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Midyear Meeting Held In Amory

by Justin Rhodes

Editor's Note: *The editor was unable to attend this meeting due to illness. He is fine now and would like to thank Bro. Justin Rhodes for the report and the photos in this issue.*

The 2016 midyear meeting of the BMA of Mississippi was held at East Amory Baptist Church in Amory on May 16 & 17. The Brotherhood and WMA held their respective meetings on Monday evening and the messengers of the association assembled together on Tuesday to conduct business. Forty churches were represented by 91 messengers to conduct the business at hand. Including the visitors who were present, there was an estimated attendance of 115 throughout the meeting on Tuesday. Pastor Roger Akers

and the good people of East Amory church were great hosts and provided a wonderful noon meal to all in attendance.

The various departments and commissions of the association reported throughout the day and the messengers approved each report that was given.

The mid-year message was brought by Bro. Ed Steele who serves as the Director for History & Archives for the association. It was a very timely message on the sins of a nation and how it affects future generations.

During the Missions & Revolving Loan Fund report, Director Larry Geraldson introduced Bro. Vernon Newman as the Manager of the Revolving



East Amory hosted 2016 midyear meeting

Loan Fund. Bro. Newman will transition into this position

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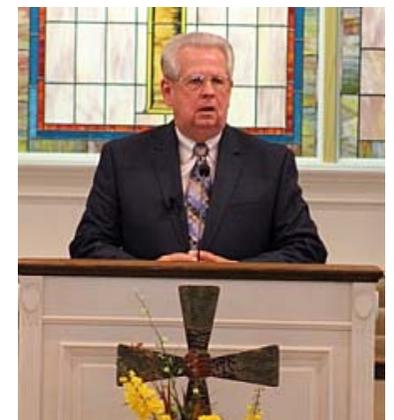
Sins Endangering Our Children

(Message preached by Ed Steele at the mid-year meeting of the BMA of Mississippi at East Amory Baptist Church in Amory on May 17, 2016)

Our text is found in 2 Kings 2:19-25. This chapter reveals some very unusual things happening around the city of Jericho. Elijah passed through Jericho on his way to being translated.

Some have assumed it was a great surprise when Elijah was caught up but that is not so. This chapter opens with the statement, "And it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal." Elijah announced to Elisha that he was going to Bethel and told Elisha

to stay behind. Elisha refused and they went together. Upon arriving at Bethel, the sons of the prophet at Bethel asked Elisha, "Knowest thou that the



Ed Steele bringing message

LORD will take away thy master from thy head to day?" (verse 3). He confirmed that he was aware of the approaching translation. Elisha was told to tarry while Elijah went to Jericho but again he refused. The sons of the prophets at Jericho asked Elisha the same question revealing they, too, knew about the approaching translation. Elisha refused to tarry at Jericho when Elijah announced he was going to cross Jordan.

Have you ever wondered why Elijah wanted to visit Bethel, Jericho, and Jordan before being taken up? He may have been telling us some places we need to go before it comes our time to die. You need a Bethel in your life. A place where you met the Lord! You need some Jerichos in your life where you, too, have won great victories after God destroyed some walls. And you need to cross over Jordan to live a life of spiritual maturity in a land flowing with milk and

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Father's Day Is June 19 - Have A Great Day Honoring Fathers and Our Heavenly Father

A Father's Day Tribute Dr. Gerald Kellar

by Dr. Tony Cleaver
son-in-law

Gerald Dean Kellar is the father of the Baptist Missionary Association of America (BMAA). He was the guiding and directional patriarch of this Baptist group. We owe him a great debt of gratitude for the many good things we enjoy in the BMAA today.

The accomplishments of our alliance have been voluminous. We currently appreciate great successes in the world of missions, Christian education, benevolence, and literature-both print and electronic multi media. Through his early efforts Dr. Kellar helped to lay good and

positive foundations that have come to fruition in our twenty-first century world.

In his early boyhood days, Gerald would go out to preach to the chickens. That kind of rehearsal seems to have served him well; he was the consummate preacher. Yet he was always interested in education as evidenced by his own determination for higher learning. His learning never, ever stood in the way of his being the best friend to any and every person who came across his path.

Gerald Dean loved his family. His bright and shining star was



Dr. Gerald Dean Kellar

Mary Lou. He met her while he was standing in the middle of an intersection in early college days. They weathered many storms together, including the death of three of their five children. Death of his children did not deter him

from being the kind of father God required him to be. His genuine faith suffered through the fire of adversity only to come out on the other side as many Christians have done and continue to do.

He had many good and great works as testament to his fatherly character. One of the best examples is the First Baptist Church in Galena, Kansas. His work there set in motion positive events that have influenced the lives of many in the state.

Fathers serve in the place of God for us who are children. That is their role; that is their place. Dr. Kellar served for us in that capacity. That is why this Father's Day I want to remember him not only as my father-in-law, but also as a father to my own Baptist work.




Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Department of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund




State Missionaries and Wives



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Kenneth & Carole Pollock



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Danny & Brenda Bartlett



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Midyear Missions and Revolving Loan Fund Report

by Larry Geraldson
Director of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund
Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Rev. 5:9 "...Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation:"

Remembering that Christ was slain for our redemption and he alone is worthy of all glory, honor and praise. I ask you to join me in celebrating His gracious inclusion of our churches, our people, and our missionaries, in the spread of the gospel through obedience to the faith.

Since we last met in October 2015, we have begun one new mission in Batesville, Mississippi (Midway Baptist Mission) and began supporting Dr. Kenneth Pollock as the Missionary. We closed on the sale of the former "Westview Baptist Church" building. But before we did, God graciously provided a completely furnished and equipped church facility that we were able to purchase. This enabled us to begin mission activity so that our presence and preaching of the gospel in the area went uninterrupted.

