

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

July 1, 2018

www.msbbaptist.org

Vol. 72 No. 13

The Only Hope for America

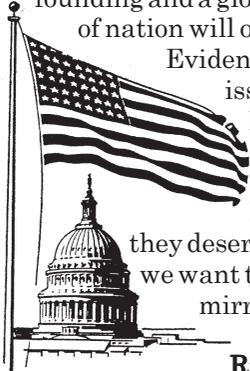
from a message by
the late Dr. Adrian Rogers

"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

America's only hope is found in this verse. Our nation has a godly founding and a glorious past, but if the Lord tarries, what kind of nation will our children inherit?

Evidently Americans believe the economy is the top issue. But I'd rather leave my children the legacy of a godly nation than great wealth squandered in a godless society.

Righteousness is our greatest need. Alexander Hamilton said, "People get the government they deserve." Something has happened in America. If we want to know what's wrong, we need to look in the mirror.



Righteousness Exalts A Nation

America was born in a revival. The Great Awakening swept the land in a flame of righteousness. Out of that, schools were built, principles taught, and character became strong. A newborn nation declared her independence from England and upon almighty God.

Our Founding Fathers knew the best government was the least government. The more character you have, the more responsibility you'll assume, and the less government you'll need.

You cannot have true liberty without true righteousness. They are inextricably interwoven. For example, if a man becomes a criminal, he's put in jail. Failing his responsibilities, his liberties are taken away. A baby has no responsibilities. But he also has no liberties: he can't choose when he's going to sleep or what he'll wear. As he grows and assumes responsibilities, he's given more liberties.

We will have more or less liberty in direct proportion to our character. When we lose character - righteousness - we lose liberty, for people who cannot live responsibly from within must be controlled from without.

James Madison said, "We have staked the whole future of American civilization not upon the power of government - far from it - . . . [but] upon the capacity to govern and sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments." But today the Ten Commandments are called "unconstitutional" and removed from classrooms and many public buildings.

Sin - A Reproach To Any People

The great American dream is dissolving because of sin: sexual perversion, killing unborn children, break-up of the family, obsession with material things, craving for pleasure. America is self-indulgent, out of control.

With the erosion of character, we relinquish more responsibility to government, and whatever it subsidizes, government says it must control. When we depend on government to feed us, it will control us. Government is here to protect from tyranny and punish

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Columbia Church Ministers in Philippines

by Justin Cameron, pastor

On May 30th nine members of Good Hope Baptist Church in Columbia boarded the first of four flights that would ultimately land us on the island of Negros in the Philippines. We spent six days with Cris and Alicia Samson and the great people of E.B. Magalona Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor Joemel Samson, ministering to people in need. We held three Medical Missions/Vacation Bible Schools at three different locations.

On Saturday June 2, we were at Agape Baptist Church in the village of Crossing Pedion, on Monday we were at E.B. Magalona Missionary Baptist Church in Magalona and on Tuesday we ministered at Colisap Baptist Church in the village of Gallego. During these three mission efforts we saw 385 patients, ministered to well over 100 children through VBS and saw 149 accept Christ. To God be the glory!

It was amazing to see the cooperation of our group from Good Hope with the group from E.B. Magalona. There was an immediate bond created that will last a lifetime. We fell in love with those wonderful people.



Good Hope Baptist Church Mission Team in the Philippines

We were blessed to worship with them on Sunday Morning, June 3. That evening we participated in the dedication of Benjamin Samson, Cris and Alicia's son.

While we were there, we also were privileged to spend time at



Cris, Alicia & Benjamin Samson

the BMA Bible College and tour the BMA Publications, both of which are located on the island of Negros. It is amazing to see the legacy of the Moore's at the college being carried on by the Lee's and the Scroggins as well as the legacy of Bro. Rayburn Freeman at the Publications building being carried on by Bro Sam.

Our mission team is very thankful to the membership of Good Hope and to all of those that made it possible for us to make this life changing trip. It is an experience that will live on through our future work with E.B. Magalona and the amazing people of the Philippines."

A W4C Trip "Like Never Before"

By Robin Tyler

Orange is the color that comes to mind when I think of Ghana, West Africa. Maybe because it was in red/orange clay-splattered houses that I first witnessed the destitute conditions of people I would come to love. The rains that fall so hard during the rainy season cause the splattering of clay onto the walls of many Ghanaian homes.

That rainwater quickly



evaporates during dry season, emptying ponds and depleting cisterns. The harsh, extreme temperatures of the dry season result in those in remote vil-

lages having to walk for miles in search of water. Many settle for any water they can find, clean or unclean. Fetching enough water just to survive is a daily chore for the women and children in the villages. Aluminum tubs carried on the head, bicycles, motorcycles and carts pulled by donkeys are some of the more common ways water is transported.

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Ministering To Young People

by Anders Lee

The Results are WORTH it All!!!

It's funny to me to hear the reaction of some when you say, "I love youth ministry!" Just this past week I posted on Facebook how awesome working with teens are at camps or SOAR. Immediately I got an "inbox" essentially saying that I must truly be crazy to actually love it.

Teens can be disrespectful. They can be annoying and push you to the very edge of your nerves. They are selfish, mouthy, need to be entertained, and want you to spend a pile of money on them these days. Gone are the days when \$20 meant something to a kid. Two weeks ago, I watched our Youth Pastor David Hatton getting on to kids for their less than desirable communication skills. I was at a camp last week and witnessed a pastor telling a young man to make sure he got his stuff cleaned up and in order back at the cabin. I personally watched as this kid

told him he didn't have to. Oh, I felt like rapturing him off the floor and using my belt on the spot. Teens can be a pain! LOL!!!

There is a little debate about that among those of us who have been involved through the years with youth ministry. BUT... everything you go through is worth it when you see teen's hearts start turning to the Lord! Having been at camp two weeks out of the last three, bear with me while I give God praise and shout here at my computer!

