die, including churches. None of the churches mentioned in the New Testament exist today. Why? They died. Just as we go to the doctor only when we realize we are sick, churches don't seek help until they realize they are dying. Recognition is a

painful, but necessary part of rebuilding any dying church.

Assess the reason your church is dying. Churches die for different reasons. Changes in the community, lack of Great Commission focus, division within the church, and power struggles are just a few of the reasons churches die. Before a surgeon can operate, the doctor must make the right diagnosis. Before your church can grow, finding out the cause of its decline is just as imperative. Consider forming a task force to discover the root cause of your church's problem.

Call a town hall meeting. Invite all the membership, including those who haven't been to church in a while. With a caring and loving attitude, have the task force present their findings, trying not to personally blame any specific person. If needed, encourage reconciliation and forgiveness among your membership. Allow people the opportunity to express themselves as long as they do so in a cooperative spirit. At this point, explain the following next step below.

Bring in an outsider. Ask someone unaffiliated with your church to make an assessment of your church. Either someone from the Missions Office or a pastor of a growing church can spot things that you and your church no longer see. Present this individual with your findings, ask them to examine your ministries

Continued on page 3

Letter to the Editor - From BMA Seminary President

The Duties and Powers of an Association

Historically, duties have been understood as obligatory tasks, conduct or functions that arise from a position of membership in a group or in life in general.

Powers have also been viewed as the abilities or attributes of control or authority.

As the BMAA approaches its season of state and local associational meetings, we look forward to reestablishing and enjoying our relationships with other churches and hearing the different ways God is advancing the Great Commission through our associational work. However, while enjoying these blessings we must remember our duties that must be attended to and powers that must be exercised in responsible and ethical ways.

As BMAA churches and officers prepare to meet, we could benefit by hearing what the leaders of America's original Baptist association, the Philadelphia Baptist Association, understood as their responsibility and authority as the representatives of Christ on earth. Specifically, it is good for us to be reminded of associational duties in regard to erroneous teachings within member churches.

The following are selections from an essay commissioned by the Philadelphia Association in 1748 and adopted by the association the next year. These selections appear in contemporary language for ease of understanding. The full text of the original essay may be accessed by visiting <http://baptisthistoryhome.com/philaminutesessay.1749.html>.

Many thanks to Dr. David Hellwig, BMATS Professor of Biblical Studies and pastor of First Baptist Church, New Summerfield, for his assistance in modernizing the language of these selections.

Dr. Charley Holmes

President

BMA Theological Seminary



Dr. Charley Holmes

Minutes of the Philadelphia Baptist Association, 1707-1807 By A. D. Gillette, editor, 1851

The Association unanimously approved and agreed to an essay by Benjamin Griffith, concerning the power and duty of an Association, to be inserted in the Associational book.

At our last annual Association, which met on September 19, 1749, an essay on the power and duty of an Association of churches, was proposed, as mentioned above, to be considered by the Association. After careful discussion and consideration, the essay was approved and adopted by all the churches. The contents of the essay was ordered to be transcribed as the judgment of the Association, in order to be inserted in the Association book. The purpose of the essay was to determine what power an Association of churches possesses, and what are the responsibilities of an Association and prevent the contempt with which some are ready to treat such an assembly, and also to present any future generation from claiming more power that they ought - lording over the churches.

Philadelphia Baptist Association, 1749 Essay On Doctrine and Order in the Association

An Association is not a superior ecclesiastical body, having such superior power over the churches of an association. Each particular church possesses a complete power and authority from Jesus Christ to administer all gospel ordinances, provided, they have a sufficient number of qualified officers, or that the officers of another sister church or churches assist them in the proper administration of baptism and the Lord's supper; and to receive members and exercise church discipline. Each church also has complete power to examine and ordain their own officers, and to exercise every part of gospel discipline and church government, independent of any other church or assembly whatsoever.

And that several such independent churches, where Providence allows their situation to dictate,

may, and ought, for their mutual strength, counsel, and other valuable advantages, by their voluntary and free consent, to enter into an agreement of cooperation, as prescribed in our printed Narrative of Discipline.

