

Mississippi Baptist

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Southaven Church hosts midyear meeting



by the editor

Central Church, Southaven hosted the 2018 Mid-year meeting of the BMA of Mississippi. Central is a joint mission project of the BMA of America and BMA of Mississippi.

Pastor Anders Lee and the membership of Central were great hosts for the WMA and Brotherhood meetings on Monday evening May 21 and the Association business session on Tuesday.

The church provided the noon meal

at a local restaurant. The food was great and the care and hospitality of the church is greatly appreciated.

New Church

Grace Baptist Church of Clinton, a state mission project, petitioned membership and was heartily received. Pastor and Mrs. Danny Bartlett were seated as messengers of the church.

Each area of the state was represented by churches and messengers, but the overall attendance was lower



Up In One Day

110 individuals showed up on Saturday May 19 to erect the building for Day Star Baptist Mission in Sumrall. The walls went up and over half the roof was put on. What a great blessing to this mission effort.

Ministers Resource Services

BMA Retirement Plan Next Steps

by Dr. Steve Crawley, Director

As shared previously, you will find important information about the BMA Retirement Plan and the programs within the plan on the website www.bma-retirement.com. To assist further in the transition process, we wish to address some frequently asked questions and outline your next steps:

I am a current participant in the existing 401(a) plan: how do I access my account information? For online access to your current (if applicable) account that was part of the former 401(a) plan, go to www.retirementlogin.com/envoy. The first time you login, your username will be your Social Security number (no



dashes). Your password will be the last 4 digits of your Social Security number, and your "Role" will be "Account Holder."

How is the money from the former 401(a) plan now invested? The 401(a) plan funds originally held by Manning & Napier are now invested in a Faith Based Target-Dated Portfolio. You do not have to take any further action on the account. This investment provides younger participants with a more aggressive asset allocation for growth and

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than normal. This was most likely attributed to the location and the distance from the Southern part of the state.



Jeff Dixon welcomes Bro. & Mrs. Danny Bartlett representing Grace Church, Clinton. Only 26 churches were represented by messenger with 54 messengers and 24 visitors registered.

The State WMA and Brotherhood met on Monday evening. Attendance at these two was also low, but each had good and interesting programs. Dr. Kevin Clayton, pastor of Bethel Church, Fulton, spoke to the Brotherhood.

The WMA heard from Missionary Carl Sookraj. His ministry and plans for a home for children in Peru is the state project.

Naitonal WMA Project Promoter Kelly Williams of Arkansas was present and spoke concernig the Naitonal project

"We Are Free", a minstry dealing with human trafficking.

Business Session

The Tuesday business session was brief and was able to be completed by the noon hour.

The midyear message was brought by Bro. Jason Goodwin, pastor of First Baptist Church of Shady Grove in Laurel.

The morning began with a devotional by Bro. Greg Medenwald from Magnolia Church, Hattiesburg.

New President Justin Rhodes moderated the business.

Reports

There were no reports from the BMA Foundation, the Senior Adult Commission, or History and Archives.

Bro. Ricky Hester read a report from Dr. John Adams and the Moral Action Commission. Dr. and Mrs. Adams were in Washington, D.C. attending various meetings and meeting with government officials.

Children's Home Director Sidney Davis shared information on the progress and accomplishments of the

Midyear continued on page 4

Lifeword Cloud Q & A

by Holly Meriweather

For those of us who are technologically challenged, Lifeword's new initiative, the Cloud, is difficult to understand and even harder to explain. But finally, after sitting in on many meetings, looking at charts and time lines, and watching someone draw a picture, I might be able to explain it by answering some of my own initial questions.

How does Lifeword's Cloud help people find answers? By providing a platform for audio, video and print materials on Lifeword's website that point people to the truth of the gospel. Specifically, that content consists of already-produced, quality programs (formats) currently being "metatagged" for anyone who Googles certain key words in their heart language.

When does all this happen? Sometime in June lifeword.org will look very different. Phase One will be complete once the Cloud is built, then Phase Two begins and content will be uploaded to it.

What exactly will that content be? Five "starter" languages have been targeted because of the quality and amount of programming each one has: English, Swahili, Spanish, Arabic and Garifuna. The following will be available to speakers of those languages who are searching for answers:



English

Four audio and video formats: Day by Day, Day by Day radio, Harvest Gleaner Hour (15-minute), Reach America radio, and The Lori Cline Show

Spanish

Eight audio and video formats: El Contacto Cristiano (Christian Contact), Palabra Viva (Living Word), Palabra De Vida (Word of Life), Amigos Cristianos (Christian Friends),

CaFe (for newlyweds), Radio Bautista (to Puerto Rico), Paroxeando (to young people in Mexico), Mi Cuaderno Espiritual (My Spiritual Journal, to El Salvador)

Arabic

Two formats in audio and video: Min Hasad Al Ayyam (From the Harvest of Bygone Days) and the Joe Costa video series

Swahili

One audio format: Neno Uzima (Word of the Chief)

Garifuna

Four audio formats: Lumalaly Inaruni (Voice of Truth), Mesa Redonda (Round Table)/ Word of the Chief, Asenihantina (Fishermen), video

After content in these five languages has been uploaded and all the kinks have been worked out, programs from

Lifeword's forty-plus languages will gradually be added. So how will Lifeword reach even more people groups? The long-term goal is to answer the question, "Who is Jesus?" in 200 languages of the world. To make that happen, Lifeword now owns the domain name <http://jesustoyou.com/>, which means if anyone asks that question or a version of it, they will be directed to lifeword.org.

