

The Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

June 1, 2015

www.bmaofmississippi.com

VOL. 69 No. 11

2015 Midyear Meeting Held in Gulfport

Campground Baptist Church near Gulfport hosted the 2015 midyear meeting of the BMA of Mississippi on May 18 & 19. The state WMA and Brotherhood each met on Monday evening with the messengers assembling for business on Tuesday morning.



BMA President Gary Smith Moderating

Forty-one churches were represented by 57 messengers conducted the business at hand. There were a number of

visitors present with a total attendance estimated at over 100. Campground Church provided the noon meal and were



Bro. Blake McCain bringing message on Prayer gracious hosts.

Reports were given by each department and commission with the messengers approving each report.

The midyear message was brought by

Bro. Blake McCain, pastor of Midway First Baptist Church, Sumrall. His subject was "What Happens When A Church Prays".

Doctrinal Statement Change Presented

Association Clerk Justin Cameron read the Doctrinal Statement proposal developed by the committee appointed at the 2014 annual meeting.

The proposal adds one additional statement dealing with the subject of Biblical Marriage. The proposed addition was printed in the May 1, 2015 issue of the *Mississippi Baptist*. This will be voted on in the 2015 Annual Session meeting at Southeastern College in October.

Surprise Reception

A reception was held during the lunch hour for Bro. Lavelle Lee. He is retiring as manager of the Revolving Loan Fund, a position he has held for many years. Lee previously served on the RLF Committee before becoming manager.

He was presented a plaque recognizing his years of service as well as a special card signed by many in atten-

dance. Many of Bro. Lee's family were in attendance in honoring his service.

New Missionary

With the approval of the missions report the Association approved the election of Anders Lee and Central Church in Desoto County as a state project and approved supplemental support in the



Newly elected state missionary Bro. Anders Lee thanks the Association for support amount of \$1,000.00 per month. This project is in cooperation with the National Missions office. Lee was approved as a church planter for the BMA of America at the meeting in April.

Seminary Suffers Storm Damage

by the Editor
Jacksonville, Texas - The recent weather problems that the state of Texas has endured has affected BMA schools in Jacksonville, Texas. BMA Theological Seminary, along with Jacksonville Baptist College, have suffered power outages and damage as a result of the storms.

This editor spoke with Seminary president Dr. Charley Holmes on Thursday, May 28. He shared that the strong winds that passed through on Monday evening, May 25, had knocked out power for most of the city of

Jacksonville. Holmes said their was evidence of some roof damage to some of the classroom areas. He stated that most of the other buildings, including houses and apartments on campus, have escaped any major damage.

The seminary has remained closed during the week. Dr. Holmes shared that dozens of trees were down on campus and the tops of the Magnolia trees in the front part of the campus were twisted and damaged. The school's telephone system was knocked out and will possibly

have to be replaced.

Holmes noted that much clean up work was yet to be done and that non-insurance covered cleanup cost could approach upwards of \$25,000.

The following was taken from the Jacksonville Progress (the local newspaper) ... *Jacksonville residents joined utility repair crews and tree removal service personnel Tuesday in an effort to return the city to a more normal state after what National Weather Service officials*



Storm damage in front of administration building at BMA Seminary

continued on page 8



Larry Geraldson
Director



**Baptist Missionary Association
of Mississippi**
Department of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund





State Missionaries and Wives

 Bob & Edie Burch	 Kenneth & Carole Pollock	 Bobby & Lesa Elliott	 Danny & Brenda Bartlett	 Sidney & Becky Farmer	 Wesley & Holley Martin	 Anders & Carla Lee	 Phillip & Dawn Burns	 Estuardo & Yasmine Marroquin	 Elvis & Wendy Garcia	 Ed & Patricia DuVall
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601.428.8616 www.bmams.org

A Faithful Servant

Bro. Lavell Lee is retiring as Manager of the Revolving Loan Fund after a number of years of faithful service. The RLF has prospered under his direction and he has served the churches of the BMA of Mississippi well. We wish him the best. He has not retired from ministry, just from the Loan Fund.

We recognized him for his years of service and dedication at our recent meeting in Gulfport. Congratulations on a job well done!

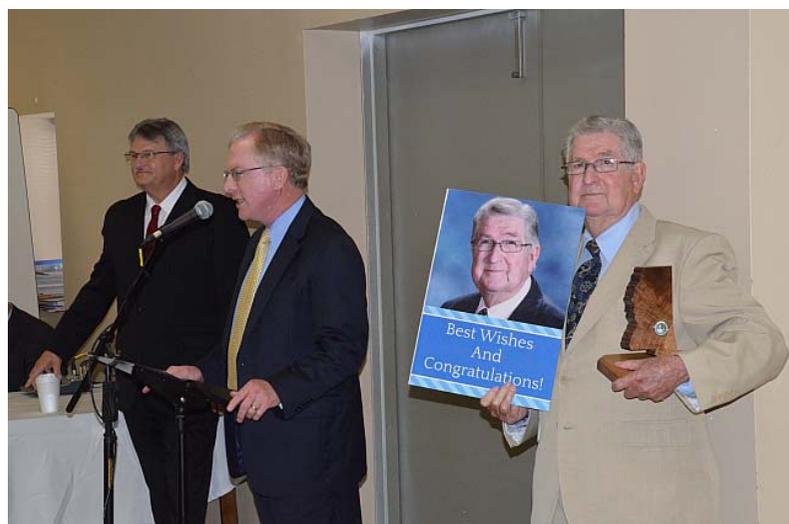


Director Larry Geraldson presents Bro. Lavelle Lee with a custom made plaque in recognition for his years of service as Manager of the Revolving Loan Fund.



