

Baptist

Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

July 1, 2019

www.msbbaptist.org

Vol. 73 No. 13

Bro. Grover Laird Passes Away

Grover Laird, 90, passed away Tuesday, June 25, 2019, at his residence. He was born January 11, 1929 to the late Thomas Laird and the late Lina Broom Laird. Bro. Laird has been a Minister of The Gospel for 74 years. Twelve of those years were in full-time evangelism.

He was a member of East Fulton Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi. He pastored churches in Mississippi, Kentucky, and Texas and served as a state missionary in Texas and

Kentucky. For over 20 years he had a jail ministry and spoke on radio stations locally and in the Philippines. He published "The Revivalist" for 44 years, wrote 7 Christian tracts and published a book "Sermons, Devotionals, and Thoughts". He



Rev. Grover Laird

was a graduate of Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel, Mississippi, and received an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary, Jacksonville, Texas. Bro. Laird was the recipient of Itawamba County's Citizen of the Year Award in 1988.

Services were held on Saturday June 29, 2019, at East Fulton Baptist Church with Ministers Dewitt Bain, Roger Laird, Kevin Clayton, and John Lewis conducting.

Survivors include his wife of 73 years, Ester Mae Laird; daughters: Fran Wolski (Tommy) Thomas of Counce, Tennessee; Evelyn (Tony) Dyer of Crandall, Texas; Margaret Sheffield (John) Butler of Fulton, and Nancy (Tommy) Edwards of Petal; granddaughters: Tammy (Tom) Coltharp, Ashley (Billy) Barnett, Lisa (Eric) Darracott; grandsons: Larry Moore, Garrett Dyer, Bruce (Lesley) Sheffield, Dustin Harris, Brady (Heather) Edwards; 11 great-grandchildren. Special thank you to his care giver Norma Patrick.

Bro. Laird was Preceded in death by his parents, grandson, Thomas Moore, 5 brothers and 3 sisters, and son-in-law, Dan Wolski.

Memorials may be made to BMA of America Foreign Missionary Department, P.O. Box 878, Conway, AR 72033.

2:6). We also find that He was loved of the Father and was one with the Father, just as we should be one (John 17:22,23). Jesus also shared in the creation of the world, with all things being made by Him and for Him (John 1:1-3,14; Colossians 1:16,17; Hebrews 1:2). It was settled back then that Jesus

continued on page 2

Christian Grade School Beginning on Philippine Bible College Campus



Proposed classroom building for the new Christian Academy

by Jimmy & Julie Walker
Missionaries to the Philippines

For many years it has been the desire of the BMA Bible College to establish a Christian grade school on our campus. I am pleased to announce that we now have First Graders on campus! This will be a pilot year as we finish all the requirements, through the Department of Education to get our certification. We are planning our grand opening next August and hope to offer grades 1, 2 & 11. The goal is to add a grade each year until we have all levels through grade 12.

Why start a Christian grade school? This will be a tremendous outreach to the community around the college. It will be a place where children can come each day and receive a Christ-centered education and be disciplined. The school will also give us opportunities to reach parents with the Gospel.

The grade school will be a tremendous financial blessing to the BMA Bible College. Right now around 95% of the colleges operation budget comes from churches and individual donors in the US. We anticipate that the grade school will be able to

provide around 40% of the funds needed to perpetuate the college ministry. This is the first step in helping the college to be come a self-supported ministry.

Here's What We Need

In order for us to grow the grade school we need 12 additional classrooms. It is not necessary to have all of them at one time, but we will need 3 by this next July and we would need to begin construction by January. How much will it cost? I'm glad you asked! Each classroom will cost around \$10,000. Can you help provide a classroom? Can your church help provide a classroom? Your gift will be a blessing that will have an impact for decades to come. Please prayerfully consider being a partner in this project!

Offerings can be sent to: BMAA Missions Office, P.O. Box 878, Conway, AR 72033 or Garrett Memorial Baptist Church, P.O. Box 223, Hope, AR 71802

Designate your gift to BMABC Philippines Christian Academy. If you would like to talk further about this, shoot me an email at bmabcphilippines@yahoo.com.

I want us to take a look at Jesus How We See Jesus

by Grover Laird

Editor's Note: From the July-August 2000 issue of *The Revivalist*, published by Bro. Grover Laird.

"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man." (Hebrews 2:9)

In this message I want us to take a look at Jesus. I want us to see Him as He was before the world. Then I want us to see Him during Old Testament times. Thirdly, I want us to look at Him while He was upon earth. In the fourth place, I want us to see Him as He is now. Lastly, I want us to see Him as He will be in the future. Once some Greeks came to Philip and said, "Sir, we would see Jesus" (John 12:21). If you share their feelings, maybe this message will help some.

I. JESUS, Before The World Was

Jesus has always been. Some start the story of Jesus with Bethlehem, but the Bible speaks

of Him being active from everlasting. The Psalmist could have been speaking of Jesus when he said, "...even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God" (Psalm 90:2). When the prophet

Micah was telling us that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem he wrote, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting" (Micah 5:2). This tells us that Jesus has been active from everlasting, or forever.

Back before the world was created, we find that Jesus was glorified with the Father (John 17:5), that he was rich with the Father (II Corinthians 8:9), and that He was in the form of God and equal with God (Philippians



Rev. Grover Laird



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Lindsey

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

Fostering Faith...in prayer

When preparing to come to the Children's Home it was a natural inclination to look to the writings of people like George Mueller, a man who faithfully served the Lord by serving children. He is quoted to say in his autobiography, "Every child of God is not called by the Lord to establish schools and orphan houses and to trust in the Lord for means for them. Yet, there is no reason why you may not experience, far more abundantly than we do now, His willingness to answer the prayers of His children." Mueller was known a man of faith and prayer. I would not put myself in the same category as this faithful man of God, but I think we would all be wise to be challenged by his testimony.

Scripture tells us in James 4:2-3, "...ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that

ye may consume it upon your lusts." I often examine my requests for proper motives of glorifying God instead of myself. But, even self-examination can be tricky business while we remain in the flesh. I now make my efforts and ideas a matter of prayer and faith while I await the fruit for examination that will identify their root.

