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The Triumph of the Gospel

by Phil Knott

As featured in *mission:world Magazine*

“Juma Mkanga was a radical Muslim. He was an imam, and he was one of the best imams for teaching the Quran in the whole Tabora region of Tanzania,” says Kosmas Kanunu, remembering that day when they first met. Kosmas and his wife had come to this region because there was no one doing the work of the gospel and not one Baptist church existed. Kosmas was a church planter and he was going house to house throughout the city introducing himself, looking for any opportunity to share the good news.

Pastor Kosmas continues his story: “So, we reached the home of Juma. I entered his yard, and he just looked at me, silent, and offered me a chair. I was with my wife so we sat and introduced ourselves. I started sharing the greatest story that has

ever been told - the story of Jesus Christ. He listened to me. A teacher of Islam listened to me! He just sat, reserved and quiet, but surprisingly he listened.



When I had finished, he said, ‘You’re a liar! A liar!’ Juma became very, very angry and told me to leave his home. ‘Could we pray for him and his family,’ I asked. ‘No! Just leave my house!’ Would he accept a book if I left it with him? Perhaps because of my persistence, he said yes, and so we left him a booklet entitled *Who Is Jesus?*”

This account of Kosmas could

be retold many, many times in journals of missionaries throughout the world - those who go where Christ is not named, going to places where

they’re not invited, proclaiming a message that people don’t want to hear. It is hard work and often lonely work. I didn’t ask Kosmas, but I wonder what he felt as they left Juma’s house that day. Did they feel rejected? Scolded by this teacher of Islam? Discouraged? Did they go on to the next house or say to themselves, “That’s enough for today?”

This story from the life and work of a Tanzanian pastor says a lot about the work of all missionaries. First, you must be deliberate, intentional in the work of making disciples. Kosmas was going “house to house” in a city of several hundred thousand. He is one of those tireless servants of the gospel who will leave “no stone unturned.” Making disciples has to be intentional. D.A. Carson wrote, “People do not drift toward holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord.”

In proclaiming the gospel, you should also be thorough. Kosmas, when given the opportunity, told the story of Jesus, the complete account of his life, his death, and his resurrection. He was thoroughly prepared.

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Early Special Emphasis Needed

by the editor

Below is a request from the Board of Trustees of Southeastern Baptist College. The school is making progress and the future looks very promising. We encourage all to heed this request for early Special Emphasis giving.

From the Trustee Board

You can help your school. Southeastern is accredited and accepted by religious institutions across America, but we need to get accreditation with all educational institutions. To do this our school must show itself financially in the black at the end of this month and again at the end of next June. You can help by your church giving their special emphasis for the college before the end of this month. Of course individual contributions will certainly help.

Thank you for helping.
Your Board of Directors

Invitation To Greece

by Ralph Izard, M.D.

The Baptist Medical Missions International, commonly called the BMMI, has been invited to minister to the refugees in Greece. This is the first time we have worked in a Nation which is part of the European Union. Therefore, we have limited our clinical time to 3 days and reserved one day for sightseeing. There will be restriction different from most clinics that we set up around the world. We look forward for the opportunity to minister to these refugees. We then plan to fly to Tel Aviv,



BMMI in action

Israel for six days. During the tour of Israel, you will see the Jordan River, Masada, the Dead

Sea, the Garden Tomb and the Garden of Gethsemane. You will walk the Via De Larrosa, visit Bethlehem and many more ex-

iting areas that truly bring the Bible to life.

Before returning home, we plan to cross the border to Amman, Jordan to visit Zarka Baptist Church and attend service with our missionary, Sam Jordan.

We, in turn would like to invite you to go with us. This is a medical trip, but we are opening it up to anyone who would like to travel with us. If you are led to be part of this BMMI team, please E-Mail the BMMI at ralph@bmaam.com or angela@bmamissions.org for more information. We plan to depart for Athens on October 22 and return from Amman, Jordan on November 4, 2018.

BMA Information Services

Where Information Powers Relationships

What is BMA Information Services?

Information Services is a resource center for all entities of the BMA. Every year an information survey is sent to each BMA church. The information collected, along with information about our national association, departments, agencies, and auxiliary ministries, is used to produce the annual BMA Church Directory and Handbook. This resource exists for the benefit of our entire BMA family, but its value depends directly on your participation.

What information do we collect?

1. Church info—address, phone number, website, etc.
2. Church staff—names, roles, and contact information
3. Church ministries and stats—membership, attendance, growth, and ministries offered

Why do we collect this information?

Accurate information empowers communication, and effective communication is a vital element to any healthy organi-

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Ministering To Young People

by Anders Lee

Parent Sponsors for Summer Trips

I have lost count of how many trips I have taken with youth groups. My first official trip was in June of 1990. Yeah, I'm old. I took a group of 11 teens to a camp in Louisiana. Wow! That was back in the day. I borrowed my aunt's mini-van and rented another Dodge caravan from a local place. I thought I was big time when I pulled out of the church parking lot... but I digress. On that trip I was blessed to take one of the sweet Grandmas with me to be the sponsor for the girls. She was perfect for the job. However, through the years I haven't always been so blessed.

Obviously you have to have sponsors to go on the trips with you or you couldn't go. It's hard to find all the right ones for any one trip. If you stay at a church for a long period of time, you come to learn who should and shouldn't go. The first couple of years at any new position is all trial and error. Here's a few pointers on dealing with sponsors.

1. Ask Them Questions!

If you don't know the person well, take time to meet with them before the trip. Ask specific questions so that you can find out their strengths and weaknesses, what they are willing to do or not do.

2. Communicate!

Before the trip takes place, make sure

they know the expectations you have of a sponsor for the trip. If you don't tell them, they are going to have different presuppositions about it. Are they driving a vehicle, having to be responsible for certain kids, be accountable for hotels, a money or card holder for kids, etc. They need to have a full overview of what you need them to do.



If you don't you may find out that they had other ideas in mind about the trip. You also need to be on the same page before you leave about the trip schedule. As the old saying goes, no surprise is the best surprise, so communicate... communicate... communicate...

3. Be In Charge!

I'm not saying be an obnoxious tyrant. However, you are the leader and most sponsors want to know that they can follow their leader. They want to know that you are going to be the one to step up and take the bull by the horns in certain situations. They generally don't want to be the bad guy to someone else's kids, they want you to be! But... then there is that ONE sponsor who wants to take control of the trip and run it... and they want to run YOU! So have a clear leadership quality about you, laced with a Christian loving spirit that indicates from the beginning that you are indeed in charge, and the buck stops with you.

