

In His Grip

by Carolyn Hagler

FREEDOM CALLED MY NAME

As we look forward to celebrating July 4, 2021, I'm reminded of God's providential hand upon the shaping of our nation. "God built freedom into every fiber of creation, and He meant for us to all be free and whole..." (Bill and Gloria Gaither, Let Freedom Ring). Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day all blur together as I consider the freedom that we Americans possess. Our freedom is based upon the sacrifices of those Americans who gave their lives, their wealth, their time, sometimes their all.

I've stood at graves and cemeteries of Americans and Mississippians who have died in defense of this great country and state of ours from the American Revolutionary War to the Civil War to the world wars, and others. The graves of our servicemen who died serving our country are scattered across our country and other lands, too. Memorial Day and Independence Day make those memories of sacrifice and freedom extra sweet.

The most unique cemetery that represents freedom to me was a watery grave where JB, Sister No. 1, and I stood silently in awe of the sacrifices made at that spot. During a trip to Hawaii, we stood overlooking Pearl Harbor, where over 2,400 Americans (1,177 sailors on the Arizona) died during the attack by Japanese Naval Forces with most of the bodies of the sailors still entombed within the hulk of the USS Arizona at the bottom of the Harbor.



USS Arizona Memorial

We made pilgrimage to that heartrending cemetery a few days before the 50th anniversary of the attack on December 7, 1941. Surrounded by crowds of people of many nationalities, we were not able to boat over to the USS Arizona Memorial, which is built over but not touching the remains of the

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Carolyn Hagler

Baptist

Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Jesus was a Soldier

Joshua 5:13-15

by Bro. Anders Lee, Pastor
Central Church, Southaven, Mississippi

Editor's note: This message was preached at Central Church in Southaven, Mississippi, on May 30, 2021. It has been modified some for publication. The original message may be viewed on the Central Church Facebook page. Bro. Lee submitted this at the request of the editor who was present to hear this message.)

Joshua chapter 5 today. This is more of a topical message. Dr. Gerald Kellar use to say to us preacher boys that when you preach a topical message, run back to your office and repent for not preaching exegetical. I suppose I will do that today.

Do you ever have any problems remembering? I turn 50 today so I sure do. Anybody else have that problem. There was a married couple in their 80's named Harold & Norma who had been married forever. They were having problems remembering. So they decided to go to the doctor to get checked out to make sure everything was ok. When they arrived they told the doctor everything and after checking



Anders Lee

As the soldier of heaven He came and fought our battle! That cross was a momentary defeat because He overcame death and was raised from the dead as our glorious Savior!!!

the couple out, the doctor tells them that they were okay physically and what they were experiencing was normal for their age. He suggested to them that they start making notes to remind them about things, write it down he said.

So they left and got home that night and was watching TV. The man got up and she said to him, what are you doing? He said gonna get me some ice cream. He said do you want some? She said yes I want chocolate. He started to walk off and she said do you need to write that down. He said no I can remember that. She said I want chocolate with strawberries on top. Write it down. No I'm not, I can remember that he said. She said and whipped cream... on top of the strawberries. You better write that down. He said no, no, no, I got it!

He disappeared into the kitchen and a while later he came back into the living

room with a plate of bacon and eggs. He handed it to her and she stared at it for a minute and said... see there... I knew you were gonna mess it up... you forgot my toast!

Do you have trouble remembering? Do you forget where you put your keys, your wallet, your checkbook, young reading glasses, & your phone? I sure do! At times in my life I fail to remember things that are very important! Most days we don't get up and think; "I'm free because of soldiers who paid the price." That's why it is good to have Memorial Day so that we can honor and remember those who did make the ultimate sacrifice and remember why we are free!

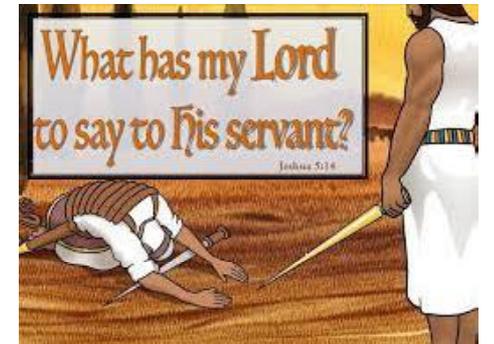
You say well what does Memorial Day have to do with the Christian life? As Christian citizens, we should celebrate Memorial Day because Romans 13:7 com-

mands us to give honor to whom honor is due. As Christians it is good to be thankful (1 Thess 5:18) and to express gratitude to those who served and gave their lives for us and to those who are serving our country, and to their parents, chil-

dren and spouses.

Many lost their lives... Just how many American Soldiers died in our wars?

Revolutionary War 25,324, Civil War 98,332, World War I 116,710, World War II 407,316 (-Normandy [D-day] 6,603), Korean War 54,546, Vietnam War 58,098, First Gulf War 293, Iraq Freedom War 4,424 & in Afghanistan 1,461.



Yes, the cost of freedom is great over the generations! Thornton Wilder wrote these words. "The highest tribute to the dead is not grief, but gratitude."

Let's talk about soldiers. I know it's Memorial Day and not Veteran's Day. I get the difference - I really do... but if you are a veteran today I want us to recognize and thank you! We have two young men, Caleb Myers & Caleb Walker, who are on active duty right now overseas. Let's thank the Lord for them today as well! You here in the audience please stand. Thank you ladies and men very much for your service!

I read this in a devotional years ago and I really liked it. So the original idea of this is not mine. I really don't know to whom credit is due. But here we go... let me say something about a soldier.

message continued on page 2

SPECIAL EMPHASIS TIME

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 1, 2021, 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.



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Remembering

On our front page you will notice a couple of important columns. One is a message that I heard last month while visiting Central Church, Southaven. We worshipped with our daughter and her family and heard a dynamic message by their pastor, Bro. Anders Lee. I encourage each of you to read it in its entirety. He takes a slightly different look at the man Jesus Christ and one of His characteristics pointed out to us in His Word.

