

# Baptist

## Mississippi

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Southeastern Baptist College Special Emphasis Drive

## School Preparing For Fall Semester

### President's Perspective

*"So built we the wall, and all the wall was joined together to half of the height; for the people had a mind to work."* Nehemiah 4:6

There is currently much activity on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College. Many are volunteers who are performing heavy duty work to help prepare the college for incoming students and the reestablishment of the basketball program. Renovations of the dormitories are quickly moving forward as we anticipate every room being occupied before the start of the fall semester.

Last Saturday, we made an appeal for volunteers to help with demolition of the rooms that encroach upon the perimeter of the gym floor. Many came with joy in their hearts, working hard together for



Dr. Scott Carson  
President



Removing old classroom and office space in gymnasium in preparation for Fall semester

several hours. There were loud hammering noises and squeaks of crowbars. People were grunting and groaning from heavy lifting, while lumber and molding and paneling and insulation crashed to the floor. We even had newly recruited students, who have yet to start college, helping to haul all the debris out of the building. A great deal of progress was

made as seen in the adjacent pictures to this article.

I am always spiritually moved seeing God's people responding to a call to action. The verse referenced above from the book of Nehemiah, shares with us that when God's people are motivated, much can be accomplished. The work in the school gym is not easy, but God's people

came together with a "mind to work". The entire previous chapter in Nehemiah lists the many volunteers in Jerusalem who labored in teams to repair sections of the broken down wall. I am sure Nehemiah too was moved in his spirit when the people quickly and joyfully responded to his call for help.

There's just something about believers coming together and willfully working towards a common goal that spiritually energizes them. Whenever we work together on a project, whether it is a church cleanup day, or preparations towards Vacation Bible School, or a revival, a camp, or a Bible seminar, there is a heightened sense of close fellowship while contributing toward the work of the Kingdom.

God bless all those who are supporting the ongoing work at SBC! I know the Lord will greatly reward every one of you! And remember, for those who are unable to physically help, or are financially restrained, the Bible tells us, "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much!" James 5:16

Equipping the Saints!

Dr. Carson

report continues on page 2

## Seven Key Reasons People Choose A Church

By Dr. Thom Rainer

Why did you choose to come to this church?

I ask the question hundreds of times each year, especially to people who joined a church within the past year.

Now we have new research that gives us specific reasons why people decide on a particular church. I am grateful to Pew Research for their massive study on the behavioral patterns of members and guests.

In their most recent study, the respondents noted seven key reasons for choosing a church. They were allowed to offer more than one reason. Here are the top seven responses:

Quality of sermons (83%). The primacy of the pulpit is the number one factor for those looking for a church home. These results are very similar to my research published in the book, Sur-

prising Insights from the Unchurched, fifteen years ago. Unfortunately, the demands on many pastors make it difficult for them to put the time they need in sermon preparation.

Feeling welcomed by leaders (79%). It is so important for pastors and staff to take the lead in welcoming guests. No, they are not supposed to do all the welcoming, but their role has a huge impact.

Style of services (74%). I would love to be able to unpack this response a bit more. One thing, however, is clear. People are still choosing churches by the styles of worship of the congregations. The numbers are overwhelming. Three out of four church seekers say worship style is a factor for the church they choose.

Location (70%). I want to be careful not to say things these numbers don't mean to say. But I would surmise that location is more important today than it

was ten years ago. This reality would at least partly explain the dramatic increase of multi-site churches. Churches are going to the communities where the people are. It also prompts us to follow the trends of large regional churches. Will people more and more prefer a church in their own community rather than driving to the regional church?

Education for kids (56%). This number is incredibly high, especially since many families do not have kids at home. Obviously, those who do have children at home consider this issue vitally important. "Education" likely refers to more than the teaching ministry to children; it probably encompasses the total scope of children's ministry. I have said on more than one occasion the first staff member I would bring to the church after the pastor would be a children's minister.

Having friends/family in the congregation (48%). Relational connections are very important. We see this issue to be so important that we created a ministry (Invite Your One) to engender an attitude of inviting. Those same connections play a crucial role in the assimilation process in the church as well.

Availability of volunteering opportunities (42%). This factor was very encouraging to me. People no longer want just to sit and soak; they want to get involved. If guests know there are opportunities to get involved quickly in the church, they are more likely to choose that church. I have no doubt the Millennials are instrumental in this number being as high as it is.

From my perspective, these seven factors are not huge surprises; they are really affirmations of much of what we have been sharing with you.

The real issue is not the intrigue of this research; it is what you and your church will do about it.

# Southeastern Baptist College

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

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

## Continued from Front page

### Fall Pre-registration

Register NOW for the Fall Semester! Classes begin August 14. We offer in classroom and online courses in Bible, ministry, business and general education. You can work towards a two year Associates of Arts degree or a four year Bachelor of Arts degree. Transfer of compatible credits are welcomed. We remain one of the most inexpensive accredited colleges in the nation! Contact Coach Phillips or Ms. Emma Bond at 601-426-6346.

### 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 receive materials to assist them in the college's fund-raising campaign. Our goal is to raise \$30,000. As a reminder, Southeastern Baptist College is a 501(c)(3) certified tax deductible charity. Thank you to all the churches who sent their special emphasis offering early which assisted us in finishing fiscal year 2018 in the black!

