

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. John 1:6-7

Mississippi Baptist

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Expanded mission:world Magazine Goes Digital

from BMA of America Missions

One of the great desires of BMA Missions is to maintain a close and open relationship with the churches we serve. On a daily basis, Missions leadership is doing everything possible to communicate with our local pastors and churches. Through state papers, emails, phone calls, text messaging, social media and printed periodicals, BMA Missions has a deep commitment to keeping pastors and church members connected with the missionaries who serve them. One of the communication tools that BMA Missions has produced for over 50 years has been mission:world maga-



zine.

The publication has been an evolving piece of literature since its inception. In the early days

of BMA Missions the magazine was known as the Gleaner. Our association of churches only had a few missionary families on the field and their stories and adventures were featured monthly in the magazine. As BMA Missions grew in its scope around the world and more missionaries were sent to serve, the magazine grew as well.

Eventually mission:world moved to a bi-monthly publication, and it became impossible to feature every missionary in every edition of the magazine. And along with the growth of

the magazine came an increased cost of production. Keeping up with a changing world as more and more people received their news and information online, BMA Missions moved to producing an online version of the magazine as well.

Today mission:world has become much more than just a

...subscribe to mission:world for free and receive the magazine directly to your inbox..

magazine. There is a monthly video companion to the printed version of the magazine called mission:world.TV. There is a website dedicated solely to the magazine and all its missions content: missionworldmag.com. And now BMA Missions is moving to make mission:world even

more accessible to everyone.

Today anyone who wants to follow what God is doing through the almost 600 missionary families serving BMA Missions will be able to do so in a variety of different ways. "I'm excited about the opportunity to speak more often and to give more timely reports to our churches about what God is doing around the world," said BMA Missions Executive Director Dr. John David Smith. "Expanding mission:world will allow it to become much more than a bi-monthly magazine. It will be a missionary news outlet."

Beginning July 1, expect to see mission:world missionary content in many different forms. The magazine will continue to be produced in digital form and will be emailed free of charge to everyone who wants it. The digital version will include more mission:world video reports straight from the mission field. Social media reports will also be available for those who live on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

This will allow BMA Missions to speak to a whole new audience. Continued direct reporting via video from BMA Executive Director Dr. John David Smith and his team will be coming directly to BMA church members via their inbox and on social media platforms. All of this is an effort to keep our churches better informed about their missionaries serving around the world.

The printed version of mission:world will be discontinued with the May/June edition, allowing the \$80,000 annual expense of printing and mailing the magazine to be redirected to our missionaries and their fields.

To subscribe to mission:world for free and receive the magazine directly to your inbox, go to www.missionworldmag.com.

JOE COSTA AND HIS CALL TO SERVE YOUNG PEOPLE The Costa Family Legacy

Joe Costa left technology to become a champion for youth

Osta became Costa when half his family moved to the U.S. His dad's cousins are the Costantines (sometimes spelled Constantine). The Ostras are originally from Maghdoucheh () near Sidon, Lebanon. (The biblical reference: Mary waited in Maghdoucheh for her son Jesus as he preached in nearby Sidon.)

Joe says, "I'm from Maghdousheh (Lebanon). My dad's dad is from Maghdousheh. Both my maternal grandparents are from Maghdousheh."

Tolerance and diversity is in their fabric

His parents lived in Corniche ElMazraa before moving to the Metn area. His mother grew up on Hamra street in Ras Beirut in the building that Ghassan Tuani bought at the time for AnHar newspaper. That section of the city was a mosaic of religiously diverse neighborhoods.



Joe inherited the spirit of openness from his parents.

While growing up in a predominantly Christian area, he spent his first 17 years shuttling between Metn, where home and his evangelical school were, and Ras Beirut, where dad was a pastor of his congregation.

Spending time playing, do-

ing activities, and reading the Bible with other neighborhood kids at church made him who he is today. Growing up, he had friends from different religious or socioeconomic backgrounds. Until he was nine years old, he did not know who was Christian and who was Muslim. Ahmad and Charbel were just his

friends' names.

At 18, he and his parents moved back to Ras Beirut, which ended the Metn era for him. He feels very much a Ras Beirut and a Hamra native.

Searching for meaning, aligning with God, and future wife

He attended the Lebanese American University in Ras Beirut for his bachelors in computer science. He worked there in the IT department for seven years and managed to obtain an MBA as well. During that time, he began dating Mira, his wife-to-be, and continued searching for his purpose in life.

During that time Joe says, "I thought about marriage and my readiness for it. I thought about God and what he wants from me."

He wanted to be successful at both. As they were dating, they asked all the deep questions, maybe earlier than they should have, he reflects.

They agreed on the impor-

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Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

SOCIAL DISTANCING - WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT SAYS What You Can Do

“Social distancing is still critical to stop the spread of COVID-19. Keep plenty of distance between yourself and others. Wearing a mask or face covering can sharply reduce the risk of passing COVID-19 on to others. Most people spreading COVID-19 do not know they are infected. Remind others that precautions remain essential and set an example by your actions.”

Wow! All that sounds both logical and at the same time scary. The information given to us by those who are suppose to know seems contradictory at times. We are told to ‘wear a mask’. We are told ‘the mask is not necessary’. We are told to social distance. We are told that those areas that did not ‘quarantine’ were no worse off than those areas that did shut down and quarantine. What to do? Who to believe? Most of us are just not sure.



Some of our churches never stopped having normal services. Most have drastically altered their worship and outreach. Is this the ‘new normal’ or will this pandemic fade away and allow us to get back to what we remember at normal? Only the Lord knows for sure.

Social distancing works. Testing works. Being informed really works.

Here is a thought. Are we using this time of uncertainty and ‘social distancing’ as an excuse to withdraw. Do we ‘wear a mask’ about our spiritual lives and inadvertently hide the gospel from those we are close to? Many believers naturally withdraw from sharing the Gospel in what we will call the ‘normal past’. Looking at our actions now - both voluntary and mandatory - we must make sure that we do not ‘withdraw the gospel’. We cannot allow the current ‘social distancing’ mandates become an excuse to withdraw and keep others at arms length when it comes to the gospel message. As we look at the social unrest in our nation we as God’s people know that the solution is a right relationship with our God through His Son Jesus.

