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BMA of Mississippi Missions Department *Special Emphasis*

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Bro. Corbey Jones Responds To Supporters

To all of our sister churches and countless Christian brothers and sisters, let me speak for my family and myself in thanking you for your prayers, cards, texts, Facebook posts, gifts, and financial help during my recent illness. I could not possibly name everyone who has reached out to us in love, but I want to especially thank Brother Don Brown and my fellow Mississippi Baptist trustees for spearheading a fund-raiser to help in the funeral expenses for my son Andrew, who went to be with the Lord in January while I was still in a medically induced coma.



Bro. Corbey Jones (seated center) and his wife Cindy with son Carey, daughter Cera Thompson, daughter and son-in-law Bethany & Patrick Hinton, and 4 grandchildren. Bro. Corbey preached his first message in several months at Good Hope Baptist Church, Stringer.

Thank you Brother Brown and trustees and to all who gave to our need. Your expressions of love surpass any expression of gratitude I can deliver. I pray God's blessings on you all for them. Please keep me in your prayers as I continue to recover.

Brother Corbey Jones, Pastor

Good Hope Baptist Church, Stringer, Mississippi

Editor's Note - Bro. Jones is chairman of the Publications Department Board of Trustees and was recently chosen as Assistant Editor of the Mississippi Baptist Paper.

Anyone wishing to help the Jones family may send funds to the Mississippi Baptist, P.O. Box 8181, Laue, MS 39441. Be sure to make checks payable to Corbey Jones.

"The Secular War"

"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, So walk ye in him, Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Colossians 2:6-8

Wikipedia describes Secular humanism as a philosophy or life stance that embraces human reason, secular ethics, and philosophical naturalism while specifically rejecting religious dogma, supernaturalism, and superstition as the basis of morality and decision making.

Secular humanism states

that human beings are capable of being ethical and moral without religion or belief in a deity. It does not, however, assume that humans are either inherently good or evil, nor does it present humans as being superior to nature.

Humanists International is the world union of more than one hundred humanists, irreligious, and atheist organizations in more than 40 countries. The "Happy Human" is recognized as the official symbol of humanism internationally, used by secular number between four and five



Dr. Adams

MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Director
P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS
38855 - 662-231-3863

On The Web at
www.macbma.net/

Email - fbcjdmaj@yahoo.com

million people worldwide, according to Wikipedia.

Ethical movement

Another important precursor was the ethical movement of the 19th century. The South Place Ethical Society was founded in 1793 as the South Place Chapel on Finsbury Square, on the edge of the City

continued on page 3

Teaching Your Kids To Read The Bible

by Bret Eckelberry
from Focus on the Family

Here's an easy way to teach your kids to dive into God's Word: show them how to R.E.A.D. the Bible!

As Christian parents, we want to introduce our kids to Jesus and see them grow in their relationship with God. One of the best ways to do that is to encourage them to read the Bible regularly. But it's more than just having your kids read the Bible — it's teaching them how, and where to start reading.

Why Should You Teach Your Kids How To Read the Bible?

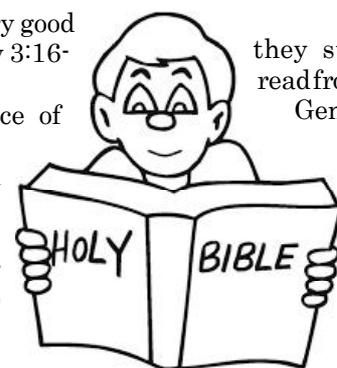
We're told that "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete,

equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The importance of reading God's Word is clear, and it's certainly a habit worth passing down to our kids. So, how do we do that? Well, it's a bit more nuanced than simply telling your child to read the Bible.

Helping Your Kids Get Started

The Bible is a big book — a rich text conveying God's message of hope for the world through various historical contexts and literary styles. For your child, deciding how to read the Bible raises plenty of its own questions. Where should



they start? Should they read from beginning to end, Genesis to Revelation?

Should they only read the New Testament? It can be more than a little intimidating to jump into, even for an adult.

Fortunately, they have you to help them!

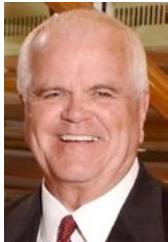
You can equip your kids not only to read God's Word, but to process it and make it a part of their lives. And you don't have to be a Bible scholar to do it!

Here's an easy way to teach your kids to dive into God's Word: show them how to R.E.A.D. the Bible!

continued on page 5

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

A Delayed Issue

Life is good and life as a child of God is Great! Sometimes life surprises us with the unexpected. I experienced such a life surprise recently. I was doing some woodwork for my grandson's wife (granddaughter for sure) recently when my nose started profusely bleeding. I don't mean a little drop, I mean a fountain that quickly seemed to turn into a river. I did take time to shower and change clothes before heading to the emergency room.

What I thought would be an easy fix turned into a 2 day ordeal. The ER personnel were unable to stop the bleeding. They tried several painful procedures that I will not go into. After I turned down one potential solution they called in an ENT doctor (ear, nose, throat). He did what he hoped would end the flow, but alas, that did not work. At his instruction the nurse called him about 1:00 am Saturday morning and long story short, I was wheeled into surgery about 2:00 am.

I have never had a nose bleed (unless we count the baseball that jumped over my glove and landed squarely on my nose in elementary school). I spent two nights in the hospital and am currently under house arrest (doctor's order to stay inside and do nothing for 3 days). This of course happened at the very time the Mississippi Baptist was due for publication. Well, there is no one to do this work but yours truly.

As you will read on page one, Bro. Corbey Jones, who is a trustee and officially Assistant Editor, has not had the time to learn our procedures. In the future it will be his job to have the ability to step in and 'get the paper out'. Pray for Bro. Corbey as he recuperates from his battle with Covid and as he begins to walk along side of this editor to assist in times of need.

We appreciate you all for understanding the circumstances...

A Dear Sweet Lady has left us

Below you will read about the recent death of Mrs. Ester Laird. She was a dear sweet lady and a loyal wife, mother, and servant. God blessed us to know her. Pray for her family as their parents are now together in God's presence.