We began promoting renovation projects to you back in April. We were met with enthusiasm and many statements expressing the desire to help along these lines, but statements were as much as we could get for a little while. About half way through June people began calling and scheduling times to come and work. We are very excited for the work that is being accomplished now and our schedule over the remainder of the summer. This has reminded me of another Mueller quote, "I believe God has heard my prayers. He will make it manifest in His

own good time that He has heard me. I have recorded my petitions that when God has answered them, His name will be glorified...The greater the difficulty to be overcome, the more will it be seen to the glory of God how much can be done by prayer and faith." As the old sayings go we are not counting our chickens before they hatch or putting the cart before the proverbial horse, but we are being filled with joy by God's answer to prayer. Once again Mueller puts it best, "The joy which answers to prayer give, cannot be described; and the impetus which they afford to the spiritual life is exceedingly great."

We invite you to join us in prayer and/or join in God's answer to our prayer. We still have a few days in July & August we can put you to work. If you can paint, wood work, lay tile, organize, or tote water to those who do I am sure we can find a way you can serve with us.

Continue to pray for our potential cases, patience, and perseverance. Please contact us if you would like for us to come to your church in August, September, or beyond. Contact the office (601-426-3928), our Facebook page, or my cell phone (662-605-0996). Stay on the lookout for updates, prayer needs, and service opportunities.

Helping At The Children's Home



A group from Temple Baptist Church in Laurel recently helped with some painting and renovation at the Home



How We See Jesus

From Page 1

would come and die to save us from our sins (Luke 22:22; I Peter 1:20; Revelations 13:8b). Jesus was active from everlasting.

II. JESUS, In Old Testament Times

As we have already seen, when God created the heaven and the earth, Jesus had a part in it (Genesis 1:26). When the Old Testament spoke of the Angel of the Lord, it might have been our Lord Jesus (Exodus 3). When three messengers of the Lord visited Abraham in the plains of Mamre, two went toward Sodom while Abraham stood before the Lord (Genesis 18). The one Abraham talked to may have been Jesus our Lord. The Bible clearly states that "No man hath seen God at any time..." (John 1:18; I John 4:12). Yet during the days of the Old Testament, different references are made to men seeing the Lord (Genesis 32:30; Exodus 33:11; Numbers 12:6-8; Deuteronomy

34:10);. This was most likely the Lord Jesus.

Job referred to his Redeemer as the One that would come to earth in the "latter day." This was Jesus. He said that his Redeemer was alive at that time—"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth" (Job 19:25). Jesus was,

I am so glad that I have received this eternal Son of God as my Savior and Lord.

therefore, Job's Savior then, just as He is ours now. David said that the Lord God spoke to his Lord about setting at His right hand (Psalm 110:1). Jesus referred to this verse and said that He was the one David was speaking about (Matthew 22:42-45). Therefore Jesus was David's Lord and Savior back in Old Testament days, as He is our today. When the prophet Micah spoke of Jesus as the One "whose goings forth have been from of

old, from everlasting" (Micah 5:2), he spoke as if Jesus was busy in his day. I do feel that Jesus was involved in the things that were going on in Old Testament times.

III. JESUS, In New Testament Times

As we have already noticed, Old Testament saints consider Jesus as their personal Saviour who was alive then (Job 19:25). Many of these desired to see Him and be with Him, as was later experienced by the Apostles and others—"For ver-

ily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them." (Matthew 13:17) Therefore, the days that Jesus was upon earth was a very special time for mankind.

Though Jesus was little known until He was thirty, after then His short ministry of three and a half years was full.

After John had finished his account of the ministry of Jesus he wrote, "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen." (John 21:25) It is amazing to watch Jesus move from one miracle to another without any waste of time.

One thing that Jesus did during those three and a half years that seem to create much excitement, was His ministry to the physical needs of people. In speaking of that part of His min-

istry, Peter said, "...who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil..." (Acts 10:38) He fed the hungry, restored sight to the blind, made the lame to walk, healed withered hands, straightened people who were bowed together, healed all manner of sickness, cast out devils that afflicted and tormented people, and even raised the dead. The bereaved were made happy and the hurting were comforted. Nothing like this has ever hap-

continued on page 4

YOUR HELP NEEDED -

Southeastern Work Days!

July 13 is designated as Volunteer Work Days. Each is a Saturday and we will work on various projects from 8 a.m. to noon each day (longer if individuals wish to keep working). There is painting, installing equipment, flooring, gardening, pressure washing... and so much more to do! If you have equipment and tools, bring them. If you, or folks in your church, or ministry organization have a willing heart to serve, allow the Lord to use you on these days. If you cannot make any of these days, almost any day this summer is available for your volunteer help. Give us a call and we will put you to work!

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

"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31

The evidence of God working on behalf of Southeastern Baptist College is obvious! He has done so much for the college in recent years and continues to show us the way forward.

Last year, the SBC staff hosted representatives of our accrediting agency, the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE), on their ten-year re-certification visit. We successfully made adjustments to all their recommendations and in February 2019, we were affirmed for an additional ten years with their accreditation. We treasure our relationship with ABHE and will endeavor to maintain our accreditation

with this great Christian institution.

Though I write this article before our fiscal year ends on June 28th, it is clear that the Lord will enable SBC to finish fiscally in the black. I thank all who helped us through prayer and through giving. Praise the Lord!



Dr. Scott Carson
President

Having achieved this goal is a major strategic step forward for SBC. With great vision, the Board of Trustees approved our college to pursue the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accreditation more than ten years ago. When I became president I made it a

priority to meet the first requirement for application. Having finished fiscally in the black three years running, qualifies us to apply for SACS accreditation. Led by Dean Walker, the staff has already done a great deal of preparatory work getting ready to submit our application. But the effort will not stop there. It will increase greatly as we begin the multi-year process for SACS accreditation. We know there will be tremendous challenges ahead, but with God's help and through hard work and determination, we will do it!

