

In His Grip

by Carolyn Hagler

A Father's Day Memory Thinking about Hats

My daddy was a hat man. You never saw him outside without a hat, maybe because he lost most of his hair during his 30s. He had his fedora hats, hard hats for work, garden hats, and Stetson western hats; but the one I'm thinking of today is his summer dress hat. It has found its home on my coatrack for the last 26 plus years. You know by now that my favorite things remind me of people, events, or the Lord.



Carolyn Hagler



Dad's summer dress hat

My thoughts have turned to my daddy, who was a special man who believed in honesty, hard work, and love, all with a sense of humor. He had a dry, subtle humor and gave us lots of practical advice. He was not an educated man; he probably had only five or six years of formal schooling. But Daddy was one of the wisest men I have ever known and the most patient.

He loved his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren; children adopted by love only; his dogs; his garden; Gaither Homecoming Videos; and life in general.

Some of his advice was classic: "Did

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State Youth Department Seeking New Director

The BMA of Mississippi Department of Youth is searching for a new state youth director to lead our young people. Those interested in this position and in heading up and growing this department may send a resume to Adam Parker at parkeradam288@gmail.com. The department is accepting resumes for this position through July 15,

Baptist

Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Everlasting Smiles Shoebox Ministry 2021

Many countries in Central America are still seeing very high Covid numbers. This year, our shoeboxes will be more of a blessing than ever before. In each shoebox, there are many fun things that children will enjoy. These boxes are packed with LOTS of love and many prayers are prayed over them. But the most important thing that we can give any child is the opportunity to know Jesus. Our prayer is that through the ministry of Everlasting Smiles, we will open doors for our missionaries to tell families about Jesus and that the Bible inside each box will bring them hope during this hard time.

We are thankful that we now have 4 Regional Drop Off Stations for your



boxes. Local Drop Off Stations at churches listed on our website, bmamissions.org/christmas-shoebox, are still accepting boxes, but we have added additional Regional stations, as well. Regional Stations are going to serve as our Conway location does to pack your shoeboxes and get them ready

for shipping. They will deliver boxes to our Conway office ready for shipping. What a blessing! The Mississippi Drop Off Station is Southeastern Baptist College, 4229 Hwy 15 N. Laurel, MS 39440. Contact: Anderle Foster, 601-344-8656

Please contact your drop off station and set a drop off time. This will help speed up the drop off process and allow us to properly follow social distancing guidelines.

We appreciate you so much for your involvement in this ministry. If you have questions, please reach out to Angela Rice, angela@bmamissions.org

See Shoebox Ad on page 5

Comparing and Contrasting Parenting Philosophies

by Corbey Jones
Parent, Teacher, and Pastor

I've spent much of the last twenty years teaching public school, but not simply in public school, rather in a public alternative school as an English and History teacher. Consequently, I have spent about one-third of my life dealing with kids who have not had the advantage of a well-run home-life complete with an atmosphere of love and discipline, demanding respect and obedience. Instead, many of them were left to raise themselves, hence their frequent, often lengthy, visits to my domain; a place, which more often than not, is more about disciplinary correction than actual academic instruction. It's sad, yes, but in many school districts, an unavoidable necessity.



Corbey Jones
Asst. Editor

This brings me to the purpose of this article. I wish to compare and contrast two opposing attitudes concerning one of the most valuable skills needed in any society, the art of parenting. In addition, I wish to discuss this topic from an experiential aspect rather than

an academic one. I could do a topical study using Biblical truth or an exegesis of a passage of scripture on the subject, but that has been done many times in Christian periodicals. I wish, rather, to approach the topic from a practical viewpoint, yet still citing Biblical textual evidence. This is a teacher's attempt to compare and contrast scriptural parenting with humanistic child-raising.

To begin with, scriptural parenting has as its model the perfect parent, our Heavenly Father, and therefore cannot be improved upon. He cannot make a mistake being the ultimate authority on any subject including child-rearing. Human parents, who do not follow Biblical instruction, but rather employ humanistic ideals, fall under the fallacy of man's persistence in failure to get important things right. Therefore, everyone who comes in contact with their children, usually wind up paying the price. Lousy parenting often leads to a lack of respect for any authority in the child's life. This includes the parent, the child's other adult family members, their teachers, police officers, and ultimately God.

There is also an apparent lack of love, passed on from parent to child, which ultimately causes the child to doubt the



love that our Heavenly Father has for them. When this happens that child is lost, spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and personally, and that condition manifests itself primarily in two ways. The adolescent becomes aggressive or they withdraw. The former, more often than not, leads to either prison or possibly worse, an early grave. The latter, in many cases, never reverses itself, and that might just be the greatest tragedy of all, a hindrance to them ever coming to Christ. Nobody loves me, why should I believe God does?

Let me share three examples. (Names have been changed for legal reasons.) A sixth grader walked into my classroom the third day of school. Casey was a smart kid but he was a master manipu-

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How much should your church pay a guest preacher?

Guest Editorial
by Jerry Fulton, editor
BMA of Texas
Baptist Progress

Recently, I read an article by Art Rainer at artrainer.com titled, "How much should you pay a guest preacher?" I have been asked that question numerous times by churches in need of a preacher to fill their pulpit. From time to time, every church needs someone for pulpit supply. Perhaps the pastor is out of town or he just needs some time off. As Rainer put it in his article, "When this happens, you are faced with the question, 'How much should we pay the guest preacher?'"

No church should expect any preacher to preach without getting paid. Scripture is clear that those who preach God's Word should be paid. So, how much

should a church pay?

In his article, Rainer gives what he calls four guidelines. They are as follows:

1. Cover travel. Rainer pointed out that as soon as the visiting preacher steps into his car or boards a plane, he becomes your guest. The courteous thing to do is to cover the cost of his flight or his car mileage. The Internal Revenue Service set the current standard mileage rate at \$0.56 per mile for 2021. If the guest speaker flies, he should be offered some form of transportation once he lands such as a rental car.