Mrs. Grover (Ester) Laird passes away

Ester Mae Farmer Laird, 93, passed away Wednesday, March 3, 2021, at her home in Dorsey. She was born May 25, 1927 to the late Charlie Farmer and the late Cordelia White Farmer. She was a member of East Fulton Baptist Church. She was the supportive minister's wife for 74 years along side her husband, Grover. She sewed for all of her children and always kept a neat and tidy home. She enjoyed cooking not only for her family, but for church functions as well. Ester's girls and husband were her top priority.

Services were held Saturday March 6, 2021 at East Fulton Baptist Church with Dewitt Bain, Roger Laird, and Kevin Clayton officiating.

Survivors include her daughters: Fran Wolski (Tommy) Thomas of Counce, Tennessee; Evelyn Dyer of Crandall, Texas; Margaret Sheffield (John) Butler of Fulton, Mississippi; Nancy (Tommy) Edwards of Petal, Mississippi; granddaughters Tammy (Tom) Coltharp, Ashley (Billy) Barnett, Lisa (Eric) Darracott, grandsons: Larry Moore, Garrett Dyer, Bruce (Lesley) Sheffield, Dustin Harris, Brady (Heather) Edwards; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Preceded in death by her parents, husband Grover Laird, grandson Thomas Moore, son-in-law Dan Wolski, son-in-law Tony Dyer, brother Colbert Farmer, sisters Katie Farmer, Elmira Cooper, Roslie Bass, and Mavis Broome.



Bro. Grover & Mrs. Ester Laird

THE TEACHER'S CORNER

HELP FOR THE CHURCH'S CLASSROOM

Let Them Do it for Themselves

by Dr. Philip Attebery, Academic Dean
BMA Seminary, Jacksonville, Texas

One of my favorite resources on the topic of Christian education is the book *Teaching to Change Lives: Seven Proven Ways to Make Your Teaching Come Alive* by Howard Hendricks. A particularly favorite point for me encourages teachers to "tell the learner nothing—and do nothing for him—that he can learn or do for himself" (p. 18).

I have tried to use this principle when teaching. For example, I once taught a Sunday school class when the lesson focused upon the doctrine of sin. Although our Sunday school book directed us to a lesson text,

I asked the learners to find some passages on the topic of sin. One 40-year-old man asked, with great expression, "How are we supposed to do that?"

I referred him to the concordance in the back of his Bible. He then said, with amazement, "You know, I have always wondered what that [the concordance] was there for!"

Not only did he learn about sin that morning, but also about how to use his Bible to find other verses when a teacher is not around. That excites me!

If you were to teach a lesson soon, what is something you could "let them do for themselves?"



Philip Attebery

Back to Live Event SOAR 2021

We are excited to announce that SOAR 2021 will be a live, in-person conference on July 6-8 in Dallas, Texas! This year's conference will take place at the Hilton Anatole Hotel near downtown Dallas. Expect to see some familiar faces like Aaron Williams as one of our speakers and Soar Collective leading worship. SOAR21 will also have two concerts featuring Building 429 and Flame. We are anticipating a great response, so be sure to register your group now at soarconference.com.

We are aware of the potential hesitancy some may have traveling with a group to Dallas. As we plan for a great event, safety for our churches and for all participants at SOAR is a top priority. We are working with the hotel to ensure not only a safe, but great experience for all those who come to SOAR21.

SOAR21 will be all about worship. Our theme is Pause because of the need we see in current culture to call teenagers to pause and consider the holiness of God, why He deserves to be worshiped in a biblical

way, and how our biblical worship of a Holy God should make a kingdom impact in our daily lives. We believe right worship must be biblical worship. After calling upon people to consider



the mighty works of God, the Psalmist makes a significant statement in Psalm 46:10 (ESV), "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" Our intention at SOAR21 is to be still and thoughtfully consider the greatness of God. Our hope is that teenagers will know that He alone is God and commit to making Him known to all nations.

Words cannot express how thankful we are for the support received from our BMA churches last summer with our online conference. The decision to move forward in that format was far from easy, but your participation proved to be an incredible source of encouragement for all those who worked tirelessly to create an event that honored our Lord and served the teenag-

ers of the BMA.

As we gather together in Dallas, we are confident SOAR21 will be one to remember! The vision that drives us year after year is to lead teenagers to learn the Word, love the church and live sold out, radical lives for King Jesus. Our commitment to you is to honor Jesus in all we do. "Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ" (Col. 1:28).

Gulfport Church Seeks Pastor

Campground Baptist Church, Gulfport, is seeking a qualified pastor. Our congregation has a desire to serve with and follow a Shepherd led by God. If you feel God is calling you to serve at Campground please send a resume to southernirrigation@att.net and the pastor search committee will prayerfully reach out to you in confidence.

Our goal at Campground is to serve God and follow his will. We pray for God's blessings on you.

Respectfully,
CBC committee.

Mississippi Baptist

Don J. Brown, Editor

E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org

Web site www.msbaptist.org

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MINISTERING TO YOUNG PEOPLE

by Anders Lee

This month I've asked a High School Teacher, Baseball & Swim Coach, Bro. Houston Butler, to write the monthly article for the youth section of the paper. Houston is on staff at Lake Cormorant High School. God brought them to Central Church, where I pastor, last year. What a blessing they have been to us! He currently is working on his Master's Degree. Here is his submission! Thank you Houston for all you do for the youth of Desoto County! - Anders Lee



Anders Lee

into careers. As a teacher, the last semester of my education I had to do student teaching, which is working under a more experienced teacher. Medical students have to endure months to years of clinical hours and residencies in their field of study. New police officers are partnered with an FTO (field training officer), which assists the rookie with how things are to be done, from paperwork to traffic stops and everything in between. As Christians we know that no matter what we do as a profession we need to mentor people as believers and let the

hand-selected 12 men in who he would invest himself spiritually, emotionally, physically, and intellectually. Throughout Christ's ministry, He taught and witnessed to a plethora of different individuals; however, at the end of the day, he poured directly into the lives of those 12 men (Mark 4:34, "He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything"). Even further, within those 12, Jesus had an inner circle of 3—Peter, James, and John in whom He more intimately invested. Through the

and Timothy. Timothy was a young disciple—Acts 16:1-3; Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. Eventually he became the pastor at the Church at Ephesus. Paul who had years of experience in ministry and Jewish training took Timothy under his wing and trained and mentored him.