It would seem logical that during uncertain and trying times that people are searching for answers and when they do - the Gospel of Jesus and His provision for all people is a message that folks will listen to and many will see their need for assurance and stability. Assurance! Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine.

Assurance is what the world needs now. We do not know what the future holds on this earth, but with Christ we know Who holds our hand.

Let us not be weary in well doing. Don’t wear a spiritual mask or be spiritually distant from others. What can you do? Continue to live for Him and be generous in sharing with the world what He can do.

Costa Family continued from front page

tant issues, and they made sure that each other’s deeper plans were aligned. It became obvious that he was supposed to leave the business world and focus on his mission to serve God and others. It would impact his income and they would have to make sacrifices.



Joe & Mira Costa

Her big plan, on the other hand, was to go to the States and study healthcare management. So after about a year of dating she left, and their long-distance relationship for two years was a good test for their growing relationship.

“God’s providence prevails,” he says. The university she attended in Philadelphia was 40 minutes away from his uncle’s family, and they invited Mira to move into their extra bedroom when she began having roommate problems. Mira enjoyed living with the Costa family, and she became a catalyst for the Costa cousins to get to know each other even better.

During those two years, Mira and Joe saw each other as they traveled between the U.S. and Lebanon. In August 2016, three and half years after they met, they were married.

His mission

He thought hard and prayed a lot to find his calling. His heart was set on serving young people in their 20s. His mission is to talk with them, invest in them, and encourage them. “I want to serve young Arabs,” Joe said. “Especially the ones in Lebanon.”

During their first year as husband and wife, they took off to the U.S. for Joe to study and

raise funds for his ministry.

And Mira’s mission

During their time in the States, Mira worked for a year as a business analyst in healthcare management. Her employer was so satisfied with her work that they extended a work-from-home-in-Lebanon offer (way before Covid-19). She accepted.

Reflecting on how God worked in his life, Joe deeply believes that whenever a door was difficult to open or closed shut, it was God’s intervention. He believes that God has always pointed him in the direction of the mission for a greater cause.

Reminiscing living in the United States

They returned to Lebanon in September 2017, but Joe misses the States as he and Mira enjoyed living there. He explains that it’s little details that make the difference between Lebanon and America: uninterrupted power, doing business online, going to concerts and festivals, and not having to run around to do official paperwork. They found a balance between American friends and culture and Arab and Lebanese friends who enjoyed what they enjoyed. That balance made it even more difficult to leave.

He loves to barbecue ribs (who doesn’t), hang out with friends and watch the Super Bowl, enjoy the American way, and yet he still misses a good plate of hummus.

“My mission is to serve here [Lebanon]. So I think that’s what made the United States blues a little more tolerable.”

He’s been working with youth since he was 17. At 32, he’s now fully immersed in it with more experience under his belt. Sometimes young people are blamed for being on the sidelines and not taking initiative. Others think that adults contribute to marginalizing youth. We might tell them to “keep quiet as the adults are speaking,” or we suggest that “their ideas don’t matter as much.”

Joe says, “Young people need attention and are full of energy. If you don’t listen and channel their energy for the right things, they will use it for other purposes.”

“We shouldn’t blame a teenager if he spends 14 hours straight on Fortnite if we don’t help him fill that time with something worthwhile. Young people have amazing ideas, are future-looking, yet still lack maturity and experience. What they see and feel is genuine. If



you listen to them, you’ll observe, learn, and discover.

“For example, a young person who PlayStation all day is also a poet. A person who snowboards, hikes, and does extreme sports can also enjoy a cool game of backgammon. They have experience in areas in which adults can barely keep up with, if any. By listening, we learn. We need to invest in them. We help them grow, understand life, and find their purpose. They can make their worlds and ours a much better place.”

Joe works with about 50 youths every month aged 18–28. He conducts mentorship sessions, weekly meetings, dialogue forums, trivia nights, bible studies, and prayer groups.

Check out his ShibiFeed Facebook page, Youtube, and Instagram that are helping Arab youth discuss life’s toughest questions and their relationship with God.

The multifaceted Joe

Aside from enjoying a good rack of baby back ribs, he enjoys basketball and analyzing stats. He’s a big fan of the Philadelphia 76ers. He also enjoys theater. Just like (the Broadway show) Tina, his dream was to act on Broadway. He can sing in tune, but doesn’t claim to have an angelic voice. He likes the stage. It’s genuine and plays live.

“I would love to act in plays,” Joe says. “The ones that fit my values. Kinky Boots won’t work. Jesus Christ Superstar might. Drama, monologues, dialogues, I would love that.”

At 32, he’s full of energy, focused, aligned with God and wife, serves youth, and helps them build a better future for all of us.

Way to go, Joe. Way to go. [During the COVID-19 lockdown Joe spends time with ShiBiFeed producing videos and connecting with youth and conducts online regular youth meetings and one-on-one coaching. Shoutout to Ziad, a Starbucks buddy of his, and to the Min Albi for helping them get food boxes to 145 families.]

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MINISTERING TO YOUNG PEOPLE

by Anders Lee

What Do They Need To Hear?

2020 is half way through... it has been a crazy roller coaster ride! Agree? It started with a heated impeachment of President Trump. We barely got that off the calendar when we were hit with COVID 19. We have been covered up with COVID information. I mean we literally have not lived a day without news on it. Then suddenly as things started to progress to normality, the country is hit with riots and racial divide. We aren't hearing much about COVID any more... I'm wondering what's next to be honest since it's an election year!