You can't have someone else calling the shots on the trip, you will lose respect from your other sponsors and your kids too.

4. Use a One on One Approach for Problems.

Eventually, the time will come when you will have an issue with one of your sponsors. Don't call a meeting with all of them and proceed to lecture the group about the one person's problem. Don't set a policy for that trip that sets a precedent for all other trips and other sponsors. Simply and graciously deal with each sponsor as needed.

5. Be Appreciative!

Lots of sponsors use their vacation time to take time off from work to go with you. They may or may not end up being the right one, but be sure to go overboard in showing gratitude for their volunteering to go. There are a few ways to do that. Pay for their way to go by absorbing their cost into the overall cost of the trip in advance. Buy them a gift to show your appreciation, like a camp tee shirt, a meal, or a souvenir. Be sure to publicly and in print (aka in the church bulletin) acknowledge their service to the youth group after the trip.



Anders Lee

It's summertime!!! Enjoy your trips! Enjoy your sponsors! I pray God does some awesome things at camps, SOAR, and everything in between!

Thru the years, I've found out the different type sponsors. Here they are in no particular order...

Annoying Anthony – He didn't have a youth group as kid himself, so he is reliving his youth by acting overly goofy and irresponsible as a sponsor. You will spend time correcting him more than the teens.

Bright Idea Betty – Despite knowing your schedule for the trip ahead of time, she wants to change it and will suggest what you should or could do instead!

In Charge Cathy – She's your Momma... she's every kid's momma... She's gonna be extremely bossy to you, overly opinionated, and will publicly cor-

rect those kids on the spot. She's gonna push your "Spirit Filled" meter to almost empty.

Do nothing Daniel – He's on vacation. Don't ask him to do much! He's just a warm body on the trip so you can say you have adult supervision. But with him on your team, you really don't! He's gonna vamp out and go sightseeing.

Excellent Edith - She loves the kids! The trip is all about them! She's well balanced in having fun and being responsible! She is an on time person that lets you lead and minister to the teens.

Fall in line Frank – He does everything you need him to do and more! You're gonna wonder what planet this guy came from and you will want to clone him!

Negative Nathan – To hear him talk, the kids are the worst ever, the weather is miserable, you haven't a clue about

anything, the camp speaker stinks ... well you get the picture.

Did you find yourself laughing at some of those examples? Trust me I have more examples, I just don't have space in this article to include them. If you work with teens long enough, you will run into all of them eventually! There are some sponsors that I NEVER took with me again on a trip. Yet, there were many that I wanted on every trip! Bottom line as you work with them, you learn a lot about people, and you will learn to grow in leadership skills and in your walk with Christ as you learn from them!

It's summertime!!! Enjoy your trips! Enjoy your sponsors! I pray God does some awesome things at camps, SOAR, and everything in between!

Lee is a church planter in Southhaven, Mississippi. He is a pastor and former youth minister and may be contacted at anders.lee571@gmail.com

Information Services

from page 1

zation. Information also provides valuable insights such as changes in leadership, changes in ministries, and kingdom-impacting statistics that influence how associational leaders react to the ever-changing landscape of our churches.

Information Services at work for you

Data Collection – We are making it easier to provide information. Update your church information by using our secure, online portal at www.bmaamerica.org/church-survey.

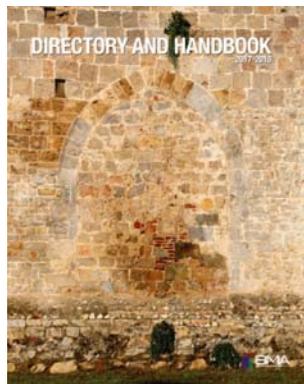
Digital Directory – We are working to provide secure access to a digital directory, which will enable the most up-to-date information to be accessible at any time.

Resources – We are creating a resource center at www.bmaamerica.org where your church can easily find information, get questions answered and ac-

cess new tools and services.

What can your church do?

Complete the Annual Church Survey. The information survey is sent to each church between August and September. Churches have until the end of March to provide their information. If you are new to the BMA or unfamiliar with this process, please contact your Information Services team. We are here to make the process as easy as possible. Contact us at:



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BMA America – Director of Operations
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Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White



Hair Styles

Different styles come and go and that is good.

Back in the day when I was much younger, if my hair got to looking like some of the styles I see these days, my mama would have me jerked up and she would put a TONI in my hair before quick could get ready. Long and straight and in the face seems to be a popular style these days and law me, it is pretty BUT....

Recently I was involved in interviewing some ladies for a job. Those with the current popular hair style spent a great deal of time brushing it out of their eyes on tucking it behind their ears. The other interviewers and I commented that it would be interesting if we could time each brushing action and each tucking-behind-the-ear action just to see how much time is spent during and eight-hour day brushing and tucking. I'm surprised that the Department of Labor hasn't already done a study on this.

Oh, well. Styles come and go, but the main thing we need to be concerned about is how we'll look when we stand before God.

Southeastern Baptist College

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

President's Perspective

"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." 1 Thessalonians 5:24

I'm going to share with you a personal story. One that revolutionized my understanding of how to identify and follow God's will. It may not be the same story for every Christian, but it is one which I can fully testify to.

Shortly after accepting Jesus as my Savior and while still in High School, I felt the Lord's calling on my life for ministry. While a senior in High School, I sensed that the Lord wanted me to become a military chaplain. Although my family had no living history of military service, I became more and more drawn toward this unique venue for ministry. I called military recruiters and remember receiving information on how to become an Air Force Chaplain. When I reviewed the lofty requirements, I became discouraged, put the thought out of my mind, but did apply for and was accepted to Bible college.

When I was in my final semester of college, I had no idea what God wanted me to do and as I prayed, I again sensed the calling to the military chaplaincy. I contacted an endorsing agent and discussed the possibilities only to become discouraged yet again, as the military had not changed their standards. A bachelor's degree was insufficient. The Chaplaincy required a Master of Divinity... another 90 hours of education, and many of the courses were ones I had already had in Bible college. In addition, I was burned out on education. I just didn't want to sit through one more hour of class. This is where I made my big mistake. I reasoned that as long as I was

in ministry of some sort, I could serve the Lord anywhere! Just before graduation, I accepted the first opportunity I was offered as an assistant pastor in East Texas. Linda and I moved to this small town with great eagerness to share the gospel and disciple believers. Most people in the small church were rather standoffish and though the pastor had promised a small salary, none was provided. I had to secure secular work to make ends meet. We started a youth group that went fairly well. Praise the Lord, kids were saved and disciplined. But, over time, the church folks just were not that accepting of us and it became clear that we were less than welcomed. Linda and I joke that we were there for six months, me serving as youth and assistant pastor, before they introduced us as visitors to their service! Yes, it was that bad. It was becoming quite obvious that we were not where God had called us. It was our wilderness experience. We had been there less than one year, but it felt like it was 40 years! We were out of God's will.