Such churches must agree in doctrine and practice, and be independent in their authority and church power, before they can enter into cooperation. They should choose delegates or representatives, to associate together. Furthermore, the several independent churches being the constituents, the association, when assembled, is not deemed to possess superior jurisdiction, as having authority over the churches, but subservient to the churches, in what may concern all the churches in general, or any one church in particular. If the foundation of an association is a mutual understanding of sound doctrine, and regular practice, then it must naturally follow, that a deviation in doctrine or practice in any church in the Association, or any party in any such church, is sufficient grounds for an Association to withdraw fellowship from such a church or party and to exclude fellowship from them in some formal manner. The Association should make the action known to all the churches in the Association, to the end that the erring church may be ashamed, and that all the churches may discontinue fellowship, and bear testimony against those who have erred.

Churches, as they are pillars of truth, may, and ought to endeavor to promote truth among others also. If such endeavors prove fruitless, they may be withdrawn. An Association ought not to assume a power to excommunicate or deliver a defective or disorderly church to Satan, yet it is has enough authority to exclude the delegates of a defective or disorderly church from an Association, and to refuse their presence at their meetings. Additionally, the Association should advise all the churches in association to follow in the same manner. A godly man may, and ought to withdraw, not only from a heathen, but from such as have the form of godliness only, but lack its true power *(2 Timothy 3:5). By the same way of thinking the saints, in whatsoever capacity they may be considered, may withdraw from defective or disorderly churches or persons; but they cannot excommunicate them as they have no authority to do so. But in associational capacity, dealing with her own members, an Association, then, of the delegates of associational churches, may exclude and withdraw from defective, unsound, or disorderly churches or persons, as previously mentioned. This is normal and justifiable by the light and law of nature as observed in the conduct and practice of all orderly civil or political organizations. All such bodies have rules to exclude trouble-makers from their societies.

Obviously an Association may disown and withdraw from a defective or disorderly church, and advise the cooperating churches to withdraw from, and to discontinue fellowship as previously mentioned, without exceeding the limits of their power. Additionally, an Association of the delegates of cooperating churches may declare any person or party in a church, who are defective in principles or disorderly in practice, to be deserving of reprimand, when the affair comes to their knowledge. An Association should advise the church how to deal with them, according to the rule of gospel discipline. An Association should also strengthen such a church and assist her, if need be, by sending able men of their own number to help the church in executing the power vested in her by the ordinance of Jesus Christ, and defend her against the insults of such offending persons or parties.

Reigniting from page 2

and facilities, sit in on a worship service, and allow them to review your history. Open your doors and hearts by being completely honest. Have your outside source to write up their report and suggested changes so you can present them to the church. Be sure to provide this person with a monetary gift for his services.

Implement change. Call another town hall meeting,

present the outsider's report, trying to gain everyone's support. Because what you are doing now isn't working, don't be afraid to implement the suggested changes. During the meeting, paint a picture of what God can do through a church surrendered to His purpose.

Throughout the entire process, saturate everything with prayer, asking God to guide you and your congregation. While reigniting a dying church can be a long and difficult process, God delights in seeing His churches grow.

Former pastor's wife passes away

Eudora Leslie, former children's literature writer for the BMA of America and widow of former BMA pastor Reuben Leslie, passed away July 1 in Austin, Texas. All her children were with her. Mrs. Leslie was a public school teacher, writer of teacher-training and children's religious literature, manager, and other professions in Arkansas, Texas, and Mississippi. Funeral Services were held recently in Magnolia, Arkansas.



Texas pastor dies in plane crash

Bro. Trevor Morris, the pastor of Union Hill Baptist Church in Brownsboro was a passenger on the small twin-engine plane that crashed near Tyler, Texas recently. The plane was headed to Midland, Texas. Morris was the vice president for Burton Oil Service Operations based out of Tyler. Both Morris and the pilot were killed in the crash.

Aaron Greenwood, youth and worship pastor of UHBC, said the family and church was mourning the loss of their beloved leader. Morris is survived by his wife Nafisa, his four sons and one daughter.



Don Brown

Mississippi Baptist

Opinion Page

www.ms baptist.org

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Don Brown - Editor

An Interview with BMA Missionary Carl Sookraj

by Mati Spencer

Editor's Note - I ran a cross this article from the BMA of America Missions Department. The Sookraj family have visited a number of our churches in Mississippi and many are helping to fund their mission efforts to Peru. This interview gives the reader an insight into the individual and the calling of God on his and his family's life.

