

A Song of degrees. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. Psa 121: 1-2

The Baptist

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The 2020 BMAA National Meeting and the Coronavirus

by Jeff Swart, President
BMA of America

Editor's Note: The following information was shared with me on March 12 after I asked Bro. Swart of any plans for our national meeting concerning the current national Corona virus situation.

We are all aware that many organizations are cancelling sporting events and conventions because of the threat of the spread of the Coronavirus. The officers of the BMA of America are presently monitoring the Coronavirus and listening very closely to the words of our nation's leading health professionals as well as our local, state, and national leaders.

Should we decide that the 2020 BMA of America national meeting should be canceled, we will notify our churches through the state papers, BMA websites, and various forms of social media. Rest assured that our utmost desire is to protect the health and well-being of the messengers of our churches, but we feel that it is too early to make the decision to cancel our upcoming meeting.

Carson Joins State Guard Serving as Supervising Chaplain

Dr. Scott Carson, President of Southeastern Baptist College, was recently sworn into the Mississippi State Guard as a chaplain in the rank of Colonel. The Mississippi State Guard is one of three military organizations that fall under the authority of the governor. The word "State" is key in understanding the mission of the Guard. Two similar organizations are the Air National Guard and the Army National Guard, and while these two can be federalized by the President of the United States, the State Guard cannot be federalized. The State Guard's mission is primarily disaster relief and is voluntary in nature unless called to service by the governor.

Dr. Carson stated that he first became aware of the State Guard when BMA of Mississippi minister, Chris Freeman, approached him about an endorsement as a chaplain into the organization. Dr. Carson, the Director of the BMAA Chaplaincy Department, endorsed Brother



Dr. Scott R. Carson, President of Southeastern Baptist College, is sworn into the Mississippi State Guard in the rank of Colonel by Brigadier General Doug Hayhurst.

Freeman and later attended his swearing in ceremony in Jackson, Mississippi. While there, Dr. Carson was asked if he might be interested in joining the unit as well. After much prayer, he determined that the Lord had opened this door of opportunity to contribute his thirty years of active military experience to the

State Guard.

Mississippi is not the only state that has its own militia, as there are 17 states across the nation that have similar units. Dr. Carson's role will be to supervise subordinate chaplains in their training and ministry, as they volunteer in this great organization.

Nashville Tornado Response

Just The Crumbs - How Can I Help?

By Lavon Hadean
Just the Crumbs

Many people ask us "What do you need or how can I help?" But it is hard sometimes to be specific about our needs due to the unknown factors of the number of meals we need or the length of time we need to stay following the March 3 Nashville, Tennessee area tornados.

Many people want to help so they just go and buy different food items and send or bring them, but much of what is given cannot be used to cook the meals we serve. The problem is it may

be several different items, but it is not enough of one item to use. When cooking for a lot of people you don't have the time nor equipment to do a lot of different items. (The food is not wasted because we give it out to people to cook at home.) It is best for us to receive gallon cans of vegetables like green beans, baked beans, whole kernel corn, sweet peas, turnips, mixed vegetables, field peas, etc.

We also need takeout plates that have three compartments, napkins, paper towels and 12

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Meet Pastor Moses

Water For Christ Ministry Update

Meet Pastor Moses. Moses is a native Ghanaian Pastor that is the Ambassador for Water for Christ in Ghana. This year you have the opportunity to meet him as he will be attending the BMA National Meeting. Moses will be accompanied by two other local pastors that all work together to make the mission of Water for Christ possible in Ghana. Moses is passionate about showing the love of Christ in his country and meeting the physical needs of his native land with the water crisis, in addition to sharing the good news of the gospel - we are honored to

have him on the Water for Christ team.

We have a lot of exciting events happening this year. Mark your calendars for the special 2020 dates especially the Car show and the Gala - as those are the two major events each year that we would love to see you at.

As always, thank you for giving Water for Christ such a great year in 2019. We could not be where we are today without your support and encouragement. Please keep us in your prayers as we move into our second decade and help us spread the word



Pastor Moses and wife

about Water for Christ. The Lord has some great things planned and we are excited to see where it may all lead

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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, Coaches & Coordinators and Wives



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Burns



Kenneth & Carole
Pollock



Sidney & Becky
Farmer



Johnny & Neta
Williams



Scott and Susan
Brocius



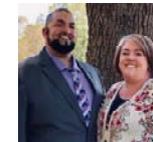
Daniel & Sherri
Allen



Wesley & Holley
Martin



Jason and Kylie
Howard



Josh and Mary Helen
Daniels



Estuardo &
Yasmine Marroquin



Ed & Patricia
DuVall

“Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.” Acts 5:20

Peter had been cast into prison, in an effort, to shut down the preaching of the gospel and the spread of the gospel. But, the angel of the Lord was sent to open the prison and send him out. In doing so, he reminded Peter to, “Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.” Reading this, we are reminded that God goes before us to remove the obstacles to our efforts to share the gospel. With this knowledge, we go forth with great confidence.

Special Emphasis – Coming Up

Each year we plead with our churches to respond to our request that they emphasize State Missions in a special way during the months of April and May. Please prayerfully consider this request. I challenge each church to participate and those who have, to do more. We have added a number of new missionaries this year and we have others who are talking with us. This is a worthy request!

Important Event – BMA of Mississippi Summer Retreat August 27-29, 2020

The first annual BMA of Mississippi “Summer Retreat” will be held at Paul B. Johnson State Park located at 319 Geiger Lake Road, Hattiesburg, Mississippi. This event will replace and combine the Missions and Evangelism Conference and the Pastor’s Conference and will be open to everyone. Working together we feel we have come up with a very good program that we can all enjoy. We will begin on August 27th @ 2:30pm at the “Group Camp” at Paul B. Johnson. We facilities we have secured include two large dorms, for the men, which can house up to 100. We have three individual buildings, for the women, which can house up to 40. We have also secured an open pavilion with burn pit, a chapel, and a dining hall which seats 150. We will be located across the lake in our own private area. Our program will include a combination of spiritual encouragement and physical recreation.