(Go ahead, try it. It's pretty cool!)

Google "Jesus" right now and you'll get 881 million results with Wikipedia at the top of the list, but once the Cloud initiative is complete, lifeword.org should be near the top. If that doesn't give you the holy goose bumps, I don't know what will.

Our God is limitless, and in time Lifeword's reach will be as well!

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 - fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com



John Adams

Adams Award/Moral Action Scholarship Fund Established

The launch of the Adams Award/Moral Action Scholarship Fund for BMA Seminary students was announced in a joint letter last week from BMA Seminary President Dr. Charley Holmes and Moral Action Director Dr. John M. Adams (along with the Adams Award Sub-Committee — Dr. Kevin Clayton, Richey Hester and David Inzer). The letter said, in part:

"The BMA of America and the BMA of Mississippi Moral Action Boards of Trustees have established an Adams Award/Moral Action Scholarship Fund at the BMA Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas by unanimous vote on April 17 in Jackson, Miss.

"The June 24 and July 1 Moral Action Freedom Offering will go to further establish the \$20,000 scholarship to help a deserving (BMA) Seminary student. The scholarship fund already has \$10,000 as of May 1. This is a continual/perpetual fund.

"We humbly ask for your support (in these special offerings, and that your church consider) the possibility of placing this in your church budget as 'Adams Award/Moral Action Scholarship Fund.'"

The Moral Action Freedom Offering goal is \$35,000 from the 1,300 BMA churches and individuals. The offering will be divided between the award/scholarship fund (\$10,000) and \$25,000 for Moral Action Freedom offering for expenses, travel, hotels, etc. Offerings should be sent to Moral Action, P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855.

arship fund (\$10,000) and \$25,000 for Moral Action Freedom offering for expenses, travel, hotels, etc. Offerings should be sent to Moral Action, P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855.

Scholarship Terms

The Adams Award, sponsored by the BMAA Moral Action Committee in honor of Dr. John Adams:

- Scholarship will be awarded each fall semester to an exemplary student preparing for pastoral ministry.
- Preference will be given to students with limited financial support from other sources.
- Preference will be given to BMA students.
- First semester students are not eligible.
- Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 2.5.
- Recipient will be selected by BMATS Scholarship Committee with subsequent notification to BMAA Moral Action Committee.
- Initial award after funding by BMAA Moral Action Committee will be \$500. Remaining principal balance will be held in the BMAA Foundation Fund and be open for additional contributions. The amount of future awards will be determined upon consultation between BMATS and BMAA Moral Action Committee.

New Pastors Welcomed

Shiloh, Kosciusko

Shiloh Baptist Church of Kosciusko announces their new pastor. Bro. Matt Steed and his wife Daphne have two children, Gage age 9 and Shay who is 5. Bro. Steed has been in law enforcement for 18 years and currently serves as a sergeant with the Attala County Sheriff's department. Mrs. Steed teaches at Greenlee Elementary School in Attala County. The Steed family also has a ministry in the sport of Archery. They use this skill as a teaching tool and reaching out to others.

Mineral Springs, Taylorsville

Mineral Springs Baptist Church, Taylorsville, announces that Bro. John Adcock as their new pastor.



Matt Steed Family

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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



SIDNEY DAVIS

Leaving a Memorial To God

As we walk through a cemetery on the tombstones the beginning of life and the ending of life is inscribed on them. But the length of life is not the most important thing, the living of that life has the greatest mark upon us. Through the faithful life of service we have been blessed from the lives of those who have gone on before us.

The testimonies and the teachings of these dear ones often provide the basis for our decisions and actions today. Now it behooves us to make those same marks on the lives of those we will one day leave behind. Let us leave a memorial to God's work in all we do. We trust that everyone had a good Memorial Day! God bless!

Good BMA of Mississippi Mid-Year Meeting

It was a joy to meet with the Central Church in Southaven and Pastor Anders Lee for the mid-year meeting of the

BMA of Mississippi. We are appreciative of the kind hospitality of this mission church in hosting this meeting.

As I reported at this meeting the financial report reveals that receipts are falling short of expenditures. The school year has come to a close and the activities of the summer are beginning. The garden is coming along and with the Lord's blessings we are anticipating a good harvest. A former resident of the Home came by for a visit. He will be having basic training in the Marines in June. Remember him in your prayers.

Remember in Prayer and Focus Verse

Continue to remember the Home throughout the summer months and the ministry of the Home in your prayers. We are thankful for the blessings of the Lord on this ministry. *"Thy name, O Lord, endureth forever; and thy memorial, O Lord, throughout all generations."* Psalm 135:13.

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

Growing pains! Do you remember having them? For many of us, we have to reach way back into our memories to our childhood days. I remember often having leg aches as a young boy. I might play all day without any issues, but wake up in the middle of the night with aches deep inside my legs. I was comforted that my pain was nothing more than muscle and bone structures growing and the discomfort would soon go away... with a little help from aspirin. This type of pain was expected as a normal growing process.

In the Old Testament book of



Dr. Scott Carson, President of Southeastern Baptist College, provided the closing prayer at the Magnolia Boys Concert held in Laurel on May 20, 2018.