We had a kid that showed up at Central just days before we left for camp. He had never been to church



Anders Lee

On the third night, he plopped down by me and he said "I've never had anybody tell me about all this stuff. Y'all are awesome!"

before, let alone a "church camp." He asked if he could go to camp. We said absolutely. I actually didn't think he would go, but he did! He showed up. All he had with him was a small pink backpack that had donut pictures on it and he was wearing a "Beavis & Butthead" shirt (which did not comply with camp rules). He got on the van and here he went with us. I started getting reports that he wasn't behaving. SHOCKER! I

He indeed pushed us to the limit on rules, patience and all other fruits of the Spirit. Other sponsors from other churches frequently reported to me that he was a bad influence. I just told them that a kid like that was why we had come to camp.

We prayed for him, talked with him, corrected him and hung out with him. It was a four day camp. On the third night, he plopped down by me and he said "I've never had anybody tell me about all this stuff. Y'all are awesome!" He said; "I just needed to tell you guys how much I appreciate letting me come." The next morning, ole "pom-pom" – Hayden, prayed to receive Christ during the last invitation at camp! WOW!!!

Over a two week period at camp, I saw the Lord save 27 teens and two young men surrendered to preach! WOW! Isn't God awesome!!! Folks, despite all the tough times and difficult days in youth ministry... don't ever forget that the results are WORTH IT ALL!!!

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

figured that would happen.

We got to camp and a sponsor from another church saw him and immediately told me I needed to talk to him about the shirt while joking about his hair. Oh I forgot to tell you about that... yeah... it looks like a huge pom-pom! So the kids started calling him "pom-pom."

Social media & teens: a way 'to see what is happening'

by Morgan Collier

NASHVILLE (BP) -- While social media often is seen as a bad thing, what if Instagram and YouTube could be used to reach the lost, nurture spiritual maturity and expand congregations?

A pivotal outreach to today's youth may start with an LED screen, with 95 percent of teenagers reportedly having a smartphone or access to one -- and 45 percent saying they are online on a near-constant basis -- according to a recent Pew Research Center for Internet & Technology survey.

Eliza Huie, biblical counselor, speaker and author of a new book titled "Raising Kids in a Screen-Saturated World," says parents and people in ministry should familiarize themselves with social media platforms: "Don't hate it, engage it."

"Engaging it simply means to be familiar with the platform, to be on the platform," Huie says. "Be aware of the dangers but don't assume that just because there are dangers that [your child] is actually participating in them. ... Recognize the good."

The Pew survey found 13- to 17-year-olds are much more likely to use YouTube, Instagram and Snapchat than Facebook, with 85 percent of teens on YouTube, 72 percent on Instagram, 69 percent on Snapchat but only 51 per-

cent on Facebook.

"A lot of Facebook isn't personal anymore, it's shared political articles or random videos," says Mike Brake, pastor of Freedom Church in Los Alamos, N.M., and former youth pastor at First Baptist Church in Los Alamos. "If I really want to see what is happening in my friends' lives, I go to Instagram because that is where they post the real stuff going on in their life."

For most people, it helps in keeping up with people, such as friends and family, says Lakin Adkins, a high school sophomore and member of First Baptist Church in Orange, Texas. "It also

shows other people's journeys in their Christian walk, and others are able to learn from those journeys."

With social media on the rise, students have found ways to seek encouragement and biblical inspiration through the platforms.

"Youtubers like Emma Mae Jenkins, FarAwayDistance and Sadie Robertson post encouraging videos and devotionals,"

says Chrisleigh Longlois, a high school junior and member of First Baptist Church in Mauriceville, Texas. "You can grow in your faith through social media by reading blogs and following other Christians. It can be used to hold each other accountable. And your page can set an example for other believers."

It is important to allow social media to be an avenue of connection and not an

avenue of identity, Huie says. "Be aware that you have to really stay rooted to who you are in Christ."

Social media, she notes, "shows who you are when people look at your page and see what you're posting. It says a lot about who you are."

"The beauty of social media," Brake says, "is that you can do your research on people, churches, businesses, etc. within seconds and figure out who that person, church or business is and what they stand for."

With the 45 percent of teens who are "almost always" on their phone and social media, youth pastors can have a big influence in their outreach through these platforms.

"I think that youth pastors and people in ministry have an angle into engaging because the teens are already looking to them for leadership and direction," Huie says.

She encourages youth ministers to look for ways to bring in the whole youth group rather than the students who are more engaged through social media. "You can reach teens by tagging them in a post, posting one of their pictures, retweeting one of their tweets, or by liking one of their posts," she suggests.

Brake admits to not being a big fan of social media but uses it as his mission field.

"One of the biggest benefits is engage-

ment," he says. "In a typical youth or church setting, you have about an hour a week with this group of people, but through social media, you have a chance to keep them connected and engaged."

From a physiological stand point, Huie notes, viewing social media parallels a treasure hunt, with endorphins released in the brain as a reward.

"When you are scrolling through your feed, you are hunting for something that you like, something that you will connect or identify with, and when you find it, it's actually an endorphin hit," she says.

With the addictive nature of social media, newsfeeds and time lines become a highly viewed platform by millions around the world each day.

"You can get the Gospel out there for free and let it spread," Brake says. "[Post] a photograph with Scripture or a 30-second clip from a sermon. You never know how God is going to use that in somebody's life."

On social media, Brake says, "There is so much potential to spark the conversations and engage people with the Gospel. So, go there and put it out in front of them. Keep them engaged, keep them connected."

Eliza Huie's book Raising Kids in a Screen-Saturated World will be available Aug. 6 but can be pre-ordered at www.10ofthose.us/products/24001/raising-kids-in-a-screen.



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

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

Praise the Lord! As I write this article, we are nearly \$13,000 short for the fiscal year which ends this Friday! Why would I be praising the Lord about a shortfall in funds? First, because the Lord has moved numerous individuals and churches to contribute thousands of dollars in the last couple of weeks. And, because an anonymous donor has offered to make up any difference needed to ensure we finish the FY in the black! Isn't that wonderful! The Lord's hand is upon this institution! There is no doubt about it.