See Program Schedule on page 3

Our Newest Missionary

Daniel Allen was approved, by the Missionary Committee, on March 2, 2020, to serve as a State Missionary. He will

begin by working as an Associate Missionary with Bro. Wesley Martin at Redemption Baptist Mission at Diamondhead. He is recommended to us by Campground Baptist Church on Hwy 53 near Gulfport. He and his wife Sherri have 3 children, Heather (Blake) Morreale, Tyler (Payton) Allen and Austin Allen, and one grandson, Maddox Allen.



New Missionary
Daniel Allen

Redemption Baptist Mission at Diamondhead

“Grace to you and peace, from God our Father and from The Lord Jesus Christ.” I am writing to you at a time of great excitement. We have recently celebrated five years of ministry. We celebrated the day in our new building with many folks who have served with us over the years



Redemption Baptist Mission Celebrates their launch in the new building

and with brand new faces who were visiting for the first time. It was a great day of remembering what God has already done but ever looking forward to what He is still going to do. Ministry is flourishing for us at Redemption. Recently, Daniel Allen was approved by the Missions Committee and has begun working with us at the mission. Our church is growing numerically and spiritually. We

have members who have stepped up to help in ministries all over the church including small groups, student ministries, children’s ministries, Outreach and more. God continues to bless, and I can’t wait to see what He is going to do this year. Thank You for your continued prayers and support. May God bless you and your ministries.” Bro. Wesley

Salt Light Baptist Mission at Waveland

“Salt Light Baptist is continuing to take shape. We’ve recently had a business meeting to elect positions in the Mission. It was very encouraging to see each one take a part in the different ministries and positions. We’ve laid the foundation. This Church family is built on Christ. Now, we have some internal structure to support greater service inwardly and outreach ministries in our community. We are making plans to meet new people at the St. Patrick’s Day parade in Waveland this Saturday. Our plans include setting up a pop-up canopy with a table where we will have free drinks and pulled pork sandwiches and information about the Mission. We will also be walking around ahead of time passing out three-fold flyers trying to reach more people. Our goal is to make new prospects and reach new people with the Gospel of Christ.

Once again, thank you so much for your support and prayers. Along with the Lord, you’re making this opportunity to plant a Church possible.” Bro. Johnny Williams

Midway Baptist Mission at Batesville

“Midway Mission is steadily marching forward as good soldiers in the Lord’s army. Members and others who attend regularly are experiencing spiritual growth daily as they participate in our services and devote time to personal study and witnessing. They have learned and accepted the idea that church planting is a task for the entire congregation and not just for the mission pastor. Friends and family are being encouraged to take part in our services and many have visited. Our people are also reaching out to the unchurched population in surrounding communities. God will bless these efforts. With the time change, prayer meeting and discipleship training has moved back to Wednesday evenings. We have followed through with

our plan to begin Sunday School and our first classes met the second Sunday in March. Presently, we only have two classes but expect more to form as attendance increases. Thank you for your prayers and words of encouragement.” Dr. Kenneth Pollock

Canaan Baptist Mission in Waynesboro

“Things in Waynesboro are going well. The members of the mission and my family are enjoying having their morning services. Brother Jason Howard is officiating afternoon services, teaching our discipleship classes, focusing on Baptist polity. This has truly been a blessing to watch all the spiritual growth and knowledge take place that many people are lacking. We are planning on doing another community outreach in the near future. The last one was very successful. Please be in prayer for those efforts. I have also had the opportunity to see personal growth in our members taking



Members of the Mission at Waynesboro helping a fellow member with some needed repairs.

up rolls, in doing Sunday morning devotions before Sunday school and members activity teaching youth Sunday school. Nothing is more encouraging to a preacher than seeing the people God has entrusted him with, having a genuine desire to be used for his glory! I am excited for what the future holds here in Wayne county. Please be in continuous prayer for the efforts here that souls will be saved as the Lord builds his local church in the Waynesboro area. I would like to thank all the churches in the BMAMS for their love and support as we

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Missions Report from page 2

labor.” Scott Brocius

“Thank you all for your continued prayers and financial support! We could not do what we do without it. This past month has been a very busy one. One of the members, at the mission, was admitted into the hospital. While he was there, it was brought to my attention that a few improvements needed to be made to his home before he could be released to come home. It was encouraging to see other members of the mission come together and fulfill this need. Bro. Scott Brocius is doing a tremendous job leading and directing the Sunday morning services. The members of the mission church love him and his family! Please continue to pray that of the many gospel seeds we have and are planting - God would give increase!” Jason Howard

Restoration Ministry – The Jail Ministry of the BMA of Mississippi

“On March 10, we were able to go into a county jail for the first time with Restoration Ministry. I and four other men, some of whom are former inmates, shared God’s Word with two separate groups of men, a total of 21 prisoners, at the Jasper County jail. Six of these men were awaiting transfer after having been recently sentenced to serve time with the state corrections department. I was able to preach to the second group, which included the six men awaiting transfer. One of these men received one-on-one counseling about personal salvation from another minister in our group following our time of preaching. Many of the prisoners seemed to have an understanding of the Gospel and other biblical truth. However, I did notice that one of the men had Jehovah’s Witnesses literature folded in the bible he was using, so there is error being taught at times in our jails—error with which we must contend. Please continue to pray for Restoration as we attempt to minister to prisoners. We need churches who are willing to actively participate in reaching local county jails with the truth of God’s Word. If your church is interested in my coming to share about this ministry, please contact me through the missions department. Before our next monthly update, the Easter season will be upon us. Restoration Ministry wishes all of you a wonderful time celebrating the resurrection of our Savior.” Dr. Paul Spurlin

Hispanic Missions Report – Bro. Estuardo Marroquin

“El Camino Mission, Hattiesburg reported that they shared the gospel to four people

and one person accepted Christ as personal savior. On Sundays, they have an average of 44 people in Sunday school and worship service. Bro. Leo Adan reports that they began the Bible Institute classes February, and around 20 people from this Hispanic mission enrolled in the first quarter. Please continue praying for El Camino Hispanic mission and Bro. Leo Adan and his family.