Another article I urge you to read is by Mrs. Carolyn Hagler. She does some serious 'remembering' that we all need to call to mind and give serious thought. I have been to the places she mentions (as have many of you) and I can tell you from experience they are quite impressive and memorable.

Let us remember the sacrifice so many have made to give us freedom and to maintain that freedom all these years.

Let us make a determined effort to teach our children and all citizens of this nation the important history of our found-

ing and how precious our freedom - honest personal freedom - is.

On a personal note

Another great personal memory is the time that my wife and I spent at Southeastern College. We moved to Laurel from the Gulf Coast in the summer of 1980 for the purpose of working at SBC.

I stayed for 8 years and Mrs. Brown stayed for over 30 years until her retirement. The people we worked with were special in their dedication to the Lord and to the success of Southeastern College. Money cannot buy the type of loyalty and care that these folks had for our school. The ones we worked with are no longer there, but the current administration and staff are just as dedicated and committed to the success and mission of the college.

The students are the reason for SBC and what a blessing it is to follow the lives of those kids who crossed our paths. So many have gone on to great ministries

and careers and are doing good things in God's work.

I could begin a list of those, many of whom you would recognize, but space and time does not permit. But I must mention one special person. Richard Lopez.

Richard was from the Gulf Coast and was on the basketball team. I kind of 'fell

The students are the reason for SBC and what a blessing it is to follow the lives of those kids who crossed our paths.

in' to coaching the Chargers for those years when I arrived on campus in 1980. What a great time we had. What a great bunch of kids we had. Many have gone on to productive lives, both in ministry and in their professional lives.

Richard Lopez was one of those special young men who I got to know and work with. What a pleasant surprise to learn he is back at Southeastern and on staff. You will read a note on page 4 from Richard about his work history and his time at SBC.

May I say this is one of many who validate the importance of our college and the ministry she has in educating Christian ministers and workers along with providing a Christian atmosphere for all students.

I know that God blessed the BMA of Mississippi by preparing and sending us Dr. Scott Carson as the president. Dr. Carson and his staff are continuing the legacy of so many that came before them to provide a Christian education in a Christian atmosphere for the purpose of reaching the world for Christ.

You, your church, and each of her members should do what is needed and support Southeastern during this Special Emphasis time in July and August. Take that special offering and make it very special. They need the support. There are a lot of 'Richard Lopezes' yet to be recruited, yet to be influenced, and yet to be sent out into the world prepared to make a difference.

Jesus was a Soldier from front page

"A soldier is one who leaves home & family; goes to a foreign land; stands against a strong enemy; sacrifices their life for others so they can enjoy theirs. On Memorial Day that's what we remember... they are remembered for dedication & personal sacrifice."

Now, for a fair and honest question. Have you ever thought of Jesus as a soldier? Is that possible? Well, He left His home in Heaven to go to a foreign land (Earth) to stand against a very strong enemy (Satan & Sin) and then He sacrificed His life on the cross for our deliverance and freedom. So, today, we also remember His sacrifice?

There are many aspects of the Son of God that make Him Who He is. But can

we say that Jesus is a man of war; that, in a word, He's a Soldier?

Our text is Joshua 5:13-15... read it with me... "And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went to him, and said to him, Are you for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, No; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said to him, "What says my lord to his servant?" And the captain of the LORD'S host said to Joshua, Loose your shoe from off your foot; for the place whereon you stand is holy. And Joshua did so."

From all I've studied, this is a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus. In other words, Joshua met Jesus here at Jericho long before Jesus was ever born. Notice Vs 13 again; "a man ... with his sword drawn in his hand..." Notice again Vs 14; "as captain of the host of the LORD am I come..." Now any time in scripture the word "Lord" appears in all caps it is Jehovah. The LORD's host is not Israel, for sure, in the Bible. Instead they are the armies of Heaven.

Do you remember in Matthew 26 when Jesus said to Peter, when he thought he would draw a sword and fight for Jesus, Jesus said, and I'm paraphrasing; "do you not think I can call my Father to send my angels to my side to fight for me?" There in that moment He spoke as Sovereignty,

There are many aspects of the Son of God that make Him Who He is. But can we say that Jesus is a man of war; that, in a word, He's a Soldier?

but HE was ready to make a sacrifice.

So yes, these here in Joshua 5 are angels and this person who meets Joshua is the Captain of that army of angels. You say army of angels? Yes, 1 Kings 22:19 says: "I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing beside him on his right hand and on his left." And notice how Joshua, the General of the army of Israel responds to this man in Joshua 5. He knew he wasn't dealing with an ordinary man. So what did he do? "And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said to him, 'What says my lord to his servant?' We ought to follow Joshua's example in that kind of response to God. And notice what the captain of the LORD's host tells Joshua 'the place whereon you stand is holy.'" We know this is a pre-incarnate appearance!

And just for one more word on who this is, look with me at Joshua chapter six and verse one. Josh 6:1&2; "Now Jericho was straightly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in. And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour." Jesus the captain guarantees the victory! "The LORD" = Jesus Christ

the Pre-incarnate One.

It's always best to see just what the Bible teaches on any subject. And throughout the entire Bible we see Jesus as the baby of the manger, as a human teacher of Israel and Rabbi. We mostly see Him as a loving, healing, caring teaching man. But, He's even more, He is a Soldier. He's the Captain of the LORD's armies; Captain over the entire multi-millions of angels. So, is the LORD a man of war? Yes, He is.

We read in Exodus 15:3 "The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name." You see, the LORD is never who we think or want Him to be; but simply what the Bible tells us He is.