In recent weeks we have seen our student body more than double for this coming fall semester. Paramount Baptist Church in Perkinston donated a 30 passenger bus that is low mileage and in great shape. We have had a well attended three-on-three basketball competition and a successful basketball camp. We have secured all the professors necessary for the fall session and renovations have begun on the gymnasium and dorms. Finally, we have raised \$30,000 from generous donors who believe in the ministry of Southeastern Baptist College!

We are successfully finishing our sec-

ond fiscal year in the black. This means that when we finish fiscal year 2019 in the black, we can make application toward accreditation with the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools (SACS). SACS requires an institution to have three consecutive years of operating with positive cash flow before they will accept an application for membership. Once we make application, SBC will be on the "fast track" for becoming accredited with SACS because we are already accredited with a U.S. Department of Education recognized accrediting agency. Most of the SACS application requirements have already been completed with our own accrediting agency, the Association for Biblical Higher Education. This work will be transferred over to SACS helping us to move well ahead in the accrediting process.

When we receive SACS accreditation, our credits will be accepted by most secular colleges and universities without question. Achieving SACS accreditation is the right thing to do both for SBC and for our students. It will help SBC attract more students when they know that their credits will transfer to the vast majority of higher educational institutions and also help our current student body who may wish to transfer their

well-earned SBC credits in order to pursue their educational goals at other schools.

The Lord is doing great things on the SBC campus. He is moving forward and we must keep up with Him. Praise God for all those who support this college whether financially, in prayer, by volunteering, or in kind words of encouragement. Your support means so much to all who labor in the Lord for the future of SBC!

"And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us; and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it." Psalm 90:17

Equipping the Saints!

Dr. Carson



Dr. Scott Carson
President

Save The Date!

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 in Laurel

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

God Will Supply!

We will renovate four areas of the college in July. 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.
4. Cafeteria: Clean out of kitchen; upgrade to modern equipment standards; full reset for meal operations.

Carson's Army

Bro. 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 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 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! 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.

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 graciously accepted to lead this effort. Please contact them at 601-550-8513 or pastor_1@comcast.net to verify that your current contact information is correct.

Have Bible, Will Travel

"Preach the word..." 2 Timothy 4:2. I am ready to fill your pulpit! If you are in need of a guest preacher or request a personal report on the college, contact me at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu

SBC holds 3 on 3 tournament and Basketball Camp for local youth



The first SBC Basketball Camp is a great success with 22 children participating in the three day event.



Coach Brad Phillips instructs the kids of the first Basketball Camp that was held June 25, 26 and 27 in the SBC gymnasium.



Congratulations to the 1st place Team from the first SBC 3 on 3 Tournament: Team Blue Hill Avenue: DeMarcus Hayes, Tevell Fair, Dominique Boyd, Alfred Crowell



Congratulations to the 2nd Place Team from the 3 on 3 Tournament: Team Walking Buckets: Emir Carter, De'Arius Henyard, PJ Dahmer

Water For Christ

from page 1

Water for Christ (W4C) has dug 15 wells in this country to provide accessible, clean drinking water for the people there. The W4C team's visit (May 26-June 7) included dedicating 10 of those 15 wells that were dug in 2017-2018; and those dedication services provided an atmosphere of praise and celebration as never before experienced by a W4C team.

Sunday church worship services are always lively and energetic, and they are always the highlight of the trips to Ghana. However, as our team arrived at wells mid-week on this trip, we were met with dancing, singing, drums, timbrels, clapping,

blessings we received from our brothers and sisters halfway around the world. Some of you may have seen photos and videos posted on facebook.com/waterforchrist, but they don't do it justice. They only serve as a sampling of what we experienced!

To be in the heart of Ghana, surrounded by singing and praising to our Lord, makes me wonder even more what Heaven will be like. My conservative worship style pales in comparison to the celebration at the dedication of the W4C wells. Watching the movie "I Can Only Imagine" after I returned from Ghana made me wonder even more



Water For Christ Director Tim Tyler with children in Ghana enjoying fresh water from a W4C well

were the main focus of this trip, an added bonus was scheduled, and reading it on our itinerary caused a little excitement. We had the privilege of participating in two baptisms! I've witnessed baptisms in a lake at Woolly Hollow State Park in Arkansas by our pastor, Freddie Mark Wilcox; but seeing one Ghanaian style really pricked my heart. With Rodney Castleberry (pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in White Hall) overseeing the ceremonies, the baptisms will forever be etched into my heart and mind.

I had never met the people being baptized, and there is a high probability that I will never see them again in this lifetime; but at the second location there were three kids that stayed close to me. We struggled to carry on a conversation with our lan-

guage and culture barriers. They were taught English in school, but their limited use of it, and my strong southern accent, made communication difficult. I tried to explain to a teenage girl that she was my sister in Christ, but I'm not sure if I succeeded.

However, when we meet again in Heaven, our communication will be much clearer, and we will celebrate the day we met on the bank of the reservoir in Nyugbare, Ghana, West Africa.

Statistics - • Members of the team were: Tim Tyler, W4C director; Rodney Castleberry, evangelist; Brandon Schmidt, photographer; Robert Jolley, American pastor and adventurer; and me, team sup-

port.
• There were 417 professions of faith and 80 baptisms.
• Appreciation gifts we received for providing wells — two goats, two guineas, ceremonial native clothing, a leather ceremonial bag, baskets and hats.

