

# Baptist

## Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE  
BAPTIST MISSIONARY  
ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

July 2022

www.msbbaptist.org

Volume 76 No. 10

### Your World Missions Day 2022 Giving

By Sidney Vines  
BMA Missions Relationship Manager



Bro. Jerry Kidd speaking at South City Church on World Missions Day 2022.

THANK YOU! Those words do not seem adequate for the sacrificial way BMA America churches gave during World Missions Day 2022. More than \$500,000 was given to the Jerry Kidd Missions Offering.

Without your generous giving, we could not do what we do. That includes supporting the work of 60 American missionaries and church planters and 500 ChangeMaker missionaries in 61 countries. Because of you, we can continue to add new ChangeMakers like those in Ecuador, Lebanon and Columbia.

On behalf of the entire Missions team, I want to express my appreciation for being churches that respond to God's global mission and support those around the world who are sharing the gospel, making disciples, and planting churches. It has been a great joy to serve you during my first year on the Missions team, and to those of you with whom I've connected by phone or in person, thank you for your responsiveness and kindness.

Also, it is encouraging to hear how your church supports our missionaries. You are an association that loves to see the gospel spread to all nations. It is a true blessing to be a part of God's work in and through the BMA.

As always, if there is any way that I can serve, please let me know.

### Update from Missionary Committee

by the editor

In this issue we are printing an extensive letter from the Missionary Committee concerning items brought up and discussed at the recent May 2022 midyear meeting of the BMA of Mississippi. This letter has also been mailed to each BMA of Mississippi Church. The Missions Committee asked for space to clarify some of their procedures and discuss the handling of offerings received by the Missions office. They specifically are addressing comments by Campground Church concerning the handling of the church's offerings sent to the missions department. Their report begins on page 2.

The pastor and deacons of Campground Church have submitted a response to the missionary committee. That response is printed next to the end of the Missionary Committee letter.

There are obvious disagreements over interpretations and intents from both the committee and the church. The publishing of these two documents will conclude the covering of this topic in this publication.

## Freedom Isn't Free

*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*  
John 15:13

by Anders Lee  
previously written for the  
Desoto Tribune newspaper  
Desoto County, Mississippi

Jesus said in John 15:13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." America has always known that freedom isn't free. Throughout our history men and women have done what Jesus spoke of here in John 15. They have laid down their lives for others, placing everything on the line.

Think with me how heroes from the past have done that. They have left families with hugs, tears, goodbyes, and promises of return, but never to return again. In the two world wars they drowned in fiery seas in the Pacific. They plunged to their death in disabled planes sprayed by bullets. They died in France before their feet hit the ground as paratroopers. Their bodies laid on the beaches of Normandy in blood soaked sand. They were subject to demented torture. They were disemboweled, emasculated or beheaded. They were ploughed down with machine guns. The snipers bullet picked them off. They were bombed from above by planes. They were burnt alive, trapped in burning tanks. Grenades landed in their trenches dismembering their bodies.

In Korea they died on make shift operating tables. They died from cultural diseases. In Vietnam their bodies were left in jungles to swell and rot, only to be later devoured by wild animals. Boo-be traps sprang up and blew their heads off or swung round and pierced their bodies asunder. In Somalia their bodies were mutilated and then paraded around in public streets as the enemy's prize.



Since April 19, 1775 when minute men and red coats clashed at Concord and Lexington, Americans have known that Freedom Isn't Free. Many lives have been lost in freedom's cause. There were over 25,000 in the Revolutionary War, nearly Half a Million in the Civil War, over 116,000 in WW I, over 400,000 in WW II, nearly 55,000 in Korea, and over 59,000 in Vietnam. Hundreds of lives have been lost in the Middle East through time.

My Grandfather's and Father's generation has always remembered D-Day and Pearl Harbor. Until September 11, 2001 my generation had not seen the high cost of freedom. That day will be forever etched in our minds and it changed what we thought as fact, that America was a nation that was safe at home. Never in our history on one single day has America lost so many. We remember them in this season as well, those 3,000 lives that perished so quickly and tragically. On that day we know of people on board planes, regular citizens from different walks of life, along with fireman, policeman and officials who demonstrated the same patriotism, bravery, duty and ultimate sacrifice as the men and women who have given their lives on foreign field. People who laid their life down for others! In this July 4th season we not

only remember those who lost their lives, but we honor those who gave their lives.

May we as Americans never forget freedom's cost and may we be willing to do the same if necessary for future generations. The world has never been a safe place. There have always been and there will always be those who oppose this nation and the freedom we enjoy. America has been a nation blessed by God who has maintained our liberty. We enjoy freedom as Americans because God's hand has protected us through the devoted people who laid their lives down for us.

But we are not promised continuing freedom. Our liberty could be snatched away if future generations are not willing to do what those in our past have done. What did they do? They honored God and His Word and they gave their lives. They followed the example of Jesus who has also given us freedom from sin by laying his life down for us. That is ultimately what liberty is based on, the liberty from sin that Jesus has offered mankind when he laid down his life for us. In him and only in him can man enjoy ultimate freedom! I am thankful today to be both an American who enjoys freedom in this land and a Christian who is free in Christ and no one can ever take it away.

# Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown  
Editor

### Trustees

Adam Sloan - Rayburn Freeman  
Danny Bartlett - Clell Allen  
Corbey Jones - Anders Lee

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

## A NEW BEGINNING

With this issue of the Mississippi Baptist we begin a new chapter in software and layout procedure. We have been using the same publishing software for about 35 years. The company was sold and the program was only supported for a short time. The cost of professional publishing software is very expensive and has changed a great deal over the years. In the past we purchased the program and it was ours with no further costs. In recent years some software companies have changed their policies to subscription services. This means that your cost for their software "never ends". Our old software was adequate for our use until recently. We have hesitated in upgrading due to the continued fee we would have to pay.

We recently discovered a company that produces professional software at a very reasonable 'one time' fee. We have upgraded at a very reasonable cost and this issue is the first one published with the new program. We have spent a number of hours recently learning and discovering new ways of working. This issue may have some quirks - we certainly hope not - but we feel this will allow us to do better work with more professional results. Our readers will not be able to tell the difference, but our work will be easier and the relationship with our printer will go a lot smoother.

## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CHURCHES OF THE BMA OF MISSISSIPPI

From The BMA of Mississippi Missionary Committee

This letter is in response to grievances presented in writing and verbally read by Pastor Sam Freeman and the Campground Baptist Church of Gulfport, MS., to the messengers of the State Association during the recent Mid-Year meeting in May 2022. Their letter stated the reasons why they opposed the election of missionary candidate Jason Goodwin to full missionary status based on doctrinal concerns. Additionally, the document expressed their displeasure regarding a paragraph included in a "Letter of Response" previously mailed to the churches of our state association by the Missionary Committee. A prior letter had been mailed to all the churches of Mississippi by said pastor and church in opposition to Bro. Goodwin's election, as well as to the process taken by our Committee in recommending him for full missionary status. This "Letter of Response" addressed the Committee's actions regarding the recommendation of Bro. Goodwin as a state missionary. Additionally, our belief was articulated that the Committee had acted in accord with the By-Laws of our association, (as well as consistent with historical precedent in similar cases), in our recommendation to the churches.

At the conclusion of this six-page "Letter of Response" made by this Committee, the following paragraph was included:

**"Concluding Thoughts: It is important to remember that Association work is not compulsory work. When a missionary is approved, it does not mean that it is compulsory that every church support that missionary, specifically. The beauty of Associational Missions is that churches can cooperate without necessarily supporting every missionary sent out by other churches. Case in point, Campground Baptist Church, since Jan 2015 has only supported, financially, those missionaries which she herself sent out. She, as it is her prerogative to do so, has not supported general missions throughout this time and**

Continued on page 9

## Open Doors and Church Plants

by BMMI Director Dr. Ralph Izard

Baptist Medical Missions International is the humanitarian/benevolent arm of BMA Missions. The primary purpose of this ministry is to provide humanitarian aid or assistance for many nations of the world where care is needed because of economical, geographic, or disaster reasons.

BMMI is opening doors for BMA missionaries to plant new churches and make new disciples for Christ all around the world. Many churches and individuals partner with us to serve with missionaries. The main goal of BMMI is to assist pastors and missionaries in meeting people in their communities. Many people come out to a medical clinic to receive healthcare, but our prayer is that they leave with more than just a few pills. We want them to leave with hope, the kind that comes from knowing Christ.

During our clinics, local pastors and missionaries set up an evangelism station that each patient goes to as a part of our rotation. Here they are introduced to Christ, to the local pastor, and to the church.

Here from BMA Missionaries Stan and Donna Scroggins about how BMMI has impacted their lives both as volunteers serving with medical missions and also as missionaries on the field:

"We always knew how important Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI) was to the local people who received medical care through this ministry. Stan and I started traveling with BMMI back in the 1990s. As a nurse, I relished using my skills alongside doctors and other medical professionals to provide care otherwise unreachable to the desperately poor around the world.



Dr. Ralph Izard ministering on a BMMI trip

"Not until we began serving as full-time missionaries in the Philippines did I understand how important BMMI would be to us as BMAA international missionaries.

"Living in the Philippines has afforded us opportunities to be part of teams in Vietnam and Cambodia, which opened doors for ministry, but it has been joining the teams in the Philippines that has meant the most.

"First it was in Northern Luzon where Missionary Fil Kakilala works with a ChangeMaker missionary planting a church. While part of that team we met an American Filipino who was born and raised on the island of Leyte. She asked us to check on her village of Tigbagwan in the mountains around the city of Maasin. That was four years ago, and now there is a vital mission church in that village.