El Camino Mission, Canton. Bro. Lucas Gomez reports an average of 12 people in Sunday school attendance. Bro. Lucas shared the gospel to four people and one person was saved last month and he continues to disciple the new believers.

El Camino Mission, Biloxi reports 25 in worship services on Sundays. Bro. Marciano Montalvo and Bro. Estuardo Marroquin have been traveling the last eight weeks to Biloxi and preaching every Sunday for the Hispanic worship service. New families have started to attend the meetings. Two newborn babies were presented to The Lord, and they had good fellowship with delicious food on March 1.

El Camino Hispanic Church at Laurel had a wonderful month of February. They celebrated their 18th Anniversary with a tremendous service. People from Biloxi Mission, Hattiesburg Mission and Canton Mission came and joined with the local church and gave thanks to The Lord for El Camino Church. Bro. Luis Ortega from Lifeword Ministries was the guest speaker and shared a powerful message. Over 200 people wor-



BMA of Mississippi Hispanic Association guest speaker Bro. Luis Ortega



New family at El Caminno, Biloxi



El Camino Laurel, on Outreach

shipped the Lord together. El Camino Church reports average of 120 people on worship service and two people accepted Christ as their personal savior.

Nueva Esperanza Hispanic Association met March 7th. The meeting took place at the Hispanic Mission in Tupelo, MS. Everybody enjoyed the meeting and heard reports from the different Hispanic missions in our association.

As the Hispanic Missions Manager, I thank God for these men who are giving their lives, time, and heart to do missionary



Bro. Sergio Dominguez, Bible Institute Student, preaching at El Camino



Bro. Tony Moreno, Bible Institute Student, preaching at El Camino
work in our Hispanic Ministry and I thank God for every local Church and Local Association in our State of Mississippi for the continuous support and prayer. May God Bless you, in Christ, Estuardo Marroquin Hispanic Missions Manager.”

Refuge Baptist Mission in the Kiln

We are glad to be able to report at this time that we are still being blessed with new visitors and returning guests each week at Refuge. There seems to be a joy among those who are attending and a desire to take more steps forward. We just completed a five week class of church membership for those interested in joining the mission. We looked at Acts 2 and we had an average of 24 adults in these classes. Our next effort of growth will be for those who are attending regularly and becoming more part of the core group. We will start a Wednesday night discipleship class on April 15th. Bro. Jay Ladner will lead that class while my wife, Mary Helen and I will begin classes for our youth. I will be teaching the middle/high schoolers and Mary Helen will teach the 5th grade and below. We pray this can be a beneficial time for the adults to get closer, grow deeper, and their kids and other kids can do the same. I’m also available for Sunday night visits for any of our churches that would like to have me share and for any of our churches praying about supporting a mission.

BMA of Mississippi Summer Retreat Theme: Our Journey with Jesus Schedule

Thursday

2:30 - 3:30pm - Registration
3:30 - 5:00pm - Softball Competition
5:30 - 6:30pm - Dinner
7:00 - 8:30pm - Session 1 (Music & Larry Geraldson – Intro. of Theme – Eph 2:10 (Fellowship Afterwards)

Friday

7:30 - 8:30am - Breakfast
9:00 - 11:30am - Session 2
Pastor & Layman’s Breakout
Music
Dennis Knight – Walk Worthy – Eph 4:1
Chris Yager – Walking Not As Others – Eph 4:17
Greg Medenwald – Walking in Love – Eph 5:2

Ladies Breakout

Music
Sabrina Clayton

12:00 - 1:00pm - Lunch
1:30 - 3:00pm - Session 3
Music
John Michael Poulin – Walk as Children of Light – Eph 5:8
Wesley Martin – Walk Circumspectly – Eph 5:15
3:00 - 5:30pm - Organized Recreation — Volleyball Tournament, Kayak Races, Hiking
6:00 - 7:00pm - Dinner
7:30 - 9:00pm - Session 4
Music
Speaker - Dewitt Bain – Walk Ready – Eph 6:10-12

Saturday

7:00 - 8:00am - Breakfast
8:30 - 10:00am - Session 5
Music
Speaker - Kevin Clayton –
Walk As Long As It Takes – 1 Tim 1:1-12

Activities

Slow Pitch Softball Game - (Missionaries vs Pastors)
Missionaries – Head Coach, Larry Geraldson, Assistant Coach, Sidney Farmer, Assistant Coach, Vernon Newman
Pastors – Head Coach Justin Rhodes, Assistant Coach, TBD, Assistant Coach, TBD
Plate Umpire – Kenneth Pollock; 1st Base Umpire – Ed DuVall
Kayak Races – Ten Kayaks will be available. Sign up, to compete, when you register.

Volleyball Tournament

Team 1 – Captain, Mike Angus
Team 2 – Captain, Daniel Allen
Team 3 – Captain Blake McCain
Team 4 – Captain Chad Cummins
Note: The winner of the first two matches will play in a championship match.

Early Registration

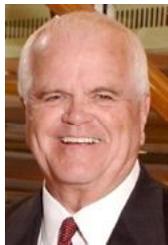
\$45 per person (which covers 5 meals and 2 nights lodging at the group camp.) Late registration (after June 30th) is \$60 per person. To register, send your check made payable to the BMA of Mississippi Missions Department. Place in the memo “Summer Retreat Registration. Make sure your check is accompanied by a note with the names of the individuals registering.

Churches wishing to contribute to help offset the extra cost not covered in the registration fee, can send a check marked BMA of Mississippi Missions Department, and place in the memo “Church Ministries.”