Fast forward to Matthew 10:34 and Jesus said there; "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword." He was saying there as He was here on earth that there is gonna be a fight for my kingdom. And where will that fight take place? We know that the fight of all the ages took place on the cross of Calvary. We know that the Lord went to war for us there! Aren't you glad for that? Aren't you glad for John 15:13 when Jesus said;

Message continued on page 6

State Youth Department Seeking New Director

The BMA of Mississippi Department of Youth is searching for a new state youth director to lead our young people. Those interested in this position and in heading up and growing this department may send a resume to Adam Parker at parkeradam288@gmail.com. The department is accepting resumes for this position through July 15,

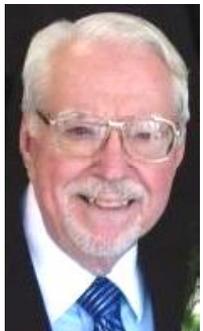
FREEDOM CALLED MY NAME from page 1

sunken battleship, the final resting place for many of the crewmen killed when their ship was destroyed.

But as we stood and looked toward the Memorial, the realization hit us that this spot was the beginning of World War II for us Americans. Even though the attack occurred before I was even born, history came alive for

Former Seminary President Passes away

Dr. John Gregson, former president of BMA Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas, passed away June 26, 2021. Services were held in Jacksonville, Texas on Tuesday, June 29.



Dr. John Gregson

Gregson served as registrar and professor (1957 - 1967) and president (1967 - 1971) at Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary and as a

academic dean at Jacksonville College (1976 - 1988). His teaching ministry at the Seminary and Jacksonville College covered over forty-four years (1956 - 2000).

He pastored churches in New Mexico and Texas for thirty-two years, and also served several churches as interim pastor. In 1988, he retired from the pastoral ministry.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife of 57 years, Gladys Nell (Ward), a brother, Paul Gregson and Merlin Gregson.

He is survived by his wife, Lois Rae (Kelley) Gregson and children, grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Current BMA Seminary President Dr. Charley Holmes shared the following concerning Dr. Gregson. While visiting him just 10 days before his death, Dr. Gregson shared that he had read through the entire biblical text 48 times in 24 different translations. Dr. Gregson preached in chapel at the Seminary on his 90th birthday and quoted Dr. Gregson saying that the best thing about being a 90 year old preacher was the lack of peer pressure since most of his critics had already passed away.

me. That day, I experienced the horror that our country must have felt and the desire that our young people be taught our history and what freedom means.

After reflecting on that grave, I wandered away on my own and found a surprise: a tribute to Hattiesburg native Paxton Carter in the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center Museum. I found that his memory lives on in a large, unique display as the only permanent one representing an American. The Carter collection is the most complete collection because his widow saved all of his material including a uniform she had bought for him to have on leave. To see a Mississippian honored at the Center reminded me once again of the sacrifices that our Mississippi servicemen have made over the years.

We also visited the National Cemetery of the Pacific, located in Oahu in the Punchbowl Crater, a beautiful place to visit to honor and pay respect to the men and women who fought throughout the nation's wars and conflicts. Recognized as the final resting place for many of the fallen servicemen who gave their lives in the Pacific Theater

during World War II, the Cemetery, also known as the Punchbowl National Cemetery, was a fitting place to wrap up our Pearl Harbor experience.

My first experience with a national cemetery occurred a lifetime ago when high school graduates took senior trips that were mostly educational. My senior class of approximately 30 Jefferson County students took a trip to Washington, D. C., and visited the Arlington National Cemetery. While the significance of the Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier became more significant as I grew older, I have remembered all these years the feelings I had when watching the changing of the guard.

Because of the lack of respect given to our military and national heroes today, one of my favorite cemeteries is Friendship Cemetery in Columbus, Mississippi. I like the tradition that the



National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific

ladies of the area started Decoration Day (Memorial Day) and chose to honor those who died for the Confederacy and the Union. That reminds me of true freedom in showing respect for all.

I'm thankful for each man and woman who died to earn our freedom. I'm also thankful for each one who served and serves today. I've seen the pride and respect in the eyes of my oldest friend, Heiman Cohn, at 102 who still remembers his days of service under Generals Patton, Collins, and Eisenhower in North Africa and Europe.

I saw it in EW, my brother-in-law, as we toured the USS Midway after it was decommissioned and turned into a museum. We visited San Diego for him to see his ship once again. With his serving as guide, I was able to see the ridiculously small deck upon which he directed planes to land. Camaraderie with his Navy buddies led him and Middle Sister to contact his buddies and have several reunions in Beaumont, Texas, before he died.

While we celebrate our freedom on this July 4, let us never forget that our freedom was paid

with a great price, beginning with the blood of Jesus at Calvary and carrying on with the blood of our soldiers. I'm thankful that Freedom called my name and I



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

responded. "The Son has made us free and free indeed..." (Bill and Gloria Gaither, Let Freedom Ring).

Happy Independence Day! Let us remember and "stand fast therefore in the liberty where-with Christ hath made us free and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage" (Galatians 5:1).

Rocky Branch Revival

Rocky Branch Baptist Church will hold revival services July 11-16. Our guest speaker will be Brother Brandon Wilson and our music minister will be Jeffrey Wilson.

Services will be at 7:00 PM each night. Please join us.

Moral Action

2021 Freedom Offering June 27th & July 4th



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Promoting Biblical Morality Across America

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

I have a confession. There are many things the Lord has asked me to do that I resisted. When I received my first U.S. Army duty assignment orders, they were for Fort Bragg, N.C., home of the airborne. I did not ask for Fort Bragg because I knew that was where crazy soldiers jumped out of perfectly good airplanes! Later I learned those airplanes were not necessarily good, but that's another story for another time.



Dr. Scott Carson
President

It was then I did something that no initial entry chaplain was supposed to do. I called the assignments chaplain in Washington, D.C. and questioned their wisdom. After being "gently" told I wasn't supposed to call them, the "nice" chaplain on the other end explained that I was not

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom..."

being assigned to an airborne unit, but rather to a "leg" unit. That is an airborne term for any soldier who doesn't jump out of an aircraft. I was so relieved!

However, after a year in my leg unit, I was offered to go to airborne training school. I prayed for a long time about this opportunity and came to the understanding that this was a door of opportunity that God was giving me in order to minister to a unique community of soldiers. I was not particularly excited about it as I had no personal desire to do that sort of thing, but the Lord was calling me to go beyond my personal wants and do His will. I never looked back, and the experiences in those airborne assignments are now an integral part of my spiritual journey and personal history.