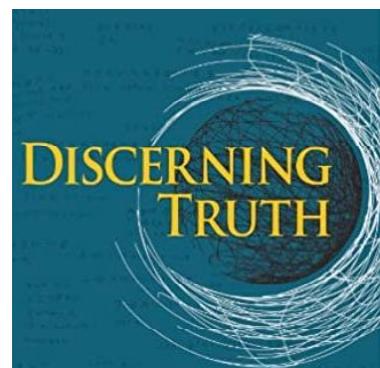
In the meantime, our kids and teens are hearing and seeing everything that is in the media, particularly social media! They're not watching the news and listen folks... trust me when I say this... they aren't on Facebook. No... they aren't... YOU ARE. Well... a lot of you are. They are on Snapchat and Tic Tok. Both of these (particularly Tic Tok) are filled with the liberal agenda. They are filled with ads and sponsored pages from the money bags of the liberals who are committed to indoctrinating their generation. We are living in a progressively changing political environment!



Anders Lee

One that is aggressive and poignant as well! They are being raised in a world so much different than I was in the Reagan years of the 80's.

I wonder what our teens in the BMA think of all this? They are a brilliant group of kids! I love them... I love to be around them! WOW! This generation can do stuff for Christ. What do they need to hear right now? TRUTH!!! They need to hear their pastors and youth pastors speak to the truth of these situations! They need to be told that there is a network of people out there who are seeking to de-



stroy Christians and this country that was built on Christian principles! That's biblical. I don't mean that you have to go political from your pulpit or in your youth group. But you can teach them this:

"SEE TO IT that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to hu-

man tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ." Colossians 2:8

In Paul's days there were false teachers who were successful in getting people to believe their deceitful lies! Trying to intentionally mislead people about the truth of Christ! They even

I wonder what our teens in the BMA think of all this?

tried to discredit and destroy Paul. The truth matters!!! Doctrine matters!!! This passage teach us to always SEE TO IT that you or the people you shepherd do not become prisoners of the devil's attempt to sway you from biblical facts that God wants us to know! There are also people within churches who want their way... they want power... with crafty words &

ways they are cunning and manipulative! Beware! Use discernment!!!

That applies to scripture and doctrine, and yet it also applies to the current world scene here in America and to the media we watch... the efforts of those trying to sway a people with their agenda! Discernment...this next

IT!!! They need to know about propagand and politics who always seek to sway and mislead a people for their own gain. There has been much of this in 2020! We are living in deceitful times filled with powerful people vying for control! Our teens need to hear this so that they are not deceived!!!

WEEP!!! Weep for our teens and kids! Pray for them!!! Teach them!!! For the enemy is aggressive... we too should be in our efforts to guide and grow them! They are hearing from the media!!! Are they hearing from the ministry they are a part of? THEY NEED TO!!! SEE TO IT!!!

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

Church Visitation:

It Wasn't Broke, So Why Did We Fix It?

from Jordan Tew

Baptist Publishing House

Some of you may remember when churches would make a priority of visiting their members or prospective members. Every church has people in it who are sick, shut-in, or have not been attending worship regularly. In days past, it was the norm for a group from the church to visit these people to check on them, pray with them, and encourage them in their walk with the Lord. However, in the last couple of decades, many churches have simply stopped doing this. Why? The Scriptures speak clearly of our need to watch over one another. Remember these words: "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching (Hebrews 10:24-25)."

There is, perhaps, no better avenue for a visitation ministry than the Sunday School class or Bible study group.

Consider this quarterly visitation ministry plan:

1. On the first Sunday of each new quarter, take a look around your Sunday School class or small group, and determine who is not there. Put them on a list.
2. Round up some people from your class or group and plan to go visit them the next Saturday.



3. When you visit them, bring them their Sunday School book. This does three things:

- a. It gives you a good reason to visit them, helping them not to feel uncomfortable when you arrive.
- b. It gives you an opportunity to bless them. The sick and shut-in would love to be at church, but simply cannot be there. Those who have been unfaithful in church attendance will appreciate not being forgotten about or feeling a cold shoulder. They will be glad they still matter to you.
- c. It opens doors to Gospel

ministry. You will have opportunities to not only share the Gospel with the people you visit, but you will be able to demonstrate the Gospel to the people you visit by showing God's love for them.

4. Invite them to come with you to church Sunday morning. You may even consider taking them to lunch afterward.

Some things are timeless like showing love, compassion, and concern for others. Visitation ministry never broke, so why did "fix it?" Any church can maintain a quarterly visitation ministry. Try it and let us know how it goes. If you don't have enough literature to distribute, you can order more on our website or call in an order.

We look forward to hearing from you!

August 2, 2020 A Day of Giving



Southeastern Baptist College's Special Emphasis Months are July and August for focused donations from churches and individuals. All BMA of Mississippi churches are encouraged to designate the first Sunday in August, August 2, 2020, for a "Day of Giving" for SBC (or any Sunday in July or August that may be more convenient for your church family). As a reminder, Southeastern Baptist College is a 501(c)(3) certified tax deductible charity.

Sofilthy's Attic by Barbara White



Are We Having Fun Yet?

Remember trips we used to take where we had to "syke" our kids up by telling them it would be a lot of fun, and before we reached our destination they would always ask, "Are we having fun yet?"

During this pandemic, "stay at home" time, I've decided it is fun! We got that stimulus check which I personally didn't think I needed since I was saving money by not having to use soap and water for bathing, no deodorant, no make-up, no gas for the car, etc.

I've had time to read and study. I've watched more movies than at any other time in my life (some good, some not so good). I've written letters, I've talked to friends and loved ones regularly.

So yes, we are having fun! Go look up Philippians 4:4-9. We are having fun!

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



Larry Geraldson
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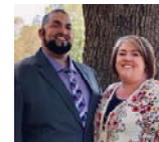
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“Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;...” Psalm 103:1-4

I am writing this article from my quarantine location. Along with others from Big Creek, I too tested positive for the Coronavirus. I am blessed that the Lord has delivered me from the symptoms, and I am on the mend. I will have to remain in quarantine until June 17th but after that, I will be free to return to my normal activities. We serve an awesome God who knows exactly what He is doing. I am at total peace with the providence of God, not only as it has to do with His governance of the world and our nation, but also the personal affairs of my own life. Even though this crisis has challenged us, we have not turned away from the challenge. Our Missionaries are to be commended for the fine job they have done to keep missionary activity going during these challenging times.