Couples desiring to rent a cabin or RV spot, must contact Paul B. Johnson State Park directly at 601-582-7721. Any cost of a cabin is a personal expense and is in addition to the registration fee.

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

Notes and Thoughts

Corona Virus Issues

We are all keenly aware of the worldwide virus pandemic we are experiencing. There are so many variables that it is difficult to know what to do or who to believe. We pray for our government leaders and those in the health industry as they care for us and that the Lord would lead them all to correct and beneficial decisions and directions.

The cancelling of so many sporting events and areas of assembly are certainly concerning. As for my family, my wife and I fall into that category of 'elderly and with certain health issues'. Well, that certainly has gotten our attention! What to do?

I think common sense and discernment are important. Let us remember that God is in control and watches over His own, but He does expect us to act rationally.

Schools and many colleges and

universities are practically shutting down classes and having students work on-line or at directed studies away from campus.

As I am writing this there are constant "Breaking News Updates" concerning government actions to address the situation in which we find ourselves as a nation and as a global community.

One of our churches has communicated that they will continue to hold services, but encourage anyone ill to stay at home and watch their services online. Don't shake hands, just say hello. I am sure many others are doing the same. Let us take sensible actions and determine not to panic.

I took a 'quick' email survey of some of our church pastors. The responses were almost identical. The main thought was, "We are continuing with our services and monitoring the situation."

There are several sources of information directed specifically to churches and actions they can take to ensure the safety of their members. It would do us well to check those out and make the best decisions for our church on an individual basis.

Foreign Missionaries

The Walker Family and the Scroggins are missionaries in the Philippines. Both are making plans to return to the States on furlough. The Philippine Government is doing what many governments around the world are doing and making new travel rules. This may or may not affect these two families as they make plans to return. Pray that they both will get to come home, have safe travels and for the Lord's protection as they travel.

National Meeting ??

As you will read on the front page of this issue, President Jeff Swart responded to our inquiry concerning plans for our BMAA National Meeting scheduled for late April. He assures our churches the situation is being monitored and a decision concerning the meeting will be forthcoming.

While we all want to conduct our meeting and business each year, common sense and discernment is called for. I am confident

that if the national health situation continues to get worse that our leaders will make the appropriate decisions.

What Next?

Well, no March Madness, no more SEC baseball, No more XFL, NBA, NHL, or even The Masters. However, the Master is in control and nothing catches Him by surprise. Pray for healing, good health, our churches as they minister the Gospel, our missionaries around the world, and that the lost would see that life is indeed short, judgement is sure, and that God has provided salvation to all who will come to Him.

Special Emphasis Update

Our hearts are warmed by the generosity of those who support this ministry with their gifts. We reported on our emphasis gifts in the last issue. Since that time we have received the following donations to our annual Special Emphasis drive.

Anonymous	\$500.00
Anonymous	\$100.00
Berean, Soso	\$90.00
Magnolia, Hattiesburg	\$500.00
Total to date	\$7,843.22

It seems a simple "thank you" is not adequate. All your supports and gifts are deeply appreciated.

Grover Laird Scholarship

The effort to fund the Grover Laird Scholarship at BMA Seminary continues to receive donations. To date a total of \$21,480.00. This will help ministers preparing for a lifetime of service. Donations are still being received and encouraged.

Donations should be sent to Don Brown, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441. Checks should be made payable to Grover Laird Scholarship or BMA Seminary with Laird Scholarship in the designation line.

Just The Crumbs from page 1

and 16-ounce styrofoam cups. We also need tin foil, flour, corn meal, sugar, eggs, milk, butter, salt, black pepper etc. For convenience and efficiency, I recommend buying online from Walmart, Sams or Amazon and having it delivered free of charge directly to the location where we'll be — Community Church, 1815 Knowles Street, Nashville, Tennessee 37208. It will be a few days before we are operational.

A monetary donation is best for us because we buy just what we need when we need it. Money can be sent by PayPal (justthecrumbs21@gmail.com); or to BMAA Missions, P.O. Box 878, Conway, AR 72033; or to Just The Crumbs, 10 Wagon Trail, Sumrall, MS 39482.

I have put together an estimate of what it cost for us to operate for 30 days. From past experience, and looking at area where we will be in Nashville, I believe these figures are a minimum estimated cost: travel (\$1,800); operating expenses, kitchen gas and electricity (\$800); set up cost for drains, canopy, etc. (\$300); laundry and shower supplies for victims and volunteers (\$400); liability insurance (\$1,000); unexpected or misc. expenses (\$1,000) — for a total of \$4,600. This is all before one meal is served, and we are planning for 800 meals for 30 days, for a total cost of meals of \$60,000.

Leave It To Cleaver

Should

The word "should" is an oft-used word in my life. Should is a statement of what one thinks should be the case as opposed to what is the case. In a given situation, it should be (ought to be) this way. With another state of affairs, it should be (it had better be) that way.

I have some ideas about how things should be. I have some pre-conceived notions of how things should operate. I know how I think things should turn out. I know what I think people should do.

When my "shoulds" are not met, I get bumfuzzled at times - sometimes more than others. I cannot "should" on any person, group, or event to make it come out or behave like it should in "my should opinion."

Sometimes I turn my "shoulds" internally on myself. I should on myself when I do not live up to my own "should have done this or that in a different way" type of situation. I have to get over my "shoulding" on myself and as well as "shoulding" on others.

It takes some time to come back to how the Lord wants things to be and work out. It takes me a little reflective time and Scripture reading to understand my "shoulds" are not necessarily God's imperatives. I pray for wisdom to recognize and heed God's should instead of my own or others.