July 1, marks the beginning of Southeastern Baptist College Special Emphasis months. Special Emphasis will run between July 1 and August 31. We have a new campaign titled, "Clear the Wall". Each BMA of Mississippi church and other support-

ing churches, will soon receive a packet containing a Bullseye Poster, a "Clear the Wall" Banner, and 100 numbered envelopes. The Bullseye Poster shows several major projects and the cost for each one. These projects will help you understand where your donation is going. Each envelope has a single number on it ranging from one to 100. Your church members are encouraged to take one or more envelopes from the bulletin board where the poster and banner are located in your church and place into the envelope, the dollar amount as indicated on the outside. For instance, a person may take the number 86 envelope and place \$86 inside (cash or check). Another person may select the number 18 and that person would put into the envelope, \$18

and return it to the church as their donation to SBC for our Special Emphasis campaign. The goal is to "Clear the Wall" of all envelopes, fill all the envelopes with the amount indicated on each and at the end of the Special Emphasis months, the church would send the much needed donation to SBC. Please note the picture that illustrates how to set up the "Clear the Wall" fund raising campaign on the churches bulletin board.

SBC has many projects that must be addressed. The need is great, but our God is greater! I know He will bless both you and His work through this project. Thank you for helping SBC move forward with the knowledge that you are continuing to invest in the spiritual lives of our students who will, in turn, impact the world for Christ!

"Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days." Ecclesiastes 11:1

Equipping the Saints!
Dr. Carson

Danny Pitts Lecture Series

Southeastern Baptist College will host the Danny Pitts Lecture Series with Dr. Charley Holmes, President of the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary, as guest speaker to be held on the campus of the college. Mark your calendars for August 19-21. The program will begin at 7 p.m. each evening.

Newest Accolade

Southeastern Baptist College was named the "Most Affordable Bachelors Programs in Christian Ministry, Biblical Studies & Theology" for the 2019-2020 academic year! This recognition can be found on the nogre.com website.

SBC Choir

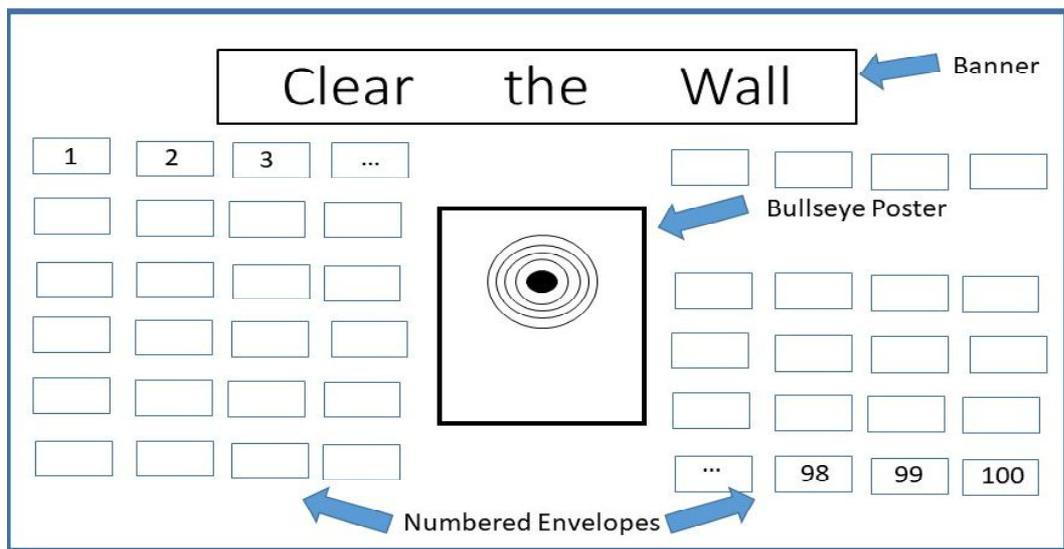
We are blessed to have Krista McKenzie as the Director of our newly formed SBC Choir. Krista has recruited fifteen local students who will register for the Fall Semester. Does your church or ministry want to host the SBC Choir? Now is the time to reserve dates for their performance. Hurry, we anticipate their schedule to fill up quickly. Contact Krista at 601-426-6346. Please note the professor highlight that features Krista and her vision for the Choir.

A Golden Opportunity!

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! SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.



Dean Jan Walker leads a faculty training session on updates to SBC policies and procedures



How to set up SBC Special Emphasis Packet

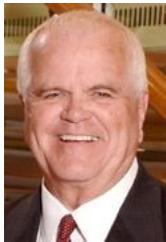
1. Use a bulletin board in an obvious location
2. Arrange items in the SBC packet as indicated above or similar
3. Explain to congregatoin how to utilize the envelopes
4. Collect envelopes throughout the month of July and August
5. Tally collection and send to SBC the beginning of September

SBC Alumni Gifts in Recognition:

- Brother & Mrs. Harold Floyd in honor of *Chris and Cal Floyd*
- Mr. & Mrs. Donald Phillips in honor of *Milford & Elsie Magers*
- Mr. & Mrs. Donald Phillips in honor of *Paul Kellar*
- R.D. & Hilda Cline in honor of *Dr. Philip Bryan*
- Lebanon Baptist Brotherhood in memory of *Marion Wilson*
- Ruben & Janice Bryant in memory of *Dr. Eugene Murphy*
- Willie Jones in memory of *Danny Pitts*
- Ted Musgrove in memory of *Ollie Parker*
- Shirlene Smith in memory of *Arthur Smith*
- Dr. Medrick Savell in memory of *Margaret Savell*
- Dr. Medrick Savell in memory of *Dr. Jentry Bond*
- Dr. Medrick Savell in memory of *Nadine Ellzey*
- Dr. Medrick Savell in memory of *Danny Pitts*
- Dr. Medrick Savell in memory of *June Meeler*
- Mr. & Mrs. Donald Phillips in memory of *Vernon & Lela Phillips*
- Philip & Becky Ray in memory of *Danny Pitts*
- James Blaylock in memory of *Alan Gregory*
- Tom & Vicky Simmons in memory of *Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Kellar*
- R.D. & Hilda Cline in memory of *Dr. Jentry Bond*

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

A Mighty Oak Has Fallen...

The title of this column is a quote someone made when a dear and famous preacher passed away several years ago. That individual was a leader, an example, and a faithful preacher of the whole Gospel of Christ.