The Lord took care of us in spite of ourselves. Though I made less money than our monthly bills, our bills were always paid in full and on time! It was actually quite miraculous! We also always had enough to eat. It's amazing how many different kinds of meals one can have with only eggs, potatoes, flour and various vegetables! We couldn't afford anything else.



Dr. Scott Carson
President

It was then I seriously sought the face of the Lord. Once again the Lord laid on my heart that His will was in the military chaplaincy. I checked into the requirements again hoping the standards had changed. Much to my dismay, they had not. As I wrestled with my less than desirous prospects of returning to college, and as I agonized over the many more years of schooling and another requirement of pastoring a church, I decided to put God to the test!

Now, I do not recommend others do this, but it is part of my story. I literally put God to the test. I told Him five things needed to happen in order for me to accept the road before me that lead to the chaplaincy.

1. I demanded that my education be paid in full so that I did not need to work while going to seminary full time.
2. I needed to be accepted hands down, with no makeup work, at an accredited Seminary. My bachelor's degree was unaccredited. This would not be an easy task (oh ye of little faith!).
3. I asked the Lord to find me a school wherein I could finish in two years instead of the normal three years. I wanted to "get it over with" as quickly as possible.
4. I told the Lord that I needed to link up with a denomination where I could find endorsement into the chaplaincy. At that time there were few options for independent Baptist to

find endorsement into the military chaplaincy. 5. Finally, I stated that I needed to become the senior pastor of a church, as this was a two year minimum requirement for the chaplaincy.

I then closed my prayer with a sort of unbelieving snicker of, "Good luck with that!" attitude.

Well, I knew there were some things I needed to do and the first was to inform my parents, who, oh by the way, were against me being in the ministry and didn't pay for any of my undergraduate degree. When I told my father that I believed the Lord wanted me to go to seminary in order to become a military chaplain, he immediately replied that he would pay for it in full! I was flabber-



Brother Dennis Knight, Pastor of Paramount Baptist Church, Perkinston, Mississippi, transfers ownership of the church's 30 passenger bus to Dr. Carson, President of Southeastern Baptist College. The gracious members of Paramount voted to donate their bus in support of the newly reestablished Chargers Basketball Team.

gasted! I was also greatly disappointed because I didn't want to go back to school! I hated it! But there it was. Condition number one was met.

The next step was to find a seminary with the conditions I had set. I called a couple I had heard of, but each one advised me that I had much makeup

continued on page 4

Additional College Information and Notes

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Accreditation

We are about to close out this fiscal year which ends June 30. It is imperative that we remain financially in the black. We have a short term goal of applying for SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) accreditation. Praise the Lord, we were in the black last year. If we finish in the black this year, then we have only one more year (three consecutive years in the black) which will qualify us for application. If you or your church is able to send both your June and July donations in the month of June, this would help us greatly ensuring that we complete the second year in the black. We estimate that we need \$30,000 to safely close out this fiscal year.

Save The Date!

Southeastern Baptist College announces the first Danny Pitts Lecture Series with Dr. Gary O'Neil as guest speaker to be held on the campus of the college. Mark your calendars for August 20-23.

August 20, 7 p.m., Preconference Service at First Baptist Shady Grove, Laurel

August 21-23, 7 p.m., Lecture Series at SBC Campus

God Will Supply!

We will renovate four areas of the college in July. Each project will incur a large expense. This work is essential and must be completed prior to the fall semester.

6. The men's dormitories: Room upgrades; carpets; bathroom renovations; HVAC unit and duct work for the entire upstairs.

7. The women's dormitories: Room upgrades; carpets; kitchen updates; bathroom upgrades; upstairs renovations.

8. Gymnasium: Demolition of previously added rooms; renovations of locker rooms; upgrade of basketball floor to modern standards.

9. Cafeteria: Cleanout of kitchen; upgrade to modern equipment standards; full reset for meal operations.

Praise the Lord! Paramount Baptist Church of Perkinston, MS, has donated

a 30 passenger van to the college for our transportation needs! See the photo taken during the transfer of ownership.

Carson's Army

Brother Chris Floyd "Wants You!" He invites you to enlist in Carson's Army! This enlistment includes a pledge at various levels of rank representing their ability to give toward Southeastern Baptist College. If you feel led of the Lord to enlist, call 601-426-6346 today! Please refer to the "Carson's Army" giving chart in this publication.

VA Educational Benefits Accepted!

SBC possesses the 2018 Gold Award level as a military friendly college! Have you served in America's armed forces? Then you probably have Veterans Administration tuition benefits that you can use toward a free education right here at SBC. I urge you to contact your local VA representative for an evaluation of your benefits. You earned them! And remember, many benefits are now fully transferable to family members. SBC has numerous students receiving VA

assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

Alumni Association

We are reorganizing our Alumni Association and reaching out to identify and contact every alumnus who has ever taken courses at our great school. One of our primary initiatives in the months ahead is for our Alumni members to consider giving \$56 per month in an effort to raise \$58,000 over the next 12 months. We have many infrastructure issues that must be addressed. Will you allow God to use you? Alumni Sam and Judy Oglesby have graciously accepted to lead this effort. Please contact them at 601-550-8513 or pastor_1@comcast.net to verify that your current contact information is correct.

Have Bible, Will Travel

"Preach the word..." 2 Timothy 4:2. I am ready to fill your pulpit! If you are in need of a guest preacher or request a personal report on the college, contact me at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu



Don Brown
Editor

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Special Emphasis Is Special

We are all familiar with the annual "Emphasis Drives" that each department and commission relies on for operating funds.

There is not a ministry in our work that does not need operating funds. Monthly giving is the ideal way of support, but it seems that additional funds are always needed. This paper relies on special offerings to keep our heads above water. We had a good 2018 Emphasis offering. It is greatly appreciated AND was needed.

Southeastern College receives her Emphasis offerings during June and July of each year. Their fiscal year ends on June 30. This creates a situation where the Emphasis offerings are usually counted in the next year. 2018 is critical for the school. They need to end the year in the black. They are working on obtaining accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in addition to the accreditation they currently hold from the state of Mississippi and their Bible College accrediting agency.

SACS accreditation is critical for the future of Southeastern. They are asking that 2018 Special Emphasis funds be sent to and received by the college no later than June 30, 2018. This will allow for a better financial picture for the year.