Carl Sookraj, his wife Dana, and their three children have been called to be missionaries in Peru. Here is a look in to their journey as told by Carl:

Question:

Did you grow up in a Christian home? Was ministry a part of life growing up?

Answer:

My dad became a Christian when I was around 5 years old. He had heard the gospel preached at the graveside of my sister. So a bad situation, God used to bring him glory. My dad then started to preach, then after he became a missionary. So I grew up as a missionary kid in the island of Trinidad and Tobago.

Question:

Tell us about your testimony. When were you saved? How did your life change because of this?

Answer:

It was under my dad's ministry I got saved. I was 11 years old when the Holy Spirit got hold of me. More specific, it was on a

Sunday night after we had service. I left the church, which was just in front of our house, and couldn't make it in to the door of our house. The Holy Spirit had a hold and He wouldn't let go of me. I had no other choice but to answer him and accept the work that Christ had done for me when he paid for my sins. It was then that I spoke to my dad and told him that I needed Jesus. I accepted him as Lord that very night.

Question:

How did your career in ministry begin? Describe your call to foreign missions.

Answer:

I surrendered to ministry when I was 17 years old, then left my home of Trinidad when I turned 18 years old to go to Bible College. I finished college in 1996, graduating from Lexington Baptist College with my Bachelor of Arts. While in school, I served as the volunteer youth pastor at Grace Baptist Church in Georgetown, Kentucky. After moving to Mississippi, I served as a deacon at Calvary Baptist Church in Horn Lake, Mississippi. Right now I serve as Administrator Pastor at Central Church in Southaven, Mississippi, where Anders Lee is the pastor. When I moved to Mississippi in 1996, I joined Calvary Baptist church in Horn Lake, Mississippi, where Bro. Kevin Clayton was the pastor and I have been in the BMA since then. It was through Central Church I applied to become a

BMA missionary. I'll be considered a full-time missionary July 2017, but my true missionary life began when my family and I went to Peru in 2015.



Carl Sookraj Family

Mid-April, we took 16 days and went and visited my brother and friend in Christ, John Michael Poulin and his family. It was then that my eyes were opened to the great amount of abandonment and orphanages in Peru. John Michael and Angela Poulin told stories about the children being left in the marketplace, children living in the parks, and other places that would make most people in the USA cry. I got to see these children first-hand in their time of need.

After accepting the call that God has for my life, I did some research about Peru. I found out that there are just over 30 million people in Peru and more than 50 percent live in poverty, meaning that they don't even have running water. These same folks live on about 2 dollars a day, which means they don't have the food needed to sustain

them for everyday life. I also learned that they are simple and happy people no matter their situation.

I am convinced that the people and churches in the USA can make a big difference in the lives of these children in Peru. We can show them the love of Christ Jesus by helping them meet their everyday needs like hygiene, basic food, shelter, and most importantly sharing the gospel news with them with the hope that the Holy Spirit will open their eyes and lead them to the Savior. My family and I are so excited to be used by God to bring the gospel to the many people of Peru. This is all made possible because of the wonderful and loving people of the BMAA and others. We are simply doing what God has called us to do, just like the many that support our ministry are doing what God has called them to do. It's great to see God's people working together to accomplish his will.

Question:

What have you learned since going through the process of becoming a missionary? How has God grown you?

Answer:

In the past year, being on deputation, I have learned to rely on God's guidance more and more every day. We continue to

live in Mississippi. It's been a long and hard road, but it has made us dependent on our Lord more. Being a 100 percent self-funded missionary is not easy, but it sure is rewarding as we have met so many great and loving people of the Lord. I would do it all over again if I had to. At first when we were told we were going to be 100 percent self-supported missionaries, I was like "That's no big deal," but deep down I was scared. But I also I knew in my heart that God has always supplied everything that I have needed. Even as a child, we got supply for our family. So I was sure he would do the same and WOW has he shown up! My God loves me and has already done his part. Now it's time for me to do my part.

We leave for language school this August and will be in Costa Rica for one year studying Spanish. When we have completed our schooling, we will then go to Peru to do our ministry. We will be working with the Poulins as well as doing our ministry work starting up the orphanage work in the town of Ocucaje.

Question:

How can people inquire about and support your ministry?

