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BMA of Mississippi Holds Midyear Meeting at Southeastern College

by Corbey Jones, Assistant Editor
with additions by Editor

The Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi met at Southeastern Baptist College May 18, 2021, for the semi-annual meeting. Bro. Carey Jones opened with a medley of hymns and songs. Sister Dekota Harper followed this with a special, the old familiar hymn, "Wayfaring Stranger." Bro. Blake McCain, pastor of Midway First Baptist Church, Sumrall, shared a scripture reading from Ephesians chapter two and led the congregation in an opening prayer. Moderator Greg Medenwald then called upon SBC President Dr. Scott Carson to welcome the Association.



Corbey Jones
Asst. Editor

Bro. Medenwald called the Association to order with the sound of the gavel and then thanked everyone for participation in a Christ-like spirit. Bro. Frank Panzrino was named as the parliamentarian. Bro. Medenwald read the rules of order. Bro. Scott Kirkland gave the initial enrollment committee report with thirty-three churches present.

President Medenwald called the mes-



BMA President
Greg Medenwald
leading body in a
solemn assembly
at beginning of
midyear meeting

sengers and guests to a solemn assembly. The leading scripture text was Joel chapter one verse fourteen. "Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the Lord your God, and cry unto the Lord," Volunteers were then called for to pray certain pas-

sages of scripture calling for earnest prayer in various aspects of our lives and culture. Prayer followed with solemn and willing participation.

The moderator called for petitionary letters. Redemption Baptist Church of Diamondhead, Mississippi, petitioned the association for membership and was gladly and unanimously received.

Association clerk Justin Rhodes presented a constitutional change from the Commission on History and Archives, concerning the purpose of the commis-

2nd VP and Pastor
of Good Hope
Church, Columbia
Justin Cameron
bringing message



sion to begin republishing some of our older books and to add a part-time assistant director position, (custodian and treasurer) with one person fulfilling both duties. Compensation would be decided by the commission director. Motion was made and seconded to approve the changes and the moderator announced that it would be tabled to be voted on in a later session of the association.

Bro. Jason Howard, Director of the Commission on History and Archives, presented his report. He emphasized the reason for and need to republish some of the older publications in an effort to anchor our churches, particularly the younger generation among us,



Second VP Justin Cameron welcomes
Redemption Baptist Church messengers

to our association doctrine and history. Howard also announced plans for a new website, for the commission, in the near future. "This will make resources much more accessible" he shared. A motion was made and approved to accept the report. It is noted that the History and

Archives is no longer located in the library of Southeastern Baptist College. All library items have been moved to a room in the building that houses the Missions Department. Individuals and churches still have access to the contents that have been relocated.

Bro. Dwight Lindsey, Director of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home, gave a report on the activities and needs of the home. It was a very good and heart-felt report.

Reports were given by the Missions Department, Southeastern Baptist College, and Publications. Those reports are printed inside this issue. WMA and the Brotherhood reports were given.

Resignations

Two leaders resigned at this meeting. Bro. Kenneth Flynt resigned as director of the Senior Adult Commission after a number of years of ministry. He was unable to attend the meeting, but sent a report that you will read in this issue.

State Youth Director Kelby Johnson did not attend the meeting. A report was called for by the moderator with no response. Later in the meeting, after a telephone conversation with Clerk Justin Rhodes, Bro. Johnson officially submitted his resignation which was accepted by the messenger body. There was no report from the department and

see Meeting on page 2

Family Research Council, Barna band together to advance biblical worldview

OneNewsNow.com - The Family Research Council (FRC) and a groundbreaking researcher have joined forces and launched a new ministry.

FRC's David Closson tells One News Now he has "the joy" of serving as director of the newly-formed Center for Biblical Worldview.

"The Center for Biblical Worldview exists to equip Christians with a biblical worldview and train them to advance and defend the faith in their families, communities, and the public square," Closson explains.



..Southeastern College has emphasized developing a 'biblical worldview' in each of its Spring 2021 chapel services...

FRC has always cared about a biblical worldview and getting that out in the public square and defending it, but this, Closson says, "is just showing that we are renewing our focus to come alongside pastors and churches to help them advance a biblical worldview in their congregations and communities."

Researcher George Barna joins the Center as a senior research fellow.

"George has been doing this polling for decades, and the most recent survey he did shows that only 6% of Americans have what can be called a biblical worldview," Closson relays. "That means even many of the people who go to our churches actually don't think through things through the lens of scripture. And so that 6% number is really motivating us to make sure that we're producing resources and content for the Christian community, for pastors to make sure that we're thinking through contested issues such as the definition and meaning of family and marriage, gender, and sexuality; what does the Bible teach about things, and why is

see Worldview on page 2

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



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Publications Midyear Report

I reported on the Publications Department and the ministry of your Mississippi Baptist Paper at our recent midyear meeting in Laurel. I will touch on a few of the highlights in this column.

Our finances are stable and this due not only to the subscription fees paid by churches and our readers, but in large part due to the monthly support gifts some churches give to this ministry. The other main source of income is our annual Special Emphasis drive each January.

So far in our 2021 fiscal year monthly support donations and Special Emphasis receipts account for 30% of our income. Our budget is always tight, but we are in the black. As you can see your gifts are critical to the operation of this ministry.

We deeply appreciate your giving.

Website Update

Hopefully, by the time you receive this issue our new website will be fully operational. This has taken some time, but

the end product will better serve the people of the BMA of Mississippi.

We will be sharing thanks to those who helped in this project in a future issue.

Content

We are blessed to have a good group of individuals who share in this ministry with their regular column submissions. I must thank them by name...Barbara White as Sofilthy McNasty, Anders Lee writing to our youth and youth workers, Tony Cleaver for his Scripture Thoughts, and recently Josh Howard who contributes.

Our newest contributor is Mrs. Carolyn Hagler who writes "In His Grip". We appreciate her thoughts on life, travel, and God's blessings and workings in our lives.

Subscribers

We encourage our churches to keep their subscription lists as up to date as possible.

Adding those new members

is a priority of ours. When that new family or individual joins your church they need to be receiving the Mississippi Baptist. This lets them know that you value their membership and keeps them up to date on the work that their church is a part of. What a joy for our members to hear about the state and worldwide work of the Baptist Missionary Association.