The Lord has called me to be president of Southeastern Baptist

College. Before accepting the position as president, I did not know that in my long list of job descriptions, fund raising was the number one priority on the list. I must admit that I am uncomfortable with one on one fund raising. But whether or not I like it, it's part of the job and it's my responsibility to the college and obedience to God.

The BMA of Mississippi has set the months of July and August as the Special Emphasis Months for SBC. I greatly appreciate every church that regularly gives to the college. SBC belongs to the churches of the BMA of Mississippi. This is your school and we cannot keep our doors open without your regular and special emphasis support. I praise the Lord for every church that gives to this ministry. Like last year, I am asking each church to prayerfully consider

how much to give during the months of July and August and to set aside a Sunday for a designated offering to SBC. I suggest August 1, however, that is only a suggestion and encourage each church to set their own date that best suits their calendar.

And now, a bold and special message from me to the reader of this article. The hand of the Lord is clearly on this college. Five years ago, we nearly permanently closed the doors of this great institution. Since then, we have witnessed strong and consistent growth. We have developed new athletic and academic opportunities and this past year, we experienced the largest full time student body in the 73-year history of the college.

As we look toward the fall semester, we anticipate being at 100 percent housing capacity. Nearly every new student desires to live on campus, who cannot afford the high cost of living off campus. We may actually have to turn away students who otherwise would be in our classrooms this fall. I share this because although we could recruit more students, we cannot accept anymore residential students until we build or acquire additional living spaces. I am asking you, as an individual, to pray earnestly about sending a personal gift to Southeastern Baptist

College. SBC is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. All gifts are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.

If you've been reading this column regularly, you know that God is doing amazing things on our campus. Will you join in helping us grow into the future? Perhaps you can send \$100, or \$500, or \$1000. Maybe the Lord is leading you toward a substantial gift of \$5,000, \$10,000, or even greater. Would you consider putting SBC in your will and bless the future students with your generosity? Your financial gifts can be sent to Southeastern Baptist College, 4229 Highway 15 N, Laurel, MS 39440. If you would like to discuss a possibility, feel free to contact me at 601-426-6346.

God's Word promises you will be blessed for supporting His ministry. Will you allow the Lord to use you as a financial partner of Southeastern Baptist College?

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Luke 6:38

Equipping the Saints
Dr. Carson

Reflections on My Return to SBC

by R.E. Lopez

Southeastern Baptist College Athletic Director

In the fall of 1979, I was fortunate to begin attending Southeastern Baptist College. Little did I know that 42 years later, I would return as the Athletics Director. Along the way, there have been several stops, including Bay Springs High School, The University of Southern Mississippi, Tulane University and other public and private schools.

I have had the pleasure to work as a teacher, coach, consultant and administrator over the last 38 years. Surely, God's plan for me to attend Southeastern had purpose.

My most precious memories are those as a student at the college. The Lord truly blessed me and set the stage for a great foundation during my spiritual growth at SBC. The administration, instructors, coaches, and fellow students at Southeastern made the school so enjoyable to attend. Most notable were Dr. Murphy, Dr. Savell, Dr. Bond, Mr. Knight, Mrs. Lott, Don Brown, Bonnie Brown, Lanell Walker, Mike Thornton, Brad Peterson, Richard Clark, Roger Kitchens, Bubba Winterstein, Chris Floyd, R.D. Cline, Norris Mills, Mrs. Parrish and Mrs. Robinson.

I will never forget playing basketball for the college, performing with the Cornerstone choir, working at President Murphy's farm, attending chapel services and classes, and the opportunity to fellowship with good-hearted people. The Christian atmosphere, genuine love for one another and Godly events at Southeastern, have helped develop and maintain my faith in my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Returning to the college, I find there are in place, God-inspired individuals that are committed to the dissemination of the Lord's word, willing to help our student body, and have a spiritual desire for the growth of SBC. I hope this brief summation explains how valuable the Southeastern Baptist College was and how essential it still is to myself and many others.



R.E. Lopez

Holloway's Dairy Bar

Holloway's Dairy Bar is open and the public is welcome! The Dairy Bar is located in the same location where the Lighthouse Café was formerly. There is an expanded menu and it is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. An official "grand opening" event will be announced soon.

Available Scholarship

The Arnold Knight Memorial RLF Scholarship is available every semester to Baptist Missionary Association ministers who take classes at Southeast-

ern Baptist College. These funds are administered by the BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund. Contact our Financial Aid Officer Ginny Singleton for more information.

Registering for Fall Semester

We have opened early registration for the Fall Semester. Classes begin the August 16. There are many possibilities for financial help. Contact Admissions through our website, by calling 601-426-6346, or by visiting our campus in person 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Choir Director

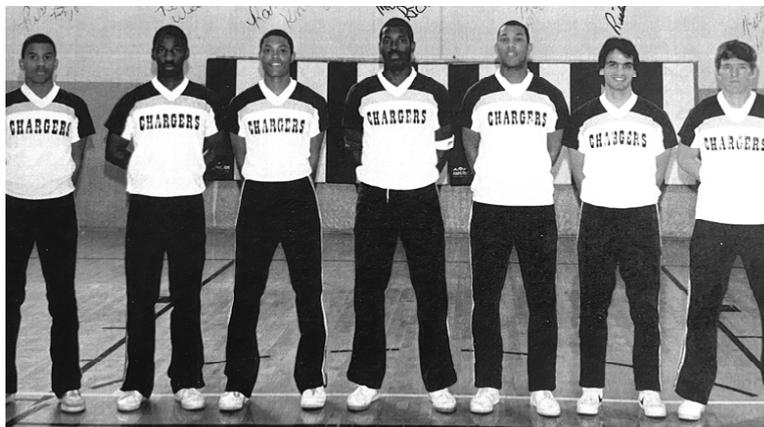
Southeastern Baptist College is in need of a part time Choir Director. The applicant must possess a Master's Degree in music or be studying toward a Master's Degree in music. Résumés may be sent to Southeastern Baptist College, 4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440 or emailed to jwalker@southeasternbaptist.edu. Feel free to call us at 601-426-6346.