Answer:

People can support our ministry by liking our Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/hislovemeanseverything>. They can financially support us monthly or through a one-time gift by going to the BMAA page: bmamissions.securegive.com/SG/WebOnline/Home/Index?WO=bmamissions, and finding my name, Carl Sookraj, and supporting us directly. We can always use financial support, but we covet your prayers even more. We know as you pray for us and hear of our needs, you are more willing to help.

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



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PRICE
\$20.00 Per Year by Mail
\$15.00 Per Year by Email
CHURCHPLAN
\$ 1.30 Per Month per Family

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402.

Postmaster: Send address changes to
Mississippi Baptist Paper P.O. Box 8181
Laurel, MS 39441-8000

Southeastern Baptist College

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

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

President's Perspective

"Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

I had to run a lot in the Army. Every other morning I would run at least 4 miles. At one point, I worked my running routine up to 13 miles! But even with all that running, when it came time to take the bi-annual physical training test, I questioned my ability to earn the perfect score I was accustomed to achieving. As the soldiers gathered together to run the race that was set before them, we would encourage each other that we could do it. Sometimes I was asked to say a prayer of empowerment for them. And, during the run itself, even the graders would shout and cheer on the runners. And those soldiers who might finish first would, in turn, shout encouragement to those still running. Sometimes they would go back onto the track and run beside a person who was struggling, enheartening him to press with more determination toward the finish line.

Since coming to Southeastern Baptist College, I have been tremendously blessed by the encouragement given me by so many in support of my position at this great institution. Your kind words do my heart good! This is indeed a challenging job. However, your continued support through edifying words and through physical support, whether by monetary means, donation of goods, or by your physical labor, confirms for me that I am indeed in the center of God's will. You are truly an encouragement to me!

This college exists for the "equipping of the saints". And, what would bless my heart even more would be an increase to our student body population in the upcoming fall semester!

In today's declining society and in the growing animosity toward Christians on secular campuses, it is increasingly important for the folks in the BMA of Mississippi to greatly encourage our high schoolers and young adults to choose Southeastern Baptist College where they will receive a solid biblical academic foundation. I firmly believe that our young Christian men and women should start their undergraduate education here first before entering into the spiritual battlefields of secular colleges. And if some high school students should not know yet what to do regarding their future, then as wise experienced men-

tors we should highly encourage these young people to get their Christian foundation strengthened by taking Bible courses either online with SBC or in our classrooms. There are no finer Bible educators in the United States than those we have right here at our college! This is confirmed not only with our publically recognized awards, but more so by the reputation of the fantastic graduates we produce! In fact, we recently learned that our SBC students rate their overall educational experience higher than all other 139 colleges accredited by the Association of Biblical Higher Education!

Thank you again for your tremendous outpouring of encouragement. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." Ephesians 6:10.

Special Emphasis

Southeastern Baptist College's Special Emphasis Months are July and August for focused donations from churches and individuals. All BMA of Mississippi churches should have received materials to assist them in the college's fund-raising campaign. If you did not receive your packet, give us a call and we will get it mailed to you immediately. Our goal is to raise \$20,000. As a reminder, Southeastern Baptist College is a 501(c)(3) certified tax deductible charity.

President Installation Observance

You are invited to an Inauguration Ceremony for Dr. Scott R. Carson in recognition of him taking the reins of leadership for Southeastern Baptist College. The event will be held at Southeastern Baptist College on August 3, 2017 at 6 pm in the college gymnasium. If you plan to attend, please R.S.V.P. by calling the school at 601-426-6346.

Fall Pre-registration

Register NOW for the Fall Semester! Classes begin August 15. Among the many courses offered is Greek I. Learn to study God's Word in the original Greek language! Contact Ronnie Kitchens or Ms. Emma Bond at 601-426-6346.



Dr. Scott Carson
President

BMATS Course Offered

In conjunction with the BMA Theological Seminary, Dr. Carson will teach a course entitled, "Special Studies in Ministry - Current Pastoral Issues" this Fall at Southeastern Baptist College. Classes begin August 15, 2017. This course is BOTH at the Masters level and the Bachelors level with slightly different requirements for each level. The class will explore the pros and cons of contemporary worship movements. Contact the BMAT Seminary to register at toll free at 800-259-5673 or via email at bmats@bmats.edu The BMATS website is <http://bmats.edu/> You may also contact Dr. Carson for additional information at 601-426-6346.