Our Purpose

The Mississippi Baptist is in the information business. Knowledge is key for a free and loyal society. Information concerning any endeavor is a prime need for success.

The people in our churches desire and should have available the needs, blessings, and progress of our collective Associational work. The success of each of the various ministries of the BMA of Mississippi and America relies on the support of our churches and their members.

Your Mississippi Baptist Paper is a vital avenue of information. Your support is needed and deeply appreciated.

Two Directors Resign Positions

Kenneth Flynt Resigns Senior Adult Commission Midyear Report

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

To the BMA of Mississippi, It has been a genuine pleasure and privilege to serve as Director of the Commission on Senior Adults, but for two reasons, I am resigning as Director.

Reason 1 – Due to the decline in my health

Reason 2 – Age, I will be 90 years old August 16th and I feel it is time

The material for the commission is at the Missions Office boxed up for the next Director. Our secretary Mrs. Kim, aware of this material.



Kenneth Flynt

Our trustees are:
Dr. Medrick Savell (Riverside, Ellisville)

Ron Montague (Pine Grove, Purvis)

Dick Dickens (FBC Oak Grove, Hattiesburg)

Frank Everett (Movella, Lucedale)

Tim Holsomeback (Mt. Pleasant, Fulton)

Benny Clark (Shiloh, Mt. Olive)

Due to the pandemic, we have not had a conference for the past year, but we have two church ready to host the 2022 conferences if it is safe to do so in the spring.

Thank you for your wonderful support that you have given to the commission the past several years. I hope to be attending the conferences in the future.

Continue supporting your next Director as you have me and things will continue to bless our senior members.

Thank you and God bless you.
Kenneth Flynt, Director
Commission on Senior Adults

Kelby Johnson Submits Resignation

As of May 18, 2021, I am officially resigning as Director of the Youth Department for the BMA of Mississippi.

I have truly enjoyed the ministry over the years and I hope we have impacted lives along the way. Some of my best memories have been our camp experiences with many of our churches.

I believe someone else will be able to better Kelby Johnson revitalize the ministry moving forward. I know we have a great group of trustees who will lead in this effort.

I continue to remain a part of the BMA as Pastor of Caledonia Baptist Church. I pray nothing but the best for the association, each church, and each department. Thank you again for allowing me to serve in this role.

God bless,
Kelby Johnson



Meeting

from page 1

subsequently no activities were presented.

Midyear Message

The midyear message was brought by Bro. Justin Cameron, pastor of Good Hope Baptist Church, Columbia. Cameron is a former clerk of the association and currently serves as Second Vice-president. His message subject was 'All of Life for the Glory of God' with scripture taken from Philippians 1:3-11. He emphasized the need for all believers to have a desire to seek and know more about our God.

Lunch

Lunch was provided by Southeastern College and catered by the on campus Lighthouse Café. Donations were given by indi-

viduals to help with the cost.

BMA Seminary President Dr. Charley Holmes was present and spoke concerning the ministry of the Seminary and also as director of the Baptist Publishing House and its literature ministry. He noted that during the recent Covid pandemic many churches did not have Sunday School or extra bible study classes and this certainly impacted sales.

Moral Action Director Dr. John Adams brought his report and noted that he has been in contact with our government leaders, but due to the pandemic he has not traveled to Washington. He urged each of us to contact our representatives and urge them to support the Christian nature of our founding and to share that we want to continue as a Christian nation.

Bro. Scott Kirkland gave the final enrollment report and noted that there were 35 churches represented by mes-

senger with 64 messengers present. There were officially 9 visitors noted and one petitionary letter from Redemption Baptist Church of Diamondhead, Mississippi.

The messengers approved a motion to give Southeastern College a \$500 donation to help with expenses of hosting the meeting and providing the noon meal.

The 2021 Annual meeting will be held at First Baptist Church of Shady Grove in Laurel on October 19-20, 2021.



WMA registration at Monday WMA meeting

Worldview

from page 1

this good for human flourishing?"

Author and Professor Owen Strachan of Grace Bible Theological Seminary in Arkansas is also joining the Center for Biblical Worldview.

"Owen has a book coming out later this summer on critical race theory (CRT), and Owen is going to join us this summer to help make sure that we are explaining what the issue is, why people need to care about it, and then what we can do about it," Closson reports.

The Center for Biblical Worldview's website features a video and information that addresses, among other things, human sexuality, pro-life engagement, and religious liberty.

Gulfport Church Seeks Pastor

Campground Baptist Church, Gulfport, is seeking a qualified pastor. Our congregation has a desire to serve with and follow a shepherd led by God. If you feel interested please send a resume to southernirrigation@att.net and the pastor search committee will prayerfully reach out to you in confidence.

Our goal at Campground is to serve God and follow his will.

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



Larry Geraldson
Director



www.bmams.org - 601.428.8616

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Howard



Josh and Mary Helen
Daniels



Estuardo &
Yasmine Marroquin

Missions & Revolving Loan Fund Report Mid-Year Meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi May 18, 2021

Ps 9:1 says, "I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will show forth all thy marvelous works." This transliteration of the Hebrew word *para* means distinguished, extraordinary, wonderful, or marvelous. The first use of the word is found in Gen 18:14 when the Lord appeared unto Abraham and told him that Sarah would have a child. There was some discussion and, if you remember, Sarah laughed at the idea. But verse 14 says, "Is any thing too hard for the Lord? There it is, "...any thing..." *pa ra*, extraordinary, wonderful, marvelous. I stand before you today to report on the "marvelous work" of God!

Missions

Operation

We are currently supporting (directly or indirectly) 13 men who are involved in missionary activity across the State. Most recently, we saw one of our missions organize as a New Testament Church; Redemption Baptist Mission at Diamondhead, under the leadership of Missionary Pastor Wesley Martin. (Play Video and recognize Bro. Wesley for a job well done) Wesley will continue to serve as a Missionary Coach and we are grateful for his service.

We have two other missions scheduled to organize this year: 1) El Camino in Hattiesburg; 2) Midway in Batesville.