2. Cover food. Remember, your church has invited a guest preacher, so be a gracious host by providing for his meals. If you are eating out with him, use your credit card. If he is eating on his own, be sure the church reimburses him.

3. Cover accommodations. If the guest preacher is staying overnight, pay for his accommodations. Your church's guest speaker is sacrificing his time

Scripture is clear that those who preach God's Word should be paid. So, how much should a church pay?

to speak at your church, so be sure to cover any hotel costs.

4. Base the honorarium off your pastor's salary (including housing allowance). Rainer's suggestion is that the church should base the guest preacher's honorarium off of its pastor's salary.

He pointed out that a church has already decided to pay its pastor a certain amount based on his current responsibilities. Among these responsibilities are the variables at play with a guest preacher's honorarium. It makes sense that due to the fact

the church's pastor is already responsible for speaking to a certain size audience for a certain length of time, that the pastor's salary should be considered when paying a guest preacher.

Rainer suggested that for every service, pay your guest preacher .5 percent of its pastor's salary.

Example:

- Pastor's salary (includes housing allowance): \$60,000
- Number of services: 1
- Guest pastor's honorarium: \$60,000 x .5% = \$300

Such a method in Rainer's estimation should allow the church to be generous without compromising its stewardship. Of course, churches with a part-time pastor or without a pastor, should base the calculation on

what it would pay a full-time pastor.

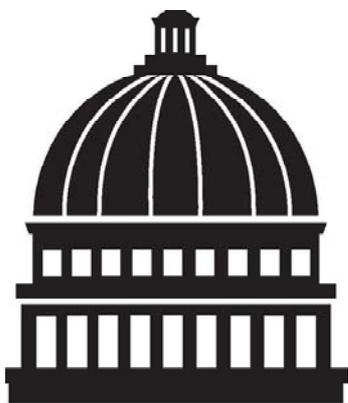
And, because I do not speak often, but some state and national departmental directors do, I don't mind telling you that department directors should also be paid when they fill a pulpit as a guest speaker. Some pastors and churches have reasoned that because offerings are already given to the departments, then the cost for the director serving as a guest preacher is covered under his department's budget. Such reasoning is simply not valid. If your church invites a man to serve as a guest preacher, then your church should pay him, and pay him generously, no matter what position he holds.

Revival Services Set for Mt. Gilead, Columbia

Mount Gilead Missionary Baptist Church in Columbia will be holding revival services June 27-30. Services will begin Sunday June 27 at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch and an afternoon service. June 28-30 services will begin at 7 p.m. Bro. Jason Howard, pastor of Canaan Missionary Baptist in Richton will be our guest preacher and Bro. Mike Bennett will be leading music. For more info please contact Pastor Rick Clark, 601-335-1886. Church is located at 137 Mt. Gilead Rd. Columbia, MS 39429.

Moral Action

2021 Freedom Offering June 27th & July 4th



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Promoting Biblical Morality Across America

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

Listing of names does not indicate endorsement. This column is for information purposes only.

Available for Supply

Bro. Wayne Rice is available for pulpit supply as the Lord leads. He served as Minister of Music for a number of churches before surrendering to preach nearly 25 years ago. He has pastored for 23 years. If your church could use him, you may contact him at 601-916-9020.

Southeastern Baptist College

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

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

President's Perspective

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men"
Colossians 3:23

A key leadership principle I learned while serving in the Army was to know your own weaknesses and then recruit others onto your staff who could do better than you in those areas. I must admit, I possess many shortcomings when it comes to understanding the finer points of higher education. But the Lord has brought onto the Southeastern Baptist College staff, people who are experts in their own right in the subject matter they have been hired to manage. I am tempted to take credit for finding these talented people, but it was not me at all. It was the Lord who connected our leadership team to just the right person and at just the right time. The great amount of progress we have had on the campus of SBC can be attributed to these highly motivated and dedicated servants of the Lord. Working together, God has enabled SBC to experience a tremendous amount of growth in the number of students attending and in its infrastructure repairs and modifications.



Dr. Scott Carson
President

The staff has worked diligently to advance the school. In the last few weeks, we have received official notification from our accrediting agency, the Association of Higher Biblical Education (ABHE), that we are approved to field several new four-year degrees beginning this Fall Semester. The SBC staff worked long hours modifying our previous two, four-year degrees and subdividing them into more diverse and useful degree paths. Our degrees are restructured as indicated:

Old Degree:

Bachelor of Science in
Church Ministries

New Degrees:

Bachelor of Science in
Pastoral Ministries
Bachelor of Science in
Christian Ministries

Old Degree:

Bachelor of Science in
Business Administration

New Degrees:

Bachelor of Science in
Business Administration
Bachelor of Science in
Business Administration:
Sports Management
Bachelor of Science in
Business Administration:
Global Supply Chain

In addition, the staff continues to develop two additional Business Administration degrees with one in Applied Media and Communications and the other in Marketing Communications Strategies. The staff is also refining the massive Mississippi Department of Education's requirements in order to acquire licensure for fielding a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education.

Each one of these projects represent hundreds of hours of study, writing, editing, and melding of projects and programs. Simply put, without the expertise of our current staff members, we could not be academically where we are today without their dedication to these projects on top of the already demanding staff processes required to run the school smoothly on a daily basis.

All this may seem a rather boring subject matter for your reading, but the effort put forth by your staff, as this is your school, must be recognized. The BMA of Mississippi should truly feel blessed because the Lord has brought these staff members onto our campus. Please pray for staff as they continue to find new and innovative ways to grow SBC.

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

Café Name Change

Because of the effects of COVID 19 on the finances of the café, our contractor has decided not to renew and therefore, the name "Lighthouse Café" is retired. However, the Lord has already blessed us with a new contractor. The Holloway Dairy Bar will take over the café operations and they expect a "soft" reopening on or about June 21, 2021. There will be an expanded menu with additional hours and days of operation. An official "grand opening" event will be scheduled soon.

