

Baptist

Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE
BAPTIST MISSIONARY
ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

July 1, 2020

www.ms baptist.org

Vol. 74 No. 13

Lebanon on the Brink

by Charles Costa
BMA Missionary to Lebanon
(The Costa Family has been affiliated with the BMA for five decades beginning with Yousef, who pastored an Arabic-speaking church in Philadelphia and died in 1988. His son Charlie currently serves as Middle East coordinator, and his children make up generation number three: Bro. Charlie's daughter Rana, a cardiologist, coordinates Middle East medical clinics and his son Joe serves youth in the region. All of them were commissioned by the BMA, all are American citizens and all choose to serve in the Middle East.)

It has been a while since I've written about the work we are doing here in the Middle East. Obviously COVID-19 has been center stage all over the world, but lost in this melee was the economic disaster taking place

in Lebanon. For the last year, we have been competing with Venezuela for the honor of worst economy in the world. Here are the repercussions:

- At the time of this writing, the Lebanese currency has been devalued 400%.

- For the first time since World War One we see Lebanese families going hungry.

- A quarter of the population has gone below the poverty line in the last three months.

- The bread basket of the Middle East has turned into the beggar's pan of this region.

Then there's the resulting violence:

Internal sectarian tensions are high. Lawlessness is increasing and we fear chaos.

Many, including unbelievers, are talking about this being the signs of the end of the world.

In all of this doom and gloom there are bright spots of glowing testimonies. Sharing the love of Christ has touched many lives. Thanks to COVID -19, churches here were deployed and ready to take care of people in need. So when the bad economy tanked, people were already being exposed to the message of salvation.

With the meager resources available, we have been able to help more than 400 families. We are trying to make this assistance with food packages sustainable for the next few months hoping that this difficulty will ease.

What can the churches of the BMAA do at this time?

1. Pray and pray hard.
2. Keep supporting your missionaries faithfully so they can continue to operate and function with minimal worry for their livelihood.

3. Give generously to the BMAA relief fund at <https://app.securegive.com/BMAMissions/main/donate/cat>
4. Challenge other family members, relatives, and colleagues to join you in giving and praying.



The Costa family

egory, P.O. Box 878, Conway, AR 72033, or call 501-455-4977.

The U.S. embassy in Beirut has arranged for several evacuation flights, but we have chosen to stay. Help us make this stay profitable for the kingdom.



Lebanon Relief Bags

Sofilthy's Attic by Barbara White



Smiles

Do you want to know what I regret most about this period in time when we are "encouraged" to wear masks? Well, I'll tell you whether you want to know or not!

I regret not being able to see a smile on the face of people that I meet! (Some people don't just smile, they laugh out loud when they see me but I'm getting used to

that reaction)

Smiles are contagious – more so than the corona virus.

A song comes to mind that we sang years ago, "You can smile when you can't say a word. You can smile when you cannot be heard..."

A smile comes from a merry heart and a wise man once said, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." Proverbs 17:22



"We are STILL Waiting"

A 2020 Update on EIM's Shepherd's Bag Ministry

by Rocky Goodwin
Director of Evangelistic
International Ministries

I have always heard the quote, "God's timing is not our timing." Never has that been truer than today I think we would all say.

I wanted to update everyone about current news in EIM's Shepherd's Bag Ministry. In late 2019 after completing 16,000 Shepherd's Bags for the Philippines, we were diligently working hard on getting all the red tape of our paperwork cleared to ship there. As you all know, the COVID-19 pandemic began to unfold across the Pacific before it did in America so our



Bro. Rocky with Philippine Shipment Ready to Go

shipment to the Philippines had to be delayed.

We are still unable to ship at this time, but are praying that God would soon open the door in His timing. Additionally we still have 1,000 Shepherd's Bags for Mexico that was going to be

continued on page 2

2020 Ladies Retreat Cancelled



by Kathy Walley

The hotel that would be hosting our retreat has canceled due to Covid-19. They cannot host more than 50 people in a group. This would not work for us. Therefore, the Retreat is rescheduled for September 17 & 18, 2021. We will have the same theme "JOY" and speaker, Charlotte Johnson. Ladies please mark your calendars and begin planning now to attend.

A Desire To See God's Power

by the late
Grover Laird

"Oh that thou wouldst rend the heavens, that thou wouldst come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence. As when the melting fire burneth, the fire causeth the waters to boil, to make thy name known to thine adversaries, that the nations may tremble at thy presence!" (Isaiah 64:1,2)

Knowing how great and mighty the power of God is and how much we need it in our churches today, should cause

us to share the feelings of the Prophet as expressed in our text. David also shared this same desire— "O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary." (Psalms



Grover Laird

63:2)

The good news is, God wants to work mightily among men— "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him..." (2 Chronicles 16:9) Then what is holding back this help that we need from Heaven. The above Scripture tells us that it is the lack of a perfect heart toward God. But what would this involve? Consider a few possibilities.

I. It Could Be That Our Heart Is Not Trusting Him to Work

Israel failed to experience God's power because of this. In Psalm 81:10 we hear the Lord saying to them, "I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it." God is saying, "Give me room to work mightily." But somehow they failed to cooperate with God's plan— "But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me." (Psalms 81:11) It is the trusting heart that cooperates with the Lord so that He can do mighty things among us.