Two changes to our missions program have greatly enhanced our overall missions effort: 1) Coaching and Training Ministry; 2) Associate Missionary program.

Coaching and Training - recently the coaches conducted an interview with each of our missionaries to assess where they are in the process and to develop a strategic approach to provid-



Missions Director Larry Geraldson presented missionaries & missionary coaches

ing them the training and coaching that they need. This has been well received and our coaches, under the leadership of Bro. Sidney Farmer, are doing an outstanding job.

Our Associate Missionary program will allow men to receive the training and experience necessary for church planting.

In addition to this, we added an emphasis on professional development and helped to remove any barriers by creating an enhanced scholarship relationship with our BMA of America Theological Seminary. Through this shared relationship, any of our missionaries or pastors can take courses from our Seminary and only pay for books and fees.

Our Hispanic Missions ministry continues to grow under the leadership of Bro. Estuardo Marroquin, who serves as our Hispanic Missions Manager. Recently, we ordained Bro. Leo Adan, Missionary Pastor at El Camino Hattiesburg and we look forward to the organization services for El Camino Hattiesburg on July 10 at 2pm at the Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg. We invite all of you to attend.

Our jail ministry is progressively developing, under the leadership of Dr. Paul Spurlin, to become the exportable model that we hope it can be. Bro. Paul has successfully begun to establish a reoccurring presence in the Jasper and Jones county jails and is enlarging his effort to reach youth and Hispanics.

As this ministry grows, we hope to provide a ministry model that could be embraced by any of our churches that have a burden for those who are behind bars.

Administration

As is the case with all of our operational ministries, we require regular reporting of ministry activity and progress. Our churches expect accountability and our missionaries understand this.

Financial

At the October meeting, I reported that we had made some adjustments that would allow us to operate at 100% efficiency on into the future. I am excited to report to you that every month since then, we have operated at 100% efficiency. It looks like we will close our year in the black (as it relates to our budget) and our Special Emphasis, which is still ongoing, appears to be getting close to our goal. If we make our goal, it will be the first time we have made our Special Emphasis goal in the 10 years that I have been your Director. We are very grateful and thankful for your support.

Facilities

We have two building projects, in the works, that we will be supporting: Phase II for Redemption Baptist Church at Diamondhead; and Phase I for Refuge Baptist Mission at the Kiln. Both of these projects will provide your church and your people opportunities to support and serve. Please be praying

about this.

Future

Recently, the Missionary Committee met and interviewed Samuel Yager to serve as an Associate Missionary, working alongside his dad, Chris Yager, for a period of two years. During this time, he will undergo training in preparation for participation in our church planting efforts.

I am currently talking with two other men about missions opportunities in the State. Please pray with me, that God will raise up more men to join our missions team.

Also, after consulting with the Missionary Committee, we are moving forward with a plan to bring an additional Hispanic person, from Guatemala, to serve as a full time church planter on the coast. We have come to realize that the population of Hispanics along the coast has grown tremendously and the only way we are going to make an impact is to get someone who can serve full time.

Closing

I am completing my 10th year as your Director and I am just as excited about things as the first day I arrived. God is blessing us and we need to be faithful stewards of the opportunities He is giving us.

Revolving Loan Fund

The Revolving Loan Fund is a non-profit, private association sponsored, shareholder funded fund. It was created to solicit and safeguard funds primarily from individuals and churches within the association and use those funds to make loans to churches and missions.

Operational Overview

- Gross Assets are just shy of \$28,000,000.00.

- We currently have 646 shareholder accounts totaling \$24,563,127.00

- We have 67 active loans with

a loan receivable balance of \$12,112,548.84

- We currently are maintaining a 30% cash reserve

- We have \$2,807,086.10 in approved loans that have not yet been dispensed

- We have \$4,657,619.49 available to loan

- We are currently maintaining a 30% cash reserve apart from our funds available to loan

- We are not currently opening new accounts but we are maintaining a waiting list

The rate of new loans slowed down during the past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The rate is starting to increase and we feel confident that it will continue to get better as we progress through the year.

The overall operation of the Fund is sound. We are going to close the year in the black. Our year end close out is July 31st. After this, we will have a team of auditors visit with us during the second week of August.

In May of last year, Bro. Vernon Newman retired as the RLF Manager. At that time I began to pray and seek God's will concerning a replacement. I have been in constant communication with the Chairman of the RLF Trustee Board, Bro. Kenneth Lott, as well as, Bro. James Sprayberry, Chairman of the Missionary Committee. Though a vote, by the Trustees is not required, I did solicit and received their unanimous affirmation of my choice to serve as our new RLF Manager, Bro. Jeff Dixon.

My conversation with Bro. Dixon began a year ago when Bro. Newman retired. We have had many discussions and much prayer. Bro. Jeff Dixon has been in ministry for over 30 years, serving as a pastor, church planter, and staff minister in the BMA. He follows in the ministry footsteps of his father, the late Thomas "Bud" Dixon, also a faithful pastor and church planter. Jeff is a 1989 graduate

Southeastern Baptist College

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

Serving Christ With A Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

The last six months have been a busy time for Southeastern Baptist College. We started the Fall Semester with the largest full time study body in the history of the school. We were able to hold 'in class-room' courses while simultaneously offering online classes.



Dr. Scott Carson
President

We just finished the Spring Semester and graduated four ministry students and one business student. We are again offering a short summer semester at half price. We pray it is as successful as the one we offered last year. The summer semester runs from May 26 to July 2.

Our staff has been working diligently for the future of SBC. They were successful in achieving approval for expanding our two four-year degrees into five additional degree paths for future students. We will soon announce these degrees and field them in the Fall Semester. In addition, the staff continues to press forward on the very difficult project of achieving licensure from the Mississippi Department of Education for an Elementary Education Degree. This is a labor intensive effort; however, we are beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel on this project.