Nehemiah, it records Nehemiah's calling and experiences in returning to rebuild Jerusalem. Jerusalem had been destroyed by an invading army and the survivors were deported to the land of Babylonia. After many years, the Lord enabled Nehemiah to return, with the blessings of the king, to restore the once great city of Jerusalem. After his survey, Nehemiah addressed the people living amongst the ruins,

"Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach. Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us

rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work." Nehemiah 2:17-18

The work ahead of them was great. It nearly seemed impossible. But Nehemiah knew God's favor was with them. And even in the face of growing opposition, Nehemiah rallied the Israelites to the task before them because they all sensed the Lord was with them.

We are currently experiencing growing pains here at Southeastern Baptist College. It is a tremendous blessing that we will have a large influx of students in the fall semester. It is anticipated that we will more than double our current student population! Praise the Lord! It is a wonderful confirmation that the Lord's hand is on SBC! However, with this blessing comes the need to prepare for the students. Most of our dorm rooms have been shuttered for years. And, because they have not been in use, they have fallen into various states of disrepair. These students will be occupying nearly every room available on campus. It is NOW time to get to work and to fix them up for our new students! Some may view this challenge as an insurmountable task. However, this is not a bad problem. It is a very good one! But it requires much planning, working and fund raising. The renovations require expenditures that previously were unscheduled. The list for repairs and upgrades is growing. The entire upstairs of the men's dorm needs updating. One entire half of it requires a complete remodel. We will also need to redo parts of the women's dorm including a full replacement of the common kitchen area. The outsides of both dormitories need attention and the old cafeteria will have to be cleaned out with new equipment purchased and other preparations for its use again. The gym will have the floor upgraded to current college standards. Locker rooms need a full reset and we are looking at possibly removing the walls and rooms that were added to the gym years ago in order to



Dr. Scott Carson
President

provide necessary space for college games.

These are all very large projects that must be addressed before the students arrive in August. Can it be done? The Lord tells us that "...with God all things are possible". Mark 10:27.

Are you able to assist us in these projects? It is estimated that \$50,000 at a minimum is needed. I am making an appeal for your assistance. The Lord is bringing in new students from all over the South. He has big plans for the future of our college! You can help! Feel free to contact Brother Justin Rhodes at 601-426-6346 or send him a note at pastorjustinrhodes@gmail.com. Justin is our single point of contact for coordinating all remodeling efforts. Receiving your contributions before June 30 will ensure that we once again finish another fiscal year in the black. This is essential for our long term goal of applying for SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) accreditation.

The Lord is on the move here at SBC and we must keep up with Him! Thank you for your gracious support!

"I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;" 1 Corinthians 1:4

Equipping the Saints!

Dr. Carson

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Accreditation

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

Graduation Exercises

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2018! Our commencement exercise was held in the Southeastern Baptist College gymnasium on May 17 with



2018 SBC Graduates

NCCAA News Release Southeastern College Now NCCAA Member

Greenville, SC: - The National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) is pleased to announce and welcome its newest members for the 2018-2019 academic year: Champion Christian College, Erskine College, Hannibal-LaGrange University, Southeastern Baptist College, and Southwestern Adventist University. These five institutions will join previously announced Geneva College as new members.



Southeastern Baptist College

Southeastern Baptist College, located in Laurel, Mississippi, will be entering as a Division II provisional member in the South Region. The Chargers will participate in the following NCCAA sports: Men's & Women's Basketball.

Athletic Director Brad Phillips said, "We are very excited to become a part of the NCCAA family. This is a wonderful opportunity for our athletes to shine, not only on the court, but as a positive role model for younger generations."

For more information on Southeastern Baptist College, visit www.southeasternbaptist.edu.

our keynote speaker Mississippi Senator, pastor, and alumnus, Phillip Gandy.

The following students were conferred their well earned degrees:

Bachelor of Science in Church Ministries:

Ecclesiastes Thessalonians Goodwin
(ABHE Honor Society Inductee)

Thomas Wesley Martin

Jeremy Wilkerson

Associate of Arts in Business:

Hannah Elizabeth Mayerhoff

Associate of Arts in General Education:

Lindsey Brooke Walker

Introducing the Danny Pitts Lecture Series

Southeastern Baptist College announces the first Danny Pitts Lecture Series with Dr. Gary O'Neil as guest speaker to be held on the campus of the college and at First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel, Mississippi. Mark your calendars for August 21-23. More details to come.

Carson's Army

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

Carson's Army

Brother Chris Floyd introduced a special individual donor concept named Carson's Army at the SBC Donor and Volunteer Dinner. Each person has the opportunity to "enlist" their pledge at various levels of rank representing their ability to give toward Southeastern Baptist College. If you feel led of the Lord to enlist, call 601-426-6346 today! Please refer to the "Carson's Army" giving chart in this publication. Praise the Lord! We already have our first Major and our first General enlisted into Carson's Army!



Continued on page 4



Don Brown
Editor

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Editor's Midyear Report

In Touch

Dr. Charles Stanley of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia, has a ministry titled "In touch". The name obviously refers to the purpose of his ministry and to emphasize the need for people to be 'in touch' with God.

I subscribe to our local paper in Laurel. The reason is to stay in touch with the community. I watch our local 6 o'clock news each evening for the same purpose. I need to know what is happening in the my area. I watch national news and view a number of news websites. I think it is my obligation as a citizen to stay informed and in touch.

We check out social media to stay in touch with family and friends. I am in contact with missionary friends around the world and am thankful that I can stay in touch with them and their ministry.

We stay in touch with our God through His Word, prayer and His Holy Spirit. The commission given to believers is for us to be 'in touch' by sharing God's Good News.