Our lack of faith can show up in our failure to ask Him to do something great. Consider Psalm 78:41 — "Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel." In James 4:2 we read, "...ye have not because ye ask not." This surely includes big things. In Jeremiah 33:3 we find the Lord encouraging us to ask for something big— "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." (Jeremiah 33:3) We surely miss seeing God work mightily because our weak faith will not allow us to ask for something big.

However, we should not ask for something that is bigger than our faith. This can damage our faith. Let me explain: Jesus once said, "...What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." (Mark 11:24)

While we should strive to obey this command of our Lord, if our lives are surrendered to His will there could be times that we cannot believe. We may be asking for something out of God's will. If we are asking for something out of His will, He can hold back our faith, since faith is one of the perfect gifts that is from above. (James 1:17; I Corinthians 12:8,9)

III. It Could Be That God Is Causing Us to Wait

It is so easy for us to get out of line with God's timing. Many times people pray sincere prayers and give it up as a lost cause because they were in a bigger hurry than God. Jesus said, "And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?" (Luke 18:7) Again we read, "For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." (Hebrews 10:36)

continued on page 6

Grover Laird Endowed Scholarship

To BMA Theological Seminary
Jacksonville, Texas

An endowed scholarship is being established to honor the memory and ministry of Bro. Grover Laird. Bro. Laird served the Lord for over 70 years as pastor, evangelist, prison ministry worker and a number of others areas. He published the Revivalist Newspaper and shared it at no charge for a number of years.

Bro. Laird had a lasting impact on the lives of so many and was a faithful worker and preacher of the Gospel.

Donations are being requested and received to fund this scholarship. This is being done with the endorsement of the Laird Family and Dr. Charley Holmes, president of the BMA Theological Seminary.



Rev. Grover Laird

Donation

Name _____

Church _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Amount Given or Pledged \$ _____

Send donations to the address below and made payable to:

Grover Laird Scholarship
c/o Don Brown

P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441

Call 601-426-3293 for More Information

All donations will be acknowledged and the fund will be under the management of the BMA Theological Seminary

Shepherd's Bag Ministry

from page 1

trucked there, but again we're still waiting since they have closed the border due to the pandemic. However we went ahead with plans for 2020 and ordered supplies and have all the materials here in the warehouse to be assembled for 16,000 more Shepherd's Bags for Ghana. Honestly we are frustrated and even sometimes discouraged.

These Shepherd's Bags and supplies are ready to be used to preach the Gospel to boys and girls overseas, but we didn't create the situation and apparently God is allowing this to happen so we just bow to the fact that God is still in control and we'll just wait on Him and He will renew our strength. We'll mount up with wings as eagles, we shall run and not be weary we shall walk and not faint.

Pray for EIM that as we "wait" we would use this time wisely and stay faithful to the cause of Christ and be ready when He calls.



EIM Supplies
for Assembly
waiting in our
warehouse

Submission Policies

Your Mississippi Baptist is the voice of the BMA of Mississippi, her churches, and her ministries. We are pleased to publish reports from all related entities, including the world-wide ministries of the BMA of America. We do not publish news or notices of secular or outside groups.

Article submissions should be sent by email to editor@msbaptist.org or in typed format by mail to P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441.

Photos should be emailed in jpg format. Photos lose resolution when printed on newsprint, therefore the original quality is vital. Photos should be well lighted, in focus, clear and sharp. Photos should contain people if at all possible. There is no guarantee that all articles and/or photos will be published. Unsolicited items will be given consideration, but publication is not guaranteed. Date sensitive articles will take priority.

We publish on the 1st and 15th of each month with the exception of December. Articles announcing events should be in the issue that is published at least 2 weeks prior.

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
\$ 1.50 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

“If ever there was a time when our world needs to hear this, *It Is Now!*” - The Editor

Those little things you do when you think no one is watching

Posted on June 24, 2020
by Dr. Joe McKeever

“God is Watching.”—sign over the door of Gwen Williams’ home in Picayune, Mississippi.

John Ed Mathiston told his congregation in Montgomery, Alabama a story about kindness.

“Not long ago, a man from the Middle East walked into a new car showroom and asked to speak with a particular salesperson. The receptionist called for him, the fellow walked to the front, and they greeted each other.

The foreigner said, “I’d like to buy some trucks.”

Some trucks. That caught the sales guy’s attention.

“What did you have in mind, sir?”

“I want to buy 750 heavy duty trucks and 250 pickups.”

The salesman is stunned. Surely someone is pulling a prank. This cannot be happening.

The Middle Easterner pulls out a letter of credit with a huge American bank. It is legitimate. This is the real deal.

The salesman says, “Sir, you

know you can go to Detroit and buy those trucks at a huge discount.”

The customer said, “Sir, ten years ago I was a college student in your city. Being from the Middle East made it hard for Americans to befriend me. I soon discovered you have to have a car in

America, so I came to you. I picked out a car. You said to me, ‘I can sell you that car and I’ll make a nice commission. But you would not be happy with it. It’s more car than you need.’ So you sold me a smaller car. It was the nicest thing anyone in America had ever done for me. And I decided I would repay you when I got a chance. So, I want to buy one thousand trucks through you.”

Dr. Mathiston, who told that story, was pastor of Frazer Memorial UMC in Montgomery (until he retired in 2008). I



Joe McKeever

heard him tell the story, wrote it down, and then used it on the radio in New Orleans. Today I found it in my journal for that

...that student stood in my class and delivered a sermon on love. Clearly, he doesn’t have a clue what love means.

year, 1999. No other details are given. Nor did the pastor cite his source. But it’s a great reminder that sometimes small acts of kindness reap great rewards. But whether they do or do not, doing right is always the right thing to do.