We also relocated the Way, Truth and Life Hispanic Mission, which was co-located with the former "Westview Baptist Church" to a property Northeast of Oxford. The Revolving Loan Trustees approval a loan for the purchase of this property and the group was able to move with little disruption to there services.

By God's grace, we finally received use approval from the City of Clinton and we were able to close on the purchase of land on Cinton-Tinnon Road. This land will serve as the home of Grace Baptist Mission in time. Bro. Danny Bartlett continues to grow his group in anticipation of the construction of a first unit building.

We closed on a piece of property and afterwards approved a loan to Central in Southaven, Missionary Anders Lee, for the construction of a new facility. We expect construction to begin sometime this year.

We have begun construction of the

second phase building at Caledonia Baptist, Missionary Bob Burch, in Caledonia, Mississippi. When it is complete they will have educational space and fellowship space sufficient to meet their needs. The 59th Annual Missions



Missions Director Larry Geraldson reporting during midyear meeting

and Evangelism Conference will be held there on April 28, 2017.

South Forrest Baptist Mission, Missionary Sidney Farmer, completed construction of their second phase building in time to host the 58th Annual Missions and Evangelism Conference. The conference was a success with approximately 130 in attendance. South Forrest did a great job hosting the event which included feeding all those folks. South Forrest now turns their attention back to ministry and will be conducting E.E. Training in June.

Day Star Baptist, Missionary Phillip Burns, is showing signs of growth as the Burns family continues steadfastly to minister to the people of the area. A number of folks are in one-on-one discipleship and evidence of spiritual growth is obvious. They held their first ever "Friend Day" the Sunday before Easter and saw the attendance break a previously difficult plateau and it has not come down below that plateau since.

Redemption Baptist Mission in Diamond Head, Missionary Wesley Martin, one of our newest missions, continues to make progress establishing their presence in this heavily Catholic area. Since our last meeting Bro. Martin has

successfully begun a small group ministry and is seeing folks attend the small group before attending the mission.

Bro. Bobby Elliott and Freedom Baptist Mission in Burnsville continue to be a catalyst for soul winning in their area. Bro. Burns continues to mature his people in the Word with a goal of leading them to being an organized, self supporting church, one day.

Since last we met, we have reorganized our Hispanic Missions program in Mississippi. Bro. Estuardo Marroquin is now the Hispanic Missions Manager for BMA Hispanic Missions in Mississippi and Bro. Elvis Garcia is the Coordinator of BMA Hispanic Missions in Mississippi. Essentially, what that means is that Bro. Marroquin will be in charge of the program as the primary administrator and Bro. Garcia will serve as the field person. Our Hispanic missions program is growing and these changes were necessary to capitalize on the strengths of these men. Together, these men have set a goal to plant 3 new churches this year.

Since October we have had three men ordained and three licensed to the gospel ministry. Recently, they conducted a Hispanic Missions conference at Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg and had approximately 140 in attendance and had 6 surrender to missions. They took up an offering of approximately \$600.00 for Hispanic missions. The impact of our Hispanic Missions program is reach out beyond our borders. Bro. Elin Pech was the first missionary to go from Way, Truth & Life Ripley to Oxford, Mississippi. Now Bro. Pech has returned to Mexico and has started a church. Way, Truth & Life in Ripley has endorsed Bro. Pech and the work. Please pray for them.

Our African American Missions work took a different direction, as well. Bro. Ed DuVall and I discussed the difficulties of trying to assimilate established churches into our effort. It seem each of our attempts resulted in disappointment. Therefore, we decided that the better approach would be for Bro. DuVall to find someone he could disciple and mentor and bring him into his church, Homestretch, to work with him for a period of time, with hopes of sending him out to plant a church later. He has found someone and this is underway.

Homestretch is also growing, having added two new families, recently.

I want to commend our missionaries and their families for their hard word. Just since August to April they have made 2,729 new contacts, they shared the gospel 1,621 times, witnessed 161 professions of faith, and have baptized 35.

We have great things ahead of us. Opportunities to plant new churches are available across the State. Our resources continue to remain strong and we anticipate we will finish the year in the black again. I am very close to my goal of an efficiency rate of 90/10 and we are praying that our Special Emphasis this year will be the best ever.

I must confess to you that since Bro. Lee retired last June, it has been chal-



Loan Fund Manager Vernon Newman shares with messengers

lenging for me to be involved with our missionaries and coordinators, as I would like. Most of my time has been focused on Revolving Loan Fund issues. Some of those tasks have been related to supporting our missionaries, but that has been about the limit of my interaction with our missionaries. I regret this, but I am grateful that God has provided us a man who has agreed to come on board and serve as our next Revolving Loan Fund Manager.

Bro. Vernon Newman will begin in earnest on August 1st serving as the new Revolving Loan Fund Manager. A full profile of Bro. Newman was printed

report continues on next page

Midyear Sermon

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honey. Before you die, be sure you have been to Bethel, to Jericho, and crossed Jordan.

The sons of the prophets at Jericho followed Elijah and Elisha and watched as Elijah smote Jordan with his mantle and they crossed over on dry land. As the two traveled together, Elijah asked what he could do for Elisha and a double portion of his spirit was requested (verse 9). After Elijah was taken up, Elisha returned with the mantle to smite the Jordan saying, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" (verse 14). The sons of the prophets were still waiting near Jordan and saw the waters open up allowing Elisha to return to them. They replied, "The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him" (verse 15). It was truly a great day for Jericho as they all entered the village together leading up to our text in 2 Kings 2:19-25.