Stepping Up

Psalm 37:23 “the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and he delighteth in his way.” We may not always understand the path, steps or timing, but our God does! I am so glad that He is in control of my steps. My family is overjoyed to be a part of the BMA of Mississippi family and we are excited to see how God is going to order our steps this summer. Please be in prayer for us that we will be able to get into churches this summer to share about the ministry in the Meridian area. Pray for the Lord to go before us, to prepare the people and the location for the church plant. Pray that God will open hearts and minds, and give us favor as we strive to minister in a new community. As Paul said to the Thessalonians, “Brethren, pray for us.” - Missionary Chris Yager

“As our newest missionary, Bro. Chris Yager has been at the right place at the right time, and has stepped up to help his mother church, Big Creek at Soso. All the pastoral staff has tested positive for Coronavirus. Bro. Chris was called upon to set up and fill the vacancy during these challenging times. Any of you who may want to hear him preach, can visit the Big Creek Facebook page. Bro. Chris has been hindered from visiting our churches and local association meetings to share his vision about church planting in Meridian. But as things



Missionary Chris Yager fills the pulpit at Big Creek in Soso

begin to open back up, I encourage you to give him a call and get him to come to your church.” - Director

Canaan Land Baptist Mission Prepares to Move to Buckatunna

“Thank you all for your continued prayers and support. Waynesboro has been hit hard! It is a “hot spot” for COVID-19. We have had to move back outside the building to drive-up services. This, of course, makes it difficult to do much more than minister to our members and try to reach out and share the gospel through social media. Our lease is up on the building we are leasing for services, at the end of June. Rather than stay there and pay additional rent, our plan is to move into the new purchased building even though the renovations are not complete. Please



Missions Renovation of newly purchased facility for Canaan Land Baptist Mission in Buckatunna

pray that God will continue to give us wisdom and strength to continue the work here. Would you also consider contributing to the matching funds campaign that will be running through June, July, and August to help eliminate the debt of the property we acquired with the assistance of the Revolving Loan Fund.” - Missionaries Jason Howard and Scott Brocius

“A matching funds campaign has been approved to help reduce the indebtedness of Canaan Land Baptist Mission. The campaign began 1 Jun and will continue until the end of August. Donations received, at the Missions Office, marked for this campaign, will be matched up to \$50,000.00. Please prayerfully consider helping them.” - Director

Update from The Kiln

“We have continued to offer online live services on Facebook. These include Sunday mornings at 10 am and Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm. Bro. Jay Ladner has been teaching the Wednesday night class online and people seem to be responding well to it. We have been meeting and discussing plans to have public gatherings again. We have booked the local Kiln Storm Shelter for June 14th. We will go before our county board of supervisors on June 15th to try to rent the shelter for multiple weeks or months at a time. We have done our best to stay in constant contact with people attending before the COVID-19 issues began. Please be in prayer for us, as we try to reach into our area and continue searching for a more secure place to meet.” - Missionary Josh Daniels

Greetings from Diamondhead

“We hope we find you all well. Things have been good for us. Like many of you, we have moved back into the sanctuary for services on Sunday mornings. Our first service back, we had a visitor give his life to the Lord. We have also recently had a young family join the church. We are looking forward to scheduling baptisms soon. We recently weathered Tropical Storm Christobal. There was plenty of rain but no damage to the church building. We are excited about what God is doing. Though our attendance is down just a little, we believe that we should hold steady at our average or maybe grow some once things get

more back to normal. We are currently finishing up a small group study in Genesis. We have been doing this through Zoom. We will start to meet back at the building once this study is finished. Bro. Daniel will continue to post a sermon online for Sunday nights as we move forward. Thanks for your continued support and prayers. God Bless!” - Missionaries Wesley Martin and Daniel Allen

Report from Waveland, Mississippi



Missions Missionary Johnny Williams staying busy making repairs during the shut down

“The past few months have been very unpredictable at the mission. Events beyond our control have kept us trusting and dependent upon the Lord. But as always, He is faithful and loves us



Missions Salt Light Mission returns to services and wants us to succeed. We are so thankful to be able to meet with each other for worship and preaching. Mid-

Missions continued on page 7

Southeastern Baptist College

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Serving Christ With A Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

President's Perspective

Between COVID 19 and the riots throughout our country, one might think my article subject for this publication of the Mississippi Baptist Newspaper would be related to one of these topics. It is not. I may be wrong, but my guess is that many other contributors will address those issues, so I will ask us to take a look at another subject.



Dr. Scott Carson
President

There's a story in the sixth chapter of Second Samuel, about King David's desire to bring the ark of the covenant to his location. In the first attempt, tragedy struck for an act of disobedience and the Lord struck down a man. The ark was waylaid until David could overcome his fear for the lives of his men who would move the ark to its new location. As they began the second attempt the scripture says, "And it was so, that when they

that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings. And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet." 2 Samuel 6:13-15.

Having come to know the Lord as a teenager, and with no other reference for how to practice worship, I embraced the worship culture of the church where I was saved. It was traditionally Baptist in practice. We would sing three or four songs from a hymnal, singing only the first, second, and last stanzas. Sometimes we would be asked to stand while singing and sometimes not. Congregational songs were accompanied with a piano and organ. Every so often a person would sing a special with an acoustic guitar. The liturgy never changed. It was predictable and comforting.

In the late 1970's and the early 80's, some songs sung as specials were taken from "contemporary" radio stations. I re-

member hearing Amy Grant on occasions. This ruffled my worship feathers. I had become a "hymns only" person and would sit in severe judgment of anyone with the audacity to venture outside of the hymnal's covers. While I was in Bible college, I and several other students

I saw large groups of young soldiers respond to the altar call and I felt my heart melt as I released to the Lord my judgmental attitude toward "proper worship"

decided to chastise the president of the school for allowing such "liberal" music into the chapel program. He listened to our fierce arguments and then simply dismissed us from his office with a "thank you for sharing". To our disappointment, nothing in the music program changed.