### Danny Pitts Lecture Series

Southeastern Baptist College announces the first Danny Pitts Lecture

Series with Dr. Gary O'Neil as guest speaker to be held on the campus of the college. Mark your calendars for August 20-23.

August 20, 7 p.m., Pre-conference Service at First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel, Mississippi

August 21-23, 7 p.m., Lecture Series at SBC Campus

### God Will Supply!

We are renovating three areas of the college this month. Each project will incur a large expense. This work is essential and must be completed prior to the fall semester.

1. The men's dormitories: Room upgrades; carpets; bathroom renovations; HVAC unit and duct work for the entire upstairs.
2. The women's dormitories: Room upgrades; carpets; kitchen updates; bathroom upgrades; upstairs renovations.
3. Gymnasium: Demolition of previously added rooms; renovations of locker rooms; upgrade of basketball floor to modern standards.

### Carson's Army

Brother Chris Floyd "Wants You!" He invites you to enlist in Carson's Army! This enlistment includes a pledge at various levels of rank representing their ability to give toward Southeastern Baptist College. If you feel led of the Lord to



Renovation of dorms is moving along enlist, call 601-426-6346 today! Please refer to the "Carson's Army" giving chart in this publication. Praise the Lord! We have enlisted another Major in Carson's Army!

### VA Educational Benefits Accepted!

SBC possesses the 2018 Gold Award level as a military friendly college! Have you served in America's armed forces? Then you probably have Veterans Ad-



Brother Hubert Dyess rewiring communication between buildings



Dr. Carson scrubbing the floor of a school apartment in preparation of incoming students

Statewide Goal: \$ 30,000

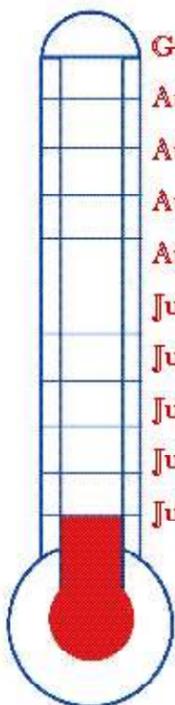


## Southeastern Baptist College

- Gold Award Military Friendly School for 2018
- OnlineChristianColleges.com #6 Most Affordable Online Bible College for 2018



**Special Emphasis:**  
**July/August**



Our Church Goal: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ministration tuition benefits that you can use toward a free education right here at SBC. I urge you to contact your local VA representative for an evaluation of your benefits. You earned them! And remember, many benefits are now fully transferable to family members. SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

### Riding Mower

Southeastern Baptist College is in need of a riding lawn mower. The prognosis of our current mower is not good and we anticipate it not surviving much longer. If you have a good used riding mower to donate to the college, contact us at 601-426-6346.

### Alumni Association

We continue to rediscover our former students and list them in the SBC Alumni Association. One of our primary initiatives in the months ahead is for our Alumni members to consider giving \$56 per month in an effort to raise \$58,000 over the next 12 months. We have many infrastructure issues that must be addressed. Will you allow God to use you? Alumni Sam and Judy Oglesby have

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## From The Mind of Chuck Lee

# Birthday: The Gift That Keeps Giving

I like to ponder. Pondering is akin to mulling, but not anywhere near meditating. But anyway, the other day I was pondering the evolution of birthdays. I came close to mulling over the topic, but realized that might lead to meditating and decided I didn't need enlightenment, so I chose to simply ponder. The question that arose during my pondering, was "Why do we receive gifts on our birthday?"

I was there when I was born, but to tell you the truth, I don't remember a single thing about it. As far as I know, I didn't choose to be born. But for some reason, ever since that day, for every year thereafter, I have received a gift for simply being born. For a moment, I considered that the one who really deserved a gift every year on my birthday is my mother. I quickly squashed that idea as it came

eerily close to mulling something over and moved on in my thoughts. I also didn't pursue the idea because I like receiving gifts and what better gift to give my mother than my existence.

As a child, when a party was thrown on my behalf for being born, we had a cake with candles and maybe a party hat or two. Nowadays, birthday parties are a huge event. Venues are rented out, party favors are given to every child that attends (some may consider this a bribe just to have someone show up), jumpy houses are inflated, and the list goes on and on. I had to present my invitation and show two forms of identification at the last birthday party I attended. Turns



Bro. Chuck Lee

*I was there when I was born, but to tell you the truth, I don't remember a single thing about it. As far as I know, I didn't choose to be born.*

out, I had just made a wrong turn into the conference room at the convention center, but still I think it was rude for the bodyguards to toss me out.

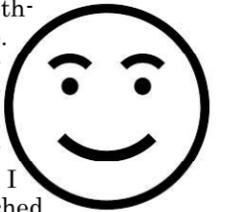
Growing older takes a lot of pressure off of birthdays. Mainly because you have to remember everyone else's birthday. You get married and you now have your spouse and their parents and grandparents birthdays to attend. You have children and you have to set up parties

and take out loans for their birthdays. They start attending school and you have to cart them around to all their friends' birthday parties. By the time your birthday gets here, you may just simply forget that you have a birthday. Maybe growing older doesn't take the pressure off.

I have reached the age where my children are having children. This makes me a gran...gran...gran...uh, a person who has little people visit him every now and then. Finally! I have finally discovered the secret of birthdays! If you have enough of them, you will eventually have gran...gran...gran...uh, little people that brightens up your otherwise mundane life.