In Memorial

Thank you to Nell Harmon Fowler and Paul Fowler for their recent donation for library books in memory of Raymond Harmon III. Your generous gift is greatly appreciated!

Need a Preacher?

Thank you to Good Hope Baptist Church of Stringer for recently inviting Dr. Carson to preach for your great folks. Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit or to make a presentation about the work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. You can reach him at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu



A photo of the last SBC Chargers basketball team before the program was phased out in 1985. Picture includes our new Athletic Director, R.E. Lopez, second from the right.

The Poirier's minstering in Canada & around the world

by Michel Poirier
BMA Missionary

Québec

We thank the Lord for the opportunity to serve Him and to be your missionary. It is with anticipation that we are looking for to meet together again sometimes in the future, but it won't be this year, because of the border that is closed, and the restriction put on people who are entering our country by air. The Lord has blessed us with visitors and also the salvation of two of our young people after morning service. Amen.

During the pass two months we have been presenting our church service via Facebook because of Covid, but now we have

stop the video presentation to insist the people to come to church. Also the devil is at work using our preaching messages on Facebook to accuse the pastor of preaching messages of hate. So all our message on Facebook has been deleted to stop further accusation.

When we preach on hell, they say it is a death threat to the people, and the list goes on. BUT we preach at church all of the Word of God, without holding back. We know the day will come, that our liberty will be taking away. We are not of this world, we are only pilgrims passing through.

Haiti

In a world where poverty

touches everyone, it is not easy task to get food. People are rejoicing to be able to have one meal a day. We are constantly shipping food supplies, clothes, the necessities for the church people to survive. We have now 3 churches who are depending on us day by day. Two church families from Onaville one evening got a visit from a street gangs who demanded money, the family got beat up badly, no money was found because they are poor people. The message on that attack is this, among the two families, the wives who attend church regularly did not get a single hit, only on the one that did not attend church. We have a great God.

We have a school in Onaville

that accommodates 50 children, and in September will have 60. These children don't eat break-



Meal provided for children at church

fast before coming to school and will not have a lunch with them for the day either. We are working on a way to be able to feed all of them one meal a day for the coming school year. We asked your prayers for the Lord to open the window of heaven on these children. All is possible with God.

Cameroon

The church is growing in number and in faith in the Lord. One lady in the church has her unsaved husband telling her not to go church, but she goes anyway. The next Sunday here husband

hid her church clothes. The lady came to church with only her bed clothes. We need to pray for the husbands of many women in Africa who are not saved and they don't know the blessing to have a wife who goes to church.

Also another thing that need to be addressed. It is the need for clean water. We have clean water in our house and even the water we have for our garden is clean, but the water in Cameroon is disgusting, it is a grey and rusty color. My prayer is to be able to provide water wells, or at list water filters, to provide clean water for these people. It's not only church people who need it, but all the villages needs around the community are great.



Corrupt Water in Cameroon

SPECIAL EMPHASIS TIME

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 1, 2021, 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.

Activity around the campus of SBC

Holloway's Dairy Bar Open on Campus first day



Above -Leon Carmical, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and his wife Sandra, painting Granbury Hall



L-R: Hubert Dyess (Director of IT), volunteer David Bond, and Eddie Walker (Handyman) installing a new AC in the café.

Prayers:

Quebec: Pray for the two new born again girls (Blessing and Believe) for growth in Christ.

Haiti: Food, protection for our church people, peace among the population.

Cameroon: Clean water.

New field: Mali, Benin, Republic of Congo.

Thanks for all your prayers, and sacrificial giving for the ministry. We are so appreciative for all you do for us your missionary.

Jer: 33:3.

For the cause of Christ

Michel Poirier

pasteur.poirier56@gmail.com

BMA National Meeting
Farley Street Baptist Church
Waxahatchie, Texas

August 2-4, 2021

Reservation Information Available at
www.msbbaptist.org

Jesus was a Soldier from page 2

“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” In the very next verse He said and you are “my friends.”

What happened that day looked like a complete defeat! He died! Yet we get the clarification from Paul in 1 Cor. 2:8. Paul said there if the enemies of Christ knew that His death meant victory, “they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But see there was a master plan, it was a mystery, Christ would come as the incarnate, God in the flesh, and this Christ would be perfect and He once for all would offer His blood before God and obtain the victory for us over sin, hell, death and the grave! And everyone said HALLELUJAH!!! As the soldier of heaven He came and fought our battle! That cross was a momentary defeat because He overcame death and was raised from the dead as our glorious Savior!!!

Oh listen, I’ve seen pictures of the

beaches of Normandy, all the lives lost there, yet those lives, the blood shed changed the course of history! Even so the death, burial and resurrection of Christ has changed the course of time! Praise God!

You say I hate it ended that way. Oh it didn’t end that way. In Joshua we see Him as the Captain of the LORD’s host. In Exodus we see Him as “a man of war.” In Matthew 10 as one who comes with a sword. On the cross as the hero of all the ages fighting our battle! Out of the grave as the ultimate victor! After that we know that he ascended back to the Father to take His rightful place at the right side of the throne!

But wait... there is more. Jesus the Soldier is coming back! We read in Revelation 19:11-15 “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes are as a

flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was



Soldiers storming the beaches of Normandy in World War II

clothed with a vesture dipped in blood; and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies (there it is folks) which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. (16) And he has on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Get ready, Heaven. Here we come!

Posted on June 3, 2021 by Joe McKeever

And so shall we ever be with the Lord. – First Thessalonians 4:17

F. W. Myers, author of a famous poem called “Saint Paul,” once asked a woman whose daughter had died what she thought happened to her soul. She said, “Oh, I suppose she’s enjoying eternal bliss—but I wish you wouldn’t speak to me of such unpleasant subjects.”