Our dear friend Bro. Grover Laird passed away recently and those words are certainly applicable to him as well. His passing will certainly leave a hole in the hearts of his wife and children, but also in those of us who loved him and respected him. If you knew Grover Laird and came in contact with him on a personal level or heard him preach in your church, you will always feel that relationship.

I first met Bro. Grover Laird as a member of Parkview Baptist Church in Gautier, Mississippi, when he was our revival speaker. My first memory of that encounter of over 40 years ago was the fact that he loved homemade ice cream. That comes from an after service fellowship at the pastor's home with just a few folks.

I can't speak for all preachers and pastors, but I was initially intimidated in his presence. After hearing him preach I felt woefully ill prepared and uneducated. I have several very fond memories of Bro. Laird. One was his inability to stop laughing at a joke told by a preacher during a Missions Conference at Hopewell Church near Fulton. I was sitting behind him and was impressed with the fact that "he enjoyed jokes just like us regular folks". If you knew him you would also have been shocked (and impressed) at his continuous laughing, even after the preacher had moved on to his next point.

Bro. Laird would always ask me to stay with him and Mrs. Laird when I was in North Mississippi for a meeting. I constantly declined - again, I was intimidated...

Eventually I did take him and Mrs. Laird up on their invitation and thoroughly enjoyed the stay. My wife and I stayed in their home once. When I got up in the middle of the night, I found him in their 3rd bedroom either studying or praying...I am sure it was probably both.

When I spoke to Mrs. Laird the day after her husband had died we talked about many things, but one thing that she stated was this, "there are worn spots in carpet of the closet of that 3rd bedroom where he would spend hours in prayer".

Grover and Ester Laird represented the Lord and his work with grace and dignity. He will certainly be missed by his family, but also by his preacher brethren that loved and respected him and his ministry and by the example he set before all of us.

The writer of Hebrews on speaking about faith referenced Abel and his witness...He said Able offered a more excellent sacrifice. Grover Laird offered his sacrifice and because of his life and legacy we can say of him as the writer said of Abel...

...God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. Heb. 11:4d

We have included in this issue a sermon by Bro. Laird beginning on page 1. I encourage you to read all of it and contemplate on how you see Jesus. Bro. Laird's ministry was broad in its scope. As you read about him on page one you will see he was a pastor, an evangelist, a jail-ministry worker, a model citizen, a devoted husband and father. Most of all he was a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He lived for Jesus and now he is in his Savior's presence.

He is seeing the Jesus he loved, served, and preached about for over 70 years.

How We See Jesus

From Page 2

pened before or since. But this was not why He came. He just did these things somewhat on the side.

Another part of our Lord's ministry was preaching and teaching. It was not what they were accustomed to hearing. When He finished His Sermon on the Mount, "...the people were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes" (Matthew 7:28,29). When He preached in the synagogue at Nazareth the people were amazed—"And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth..."(Luke 4:22). Later, He preached in Capernaum and caused the people to marvel—"And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power" (Luke 4:32). Officers from among the Jews said it right when they reported what they had heard—"...Never man spake like this man" (John 7:46). What a blessing it must have been to hear Him preach! Surely one day we will enjoy that blessing. Yet as important as His preaching was, this was not His main reason for coming.

Another thing that Jesus accomplished while He was here is mentioned in I Peter 2:21. Here the Bible says, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." Though Peter was speaking of suffering when he gave us this verse, I believe that Jesus is our example in everything. I believe He is our example in prayer, in how we should feel about our enemies, concerning how we go to church, in being meek and lowly, in being compassionate for people who are hurting, in seeking the lost, in having a strong desire to please our Heavenly Father, in resisting Satan with the Bible, and in being willing to suffer for the Cause of the Lord. Jesus has given us a per-

fect example, and we should seek to live our life by it.

But neither His healing, nor His preaching, nor His exemplary life were the main reasons for His coming. He came to this world because the world had a sin problem. Sin would ruin our life here and carry us to eternal torment hereafter, and Jesus was the only One that could solve the problem. We were all sinners before God (Romans 3:23), and sin had to be accounted for (Romans 6:23). Jesus, therefore, came and took the blame for it all and paid the penalty on the cross—"Who his own self bare our sins in his own

body on the tree, that we, being dead to sin, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (I Peter 2:24). He tasted death for every man (Hebrews 2:9), and invites all to come to Him for everlasting life (John 3:36).

All who receive Him as their personal Savior become the sons of God—"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12).

Jesus was a person that no one could find any fault in, a person who suffered so much for others, and a person who invited all to be a part of His Heavenly family. Everyone ought to love Jesus and choose Him as their Saviour and Lord.

continued on page 7

CLEAR THE WALL In July & August



Southeastern Baptist College Special Emphasis Months are July and August. Each BMA of Mississippi church will soon receive a **"CLEAR THE WALL TARGET"** banner and a **'Bullseye for Blessings'** visual to guide all to share \$\$\$ blessings toward specific projects for much needed SBC progress.

Mississippi Baptist

Don J. Brown, Editor

E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org

Web site www.msbaptist.org

USPS 353-960
P.O. Box 8181
Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000

Phone 601-426-3293

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

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

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

MINISTERING TO YOUNG PEOPLE

by Anders Lee

Dealing With Tradition In The Church

Most youth guys are ages 22 ... 23 up to 35ish. When you first start out you want to conquer the world and make a huge impact in the lives of teens! Most that I talk to feel that way, you can see it in their face when they talk about it and see it in the passion of their ministry. They have all kinds of new ideas on how to accomplish this and have the best youth group ever!

It's not long, however, that they find out that it's hard to accomplish things they want to do because of many factors. One of those factors is tradition. A common line of conversation among youth guys is that very issue. They can go from talking about how awesome youth ministry is to how hard it is because they battle the 'set in stone' matters of the church. It is a fact, churches have traditions. You have to deal with them whether you like it or not!

I've heard of all kinds of traditions. I knew of one church that had a sunrise service at a lake every year on Easter at 6:00 a.m. Nothing else. They had a stroke when the youth

pastor invited the teens over to his house for super his first year. He couldn't do that... we only do the one Sunrise service and that is it! LOL!!!