I guess that is why a birthday is really just a gift that keeps on giving. Happy birthday, Bro. Don! I think you have reached that age. (Smiley emoticon goes here)

Lee serves as pastor of Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis. He may be reached by email at [leecharles47@yahoo.com](mailto:leecharles47@yahoo.com)



## College Report

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graciously accepted to lead this effort. Please contact them at 601-550-8513 or [pastor\\_1@comcast.net](mailto:pastor_1@comcast.net) to verify that your current contact information is correct.

### 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](mailto:scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu)

## Carson's Army

Brother Chris Floyd introduced a special individual donor concept named Carson's Army at the SBC Donor and Volunteer Dinner. Each person has the opportunity to "enlist" their pledge at various levels of rank representing their ability to give toward Southeastern Baptist College. If



you feel led of the Lord to enlist, call 601-426-6346 today! Please refer to the "Carson's Army" giving chart in this publication. Praise the Lord! We already have our first Major and our first General enlisted into Carson's Army!

## Stop "Empowering" Women and Start Equipping them to Biblically Lead

**Editor's Note:** This article is written by Bro. Tom Buck and recommended by Dr. Charlie Holmes, president of BMA Seminary. Bro. Buck is a non-voting member of our Board of Visitors at BMA Seminary. He is Senior Pastor of First Baptist, Lindale and has been since 2006.

Although this article was written to and for SBC churches and leaders, it is applicable to all scriptural churches and institutions.

### The Ongoing Push to Empower Women

by Tom Buck

Last month, I drew attention to the redefining of complementarity occurring in the SBC (<https://bit.ly/2Jkn386>). Various leaders were using similar language calling for "the tearing down of all hierarchy" and "empowerment" of women in the SBC. This rhetoric began to translate into action as the election of a woman as the "first trustee chairwoman" at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary was celebrated, followed by the proposal for a woman to serve as president of the SBC.

Some pushed back against this movement with Scriptural responses. For example, I wrote several articles carefully exegeting 1 Timothy 2:12-15 in order to offer a biblical argumentation for the complementarian roles of men and women. With that Scriptural foundation, I argued that a denomination comprised of local churches should not desire a model of teaching and leadership different from God's design for those same individual churches.

Proponents of empowering a woman as SBC president have given arguments such as the Baptist Faith and Message only prohibits a woman from serving as a pastor; the office of president is not the biblical office of pastor; and the job description for president does not prohibit a

woman from serving. What they have yet to advance is an argument for the roles of men and women that proceeds from a careful analysis of Scripture. Rather than interacting with any biblical arguments offered, one writer simply concluded, "in short, there's no reason a woman cannot be SBC president."



The impetus behind this recent movement is critical to understand. This conversation did not arise in a vacuum, but surfaced in light of the sad revelation of mistreatment of some women in the SBC. To be clear, there is no justification for the abuse of women and it is right to take a strong stand against all its forms. In addition, when such abuses come to light, we should look to Scripture to guide both our reaction to them and the solution for how to rightly move forward. However, emotional pragmatic answers have been controlling the conversation instead of ideas rooted in Scripture.

For example, in a panel discussion at SBC 2018, solutions were discussed for

how to respond to the accusations of mistreatment and marginalization of women in the SBC. Repeatedly, the call to empower women and give them roles of leadership were echoed. One panelist commented that when situations arise where women have been mistreated in the church, the wisest answer is to empower women in leadership to bring about a peaceful solution. At face value, that answer might appear completely logical, but it is absolutely unbiblical.

### The NT Model of Leadership

In Acts 6, the church encounters its first crisis that created a division in the church. Luke writes, "a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution" (6:1). The text does not ascribe the motives behind the marginalization of one group of widows over the other as deliberately sinful. Nevertheless, the unequal distribution among these women was serious and needed to be confronted.

This matter was of such importance that the apostles summoned the entire church to address the problem (6:2). Although it was necessary for the apostles to not be distracted from leading the church in the preaching of the Word, the needs of the widows must not be overlooked. Therefore, the apostles called upon the church to choose individuals

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Don Brown  
Editor

# Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

## Annual Ministry Opportunities

Below is a photo of the VBS group from First Baptist Church of Shady Grove in Laurel. Full disclosure - this is the Brown's home church.



Vacation Bible School group at First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel

I use this space to urge all of our churches to send us a good digital photo of your VBS or camp photos. What an encouragement this will be to others knowing that so many young people are being reached with the Gospel.

Email your photos and a brief description to [editor@msbaptist.org](mailto:editor@msbaptist.org). Let's share our ministry opportunities with others.

### Mission VBS Activity

Included with the Missions Department report are several photos of VBS activity at a number of our state missions. They show the continued effort to reach out to people with the Gospel.

### Southeastern College Progress

The information shared by Dr. Carson concerning the needs and progress at Southeastern are encouraging. I visited the campus and spoke to Basketball Coach Brad Phillips recently. They are hurriedly preparing for the Fall school year. Please read their report that highlights needs, plans, and progress.

The College Special Emphasis Drive is going on now and continues through August. Please heed their need and give liberally. The future of SBC is looking up and they need our faithful support and prayers for the ministry of Christian Education.

### Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"Please remain calm, traditional music will resume momentarily"

## Equipping women to Biblically Lead

from page 3

from among the body to lead in this important task to assure that these women were cared for and no longer marginalized.

