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Becoming a Missional Church in America

by Dr. Steve Crawley
Ministers Resource Services
from mission:world Magazine

When scholars define the word church, they usually refer back to the original Greek language and reference ekklesia. This word carries a meaning pertaining to a congregation or assembly of believers. In American vernacular, we more often than not hear the word church to reference a physical place or structure. Within recent years, this common thought of church has been challenged with the development of a movement known as Missional Church. The purpose of this ar-



Crawley

ticle is to explore some of the characteristics of a missional church, examine what a traditional church might do to transition to a missional mindset, and identify the change in ministry design necessary to shift paradigms.

MAJOR CHARACTERISTICS OF A MISSIONAL CHURCH

Holy Spirit Led

The missional church should be Spirit-driven and human-led. According to Darrell Guder, missional churches get their identity, their character, their motivation, and their vocation through God's empowering presence. God is at work in the world today, but He often uses His divine power through humans. Further, Guder concludes that leaders are wise to be sensitive to the leadership of the Holy

Spirit as they seek to define their church's "action within the world."

Multiple Leaders

Rather than building a church around a single individual, missional leadership seeks to share the burden of leadership with the laity and produce new leaders organically. In lieu of a single minister directing all of the congregation's actions, laymen and laywomen should be involved in the church's leadership structure. As leaders develop organically, they should then be able to reproduce themselves.

Transitioning to a Missional Mindset

For a church to transition from an established and traditional mindset to a missional

mindset requires some radical changes. While there are many things that must take place, two are critically important in the paradigm shift.

Single Focus of the Church is on Missions

Numerous churches have a missions program. It is not uncommon to hear people reference the missions program on equal footing with the youth program, the music program, the visitation program, etc. However, rather than a church viewing missions as one of its many programs, missions is the pro-



gram defining the church. The missional church is all about fulfilling God's mission on earth, and every activity and action of the church should be part of a funnel that leads to that end. As Reggie McNeal states, for a church to transition to a missional mindset is not about doing church better—it is about doing church differently.

Change the Measurement of Success

Missional churches do not refer to the same gauges of success as traditional churches, where offerings and attendance are of primary concern. McNeal proposes that a better barometer for determining a church's effectiveness is to see how much of its resources are going for external causes, the number of intentional relationships one is cultivating, the number of people released into service, and the spiritual growth of its disciples.

Missional Church Ministry Design

Leaders of established churches often design their ministry process around the weekly worship service. Consequently, most of the church's energy goes toward producing the worship event, since this is the climax of their weekly church experience. In this paradigm, people will

SOAR 2020

*SOAR 2021 will be at the Hilton Anatole,
Dallas, Texas, on July 6–8, 2021*

by Nick Jacobsen

It is very easy to say that COVID-19 has changed everything, including SOAR 2020. However, one thing that didn't change is the impact SOAR 2020 had.

Since SOAR 2020 was online, there was no way of knowing exactly how many individuals watched, but what we do know is how many times the sessions were played, how many times the sessions were downloaded and something called "impressions." There were over 230 downloads of the sessions and over 140 downloads of the breakout sessions. There were over 640 plays of the sessions.

Those numbers are great, but since we posted the session vid-

eos on Facebook and people shared the post, there were almost 9,000 impressions, meaning nearly 9,000 people saw the SOAR sessions on their Facebook feeds. This year, Lifeword partnered with SOAR and gave away AirPod Pros to a student pastor who signed up on the SOAR website. The winner of the AirPod Pros was Glen Taylor from First Baptist Church in McNeil, Arkansas.

We saw churches from other denominations sign up, like Church of Christ, Pentecostal and Assembly of God. Now, we don't know if they watched the sessions with their group, but we do know that they know about the SOAR Conference and could have watched the ses-

sions.

Some of the feedback we've received is that some churches were able to gather over the June 26-27 weekend and engage in the sessions, and they posted several pictures on the SOAR Facebook page. We even had a way for students to respond to the message by letting SOAR know digitally online.

There was one profession of faith, and several committed to being disciplined. SOAR leadership reached out to local BMA churches to follow up with those students that made a commitment.

Volunteer Student Missions gave away a \$500 scholarship for a 2021 trip, and the winner of that was Grace McLelland

from First Baptist Church in Magnolia, Arkansas.

Southeastern Baptist College and Jacksonville College have not yet announced their SOAR Scholarship recipients. However, Central Baptist College has awarded two half tuition scholarships (valued at about \$8,000 each) to Karli Rabb, from Brister Baptist Church at Emerson; and Dixie Johnson, from Bethel Baptist Church in Fulton, Mississippi. Both young ladies will graduate in 2021.

We were thrilled to still offer SOAR, albeit a little different, none the less the Lord used SOAR. We also announced SOAR 2021 will be at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas, Texas, on July 6–8, 2021, and the theme is Pause. We will focus on worship and that being our response to who God is.

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MINISTERING TO YOUNG PEOPLE

by Anders Lee

Things I Learned at Camp in 2020

YES... I said CAMP! If you read my article in May you know that I wrote about cancelling camp at that time. Most associational camps were cancelled for obvious reasons. I'm pleased to tell you that after Stoneridge Baptist Camp in Smithville, Arkansas, worked very hard with the Arkansas State Health Department (ASHD) they were able to open with specific guidelines in the month of July.

Central jumped for the opportunity to plan a camp with them. Seven other BMA churches joined in with us to create a teen camp out of three BMA local associations. We ended up hosting 105 teens and 19 sponsors.

Things I learned at camp:

God is still in control!

He always was (we know that)... but JUST when I said there isn't going to be a camp... God opened the door in His time & way! The Governor of Arkansas made certain provisions for and released specific guidelines for sports & youth camps. We rejoiced when the doors opened! We had been praying that it would happen, and it did with just enough time to plan the camp at Stoneridge.

"Where there's a will, there's a way!"

When I first read the guidelines that the ASHD issued... I thought... GOOD GRIEF! There is no way these pastors, parents and teens will be willing to do ALL of this. Then I remembered one of my Mom's favorite lines when I was growing up: "Where there's a will, there's a way!" The phone calls, Marco's, texts and emails began going back and forth. What would we have to do to make it happen... would they do it?