"19 And the men of the city said unto Elisha, Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord seeth: but the water is naught, and the ground barren. 20 And he said, Bring me a new cruse, and put salt therein. And they brought it to him. 21 And he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there, and said, Thus saith the LORD, I have healed these waters: there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land. 22 So the waters were

Missions Report

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in the one of the recent editions of the Mississippi Baptist. I hope you will join me in welcoming him.

The Revolving Loan Fund is doing well. We have made 10 new loans totaling \$2,662,775.00. We presently have 645 shareholders and we are servicing 66 active loans in 5 states. Total assets have grown by \$1,325,438.00 to just over \$21 Million in total assets since last August. That is very close to 30% growth in total assets in just 4 1/2 years.

I want to express my appreciation to Ms Kim Parker for her faithful support as our office manager. She continues to do an outstanding job. Also, I would be negligent if I didn't speak to how much I appreciate our committeemen, trustees and the chairmen of both. Your sacrifice and support is tremendous and I appreciate you very much.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve you. Please keep your missionaries in your prayers. Visit them, encourage them, support them, pray with them, love them and my God richly bless you.

healed unto this day, according to the saying of Elisha which he spake. 23 And he went up from thence unto Bethel: and as he was going up by the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head. 24 And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the LORD. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them. 25 And he went from thence to mount Carmel, and from thence he returned to Samaria."

What a blessing it was to have Elisha come to visit! The spring of water supplying their city had gone bad but Elisha took care of that by pouring salt into it. I don't know what I would have done to make bad water good but it would not involve putting salt in it. But it was not the salt that purified the water but Elisha using the power of God. After several days, Elisha left Jericho to return to Bethel.

There should have been a parade celebrating this great man of God to thank him for his visit and inviting him to return. But the only ones were children who came out to mock him instead saying, "Go up, thou bald head, go up, thou bald head." After Elisha turned and cursed them in the name of the Lord, two she bears came out of the woods to kill forty two little children.

The leaders of the city and parents of the children likely thought this was the beginning of a glorious day but it quickly became the darkest day of their lives! How could this happen? Whose fault was this? Was it Elisha's fault? I don't blame Elisha. I have never known a man of God who did not love children. Was it God's fault? Elisha did curse them in the name of the Lord and only God could control the two bears. But, no, it wasn't God's fault either. I believe it was the fault of the adults in the city who had sinned by failing to set the proper example to the children and teach them properly.

What sins were committed in Jericho that would result in such a great judgment? It was not like the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah. The city was not necessarily filled with perverts and ungodly people. I believe our text reveals two sins had been practiced by the people for so long it had very badly affected the children.

A sad truth is these two sins are being practiced in most of our churches. We are all guilty of them in our own individual lives and they greatly endanger the future of our young people and others we influence. This judgment on Jericho was a very bad day for them but God can use it to reveal what He expects of us.

No Respect for the Man of God

The children followed Elisha as they mocked him calling him, "Thou bald head, thou bald head." The problem was

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COMMISSION ON Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt
Director

The Senior Adult Ministry continues to minister to the hearts of our seniors in our churches and seems to be increasing and reaching new heights. The North Conference has just concluded and East Fulton Baptist Church and Pastor John Lewis did an excellent job hosting this meeting to an almost full house. Our senior adults just keep on going and going and going. The oldest lady attending was 97 years old and the oldest man attending was 91. Many of these seniors are still involved in the ministries of their churches. The conferences for next year are in the early planning stages and the dates will

be forthcoming soon.

The support for the Commission on Senior Adults continues to be good and this is deeply appreciated. We are deeply appreciative for the pastors and the churches who help in this ministry.

The South Senior Adult Conference and the North Senior Adult Conference reached about 500 people. It seems that the numbers increase year after year. This indicates that this ministry is meeting a need for those who have ministered in our churches down through the years. May we never forget our senior citizens who have never forgotten our churches.

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2016
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June 26th & July 3rd



Don Brown

Mississippi Baptist

Opinion Page

www.msbbaptist.org

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Don Brown - Editor

Never Happened Before - Not In 38 Years!

It had never happened before. In the 38 years that this editor has served, I have made every annual and midyear meeting of the state association and every annual meeting of our national work. Even with other health issues, I have only missed publishing one issue of the Mississippi Baptist during my tenure and that was not health related.

I guess it is the culmination of years and older age (I did not say OLD, just older) that I was unable to attend last month's midyear meeting in Amory. I had attended the North Senior Conference a couple of weeks earlier, but came down with what I will call a "bug" and just could not make the trip to Amory.

I called upon Justin Rhodes, pastor of Big Creek Church, Soso, to stand in for me. Justin previously served as editor of one of our denomination papers when he pastored First Church, Galena, Kansas. He graciously agreed to help us out with a report and with some photos.

His report begins on page one of this issue and the photos of the meeting in this issue were provided by him.

Thank you Justin for your help!

National Education Destruction

Most of you have heard about the "gender neutral" directives coming from the White House concerning bathroom, dressing, and shower facilities in public schools and colleges. These 'rules' and instructions are a sure sign of the immoral and destructive leadership from our president. Regardless of an individual's 'perception' of who they are sexually, the government has no business forcing children into embarrassing and morally repugnant situations.

Some school leaders have immediately rolled over and are dancing to the tune of federal mandates and federal funds. Those with godly, moral standards are fighting back. In his recent report to the association, Southeastern College President Danny Pitts shared his thoughts and the information that SBC received concerning compliance.

Our governor and other elected officials have stated their intentions of not complying with this directive. The state of Mississippi Superintendent issued a statement of compliance, but retracted it in the face of immediate political

pressure. The latest information that I have seen is that Mississippi is seeking to join a federal lawsuit with 11 other states to combat this directive.