In regard to our sports program, our men's basketball team capped off the season by winning the Bible College National Invitational Tournament, and ten days later, winning the National Christian College Athletic Association South Regional Tournament. This was accom-

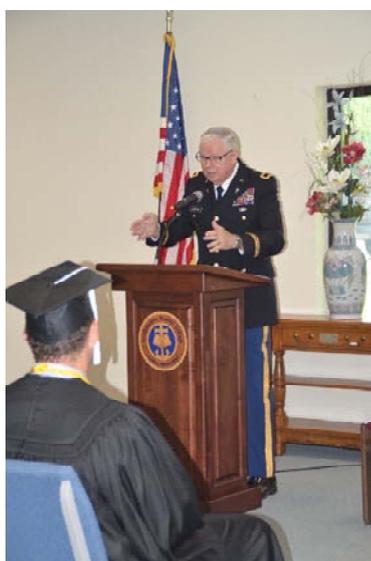
panied with an invitation to play in the national playoffs in Joplin, Missouri. The Women's Basketball team did well this year and came in second in the Bible College NIT. This was also our first year for our Baseball program. They also did well and were invited to the NCCAA Regional Playoffs.

In the meantime, we have already recruited full benches for each of these sports for next season and we will also field a women's softball team for the first time in the history of the college. In the future we plan to also offer volleyball and soccer. Our Athletic Director, Buddy Duke, has decided to fully retire at the end of this month, but God is good, and has brought to us a replacement that started work only yesterday. The new Athletic Director is Coach Richard Lopez.



Coach Richard (RE) Lopez signing his contract as the new SBC Athletic Director

SBC has many needs. We want to replace the carpets in the main classroom building and the downstairs of the men's dorm with tile. We need volunteer help or discounted contractors for



Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Bo Bankston bringing commencement address

this work to be completed before the beginning of August.

Also, we must expand the upstairs bathroom of the men's dorm and rework the women's dorm showers. But the greatest need is additional housing. We are currently remodeling the President's House and when it is complete it will house 14 students. But this does not get us where we need to be. We have more students wanting to come to SBC in the fall than we can house. One might say this is a good problem, but it's also a big problem! If you can help us find a solution, please let us know as soon as possible. We are working on it and have a possibility, but that is all it is at this time. Please pray earnestly for a quick solution.

One additional blessing to share, Covid 19 had negative effects on the operation of the Lighthouse Café. Our contractor can no longer afford to operate it, so he has decided not to renew his contract with SBC. However, we have another local contractor who will be taking over very soon. Some of you know of the Holloway's who operated a café for many years on Highway 84 just outside of Laurel. They have sold that business and will be contracting with SBC with an expanded menu and will be open for additional hours and days throughout the week.

As we look into the future with strategic planning, SBC has contracted with the Timothy Group, a very experienced Christian fund raising organization. They are going to assist us in a fund raising campaign



SBC Trustees honor Brother Dennis Rankin for his 28 years of support to SBC

2021 Graduation

Commencement was held on Saturday, May 15 with Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Bo Bankston, a retired BMAA Mississippi Army National Guard Command Chaplain, as our guest speaker. See adjacent photos. Those graduating were:



2021 graduates of Southeastern Baptist College

Thomas "Jess" Jackson of Hattiesburg with a BS in Church Ministry

- *SBC Academic Award
- *Delta Epsilon Chi Honor Society Award
- *D. N. Jackson Theology Award
- *President's Honor Roll List for Spring Semester

Charles Meadows of Olive Branch with a BS in Church Ministry

- *SBC Certificate of Christian Service Award
- *President's Honor Roll List for Spring Semester

Christopher Spence of Lake with an AA in Bible

- *SBC Servant Leader Training Award
- *Dean's Honor Roll List for Spring Semester

Victor Harris of Laurel with an AA in Bible

Antony Nicholson of Laurel with an AA in Business Administration

that is primarily exterior to that of our churches. Every college in the nation has a capital campaign office that does this. However, this project is an entirely new venture for SBC. We will be seeking additional avenues of revenue to meet the constant demand of infrastructure repair and replacement, as well as ex-



SBC student Carey Jones and Assistant Athletic Director Rhonda Sims singing a duet prior to the midyear message

pansion of the college to accommodate the rapid growth as the Lord leads. Believe me, we don't want to do anything that is out of His will. At the same time, we

absolutely must walk confidently forward by faith as He leads the college into a bright future.

If ever our nation needed a Bible centered secondary educational platform, it is now. SBC is this school and we will hold our ground against the counter-culture that is attempting to remove conservative Christian institutions from the educational landscape.

This is your college! Thank you for your continued prayers and encouraging words. This school cannot exist without your continuing support. God bless you!

Equipping the Saints,
Dr. Carson



SBC student Dakota Harper provides special music at the beginning of the BMA of Mississippi Midyear program

MINISTERING TO YOUNG PEOPLE

by Anders Lee

CAMP TIME AGAIN!!!

Last year many & most camps did not happen. I am thankful that I was connected to two local associations who were determined to have a camp. It was a joy to see 124 teens go to camp, 11 were saved and 1 surrendered to ministry! In fact, I think that camp was the only one in the whole BMA (not to brag and I could be wrong).



Anders Lee

Why is camp important to me personally? In short, as a kid, teen, and adult it was at camp that God has done a great work in my life. I wasn't saved at camp, but it was at camps when I was drawn to the Lord many times and came to understand my need of salvation. There is no doubt God used camp lead-

ing up to my own salvation. At camp God made clear my calling to ministry. At age 13 I will never forget going to the altar (the stage at Perk near Wiggins) and telling the Lord if He was calling I was willing.

Camp has been instrumental in my wife's life and in the life of my kids. My son Zac surrendered to ministry at camp (he is now a BMA youth pastor). My son Reagan was saved at camp and seven years later surrendered to ministry at camp. My daughter Siera was saved at camp! My son Simon was saved at camp! I guess I've made my point... CAMP is very important to me.

Now that the restraints of COVID have been lifted, it is so great to see all the many camps that are being planned this Spring! My heart is so excited about what God will do this summer in the lives of BMA kids &

teens all over!

What's so special about camp? Glad you asked!!!

First, it is a time to get teens away from everything in the "world" for a while! Let's face it,



the rest of the year they are immersed in this wicked culture that we live in. Every day they endure the agenda of the enemy at school and work. Some of them have to live in it at home too!