We had 20 COVID guidelines that the camp had issued and 7 guidelines the ASHD had required. After having that conversation with everyone involved, we began saying if one gets saved after doing all this, it will be worth it. We had to screen everyone who came with ALL the requirements and guidelines and parents had to fill out extra paperwork. The process took a lot of extra effort & time... BUT... when all was said and done... NO ONE COMPLAINED!!!



Anders Lee



Campers from Central Church, Southaven, Mississippi

The Teens were "Lit!"

That was their term for it... LOL! In other words they were bouncing off the walls just because they could be there. I've been organizing camps and being a camp director for small and large camps since 1990. I've seen some great camps come and go. BUT THIS ONE will stay in my mind for a long while. Those teens were excited to just be there. They didn't care what we did for activities. They were just PUMPED that they were out of the house and WITH other teens.

There was so much laughter and joy in their midst. The worship sessions was filled with genuine praise and acts of worship! It broke & blessed my heart to see it! The teens from the 8 churches were mixed up onto teams. I have never seen teens become so attached and buddies so FAST! Half way through camp it hit the leaders that they were so "lit" because they had been so secluded and "quarantined" for so long. I gotta tell ya... it was a blast to watch!

Teens have been Hurting!

If you have ever been involved in a camp you know that about half way thru it the teens begin to open up. We do all the crazy silly fun things to connect with them in the prayer and hope that they will let their walls down and reach out to have their spiritual needs met. I can't go into great details of course without violating confidentiality, but I will share some as I have their permission. Almost in every church group as teens opened up, they privately began telling their leaders they had been struggling. Some said they had been depressed, four told leaders they had been contemplating suicide. One of those be-

londous blessing to hear them say how thankful they were to be able to be at camp and make those connections.

I know youth pastors and pastors have a lot going on... But I would be amiss in this article if I didn't say reach out to these kids and teens... THEY NEED YOU! They need to hear from you and know someone cares!

COVID Doesn't Stop God!

Nothing stops HIM! In a year when I thought it would be the first time in decades that I didn't go to camp... We saw 11 teens saved and one surrender to ministry which thrilled our hearts! WOW!!! Praise His name!!!

You still have a lot of time in the summer to plan something for your youth! I know if God opened doors for us He can for you too!!! Pray about it and let Him led you in what you can do for your youth in this crazy year called 2020!

On a personal note... I want to thank many of you who have contacted my family and me saying you have prayed for my Dad, Lavell Lee. He had a mini stroke and other problems in early June. He has recovered well, but isn't fully back to his old self just yet. He's getting there. Keep praying for him and you have our love and thanks! If you are one of the older pastors in the association that knows him and feels led, give him a call - I know it will brighten his day!

Lee is a church planter in Southaven, Mississippi. He is a pastor and former youth minister and may be contacted at anders.lee571@gmail.com

Missional Church

from page 1

usually comment that they "go to church." Hence, whether they realize it or not, they tend to compartmentalize their spiritual lives from their secular lives. With this mentality, church is something that occurs one day out of the week. While they may focus on spiritual things on Sunday, Monday through Saturday will be dedicated to secular thinking (jobs, social activities, school, etc.). A missional ministry design, therefore, must create a radical paradigm shift whereby the weekly worship service is not the center of the universe with

regard to one's church life. While the established church may have the weekend worship service as its foundational element, the missional church must establish the church's mission—making disciples—as its foundation.

To reach America for Christ, it may be time we transition from our traditional view of the church and its methods to a missional mindset. When we see ourselves as missionaries and not as mere laymen and laywomen in the congregation, we might be amazed at how God will work through us to accomplish His mission right here in America.

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August 2, 2020 - A Day of Giving -



Southeastern Baptist College's Special Emphasis Months are July and August for focused donations from churches and individuals. All BMA of Mississippi churches are encouraged to designate the first Sunday in August, August 2, 2020, for a "Day of Giving" for SBC (or any Sunday in July or August that may be more convenient for your church family). As a reminder, Southeastern Baptist College is a 501(c)(3) certified tax deductible charity.

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

Do you remember the Ziggy cartoon strip? There is one that I remember well. It shows Ziggy at his front door having just returned from shopping with an arm load of groceries. As he struggles for his keys he spots a note pinned to his door. It reads, "Knocked while you were out." Signed, Opportunity.

The Lord continues to present Southeastern Baptist College with tremendous opportunities. We are doing our best not to pass up a single one, but these opportunities are accompanied with demanding workloads coupled with significant financial challenges. At the same time our staff, though dedicated to the Lord and the

tasks at hand, are getting tired. I know because I am tired as well.

When I first came to SBC I thought how great it will be to have a long summer break between semesters. Was I wrong! Summer is actually our busiest time! This year we fielded the largest attended summer semester in the last 20 years. Simultaneously, many of the staff worked on a huge and tedious project preparing documents for the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE). This is to meet the requirements for achieving licensure for those who



Dr. Scott Carson
President

will be taking classes in our newest degree path in Elementary Education. This is our second submission to the department, and we may have more requirements in the near future. As the staff focused their efforts toward this project, they set aside their regular workloads. These will now have to be addressed inside a condensed time frame. Larger schools have larger staffs who can be easily redirected to work on new programs. However, at SBC our staff members already have many responsibilities. When they are required to stop their normal and demanding workloads in order to concentrate on another, daily requirements are shelved until they can finish the task at hand.

While the work on the MDE project is progressing, we are also recruiting for the fall semester. The staff is preparing

for our delayed 2020 commencement exercise that is scheduled for August 1. We are making adjustments to how professors will teach classes this fall due to the COVID 19 effects. We are renovating eight dorm rooms and the gym floor is being modified. We are acquiring new technology, an opportunity provided by the U.S. Department of Education, which requires its installation and training on the equipment. We are looking for a solution to student housing demands as we anticipate being at maximum capacity this next semester. We need to prepare our current housing for this influx of resident students. The list of concurrent projects goes on.

My sharing this with you is intended to help you understand the reality of our situation. The staff of SBC needs your encouragement. I believe they are a fantastic group of people! The Lord has truly blessed the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi with these folks. They are all dedicated to our Lord and to this college. Pray for their spiritual, mental, and physical strength! I cannot express to you how impressed I

am with the team of talented people God has brought our way.