It is past time for common sense and common decency to prevail and for us to stand and refuse to bow to the forces that are trying to not only change, but ultimately destroy our society. Right is right and lunacy is lunacy no matter how you phrase it. God will not be mocked and the direction that our current president and others are forcing our nation to go is a direct repudiation of nature and a 'fist of defiance' in the face of nature's Creator.

Our children are the responsibility of the parents and the parent's are responsible to God Almighty for their upbringing. It is time to let the parents do the parenting and provide moral instruction. The government should stick to the things that governments were created for - an orderly society so individuals may peacefully live their lives in a manner that they see fit - the majority of which wish to honor God with moral, common sense conduct.

Midyear Meeting

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throughout the summer upon his retirement with the Army National Guard.

President Danny Pitts shared during the report that Southeastern Baptist College was chosen #1 Online School in the nation by bestcolleges.org. He also informed the messengers that Dr. Scott Carson is now on campus at the college as the new Academic Dean.

The annual meeting of the BMA of Mississippi will be held at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel on Tuesday & Wednesday, October 18 & 19. The Moral Action Commission is in charge of the Tuesday evening service with Dr.



Carl Sookraj, from Central Church, Southaven and BMAA missionary elect to Peru reports to messengers

John Adams bringing the evening message. This will be a "God and Country Rally" service. We encourage each of our churches to make plans to attend the annual meeting and be a part of what God is doing through the work of the BMA of Mississippi.



Selfsupport missionary to the Philippines Doug Lee shares his ministry at the recent state meeting in Amory.

Director Larry Geraldson included the Missions Department Midyear report in its entirety on page 2 of this issue.

Southeastern College President Danny Pitts presented his report on page 5 of this issue.

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AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Zechariah Rogers

Zechariah Rogers is available for preaching opportunities or pastoral work as the Lord leads. He is currently attending Southeastern Baptist College working on a Bachelors in Christian Ministries. He may be reached at the following numbers: Home 769-301-5004 and cell 662-372-5730.

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Danny Pitts

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Southeastern College Report at Mid-year Meeting

Have You Heard?

Have you heard that Southeastern Baptist College was listed as having the #1 Bible College Online Program? BestColleges.org listed us first above some well known and excellent schools. We are going to hold this honor up for awhile. Spread the word to those who have not heard "SBC is #1."

Even though our school is in Laurel, Mississippi, we are not going to sit on our laurels (pun intended). We must work to improve. The comments about our college in Best Colleges mentioned that we offer a limited number of courses. We plan to work at making the quality of our classes the best possible. Spread the word that SBC is #1.

Have You Heard?

Have you heard that Southeastern Baptist College was listed as having the #6 most affordable bachelor's degree in Religious Studies. AffordableSchools.net listed us with this position. Now #6 is not as good as #1, but such a high rating among all of the religious degrees in our nation is not bad. You get a great deal at SBC, plus training in our BMA school. If you thought that you could not afford to be a student on campus or online at Southeastern, call and see for yourself.

Have You Heard?

Have you heard about our Summer and Fall Classes? Two online classes are available this Summer. One is in Old Testament Poetic books which covers from Job through Song of Solomon. Our full schedule for the Fall is listed on our website. We must have more students. Consider taking classes yourself or promoting the school with anyone you know.

Finances are almost always tight this time of year. The Lord has blessed with a couple of great contributions recently, but we will need a special blessing in July to keep us from borrowing. Last year some churches gave a portion of their Special Emphasis early. If your church can send a portion early, it will help us greatly.

Have You Heard?

Have you heard that Dr./Col. Scott Carson is on campus as the new Academic Dean at Southeastern? He and his wife, Linda, will be in transition between Huntsville (Alabama) and Laurel for some time, but he is serving. He has been chosen by our BMAA Missions as Chaplaincy Director. I encourage

you to invite Dean Carson to your church. He can represent SBC and the BMAA Chaplaincy, plus he can preach.

Have You Heard?

Have you heard about the materials from the US Department of Education concerning transgender students. As president of Southeastern I received the email letter with several links giving many guidelines. Although the White House said that these are recommendations, the intent is not very subtle.

Midyear Sermon

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not how much hair was on his head but what was in their heart! If his head had been covered with hair, they would have found something else. They were mocking him! The man of God who had been such a blessing to their village was being ridiculed!

In our text, it was a prophet of God who was being given no respect but I would like to apply this principle to all the men and women who are serving God with us. All who are serving God are worthy of respect for many reasons!

The call of God's man.

When God has placed His call on someone, how dare we not give them proper respect! He needed someone to build an ark and He called Noah. He needed someone to lead the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage and He called Moses. He needed a king for Israel and He called a shepherd boy named David and made him the sweet Psalmist of Israel. He needed someone to prepare the way for the Lord and He called John the Baptist. He needed someone to be an Apostle to the Gentiles and He called Saul of Tarsus. I don't know why but He called me also and I can say with Paul, "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry" (1 Timothy 1:12).

Your Pastor is not the only one in your church who has God's call on his life. Every saved person has spiritual gifts that signify God's calling to certain areas of service. Whether their gift is teaching, serving, showing mercy, giving, or whatever, God has called them to serve Him and they need to know they are respected.

Listen to some quotes from the letter and other information they provided.

This letter summarizes a school's Title IX obligations regarding transgender students and explains how the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) evaluate a school's compliance with these obligations.

Gender transition refers to the process in which transgender individuals begin asserting the sex that corresponds to their gender identity instead of the sex they were assigned at birth. During gender transition, individuals begin to live and identify as the sex consistent with their gender identity and may dress differently, adopt a new name, and use pronouns consistent with their gender identity. Transgender individuals may undergo gender transition at any stage of their lives, and gender transition can happen swiftly or over a long duration of time.

