

Baptist

Mississippi

Journal

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

JUNE 2022

www.ms baptist.org

Volume 76

No. 9

BMA of Mississippi Midyear Meeting

NOTE: Due to its length and nature of business the report on the State Missions Department from our midyear meeting is listed separately.

The 2022 midyear meeting of the BMA of Mississippi was held on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College on May 16 & 17. Monday evening events included the state WMA and Brotherhood meetings. The WMA meeting theme was "Be Encouraged". President Stacy Smith welcomed the ladies and after opening with prayer and a special in song by Mary Sprayberry, reports were given concerning the projects, GMAs, Ladies

Retreat, and a treasurer's report. The guest speaker for the evening was Bethany Jones Hinton.

The Brotherhood also met on Monday evening and after reports Dr. Scott Carson, president of Southeastern College, was the guest speaker.

After a welcome by SBC President Dr. Scott Carson, the Midyear meeting business session got underway on Tuesday morning. After preliminary business the meeting was called to order with an official attendance of 72 churches represented by messenger, none by letter, 159 messengers registered along with 53 visitors. Newly elected President Blake

McCain thanked the Association for electing him as President at the 2021 annual session. McCain recognized all new pastors and had those in new positions to identify themselves and their field of ministry.

The attendance was up considerably from recent years. By comparison the 2019 Annual meeting had 35 churches by messenger, 46 by letter, with only 68 registered messengers.

Children's Home

Reports by each department and ministry began in the same order as the 2021 annual session. Director Dwight

Lindsey reported on the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home. He shared that there were some new children taken in and some prospects for others. Lindsey stated that the Special Emphasis receipts for this past year would allow the Home to hire a couple to fill the position of House parents. He also stated that to meet the needs of additional residents in the future at the home more living quarters would be needed. The goal is for the 2022 Special Emphasis to help with this expansion and expense. (A more detailed report from the Home is found in this issue)

Auxiliaries

Brotherhood President Mark Jones reported and shared that their project for this next year is the state Youth Department.

WMA President Stacy Smith reported that she was moving to Georgia and that Teresa Reus, the current 1st VP would assume the lead for the rest of this year.

Southeastern College

SBC President Scott Carson gave an encouraging report. His personal report with all of the topics covered is best understood by reading the college report in this issue.

Youth Department

Youth Trustee Chairman Adam Parker reported that the search for a new Youth Director was ongoing and that there have been interviews with some candidates. There will be no state sponsored camps in 2022 and Parker stated the committee hoped to have a candidate to present by the 2022 annual meeting this October.

Lengthy Morning Session

The morning session was very lengthy due to extended discussion concerning the Missions Department. That report is a separate item in this issue.

After adjourning for lunch the message was brought by Bro. Dewitt Bain titled "We Must Do Our Duty" taken from I Corinthians 15. He shared that

Director Not In Attendance

MIDYEAR MEETING MISSIONS REPORT

Missions Trustee Chairman Kevin Clayton addressed the Association explaining the absence of Missions Director Larry Geraldson. He said Geraldson was fulfilling a promise to a granddaughter he made that he would be at her high school graduation. Clayton stated he knew there was a lot of strong emotions in the building and prayed that Christ would be glorified.

He introduced Revolving Loan Fund

Manager Jeff Dixon to read Mission Director Gerald's report. The report was read, but the messenger body declined to approve the report.

The Missions Department report did elicit strong emotions from many of those present. One point of contention was the approval of missionary candidate Jason Goodwin without following the guidelines stated in the bylaws of the state missions department. Specifically Article V Section 4 which states "Missionaries endorsed must present to the Director of Missions a recommendation from the church where he holds membership and the last church pastored." Goodwin was unable to provide a recommendation from his last pastorate. The Missions Director and Missionary Committee approved Goodwin and put him on deputation and on salary even though the reset of Section 4 states the following, "In the event these cannot be obtained, missionary status will be delayed until the next meeting for association action."

This was one of the points of contention. The messengers voted to decline the approval of Goodwin as a state missionary.

Much discussion was had concerning statements and actions by Director Geraldson. In a letter to the churches

dated May 2, 2022, that was in response to a letter from Campground Baptist Church regarding the election of Jason Goodwin to missionary status, the Director stated in reference to Campground Baptist Church, Gulfport, that "Campground Baptist Church, since Jan 2015 has only supported, financially, those missionaries which she has herself sent out. She, as it is her prerogative to do so, has not supported general missions throughout this time and does not to this day, therefore, technically, she is not supporting the other missionaries which have gone out of other churches. Every church in an Association of Churches has this prerogative."

This statement was challenged by the pastor and messengers of Campground Church who brought financial records to the meeting which were passed out to the messengers present to show substantial financial support to the general fund of the state missions department. This brought about more discussion about the statements in the letter mailed under the names of the state missionary committee.

Campground Pastor Sam Freeman asked the committee who made these baseless statements. After more discussion Missionary Committee Chairman Kevin Clayton responded that the information in question was provided by Di-

Missions and Revolving Loan Fund Director Announces Retirement

In a Zoom meeting with the Chairman of the Missionary Committee and the Chairman of the Revolving Loan Fund Trustees, on Monday, May 23, Brother Larry Geraldson announced that he would retire from associational work on October 15, 2022. He stated, "God has blessed the work of the Missions and Revolving Loan Fund over the past 10 1/2 years, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the churches of the BMA of Mississippi."



Geraldson

continued on page 2

continued on page 2

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

Trustees

Adam Sloan - Rayburn Freeman
Danny Bartlett - Clell Allen
Corbey Jones - Anders Lee

E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org
Web site www.msbaptist.org

Content may be copied or reprinted without prior permission

USPS 353-960
P.O. Box 8181
Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000
Phone 601-426-3293

PRICE

\$20.00 Per Year by Mail
\$15.00 Per Year by Email
CHURCH PLAN
\$ 1.50 Per Month per Family

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

Postmaster

Send address changes to Mississippi Baptist Paper P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441

An Unusual Meeting

Our recent midyear meeting held at Southeastern College was one with many twists and turns. Our report on the meeting should speak for itself. I recorded each report given and also most of the motions and comments concerning the topics of the day.

This issue is delayed a couple of days due to listening to hours of recordings. I have quoted individuals and reported as clearly and correctly as I am able. I do hope our readers will take into consideration that the meeting was one that evoked emotions at times and that decisions made during heated discussions can at times take us in directions we do not want or need to go.

There was disagreement over procedural matters, actions taken before the meeting, over statements made before the midyear meeting, and some made during the meeting. It is my desire, and I am sure the desire of each one attending this meeting, that we continue to work together as brethren and do all we can as local churches, departments, and an association of churches to continue to preach the Gospel and reach the world for Christ.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore. Psalm 133

Midyear Report from front page

God is not the author of confusion and stressed that we should love one another, stating that we can look over many faults if we have love for each other. He shared the thoughts that we are building on the labor of those who came before us and listed many of those who have served faithfully in the Lord's work over years past.

Second Session

After lunch Manager Jeff Dixon read his report on the Revolving Loan Fund. He said the RLF expected disbursements for new loans would possibly increase by August of this year and then future deposits may be requested. Until then the limits on deposits stand at \$1,000.00 per month per depositor. He stated that currently the RLF has 63 active loans. His report passed with opposition.

Mississippi Baptist Report

The editor shared the financial status of the paper highlighting the fact that expenses continue to rise. Postage and

printing costs are those over which we have no control. The printer has raised prices twice within the last 12 months due to the increase in his cost of materials. The current supply issues and cost of transportation continues to play havoc on our national economy and its effects are felt in publications just as they are felt in your personal budget. He reported a good year with special emphasis income as well as the monthly support above the cost of subscriptions by many of our churches.