Historians tell us that Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto studied and traveled in America in the 1920s. He was once turned away from a San Francisco barber shop because he was Japanese. And he never forgot the slight. In 1941 and for two years after, he oversaw Japan’s attacks on the United States, at Pearl Harbor and beyond.

We may assume the barber went home that day without a clue as to the chain of events he had just triggered. (Or at least, contributed to.) Just a small thing, showing prejudice to someone with no power. Surely nothing would ever come from that. He’d done it countless times.

Showing kindness or acting with malice. Small things. And in most cases, unnoticed.

God sees.

“The eyes of the Lord roam to and fro in the earth, that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His” (2 Chronicles 16:9).

The recipient of those small acts of kindness or malice is forever changed, however slight, for better or for ill.

Our Lord spoke to this issue in Luke 14, a memorable chapter to be sure, but one that gets overshadowed by the chapter which follows (with its story of the Prodigal Son).

In the heart of that chapter, our Lord says, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return, and repayment come to you. But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,

and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Small things. Small people, if you will pardon the expression. It means people under the radar. Those unnoticed by the

world, slighted by the powers, not “somebodies.”

What we do for them goes unseen by the passing parade. But God sees.

This may be the biggest test of all: What we do when no one is looking. How we treat a child. How we relate to the forgotten elderly in a nursing home or hospital bed. Or the tramp on



the street.

“I was a stranger and you took me in.” (Matthew 25:35).

Apparently, this matters to the Lord far more than our great displays of talent and endowment.

A seminary professor once gave a low grade to a gifted student after he delivered an inspired sermon on love to the class. The student was incensed. “I thought it went over well. The class received it well.”

The professor assured him he had done well. “You are as gifted as anyone I’ve ever had in my class,” he said.

“Then why the C?” said the student.

The professor asked him to sit down. “I want to tell you something I saw on the street two days ago.”

Rocky Branch Church Revival

Rocky Branch Baptist Church in Sumrall will have revival services July 5-10. Guest speakers are Sunday - Glen Pace, Monday - Johnny Williams, Tuesday - Nick Freeman, Wednesday - Jeff Morris, Thursday - Jason Howard, and Friday - Brandon Wilson. Services are at 7:00 nightly. Please join us!

At the corner of Elysian Fields Avenue and Gentilly Boulevard, the professor said, he had been in the turn lane behind two other cars. An elderly woman was driving the lead car, and this seminary student was second. The professor was third.

When the light turned green, signaling that those in the turn lane could proceed, the elderly woman was slow to react. The student behind her laid down on his car horn. Finally, in exasperation, the student drove his car around the woman’s car, passing her in the intersection. All the while, he was leaning out of his window yelling harsh words to the woman.

“And two days later,” the professor said, “that student stood in my class and delivered a sermon on love. Clearly, he doesn’t have a clue what love means. I

probably should have given you a failing grade.”

The student never forgot that lesson, harsh though it may have felt at the time.

There came a day when the Lord and His disciples stood in the temple treasury area, watching how people were giving

their contributions. That’s Mark 12:41.

That day, the disciples noticed people bringing large sums and dropping them into the huge brass runs designated for the upkeep of the temple, for the support of the priest and for feast days, and for benevolence. But Jesus paid little attention to them.

He pointed out the little widow lady who dropped in two small copper coins and went on her way.

She had no idea that the Lord of Heaven and earth had noticed.

“Truly I say to you,” said the Lord Jesus. “This poor widow put in more than anyone else. They all put in out of their excess. But she out of her poverty, has put in all she owned, everything she had to live on.”

The Lord was mightily impressed by the smallest gift made that day, by the least conspicuous person.

He’s that way. He sees and cares. And remembers.

Oh, does He ever remember! And by the way, that little lady who brought the ten cents for the offering, she just made honorable mention in Holy Scripture. (Here we are two thousand years later, still talking about her!) Boy, she got her money’s worth, didn’t she?

August 2, 2020

- A Day of Giving -



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

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

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

"Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness." Psalm 150:2

Southeastern Baptist College is growing and all credit must go to the Lord! His hand is clearly upon this great institution owned by the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Only a few short years ago, SBC almost closed its doors for the last time. Since then, the campus has come alive with many new students, an active sports program, expanding educational programs, and with greater recognition from our surrounding community and beyond.

In 2016, SBC was recognized as the number one accredited Online Bible College in the Na-

tion. Between 2017 and 2019, SBC was consistently rated in the top 25 of all Bible colleges and for 2020, SBC has been awarded the "Best Online Bible College" in the nation by Intelligent.com, a distinction from among hundreds of colleges across the nation. These awards reflect the high level of professionalism our professors are committed to as they teach online and in the classrooms of our hallowed halls! One of our summer students recently posted in Facebook, "I'm telling you right now that choosing Southeastern Baptist



Dr. Scott Carson
President

College was the best decision I could have made... I'm telling y'all, God really answered my prayers here. If you find yourself lost and nowhere to go, come to Southeastern. You will not regret it!"

As we finish up the largest summer session in over 20 years, we are now focusing on getting ready for the Fall semester. Our numbers are looking very good, but with more students, comes more challenges. The staff has been working for months on achieving licensure with the Mississippi Department of Education for a new degree we are fielding: Bachelors of Elementary Education. This is a herculean project! Please stop and pray right now for those working so hard to meet the department's demands and

deadlines.