In A.D. 125, a Greek by the name of Aristides spoke of “a new religion called Christianity.” In a letter to a friend, he described this unusual faith. “If any righteous man among these Christians passes from this world, they rejoice and offer thanks to God; and they escort the body with songs of thanksgiving, as if he were setting out from one place to another nearby.”

As a result of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Apostle Peter wrote, believers have been reborn to “a living hope.” (First Peter 1:3)

Our hope for the future involves a resurrection of our own, followed by an eternity in heaven.

We who follow Jesus are hemmed in by no small ambitions.

The biblical concept of hope includes two elements: desire and expectation. You want a thing to happen and you have every reason to expect it. God made us for Himself, so in our innermost being we want to live with Him. Jesus promised us that we would, so we expect to do so.

I have been thinking about Heaven, thanks to some terrific things I’ve been

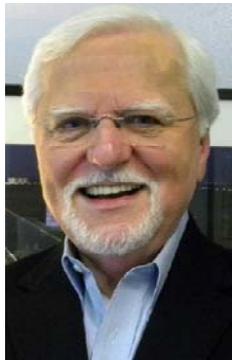
reading....

–I’ve been reading the Bible, first and foremost. Some passages that thrill my soul are Job 19:25-27; John 3, John 13-17, and First Corinthians 15. Scripture spares no effort to make certain you and I know the amazing destiny the Father has in store for His children. We are infinitely blessed and enriched by such knowledge.

–Kathryn Ann Lindscoog in her book, C. S. Lewis: Mere Christian, writes that in the long history of Christianity, few people have entered the Christian faith with less interest in the afterlife than Lewis. However, she adds, “Few have ended up with a more radiantly exciting vision of heaven.” She explains, “Once Lewis firmly believed in God, he could face the truth of heaven.”

Pause and reflect on that last statement a moment, please. Belief in God changes everything.

According to C. S. Lewis, the imagery Scripture gives us about Heaven—golden streets, pearly gates, lavish feasts, and sparkling crowns—are not to be taken literally, but are symbols of the realities we shall find there: the joy, glory, beauty,



Joe McKeever



and timelessness. “It is now as if we are on the outside of the world, on the wrong side of the door. We respond to the freshness and purity of morning, but we don’t become fresh and pure thereby. We are separate from the splendors we see. But all the leaves of the New Testament are rustling with the rumor that it will not always be so. Some day, God willing, we shall get in.”

Rustling with the rumor. Oh man, how I love that. Dwell on that for a while.

–Philip Yancy draws from the insights of Lewis’ book *The Weight of Glory* when he says that C. S. Lewis “awakened to the reality of another world through such pleasures as Nordic myths, nature, and Wagnerian music. He senses in our longings not just rumors but ‘advance echoes’ of that world. Flashes of beauty and pangs of aching sweetness, he said, ‘are not the thing itself; they are only the scent of a flower we have not found, the echo of a tune we have not heard.’” (Yancey: *Rumors of Another World*, p. 35-36.)

The scent of a flower unfound, echo of a tune unheard. My heart understands.

–Joe Bayly, editor and Christian thinker, was facing major surgery in the mid-1970s. Like so many of us who have trod that path, his mind centered on dying and Heaven. After emerging from surgery and finding himself still on this side, Bayly put his thoughts into a small booklet titled, appropriately enough, *Heaven*. In it, he envisions entering Heaven and the conversation going like this....

“I’ll say, ‘Hello, Lord. I’m tired.’

“And He’ll say, ‘Rest, because I have work for you to do.’

“Rest?”

“Yes. Remember that I myself rested on the seventh day of creation. So rest is not incompatible with heaven’s perfec-

History & Archives Comm ission

4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440

J. R. Graves
The Work of Christ Consummated in Seven Dispensations
Chapter Seven – The Work of Christ in the Covenant of Redemption
Part 3 of 3

The most unyielding Arminian must admit that the Omniscient Father foreknew, from the beginning, each man and woman, and therefore the entire number that would come to his Son and be saved; for “the foundation of the Lord standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are his;” and “known unto God are all his works [and this must be true of his plans] from the beginning of world.” But those of the race the Father gave to Christ, while known to Him, are unknown to men, and Christ, as Saviour, therefore is freely offered to all to whom the gospel is preached or the Bible sent.



Jason Howard
Director

If all do not come to the offered Christ for salvation, it is not because God intervenes an obstacle to hinder, or an influence to prevent, any one from accepting him; but, on the other hand, he urges every possible moral motive to induce all to accept him: and it is because they “will not come unto him that they might have life,” that any are lost. What was true of the sinner when Christ stood before him on this earth, and preached to him, and performed his miracles, is true to-day of the impenitent: “Ye will not come unto me that ye might have life.” It is not because God is unwilling to save the sinner who will accept of salvation through his Son, but because the sinner is unwilling; for it is his expressed will that every one of such shall be saved; and in this sense he has sworn by himself:

“As I live, saith the Lord, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his wicked way and live.”—Eze. xxxiii. 11.

continued on page 7

continue on page 8

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARYWMAofMS20@gmail.com**President Theresa Reus**

264 Dean Nursery Rd., Lucedale, MS 39452 - 601-508-9697

Treasurer Mrs. Shirlene Smith

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

Attention National WMA Attendees

Below find corrected times and meeting place for our upcoming national meeting -

August 2nd 6:00 pm at Farley Street Baptist- Officer's meeting

August 3rd 8:30 am at Heritage Baptist - Registration for Sharing the Vision Women's Conference and Luncheon

Don't forget to pre-register for the Conference and Luncheon by July 15th!

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

(Detach & copy for each person attending)

RETURN TO

JODI RHEA, 40156 E CR 1631

WYNNEWOOD, OK 73098 or

email to mrsrsrhea75@gmail.com

NAME _____

CHURCH _____

ATTENDING CONFERENCE YES/NO _____

ATTENDING LUNCHEON YES/NO _____

Here we come!

from page 6

tion.'

"And work?"

"Of course. Did you think heaven would be an eternal Sunday afternoon nap? My people serve me in heaven. I have work for you to do."

Later, as the conversation unfolds, Bayly asks if he will recognize his loved ones there.