One church had a youth fund raiser for camp each year. The bake sale was the first Sunday in May. Sister So&So had to make her famous chocolate pie. They had bidding wars on it in the fellowship hall. It normally brought around \$100!!! Traditionally the oldest deacon of the church always got the pie whether he won it or not. Not knowing, the new youth guy took the bids on it, a new visiting couple won the bid, he took it to them announcing they would love it. The place became dead silent as the bidding on other baked goods continued. He had messed up... and the ole deacon... well he left! LOL!!!

Well I have heard of so many traditions through the years. Some of them are just down right funny, but to that church, they



Anders Lee

are sacred and you can't mess with them! So here is my advice for what it's worth.

ALL TRADITIONS AREN'T BAD!

My old pastor use to say that. In fact I can hear him say "All traditions are not bad." He would say that right before he asked everyone to go around and greet folks after the first song of the worship service. Now you know you're Baptist if you do that.

When you go to a new church to serve as a youth guy, remember that. Find out what the best traditions are in the church. The ones they look forward to the most. Talk to some of the older members and just asked them, when did this start and why? Participate in them. Use them to gain rapport with your people. You might find out something unique and wonderful about the church that you didn't know.

BE WISE!

The worst thing you could do is to say or think that some of the traditions are ridiculous and they need to be changed. Granted... some of them may be extremely useless and probably not even characteristic of a New Testament church. But... you have to be wise!

Why? First, things that are embedded in the fabric of the church aren't just going to up and change because a "Johnny come lately" youth guy thinks differently about them. In fact, some of the traditions of a church might be older than you! If you are in an older traditional church, the older generation is more than likely the financial basis of it all, including your youth department. So be careful with them!

Second it would be foolish to say some things to the wrong people. Youth guys tend to grow

close to their teens through a little time. They find themselves having conversations with the youth of the church about the weird traditions. Next thing you know the grandson of the ole deacon is sitting at a family gathering and blurts out some of your conversation. Yep... that's gonna back fire.

IS IT WORTH IT?

As I said above, some traditions have nothing to do with the function of a church. But if you push to change something quickly, you may end up in a power struggle that damages the overall unity of the church and affects your ability to make progress in your youth ministry. Think about it, as a younger person who is spry and thinks on their feet quickly might win a debate on such an issue, but what did you really do. You may have shot yourself in the foot! When one does that they build walls between key leaders or older people that can never be brought down. You might win the battle but you will lose the overall effort.

WORK AROUND THEM!

Unless it is just scripturally wrong, instead of making it your personal agenda to change an old tradition, graciously create new things that will build your immediate ministry and make it stronger. Get busy on discipleship and connecting with your teens. Work towards quality, continuity in your ministry, and relevance in style to push forward with the younger generation you have been given leadership over.

You will find when you make that the priority in your minis-

try, the older generation or the long time members in your church will recognize your sincere passion to work with the teens and they will graciously allow you to do your thing while they do theirs! They can coexist without little skirmishes over the old traditions.

PRAY & GET ADVICE!

If you find that the "old guard" just doesn't like the direction you are going in with your ministry, maybe they feel the style of it doesn't match the older style of the church, and despite you doing everything to keep the peace, they begin speaking to you about things they don't like that you are doing. Well... it's time to get on your knees and start talking to the Lord about it! He can change hearts and help them see your intentions and your desire in the ministry with the youth. Again, going to battle lots of times isn't worth it... but you can use a spiritual weapon... pray, pray and pray some more!!!

You have an Ace in your pocket... your Pastor. Talk the whole situation through with him. He hired you! He's got your back! He wants you to succeed! He can share advice that will balance your thoughts and help you see where you might be wrong! So, pray and get that advice that we all need at points in time like this!

I'll leave you with one thought that comes from an older wiser man. "Just use your brain boy!" Ole Larry Tapp told me that when I was a younger pastor trying to make some changes at my first church. I reckon I was being a little bull headed. His advice worked! Good ole stable thinking... you know horse sense! LOL

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

Church Positions & News

Church seeking Full-time Association & Youth Pastor

First Baptist Church of Bay Springs, Mississippi, is looking and praying for an individual to be a dynamic youth and children's pastor while also serving as associate pastor. Duties will include teaching youth on Wednesday nights, organizing youth and children's events throughout the year, as well as taking the kids to camps for each age group in the summer & VBS oversight and involvement.

The position also will include involvement in the kid's lives by attending extracurricular school activities and functions & extra-church activities in which the youth are involved. Associate Pastoral duties will include virtually any duty performed by the pastor as needed (i.e. hospital visits, giving sermon in pulpit, etc.).

Please contact Gabe McNeil at 601-670-6374 via phone call or text message, or email at Gabe@mcneilcabinets.com.

West Point Church seeks pastor

Lone Oak Baptist Church in West Point, Mississippi, is seeking a full-time pastor. Anyone feeling led should send their resume' to Joe Arick, P.O. Box 1097, West Point, MS 39773, or email joe@ahlectricalhvac.com. He may also be contacted at 662-574-5391.

Church to host Singing School

Rocky Branch Baptist Church near Sumrall, Mississippi, will have a Gospel Music School for all ages July 15-19. It will be conducted by Marty Phillips of Jeffress Phillips Music of Crossett, Arkansas. Lessons will be each evening at 6:30. If you have any questions contact Judy Riley at 601-270-4301.

Revival Services

Rocky Branch Baptist Church, 2401 Rocky Branch Rd, Sumrall, will hold revival services July 21-26 each evening at 7:00. Guest speakers will be Monday-Greg Bennett, Tuesday-Bryson Haden, Wednesday-Glen Pace, Thursday-Chuck Lee, and Friday-Brandon Wilson. Please join us.



DiscipleGuide Publishing is once again going to be **Baptist Publishing House**. We will be producing Bible Study/Sunday School materials which support associational Baptist Work.

Order today for the 2019 Summer Quarter!

Baptist Publishing House
PO Box 279
Jacksonville, TX 75766
800-333-1442

YOUR HELP NEEDED -

Southeastern Work Days!

July 13 is designated as Volunteer Work Days. Each is a Saturday and we will work on various projects from 8 a.m. to noon each day (longer if individuals wish to keep working). There is painting, installing equipment, flooring, gardening, pressure washing... and so much more to do! If you have equipment and tools, bring them. If you, or folks in your church, or ministry organization have a willing heart to serve, allow the Lord to use you on these days. If you cannot make any of these days, almost any day this summer is available for your volunteer help. Give us a call and we will put you to work!

