

MARCH 15, 2022
Volume 756 No. 6
www.ms baptist.org

Youth Director Applicants Sought

The BMA State Youth Department is now accepting applications for the position of State Youth director. Those interested in this position please send a resume along with future goals and visions for the Youth Department. Deadline for resumes will be April 22, 2022. Please send resumes and/or questions to Bro. Adam Parker at parkeradam288@gmail.com.

Update from Changemaker missionary Bogdan Bilav in Romania

"Yesterday we had send our first humanitarian aid shipment to Ukrainian churches that are hosting refugees. We



were able to send over 3 tons of canned food, non-perishable food, baby diapers, baby powder milk, baby food, blankets, winter clothes, medical supplies. Part of the products we had purchased and the rest was donated by the Romanian churches here in our town. We are planning to send another one as soon as possible."

Continue praying for our Ukrainian churches and our churches in neighboring countries who are ministering to refugees.

Give to the Ukrainian Relief fund here// <https://bmamissions.org>



Baptist

Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

We are the Scaffolding, Not the Edifice

by Dr. John David Smith, Executive Director of Missions, Baptist Missionary Association of America

One of the potential pitfalls we all deal with is the tendency to judge all things according to MY current reality.



John David Smith

This causes us to ignore the lessons of history and the importance of differing cultural contexts to the point where we assume the way we do things is the ONLY way. In missions practice, this can lead to some precarious conclusions such as distorted theological positions and practices.

In missionary ministry, a certain tension has always existed in the instruction and application of biblical truth in local cultural contexts. This process is referred to as indigenization: the at-



tempt to make the gospel belong in a local setting and not be viewed as a foreign idea or expression. Unfortunately, in many places of the world where Western missionaries have pioneered gospel ministry, that ministry has been presented with a significant Western cultural baggage.

Jesus, the Son of God in the flesh, practiced indigenous missions principles during his own personal ministry. He

did not walk into a historical/cultural vacuum; he walked into a very specific history and culture in Israel. In Jesus' efforts to convey a message and develop reproducing leaders, he worked in and with cultural norms. He did not view all culture as antagonistic to God's mission.

Jesus used four common metaphors to communicate and illustrate His message: farming, vines, sheep, and fishing. Obviously, these are taken directly from daily life in Israel. Jesus also utilized the synagogue system as long as they would allow Him, and he employed the rabbinical structure of instruction where a rabbi would have a select group of students/followers.

Jesus spoke in parables, which was a common teaching method of the local culture. There were many things Jesus

continued on page 3

A Great Day for our Senior Adults!

by Don Brown, Director
Commission on Senior Adults

Approximately 200 Senior Adults gathered at Big Creek Church on March 8 for the first South Mississippi Conference in 2 years. The Covid pandemic shut down many events and gatherings over the past 2 years, including our Mississippi Senior Adult conferences. It was very evident that our seniors were looking forward to resuming the conferences.

What a joy to once again meet and what a joy those attending had. Music for the day was led by Bro. Bob Barger. His leading and guitar playing was just right for this day. We appreciate his willingness to help and to Mrs. Betty Turnbow for being our pianist for the day.

Bro. Dewitt Bain brought a powerful message and led us to God's throne in worshiping and hearing His word. Our afternoon service consisted of a Gospel concert brought by the Gospel group of Bros4 (Brothers four).



The noon meal was again provided by Mack's Catfish House and the food was top notch. The good folks of Big Creek Baptist Church did their usual best in hosting the meeting and providing deserts for the meal along with pre-meeting snacks. Thank you Big Creek Baptist Church for your hospitality!

Prizes and Winners

Door prize time is always exciting and this year was no exception. There were plenty of prizes to give away, especially with the 16 additional prizes brought and donated by the folks from Oakland

continued on page 2

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

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

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

Content may be copied or reprinted without prior permission

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

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

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

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

Special Emphasis Success

What a great people our folks are. Our annual Emphasis Drive in January results are in and once again, God has blessed us by touching the hearts of our people to supply our needs. The total received to date is \$8,254.51. This was provided by our churches and individuals who support God's work. There are individuals who give and request anonymity and we honor their decision. We have therefore just listed 'individual' for those donations. (You know who you are and you have our deep appreciation). Thank you to all who gave.

Costs Going Up

As with your personal costs in these times of high inflation, businesses are feeling the pinch also. We received a letter from our printer this past week telling us of increases from their suppliers (they sent us copies of the letters from their suppliers). Just as the grocer, the service station, the retailer, etc., our printer has passed along their increased costs.

We do not plan to increase our prices. Our plan is to decrease our costs by strategically altering our publication dates. Many religious publications have "quit publishing altogether" while others have "altered their number of issues".

We shared this plan at our annual meeting this past October and we interpreted the reception as 'positive' and 'understanding'. We will publish only ONE issue in both the months of April and May 2022. For those who have announcements that are time related, we encourage you to have those to us by March 25 for the April issue and April 25 for our May issue.