Make it a point to give a good emphasis offering to our college this year and make sure they get it before June 30. This will help them in their efforts to grow and meet the educational needs of our students.

Triumph of The Gospel

from front page

Making followers of Jesus is often about moving people toward the cross, not only the crisis of faith or the moment of decision. Of course we all want to see conversion and lives transformed. But to get to that point often requires patience, unwavering faithfulness, and confidence in the gospel which is, "the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes" (Rom. 1:16). In other words, it's the triumph of the gospel.

Here is the rest of Juma's story:

Kosmas continues with his account, "So, I asked Juma if I could visit him the next day. He refused, angrily at first, but then said he would call for me if he needed me. The very next day he called for me, wanting more discussion about who Jesus is. I went to his home and he asked all his questions. We visited Juma many times, countless hours of discussion and learning. So, finally he gave his life to Christ. On that day I invited him to church because in the evening we were showing the Jesus film about the life of Christ as told in the four Gospels.

Juma and his wife and family

went through many trials and persecution in the following months. They were kicked out of their home, forced to live in very miserable conditions.



Bro. & Mrs. Phil Knott

My church and I stood firm for them, helping whenever we were needed. Finally, he and his family were baptized and we started doing more Bible studies together. Juma became a very serious Christian and God has called him to ministry as a pastor. He has started a church that is our daughter congregation and God is using him to bring many Muslims to faith in Christ."

Southeastern College

from page 3

work because of my unaccredited undergraduate degree and that, in the end, I was looking at a minimum of five years of seminary. This was unacceptable to me and did not fit the criteria I had set with the Lord, so I passed those schools by. I then went to the local city library. It was a very small town and the library was tiny. When I entered the front door the librarian asked if



Brother Cliff Jenkins, Pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Laurel MS, installs new breakaway basketball hoops in the SBC gymnasium.

she could help. I stated I was looking for information on seminaries. She reached under the desk producing a large catalog still in its wrapper. She stated the book listed all seminaries in the U.S. and had arrived only yesterday. She unwrapped it and I began my research. The catalog fell open to institutions in Texas. As I ran my finger down the page I came across a school I had never heard of before, the BMAA Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas, not far from where Linda and I lived. I called the

dean the same day which was a Friday. He asked if I could come with my transcripts Monday for an interview. I agreed. On Monday, the dean reviewed my record then stated that if I began school the next week during the summer session, I could be accepted with no makeup work! He explained the seminary was in the process of accreditation and if I started right away, I would be grandfathered into the accreditation.

Also, as he reviewed my course work, he observed correctly that I had had nearly all the courses offered already when I was in Bible college. The dean then told me that I could substitute any courses I had already had with any other elective they offered. I asked how I might finish in two years instead of the normal three. The dean created a course map for me, finishing me in two years, with the promise that if I required a course that no one else was taking, they would let me take the course in order for me to graduate on time!

I then asked if the dean knew of an Endorsing Agent who could provide me information on becoming a military chaplain. He stated that the BMAA Endorsing Agent not only worked as a professor for the seminary, but that he was in his office. Moments later I interviewed with Dr. Pruitt who stated that if I joined a BMA church, successfully graduated from the BMAA seminary and pastored a BMA church somewhere along the way, he would endorse me into the chaplaincy!

I resigned from the church and ten days later Linda and I



To date, thirty men and seven women have committed to attending SBC in the fall semester as full time students while playing for the renewed Chargers team. Pictured are Coach Brad Phillips and recent signee Deseree Moore of Gulfport, Mississippi.

were moved into campus housing and I was in my first seminary class. A few months later I was pastoring Community Baptist Church in Corsicana, Texas. I graduated as planned in two years and entered the Army Chaplaincy in June, 1986.

It's amazing to see God work when we accept His will for our life! God is always faithful and when it is His will, there are no barriers too great that He cannot break through. If it is His will, He will!

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

Equipping the Saints!
Dr. Carson

To young preachers -
Be Prepared
to spend the rest of your life at your church or
Be Prepared
to leave in the next fifteen minutes.

-Adrian Rogers



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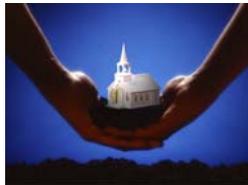
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Spotlight on Missions

by Will Hutchinson, Pastor Awaken Church

Greetings from D'Iberville

The past six months have been amazing and full of God's blessings. We feel as a family that we are just getting settled into the area and starting to feel a part of the community. As summer has set in and the coast is alive with vacationers and events, people are out and moving constantly. We have launched our



Awaken Mission Group

website and Facebook page and are beginning to see lots of traffic each week through these means of communication.

June started our transition to Sunday morning worship and visiting our com-

munity homes. Until June, we had been meeting Sunday evenings and getting a great launch team together. As we move to Sunday mornings we are also seeing the start of a busy season for us. From attending camp, weekly Outreach, and Backyard Bible Clubs, we have a packed 90 days coming up.



The Hutchinsons

We have several churches that are coming to help in our Outreach by doing Backyard Bible Clubs. In June we have three churches coming to help with our first Backyard Bible Club. We have a youth group scheduled for July to do another one and we would love to have another group come this summer as well. Please let us know if you are interested.

Our Bible studies and Discipleship are starting to take root in the growth of our church. We are using the SOAP Bible study and also a great book on personal discipleship called "One to One". Our first people will be finishing this first season of discipleship soon and begin to

move to discipling people themselves. Pray that this will strengthen our bond and embolden us to share the Gospel.

As we are looking for a future meeting location, I am asking that you pray with us about a few needs. We are talking to a couple schools and waiting on some final paperwork to hopefully start meeting in them this September. With transitions in staff we are waiting on some new officials to sign off on our meeting locations. Pray with us about this. Also, we are in need of several key pieces of equipment this fall. If you or your church could help us acquire any of these it would be very much appreciated. We will need a trailer, PA system, and signage.

I would like to leave you with some of the amazing things God is doing here. Three of the families that are joining us have moved to the area years ago and have been part of ministry in their churches for years. After moving to the coast however, they have been unable to find a place of worship and repeatedly express how wonderful it is to be part of this ministry that you, the churches of Mississippi, have begun here. God is amazing and I can't wait to share more with you as he moves here on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi.

More Work Scheduled at Sumrall Mission

More work is scheduled on the building of Day Star Mission at Sumrall. So many have helped and a great deal has been accomplished. We are most grateful for all the help, but there is still work to be done. We will meet at the building site on Saturday June 23. We invite all who can to come and help us on this day. You can be a blessing to this young congregation, the Lord will be honored, and you will be blessed by helping with this effort.