GIRLS'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

State GMA Director Jessica Haden
795 Highway 532, Mt. Olive, MS 39119
601-797-4597 or 662-251-0455
Email jessicahaden3@gmail.com

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

WHY not GMA?

Girls Missionary Auxiliary, or GMA, has been an established program for girls for many years. It has disciplined and led numerous girls to Christ and on to lives of service in local churches as well as around the world. Discipleship is a lifelong process and this program is an excellent starting point.

GMA is experiencing a revival and would love for girls and ladies in the BMA to join in. The ministry is still one of the most exciting endeavors for girls in the fourth through twelfth grades in the BMA. The Women's Missionary Auxiliary, or WMA, has been the traditional sponsor of the GMA, but many churches today continue GMA programs without a local WMA. GMA is a program that takes a girl step by step into a relationship with Jesus. It promotes growth in a relationship with Christ and develops a genuine love for God.

Through the GMA Forward Steps girls learn how to be a positive Christian witness in their homes and communities and they learn all areas of missions. GMA introduces learning-by-doing experiences that involve the girls in a myriad of service opportunities, allowing them to help others by using their talents in special ways in their community and their local church. Not only are they learning how to show God's love, but they are learning how to be good citizens. (GMA Counselor's Guidebook)

WHY not GMA in your church?

There are no perfect programs and each one has their own strengths and weaknesses. GMA is a BMA program that has been proven to help in the training of our young ladies to be better mothers, minister's wives, church leaders, missionaries at home and abroad, and more.

The GMA curriculum is continuing to be updated and is currently available online at www.nationalgma.org. It has been revised in a way that young ladies are taught to study and apply the Bible, not just to memorize - even though GMA does believe that it is important to hide God's word in your heart. There is no other program available that adequately teaches our girls what we believe and why.

WHY not GMA for your church?

It takes a church that loves its girls to pursue GMA and ladies that are willing to follow God's will to become a GMA counselor. GMA groups may be large or small but each one involves girls with souls and lives that are important to God. Many times the world makes Christian girls feel alone, but GMA gives our girls a network of Christian girls across many states and around the world. These girls make relationships with counselors and friends that last a lifetime. Our young ladies need direction, mentors and leadership. Let's do our best to keep the world from leading them down the wrong path.

Some things old? Something new? Yes, but most of all GMA involves ladies disciplining, teaching and training our girls to be FIT FOR THE KING!

If your church is considering reviving GMA or starting a new GMA don't hesitate to contact the National GMA. We have officers that would love to assist you.

Laurie Hicks, National Director of Youth Auxiliaries
511 Warnock Springs Rd; Magnolia AR 71753
lbohicks@icloud.com

Lane Flynt, National GMA Promoter
1059 Hwy 532; Mt Olive MS 39119
Lane.flynt98@gmail.com
WWW.Nationalgma.org
Facebook: GMA-Turning the World Upside Down

Your Help Is Needed BMAA Disaster Relief Underway

by Angela Rice
BMA of America Office

BMA Missions is partnering with 'Just the Crumbs' ministry in disaster relief efforts. Led by Bro. Lavon Haden, we are calling this ministry BMA Disaster Relief. Just the Crumbs has been serving in disaster relief for many years. This is an effort to coordinate all of our BMA churches to serve together in Disaster Relief.

WE NEED YOU. Right now, BMA Disaster Relief is setting up at Immanuel Baptist Church in Greenbrier, Arkansas, to serve the communities affected by the flooding there. We need teams of volunteers to cook, package and deliver meals to people working along the river. Clean up crews are also needed to help.

VOLUNTEER: If you would like to volunteer to serve with us during the next two months, let us know. We have living quarters set up for you at Immanuel Baptist Church. You will need to bring your cot or air mattress and all meals will be provided. For more information, check out our website, bmamissions.org/disasterrelief, or call/email Lavon Haden (601-



Flood Waters Rising in Arkansas

522-6055, jtcops@gmail.com) or Angela Rice (501-455-4977, angela@bmamissions.org).

DONATE: To make a donation to BMA Disaster Relief/Just the Crumbs, donate online at bmamissions.org/disasterrelief or send donations to P.O. Box 878 Conway, AR 72033.

We are also in need of the following supplies: Napkins, To-go cups, Paper towels, Dishwashing liquid, Bleach, Baby diapers, Baby wipes, Ziplock bags (gallon, sandwich, and quart), Paper lunch bags,

Toilet paper, Hygiene products, & cleaning supplies.

You may drop off or ship supplies to BMA Disaster Relief C/O BMA Missions Office, 611 Locust St., Conway, AR 72034 or BMA Disaster Relief C/O Immanuel Baptist Church, 61 Green Valley Dr., Greenbrier, AR 72058. These supplies can be ordered online from Walmart or Amazon and shipped to us.**

BE A FIRST RESPONDER: If you are interested in being a "Disaster Relief First Re-



Supplies and volunteers ready

sponder", fill out the information on the website to receive the latest information from BMA Disaster Relief/Just the Crumbs on how to get involved.

National GMA Officers Want to Serve

by Lane Flynt
National GMA promoter

Our project for 2019-2020 is the Freemans' BMA of the Philippines (BMAP) Ministry Building Renovation Project. We are raising money to help them renovate the building so it can be used as housing and meeting facilities for missionary training.

The national officers also want to do service projects when they have planning meetings. Our first service project will be helping to paint, decorate and renovate one or two rooms at the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home. If anyone would be willing to support us in these great works, that would be wonderful!

Please send any financial support to National GMA, c/o Kristin Herring, 207 Hidden Valley Loop, Maumelle, AR 72113. We would love your support of both projects. We'd like for any money that isn't needed for the service project to go to our national project. If this is also your desire, please include that information with your donation. Thanks so much for time and support!



2019-20 National GMA officers (L-R): Secretary Abigail Fairley; Song Leader Abbie Clark; Alt. Jr. Miss GMA Saidee Walley; Miss GMA Sara McGee; Jr. Miss GMA Lilli Medlin; President Rachel Webb; Historian Karo Buck; First Vice Pres. Emily Henry; Alt. Miss GMA Hannah Varnado; Instrumentalist Emily Gentry; Second Vice President Lydia Dunlap.