The savings on limiting issues is quite substantial and should help to alleviate some of the increased costs we are experiencing.

Color

We have begun to print some of our pages in color. This certainly adds to the appearance of our publication and we hope to your reading experience. The cost is slightly more, but with limited issues we should be able to absorb those increases.

Our purpose is to promote the entire work of the BMA of Mississippi along with the BMA of America. We do like to hear from our readers and would welcome your comments.

God bless you all for your support.

2022 Special Emphasis Results

Church	Total
O'neal Road Baptist Church, Gulfport	\$20.00
Individual	\$30.00
First Baptist Church, Bay Springs	\$75.00
Spring Hill Baptist Church, Ocean Springs	\$87.50
Bethel Baptist Church, Louise	\$100.00
Rock Creek Baptist Church, Union	\$100.00
Individual	\$100.00
Westhaven Baptist Church, Flora	\$100.00
Individual	\$100.00
Individual	\$100.00
Hopewell Baptist Church, Laurel	\$100.00
Big Creek District WMA	\$101.50
Temple Baptist Church, Biloxi	\$110.00
New Bethany Baptist Church, Seminary	\$125.00
Washington Baptist Church, Neely	\$137.51
East Amory Baptist Church, Amory	\$153.00
Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel	\$165.00
Wilderness Baptist Church, Vicksburg	\$200.00
Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso	\$250.00
Sharon Baptist Church, Laurel	\$250.00
FBC of Shady Grove, Laurel	\$250.00
Just The Crumbs, Sumrall	\$300.00
Bethel Baptist Church, Wiggins	\$400.00
Westover Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	\$400.00
Shiloh Baptist Church, Mt. Olive	\$500.00
Canaan Baptist Church, Richton	\$500.00
Cypress Creek Baptist Church, Brookland	\$500.00
First Baptist Church Of Calhoun, Laurel	\$500.00
Forked Oak Baptist Church, Rienze	\$500.00
Individual	\$1,000.00
Individual	\$1,000.00
Total	\$8,254.51

Senior Adult Conference

from front page

Church, Vicksburg. The two oldest senior adults were recognized and given a Senior Adult Mug and a new study Bible. Luther Kitchens from Hopewell Church,



Oldest attending winners

Laurel, was our oldest man at the conference at 92. Alta Mae Spradley, also from Hopewell Church, Laurel, was our oldest lady present at 93.



Grand Prize Winner

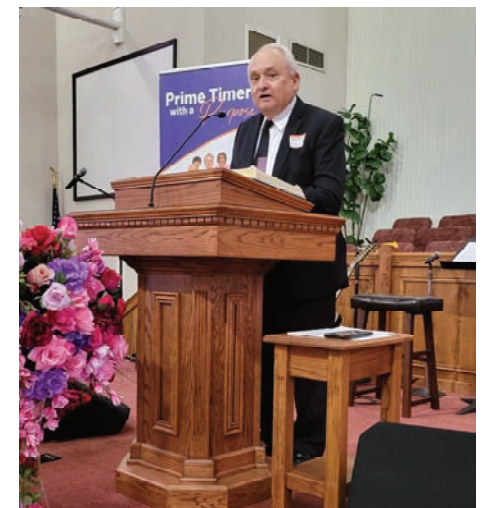
Our grand prize this year was a new flat screen TV and that was won by Cathy Bond from Vardaman Street Church, Wiggins. Congratulations to these three, along with all the others who were door prize winners.

PrimeTimers with a Purpose

Our theme for the year is 'Purpose'. At each senior conference an offering is taken. At this South Conference our seniors gave

a total of \$2,655.00 of Purpose. The needs everywhere are great. This offering was divided between LifeWord Ministries and Ukraine Relief. The LifeWord half was designated for their Low Power FM radio that is helping to share the Gospel with hard to reach peoples in hard to reach places around the world.

The other half was sent to the BMA of America Missions Department to help with their Ukraine relief efforts due to the Russian invasion. Our missionaries, Ukraine pastors, and churches in neighboring countries are doing what they can to minister to refugees and those still in Ukraine.



Bro. Dewitt Bain brought morning Message

North Conference Coming Soon

The North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference will be held at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi, and pastor Tim Holsonback on May 10. Final plans are being set in place and we look forward to another great meeting. Our Senior Adults in the northern part of the state are urged to make plans now to attend.



Bros4 brought a great concert

We are the Scaffolding

from front page

did not accept or utilize from the culture, especially the religious system of His day.

Indigenous missions principles are quite evident in the New Testament. Historically, men like Henry Venn and Roland Allen, who both lived and served as missionaries in the early twentieth century, articulated indigenous principles that continue to be a very good resource in the on-going discussion.