Special Projects

If your church or ministry activity would like to take on a special project to help the college we have several that need addressed. Some projects include replacement of the flooring in the main hallway and offices, improvement to our landscaping and upgrading the exterior of the main building, fixing the exterior of the men's dormitory, upgrades to our apartments, securing electronics for our classrooms, the purchase of new HVAC units for the Library and Faculty House. This list is not exhaustive, but these are some of the projects that are toward the top of our list.

Television Commercial

The television commercial for Southeastern Baptist College continues to produce fruit with several new applicants referencing it as the reason for their discovering our college and desiring to study God's word at SBC. Will you help us to continue the commercial through May and into the summer? One month of television advertisement costs \$2,000.

Available Scholarships

Take note! \$1,000 scholarships avail-

able! The Arnold Knight Memorial RLF Scholarship is available every semester to Baptist Missionary Association ministers who take classes at Southeastern Baptist College. These funds are administered by the BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund. Our recruiter, Ronnie Kitchens, has all the information you need to sign up for classes and financial aid. Contact Brother Ronnie at 601-426-6346 or rkitchens@southeasternbaptist.edu

VA Benefits

SBC possesses the 2017 Silver Award as a military friendly college! Have you served in America's armed forces? Then you probably have Veterans Administration tuition benefits that you can use toward a free education right here at SBC. There is a time limit to your VA benefits, so I urge you to contact your local VA representative for an evaluation of your benefits. You earned them. Use them before it's too late! And remember, the Post 9-11 GI Bill is fully transferable to family members. SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

Vehicle

Southeastern Baptist College is in need of a late model four door pickup truck with low mileage. Our current mini-van is old with high mileage and in need of replacement. Contact us if you are interested in donating your truck. Southeastern Baptist College is a 501(c)(3) certified tax deductible charity.

Available to Preach

Thank you for the many churches providing Dr. Carson an opportunity to preach the Word of God to your congregations! Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit for preaching or to make a presentation about the great work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. You can reach him at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu

CALLED TO PASTORAL MINISTRY?

The Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary is offering a Masters level course at Southeastern Baptist College this fall entitled, "Special Studies in Ministry - Current Pastoral Issues". Read more in the article or contact Dr. Carson for additional information at 601-426-6346.



Galilean Ministry Report

by Mark Jones

The Mississippi Galileans have had a good year. We began the year with our Mississippi Galilean camp in Clinton. Bro. Dalton McMillian was our speaker and he did an awesome job. Maverick Hendrix was in charge of our music.



Maverick Hendrix
National Senior
Mr. Galilean

Maverick Hendrix and Cooper Little were chosen as Mr. Senior and Mr. Junior Galilean for the state of Mississippi. Maverick received a scholarship to Southeastern College.

This year's National Galilean camp

was held in Smithville, Arkansas at Stoneridge Baptist Camp. This is a new



Cooper Little
National Junior
Mr. Galilean

camp for Galileans after over 50 years at Daniel Springs Camp in Gary, Texas. Our speaker was Bro. Scott Caven from Arkansas, and our theme this year was "AGAPE". Mississippi was represented very well at national camp. Maverick and Cooper were both awarded National Mr. Senior and Junior Galilean. Maverick received a \$32,000 scholarship to Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas which he plans on using to be a worship leader. Braedon Martin of Bethel Church in Fulton was elected Galilean president, Micheal Warren of FBC Mantachie was elected historian, and Maverick Hendrix from Bethel in Fulton was elected song leader.

Our national officers meeting is the end of July in Ponca, Arkansas. We will use this time to plan next year's national camp. Keep up with your

Master's Builders Continue To Bless

by Nelda Malone, reporter

The Master's Builders returned to Summers Baptist Church in Arkansas this past June to work on another new

park two church vans, house a classroom and a storage area. A stairway was built up to the second floor over this



addition to their church plant. This was our third time to be with this church.

There were nine RVs parked on the north side of the building as we began work on the 25 x 100 foot side building to their Family Life building. The side building would house a kitchen, pantry, laundry, large classroom, restrooms and youth pastor office. On the north side of the Family Life building, the men also walled up areas that would be used to

area for a large youth room.

It is such a blessing to work along side willing members work give of their time and sweat! There were always ready to lend a hand. Several men worked every opportunity they could with one taking his vacation to work with our men.