COMMISSION ON Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt
Director

The past year for the Senior Adults has been tremendous, with interest continuing to gain momentum. Seniors of all ages have continued to participate in the annual conferences. The oldest senior to attend the conferences was a 97-year-old lady from Big Creek and the oldest man was a 94-year-old from Unity Baptist Church,



97-year-old lady
from Big Creek

Guntown. This is all made possible through your support and we are appreciative of all you do to support your senior members.

Almost 500 seniors were touched by your support in both the North and South Conferences.

The 2020 conferences will be



94-year-old from
Unity Baptist Church,

hosted by Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church of Fulton and Big Creek Baptist Church of Soso. Our host churches are always excited about participating in these conferences.

The Trustees of the Commission on Senior Adults will be meeting in the near future. This is a tremendous group of Trustees who always respond when called upon.

If your church is a regular contributor to this ministry, it is appreciated. We encourage all churches to add the Commission on Senior Adults to your support. You can do this regularly or with a one-time offering.

Thank you for your help with this ministry. Continue to be a constant encourager to these seniors who have stood by your churches in the past.

The South Mississippi conference will be held next year during the month of March and the North Senior Adult conference will be held in May. A blessed time for our Seniors.

Southeastern College

from page 3

Introducing New Coach



Coach Broderick Hall
Men's Basketball Coach and
Cross Country Track Coach
Coach Hall was born to Ms.
Ann Hall and Mr. Larry Nobles
in Laurel where he graduated
from R. H. Watkins High

School. He then went on to earn an Associate's Degree at Jones County Junior College in Ellisville, Mississippi. Coach Hall attended the University of Southern Mississippi where he earned his Bachelor's degree. Broderick began his basketball coaching career as an Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) coach prior to being the Assistant Coach at Quitman High School and South Jones High School. Most recently, his coaching journey led him to Laurel Christian School where he coached Varsity Girls and Boys basketball. Coach Hall and his wife, Belinda, have two daughters and one son: Bailey, Brock, and Blaire. Coach Hall's motto in life is "Whoever is happy, will make others happy too."

From The Mind of Chuck Lee ShortCuts

One of my earliest memories of a shortcut came in the mountains of Tennessee when I was in my single digit years. Dad and mom decided it would be a great idea to veer off the main highway and take a different route through the mountains because it was more scenic and also looked like it might cut off a few miles back to the campsite. This great idea turned out to be not as fantastic or short as they thought. We did get to see the scenery up close and personal though, because the nature of small mountain roads has the tendency to circle back on themselves quite frequently.

I learned on this foray that just being a skinny, freckled-faced, red-head would not be the only obstacle I would have to overcome in life. I would also have to overcome motion sickness, thus the frequent stops to get out and see the mountain foliage after every other mile. In my defense, we three boys had to sit in the back of the station wagon with the seats facing each other while our sisters got the middle seats. I don't recall if the wagon had air conditioning or not, but I am positive that it never made it to the rear as the vehicle navigated the u-shaped curves. Sometimes Dad and Mom would pass us going the other way as they were in the front seats hogging the A/C. The shortcut only took us a little over twice as long as if we had gone the longer way.

Because of this early traumatic experience suffered at such a young age, I had to set a new course of direction in life. Being a successful fighter pilot, ship captain, or ferris wheel rider had to be forgotten. Thanks a lot Mom and Dad! I would probably be famous



Bro. Chuck Lee

if not for the shortcut that uncovered severe motion sickness in my system.

Unable to learn from past experiences, I still find myself seeking out shortcuts as I travel the road of life. Most of the time, it still takes twice as long as it would have if I would have just kept to the main highway. But then again, I may have missed out on seeing the scenery.

Lee serves as pastor of Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis. He may be reached by email at leecharles47@yahoo.com

How We See Jesus

from page 4

IV. JESUS, As He Is Now

After Jesus died for our sins and was buried, three days later He arose on the first day of the week (Mark 16:9). Forty days later He ascended back to Heaven and sat down at the Father's right hand. He is there now. Many things have already been accomplished, and many things are being accomplished, as He awaits the day that He will return to earth.

When Jesus came to earth, He humbled Himself as humble as the sinless Son of God could. He took the role of a servant (Isaiah 42:1), and was made in the likeness of man. He made a third step down by becoming obedient unto death. He stepped down again as He died the death of the cross. Since God exalts those who humble themselves for the Lord's sake (Luke 14:11), God exalted Jesus. He first gave Him a Name of honor. He made that Name above every name. He then required every knee to bow to that Name. He then required all to confess that this Jesus is Lord. And then He declared that this would be to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:6-11). He could not have humbled Himself lower, nor have been exalted higher. Jesus is therefore "highly exalted" at the Father's right hand at this time.

There at the Father's right hand, Jesus is keeping us saved. It was His death that fixed it so that we could be forgiven and brought into a peaceful relationship with God. It is His life that keeps us that way—"For, if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life" (Romans 5:10). Though we still sin after we are born again, Jesus can still save us all of the way because "he ever liveth to make intercession for us" (Hebrews 7:25b). Therefore, keeping us saved is one of the greatest things that Jesus is doing now.

Jesus is also directing and empowering His church, as He serves as her head—"Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places...And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church" (Ephesians 1:20,22). Men can prove to be a blessing as they serve in leadership positions. But we must never forget that Christ is the head of His church, and a church will do better when they consider Him as the head and serve under His direction.

Jesus is now serving as our mediator, as He sits at the Father's right hand. The Bible

tells us that no one else serves in this position but Jesus—"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (I Timothy 2:5). The Father goes through Jesus in blessing us—"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19). We go through Jesus in reaching the Father—"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5:1,2).