The editor emphasized that many religious publications have gone out of business while others have curtailed the number of issues they print. Some of the issues have been printed in color and while this is more expensive, he stated that they can publish one 12 page issue for less than 2 black and white issues. Some publications have transitioned to electronic only distribution. There are a great number of individuals who do not use or have access to email or online web service. The printed page delivered to our members is the best way to communicate directly the needs, blessings, and

work of our association.

He reminded the messengers that the Mississippi Baptist is considering the move to print only one issue per month in full color. This will deliver the news needed and keep readers informed about all of the work of the BMA of Mississippi and America. He asked for understanding and consideration for this possible change in operation.

Senior Adults

The Commission on Senior Adults report highlighted the two conferences held this Spring. The director noted that for two years our Senior Adults have not been able to meet due to the Covid pandemic. He shared that both the North and South conferences were well attended and quite successful. The South Conference was held at Big Creek Church, Soso, with the North Conference held at Mt. Pleasant Church, Fulton, Mississippi.

The South Conference attendance was 200 with the North Conference having 100. Door prizes, good food, great singing,

continued on page 3

Missions Report

from page 1

Director Geraldson. Clayton stated that as the missionary committee they accepted Director Geraldson's information as fact.

Much of the discussion of the missions report revolved around Calvinism and fatalism.

Bro. Bryson Haden, pastor of Springhill Baptist Church, Laurel, made the following statement and motion. "It is obvious from all this discussion the lopsided viewpoint of this association, beyond the doctrinal things, just the questions as to who did what and why they did it, some blatant misinformation that was provided to this association in mass, so with that being said I move for the removal of our missions director, Larry Geraldson."

The motion received a second, but was ruled out of order by President Blake McCain. He stated that per our bylaws that can't take place. Discussion followed concerning the intention of some of the questions presented. One of the points made during the following discussion was the reliability of statements coming out of the missions de-

partment. Chairman Kevin Clayton apologized to the messengers of Campground Church stating any misunderstanding on their part came from the information provided them by Director Geraldson. Clayton further stated that if there was any animus in the statements about Campground Church they did not come from his or any on the missionary committee's part nor did any of them investigate Geraldson's statement concerning Campground Church.

At this point Bro. Frank Panzrino, who has served previously as parliamentarian, rose to a point of order. He said the motion to dismiss the missions director was in order since it was made during the missions report and in context of the discussion on the floor. President McCain read and referenced the bylaws of the BMA of Mississippi listed under Article IX of the Constitution of the Association. Section 1 deals with the election of each department's director. The directors are elected indefinitely. Section 3 deals with the trustee

boards dealing with dismissal of a director. The implication of this section is dismissal between sessions, although that is not specifically stated. It states the dismissal would be reviewed at the next session. The ruling from the chair was that the Association did not have the authority to dismiss a director during a midyear meeting, but that dismissal would come by way of the trustees or committeemen of each department. Parliamentarian Kevin Clayton ruled that the ruling of the chair stands and the committee would deal with this matter at the next association meeting. He stated that if the messengers wished to suspend the rules they could, by 2/3 majority, continue with the motion to dismiss the missions director. A motion and second was made to suspend the rules. After much discussion and input a motion was made to NOT suspend the rules. This also required

a 2/3 majority to pass, but did not meet that threshold.

Prior to the vote to suspend the rules Bro. Panzrino injected that during the Association meeting together the Association has control of the matter and that the ruling by the chair was incorrectly interpreted that only a trustee board could remove a director. This again was overruled and pointed out that the vote to suspend the rules would put the matter back on the table for consideration to dismiss the missions director. The vote to suspend the rules was 64 to suspend and 51 to not suspend thus it failed to reach the 2/3 majority vote.

A motion was presented by Bro. Glen Pace to elect or appoint a committee of 12 to review and evaluate our bylaws and our doctrinal statement and report back at the next association meeting to make these things clearer. It received a 2nd. After a

long discussion of this and other matters a motion to table this motion was made. This motion passed and the motion was tabled.

This matter was brought up in the next session and after some discussion the matter was taken off the table. Bro. Pace then made a substitute motion to encourage trustees of each department to review their bylaws and come back with any changes in procedure if needed. This motion passed. The various trustee bodies now can review their bylaws and make any recommendations for change if deemed necessary. A request was made that if any department had changes they would be presenting at the annual meeting that they be printed in the Mississippi Baptist 30 days before the annual meeting. This was put in the form of a motion which was passed.

In His Grip by Carolyn Hagler

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



Something Old, Something New

Welcoming spring this year has been done with toe-tapping, hand clapping, and music-enjoying celebrations. We sisters traveled many miles from Mississippi to Alaska and many points in between to enjoy our favorite gospel singers.

Remembering something old this time of the year has me traveling to that city on the Mississippi River best known for Elvis' Graceland, the Peabody ducks, barbeque, and the Memphis Quartet Show. Elmwood Cemetery may not be included in favorite memories of most people, but it holds a spot in mine.



Carolyn Hagler

I've got to admit I've never wanted to tour Graceland, but I was certainly a lover of Elvis back in his early days. I still prefer to remember him as he was in the beginning of his career. So, we always chose to skip a tour of his home and visit him on Beale Street instead.

But it did tickle my fancy to see the famous Peabody ducks bring business to a halt when they march. For over 90 years, they have been part of the famous Peabody Hotel, where common people and famous people and especially children enjoy

seeing the ducks march to John Philip Sousa's King Cotton March.

The ducks march to the fountain of the Peabody's Grand Lobby where they are splashing and splashing every day from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. And JB and I were there to watch it happen one day.

But don't feel sorry for those five Mallard ducks. The Peabody ducks live in their Royal Duck Palace, a \$200,000 home on the rooftop. They have their own duck fountain and a grassy front yard. Plus, they only work for 90 days.

Pretty easy life, don't you think? When their time is up (sounds like a death sentence), they return to the family farm and get reacquainted to life in the wild. They are free to fly away whenever they choose.

In addition to the ducks, I think of barbeque. With the sisters, part of our Memphis trip included eating barbeque at Corky's. How that many people fit into that small building and the itty-bitty parking lot is beyond me. The first time we went, I put the sisters out near the door. I'm glad gas wasn't as expensive then because I circled and circled to find a parking place. A gentleman finally took pity on me and gave me a spot right by the door. And they said

manners are dead!

I've got to admit that Corky's has always been our favorite, but we wanted to see if they were the best. One year, we ate at Charlie Vergos' Rendezvous after we managed to find the alley in downtown Memphis. We were early, but we ladies were treated royally. Invited in, we were seated and offered iced tea even while they were preparing the



Elmwood cemetery

restaurant for its opening. Ignorance is often treated royally in the South. But Corky's remained our favorite.

And you know me by now that we always had to visit Elmwood Cemetery, one of my favorites. Elmwood tells many stories of the tragedies of the times: the yellow fever epidemic, the Civil War, and the Sultana disaster.

Some may think Covid 19 is the only disease that has affected us, but a visit to Elmwood's No Man's Land cures one of that notion. Its memorial shows the devastation of yellow fever to more than 1,500 yellow fever victims who were buried in un-

marked graves in this area. The most interesting person who died taking care of the sick was Annie Cook, who was known as the "Mary Magdalene of Memphis." Does that tell you the rest of the story?