Spring 2021 Semester Honor Roll

Congratulations to our outstanding students who excelled in their studies and making the Honor Roll:

President's List (4.0)

Sherlita Babineaux, Laurel MS
Dane P. Deas, Waynesboro MS
Mae L. Evans, Louin MS
Dakota R. Harper, Brandon MS
Thomas "Jess" Jackson, Hattiesburg MS
Diamond K. Rayford, Kosciusko MS
Emily R. Smith, Laurel MS
Christopher Spence, Lake MS
John M. Sullivan, Mize MS

Dean's List (3.5 to 3.99)

Kennedy K. Dale, Laurel MS
Temeshia Gray, Sterlington LA
Cody Hilton, Gulfport MS
Charles M. Meadows, Jr, Lake MS
James Porter Jr., Columbus MS
Dasheill J. Shelby, Purvis MS
Garrett W. West, Leakesville MS
Melyjah M. Windham, Laurel MS

Memorial

Thank you to a recent anonymous donor for your designated \$500 scholarship in memory of a loved one.

Equipment Trailer

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

Available Scholarship

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.

Registering for Fall Semester

We have opened early registration for this coming Fall Semester. Contact Admissions through our website, or 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.

Ready to Fill Your Pulpit!

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



Colonel Carson, Command Chaplain for the Mississippi State Guard and President of SBC, was the Master of Ceremonies at the Laurel Area Memorial Day Ceremony



Buddy and Keri Duke received an SBC logo plaque at Buddy's retirement luncheon



The SBC staff and friends at Athletic Director Buddy Duke's retirement luncheon



Chargers first women's softball camp was recently held and well attended

SPECIAL
EMPHASIS TIME
JULY - AUGUST

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



Larry Geraldson
Director



www.bmams.org - 601.428.8616

State Missionaries, Coaches & Coordinators and Wives



Kenneth & Carole
Pollock



Sidney & Becky
Farmer



Johnny & Neta
Williams



Scott and Susan
Brocius



Chris & DeeDee
Yager



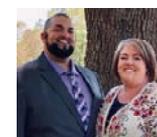
Daniel & Sherri
Allen



Wesley & Holley
Martin



Jason and Kylie
Howard



Josh and Mary Helen
Daniels



Estuardo &
Yasmine Marroquin

Grateful Hearts

It is with a full heart of gratitude that I express my appreciation for the overwhelming support that we received through this year's "Special Emphasis Campaign".

We set our goal of \$25,000.00 and more than exceeded that number. I want to thank our churches and missions for really coming through to help us. Last year, as we moved into the COVID-19 pandemic, we made the decision to forgo promotion of Special Emphasis because we anticipated that our churches would be facing hard times. So, we did not ask, and we did not get.

This year however, we did ask, and we did receive. Your overwhelming outpouring of support comes at a time when I am talking with three men about new missions opportunities. It comes at a time when Bro. Estuardo Marroquin, our Hispanic Missions Manager, and I

are making plans to add an additional fulltime Hispanic Missionary on the Gulf Coast. It comes at a time when plans are being finalized for two new facilities to be built in support of Refuge Baptist Mission and Redemption Baptist Church (recently organized). It comes at a time when we are seeing the fruit of our missionary training and coaching. It comes at a time when two more of our missions are planning to organize as New Testament churches. It comes at the perfect timing of God's purpose and plan for us, secured within His divine providence. Thank you! Below is a list of those who contributed and how much they gave. Again, thank you! If your church's name does not appear but you did take up an offering, it is most likely that we have not received it yet. We will share any additional contributions that we receive, in upcoming articles.

New Revolving Loan Fund Manager

We are excited to introduce to you our new Revolving Loan Fund Manager, Bro. Jeff Dixon. Bro. Dixon has been in ministry for over 30 years, serving as a pastor, church planter, and staff minister in the BMA. He follows in the ministry footsteps of his father, the late Thomas "Bud" Dixon, also a faithful pastor and church planter. Jeff is a 1989 graduate of Southeastern Baptist College and a 1999 graduate of



Jeff & Rosalind Dixon

Belhaven University with a Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA). Also, he is continuing his theological studies through seminary extension classes. He and his wife, Rosalind, have two children and four grandchildren.

"It is a privilege to serve the churches of the BMA of Mississippi as your Revolving Loan Fund Manager. Through the leadership of our director, Bro. Larry Geraldson, the RLF has experienced growth at an exponential rate and continues to be a tremendous asset to our

churches, missionaries, pastors and congregants. Having been in ministry for over 30 years as a BMA pastor and church planter, it is my passion to help local churches become more healthy and new churches planted for the glory of God. The RLF serves as a vehicle to help make this possible. Whether it is expanding facilities for a growing congregation or building financial stability for the future, I look forward to assisting each of you with your ministry needs. In fact, if your church is considering a new loan or refinancing an existing loan, please feel free to contact me at 601-428-8616." – Bro. Jeff Dixon

100% Efficiency

Our efficiency, for May, remains at a 100% Efficiency. By this we mean that 100% of everything that comes to us for missions, goes out the door for our missionaries. Nothing is held back and used for salaries, overhead, maintenance, utilities, insurance, etc. Everything that comes in for Missions goes out to our Missionaries.