Now, let's fast forward to my Army days as a chaplain. For many of my early years as a chaplain, chapel music services were pretty much the same as in a traditional Baptist church, singing from hymnals while accompanied by a piano and or-

gan, and an occasional special was sung using very familiar songs of inspiration. Most chapels were attended primarily by higher ranking soldiers and their families, including many retirees. Young soldiers were a rare sight in a chapel pew. Though the chapels were almost always strategically located very near the living quarters of the soldiers, their absence at services was always painfully obvious.

In the mid 1990's, I heard about a chapel program that was standing room only and filled

worship?" I looked around and saw soldiers engaged in worshipping their Lord. I heard a sound biblical message that they joyfully received. I saw large groups of young soldiers respond to the altar call and I felt my heart melt as I released to the Lord my judgmental attitude toward "proper worship". God was doing a mighty thing in a new way and revival was breaking out in this service. When I returned to my traditional service where there were no young warriors, I became convicted in my heart to never judge worship style again.

A few years later, the Lord put me into positions of authority where I could influence changes to the traditional formatted services in Army chapels. In every case, the Lord blessed us with tremendous growth in our young soldier's attendance. It was amazing to see God bless these contemporary formatted services with soldiers turning to the Lord, getting saved, baptized, and dedicated to becoming His disciples. Clearly, the hand of our Lord Jesus was upon this style of service.

The story in Second Samuel continues in verse 15, "And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart."

Verse 20 tells us, "Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, How glorious was the king of Israel today, who uncovered himself today in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself!"

David replies to Michal in verse 20, "And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight; and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour."

In the end, Michal was punished for her attitude towards David's worship to his Lord. Verse 21 concludes the story, "Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death."

How can I ever stand in judgment again concerning any biblical format that the Lord blesses? I choose to let God be the judge of His worship and I will not allow myself to limit my Lord on what He accepts as pure worship from the hearts of men.

Equipping the Saints!
Dr. Carson

Southeastern News

Cheerleader Signs with SBC

Madison Dial of Ellisville, Mississippi, became the first cheerleader signed to the growing Athletics Department at Southeastern Baptist College.

Dial, who graduated from South Jones High School, has been involved in cheer the majority of her life. Before joining SBC, she cheered on the South Jones Junior High and Senior High squads, and for ACE Cheer Company of Hattiesburg. With cheer being a big part of life for her, it's no wonder that Madison also received the All Ameri-

can Cheerleader award when younger.

"I feel so blessed and am so grateful for this opportunity. I'm really eager to get started! This chance to further my education and get back into cheer is a dream come true" states Dial as she signs her National Letter of Intent on Saturday, June 6, 2020.

Cheer Coach Angela Golobay is "so excited to have Madison onboard. Her enthusiasm, character, and experience are exactly what we are looking for as we go forward this year with the new Chargers Cheer team." Madison has already shown her dedication to excellence during the summer semester and we see much more in her future!

The Cheer team will be joining the Athletics program alongside the existing sports of men and women's bas-

ketball, men and women's golf, cross country, and tennis. Other new additions for the Chargers this coming season are baseball and softball, with women's volleyball coming in the following season.

For more information on the Chargers Athletics Program email: athletics@southeasternbaptist.edu

Women's Dorm Renovation

We are renovating the upstairs women's dormitory that has not been occupied in many years. This is a tremendous opportunity for your church, yourself, or an organization to adopt as their contribution to the growth of SBC. There are eight rooms and four bathrooms that must be completely refreshed before the beginning of the Fall Semester. For each full sponsor, the sponsor's name will be placed on a plaque on the door of the suite. Each suite will cost \$7,200 to renovate. Please refer to the adjacent flyer for more details.

A Housing Opportunity

We know we can exceed 100 students taking classes here at SBC. One of our greatest chal-

lenges to growing the student body is housing. We are currently exploring ways to meeting this significant need. We know of newly manufactured mobile homes that are configured with five apartments. If you can help us in securing reduced pricing for these, or can help with installing infrastructure to support mobile homes, please give Dr. Carson a call at 601-426-6346.

Registering for Fall Semester

We have opened early registration for this coming Fall Semester. Contact Admissions through our website, by calling 601-426-6346, or by visiting our campus in person 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Classes begin the second week of August.

The Danny Pitts Lecture Series

Mark your calendars! We have set the dates of September 28-30 for the Danny Pitts Lecture Series here on the campus of SBC. More information will

SBC continued on page 6



Madison Dial of Ellisville, Mississippi signs with SBC

Southeastern College

from page 5

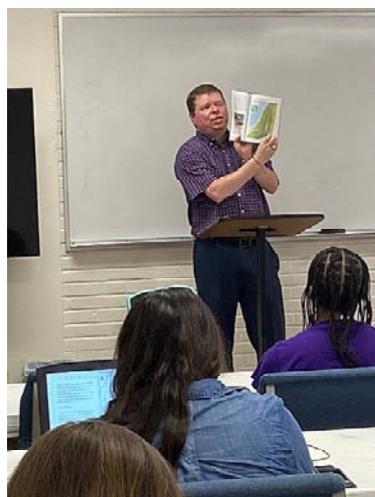
be provided over the next couple of months.

Available Scholarships

The Arnold Knight Memorial RLF Scholarship is available every semester to Baptist Missionary Association ministers who take classes at Southeastern Baptist College. These funds are administered by the BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund. Contact our Financial Aid Officer, Ginny Singleton for more information.

The Best Online 2-Year College

Southeastern Baptist College is designated by Intelligent.com as the "Best Two Year University" for Online Bible Colleges out of 201 institutions across the U.S. for 2020. That's twice in the last 4 years we have been ranked number one out of hun-



Professor Sean Piper kicks off Old Testament Survey in the largest attended Summer Session in over 20 years! Hundreds of colleges and universities. And we have consistently been in the top 25. SBC is also one of the top 10 least expensive schools among thousands of colleges in the country. Contact

Southeastern Baptist College



Best two-year online Bible college for 2020 in the country!

the SBC Admissions Officer today at 601-426-6346.