"Then in 2019 a team came to work directly with us here in Talisay City, Philippines. Well, let me just say that it is when the real impact of BMMI's work became real to us. First, since we live in Talisay City we dreamed of starting a church in our little Jerusalem. BMMI set up a clinic right in our little village and guess what? That village captain is now such a good friend that he allows us to have com-

plete freedom bringing the gospel to his people. This allowed us to take a group of students from BMA Bible College to do outreach there. It was during this time that the village captain accepted Christ and wanted his entire family to be saved also.

"Second, the BMMI team traveled to our mountain ministry in Ahgu to work with Missionary Church Planter Kevin Berayo. Because of this, Kevin has now started his third mission in that region.

"Not only does BMMI bless those desperately in need of medical care but also the hearts of missionaries. God uniquely places a love in the hearts of missionaries for the people He sends them to reach. That love for our dear Filipinos has been the biggest effect of the ministry of BMMI to us personally. Nothing has brought us greater joy than hosting BMMI teams to love on our dear Filipinos.

"In a time when travel is so difficult, when countries are in lockdown, when funding is limited, BMMI still moves on, breaking down the hindering walls and bringing the love of Christ to all peoples of the world and to BMA missionaries as well."

### Alabama Church Seeking Pastor

Siloam Missionary Baptist Church of Winfield, Alabama, is searching for a pastor. The church is located in Fayette County in northwest Alabama about 30 miles from the Mississippi state line. The position is bi-vocational. Those interested are asked to call Jim Carlo at 205-412-9881 or contact him by email at 1857jc@gmail.com.

### Laurel Church Seeks Pastor

The First Baptist Church of Shady Grove in Laurel, Mississippi, is seeking a full-time pastor. For those interested or seeking information please contact pulpit committeemen Denny Johnson at 601-498-8845 or Darryl Geddie at 601-498-8808.

### Gospel Concert with Gold City in Meridian

Broadmoor Baptist Church, 5426 Highway 39 North, Meridian (just north of Hardee's) will host Gold City on Thursday, July 21, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Gold City is an American southern gospel quartet based in Gadsden, Alabama. Admission is free and everyone is invited to attend. A love offering will be taken. For more information call 601-323-4400 or 601-482-2229.

# Youth Ministry Perspectives

By Anders Lee- Pastor of Central Church, Southaven, Mississippi - Contact him at [ander.lee571@gmail.com](mailto:ander.lee571@gmail.com)

## Do You Really Care?

What does success look like in youth ministry? That's been our focus in the last two articles. We know that a successful youth ministry isn't about numbers or perfect kids! What else does success mean in youth ministry? Someone has well said; "They don't care how much you know until they know how much you care!"



Anders Lee

It was November of 1994 when I took my first youth position. One of my priorities was to meet with the parents to let them know some immediate plans and get to know them better. The meeting went great. I talked about an upcoming Christmas

party, spring retreat, and going to SOAR in Kansas City that summer. I was pumped and the parents were too. Except for one...

A lady came up to me afterwards. She said, "I have a question." She asked, "When are you graduating from seminary?" I thought, "What in the world?" It was well known I had come to Memphis to go to Mid-America. Why would this even matter? I wouldn't be done for three years or more. So I told her I didn't have a clue.

She had a son in the youth group that was in the eighth grade. He really loved and had connected well with the former youth pastor. He thought he would get to spend his entire youth years with him. He was struggling! The Lord had lead John (my predecessor) away right after he

completed seminary. This young man didn't want to come to youth because he said that I would just leave when I got done with seminary. He didn't want to grow closer to another guy that would "be leaving before he graduated High School. His idea was to go to First Baptist Horn Lake where the youth pastor had been for 15 years." He won't leave his kids."

My point in sharing this isn't to say, "Wow!!! John vamped out on them and didn't care." I came to know all about John and knew that wasn't true at all. My point is simply that parents and kids want to know that your time at their church

as a student pastor isn't just a stepping stone and a pay check during college or seminary. They want to know that you are there because God led you there and you REALLY CARE about them!

Let me repeat that quote in a different way. Students really "don't care how much you know until they know how much you care!" That situation proved that to me. It motivated me to be more deeply involved in the



lives of those kids! Even though I lacked many skill sets as a youth guy, we all saw God work as we surrendered to Him and by His grace cared for parents and students.

I've been reading and studying through the Gospel of John recently and came to the familiar truths of John 10. In that passage Jesus addresses

the fact that He was the Good Shepherd! He contrasts Himself with a "hireling." The "hireling" is simply a paid work hand that tends to the sheep. He doesn't really care about them. A "hireling" leaves when the getting is good! A true shepherd cares deeply for the sheep and will love, lead, and protect them.

Do you really care for your kid's parents? Are you genuinely in the youth ministry for the spiritual well-being of students? Are you using the place where you are as a stepping stone to go to another location? Are you just there for a pay check so that your college days go well? Are you a true shepherd or simply another "hireling?"

Let me end this on these two thoughts:

1. I think you know (at heart) the answers to those questions. There is too much at stake for you to be in it for the wrong reasons!

2. You will have great success in youth ministry if you genuinely care! Parents and students will overlook a lot of insufficiencies in you and the ministry when they know YOU really care!!!

## Welcome Home to Our Missionaries



By Angela Rice

Missionaries consider "home" to be wherever their mission field is located, but those of who serve at BMA Missions love to welcome them "back home" during their furloughs and other stateside returns. We are blessed to have two recently remodeled properties next to our offices that we offer for a temporary home base and a comfortable, relaxing stay.

After a recent tour of our Global Missions Center campus, I told Mrs. Barbara Speer, a First Baptist Church Carthage, Texas, church member, that our two missionary houses needed updating, especially the beds and bed-

ding. I also shared my desire to raise the necessary funds because I wanted the houses to feel more like home. Not long after Mrs. Barbara's return to Texas, FBC Carthage became the first church to take on this project and raise funds to update furniture and décor in one of the cottages.

When Mrs. Barbara, along with Mrs. Carol Cain, came back to Conway, they were on a mission to shop and decorate. They totally remodeled one of the bedrooms and added a king-sized bed, chest of drawers, bedding, lamps and pictures for each bedroom. After my online post about the renovations, others began asking to help and gave enough funds to finish one of the houses, which looks beautiful!

As we began preparations to remodel the other house, which is older and needs new paint and flooring, major water damage was discovered. The windows and framing must be replaced and will add to the expense, but we are so thankful for people who love our missionaries and want the houses to feel like home to everyone who stays in them.

If you are interested in helping out, let me know. Any amount given will be used for our missionary homes and needs that may come up. To give, send your check to BMA Missions/Missionary Care, memo: Missionary House, P.O. Box 878 Conway, AR 72033. If you have questions, call me at 214-498-3041.

*The editor saw this post on Facebook and thought our readers would enjoy it...*

My grandmother always drank her coffee like this! I thought it was because it was too hot. Do you remember older generations drinking from their saucer? Then today I came across this poem that made me feel there was symbolism to the coffee ritual.

### DRINKING FROM MY SAUCER

BY JOHN PAUL MOORE

I'VE NEVER MADE A FORTUNE AND IT'S PROBABLY TOO LATE NOW.

BUT I DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT MUCH, I'M HAPPY ANYHOW.

AND AS I GO ALONG LIFE'S WAY, I'M REAPING BETTER THAN I SOWED.

I'M DRINKING FROM MY SAUCER, 'CAUSE MY CUP HAS OVERFLOWED.

I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF RICHES, AND SOMETIMES THE GOING'S TOUGH.

BUT I'VE GOT LOVED ONES AROUND ME, AND THAT MAKES ME RICH ENOUGH.

I THANK GOD FOR HIS BLESSINGS, AND THE MERCIES HE'S BESTOWED.

I'M DRINKING FROM MY SAUCER, 'CAUSE MY CUP HAS OVERFLOWED.

I REMEMBER TIMES WHEN THINGS WENT WRONG,

MY FAITH WORE SOMEWHAT THIN.

BUT ALL AT ONCE THE DARK CLOUDS BROKE,

AND THE SUN PEEPED THROUGH AGAIN.

SO GOD, HELP ME NOT TO GRIPE ABOUT THE TOUGH ROWS THAT I'VE HOED.

I'M DRINKING FROM MY SAUCER, 'CAUSE MY CUP HAS OVERFLOWED.

IF GOD GIVES ME STRENGTH AND COURAGE,

WHEN THE WAY GROWS STEEP AND ROUGH.

I'LL NOT ASK FOR OTHER BLESSINGS, I'M ALREADY BLESSED ENOUGH.

AND MAY I NEVER BE TOO BUSY, TO HELP OTHERS BEAR THEIR LOADS.

THEN I'LL KEEP DRINKING FROM MY SAUCER,

'CAUSE MY CUP HAS OVERFLOWED.



# In His Grip

By Carolyn Hagler

Carolyn Hagler is a retired educator and a member of Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg. You may contact her via email at cmhagler@bellsouth.net

## Cloud Watching

On the longest day of the year, I was driving through the countryside, and the big, puffy clouds attracted my attention. The glimpse of a dog cloud sparked my memories of growing up in South Mississippi. I remember lying on my back in the grass, making up stories about what I saw in the clouds.



Carolyn Hagler

It was a magical time, especially celebrating those summer days and summer nights: swimming, exploring the woods around home, riding horses, swinging on vines, visiting neighbors, catching lightning bugs, going to vacation bible school, and going to the Saturday movies that lasted almost all day.