Pictured above are Missions Director Larry Geraldson along with the State Missionaries present at the recent midyear meeting at Campground Church, Gulfport.

Memories and Reflections



Bro. Kenneth Lott (center) speaking at retirement reception for Bro. Lavell Lee while Bro. Lee displays card & plaque presented to him.



Above - Bro. and Mrs. Lavelle Lee with some of their family members at reception.



Bro. Lee responds to recognition at reception honoring his service.

DiscipleGuide

Scott Attebery, Executive Director
 Email: scott@discipleguide.org
 Facebook: [Facebook.com/scott.attebery](https://www.facebook.com/scott.attebery)
 Twitter: @scottattebery



Scott Attebery

DiscipleGuide Partners With BMA Seminary

DiscipleGuide partners every quarter with the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary for the purpose of ensuring theological accuracy in Bible study curriculum. Seminary faculty review every lesson of Compass, DiscipleGuide's Adult Sunday School material, and Compass Teacher, the corresponding leader's guide.

"When it comes to teaching God's Word, accuracy is vital," explains DiscipleGuide Executive Director Scott Attebery. "That's why we are so thankful for the seminary's willingness to review our lessons. Scripture is the greatest treasure we have been given on earth, and we want to provide literature that is true to God's Word."

Seminary President Dr. Charley Holmes comments, "Even before I was a part of the seminary, it had an active role with DiscipleGuide Sunday school material. Seminary professors and graduates have written or edited numerous quarterlies and other helps. I am delighted to have one of our grads, Dr. Scott Attebery, as the editor of educational materials. We are blessed by having the privilege of assisting Dr. Attebery with reviewing the theological and biblical content of our BMA educational materials."

To learn more about, or to order Compass curriculum, go to discipleguide.org or call 800-333-1442.

Don't Be A Word Wounder

It starts out at a very young age. It hurts us as parents to see our little, totally happy, and care-free child get hurt by the words from a little friend. Then, our kids go to school and they are hurt over and over again by other kids that say ugly things to them. Then as adults, our children are subjected to an 'off and on' steady diet of unkind words from co-workers, family, friends, spouses or their own children. We know this all too well because all of us are also the victims of "Word Wounders".

Word wounders are people who say things and their words wound our hearts. It doesn't matter what the intention was—it only matters that the result is a wounded heart. People who are really good at using their mouth as a weapon of emotional violence always seem to have a good excuse for why they said what they said. "You made me so mad. I couldn't help it. I was so frustrated and angry. You started it first."

We love to blame others for our choice of words. It can be disguised as humor. This is called hostile humor when it hurts. If you confront the person they say, "I was just kidding. Can't you take a joke?" They try and smooth over their verbal assault by claiming it was only humor and you are to blame for having a poor sense of humor.

Do not allow this in the future. Lovingly confront this behavior. You might

say something along these lines: "Yes, I can take a joke that is funny. But what you chose to say to me was not humorous. It was wounding and destructive." Or you might say, "I know you meant that as funny, but I want to let you know that jokes about _____ are hurtful to me. I just wanted you to know for

future reference." If the same jokes keep coming, then you have established the boundary. Now you have to establish a consequence for the continued wrong behavior. You see, people will never stop using wounding

words or jokes until they are confronted. It serves them well. They get their points across. They get their way. You need to be a person that does not play that game. You don't have to come back at them and be cruel yourself. It doesn't do any good to become a beast in order to tame a beast. Always have a Christian response. Rise above their ways and seek higher ground.

Words are like bullets. As soon as you shoot your mouth off those words go straight to the intended target. The target of every word is the listener's heart, not their ears. The Bible tells us that is where all words originate from. The heart! Matthew 12:34-37, "O generation of vipers, how can ye being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth

Family Ark Ministries

Dr. Travis Plumlee is a full-time professional speaker and leads Family Ark Ministries. For more information or to contact him, visit www.travisplumlee.com.



New Launch Kit Bible Studies Ignite Conversation With Students

DiscipleGuide is proud to offer a new line of student Bible studies called Launch Kits. Launch Kits are lesson plans for student pastors, small group leaders, volunteers, and parents that are easy to use.

Lessons are designed to ignite a conversation around Scripture as students discuss their faith in a life-changing way. Each Launch Kit is crafted for use with middle school through high school age youth. Since Launch Kits are conversation-based, the lessons do not have student handouts or worksheets.

Instead, they contain a leader discussion guide that steers conversation toward living out genuine faith and a life centered on Scripture.