Dr. Tim Elmore presents three questions in his book *Life Giving Mentors*. Who are life-giving mentors? Why is mentoring necessary? Who should be my target?

Who are life-giving mentors?

These questions are vital in the process of mentoring. We have to answer each question and self-evaluate through those answers to ensure that we are mentoring correctly. The answer to the first question is one that

continued on page 5

Mentoring the Next Generation

by Houston Butler
Member of Central Church, Southaven

No matter what career or profession an individual enters, mentoring is a necessary aspect of the entrance process. Mentoring goes back as far as history itself. The very first man, Adam, was mentored by God himself. Genesis 2:15-17 shows the mentoring between God and Adam, "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." God had a greater under-

standing of what was at stake and more knowledge of the situation than Adam, which is why God told him that he could not eat of the tree. It wasn't a "because I said so" commandment, but God knew the repercussions of the actions if Adam did eat of the fruit. We can take a few lessons from God on impacting the youth of our day!

We continue through the course of history and we see a development of apprentices. A person who has experience in a field of work is essentially mentoring apprentices into a specific type of craft. We still have the same type of mentoring as younger individuals enter



Houston Butler

Is mentoring really necessary? First and foremost, we have seen that mentoring is a biblical truth and principle.

bible lead us in all we do! Especially when it comes to impacting youth in our day! We need to remember that our vocation is our ministry location!

We also see mentoring in the Bible on two different occasions. The first major occasion is with Jesus and his disciples. Jesus

12 disciples, we can also notice that mentoring is not 100 percent successful. Judas was one of the disciples and ultimately turned away and betrayed the relationship that Christ had invested in him.

The second occasion we see is the relationship between Paul

"The Secular War" from page 1

of London, and in the early nineteenth century was known as "a radical gathering place". At that point it was a Unitarian chapel, and that movement, like Quakers, supported female equality. Under the leadership of Reverend William Johnson Fox, it lent its pulpit to activists such as Anna Wheeler, one of the first women to campaign for feminism at public meetings in England, who spoke in 1829 on "rights of women". In later decades, the chapel changed its name to the South Place Ethical Society, now the Conway Hall Ethical Society. Today Conway Hall explicitly identifies itself as a humanist organization, albeit one primarily focused on concerts, events, and the maintenance of its humanist library and archives. It bills itself as "The landmark of London's independent intellectual, political and cultural life."

In America, the ethical movement was led by Felix Adler, who established the New York Society for Ethical Culture in 1877. By 1886, similar societies had sprouted up in Philadelphia, Chicago and St. Louis.

These societies all adopted the same statement of principles:

The belief that morality is independent of theology;

The affirmation that new moral problems have arisen in modern industrial society which have not been adequately

dealt with by the world's religions;

The agreement that educating the young is the most important aim.

The first ethical society along these lines in Britain was founded in 1886. By 1896 the four London societies formed the Union of Ethical Societies, and between 1905 and 1910 there were over fifty societies in Great Britain, seventeen of which were affiliated with the Union. The Union of Ethical Societies would later incorporate as the Ethical Union, a registered charity, in 1928. Under the leadership of Harold Blackham, it renamed itself the British Humanist Association in 1967. It became Humanist UK in 2017.

Secular humanism

Author Steve Hall states: "We live in a day when there is a great war going on in the society in which we live. There are many battlefronts and aspects to the war, but the primary war in our day is between Christianity and secular humanism." Secular humanism is a religion and a philosophy of life which views man as the supreme being of the universe. It rejects the existence of God and the supernatural. It sees moral values as relative and changing and varying from person to person.

Humanism has drastically affected the basic morality of the United States.

It is a subtle philosophy and is often undetected by those not aware of it. Humanism is not new. It is that old struggle of man's will against God's will. A humanist believes in himself rather than God and is more concerned about self-preservation than about the needs of others.

Humanism affects children and teens in many ways and we need to be aware of these dangers.

- Disrespect for Authority – Children and teens are taught that whatever you choose will be right for you because you choose it. This of course leads to situational ethics which is contrary to God's Word.

- Decline in Discipline – Since children and teens are taught that they are their own authority, they want to do their own thing. They ignore the leadership of police, parents, teachers and others in authority over them.

- Decline in Academics – When discipline deteriorates, learning also deteriorates. Teachers are not able to teach if they do not have the attention of the children.

- Self-centeredness – The basis of humanism is the idea of man being supreme over God. Children are taught to put themselves first which is indirect opposition to Philippians 2:4.

- Total Academic Freedom – Humanists believe that children have the right to read anything they want except the Bible. They believe it is immoral to indoctrinate children with the beliefs of

the Bible.

- Total Sexual Freedom – Humanists want to "liberate" our children from sexual inhibitions. Their sex education programs are nothing more than academic pornography.

To combat this humanistic philosophy, children and teens need to be trained from the Bible in church, in school, and in the home.

How do Christians and Secular Humanist differ?

- On God, humanists usually do not believe that God even exists. Humanists believe mankind is the highest entity.

- On God, Christians believe that God is the highest Entity. He is perfect in wisdom, power, might, and love. He created us. He is to be worshiped.

- On Jesus Christ, humanists believe that if Jesus existed at all, he was a mere man. He may have been an interesting teacher, but when he died, he stayed dead like any other man.

- On Jesus Christ, Christians believe that Jesus Christ is God, come in the flesh. He was born of the Virgin Mary. He lived a perfect, sinless life. He died on the cross to pay for our sins. He rose from the dead to prove He had conquered sin, death, and hell. He lives forevermore.

On and on the comparison goes before our planet. So Paul, the apostle, stated that as we have received Christ, beware of vain deceit.... Colossians 2:6-8.