My pastor has been emphasizing 'making disciples' recently from the pulpit of First Baptist Church of Shady Grove in Laurel. That requires us to be in touch with those who need Christ.

Well, you get the point! We have an instrument that allows the people and churches of the BMA to stay 'in touch' with the ministries we support. The Mississippi Baptist is a vital part of the departments, commissions, ministries, and churches staying 'in touch' with each other.

We do our member families a disservice when we do not put the Mississippi Baptist in their hands and in their homes. They need to stay in touch with those who are working on their behalf to fulfill the commission given to us by Christ to go and disciple the world.

Help us to put the paper in the hands of all of our member families. It will honor the Lord and His work for them to be "In Touch" with the ministries that are counting on them for support.

Sofilthy's Attic by Barbara White



Lessons Learned From Knee Surgery

To be thankful that I only have two knees.
To be thankful that this is my second one to be replaced.
I've learned that recovery seems slower on the second one. (Some folks offered the explanation that five years have passed since the first one was replaced so I am years older. That hurts my feelings!)

I've learned that good recovery is directly related to therapy and faithfully exercising the "joint".

This last thing I learned nearly knocked my socks off! When I went back for my check up, my Doctor asked me if I was a true red-head. My head is so white now, I don't know where he got that idea. But when I told him that I was, he said that red-heads heal more slowly. It has something to do with freckles, pigment, scar tissue and some other stuff I didn't understand.

Oh, well, my knee has finally overcome the curse of belonging on a red-head's body and is healing nicely.

All of the above tells me that God is GOOD!!!

Midyear Meeting

from page 1

children. Some have been replaced in their home with their mother. He shared that there have been discussions about new



Central pastor Anders Lee welcoming the BMA of Mississippi to Central Church

residents, but applications have not been completed at this time.

He noted that he and Mrs. Davis had been at the home for 20 years.

SBC President Dr. Scott Carson shared progress and activities at the college. A new



Jason Goodwin, pastor of FBC of Shady Grove, Laurel, brought message at midyear meeting

academic dean has been hired. Dr. Frank McArthur, who has a long history of academic service and is retired from Delta State University, has been brought on board at the salary of \$1.00 (one dollar) per year.

Carson said he expects Dr. McArthur's experience and expertise to be of great help to the college until a full-time dean can be hired.

Carson shared plans to develop a 'community advisory

board' of local business and community leaders. This is to help the college to stay more in touch with the community and to be involved in community life.

He shared efforts already underway to make the school more visible in the community. The college has hosted an annual National Day of Prayer community breakfast for the 2nd year early in May.

The school is restarting its basketball program and so far have 33 athletes signing up to participate.

Youth Department Director Kelby Johnson was unable to attend due to a death in his church, but sent a report. Clerk Justin Cameron presented the report and noted that the Youth

camp has already reached maximum capacity.

Missions

The Revolving Loan Fund and Missions reports can be read beginning on page 5 of this issue. Good reports were given by the director, mission coaches, and the RLF manager.

Missions Director Larry Geraldson pointed out that there were currently 20 men involved in mission activity with 4 missions organized in the past year. He shared that two missionaries were scheduled to rotate off support and plans are to add 2 more in the state.

Reports were given by the Hispanic missions coordinator and the African American coordinator. Those reports are also printed under the Missions Department report.

Southeastern Report

from page 3

A Golden Opportunity!

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

Alumni Association

We are reorganizing our Alumni Association and reaching out to identify and contact every alumnus who has ever taken courses at our great school. One of our primary initiatives in the months ahead is for our Alumni members to consider giving \$56 per month in an effort to raise \$58,000 over the next 12 months. We have many infrastructure issues that must be addressed. Will you allow God to use you? Alumni Sam and Judy Oglesby have gra-

ciously accepted to lead this effort. Please contact them at 601-550-8513 or pastor_1@comcast.net to verify that your current contact infor-



2018 Commencement Speaker Phillip Gandy

mation is correct. See the photo of our recognizing the alumni at the annual BMAA in Jackson.

Have Bible, Will Travel

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

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BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund

Larry Geraldson
Director

www.bmams.org - 601.428.8616

State Missionaries and Wives

Phillip & Dawn
BurnsKenneth & Carole
PollockBobby & Lesa
ElliottDanny & Brenda
BartlettSidney & Becky
FarmerDale & Celia
BroomeWesley & Holley
MartinAnders & Carla
Lee

Bob & Edie Burch

Estuardo &
Yasmine MarroquinEd & Patricia
DuVallWill & Kelly
HutchinsonMidyear Missions Report
by Larry D. Geraldson, Director

I am grateful for the opportunity to report to you on the status of your State Missions program. I hope that everyone understands that our work is the coordinated effort of all of our associational member churches with the specific efforts of Mother churches who send men out and whom we support in the fulfillment of the Great Commission given to the Church.

My prayer is that on close examination, our labor will be found to be in keeping with the Biblical example set by Paul in 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; "For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain:... we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention. For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye



In keeping with Bro. Geraldson's telling missionaried and others "A job well done", Trustee James Sprayberry presents a creation by Dennis Rankin to Geraldson stating "Job Well Done".

know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness: Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, ... But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us."

We currently have 20 men involved in missionary activity across the State. Some of these men are supported directly and some indirectly. We had four missions that organize last year and this year and have taken their place among the family of churches that make up the BMA of Mississippi. Two others are scheduled to organize in 2018; Central, Southaven in September and Harvest in Olive Branch in TBD.