Growing up watching old westerns with John Wayne, Randolph Scott, Roy Rogers, and others made the grave of Kit Dalton catch my interest. Some of you will remember him as a member of the James Outlaw Gang, but he was also a Confederate soldier. I had to laugh, though, when I read that he reformed after his outlaw years and became active in the Baptist church.

The other piece of history that caught my attention was the Sultana Monument to the disas-



Burning of the Sultane

ter on the Mississippi River in which 1,647 persons (primarily Union soldiers) lost their lives, more than died on the Titanic.

For those of you who love books, Shelby Foote (the author and Civil War historian) is also

continued on page 5

Midyear Report

from page 2

and biblical preaching highlighted both meetings. A new feature for 2022 was the Seniors taking on two projects and giving over \$4,000.00 that was divided between Ukraine Relief through the national missions office and LifeWord Ministries for support of their low power FM radio station ministry around the world.

The director stressed the need for our churches to support this Commission on a monthly basis. A \$20.00 per month donation from each church would help the Commission continue to minister and fulfill its mission.

Commission on History

The History report was given by Director Jason Howard. He read points that separate us from other groups of Baptists stressing that we are not Protestants. He stressed three points that were very important - perpetuity, succession, and continuity.

The director encouraged the messenger body to know and understand our heritage, emphasizing that without a proper understanding we lose our heritage and then our identity.

Howard announced that the History & Archives website would soon be up and running. He also announced the purchase of a scanner that will be used to allow much historical information and documents to be available via the website.

Meeting Schedule Change

Bro. Steve Clark, pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church, Laurel, made a motion to change the order of both the annual and the midyear meetings. The motion was to have the message at each meeting before any business was transacted. This was passed.

Annual Meeting

The 2022 Annual meeting of the Association will be held at South Forest Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, Mississippi on October 18 & 19, 2022. Bro. Sidney Farmer is the pastor of the host church.

Ministry Opportunities

Texas Church

Seeking Youth Pastor

Keltys First Baptist Church, Lufkin Texas is seeking a youth pastor. The information is listed below.

Job Description - Pastor of Youth and Missions, Salary Range: No less than \$50,000, not to exceed \$60,000. Objective: The Pastor of Youth and Missions will oversee the church's youth and outreach ministries.

Please send your Resume with References and a sample of your Preaching to dave@keltys.org. For complete Job Description Details: Please go to: keltys.org/YouthPastor.

Church seeks music help

Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church of Laurel is seeking a piano player and a music director. Anyone interested in these positions, please contact Steven Clark @ 601-498-1827. Thanks and may God's blessings continually be upon you.

Oklahoma Church

Seeking Pastor

Sunray Baptist Church in Purcell, Oklahoma, is seeking a pastor. If interested, send a resume to 2223 N. 9th Street, Purcell, OK 73080.

Church Seeking Pastor

Siloam Missionary Baptist Church of Winfield, Alabama, is searching for a pastor. The church is located in Fayette County in northwest Alabama about 30 miles from the Mississippi state line. The position is bi-vocational. Those interested are asked to call Jim Carlo at 205-412-9881 or contact him by email at 1857jc@gmail.com.

Available for Service

My name is Ron Beardsley. I am reaching out to let my availability be made known in whatever way God may lead. I grew up in Sikeston, Missouri as a member of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. I surrendered to the ministry in 1986. I am a singer/songwriter and have pastored several churches in the Missouri, Illinois, and Arkansas areas. I desire to serve God in any way he sees fit. I am available for preaching or singing appointments as God leads. My phone number is 573-475-0193.

Bro. Beardsley is a member of The Bridge Church in Wynne, Arkansas.

101
CUPS OF COFFEE



Brief Topics for
Quiet-Time Meditation

By George L. Reddin

GEORGE REDDIN PUBLISHES NEW DEVOTIONAL BOOK!

A selection of articles taken from Reddin's work over the course of his 23 years as a BMA pastor and 31 years serving at Lifeword Media Ministries

CONTACT INFO:

phone: (501) 733-0996
email: jerene@gmail.com
address: 9 Cumbrian Dr.
Bella Vista, AR 72714

\$16

*tax included
plus \$4 shipping



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

The following is my BMA of Mississippi mid-year report as presented on May 17, 2022:

The Lord continues to lead Southeastern Baptist College forward and I believe it is obvious to all that God's blessing is upon this institution. Southeastern has been in existence for 73 years and has a legacy of instilling biblical excellence into its students. Southeastern has affected the spiritual lives of millions by qualifying pastors, missionaries, educators, business persons, religious leaders and legislators to go forth and represent Christ throughout the United States and the world. While the school may be small, its impact is always eternal!

Since the BMA MS Annual session in October 2021, numerous accomplishments and challenges have been addressed.

Six years ago, SBC nearly closed for lack of students, however, the Lord has done amazing things since then. As we finished the Fall Semester this past December, we experienced the most full-time student population in the history of the college!

However, toward the end of the Fall Semester, we witnessed a set back with our Women's Basketball program when the head coach abruptly resigned, causing several of the players to also leave the program resulting in a lack of players with which to continue their season into the Spring Semester. The program was shut down and the season ended pre-



Dr. Scott Carson
President

maturely. Today, we are close to hiring a new coach and believe we will once again have a dynamic women's basketball program this coming fall.

We had a very successful first season for both the Women's Softball, as well as our second season for Men's Baseball. While some have concerns about our providing athletics here at SBC, please remember that we are an accredited Bible College and every student that attends SBC must still take a minimum number of Bible courses. In order to earn an Associate of Arts degree, 15 hours are required in Bible and for a Bachelor's of Science degree, 30 hours in Bible are required.

In the last four years we have witnessed 67 students make professions of faith on our campus because of this vital ministry of the BMA of MS! SBC is not only

an educational platform, but also a ministry that God is using to reach young people for the Lord. Every professor, every staff member, every coach and every member of the Board of Trustees is keenly focused on sharing the gospel and discipling our students. And, in order to better serve our student's spiritual needs, we are currently organizing an Association of Baptist Students on campus and will soon upgrade the old Faculty House as the meeting place for this endeavor.

At the beginning of the Fall Semester we contracted with Holloway's Dairy Bar to provide food service for our students while also being open to the general public. In March, management of the café announced they could no longer financially continue operations. Members of our staff stepped up and provided excellent food service to our students through the remainder of the Spring Semester. We currently have two different vendors who are interested in taking over the operation for the Fall Semester.

Through visionary forethought, Dean Walker suggested SBC sponsor a three-night Southern Gospel Music Fest for our area. The planning for the event took nearly a year, and the

result was a spectacular success for the college and the community. We have already scheduled next year's fest to be held in mid-April and once again, at First Baptist Church of Laurel.

The Gospel Fest was quickly followed by the Southeastern Choral Fest wherein we were the sponsors and Jones College was the host location. This was a tremendous recruiting opportunity for rebuilding our music program and a great overall success with high schools across Mississippi participating in the event.

Only a couple of weeks ago SBC was once again the host location for the Jones Country National Day of Prayer Breakfast. It was well attended with a great message presented by Mississippi State Senator Chris McDaniel.

On May 14, we conducted commencement exercises with 11 students completing their courses of study and several with honors. Dr. John David Smith, an alumnus of SBC and Director of BMAA Global Missions, delivered a challenging message to both the graduates and visitors.

As we looked forward with anticipation to the forthcoming Fall classes, we determined that,

continued on next page

Estate Planning

Does your personal estate planning include a donation to Southeastern Baptist College? Contact Rosemary Davis at 601-426-6346 discuss with her how you can bless SBC with your special gift.