The first recorded problem in the church directly involved the mistreatment of women. The apostles identified the need for individuals to lead in the task of bringing about a peaceful resolution that would result in godly care for these women. If there is any task that it would seem appropriate to place women in positions of authority, surely this would be a perfect case. Yet, the apostles directed the church to "pick out from among you seven men" (6:3).

Considering the arguments being made about empowering



women, it should be striking that the apostles did not recommend for even one woman to be enlisted in the oversight of this ministry to the widows. It cannot be that the apostles lacked wisdom, failed to be sensitive, or merely acquiesced to the cultural norms of the day. When the apostles saw the need for oversight of this critical ministry in the church, they set a clear example of God's design for authoritative leadership to be men.

The argument I am making is not that no women could have assisted these men chosen to lead. If they were wise leaders, they would have sought women to assist them in this task. However, the empowerment to lead in resolving this ministry crisis was given exclusively to men. Apparently, male authority in the church is not exclusively restricted to the teaching role of a pastor as some suggest.

It seems unreasonable to be-

lieve that the apostles did not deem it appropriate to enlist women to exercise authority in resolving the crisis of the widows, but the SBC should elect a woman as SBC president to address its problems. Perhaps the reason that individuals have not given biblical examples for their argument to "empower" women

Ever since Satan deceived Eve in the garden, the world has been selling "liberation" for the price of rebelling against God's design.

in the church is because none exist. The apostles were all men; the planting of churches was led by men; the writing of the New Testament was the work of men; and leadership in the churches was given to men.

That said, my ultimate point is not that women should have no leadership in the church. They most certainly should. In fact, I contend that this push to empower women in unbiblical ways will only serve to minimize and discourage women from valuing the very leadership God has called upon them to exercise.

### We Desperately Need Women to Biblically Lead

One of the dangers of responding to issues of this nature is appearing unbalanced. While trying to defend against the onslaught of those promoting unbiblical roles for women, it is easy to get entangled in only addressing what women cannot do. The reality is that women are a wonderful gift from God and their leadership is needed both in the home and the church.

My experience as a pastor is that we need more women, not less, leading as God calls for in Titus 2:3-5: "Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior... and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own

husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled." In other words, God calls women in the church to lead other women in fulfilling the vital role that he has given them. Only in Scripture can God's intended design for women be found.

Paul respected women and worked side by side with them in the work of the gospel (Rom 16). However, the only ministry in which he called upon them to lead was the discipling of children and other women. Mothers in the home should take great

joy in the privilege to raise their children in godliness. Women in the church should devote themselves to the crucial role of discipling other women. Women have the unique privilege and responsibility of leading in these significant ways. It is sad and tragic that so many women feel unfulfilled in the beautiful design for which God created them. It is an even greater tragedy when the church cultivates that emotion.

Rather than enticing women with empowerment and cultivating a dissatisfaction towards their God-given design, the SBC should call upon churches to equip women to serve in their Titus 2 role. I believe in the radical equality of men and women as image bearers of God. I also know that women have suffered greatly in this world at the hands of sexism. But it is the sin in this world that truly oppresses women, not the role God designed for them or the biblical authority structure of the church. Ever since Satan deceived Eve in the garden, the world has been selling "liberation" for the price of rebelling against God's design. We should not allow them to set up shop in our individual churches or in the SBC.

Therefore, we should stop "empowering" women and start discipling them to follow Scripture.

# Mississippi Baptist

Don J. Brown, Editor

E-Mail - [editor@msbaptist.org](mailto:editor@msbaptist.org)

Web site [www.msbaptist.org](http://www.msbaptist.org)

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Will & Kelly Hutchinson

*“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.” Ps 126:5-6*

John Phillips said, “Is that a price we are prepared to pay? Are we prepared to weep over lost souls, lost sons, lost neighbors and friends? In our society, weeping is considered too emotional (and certainly we need to beware of shallow emotionalism). But someone needs to care, if people are to be saved. Jesus shed His blood; surely we can shed some tears. Paul could say to the Ephesians that he had “warned them night and day with tears.”

June, July and August are months filled with Vacation Bible Schools, Camps, Retreats, Revival services, etc. For our

churches and our missions, it’s a busy time! But my prayer is that we never forget why we are doing all of this. As we connect with new people and see the need that so many have for salvation, may our hearts be broken and may we sincerely weep for those who are lost. I commend our missionaries for their tireless efforts to reach the lost.

Greetings from Caledonia Baptist Church

Thanks for your prayers and we are praying for you. We are growing in spirit and truth and love. We have enjoyed the first half of the year with many blessings and God adding to the church. We have

a community day coming up on July 21, 2018 at the church, to introduce our church to those who have not visited. We also have, on August 4, 2018, a giveaway at our church to all those who have needs. But we are most excited about introducing a possible new state missionary to our work on July 29, 2018. Shaun Martin and his family will be with us and Bro. Shaun will be preaching to our church and give his vision about what God is calling him to do. We are praying for blessings on Shaun and his family. Thanks again to the Missions office and the churches of the BMA for your love and support. May God Bless, Dr. Bob Burch, Pastor of Caledonia Baptist and Missionary Coach (North) - II Thess. 5:24

oughly explained each night; no decisions but a lot put on their conscience. From June 25- 29, we took five of our kids to camp at Cedine Bible Camp. This Saturday we have a large group of kids coming from Cresco, Iowa. They will spend the night on Saturday and worship with us on Sunday. Then, they will travel to Louisiana to do mission work.