Other Offerings Needed

In addition to your general offering to BMA of Mississippi State Missions, which is 100% used for the State Mis-

Special Emphasis for State Missions Contribution List:

Ballardville Baptist Church (Tupelo) - \$600.00
Big Creek Baptist Church (Soso) - \$1,957.00
Canaan Baptist Church (Richton) - \$2,000.00
Canaan Land Baptist Mission (Waynesboro) - \$300.00
Capitol Association - \$500.00
Cypress Creek Baptist Church (Brooklyn) - \$500.00
Day Star Baptist Church (Sumrall) - \$620.00
Dykes Chapel Baptist Church (Richton) - \$1,500.00
East Central Association - \$500.00
First Baptist Church of Calhoun - \$500.00
First Baptist Church of Shady Grove - \$520.00
Forked Oak Baptist Church (Booneville) - \$1,000.00
Good Hope Baptist Church (Columbia) - \$2,815.00
Lebanon Baptist Church (Laurel) - \$1,084.00
Little Creek Baptist Church (Perkinston) - \$243.00

sionaries, I would like to encourage each church to add to your monthly giving, an offering for BMA of Mississippi 1) Hispanic Missions Fund; 2) Church Ministries; 3) Jail Ministry; 4) Disaster Relief. These funds are Missions Department designated funds and offerings received will always be used for these specific areas. Some churches have already begun to support these areas with an additional offering, but we need others to do the same.

Prayer Request

As I was writing this article, I felt compelled to share with you a few prayer requests.

- Bro. Harold Floyd and Ms Shirley (Ms Shirley is in the nursing home now.)
- Bro. John Miller (He suffered a stroke.)
- Mulberry Baptist Church (who is without a pastor) and the Rufus Landrum family (Bro. Rufus passed away.)
- Bro. Paul Spurlin and his wife Julie (She had to have a pacemaker put in and Bro. Paul ended up in the hospital at the same time)
- Bro. Chad Cummins and wife Christie (Both have come down with COVID-19)

Please Visit Our Website

We have a wealth of information located at www.bmams.org. Please take a moment to visit our website and move around through the pages to find out information about our missionaries and ministry activities.

Living Hope Baptist Mission (Meridian) - \$2,000.00
Magnolia Baptist Church (Hattiesburg) - \$1,000.00
Mineral Springs Baptist Church (Taylorsville) - \$300.00
Movella Baptist Church (Lucedale) - \$2,370.00
Mt Calvary Baptist Church (Picayune) - \$230.00
New Bethany Baptist Church (Ellisville) - \$65.00
Oak Grove Association - \$1,000.00
Old Antioch Baptist Church (Soso) - \$400.00
Paramount Baptist Church (Perkinston) - \$5,414.00
Parkview Baptist Church (Laurel) - \$50.00
Redemption Baptist Church (Diamondhead) - \$720.00
Refuge Baptist Mission (Kiln) - \$500.00
Rock Creek Baptist Church (Union) - \$1,000.00
Salt Light Baptist Mission (Waveland) - \$500.00
Scotland Baptist Church (Benton) - \$1,000.00
Sharon Baptist Church (Laurel) - \$100.00
Skyway Hills Baptist Church (Pearl) - \$1,000.00
Spencer Memorial Baptist Church (Pascagoula) - \$500.00
Spring Hill Baptist Church (Ocean Springs) - \$146.42
Tiger Creek Baptist Church (Ovett) - \$1,340.00
Tombigbee Baptist Church (Mantachie) - \$2,500.00
Washington Baptist Church (Neely) - \$177.75
Wilderness Baptist Church (Vicksburg) - \$2,025.00
Total Special Emphasis Offering
Received to Date: \$38,977.17

Stelman, Former National Youth Director, Passes Away

John Durwood Stelman, 78 of Bearden, Arkansas, passed away May 21. He worked in the field of education throughout his ministry, first serving as a teacher, principal and superintendent as well as ABS director at Southern Arkansas University. From 1977-1987, he served as National ABS director and as executive director of the BMAA National Youth Department. He also served as pastor of Second Baptist Church of Huttig, Texas.



John Stelman

Survivors include a brother, Kenneth (Barbara) Stelman of Bearden; two sisters; Maxine Szurgot and Ruby Tucker, both of Burleson, Texas; best friend, Gary Leslie; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends. Funeral services were held May 24.

Parenting Philosophies

from page 1

lator. He had been honing his craft since kindergarten and many young teachers had fallen for it. A good-looking kid with a great smile and a winning personality, but for all of his seemingly positive traits, he had, year by year, learned to abuse them and it didn't take long for a veteran teacher to see through it.

Due to his aggressive, disre-

in the sixth grade, before that school year was out, I remember saying to our resource officer, "That boy's headed for one of two things. prison or the graveyard." March 2021, Casey was booked into a Mississippi State Correctional facility on capital murder charges. As young and defenseless as he is, both of my predictions will likely be fulfilled.

*...if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?
If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto
your children: how much more shall your heavenly
Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*

spectful behavior he stayed in trouble. Three quarters of his seventh-grade year was spent enrolled in the alternative school and over half of that was at home suspended. Actually that "at home" time, more often than not, was spent running the roads. Yet every time his mother came to the school, it was to accuse, chew out, or curse some teacher or administrator for abusing her son. This went on until Casey reached seventeen years of age, the legal age for emancipation. He left his mother's home, went to live with his gang buddies, and dropped out of school.

When Casey entered my class

Example 2) Five years ago, Matthew and Steven walked into our halls wearing ankle bracelets. That Summer they had mugged an old man in the park, took all his money from his wallet and left him bleeding. The Juvenile Court judge gave them a deal. If they wore the bracelets, went to school faithfully, and were not written up, they could have the bracelets removed at the end of the school year. They would still have to perform over two hundred hours of community service. They started the year off doing pretty well but before Christmas, they were already pushing the edge

of the envelope. Knowing that all the teachers were bending over backward, excusing behaviors that otherwise would have been written up, they took advantage of it, even to the point of bullying other students. I too, gave them the benefit of a doubt, perhaps too many times, but in January, after seeing the bullying, blatantly, firsthand, I wrote them both up for bullying and assault. They went to court and the judge sent them back to Juvy.

After being warned by other students that Matt and Steve had threatened to have their gang buddies "take care of Mister Jones," I added those threats to their file, extending their time in lockup. In Walmart one day I was cornered by Matt's mother who proceeded to tell me how other students had said that I had picked on her son, and I was the reason for his incarceration. After hearing a few more choice words, I just quietly walked away.