The renovation of the women's upstairs dorms is moving forward. We still do not have the total funds for this project. We did, however, receive a sizeable donation in the memory of retired Air Force Chaplain (Colonel) Bobby Thornton. This, in addition to another donation already received, will pay for three of the eight rooms being renovated.

The Board of Trustees will call a special session on July 9 to discuss the way forward for housing all the new students that are expected to register for the fall semester, as we are expecting to exceed 80 students. Please keep our housing issues in your prayers as well and ask God if He would have you financially sponsor a room. If you would like to participate in sponsoring a room, please refer to the flyer found near this article.

July and August are SBC Special Emphasis Months for the churches of the BMA of Mississippi. Each church will soon receive a simple post card re-

questing that our churches set the first Sunday of August, August 2, to be a day of giving with an offering designated for SBC. If this date is not possible, then I humbly request a special offering be received for SBC on any Sunday in July or August in order to support this great and historic college.

The Lord is doing great things on this campus and we are nearly exhausted trying to keep up with all the opportunities He keeps offering to us. Each endeavor takes much work and usually comes with a price tag, but the Lord has all the money we need to do His will. Pray that His people also respond to the financial needs of SBC. Every dollar received is used toward God's work in order to train our young men and women to grow in the knowledge of the Lord.

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

Equipping the Saints!
Dr. Carson

Commencement Set for August 1

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



Dr. John Adams

Women's Dorm Renovation

We are renovating the upstairs women's dormitory that have not been occupied in many years. This is a tremendous opportunity for your church, yourself, or an organization to adopt as their contribution to the growth of SBC. There are eight rooms and four bathrooms that must be completely refreshed before the beginning of the Fall Semester. For each full sponsor, the sponsor's name will be placed on a plaque on the door of the suite. Each suite will cost \$7,200 to renovate. Please refer to the adjacent flyer for more details.

A Housing Opportunity

We know we can exceed 100 students taking classes here at SBC. One of our greatest challenges to growing the student body is housing. We are currently exploring ways to meeting this significant need. We know of newly manufactured mobile homes that are configured with five apartments. If you can help us in securing reduced pricing for these, or can help with installing infrastructure to support mobile homes, please give Dr. Carson a call at 601-426-6346.

Registering for Fall Semester

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

The Danny Pitts Lecture Series

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

Available Scholarships

The Arnold Knight Memorial RLF Scholarship is available every semester to Baptist Mis-

Official Agreement

Dr. Carson recently visited the campus of William Carey University in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. As a result of this visit, SBC officially has in place a Memorandum of Understanding with WCU for the exchange of credits. As a reminder, SBC also has an MOU in place with the University of Southern Mississippi, and college credits are transferable to hundreds of other institutions across the U.S. See the picture of Dr. Carson and Dr. King adjacent to this article.



sonary Association ministers who take classes at Southeastern Baptist College. These funds are administered by the BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund. Contact our Financial Aid Officer, Ginny Singleton for more information.

The Best Online 2-Year College

Southeastern Baptist College is designated by Intelligent.com as the "Best Two Year University" for Online Bible Colleges out of 201 institutions across the U.S. for 2020. That's twice in the last 4 years we have been ranked number one out of hundreds of colleges and universities. And, we have consistently

been in the top 25. SBC is also one of the top 10, least expensive schools among thousands of colleges in the country. Contact the SBC Admissions Officer today at 601-426-6346.

Lighthouse Café Will Reopen!

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

continued on page 5

THE LIGHTHOUSE CAFÉ
ON THE CAMPUS OF SBC
**RE-OPENING
AUGUST 3RD**

Scripture Thoughts by Cleaver

1 Timothy 1.12 *“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;”*

Let’s focus on the phrase: “appointing me to the ministry.” Ministry is not something one chooses for himself. Rather as it is written in the Scriptures, it is an appointment by Christ Jesus our Lord. In other passages, Paul recounts his own divine appointment to the Gospel ministry. Today this calling must of certainty be a holy calling. It is not a job selected because family or friends said to you: “You would be good at this.” It is not a profession chosen because a standardized psychological instrument scored you high in the “interpersonal people area.” Paul’s thankfulness was a humble realization of his unworthiness to be called into ministry—not by his own choice, but through the dynamic call from above.

Dear Pastor, give thanks to Christ Jesus our Lord who will strengthen you even on a dark and dismal Saturday night af-

ter your congregation’s strident committee meeting. Yes, He will strengthen you even on a Sunday afternoon following a less than outstanding sermon delivery and worship service. It is He who appointed you, and it is He who will complete the work He has called you to do!



Tony Cleaver

1 Timothy 4.7 *“But refuse profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.”*

One Bible translation uses these words: “But refuse profane and old wives’ fables.” Still another translates: “But reject those myths fit only for the godless and gullible...”

Dear Pastor, there are some things good for your ministry. There are some things not so good for your ministry. There are some myths floating around our world today every pastor needs to shun. There are some pointless beliefs that are not

worth giving the effort of your attention. Multiple untruthful and demonic teachings espoused by the “social gurus” have found root in many organizations. Those who propagate these teachings are hypocritical liars who profit from deceiving those silly enough to follow these myths.