"Didn't my servant Paul tell you that the assurance of reunion with your loved ones should bring you comfort? Where would the comfort be if you couldn't recognize them?"

"How about people like Moses, or Abraham, or Stephen?"

"You'll know them, too. Didn't my disciples, Peter, James, and John, know Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration?"

Bayly remarks that Heaven seems more of a city than anything else.

The Lord answers, "Yes, it is a city—not people living in isolation, like on a vast Texas ranch, but living together. Not independent, everyone living his own life, but living together in perfect love, perfect harmony, perfect cooperation. Some of my children may have lived lonely lives on earth, but never here in

heaven. Isolation, the ultimate loneliness, is not for my people, but for those who would not respond to my Spirit, who would not trust me for life eternal."

Isolation seems to be a trait of hell, if Luke 16:19-31 is any indication.

—Douglas Connelly pastors a church in Flushing, Michigan. In *The Promise of Heaven: Discovering Our Eternal Home*, Connelly tells of a friend who was dying. She whispered to Pastor Connelly, "I think I saw heaven last night. I saw the lights of a great city—and it looked like home."

Home may be the best word in any language. Scripture assures us "We prefer to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord" (Second Corinthians 5:8). Jesus described heaven as "a place prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34) and as "my Father's House" (John 14:1).

—In her book *Heaven: Your Real Home*, Joni Eareckson Tada cautions, "Trying to grasp heaven without faith is like trying to admire the outside of a huge great cathedral with grand windows. Standing outside, you see an impressive but imposing structure. The building is striking, but has no real glory. But if you go inside the cathedral—which is a little like looking at

Pastor takes opportunity to serve as military chaplain

Ryan Burchett is the pastor of Walnut St. Baptist Church in Winnsboro, Texas, and has served the Lord and His church in both youth and pastoral ministry for 13 years. Brother Ryan has sensed a calling to serve in the military for quite some time, but only recently has the Lord opened the door of opportunity for service as a chaplain.

Brother Burchett trusted Jesus as his Lord and Savior at the age of 12 at Ferris Avenue Baptist Church in Waxahachie, Texas. He served as youth minister at Lake Ridge Baptist Church in Lubbock, Texas, pastored both Sunset Avenue Baptist Church in Littlefield, Texas and Northside Baptist Church in Garland, Texas. Ryan is also on the writing team for the Baptist Publishing.

With his pastoral duties, his work with the Baptist Publishing House, and providing focused care for his disabled wife, Lindsie, Ryan thought there was no possibility of serving in the military. However, Brother Ryan

contacted Dr. Scott Carson, the BMAA Endorsing Agent, and after receiving information about the State Guard, he learned there was a place for him in this unique organization while representing the Baptist Missionary Association of America.

The Texas State Guard is the State Defense Force of Texas, and it falls under the Texas Military Department, along with the Texas Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. The State Guard is trained to respond to natural and man-made emergencies and to augment the National Guard as needed. The State Guard is made up of volunteers from around the State—doctors, lawyers, chaplains, police officers, firemen, and others—coming together to serve their State and communities. The State Guard is non-deployable outside the borders of the United States.

Ryan Burchett was sworn into the Texas State Guard as a Chaplain on June 26. His duties include serving a company of sol-



Chaplain (1LT) Ryan Burchett & his wife Lindsie

diers as a pastor and counselor while also training for, and when called upon, supporting humanitarian efforts throughout the state.

heaven through eyes of faith—you are breathless as you stand washed in glorious colors from the light that streams through the window."

Heaven is bigger, broader, fuller, and more - everything else than we have imagined.

"One day," she continues, "no more bulging middles or balding tops. No varicose veins or crow's feet. No more cellulite or support hose. Forget the thunder thighs and highway hips. Just a quick leapfrog over the tombstone and it's the body you've always dreamed of. Fit and trim, smooth and sleek."

Joni says, "It makes me want to break into giggles right now!" This dear sister in Christ who broke her neck in a diving accident and has lived all her extremely productive adult life as a quadriplegic says, "In Heaven, I'll be free to jump up, dance, kick, and do aerobics. And although I'm sure Jesus will be delighted to watch me rise on tiptoe, there's something I plan to do that may please Him more. If possible, somewhere, some-

time before the party gets going, sometime before the guests are called to the banquet table at the Wedding Feast of the Lamb, the first thing I plan to do on resurrected legs is to drop on grateful, glorified knees. I will quietly kneel at the feet of Jesus."

Then, after a while, Joni writes, "I shall spring to my feet, stretch my arms, and shout out to anyone within earshot of the whole universe, 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and might, honor and glory and blessing!'"

As for me, I plan to be standing in the wings taking in this incredible sight, then applauding this precious sister's antics.

Martin Luther said, "If you're not allowed to laugh in Heaven, I don't want to go there."

Tom T. Hall's line works here: "It could be that the good Lord likes a little pickin' too."

Heaven is bigger, broader, fuller, and more-everything-else than we have imagined.

Well, we have to end this sometime, so I'll wind it down with this. C. S. Lewis says there are five things about heaven taught in scripture: we shall be with Christ, we shall be like Christ, we shall have glory, we shall be in some sense fed, feasted or entertained, and we shall have some sort of official position in the universe.

I can't wait. Apparently Paul couldn't either. He said, "For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven." (II Corinthians 5:2) And this: "...having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better...." (Philippians 1:23)

I seriously and genuinely cannot wait.

State Youth Department Seeking New Director

The BMA of Mississippi Department of Youth is searching for a new state youth director to lead our young people. Those interested in this position and in heading up and growing this department may send a resume to Adam Parker at parkeradam288@gmail.com. The department is accepting resumes for this position through July 15,

History

from page 6

"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. . . . I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."- 1 Tim. ii. 3, 4, 8.