Southeastern Baptist College

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

Serving Christ With A Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

President's Perspective

"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Luke 9:23

I was recently in deep discussion with a person about my purpose for being at Southeastern Baptist College. He has asked this question several times since my assuming the presidency of SBC. His question was direct, "Why, when I could be 100% retired and doing all the things I could not do while in the Army, was I involved with a small and financially struggling college in south Mississippi that is often rife with high stress situations?"

How does one answer that question for a person who doesn't fully grasp the concept of a calling from God, that I desire to be fully surrendered to the Lord and therefore, must do what He asks? When answering his questions of perplexity in prior dis-

cussions, there appeared to be a slight flicker of understanding, only to be quickly dismissed with the usual comment that it was beyond his comprehension.

His life has been the American dream, and I find nothing

am convinced that I am where God wants me to be at this time of my life and doing what God wants me to be doing for His purpose at SBC. I feel God was training me in the last ten years of my Army life as I earned a



Dr. Scott Carson
President

As I walked into my office, the very person I was thinking about called me. A coincidence, I think not!

wrong with it. He was a successful business man, retired early, traveled to every state and around the world, golfed, fished, and visited friends and family often. His expectation for my life, is that I should be doing the same, otherwise what is the point? Believe me, I have often reflected on doing just this and it is a definite temptation! But I

reputation for resetting broken or failed chaplain programs and making them respected and successful again. I confess that it was not easy and it was often exceedingly challenging, but the Lord always enabled me to see a pathway to accomplishing the mission.

A couple of days later after my in-depth discussion with this

person, and before I left for work in the early morning, I received an estimate via text message, for an essential project we must complete by the end of this summer in order to accommodate more students. Hearing the cost, my heart skipped a beat! It was much higher than anticipated. As I drove to campus, I prayed about the money needed and wondered where on earth we could find so much in such a short period of time. Suddenly, a name came to mind of someone I had not communicated with in some time and an account he managed for the college that had not recently been accessed. In the past few years the money from this source was helpful, but not a substantial amount. As I walked into my office, the very person I was thinking about called me. A coincidence, I think not! This person informed me that he had much more money ready to be transferred to SBC and it was exactly half of what we needed for the project! As soon as the call ended, I prayed about the other half of the monies needed and another person's name came to mind. I gave her a call, explained the project and she quickly stated she could easily

match the other half! Praise the Lord!

Now, going back to the person I referenced above and his question. While visiting him again, I told him of what had happened. I explained that this is what has consistently been happening over the last five years. We have a major need, we have no way to resource it, we pray, God answers, and His answer is a confirmation of not only my calling, but also a confirmation for all the staff and faculty supporting the college.

This person seemed to finally understand that a committed disciple of Christ, is fully surrendered to the Lord and His leading. Instead of sitting here and typing this, I could be fishing from a 23-foot, center console fishing boat off the coast of Mississippi, something I really miss, but I am dedicated to the future of the BMA of Mississippi's Southeastern Baptist College. The Lord's confirmation of my calling and His will for our school is evident, as He consistently and miraculously meets the requirements of SBC, each and every day.

Equipping the Saints!
Dr. Carson

Amazon Smile

Anyone shopping on 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 Smile! Thank you for those who are already using this unique method to benefit SBC. Be sure to choose Southeastern Baptist College and NOT the Southeastern Baptist College Foundation. Also, be careful which you choose because numerous organizations have "Southeastern" in their name.

Golf Cart Donated

Thank you Don and Delight Jefcoat for meeting our need for a campus golf cart! This will enable our security and maintenance personnel to quickly move around campus without having to use their personal vehicles. God bless you!

Time to Apply for Summer and Fall Semesters!

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. In the last 4 years we have been ranked number one out of hundreds of colleges and universities two times! 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. Contact the SBC Admissions Officer today! What on earth are you waiting for? 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 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.

National Christian College Athletic Association South Champions!

Not only has the SBC men's basketball team won the Bible College National Invitational Tournament, they



Chargers win the NCCAA South Regionals have also won the NCCAA South Championship and advanced to the National NCCAA Championship in Joplin, Missouri. We are proud of our players and coaches for their exemplary representation of SBC! Go Chargers!

Chargers Baseball

Come out and support the first year of Chargers baseball. They are playing on



Chargers Baseball Players in their freshly remodeled locker room at Wooten-Legion Field, Laurel

Wooten-Legion Field, 1215 West Drive in Laurel. Please double check before leaving for the field, the schedule often changes due to weather or Covid 19 issues. The season schedule is located near this announcement.

Need A Pulpit Filled?

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

Recent Chapel Speakers



Professor Shannon Slover, Assistant Pastor of First Baptist Church, Laurel, speaks in chapel



Alumnus Leander Bridges, Pastor of Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church of Ellisville, Mississippi, brings a challenging message to our students during the weekly chapel service.

Teaching Kids To Read The Bible

from page 1

How to R.E.A.D. the Bible

This simple acrostic is a perfect way to train your kids to not just read the words in the Bible, but to process, internalize, and put them into practice. It stands for Read, Engage, Apply, and Discuss.

Read

If your child is going to R.E.A.D. the Bible, they've got to read it first. Simple, right? In Matthew 4:4, Jesus says, "It is

written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" You feed your kids every day, so frame Bible reading in that context. You need food to be strong and healthy, so you eat every day. Your spirit needs that, too. But its food is the word of God found in the Bible.

Just like you have mealtimes each day, help your child schedule their own "spiritual mealtimes" to read Scripture. En-

courage them to be consistent! 15 minutes of Bible reading each day will often stick in their minds more than an hour once a week. We don't eat once a week! It's a daily process.

Make sure to avoid the "this is the way it's always been done" mind-set when it comes to reading God's Word. Your goal is to ignite a passion for the Bible in your child. Talk with them about the different things written in God's Word and see what piques their interest. Then, you can begin helping them build a cohesive reading plan that they can be consistent with. Creativity is key! But if you're still

looking for some suggestions on where to start, we've got some for you at the bottom of this article.

Engage

While reading the Bible consistently is nice, ideally, you'll want your child to really connect with God's Word. In Psalm 119:11, it says, "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." That's exactly what you're looking for! You want your child to internalize the words that God has given them.