As a condition of receiving Federal funds, a school agrees that it will not exclude, separate, deny benefits to, or

otherwise treat differently on the basis of sex any person in its educational programs or activities unless expressly authorized to do so under Title IX or its implementing regulations.

Restrooms and Locker Rooms. A school may provide separate facilities on the basis of sex, but must allow transgender students access to such facilities consistent with their gender identity. A school may not require transgender students to use facilities inconsistent with their gender identity or to use individual-user facilities when other students are not required to do so. A school may, however, make individual-user options available to all students who voluntarily seek additional privacy.

The administration of our school will be looking at all of the guidelines and examples. We will try to see if we can find creative ways of meeting the requirements, but WE CANNOT VIOLATE OUR CORE PRINCIPLES. Pray for us and other Christians who must deal with the new situation.

The cost of being God's man.

Elisha counted the cost in following Elijah and paid it in full. 1 Kings 19 describes the depression Elijah was going through when he told God that he was the only one still serving Him (verse 9 & 10). God told Elijah He had 7,000 more just like him (verse 18). Elijah must have thought, "If there are others like me I want to find one of them." In the next verse he found Elisha and cast his mantle upon him as he was plowing twelve yoke of oxen. Elisha ran after Elijah and asked if he could first go and kiss his mother and father goodbye. When Elijah told him to go back, the Scriptures reveal what Elisha did, "And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him" (verse 21). He killed his oxen and burned his plow to make sure nothing would tempt him to turn back. Elisha counted the cost and was willing to pay it. He deserved to be respected!

Jesus said, "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:33). The men and women who serve faithfully in your church may not have forsaken all, but they have counted the cost and have been willing to pay it. To many of them the cost is much more than just the giving of tithes and offerings and the time they give. Many buy materials and study aids to help in their teaching and accompaniment tapes to help in their singing. They deserve your respect!

The condition of being respectable.

No one can demand to be respected. Everyone needs to be respectable to make it easy for others to respect them. A pastor is not just a pastor when he is

in the pulpit preaching or doing weddings or funerals. He is also a pastor when he is doing business in the community. A deacon is not just a deacon one hour per month in a deacon's meeting, but also when he is in his home, at his work, or dealing with people around him. A Sunday School teacher is not only a teacher for one hour on Sunday but she is also a teacher when she is in her home or on her job.

The story was told of a slave ship that came into port. The slaves were taken out of the filthy hole they had endured while crossing the ocean and marched into the slave market. They were each placed on small pedestals where those who were buying slaves could pass by and examine them. As you can imagine, most of them were trembling with fright. They were in a strange country looking at people who were totally different than what they had known before. But one young man was so different than the rest! He was standing like a soldier at attention with his muscles taut as he stared off into space. Someone asked the Captain why this man was so different than the others and he replied, "Back in Africa his father was the king of the tribe. You see, he is the son of a king and he has not forgotten who he is!"

May God help us to always remember that we are the sons and daughters of the King of glory and we should never forget who we are! We need to live respectable lives so we will have the respect of others so what we are doing for God will be accepted and He can be glorified.

The commitment to respecting others.

If we need to be respected by others, then we need to respect them as well.

continued on page 8

Women's Missionary Auxiliary

2016 Ladies Retreat Set

by Beth Caldwell, Retreat Chairman - 601-947-6011

The WMA officers have been busy planning this year's Ladies Retreat. The Retreat will be on August 26 and 27, 2016 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. Sabrina Clayton will be the speaker for our retreat. The theme is "One Day at a Time."

I would like for you to mark your calendar now so you will not forget these dates. You may send your registration in beginning June 1, 2016. When you mark your choice of bed remember that it is on a first come basis. Registration will begin at 2:00 o'clock. Remember to bring items for the silent auction. This is always so much fun to see if you can get that item you really want.

Ladies, we all need this special time together so it is my prayer that you will begin planning today to be at Camp Garaywa on August 26, 2016. If you have any questions do not hesitate to call me and I will be glad to try to answer your question.

I am looking forward to receiving your registration on June 1, 2016.

2016 Ladies Retreat Registration Form Below

2016 Christian Women's Retreat
Sponsored by BMA of Mississippi WMA
Camp Garaywa Conference Center – Clinton, MS
August 26 & 27, 2016

"One Day at a Time"

We are excited about this upcoming retreat. It will be one you will not want to miss.
(Retreat: a perfect time to get away for spiritual renewal and relaxation.)

Program: Registration is from 2:30 – 5:00 PM Friday, August 26, 2016.

- o Dinner at 6:00 PM
- o General session begins at 7:00 PM
- o The retreat will continue through lunch Saturday, August 27, 2016.

The conference fee is \$45.00 per person and includes three (3) meals. Room accommodations vary on type room desired. Rooms at Patterson Place have two queen beds and are \$120.00 per night up to four (4) people per room. Accommodations in other parts of conference center are single beds with shared bathrooms at \$25.00 per night. For the adventurous, there are cabins with bunk beds at \$15.00 per person (*must furnish own linens*). These cabins have outside bath houses. All sleeping areas are air-conditioned.

Rooms are assigned on 'first come first served' basis. Registration form, conference fee, and room charge must be received together to get room of choice. Do Not delay, send registration in beginning JUNE 1!