Second, it is a time when God can clarify in their hearts what He has been saying to them already. Teens are BUSY these days. My daughter (who is 16) is in school of course, takes piano lessons which leads to seasonal recitals, is in the school choir

which also leads to seasonal concerts, and is in the theatre team at Desoto Central which puts on 6 major presentations a year. Oh, she is also a hostess at a local restaurant. They need a

opportunities for discipleship and service once back in the context of the church life.

Fourth, its FUN!!! Oh my goodness! The games! The team competitions! The stupid videos that we do (at our camp it's the Kudzu Man Videos—you'd have to be there to understand—HA!). The bon-fires, the friendships formed, the biscuit & gravy breakfast, cabin life... I could go on and on. Camp proves that Christians can have good clean FUN (well clean as in holy—'cause we all know campers aren't clean—HA!)

Fifth, it's a decision time! I've seen more teens get saved at camp than any other ministry effort. I've seen young men surrender to ministry in the camp setting so many times! I've seen teen's lives transformed and sin repented of so often! The names and faces of teens pop into my mind as I write this. It doesn't mean that what you are doing in youth group isn't important, no, not at all. It just seems to culminate at camp for reasons I've stated.

So, what am I saying... CAMP is AWESOME!!! So no matter what... this summer... GET YOUR KIDS & TEENS TO CAMP!!! WHOOOOO Let's GOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!

Lee is pastor of Central Church, Southaven, Mississippi and may be contacted at anders.lee571@gmail.com

More News From Southeastern College

Recognitions

A special thank you to:

Violet Holifield for your donation of \$50 in memory of Marley Rivers Watkins

Larry & Teresa Gavin for your donation of \$1000 in memory of Alton Gavin

Don & Bonnie Brown for your donation of \$500 in memory of Stephanie Howell

The children in memory of Elma McLaurin Flynt, who dearly loved Southeastern Baptist College, for your donation of \$102,343.

Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Blackwell for your gift of \$14,000

An anonymous donor for your gift of \$10,000

Café Name Change

Because of the effects of COVID 19 on the finances of the café, our contractor has decided not renew and, therefore, the name "Lighthouse Café" is re-

tired. However, the Lord has already blessed us with a new contractor. The Holloway Dairy Bar will take over the café operations and they plan a "soft" reopening on June 7, 2021. There will be an expanded menu with additional hours and days of operation. An official "grand opening" event will be scheduled soon.

Equipment Trailer

SBC is in need of a small enclosed trailer for hauling sports equipment and luggage for our athletes during out of town games. Perhaps a church or an individual has a trailer that hasn't been used for a while that can be quickly fixed up and donated to SBC for this need. Contact us at 601-426-6346 if you have a solution for us.

Available to Fill Your Pulpit!

Thank you to the Washing-

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



Christian Inshetski and family at his signing for Chargers Basketball. Christian is from Stonewall MS where he attended Clarkdale High School



Basketball Coach Hall recently signed Landyn Shows of Petal MS and is transferring to SBC from East Central Community College

SBC new Athletic Director, Richard Lopez, speaking at the signing of new Charger Baseball athletes for the 2021 Fall Semester



National Galilean Camp 2021

by Kenneth Colvert, National Galilean Director

Galileans are set for National Camp. Dates, June 25 -28, are firm this year. We appreciate your understanding about last year's camp and are so thankful for all who attended. Furthermore, all were safe and Covid free! We are looking forward to a more normal camp with fewer restrictions this year. This writer is praying more

Galilean groups will be able to attend.

This will be the 5th year to meet at StoneRidge Baptist Camp in Smithville, Arkansas. What a great place to call

home. Scott Small and his staff always outdo themselves to ensure a safe and quality camp experience for all. Roger Pearce will serve as camp Pastor again. He was such a blessing to us last year.

The camp fee, \$71.50 per camper, is due upon arrival at camp. Make checks payable to StoneRidge Baptist Camp. Groups will need to pre-register by June 11. Registration will begin at 1 p.m. on Friday. Camp will dismiss around 10 a.m. on Monday. Visitor's Night will be completely restored this year and will be held on Sunday evening. The Advancement Service will begin at 7:30 p.m. All camp leaders are so excited about camp and are looking forward to seeing you there.

For more information about this year's camp visit The National Galilean website: galileans.com. If you have questions about camp or the Galilean Ministry, feel free to text or call me at 479 629 3258 or e-mail krcolvert@cox.net .



Prayer at Galilean Camp

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



I'm a Recovering Worrier

You might think from some of my writings that I have always been one who looks at a glass as half-full, not half-empty. But I've got to confess that I'm just a worrier that God has shown over and over a better way, mainly through His word, but also people I have known. I'm a recovering worrier because I fall off the wagon sometimes, but God has a way of bringing me back.

When I used to worry excessively, I was inclined to talk about the situation a lot! Raise your hand if that describes you too.

One day, JB and I were on our way to see Mother and Daddy. I don't remember how long I had been worrying out loud about something that was catastrophic in my mind. But, when I finally stopped and took a breath, I looked at him. Driving down the road, he had the happiest expression on his face that said, "I don't have a care in this world." He was probably singing under his breath those classic Gaither lyrics, "I believe, so why should I worry or fret?" He was annoyingly happy that way.

I couldn't believe it. So, I asked him, "Aren't you worried at all?" I will forever remember his answer. "No, you're worrying enough for both of us. I don't need to worry." Well, that was stupid of me wasn't it? I've got to admit he forced me to look at myself and I didn't really like what I saw.

Another time, we were together, and I was doing the worry thing again. He looked at me and said, "I used to feel like Joe Btfsplk." He was a cartoon character in the Li'l Abner comics back in the day who was well meaning, but brought disastrous misfortune to everyone around him. He always had a dark raincloud over his head. He continued, "But I've figured it out. You've got the black cloud over your head, and I'm just standing too close to you and getting rained on."

That will make you stop and think!

I've already told you that

laughter has been such a part of my life, and that's mainly JB's influence. When our mother died, he was instrumental in helping my family come together, plan the funeral, get through it, and face life without her. When Daddy died, JB had opened a used bookstore and couldn't leave in time to help plan the funeral. I wish you could have heard all the instructions that we needed to follow to organize the funeral. He really thought we couldn't do it without him.