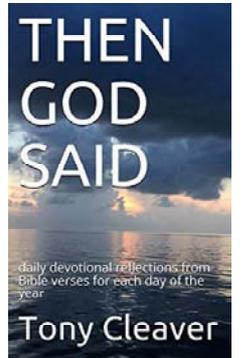
On the other hand, pastoral nourishment comes from the words of faith and those words found in the Scriptures. Pastoral training focuses on godliness. Certainly there are social, economic, even political needs to be addressed. Yet these are not the focus of the minister’s energy. Pastor, set your hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

1 Timothy 5.12 *“Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men’s sins: keep thyself pure.”*

How does one become a pastor, preacher, or minister? In some Christian traditions one has to complete a degree in a seminary, serve as an apprentice, then is ordained, usually by a bishop of the denomination. Other traditions are somewhat less rigorous in ordination. One shares his calling with a local church and that church

Cleaver Announces New Book

Dr. Tony Cleaver, who has for years written for the Mississippi Baptist, announces that he has just published another book. “Then God Said” is a daily look at scripture with commentary and application to the reader’s life. It is available on Kindle books at Amazon.com. Kindle offers a generous preview of the book as you click on the book and it says “look inside.” So please take a look at “Then God Said”. The Kindle app is free for your phone or tablet and can be downloaded from your app store.



Cleaver is the inaugural director of Distance Education for Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas. He is also a Professor of Biblical Literature. Tony is a staff writer of Bible study curriculum for Baptist Publishing House. He provides pulpit supply and interim pastoral services. Dr. Cleaver writes the column “Leave It to Cleaver” that appears in five state religious newspapers, including our Mississippi Baptist. He served churches in Texas and Mississippi during his pastoral career.

ordains him to the ministry with no requirements of formal schooling or internship. No matter the process, it is a solemn and serious matter to be ordained. Dear Pastor, treat it that way!

You have been set apart for service of Christ and His Church. The Church has laid their hands on you as a confirmation of your calling. This is not some “job that you send off some money to be ordained from a magazine or TV ad.” The pro-

cess of ordination is not to be hasty. The Apostle warns of rushing to appoint a minister. This of necessity must be a two pronged process. On the one hand the one who wants to be a minister must search, and search diligently, his heart to make more than certain God has called to this task. The other part belongs to the church. Will this church be partner in the minister’s work? It is almost like a marriage—both have to say: “I do and I will.”

Southeastern College

from page 4

case Magazine published by the Impact newspaper.

SBC Choir

Do you want to sing for the Lord in our choir and receive college credit for it! Find out how by contacting Krista McKenzie at 601-426-6346.

Veterans Benefits

SBC possesses the Gold Award level as a military friendly college! Have you served in America’s armed forces? Then you probably have Veterans Administration tuition benefits that you can use toward a free education right here at SBC. I urge you to contact your local VA representative for an evaluation of your benefits. You earned them! SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

Amazon Smile

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

Athletic Director, Buddy Duke collects information from a prospective baseball student.



NOW RECRUITING
BASEBALL
and
Softball
SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE

- Go here to see announcements for other sports tryouts -
<http://athletics.southeasternbaptist.edu/>

August 2, 2020 - A Day of Giving -



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

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

MISSIONS AROUND THE WORLD

The Philippines

Stan & Donna Scroggins



Stan & Donna Scroggins

The Scroggins are currently on furlough in the United States. Recent Church Visits As churches have discovered

a variety of new ways to worship and reach out, so missionaries have adapted to accomplish their furlough goals and needs. Thanks to every pastor who has made it possible for Donna and I to connect, in new ways, with their members. We've enjoyed getting to know many pastors and churches, mostly through online and recorded messages.

It has been two years since our last furlough and we need to enlist about ten new supporting churches. Please consider inviting us to learn more about missions in Asia and the Philippines. Contact us at: stanmusical@icloud.com, on Facebook Messenger, Texting & Calls in the U.S. at 573-489-9549.

The Ballards Update

We wanted to give a few updates about the situation here in the Philippines. The government has implemented several different quarantines. The many different versions make it very hard to understand what you can or cannot do or where you can or cannot go. Thankfully starting June 1 the country, for the most part, is under GCQ which is General Community Quarantine. Under this classification, a little will be changed from the Extreme Community Quarantine (ECQ). The biggest change will be that many will be able to go back to work again. Most businesses will be able to open to some degree with a skeleton workforce. Some of the public transportation will be allowed to resume, but with strict measures to be enforced. There will be no Jeepneys allowed to operate at this time which will hurt most of the workforce.

The restrictions under the ECQ have limited the ability to go outside your city, but Lord willing, under the GCQ I will be able to resume some ministries

that I have not been able to do under the ECQ. I have been trying to secure documentation from the local officials that would allow me to travel to more areas. Each time I go to one place I am told one thing and when I go to the other officials I get told something totally different. So with that said I will just begin to attempt to travel to



Danny & Rita Ballard

the ministry areas and see what happens.

Thank you for your prayers and support! We are so blessed and appreciate each and every one of you. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time also.

Food Distribution

During a time such as this, it is always the poor that are affected the most. These are the ones who if they do not work, do not eat. We were blessed to be a part of food distribution to some of the most hard-hit areas where we minister. Thanks to the BMA

of America, Bro. Don Biadog and his supporters, BMAP, and some local donors, we were able to purchase relief packages for over 150 families. I would like to thank Pastor Vincent Ferrer, Pastor Jemuel, and their church members for their hard work and being on the front line as they delivered many of the relief packages. The packages went to people in our community (Santo Tomas), Quezon City, Rizal, and also to northern Luzon in Calmay where there is a mission work going on.