Upcoming well projects (eight): two at prisons, in exchange for ability to witness to prisoners and distribute Bibles; one at NGO (Non Governmental Office) in Accra, for helping getting NGO status for BMA of Africa, W4C and EIM; one at human trafficking facility in Medina, in exchange for Bible placement, witnessing and help in securing a plot of land for a mission church near facility; one at a BMA church for Pastor Harford Akose, near one of the



prisons where well is being dug; one at a BMA church near Tamale for Pastor Solomon; one at a village near Kumasi, where they will give a plot of land for a church; and one at a village in the western region, where they will give a plot of land for a church. (waterforchrist.com)



Some of the individuals in the Water For Christ Ministry

chanting, praising and celebration for what God had done.

Our mouths fell open in awe at what we were witnessing. We hadn't quite expected such a welcome. By the time the last well was dedicated, we were grinning ear-to-ear, overjoyed by the

about what it be like. What will I do when I see Him? If the celebration for fresh water was so awesome in Ghana, how much more will the celebration be when we finally meet the source of Living Water?

Although well dedications

Sofilthy's Attic by Barbara White

Poke Salet

The other day, I picked, washed, cooked and ate a mess of poke salet. It was soooo good and it brought back a flood of memories. My mama used to cook it with bacon grease and scrambled eggs. Yum, yum!

Another memory was more recent. Our young pastor preached a motivating sermon on we oughta be making news. Well shortly after he had preached that, we had an eatin' meetin' and I fixed a mess of poke salet. When I brought it in he asked me what it was. When I told him it was poke salet his eyes got big and he asked, "Isn't that stuff poison?" I just answered that he told us to make news and we would all be on the local TV Station that night. I think he could envision another Jim Jones and a wash tub of Kool Aid episode. Anyway, it was eaten and we all lived to tell it.

It just "shows to go ye" that God made a huge variety of foods for our nutrition and enjoyment. Reminds me of a song that says, "All I have needed, thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy Faithfulness, Lord unto me!"



Hope for America

continued from page 1

evildoers, not meet our needs. Sure as night follows day, when government provides, it begins to regulate. Then it's free to oppress.

Look at our education system. It has outlawed God. The Bible is out, humanism is in. The Ten Commandments were swapped out for values clarification, one-world government, glories of the welfare state, and a new world order.

We're now living in the shadows of an age. Our liberties are fast receding. You say, "But we still have lots of blessings in America." Yes, we do. But they are residual blessings our forefathers left us.

Revival - The Restoration of a Nation

"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice. But then the wicked bear rule, the people mourn" (Proverbs 29:2).

We must take America back. We don't have to

be a majority, we're salt and light. Salt penetrates, purifies, heals, and preserves. To say "don't mix politics and religion" is like saying put the fish in one barrel and the salt in another. But "if salt loses its savor," Jesus said, "it's good for nothing but to be cast out and trodden under the feet of men."

The church of Jesus Christ is being "trodden underfoot" because we've become salt without savor.

Our Constitution was written for people of character. Godly character must permeate our society. We must set the standard in caring for our own and the widows and orphans. We must train up our children, godly offspring who will take leadership positions and return us to living by godly principles.

I want to leave my children and grandchildren a godly nation. Don't you? God is our only hope, and revival will be the restoration to our nation.

Reprinted from July 1, 2016 issue of Mississippi Baptist

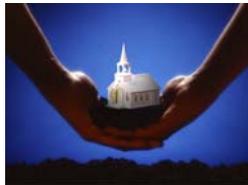
<p>Mississippi Baptist</p> <p>Don J. Brown, Editor E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org Web site www.msbaptist.org</p>	USPS 353-960 P.O. Box 8181 Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000	Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, MS 39402. Postmaster: Send address changes to Mississippi Baptist Paper P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441
	Phone 601-426-3293	
	PRICE \$20.00 Per Year by Mail \$15.00 Per Year by Email CHURCHPLAN \$ 1.30 Per Month per Family	

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"I cried to thee, O LORD; and unto the LORD I made my supplication." Ps 30:8

As I close the books (at the end of July) on what will be my 7th year as your Director, I pause to reminisce and give God the glory for all that He has done. When I arrived in 2011, we had one active missionary and Miss Kim, and I would check daily to see if we had enough funds to write checks. The Revolving Loan Fund was experiencing more withdrawals than deposits. Within weeks, I was contacted by three churches that were very close to shutting the doors. Any hopes for finding missionaries at our college was vain, as by God's providence, she was undergoing her own transformation. So, with little money, no missionaries and the Revolving Loan Fund hanging in the balance, I got down on my knees and prayed. Prayer was the comfortable place where I had resided while waiting for this assignment. Prayer was the comfortable place where God had always heard my needs. Prayer was the obvious place of solace for me. God answered our prayers and now, seven years later, we have witnessed God raise up missionaries and plant churches all across our state and faithfully provide, through our churches, the resources to get the job done.

We currently have 20 men who are involved in missionary activity that we support (directly or indirectly). We will close the year in the black for the 7th year in a row. Though the church contributions to Missions has remained mostly the same over the past 7 years, we have learned how to live within our means. We have organized for maximum efficiency and stagger what we do, so that we can get much done with the same resources.

In the past 7 years we have begun 19 new church plants and witnessed six of them organize into New Testament Churches and join the family of churches which makes up the BMA of Mississippi. We have an additional three which already have plans to do the same. Only one of the missions which we began, no longer exists.

We witnessed the organization of two new associations: The Great Rivers Association and the New Hope Hispanic Association.

We participated in the Ordination of three missionaries and witnessed the Licensing of two.

We have witnessed the purchase of property for eight missions' projects and the completion of six building projects, with one ongoing.

Most importantly, our missionaries have reported 2,137 professions of faith in the past seven years with many of those being baptized and assimilated into the respective mission congregation and engaged in discipleship.

The Revolving Loan Fund has grown by approximately 38% during this same time and the reserve that we maintain has grown from 7 to 20%. The fund is healthy and continues to be a strong support in our efforts to help missionaries find property and build buildings. Deposits have exceeded withdrawals for each of the past 7 years.

The fact is, we are blessed! "...O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee forever." Ps 30:12b

Congratulations!