Initial raising of Daystar Mission in Sumrall

BMA Seminary's Sixty-First Commencement

Twenty-three individuals received a degree from the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary of Jacksonville, Texas during commencement exercises conducted Saturday, May 19, 2018. First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Texas hosted the event.

Henry D. Coleman of Henderson, Texas; Regina Durham of Tyler, Texas; and Kenneth Johnson of Tyler, Texas received the Associate of Divinity degree.

Jack L. Blankenship, Jr of Jacksonville, North Carolina; Curtis R. Durham,

Sr. of Lufkin, Texas; James W. Henderson of Palestine, Texas; and Joe Simalonda of Lusaka, received the Bachelor of Arts in Religion degree.

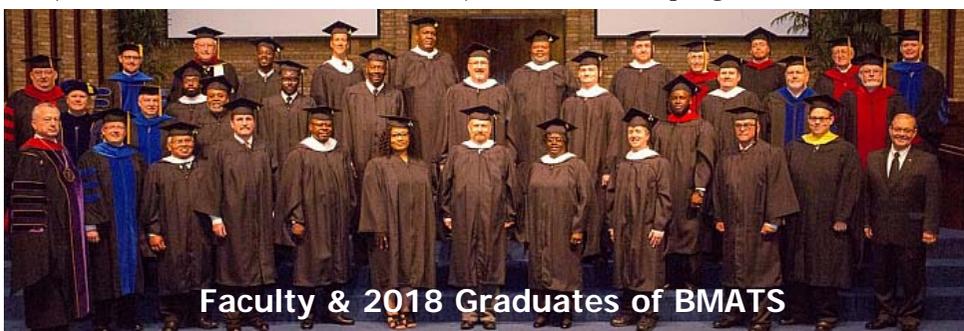
Cortney T. McCall of Shreveport, Louisiana received the Master of Arts (Pastoral Theology) degree. Julio F. Ba Gonzalez of Humble, Texas; John B. Bockmon of Tyler, Texas; Mark S. Buckner, Sr. of Cleveland Mississippi; Michael Shawn Cook of Whitehouse, Texas; Johnny Everette of Morrilton, Arkansas; Kevin Simmons of Spurger, Texas; Sandra J.

Williams of Tyler, Texas; and Dustin R. Wisely of Magnolia, Arkansas received the Master of Arts (Religion) degree.

Stephen L. Davenport of Teague, Texas; Matthew Dean of Fort Worth, Texas; Michael Lathan of Houston, Texas; David W. Vandergriff of Lufkin, Texas; and Christopher J. Walls of Palestine, Texas received the Master of Arts in Church Ministries degree. Randall R. Barlow of Blooming Grove, Texas and Marvin L. Green of Palestine, Texas received the Master of Divinity degree.

Mr. Randy Veach of Manila, Arkansas, presented the commencement address.

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.



Faculty & 2018 Graduates of BMATS

Carson's Army

Brother Chris Floyd introduced a special individual donor concept named Carson's Army at the SBC Donor and Volunteer Dinner. Each person has the opportunity to "enlist" their pledge at various levels of rank representing their ability to give toward Southeastern Baptist College. If



you feel led of the Lord to enlist, call 601-426-6346 today! Please refer to the "Carson's Army" giving chart in this publication. Praise the Lord! We already have our first Major and our first General enlisted into Carson's Army!

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

President Beth Caldwell

166 Twin Creek Rd, Lucedale, MS 39452 - 601-947-60118

Corresponding Secretary Mrs. Shirlene Smith

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

Challenge Issued and Accepted at State WMA Meeting

In ancient times when a person wanted to challenge another person, he would throw down his gauntlet at the feet of the one whom he wished to challenge. If that person accepted the challenge, he picked up the gauntlet and arrangements were then made for the battle.

The Big Creek District WMA of Mississippi has thrown down the gauntlet at the feet of the Southwest District WMA of Arkansas. The challenge is to determine which District can raise the most money for the National WMA Project which is We Are FREE. The Southwest District of Arkansas has ACCEPTED this challenge.

At the recent semi-annual meeting of the State of Mississippi WMA meeting in Southaven, this challenge was issued by Mrs. Barbara White to Mrs. Kelly Williams. Mrs. Williams, chairman of the National WMA Project Committee, was attending the meeting to promote the National WMA Project. As a member of the Southwest District of the WMA, Mrs. Williams gladly accepted the challenge!



Kelly Williams (left) taking challenge from Barbara White

The National Project, We Are FREE, is an organization that "Fosters Respect, Eradicating Exploitation" for those who are coming out of human trafficking. Go to the nationalwma.org website for more information about this project.

If you would like someone to come to your district WMA meetings to speak to this project, please contact Mrs. Kelly Williams, 214-534-9875 or kelgirl0805@gmail.com.

BMA Seminary Library Director Blaylock Retires after 52 Years

Dr. James C. Blaylock of Jacksonville, Texas, has retired after fifty-two years of service to the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary's Gerald D. Kellar Memorial Library.

Blaylock began working as the library's assistant director in 1966. Under his direction as director, the library's main collection grew from just 4,650 books to more than 85,000 in 2018 along with an additional 25,000 items in the library's physical collection.

In recent decades, Blaylock oversaw the digitization of the Library card catalog and the adoption of electronic research databases for use by the students and faculty of the seminary. Blaylock especially enjoyed collecting and maintaining items related to the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America, and BMA ministers. In 2016, the school received a 17th century Sefer Torah scroll, which it named after him.

Blaylock earned an Associate of Arts degree from Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, Mississippi, a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas at Tyler, a Master of Science in Library Science from East Texas State University in Commerce, Texas, and a Bachelor of Theology and Master of Religious Education degrees from BMA Seminary. He received the Doctor of Divinity degree

from BMA Seminary in 2011.

Blaylock celebrated 50 years in the Gospel ministry in 2010 and has served four Texas churches as pastor, including First Baptist Church of Maydelle, Texas, and Corinth Baptist Church of Jacksonville. He appeared in Personalities of the South in 1974, Who's Who in the Southwest three (3) times, and to Who's Who in Religion four (4) times. He is author of numerous articles and four books: most of these dealing with Baptist or local church history. He retired as editor of the BMA of America's Baptist News Service in 1999 following 30 years of service as editor or associate editor.

Blaylock earned the respect and admiration of all his colleagues and is well-known in Jacksonville for his commitment to the community's senior adult population.