Being country kids, we got out of school in April and didn't go back until September because most of the families were farmers. Four months of fun for us kids. Our swimming took place in creeks and ponds, but we never worried about snakes because Daddy put a fence across the pond to keep the water moccasins on one end. It must have worked; we never got bit.

Back in the day, we didn't have a lot of toys, so we made up games like "alligator." You don't have to have any imagination to visualize that game. I

was caught more times than anyone else because I just jumped up and down and screamed. Obviously, I was the gator more times than not.

One of my Daddy-made toys was wooden stilts, which I used to clump around all over the yard. I'm sure we had been to

the circus or the county fair to make me want them. He wasn't willing to build me a tennis court, but he did allow me to use the house as a backboard to practice my strokes and serves.

Because Daddy had a lot of confidence in his children, he gave us freedom to learn by experience. We had a hand-made trapeze bar (my ambition was to be a trapeze artist) to swing on, and he bought us a whip to be like Lash LaRue. To be honest, the trapeze bar wasn't very far over our heads, and the whip proved we weren't very adept. We weren't destined for the circus or the movies.

My first swing was a rope hanging from the enormous gum tree beside the house. I graduated to swinging on the bottom of Sister No. 1's skirt. Did I fail to mention that I was using my teeth to hold on? That lasted until I broke my front teeth, not one of my proudest moments. I did learn to avoid certain words for a long time.

On special occasions Mother took us to Natchez to the Duncan Park swimming pool, where the water was crystal clear. I think we had more fun, though, in those muddy ponds and creeks. I realized how much fun we had when I recently watched my great grandnieces and nephews swimming in their grandmother's lake. It's not the clearness of the water that matters but the exuberance of the splashing, jumping, and screaming. I seemed to be the only one worrying about the snakes.

Childhood was fun. Mother



could be counted on to buy the first watermelon she saw and always bought plums for us. The best plums, though, were the wild ones growing around the home place. And her homemade plum jelly was wonderful.

Summertime for Mother and Daddy involved the garden. They reminded me of the old farm couple in the painting, American Gothic. Mother de-

cidied when to plant (with the aid of the Farmers' Almanac) and what to plant most of the



time. Daddy prepared the garden, planted, weeded, and harvested with a little help. His garden was the cleanest, most beautiful in all of Jefferson County. He planted enough to feed the county, but he always wanted his potatoes to be ready first.

We always had "arsh" potatoes (as Daddy called them), snap beans, colored butter beans, okra, corn, peas—crowder and pink eye, purple hull—, tomatoes, and watermelons. He didn't differ much from year to year, but he did plant cabbage one year and cotton one year. One year only!

Mother always prepared those wonderful new potatoes with the white sauce and cooked the fresh snap beans with new potatoes. She usually added some fried chicken and cornbread. Yummy!

Even as Daddy got older, he still planted his garden every year. I can see him working in it, totally wet with sweat, with his cane often hanging from his back pocket. We sisters used to fuss about his working so hard until we wised up and realized that his garden gave him his biggest joy. We decided it was better for him to die in his gar-

den than sit in his house miserable.

I didn't have many responsibilities during the summer, but I remember sitting on the front porch with the fan blowing hot air (no air conditioners) shelling peas and butter beans. With stained fingers, I'm pretty sure I was slowest at the shelling, but I tried. If I listen carefully, I can hear Sister No. 1 and Middle Sister say, "You never did anything; you were Mother's favorite!" Isn't it funny that three sisters raised by the same parents have totally different memories?

But as I get older, I'm drawn to the here and now with the sounds and sights of summer. Early in the morning here at home, I listen for the singing, chirping, and cooing of the blue birds, cardinals, the wrens, the doves, and the finches. Then at night I usually hear the frogs. The country sounds create their own music.

The smells of summer are what I love: grass, flowers, and watermelons. My love of ice cream started in the summertime when we kids took turns sitting on the old-fashioned ice cream freezer. The adults turned the handle until the strongest man could turn it no longer. That first taste was indescribable. We ate until we ran out of ice cream or we got brain freeze.

I wouldn't trade our Mississippi summers for any other location, even though I'm inclined to complain when I start sweating. But did you know that one year there was no summer? A local Jackson historian wrote that the summer of 1816 was without precedent: Mississippi experienced frost every month and ice and snow in June. Can you imagine a summer with no flowers, grass, and fruit to enjoy?

Whatever weather we experience this summer, I still remember that God set it all into existence: our seasons, our solstices, our everything when He created it all. He gave us the beauty of our state and summers when life seems to go at a slower place. He is still in control.

While celebrating our freedoms on American Independence Day, we can recognize that this nation has had God's hand upon it since its beginning. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord," Psalm 33:12. At the same time, let us remember the changes we're witnessing in our country. Thomas Jefferson warned us in 1871, "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever." I pray that the faith of our forefathers will be an example to us.

While we're enjoying the freedom of our country and our faith, may each of you be firmly in His grip, too. Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July! Cloud watching might be timely.

## "A game-changer: Victory for Coach Kennedy

Early Monday (June 27, 2022), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 6-3 in favor of a high school football coach who was fired after kneeling at midfield to offer a quiet prayer of thanks following games.

Coach Joe Kennedy's case against the Bremerton (Washington) School District began in September 2015 when he was informed via a letter from the district that his post-game prayers were being investigated for compliance with the school board's policy on "religious-related activities and practices."

The district ultimately fired Kennedy for his brief, 30-second prayers – and thus began his legal battle to get his job back. He was represented by First Liberty Institute.

"This is a tremendous victory

for Coach Kennedy and religious liberty for all Americans," says Kelly Shackelford, president, CEO, and Chief Counsel for First Liberty. "Our Constitution protects the right of every American to engage in private religious expression, including praying in public, without fear of getting fired.

"We are grateful that the Supreme Court recognized what the Constitution and law have always said – Americans are free to live out their faith in public."

### Remarks from Coach Kennedy ...

"I just can't stop smiling and thanking God and everybody who supported me. I found out that I'm not insane. It's absolutely true of all the facts of the case, and it just feels good to



know that the First Amendment is alive and well."

"It doesn't matter what your faith is – or if you have no faith – [the ruling] just proves that this is America and the First Amendment applies [to everyone]. And nobody should have to worry ... now especially, about just because you want to thank God, you can do it now. That's just an awesome thing for everybody."

"It is so bizarre to me [that] something as simple as taking a knee for 15 seconds in thanks after a football game has made this much noise and [went] all the way to the Supreme Court. It seems just weird to me."

Voting in the majority were Justices Neil Gorsuch, Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, Amy Coney Barrett, and Brett Kavanaugh, and Chief Justice John Roberts. The three dissenting votes were cast by Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, and Stephen Breyer.

The case is Kennedy v. Bremerton School District. Lower courts, including the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, had sided with the district. As it has done many times before, the Supreme Court today reversed the Ninth Circuit's ruling.

# MORAL ACTION

## Baptist Missionary Association of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Director

P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863

www.macbma.net - Email fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com

Moral Action ministries to Missouri and Washington, D.C. was a delight and spiritually uplifting. Moral Action is a missionary, evangelistic, and teaching work all in one agency of the Baptist Missionary Association. Since the 1980's Dr. Roy McLaughlin of Michigan and myself have carried a banner for our God and the B.M.A.

Our people are beginning to see that this endeavor is worthy of prayer and financial support from all our churches, pastors, deacons, and other departments of the B.M.A. cause. The eyes of our Savior are on this effort. We go in His name and for His cause, and that makes us glad in Christ.

Mrs. Adams (Darla) and I left for middle Missouri on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> to speak at Ohlman Missionary Baptist Church, Bunker, Mo. As a fellow Southerner I would declare – "right in

the middle of the Mark Twain National Forrest".

It is a spirited church under the capable leadership of Pastor Terry Sharpe. The Pastor and W.M.A. leader Mrs. Janet

Widger extended this invitation for God and Country. A gracious gift offering was shared with Moral Action. They see the value of this agency for the B.M.A. churches and its outreach to America.

With a total of 2,500 plus miles, we traveled on to D.C. through the states (there and back to Mississippi), staying less than 3 to 5 blocks away from the U.S. Capitol and the



Dr. John Adams

U.S. Supreme Court. We saw America at work closely.

God allowed us to share two Facebook-John Adams films at the Washington National Cathedral to pray that our nation will return to the God of Eternity. The second film was at the U.S. Pentagon with 800 hits on our Facebook pages. People are truly concerned.

Tuesday gave us encouragement as we interviewed U.S. Representative Brian Steil of Wisconsin. This Congressman has been and is a conservative Christian who made his stand crystal clear about America needing a return to God.

We attended the U.S. Congressional Briefing in the lower Auditorium of the Hyatt Regency at Capitol Hill. Moral Action has and will stand for Godly living, with Biblical precedent. In the Congressional Briefing there was positive and negative words about Roe vs. Wade, the securing of the southern U.S. borders, etc., etc.

Having known of the work done by the A.C.L.U. (American Civil Liberties Union), we discussed with Congressman Steil about how the 3 judge 9<sup>th</sup> circuit court wants to remove "Under God" in the pledge. We also dis-

cussed this with U.S. Congressman from Georgia 8<sup>th</sup> District Austin Scott; Alabama 4<sup>th</sup> Dis-



trict Robert Aderholt; U.S. Senator James Langford of Oklahoma who is very familiar with B.M.A. folks, and U.S. House member Lee Zelden of Long Island-New York (who is running for New York governor). Congressman Zelden is a Jew with



strong Israeli ties. We talked of our faithfulness to the nation Israel and Jerusalem.