Launch Kits are sold per series, and the cost is based on the number of weeks in the series. Once churches or individuals buy a series, they own it and may reproduce as many copies as they wish.

Each series has been written and developed by Stephen Castleberry, a student pastor at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas, where the lessons have been used with great success.

Find the growing Launch Kit series and an introductory video at DiscipleGuide.org under "shop," then "students," then "Launch Kit."





What Happens To Your Gift to the BMA Foundation?

All gifts to the Foundation, except those designated for operating expenses, are placed in an endowment fund and invested for one or more of the BMA departments or agencies as specified by the donor. Income from the investments provides supplemental funding for those ministries until the Lord returns. Gifts of cash should be mailed to P.O. Box 1188, Conway, Arkansas 72033. Call the Foundation office at 501-329-6891 for more information on other ways to give.

good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

If all words come from the heart, then all words spoken travel to the hearer's heart as well. Communication is heart to heart. Words build up or tear down. Scripture is so full of verses telling us how to use our words to encourage, build up, edify and minister grace, peace and comfort to those we speak to. Does the Bible actually tell us that the words we speak to our family should minister to them? Does it actually say that the words I choose to speak to others should minister grace to them? Ephesians 4:29, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." Well now, there is a challenge for every human being, every single day. That gives us something to aim for and work on.

What I want for all of us to do is not focus on the hurt that others have caused us with their words. Whether they were intentional, meant to hurt, or said with instant remorse and repentance, it only brings us down to dwell on it. We should instead focus on working on ourselves that we are not 'word wounders'.

You can convince yourself, along with the devil's help, that everyone does it. It is only human nature. Ah yes! But you have a spiritual nature now that dwells in you. A spirit of God that is greater than your flesh. With God directing your tongue you can stop being a 'word wounder' even in times of anger. Rather than sitting there trying to think of ways to send this article to some people who really need to read it, why don't we instead just focus on how God can use us to edify others.

Let us shine for Jesus by the way we speak to others. Let us speak well in spite of others. Proverbs 16:24 "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones." Don't be a 'word wounder'. Be a soul builder by what you say to others.

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
www.bmaofmississippi.com

DEPARTMENTS & COMMISSIONS

Mississippi Baptist Paper
P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441
601-426-3293

Southeastern Baptist College
4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-426-6346

State Youth Department
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
662-397-6832

Baptist Children's Home
118 Lowe Rd., Laurel, MS 39443
601-426-3928

Missions & Revolving Loan Fund
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-428-8616

Commission on Senior Adults
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440

History & Archives Commission
4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-729-8098

Moral Action
P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855



Don Brown

Mississippi Baptist

Opinion Page

www.ms baptist.org

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Don Brown - Editor

Pastors' wives need outside support

by Erin Roach

Editor's Note: *This article is written by and covers the wives from a Southern Baptist perspective, but is certainly applicable and informative regardless of denomination. I hope our churches and pastor's wives can benefit from the information provided.*

NASHVILLE (BP) -- Pastors' wives over all are happy with their roles, but it's imperative that they build a support network outside the church for seasons of conflict, a study of pastors' wives found.

Amy Stumpf, professor of religion and society at California Baptist University in Riverside, California, and a pastor's wife herself, was stirred to study Southern Baptist pastors' wives after she read a Time magazine article lamenting the unique struggles of being married to a pastor. "Overall, there was a notably negative tone to the 'lot' of most pastors' wives," Stumpf said of the Time article.

Eager to compile her own data, Stumpf took an audio recorder to an annual retreat for pastors' wives in the California Southern Baptist Convention during the summer of 2013. She expected to beg the women to tell their stories, but she ended up having to turn away just as many as she could fit into three solid days of interviewing.

"They wanted their stories told, and they weren't all bad stories," Stumpf, whose husband Paul Stumpf is pastor of Colton Community Church in Colton, California, told SBC LIFE.

One of the main take-a-ways from the interviews, Stumpf said, was that the pastors' wives who worked outside the home, either part-time or full-time, had higher levels of satisfaction with their role, "partly because they had a broader sense of their own life and connections outside of the church.

"Particularly when there were seasons of conflict, that provided some helpful resources to them," she said.

A main concern of the pastors' wives who were interviewed -- about 35 in all

-- was that so much of their family's eggs were in the basket of the church, Stumpf said. Their husband's job, their friendships, their children's friendships, and more were centered in the church.

"While that's wonderful, they all had experiences of conflict where they realized how very vulnerable their whole life is," Stumpf said. "If something goes bad at the church, it's not just that their husband lost his job but they lost their entire community.

"So even those that were very happy with their church realized that there's

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Dixon Scholarship Correction

by the Editor

In our last issue we listed individuals who received scholarships at the recent Missions and Evangelistic Conference held at Hillcrest Church, Yazoo City. We failed to state that two of those were the first recipients of the Thomas "Bud" Dixon Scholarship. We are listing these two recipients again with SBC President Danny Pitts and Jeff Dixon, Bro. Bud's son and current pastor of Hillcrest Church.