To do this, start thinking about what interests your child.

Do they have an artistic bent? Encourage them to doodle pictures or create a "mind map" of what they are reading. Maybe they would like to act out the reading like a play or sing the words they read in a musical tune they enjoy. If you can tie in their Bible reading to something that God has given them a passion for, it will be much more effective and enjoyable to store up God's Word in their hearts!

Encourage your kids to identify words, phrases, or even themes they discover during

continued on page 6

Mentoring

from page 3

I feel has already been answered but will restate. Life-giving mentors are individuals who mentor and lead through relationships and focus on the development of the mentee. Both Jesus and Paul were life-giving mentors.

The Bible provides us with several passages regarding life-giving mentorship: Proverbs 22:6 (Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it), Proverbs 27:17 (Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another), and Ecclesiastes 10:10 (If the iron is blunt, and one does not sharpen the edge, he must use more strength, but wisdom helps one to succeed). In each of these passages, the underlying theme is teaching and training through relationships. Proverbs 22:6 shows when this training should start. Typically this verse is used within the context of parenthood, however, I feel like that is underplaying the importance of the verse in its entirety. Training

and mentoring don't have an age requirement. Proverbs 27:17 focuses on the direct relationship of two people sharpening each other and building each other up through both encouragement and reproof and correction. Although this process is not always fun, and sometimes is even painful, it is necessary for the growth of both individuals. The last verse, Ecclesiastes 10:10, confronts what happens if one is not trained properly from the beginning. If that individual has not been "sharpened" then more strength is required during the process. The verse ties directly into my favorite quote, which is by Frederick Douglass—"It is easier to build strong children than repair broken men". If we are building and training from the beginning it will be easier than trying to repair the broken men later.

Why is mentoring necessary?

The second question, in my opinion, is the most important. Is mentoring really necessary? First and foremost, we have seen

that mentoring is a biblical truth and principle. We can further see the importance of mentoring in 1 Corinthians 11:1, Titus 2:3-5, and Hebrews 13:7. The apostle Paul, who truly understood the importance of mentoring, writes



all of these verses. In 1 Corinthians 11:1, he writes to the church at Corinth, "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ", he understood that mentoring at its core was leading through example. Leading by example can also be seen in Titus 2:3-5 (Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be

reviled): Paul was clear that the older women were to be examples and mentors to the younger women. The last verse that Paul writes is to the Christian community as a whole in the book of Hebrews 13:7, "Remember your leaders,

those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith", for those to remember the example set for them through their faith and imitate that same type of faith.

Who should be my target?

The final question deserves both an individual answer and a blanket answer, which both can be the same. Who should be the target of our mentoring? The next generation should be our focus. Again, we can turn to scripture to answer this question. Psalms 145:4, provides us with the blanket answer to this question, "One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." Each generation should mentor and train the generation that comes after them.

Granted, a younger individual can train an older one, this is typically not the case. As we look back at the relationship between Paul and Timothy one last time in 2 Timothy 2:2—"And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also"—Paul was not just training Timothy in efforts to benefit Timothy, but also the next generation. Paul ever so subtly commands Timothy to take what he has heard and learned and train and teach others. What we are taught we must pass on to the next generation.

Lastly, David writes in Psalms 71:18, "So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come", a scripture that should be the prayer for each of us. That no matter how old we are or become that we should continue to proclaim Christ to the next generation. The more we can train and mentor, the more that can eventually be mentored leading to an exponential change in our culture and the youth of tomorrow.

Around The Southeastern Campus



Thank you Salem Heights Baptist Church of Laurel for your generosity for your luxurious bus and driver to the NCCAA Finals in Joplin, Missouri



Dr. Carson led the Chargers in a sendoff prayer to the NCCAA Finals



WDM interviews players after winning the NCCAA South Regional Championship. Pictured is Tarrance Davis of Waynesboro, Mississippi



Professor Olson leads the FBC of Sharon Men's Study in the Lighthouse Café



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Lindsey

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

Life is interesting

God's Word in Ecclesiastes can take us through the ebbs and flows of this life. There are good days, bad days, and mediocre days. You name it the Preacher covers it and he says if it is apart from God it is vanity. Ultimately he brings us to the conclusion that our everything is to fear God, and keep His commandments. Where I find my most fulfilling moments are when I feel like I am witnessing God's awesomeness and faithfulness prompting greater fear and obedience in myself.

God does not owe any of us

terrible and faithful works. He does not preform to earn or generate our applause. He does because of who He is. When believers see Him for who He is in what He is doing, then believers cannot help but to be moved to worship. I think of the joy the seventy had as they returned to Christ in Luke 10:17-20, "And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over

all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven."

We are not stepping on snakes or scorpions here at the Children's Home, but we are joyous seeing the power of God unfold. We have seen a boom of growth that keeps us abuzz with excitement, and as Jesus said in the text we are even more excited that, God not only moves and works in ministries here, He is still working in our eternal life.

I don't know that I sugarcoat too well. This is why I want you all to see the blessings in what we are calling someone to in this ministry. The past two plus years have been some of the hardest ministry I have ever been involved in and some of the most fulfilling. There are days that never seem to end and days you wish would never end. There

are moments that are heart-breaking and moments that bring tears of joy. Any time we feel like we are at the end of our rope it seems like we are just hitting another leap of faith that lands us in the providence of God. Some of you may be reading this and thinking, "what kind of roller coaster are they on?" My response is, "The Christian kind." What path following Christ is not filled with ups and downs? This is as normal as one can be in the faith.

Our invitation still stands. We need a couple to join us in our normal. We need people committed and resolved to this min-

istry. Christians don't say no to parenting because God is the Heavenly "Father." He doesn't throw us away and He doesn't shirk the responsibilities of His nature. It will be hard. It will be worth it.

From my experience it is that which has shown me the most of what God has always meant in His Word when He describes His fatherhood, and where I can so often fall short of that standard. Please pray for us. Please pray for a couple to join us. Please pray for God to show you if that couple might be you and your spouse. Thank you for all your support and prayers.