**Update on Day Star Baptist Mission in Sumrall by Missionary Phillip Burns**

God continues to bless Day Star Baptist Church. We have had another individual to make a profession of faith. We are staying busy, to say the least. The



Inside construction progress at Day Star Mission in Sumrall

construction on our new building is moving right along. VBS is planned for the end of July. This year the VBS will be led by the members of Day Star Baptist Church. Our attendance continues to be good. We have had visitors coming, and souls have been saved. Thanks again to all the churches, associations, and individuals for your support and prayers for Day Star. God is good!

**Report from Bro. Sidney Farmer, Pastor of South Forrest and Missionary Coach (South)**

Like others, we are involved in VBS and back to school events at South Forrest. We will have an outdoor movie night on August 3rd as a part of that event. We have had new visitors every week lately. We are also preparing for our evangelism training which will be in October this year. Our young adult ministry has been doing volunteer work and our ladies ministry is involved in a study. Our youth ministry recently went out into the community meeting people. Discipleship continues to produce maturity in

**Freedom Baptist, Burnsville**

The church is doing pretty well considering the events that we have gone through this year. We have had a family difficulty to handle. We lost some of our kids [understandably] but we had someone to step right up and continue with the youth. Our offerings are back to steady, not what we would like, but ok. We got our visitation going strong and we are getting out in the community more. Our people are strong and supportive and looking forward to what the future holds for us. We are trusting God to pave the way. Please continue to pray for us and thank everyone for their continued support. Bro. Bobby Elliott

**Midway Baptist Mission, Batesville**

We enjoyed a very quiet 4th. My sister prepared lunch and brought it to our home. That was a pleasant visit. The rest of the day, Carole and I quietly enjoyed our 51st Anniversary.

Attendance remains steady. Of the fourteen people we count as regular attenders, one couple moved away. The good news is that another lady has been coming and yet another lady pops in every once in a while. We are enjoying Wednesday evening prayer time and Bible Study. High attendance for Wednesday’s service is 7. I have been posting a summary of the Bible Study on Facebook and have gotten positive feedback from that. I have received a couple of requests for the time of Wednesday service. Though things seem slow at times, I remain optimistic and keep reaching out.

We have another singing event sched-

uled for the 5th Sunday. The last time we had several visitors other than those who follow that particular singing group. I am beginning another construction project. When I took out the walls in the fellowship hall, that eliminated the inside storage area. I am closing in an 8 x 12-foot section of the back porch/patio on the west end.

Our congregation is small at the moment, but we are happy, and all are inviting others to come and we are having great services. I truly love being here. Dr. Kenneth Pollock, Missionary Pastor

**Central at Southaven by Anders Lee**

Things are going great at Central this summer! We’ve had four professions of faith and will soon baptize 13. Naturally, with people traveling, our attendance is down some but not badly. We have had some new families show up who are very interested in being a part of the plant! That’s always exciting! Continue to pray for us as we head towards organizing and the Fall agenda!

**Grace Baptist at Clinton by Danny Bartlett**

I am very grateful to the Lord that things are going well at Grace. Our finances continue to be strong even though our attendance numbers have been up and down. We recognized Miss Cameron Huey, our first high school graduate, during the morning service on June 24th. We also presented her with a gift from the church and had lunch that day

in her honor. We had a young family to recently visit with us. We are trusting the Lord that they will continue to wor-



Miss Cameron Huey, First Graduate of Grace Baptist in Clinton

ship with us. We recently had first time visitors one Wednesday evening: a lady with her two nephews. At present, we are making sure all is in place for our one-day VBS that will be July 7th. Please pray that young people and their families in our community will be touched that day for the Lord. We continue to be blessed by the Lord with good fellowship, a sweet spirit among our church family, and faithful members who serve the Lord with joy.

**Bro. Ed DuVall, Pastor of Home-stretch and Missions Coordinator**

We had an awesome VBS from Jun 20-22. We average over 40 participants: 20 kids and 20 adults. The gospel got thor-

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# Missions Report

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those who participate with some of our men bringing devotions sometimes on Wednesday evenings. We are staying busy. As you will see, in the follow-on reports, our missionaries in the South are busy, as well. I recently met with most of these guys to encourage them to remain vigilant. Bro. Phillip Burns is preparing for VBS while continuing to work on the building. Bro. Wesley is focused on the youth during the month of July, while continuing to do discipleship training. Bro. Will is also doing VBS and Camp while trying to secure a place to hold regular services. There is a lot going on and we need your prayers.

## Awaken Baptist Mission at D'Iberville by Will Hutchinson

It's amazing. July is busy. We have kids going to both camps at Campground Baptist Church, (our Mother Church). We are doing training next week for church security with the police in



D'Iberville Mission Picking Up Steam

D'Iberville. We are getting children's church material finalized and meeting lots of people in the community. I have a big meeting July 17th with the elementary school to see about using their location as a meeting place for our mission. We are praying a lot for that. Attendance and our core group is getting stable as the summer progresses, allowing us to get more ministry done. If the 17th goes well, we plan to start meeting at the school in August, probably at the end of the month.

Overall, I am feeling encouraged about our meeting at the school and with the response from the community I am pre-

paring our group for some great ministry once we get out of the house.