Home Bible Study

Even with the Extreme Community Quarantine (ECQ), we have been blessed to begin two of the home bible studies we mentioned while we were home on furlough. We began the one with our neighbors that asked us to start a Bible study with them when we returned and the Lord has blessed. It is going very well and the members all share how much they are learning and enjoying studying God's Word.

Our mailing address is: Danny & Rita Ballard, 103 Cadiz Street, San Antonio Heights Phase 1, Sto. Tomas Batangas 4234, Republic of the Philippines. Magic Jack Phone Number: 228-206-9511.

Africa Mission Needs

URGENCY DEMAND FOR WATER FILTERS FOR OUR CHURCHES IN AFRICA
by Michel Poirier - BMA Missionary

Water for Christ has been a great help in the area of water filters for our Church in Cameroon Africa. It has been a blessing to see the faces of the people receiving this great help and life support.

Access to drinking water is still a challenge for 3/4 of the Cameroonian population, even in some areas of the political capital. The taps have been dry for almost 30 years. Water flows from a spring in the bottom of the district and is the only water supply



Michel & Ruth Poirier

point for thousands of people who sometimes walk 4 to 7 kilometers in search of water, including the elderly as well as children between 7 and 9 years old. They admit that they have never seen water flowing from a tap in the family home. Out of a population of 25 million inhabitants only 10% of the population has access to drinking water. Access to drinking water remains a luxury due to high cost, poor quality, and difficult access. In February 2020, 4 women and 3 children died on the way to the search for water in northern part of Cameroon. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the filters you have sent.

We pray that this report will help us to see the need of these people. Water for us is so normal that we waste it, often not thinking of those who don't have access to water near their house. My prayer to the Lord and request to our churches is to help with a filter for one house. The filters cost \$31.00 each and it will filter 100,000 gallons. You can contact me at pasteur.poirier56@gmail.com

The virus has affected the planet and water is one of the sources that needs to be accessible in order to wash and clean hands and any area that has been contaminated. For the people of Cameroon it is a necessity in order to survive. Thank you for taking time to read this request. Would you please pray with me for this great need?



Water filters needed in Africa

God is Our Shield

by Yalanda Merrell
Lifeword Ministries

My husband and I just finished a series on Hulu called "The Musketeers." It follows the traditional story, but adds new enemies, friends, and of course, love interests.

The battle scenes might have been our favorite part. We grew to despise the bad guys and we

were ready for a good sword fight.

One thing I noticed though was a lack of shields used by the Musketeers. They always had their sword, but they did not carry a traditional shield. Instead, they had a sleeve that covered their shoulder, marked

with a fleur-de-lis, the emblem of the King's Musketeers. It acted as a shield for protection and a symbol that they belonged to the King. They wore it with great honor and pride.

We belong to our King too, and He is our shield.



Genesis 15:1 says: "After these events, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield; your reward will be very great."

Do you need to hear that today?

God is your shield.

He is your protector.

He is your King.

It is He whom you fight for.

It is He who fights for you!

When you go into battle with the enemy, you are not alone. He is with you.

Today, as you get ready to head out to the battlefield, gird yourself with this truth: God is your shield and your reward, do all things for His glory!

God's Power

from page 2

Pastors and laymen often move just before the victory comes for which they had so faithfully prayed and labored—"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (Galatians 6:9) So sad!

IV. It Could Be that God Is Working and We Do Not Recognize it

This is seen so beautifully in the book of Esther. When things seem to be growing worse for God's people, it turned out to be God's way of giving them freedom from oppression. When

things seem to be getting worse for Joseph in Egypt, God was working toward making him a ruler there. (Genesis 37-41) God may be doing some of His greatest work in our interest when we are tempted to think that He has forgot our dedicated service and earnest prayers. (1 Corinthians 15:58; Psalm 34:17)

We will surely experience God's power upon our lives and in our efforts of services if we will just keep on praying in faith, (Luke 18:1-8) keep on asking Him to search us inside and change us outside, (Psalm 139:23,24) continue to wait upon the Lord, (Psalm 27:14) and keep believing that what seems to be working against us is working for us. (Psalm 23:6)

A Parent's Guide to Biblical Wisdom: Chapter One

by **Brandon Lingle**

(Missionary to Thailand Brandon Lingle has written a parenting book in Thai, and he has graciously agreed to share it in English.)

One morning as I was taking a walk, I noticed some fish and how effortlessly they were swimming. It was obvious that they were created to swim and I was designed to get around by foot. Don't get me wrong, I like to swim, but I never swam as gracefully as a fish. Water is its home, and its body was created and designed for that environment.



Lingle Family

Brandon, Brittny, Josie and J.J.

So what about you and me? What were we designed and created for? What comes naturally to us? These foundational questions are more important to us and our parenting than you may think.

Created to Worship

It's natural for us to seek what satisfies us then praise it. For example, after being satisfied with a good meal what do we do? We give it our praise by saying something like, "That was so good!" You may be already thinking, "What does this have to do with parenting?" Well, what do you want most for your kids? I know what I want. I want them to be satisfied. Not just for a moment, but completely satisfied in life throughout their life. We want our kids to experience the highest pleasures available in this world. What parent

would want anything less for their child?