Dr. Tony Cleaver is a retired U.S. Army Chaplain and Director of Distance Learning for BMA Seminary. You may contact him at jstmcleaver@embarqmail.com



Tony Cleaver

Southeastern Baptist College



Donor Dinner

The annual SBC Donor Dinner is scheduled for Thursday evening, March 26, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. in the SBC gymnasium, 4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440, and catered by the Lighthouse Café. This year, we are combining the individual and the church donor dinners into one exciting combined event. Invitations have been sent. Please reserve your seat and meal as requested on the invitation BY MARCH 19 to Caroline Adams at cadams@southeasternbaptist.edu or 601-426-6346.



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Serving Christ With A Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

President's Perspective

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:35

Typos. I hate it when I do them. Looks like I had a couple in the last article. There's really no excuse and I know how they happened. I was under a deadline and I was working fast and furious to "get 'er done!" Also, using Microsoft Word for typing the articles contributes to the problem. Word will highlight misspellings, but it often does not catch wrong word usage if the wrong word is correctly spelled. But, I will take comfort in this, that I do much better than others on social media!



Dr. Scott Carson
President

No one is perfect and it's always good to remember this when someone makes a mistake. Drivers often commit small infractions and too often it's because they do not use their blinkers. That's one of my pet peeves; people not using their blinkers. It gets my dander up just writing about it!

As Christians, we are compelled by the Lord to forgive minor offenses. In fact, we are compelled to even give grace toward major offenses. I really do, however, believe in the application of civil law. But on a personal level, we should prac-

tice grace and mercy toward others, and especially toward our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Something very powerful was said to these two behind that closed door. When they reemerged, there was never another problem...

I read a result of a recent survey conducted among Americans regarding church attendance. It stated that 34 percent of Americans are "dechurched". That means they used to go to church, but for whatever reason, decided to drop out of church permanently. Now, you and I know that some people just plain have issues with everyone and everything and that would account for some of these "dechurched" folks. But if you have been going to church for some time, then you also know that friction can occur between church members, or between church members and church leaders. In these cases, we are compelled to try to reconcile our differences. Too often, the differences are minuscule in nature. We have all heard about church splits over the color of a much needed new carpet! That is a good example of a small issue that perhaps we just need to let go and concentrate on our worship and fellowship.

Early in the Iraq War, I was in a unit that had recently replaced all its leadership when we received orders to deploy. Many of the staff did not know each other. A short time after arriving in the combat zone two main staff members had seri-

ous differences of opinion on most decisions. Both were individually great people, but they

were often at odds behind closed doors until, during a major combat operation planning session, their personal frustrations were exhibited publically for the rest of the staff and the commander to see. The commander immediately suspended the planning meeting and invited the two upset staff members into his office. Something very powerful was said to these two behind that closed door. When they reemerged, there was never another problem between the two for the many remaining months of the deployment.

We should seek to build each other up in the Lord and get along the best we can with those who have differing opinions. Let all of us seek to have such a close relationship with the Lord, that the petty differences between ourselves and others, do not cause division within the church family. The church should be a place of fellowship and as believers, we should not forget to exhibit the love of our Lord and Savior in our lives.

"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." Matthew 6:14

Equipping the Saints!
Dr. Carson

Commencement Exercises

Mark your calendars for the Southeastern Baptist College graduation ceremony that will be May 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. with Dr. John Adams as our guest speaker. Dr. Adams is an alumnus, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Mantachie, Mississippi, and the Director of the Moral Action of Mississippi.



Dr. Carson recently traveled to Northwest Arkansas to provide a presentation for the BMAA Chaplaincy Department ministry and also promoted Southeastern Baptist College to the churches of the BMA of the Ozarks.

The Best 2-Year College

Southeastern Baptist College is designated by Intelligent.com as the "Best Two Year University" for Online Bible Colleges out of 201 institutions across the U.S. for 2020. That's twice in the last 4 years we have been ranked number one out of hundreds of colleges and universities. And, we have consistently been in the top 25. SBC is also one of the top 10 least expensive schools among thousands of colleges in the country. You really need to contact the SBC Admissions Officer today at 601-426-6346.

Lighthouse Café

The SBC Lighthouse Café is open to everyone! Hours of operation are Tuesday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come and make lunch at the café a regular part of your week's activities. Of note, the Lighthouse Café can be contracted to provide catered meals or can be reserved for special activities. Contact Roderick Hollis for more information at 601-652-1613.

TNT

Each Tuesday evening the SBC student body gathers together for a meal and a spiritual lesson. We invite churches and ministries

College Report Continued on page 6

Memorial Scholarship Opportunities

Cpl. Zachary Austin Holloway Scholarship Memorial

Corporal Zachary Holloway recently passed away in a tragic accident. Zachary is the son of Chris and Twyla Floyd. Chris is a Trustee of SBC. Chris and Twyla have designated SBC to receive memorial monetary gifts to establish a Scholarship in his honor. Memorials gifts can be sent to Southeastern Baptist College, 4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel MS 39440. Please annotate the gift in memory of Corporal Holloway. Thank you to the follow people who have made a donation toward this scholarship fund:

Ben and Erma Sue Hensarling
Jan and Eddie Walker
Mr. and Mrs. James Sistrunk

Bobby Thornton Memorials

Brother Bobby Thornton, former BMAA Chaplaincy Dept. Director and retired Air Force Chaplain (Colonel), passed away recently. His lovely wife, Dovie, has designated SBC to receive memorial gifts in his honor. Memorials gifts can be sent to Southeastern Baptist College, 4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440. Please annotate the gift in memory of Brother Thornton.

Cheer for the Chargers!

Official Tryouts
Friday, March 27, 2020
4:30 at SBC Gym

Cheer for the SBC Chargers Home and Away Games
All Expenses Paid
Tryout Participation Fee \$15.00
Join Us! Be a Charger!



Fast Track Summer Session



SBC will offer a full semester of courses in a shortened format this summer, and for half price. Each course costs \$375. Dorms are available. Registration is Thursday, May 21, 2020 and classes are May 26 to June 26. You may preregister NOW! Call 601-426-6346 or stop by the college Monday to Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Classes offered

English Comp I
World Lit I
US History I
College Algebra
Old Testament Survey

Amazon Smile

Our Amazon Smile account is fixed! Anybody shopping on

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon can select Southeastern Baptist College as your charity. When you do this, a portion of your purchase price will go directly to SBC as a donation from Amazon!