Mrs. Kim Parker, our Office Manager, and her husband Adam Parker, recently had their first-born son, Easton Blake Parker. He was born on May 31st and weighed 8 pounds 5 ounces and was 20 inches long. We are praising the Lord and celebrating with the Parkers.



Easton Blake

Efficiency Remains High

We continue to operate at or above 90/10 efficiency with the missions' offerings you send us. That means that more than 90% of all offerings we receive for missions, goes directly to our missionaries. Some ask me, "Why is efficiency important?" to which I respond, "Because we receive a set amount from our churches and we must operate within our means."

Prayers Needed

I am actively engaged in conversations with three men who are praying about church planting. It is possible for us to add two new missionaries this year, Lord willing. But it is extremely important that we pray through these decisions and make sure that the Lord is the One who is working.

Update from Sumrall by Phillip Burns

Day Star Baptist Church is continuing to make progress on the new church building. Thanks again to



all who came to help with the initial raising of the walls. We have sense had a work day that was productive as well. We were able to get the building completely in the dry and run most of the indoor electrical and plumbing. We continue to be blessed with good attendances considering it being in the summer months. We have several families that I am talking to about becoming members and Praise the Lord we had one of our young ladies come to know Christ. God is so good!!

Reports for May & June 2018				
	High Attendance	Membership	Total Offerings	Mother Church
BMA of Mississippi (Church Planting Coach)				
Dr. Robert Burch (Caledonia)	115 101	122	\$5,250.00 \$5,000.00	Missionary Coach
Sidney Farmer (S. Forrest)	62 65	55	\$8,432.00 \$7,616.00	Missionary Coach
BMA of Mississippi (Church Planters)				
Bobby Elliott (Burnsville)	40 40	65	\$1,599.00 \$1,684.00	Forked Oak
Danny Bartlett (Clinton)	22 22	15	\$4,507.00 \$4,200.00	Wilderness
Phillip Burns (Sumrall)	36 27	18	\$2,316.00 \$3,961.00	First Bay Springs
Wesley Martin (Diamondhead)	44 45	27	\$2,458.00 \$4,008.00	Campground
Anders Lee (Southaven)	203 169	163	\$12,375.00 \$15,543.00	Charity
Dr. Kenneth Pollock (Batesville)	10 10	9	\$1,296.00 \$1,230.00	First Baptist Mantachie
Dale Broom (S. Hattiesburg)	2 5	2	\$126.00 \$420.00	Evergreen Seminary
Will Hutchinson (D'iberville)	14 21	9	\$200.00 \$200.00	Campground
BMA of Mississippi Hispanic Missions (Estuardo Marroquin - Manager)				
<small>(Estuardo Marroquin is also the Co-Pastor of El Camino, which serves as the mother church for the church plants listed below.)</small>				
El Camino Marciano Montalvo (Laurel)	130 151	131	\$5,973.00 \$6,630.00	Mother Church
Church Planters				
Leo Adan (Hattiesburg)	49 35	18	\$1,402.00 -	El Camino
Jorge Galicia (Biloxi)	26 16	3	\$607.00 \$554.00	El Camino
Lucas Gomez (Canton)	4 5	2	- -	El Camino
Way, Truth & Life Byron Morales (Ripley)	79 -	97 -	\$4,429.00 -	Mother Church
Church Planters				
Humberto Regalado (Tupelo)	-	14	-	Way, Truth & Life
Luis Huchin (Oxford)	-	9	-	Way, Truth & Life
Daniel Polanco (Horn Lake)	13 -	2 -	\$203.00 -	Way, Truth & Life
BMA of Mississippi African American Missions (Ed DuVall - Coordinator)				
<small>(Ed DuVall is also the Sr. Pastor of Homestretch which serves as the mother church for the church plants listed below.)</small>				
Homestretch (Cleveland)	25 23	57	\$2,342.00 \$3,072.00	
Church Planters				
James Cook (Olive Branch)	-	25	-	Homestretch
Our Missionaries reported, collectively, 446 contacts made during May and June. They shared the gospel with 133 people in May and June. They reported 13 professions of faith and 7 that joined by letter in May and June.				

Good Special Emphasis

I want to thank all who participated in our Special Emphasis for State Missions. We are grateful for the offerings we received. Your contribution goes a long way in helping us meet our objectives. Below is a list of those who contributed:

- Ballardville, Tupelo \$257.00
- Bethel, Wiggins \$200.00
- Big Creek, Soso \$500.00
- Centerville, Mantachie \$100.00
- Cypress Creek, Brooklyn \$150.00
- Dennis & Sylvia Rankin \$5000.00
- FB Bay Springs \$455.31
- First Calhoun \$500.00

continued on page 6

Master's Builders Continue to Minister

by Nelda Malone, Reporter

The Master's Builders began work on the "We Are FREE, Hebron Hills" facility project on June 4th. There were 13 campers, 18 men (at different times during the three weeks), and 4 women who worked on this project. Two men drove back and forth from their homes each day and two stayed in motels while



we worked. The Master's Builders worked on two buildings bringing them up from a pier and beam floor with the block work completed by another crew. The first building is to be used as the residence for 12 women with a shared kitchen, dining, and common area as well as a room for a house advisor. The second building will house administrative offices, medical treatment, counseling, vocational training, and residences for workers.

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In the three weeks that the Master's Builders worked, they built and set the beams, put in the floor joists, decked the floors, framed outside and interior walls, put up OSB, wrapped the exterior, and

installed windows on the first building. Electrical wiring installation was started. The builders helped another crew to attach the trusses to this building and then an additional crew was brought in to put on the roof decking and shingles. On the second office building the builders were only able to build and set the beams, put in the floor joists, and deck the floor. The Master's Builders plan to return in the fall to finish this work.