But all men are not saved, nor do they all pray, lifting up holy hands; and therefore "will" here is not in the sense of determination, but pleasure, desire. If any are saved, it must be because God, in the exercise of his sovereignty, willed, i.e., determined that some should be saved; and these he quickens from their death in trespasses and sins, and gives to them repentance and the remission of sins. The Brazen Serpent was uplifted on the pole in the very midst of the camp, and the proclamation of life for a look was made, and urged upon all; and yet doubtless thousands died within sight of it, through willful unbelief, as sinners do now, with salvation's offers in their ears, and the Cross before their eyes.

"Who gave himself a redemption for all, to be testified in due time" (I Tim. ii. 6), should be interpreted by Christ's own words: "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Matt. xx. 28.) And when Christ said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (John xii. 32), he certainly did not mean every sinner of Adam's race; for it would be notoriously untrue: but he meant all conditions and races of men, and, savingly, only all men given him by the Father. Is not this his explanation of the phrase "all whom the Father giveth me shall come unto me"? These are the "all" for whom he gave himself a ransom, to be testified in due time. Christ certainly did not savingly die for all men, else all men will finally be saved. He did not pay the debt each sinner of the race owes to divine law, else each one will be saved; for the law cannot, in justice, demand payment again of the sinner. But it must have been in a modified sense that Christ "tasted death for every man."

We are free to admit that Christ died for all, and gave himself a ransom for all men, in the sense that he removed all legal and governmental obstructions, so that, in good faith, salvation by grace could be freely offered to all; so that the only obstruction in the way of any sinner's salvation is his own perverse will and depraved nature, and heart of enmity against God. He knows he is perishing, and won't ask for help; dying, and sinking down, like Peter, in the waves, and won't stretch forth his hand and cry, "Save, Lord, I perish"! His ruin lies at his own door. The Christian can sing with the spirit and the understanding of it, -

"Why was I made to hear his voice,

And enter while there's room;

BMA of America National Meeting

August 2-4, 2021

Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas

Program

Monday Afternoon, August 2

2:00pm Seminary Trustee Meeting - *Farley Street Room: 1408*

Monday Evening, August 2

6:00pm Registration - *2nd Floor Mezzanine Worship Center*
6:00pm National WMA Officers Meeting - *Farley Street Room: Choir Room 1207*
7:00pm Welcome - President - *Farley Street Worship Center*
7:05pm The Martin's Concert
8:15pm President's Message - Pastor Jeff Swart
Initial Associational Business

Tuesday Morning, August 3

8:30am BMA Orientation for New Pastors and Churches - *Farley Street Room: Parlor*
8:30am Registration for Women's Ministry Conference - *Heritage Baptist Church, Waxahachie Tx*
9:00am Women's Ministry Conference - "Share the Vision" - *Heritage Baptist Church, Waxahachie Tx*
9:00am National Brotherhood Meeting - *Farley Street Room: Choir Room 1207*
9:30am Committee Meetings, Missions Advisory Committee - *Farley Street Room: 1408*
Moral Action - *Farley Street Room: 2405*, Baptist Publishing House - *Farley Street Room: 2409*

Breakout Sessions

9:30am & 10:45am Faithlife Corporation - Electronic tools for Bible study including Logo software - *Farley Street Room: Worship Center*
Jason Prewitt, Daniel Springs - Involving Junior High, High School and College Students in Ministry - *Farley Street Room: 2401*
Jon Dodson, Lifeword - Website - Your Church's Front Door - *Farley Street Room: 2413B*
Bruce Bruinsma, Envoy Financial - Retirement Reformation - *Farley Street Room: 2402*
Gary Rohmayer, BMA Missions - Spiritual Dynamics - *Farley Street Room: Student Center*
Dr. Philip Attebery, BMA Seminary/Baptist Publishing House - Teach for Results - *Farley Street Room: 2410*

Tuesday Afternoon, August 3

3:00pm BMA Missions Legacy Awards - *Farley Street Worship Center*
4:00pm BMA Town Hall Meeting - *Farley Street Worship Center*
5:00pm Seminary Dinner - *Heritage Baptist Church, Waxahachie Tx*

Tuesday Evening, August 3

7:00pm Worship Service - *Farley Street Worship Center*
Annual Message - Luis Ortega
Election of Officers, Business as needed

Wednesday Morning, August 4

8:30am BMA Associational Business - *Farley Street Worship Center*
BMA Foundation
Moral Action Agency
Baptist Publishing House
Daniel Springs Encampment
Ministers Resource Services
BMA Theological Seminary
Lifeword
Missions Department
Miscellaneous Business

Wednesday Afternoon, August 4

2:00pm Associational Business if needed - *Farley Street Worship Center*

Wednesday Evening, August 4

7:00pm Missions Commissioning Service - *Farley Street Worship Center*

Ministry Display Area

Farley Street Gym

Monday, August 2nd

6:00pm - Opens
9:30pm - Closes

Tuesday, August 3rd

9:00am - Opens
9:00pm - Closes

Wednesday, August 4th

9:00am - Opens
9:00pm - Closes

When thousands make the wretched choice,

And rather starve than come?

"Twas the same love that spread the feast

That sweetly forced us in,

Else we had still refused to taste,
And perished in our sin."

It was for the "all men" given him by the Father that Christ savingly died; and it was for their justification he rose from the dead; and it

was for these alone he prayed on earth, and intercedes in heaven.

It must therefore be admitted that, if the Father had given all men to his Son, in the sense he did some men, that all men would come to Christ for salvation: but all do not come, comparatively few do come; and these would not, unless graciously drawn to Christ by the Father. (John vi. 44.)

The Arminian, we know, will

plant the batteries of his rebellion against the sovereignty of God in man's salvation, as expressed in this prayer, and presumptuously charge his Creator with partiality and even sin in thus dealing with man, but he will effect no more than to discover the unsubdued rebellion of his own heart to the government of God. Why does he not charge God with partiality and sin in passing by the lost angels, and taking hold of men

instead, an inferior order of beings? Why will not these Arminian professors charge God with the sin of partiality in not creating all men equal constitutionally and intellectually? Why in not offering to all nations, and all men in every nation, the same gospel advantages? God is as chargeable with sin, or blame, in the one case as in the other. We have no controversy with a sovereign God.