Blaylock has impacted the lives of many employees, including the many international students who have worked in the library over the years as they



Dr. James Blaylock

2018-2019 National WMA Theme CATCH THE VISION

by Brenda Hornaday, 2nd Vice President
bhornaday@hughes.net

As we go through this year, I want to encourage each lady in each church to "Catch the Vision" of Acts 11:5. Your first thought may be, "What vision should I catch?" When I chose "Catch the Vision" as our theme, it brought to mind our WMA theme song. We need to catch the vision of reaching out in service—the opportunities are endless. As you become willing to catch the vision, God will show you specific ways for you to personally reach out in service.

First, we need to catch the vision of reaching out in benevolence to those who are in need. Since I spent 27 years working at the BMA Children's Home in Arkansas, the benevolent ministry to our children's homes has a special place in my heart. There are also needy and homeless families and individuals in our communities, lonely widows with various needs, elderly neighbors in need of our help, encouragement, and love. That's just a start! There are many opportunities for benevolence through groups such as The Masters Builders, Baptist Medical Missions International, and Evangelistic International Ministries Shepherd's Bags.

Second, we need to catch the vision for reaching out in witnessing. This one needs to start at home and in our communities as we share the gospel with our families, friends, co-workers and others we come in contact with. Another area we can be involved in that shares the gospel is Lifeword Broadcast Ministries.

attended school at BMA Seminary. Frances Thomas, a current student and library worker from Nigeria, says that she will miss Brother Blaylock's fatherly presence and gentle nature. Alicia Johnson, the Library's Public Services Supervisor, has worked with "Brother B," as she refers to him, for more than twenty-five years and will also miss him greatly.

Jacob Gucker, the Assistant Library Director since 2012 and a graduate of BMA Seminary, has accepted the position of acting Library Director, effective May 22nd, 2018. Gucker has worked with Blaylock for more than seven years and is grateful for the practical knowledge and wisdom accruing from his time under Dr. Blaylock's supervision. Gucker's credentials include a Master of Divinity from BMA Seminary (2011) and a Master of Library Science from Texas Woman's University in 2012. He is excited to see what God has in store for Kellar Library and BMA Seminary.

Third, we need to catch the vision of reaching out in service to our Sunbeams, GMA's and other youth groups in our churches. For some of you, this vision may include being a teacher or counselor for these young people. For others, it may simply be setting a Godly example for them, encouraging them, supporting their projects, and praying diligently for them.

Fourth, we need to catch the vision of reaching out in missions to a world that's lost in sin. This one also begins at home. We need to be involved in the support of local, state, North American, and worldwide missions. I believe each project sponsored by our local, state, and national BMA associations has missions at its core. This includes our state and national Missions departments, our Chaplaincy Department, Baptist Medical Missions International, our camp ministry, Lifeword, our seminary, our college ministry, and our children's homes.

Have you caught the vision yet of Reaching out in Service? In benevolence, In witnessing, To our youth ministries, In missions?

I challenge each of you to truly Catch the Vision of Reaching out in Service. Pray about it! Read about it in the Bible! Anticipate what God wants you to do! Take the risk of getting involved! Then, once you catch the vision, reach out because we know that there is a world full of people who will perish if we do not reach out in service to them.

NATIONAL WMA 2019

Catch
the
ision
Reaching out in Service



I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object descending like a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came to me. - Acts 11:5

What An Awesome Job!

Noah was given an awesome job by God. He was commissioned to preach His word to a lost and dying world.

He was then given the task of preserving life.

Is that not the job that we as God's people have been given? We are to tell others about Him, His love for all of mankind, and His Son's finished work on Calvary.

Are we not commissioned to do the same work as Noah? The only way life - eternal life - is preserved is through the blood of Jesus.

We are to tell the world of His great love and compassion for man. We are to share God's plan of salvation. God does the ultimate work in the hearts of those who believe.

His plan for Noah was a perfect plan. It was a success. His plan for man is a perfect plan. Our participation is essential.

Evangelistic International Ministries

From Here to There - EIM's Labor of Love

by Fonda Norris
Shepherd's Bag Coordinator

EIM is excited to let everyone know that another shipment has left here and made it to there! "Here" being our EIM Shepherd's Bag Storage Warehouse in Warren, Arkansas, and "There" being the Central American country of Honduras! After being held up a few months by the Presidential election last November we finally were able to complete our paperwork with the new government and connect all the dots and get this Labor of Love filled with 14,890 Shepherd's Bags shipped and ready to be used to glorify our Heavenly Father,



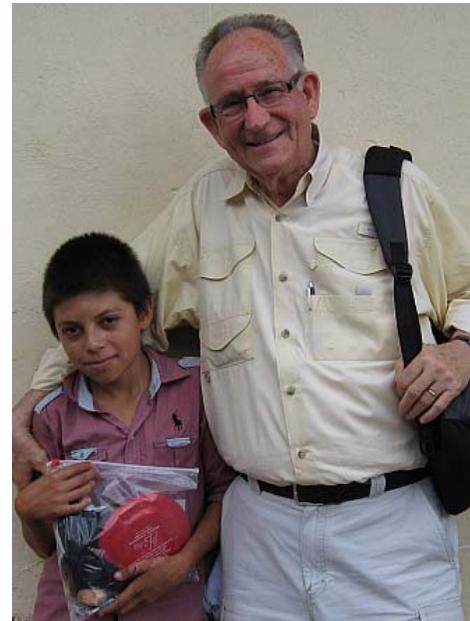
make our Savior's Name Famous and declare the truth of the Saving Gospel in schools and villages across Honduras.

We are thankful God allowed us to complete this in time since Bro. Rocky Goodwin, EIM's Director, will be leading distribution mission teams to Honduras

in June and July going into schools and handing out Shepherd's Bags and preaching Jesus. It really doesn't get any better! Pray with us for God to open the eyes and hearts of all the children of Honduras as well as adults that will hear the Gospel before receiving their gift. Especially that they will hear not only with their ears but that they will hear and accept with their hearts the free gift of salvation.

We continue to be pleased with the overwhelming benefits of switching over to a cost efficient unisex Shepherd's Bag. Just a few of the main benefits have been: It allows us to control the items that go into a bag insuring they will present the truth of Scripture in a heart language the children can understand and that the items going into the bags are safe for children, all children receive the same items keeping the distribution of the bags fair and equitable, it has greatly simplified the logistics and organization and both here and abroad, costs are kept lower allowing us to assemble more bags which in turn lets us make bags all year long.