National Day of Prayer Breakfast

This event was once again well attended with Mississippi State Senator Chris McDaniel bringing a challenging message. See adjacent pictures of this year's event.

Charger Cafe

We are seeking new contractors who can take over the SBC food service for our students. If interested, contact the Dean of Students, Anderle Foster at 601-426-6346.

Graduation

2022 Commencement Exercises were held on May 14 on the campus of SBC. Eleven graduates received their diplomas with alumnus, Dr. John David Smith, Director of BMAA Global Missions as our guest speaker. See adjacent pictures of this celebration.

Memorial Gifts

God bless Debbie Miller and Don & Bonnie Brown for their generous donations to Southeastern Baptist College in memory of Brother Kenneth Flynt. In addition, Dorothy Walker provided a donation toward our newly established Rescue Scholarship in memory of her late husband, Howard Walker. Also, an anonymous gift was also received for the same scholarship fund. Your gracious gifts enable SBC to continue preparing young Christian men and women to live their faith in an ever increasingly godless society.

Need a Preacher?

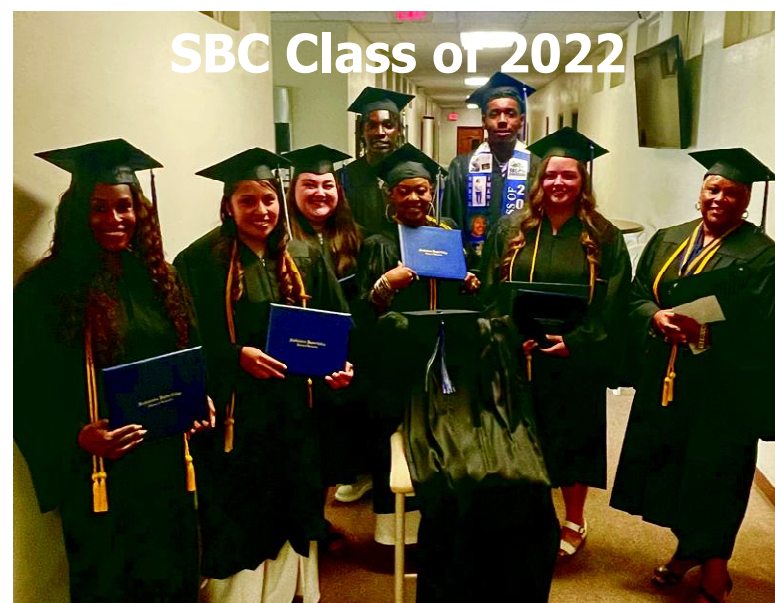
Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit or to make a presentation about the work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. Chaplain (Colonel) Carson can also provide an update on the BMAA Chaplaincy and deliver a related message. Thank you to Big Creek Baptist Church of Soso, MS, and Magnolia Baptist Church of Hattiesburg, MS, for recently inviting Dr. Carson to preach their Sunday morning messages. You can reach Dr. Carson at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu.



Dr. Scott R. Carson, President of SBC with guest speaker Dr. John David Smith, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Leon Carmical



Gymnasium receives a new roof



Southeastern President's Report Continued

should the Lord bless us with the number of students we believe we can recruit, we would exceed the maximum number of living spaces we currently have available. After much prayer, the Lord provided by way of a purchase of nearby property with several cottages. The Board of Trustees approved the purchase of these living quarters and with the help of the BMA MS Revolving Loan Fund, we secured the property that is located on Service Road near Soso. The current renters are vacating these apartments and repairs have begun. We plan to allow qualified students to utilize these apartments as dormitories this Fall, enabling us to house upwards to 130 students.

One major renovation that will occur this summer is the expansion of the upstairs bathroom in Granbury Hall. The current configuration cannot support the student population when the dorm is full. This will cost in the neighborhood of \$40,000 and we are raising money for the resurfacing of the front parking lot. This will cost around \$100,000. I would love to see a new sign in front of the college that properly represents the excellence and the legacy of this great institution.

Due to the recognition of a ministerial need, SBC has developed a new Foundations of Ministry Certification, which is being offered to expand the knowledge and credentials of existing staff members, new staff members and the congregation of local churches whereby personal and collective growth may occur.

The goal of the granted certificate is to provide foundational preparatory and practical knowledge that can readily supply participants with a working credential toward meeting community employment need. This 23-credit hour certificate would be awarded to all who successfully completed the following course work:

Something Old, Something New from page 3

buried there with a simple, unadorned tombstone.

Some people, though, like a bigger display when they're remembered, such as Wade Hampton Bolton. He must have been a messy guy because his tombstone shows him with his shoe untied and his vest mis-buttoned. He probably is better known, though, for being killed in downtown Memphis in a family feud that took eight lives.

What brought us back to Memphis many times, though, was the Memphis Quartet Show, which brought together many quartets in one setting, like the National Quartet Convention at a smaller scale. We went to Memphis to see our favorite quartets (such as Legacy 5, Triumphant Quartet, the Perry's, and the Mark Trammell Quartet) and reunions of Gold City and the like.

Middle Sister's favorite group was always the one that included Pat Barker. She loved the Mark Trammell Quartet, the Second Half Quartet, Remembering the Cathedrals, and the Guardians—

you've got it. He sang with all those groups. Her favorite story about him was that her young poodle Brandi could only be calmed down with Pat's singing of "That's Enough for Me to Know." I heard that one so many times that I could sing along and not miss a word!

But something new arrived this year: the first Southeastern Gospel Fest and Gerald Wolfe's Hymn Sing, the first in Mississippi. Those of us who attended these events have already seen some of those groups scheduled for the Memphis Quartet Show: Guardians, Lefevre Quartet, Mark Trammell Quartet, The Old Paths, and Dixie Echoes. And we didn't have to drive to Memphis.

If you missed it this year, the 2023 Gospel Fest is already being booked. I've bought my tickets already because I don't want to miss a single night—especially Greater Vision, Mark Trammell Quartet, and the Second Half Quartet. That doesn't happen very often these days. If you didn't make it this year, I'm telling you that it will be worth it. Make your

plans now!

To follow up the Gospel Fest with the Hymn Sing in Hattiesburg was a fantastic experience. I've seen the best of the best, but we traveled many miles for the experiences. These two wonderful concerts were in our own backyard. There's even talk of bringing the Hymn Sing (maybe a Christmas edition) back in 2023. As Glen Payne used to sing, "Your Blessing Ain't Never Been Blessed," until you've been to an old-time singing. And to know that you're a part of helping residents of nursing homes, Alzheimer units, hospices, and adult daycares across the nation is just icing on the cake.

Even though you might have thought I was planning a wedding, my Something Old and Something New is all about memories and making new ones. With the joy that singing with the saints brings me, I'm reminded of that old song the Cathedrals used to sing, "It's a Song Holy Angels Cannot Sing." How blessed we believers are!

To hear voices in a church-filled auditorium praising and worshipping the Lord also reminds me of "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be" (A. S. Bridgewater). Looking forward to seeing the reality of that beauty, I remain in His grip.

- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Introduction to Systematic Theology
- Homiletics/Hermeneutics
- Church Leadership & Administration
- Foundations of Children and Youth Ministry
- Family & Crisis Counseling
- Practicum Internship

Southeastern is continually working to develop partnerships with other institutions of higher learning in an effort to allow students to transfer credits toward a continuing education pursuit. Currently, SBC holds articulation agreements with the University of Southern Mississippi and William Carey Univer-

sity for the general core program. We are pleased to announce that such Articulation Agreements have been reached with Mississippi State University (in business and general core), Mississippi Valley State University, Blue Mountain College, and are working to achieve the same progress with Mississippi College, University of West Alabama, Delta State University, Jackson State University, Tougaloo University, and Southeastern Louisiana University. The University of Southern Mississippi is currently evalu-

ating its acceptance of the SBC business program as well. A public announcement for the above agreements are scheduled for official signings between presidents of the campuses named, and all will follow as the other agreements are official.