Have you ever noticed we don't have to teach them to want the same thing for themselves? Ever since we were all born we have been on the sole quest of satisfying our longings. Blaise Pascal once wrote, "All men seek happiness." It's natural for us to want to be happy and satisfied. It is our highest goal and number one mission.

My two year old has the daily goal of obtaining satisfaction in snacking, playing outside, and chocolate milk. You can say he lives for these things. Right now those things are everything to him, but we all know there will come a time that chocolate milk will lose its awe and grip on his heart, and someday he will move on in his quest for something greater.

Our kids were not only born with a natural tendency to seek and find what satisfies them, but they were also given the gift of being able to express their pleasure in it. Listen to the insight C.S. Lewis gives on the importance of expressing praise: "I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation."

He is saying our joy isn't complete until we can express our enjoyment in what delights us, and look at this illustration he gives to make his point: "It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; the delight is incomplete till it is expressed." That is so true, and it's true that our kids' delight in a snack will be incomplete until they can tell someone how good it is.

When you and I have "Taste(d) and seen that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8), we do the exact same thing, we praise Him. We were created for this very purpose. We were created

are teaching and modeling for their children what to worship whether they know it or not. For example some parents teach their kids directly or indirectly that obtaining money is every-

and how does it stay up there in those soft fluffy clouds? Evaporation, basically water changes form so it can rise. And then it becomes water again, which is condensation, so it can come back down.

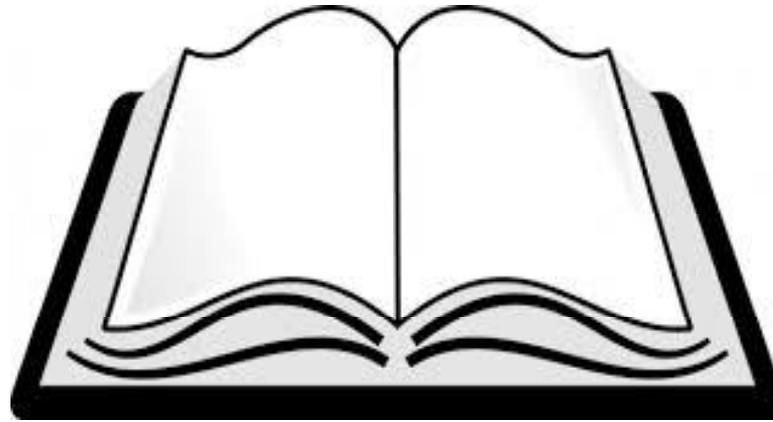
Praise God that 30,000,000 kilos of water, equivalent to the weight of about 10,000 elephants, isn't just dumped on us and our neighbors at one time. Thankfully it dribbles across an area, over a period of time, and the drops are just big enough to make it to earth without evaporating, and not too big to destroy plants. Amazing!

It doesn't take much to amaze a kid, and it's our responsibility to point out to them things that will fill them with wonder and awe. Unfortunately we as parents can get so bogged down under our other responsibilities that we miss the glory of God ourselves. We can't give something to our kids we don't possess ourselves.

If we are not amazed at how amazing God is, how could we teach our kids to be? We must point them to where their worship belongs and was made for. But the question is how can we do that? What means has God given us to accomplish this in our parenting? The answer is the gospel.

The Gospel

When they hear the word gospel, the majority of Christians think of a message that unbelievers need to hear in order to be saved. It's true that the gospel has the power to save (Rom 1:16), but did you know that it has power and a purpose for



to worship. God wired us this way for our joy and his glory. It's been said that, "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever." God receives glory when we enjoy and praise him for his goodness and blessings.

John Piper said the same truth in another way: "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him." Praise and worship is the response of our hearts enjoying someone or something that is glorious and

thing. These things might satisfy them for a time, but once they get it, their hearts will still long for more or something greater.

Augustine described it this way: "Our hearts are restless until they can find rest in [God]." And that's because the Bible says God formed us for himself, that we might declare his praise (Isaiah 43:21). Our children were created to seek and praise something infinitely greater and

God is good because he doesn't let evil reign and he doesn't let a single act of evil go unpunished.

good.

Worship is expressed in many different ways all over the world. There is no people group or person who doesn't practice some form of worship. Those who try to say, "Well I don't have any beliefs" are the ones who are really saying, "I just believe in myself."

So parents around the world

more glorious than anything this world has to offer.

God's creation gives us just a peak at how glorious, powerful, creative, and worthy of praise our God is. It recently rained more than 30 millimeters. In just one square kilometer that is 30,000,000 liters which weighs 30,000,000 kilos! That's heavy. How did it get up there

continued on page 8

Many churches remaining closed – but at what cost?

OneNewsNow.com

Across the U.S., state and local governments are lifting restrictions on in-person church meetings – sometimes after hard-fought and costly legal battles. But many churches are still choosing not to gather on Sunday mornings.

A survey from Send Institute* finds that although most churches are allowed to meet in person, fully 67% have decided to stay closed. Almost all, according to the survey, are citing continuing health concerns.

Dr. Robert Jeffress is senior

pastor of First Baptist-Dallas, which is holding live services. He says he understands the concerns.

"I think we should be careful not to judge any church for not reopening, and understand that given their particular location, the virus may be a real threat," he begins.

He also cautions people not to make this about government oppression. "This is not primarily a government problem, it's a health problem," Jeffress contends. "People are still concerned about the very real threat of the coronavirus.