Position Available

Mississippi Baptist Children's Home seeking a couple to help with house, parenting, and maintenance duties. Please send resumes to info@msbch.org



Teaching Kids To Read The Bible

continued from page 5

their Bible reading time. They can keep a notebook of these highlights for further discussion (more on that below). Another helpful thing is connecting what your child reads with history. The Bible recounts real, historical things that happened—and it's beneficial for your kids to understand at least some of the historical context of what they are reading.

Apply

The Bible instructs us to "be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22). As Christians, we're called to live out the words we read in the Bible. As your child reads and engages with God's Word, you'll want to be sure to encourage them to apply it in their own life.

Encourage your child to think of ways they can be "doers of the Word" and then help them follow through on their ideas! For example, your child might set a goal to do something nice for a classmate because they read Mark 12:31 and want to love their neighbor. You can come alongside them to support them—which includes instructing them and providing guidance—as an advocate, instead of just telling them what to do.

It's also important that you communicate to your child that we can't be doers of the Word

without God's help. It is the Holy Spirit's power working in us that allows us to live our lives in a way that pleases God and apply what we read in the Bible. A perfect verse to pray over together and read as you discuss this is Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Discuss

Finally, encourage your child in their Scripture reading journey by discussing it. Allow them time to share what they have read and what they think about it. Being able to explain what they have been reading is a huge part of the retention process.

Make sure that your child feels comfortable sharing their thoughts, questions, and even doubts and concerns. Create a safe environment for discussion in your home. You won't know all the answers to the questions they may have, and that's okay. Be open and honest and willing to dig into God's Word together to talk through things.

Their conversations with you can go a long way to help them be comfortable in sharing their faith with others. 1 Peter 3:15b tells us, "in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness

and respect." By fostering an environment of discussion with your child, you are preparing them to share the Good News with those around them.

Where To Start Reading the Bible

If you are trying to decide where to start reading the Bible with your son or daughter, here are some suggestions:

Luke and Acts

A great place for your child to start reading is the Gospels. The story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is the foundation of life in Christ. Any Gospel account would be a wonderful place to start reading the Bible, but why not go from Luke straight to Acts together? Both books were written by Luke, and were

intended to be read together (Acts 1:1). You can read the words of Jesus and then follow it up with the early Church's history. It provides some great historical context and powerful examples of Christian faith.

Proverbs

Reading through Proverbs can be a good place for your child to start reading God's Word. The book contains timeless wisdom that your child can ponder and apply in their life.

Psalms

The Psalms contain some powerful Scriptures that touch on deep emotions. It could be the perfect thing to spur deeper conversations with your child, particularly as walk through the joys and challenges of life with

them.

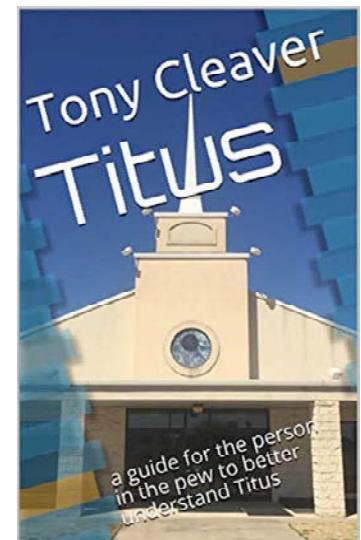
Together Is Best

As you have seen, the best way to encourage your child to read the Bible and live it out is to do it together. There is no better way to pass down this practice than to lead by example. When your child reads God's Word, it's an opportunity for them to draw closer to Jesus. And when you are there to support them, you'll draw closer together as well.

Teach your child how to read the Bible and choose a place to start reading, and join them on the journey. Hold each other accountable and be consistent. Talk about it often and look for ways to live out God's words together.

Tony Cleaver Releases New Book

From The Author - The person sitting in the church pew each Sunday sometimes hears sermons that might be difficult to understand due to a range of reasons. The purpose of this book is to assist the churchgoer to better understand Paul's letter to Titus. You might say this book is a guide to Titus in plain, simple language. There is no need for dictionaries or advanced theological degrees to use this book as a manual for understanding Paul's letter to Titus. Even though it was written many years ago, Titus contains many insights for daily Christian living as it relates to our 21st Century. Certainly it sets a high standard for both the person in the pew as well as the person in the pulpit. I hope you will find this book useful as you continue to serve Christ and His Church.



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



I'll Take It to the Grave

Am I the only one that enjoys old cemeteries? I'm not sure when I discovered that old cemeteries and tombstones fascinate me. It may have started when an old timer mentioned to me when I was a child that tombstones face east because that's the direction Jesus is coming back.

My husband had a different opinion about cemeteries, old or not: "Seen one? Seen them all." In Boston I saw some of the oldest graves ever; but at each entrance I have a picture of J. B. propped against the gate.

But my fascination has been with me for a long time. So join with me for another walk down memory lane and another chapter in my book. See if you'll enjoy some of the many cemeteries I've visited: Natchez to Boston to Yellowstone to Boot Hill to New Orleans and many others.

Ben Franklin said, "Show me your cemetery and I will tell you about your town." You'll learn a lot about the country by our cemeteries. The most interesting cemetery by far is the

Natchez City Cemetery. Filled with old roses, spirea, azaleas, camellias, holly, crape myrtles, and cedar trees, the cemetery is a fascinating walk through history.

They were one of the first to do tours by candlelight to acquaint people with some of the stories of the cemetery. If you enjoy history, you should reserve a spot on the Angels-on-the-Bluff tour when another one is scheduled this fall.

But just to give you a small view of the things that fascinate me about this cemetery, I would have to suggest you visit the tomb of Louise the Unfortunate. Many stories abound about her plight. Many said she was a prostitute who was jilted on arrival in Natchez. She wouldn't reveal her last name, but she was buried with a tombstone because a Presbyterian minister raised money from all the bars Under the Hill.

The sweetest story of faithfulness is also found there.