Two of our missionaries will rotate off support this year. I am prayerfully preparing for the addition of two new missionaries as the Lord provides. With locations across the State that need immediate attention, we have no shortage of opportunities. I am having conversations with three individuals who are prayerfully considering church planting.

We continue to work diligently to make sure our mission congregations transition from a temporary to a permanent presence in their community. This past Saturday we witnessed over 110 people come together in Sumrall, Mississippi, with a goal of raising a build-

ing for Day Star Baptist Mission. We experienced a setback in Diamondhead when the City Planning Committee refused to allow us to move forward with plans to purchase the existing building where Redemption Baptist Mission now meets. However, we have regrouped, and we are looking at new locations that might end up, in the long run, being better overall.

God continues to supply our needs and we continue to operate within our means. We are projecting that we will close the year in the black for the 7th year in a row. We continue to operate efficiently with a current average efficiency of 90/10. I am extremely grateful for the continued and consistent financial support of our Churches and Local Associations. I am not ashamed to ask you to continue to give and to increase your giving, as you can. I believe, as Paul did, that we ask, "Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account." Philippians 4:17

continued on page 6

Revolving Loan Fund Report
by Vernon Newman, manager

It is again an honor to provide a positive report on the Revolving Loan Fund. God continues to bless the efforts of the fund to support the growth of our missions and churches.

Since inception, the Revolving Loan Fund has made 590 total loans. We have loaned almost \$75 million dollars; of this, over \$45 million was for original loans and almost \$30 million was for refinanced loans.

1. Open & Closing Transaction Activity:

Since 1 August 2017, we have had 24 New Shareholder Accounts opened. Our Share balance presently is over \$19 million dollars. The RLF has continued to show growth since our last report and that has allowed us to continue to offer a good rate to our depositors - 2.17%

2. Loan Transaction Activity:

Since 1 August 2017, we have had 20 Inquiries or Requests for loans. Of these, the RLF Trustees have approved 9 loans. As of this report, we have 61

active loans totaling over \$14 million dollars.

Due to the stability of the fund, we are able to continue to offer a good rate to our churches - 4.25%

3. Process Management Activity:

In support of the loans and loan requests, we have conducted 6 Site Visits/ Church Briefings; conducted numerous Legal Reviews, Counseling Meetings, coordinated Appraisals & Title Searches, R e -



RLF Mgr Vernon Newman

searched Deeds; completed Loan Closings & Filings; as well as followed up on Insurance Verification, Tax Exemption Status, and timeliness of loan payments.

4. Financial Transaction Activity:

Our daily operation includes monitoring the balance of the fund. As of 30 April 2018, the finances were as follows:

Available Funds	\$2,879,468.90
Reserve Funds	\$3,953,612.07
Funds Available to Loan	\$1,859,468.90

We constantly monitor the status of the fund and report our Monthly Close-Out status to the RLF Trustees.

1. Budget Monitoring Activity:

The RLF continues to operate in the black. We are on target to close out our fiscal year in the black.

2. Status of Reserve Account:

The RLF maintains a 20% reserve, which speaks to the stability and strength of our day-to-day operation. Our gross assets are almost to \$23 million and we have several substantial loans in the planning phase.

3. How can you and/or your church be a part of the Revolving Loan Fund?

In this report, I have mentioned that we have numerous inquiries and requests for loans. This leads me to ask you to go back to your church and

discuss becoming involved with the Revolving Loan Fund in order to:

1. allow the funds to be used to support the efforts of our missions and churches to purchase land or building projects
2. to allow your funds to grow

One point of emphasis would be to open up an account for your church's cemetery fund in the RLF. We pay a great return on the principle and these funds are what the RLF was intended for... "STABLE" funds that can be used for church loans which will provide a good return to the shareholder.

I am available to visit your church to give a presentation on the Revolving Loan Fund. Please do NOT hesitate to contact me.

Once again, I can report that the Trustees that you elected have been very involved with the decisions of the Revolving Loan Fund. I thank them for their selfless service to the BMA of MS Missions Department by being servants and leaders of the Revolving Loan Fund.

God bless you during the remainder of this meeting and we continue to ask for your prayers for God to provide guidance and blessings on the efforts of the RLF.

Missions Report

from page 5

It is my observation that giving churches are healthy churches and healthy churches tend to have a greater number of people involved in individual missions' activity. Churches that have a greater number of people involved in missions' activity tend to cultivate "...good ground..." upon which the gospel is well received, and much fruit is brought forth. It seems to me that the Holy Spirit is well pleased to visit healthy churches with an extra-ordinary outpouring upon the people. It could be said this is responsible for the many numbers of missionaries that have gone out from Mississippi churches in the past and continue to do so, even today. Giving is not just a nominal act of obedience but rather a sweet savor that supernaturally draws the presence of God to visit our sacrifice of praise and adoration and adorn it with His immeasurable blessings. God delights to bless us.

We have reports for you today from our Missionary Coaches: Bro. Bob Burch (North) and Bro. Sidney Farmer (South). Also, we will hear reports from Bro. Estuardo Marroquin, our Hispanic Missions Manager and Bro. Ed DuVall, Coordinator of our African American

COMMISSION ON Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440

The North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference met Tuesday, May 8th with Hopewell Baptist Church, Fulton and we had an outstanding conference. Bro. Matt Hudson and Hopewell Baptist Church were gracious hosts all day long. They had everything ready from the start and it was truly a day of blessings. The oldest person present was a 94 year-old man and two 90 year-old ladies. The seniors just keep coming for these special days for them.