We love our Master's Builders group! But we need more helpers! There is no way I could try to share with you the blessings we enjoy together. If you have questions about our group or if your church has building needs, please contact our Office Coordinator, John Mangum at 318-202-5155 or cell 318-607-4100; or Field Coordinator, Eddie Sikes at 903-725-6549 or cell 479-462-1675.

Follow us on Facebook at "The Master's Builders."

Church News

Bethel Church Revival

Bethel Baptist Church in Seminary, will hold revival services from July 16-19. Services start at 7:00 pm with Bro. Steve Ellis bringing the messages. Everyone is welcomed.

Temple Lucedale Revival

Temple Baptist Church, 88 Summer Street in Lucedale, will hold revival services beginning August 6, 2017. Services will begin at 11:00 AM on Sunday, followed by lunch and an afternoon service. Weekday services will begin at 7:00 PM through Wednesday. Dennis Knight, pastor of Paramount Baptist Church will be the visiting evangelist. Pastor B.J. Hudson and the Temple congregation extends a welcome to all.

Laurel Church Staff Openings

Parkview Baptist Church is currently accepting resumes for the position of part-time music director. Please send resumes to pastor@pbclaurel.com or contact Bro. Shane Singleton at 601-319-0344.

Parkview Baptist Church is currently accepting resumes for the position of part-time church secretary. Must have bookkeeping experience and be familiar with Quicken. Please send resumes to pastor@pbclaurel.com or contact Bro. Shane Singleton at 601-319-0344.

Big Creek Association 'Back To School' Service

The Big Creek Youth Committee is hosting a back to school service at Southeastern Baptist College on Saturday August 12 from 6-8 pm. Our speaker will be Bro. Blake McCain and worship will be led by Josh Goldman. This event will be for grades 7-12 (any lone 6th grade students may attend). If you have questions please contact Adam Parker at parkeradam288@gmail.com or Bryan Linkins, belinkins@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

Big Creek District Brotherhood and WMA Meeting

The Big Creek District Brotherhood and WMA will meet with Salem Baptist Church, Stringer, August 7, 2017 at 7:00 pm. This will be our district WMA installation of our new officers for the coming new year.

Mark your calendar for this meeting and make plans to attend. We ask that you pray for our newly elected officers and look forward to seeing you there.

Big Creek Ladies Retreat

August 11-12, 2017

Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi

Bearing Much Fruit

"But he fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." Gal. 5:22-23

Registration \$40.00 - Includes Friday Supper and Saturday Breakfast

Guest Speaker



Jenae Polok, Galena, Kansas

For more information contact Big Creek Baptist Church at 601-763-8100 8:00 am - Noon or email office@bigcreeksoso.com

'Pray One Day' - by DiscipleGuide

Join other pastors in Mississippi/Alabama area to pray for revival in the church, and also learn how to develop a culture of prayer in your own local church body.

This free training will take place on August 7, and lunch will be provided during this full day of training. These four sessions will be included:

- Making prayer a priority in worship
- Community-wide prayer events
- Starting a prayer movement with other pastors
- How to have a praying Sunday school or small group

Pastor Todd West, leader of DiscipleGuide's Activate church revitalization ministry, will be conducting the training, and welcomes all pastors to register! The training will be located at Midway First Baptist Church, 77 Midway Church Rd., Sumrall, Mississippi, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on August 7.

To register for this training, email DiscipleGuide at heidi@discipleguide.org, or call 501-749-4500.



Five reasons growth may be more difficult in your church

by Dr. Thom Rainer

Every year another two million American adults become less receptive to the gospel, and less receptive to churches. Every year.

That is one of the nuggets I took from the Pew Research work on the “Nones” when they first released the data in 2012. Pew has continued to follow the religious commitment level of Americans. From 2007 to 2014, over 12 million American adults have moved from a high level of religious commitment to a low level of commitment. They just skipped the medium level of commitment altogether. Cultural Christianity is dying.

One no longer has to be a Christian or in a church to be accepted by society.

That relatively easy pool of prospective attendees for our churches is disappearing.

But most churches keep doing what they’ve always done. As a consequence, they are reaching fewer. They are declining.

Why?

The answer to that question is too complex for a simple blog post, but let me provide five high-level responses for now.

1. Church members are not being intentionally relational with those who are not in church. The old way of church outreach was more transactional; today it requires the development of relationships. Most church members will not take that step. Many don’t know how to take that step.