But attorney Mat Staver of Liberty Counsel has been fighting hard in courtrooms around the country for the rights of churches to open up.

"Jesus mentioned this in John 10. He says he's the Good Shepherd, he's willing to lay down his life for his sheep," Staver notes. "But he also said there's another kind of shepherd, and that's a hired hand – and that when the real issues come and the problems come to the flock, they run away."

In late May, President Donald Trump declared churches as "essential" and called on governors

to allow them to reopen on May 24. But Staver shares that he is hearing from church members who are frustrated that their pastors are still keeping the doors closed. He predicts a lot of those people will be changing churches.

"Some of these government orders, many of them, did not classify churches as 'essential' – and I think we understand why now," the Christian attorney states, "because in many cases, they're frankly not. I think the people are really looking around for a church that is essential."

Southeastern Baptist College



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

A Parent's Guide

continued from page 7

believers too? The reality of God's love and goodness should be recited to ourselves daily. Don't miss this, mom and dad. One of the most powerful tools and gifts God gives us in parenting is the gospel. Look with me briefly at the Bible to see for yourself:

Paul was writing to Christians in the book of Romans when he said, "I am eager to preach the gospel to you who are at Rome" (Romans 1:15). Did you see that? Paul wanted to share the gospel with believers, and that is exactly what he did for the first eleven chapters.

He did the same for the church in Ephesus. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul used the first three chapters to proclaim the gospel.

Same thing to the Christians in Colossi. The first two chapters of Colossians is all gospel. And after he shared the gospel

with believers in the first part of each letter he spent the remainder of the letter explaining how to apply the gospel to everyday life.

Why would he do that? Paul understood that the gospel isn't just a message we need once in our lives, but a truth that we should remind ourselves of daily because it keeps us focused on what matters most. It keeps us going, and it keeps us humble and full of praise. The Christians in Colossi were warned to remain grounded in the gospel and not shift away from it and its hope (Colossians 1:23).

Please don't miss this! You and I have to learn how to preach the gospel daily so that we may stay grounded in it. If you and I want to be the parents God has called us to be for our children, we must take the gospel and run it down deep into our hearts and our children's hearts daily.

What is the Gospel?

So what is this good news we keep talking about? The good news is that God is good. The gospel is the story of God's goodness. In the beginning God created everything and "it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). But, the story takes a huge turn when man disobeyed and sinned against God, thus separating them from God and his goodness (Genesis 3).

During this tragic moment God gave them some hope and good news. They needed it. This first promise of hope, found in Gen. 3:15, was a promise of a Savior who would come. As the story unfolds we are told he would make a way for sinful man to be reconciled to their good God. The gospel is good news because Jesus Christ did come as promised!

On the cross Jesus said, "It is finished" as he paid the ransom

Southeastern Baptist College



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

for sin (John 19:30, Matthew 20:28). Those who repent from their sins and believe in Jesus are forgiven and made right with God (Mark 1:15, Ephesians 1:7, 2 Cor. 5:21). Jesus is the good news! Who he was and what he did is the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

But to completely understand this gospel you must know and believe the bad news also. This part of the gospel is scary and the reason many cannot accept it. The terrifying news that the gospel reveals to us is this: God is good and holy. That is the most frightening news in all the Bible. How is it that God being good is also bad news? God is infinitely good, holy, and just, and that's terrifying because we have sinned against him and each other.

God is good because he doesn't let evil reign and he doesn't let a single act of evil go unpunished. We should be thankful for that, but we should also tremble because we "all have sinned" (Rom. 3:23). So how can a just and holy God clear the guilty? The answer is Jesus. God can pardon us because Jesus paid our fine on the cross.

The Bible explains how this transaction took place, "For our

But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

Luke 18:16

sake [God] made [Jesus] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21). Jesus went to the cross, in our place, to pay the wages of our sin (Rom. 6:23). Jesus is the gospel!

Our kids need to know God and the gospel. But the story of God and his gospel isn't just a one-time conversation we have with them hoping they will believe it and be saved. They, and we, need to be saturated in it daily. Look at this well-known verse and see for yourself.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you

walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." (Deuteronomy 6:5-7)

Notice with me something important about this verse. Do you see the first pronoun?

Our kids not only need to know how much we love them, but they need to know more than anything how much God loves them.

Parenting first starts with us. We are to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. And what does that have to do with parenting? God has woven into the very fabric of our children's being to copy what they see. Randy Alcorn said it best: "Sometimes our children will fail to listen to us. Rarely will they fail to imitate us."

When God gave us these commands he wasn't adding to our to-do list either. Notice that he said, "when you walk" and "when you sit in your house." That is something we are already doing. God isn't giving us more things to do to fill up our schedules. No, He is saying while we are living life, love Him and teach our children His Word.

As you can see, worship and

gospel truths are not just a Sunday morning thing we do and talk about at church. My hope is that in this book you will see how the gospel is applied to everyday parenting. It is more

than just a story we share with our kids. It is the truths about God we find in the Bible that empower, humble, encourage, and guide our parenting from day to day.

Our kids not only need to know how much we love them, but they need to know more than anything how much God loves them. We daily need to remind ourselves, and our children, of God's goodness and love that was fully demonstrated on the cross. I heard someone once say, "God could have created us without loving us, but he could not have gone to the cross without loving us."

As Christians we believe God created everything, and that includes parenting. So it would be wise of us to parent the way God intended.

August 2, 2020 - A Day of Giving -



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

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

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

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