As we work on the current opportunities, we also prepare to accept the next, yet unknown opportunity the Lord will bring our way. At the same time, we shall endeavor to continuously address that which has fallen into disrepair, modify those things that improve our classroom delivery, and plan for the school's expansion toward a brighter future. The Lord's hand is clearly on this college as evidence by the great employees He has gathered together onto our campus. Please pray for them regularly, and as always, we appreciate your continued financial support to this vital ministry of the BMA of Mississippi. Will you help SBC with a Special Emphasis Offering on August 2? God is on the move at SBC and we must keep up with Him!

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9

Equipping the Saints!
Dr. Carson



Commencement Set for August 1

The 2020 Southeastern Baptist College graduation ceremony is scheduled to be held on Saturday, August 1, 2020 at 11 a.m. in the College gym. Dr. John Adams is our guest speaker. Dr. Adams is an alumnus, Pastor of 1st Baptist Church of Mantachie, Mississippi, and the Director of the Moral Action of Mississippi. Congratulations to our graduates!



Dr. John Adams

Laurel area that are not currently occupied that your church would allow us to use, please give Dr. Carson a call at 601-426-6346.

Women's Dorm Renovation

We are renovating the upstairs women's dormitory that have not been occupied in many years. This is a tremendous opportunity for your church, yourself, or an organization to adopt as their contribution to the growth of SBC. There are eight rooms and four bathrooms that must be completely refreshed before the beginning of the Fall Semester. Four (or one half) of the rooms are financed by generous donors. There is still an

Women's Dorm Renovation



Top photo - dorm room redo
Bottom - bathroom restoration



opportunity for you to donate toward one or more of the other four rooms. For each full sponsor, the sponsor's name will be

placed on a plaque on the door of the suite. Each suite will cost \$7,200 to renovate. Please refer to the adjacent flyer for more details.

Registering for Fall Semester

We have opened early registration for this coming Fall Semester. Contact Admissions through our website, or calling 601-426-6346, or by visiting our campus in person 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Classes begin the second week of August.

Available Scholarships

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. Contact our Financial Aid Officer, Ginny Singleton for more information.

Sports Opportunities

During the 2020-2021 school year, SBC will be adding the following sports programs: Men and Women's Basketball, Men's Baseball, Women's Softball, and Cheerleading. We continue to offer Men's Varsity and Junior Varsity Basketball, and

Women's Basketball. Tryouts are ongoing, contact Coach Buddy Duke immediately at 601-426-6346 if you are interested in any of these programs.

The Best Online 2-Year College

Southeastern Baptist College is designated by Intelligent.com as the "Best Two Year University" for Online Bible Colleges out of 201 institutions across the U.S. for 2020. That's twice in the last 4 years we have been ranked number one out of hundreds of colleges and universities. And, we have consistently been in the top 25. SBC is also one of the top 10, least expensive schools among thousands of colleges in the country. Contact the SBC Admissions Officer today at 601-426-6346.

Lighthouse Café Will Reopen!

The SBC Lighthouse Café is scheduled to reopen on Monday, August 3, 2020. The hours will remain the same as last year and open to the public: Monday through Thursday, 11-2. Closed Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. An article recently highlighted the Café in the April addition of the Jones County's Spring Home & Garden Show-

The Danny Pitts Lecture Series

Mark your calendars! We have set the dates of September 28 - 30 for the Danny Pitts Lecture Series here on the campus of SBC. More information will be provided over the next couple of months

A Housing Opportunity

We know we can exceed 100 students taking classes here at SBC. One of our greatest challenges to growing the student body is housing. We are currently exploring ways to meet this significant need. If you know of rental homes, or perhaps available parsonages in the



Dr. Carson demonstrates the new zero turn professional grade mower purchased for SBC by Keith and Tammy Wright of Columbia, Tennessee.

College Report
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BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



Larry Geraldson
Director



www.bmams.org - 601.428.8616

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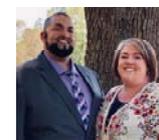
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"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation." Ps 68:19

God has been good to us and we have so much to be thankful for. As I daily ponder upon this reality, I am often swept away, in my heart, by the wonder of our Lord. He "...daily loadeth us with benefits...". Oh, how I pray that God will help us to daily marvel at His goodness and daily work to bring Him glory! What a joy it is to serve the "...God of our salvation..." as He "...daily loadeth us with benefits...". Now, sometimes, the load you feel you are carrying may seem heavy and the anxiety and weight of the moment may cause you to lose sight of the benefit. But we must remind ourselves of the benefits given to us by the God of our salvation. Just consider, for a moment, the benefits spoken of in Ephesians 2:6-8 which says, "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." Remember the benefit helps us realize that the daily load is valuable and even desirable. So, we praise our God, with the Psalmist, by shouting, "Blessed be the Lord...".

Director's Update

Our missionaries have, like most of you, be struggling with the challenges brought on by the presence of COVID-19. Most have started meeting again, however, some have had to reverse course and go back to online services. To my knowledge, their meetings have not been the place where the virus was contracted, but rather, some

of their people contracted the virus and were quarantined and therefore, the service necessarily had to move back to online.

On a personal note, I can tell you that I believe, by God's grace, that I am back to 100%. Praise the Lord! I did struggle with getting my full energy back and had a lingering cough but that too has subsided. While we continue to have the office closed to walk-in traffic, Ms Kim and I are maintaining normal office hours. I am personally looking forward to getting back out and visiting among our missions. Please keep us in your prayers and try to gear back up.

We are currently preparing for the close out of our fiscal year which ends at the end of July. We will then move directly into our annual audit. Each year, after our close out, a team of 4-5 Auditors descend on our location and remain with us the entire week. They comb through everything. Together with checking our books, they assess our management practices and evaluate our procedures. Ultimately, they will prepare a report and their team leader will personally brief us and provide a written report. The Revolving Loan Fund Trustees and the Missionary Committee are given an opportunity to review the report and ask any questions before it is reported out to the Association through our written Annual Report which is published each year in the State Yearbook.