Carolyn Hagler

Frances Lawrence died in 1937; and until her husband died in 1960, he visited her grave every day with fresh flowers and prayed outside their lot before he entered. He would talk to her as he cared for the plants and often would sleep on the bench beside her grave. As a matter of fact, his tool box still rests under that bench, and he's buried in the same grave.

One of the saddest tombstones I've ever seen is in the Old Biloxi Cemetery. It simply reads, "Pray for Deborah A Sinner. Born April 2, 1932." I can't imagine what she did to be buried in such a sad way.

Probably the most beautiful cemetery is Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville, Kentucky. Called the city of the dead, Cave Hill is a wonderful arboretum. It has more than 500 varieties of trees and shrubs, many labeled with markers. Some of the tombstones you'll see are for a dog, a



parrot, a magician, and Colonel Harland Sanders (remember Kentucky Fried Chicken). But

most of all I remember the beautiful scenery, the massive mausoleums, and the life-like statues,

I've mentioned that many trips were taken with my family. I learned early that I had to convince them to visit old cemeteries. In fact, most of the time, they allowed only one visit to a cemetery per trip. I managed to find one even in Yellowstone. Surrounded by a fence, the tomb was near a popular picnic area with restroom facilities. I hiked over by myself because the two sisters weren't interested. I learned that Mattie Culver was 30 when she died of tuberculosis in 1889. When I got back with my pictures, I found the sisters giggling.

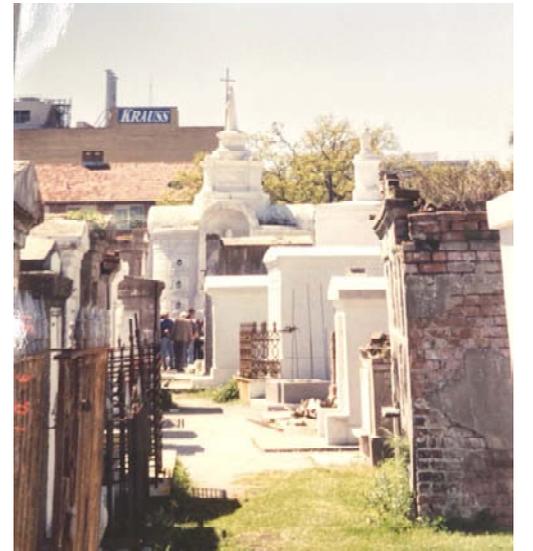
All I can say, if you're at any park with glass-block windows, don't stop. They learned more than they ever wanted to know about what can be seen through those windows/walls.

Another interesting grave was in Skagway, Alaska. The map showed the hike to the Gold Rush Cemetery and the "largest gold nugget in the world" as one mile. It didn't say a mile from the edge of town. I really wanted to go, so I promised my sister she could shop all the way back from the cemetery. I believe it was at least a three-mile hike that hot day. Outlaw Soapy Smith and town hero Frank Reid, who shot it out in '98, 1898 that is, are buried there. Hero or villain? It was difficult to tell. But my sister almost disowned me when I told her there was a waterfall farther down the path we needed to check out. The only thing that saved me was a photo opportunity with Rodney Griffith (Greater Vision) and his mother and Jason Waldroup (Greater Vision, too). On the shopping expedition on the way back, we got to see all our favorite singers shopping too. Remind me and I'll tell you about my rocks sometime.

Other than family I've managed to snare some friends to help me indulge in my search for cemeteries. An unnamed friend and his family (you might know him because he's my pastor) went with me to New Orleans. Now you know that the tombstones there are above the

ground, so it really seems like a city of the dead. But the most interesting one we saw was Marie Laveau, the legendary voodoo queen of New Orleans. You would be amazed at the gifts left at her grave.

But then again if you're in Meridian, you can visit the grave



of the gypsy king and queen in Rose Hill Cemetery and see things left by the gypsies who visit there. I convinced another friend to visit Meridian with me to Rose Hill. For those who aren't interested in gypsies, you will also find Charles Read, a naval hero of the Confederacy, buried there. Did you know that the Confederacy had a navy?

Another cemetery that was the most difficult to find was the Bond-Harviston Cemetery. If you've traveled 49 South, you should have seen the sign for the Bond-Harviston Historical Cemetery near Wiggins. I had tried to find it many times, but finally had to ask a post office clerk how to find it. What we found was the grave of Col. John Bond, Sr., an American Revolutionary soldier (1749-1837) and his son, who was a soldier of the War of 1812 (1783-1862). I learned that day that Lt. William Bond's tomb was marked as his cenotaph. (I had to look it up.) His grave was empty because his body is buried somewhere else.

In all my cemetery tours, I know of only one grave that is empty, not because He's buried somewhere else, but because He is not there. He is risen! I'm thankful that we have an empty tomb to celebrate. I know when I die that I'll take to the grave 'His promise that I'll have everlasting life'. Will you take that promise with you?

Until next time, I remain In His Grip

Scripture Thoughts by Cleaver

2 John 7 and 9

For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

Strong language is necessary regarding those who are deceivers in a Christianity veiling. To deceive is to trick, betray, and mislead. In the case of deceivers who deny the reality of Jesus coming in the flesh, it is more than deception; it is completely against Christ: it is antichrist. Let's be plain about the spirit of antichrist: They who deceive are under the control of the Devil.

The spirit of antichrist is alive and well in some local congregations. These congregations have gone beyond what is in Christ's teachings. Going beyond His teachings has become the

norm to some for they say, "The Scriptures do not prohibit this or that." Certainly the Scriptures do not specifically say I should not lie down in the middle of the busy highway. That does not mean I should attempt it. The word "remain" or "abide" is used two times in verse nine. One use of remain is negative: "...Anyone who does not remain..." These who do not remain don't have God. The other use is positive: "The one who remains in that teaching..." These who are positive have both the Father and the Son.

Dear Reader, let's be certain we are the positive ones who remain in His teachings.

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

New National WMA Project

As most of you know, the 2021 National meeting has been postponed from April to August in Waxahachie, Texas. Because of this, the WMA felt that we needed to go ahead and take care of some of the business. Many of you saw the notices and voted about officers and the project. Therefore, the new national WMA project is now the Darlene Carey Christian Academy in the Philippines.