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____ Church _____

ROOMS (Please check)

(1) Patterson Place: 1 per rm \$120 ____ 2 per rm \$60 ea ____ 3 per rm \$40 ea ____ 4 per rm \$30 ea ____
(2) Single beds (\$25 ea) ____ (3) Outside cabins (\$15 ea) ____

List roommates _____

REGISTRATION FEE (\$45) _____

ROOM COST _____

Total Enclosed _____

Camp Garaway is a
SMOKE FREE campus

Please fill out (completely) registration form below, clip and mail with registration fee and room rent to: Beth Caldwell, 166 Twin Creek Rd, Lucedale, MS 39452. (Feel free to make copies of this form. One person registered per form.) **Cut off date for registration is Friday, August 19, 2016.**

(For more information or questions, contact Beth Caldwell, Ph. 601-947-6011 or 601-766-5702, Email: roybethc4@att.net)

MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Director

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

On The Web at www.macbma.net/

Email - fbcjdmaj@yahoo.com



John Adams

A Letter To Churches of the BMA of Mississippi

Dear Church family, Pastor, & Staff,

Hello to each one. Darla and I hope the very best for each of you as you receive this letter and promotion material in the June mail. It's time to stand up for our great nation. The A.C.L.U. and the Americans United for Separation of Church and State are determined to remove God from American life.

Would you please post our Moral Action posters in your church (feel free to make copies of this letter for each classroom)? Moral Action is a good ministry and so needed in 2016-17.

Your offerings on June 26th or July 3rd will certainly help. So, whether small or large offerings, we thank you in advance. Please mail the offerings to: Moral Action, P. O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855. I wish for each B.M.A. church to consider us in your budget, also.

I count it a great honor to serve in your behalf before your Senators, Congressmen and political moralists. Help us please as we stand up for Jesus Christ our Savior and the United States of America!

Respectfully,

Dr. John M. Adams

Joshua 24:15

"I Have Chosen..."

JMA/lrs

Girls Missionary Auxilliary

State Youth Auxiliary Director

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



State GMA Promoter

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

GMA Challenge

Water From The Well

by Chris Smith

I cannot help but remember how I used to love to go to my grandmother's house. The water she drew from the well was always so cold and refreshing. I find myself thinking about not having fresh clear sparkling water to drink and my mind wanders to the people of Ghana.

I was wondering what we could do if we would fill an empty water bottle with money each month and give it to Water for Christ. You could put change in it, or bills, or a check.

Pass water out to the people in your church and ask them to help. No amount is too little. Save the change you find around the house and put it in the bottle. It will mount up before you know it.

Maybe you could have a hobo day and clean yards, wash windows, etc. for

people in your community.

I read an article that was written in January about Water for Christ. This group had just returned from West Africa where three successful water wells had been drilled and 1,068 professions of faith was made. What a joy it would be to witness this many people coming to know the Lord. The gospel to them is like a sparkling fresh drink of water.

GMA girls, remember this is our project. Every time you take a drink of water let this be a reminder that we are doing our best to dig a well in Africa.

We can do it, girls. With the Lord on our side, who can be against us. GMA Officers we will need your help!

The project sheets are out. Some already have them. I will be mailing out others in the near future. Please let me know if you do not get one. My address and phone number are 212 So. Fox Hall Rd., Pearl, MS 39208. Phone number is 601-939-6707.

BMA Seminary's Holds Fiftieth-ninth Commencement

Twenty individuals received a degree from the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary of Jacksonville, Texas, during commencement exercises conducted Saturday, May 14, 2016. The seminary hosted the event in its Dorman Memorial Chapel on the main campus in Jacksonville.

Ollie Fay Oliver of Tyler, Texas and Robert Stokes, Jr. of Whitehouse, Texas, received the Associate of Divinity degree. Jack Cleveland of Arlington, Texas; Steven Davenport of Teague, Texas; Sara Harris of Mililani, Hawaii; Santo Juarez of Jacksonville, Texas; Robert Simpson of Jacksonville, Texas; and Nicolas Tovar of Crowley, Texas, received the Bachelor of Arts in Religion degree.

The Master of Arts (Religion) degree was awarded to John Ashby, III of Portsmouth, Virginia; Derry Hinton of Tyler, Texas; Lance Sandel of Longview, Texas; and Phillip Waddell of Fruitvale, Texas. Michael Book of Brookland, Arkansas; Ernestine Foreman of Tyler, Texas; Phil Knott of Bryant, Arkansas,

and Randy Lingenfelter of Imboden, Arkansas received the Master of Arts in Church Ministries degree. Carol Shine



of Jacksonville, Texas, received the honorary Master of Arts in Church Ministries degree.

Recipients of the Master of Divinity degree included Timothy Bastress of Jacksonville, Texas; David Cook of Lindale, Texas; and Bart Herrington of

Pearl, Mississippi.

Dr. James C. Blaylock, Library Director for the BMA Seminary's Kellar

Memorial Library and Pastor of the Corinth Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Texas, presented the commencement address. Blaylock has been involved in Gospel ministry since 1960, including 50 years of service with the seminary's library and 45 years as a

pastor in Cherokee County, Texas.

Blaylock has been selected to Who's Who in Religion four times and to Who's Who in the Southwest three times. He has authored several books including The History of Buena Vista Baptist Church, The History of First Baptist Church of Maydelle, and Glimpses From The Past.

Blaylock earned the A.A. degree from Southeastern Baptist College of Laurel, Mississippi, and both the Th.B. and M.R.E. degrees from the BMA Seminary. He also earned a B.A. from the University of Texas at Tyler and the M.S.L.S. degree from the East Texas State University. In 2011, BMA Seminary awarded him the Doctor of Divinity degree.

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

Ten Mile WMA Report

by Reporter Maria Ochoa

The Ten Mile WMA met April 11, 2016 at Temple Baptist Church Biloxi. Our theme was "I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and his word do I hope." Psalm 130:5

Our Devotional was presented by Dena Ellzey and dedicated to all Pastor's wives. The WMA ladies presented a skit representing the Pastor's wife. Each lady wore a hat based on all of her responsibilities.