More bags mean more children hear the Gospel. Our motto here at EIM is "It's not about the bag, it's about the Gospel." It is only the tool that God can use to open the door for the preaching of the Gospel while at the same time bless needy children with fun and useful gifts while



presenting them with the Eternal Gift of His Son. We stand in awe and amazement that He has allowed EIM to be a small part of His Big Plan around the world.

Yes the shipment to Honduras was a lot of hard work. But are we done for 2018? Oh, No way dear friends! We currently have almost 10,000 Shepherd's Bags already completed, boxed and stored at our shipping warehouse ready to go to the country of Tanzania and we will

continued on page 8

Church News

Mineral Springs Baptist Church Plans Centennial Celebration

Mineral Springs Church near Taylorsville, Mississippi, is having a celebration on Sunday, July 8th 2018. Everyone is invited to come. Bring an ole time covered dish that reminds you of what your grandmother made years ago. Some are also dressing the part. If you have clothes or bonnets or overalls that they wore back then, please wear them. We will have some of our past pastors that will come and speak. We will have song specials, and we will sing from the old song books. Come celebrate with us and make this day special. If you have any questions or would like to be included in the program please contact Alton Blakeney at 601-782-4786 or Carl Ivey at 601-782-9437.

Union Church Sets Revival

Rock Creek Baptist Church, located at 3213 Little Rock -County Line Rd, Union, Mississippi, will hold revival services July 8 - 12. Bro. Justin Rhodes, pastor of Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, will be bringing the messages. Service times: 11:00 a.m and 1:30 on Sunday and 7:00 p.m. Mon. - Thurs. Bro. Chris Floyd & his wife Twyla will be singing during the afternoon worship service on Sunday. The Caudil Family from Louisville, will be singing during the worship service on Tuesday.

Bro. John Riles Passes Away

Bro. John Riles, 85, of Ellisville, Mississippi, died Friday, May 25, 2018 at Covington County Nursing Center in Collins, Mississippi. He was born Wednesday, August 10, 1932 in Seminary, Mississippi.

Funeral Services were held Sunday, June 3, 2018. Bro. Harold Floyd, Bro. Justin Rhodes and Bro. Gary Shows officiated.

Bro. Riles graduated from The North American Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas and was a bi-vocational minister for over 61 years. He served churches in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas and he received a Lifetime Achievement award from the BMA in 2017 for 60 years of faithful service. He served in the Air Force during the Korean War and the Air Force Reserves. He retired from the VA Hospital Canteen Services after serving as a Barber for many years.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Jewel Dean Riles, Rastus Riles (Father), Obie Riles (Mother). Survivors include daughter Rebecca L. Emfinger (Dalton), son John Timothy Riles (Christie), daughter Regena L. Prince (Mike), along with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Bro. John Riles

From The Mind of Chuck Lee

Preacher Excuses

I need to tell you a secret, so if we could just keep it between us, that would be just peachy. I like to fish.

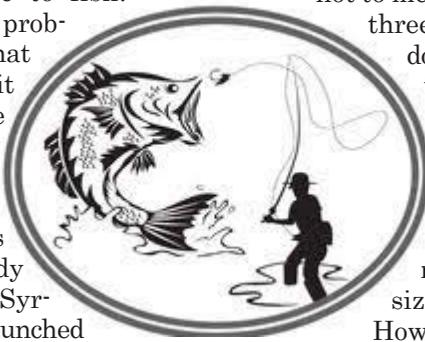
Shhhhhhhh! I know I probably shouldn't admit that because even though it is just between us, the news will be carried by the wind to the uttermost parts of the earth. Even now, the Russians have probably already forwarded it to their Syrian counterparts and launched

a full-scale investigation into the matter. Nonetheless, I have carried this burden for too many years and just need to lighten the load a bit. As you probably know by now, I am a minister of the gospel and therefore, must never be caught doing anything other than reading the Bible and praying and going to the hospital and visiting shut-ins and dropping by the homes of the Sunday no-showers and handing out tracks and ... well, you get part of it.

I say that I should never do these things because early on I learned that if I mentioned going fishing for a few hours on a Monday morning, someone would inevitably sneer and comment that "some

people have to work on Mondays." Since then, I have learned that it is best just not to mention that I took two or three hours out of the week to do something besides what the general public thinks a preacher does twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. It makes them feel better about themselves and keeps me from lying about the size of the bass I caught.

However, sometimes the secret gets out and has to be addressed. So we make excuses. "Yep. I had to go fishing with this fellow. He was in need of counseling and wanted to talk while we were pulling catfish off the lines. If he hadn't needed me so much, I never would have gone." Okay, I probably would have gone, but an excuse was needed. The best "excuse" comes in the form of no excuse at all. Sometimes a preacher just wants to be friendly with someone that doesn't go to church so as to gain their trust and perhaps get them



Bro. Chuck Lee

to start attending the church service. So, we take them fishing. Who can get upset with that?

A preacher, even one who likes to fish, never wants to lie, so he has to get inventive. A preacher friend of mine named his boat the "Visitation." That way, whenever he went fishing he just told people he was going on visitation. Seemed to work pretty well.

When all else fails, I just mention that I missed them at church on Sunday or Wednesday, or during revival. Because let's face it, the ones who are generally truly concerned about the church and their pastor never harbors ill-will in any way when he wets a hook every once in a while. And preachers... call me if you need someone to talk to and have some good fellowship with someday. I'm sure

preachers... call me if you need someone to talk to and have some good fellowship with someday

we can find a lake that will provide the right setting for a good counseling session. Wink. Wink.

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

Random Thoughts From Hebrews

Hebrews 1.2 "In these last days... he has spoken to us by his son."

Many prophets spoke the word of God. Now in the last days God speaks by His Son. What do the last days mean? It can mean latest, ultimate, concluding, final, or remaining. So in the remaining, concluding or last days God gives us on this earth His message of importance. That message is spoken by His Son. God did not send a prophet, but rather sent His Son in the form of a human being. One perfect human being spoke the words of God to imperfect humanity. Good Reader we are included in these words of hope, healing, and salvation. The messenger of God-Jesus-made us right with His Father by giving His life on the cross for us. The old time railroad crossing sign said: "Stop, look, listen." We need to do the same with the one who speaks to us in the last day kind of time. Jesus is God's word from Heaven.

Hebrews 1.14 "Are they (angels) not all ministering spirits sent out to serve those who are going to inherit salvation?"