Dr. Scott Carson delivered a strong message during the worship hour. Bro. Frank Panzrinno brought a good devotional to begin the day and Bro. Bryson Haden had good music all day long. It truly was a blessed time in the Lord.

The 2019 North Senior Adult Conference will be held with First Baptist Church in Mantachie. Thank you kindly for your continued support of this ministry for our senior citizens. They are deeply appreciative for your encouragement. A good love offering was received for the commission.

Kenneth Flynt, Director
Commission on Senior Adults



Kenneth Flynt
Director

Missions effort. As you hear these reports, I challenge you to see beyond the men and see the hand of God at work. Listen with your heart and remember Romans 10:15, "And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Working together we have implemented a dynamic missions program that has strategic goals and measurable objectives. Focusing on, Four Simple Core Values: Our Mandate is

the Word of God; Our Message is the Gospel; Our Method is Preaching; and Our Means is the Churches, we have been able to position ourselves to expect the regular outpouring of the Holy Spirit's power and reap the benefit of a fruitful endeavor while obeying our Lord's command to "...Goye into all the world, and preach the gospel..." Act 16:15a

Let me close by expressing my appreciation to our Trustees and our Committeeman but most especially to Brother Vernon Newman, our Revolv-

ing Loan Fund Manager, and Mrs Kimberly Parker, our office manager, for the fine job that they do. Ms Kim is expecting her first child next week and she will then be on maternity leave in the next two months. So, I just want to make you aware of this and ask for your patience. If, at times, things seem to run a little slower around the office it is because brother Vernon and I are trying to carry the load that Ms Kim normally carries, and that is quite a load.

Finally, thank you Central for you fine job in hosting this meeting.

situation and consider the possibilities.

Homestretch

Homestretch is continually working with local churches to reach our community with the gospel. We have seen much growth as our church survived some fiery trials this past year.

We only had one baptism this year. We have a VBS planned for this summer, with New Jerusalem Baptist Church and plan to do some weekly canvassing of the neighborhood leading up to the event. Bro. Kareem BaDuso will be joining our church staff this summer for the sake of training to plant a church in the Delta. Bro. BaDuso is a former Marine and is a school teacher in North Carolina at present. My daughter will be graduating from Delta State with a degree in Accounting and my son just graduated from high school. He will go on to attend Alcorn in the fall. We will be ordaining Bro. Roy Marshall as a Deacon this summer.



Coach Ed DuVall

All Nations

Bro. Logan and I continue to work together as he leads his church to bring the Gospel to Indianola. Recently, we ordained Marcus Logan, Bro. Donnie's son, who is currently taking Bible courses to prepare himself for ministry.

Harvest Baptist Mission

Bro. Cook will be announcing the organization date for Harvest Baptist Mission in Olive Branch. He is currently looking for land to purchase so they can build a place of worship. He is working together with us in the association.

Hispanic Mission Report

by Estuardo Marroquin
Hispanic Missions Manager

"Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds". Colossians 4:3

continued on page 7

Mission Coach Reports

North Missionary Coach Report

by Dr. Robert Burch

Freedom Baptist Church

Pastor Bobby Elliott is doing good and is excited about upcoming events, this summer, with his youth group. They helped clean up in their town during the town cleanup day.



Coach Bob Burch

Midway Baptist Mission

Pastor Kenneth Pollock reported growth around his town and is hoping for that to help grow his church with new contacts in the area.

Grace Baptist Church

Pastor Danny Bartlett reported that they did have a family join recently. They are having good services.

Caledonia Baptist Church

At Caledonia Baptist Church, we are growing spiritually, numerically and financially. We also are trying to get Bible classes put back in to our local school. I recently interviewed two men about the possibility of becoming state missionaries. Please keep this in your prayers.

South Missionary Coach Report

by Sidney Farmer

Diamondhead

Bro. Wesley reports having great services with great attendance. He currently has 14 people committed to discipleship and is seeing spiritual growth in his people as a result. Bro. Wesley and some of his men went to Sumrall to help Daystar with the building raising on Saturday the 19th.

D'iberville

Bro. Will Hutchinson continues to

develop his core group and has run out of room in his home and is currently looking for a place to hold meetings. Bro. Will is exhibiting good leadership in going to help Daystar raise their rst building.



Coach Sidney Farmer

Sumrall

Day Star Baptist Church- The Lord continues to bless at Day Star Baptist Church. We had a great turn out on Saturday, May 19th for the raising of the walls of our new church building. There were approximately 110 people on hand that day. The day started out with a slab and ended with walls up, trusses raised, and half of the metal roof in place. Wow! Words cannot express the gratitude that we have in our hearts to those who took time out of their busy schedule to come and help out with our mission. We hope to plan a work day sometime possibly next month. Thanks again for your financial support, prayers, and your participation in raising the walls of our new church!

Hattiesburg

Bro. Dale Broom has had some health issues that has been a hindrance to him and continues to need your prayers.

African American Missions Report

by Ed DuVall, Coordinator

Great Rivers Association

Our association has made some great strides this past year. Bro. Larry Thomas, Pastor of Community Baptist Church has joined our association.

New Missionary Prospect

Bro. Derrick Hill, who is a Sargent First Class, on activity duty in the U. S. Army, stationed at Huntsville, AL, has started a new church plant in his area, and has reached out to Homestretch for sponsorship. Bro. Geraldson and I will be meeting with him soon to assess the

Missions Report

from page 6

What powerful verse lead to us to continuous prays and more when we talk about missions. In the last 6 months we have seen steps forward in BMA OF MS Hispanic missions. The Lord blesses every field from the south to the north and every man who's serving with passion for the souls.