As I round the corner toward our annual meeting, I find myself finishing up my 9th year as your Director. I am just as excited as the day I arrived, maybe even more. We have so much work to do and I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve our

Lord and serve you.

Report from Canaan Land Mission

"Thank you all for your continued support and prayers.



Canaan Land Mission new building. Renovation continues

Wayne county has been hit hard with the Covid-19. In spite of this, but cautiously, we continue forward. The renovation on the building is coming along well, thanks to all the volunteer help we have received. We are now meeting in the new building even though it is not complete. Our members remain encouraged! As you know the matching fund campaign runs through the end of August. Would you prayerfully consider making a donation to the matching funds campaign to help dissolve the debt of the property? This debt does not include the cost of renovation. Thus far, we have been able to raise these funds. We are continuing to share the gospel when and where we can. Hopefully, this virus will let up so that we can continue with our community outreach plans. God bless you all." - Bro. Scott Brocius and Bro. Jason Howard

Living Hope Baptist Mission

"The Lord is so very good! We have been blessed to fill up our Sunday schedule in churches through the end of August. We thoroughly enjoyed our Sundays with Bro. Sprayberry and First Baptist Bay Springs, and Bro. Cummings and Evergreen in

Seminary. We have selected a name for the new mission and will have our first core group meeting on Sunday night the 19th with two families that have committed to join the mission. We are hoping to have a website and social media presence soon. As we get these developed, we will let you know, so you can keep up with our work on a regular basis. We are also looking at places to meet in Meridian. Please pray that God will give us wisdom. If you know of someone, in the Meridian area that is either lost or unchurched, please pass their contact information to us so that we can reach out to them. Thank you again for your gracious hospitality and your prayers. You have been so kind to my family and me, and we look forward to serving Christ with you!" Missionary Chris Yager

Hispanic Missions Report by Bro. Estuardo Marroquin

El Camino Church - Laurel had a good service on July 5. For this worship service only the half of congregation was invited to come and the rest of the congregation followed the service by Facebook live. Their plan is to have two services in July. The second service will be on July 12 with the other half of the congregation and broadcasting the worship service every Sunday. Then, they are planning to do the same for the month of August. They report 7 additions by baptism in the month of June and continue small groups meeting by Facebook live.

El Camino Mission - Hattiesburg reports that they began worship service in July. They are happy and excited to come back to the church building. Also they will continue to broadcast their worship service because they had the blessing to reach other people in the area when the members invited friends to follow them by online service.

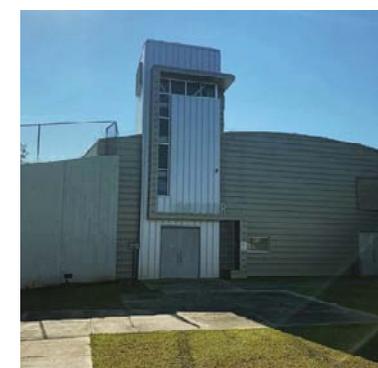
El Camino Mission - Canton - Bro. Lucas Gómez reports good news from the field. They have online small group meetings and 1 addition by baptism and are making plans to start worship service next month in August. El Camino Mission - Biloxi - The mission continues small group meeting online and also is making plans to start meetings in the building in August. Thanks for your prayers for the Hispanic missions.

Refuge Baptist Mission in the Kiln, Mississippi

Refuge Baptist Mission is now meeting at the Kiln Storm Shelter. They met in the Kiln Shel-



Missionary Josh Daniel's preaching at the Kiln Shelter to Refuge Baptist Mission



Refuge Baptist Mission new meeting place at the Kiln Storm Shelter

Missions Continues on page 5

Scripture Thoughts by Cleaver

Proverbs 8.8 *All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.*

Being smart is more than simply having “book knowledge” about scholastic subjects. Being smart, perhaps better stated being wise, is not only knowing the right thing to do but rather doing the right thing. Our behavior is observable, even measurable.



Tony Cleaver

Other people see what we do. The Lord also examines us. In the arena of life we make choices shown by our actions. Being wise is to follow the path of the Heavenly Father. Following His path of wisdom leads to a good and reward-

ing life. All of His words are honest, upright, moral, and virtuous that direct us to the genuine way to life. Many words come from other sources that are unreliable and immoral. Listen with more than your ears to the words from the Scriptures. Listen with your heart of heart and soul of soul to His words that lead to life.

Proverbs 14:12 *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

No one wants to be flimflammed. No one wants to be bamboozled, gypped, cheated, conned, or deceived. There is a lot of advice out there on how to live life. Multiple internet and social media voices give advice on “the way to arrange your

life.” Life coach seminars are readily available any weekend in most cities.

All sorts of gurus ranging from political, religious, philosophical, financial, even metaphysical abound with a complete set of instructions to the promised way to “the new you.” Of course that is if you pay the required fee for getting to the “way.” Disappointment is a word that comes to mind when all is said and done with the multiple avenues that promise so much but end in such hopeless failure. The way chosen, paid for, and lived out seemed right. Even with all good intentions and purposeful planning, it ended in death.

Death can be more than simply the end of the dream of a “better me.” Death is the cessation of life. Eternal death is also an everlasting state that is away

from the presence of God. It is the ruin and demise of a life built on the falseness of one’s own way. Don’t be deceived or double-crossed at the end of your life regarding the things that matter most. The Lord Jesus matters most. He matters most now. He matters most at life’s end.

Dr. Tony Cleaver is a retired U.S. Army Chaplain and Director of Distance Learning for BMA Seminary.

*You may contact him at jstmcleaver@embarqmail.com Proverbs 21.23 *Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.**

Southeastern College

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case Magazine published by the Impact newspaper.

Veterans Benefits

SBC possesses the Gold Award level 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. I urge you to contact your local VA representative for an evaluation of your benefits. You earned them! SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

Amazon Smile

Anyone shopping on Amazon can select Southeastern Baptist College as your charity. When you do this, a portion of your purchase price will go directly to SBC as a donation from Amazon! Thank you for those who are already using this unique method to benefit SBC.

Southeastern Baptist College



Best two-year online Bible college for 2020 in the country!



Missions Report

from page 4

ter Sunday July 12th and will be back there again on Sunday July 19th at 10:30 a.m. Help them spread the word to anyone that you may know who lives in the Kiln area.