College Report

from page 5

to sponsor a Tuesday Night Talk (TNT) by providing a nutritious home cooked meal (church pot luck style) OR, you can contract



First Baptist Church, Laurel, Mississippi, provided a recent Tuesday Night Talk (TNT) meal with their Student Pastor, Andrew Irwin, bringing a dynamic devotion to the SBC students.

with the SBC Lighthouse Café to provide the meal at minimal cost, while you provide a 15-minute devotional. This program is a huge success with an average of 35 attending each week. Contact our Fellowship of Christian Athletes Ambassador, Coach Lyon at 601-506-2880, to schedule your night of ministry. Thank you First Baptist Church family of Laurel and Temple Baptist Church family also of Laurel who recently supported this ministry.

SBC Choir

Now is the time to reserve dates for a performance at your church or other venue during the Spring Semester. Hurry, their schedule is filling up quickly. Contact Krista McKenzie at 601-426-6346.

Veterans Benefits

SBC possesses the Gold Award level as a military friendly college! Have you served in America's armed forces? Then you probably have Veterans Administration tuition benefits that you can use toward a free education right

Temple Baptist Church, Laurel, Mississippi, provided a Tuesday Night Talk (TNT) meal with Pastor Cliff Jenkins bringing an inspiring devotion to the SBC students.



here at SBC. I urge you to contact your local VA representative for an evaluation of your benefits. You earned them! SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

SBC Foundation

The Southeastern Baptist College Foundation is a fantastic way to support your college well into the future. Interest from the Foundation helps sustain the financial needs of the college. We currently have \$750,000 in the Foundation. Our goal is to grow this amount to one million dollars. If you are interested in transferring assets or including the SBC Foundation in your will planning, contact Dr. Carson for more information on how to invest in the present and future sustainability of SBC.

National Day of Prayer Breakfast

For the fourth year since its inception, the annual National Day of Prayer Breakfast will be held in the SBC gym. This year's FREE event will begin at 7:30 a.m. Leander Bridges, an SBC alumnus and Pastor of Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church of Ellisville, MS will be this year's guest speaker. There will be more information on this great event soon.

SBC Sports Gear

SBC Charger sports clothing and gear are available online and get 20% off when ordering more than \$80. Go to this website: <http://athletics.southeasternbaptist.edu/shop-southeastern-baptist-chargers>

Preach It!

Thank you for the many churches providing Dr. Carson an opportunity to preach the Word of God to your congregations! Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit for preaching or to make a presentation about the work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. You can reach him at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu.

Overcharged Hearts

by Bro. Grover Laird
from The Revivalist

"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." (Luke 21:34)

As Jesus preached a sermon on the end-time, He gave a solemn warning to His followers. Our text is that warning.

Jesus saw that in the last days God's people would be hindered in their faithfulness to Him because of overcharged, or overloaded hearts. Jesus mentioned three things that would cause this.

1. Surfeiting. Jesus could see that the "Super abundance" of all things would overload the heart of His people and would evil affect their devotion to Him. However, this can be overcome if we will set our affection upon things above. (Colossians 3:1,2) and "ABOUND" in our giving to "every good work." (I Corinthians 9:8)

2. Drunkenness. Jesus could see that people would be pleasure-mad in the last days. We see this again in Paul's writings on the end-time. He wrote that men would be "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." (II Timothy 3:4) When Christians lose the joy of their salvation, they often turn to the world for sinful pleasures. This should not be done. When it is done, a person finds that the pleasures of the world overloads their heart and hinders their prayer life, Bible reading, church attendance, and their watching for Jesus.

3. Cares of this life. The third thing that will overcharge a person's heart is largely caused by the first two. But this problem can be handled. First, the Bible tells us not to be overly disturbed about anything. (Philippians 4:6) However if we are, the Lord has offered His help. He has invited us to cast our cares upon Him--"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

Jesus may soon come. May we therefore not permit anything to overcharge our hearts. We need to be found faithfully serving and faithfully watching when He returns.



Linda Carson, spouse of President Carson, appears again on a recent episode of HGTV's Hometown.



Representing SBC on the court in 1973: Kim Breland, Mike Free, Ken Lovell, Mark Sumrall, C. J. Saucier, Frank Baggett, Jimmy Warren, Dale Watts (Not pictured: Gary Merritt, Keith Nelson, Howard Herbert, Mike Fayard, Wally Page, and Mike Watts)



Anderle Foster, Dean of Student Affairs, poses with student athletes after a TNT session.

CHURCH NEWS

Lebanon to Host Gospel Sing

The Magnolia Boys Quartet will be at Lebanon Baptist Church on March 21, 2020 starting at 7:00 pm. Fox Fire will be there also. The church is located on 460 Lebanon Road, Laurel, MS 39443.

Revival Set

Good Hope Baptist Church of Stringer, Mississippi, will hold revival services May 1-3. Friday & Saturday services will be at 7:00 pm with our Sunday Service at 10:00 am. Our evangelist will be Dr. John David Smith, Director of Missions for the BMA of America. We will have special music by Foxfire on Saturday evening.

Divine Grace Church licenses youth worker

On January 26th the body of Divine Grace Baptist Church had the honor and privilege of licensing Bro. Hayden Parkinson to the work of the



Gospel ministry. Bro. Hayden came to us from Campground Baptist Church where he faithfully served them working with the youth. Bro. Hayden, through much prayer and consideration, answered the call to work with our youth. It was a joy for us to be able to license him in this work.

Please pray for him as God grows him in this ministry. I have had the chance over the last three years to work with him at summer camps and to watch him work with the youth. He has a great passion for disciplining youth to grow in God's Word and to find a place in service. His moto is "we are a Gospel believing church, that strives to equip our youth with knowledge and wisdom from the scriptures". We are blessed and excited to see how God will use him with our growing youth at Divine Grace Baptist Church.