El Camino Church in Laurel and Way Truth and Life church in Ripley continue to encourage the memberships to support Missions, also each church sponsor three missions in Mississippi. El Camino Church In Laurel sponsors Hispanic missions in Biloxi, Hattiesburg and Canton. Way Truth and Life Church in Ripley sponsors Hispanic missions in Tupelo, Oxford and Southaven. As Hispanic Missions Manager is a joy to see how the Lord continues to open doors in every field with the goal to share the gospel and see people come to Jesus our Savior.

In the last 6 months all the Hispanic work in BMA of Mississippi reports 563 new contacts, 218 share the gospel, 64 people accept Christ as savior, 45 discipleship and 6 baptism. God is God!

Since March 2017 all the Hispanic Work in Mississippi came together and established "New Hope" Hispanic Association and came to be part of BMA of Mississippi. We meet every six months and the last two association meetings was received special offerings from every Hispanic church and mission. An account in the Revolving Loan Fund was opened last April with the goal to give and support missions.



Hispanic Mission Coach Esturado Marraquin (center) and pastors attending the recent Missions & Evangelistic Conference at Evergreen Church, Seminary

We thanks our Lord for every man involve in BMA of Mississippi Hispanic Missions and all the efforts that they made for share the gospel in every missions field and as Apostle Paul wrote: "Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ ..." pray for us for that we can do the same in the Hispanic community and win more souls for our Savior Jesus Christ.

Scenes from recent Missions & Evangelistic Conference hosted by Evergreen Church, Seminary



WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

President Beth Caldwell

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

Corresponding Secretary Mrs. Shirlene Smith

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

My Cup Runneth Over

Psalm 23:5

Christian Women's Retreat

Sponsored by BMA of Mississippi WMA

August 24-25, 2018

Camp Garaywa Conference Center, Clinton, Mississippi

We are thrilled about this upcoming retreat. It will be a time of spiritual renewal, relaxation, and fun!

We have a lot of exciting things happening this year at our retreat! We are looking forward to having Mrs. Sabrina Clayton as our speaker and Shiloh Trio leading us in worship. We will have a tea party Friday evening and would like to encourage you to decorate a hat, during craft time, to wear at the party.

We will also have a retreat t-shirt again this year. All the proceeds from the shirt go to our state WMA project, therefore, we have decided to not put 'Ladies Retreat' on the shirt this year in order to be able to sell to more than retreat attendees.

Registration will be from 2:00- 5:00 PM on Friday, August 24th.

Crafts, silent auction, and a prayer room will be open from 2:00- 5:00 pm on Friday, August 24, 2018

Dinner will be at 6:00PM - General session will begin at 7:00PM.

The conference fee is \$45.00 per person and includes 3 meals. Room accommodations vary on type of room desired. Rooms at Patterson Place have 2 queen beds and are \$120.00 per night up to 4 people per room. Accommodations in the other parts of the conference center are single 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 serve' basis. Registration form, conference fee, and room charge must be received together to get room choice. Do NOT delay, send registration in beginning June 1st.

Name _____ Phone# _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Church _____

Rooms (please check)

1) Patterson Place: 1 per rm \$120.00 _____ 2 per rm \$60.00ea _____
3 per rm \$40.00 _____ 4 per rm \$30.00 ea _____

2) Single beds (\$25.00 ea) _____ 3) Outside cabins (\$15.00 ea) _____

List roommates _____

Registration Fee (\$45.00) _____

Room Cost _____

Total Enclosed _____

Please fill out registration form above, clip, and mail with registration fee and room fees to Beth Caldwell, 166 Twin Creek Rd. Lucedale, MS 39452. Please feel free to make copies of this form. One person per registration form.

Camp Garaywa is a smoke free campus!!!

CUTOFF DATE FOR REGISTRATION IS FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 2018.

For more information or questions, contact Jessica Haden at 662-251-0455 or 601-797-4597 or email at jessicahaden3@gmail.com

BMA Seminary's 61st Commencement

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

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

Jack L. Blankenship, Jr of Jacksonville, North Carolina; Curtis R. Durham, Sr. of Lufkin, Texas; James W. Henderson of Palestine, Texas; and Joe Simalonda of Lusaka, received the Bachelor of Arts in Religion degree.

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

Stephen L. Davenport of Teague, Texas; Matthew Dean of Fort Worth, Texas; Michael Lathan of Houston,

Texas; David W. Vandergriff of Lufkin, Texas; and Christopher J. Walls of Palestine, Texas received the Master of Arts in Church Ministries degree. Randall R. Barlow of Blooming Grove, Texas and Marvin L. Green of Palestine, Texas received the Master of Divinity degree.

Mr. Randy Veach of Manila, Arkansas presented the commencement address. Veach, President of Arkansas Farm Bureau, is a deacon at Little River Baptist Church in Manila, a BMA Seminary trustee, and third-generation farmer. In 1998, Mississippi County, Arkansas chose Veach's family as Farm Family of the Year. In 2012, Veach received the Honorary American Future Farmers of America degree for lifetime service to youth and agriculture education. In 2014, he was recognized as the Burlsworth Foundation's Legends Honoree.

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

Summer VBS Helps from BMA Missions

Vacation Bible School has traditionally been a great time to make kids aware of the importance of God's Great Commission! It's the perfect time to introduce them to missionaries serving around the world.