JB died a little over a year later. Middle Sister's immediate comment when she heard was,



Carolyn Hagler



My Backyard View from My Rocking Chair

"Well, you know he thinks we will surely mess up his funeral." Even then, I had to chuckle.

Living with a man of faith like JB, who handled almost everything with his usual laugh, or comments about the Lord's will, or his way of always making me laugh slowly had an impact on me. Seeing his faith, I started looking at my worry as a lack of faith.

I've read the research that most things we worry about never happen. I don't know about that. But what I do know is that God's Word certainly teaches us that Jesus brings victory to all of us believers. If we let Satan put seeds of worry and doubt in our mind, we will let them grow and affect our thoughts and behavior--unless we remember that God is always faithful, and He will always provide the way out.

During my years with JB, who

was with me during most of my extremely stressful times, I gave most of the credit to him for getting me through them. That support came to an end when he died.

What did I learn when he died? I learned that it was the Lord Himself, who carried me through it all. He just used JB many times to give me hope and encouragement and the example to follow.

My litmus test today is the faithfulness of God after losing JB. God was faithful then too and taught me that "weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." Only through that loss could I learn that Psalm 30:5 is true. He is so good all the time in all circumstances. He certainly gives me the victory of rejoicing and looking toward the future. Immediately? No, it usually takes time.

How do I keep my worry under control?

1. I remember that Philippians 4:8 says to think on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely.... not on the circumstances. Sitting here this morning with No. 1 Sister and the dogs, I can reflect on things lovely that bring a sense of peace. It's hard for me to worry when I'm looking at God's creation. "I believe, I believe. So why should I worry or fret?"

2. I read Scripture, especially the Psalms.

3. I pray even when I don't have words.

4. I get out and do something, like working in my yard, walking, exercising, and visiting people.

5. I stay eager to be in church. I've seen too many people stay away from church during hard times. I need my church family all the time, the good and bad times.

6. I gather with friends. During hard times, I don't always "feel like it." I do it anyway.

7. I let God speak to me through Southern Gospel music and hymns. They remind me of the great truths I know. A song by Greater Vision reminds me that "God has been faithful all along, and I will trust Him for tomorrow."

As someone once said, "Worrying does not take away tomorrow's trouble; it takes away today's peace." God has taught me that worry gets me nowhere, much like a rocking chair. He is the victor over worry.

Do you want to worry over circumstances or enjoy your day with the Lord? Choose joy. Today is a brand-new day for opportunities. Don't be a Joe Btfsplk. I choose joy; and even in trying times, I remain in His grip.

MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Director

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

On The Web at www.macbma.net/

Email - fbcdmaj@yahoo.com

"Contact Your Leaders"

As reported to the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi meeting at Southeastern College, Laurel, Mississippi, May 18, 2021, on behalf of Moral Action, we challenged the church messengers to telephone, write, text, or visit your State and National leaders. A brief and kind message will do much for reminding political leaders of keeping God and His Son alive in our American culture and homes.

The far left ideology is using a so-called "cancel culture" to destroy Christian people who dissent their liberal views. The 3 liberal anti-God, anti-church, and especially anti-Bible culture have a desire to silence all believers in God and His Son.

According to Alliance Defending Freedom and its President-CEO, Dr. Michael Farris of Scottsdale, Arizona, states "In the media, where members routinely disparage anyone who stands up for religious freedom, free speech, and life, including judges who believe the U.S. Constitution should be applied as its authors intended.

This ideology suggests that America is oppressive—and must be torn down. It rejects free speech and religious freedom. It devalues human life. And it pushes a radical transgender ideology that leaves all children touched by it confused and scarred". And on and on.....

BM. of Mississippi, please share your heart to your leaders:

Gov. Tate Reeves
P.O. Box 139
Jackson, MS 39205
601-359-3150

Congressman Trent Kelly – 1st
202-225-5876

Senator Roger Wicker
202-224-6253

Con. Bennie Thompson – 2nd
202-225-4306

Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith
202-224-5054

Congressman Michael Guest – 3rd
202-225-5031

Congressman Steven Palazzo – 4th
202-225-5772



Dr. Adams

History & Archives Commission

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440

J. R. Graves

The Work of Christ Consummated in Seven Dispensations
Chapter Seven – The Work of Christ in the Covenant of Redemption
Part 1 of 3

Did Christ Undertake to Make an Atonement for all Adam's Race? -Were not some Specially Given him by the Father to save? -Will he not Save all the Father Gave him without the Loss of One? -Will he save More than his Father Gave him? -Dr. Alvah Hovey's Position Explained and Examined.

THE questions at the head of this chapter are of vital importance to the right understanding of the Covenant of Redemption and Word of God, and deserve our prayerful and unprejudiced examination.

Did Christ undertake to save all the lost and perishing under the curse of God's broken law, -angels and men? Universalists alone affirm that he did, and that he ultimately will save all, without the loss of one; because all, both angels and men, were given him by the

Father.

If his atonement was limited, and to Adam's race only, did it include all, or only a part, of the human family? All denominations, with the above exception, hold and teach that only a part, and comparatively a small part, of Adam's race will be saved; and if not, then must it not be because they were not included in the

Covenant of Redemption, and given to Christ to save?

It is quite impossible to bring an unprejudiced mind and a balanced reason to the examination of these questions. All Bible readers have taken position; and the verdict of the world is made up; and how difficult to reverse or modify it. They involve the sovereignty of God in the bestowment of his favors. All



Jason Howard
Director

see History on page 8

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

WMAofMS20@gmail.com

President Theresa Reus

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

Treasurer Mrs. Shirlene Smith

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

Ladies Retreat Information

by Kathy Walley
September 17-18, 2021

Ladies,

It is now time to begin making your plans to attend the "Ladies Retreat" in September. Things will look a little different this year because we will be meeting at the Holiday Inn in Pearl. Camp Garaywa was not available and I believe change can be good. I hope each of you are as excited as I am to be able to meet together and experience the "Joy" that comes from the Lord.