“Greetings to each of you in Christ. We at Refuge Baptist Mission are thankful to report the current work going on in the Kiln area. Because of Refuge Baptist Mission meeting at the Kiln Storm Shelter



lost our first meeting place in the Kiln Public Library, but we were able to find another meeting place in the Kiln Storm Shelter. We are currently renting this space for 2 weeks at a time and occasionally will have to deal with other people or groups booking the shelter, but we are hopeful that it will not happen often. Attendance seems to be steady as we transition into this space. We hope to grow beyond a Sunday morning service and begin to offer classes on Sunday evenings as well as opening back a nursery and children’s church time, eventually. We know many churches are having to navigate these same issues and we are praying for each one, as well. We will be taking a few students to a summer camp next week to Lake Tiak-O’Khata. We are thankful to invest in these students and hope to see great fruit from this opportunity. We

are also gathering book bags and school supplies to donate to our local elementary schools. One of our desires is to establish a church that connects to its community and we believe that

through the schools will be a great way to do so. Please continue to pray for us and consider supporting this mission work. We are thankful to be a part of the BMA of Mississippi. May God bless and keep you and show much grace to you all.” – Missionary Josh Daniels

Redemption Baptist Mission
“Greetings from Diamondhead! I hope this finds you safe and healthy. The Lord has continued to bless our work even in the midst of this pandemic. Since we started meeting again, we have had new families each week. Several of them heard about us when we were doing online services. Our Wednesday night Bible study has continued to grow, as well. Associate Missionary Daniel Allen has continued to be a blessing to us and has continued to grow. He has worked hard in

organizing and running our small groups. He is now organizing our second semester of small groups. He has also continued to preach sermons online each week. Those are posted on our Facebook page at 5:00 pm every Sunday afternoon. Thank you to everyone who has continued to support us financially during these tough times. We thank you all for your support and prayers.” – Missionary Wesley Martin

Summer Retreat Canceled

Our BMA of Mississippi Summer Retreat which was to be held at Paul B. Johnson State Park on August 27-29 has been canceled. The State Park has been ordered to cancel all large group meetings.

New Features on Website

We hope you will take advantage of the new features on our recently launched website. Preachers can now build a resume directly on our page and make it available to churches who are looking to fill important positions. Churches can share, directly on the website, any position they may be seeking to fill and the website will cross check it with existing resumes to see if anyone fits the profile. You can access information about our Association including recent copies of the annual yearbook and church statistical letter. You can find historical information about our Association and current information about our missionaries and churches. Please take a moment to visit our site at www.bmams.org.

El Camino Celebrates Baptism





Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Lindsey

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

I once heard a joke that no one is ever 'whelmed'. We are always either underwhelmed or overwhelmed. The joke was just referencing word usage, but I think there is some truth in practice as well. How often do we find ourselves in a place of satisfaction for very long? While writing about the care of the Philippian church Paul says, "...I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Paul

learned, grew in sanctification, to be satisfied in underwhelming and overwhelming times.

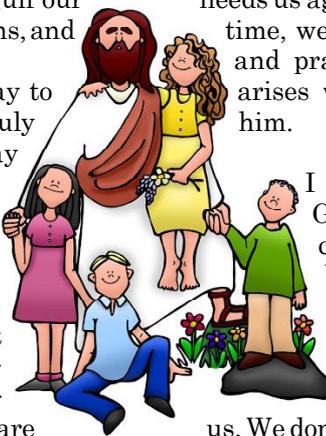
My last series of articles looked at the Biblical perspective of the children of God in comparison to children in need of care at the children's home.

As we read through God's Word we see the times when He could say I'm done, I'm overwhelmed by these sinful people, and what does He do?

Today I want to look at the parental side of things. Every parent knows what it is to be overwhelmed. It doesn't matter if you have one kid or twelve; they can be a handful. Often, our kids themselves are not what is overwhelming. Rather, all the

other circumstances in life add together and engulf our thoughts, emotions, and actions.

The end of May to the beginning of July has felt that way around the Home. During this time we have dealt with three different surgeries on three different people in our family and their recoveries which are still at varying stages. On top of that, children still need your attention as a parent. Maybe the most difficult part of this



We hope this young man never needs us again, but at the same time, we mourn his absence and pray that if the need arises we will be here for him.

I can't begin to think I know the grief our God feels for his lost children in this world, but I do feel like I know it a little better than I once did. He is always near us, and he hurts for us. We don't have all the explanation of what was going through His mind and heart when "Jesus wept," but we can be sure He showed us that He hurt and mourned separation of fellowship caused by the effects of sin. Lindsay and I hurt when those here demonstrate their sinfulness and we experience a break in fellowship with them and know they are experiencing a break in fellowship with their creator. Through all this overwhelming hurt, we don't share it merely for sympathy. We share these things as a con-

tinuous testimony to the greatness of God. We can hurt. We can be overwhelmed by life. We can feel like we are at our wit's end. Then, we are reminded of God's goodness and grace. As we read through God's Word we see the times when He could say I'm done, I'm overwhelmed by these sinful people, and what does He do? On the other side of every one of those circumstances, we see undeserved acts of grace and compassion.

Please pray for us. Pray for the parents in your church. Pray for the parents in your community. Pray for each other. We all get overwhelmed. In some ways of defining that term, we could say Jesus was overwhelmed in the tomb. He was buried abundantly or excessively by that large stone, but was that the end of the story? He overcame so that one day we will also. I can be content when life piles on because I know there is coming a day when all those weights will be gone. They will be but a momentary, light affliction compared to the eternal weight of glory.

The "NEW NORMAL"

by Sam Freeman
Missionary to the Philippines

The "new normal" here in the Philippines is slowly coming into picture. It seems for the foreseeable future religious services will only be allowed to meet at 50% of building capacity. Travel for leisure in between islands is still being discouraged, and as of right now, foreigners are only allowed in the country for work-related travel. With that in mind, the BMAP officers and the BMAP Missionary Committee met last week to discuss plans about the upcoming Bi-Annual Meeting of the BMAP, scheduled to be hosted at the Bible College during the last

week of October. The consensus is that the meeting will have to be a hybrid type with in-person and online streaming of the services taking place. There will not be any "housing" provided by the Bible College, as that could violate health protocols put in place by the Department of Health, so several different options are being pondered and prayed about by these leaders. Please pray for them as they seek to make good and wise decisions for our association of churches during these stressful times.