This concludes my report, God bless Southeastern Baptist College and God bless the churches of the BMA of Mississippi!

Equipping the saints,
Dr. Carson

National Day of Prayer Breakfast Photos



President Scott Carson welcoming those attending the National Day of Prayer on the campus of Southeastern



Featured speaker
State Senator Chris McDaniel



Crowd pledging allegiance to the flag



Expansion of the Granbury Hall upstairs bathroom



Professor Lance Chancellor enjoys "mud bugs" with student's at an end of semester festivity.

mission:world

NEWS



THE GLUE OF OUR ASSOCIATION

BY: Dr. John David Smith
BMA Missions
bma-missions.org

The first value statement of BMA Global Missions states: Motivated by the Mission of God - The Mission of God is defined specifically as making God's glory and love known to the nations. This aspect of the nature of God expressed in the expansion of His kingdom (missions) to all people, is the primary motivational piece in all that we do.

The Mission of God is that transcendent reality of His nature that is all about His love and glory to the nations. The eternal, triune God is both the source and the example of love and communication. He did not HAVE to create us in order to experience love and communication. He had that from eternity past within Himself (Trinity). He did choose to create, and He manifests His nature in love and communication to His creation in both word and deed. His redemptive plan, through His eternal Son Jesus Christ, was established before the foundation of the world because He is a gracious, merciful, and personal God . . . this is who He is . . . His nature.

He is also a God of perfect holiness, and we are thankful that he is a propitious God. At no point in eternity past or in space and time did God all of a sudden become a missionary God and begin to promote His mission. An element of His eternal nature is His mission.

We are motivated by the mission of God, which includes his glory to the nations, his redemptive plan, and the ultimate destiny of all things (worship).

The Mission of God must be our identity, meaning it gives us our "why"

Why do we exist and why do we do the things we do? Mission! God's glory and love to the world provides us with our "what"

We are to go and proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness to all people groups, which gives us our "how"

We are to make disciple makers out of the unengaged, unreached, and undisciplined, which gives us our "where" and in this sense, where we are going in terms of ultimate destiny. Mission is all about the ultimate and eternal worship of God around his throne by the redeemed from every language, tongue, and nation.

The legitimacy of our association will be found in a synergistic cooperation to a unifying mission undergirded by like-minded beliefs and values under the watchful eye of biblical accountability. The glue of our association is our commitment to the Mission of God. Synergistic cooperation, like-minded beliefs, values, and biblical accountability are all necessary, but the unifying mission is the strength and fuel of our association.

May God's love be known to the nations and may His name be famous among all people as we stay unrelentingly focused on the Mission of God, that part of His nature that defines us, directs us, and drives us as His people.

MISSIONS

mission:world

NEWS

BY: Jonathan Montgomery
BMA Missions
bma.missions.org

MOTIVATED TO CARE



BMA Missions and its missionaries and churches share one common goal: Make God's glory and love known to every tribe, tongue, and nation. It's the heart of our association and the focus of our first value statement:

We are motivated by the Mission of God.

Making him known to all peoples wherever they are in the world is our passion. Some live in far corners of the world in isolated villages where Jesus' name hasn't been heard. Others live in urban areas, planting churches that reach both local peoples and international expats with the gospel. Every missionary's ministry is different, but individuals and families serving the BMA share a zeal for proclaiming the good news.

Another shared characteristic is our caring support of missionaries as they navigate the good and bad days of ministry. The heart and focus of Missionary Care is to come alongside our missionaries with the aid, encouragement, and support necessary to carry out God's Mission.

Missionary Care also prepares, equips, and ministers to BMA missionaries so they can be fruitful in both life and ministry. This vital ministry exists to serve our missionaries as they serve others. We're invested in caring for their spiritual, physical, and emotional needs because they have invested in caring for the needs of others. Missions Executive Director Dr. John David Smith describes our care team as "missionary medics" to those serving on the front lines.

This ministry of care has made a difference in the lives of BMA missionaries since it began several years ago under the leadership of Jerry Kidd, a legacy missionary and former director. He was assisted by Sarah Hebert Hamilton whose experiences as a missionary to the Philippines burdened her to encourage missionaries. They coordinated several regional conferences for BMA missionaries to worship, fellowship, and encourage each other. Attendees still tell stories of their impact.

Conferences are a central part of Missionary Care's ministry efforts. A mini-conference was offered in the fall of 2020 to missionaries who were stateside and unable to return to their fields due to pandemic travel restrictions. An online soul care conference was produced at the Global Missions Center in Conway to be shared this spring with missionaries on the field. Using conferences to connect missionaries through worship and fellowship remains a goal of Missionary Care.

In addition, Missionary Care provides other essential services for our global workers like counseling, coaching, and prayer support. We offer assistance during each missionary's deputation period, departure, and furlough but also their permanent return to the States. During this reentry process, we offer debriefing and counseling to process their experiences and prepare for a healthy transition.

We are developing procedures to help missionary kids prepare for college during their senior years if they choose to return to America. If families have a specific need, we connect them with trained professionals. Whether it is helping with a vehicle during furlough or connecting them with a midwife to deliver their child in remote regions, we work hard to meet needs.

During the pandemic, BMA Missions provided a new level of care. A team was assembled to check on missionaries weekly and ensure their safety and well-being. An Asia-Pacific missionary heard from a missionary colleague serving with another sending agency that he felt alone during the pandemic because no one reached out. The BMA missionary shared that this was not the case for her family because Missions office personnel and churches remained in contact, making them feel loved and valued. Testimonials like this remind us that Missionary Care makes a difference in their ministries.

We are motivated to support and care for our missionaries who work tirelessly to proclaim the gospel and advance God's kingdom. They are passionate about making God's glory and love known to the world and the reason our churches are faithful to support, encourage, and pray for them.

May we all be motivated by God's mission.

mission:world

NEWS



OPEN DOORS AND CHURCH PLANTS

BY: Dr. Ralph Izard
BMMI Director
bmmi.org

Baptist Medical Missions International is the humanitarian/benevolent arm of BMA Missions. The primary purpose of this ministry is to provide humanitarian aid or assistance for many nations of the world where care is needed because of economical, geographic, or disaster reasons.

BMMI is opening doors for BMA missionaries to plant new churches and make new disciples for Christ all around the world. Many churches and individuals partner with us to serve with missionaries. The main goal of BMMI is to assist pastors and missionaries in meeting people in their communities. Many people come out to a medical clinic to receive healthcare, but our prayer is that they leave with more than just a few pills. We want them to leave with hope, the kind that comes from knowing Christ.

During our clinics, local pastors and missionaries set up an evangelism station that each patient goes to as a part of our rotation. Here they are introduced to Christ, to the local pastor, and to the church.

Hear from BMA Missionaries Stan and Donna Scroggins about how BMMI has impacted their lives both as volunteers serving with medical missions and also as missionaries on the field:

"We always knew how important Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI) was to the local people who received medical care through this ministry. Stan and I started traveling with BMMI back in the 1990s. As a nurse, I relished using my skills alongside doctors and other medical professionals to provide care otherwise unreachable to the desperately poor around the world.