We are planning for the fall but are limited until we know the results of our meeting on the 17th. Please keep us in your prayers.

## Redemption Baptist Mission at Diamondhead

God is still blessing us in Diamondhead. Like many churches during the summer, our attendance has been up and down. We have not let this discourage us! We have continued our discipleship with 8 different couples. Our focus for the month of July is mainly on youth. We had a great youth event start the month and will be taking students to camp over the next two weeks. To finish the month, we will have VBS July 23-27. Vacation Bible School has been a great outreach for us since we came here. We have families in our congregation now that we met through VBS. It's my prayer that through camp and VBS we will see souls saved and new contacts made. Thank you for your continued prayer and support. - Bro. Wesley Martin, Missionary Pastor

## From The Foundation – Bro. Dale Broom, Missionary Pastor

We have been trying to get people to come. We talked to a family of 4 that moved to Purvis within the last few weeks and our new visitor that came a

few weeks ago hasn't come back. We've also been going door to door and have had trouble getting people to come to the door, possibly because of recent shootings or for whatever reason, I don't know. But still, the numbers are really, really low. At this point, we are trying to evaluate what to do because we can't continue with the numbers this low. Please be in prayer about the Foundation because a decision needs to be made.

## Estuardo Marroquin, Hispanic Missions Manager Report El Camino, Laurel

Pastor Marciano Montalvo reports good news in the last two months. They



Bro. Estuardo Marroquin, Bro. Estuardo's dad, was visiting from Guatemala and preached the message at the Big Creek meeting.

shared the gospel with over 20 people. Seven accepted Christ as personal Savior and three people are ready to be baptized

on July 15. Sunday school and worship service average attendance is over 120. We continue to encourage the membership to support missions and we raised over \$500 per month to support State and local missions. On June the 17th we had a Family Conference. Many visitors attended the service, four accepted Christ as personal Savior and families from the local church made promises to be faithful to our Lord and to be examples in their community. Also, they are set up and ready for the annual Hispanic Camp on August 18 and 19 at Waukaway Christian retreat center. We are expecting over 150 people from the local church and El Camino Missions.

## El Camino, Hattiesburg

Bro. Leo Adan reports great things



El Camino, Hattiesburg (Meeting at Westover Baptist Church)

continued on page 8

## Summer VBS Mission Efforts at Various BMA Mission Sites



VBS at Homestretch, Cleveland



VBS at Way, Truth & Life in Oxford 2



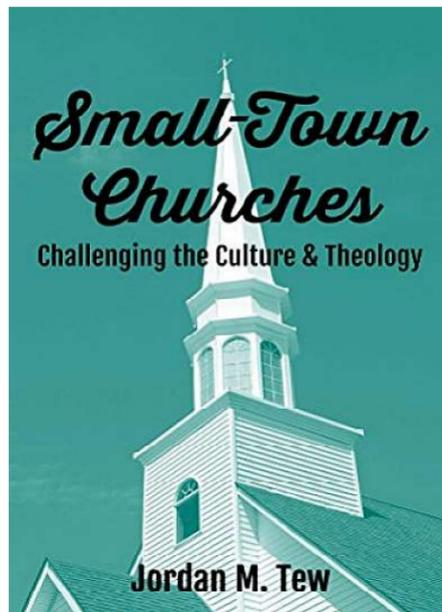
VBS at Grace Mission in Clinton



VBS at Redemption Baptist Mission at Diamond Head

## BMA Pastor Publishes Book

Jordan Tew, pastor of Eighth Street Baptist Church in Grand Prairie, Texas, has published a book titled 'Small-Town Churches: Challenging the Culture and Theology'. In his book, Jordan combines sound biblical exposition, personal experience, and hard-hitting truths, as he builds a case against small-town culture and theology, landing a blow against the established norms.



Dr. Charley Holmes, President of BMA Seminary, believes the book is "A well-written, yet reader-friendly book, which will make a great resource for pastors." Topics such as moralism, traditionalism, racism, and unbiblical church practices are all examined. Jordan is a graduate of both Jacksonville College and BMA Seminary. You can order the book at amazon.com.

## Hinton Completes Galilean Program



Congratulations to the newest Galilean Ambassador. He is Jonah Hinton son of Mike and Amy Hinton of Laurel, Mississippi. He attends Big Creek Baptist Church. Jonah is pictured with his Galilean leader Bro Roger Jeffcoat.

## Christmas Shoe Box Information

by Roger Jefcoat

It is Shoe Box time again. The Everlasting Smiles Shoe Box Ministry will be collecting shoe boxes fill with gifts for children to be delivered prior to Christmas. These gift boxes bring smiles to their faces and the Gospel will be presented so that the children will have an opportunity to receive Jesus Christ in their hearts as their Savior. In 2017 the ministry delivered over 10,000 shoe boxes to Honduras and Guatemala. The Christmas Shoe boxes this year will be going to children in Peru. Instructions for filling and sending shoe boxes may be found at [www.bmamissions.org](http://www.bmamissions.org).

We are again offering a drop-off station at the Mississippi Mission Complex in Laurel, Mississippi. The storage area is on the south side of the mission's office. The deadline for delivering the shoe boxes to the drop-off station is September 1, 2018. If you have questions call me at 601-319-3187.