Our project for this quarter is Missionary Brother Bob and Edie Burch.

We enjoyed refreshments and a great fellowship with Temple Baptist Church.

Our next meeting will be on July 11 with Ten Mile Baptist Church, Perkinston. Mark this important date on your calendar.

Daniel Springs: A Place Where Lives Are Changed

by Jonathan Wilson

Over the past 50 plus summers, thousands of campers have walked the grounds of Daniel Springs. From young to old, many experienced the life changing power of Christ. There are countless stories of campers professing faith in Christ, surrendering to missions, and dedicating their life to serving God. Andy Comer, Church Planter, Georgetown, Texas, shares his story.

"To say that Daniel Springs has been a huge part of my life would be an understatement. I remember the exact place in the main tabernacle where I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior at age 11. It brings me great joy to be able to return there every summer and see where my life was changed for

eternity! Daniel Springs Camp was something I looked forward to every summer as a student. I believe God used those weeks to mold and shape me into the man I am today. There is something about spending 3 days and 3 nights away from the routines of life to be spiritually refreshed and renewed. Even now, at age 31, I look forward to going back every summer to invest in

the next generation. Daniel Springs has a way of bringing out the kid in all of us."

Life changing stories like Andy's will happen this summer at Daniel Springs. To experience Daniel Springs and to have your own story, visit danielspringscamp.com to register or call (903) 685-2433.

CHURCH NEWS IN BRIEF

Laurel Church to host Gospel Sing

A Gospel sing with nationally known Soul'd Out Quartet will be hosted by



Pine Ridge Baptist Church on Sunday June 19th at 10:45 am. The church is located at 220 Service Road, Laurel. For more information visit souldoutquartet.com or call 601-319-8466.

Oak Grove Association

by Ed Steele, Reporter

The Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Association met at Calvary Baptist Church in Purvis on May 12. After enjoying a bountiful meal and a great

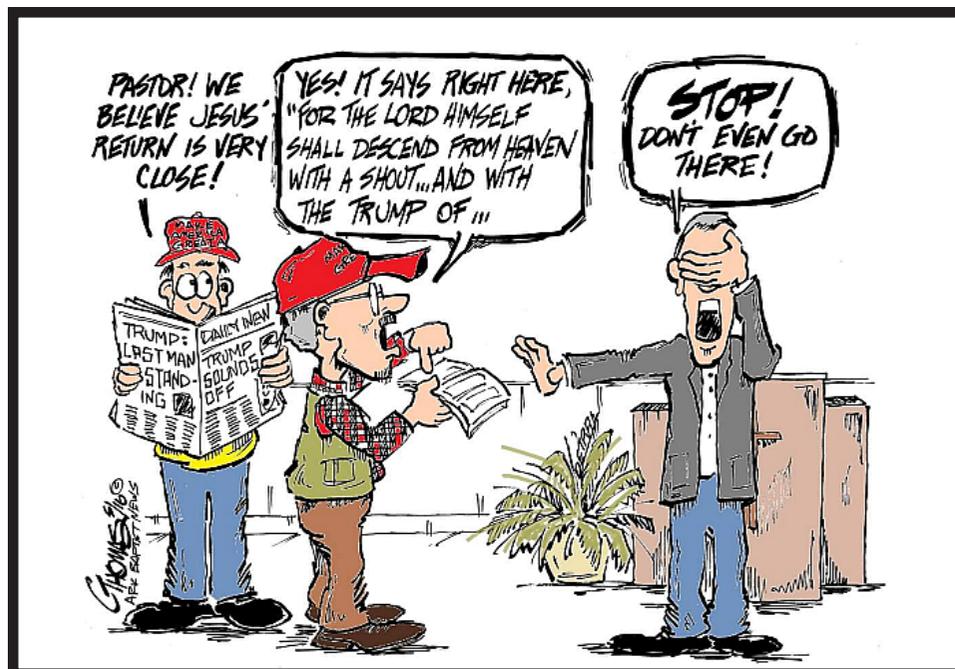
time of fellowship, the meeting began with scripture and prayer given by Bro. Denny Patterson.

Bro. Kenneth Flynt was present to give a report on the Commission on Senior Adults. Bro. Ted Quinsby serves as our National Missions Ambassador and he gave a report on the recent Missionary commissioning service in Gatlinburg. Bro. Denny Patterson is a Trustee for the Children's Home and he spoke on behalf of this department. Bro. Sam Oglesby is a Trustee of Southeastern Baptist College and he gave a report for them.

An inspiring message by Bro. Mike Jenkins blessed all in attendance. The next meeting will be on July 14 at Corinth Baptist Church in Runnelstown.

New Pastor

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Tupelo has a new pastor, Bro. Richey Hester. He will be ordained on June 5 at First Baptist Church of Mantachie at 2:00 PM. He may be reached at 662-231-2686.



2016

DANIEL SPRINGS

CAMP SCHEDULE

Galilean Camp June 7-10

GMA Camp..... June 14-17

Student I (7th-College) June 21-24

Preteen Camp I (4th-6th) June 28-July 1

Preteen Camp II (4th-6th) July 12-15

Ark-La-Tex Camp (Family) July 19-22

Student Camp II (7th-College) July 26-29



Register For Camp at DANIELSPRINGSCAMP.COM

Email: jason@danielspringscamp.com

Phone: 903-685-2433

 Daniel Springs Camp
  @DanielSprings
  DanielSpringsCamp
 

National Brotherhood Met in Gatlinburg

by Richey Hester, Editor & Promoter National Brotherhood

The National Brotherhood met in Gatlinburg, Tennessee at the Gatlinburg Convention Center on April 26, 2016 at 8:00 AM. We have one of the largest attendants we have had quite some time. The Treasurer's Report (Robert Bynum) and Minutes and the Executive Committee Report (Roy Caldwell) was approved.