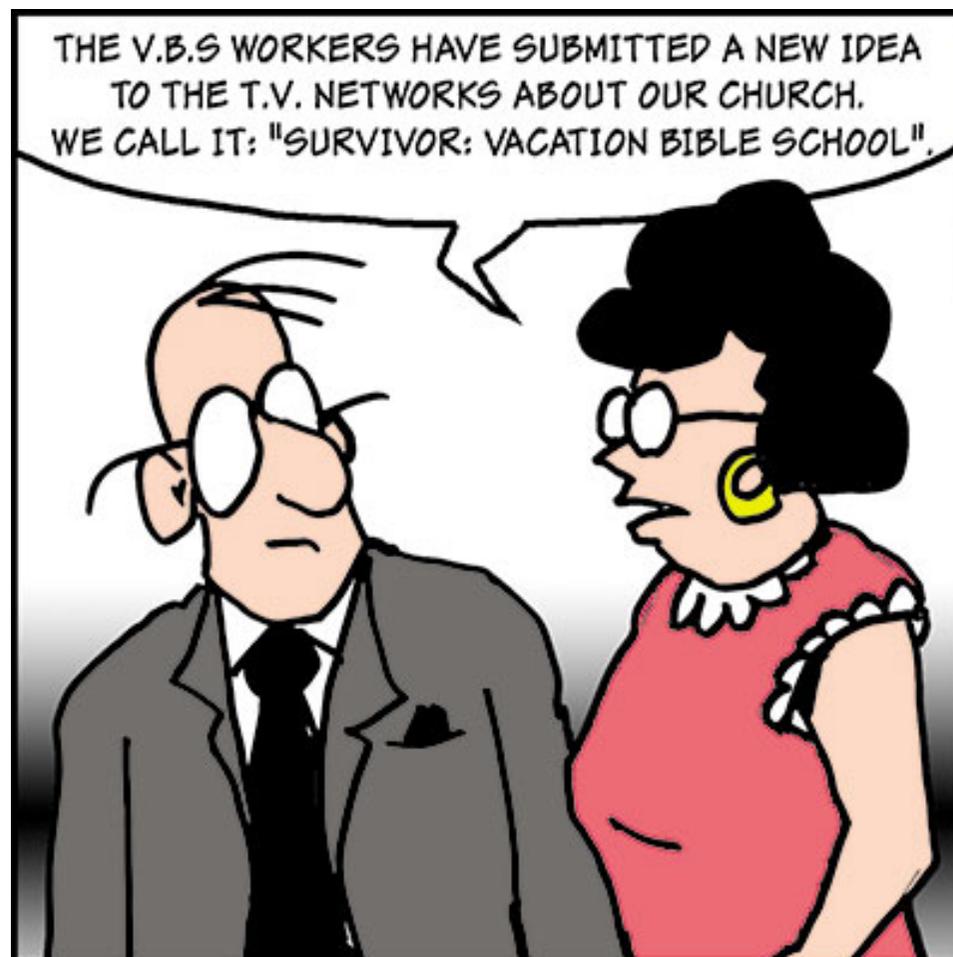


SBC President Pitts, Chance Cameron and Jeff Dixon



Ben Dixon (center) with SBC President Pitts and his father Jeff Dixon

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



Mississippi Baptist

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Danny Pitts - Interim President

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440, (601) 426-6346



Danny Pitts

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Special Emphasis Time

The Special Emphasis during June and July will be for Southeastern Baptist College. Every church is encouraged to receive offerings from your congregation or set aside an extra amount for SBC. Setting a goal will normally make the monies received to be more. During the worship services and in your printed materials, stress the positive difference which our college has made in our association. If you have members who attended Southeastern, allow them to share testimonies about their time at school.

Early Giving Needed

At the Mid-year meeting I suggested that some churches might send their emphasis funds before the end of June. During the Spring Semester the receipts from students and the Pell Grants usually come in during the first three

months of the year. This tuition money accounts for the largest portion of our income. By May and June most or all of this has been used. When the fiscal year comes to a close at the end of June, we often are struggling to meet basic obligations and pay salaries. Like other educational institution, we are imposing tight restraints on all expenditures. If churches would send a portion or all of their Special Emphasis before the end of June, the early contributions could make a difference in meeting obligations and ending the year in the black.

On-Line Courses Growing

Our Dean, Dr. Aaron Parker, says that we have more students and hours for our Summer Online Courses than in many years. Pray for this ministry. We are also promoting the Fall Online classes and would love to have you as a student. Since our Bible College accred-

Our 2015 Graduates



2015 Southeastern College Graduates - Those receiving degrees at the 2015 Graduation are Michael Beasley of Quitman, Jeffrey Carney of Mendenhall, Christopher Piper of Laurel, Justin Rhodes of Soso and Maston McMahan of Meridian.

iting agency, ABHE, has approved us for online degrees, we are offering all the first semester courses online.

Accomplishing this has proven to be a learning curve, but the process will soon make all of our registrations to be smoother. To be approved as a student, some preliminary work is required. Efforts to furnish a copy of transcripts to Southeastern and a letter of recommendation from the pastor will expedite the progress toward acceptance into the system as a student. Contact Ronnie

Kitchens at 601-426-6346 to begin the steps required to become a student at Southeastern.