We discussed: 1) maintaining the words "Under God" in the

pledge to our American flag; 2) having all our U.S. borders secured; 3) the undying support of God's people, Israel; 4) the words "In God We Trust" on our coins/currency; 5) the overturn of Roe vs. Wade with the volatile subject of abortion, and 6) the sins of homosexuality in men and women, etc., etc. of moral issues.

We were not able to see U.S. Senator Ted Cruz for our visit with him. His Chief of Staff reminded us of his frequent trips to Uvalde, Texas and the overwhelming sadness and horror of that small town and its families.

May I suggest all who read this to not take our freedoms for granted. There are those who hate God, hate our nation and truly hate Christians. Our strength is in Him, the God of Heaven and Earth.

All these efforts to e-mail, text, write letters, Facebook, and travel to D.C. and actually meet and talk face to face was and is our work for Christ. We saw the entire Briefing Legislature picture taken. Our prayers are with them. I invite you to keep praying for these leaders.

They had on their minds the end to violence on the streets of America, the border calamity,

## Re:Charge Leaders Oasis Set for September

Mark 3 describes Jesus withdrawing from the crowds that had begun following him everywhere. It was the most important time in history:

The Messiah had come to save the world.

He would soon appoint the Twelve.

He would teach mankind the most radical ideas ever heard . . . and Jesus took time to get away and pray, to reset, and to refocus. If the Son of God took time to do so, how much more should we look for opportunities to change our pace and reframe our minds.

Re:Charge Leaders Oasis is September 27-29, 2022, at the beautiful Hotel Hot Springs in Hot Springs, Arkansas. This year, pastor, author and speaker Bill Elliff will be speaking, Travis Sellers from Antioch Baptist Church will lead worship, and funny man Brad Stine will be our dinner entertainment one evening.

For more information, registration, and hotel reservations, go to [www.bmaamerica.org/recharge](http://www.bmaamerica.org/recharge)

## Generational Multiplication Garifuna Style



The Garifuna story is one of tragedy and triumph that began with slavery in the 1700s. Shipwrecked and left to fend for themselves, the people group eventually settled in Honduras/Belize coastal areas. They have faced - and continue to face - hardships including government takeover of their highly profitable beaches.

But those are not the only areas where they have settled. There is now an estimated population of 200,000 Garifuna in New York City, where BMA Missions is

excited to help plant the first Garifuna-speaking congregation in America.

BMA Missions representatives recently traveled to the Bronx to celebrate and participate in the ordination of Pastor Cherry Gamboa, former co-pastor of a BMA Garifuna-language congregation in San Juan, Honduras. With a secular job for financial support, two years ago he and his family relocated to the Bronx to plant a church and immediately began building relationships, invit-

ing people to church services, and looking for a place to accommodate attendees.

After outgrowing the first location, they now rent part of a building and regularly baptize new believers. In fact, during the ordination service, five new believers came forward for baptism, which is not surprising since ethnic groups are much more responsive to the gospel than Americans. After baptism the congregation is very intentional and proactive in discipling new converts.

BMA Missions President John David Smith says, "For me as a missionary, the most exciting thing about this church plant is the aspect of generational multiplication. During the service, the question was asked, 'How many of you were taught in Sunday school class in Honduras with Brother David Dickson all those years ago?' About half the congregation raised their hands.

"But Pastor Cherry is not a direct disciple of Brother David. He is the disciple of a disciple. Sometimes it takes a generation or so to make real progress and for that work to mature. It's just a great expression of the power of the gospel, the faithfulness of God, and how he uses people to fulfill his mission."

With about 120 people in attendance, the service also included a sermon, a worship service with bongo drums, baptism, a baby dedication, and Father's day gift-giving. Then church members brought food and continued celebrating God's provision of this church in the Bronx.



# 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

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

We have entered the Summer of 2022 with continued gratefulness and appreciation for our Board of Trustees and dedicated faculty and staff as they continue to accommodate, educate and evangelize an ever growing student body.



Dr. Scott Carson  
President

Southeastern faces the nationwide situation of inflation that may soon lead to lower enrollments as a result of the ever increasing costs across the board. However, we continue to trust the Lord to provide for the needs of our ministry, remembering that God has led us through many difficult situations in the past. We are blessed as we look back

and see that the needs of the college have always been met as God used His people through individual giving and through the churches of the BMA of Mississippi and their faithful offerings.

The goal of our annual July-August 2022 Special Emphasis Campaign, is to monetarily help us safely move SBC through those lean months of July through September. The Federal Pell Grant funds from our new students are not received until the end of September, making these months a fiscal challenge and the Special Emphasis offerings will enable the college to function in a fiscally safe arena.

The financial goal for Southeastern Baptist College during these Special Emphasis months is \$100,000. We are asking each church in the BMA of Mississippi to give between \$1,000-\$2,000 or above, as God leads and provides. Any monies beyond that amount will go directly into a fund for replacing our deteriorating parking lot

and a new and more appropriate college sign.

As you consider the monetary gifts you will make during the Special Emphasis months, I invite you to partner in the ministry of Southeastern Baptist College where your gifts will make an eternal difference in the lives of each student, as well as the faculty and staff. Please mail your gifts to Southeastern Baptist College, 4229 Hwy 15 N, Laurel, MS 39440 with a note specifying SBC 2022 Special Emphasis Program.

Because of your prayers and generosity, together we have the privilege of educating the next generation for the glory of God. Thank you for supporting 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

## Fall Semester Registration

We are currently registering for the Fall Semester. Classes begin August 15, 2022. Go to our website at <https://southeasternbaptist.edu/future-students/application> to begin your college education journey today! Or call SBC at 601-426-6346. We have one of the lowest private college tuition in the nation!

## Online Bible Degrees

Did you know you can earn your accredited Bible college degree in the comfort of your own home? You can take one class (3 hours) or up to 18 hours completely online. And you need not be living in Mississippi to take classes at Southeastern! You may want to have a discussion with your children or grandchildren today about taking classes with SBC. We are conservative and Bible centered. Our credits are transferable to many other accredited colleges. Go to our website at <https://southeasternbaptist.edu/future-students/application> to begin your college education journey today! Or call SBC at 601-426-6346.

## Now Recruiting Women Athletes!

Want to play college level sports? Here's your opportunity! SBC is recruiting for Women's Basketball and Women's Volleyball. Contact our Athletic Department immediately at 601-426-6346.

## Estate Planning

Does your personal estate planning include a donation to Southeastern Baptist College? Contact Rosemary Davis at 601-426-6346 discuss with her how you can bless SBC with your special gift.

## Charger Cafe

Good news! We have a person who will operate the Charger Café for the Fall semester. One major change is that the café will no longer be open to the public. The café will operate only in support of our students.

## Memorial Gifts

God bless for the following persons for their generous donations to Southeastern Baptist College:

- Don & Bonnie Brown in memory of Charles Wesley "Bud" Harper
  - Joe and Bobbie Ishee in memory of Brian Kirby
  - John Wilson in memory of Peggy Wilson
  - Joy Steele in memory of William (Mony) Steele
  - Bonnie Akers in memory of Travis Akers
- Your gracious gifts enable SBC to continue preparing young Christian men and women to live their faith in an ever increasingly godless society.

## Need a Preacher?

Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit or to make a presentation about the work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. Chaplain (Colonel) Carson can also provide an update on the BMAA Chaplaincy and deliver a related message. Thank you to Big Creek Baptist Church of Soso, MS, for recently inviting Dr. Carson to preach their Sunday morning messages. You can reach Dr. Carson at 601-433-4736 or at [scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu](mailto:scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu)

Tree Removal  
Mississippi  
Power removed some trees for free as they were interfering with their power lines



## SBC Professor and Staff Highlight

Robbie Walters, Athletic Director

In 1969, I enrolled at Southeastern Baptist College as a full time student. Although I was hesitant, my father insisted that I keep a previous commitment to play basketball for Coach A. G. Robinson at Southeastern. My desire was to go elsewhere after graduation from West Jones High School as a four-sport letterman and Mississippi Basketball All-star, but thanks to my father, that was not to be.

It took a while before I realized that SBC was really a good choice for me after all. Dr. A. R. Reddin, Bro. Marion Wilson, Coach Robinson, and the faculty and family at our school made a lasting impression on many of us who were in attendance. Our administrators and faculty were good men who represented the school in a Godly manner.



Alumnus Robbie Walters signs as SBC's newest Athletic Director

Coach Robinson was an outstanding recruiter for our school. Athletic scholarships were given during this time, so he was able to bring in quality players from throughout the South. Our teams were very competitive while playing strong schedules which included several of the community colleges throughout our state and in Louisiana.

Our basketball games bring back lasting memories, but by far, the greatest dividend received are the lifelong friendships that were formed during my tenure at SBC. Almost all of these young men from our team have become successful individuals who have raised strong Christian families. Our conversations often are reflective of our experiences at SBC and God's grace on each of us. The most common theme is how grateful we are that God spared us until we came to the full knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

God's blessings on my life are too many to acknowledge; a wonderful wife, four children, and three grandchildren are at the top of my list. I am also blessed to serve locally as a deacon at Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church. Twila, my wife of 32 years, and I are also involved in several other ministries. One of the most exciting and rewarding is our jail and prison ministry.

After coaching for close to 20 years in public and private schools and retiring from Chevron after 33 years, I am honored and excited to serve as Athletic Director at my alma mater. My door is always open to all who are interested in the future of SBC. I will strive to make SBC athletics a good and Godly representation for our college. Jeremiah 33:3 states, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." It is my prayer that God will use us to accomplish great things at SBC which will bring honor and glory to His name.