This facility, called "Hebron Hills", is being built on 45 rural acres in southern Arkansas and is slated to be a comprehensive aftercare facility which will provide long-term temporary housing for victims of trafficking while address-

ing the physical, psychological and spiritual needs of its residents. Services provided to survivors will be faith-based and Christ-centered. Educational opportunities and vocational training will also be provided so that each resident has the power to transition to an independent sustainable life unique to his or her Godly design. If you are interested



in more information about this facility contact 'We Are FREE' via email at admin@wearefree.us

Thank you to ALL who helped with our meals, brought in ice, Gatorade and waters daily, and filled the water tank for our campers. You know who you are and are too numerous to list by name! Many local churches helped in this effort and we are very grateful to each of you! We could not have done this work without you and we sincerely thank you! We felt your encouragement and prayers each day while we worked.

The Master's Builders will be in Gilmer, Texas, September 10th, to help Concord Baptist Church build a new sanctuary. We plan to be back here at 'We Are FREE' in October.

If your church has building needs are if you have any questions about our ministry, you can contact our Office Coordinator, John Mangum at (318)205-5155 or his cell at (318)607-4100; or our Field Coordinator, Eddie Sikes at (903)725-6549 or his cell at (479)462-1675.

Remember to "Like" us on Facebook - The Master's Builders

Seven Ways to Involve Older People in Your Church

by Chuck Lawless

I'm not that old – I'm 54 – but I increasingly realize that I'm not young, either. Sometimes I, too, long for what I thought were the "good old days." At the same time, I realize the importance of being involved in a local church today. I may not speak for all older folks, but here's how you could get me more involved in your church's ministry:

Understand that I'm not opposed to change.

I'm honestly not. I may not like change, but it's more because everything seems to be changing than it is my opposition to church change. Help me understand the change, and I'll be with you. What I'm opposed to is change that's not well thought out.

Ask me to serve.

Sometimes it's easy for me to think I'm not as needed as I used to be. I realize the church needs younger leadership at some point, and I don't want to get in the way of that transition. I'll help in any way I can, but you may need to recruit me directly.

Trust me with some of your prayer concerns.

Some of us have spent decades trying to figure out how to pray, and many of us have more time than others to pray. I want to pray specifically and intentionally for you as my spiritual leaders. Share a bit of your heart with me, and I'll be on board with you.

Invite me to join you on a ministry visit.

I know that would take more of your time, but I'd be genuinely honored to assist you. If I can, I'll even clear my calendar to help you. I've been around

long enough to know not to take your invitation lightly.

Keep reminding me that you want to reach my kids and grandkids.

I want them to be faithful to God, yet I don't always have the answers to lead them. They really are a different generation. If you can help me figure out how to help them walk with God, I'll be willing to overlook little things that tend to bug me.

Help me understand that younger folks really do want older folks in their lives.

I'm learning that young people understand the importance of cross-generational relationships much better than my generation has. They even like to listen to my stories about black-and-white TV's, dot matrix printers, and computer modems that sounded like an

airplane. Connect me with young people who like to hang out with me, and I'll have new life in church.



If you're a church planter, recruit me.

I'd want you to talk to my pastor also, but you might find that I'm praying about and looking for a new adventure. The older I get, the more I want to make sure I'm maximizing my gifts for the kingdom. I can tell you for certain that I'll be your friend if we're walking together for God's glory.

Danny & Rita Ballard Ministering in the Philippines BMACAP Missions Conference 2018

The Baptist Missionary Association of Churches Asia Pacific, the local association of Luzon, was held at First Baptist Church, Bulan. This was their



first time to host the annual Mission's Conference and they did a wonderful job. We are thankful that 15 churches and/or missions were able to take part in the conference. There was great preaching, singing, sharing, seminars, fellowship and food. Next year's conference will be held in Palawan with Honda Bay Baptist Church as the host church.



Danny & Rita Ballard

Missions Report

from page 5

FB Shady Grove	\$500.00
Forked Oaks, Booneville	\$159.00
FB Orange Grove	\$500.00
Grace, Clinton	\$140.00
Leakesville Missionary	\$300.00
Lebanon, Laurel	\$827.00
Lee's Chapel #2	\$30.00
Mt. Gilead, Columbia	\$672.00
New Bethany, Ellisville	\$75.00
Oak Grove, Lucedale	\$500.00
Old Antioch, Soso	\$400.00
Paramount, Perkinston	\$2,442.00
Parkview, Laurel	\$100.00
Riverside, Ellisville	\$200.00
South Green, Tupelo	\$245.00
South Forrest, Hattiesburg	\$100.00
Springhill, Ocean Springs	\$147.62
Temple, Biloxi	\$71.00
Washington, Neely	\$151.03
(If we accidentally overlooked someone, please let us know and we will include it in our next article.)	

Pastors, Improve Your Preaching

by Dr. Allen Tilley
-from Baptist Progress-

While preaching is a divine mandate (Romans 10:14), good preaching requires hard work. Dr. Joe Pendleton, the retired preaching professor at our BMA Seminary, said, "It's a sin to bore people with God's transforming truth." Pastor, when was the last time you tried improving your preaching style? As a preacher for almost forty years, let me share eight ways we can improve our communication of God's Word.



Allen Tilley

Be intentional. Good preaching doesn't happen accidentally. The moment we stop learning is the moment we stop growing. Even the best preachers have areas that need improvement. Don't let pride keep you from being your best. Set aside time each week to work on your communication skills.

Improve your spiritual life. Never substitute sermon preparation for your personal devotional life. Because preachers empty themselves on Sunday, they must refill themselves throughout the week by spending ample time in God's Word and in prayer. Preachers who are out of touch with God cannot create a spiritual thirst in others.

Watch successful preachers. Pastors of larger churches post videos of their sermons online. Check them out and see what they do, how they do it, and how they say it. Although you never want to imitate anyone, you can pick up tips on how you can more effectively communicate God's truth.

Watch yourself. Have someone record your sermon, and then review it critically. Look for distracting gestures and repetitive words or phrases. Ask yourself these questions: Was the mes-

sage clear? What could I have done better? Would an illustration have helped drive the point home? What should I do differently?