## Exciting News from BMA Seminary!

We are pleased to announce that BMA Seminary has been ranked the #1 most affordable online Christian college. In addition to being named the #1 Most Affordable Online Christian College, the BMA Seminary is ranked the #1 Most Affordable Online Colleges for a Master's in Theology, and the #2 Most Affordable Online Colleges for a Master's in Religious Studies.

The purpose of the Seminary is to provide accredited undergraduate and graduate theological education for equipping individuals for Christ-Centered service and leadership roles; to support the educational needs of the churches and agencies of the Baptist Missionary Association of America and other groups who share a like commitment to the authority of Scripture; and to serve as a resource center for critical thought and research in a context which nurtures the

historical, doctrinal character of the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America.

The BMA Seminary is dedicated to providing a quality religious education at an affordable cost. We would like to thank all of the BMAA churches and individual Donors for their support and prayers. The Lord has used them to enable us to fulfill our mission to train disciple makers.

The rankings come from SR Education Group's OnlineU whose mission is to promote affordable, accessible, and quality in education. Each year OnlineU researches tuition, accreditation, acceptance rate, and other metrics. Compiling the data they then publish three sets of rankings: Top Online Colleges, Best Value Online Colleges, and Most Affordable Online Degrees.

Visit us online at [bmats.edu](http://bmats.edu) for more information about the BMA Seminary.



Davis at 601-528-0121. He may also be reached by e-mail at [stoneprint1@gmail.com](mailto:stoneprint1@gmail.com).

### Rocky Branch Sets Revival

Rocky Branch Baptist Church in Sumrall will hold revival services July 22-27. Guest speakers will be Bro. Justin Rhodes on 7-23, Bro. Greg Bennett on 7-24, Bro. Glen Pace on 7-25, Bro. Brandon Wilson on 7-26, and Bro. Jeff Dixon on 7-27. Our pastor, Bro. Robert Arinder, will start the revival on Sunday, July 22. Services begin nightly at 7:00. Please make plans to join us!

### LaFevre Quartet in Concert

Broadmoor Baptist Church, 5426 Highway 39 North, Meridian, Mississippi, (just north of Hardee's) will host the LaFevre Quartet from Atlanta, Georgia, on Thursday, August 9, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

This group of men will bless your heart as they minister the gospel through song. Admission is free and everyone is invited to attend this night of worship and praise. A love offering will be taken. For more information call 601-323-4400 or 601-482-2229.

## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White



### Surprises

There are many surprises in life. Hearing a knock on the door and finding a friend whom you have not seen for a long time.

Hearing a knock on the door and finding someone with devastating news.

This Spring I saw an Iris blooming in my flower bed. It grew from bulbs planted almost 20 years ago and they had not produced any flowers in all that time.

This past winter when extremely low temperatures were experienced down here in the South, faucets were turned on and left to run all during the night. Can you imagine the surprise of sewers and septic tanks all over the area as they were suddenly seeing all that clean water!

But the ultimate surprise will happen when our Lord and Savior returns! That reminds me of a song we sing with the children.

"Say, will you be ready when Jesus comes? Are you truly born again, washed in Jesus' blood? Are your garments spotted, are they white as snow?"

Will you be ready when Jesus comes?"

### Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

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

#### DEPARTMENTS & COMMISSIONS

**Mississippi Baptist Paper**  
P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441  
601-426-3293

**Southeastern Baptist College**  
4229 Highway 15 North  
Laurel, MS 39440  
601-426-6346

**State Youth Department**  
4226 Highway 15 North  
Laurel, MS 39440  
662-397-6832

**Baptist Children's Home**  
118 Lowe Rd., Laurel, MS 39443  
601-426-3928

**Missions & Revolving Loan Fund**  
4226 Highway 15 North  
Laurel, MS 39440  
601-428-8616

**Commission on Senior Adults**  
4226 Highway 15 North  
Laurel, MS 39440  
601-729-2613

**History & Archives Commission**  
4229 Highway 15 North  
Laurel, MS 39440  
601-729-8098

**Moral Action**  
P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855  
662-282-7425

# Missions Report

from page 6

from the mission field at Hattiesburg. He reports a good average attendance of 39 on Sunday meetings. He continues to witness in the Hispanic community on weekends and reports three people accepted Christ as personal Savior. They are discipling around 8 people. Also, they are getting good results from the visitation on weekends. Three new families are attending small group meetings and worship service. They continue to raise funds for supporting missions and now for a building project.

### El Camino, Biloxi

Bro. Jorge Galicia continues to lead the Hispanic mission. Along with Bro. Francisco Anselmo, he is doing a great job in the field. In the last two months they report good meetings at Sunday School and worship service with an aver-



El Camino, Biloxi (meeting at Temple Baptist Church)

age of 14. A family from El Camino Church, Laurel continues to help on weekends to disciple new believers and as a result of this, one person was bap-



Baptism at El Camino in Biloxi (meeting at Temple Baptist Church)

tized on July 1 in a special Reunion service hosted by Temple Baptist Church congregation. It was a beautiful time to see both congregations (American and Hispanic) worship together to Our Lord Jesus. Bro. Galicia continues to encourage El Camino Mission, Biloxi, to support missions and they are giving monthly to the Hispanic Missions Fund and New Hope Hispanic Association.