Charlotte Johnson, a vibrant speaker from Texas, will be our speaker. She will be bringing new ideas to our Retreat. Please pray for her daily. The theme is "Joy" from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

We will have a Hospitality Room 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" so do not forget to bring items for this.

There will be great door prizes and you might even find a "happy" on your table.

It has been suggested that we have "Book Exchange" so bring that book you have read and get a book in exchange. There will be a table in the meeting room set for this exchange.

Your Registration Form should be mailed 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. This is due by September 12, 2021.

You will need to call the Holiday Inn, (601) 639-5238 to make your reservations. The rooms will accommodate four (4) people. The cost is \$109.00 per room. The Hospitality Room and our rooms will be on the second floor. We will all be together. 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 150 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.

Ladies Retreat Registration

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

Church: _____

	Name	Phone No.
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Registration Fee: \$50.00 per person.

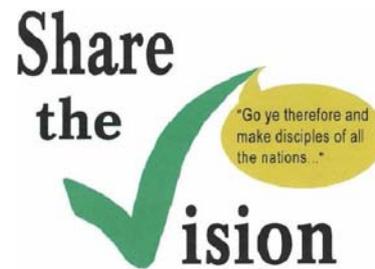
Mail to: Beth Caldwell, 166 Twin Creek Rd, Lucedale, MS 39452

Share The Vision

by Jackie Ricks, Editor
National WMA

The 2021 National WMA Women's Conference will expand on the previous theme of Catch the Vision. This year we will learn to Share the Vision. The key verses of the theme come from Acts 26:19-20. The meeting will take place at Heritage Baptist Church in Waxahachie, Texas, on August 3, 2021. Registration will begin at 8:30 am. Then a short business meeting will be followed by the women's conference from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Lunch (\$15) will also be available for those who wish to remain at the church to eat.

The keynote speaker for the event will be Sabrina Clayton, a talented vocalist and inspirational speaker from Fulton, Mississippi. Valarie Fish, vocalist/



writer/speaker/encourager from Emerson, Arkansas, will bring the special music.

The conference will also include four choices of breakout sessions to attend. Judy Biggers of Springfield, Arkansas, will present Share the Vision through Gospel Music. Pat Quesenbury, who lives in Arlington, Texas, plans to bring a session to Share the Vision through Women's Ministries. Those who wish to Share the Vision through the Written Word will hear from Jackie Ricks

of Mineola, Texas, who wrote Baptist Publishing House literature for 14 years and has published 3 Bible studies and 8 Christian fiction books. Finally, Kim Mobly and Penny Jacobs of Oklahoma, will present Share the Vision through Community Outreach.

To register, send information for each lady attending to President Jodi Rhea at Jodi Rhea, 40156 E CR 1631, Wynnewood, OK 73098 or email her at mrsrsrhea75@gmail.com. Please include names, church name, whether you will be attending the conference part and whether you will have lunch. The \$15 for lunch will be collected at the door.

The National WMA urges all ladies to take time to attend the Women's Conference. It has been a great addition to our national meeting the last few years. We hope to see you there!

Reflecting God's Heart for the Nations

by Holly Meriweather
from ational Missions Office

Her Call to Ministry

"I want to go to the marginalized, the immoral, the un-evangelized and the spiritually dead." Romanian Sara Filimon wanted to be a missionary for as long as she can remember. Saved around the age of 13, God gave her a desire to tell people about Jesus, become a missionary, and go abroad to share the gospel to the unreached.

The church she attended with her family when she was younger, Sara says, was a more legalistic, sometimes works-based church, so as a teenager she joined a more gospel-centered one. All the while, her desire to evangelize continued, and she began making plans to attend a college in the United States that would train her to be a missionary.

Fully supported by her family, she began the search for a Christian college in America and found many possibilities. Her selection process included writing the names of possible colleges on different pieces of paper, praying over them, then picking one from the pile: Davis College in Johnson City, New York, was the winner.

Her Unexpected Path

So at the age of 19, she boarded a plane to begin the training that would help her answer the call to full-time ministry. She

soon began making an impact on campus. A Tunisian friend who was a Muslim asked her why she talked so much about Jesus. She replied, "If you knew him, if you knew what he could do in your life, you would understand."

During her junior year at Davis, the college moved campuses . . . so she just found another one, Clarks Summit College in Pennsylvania, where she completed her studies and a missions internship. She graduated in December of 2020 with an intercultural studies degree and two months left on her student visa during which to raise support.

Always assuming her mission field would be among a faraway people group, she was surprised when God revealed his ministry plan for her that would actually involve a familiar location and her family: Sara's older sister and brother-in-law, Vanessa and Cristian Martinez who were headed to Romania.

The couple had been called to plant churches and minister in Brasov and they were finishing their support-raising in the States as Sara finished college. Their plan is to first reach Romanians and equip them to be sent to the unreached. Then together they would reach students coming to Romanian colleges who are attracted to their

first-rate education and inexpensive tuition. From those relationships they would plant gospel-centered churches to disciple and mobilize them to return to their own countries after graduating and repeat the process.

Their vision and Sara's were the same, and the potential of sharing her faith with the lost was what she had prayed for, so she was excited to join their team. Although it was unex-

pected, she knew God was calling her back to Romania, a country located right above the 10/40 window and with a great potential to evangelize unreached people groups.

Her Return to Romania

So with only 60 days remaining on her student visa, she spent those two months at BMA headquarters in Conway, Arkansas, for pre-field training, mentoring, and – because she didn't have a driver's license – transportation to support-raising appointments. Most new missionaries have a lot more time to raise support, which was further complicated by unprecedented snowfall that shut down churches where she had appointments.

Finally, after a lifetime of

see Romania on page 8



Sara Filimon

Romanian Missions

from page 7

preparation for the mission field, Sara arrived in Bra ov on February 26, 2021, completed a ten-day quarantine then began searching for an apartment close to Transylvania University. Putting her English skills and Bible college training to work, Sara hit the ground running during her first two months on the field: She began translating sermons into English at the church where she was baptized, started a seminary that meets there monthly, and served as counselor at a camp for orphaned children.

Her desire for the seminary, she says, "... is to build relationships with students and help them grow in their knowledge of Jesus Christ, who shapes my whole life."