Rehearse your sermon. Instead of wishing for a do-over, practice your sermon the night before. Every Saturday night, I retreat to my office and preach my sermon three times, trying to memorize my manuscript and polish my delivery. On the third time, I stand in front of a mirror to watch myself, looking for the best mannerisms to accompany my sermon.

Ask for a critique. After gaining permission, send a video copy of your sermon to a trusted pastor whose preaching you admire, asking that he be brutally honest in his assessment. Sometimes a new sight of eyes can uncover blind spots that you never knew were there. After the review, thank him and provide a gift for his services.

Recruit prayer warriors. Ask them to pray for you throughout the week as you prepare and then pray for you while you preach. Divine help always improves a sermon. Every Sunday as I step into the pulpit, I know I have a lady in our church praying for me in our prayer room, giving me confidence as I preach.

Study passionately. Every sermon should have solid exegesis, exposition, and application. Never step into the pulpit without thoroughly studying God's Word. Study so intently that you will be the world's foremost expert on that passage as you preach. Haphazard preparation is the product of a lazy preacher.

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

Notes From The Pslams

Psalms 91.11 "For he will give his angels orders concerning you, to protect you in all your ways."

It is odd that this passage was quoted by Satan when he tempted Jesus to throw Himself off the Temple. Certainly Satan knows some Scriptures - even those of Moses. Jesus did not fall for the twisting and misapplication of this passage. It is not a citation for us to proof text and test God with our actions. When God gives orders, they are carried out! The angels of God are His messengers to do His bidding. Without doubt God has interest in each and every one of His children. However these children cannot blindly lie down in the middle of the highway and expect God to protect them from the traffic on the road. Yes, the Father does look out for His family. His emissaries are around us to lead us

in the paths of righteousness for His cause and glory. Sometimes that is through dark places before the light shines on us.

Psalms 102.4 "My heart is suffering..."

Many events cause the heart to suffer. Death of a loved one is not the least of heart suffering. Disappointment is among the leaders of heart suffering. Illness brings heart suffering to a pinnacle. Heart suffering is real in the life of all humankind. Jesus shed tears at the heart suffering of Lazarus' sisters. Jesus wept over the condition of Jerusalem. Jesus still weeps with us in our heart sufferings. Our tears are gathered to Him as it were in a bottle to collect in His presence. Is He a Lord without feeling and compassion for our delicate state of just barely holding on to

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

118 LOWE ROAD, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39443 - (601) 426-3928
SIDNEY DAVIS - DIRECTOR



SIDNEY DAVIS

One Nation Under God

President Dwight Eisenhower signed the bill in 1954 which added the words "under God" to our Pledge of Allegiance. These words echo a spirit that goes back to the founding days of our nation. Throughout the history of our nation many have realized that God has blessed America because it has honored the standards God declares in his Word. Only because of God's provision have we enjoyed strength and prosperity. In these days when God's commands are ignored or broken, we need to be reminded of the importance of remaining true to Him. It is our prayer that we may always continue as one nation under God.

The Lord Is Good

Well, as everyone is aware summer is officially here. In south Mississippi it is evident as far as the hot temperatures that have been registered recently. All in all the garden is coming along pretty good especially the pea crop. Just an-

life? No, He sees and knows all the ways we walk. He knows us for He Himself was tempted and tried with all we experience. Therefore we have such a Lord to go to in our time of heart suffering. Tell it to Jesus!

Psalms 139.16 "...all my days were written in your book and planned before a single one of them began."

Only over the top delusion would make anyone say, "I am a self-made man or woman." No man or woman can stand to say that in any way. One might think when they came to the intersections of life they made the right choices. However they failed to see God standing just around the corner directing that choice. Without a doubt God gives us choices in life. There are some facts of life that brings bearing to all of us. Divine Providence is at work - no doubt about it! God does control His creation. We as humanity are a part of that creation. Good Reader, can you honestly say you are where you are today because of your own strength, cunning, wisdom, or other endeavors. If you think that it so, please relook your journey thus far. God does have a plan for all of us. That is consistent with His words and works in the past. How can this be doubted now or in the future? We are where we are because God needs us to be in place for time and events to act with people and situations. The Lord Most High has our days written in a book and planned before the calendar turned to today and the clock moved to

other rain or two a good picking is expected, for which we thank the Lord for His blessings. "Oh give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good." Psalm 107:1.

VBS Offerings

A number of Vacation Bible Schools have chosen the Children's Home as their project this year for monies collected during VBS. Our appreciation is extended for your efforts in remembering the ministry of the Home in this way.

Remember in Prayer and Focus Verse

Continue to remember the ministry of the Home in your prayers. "Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." This portion of Leviticus 25:10 is inscribed on the Liberty Bell. The bell was ordered with these words by the Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly on November 1, 1751. Twenty-five years later it tolled while the Declaration of Independence was signed.

this hour. Psalms 107.43 "Let whoever is wise pay attention to these things and consider the Lord's acts of faithful love."

Elementary school teachers have to say multiple times a day: "Pay attention!" Oh for sure the students are paying attention to many things of interest at any time - those "other" things that catch little eyes and mind. It is not that students don't pay attention, it is they are not paying attention to what the teacher is doing, saying, demonstrating, and trying to get them to learn. This Psalm recites so many good things the people of Israel had received at the hand of God. The nation was attention deficit in its focus. Their attention and center was on other things - things that were not of any spiritual value. There is a repeated litany in the Psalm: "Let them give thanks to the Lord for his faithful love." Over and again Jehovah had rescued, blessed, and provided for His people. They did not focus on that faithful love. Dear Reader, may we pay attention to the things He has done for us in order to give Him thanks.