"Not until we began serving as full-time missionaries in the Philippines did I understand how important BMMI would be to us as BMA international missionaries.

"Living in the Philippines has afforded us opportunities to be part of teams in Vietnam and

Cambodia, which opened doors for ministry, but it has been joining the teams in the Philippines that has meant the most.

"First it was in Northern Luzon where Missionary Fil Kakilala works with a ChangeMaker missionary planting a church. While part of that team we met an American Filipino who was born and raised on the island of Leyte. She asked us to check on her village of Tigbagwan in the mountains around the city of Maa sin. That was four years ago, and now there is a vital mission church in that village.

"Then in 2019 a team came to work directly with us here in Talisay City, Philippines. Well, let me just say that is when the real impact of BMMI's work became real to us. First, since we live in Talisay City we dreamed of starting a church in our little Jerusalem. BMMI set up a clinic right in our little village and guess what? That village captain is now such a good friend that he allows us to have complete freedom bringing the gospel to his people. This allowed us to take a group of students from BMA Bible College to do outreach there. It was during this time that the village captain accepted Christ and wanted his entire family to be saved also.

"Second, the BMMI team traveled to our mountain ministry in Ahgu to work with Missionary Church Planter Kevin Berayo. Because of this, Kevin has now started his third mission in that region.

"Not only does BMMI bless those desperately in need of medical care but also the hearts of missionaries. God uniquely places a love in the hearts of missionaries for the people He sends them to reach. That love for our dear Filipinos has been the biggest effect of the ministry of BMMI to us personally. Nothing has brought us greater joy than hosting BMMI teams to love on our dear Filipinos.

"In a time when travel is so difficult, when countries are in lockdown, when funding is limited, BMMI still moves on, breaking down the hindering walls and bringing the love of Christ to all peoples of the world and to BMA missionaries as well."

Stan and Donna
Scroggins



Lifeword[®]

NEWS



MORE GROUNDBREAKING FOR LIFEWORD

BY: Donny Parrish
Lifeword
lifeword.org

Lifeword Executive Directors Harold Morris, A.R. Reddin, and Paul Bearfield, Sr. were incredible visionaries in their time, remaining on the cutting edge of technology throughout their tenures. Now deceased, they could hardly have imagined where that technology would take the media ministry.

Bro. George Reddin, who served as Lifeword executive director from 1986 to 2011, had the foresight to lead the association to purchase what is now the BMA Global Missions Center. His vision for the studio part of the building was a media production center for audio and video content. Instead, the area originally intended for video production was used as a warehouse for both BMA Missions and Lifeword.

Through the years, however, the world became increasingly video centric with more and more shows and other projects produced from a small studio. In 2017 Lifeword moved into Internet ministry,

which meant the introduction and production of video content plus a redesign of Lifeword's audio production studio to be used for video.

Thousands of video content hours were shot in that small production area. Millions of hours of Lifeword video content have been consumed on the Cloud and social media pages. As the need for video content increased, more studio space became increasingly important until finally there was no more production room.

Director of Operations Luis Ortega says, "It is humbling that the Lord allows Lifeword to come alongside the local church in making disciples of all nations and to play a role as 'the vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language' prepares to stand clothed in white robes in front of the throne before the Lamb."

After years of praying and planning, Lifeword recently broke ground for a warehouse at the back of its present facilities. After that project's completion, the ministry will reclaim the present warehouse facility for the purpose it was originally intended: a video production area. This studio expansion allows Lifeword four times more video production area and more gospel programming.

"What an exciting time for the ministry of Lifeword!" Executive Director Donny Parrish says. "The expansion of our television suite will give us four to five times more production floor space than we have now. We need this room to produce more video content to reach more people, and at the same time, this will allow our sister ministry, BMMI, to have more room for shoebox efforts."

This expansion is a huge leap of faith for Lifeword. Please pray that God will provide the resources to complete this project and use the content produced to make His name more famous around the world!



The Dedication of the Darlene Carlene Christian Academy, Talisay, Philippines

by Stan Scroggins

The culmination of 6 years of meetings, dreaming, planning, over two years of construction and continuous prayer was crowned with the wonderful ceremony memorializing and honoring the life of missionary Darlene Carey.

We missionaries often use the modern mission mantra “leave no footprint”, meaning that when our mission is done and we depart the mission field, the work will be self-sustaining by the indigenous churches and people.



With that in mind it became very clear that we must come up with a way the Filipinos could continue the work of the Baptist Missionary Association Bible College after Americans depart.

The new academy will help move in that direction. Once fully enrolled the academy can supplement one third of the budget of the Bible College. So, not only is the academy’s purpose to pro-

vide education to Filipino children, but also allow for the continued preparation for ministry of pastor, missionaries and church workers here in the Philippines and all of Southeast Asia.

There are lots of words to help phrase our gratefulness. Let me express just a few ways that helped make the dream possible. First, to our fellow laborer’s missionaries Doug and Diane Lee and Jimmy and Julie Walker. Jimmy actually took up the task early in his work. Having a background in Christian school administration made him the ideal leader of the project. Doug and Diane Lee sustained us throughout with encouragement and prayers and support. Next are our faithful BMA churches and individuals. This two hundred-thousand-dollar project is debt free and paid for by hundreds of gifts from all over the United States. Every amount, big and small has provided sustainability for the Filipinos which otherwise would not have been possible. To the wonderful ladies of our National Women’s Missionary Auxiliary - what can be said to emphasize their impact on the project. Thank you to every local church WMA, local and state association chapters who promoted and support the over \$57,000 given through the National WMA Project.

At the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony we were excited to welcome all our American Philippine Missionaries: Fil Kakilala, Cris and Alicia Samson, Danny and Rita Ballard, Doug and Diane Lee, and Stan and Donna Scroggins. Local missionaries John and Louella Page, area pastors, BMA Bible College faculty and staff, the Academy principal Raydarlyn Vallejere and her teachers, BMAP president Jojo Vallejere, National Department of Education representatives, the local congressman’s representative, and guests from the United States Jimmy Walker and Dr. Philip Attebery.

Darlene Carey was the epitome of self-sacrifice for the people God had called her to. Thousands of people led to Christ through her personal testimony, hundreds of children she provided education for, pastors and churches she mentored and helped establish - They are all a lasting, living legacy of the Lord’s desire for the nations which He accomplished through Darlene’s life. All who knew her know that she would most assuredly recoil from all the attention and accolades, honor and praise, and, rightfully, point us to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom all honor, praise and glory are due.

LifeWord Sunday 2022 - NO BORDERS

We are excited to announce the theme for Lifeword Sunday 2022

-NO BORDERS-

Matthew 24:14 “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations.”

The gospel has NO BORDERS, God’s kingdom has NO BORDERS and therefore, Lifeword has NO BORDERS!

Lifeword Sunday is a day for every church in the BMA to pray for, celebrate, and give to the ministry of Lifeword! The 2022 edition of Lifeword Sunday is scheduled for October 23!

Our mission is to make the name of Jesus known among the nations and to share His gospel of hope to a dying world. We are all invited into a spiritual kingdom. There are no guards, fences, barriers, or restrictions in His kingdom. God’s only requirement is faith in His Son as Jesus, our Savior.

Lifeword currently shares the



gospel in 135 languages in 125 countries around the world. Our goal is to reach 200 languages in the next 5 years. We are well on our way to reaching that goal. Lifeword never asks for funding over the air - we are totally supported by the generosity of churches and individual donors.