### Canton Mission

Bro. Lucas continues doing a good job on the field. In the last two months, he reports that he shared the gospel with 13 people and two accepted Christ as personal Savior. He is discipling eight new

believers and visits them every Saturday. He reports new contacts in the Canton and Madison areas. Finally, Bro. Lucas reports that he found a home to rent and he has already moved to the Canton area. He found a big home and



Helping Bro. Lucas get moved into his new house in Canton, Mississippi

also found a new job. Now, he is working his plan to establish a small group with these new believers and to start meeting with them, as soon as possible. El Camino Church, Laurel, is planning to help Bro. Lucas and his family with food and home supplies and give a special offering to help with the moving expenses.

### Way, Truth and Life, Ripley

Pastor Byron Morales, along with the church's leadership team are working hard to reach their goals and keep straight with the church's vision. In June, they had a VBS and reports good attendance on three days with an average of 95 kids per day, and making several new contacts. In May, he reported sharing the gospel with eight people, one profession of faith with an average of 69 in Sunday school and worship service.

### Way, Truth and Life, Oxford

Bro. Luis Huichin reports in the last two months that he continues to disciple four people; has an average of 33 in Sunday school and worship service and

## Some thoughts on the Beatitudes...

by Dr. Tony Cleaver

### Matthew 5.2 "...he began to teach them, saying:"

Jesus uses the word "blessed" over and over again as He teaches in this Beatitudes section. Sometimes readers become jaded at the familiar repetition of the word "blessed" and overlook the point of the message. Jesus is congratulating His kind of people. Businesses, organizations, clubs, and society in general have special awards for the people who engender the values of a certain standard. The military awards medals, clubs give plaques, and other organizations put your picture in the local newspaper. Here Jesus gives focus to the kind of people who are included in His Kingdom. He says it with the word we translate "blessed." In other words He says to these who exhibit the qualities He desires: "Congratulations to you. Happy are you. Fortunate are you. Welcome to you. I give you My approval." Good Reader, are you blessed by the Lord Jesus? Does He approve of you?

### Matthew 5.3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is

## WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

President Beth Caldwell

166 Twin Creek Rd, Lucedale, MS 39452 - 601-947-60118

Corresponding Secretary Mrs. Shirlene Smith

730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443 - 601-729-5638

## WMA Project Highlighted

Plans are in the making for a Rally to benefit one of the most worthy, needed organizations I have heard of lately.

This is the "We Are Free" aftercare facility. We are becoming more and more aware of the Human Trafficking industry and as we learn more about it our hearts are broken and our minds are in shock! There are estimated 27,000,000 boys and girls in this criminal enterprise. They are snatched up as preteens and forced to live this life. The reported 1% survival rate further increases our shock and pain.

There is a group of ladies who have dedicated themselves to making a difference in the lives of those who want to escape this cruel way of life.

There will be a Rally to help fund this endeavor. Watch for time and place to be announced later.

that he shared the gospel with eight. Also, he reports they had a Children's Camp on June 30 in the Missions Property and had 68 kids. Members from Oxford Missions came to help in this special activity and they had good fellowship.

### Way, Truth and Life, Tupelo

Bro. Humberto Regalado reports good news from the mission at Tupelo, MS. They continue to work under his plan to reach the Hispanic community around this field in the north of the state. He reports in the last two months that he shared the gospel with 32 people and had an average of 18 on Sunday school and worship service. Also, he reports good results in Vacation Bible School last month in June, and that they have had several visitors and made new contacts. Now, they are following up with these contacts to start Bible studies.

### Southaven Mission

Bro. Daniel Polanco reports good news from the Hispanic mission. He continues



Missionary Daniel Palonco and his Wife Daisy and their new baby Miriam Sofia

to disciple new believers and meetings on Sunday are doing well, with an average of 12 people. They are meeting at Calvary Baptist Church, Horn Lake, Mississippi. Bro. Polanco reports that he shared the gospel with 13 people in the last two months. Also, he shares that his family is doing great with the arrival of their new baby girl. His wife, Daisy, also, is doing well.

theirs."

Being poor in spirit is the opposite of being rich in pride. It is the opposite of satisfied self-righteousness and attitude of self-centeredness of personality as the focus of the universe. Of course being poor in spirit does not mean poor spirited—that poor spirited attitude like the ten spies who came out of Canaan with the mindset: "We can't conquer the land because there are giants there." Poor in spirit is like a true beggar who sits in the dust with a hand reaching up for assistance without making eye contact with those who pass by. The beggar knows he is of the dust and has no alternative but to beg. That's the first step to the kingdom! Each and every human being comes to the place where they know there is nothing but dust like existence with them. They in humility reach a hand up to the Lord God of heaven to ask for His help. From the dust to the skies comes that help. The poor in spirit person receives from Jesus the words: you are blessed."

### Matthew 5.6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

Real physical hunger is when a crust of bread is the most precious thing on earth. Real physical thirst is when a sip of water is more valuable than jewels or gold. Good Reader, are you hungry and thirsty for God, the things of God, and the path God wants for you? Only Jesus through His death, burial, and resurrection has the power to satisfy your hunger and thirst. To be certain, there are nibbles and snacks provided in many philosophies and ways of life. However, Jesus has prepared a banquet table for all to come. That table is in the shape of a cross on which He died for our sins. Soul hunger and thirst—those things for which all seek—can be satisfied and quenched only in Jesus Christ. The way to the Kingdom is to seek after God with all the earnestness and drive of a starving person seeking food or a parched and dehydrated person seeking water. The promise and fact is God will fill you.