What a great question! Some questions have such wonderful possibilities that one answer cannot contain the complete fullness of multiple truthful and correct responses. We have sentimentalized angels to be chubby cherubs who shoot love arrows at sweethearts on Valentine's Day. Not so. Angels are the messengers of God. Angels played dramatic and episodic ventures in the lives of both the Old Testament and New Testament saints. This passage gives us one glimpse of the large truth of an ongoing angelic presence with the saints of today. It must not surprise anyone that the God who sent His messengers to the former saints still does the same for today's saints. No, angels are not the magic genies in a bottle for Christians. They are not a good luck charm when all else fails. Dear Reader, you have felt, sensed, and been aware of these messengers in your life. No, you are not crazy. You are simply recognizing what the Scriptures say about a ministering spirit with you.

Hebrews 2.18 "For since he himself has suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted."

I understand medical students not only practice on cadavers but also at times practice on each other. They then know how it feels for a procedure to be applied to their own bodies. So Jesus in the days of His flesh, suffered temptation, endured hostility, had hunger, knew friendship and its betrayal. He experienced joy and gladness with His people, and He entered into the normal activities of life as any person would. So in his excruciating death-his stripes, his crown, his cross-He knew what it was to have temptation. Good Reader, we do not have a Savior without His humanity. He was with us. He was like us. He had temptation. Yet He did not sin. He knew what

Leave It To Cleaver



Dr. Tony Cleaver is a retired U.S. Army Chaplain and Director of Distance Learning for BMA Seminary. You may contact him at jstmcleaver@embarqmail.com

it was first hand to be tempted that is why He can come to us with good and merciful help. The drowning swimmer asks for help. As we come to overwhelming temptation we too can say, "Help" for there is One who knows what it is like to be tempted.

Hebrews 3.13 "But encourage each other daily..."

There is not one who does not want and at times desperately needs encouragement in the Christian journey. If the Apostles got discouraged, what about those who are not "super Christians?" What about us way down here on the spiritual low rung of the ladder? A careful hand on the back, a warm voice of appreciation, a kind card, text, visit, or phone call can do wonders for any who are just about to stop with Christianity because of life's tumultuous explosions. Many will be quick to judge, condemn, even tell the discouraged how they ought to have executed a life choice differently. Few will take the time to encourage another so that the daily journey can be on the road again. Dear Reader, you remember, don't you, when someone kindly and courteously, and in depth of heart encouraged you?

Hebrews 5.7 "During his earthly life, he offered prayers and appeals with loud cries and tears..."

Most Christians don't think of Jesus crying, wailing aloud to His Father. But He did, and He was heard because of His reverence. He knew the only source of saving help was His Father. In His crying out He was learning obedience to God. Perhaps Christians should emulate their Lord. It seems current prayers have no crying out. Prayers tend to have no tears today. Prayers are a shopping list delivered to "someone up there." Dear Reader, when we pray like Jesus to the God of heaven, we can come to the domain He entered in prayer. He found deliverance. He found obedience. He found the One who could save Him. So, during earthly life the woman, man, boy, or girl can offer prayers like the Lord Jesus with loud cries and tears. God listens to this kind of prayer.

Hebrews 6.4 "...who have fallen away."

Where is the young couple who vowed in the presence of God and family their everlasting love? Is this not the couple in divorce proceedings? Where is the young woman or man who pledged their faith to Christ and His Church who followed in Christian baptism? Are they not "out of

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

118 LOWE ROAD, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39443 - (601) 426-3928
SIDNEY DAVIS - DIRECTOR



SIDNEY DAVIS

Being A Dad Is Special

As the saying goes that you may have heard before, "Any man can become a father; but it takes someone special to become a dad."

What does it take to be a dad? It means going to ball games, school programs and activities. Talking to them on a daily basis. It is not time wasted, rather invested. It takes attention. Knowing your child's favorite toys, cloths, stories, and meals. Knowing your child takes a special touch. A hug. A smile. Most importantly it takes the Lord. Dads look to the Lord for wisdom and love to be the special dad your child or children need.

Happy Father's Day!

Recent Guest

It was a joy to have the youth from

Bethel Baptist Church in Wiggins and youth leader Robbie Walker to make a visit to the Home. We indeed are thankful for their interest in the Home and its ministry.

Expression of Sympathy

We would like to express our sympathy to the family of Bro. John Riles. Bro Riles served on the Board of Trustees of the Children's Home in previous years. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Riles family.

Remember in Prayer and Focus Verse

Continue to remember the ministry of the Home in your daily prayers. "The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice; and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him." Proverbs 23:24.

church" today? Where is the business person who promised her/his new business to the Lord? Is that business person not the one engrossed with "making more and more" rather than on Christ? The list is endless regarding those who once were in the Christian life, but now are not. Falling away in Christianity is a difficult subject, yet looking around it is a real, tangible, and actual process in the lives of many. The writer of this passage is encouraging believers not to fall away. Dear Reader, is your life one of falling away? Has your faith grown cold? Are the pages of the Scriptures you once read daily now closed? To the open door of the congregation of believers you once assembled, do you disdain? Be encouraged not to fall away from your faith in Christ. Rekindle the testimony of your life today! Don't fall away!

Hebrews 12.1 "...since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us..."

Clouds envelope us as we fly in aircraft. Clouds cloak us we go into the fog on water. The cloud of witnesses to the faith cover us in the same way. The people of God surround us urging us to go on. The witness group says to us: "Go forward to the end of faith in Christ! Keep on with faith! Finish your course in faith!" They are like a cheering section to us. They encourage us to look to Jesus who Himself finished His race even though He went through the cross. As we keep our eyes on Jesus, the roar of the crowd around us--that heavenly cloud of witnesses--their words of cheerful reassurance moves us to endurance. We lay aside those things that are hindrances to the high calling we have in Christ.

Evangelistic International Ministries

from page 7

continue to work until we have enough to fill a container.

Our goal is to ship this container at the end of summer. By the way, this is our very first shipment of Shepherd's Bags going to Tanzania so we couldn't be more excited that God has opened yet another country for the Shepherd's Bags to be distributed in. These bags will contain our Gospel Story Books the children can color in and the John 3:16 Frisbees which are both especially designed for the Shepherd's Bag Ministry in the heart language of Swahili for the children. To date our books and Frisbees have been translated into seven different languages! Amen!

Would you please pray for us as we continue to do what God has called us to do in the Shepherd's Bag Ministry for the past 19 years? And that is to offer ourselves up to be found faithful, be willing to work hard and do any task in order to see a shipment come together so that it can go to a child in need of Jesus, to be diligent and good stewards of all monies that He burdens people to give to this wonderful, Christ Centered children's ministry. It all goes to get Shepherd's Bags into the hands of children around the world. What better way to invest our lives into seeing people saved and come into the Kingdom? Thank you all for praying, encouraging us and giving. We love you!