The tools and technology of media are excellent avenues for us to cross borders and cultures to bring hope to people desperate to know Him. Lifeword seeks to share Jesus in the heart languages of those viewing or listening to our message. There is

no place we are not willing to go. Our mission is to take the gospel to every tribe, every tongue, every culture, every race, in every nation.

Registration for Lifeword Sunday is now open at www.lifeword.org/lifeword-sunday. Every church who registers will have their pastor entered into the Lifeword Sunday Giveaway which is a free MacBook Air!

We would love the opportunity to share what God is doing through Lifeword. If your church would like to schedule Donny or another team member to come for a visit, you can contact Jennifer at jennifer@lifeword.org.

From the Desk of Tony Cleaver

1 King 16.25 *“Omri did what was evil in the Lord’s sight; he did more evil than all who were before him.”*

And The Winner Is...

Omri was king of the northern kingdom of Israel. He is the king that established Samaria as the capitol of the country. Later his son, Ahab, succeeded him. Does evil have a measure? It seems it does, for Omri “did more evil” than his predecessors on Israel’s throne.

There are contests to see who the strongest man is. There are beauty contests to determine most beautiful. There are shows to see who can win the most prizes. Here the “most evil” contest was won hands down by Omri. There are many “titles” we seek in life, but this is not one of them. What a terrible title to hold- most evil!



Tony Cleaver

Dear Reader, is there a bottom or an end to your doing wrong in God’s sight? Certainly, there is hopefully an end to your evil ways before your death. Think about it. Will those standing at your graveside say of you, Will those say of you at your funeral or memorial service: “Of all in his family, he was the champion; he was the best at doing evil” “He did more evil than those who were before him?”

Moral Action

2021 Freedom Offering June 26th & July 3th



www.macbma.net - Web

fbcmaj@yahoo.com - E-mail

662-231-3863 - Phone

P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855



Promoting Biblical Morality Across America

Restoration Jail Ministry Update

by Paul Spurlin

During a trip to the Jones County adult jail on April 29, I was able to meet with a group of only three prisoners, but the Lord blessed in the small number. I went to the jail alone that night and it turned out to be more like a small group Bible study. One prisoner admitted to having trouble believing the whole Bible as he was stumbling over Jesus, having created humans as God, being born of woman. We reviewed Philippians 2:5-8, and I explained that Jesus is God, but that He willingly took upon Him our flesh so that He could live a perfect life as a human and die for our sin to redeem us as He is the one mediator between God and man.

I counseled the prisoner to be honest with God and admit that while he believes to some degree that he needs help with his unbelief and that he should ask God to show him the truth while he reads the Bible with an open heart. I was able to provide him with a Bible, so pray that he will read it and that God will open his heart to the truth. Our main study during this trip concerned believers being encouraged to deal with difficulty in this life by focusing on eternity (2 Corinthians 4). After the study, one prisoner shared that he finds encouragement to face his difficulties by reading John 14 where Jesus tells us not to let our hearts

be troubled and promises to return to receive us so that we can be with Him.

Other good news to share from the jail ministry is that God has begun answering our prayer for a church in the Jones County area to begin helping minister in the Jones County jail in a coordinated way. I had been discouraged in that while I have had individual members from churches help me in the jail,

no one in leadership at any BMA churches in Jones County had stepped up to offer ongoing help, though we have so many BMA churches in the Jones County area. However, on April 22, Bro. Jason Goodwin visited the jail with me to attend a worship service. He led singing, and I preached. We were encouraged by the testimony of a prisoner who had prayed to receive salvation when Bro. Mike Poirier visited the jail on March 25. This man has just received his sentence and will be transferred to a state prison. However, his countenance was one of joy, and he seemed to be at peace as he shared that God had answered

his prayer to be able to see and speak with his children whom he had not been able to see since he had been in jail. Thank God for strengthening his young faith.

On May 20, Bro. Jason visited the jail again and preached the message. It was wonderful to hear him offer the call for prisoners to believe the Gospel unto salvation as he explained to them that no matter what they may have been told at any point in their lives, "God delights in saving sinners." Please pray that those who heard the preaching that

...one prisoner shared that he finds encouragement to face his difficulties by reading John 14 where Jesus tells us not to let our hearts be troubled...

night will trust Jesus as Savior. Plans are currently under way for his church plant (though he no longer serves as a state missionary) to help with worship services at the Jones County jail so that Restoration Jail Ministry will have a presence in the Jones County jail each Friday night of the month. Please pray that God will bring these plans to fruition.

If any other church leaders in the Jones County area would also like to preach regularly in the jail, please contact me through the missions office so that we can arrange your help. Thank you for continuing to lift our ministry in your prayers.



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Lindsey

118 Lowe Road, Laurel, Mississippi 39443 - (601) 426-3928
Dwight Lindsey - Director

Home Midyear Report (presented at the recent midyear meeting of the BMA of Mississippi)

I am glad to be here with the association this morning. We have had a busy 6 months. When I last reported to you we had helped 16 children. Now, in the past 6 months we have extended that number to an additional 6 children for a total of 22. After a long year in limbo we have finally had a judge officially place Jameson Ragsdale with us. And in just the last few weeks we have had another young man come to the home with the possibility of permanent placement with us.

We are thankful for your response to our special emphasis to fund another set of house parents. Our next step in growth will be to add another house to the property so that we may extend our numbers further. We

need your prayers and support to find those house parents and to fund the new home.

Lindsay and I need your prayers as we continue to function as house parents and continue to research logistics for growth. Pray for our strength, wisdom, and patience moving forward. We aim at 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

I will be glad to talk with any of you in more depth to answer questions if I am able and schedule times we could come report the work to your churches. If you miss us this afternoon we apologize as we will need to leave in time to pick children up from school. May God receive all glory and honor and May the gospel continue to be preached.

Volunteer Student Missions Encouraging Service

by Bryan and Pam Risner
BMA Missionaries to Romania

Volunteer Student Missions serves BMA churches by sending out students to serve with our missionaries. This is so important because many of our past and long-term missionaries first went on short-term trips. Our prayer is that God will use this time spent on the mission field to call the hearts of our youth into full-time missions, but we also pray that God will call 100% of students who serve in short-term missions to be lifelong missions supporters. For many people, both students and adults, going on that first short term trip changes everything.

This is what Romania Missionaries Bryan and Pam Risner say about VSM . . .

"Would you lead a team to Romania?"

"I was standing in the kitchen of my house in the small town of Morrilton, Arkansas, when I was asked that question. My response

was quick and simple: "Absolutely! I can do that with no problem." The rest of the conversation seemed like a blur. I hung up the phone and immediately searched the map to see where in the world Romania was!

If I was being honest, up to that point I had never heard about Romania or Volunteer Student Missions (VSM) before 2015. My background was in law enforcement and student ministry. In 2015 one of my students, Katelyn, went to the midnight missions meeting during SOAR conference and signed up to go on a mission trip. I didn't even know she signed up until her mom cornered me one day after church. After sharing her concerns, I volunteered to go with Katelyn, which helped



her mom feel better about letting her go on the trip.

This series of events led me to call the VSM office to introduce myself. That summer mission trip started the process of changing my family's life forever. Romania is a beautiful country filled with the most hospitable people I have ever met. It is like stepping back in time, some fifty years ago. Romanians are hardworking people who raise their food and focus on family. During that trip, I was introduced to the Roma people, also known as gypsies, the most hated group in Europe. I spent two weeks with three American

teens serving in Romania and sharing the gospel that summer.