At the end of last year, Matthew and Steven were arrested for murder and drug possession. They are also facing capital murder charges.

Example 3) Sylvia, a very in-

troverted child, was doing okay in school but rarely, openly participated. I was determined to help her open up some. One day, after class, she said, "Mister Jones, when I get home every day, I go through my living room where my stepfather and his buddies are sitting, smoking crack. It scares me, so I go straight to my room, lock the door, and stay there until my mom brings me my dinner. I don't come out, because I'm scared of what the might do." That was just last Fall 2020. I reported it, but the jury is still out on what Sylvia will become.

Luke 11:11-13 says, If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will

he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Proverbs 22:6 says, Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 13:24 - He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

Ephesians 6:4 says, And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Sagely advise from the master parent.

State Youth Department Seeking New Director

The BMA of Mississippi Department of Youth is searching for a new state youth director to lead our young people. Those interested in this position and in heading up and growing this department may send a resume to Adam Parker at parkeradam288@gmail.com. The department is accepting resumes for this position through July 15,

BMA Chaplain Gresham Retires

by Dr. Scott Carson, Director
BMA Chaplaincy

On July 1, 2021, U.S. Army Chaplain (Major) Tim Gresham will retire after 23 years of federal military service representing the Baptist Missionary Association of America. Chaplain Gresham served ten years as an enlisted Marine and another 13 years as an Army chaplain.

Chaplain Gresham entered the Chaplain Corps on February 2008 to minister to the soldiers who were engaged in the war against terrorism. His first assignment was at Fort Hood, Texas, where he deployed with

his unit twice; once to Iraq and once to Afghanistan. Since then he has served as the Battalion Chaplain for the largest battalion in the Army at Fort Rucker, Alabama, and then moved on to the Army's only space brigade, serving in the Space and Missile Defense Command, located at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Tim then was assigned as the 75th Field Artillery Brigade Chaplain at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Chaplain Gresham finished his military ministry as the Resource Manager with the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Sill. Tim

and his wife Sher will remain in Lawton, Oklahoma, where he has already begun a job as the Hospice Chaplain with Elara Caring and was recently called as the pastor of Salem Missionary Baptist Church.

The Gresham's have seven adult children living in Texas, Oklahoma, and Alabama. Tim and Sher are very grateful for the endorsement of the churches of the BMAA for graciously allowing them the privilege to serve the great soldiers defending freedom for the United States of America.

GIVE CHILDREN A REASON TO SMILE!
EVERLASTING SMILES
SHOEBOX MINISTRY
CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES
ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

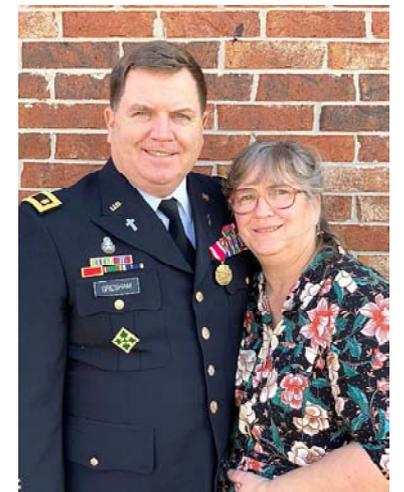
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Left Photo
Retirement
Ceremony



Tim & Sher Gresham

Thinking About Hats

from front page

you notice that sign showing the speed limit is 65 miles an hour?" That meant you were speeding. Or "One of us needs to have a good memory." That meant I didn't remember something he thought I should. Or "You have to have more sense than the dog to train it." I believe you get that one! And "Don't run off the road to avoid any animal except a hog." I never did that.

When Sister No. 1 drove him and her dog Leia back to Mississippi from Texas, his only comment when they arrived was, "Leia covered her eyes the whole way." Sister No. 1 was always the fastest driver in the family.

Sister No. 1 was young, probably about the age she was in the picture with Daddy, when she threw one of her shoes into the fireplace. Mother was hot under the collar! When she told Daddy what his daughter had done, he picked up the matching shoe and threw it into the fireplace. "Not much use for one shoe." I wasn't around, but I'm pretty sure that's not what Mother intended.

He loved what he did, from working for the WPA to hauling logs, to driving his dump truck filled with gravel, riprap, and the like. The bluebirds feeding

their babies in my backyard all day long remind me of him, working from before daylight to after dark to care for his family. He would be up about 4 a.m., whistling as he got ready for his day and happy to be doing what he loved. Most people would have been complaining about his less-than-glamorous job, but



Dad with Mona

he loved it! I didn't like his whistling that early, but how I would love to hear it now.

The best memory of my youngest nephew concerned my Gabi 1. I always took my dog to Daddy to keep while I was out of town. The first time I left Gabi, Young Nephew was visiting. When Gabi started crying, Daddy told him to go get her. He exclaimed (probably in his loud

voice), "She bit me." His kind-hearted Papa didn't believe him. In fact, he said in his gruffest voice, "You know she didn't bite you." When Daddy went to get her, Nephew heard, "Ow." She

His love has never been dependent on anything I do. He is pure love, and my daddy's love was only a shadow. The depths of my Father's love I'll never understand on this side.

bit Daddy, too. I know Nephew wanted to laugh, but I bet he didn't. Those two times were the only times Gabi ever bit anyone.

Daddy did not believe children ever needed to be whipped, just talked to. He never whipped any of us children that is true, but his look or disappointed tone kept us in line.

My favorite story on Middle Sister, which I probably couldn't tell if she were still around, was that she did not like school. Back then, both sisters had to walk down the road to catch the school bus to Union Church. She often would tell Mother she didn't feel good, and Mother would let her skip school. One morning, Daddy noticed that Sister No. 1 was walking by herself. He walked up to the window of their room and told Middle Sister, "Let this be the last time you skip school." She hightailed it down the road and managed to catch the bus that day. I don't think she ever cut school again.