Ministry Change

By now, many of you know that I resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church of Shady Grove effective May 31st. This may make me available to share the ministry of the college at some churches. You may reach me at 601-323-6900.

Fishing The Black

Thirty some odd years ago, I became friends with a fellow that changed my outlook on life. We went to high school together, then college, and then Georgia. He helped me understand that there was

life outside of the small town of Watson, Louisiana. Years later, I would name my youngest son after him.

Paul has the great ability to inspire and encourage even the laziest of people into wanting to achieve something more in life. That's where I came in. I fit the qualifications of laziness and being an underachiever. I always feel better when I work with him, because we always accomplish something. I have spent these thirty plus years trying to get him to slow down and realize that everything doesn't have to be done right now, and he has spent the last thirty or so years prying me out of the Lazy Boy to build houses, barns, sheds, tree stands, live wells, and various other projects that are too numerous to name. I think we have come to a place in our lives where we have leveled each other out.

He introduced me to the Big Black River in Edwards, Mississippi. His dad grew up on this river, and for all of his life, several times a year, they would make the trek from Louisiana to Mississippi to put out throw lines in the

From The Mind of Chuck Lee

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



river to catch the best tasting catfish in the world. When Paul and I became friends, we naturally just started this tradition for ourselves, and later, our families. It's a muddy river, so be-

fore we built the house up there, all baths we took were in the river, and so we came out dirtier than when we went in. But it was refreshing.

We have skinned literally thousands of pounds of catfish on an ancient pecan tree that sits prominently on the property. Times have changed, so our children know nothing about the hard work that we put in to make things convenient for them. Four wheelers have made hauling the boat, gas tanks, fishing gear, and motor up the steep, eighty foot bank much easier. We now have strong sons to do this work, but it's not necessary with the four wheeler. Where were they before this convenience? We still seine bait from farm ponds when we can get permission, but it's much easier calling the bait guy and buying them.

I'm thankful God has given me a great friend. I'm thankful He has provided us with a life that has made things easier. I think my children know what we have done for them so they can enjoy a good life after we leave

Pastors' wives

from page 4

an extra burden of having your work and your ministry and your primary community all in the same place," she said.

Women who worked outside the home, even just part-time, had a sense that they had eggs in other baskets, Stumpf said.

As an example of why solid friends outside the church are needed, she told of one woman whose husband had been a pastor for years and whose son was gay.

"They had to deal with that completely apart from their life in the church because they felt like that would break the relationship of that community," she said. "They felt so much stigma, which was interesting because normally you would take those deep concerns about those you love the most to the church.

"But because he was the pastor, they didn't know if it would go over well."

Stumpf's study also included written

this world or get too old to be real productive, but I don't think they can ever truly understand what all has gone into making this life possible. It seems that is what is happening in our country, and sadly, in our churches. But, who really wants to go back to the way it was?

surveys from about 100 women at the retreat, and she found that pastors' wives at churches where there was more than one staff member -- and pastors' wives at larger churches -- perceived that their churches were healthier. "That makes sense because the conflict is spread out," she said.

At the church where Stumpf's husband is the only pastor, she said it "doesn't matter if it's about the water fountain, the toilet, the paint on the wall, or some theological issue, 100 percent of that conflict comes to my husband.

"So I can imagine if other people are helping to defray some of that, then that can really help a lot to make them perceive that things are healthier," Stumpf said. "It makes sense that in larger churches the pastors and their families are sharing the burdens and the stress."

Another surprising finding, she said, was that the longer a woman was married to a pastor, the more she perceived negative effects of the ministry on her marriage.

"You can figure out the ramifications. If we want healthy churches, we probably need to figure out how this is affecting the women in the church," Stumpf said.

Despite the challenges, most of the women did not regret being pastors' wives. Stumpf recalled a woman who told her a terrible story about being run off by a church.

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Is It A Good Idea or "God" Idea?

By Larry Barker

Larry Barker is the operations director for North American Missions. For more information or to contact him, visit www.bmamissions.org.

The title of this article was a challenge from my pastor, Todd West, that caused me to consider all the decisions I make. Are they directed by the Lord? He shared that USA Today reported that every individual can make up to 35,000 decisions a day. Wow, that's a lot but when you consider how many decisions we make as second nature it does add up. But what about the bigger decisions that we face? We are faced with choices every day where we must discern God's direction and leading in our lives correctly.

Nehemiah had a big decision as he was challenged to do something about his hometown Jerusalem. He was passionate about his desire to see the walls rebuilt and the city restored to its former glory. The book of Nehemiah is often used to teach excellent leadership principles and in this area of discerning between a "good" idea and a "God" idea it serves us well again. There is a huge difference between a whim, an impulse, or a desire, and knowing 100% that God is behind our thoughts and plans!