BMAP Missionaries

Our 6 BMAP National Missionaries have tackled this time of lockdown with gusto. The Lord has allowed them to use many different kinds of methodologies to keep busy doing the work of the ministry. New opportunities have opened to them such as house worship, small groups, and online streaming of services. They have used these methods to continue to move forward in spite of the unique challenges. Please pray for our missionaries and the fields they serve all over the Philippines. I am thankful for Community Baptist Church in Barth, MS and the Hobolochitto Baptist Assoc. that helped us provide laptops for all our BMAP Missionaries last

year. They are being well used for sure.

Care Package

We are always thankful for "care boxes" and want to thank



Our Care package from Washington Church

our great friends at Washington Baptist Church in Neely, MS for taking such great care of us. We love y'all BIG!

Upcoming Furlough

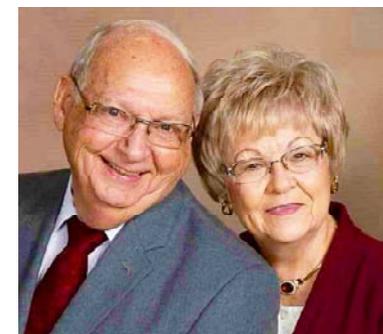
We are waiting for things to settle a bit before attempting to

purchase our airline tickets for furlough which will begin in November. Several of our missionaries have had multiple tickets rebooked or cancelled altogether over the last few months, so we are hoping that shortly things might ease into a sense of normalcy, and we will book our tickets then.

I will be contacting pastors over the next month or two as I begin to develop our meeting schedule during Furlough. Please contact me by messenger or phone (601-342-0401) if you would like us to visit your church. We plan to visit ALL our supporting churches and expect to have a few dates for new churches as well. Thank you for your partnership with us in spreading the gospel in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

Former Mississippi Pastor Paul Mooney celebrates 50 Years of Ministry

First Baptist Church of Galena, Kansas Pastor Emeritus, Paul Mooney, will be celebrating 50 years in the ministry. He grew up at FBC, Galena, and surrendered to preach July 17, 1970, at church camp in Saginaw, Missouri.



Paul & Mary Mooney

He has held positions as pastor at Lebanon Baptist Church in Laurel, Mississippi and Heritage Baptist Church in Nevada, Missouri. Bro. Mooney retired as associate pastor at First Baptist Church in Galena, and still preaches the message today by filling in for other pastors.

This year has been and will be a year of celebrations. He and his wife Mary, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary June 25, 2020. Then Paul will then celebrate 80 years on his birthday, Sept. 12, 2020.

If you would like to send him a card, please mail to: Paul Mooney, 4606 W. 28th Place, Joplin, MO 64804.



Freeman bringing message during 'social distancing'



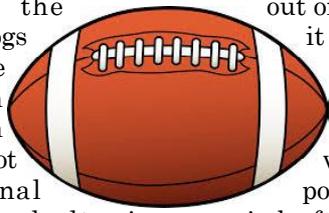
Even our choir had to social distance while performing

the issues of faith...

Playing For Overtime

shared from a Facebook friend

Thursday night, November 3, 1988. High school football. In Mississippi, the Tishomingo Bulldogs were playing the Falkner High School Eagles. In order to secure a spot in their divisional playoffs, Tishomingo had to win that game by at least four points. The Bulldogs were 35 yards from the end zone and ahead 16-14 with seven seconds on the clock. Coach Dave Herbert had Lou Gehrig's disease so was coaching from a flatbed truck along



the sidelines. He had to make a big decision.

A fifty-two-yard field goal was out of the question, and it was unlikely they could score on one play from the 35-yard-line. They were winning by two points, but needed to win by four. So...

Knowing their best shot for a playoff berth required them to force overtime and try to win by more than four points, Coach Herbert called a play that's still talked about all these years later in a popular book. The play so

confused his team that they were assessed two delay of game penalties, and game film shows turmoil in the huddle as these players couldn't believe their coach was asking them to throw away their hard-fought win. Coach Herbert's son was the quarterback and as he tried to explain the play, nobody in the huddle wanted to do it. When the play was run, the stands fell silent. Herbert took the snap, and then pitched it to his running back Shane Hill, who ran 52-yards the wrong way. Tony Dawson, the sophomore ball boy, ran down the sidelines stride for stride with Hill yelling, "Shane, you're going the wrong way!" In stunned silence, Hill slid into Tishomingo's end zone, not

knowing that he had just completed what would later be hailed as the greatest play in his school's history. Hill's stats for that night were negative 26

22-14 to the Anguilla Bulldogs a week later in Coach David Herbert's final game as a coach, that bold play demonstrates foresight to see what most can't

..that bold play demonstrates foresight to see what most can't see in the moment, and it speaks of great trust...

yards on 10 carries. With the score now tied, overtime began and Tishomingo won the game 22-16 to claim their spot in the playoffs.

Coach Herbert was featured on the Today show, Brent Musburger talked about it on CBS's NFL Today pregame show, and the story was even carried internationally; it went viral long before the Internet. Even though Tishomingo lost

see in the moment, and it speaks of great trust. Those high school football players had to trust their coach for doing something that didn't make any sense to them at the time. These are the issues of faith. We trust God for seeing what we can't, while remaining confident that He has our best interest at heart. -- (Playing For Overtime, Al Ainsworth, 2019, p.194)

More leftist 'code words' infiltrating a drifting denomination

(OneNewsNow.com) Southern Baptist Convention president J.D. Greear is calling on all members of the denomination to declare that "Black Lives Matter." Some of his fellow Baptists, however, are questioning his motivation for making such a request.

Greear made the following appeal in a video to his denomination during his annual address that normally would have been delivered at the now-cancelled SBC annual meetings:

Greear: "Southern Baptists, we need to say it clearly as a gospel issue: Black lives mat-

ter. And by the way, let's not respond by saying, Oh, well all lives matter. Let's spare each other the quotation of stats right now."