Dr. Carson presents Caroline Adams a going away gift for her faithful service as the SBC Registrar



## Caring for our Missionaries

Jonathan Montgomery recently transitioned from part-time to full-time status with BMA Missions as Director of Missionary Care. Jonathan previously served as youth and children's pastor at First Baptist Church of Taylor, Arkansas, for eleven years and this month marks fifteen years of service in full-time student ministry.

Originally from Springhill, Louisiana, Jonathan's passion for missions started years ago as a VSM student. He then served as a VSM team leader, assisted in training other VSM leaders, and has led several other short-term trips.

When the pandemic began in 2020, BMA Missions assembled a team to regularly check on every missionary during the earliest months of the pandemic. Jonathan served on this team, and for the last year worked as Bro. Jerry Kidd's assistant for missionary care.

When asked why missionary care is important, Jonathan replied, "The life of a missionary presents many unique challenges both in preparing to go, serving on the field, and transitioning back to the States after years of service.

"Missionary Care is designed to help our missionary servants during these stages of their service and to help them through each transition and whenever a crisis comes up. We hope to minister to the whole missionary (spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional health of each individual) as well as the whole family.

"Missionary Care primarily offers encouragement and prayer support, but we also can connect our missionaries with counselors and coaches for additional support during tough times. We are here to serve our missionaries as they serve others."

Jonathan and his wife, Mandy, have two sons: Max, 12, and Ben, 9. They are a "baseball family," so most of their spare time is spent at the boys' ball games and practices. They also love to travel and have a goal of visiting all 50 states. In the last two years they have traveled 10,000 miles and visited 42 states. They hope to attend a game at all of the Major League Baseball parks. Jonathan also enjoys reading, especially historical books and biographies.

His start date at BMA Missions was May 1, but he has been "serving our missionaries as they serve others" for years. Join us in welcoming Jonathan to the Missions team.

### Out With The Old - In With The New

The college sign is in need of an upgrade. The cost is great but so in the need. Your help with this project will pay dividends for years to come.



SBC staff members working policy changes during the summer months



## BMA Missions Relationship Manager Sidney Vines

When I was in high school and the summer after, I was invited to serve in middle school ministry. And that's where my love for middle school and high school girls began. Really, that's where my love for ministry began."

Sidney Vines has a heart for ministry, particularly to young girls, which is the perfect calling for a youth pastor's wife who serves alongside him. Since September of 2021, she has served as relationship manager for BMA Missions. A lifetime BMA church member, she grew up at Mount Olive in Guy, Arkansas, attended college at UALR (University of Arkansas at Little Rock), then met Chris Vines at a Passion conference in her sophomore year.

A year later they married and moved to Fort Worth while Chris attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and she served in student ministry at a church they attended. During their time at Southwestern, she was event coordinator for the Department of Institutional Advancement, a job she loved.

In 2014 Cliff Johnson asked Chris to join the staff at Garrett Memorial in Hope, Arkansas, as student pastor, so they moved to south Arkansas with their son, ten-month-old Carson. Two years later Elliot was born. Hope has been their home for eight years, and they feel blessed to serve alongside and be disciplined by Cliff and his wife Kristi.

As her boys got older, Sidney began doing wedding planning. In college she had completed a year-long internship plus certification in the business,



then worked for a wedding florist in Fort Worth, great training for later when church members and friends began asking her for help with weddings. Four years ago she went full time in the wedding planning and floral design business.

Chris and Sidney have also been on mission trips, served on VSM teams, and led their church on trips in the States and abroad. Sidney says, "I've always seen wedding planning as a ministry and thought of it as an avenue to do

backdoor discipleship. I feel blessed that God has given me those experiences in planning and mission trips and now merged the two as I serve BMA Missions."

Sidney says, "My job is our people, our pastors, our church members. I want to be the liaison between them and 'the office' and talk about what's going on, answer their questions, and help connect them with our missionaries."

In her first months at BMA Missions, she has called pastors to introduce herself, let them know what she's doing, why she's calling, and how they can connect with the Missions team and with missionaries. She says, "I want to let our people know how they can serve or give, become more integrated and involved, and just get the Missions message out there."

If you have questions, concerns, or more about Missions, please call Sidney at 870-826-7757.

### Revival Meetings Set

**Rock Creek Baptist Church** will hold revival services Sunday July 10, 2022 through Thursday Evening July 14, 2022 with Bro. Chris Yager, State Missionary at Living Hope Baptist Mission in Meridian, as our speaker. Sunday Services are at 11:00 am and 6:00 pm. Lunch will be served after the morning worship service. Monday-Thursday services are at 7:00 pm each evening. Everyone is welcome.

**Rocky Branch Baptist Church** will have revival services July 10-15. Brandon Wilson, pastor of Pine Ridge Baptist Church, Laurel, will be the evangelist. Phillip Butler, music minister of Sumrall First Baptist Church, will conduct the music. Services are nightly at 7. Please join us!

*I was glad when they said unto me,  
Let us go into the house of the LORD.  
Our feet shall stand  
within thy gates, O Jerusalem. Psalms 122:1-2*

### Summer renovations continue in Granbury Hall



# Senior Adult Ministry

Commission on Senior Adults - 8 Reagan Lake Road, Laurel, MS 39443 - 601-426-3293 - Don Brown, Director

## God wants us soft and beautiful; He wants us strong and tough

### Lord, Make Me a Silken Christian

from a post by Joe McKeever

"The silk we love for its softness and beauty is also one of the strongest and toughest fibers in the world. It has a strength of around five grams per denier compared with three grams per denier for a drawn wire of soft steel." (From "The History of Silk," by Harold Verner, quoted by Liz Trenow in her novel "The Last Telegram.")

Soft and beautiful; strong and tough. What a combination.

Some in our day call this "a velvet-brick" or "a steel magnolia." Soft and beautiful on the outside, strong and tough on the inside.

A pretty apt description of our Lord Jesus Christ, isn't it? We see His softness and beauty in a hundred things He did: the time He took to receive the little children and bless them, respond to the cries of the leper who had touched him, restore a dead son to his grieving mother, forgive an adulterous woman who had been publicly humiliated by religious bullies, and save a five-times married woman of Samaria. He invited the dying thief on the cross to spend eternity with Him in Paradise, and prayed for His executioners.

Our Lord said, Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light (Matthew 11:28-30).

No wonder people have been so enamored by this Lord Jesus Christ from day one.

He was a beautiful man.

But the Lord's strength and toughness are also visible—on full display, even—throughout the Gospels.

—For forty days Jesus fasted in the desert and did battle with Satan. He stood up against the religious big-shots who would use a blind man for their self-centered purposes. He grabbed a whip of ropes and drove the money-changers and animal-sellers from the Court of the Gentiles in the Temple.

—He went to the cross and stayed there until His work was done. It's an unbeatable combination, strength and softness, toughness and beauty.

—Jesus wept over Jerusalem's fate (Luke 19:41) and delivered a ringing indictment against its leaders who had brought the Lord's people to this sad state (Matthew 23).

—Jesus wept over Lazarus' death (John 11:35), then raised Him from the dead and restored

him to his family.

Strong and soft. Like silk, may we say. (Or, perhaps we should say, silk is like Him.)

It is the plan of the Living God for you and me, His children and the disciples of the Lord Jesus, to be exactly this way also.

Silken Christians, maybe?

God wants us soft and beautiful; He wants us strong and tough.

And, He wants it all at the same time. He does not want His children to be one or the other but both. To be soft, but not strong is to be a marshmallow Christian, one with a broken heart over the misery and suffering around us, but no clue what to do about it. To be strong and tough but without sensitivity and compassion turns us into harsh bullies, judgmental tyrants giving orders, but not help, who have all the answers and none of the Spirit of Christ.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23 from the KJV).

That familiar list is a lot of things. It's a picture of the character of the Lord Jesus Christ. It's also His recipe for His children to attain that amazing blend of strength/toughness and soft beauty.

What is more beautiful than love, joy, and peace? And what is tougher than gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control?

May the Lord make us gentle and gracious, soft and beautiful (in the best sense of the word).

—Not like the so-called Westboro Baptist Church whose leadership stays awake at night seeking whom they may condemn and humiliate.

—Not like the harsh, unloving religious fanatics who delight in confronting gays and lesbians, abortionists and political liberals, in order to denounce them in the name of Jesus. Such tactics are as far from the way of the

Man of Galilee as it is possible to stray.

—Not like the callous church members who would vote against a benevolence allocation in the church budget because "Jesus said the poor you will always have with you" and "we just need to get 'em saved!"

—Not like the uncaring members who are quick to criticize the unsaved in their community for acting like unsaved people, but have no act of love, gift of compassion, or word of witness to offer them.

To make us soft and sweet, compassionate and caring, the Lord may have to do some or all of the following:

—break us and humble us.

—burden us and overload us (to drive us to Him in despair, forever breaking the independent "I can do it by myself" spirit).

—let us be humiliated by having our own sinfulness displayed before the world.

—take away all that we had trusted in previously, in order that we might trust only in Him.

None of this is painless. All of it can be fruitful, so long as we snuggle up close to Him and refuse to let any of it drive us from Him.

To make us strong and tough, the Lord may have to do some of the following:

—Put pressure on us, add a heavier load, apply stress. When you want to build a muscle, you do not send it to the beach for two weeks. You send it to the gym for a full work-out. You add weights and demands and burdens which strain the muscle to the very limit. And then, after a bit, you increase even that.

—Leave us alone for a while. We may feel abandoned by the Lord and cry out "Why hast Thou forsaken me?" He's there, of course. He never leaves. But He will withdraw the evidences of His nearness from time to time in order to deepen our faith and lessen our dependence on feelings and emotions.