Todd then gave us six principles of how to discern between a "Good" idea and a "God" idea based on Neh. 2:17-18, "But now I said to them, "You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!" Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, "Yes, let's rebuild the wall!" So they began the good work." (NLT)

Principle #1: God Ideas Start with a Burden – Nehemiah saw the condition of Jerusalem and it greatly troubled him. The burden grew and he knew he had to do something. The burden increased and it remained on his heart calling him to action. He could not escape this "God" idea! The King noticed his sadness and even wondered why he was depressed.

Principle #2: God Ideas Contain Present Reality – His hometown was lying in ruins and the situation was very bad. There are some who always want to be optimistic, no matter what, but Nehemiah admitted that something was wrong and needed to be done. He took a step toward being a part of the solution realizing He needed God's help and the help of others.

Principle #3: God Ideas Can Be Clearly Stated – Nehemiah was able to articulate the vision of what needed to be done next. "Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!" If you cannot clearly state the next move God desires you to take then you should wait until you can. If it is a little fuzzy to you it will be very foggy to those you are leading.

Principle #4: God Ideas Show Evidence of God's Approval - Nehemiah said this, "Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me." Have you prayed and sought His mind on the matter the same way Nehemiah did? Has God opened doors you could not have opened on your own and you clearly see him in this idea? You see His movement and His hand!

Principle #5: God Ideas are Affirmed by godly People - When Nehemiah shared the vision with them they

said, "Let's start rebuilding" and they were encouraged to do this good work! There is wisdom in the multitude of counsel. If godly people you trust cannot see it you need to step back, reevaluate, and seek the face of the Lord. Seek wise godly counsel!

Principle #6: God Ideas are Always Met with Opposition – The walls began to be rebuilt but there were those who were against it from the beginning. Those people are still with us today! Nehemiah had to go to work with a trowel in one hand and a sword in the other. While he was building he also had to be prepared for battle. If you don't want any opposition then don't do anything! Oh, and then they will complain that you aren't doing anything!

Principle #7: God Ideas are very Unique to You! – (I added principle #7!) There are many good things you can be involved in, but God has a calling on your life and a purpose for you. God has uniquely created you and gifted you to fulfill His purposes and bring glory to His name. Good ideas are plentiful but God's perfect will for your life is distinctive and requires asking His direction!

Everyone has a lot of what they think are "good" ideas, but making sure it is a "God" idea takes seeking His face, being in His presence, and knowing it is what God has for you at this time and place. When it is a God idea you are passionate about it and it consumes your thoughts and motivates you every single day. Make sure your "good" ideas are "God" ideas!

CHURCH NEWS

Hopewell Baptist Church Dorsey, Mississippi Men's Conference

June 6 & 7, 2015
Theme: Men Stepping Up
Meal Time: 5:00 pm
Conference Time: 6:00 pm
Featured Speakers



Tyson Lee
Former MSU Quarterback
Asst. FCA Director @ MSU campus
and

Pat Ewing - Gideon, Contractor, Prison ministry
Overcoming your fears and being a leader in life.
(Call and give a number to attend)
662-260-0244

VBS Planned for Rocky Branch Church

Rocky Branch Baptist Church in Sumrall will have Vacation Bible School on June 8-12, each evening beginning at 6.00 p.m.. Everyone is invited. For more information call Bro. Robert Arinder at 601-517-1550.

Women's Missionary Auxiliary

President
Linda Smith
2816 Old Bay Springs Rd.
Laurel, MS 39440
601-470-1398

Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443
601-729-5638



Northeast WMA "Traveling God's Path"

by Martha Duncan, Reporter

Our Northeast District Ladies Retreat was May 2, 2015 at Hopewell Baptist Church. The music was lead by Stacy Smith & Beverly Bean with Anita Akers on the piano. Guest singers were Randy & Clancey Boyle. The Theme for the retreat was "Traveling-God's Path For Me." The morning session was presented by Anita Akers with scripture taken from Ruth 1-2. We had four break-out sessions. A delicious meal was provided by Bro. Steve & Jenny Bennett with door prizes given out during the meal. The afternoon session was presented by Sabrina Clayton with scripture taken from Ruth 3-4.

GMA Girls

State Youth Auxiliary Director

Beth Caldwell
166 Twin Creek Rd,
Lucedale, MS 39452
601-947-6011

State GMA Promoter

Becky Farmer
464 Churchwell Road
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
601-596-1005
becky@southforrest.org



GMA's Working on Mission Trip

by Lane Flynt

Mississippi State GMA's are planning a Mission Outreach trip in July of 2016. We plan to do a VBS for a Mississippi mission church. If any of our Mississippi GMA's are interested in being a part of this project please let me know. We think this will be a wonderful opportunity for our local GMA girls! For application and more information please contact: Lane Flynt, 601-641-1475, lane.flynt@gmail.com, or by mail at 1059 Hwy. 532 Mt. Olive, MS 39119.

ONE NEWS NOW.COM



Study on same-sex 'marriage' built on a lie

OneNewsNow.com - An authority on homosexuality and God's order of things pertaining to natural marriage understands the reasoning behind the latest false study attempting to legitimize same-gender marriage.