I know of only one time Daddy changed his mind about whippings. His great grandson, who was named after him, was about two years old when all the family came to Hattiesburg for

her at night (just as he did his girls growing up) and especially playing Rook.

I never doubted my daddy's love for me. My trust that he would never fail me led me as a toddler to swing from a rope he had hung in the enormous oak tree by our house. I would hold on for him to swing me out and then catch me when I returned. He never failed to catch me.

The love and trust I experienced with Daddy prepared me for a relationship with my heavenly Father. Knowing how much Daddy loved his girls and withheld nothing good from us, even though I know I disappointed him at times, I came to realize that God the Father loves us even more and gives us good things (Matthew 7:11) His love has never been dependent on anything I do. He is pure love, and my daddy's love was only a shadow. The depths of my Father's love I'll never understand on this side.

Happy Father's Day to all you daddies. Create memories for the children in your life today that will point them toward the Father. Remembering all the men who have influenced me, I remain 'In His Grip'.

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

Living the Dream in Colorado

by John Smith
as featured in
mission:world magazine

During the time I was a student at Central Baptist College from 1976 to 1981, the Lord gave me a dream of planting a church.

In 1996, Brother Jack Courtney, Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) director, had the vision to train BMA church planters. He led the BMA to join an outside organization called



John and Debra Smith

Dynamic Church Planting International (DCPI) founded by Paul Becker. Brother Jack and Brother Paul became my mentors as I became a new church planter.

At DCPI, Brother Paul cast a vision that making disciples was the foundation of planting a church. He also challenged us that our DNA should include being a church that plants daughter churches.

John and Debra Smith

In July of 1996, my wife (Debra), my children (Julie, Caleb, Joy, Joanna, Jessica, Matthew, and Nathan) and I began a journey to plant a "church planting church" in Kiowa, Colorado. Soon after our arrival, the Lord led us to the Brian Janes family who was praying for a pastor to come and plant a church. They joined us to begin Majestic View Church and faithfully serve Jesus with us to this day.

That fall we began to disciple

and host small group Bible studies. On March 9, 1997, we had our first public worship service with 122 people. Within a year we had grown to over 200 people.

Majestic View has been directly involved in six BMA church planting attempts in Colorado. Today, three of those churches preach the gospel to a region that is 85 percent unchurched. Brother Richard Payne planted River of Grace Church in Pueblo West, Colorado. Today this congregation is pastored by Brother Paul Medved. Brother Rick Mills has pastored Majestic Valley Church in Elizabeth, Colorado, since it began. Thousands of souls have been involved in the ministries of Majestic Valley Church and its daughters, and hundreds have been saved. The Lord has done great things in Colorado since 1996.

In recent years, the Lord has allowed Majestic Valley to send some of our "own" to various parts of the world:

One of our young ladies served for several years at an orphanage in India. Within the next



year, this young lady, Kate Day, will be serving with her new husband, Andrew, as they try to reach the nomadic Bedouins of Chad on the African continent.

One of our young men, Brandon Culp, served with Casa por Cristo in Mexico and Guatemala for ten years.

Another of our girls Meagan Kelly married a man with a vision for church planting in his own native country.

Today Joshua and Meagan Phiri are BMA missionaries to the country of Zambia.

Our son Nathan served Majestic Valley for 15 years as youth pastor. He is now youth

pastor for First Baptist Church of Roswell, New Mexico. He also serves with Dare to Share Ministries actively teaching youth pastors to make disciples.

Recently, a young couple shared their burden to be tent maker missionaries in Portugal.

Who knows what our Lord is going to do, and all this from a little town of 700 people in the middle of nowhere, Colorado! (Kiowa is not even in the "Bible Belt"!)

What a God we serve! Jesus told us to "go into all the world and make disciples."

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Missions From The Middle East Country of Lebanon

Moving forward

After a long year of waiting, praying, planning and dreaming, this past winter Safe Haven was able to launch our online Homework Help Program. While it wasn't what we imagined, nor was it an ideal way to start our new season of ministry, it has been an absolute joy to finally be back in the lives of kids in need.

As you all know, we have been convicted to move our location out of the relative affluence of the Hamra neighborhood to be more connected to the kids in our program and their families. We've explored options in many different areas, but kept having doors closed in our faces, until around Christmas of 2020, when through our connections with other organizations, we were invited into the neighborhood of Karantina.

Karantina lies just east of the port, and was devastated by the explosion last summer. Even before, it was considered one of the more disadvantaged areas of Beirut, and now with the after-



math of the blast and the economic crisis Lebanon is facing, our work is more needed than ever!

Homework Help Program

At the start of 2021, Lebanon was still in the throes of one of the worst waves of COVID-19, so any kind of in person ministry was still out of the question. However we had families begging for help with their kids' educa-

tion, so the Online Homework Help Program was born!

We currently have 34 kids registered in our program, divided into 12 groups among 5 teachers. Our teachers meet with their groups every day for 1-2 hours via WhatsApp. Some groups are focused on helping kids who are registered in school with their homework, while other groups are actually teaching from scratch for kids who have been out of school for the past two years.

It's not easy teaching on WhatsApp. Our amazing teachers are working hard to make personal connections with the kids, but it often feels like the electricity is our own worst enemy. Due to the economic crisis in Lebanon, we are only getting a few hours of electricity each day, and for many of our kids, if there is no electricity, there is no internet to join their classes. We also run into issues when mom takes the only phone out of the house, or if a student decides he just doesn't feel like studying on any given day, we have no way to chase him down.

Even so, our program has been a lifeline to many of these kids. We have one family of 11 children, three of whom are in our program, who haven't been to school in 2 years. Ayat, the 10 year old, ends every class with the sweetest voice note to her teacher, "Thank you so much for teaching me. I can't believe I get to learn English again. I love you."

More than an education

While education is a huge need, and a very easy "in" into the community, it is of course not all that we do! In our quest to minister to the whole child, part of our program right now includes devotionals and discussion times each week. The kids watch a short video over the weekend and then take 10-15 minutes of their class at the beginning of the week to discuss. As expected, we have had varied reactions to the spiritual aspect of our program, but it's exciting to know that the Word of God is reaching homes that may not have previously had access.