Commencement Postponement

The 2020 Southeastern Baptist College graduation ceremony is postponed to Saturday, August 1, 2020 at 11 a.m. and will be held in the College gym. Dr. John Adams is our guest speaker. Dr. Adams is an alumnus, Pastor of 1st Baptist Church of Mantachie, Mississippi and the Director of the Moral Action of Mississippi. Congratulations to our graduates!

Lighthouse Café

The SBC Lighthouse Café is closed until further notice. We plan to reopen the café at the Fall Semester.

SBC Choir

Do you want to sing for the Lord in our choir and receive college credit for it! Find out how by contacting Krista McKenzie at 601-426-6346.

Veterans Benefits

SBC possesses the 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! SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

Amazon Smile

Anyone shopping on Amazon can select Southeastern Baptist College as your charity. When you do this, a portion of your purchase price will go directly to SBC as a donation from Amazon! Thank you for those who are already using this unique method to benefit SBC.



- Go here to see announcements for other sports tryouts - <http://athletics.southeasternbaptist.edu/>



Director of Information Technology, Hubert Dyess, trains Summer Session professors on the use of newly acquired technology.

Goodbye Southeastern Baptist College

How do you say goodbye to something that has been such a huge part of your life for forty-two of your sixty-five years?

Emma Bond came to Southeastern in August of 1973 as a freshman student. She met the person who would be her future husband, Jentry Bond, and with whom she would share a life's calling to serve God in Christian education. Because of Southeastern phasing back drastically to get the college indebtedness under control, they both transferred to our BMA sister colleges: Jentry to Central Baptist College (AR) and Emma to Jacksonville Baptist College (TX). After marrying and completing their time at these institutions they moved to Jacksonville, Texas, for Jentry to continue his education at BMA Theological Seminary. Their daughter Amy, who has been an employee of Southeastern herself for nearly twenty years, was born while they were at the seminary. Their family then moved to Laurel for Jentry to begin his work at Southeastern in August, 1979, where he served in many areas from professor to president until he was forced to resign in May 2005 because of cancer. The Lord called him home in 2006. Emma worked part-time in the college bookstore from August 1979 – October 1980 when she took a couple of years off when their son, Aaron, was born. Emma returned to serve as bookstore manager in January 1983. Other duties were added or changed through the years: Secretary to President A.M. Wilson: January 1988 – October 1990; Financial Aid Director: February 1991 – July 1996; Director of Admissions: August 1993 – July 2002; Registrar: August 2002 to the present; Assistant to the Director of Institutional Effectiveness: August 2008 to the present.



Emma Bond

Southeastern has truly been a life's calling. Emma says that she has been so very blessed to meet so many of God's people who have become lifelong friends through her work at Southeastern. Her GREATEST JOY has been to help students move through the necessary paperwork of the educational process to help them accomplish their goals of preparing themselves to serve our Lord in their own personal calls of service.

Emma would like to say to you: "Thank you to the BMA of Mississippi for allowing my family to serve God and you through Southeastern these many years. So How do I say goodbye? Simply: I ask for your prayers as I wait for God to show me the next area of service for Him in my "Golden Years." Goodbye and may God bless you all richly!!!"

August 2, 2020 - A Day of Giving -



Southeastern Baptist College's Special Emphasis Months are July and August for focused donations from churches and individuals. All BMA of Mississippi churches are encouraged to designate the first Sunday in August, August 2, 2020, for a "Day of Giving" for SBC (or any Sunday in July or August that may be more convenient for your church family). As a reminder, Southeastern Baptist College is a 501(c)(3) certified tax deductible charity.

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

*Small Groups Welcomed***National Campground Closed for Season***Daniel Springs Baptist Camp offers Daniel Springs in a Box option for your church groups, families and individuals.*

After much prayer and thoughtful deliberation, Daniel Springs Baptist Camp will not be open for our regular summer camp schedule for 2020. We believe the health and safety of our FAMILY (our campers, adult sponsors, staffers and the members of our local community) are of great importance. One of the many things we love about camp at Daniel Springs is how we have campers, sponsors and staff from 10 to over 500 miles away that travel each summer to spend a week together to retreat and be refreshed by God. With

the blessing of family from all over, the health of our family and the adherence to regulations and guidelines set by the Texas governor and CDC becomes immensely challenging to safeguard and manage. Many facets were considered during this process as we poured over the recommended guidelines. In truth, some of the aspects we



Jason Prewitt
Camp Director

love most about camp would have to be done away with for us to gather.

Camp is for Bible study, worship, swimming, recreation, and it's meeting new friends and taking every opportunity to build those relationships. Wearing masks, social distancing, and limited interactions with people from outside your group are foreign concepts to camp. Camp is for Growing Together in Christ's Love! On top of the relational side, our staff would be strained with new guidelines that include cleaning, food preparation and health screening.

We know that none of what has happened over the last few months is a surprise to the Lord. Even through this, He has a plan and many opportunities

for the church to be on Mission. We, personally, are all very disappointed about having to make this decision. The camp is too quiet! We take our mission of being an extension of the church very seriously and consider it a blessing to partner with you in ministry. At this

.. we have the option to host retreats for groups and families. If you would like to discuss options, feel free to contact us.

time, we believe this is the very best decision we can make to serve the church, you and your ministry.

We are excited to announce an amazing resource we are working on called Daniel Springs In A Box This could be an option for your groups, families and individuals to experience some of the things we love about camp. There will be digital resources, like Bible Leaders teaching the lessons, recreations ideas and instructional videos and also material you can order such as T-Shirts and camp merchandise. Keep watching our social media sites or go to www.DanielSpringsCamp.com for updates on Daniel Springs In A Box resources and details.

We are also excited to say that even though we cannot host big groups, we have the option to host retreats for groups and families. If you would like to discuss options, feel free to contact us.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the camp at (903) 685-2433 or email jason@danielspringscamp.com. We know and believe that God moves in great and mighty ways. We are praying for your church and the ministry He has placed you in and if we can be of any help please let us know.