There have been several studies contending that homosexuals are born in their condition — with findings that have been thoroughly debunked by scientists.

Matt Barber, founder of Barbwire.com and a constitutional attorney, told OneNewsNow about a study published last year in Science that has been withdrawn. It consisted of a one-on-one 20-minute conversation containing dialogue with results that convince people to support same gender marriage.

After the study's publication, its co-author, Michael LaCour, admitted that the dialogue and conclusion were fake: "We have now another study here intended to create a false narrative that has collapsed under its own weight," Barber asserted. "This is how the Left operates — particularly the well-funded and well-organized homosexual activist Left — through subterfuge and propaganda."

OneNewsNow then asked Barber why activists have chosen to submit false data to support their claims.

"When you're trying to create a counterfeit falsehood, it is a necessary element — just as when you print counterfeit money, tools are used and ink, and it's not the genuine item," Barber explained. "So, in order to create a counterfeit, subterfuge and deception has to take place."

Barber says that the entire argument behind the propagation of same-sex marriage was birthed on misinformation.

"It's the father of lies — taking something that God has created, perverting it and falsifying it in order to push sin and immorality," Barber concluded.

America would rather have a 'gay' president over an evangelical one

OneNewsNow.com - A religion and culture expert says a new survey showing that more Americans would accept a homosexual president than an evangelical commander-in-chief, is indicative of a growing belief that moral boundaries are becoming increasingly unacceptable to Americans.

According to the Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll, 52 percent of Americans would be comfortable or enthusiastic with an evangelical Christian president — up from 41 percent in 2006. However, the percentage of Americans that would be enthusiastic or comfortable with a homosexual president shot up 18 points, from 43 percent in 2006 to 61 percent now.

Dr. Alex McFarland, co-host of Ameri-

can Family Radio's "Exploring the Word" program, finds the statistics troubling.

"Christianity — and even America itself — is dependent on there being moral boundaries," McFarland asserts. "The 'gay' agenda is dependent on there not being any moral boundaries."

McFarland contends that the moral fabric of America has indeed been torn — a reality that has been evidenced in the schools, media, entertainment industry and the White House.

"So what the American people are essentially saying is 'we want a president who doesn't believe in moral boundaries ... We would rather have a president that was ethically amoral rather than dependent on the God of our founding fathers,'" McFarland concludes.

Dr. McFarland, who also serves as director for the Center for Christian Worldview and Apologetics at North Greenville University in South Carolina, wonders how President Barack Obama, with all of his scandals and lack of transparency — as well as his disregard and contempt for Christian values — could still have Americans' vote of confidence.

"[With a president like Barack Obama] how could Americans trust that he could have our best interest at heart?" McFarland pondered.

Pastors' wives

from page 5

"At the end, I said, 'If you could do the whole thing over, would you do it?' She was one of my highest on 'I love being a pastor's wife. That's what God has called me to do. I wouldn't change it for anything.'"

Stumpf found it interesting, she said, that the women differentiated between their feelings about being a pastor's wife in general and their feelings about their specific experience with a specific church.

"They didn't globalize or generalize that specific experience," she said. "They still liked the role. They just thought that church had a problem."

Women who claimed to have experienced a call to the role of pastor's wife had higher perceptions of their own influence in the pastoral ministry of their husbands, Stumpf said, and they were more content. They didn't mind their primary identity being as a pastor's wife.

"A lot of the ones who didn't mention a call tended to be the ones who said, 'That's what my husband does and that's a hat I wear, but it is not who I am and it's not my primary identity,'" Stumpf said.

The women who mentioned a call tended to be older, whereas the younger wives tended to say, "I married a guy who is a pastor," Stumpf said.

"It tells me that our church culture has changed," she said. "Our church culture is increasingly aware that many

The graphic is a promotional poster for the 'Glorious SOAR 2015' event. At the top, there's a stage scene with a large 'GLORIOUS' sign in yellow and 'SOAR 2015' below it. Below the stage, there are six portraits of individuals, each with their name and role written vertically next to them. The names and roles are: Aaron Williams (Worship), Stephen Castlerberry (Speaker), Steven Carroll (Speaker), Bobby Tucker (Speaker), Dustin Wisely (Speaker), and For King & Country (Concert). At the bottom of the graphic, the website 'WWW.GOSOAR.COM' is displayed in white text on a black background.

of the pastors' wives will work outside of the home and won't make their primary place of vocation the church."

Churches that hired younger pastors tended not to have expectations of pastors' wives focusing on the church, Stumpf said.

Regarding what the pastors' wives in the interviews said they wanted their churches to know, "Mostly it was, 'Just be a loving, kind church. Don't get bogged down in conflict. Be kind to my husband,'" Stumpf said.

A structured and formal system of support outside the church would help, Stumpf concluded. Many of the women felt like they and their husbands were ministering all alone, and in a lot of cases they were.

Churches with multiple staff members would have a great ministry, she said, if they would reach out to single-pastor churches and include them as honorary staff members -- affording them the benefits of camaraderie.

"Most of the pastors' wives really were very happy. So contrary to the article that started me questioning, they did experience isolation, they did experience stress, but overall they were quite happy," Stumpf said.