—Send certain people into our

lives who drive us nuts. We should think of these people as gifts from the Father, sent to test us, to hone the edges off us, to drive us closer to Him, to teach us to obey Him even when we feel terrible. The next-door neighbor who stood in his yard cursing me because my tree was shedding on his lawn did me a giant favor, for which I will always be grateful (even though at the time, I was miserable).

He's trying to perfect us, to make us Christlike, in order that He may do something significant with our lives.

What is He up to in your life?

I have no idea. That's the fun part for you, discovering the new things the Lord can now do with you after sweetening your spirit and toughening your soul.

I will tell you this, however, and you might not like it: The process never ends in this life.

We go "from faith to faith," Paul said in Romans 1:17. Whatever else that means—and He did not provide a commentary with it, so we are left to work it out with the able assistance of the Holy Spirit—it surely means that after we respond by faith to some assignment or challenge or command, and it turns out well and we receive His "well done, good and faithful servant," the immediate reward for this will be an even tougher task the next day.

It's a great life. If you remain faithful.

Oh, by the way....

As with holiness and godliness, when you begin to attain the sweetness & beauty of Christ along with His strength and toughness, you will probably be the last to know. Others will see the improvement in you long before you do. What you will be feeling is the joy of close fellowship with Him and the burden of all He is asking of you. Then, one day, you will be shocked when someone remarks about the beauty of your spirit and the strength they see in you. It means two things....

—God is doing what He promised to do.

—And, you should ignore what they say. Take your eyes off Jesus and put them on your accomplishments and you are in big trouble fast. My brother Ron, a preacher with six decades of faithful service behind him, says "Flattery is like perfume: it's nice to smell but if you swallow it, it'll make you sick."

Eyes on Jesus, my friend.





# Women's Missionary Auxiliary

## State Ladies Retreat set for September 16-17, 2022

by Kathy Walley, Chairman

Now is the time to begin making your plans to attend the "Ladies Retreat" in September. We will be meeting at the Holiday Inn in Pearl. I hope each of you are as excited as I am to be able to meet together.

Dawn Freeman is our speaker. Please pray for her daily. The theme is "Thankful, Grateful, Blessed" from 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

We will have Snacks for you to enjoy when we are not in session. Also, you will want to stop by the Photo Booth to have your group get their picture taken.

We will have the "Silent Auction," but it will look a little different. Due to less space this year, I am asking you to bring handmade items (wreaths, baked goods, jellies, wall plaques, etc.), boxed jewelry (new or something you no longer wear). We want this to be successful for Missions and for you to be able to take something nice home.

There will be great door prizes. Also, we will be auctioning a handmade quilt, so bring your extra money.

The "Book Exchange" went well last year so let's do it again! There will be a table in the hallway for this exchange.

The **Registration Form is listed in this issue.** You need to mail it to Beth Caldwell, 166 Twin Creek Rd, Lucedale, MS 39452. Her phone number is 601-947-6011 or 601-766-5702. The fee is \$50.00 and is due by September 12, 2022. This includes dinner and breakfast.

You will need to call the **Holiday Inn at 601-939-5238** to make your reservations. The rooms will accommodate four (4) people. The cost is \$119.00 per room. The physical address of the hotel is 110 Bass Pro Drive, Pearl.

If you know ladies that are not in your church, but would like to attend please invite them. We need **120** ladies to attend to help cover hotel expense. We would love to have more.

Registration will begin at 2:00. Looking forward to seeing you in September. If you have any questions please call me at (601) 508-1082.

## Missionary Committee Letter

From page 2

*does not to this day, therefore, technically, she is not supporting the other missionaries which have gone out of other churches. Every church in an Association of Churches has this prerogative."*

In the letter presented to the messengers attending the Mid-Year meeting were numerous allegations against Director Geraldson and the entire Missionary Committee. They declared the previously referenced paragraph to be "BASELESS, SPURIOUS AND UNPROVEN", as well as deeply offensive. They further stated: "We are here today with EVIDENCE that our church has SUPPORTED FINANCIALLY missionaries (not sent out by CBC) and general missions in the amount of over \$48,000 since January 2015. In the letter, they also stated that they would permit the body to appoint two or three messengers to examine their church's financial records to refute "these unfounded statements by the Committee."

Furthermore, Pastor Freeman asked me (Kevin Clayton) publicly at the associational meeting, acting as the Chairman of the Missionary Committee, if I, or any committee member, had personally examined Campground's record of missions giving before mailing this "Letter of Response" to our churches. My answer was that no committee member had engaged in a personal investigation of the church's record of giving and that this information had been supplied by Director Geraldson. I further explained that, in context, the paragraph was intended to illustrate the prerogatives that every church possesses in their missions giving.

Their letter also stated that, "Once these charges are repudiated by our evidence, we ask the Missionary Committee to inform us as to the identity of the person(s) who made this baseless accusation against our church. We believe that this person(s) actions speaks volumes to his Christian character and integrity. Furthermore, Campground Baptist Church believes it would be appropriate that the Director of Missions and the entire Missionary Committee, publicly, and in the same manner in which they tarnished the good name of our church, (by letter to all the churches of the BMA of MS) restore its good name. In closing... we state publicly that we have NO CONFIDENCE in the Director of Missions, Bro. Larry Geraldson, and the entire BMA of MS Missionary Committee."

Upon reading Campground Church's letter and hearing the account of Pastor Freeman's allegations verbally declared at the meeting, Director Geraldson deeply regretted the fact that his personal integrity (and that of the Missionary Committee members) had been assailed. Subsequently, the Missionary Committee met on June 6<sup>th</sup> to address the allegations presented in the letter and to consider information gathered as a result of an internal investigation and audit conducted by Director Geraldson, to certify the accuracy of the statements made in the "Letter of Response".

The following is a list of actions taken and information gathered that support our conclusions:

1. Immediately after the Mid-Year meeting, at the request of Bro. Geraldson, a vote of confidence was taken by both the Missionary Committee and the Revolving Loan Fund Trustees with the following results: "In consideration of Article IX- "Election of Heads of Departments", Section 3, in the Constitution of the BMA of MS, it is determined that Bro. Larry Geraldson, serving as Director of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund, has NOT "...violated the trust of his office" and is therefore reaffirmed to continue to serve as the Director of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund." The vote was unanimous with all members, on both boards, in agreement and requesting that Bro. Geraldson continue his service.

2. Reproductions of the Missions Department records used to make the initial statement in the "Letter of Response" were provided to the Missionary Committee for examination. In addition, Director Geraldson provided individual audit reports for the past eleven years. He also provided a copy of internal office tracking reports used to monitor individual church giving.

Continued on page 10

### Ladies Retreat Registration

Holiday Inn - 110 Bass Pro Drive, Pearl, MS  
601-939-5238

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee: \$50.00 per person.

Mail to: Beth Caldwell, 166 Twin Creek Rd, Lucedale, MS 39452

### Ladies Retreat T-Shirt Order Form

#### Thankful, Grateful, Blessed - 1 Thess 5:18

Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	XX-Large	Total Shirts	Total Money

The shirts will be \$20.00 for Small – X-Large and \$22.00 for any XX-Large.

Please mail in order forms to Jessica Haden at 558 Springhill Rd, Laurel, MS 39443. Make checks payable to MS State WMA. If you have any questions please call or text me a 662-251-0455.



## Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Dwight Lindsey

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

Summer can be a tricky time for all families and churches. It can bring vacations and much needed respite to our busy lives, but it can also bring even more busyness than our more regular routine of the fall, winter, and spring. It is a precarious balance we all try to keep. God instructs us through Paul in, Galatians 6:9-10, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." TC V 1 "Summer can be a tricky time for all families and churches. It can bring vacations and much needed respite to our busy lives, but it can also bring even more busyness than our more regular routine of the fall, winter, and spring. It is a precarious

balance we all try to keep. God instructs us through Paul in, Galatians 6:9-10, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

Weariness is a reality of humanity in a fallen world. An encouraging word from our spouse, our parents, a friend, a coach, or especially our Heavenly Father can go a long way toward giving us that extra boost to make it to our next breather. We have some respite planned this summer that we are looking forward to, but along the way it looks very busy.

We reported in May that we have served 22 children in the past two and a half years. In

less than a month that number has climbed by four to 26. All of these have been week long emergency/short term care. This has given us at least one new child every week since the middle of May. Our latest case is coming in on this same status, but there is a plan in place that if this week goes well for this child he will return to us in July for long term/permanent care. Pray for this child and his family as we take this journey together. I (was) in court Tuesday June 14th to take our first steps toward placing another young man with us permanently. We have had him about a month and a half. Youth court will make a ruling that we anticipate will open the door for us to move into Chancery court. This ruling will allow his permanence to begin so that he will be given the stability of our loving Christian home.

Please be fervent in prayer for these many requests, and for our sharing the love of the Gospel with every child that comes through our doors. We are thankful for the opportunities the Lord has provided sometimes in planting a seed and sometimes in caring for the growing plant of faith in these kids lives. Please reach out if you would like us to come and share this ministry with your local church.

## Missionary Committee Letter

From page 9

3. Reproductions of all checks bearing the name of Campground Baptist Church, processed through the Missions Office between 2015 and the present, were requested and received from Bancorp South Bank and provided to the Independent Auditor from HORNE LLP for examination.