Many Southern Baptists have been concerned with the leftward drift of the SBC and its adoption of tokens of progressive culture to appeal to the secular world. In a recent column, the president and CEO of D. James Kennedy Ministries argued the SBC – the largest Protestant denomination in America – "seems to be suffering from a crisis of orthodoxy."

"According to the newly-

launched Conservative Baptist Network," writes Frank Wright, "the Southern Baptists are drifting into political and theological liberalism and away from biblical authority, with its emerging emphasis on 'social justice, Critical Race Theory, Intersectionality, and the redefining of biblical gender roles' – all of which are little more than leftist code words for their victim-based scheme of identity politics."

Southern Baptist pastor Dr. Alex McFarland has been among those voicing concerns for his denomination. On American

Family Radio (recently), he stated that Greear's directive will not be a popular one.

"I can say unequivocally that the messaging and the posturing and the PC pandering of J.D. Greear doesn't represent the viewpoints and convictions of the majority of Southern Baptist clergy or laity," said the Christian apologist.

And about Greear's call to ignore the statistics? "[He was essentially saying] Don't conflate my great soundbite with truth," McFarland responded.

Program co-host Ray

Pritchard, who is also a Southern Baptist pastor, said Greear's grasp of theology seems to be on shaky ground.

"He basically said that to say Black Lives Matter is a 'gospel issue.' I don't get that," Pritchard reacted. "That sounds much more like a political statement to me."

In a February interview with OneNewsNow, McFarland attributed the leftward drift in the SBC over the past several years to those he says sit in "the ivory tower of the [Southern Baptist] seminaries" and have "drunk some of the liberal/progressive Kool-Aid."

History & Archives Commission

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440

Regular Missionary Baptist Churches

Baptist history and work in Mississippi began around 1791 with Salem Baptist Church near Natchez. In studying Baptist History in our state, one thing soon became quite obvious to me, and that is this - there was a time when Baptist churches held much more in common, in both faith and practice, than "Baptist" churches throughout our state do today.

These early Baptist churches were designated Regular (Particular) Missionary Baptist churches in contrast to General Baptist churches. The 5th article of Salem Baptist church in 1791 stated, "We believe in the doctrine of Particular Redemption, in Personal Election, Effectual Calling, Justification by the imputed Righteousness of Jesus Christ, Pardon of sins by his atoning blood, Believer's Baptism by immersion, and Final perseverance of the Saints, the Resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment."

What became known as the Primitive, Hard Shell or Old School Baptists are in fact the "New School"

Baptists. They were Regular Mis-

sonary Baptists who went to seed on the doctrine of election. D. B. Ray states, "It may surprise some when they are informed, that no party among the Baptists were ever called 'Old School' until after the separation, about the year 1832, when the Anti-Mission brethren assumed the name – 'Old School Baptists.' The Missionary and the Anti-Missionary Baptists were once together as one people; and therefore, their history up to the separation was the same. The opposition of our Anti-Mission brethren to the mission work, and kindred objects, is a new feature among Baptists. There are some of the so-called 'Old Baptists,' who have lapsed into 'Two-seedism' and 'Non-resurrectionism,' and have thereby denied the faith . . . most of them have impaired their usefulness by speculating on the decrees and purposed of God to the neglect of faithful



Jason Howard
Director

preaching to sinners." (Baptist Succession, pg. 91)

The Regular (Particular) Missionary Baptists, in distinction to the General (Arminian) Baptists, would be considered Calvinistic by most Baptists today. If their doctrinal statements were truly a reflection of their personal beliefs, they then by willing consent accepted to some degree what is called the Doctrines of Grace. (I have supplied a sample of a doctrinal statement)

While the Primitive Baptists allowed their belief in election (to which there are many shades) to quench their missionary zeal; for the Regular Missionary Baptists, these doctrines became the great impetus for their Missionary work – believing salvation being solely the work of God, and that God having ordained the end, including His elect, He also ordained the means to the end. The means to the end of the salvation of the elect is the preaching of the gospel.

Many local BMA associations retained their original Articles of Faith until they accepted the BMA state Doctrinal Statement. The BMA of Mississippi, tracing its lineage back to the 1806 Mississippi Baptist Association, finds its roots and heritage in Regular (Particu-

lar) Missionary Baptists.

The following Statement of faith was that of the 1806 Mississippi Baptist, Pearl River, Mt. Pisgah and Landmark (now Big Creek) Associations.

Articles of Faith

1st We believe in one only true and living God; and that there are a trinity of persons in the God Head, the Father, the Son, and the Holy

continued on page 8



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Jesus Wants Us to Know His Father as Our Father

via Lifeword

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” (A.W. Tozer)

What we think and believe about God can't be overstated, because what we believe about God determines our identity, and our identity dictates how we view ourselves and those around us. Our identity determines our philosophy of life, ethics, behavior, and how we make all our decisions.

Thus, nothing will influence our lives more than how we think about and relate to God. The question is: How can we relate to God?

Not Everyone Knows God as “Father”

By nature, we are not children of God. He created everyone, but only some have a special father/child relationship with him. To call God “Father” is to connect with him in a unique way. What makes God “Father” isn't that he created us; it's that he adopted us, and now we belong to God as His own.

Adopted children are often rescued from ill circumstances. Before adoption, children typically yearn to be loved and known. Something is missing; they long for completion. Our adoption by God gives us a new life, a new family to belong to, new wisdom

to grow in, new freedom, and a new future. We are no longer alone or incomplete.

We can always find our completion in Christ regardless of whether we have family here on earth. Through Jesus, we have access to God as “Father.”

Jesus (Perfectly) Knew God as “Father”

Jesus did nothing, said nothing, thought nothing apart from his Father. He often withdrew for several hours in the night, in solitude, to be alone with his Father. His relationship with God is clearly unique. No one has ever been known for loving and serving God as much as Jesus because Jesus thought of himself as one with God and equal to God.

And that is the claim that Jesus made – that he is God, bringing God's kingdom to the world, taking it back by adopting his people as sons and daughters, so they too can know God as “Father.”