"They loved their churches. They were proud of their husbands and very fulfilled."

The study underscored for Stumpf the importance of pastors' wives developing relationships outside the church "because conflict will come, and when your primary support people are also the people who are in conflict with your husband then it makes it really hard.

"So they need to be very intentional about developing a good support network outside of the church."

Crawford Endowed Scholarship Established

Central Baptist College announces the establishment of The Rufus and Mildred Crawford Endowed Scholarship. Mrs. Crawford initiated the creation of the scholarship after Bro. Crawford's passing on March 8, 2015. Bro. Crawford graduated from Jacksonville Baptist



Rufus Crawford

College, Stephen F. Austin University, and attended the BMA Theological Seminary. He served with the Baptist Missionary Association of America for 67 years as an Evangelist, Teacher, Radio

Speaker, Pastor, and Missionary to Brazil and Portugal. He also had a long tenure in the field of education as a teacher at a Seminary in Brazil and as President of Columbia Christian School in Magnolia.

The Rufus and Mildred Crawford Endowed Scholarship will give priority to licensed ministerial students majoring in Bible or Missions whose goal is to serve on the foreign mission field. It is such a blessing that Mrs. Crawford chose to honor the memory of Bro. Crawford by creating a scholarship that will continue Bro. Rufus' legacy by helping students whose goal is to serve on the foreign mission field.

Seminary Suffers Storm Damage from page 1

categorized as “straight line” winds tore through many parts of Jacksonville, New Summerfield as well as numerous portions of the rural areas in the northern third of Cherokee County early Monday evening.

After the shock and awe had set in

and the picture taking was complete, many citizens put on their work clothes, rolled up their sleeves and began what was an arduous task for some — working to clean up what in some cases were massive amounts of debris left behind in the storm's wake.



Photos of Damage - far left shows tree damage in front of Dorman Chapel. Center photo shows President Holmes and students uprighting a trash bin that was blown over. Right photo shows extensive tree damage in front of a seminary home.

BMA Seminary's Fiftieth-eighth Commencement

Sixteen individuals received a degree from the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary of Jacksonville, Texas during commencement exercises conducted Saturday, May 16, 2015. The seminary hosted the event in its Dorman Memorial Chapel on the main campus in Jacksonville, Texas.

John Bockmon of Whitehouse, Texas, Michael Cook of Whitehouse, Texas, Cristi Duvall of Brownsboro, Texas, Vasquez Granberry of Tyler, Texas, and Joshua Woolridge of Henderson, Texas received the Bachelor of Arts in Religion degree.

The Master of Arts (Religion) degree was awarded to Herman Johnson of Nacogdoches, Texas, Dennis Morris of Houston, Texas, Scott Schaller of Thorndale, Texas, Jordan Tew of Grand Prairie, Texas, and Lanny Williams of Mineola, Texas. Brent Williams of Mabank, Texas received the Master of Arts in Church Ministries degree.



2015 Graduating Class

Recipients of the Master of Divinity degree included David Dixon of Neches, Texas, Wenjuan Durham of China, Anthony Slack of Rayville, Louisiana, and Bobby Yang of Tianjin, China.

The seminary also awarded the Doctor of Divinity degree posthumously to Louis F. Asher, former Professor of Church History and Biblical languages.

Jeff Swart, Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Galena, Kansas and BMA Seminary alum, presented the commencement address. Swart has served full-time in various Christian ministries for forty years. In April 2015, BMA Seminary selected Swart to receive the prestigious Gerald Kellar Award. Swart's educational background includes a B.A. in Sociology and Political Science from Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas, an M.A. in Professional Counseling from Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia, and an M.R.E. from the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas. Swart also authored The Church Planting Model, which is used around the world to teach laypeople how to plant New Testament churches.

BMA Seminary provides accredited theological education to qualified individuals by seeking to equip them for Christian service and leadership roles. The seminary supports the educational needs of the Baptist Missionary Association of America and other groups who share a like commitment to the authority of Scripture by offering certificates, associate, bachelor, and masters' degrees.

Asher Receives Degree Posthumously during BMA Seminary 2015 Commencement

Louis F. Asher of Jacksonville, Texas received the Doctor of Divinity degree posthumously during commencement exercises held at the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas, on Saturday, May 16, 2015.

The Doctor of Divinity is an honorary degree awarded to individuals for scholarly achievement, attainments which demonstrate unusual creativity, or distinguished service.

For 25 years, Asher served the BMA Seminary primarily as a professor Church History and Biblical languages. His academic accomplishments included earning a Bachelor of Divinity from the BMA Seminary and a Master of Arts degree from Stephen F. Austin State University. Prior to his death in 1996, Asher completed the course work and most of the dissertation required for a Doctor of Philosophy degree at the University of Texas at Dallas. Many consider John Clarke (1609-1676): pioneer in American medicine, democratic ideals, and champion of religious liberty, a book resulting from his research, to be “the definitive biography” on Clarke, a founding father of the Baptist movement in America and leading proponent of religious liberty for everyone.

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