My wife Pam and I went together to Romania in 2016, both of us serving as team leaders. Pam fell in love with the country and people. We led a much bigger group of teens that summer, and God did amazing things that year. Pam and I talked quite a bit after we returned home. We even discussed the possibility of one day moving to Romania as BMA Missionaries. Little did we know that God was about to send us much more quickly than we expected.

In 2017, we led our third VSM team to Romania and included our kids on that trip. Melody, Lindsey, and Landon traveled for the first time halfway around the world. I watched how God matured my kids during that trip.

God was preparing my family to serve in Eastern Europe, and we were scared to death. Although we had no idea what to expect, we said yes to God, started the deputation process, and officially moved in July 2018. Angela Rice and the 2018 VSM team helped my family move to Romania that summer. VSM played a major role in our training and equipping, leading to a much better transition.

We are so thankful for VSM and the many hours that go into

their training, preparing, equipping, mobilizing, and sending teams every year to countries worldwide. VSM has not only changed my family's life but countless students' lives each year. VSM is a great vehicle to help teens and adults be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Volunteer Student Missions played a role in getting us to Romania as well. The last VSM team I led actually moved our family. They traveled with us, took our bags so we didn't have as many to pay for, unpacked, put things away, and helped set up our new home. Volunteer Student Missions' Team Romania usually conducts VBS with our churches. But one year, they helped with our youth camp preparing crafts and lessons, and serving in various ways. Many students came to Christ at that camp.

VSM trips help our ministry because everyone wants to come out to meet the Americans. Many more people attend when we have teams in from the States, which is a blessing to the missionaries. We love to have teams come serve with us. It is a time of encouragement for our family.

One Romanian friend told us that when he was a boy, Ameri-

continued on page 8

A Great North Senior Adult Conference

We had two really successful conferences this year. Our North Conference was held on May 10 at Mt. Pleasant Church, Fulton. Pastor and Commission Trustee Tim Holsonback and the folks of Mt. Pleasant were gracious hosts. The church provided the noon meal and it was great. Bro. Holsonback helped assemble a group that provided our special music in the afternoon service.

Our attendance was about 100 and the seniors at this meeting gave a special offering to help with Ukraine Relief and to fund low power FM radio stations that Lifeword uses throughout the world. The total given by both meetings totaled over \$4,000.00 for missions around the world.

Door prizes were given out, fellowship was enjoyed, great food was consumed and God's word was preached by

Bro. Dewitt Bain.

The oldest gentleman and lady were recognized. Both were from the same church AND just happened to be married to each other. Earl and Sarah Brown are members of Unity Church at



Earl & Sarah Brown



Good Cooks



Pastor
Tim Holsonback

Guntown. He is 97 and she is 93 and they each received a new study bible and an insulated mug with the Senior Adult Commission logo. Congratulations to the Browns!

We look forward next year.



Music for the day



Fellowship and Food

The Glue of Our Association

by Dr. John David Smith
Director of Missions BMA of America

The first value statement of BMA Global Missions states: Motivated by the Mission of God - The Mission of God is defined specifically as making God's glory and love known to the nations. This aspect of the nature of God expressed in the expansion of His kingdom (missions) to all peoples, it is the primary motivational piece in all that we do.

The Mission of God is that transcendent reality of His nature that is all about His love and glory to the nations. The eternal, triune God is both the source and the example of love and communication. He did not HAVE to create us in order to experience love and communication, He had that from eternity past within Himself (Trinity). He did choose to create and He manifests His nature in love and communication to His creation in both word and deed. His redemptive plan, through His eternal Son Jesus Christ, was established before the foundation of the world because He is a gracious, merciful, and personal God . . . this is who He is . . . His nature.

He is also a God of perfect holiness, and we are thankful that he is a propitious God. At no point in eternity past or in space and time did God all of a sudden become a missionary God and begin to promote His mission. An element of His eternal nature is His mission.

We are motivated by the mission of God, which includes his glory to the nations, his redemptive plan, and the ultimate destiny of all things (worship).

The Mission of God must be our identity, meaning it gives us our "why."

Why do we exist and why do we do the things we do? Mission! God's glory and love to the world provides us with our "what."

We are to go and proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness to all people groups, which gives us our "how."

We are to make disciple makers out of the unengaged, unreached, and undisciplined, which gives us our "where" and in this sense, where we are going in terms of ultimate destiny. Mission is all about the ultimate and eternal worship of God around his throne by the redeemed from every language, tongue, and nation.

The legitimacy of our association will be found in a synergistic cooperation to a unifying mission undergirded by like-minded beliefs and values under the watchful eye of biblical accountability. The glue of our association is our commitment to the Mission of God. Synergistic cooperation, like-minded beliefs, values, and biblical accountability are all necessary, but the unifying mission is the strength and fuel of our association.

May God's love be known to the nations and may His name be famous among all peoples as we stay unrelentingly focused on the Mission of God, that part of His nature that defines us, directs us, and drives us as His people.

The glue of our association is our commitment to the Mission of God

Unsung Heros for May

by Stan Scroggins, missionary to
Philippines

All my life in ministry I've had some connection to our BMA Theological Seminary. Lecturing, Seminary Rallies, traveling with seminary professors to teach overseas and of course taking classes. However, my short years as a missionary has presented me with extraordinary examples of how our Seminary (please notice the emphasis on OUR.) has cooperated in furthering, not just my particular mission, but also the call of those from around the world.

In 2018 we had a graduate whom I knew would benefit from studying at OUR seminary. They, with open arms, took that student, and provided a welcoming atmosphere for a foreigner who has now finished a master's degree.

In February 2020 when we came home for furlough, we never dreamed a 12 month delay in returning to the field would ensue. We needed a place to live, but can you imagine renting a house in the Philippines and then also in America? To our rescue came OUR seminary. Providing for us one of their small, furnished apartments. I don't have to tell you the blessing that was to us.

After achieving our accreditation credentials for the Bible College here in the Philippines, we were mandated to upgrade the degrees of our theology teachers. Once again OUR seminary raced in as a hero on a white horse. Dr. Philip Attebery finishes his two weeks of intensive teaching this week. In July, Dr. Thom South will come to teach another two weeks of intensives. These classes will lead to four of our Filipino teachers graduating with a masters degrees from OUR seminary. There will also be on-going instruction as we continue to work with the now 16 other students who have begun seminary training through OUR seminary.

Thank you to OUR seminary president Dr. Charlie Holmes for the spirit of

cooperation, sending seminary professors to us and of course to Dr. Attebery and Dr. South for coming to us to teach this Summer.

Small? Yes! Accreditation qualified? Yes! Mission oriented? Yes! Doctrinally sound? Yes! Highly academically qualified professors? Yes! Should I attend? Yes!



Dr. Philip Attebery

I am praying you could change your vocabulary from OUR seminary to MY seminary. You will be blessed and be able to be a blessing as a result.

Volunteer Student Ministries

from page 7

cans came to serve on short-term trips. His family were believers, but there were still reservations between believers and the Roma people. For him, Americans coming, Roma children running right up to them, then hugging each other without reservation impacted his heart even though he was already a believer. It encouraged him to have even more of a relationship with the Roma people. If you are considering going on a mission trip, think no further than the Volunteer Student Missions department of the BMAA. Just make sure you are ready for a life-changing adventure.

Sharon Church to hold Revival

Sharon Baptist Church of Laurel will hold revival services June 5-8, 2022. Dr. Aaron Parker will be the speaker with Brett Stewart leading the music. Services will be Sunday morning and afternoon with Monday - Wednesday services each night at 7:00 pm. Pastor Joe Watson and the church invite all to attend.