Jesus also keeps us company, as He sits at the Father's right hand. It can get lonesome down here, especially when many do not care or seem to understand. But in Jesus our Savior we have a friend that sticks closer than a brother. The call to salvation is a call to the fellowship of Jesus—"God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord" (I Corinthians 1:9). Old Testament saints walked with God (Genesis 5:24; 6:9), and we can too. It is real; it is comforting; it is exciting; it is encouraging; and it adds power. It is surely our grandest experience in this life—"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye joy with joy unspeakable and full of glory (I Peter 1:8). "Whom have

continued on page 8



DiscipleGuide Publishing is once again going to be **Baptist Publishing House**. We will be producing Bible Study/Sunday School materials which support associational Baptist Work.

Order today for the 2019 Summer Quarter!

Baptist Publishing House
PO Box 279
Jacksonville, TX 75766
800-333-1442

BMA of Mississippi Youth Department

Phone 662-316-6233
www.facebook.com/bmamasyouth



Kelby Johnson
Director

BMA of Mississippi Summer Camp 2019

We had another great BMA of Mississippi Summer Camp at Waukaway Springs Christian Retreat Center.

Approximately 130 attendees from 12 different churches enjoyed a time of relaxation, fellowship, and worship.

Our theme this year was “Jesus is Greater Than” and our goal was to remind students that Jesus is greater than anything or anyone else!

Dr. John David Smith brought inspiring messages from various texts in God’s Word to emphasize our theme. He told the students that Jesus is greater than Satan and sin, guilt

and shame, me and religion, and fear and death.

In our music time this year, two students from Temple Baptist Church in Laurel helped lead the group in worship through song. Thanks to Brenna Clark and Kate Hyatt. They were a great addition to our camp worship team.

Following our services, students spent time with their own groups to discuss the sermons, ask questions, and have prayer.

We are blessed to have pastors, youth pastors, and other adults who invest in the young people in our churches.

As always, the camp spent



John David Smith bringing message

time in the freezing cold Waukaway water. It was a much needed plunge considering the hot Summer weather.

Thank you to all the churches who were able to attend this year. If you have not been able to come to our camp, please consider it for next Summer. It is typically held on the first weekend in June. Thank you to the churches who give to support this ministry.

Remember: Jesus is greater than...

Summer Camp Worship



Preaching service from 2019 Youth Summer Camp



Right -
Special Camp
music

From left to right (Bro. Kelby Johnson, Brenna Clark, Kate Hyatt).

How We See Jesus

from page 7

I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides thee” (Psalm 73:25).

V. JESUS, In The Future

As I understand it, Jesus could be appearing in the air to rapture His saints about any time now (I Thessalonians 4:13-18). At that time the saved will stand before Christ to give an account of our life’s work and be rewarded accordingly (I Corinthians 4:5; II Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 16:27). As that judgment closes out, He will fin-

ish His coming as He returns to the earth to rule (II Timothy 4:1; Luke 19:18,19; Matthew 25:21). He will put down the rule of the Man of Sin and begin a righteous rule (Revelations 19:19-21). He is now sitting with the Father in His throne; He will then sit in His own throne for a righteous rule over this earth (Revelations 3:21; Isaiah 11:1-9).

After the thousand years reign of Christ over this earth is finished (Revelation 20), Jesus will then be subject to the Fa-

ther as all things are put under Him. God will then be all in all (I Corinthians 15:28). With that arrangement Jesus will continue to reign forever. (Luke 1:33) When the White Throne Judgment for sinners is over (Revelations 20:11-15), all the redeemed will enter that city of God. There we will enjoy our eternal home with “no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain” (Revelation 21:4).

I am so glad that I have received this eternal Son of God as my Savior and Lord. This means that I have everlasting life and am in no danger of eternal torment. Praise the Lord! He is truly my best friend.

Leave It To Cleaver

Wisdom and Instruction From His Word

2 Peter 1.1 “To those who have received a faith equal to ours through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Through the years of my ministry, I have often heard Christians say: “I wish I had been alive in the time of Jesus so my faith would be more real.” This passage from the Apostle has a welcome thought for those with that kind of wishful thinking. Let’s examine the words “faith

equal to ours” in this passage. Some translate this as “faith precious as ours.” Others translate this as “faith of equal standing as ours.”

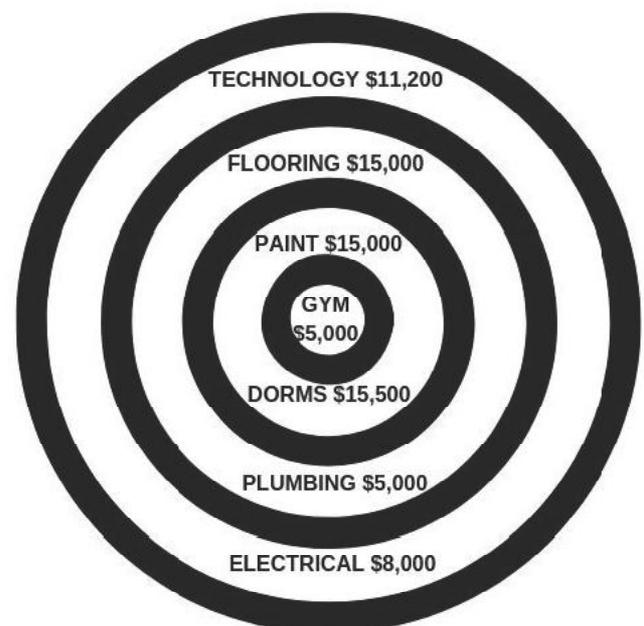
Simon Peter says to those he addresses that their faith is equal to and as precious to the Lord as his. Wow! You mean Jesus looks at my faith like one of the Apostles! (Let’s also remember Peter’s faith failures along with Jesus’ forgiveness.) Yes, Simon says his faith was received just as any Christian receives her or his faith today. Simon goes on to say with that kind of faith comes an overwhelming knowledge of God and Jesus Christ our Lord.

So my brother and sister, look to your faith as God in Christ is actively at work in your life just as He was in Simon Peter’s day. You don’t need to have “lived in the days of Jesus” to have a solid faith. It is yours now! Jesus does not value one century’s faith over another.

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



CLEAR THE WALL In July & August



Southeastern Baptist College Special Emphasis Months are July and August. Each BMA of Mississippi church will soon receive a “CLEAR THE WALL TARGET” banner and a ‘Bullseye for Blessings’ visual to guide all to share \$\$\$ blessings toward specific projects for much needed SBC progress.