Darlene Carey had a heart for ministry and especially for children. Those who knew her all have a story to tell of some way she touched their lives. This

school will enable young people to grow and learn not only academically, but also spiritually. The hope is that it will touch the families of the children as well.

The academy opened in the Fall of 2019 with only the first grade. Second grade was added in the Fall of 2020, with the goal of adding one grade every year until the school is open for all twelve grades. It costs approximately \$20 per month for each student to attend. They do have some scholarships available for students in need.

Missionary Jimmy Walker says that the first building of

six classrooms is paid for and should be complete in May of 2021. They have also raised a small portion of the money, but still need almost \$95,000 for the second building of six classrooms.

The Darlene Carey Christian Academy will serve as a ministry to families in the Philippines as well as underwrite a third of the BMA College of the Philippines operating budget. That will help bring the college closer to being self-supporting.

For more information on the academy, contact missionary Jimmy Walker, who is currently



on furlough in Magnolia, Arkansas, with his family. He will be glad to come speak to any group about the work in the Philippines. He may be reached by calling 870-299-9167.

Project offerings sent after

April 1st to the National WMA will go to this project.

New treasurer and address for offerings -

WMA of BMAA,
% Janet Widger, P.O. Box 23,
Salem, MO 65560.

Parents hear warning: Quit letting public schools destroy your children

OneNewsNow.com - More and more parents want to rescue their children from poor academics and left-wing dogma in public school classrooms, and the time has come for churches to play a role in helping them do that, says a public education watchdog.

"You're literally playing Russian roulette with your children," Alex Newman, executive director of Public School Exit, warned the American Family Radio audience in a March 10 interview.

On the topic of classroom academics, Newman did not hold back about the state of public education in the U.S. After living in eight countries growing up, where he sat in classrooms in every one, Newman said American parents would be shocked to learn that even Third World students are learning to read and write, and do basic math, sooner and better than American students.

In the U.S. in particular, he told radio host Sandy Rios, less than a third of students score high enough to be graded as

"proficient" in basic subjects.

The left-wing Huffington Post cited similar statistics in a 2019 story: 34% of fourth graders and 35% of eighth graders scored proficient in reading.

Rios, responding to those statistics, said she has spoken to college professors who are alarmed incoming freshmen struggle in basic subjects.

"The worst part, and this is the part that people struggle to get over," Newman said, "is this was deliberate."

That is because left-wing activists have used public education not only to indoctrinate students, but to create a dumbed-down population. One example of that success, he said, is that 90% of students who were raised in a church-going family will leave their faith after sitting through weeks and months and years of public school education.

"They're literally turning our children against God, against their family, and against their country," he warned, rattling off topics such as transgenderism, social justice, and critical race theory being

Missionaries Back On Field

by Stan and Donna Scroggins
Missionary to Filipinos

Do we look tired, or is that just the way we always look? We left Jacksonville, Texas, on February 19. Flights to Dallas were all cancelled so we rented a car and drove the frozen roads to Dallas. We boarded our flight on the 20th to San Francisco to meet our International flight. Because I was missing one little receipt, we were denied boarding and had to wait four days in San Francisco. We departed for Manila on the 24th, arrived on the 26th, quarantined in a hotel until March 8. We needed all the extra days because it was crazy getting everything in order to fly on to our island. Finally on March 8, we flew to Bacolod, where we had to hotel quarantine again for 3 days. We got to our house on the 11th, and finished three more days of quarantine. Now we are FREE.

Thanks for remembering us and praying for us. We love you all and miss you, but are glad to be back at our post. Please be looking for our April newsletter.



Stan & Donna Scroggins

taught.

On the issue of parents pulling their students from public schools, Newman suggested parents look closer at home schooling, which he described as the "gold standard" for challenging academics, and for preparing children for the world.

Newman also advised the radio audience that private schools remain another option, and he said more churches should be working together to form private schools. If that effort is not possible, he said, then churches should assist parents in their own congregations with tuition.

Public School Exit is currently working with churches and their pastors to not only create a "mass exodus" from public schools, but to help parents finally realize today's public schools are not the same as their own childhood.

Parents do have legitimate concerns about how to home school their children, or how to afford private school tuition, Newman concluded, but every Christian parent should decide, for good, to leave public education behind because doing so is saving their children.

Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White



No Thumbs

The other day I was remembering the dog food TV commercial in which a little dog was excitedly saying "Bacon, bacon, bacon. I would get it myself, but I don't have thumbs". He knew as we do, that to grasp something you need thumbs.

Well, apparently, my brain doesn't have thumbs because I just can't grasp the reason for all that's going on these days. Some of these baffling ideas are aimed a Mr. Potato Head, Dr. Seuss, no calling Mother and Father, and the list goes on and gets more ridiculous the further it goes.

But hang on, this is not a first for humanity. Many times the Scripture records: "The people did that which was right in their own eyes." There have always been dire consequences for such actions and I am confident there will be dire consequences for some of the things going on these days. So hang on!!!

God's promise to be with us even to the end of the world is even more precious these days

Supreme Court Hands Down Free Speech Victory for Students on Campus

From The Daily Citizen

The government – including public educational institutions – cannot escape responsibility for constitutional violations by simply revising bad policies when they get sued. That's the effect of an important decision handed down today from the U.S. Supreme Court in a case

involving students attempting to share Christ on a college campus.

Two students at Georgia Gwinnett College (GGC), Chike Uzuegbunam and Joseph Bradford wanted to share their faith in Christ with fellow students on campus back in 2016. The pair ran afoul of the school's free speech policies that re-

quired reservations for a couple of tiny "free speech zones" amounting to approximately 0.0015% of campus, which were only available for 18 hours per week.

Campus police stopped Uzuegbunam twice while he attempted to talk with fellow students about Jesus. The school also demanded to see a

script of what he wanted to say. When Bradford saw the problems the school created for Uzuegbunam, he decided to refrain from exercising his free speech right to evangelize. In legal parlance, Bradford's First Amendment rights were "chilled" by the government-run institution's policies and procedures.