4. Director Geraldson met with the Independent Auditors of Horne LLP to request a specific special accounting audit of these reports and the photocopied checks, along with any other supporting documentation concerning the missions giving of Campground Baptist Church. Horne LLP's findings are as follows:

"At the inception of a donation, BMA receives instructions from the donor on how to spend the funds. These instructions can be given in the form of a letter, email, text message or verbal communication. It is BMA's policy to follow the initial instructions of the donor on how to spend the donated funds until the BMA receives communication from the donor requesting to change the designation of the donation. BMA follows the instructions on the memo line of the checks received from donors. When the memo line is left blank, the BMA allocates the funds based on the initial instructions from the donor.

HORNE received all checks from Campground Baptist Church during the period from January 1, 2015, to April 8, 2022. HORNE received the checks from Bancorp South and tied their amounts to BMA's internal records.

HORNE observed every check for instructions in the memo or address line regarding the treatment of funds received from Campground. In the absence of written instructions, HORNE noted the donation was recorded and designated based on historical donations. BMA properly allocated checks and amounts to their intended recipients per BMA policy except for 3 different instances. Each instance involved 2 checks and the check postings were swapped between the designated funds. The check amounts were the same for each instance and therefore the result was a net \$0-effect to the intended designated fund.

HORNE reviewed a summary of contributions received from Campground Baptist Church for the period January 1, 2015, through April 8, 2022, and the details of individual accounts. The total amounts, per internal records, matched external records."

5. The complete examination of internal Missions Office financial procedures was discussed in order to certify that the highest level of financial accountability is maintained by the Missions Office. These procedures include, but are not limited to:

An annual budget is prepared by the Missions Director and is reviewed and approved by the Missionary Committee before the start of each fiscal year.

Monthly reports of income and expenses are provided to each Committee member for review and oversight.

Every transaction which requires a check to be signed in the Missions and Revolving Loan Fund Office is signed by two parties.

Every report produced is reviewed and initialed by two parties.

The Director maintains a personal cash account of his own money that is drawn on to pay for any miscellaneous items, such as stamps or copies made by him for personal use.

An annual audit has been conducted every August for the past ten years which typically includes 4-5 personnel who work from the Missions Department conference room for as many as five days. They investigate diligently all financial activities, records and files of the Missions Department and Revolving Loan Fund. Included in the annual audit report is a statement concerning "Management Practices." For the past ten years, Horne CPA has issued an "Unmodified Opinion," which we understand to be a statement of excellence in management practices.

Each year, during annual meetings of the Missionary and Revolving Loan Fund Trustees, a representative of Horne CPA provides an in-depth, face to face report of that year's audit to the Committee members. A copy of the audit is provided to every Committee member for analysis.

Each year, the audit report is printed in the *BMA of Mississippi Handbook* and is made a part of the official record of the association.

## More Groundbreaking for Lifeworld

Lifeworld Executive Directors Harold Morris, A.R. Reddin, and Paul Bearfield, Sr. were incredible visionaries in their time, remaining on the cutting edge of technology throughout their tenures. Now deceased, they could hardly have imagined where that technology would take the media ministry.

Bro. George Reddin, who served as Lifeworld executive director from 1986 to 2011, had the foresight to lead the association to purchase what is now the BMA Global Missions Center. His vision for the studio part of the building was a media production center for audio and video content. Instead, the area originally intended for video production was used as a warehouse for both BMA Missions and Lifeworld.

Through the years, however, the world became increasingly video centric with more and more shows and other projects produced from a small studio. In 2017 Lifeworld moved into Internet ministry, which meant the introduction and production of video content plus a redesign of Lifeworld's audio production studio to be used for video.

Thousands of video content hours were shot in that small production area. Millions of hours of Lifeworld video content have been consumed on the Cloud and social media pages. As the need for video content increased, more studio space became increasingly important until finally there was no more production room.

Director of Operations Luis Ortega says, "It is humbling that the Lord allows Lifeworld to come alongside the local church in making disciples of all nations and to play a role as 'the vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language' prepares to stand clothed in white robes in front of the throne before the Lamb."

After years of praying and planning, Lifeworld recently broke ground for a warehouse at the back of its present facilities. After that project's completion, the ministry will reclaim the present warehouse facility for the purpose it



was originally intended: a video production area. This studio expansion allows Lifeworld four times more video production area and more gospel programming.

"What an exciting time for the ministry of Lifeworld," Executive Director Donny Parrish says. "The expansion of our television suite will give us four to five times more production floor space than we have now. We need this room to produce more video content to reach more people, and at the same time, this will allow our sister ministry, BMMI, to have more room for shoebox efforts."

This expansion is a huge leap of faith for Lifeworld. Please pray that God will provide the resources to complete this project and use the content produced to make His name more famous around the world!

Continued on page 12

## Disney Releases LGBTQ Pride-Themed Toys Marketed to Children

Amid push back from parents and Republican leaders, Disney has launched a "Pride Collection" initiative, which includes an LGBTQ pride-themed line of plush toys marketed to young children.

Among the plush toys from Disney, which were made in conjunction with the squish mallow company, are various Disney characters such as Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, and Stitch, all of which feature a rainbow design.

The back of the tag reads,

"in celebration of Pride and the company's Pride collection, The Walt Disney Company is giving funds as part of our ongoing commitment to organizations around the world that support LGBTQ+ communities." The front of the tag notes that the plush toy is intended for children "0+."

The release of the pride-themed plush toys is only one facet of the company's campaign to push left wing gender theory on children. As Breitbart News reported, the multina-

tional corporation has launched their "Pride Collection," complete with a clothing line with the rainbow overlaid on the logos of Marvel, Star Wars, and Pixar.

Disney is donating the profits from their pride collection to a number of different LGBTQ organizations from across the world, including LGBTQ centers in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Orange County, GLSEN, PFLAG International, and other organizations in Australia, France, Germany, Italy, the U.K, Latin America, and Japan. Several of the organization's have a specific focus on youth who identify as LGBTQ.

This development occurs as the corporation has pledged to continue fighting Florida's

HB 1557, which the company and various Democrat politicians have erroneously referred to as the "don't say gay" bill and which outlaws the teaching of left wing gender ideology to school children from kindergarten to third grade.

The company has faced severe push back to their woke agenda, with parents marching on Disney and Florida Governor Ron Desantis rescinding the multinational's self-governing status in Orlando.

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. Romans 1:16-17*



### GEORGE REDDIN PUBLISHES NEW DEVOTIONAL BOOK!

A selection of articles taken from Reddin's work over the course of his 23 years as a BMA pastor and 31 years serving at Lifeword Media Ministries

#### CONTACT INFO:

phone: (501) 733-0996  
email: 101cupsofcoffeebook@gmail.com  
address: 9 Cumbrian Dr.  
Bella Vista, AR 72714

**\$16**  
\*tax included  
plus \$4 shipping

## Commission on Senior Adults 50Years of Ministry Recognized

Pictured are Bro. Franky Smith, Roland Mills, Burnsville and Bro. David Earl Rock, East Amory, Armory. These two were honored at the North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference in May for their 50 plus years in the ministry. Each year the commission on Senior Adults recognizes those ministers who have been laboring in the Lord's fields for 50 years or more.

This tradition continues and we will be seeking the names of those who complete 50 years in 2023.

If you or some one you know qualifies, please contact director Don Brown at 601-426-3293, [djb1948@gmail.com](mailto:djb1948@gmail.com), or 8 Reagan Lake Road, Laurel, MS 39443.



## Rocky Goodwin's 60 years of ministry



On June 19, 2022, Calvary Baptist Church, Warren, Arkansas, celebrated Brother Rocky Goodwin's 60th year in the ministry. The church presented him with a plaque recognizing him for his many years of faithful service. Brother Rocky was saved and baptized at First Missionary Baptist Church in Portage, Michigan and later pastored the church. He has pastored multiple BMA churches including three in Michigan, two in Arkansas, and one in Alabama.

His heart and passion has been for mission work during his years of ministry. He planted two churches in Michigan, served as the State Missionary for the Great Lakes Baptist Association there, and served as BMAA Missionary in Honduras, Central America. In 1998 he became the founder and director of Evangelistic International Ministries where he currently serves as CEO. Brother Rocky's greatest desire is to stay faithful to God's call on his life until He calls him home.

I pray that your summer is going well at your houses! Just finished GMA camp today. Those girls amaze me how they serve the Lord and are so talented and mature. I was privileged to install the officers and presented the GMA Coronation. Changes were made for GMA next year. They are following our example about opening the Camp to all girls of the BMA churches. There were 186 girls and counselors. One profession of faith that was announced. The project raised over \$10,000.00 for Gavin Roberts, missionary to Utah. He and his family were present at the CAMP. The new project is going to a creative nation missionary. The goal is \$12,000.00.

These are things that were voted on and passed.

The name of the CAMP next year will be *Girls Discipleship Retreat* sponsored by the GMA. Dates for CAMP are June 14-17, 2023. Lower the grade for officers to run from 10<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade because can't find enough girls willing to be an officer. (The older they get then they drop out of GMA.) Theme---*Hello, I am?*

*Colossians 2:10, Day one-Sinner—1 Timothy 1:15, Day 2—Ambassador—2 Cor. 5:20, Day 3 Conquer—Romans 8:37, Day 4--Who is God? And Who you are? Psalm 96*

Churches are encouraged to bring all girls from their churches that are 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up. Must have a counselor or sponsor for every five girls. There will be disciple classes and breakout sessions on different topics. There will also continue breakout sessions for GMA girls and classes to introduce girls to the GMA program. Sunbeams are also planning a retreat at that time on the other side of the CAMP. Sunbeams will have their own program and be separated from the GMA group. Please begin to share information will your churches and leaders. This is a camp that your children can benefit from, so tell your youth workers in your churches. Have questions, send me an email.