We are working on plans for a summer online program, and hope to include more games, art and activities to stay connected to the kids as the school year ends and before we physically open our center.

And as we spend more and more time roaming the neighborhood where we hope to open, our dreams are growing of all the things we could possibly do. Soup kitchen, clothing shop, activities and education for kids who don't go to school,



History & Archives Commission

4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440

J. R. Graves
The Work of Christ Consummated in Seven Dispensations
Chapter Seven – The Work of Christ in the Covenant of Redemption
Part 2 of 3

Christ magnifies office of Shepherd; he is faithful and true; he is omnipotent; no one is able to pluck the least lamb of the flock out of his hands. His sheep are those his Father gave to him in the Covenant of Redemption. All these Christ, from the beginning, knew (John. vi. 64); and all these will believe on him, and come to him; and those who will not believe, nor come unto him, discover from this that they are, at least, not his sheep.

"I am the Good Shepherd: the Good Shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. . . I am the Good Shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd: . . . But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."-John x. 11, 14, 15, 16, 26, 27, 28, 29.

If we have believed in Christ, and we certainly know it if we have, (2nd Tim. 1:12) we may be persuaded, without a doubt, that he is able to keep that which we have committed into his hands until that day; and we thus know, that, however unworthy, we are one of his sheep for whom he has pledged his honor and become Surety to the Father to save.

"His honor is engaged to save the weakest of his sheep,
All whom the Heavenly Father gave His hands will surely keep."

Then, - of this we may be confident, - all given to the Son by the Father will certainly come to him and be saved. But whether any of those not given to the Son will be saved is a question with some, and to be hereafter noticed; but of one thing we are certain:

1. The fallen angels were not only not given, but there was no provision made in the Covenant of Redemption to save them, and therefore they are hopelessly lost.

We open His Revealed Will and read, "He took not on him the nature of angels," - literally, "He took not hold of angels" to succor and save them, and therefore they are not saved and never will be, - nor does he say that he took hold of the seed of Adam, else all his race would be saved, but he took hold of "the seed of Abraham." (Heb. 2:16-17) Here was sovereignty and discriminating love and grace. He had in one sense the power to save all, but he evidently could not as a moral Governor have done so, save at the sacrifice of his exact justice; and he



Jason Howard
Director

State Sunbeams Meet

On June 3, 2021 the campus of Waukaway Springs took on the appearance of a disturbed fire-ant hill as Sunbeams and GMA's from over the state of Mississippi came for their annual meeting.

After the long drive to get to Waukaway Springs, they descended on the snack area like mosquitoes on bare skin. Following snacks State Sunbeam Promoter Mrs. Linda Dertinger welcomed the Sunbeams to the meeting where they sang songs directed by Mrs. Carrie Sims.

Bro. John David Smith engaged the Sunbeams as he explained the thought of Missions and how they can help spread the Gospel.

They then listened to Bro. Estuardo Marroquin give his story of moving from Guatemala to Mississippi to work with Hispanics. He shared that many churches have been organized in cities all around Mississippi.



After lunch, officers were elected for the coming year. Those elected were: President, Callie Floyd, Temple, Laurel; Vice-president, Briggs Cochran, Temple, Lucedale; Secretary, Aubrey Sims, Hopewell, Laurel; Song Leader, Emma Blackwell, Temple, Lucedale; Project Promoter, Harper Pierce, Shiloh, Mt. Olive. The project chosen for the coming year is: 50% Alicia Samson (missionary to the Philippines) and 50% Moral Action Committee (Bro. John Adams).

Dawn Freeman told the group of their mission work in the Philippines, showing pictures of people and events. The Sunbeams were reminded of how important it is for them to learn about and support missions.

Door prizes were passed out and Sunbeams were dismissed to swim in the coldest pool in Mississippi.

SPECIAL EMPHASIS TIME

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 1, 2021, 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.



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Middle East Missions

from page 7

after school programs for those that do... the needs are great, the possibilities endless, and our God more than big enough!

While we aren't a high quality production company, our kids have enjoyed the devotional videos we've prepared. Big thanks to our friends who've helped out with this piece of the project!

The hunt is on!

Our hope is to finally settle into our own, physical space this summer. A lot needs to be done in order to make that a reality! Please be praying for these next steps:

Locate and rent a space. Please pray for a welcoming landlord who will be willing to rent to us in Lebanese lira and with a yearly contract.

Renovate and set up our space. This is obviously going to take a decent amount of funds. While we are so grateful for our

faithful friends who have continued to give during this season of pause, we are now praying for new partners to help us get our center off the ground. If you are interested in supporting our work, please see the giving information below.

Hire staff and recruit volunteers. Please pray that the Lord would lead us to the perfect people for this work. And if you are in Lebanon and interested in volunteering with us, we are going to need English and Arabic teachers, English, Arabic and French tutors, as well as volunteers to offer sessions in art, music, sports, therapies and other activities. Also looking for a volunteer with experience in grant writing to help us expand our fund raising capabilities.

Thank you!

We are so grateful to our incredible "behind-the-scenes" team. For your encouragement over the past 2 difficult years of waiting, for your prayers for the children and our work, and for your generous support. We truly believe we are making an impact for eternity, and we are so thankful for all of you who play a huge role in the ministry of Safe Haven. Thank you and to God be the glory!

Safe Haven Society
Sourati Street, Ras Beirut
Box 113 / 5696 Hamra
Beirut 0
Lebanon

Scripture Thoughts by Cleaver

John 4.4 "And he must needs go through Samaria..."