Missions Report

from page 4

way First Baptist at Sumrall designated \$2,000.00 to fix a nursery and an adjoining room. We have been gathering materials and we're working on it now (pics in next report). We are hoping to be able to use these rooms in the near future. The Lord continues to bless us with new contacts and each project we do at the mission. Please keep us in your prayers. Knowing that you all are praying for us means more than you can imagine. We are grateful for His love, power and grace." – Missionary Johnny Williams

Midway Baptist Mission at Batesville

"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalms 122:1 Oh how wonderful it is to be having services in our church building! We met on Mother's Day for the first post-COVID19 service. The CDC guidance is being followed and that makes things somewhat strange, but we are happy to be able to meet in person. Attendance is only half of what it was before the 'shelter in place' order was issued. Some are not yet comfortable with returning to church and a few just haven't gotten back into the routine. New contacts were made through our videos and we have some new prospects. All of our people have remained healthy through these difficult times and we will continue the work toward organization as a New Testament Church. Continue to pray for us." - Dr. Kenneth Pollock, Mission Pastor

Hispanic Missions Report

"El Camino, Laurel continues to broadcasting worship service by Facebook live on Sundays. Twice during the week we are broadcasting Bible study. We are also conducting small groups meeting by video conference on Saturdays. Over 100 people have been faithful to these activities. El Camino, Laurel has decided to return to meeting in the building on the first Sunday in July. El Camino, Hattiesburg Mission,

Missionary Leo Adan, reports that they have continued to broadcast worship service by Facebook live on Sundays and small group Bible study by video conference. The Hispanic congregation has been faithful to every transmission in the last 10 weeks. El Camino, Canton Mission and El Camino, Biloxi Mission, continue without meetings but joined, every weekend, the El Camino, Laurel Church transmissions. Please pray for our Hispanic community around the state and that the Lord will help us to reach the souls in the middle of this crisis." - Estuardo Marroquin, Hispanic Missions Manager

Restoration Ministry

"The jail in which we have started ministering in Jasper County is still closed to visitors due to COVID-19, so we are waiting to continue reaching people within that jail once it is opened again. I had a phone conversation with a church member from the southeast part of the state who would like to get his church active in reaching their local jail, and we will be trying to set a time when I can come visit his church to discuss this opportunity further. Please pray that we will be able to establish this ministry point. If anyone has interest in their church working with Restoration, please contact me at paul.restoration.ministry@gmail.com. Also, I want to thank Pastor Joey Reus and the congregation at Movella for allowing me to fill the pulpit on May 31. It was a treat to be with the people there." – Dr. Paul Spurlin

Well Done!

Due to health concerns, Bro. Ed DuVall has stepped down as the Coordinator of our BMA of Mississippi African American Missions. He stated that he needed to focus all of his attention on pastoring HomeStretch, the church he began as a state missionary. I personally want to commend Bro. Ed for the fine job he has done. During his time as the Coordinator, he helped coach two African American missions to organize as New Testament Churches. He led in the organization of the Great Rivers

Association and has championed the need for mission work in the Delta. All of this was done while pastoring a church and receiving dialysis three times a week. Well done my Brother.

Thank You!

Our Special Emphasis was way off this year, but we expected that to be the case with churches not meeting. However, we are very grateful to those who did contribute and want to recognize them here and express our appreciation. Your contribution will go a long way to help us during these difficult times. The following is a list of those who have contributed:

Bethel, Wiggins
Big Creek, Soso
Canaan, Richton
First Baptist, Calhoun
HomeStretch, Cleveland
Bro. Frank Panzrino
Paramount, Perkinston
Bro. Dennis and Sylvia Rankin
Spring Hill, Ocean Springs
Washington Baptist, Neely

Congratulations

Austin and Caitlin Farmer have made our Missionary Coach, Sidney Farmer and his wife Becky, new grandparents. Charles Elliot Farmer was born on Sunday, May 10th at 2:20 pm. He was 8lbs 3oz and 21 inches long. Congratulations to all!



Charles Elliot Farmer

Closed to Walk In Traffic

Due to the surge in Coronavirus cases in Jones County, we have again closed the office to walk in traffic. However, Ms Kim Parker continues to show up each day and is available, by phone, to assist you with any Revolving Loan Fund transaction you may have. You can reach her at 601-428-8616.

Church Recognizes Pastor's Service

On Sunday May 31 Ballardsville Baptist Church of Tupelo, Mississippi, honored their pastor's 50 years of ministry. Pastor Frank Panzrino was recognized for his dedication and length of service to the Gospel. He was presented a plaque and a gift card and the church enjoyed a great meal on a beautiful day in the park at the church.

Bro. Frank has been the pastor at Ballardsville for 3 1/2 years. Fifty



Bro. Frank Panzrino

years in the ministry is very special.. God has really blessed!

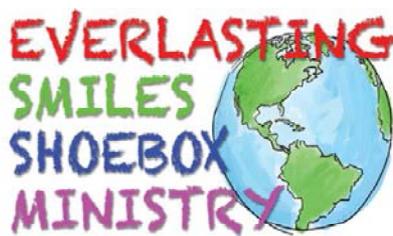
Bro. Panzrino has served in a number of local and state Association capacities and offices. He has served for a number of years as the parliamentarian of the BMA of Mississippi during state meetings.

Christmas Shoe Box Info 2020

by Dr. Ralph Izard & Angela Rice
angela@bmamissions.org
501-455-4977

Friends, We need your help! Your church is invited to partner with us to provide Everlasting Smile Christmas Shoe Boxes to missionaries in Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, and Nicaragua. These shoe boxes are a great tool to help our missionaries meet and build relationships with people. Many people will come to a service that is providing a "gift from the States" that would otherwise not come to a service.

This year, more than ever, we are excited to send the boxes. This will provide a great opportunity for our missionaries to connect and reconnect after a long time of quarantine. Many people in these countries have lost jobs, money is tight, and that means they don't have much food. The boxes will bring much joy to parents and children.



Packing a shoe box is a great way to help open doors to spread the gospel to people who may otherwise never attend a service. It seems like a simple thing for us, but to our missionaries, it is a vital tool for ministry.