2. Many churches are stuck in the past. While we never compromise the gospel and the Word, our methodologies must reflect an awareness of our culture, and a willingness to be missionaries to that culture. Sadly, too many church members are unwilling to make changes. Church, for them, is about their needs and their preferences.

3. Church members are not regu-

Biblical membership is not about getting our perks, privileges, and preferences. It’s about sacrificing self for the gospel.

larly inviting people to church. Yes, it can be that simple. Many of the religiously unaffiliated will come to church if we invite them. But it’s difficult for them to respond to an invitation if they never get one.

4. Many church members fail to act like Christians on social media. Unbe-

lievers are watching us on Facebook and Twitter. And many of us are more likely to show our rear ends than Christian love. Social media is where the unchurched reside. And they constantly see our petty quarrels, our venomous politics, and our self-serving attitudes.

5. If they come to church, they only have a mediocre experience. The religiously unaffiliated do visit our churches from time to time. But more often than not, they see our holy huddles and our lukewarm greetings. Most will not return.

Growth is indeed more difficult in most of our churches today. We no longer have the large pool of cultural Christians from which to draw. But we can reach them. We must reach them.

We will have to treat our membership in our churches as missionaries to the community instead of country club membership. Biblical membership is not about getting our perks, privileges, and preferences. It’s about sacrificing self for the gospel.

Then, and only then, will we see our churches start growing again.

Rainer serves as president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources.

Jason Curry selected president of Texas Baptist Home

The trustees of Texas Baptist Home announce their selection of Bro. Jason Curry as nominee for the next president of the Home. Jason was selected from a group of applicants by the Home search committee. He was unanimously approved by the trustees at their summer quarterly meeting.

Jason is a native of Jacksonville. He holds a Bachelor of Religion in New Testament Studies from BMA Theological Seminary in Jacksonville. He also has a Masters in Christian Education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Jason and his wife Tonya have three sons: Brandon, Cameron and Dexton. The Currys are no strangers at the Home as they formerly served as foster parents at TBH. Two of their sons were adopted through the Home's adoption agency.

Jason was licensed to the Gospel ministry in Jacksonville in 2003. He was ordained at Plymouth Park Baptist Church in Irving in 2014. For the past eight years, Jason has served as full-time pastor of Children and Young Families at Plymouth Park Church, Irving, Texas.

A special executive meeting of the BMA of Texas churches has been called to consider the president nominee. This meeting will be held at Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie on August 8.



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Our Needed Goal - \$20,000

Don't Miss This Study

by Tommy & Judy Wallace

We were probably in our third decade of marriage before we even gave any thought to the Song of Solomon. We had both read through it in one of our read-through-the-Bible-in-a-year plans. We both had been taught that it was a picture of God's love for Israel and Christ's love for the church.

Then we heard the Tommy Nelson tapes. It was either on Family Life Today or Focus on the Family that his series on this important book was played over several days. His presentation was funny, enlightening,

challenging and inspiring. For the first time, we began to really comprehend that this book was actually about marriage with insight given through the courtship, wedding, and marriage of King Solomon.

Our adult classes at church listened to the series. The information I (Judy) gleaned from this study helped to formulate much of the materials I have shared with young girls throughout our work in our Worth the Wait retreats on sexual purity. Tommy and I both gained a clearer insight as to the importance of every aspect of marriage that is used to bring us

closer to each other and to God.

Song of Solomon contains something for everyone—no matter your age or stage of life. Single or married, young or old, we all need the message of this book of Scripture. Older couples, widows, newlyweds, and singles will all benefit from DiscipleGuide's upcoming Fall edition of Compass entitled, "Love For all Seasons," which focuses on Song of Solomon.

Writer Clif Johnson, pastor of Garrett Memorial Church in Hope, Arkansas, masterfully communicates truths from Song of Solomon in a manner appropriate for any adult Sunday school class or small group without any awkwardness or embarrassment.

To learn more about the Fall Compass study of Song of Solomon, visit discipleguide.org/compass, or call 800.333.1442.

Blessings of The Song of Solomon

by Jerry Jolley

I am excited about the upcoming study of Song of Solomon in the Fall edition of Compass Bible Studies. Perhaps you are wondering why a widower would be enthusiastic about studying a book written about love and marriage. The reason is simple: All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is a blessing to prayerful readers—no matter their life situation. It seems in the last three years, since the passing of my wife, Sweetpea, God had me in mind when He led Solomon to write these words.