Life takes us through many places we don't want to go. Jesus did not necessarily want to travel through Samaria, but He had to. We prefer to go through the scenic places, the happy places, and the places we like to choose with our own volition. However, sometimes the sick bed calls us, and it calls with unrelenting pain with suffering over a long period of



Tony Cleaver

Sometimes the boss calls us to tell us of a layoff with little notice and no promise of termination compensation. Sometimes the legal system calls with crushing charges that we could in no way imagine coming into our life. Jesus had to travel through Samaria. It was a terrible place inhabited by terrible people according to the Jewish thought. The Samaritans were "not nice people, and they lived in a horrible land."

Nevertheless, He knew Jacob's well was there, and there was a divine appointment made by Provident Wisdom He had to keep.

Dear Reader, those awful trips through Samaria have an opportunity for you to observe

from heavenly perspective--- Jacob's well is there in Samaria! This might be in your travel today. Who knows what the surprise from the very hand of God awaits you at the well site—even though the well is in Samaria!

John 10:39 "Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand..."

How Jesus must have infuriated the religious! They were pleased with their religiosity. However, He challenged their ways of traditional conduct of everyday business. How they hated Him for this! The religious despised him enough to initiate the Old Testament process of stoning. The "good ole

boy/good ole girl" club of satisfied religious life and all the accouterments of that life are alive and well today.

Young minister, be careful in your words with the "overly spiritual" of your congregation. At some point you might want and/or feel compelled to "tell them off." Don't be smug or self-serving in your words regarding the status quo of your congregation. You might find some picking up stones to throw at you. Use Jesus' example to be on point with your theology, your cultural edicts, and your personal references. If you are not piously righteous and self-centered, you might be able to escape out of their hand. On the other hand, if you are not careful as Jesus - He escaped out of their hand - a rock to the head hurts.

Colorado Missions

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Majestic Valley Church has continued to go forward because of faithful people who have invested in faithful people who . . . you get the idea.

The local church began with our Lord discipling twelve. One of those men failed, but the eleven disciples who were faithful turned the world upside down

by making disciples. Today, many generations later, disciples continue to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with a desperate world.

John 4:38, "I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors." That promise inspired me in 1996 to be faithful, and it still does today!

Thanks, Brother Jack, Brother Rufus, Brother Jurl, Dr. Slayton, Brother Johnnie, Dad, Grandpa . . . May we be as faithful as you have been!

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
www.bmaofmississippi.com

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Mantachie, MS 38855
662-282-7425

History

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would be justly chargeable with encouraging sin. The Governor of Tennessee has the power to pardon all the convicts now in the penitentiary, and everyone who may be brought to it during his term of office, but should he do so the whole State would cry out against this gross injustice and disrespect of law and order. By so doing he would encourage the violation of law, and justice would be sacrificed to clemency. He can, in justice to the commonwealth, pardon only those whose freedom will not imperil the welfare of society, - if he believes the ends of law and justice are amply satisfied.

2. We must all admit that not all of Adam's race were given by the Father to the Son to be saved, else all will be saved, as the Universal Redemptionists falsely teach.

We know from our own observation that all men are not saved, for the overwhelming majority die in their sins; die disbelieving in the existence of God; die in the practice of the grossest sins; die in the act of murder; die in drunkenness; die in

impenitency; die cursing and blaspheming the very name of God. If men are not saved irrespective of moral character, and our reason asserts that they are not; And should not be; if they are not saved without faith in Christ as Saviour and Redeemer, - then this impenitent multitude will be forever lost; and where Christ is, they never can come.

But the Word of God expressly declares that without holiness and purity of heart no man can see God in peace, (Heb. 10:14) and that the road that leads to eternal death is a broad one, and the many go in thereat. (Matt. 7:13) Therefore all men were not given to the Son, and his redemptive work does not embrace all men in the sense of the totality of the race, but in a sense hereafter to be noticed. Surely every rational man, every Christian, will freely assent to the Scripturalness of these positions, however prejudiced against the absolute sovereignty of God's pre-determinations and electing grace.

Christ took hold of a special class, and a definite number, known by the Father, to succor and to save, and whom he calls the "Seed of Abraham;" "His Seed;" "His Sheep;" "The lost sheep of the house of Israel." To save none others was He

specially sent into the world. "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Matt. xv. 24.) "The Seed of Abraham" were those who had Abraham's faith, a Spiritual Seed, - believers; they were all those whom God foresaw from the beginning would believe on his Son Jesus Christ, and come to him. But as God's foreknowledge rests upon his determinate counsel, this "Seed" is composed of all, in all ages, whom God determined to save, and those, in time, he effectually, by his Holy Spirit, and without doing violence to their wills or moral agency, draws to his Son. (John vi. 37.) God, who knew all things from the beginning, certainly as well knew these when he made the Covenant of Redemption, and gave them to his Son, as he will after the last judgment.

But this foreknowledge does not affect their moral agency or render useless the appointed means, any more than God's knowledge of the number of ears of corn the farmer will make this year, renders the proper means to make the crop unnecessary. Those he foreknew he gave to his Son to save; and these Christ received, and is said to have written their very names in his Book of Life from the foundations of the world. (Rev. xix. 8.) These,

given to him by the Father, whose names he has written in his Book of Life, he also, as their High-priest, bears upon his shoulders, and upon his breastplate, as Aaron did the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, whom God, in Covenant, gave his Son. Various are the designations given these in the Scriptures: "The Seed of the woman;" "the Seed of Abraham;" "the Elect of God;" "the Election;" "Israel;" "the Seed of Jacob;" "my People;" "my Sheep," when Christ is referred to as Shepherd; "Body of Christ;" "the Lamb's Wife;" "Peculiar People;" "Holy Nation." These are those Christ represents in the Covenant of Redemption; for whom he died; for whom he intercedes, and will intercede; and his atoning work will go on until the last one shall have received the blessing of his atonement; and his work will not be finished until a whole world of sinners will be saved. We do not mean until all who are now living, or who have ever lived on this earth, will be saved, but until enough have been redeemed to re-people this entire earth, when it shall have been redeemed, - a new heaven. (Rom. viii. Rev. xxii.)

To be Continued.