Officers elected for 2016-2017 are as follows: President Mark Jones, 1VP Van Widger, 2VP James Laminac, 3VP Collin Jones, Song Leader Matt Hudson, Assistant Song Leader Bill Thornton, Editor/Promoter Richey Hester, Secretary/Treasurer Robert Bynum, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Roy Caldwell, Galilean Director, Kenneth Colvert, and Assistant Galilean Director Dan Williams.

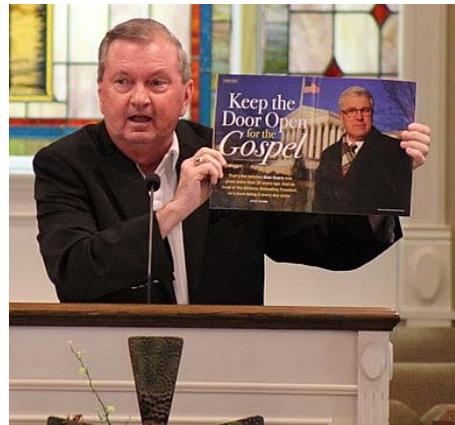
The Project elected for the coming year is 60% Moral Action (Dr. John Adams, Director), 30% National

Galileans, 10%; Brotherhood General Fund. The Brotherhood approved continuing the Bro. Arthur Smith Memorial Scholarship fund for the Senior National Mr. Galilean to attend a BMA sponsored school. An offering of \$399.00 was received.

The Galilean Report was presented by Kenneth Colvert and Dan Williams. The National Galilean Camp will be June 7-10, 2016 at Daniel Springs Baptist Camp, Gary, Texas. Keaton Walley, the Senior National Mr. Galilean, spoke on the impact of Galileans on his life.

The speaker was Bro. Dale Broom, missionary to Ghana, West Africa. He used Acts 16:25 as his text and spoke on the impact of a "positive" versus "negative" outlook on life and church ministry. Dr. John Adams, Director of Moral Action, thanked the Brotherhood for taking Moral Action as the project and requested support and prayer.

MAC Freedom Offering June 26 & July 3

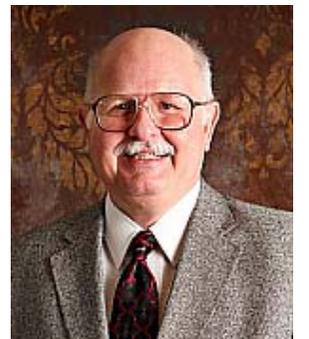


MAC Director John Adams speaking at 2016 Midyear BMA of Mississippi

Seminary Business Manager Retires

Van Widger is set to retire from serving as that Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary's business manager since 2009.

Following a successful banking career in the St. Louis area, Widger moved to Texas in 2009 at the request of President Charley Holmes. According to Holmes, Widger "came on a volunteer basis seven years ago while serving as a seminary trustee. He came to fill in temporarily when the business manager position opened up. Since then, he has been a faithful worker at the seminary and in his local church. We are going to miss him."



Van Widger

Widger earned a Bachelor of Arts in Information Systems Columbia College in 1975 and served an integral part in the initiation of the seminary's distance education program by providing needed computer and technological expertise for supporting online classes. The availability of such classes has allowed the seminary to grow numerically and earn a rating by the Association of Theological Schools as one of the fastest growing seminaries in the United States and Canada.

Widger has also served the Baptist Missionary Association of America in multiple offices of the National Brotherhood and as a board member for the BMAA Foundation. He currently serves the Brotherhood as First Vice President. Widger's plans are to return to his home state of Missouri.

Midyear Sermon

from page 3

They will not be getting much respect from the world around them as the world's criticism of Christianity increases. Therefore, we need to focus on things that will build that respect.

Learn to appreciate all the other members in your church. Some people may get on your nerves or be the type you would not normally spend a lot of time with. You may like different sports teams or enjoy different hobbies. You may run in different social circles. But if they are serving the Lord you can show appreciation for what they are doing for His glory. "And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake" (1 Thessalonians 5:13).

You can dedicate yourself to encouraging them. Everyone needs a pat on the back or to hear words of encouragement to spur them on to do even great things for the Lord. "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works" (Hebrews 10:24). People

need to know they are respected and it will help them reject temptations facing them each day. "But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 3:13).

By focusing on the good of others you will be increasing the unity in your church. Being united is more than just not having arguments and disagreements among the members. It is a bonding that takes place building closeness. With a conscious effort on your part, respect for all members can be created. Paul has instructed us, "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:2, 3). It may require lowliness and meekness on your part to be longsuffering as you forbear the faults of others but the unity it creates is well worth the effort. And what a great example you will be for the young people as you are being "kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another" (Romans 12:10) before them.

As the little children of Jericho were aware of what was going on in their community, so will the young people of your church notice how you speak to each other and treat one another. Unfortunately, many young people see little respect shown to each other in their own homes. Not between their parents or between them and their parents. How tragic when the children hear the parents talking negatively about the pastor, youth workers, or their teachers. They are undermining all the leaders who are trying to be a blessing to their children. How different when the parents repeatedly remind their children of how blessed they are to have so many people in church who love them and want to be a blessing to them. Never be the cause of the little ones losing confidence in the adults of your church! "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine" (1 Timothy 5:17).

(Sermon to be continued on our
June 15th issue)