In reading them I have remembered: 1. The joy of my proposal of marriage being accepted. 2. The blessing of fifty-four years, nine months, and six days of loving companionship. 3. God's presence through every trial. 4. Solomon was surely talking about Sweetpea in His loving description in 4:1-7.

Thank God for the wonderful encouraging words in the Song of Solomon! Study them carefully, you never know when you will need them more than you ever have in your whole life—whether you are happily married, single, divorced, newlywed or widowed. Every word of the Bible is relevant and powerful for every believer.

Compass Bible Studies is produced by the DiscipleGuide, a department of the Baptist Missionary Association. You can find out more about Compass at discipleguide.org or by calling 800.333.1442.



Jerry Jolley

SENIOR SOURCES

by Becky Ulmer - becky.ulmer@jghms.com

"Read the Label"

High blood pressure, strokes, heart disease and kidney disease are common health conditions in our area. Patient education for these involve one common thread - salt (sodium) intake.

The weather is hot in Mississippi. The gardens are ready. Most of us

have likely already inhaled that "first tomato sandwich" or that "first watermelon".



Becky Ulmer

Fresh vegetables and produce are staples in this area. There is nothing like the "first mess" of anything gathered from the gardens. Born and raised in Jasper County, this writer loves vegetables anyway you can fix them—raw, stewed, steamed, boiled or fried.

The American Heart Association recommends no more than 2,300 mgs. of salt intake a day and an ideal limit of 1,500 mgs. or less for most adults. One teaspoon of salt (sodium) equals 2,300 mg. Wow! One teaspoon in twenty-four hours is the maximum. The reports say if Americans would consume even the maximum, the reduction would improve blood pressure and overall heart health. The salt shaker takes blame for the over consumption of sodium. However, processed foods, commercially canned products and cured/smoked meats remain the

"culprits" in high salt diets.

There's a teaching drill where cellophane is placed over the meal plate after the person is blindfolded and allowed to apply salt to foods. The wrap is removed and the salt measured. The results can be shocking. Do you add salt before tasting food?

Keep intake at a minimum to enjoy the maximum benefits of life

Do you add salt to fast food?

The sodium content is listed on the Nutrition Facts label of foods. Be alert for words such as salt (sodium) or soda. There are sodium containing ingredients in foods also - sodium nitrate, monosodium glutamate (msg), sodium citrate, and sodium benzoate. Pay close attention to the serving size on the label and multiply actual amount you are eating to calculate sodium content.

Be salt wise. Know its value and danger. Keep intake at a minimum to enjoy the maximum benefits of life. Consult a dietician or health care provider for guidelines and dietary recommendations.

Life is good!

Becky Ulmer is Nursing Administrator of Jasper County Nursing Home, Bay Springs, Mississippi and attends Palestine Baptist Church, Montrose, Mississippi.

The Salt Of The Earth

by Grover Laird

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." (Matthew 5:13)

Early in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke of our importance as Christians in this dark sinful world. He did this when he

referred to Christians being "the salt of the earth," and "the light of the world." (Matthew 5:13-16)

When Jesus spoke of His children being "the salt of the earth," He warned of the danger of one losing his strength, or savour, and would therefore be unable to affect the world for good. As far as our usefulness is concerned, He said we would then be "good for nothing." If all of the saved did lose their savour, or power to function as salt, our nation would soon become as corrupt as an uncivilized country where the influence of Christ was never felt.

We are told that salt loses its savour by staying too close to the ground too long. Christians can also lose their savour by staying too close to the world too long. This is one reason why the Bible teaches the Christian not to conform to this present evil world - "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2). Peter

also warns us that fleshly lusts can be hard on the soul - "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts,



which war against the soul..." (1 Peter 2:11). James tells us that a religion that is profitable involves separation from the world - "Pure religion and undefiled before God

and the Father is this. To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." (James 1:27) Unless we heed these warning, we will lose our power to affect others for good. We will lose our savior.

In this day of apostasy - and this is a day of apostasy, (Matthew 24:12; 1 Timothy 4:1,2; 11 Timothy 3:1-13) we are desperately needing the preservative power of spiritual Christians. Unless we have it, the foul smell of corruption will continue to rise from every part of our society, and it will grow increasingly worse. (1 John 5:19; Galatians 1:4; Matthew 5:16)

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