Jesus Gives Hope to the Fatherless

With the world we live in today, odds are you don't have a father, or at least one that is present in your home. By present, I don't mean physically present. I mean, relationally present. It's

God cleans us by the washing of His Spirit, clothes us with the righteousness of Christ, and calls us his sons and daughters.

true that a father and child can live in the same house and still not know each other. Thus, a child grows up (effectively) without a father.

But Jesus gives hope to the fatherless. While many (if not most) people have a poor view of “dad,” Jesus brings us into the family of God, giving us a perfect Father.

God Our Father

God, our Father, eagerly meets us at the end of ourselves. At our lowest point, the Father is there, present and ready to heal. Showing us with the gift of grace, God cleans us by the washing of His Spirit, clothes us with the righteousness of Christ, and calls us his sons and daughters.

Now adopted and made new, through Christ we can now call him “Father,” a privilege once given only to Jesus Christ – until now . . . if we will only surrender our lives completely to him.

“The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God” (C.S. Lewis).

Lifeword

August 2, 2020 - A Day of Giving -



Southeastern Baptist College's Special Emphasis Months are July and August for focused donations from churches and individuals. All BMA of Mississippi churches are encouraged to designate the first Sunday in August, August 2, 2020, for a “Day of Giving” for SBC (or any Sunday in July or August that may be more convenient for your church family). As a reminder, Southeastern Baptist College is a 501(c)(3) certified tax deductible charity.

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

History

from page 7

Ghost; the same in essence, equal in power and glory.

2nd We believe the scriptures, of the Old and New Testament, were given by inspiration of God; are of Divine authority, and the only rule of faith and practice.

3rd We believe in the fall of Adam, in the imputation of his sin to all his posterity. In the total depravity of human nature – And in man's inability to restore himself to the favor of God.

4th We believe in the everlasting love of God to his people. In the eternal unconditional election of a definite number of the human family to grace and glory.

5th We believe that sinners are only justified in the sight of God, by the impute righteousness of Jesus Christ; which is unto all, and upon all them that believe.

6th We believe all those who were chosen in Christ, before the foundation of the world; are in time effectually called, regenerated, converted, and sanctified; and are kept by the power of God, through faith unto salvation.

7th We believe there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who by the satisfaction which He made to law and justice, “in becoming an offering for sin” hath, by his most precious

blood, redeemed the elect, from under the curse of the law: that they might be holy and without blame, before him in love.

8th We believe good works are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification; are evidences of a gracious state – And that it is the duty of all believers, to perform them from a principle of love.

9th We believe in the resurrection of the dead; and a general judgment, and that the happiness of the righteous, and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

Gospel Order

1st We believe that the visible church of Jesus Christ, is a congregation of faithful persons, who have given themselves up to the Lord, and to one another, and have covenanted, to keep up a Godly discipline, agreeably to the rules of the gospel.

2nd We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of the church, the only Lawgiver – that the government is with the body “the Church,” and is equally the right and privilege, of each member thereof.

3rd We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are gospel ordinances, appointed by Jesus Christ, and are to be continued in the Church, until His second coming.

4th We believe baptism, by immersion, is the only scriptural mode, and that believers are the only proper subjects.

5th We believe that none but regular baptized church members, have a right to partake of the Lord's Supper.

6th We believe it to be the duty, and privileges, of all believers, to make a public profession of their faith, to submit to baptism by immersion, and to give themselves members of the visible church.

7th We believe it to be the duty of every regular organized church, to expel from her communion, all disorderly members, who are immoral in their lives – or that hold doctrines contrary to the scriptures.

Some Associations that went Faithway or that organized as Faithway have retained the older Statement of Faith, which includes a Gospel Order. Some BMA Associations for years retained their original Articles of Faith and Gospel Order. While many Missionary Baptist churches would now reject Particular Baptist Doctrine, these older Statements of Faith almost always reflect the doctrine of election and particular atonement rather than general. In many cases, the Rules of Decorum of older Associations will state the following: “This association shall neither answer nor debate any query on gospel doctrine, except it be merely to explain the articles of faith of this Association.” This statement discourages any changes in the Articles of Faith, and, as a result,

churches that have moved away from Regular (Particular) Missionary Baptist doctrine still belong to Associations whose Doctrinal Statements do not reflect their beliefs. Consider the Washington Association (BMA). Found in the minutes of the 4th Annual Session of the Washington Missionary Baptist Association of Regular Baptists held in 1916, there are ten Articles of Faith listed and seven items listed under Gospel Order. (Washington Missionary Baptist Church was originally part of Leaf Association which was organized in 1890 and held its first meeting at Washington church in Neely, MS.) Both Leaf and Washington Associations Articles of Faith reflected Regular (Particular) Baptist Doctrine. (Washington Association was organized from churches which split from the Leaf over the issue of feet-washing – Washington Association retained feet-washing at this time) Feet-washing was listed, and practiced among churches of the Washington Association at least until 1945. By 1981 the original Articles of Faith and Gospel Order had been combined and feet-washing was dropped from the statement. However, the 1981 Articles of Faith still very clearly reflected Regular (Particular) Missionary Baptist Doctrine. Sometime after 1981 the Washington Association dropped its old Articles of Faith and adopted that of the BMA of Mississippi.

In every case in which I have been able to find the original Articles of Faith adopted at the constitution of a church or an Association in the 19 century, it always presented Regular (Particular) Missionary Baptist Doctrine.

When the SBC formed in 1845 (without church authority) many of the churches that came into the convention were Regular Missionary Baptists. Take for example the Perry County (SBC) Association. On the cover of Perry County Association's first minute book reads, “Minutes of the First Session – Perry County Missionary Baptists.” The Leaf Association organized in 1890, out of which the Washington Association formed, later became the Greene County (SBC) Association which is now the George and Greene (SBC) Baptist Association.

The SBC 1925 Baptist Faith and Message is based upon the New Hampshire Confession of Faith. The BMA of America's Doctrinal Statement is based upon the New Hampshire Confession of Faith. The New Hampshire Confession of Faith emphasizes Unconditional election rather than Conditional election.

In the 1800's and in some cases even into the early 1900's, there was far more commonality among Baptist churches in Mississippi. They were Regular (Particular) Missionary Baptist Churches.