Clever Notes



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

Back on The Mission Field

by Stan & Donna Scroggins

Back to the Philippines we go. We've had a wonderful 10 week furlough visiting churches, WMAs, Brotherhoods, schools, colleges and seminary all over the BMA in nine states. Please know how grateful we are for every kindness showed us. We return to some exciting things happening at the Bible College and our church planting in the Philippines: Doug & Diane Lee, our "bestest" friends, Jimmy & Julie Walker's arrival in July, over 30 new students at the Bible College, new property and building for our Ranion church plant on Palawan, and improvements to the mountain church on Negros.

God has opened doors to some great contacts and partners interested in coming to help with various projects, most important being a rejuvenation of our girl's and boy's dorms. Anyone interested in being part of a work crew should let me know and I will be glad to put you in touch with teams planning a trip.

First Baptist Church, Magnolia, Ar-



Pastor Lisas, Bro Stan and Doug Lee visiting students work in the mountains. What a humbling experience. Thankful does not even describe all the emotions. Kansas, our home and sending church, continues to be a source of support and encouragement. Thank you Pastor Brent Summerhill and all our dear friends for praying, encouraging and helping us take the Gospel to Southeast Asia.

All our BMA Mission leadership are a

constant blessing to us. Even though we raise 100% of our support we receive unlimited encouragement and lots of other benefits which make being a missionary undeniably easier. Thank you Executive Director John David Smith and Director of International Missions Eric Johnson. You guys are the best. All the support staff in Conway work behind the scenes everyday helping to support and improve services to missionaries. They are all worthy of your support. Does your church desire to be a missional church? Then begin and even increase your support to our national missions department. In this way you will be supporting, partnering and encouraging every BMA missionary, nationally and internationally.

We would also thank Donnie Brown and The Mississippi Baptist who always include reports from us and all missionaries helping us keep our message before all BMA churches and people.

Stay in touch with us. Go to thescroggins.com and sign up for our newsletter and contact us through imessage, [facebook](https://www.facebook.com) and email: stan@fbcMagnolia.com; gojvcrusaders@msn.com.

10 Ways Church Members Undermine Their Credibility

from Lifeway

Editor's Note: *Some good thoughts for church members. Article edited for space considerations.*

1. Gossiping about their pastor.

The gossip usually feels like he or she has the upper hand, making others look bad as they spread their lies (or private truths). The truth is, though, gossiping undermines the gossip by revealing they cannot keep private information private or that they are willing to spread unverified information to anyone within earshot. Eventually, the gossip's circle of influence is reduced to a few other miserable souls like themselves.

2. Passive-aggressive posts on social media about mistakes that leaders make.

For all the positive things for which social media can be used, it tends to provide just enough of a shield for us to say things without any accountability. Your pastor sees when you repost articles about leadership mistakes that you've told him upset you. When you subtweet your pastor, it only makes it harder to talk in person about real issues that should be addressed.

3. Complaining about "problems in the church," then not supporting the church's ministries.

The squeaky wheel doesn't always need only grease. Sometimes the bearings need to be completely replaced. Complaining is not a sign of maturity; it can be a sign of broken spirituality that needs the healing, redeeming power of Jesus. People who constantly com-

plain about problems yet never put forth a hand to make things better—or even attend—render themselves irrelevant to those striving to make things better.

4. Wanting change in the church without seeking change in their own lives.

The heart of the church is personal transformation. When all of a member's energies are spent on changing a system to align with their preferences, but they disregard their own spiritual development, you'll have a fitful relationship with your pastor. He wants to help you mature as a disciple, not just create a better mousetrap for religious consumers.

5. Weaponize financial giving by withholding tithes and offerings when the member does not like the pastor's vision or church's direction.

When you tell the pastor that you are withholding your giving, you reveal an unwillingness to partner for God's mission in the world. A similar tactic is designating tithes and offering to the cemetery fund or other special offering that allows the member to retain control and spite the leadership while appearing to advance God's mission. It reveals that you are actively undermining the leadership of the church.

6. Using the five minutes prior to or just following a worship service to complain to the pastoral staff about issues that could be talked about another time.

This tactic reveals either a lack of

awareness, a lack of spiritual maturity, or both. Is the temperature in your room too hot/cold? Is there a dead possum in the parking lot? Did you forget your Bible in the pew last week? Fine. Wait until Monday or Tuesday and send a text or email. Better yet, talk to the person who's actually on the Roadkill Committee and let them handle it.

7. On Sunday mornings, asking the pastor about toilet paper, elevator operation status, or any number of issues that have nothing to do with Jesus, God's glory, the church's worship, or a sinner's salvation.

Real logistical problems happen on Sunday mornings at the church campus. But it is unlikely that the pastor can do anything about them. Plus, he is trying to train all of his attention on leading the church in worship and delivering the Word. Asking him to find toilet paper is not work beneath him, but it shows your own lack of willingness to serve and lack of focus on why the church is gathered for worship.

8. When parents of children and/or students complain about the respective ministries but then refuse to serve in those ministries.

The church is a partner in discipling your children but it is not a surrogate. Parents need to avoid the "drop-off discipleship" tactic of child-rearing. The pastor has no recourse but to understand that you have taken on a consumer view of the church demanding the best services at the lowest personal cost, like expecting Sistine Chapel quality for Big Lots prices.

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
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

9. Expecting the pastor to visit every person in a hospital or homebound member but refusing to simply do it yourself.

No pastor has enough hours in the week to do everything that everyone thinks he should do. It is why the Bible is clear that ministers are to equip the rest of the church to do ministry. Rather than complain that the pastor is not doing his job, partner with him for the church to do its ministries.

10. Stating that you want growth but complaining about messy kids, loud teenagers, unruly families, and generally bad behavior by the unchurched when they finally show up for a church activity or worship.

Everyone wants their church to grow until messy sinners show up. Pastors know by both theology and experience that growth involves helping broken people be made whole. Dealing with broken people is by nature hard and exhausting. If you value a neat and clean church over the presence of sinners being confronted and comforted by the Gospel, then, by your actions, you've told the pastor that growth is not an option you want for the church.