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Lindsey

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

From Abandoned to Assured - Part 4 from Ezekiel 16

Disobedience, rebellion, or infidelity can feel good in the moment. If it didn't, sin would not have any power of temptation. We see our sin on full display in verses fifteen through thirty four. As we turn to this next lengthy section God assures us that our behavior is not swept under the rug. God is both gracious and just. He can for-

give and forget as far as the east is from the west, but that does not erase the scars of the sins we've seen or the sins we've committed. We are still awaiting the day He will wipe away all tears.

Until the day of glorification comes we are stuck in the consequences of sin. To summarize verses thirty five through fifty nine, "Wherefore, O harlot, hear the word of the Lord: Thus saith

the Lord God; Because thy filthiness was poured out...I will even deal with thee as thou hast done, which hast despised the oath in breaking the covenant." God wants the recipients of His redemption to know His good graces do not come to be flaunted just as anyone pleases. He draws a direct parallel between the Jerusalem and neighboring cities that had bore His judgment, and draws a picture of the repeated sins from parent to child. I'm not sure where I heard this old proverb first, but I think it aptly applies, "What parents do in moderation their children do in excess." The sins of Jerusalem in that day are pictured to be worse than Sodom. They were mimicking behavior patterns of ungodly people. The difference in their offence was that they were the people of God; they knew better. They had first-

hand knowledge of the Almighty.

The young people in need of our love and care are broken by the sin of their family or their own sin. When they come to us they gain first-hand knowledge of the Redeemer. Knowledge of the Redeemer and even faith in Him does not remove the consequences of the past. Everyone must deal with their own sin nature and the overarching sin nature in humanity, but these kids will have to deal with much more. They will try to wade through the abandonment of their earthly families and the rebellion and infidelity that often breeds. They need our love, our support, and our prayers. Especially when they will face the consequences of those sins. Just as judgment came upon Israel it will come upon us all. It may come in wrath to those who

disbelieve or it may come as discipline for the adopted children of the Lord. We can be certain, "I [The Lord] will even deal with thee as thou hast done."

Prayer Request

We are seeing fruits for our labor. We have a new case that is pending, please be in prayer with us over this new child.

Garden Help Needed

If you would like to help us with fruits of a different kind of labor, we could use garden supplies. I apologize for not getting this out in an earlier issue, but we could use donations of lime, fertilizer, seeds, and plants for this year's garden. We appreciate your help with these supplies. Again, if you would like us to come to your church to present the work please give us a call.

2020 South Senior Adult Conference Moments



A good crowd was present for the 2020 South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference at Big Creek Baptist Church. Missions Director Larry Geraldson brought the morning message. There were prizes, singing, worship, fellowship, and fried fish for the noon meal.

A number of folks were recognized for their faithful service in a number of areas. As usual, it was a great day! As always, the membership of Big Creek Church did an outstanding job of hosting the Senior Adult Conference.

Many of the members prepare and work countless hours making the South Conference attendees feel welcome.



Photo on Left - Bro. Sidney Davis, former director of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home and pastor of Woodlawn Church in Pascagoula, was presented a plaque in recognition of 50 years in the ministry.



Senior Adult Commission Director Kenneth Flynt (right) presented a plaque to Bro. Earl Smith of Pica-yune for his years of service and loyalty for being an integral part of the music ministry of the Senior Adult Conferences



State Missions Director Larry Geraldson brought the message.

Water For Christ from page 1

Water For Christ Schedule

- Africa Spring Trip - March/April
- BMA National Meeting - April 27-29 (meet Moses)
- Soar Youth Conference - July 1-3
- Hot Dogs and Hot Rods Car Show Fund-raiser - September 12
- Fall Africa Trip - Oct/Nov
- Art for Water Gala - Oct 20
- Senior Adult Conference - Nov 16-18

Girls Retreat

March 20-21, 2020

Camp Garaywa

Clinton, Mississippi

"Lei Your Burdens Down"



State Galilean Camp Information

March 20-21, 2020

BONDS THAT LAST

Proverbs 13:20, Proverbs 17:17.

Submission Policies

Your Mississippi Baptist is the voice of the BMA of Mississippi, her churches, and her ministries. We are pleased to publish reports from all related entities, including the world-wide ministries of the BMA of America. We do not publish news or notices of secular or outside groups.

Article submissions should be sent by email to editor@msbaptist.org or in typed format by mail to P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441.

Photos should be emailed in jpg format. Photos lose resolution when printed on newsprint, therefore the original quality is vital. Photos should be well lighted, in focus, clear and sharp. Photos should contain people if at all possible. There is no guarantee that all articles and/or photos will be published. Unsolicited items will be given consideration, but publication is not guaranteed. Date sensitive articles will take priority.

We publish on the 1st and 15th of each month with the exception of December. Articles announcing events should be in the issue that is published at least 2 weeks prior.



Written by:

-Bro. Jake Vandenberg
Pastor, Walnut Road Baptist
Spring Hill, LA

-Dr. Greg Parsons
Professor, BMA Seminary



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"I've been teaching Sunday School 40 years. It is the best material I've ever used."
-Sunday School Teacher, Louisiana

"I've seen my Sunday school teacher grow in his ability to teach the Bible by using this material."
-Sunday School Student, Texas

"Our church loves the Baptist Expositor. They think it is the best curriculum ever."
-Pastor, Mississippi

Scripture Thoughts by Cleaver

Acts 14:19-20 "And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead. Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe."

Now this is the kind of people I want around me! This is the kind of people who gather around in a time of distress and good comes of it. Here Paul had rocks thrown at him until he fell. The rock-throwers calculated he was dead. After all, they had much experience with this process, enough to know when a person was dead. Yet it was the disciples who gathered around him, probably to pray and to try to revive him. The verses tell us Paul got up and continued his missionary work. Yes, I want these kinds of people around me not only when I am in crisis but also in the normal routine of everyday life.