The smile that a child finds when opening a shoe box is often for a moment, but the love of Jesus that they find through this ministry is the Everlasting Smiles. For more information, visit bmamissions.org/christmas-shoebboxes. We look forward to working with you to provide Everlasting Smiles.

Scripture Thoughts by Cleaver

1 John 3.1 *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*

Any good father is proud of his children. The Heavenly Father has chosen to call us His children. He is not only proud of us, but He is also hopeful we will behave like His children. Children are not born full grown. They go through the maturation process. They grow into youth, then adulthood. Children come to resemble their father, for they have his DNA in the very center of their beings.

Good Reader, we as His children have the very DNA of His own Son in us! It is not yet revealed what we will be like at maturation. We do know we will be like Him when He appears. We have this promise...even more, we have this assurance!

1 John 4.1 - *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*

John did not have modern communication methods when he wrote this. There were no mass printings of books or newspapers. There were no radios or

televisions. There was not even the internet with its attendant social media! Yet in his day, he knew there were many false prophets in the world. How effortlessly the false prophets replicate their toxic messages today using all of the myriads of transmission methods to disgorge their virulent deceptiveness.

It is at times simple to question the validity of these false prophets. Simply ask an unsophisticated question: "Who does the Bible say Jesus is?" You will find your answer about who Jesus is in the Scriptures. The false prophets will integrate their crooked statements from some other source. Good Reader, who is Jesus as the Bible has revealed Him? What do you say?

1 John 5.14 *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us:*

Secretly - and if we will confess it - most of us have prayed problematic prayers. Some of those prayers might be like: "God, just let me win the lottery to pay off some of my debts." Or



Tony Cleaver

perhaps it is: "Lord, just give me this one promotion and I will go to church every Easter, I promise." Still it might be like: "Father, make me successful, handsome or beautiful, healthy and rich and I will..."

Jesus went to prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane with none of those kinds of prayers. John was there in the Garden with Jesus. Perhaps he might have heard some of that prayer (Matthew 26.39): "And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

At the point of entering agony, torment, and anguish on the cross, Jesus prayed for His Father's will to be done. So, Good Reader, as we come to this time of prayer right now in the Father's presence, may we also say the words of Jesus regarding the Father's will in our lives. John writes to us in this day and in this time with this admonition: "This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."

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

BMMI Trip Canceled

from Dr. Ralph Izard,
Dr. John Ladd and Angela Rice
It is always depressing to have to cancel a BMMI trip, but due to the virus and after talking with Pastor Paul Tinoco in Peru, it is the proper thing to do. He relates that churches are closed there until August 1st. He also reports that there have been no cases of COVID-19 with the Ashaninka's along the river Tambo.

The Zambia trip that is scheduled for October 24 - November 4 is fully staffed and is still on at this point.

The following trips are scheduled for 2021: Thailand with Missionaries Siripong (Jo) Yaebeang and Brandon Lingle; (January 15-25), Ukraine with Missionary Larry Wood; and Guatemala with Missionary David Marroquin.

All trips are subject to change. Other trips in the future include Armenia, Moldova, Cambodia, Jordan, Mexico, Philippines, Angola, Argentina, Laos and Burma. Please pray for open doors in India.

History & Archives Commission

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440

A Question Raised - Statement of Faith

The following article was found in the April 11th, 1963 issue The Baptist Record (Mississippi SBC paper) in response to the SBC Statement Committee's proposal to amend their 1925 Faith and Message. The following was written by R. A. Long who served on the statement committee.

"The privilege of serving on the 'Statement Committee' was one of the greatest blessings of my life. The fellowship within the committee was a joy to experience, and I have only praise for every member of it; however, I must take issue with one article in the report.

What I have to say is not a minority report, because I did not write this in conjunction with any other member of the committee.

I am opposed to one part of the new (suggested) version of the Statement of Baptist Faith and Message, as found in the report of the committee. I have reference to Article VI, which is entitled 'The Church.' It reads as follows: 'A New Testament church of the

Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, committed to his teachings, exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. This church is an autonomous body, operating through democratic processes under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In such a congregation members are equally responsible, its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons.' Last Paragraph Problem. "The New Testament speaks also of the church as the body of Christ which includes the redeemed of all ages."



Jason Howard
Director

My problem is with the last paragraph. I believe it should be omitted. I do not understand it to be the purpose of the committee to state what a majority of its members

thought Baptists should believe, but rather to sketch in broad outline those common characteristics of faith, message and practice which do now, and have through the years, made us a distinctive people.

I definitely do not believe that the last paragraph of Article VI states an essential tenet of the common faith of Southern Baptists.

I list below my objections to including it in our 'Statement.'

1. Many Southern Baptists do not believe that the New Testament speaks of the church as the body of Christ, which includes all of the redeemed of all ages. I maintain that they don't have to believe so to be orthodox Southern Baptists. . . .

2. If we need precedence for leaving out any reference to the church as other than local, there is plenty. The 1925 Statement of 'Baptist Faith and Message' entitles the article on the church (Article XII) 'A Gospel Church.' It deals exclusively with the local church. Absolutely no reference is made to the universal church idea. The Abstract of Principles of four of our six seminaries deal exclusively with the local church. That does not mean that all the professors in those four seminar-

ies believe that 'church' is always used in a local sense. It does mean that those who drew up the abstracts of principle for these schools believed that one's position on the local church is the only characteristic of Baptist doctrine on the church question.

3. I have a book by one of our seminary professors in which he sets forth a position on the universal church idea that is directly contradicted by the last paragraph of the article under consideration. There are thousands of Southern Baptists in agreement with him. . . .

I trust that Southern Baptists will exclude the last paragraph on Article VI of the committee's report when they come to consider a statement of Baptist Faith and Message this spring at Kansas City."

R. A. Long surely was disappointed, as the proposed amendment to add the universal idea concerning The Church was finally adopted.

What is our Statement of Faith in regard to The Church? Article 15 states, "The establishment of a visible church by Christ Himself during His personal ministry on earth; and His churches are not now, nor have they ever been, universal or invisible."