## Ten Mile District WMA report

By Maria Ochoa, Reporter

On June 13 the Ten Mile WMA met at Temple Baptist Church, Biloxi. Our new officers are President Jean Knight, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Dena Ellzey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Cathy Rhodes, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Lorna Shoemaker, Secretary/Treasurer Lorna Shoemaker, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, Sherri Allen, Reporter Maria Ochoa, Song Leader Alana Woods, Pianist Jean Knight, Historian Maria Ochoa, District/State Project Promoter Cathy Rhodes.

The 2021-2022 District Project is Bro. Josh Daniels and Refuge Baptist Church at Kiln, State Project Living Hope Mission, Missionary Bro. Chris Yeager and family, Meridian, and National Project Darlene Carey Christian Academy in the Philippines. Sister Sherri Allen, from Temple Baptist Church, gave the Devotional. Our next meeting is October 10, 2022, at Paramount Baptist Church.

## Texas Church Seeks Youth Pastor

Keltys First Baptist Church, Lufkin, Texas, is seeking a youth pastor. Here is information concerning the position.

Job Description - Pastor of Youth and Missions, Salary Range: No less than \$50,000, not to exceed \$60,000. Objective: The Pastor of Youth and Missions will oversee the church's youth and outreach ministries. Anyone interested should send a resume with References and a sample of your Preaching to [dave@keltys.org](mailto:dave@keltys.org). For complete Job Description Details please go to [keltys.org/Youth Pastor](http://keltys.org/Youth Pastor).

## Missionary Committee Letter

From page 10

Each year, an annual review of the missionaries is conducted. Copies of a report entitled, "Brief" are provided to the members of the Missionary Committee. This report contains all movement of money for that particular missionary for the previous year. It classifies the money in various categories such as general receipts, work fund receipts, receipts for special projects, salary support, etc. This information is provided to the missionary for his confirmation, prior to or at the same time as, his review by the Committee.

6. Concern was also expressed in Campground's letter to the association regarding the Goodwin family being permitted to stay in one of the Missions Department's properties: There is no cost associated with that stay. Utilities have been paid. It is to be noted that the Missions Department also allows Ms. Helen Pitts to reside at one of these properties at only the cost of utilities. It is the policy of the Missions Office to allow any church in the BMA of Mississippi to request the use of any of the houses that we own. There is no cost associated with that use. If the cleaning is done by the Missions Office, a request for a donation is made to cover the cost.

7. Director Geraldson made an offer to the Chairman of the Missionary Committee to reimburse personally the Missions Office for all the money associated with the salary paid to Bro. Jason Goodwin if the Committee believed the Director acted outside the bounds of the Committee's instructions or guidelines. The Committee, having previously reviewed this matter, refused to accept any such reimbursement, because it was determined that the Missions Department By-Laws were correctly interpreted and followed.

**Conclusion/Findings:** While we fully respect the right of any church to question the actions of this Committee and the Director of Missions, this internal investigation/audit revealed that the information provided, and the statements made in the "Letter of Response" were accurate. The accusations made against Director Geraldson, in his actions as the Director of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund, are without merit. His integrity and ethics have been proven to be above reproach. Unfortunately, in a Zoom meeting conducted on May 23, 2022, with the Chairmen of the Missionary Committee and Revolving Loan Fund Trustees, Bro. Geraldson announced that he would retire from associational work on October 15, 2022. He stated, "God has blessed the work of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund over the past 10 ½ years, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the churches of the BMA of Mississippi."

Regarding the work of the Missionary Committee, due diligence was given to render a proper interpretation of the entirety of Articles III and V of the Department of Missions By-Laws in permitting Bro. Jason Goodwin to begin deputation work among our churches. Precedent established by former Committees and their chairmen, Bros. Dennis Knight and James Sprayberry, regarding cases of "extenuating circumstances" in applicants not having "tenure and growth at previous pastorates" (Article V, Section 12, b.) was also a factor given careful consideration. Your Missionary Committee has reviewed every action taken and every recommendation made to the Association; we are convinced that we have acted honorably and in full compliance with procedures established by the BMA of Mississippi.

Obviously, the BMA of Mississippi is at a critical crossroad. It is vital that your church be represented at the annual meeting in October by the three (3) messengers that each church is constitutionally entitled. The rich history of the BMA of Mississippi deserves no less. Collectively, let's chart a future course of which we can all be proud. Your Missionary Committee and Revolving Loan Fund Trustees humbly request your prayers during this time of transition in the Department of Missions.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin W. Clayton, D.Min.  
Chairman of the Missionary Committee

## Campground Baptist Church Response to Missionary Committee

Greetings to the BMA of Mississippi churches,

This response is to address the letter, entitled, "Open Letter To The Churches Of The BMA of Mississippi", that is being received by our churches at this time.

After discussion with the current leadership of Campground Baptist Church, (CBC) and after reaching out to a former pastor of CBC for his thoughts and opinion about the manner and method in which CBC has provided mission funds and partnered with the BMA of MS Missions Dept. since 2015, our church stands by the statements we made at the Mid-Year meeting in Laurel, MS on May 17, 2022.

1. Our church holds to the belief that all the funds (a little over \$40,000) we sent to the Missions Dept. since January 2015, DESIGNATED for OUR missionaries or sponsored mission projects were to be given to those particular designees. We have not questioned that this was done properly by the Missions Dept.

2. We also hold to the belief that all the funds (\$6,500) we sent to the Missions Dept. from January 2015 to 2017, DESIGNATED for BMA of MS State Missionary Bob Bureh, (not our missionary) were to be given to him for the purpose of planting a church in Caledonia, MS. We have not questioned that this was done properly by the Missions Dept.

3. We furthermore hold to the belief that any/all funds that we sent to the Missions Dept. since January 2015, and left UNDESIGNATED (\$14,550) were to be applied to the General Missions Fund, and used at the discretion of the Missions Director and Trustees for the purpose of expanding the scope and vision of the BMA of MS Missions Dept. and church plants throughout the State.

In the letter we reference at the beginning of this response, on page 3, and under point #4 it states, "At the inception of a donation, BMA receives instructions from the donor on how to spend the funds. These instructions can be given in the form of a letter, email, text, message or verbal communication. It is BMA's policy to follow the initial instructions of the

**donor on how to spend the donated funds until the BMA receives communication from the donor requesting to change the designation of the donation. BMA follows the instructions on the memo line of the checks received from donors. When the memo line is left blank, the BMA allocates the funds based on the initial instructions from the donor."**

Since reading this, we have searched for this written policy in all of the BMA of MS Minute Books, other sources, and even asked other pastor's if they were aware of this BMA policy? We have yet to hear that anyone was aware that this was the practiced policy by the BMA of MS Missions Dept. In fact pastors we have spoken with stated their belief that any checks sent to the Missions Office, WITHOUT ANY DESIGNATION, would in their opinion be applied to General Missions. We believe this begs the question, has the Missions Dept. informed the churches of this association of this written policy, so they may be fully aware of how their giving is handled by the Missions Department?

In closing we want to specify that just as was stated at the Midyear Meeting, CBC has all the cancelled checks that we have sent in support of missions from January 2015 until the middle of May 2022. These checks were sent in support of BMA of MS Missions, Ten Mile Baptist Assoc. Missions, and BMAA Missions. These are offered as proof of our financial support of missions and the furtherance of the gospel for the years referred to in the "Letter of Response" from the Missions Dept.

We stated at the Midyear meeting that the body could appoint messengers to examine our evidence, and we extend that offer today, that if ANY BMA of MS church or department would like to examine this evidence, they are welcome to contact me at 601-795-3990 or by email at sfree71@gmail.com to setup a time that we can accommodate such a request.

In Christ Alone,  
Bro. Sam Freeman &  
Deacons of Campground Baptist Church

## Builders Work At Jacksonville College

The Master's Builders had the privilege of returning to JBC to work their 177th job from June 6th-15th. While there, they built a GaGa pit, enlarged the entrance to the restrooms in the cafeteria, remodeled the home and visitors athletic rooms in the gym, built eight decorative fences for AC unit coverage outside, and built a wall in the Ragsdale dorm. Also, a couple of our men went to Daniel Springs Camp for a day to help with some electrical projects before camp starts there.

Thank you to all who helped make this job such a blessing for us all! Special thanks to the JBC chef, Joe Yzaqure, who prepared, transported, and cleaned up after each lunch and supper meal. He was a trooper! Thanks to one of our TMB couples, Myrtle and Leo Sketo, from Leaksville, MS, who brought fruit and vegetables for us all to enjoy while we were there. Thanks to First Baptist Jacksonville for the fellowship, the great meal, and the M&M's ladies group that always includes our ladies in their special meeting every June and to Brenda Bateman, daughter-in-law of missionary, Jack Bateman, who spoke to our ladies group one day. There is so much that we could share on these jobs but there's not space to put it all down! We continue to ask for prayer for our men! Many of them have had health problems recently, however, they keep showing up to work for the "Master". Pray for more workers to join us! Our faithful workers are wearing out!! We trust God to supply all our needs!

If you have questions about The Master's Builders ministry, or your church has building needs, contact Mike Green at 972-935-3877 or David Axe at 903-918-0720.



## THE MIND HAS NO GARBAGE DISPOSAL

from Grover Laird's  
*Revivalist*

In describing one of the new movies of the day, a critic wrote, "The plot moves rapidly down the sewer." It would not be so damaging to those who watch such trash if the mind could be equipped, like your kitchen sink, with a garbage disposal. Then you could flush away all the filth and be done with it, but the mind does not work that way. It stores up impressions for a lifetime. The only way to protect the mind is to expose it to only the best!

*Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.*

Proverbs 20:11