Here is your opportunity to highlight BMA Missions during your 2018 VBS... and it's free!

BMA Missions and Baptist Medical Missions International have created a mission lesson time that will fit in any Vacation Bible School. There is a lesson plan for a 20- to 30-minute segment of time you can use to highlight our BMA Missions team in your VBS. There's a lesson for each day!

Each lesson includes:

*A fun "kids video" focusing on kids from other cultures who have been impacted through the ministry of BMMI.

*A short lesson you can use to teach your children: "What is a Missionary?"

*A missionary story that will introduce your children to a BMA Missionary.

*An opportunity for your VBS kids to give to BMMI's Children Helping Children campaign.

All VBS offerings will help children who cannot afford healthcare be able to see a doctor, and they will also give them the opportunity to hear the life-changing message of Jesus Christ.

Baptist Medical Missions International uses the gift of medical care to draw people to mission clinics, where people who rarely see a doctor are given vital medical care. But, the most important thing each person receives is an introduction to the love of Jesus Christ. Not only are children introduced to Jesus, but so are their parents. We're praying that your VBS kids will learn to invest in the eternal destinies of hundreds of children around the world.

All of the material, videos, and lessons are free of charge! They can be downloaded at bmamissions.org/vbs. Just look for the tab that says "Mission:VBS."

For more information, contact Angela Rice at angela@bmamissions.org or call 501-455-4977 ext. 3855.



Retirement Plan Instructions

from page 1

older participants with a more conservative allocation for wealth preservation. The former 401(a) plan is now frozen and will be closed in December of 2019. You will receive instructions prior to that date explaining your options, including rolling the account over to the new BMA 403(b)(9) Retirement Plan if you are still employed or into an Individual Retirement Account if you are already retired. Envoy Financial will assist each participant throughout this process.

Will my current distributions continue uninterrupted? Yes, for those setup to receive current monthly distributions, those disbursements will continue as normal.

We wish to participate in the new BMA 403(b)(9) Retirement Plan; should we continue with the default Basic Plan or instead choose the Choice Plan? Every church will participate in the Basic Plan. This default plan option is the best fit for your church if: your church only wants to make an annual contribution on behalf of your pastor in October each year (even churches choosing the Choice Plan are encouraged to make this annual contribution as an added benefit for its pastor; see www.bma-retirement.com for suggested amounts based on church size); your church wants to make monthly or other

contributions on behalf of your pastor but does not want to allow the pastor to make voluntary contributions to the plan himself; your church desires only a single investment option for the participant [faith-based, age-based, Target Dated Fund]; your church does not want to make retirement contributions for non-pastoral paid staff; your church does not want a loan or hardship withdrawal provision.

Choose the Choice Plan (instead of the Basic Plan) if your church has multiple staff members (paid staff in addition to the pastor) and wants to make retirement contributions for the staff as well as its pastor; your pastor or staff want to make voluntary retirement contributions through payroll deduction; your pastor and staff want to have flexible options in their choice of investments; your pastor or staff want to roll monies from other retirement plans into the new 403(b)(9) plan; your pastor or staff want loan and hardship withdrawal options.

If we stay with the default Basic Plan, what are our next steps? Both monthly and annual contributions will be sent by the church treasurer or payroll administrator to MRS – P.O. Box 995 – Conway, AR 72033. To ensure

proper posting, the church's check is to be accompanied by the Basic Plan Contribution Form available online at www.bma-retirement.com. Forms may also be obtained from the MRS office in Conway or from Envoy Financial. Once the initial contribution has been remitted to the plan, you can view your account online using the instructions shown previously. Note that you will not be able to access your account online if there have never been any contributions remitted to the plan on your behalf.

If we instead choose the Choice Plan, what are our next steps? Churches/entities choosing to participate in the Choice Plan on behalf of their pastor and staff will need to set the plan up for their church. There are four forms that must be submitted to Envoy to establish the Choice Plan for your church: Church/Ministry Resolution; Church/Ministry Adoption Agreement; Church/Ministry Schedule of Plan Administration Duties; and the Church/Ministry ACH Debit Authorization for Retirement Plan Contributions. The forms required to set the plan up for your church/entity can be downloaded from the website at www.bma-retirement.com. The instructions needed to complete the forms are provided as well. Your church treasurer or payroll administrator will need to complete an employee census template provided by Envoy Financial to report each

participant's name, Social Security number, date of birth, etc. for enrollment.

I am my church or entity's treasurer or payroll administrator—what are my next steps? Administration of the Basic Plan consists simply of sending in an annual or monthly contribution check and Basic Plan Contribution Form (found at www.bma-retirement.com), and sending to MRS – PO Box 995 – Conway, AR 72033. The Basic Plan administration is very similar to what has been done in the past. Administration of the Choice Plan is a bit more involved but not complicated. After reviewing the information for the Choice Plan available on the website www.bma-retirement.com, contact Envoy Financial and they will guide you through the next steps to create a seamless on-going process for submitting the retirement contributions and withholdings. For information on either the Basic or Choice Plans, you can reach the Envoy Financial Employer Service Team at (888) 879-1376. You can also email questions to PlanSponsor@EnvoyFinancial.com.

Review of next steps: (1) Determine whether you will participate in the default Basic Plan or instead choose the Choice Plan; (2) Become familiar with the website information: www.bma-retirement.com; (3) Obtain the forms you need for the Basic or Choice Plan; and (4) Encourage your pastor and staff to participate.