Her Team

In addition to those two labors of love, Sara and the Bra ov team meet consistently to make plans for reaching people for God's glory and to pray that their decisions align with God's will. In addition to Cristian and Vanessa Martinez, the Bra ov team will soon be joined by the Risner family: Bryan and Pam and their children Melody, Landon and Lindsey.

The Risners currently serve in Santandrei, six hours away. On the field since 2017, they are ready to turn over their ministry to ChangeMakers Marius and Adina and move to Bra ov.

Bryan and Pam and their children minister to and plant churches among the Romani – gypsies – and to their broader community. Cristian and Vanessa have pastoral and college student ministry experience from their time in America.

The team is ready to plant churches and mobilize college students.



Romanian Gypsies

Gospel Hindrances

Sara says eastern orthodox churches in Romania believe salvation is through works, not faith in Christ. Romania was a communist country until 1989, and that freedom-less mentality is still ingrained in the older generation. For the younger generations, exploring personal freedom is important.

Another part of their ministry will be to gypsies, who suffer from marginalization, discrimination, and father-less households. Romani men often take jobs in other countries for seasonal work, so their wives and children are used to their absence.

Sara and the team believe

that believers are the church, that Christ is its chief cornerstone, and that Jesus reveals himself through it. Sara is motivated by the life-changing decision she made many years ago to accept Christ as her Savior. "If he has changed your life," she says, "you should make an impact on others." Doing so, she says, will help build a healthy

community of believers, which is their vision for people of all cultural backgrounds.

Please join BMA Missions as we pray for Sara's own requests to

... grow in the understanding of God's heart for the nations and what ministry is all about

... build new relationships and preach the gospel to every creature

... allow God to expose the idols in my life, molding my character into his image so whenever he looks at me he will see himself

We plan to reach Romanians first and then equip them for some of them to be sent to the unreached.

BMA Seminary Awards Mitchell Honorary Doctorate

The Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary awarded the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree to Thomas E. Mitchell of Little Rock, Arkansas, during its sixty-fourth commencement exercises on May 15, 2021, in Jacksonville, Texas.

The degree is awarded to individuals for scholarly achievement, attainments which demonstrate unusual creativity, or distinguished service.

The seminary's Board of Trustees decided to award the degree in recognition of Mitchell's distinguished service and ongoing contribution to the Baptist Missionary Association. He has been elected to more positions than anyone in BMA of Arkansas history. With exception of a stint in the U.S. Army, he has served as an officer or trustee for some BMA entity every year since 1964. Currently, he serves as President of the BMA of Arkansas and Chair of the BMA Seminary's Board of Trustees.

Additionally, Mitchell has contributed to writing for sev-

eral BMA publications, including the Baptist Trumpet. He has also performed exemplary acts of community service including the founding and directing several golf tournaments, serving on the Board of Direc-



Seminary Dean Dr. Philip Atteber with Tom Mitchell

tors for the Arkansas Faith and Ethics Council, and chairing Arkansas' Capitol Commission ministry.

His higher education includes studies at Southern Arkansas University and Central Baptist College, from which he received the distinguished alumnus award in 2018.

"I asked an elderly man once what it was like to be old and to know the majority of his life was behind him. He told me that he has been the same age his entire life. He said the voice inside of his head had never aged. He has always just been the same boy. His mother's son. He had always wondered when he would grow up and be an old man. He said he watched his body age and his faculties dull, but the person he is inside never got tired. Never aged. Never changed.

Our spirits are eternal. Our souls are forever. The next time you encounter an elderly person, look at them and know they are still a child, just as you are still a child and children will always need love, attention and purpose." ~ Author Unknown

History

from page 6

men are by nature Arminians; and the absolute sovereignty of God is a doctrine hateful to the natural and depraved heart. False teachers have taken the advantage of this natural feeling, and have for ages inflamed the prejudices of Christian men and women against any exercise of sovereignty on the part of God in this Covenant, either as to his "determinate counsels," his electing love, or his distinguishing grace. They presumptuously and impiously assert, that, unless God extended the same grace to all the lost that he did to those who are saved, he is justly chargeable with partiality and injustice, and, if he saw fit, in the dispensation of his grace, when none would, if left to themselves, accept or desire it, and, indeed, all have rejected it, to so influence the wills of some that they would seek his grace, he is guilty of forcing some men to be

saved, and others to be lost. But we know that the Omniscient God is incapable of doing wrong; and if it is plainly revealed that he passed by all the fallen angels, who will charge him with sin or wrong had he passed by all of Adam's race? How, then, can he be charged with injustice, if he saw fit to save a portion of it?

A clear conception of the Covenant of Redemption will, like the breaking forth of the morning, dispel the difficulties, which, like mists and fog, darken and becloud so much of God's Revealed Word. The right key will easily unlock the loaded treasure-house of Revelation, and save us the crime of attempting to demolish its symmetrical structure, in hopes of reaching its "riches of knowledge."

Now, will not, must not, all unprejudiced Bible-read Christians agree to the following propositions? 1. That the Son undertook and will save all the Father, in the Covenant of Redemption, gave him to save.

2. Since all are not saved, as all evangelical Christians admit, we must conclude that all were not given to the Son.

3. That the Father, in the Covenant of Redemption, gave some of Adam's race to his Son to be redeemed. In proof of these three postulates, we submit Christ's own express declarations:

Joh 6:37-39 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. (38) For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. (39) And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost

none.

Joh 17:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

Joh 17:6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Joh 17:9-10 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. (10) And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

Joh 17:11-12 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. (12) While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

Joh 17:24 Father, I will that they

also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

In the face of these express declarations, who will deny that some were given to the Son to save?

Christ is pleased to allude to himself as he Shepherd of Israel, chosen by the Father, - the Good Shepherd, who layeth down his life for his sheep, i.e., those the Father gave him to redeem from among men. The shepherds of Palestine, as well as those of England and Scotland in our day, have the sheep counted out to them in the spring; and for the safety of these they become personally responsible: so that in the fall, when they are returned, they are counted back; and they are compelled to pay for all they lose. The loss of a part of the flock is an implication of unfaithfulness or lack of ability on the part of the shepherd.

To be continued.