Tony Cleaver

Good Reader, surround yourself with people who are Christian. It will be amazing what the difference is in your life, especially when the rocks start flying your way.

Dr. Tony Cleaver is a retired U.S. Army Chaplain and Director of Distance Learning for BMA Seminary. You may contact him at jstmcleaver@embarqmail.com

**SENIOR
ADULTS
MINISTRY**

Revival Fires

2020 Senior
Conference Schedule

North Conference

Tuesday, May 12th
9:30 AM

Mt. Pleasant Baptist
Church
Fulton., Mississippi

**Baptist Missionary
Association of Mississippi**
www.bmaofmississippi.com

DEPARTMENTS & COMMISSIONS

Mississippi Baptist Paper
P.O. Box 8181
Laurel, MS 39441
601-426-3293

Southeastern Baptist College
4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-426-6346

State Youth Department
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
662-397-6832

Baptist Children's Home
118 Lowe Rd.
Laurel, MS 39443
601-426-3928

**Missions & Revolving
Loan Fund**
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-428-8616

Commission on Senior Adults
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-729-2613

**History & Archives
Commission**
4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-729-8098

Moral Action
P.O. Box 88
Mantachie, MS 38855
662-282-7425

History & Archives Commission

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440

The Battle for Baptist History

From my personal observation, it would appear that some Baptists entertain the notion, that the belief held tenaciously by Missionary Baptists that the people and churches called Baptist are of ancient origin, as opposed to being a product of the Protestant Reformation, is of little or no consequence. Does a proper or improper answer to this question have any bearing upon doctrine? Is the origin of the people and churches called Baptist an issue of real consequence? Is this an issue that the average Baptist church member need to concern himself with? Your Director submits an affirmative and emphatic yes to all of the above questions.

However, there may be those who answer in the negative; that these questions and their subsequent answers are of no real consequence. I do not submit to anyone that any of these issues are of greater importance than the Gospel message itself! The Good News of Jesus Christ being preached in purity and with power is of paramount importance. However, are we to assume that Great Gospel message can be preached in purity and power while churches lie dormant, defiled, defaced and defeated? If the reader doubts that the Gospel can be preserved sovereignly and yet not be presented powerfully, I simply recommend Paul's words, "For Christ sent me . . . to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect, . . . And my speech and my preaching was not

with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power" (1st Cor. 1:17; 2:4).

If the people called Baptist and Baptist churches are a product of the Protestant Reformation, then we are a product of apostasy itself. Surely there is a consensus among us that Catholicism, with her relics, indulgences, sacraments, baptismal salvation, Papal infallibility, etc., is the epitome of apostasy. It is a recorded fact, that early in the history of Presbyterianism in America, they could not, or would not come to a decision concerning a question regarding the validity of Roman "Baptisms." If they answered in the positive, then they denied the necessity of their own existence. If they decided in the negative, then they nullified their own ordinances and declared their own selves as unbaptized, as they are but one of the several daughters of Rome. To remain neutral to the question only meant they could not answer either positively or negatively without endangering their own separate existence as a denomination. Thus, they were in a real Trilemma. J. R. Graves wrote concerning this in his book, *The Trilemma*.

While it is not my purpose to diminish any positive contribution of any Reformer, Baptists are not Protestant and did not receive the Gospel or the ordinances from Ca-

tholicism. There are Baptists today who attribute to Luther, the "recovering" of the scriptural truth that salvation could be reached by grace through faith alone. And yet, this was no novel idea. This was not some lost truth. This great doctrinal truth was kept through the centuries, preserved in symbol in the ordinances, and preached by the persecuted churches of Christ. And while Catholicism greatly contributed to this truth being hid from many of her own people, can anyone hardly believe that Christ ultimately let this greatest of all truths vanish until Luther made his "discovery?"

To believe that a proper or improper answer to the origin of Baptists has little or no consequence upon doctrine, is to deny the honor due to those great heroes of the faith who were martyred for the truth. To assume that the origin of the people called Baptist is an issue of no real consequence is to be blind to the evidence presently before us all. To assert that the origin of Baptists is an issue that the average church member need not concern himself with will most certainly rob many of a great heritage that is theirs. And to believe that the Great Gospel message concerning Christ, His promise to save all that call upon Him, can be preached in purity and with power while at the same time assuming that the same Saviour's promise to preserve his churches, which are the depository of the Great Gospel, was thwarted somehow by an enemy so unworthy as Satan, requires more than the wisdom of Solomon to understand.

I have made several claims and assertions in this article without providing outside sources which may be summarized as follows. 1)

Baptists are of ancient origin, not springing from the Reformation, 2) Baptists did not receive their ordinances from Rome, but positively from Christ Himself, and 3) as sure as Christ preserved His people through the centuries, the vital truths of the Great Gospel was preserved as well without the intervention of Luther, Calvin, Wesley or any other Protestant Reformer. However, I do not feel the need to exhaust space and the readers' time in order to substantiate what has been commonly believed among us, and that which is enshrined in our own doctrinal statement.

John 3:16, "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." We do not "earnestly contend for the faith" for fear of its ultimate failure or its being vanquished from the face of this earth. That is the business of The Sovereign God of the Bible. We earnestly contend as a matter of love for God, obedience to God's just demands, for fear of coming judgment and because we should desire to hear, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant!" The question then is not has God preserved His Word and the great truths contained therein; the question is not will God continue to do the same. The only question is whether or not will we, as His servants, be counted among the faithful who did "earnestly contend for the faith?" Are we, like so many who are now in glory, "earnestly contending?" Or, "will we sell our Baptist heritage for a mess of Protestant pottage?" (I. K. Cross, *THE BATTLE FOR BAPTIST HISTORY*, pg. 26).



Jason Howard
Director