For many years, a guiding concept in the indigenization conversation has been the “Three-self” model for churches. In this idea, the goal is for a church to be self-governing, self-sustaining, and self-propagating. This simply means the church makes its own decisions, pays its own way, and is able to multiply . . . ALL without outside interference or help.

polygamy and animism.

BMA Global Missions attempts to carry out healthy indigenous principles. Noted missionary Hudson Taylor once said that, “missionaries are the scaffolding, not the edifice.” Like Christ, our missionary methods must include local forms allowing the development of local leaders in local systems that carry on after the scaffolding has been removed.

Two primary ways BMA Global Missions attempts to accomplish this goal include our church planting grant program through ChangeMaker missionaries and our practice of the “principle of the thirds.” Both efforts have the goal of partnering without creating dependence. Prayerfully, this also does not take us to the extremes where we have no ongoing relationship and do not cultivate the

In Jesus’ efforts to convey a message and develop reproducing leaders, he worked in and with cultural norms.

This model has been scrutinized for various reasons. One criticism is that it overly emphasizes the “self” part and creates isolation. Another criticism says that it was incomplete, so two more “selves” were added: self-expressing and self-theologizing, which means the local church itself must “look like” an indigenous one in that culture in architecture, worship, communication, and leadership selection styles. Self-theologizing does not mean the creation of some special system of theology. It means missionaries must build and apply biblical theology to local themes we simply do not see very often in the West such as

“self” part in isolation but in association.

The grant program through ChangeMaker missionaries is carried out in the lives of non-American church planters who receive a church-planting grant for a limited number of years. In essence the partnership is with both the project and the person. It is not open-ended, but intended to help the church plant go to the five-self stage and repeat the process as the church becomes part of our worldwide family.

The principle of the thirds is meant to support those churches in their advancement by not giving them gifts where they are not vetted in the process. If they

want to make a major purchase or build a building, etc. they are expected to fund the first third of the total cost, then we help them with a third, and the last third can be an interest-free loan from our international loan fund. In the end, we partner and facilitate, we do not enable and create dependence. Also, the local congregation will have paid two-thirds of the total cost when the project is complete.

Much like our own children, we look forward to the day when they are independent from us in finances, decision-

making, and other areas of life. That does not end our relationship, but merely changes the dynamics. Overall, we as parents rejoice in seeing our children flourish on their own. BMA Global Missions is thankful for many family members in our association around the world that function on their own and yet are a vital part of the ongoing ministry.

If the edifice is going to shine and the children are going to live in a healthy manner on their own . . . the scaffolding and the unhealthy systems of enabling and dependency must come down.

More Senior Adults

Trustees

A big thank you to the trustees of the Commission on Senior Adults for their support and work to make these two meetings a success. They have done diligent work and their work is appreciated.



Bob Barger (left) on guitar and leading our music with the assistance of Betty Turnbow on the piano.



BMA OF MISSISSIPPI

A CALL TO MISSIONS

MISSIONS CONFERENCE

APRIL 2, 2022 • 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

BIG CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH - SOSO, MS

(LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE CHURCH)

FEATURED SPEAKERS

 LARRY GERALDSON	 DR. KEVIN CLAYTON	 SIDNEY FARMER	 SOLOS BY: SAM FREEMAN JARED MEYERS AND MORE
 JASON HOWARD	 WESLEY MARTIN	 GREG COOK	 MUSIC BY JEFF DIXON

SPECIAL REPORTS BY

 SAM FREEMAN	 SCOTT BROCIUS	 JOHNNY WILLIAMS	 CHRIS YAGER	 SAMUEL YAGER	 ESTUARDO MARROQUIN	 DR. PAUL SPIBLIN	 SEAN PASLLY	 JOHN MICHAEL POHL	 JOSH DANIELS	 MIKE POIRIER
---	---	---	---	--	--	--	---	---	--	--

SPECIAL GIVE AWAY
(MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN)

1 YEAR FAMILY PASS TO THE ARK ENCOUNTER AND CREATION MUSEUM

Youth Director Applicants Sought

The BMA State Youth Department is now accepting applications for the position of State Youth director. Those interested in this position please send a resume along with future goals and visions for the Youth Department. Deadline for resumes will be April 22, 2022. Please send resumes and/or questions to Bro. Adam Parker at parkeradam288@gmail.com.



SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE

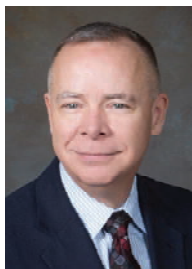
4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440, (601) 426-6346

Serving Christ With A Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

President's Perspective

"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah." Psalm 68:19

I am excited to announce two new educational opportunities for Southeastern Baptist College students! Five years ago, SBC offered five degree paths. These have since been expanded to eleven with an additional Bachelor's degree in Business Administration in Marketing Communications Strategies. The eleven degree paths are:



Dr. Scott Carson
President

Associate of Arts (two-year degree):

- Bible
- General Education
- Business Administration

Bachelors of Science (four-year degree):

- Pastoral Ministries
- Church Ministries
 - * Children and Youth Ministries
- * Church Administration
 - * Missions
- Business Administration
 - * Sports Management
 - * Marketing Management
 - * Global Supply Chain Management
 - * Marketing Communications Strategies (recently added)

We have also added the Foundations of Ministry Certificate. Recently, college and youth ministers from local churches met with the SBC staff and provided insight to their educational needs as it relates to their ministries. Later, the SBC Bible professors and staff met to review their suggestions and refine courses in a

certification format to meet their identified needs. The staff then presented the certification to both the Board of Trustees and our accrediting agency, the Association for Biblical Higher Education. Both provided overwhelming endorsement to this new program. The goal of the granted certificate is to provide foundational preparatory and practical knowledge that can readily supply participants with a working credential toward meeting community ministry employment needs. This 23 credit hour certificate would be awarded to all who successfully completed the following course work:

1. Old Testament, 3 credit hours
2. New Testament, 3 credit hours
3. Introduction to Systematic Theology, 3 credit hours
4. Homeletics/Hermenteutics, 3 credit hours
5. Church Leadership & Administration, 3 credit hours
6. Foundations of Children and Youth Ministry, 3 credit hours
7. Family & Crisis Counseling, 3 credit hours
8. Practicum Internship, 2 credit hours

Once the certification is awarded, a student could choose to continue their education by applying the certificate credits toward an Associate or Bachelor's degree program. Contact us today if you are interested in this new and exciting certificate program! We plan to offer it beginning this Fall 2022 semester.

The Lord continues to bless SBC with tremendous opportunities to grow and teach those who choose a conservative and Bible centered education. Pray for our staff and faculty as we earnestly seek His will for the future of your college!

"Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the name of the LORD; praise him, O ye servants of the LORD." Psalm 135:1

Equipping the saints,
Dr. Carson

Estate Planning

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

Seeking Sponsors

We are seeking sponsors for the twelve Southern Gospel groups that are coming to perform in the Southeastern Gospel Fest in April (see the separate announcement in this paper). Contact Rosemary Davis for more information at 601-426-6346 on how to support SBC through this exciting opportunity to promote your college!

National Day of Prayer Breakfast

The annual National Day of Prayer Breakfast for the Jones County and the surrounding area will again be held in the SBC gym on May 5, 2022. This year's FREE event will begin at 7:30 a.m. Mississippi State Senator, McDaniel will be this year's guest speaker. More information about this exciting event will be provide in the next Mississippi Baptist publication.

Women's Softball

The historic first season of SBC Women's Softball continues! The Lady Chargers play their home games at Coca Cola Field, 2500 Airport Dr, Laurel MS. Here's the next few home games:

Saturday, Mar 19, 1/3 p.m. double header vs Rust College

Wednesday, Apr 13, 3/5 p.m. double header vs Xavier University

Men's Baseball

The Chargers play their home games at A.W. Watson (Black Cat Field), 2400 Queensburg Ave, Laurel, MS. These are the scheduled home games into April:

Saturday, Apr 9, 12/3 p.m. double header vs Rust College

Tuesday, Apr 12, 3/5 p.m. double header vs Spring Hill College

Saturday, Apr 16, 2/3 p.m. double header vs MUW

See SBC on page 5



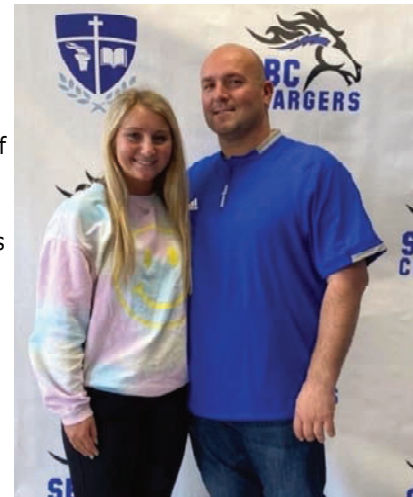
Dr. Carson is pictured with Risher Caves, President of the Laurel Rotary Club where Dr. Carson updated their members on the vision for SBC



SBC student Brannon Singletary (center) of Brandon, Mississippi, was recently honored by the National Christian College Athletic Association as a member of the South Region All Freshman Team



Coach Joshua Sullivan and staff brief potential student recruits and parents for the Fall 2022 semester and new volleyball team



Kayleigh Thornton of Raleigh, Mississippi, commits to Chargers Volleyball in Fall 2022. Also pictured is Coach Sullivan

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



Uncommon Blessings

When I saw my first daffodil last week, the thought came to mind of how blessed I am every day. It may be the sight of a flower, the melody of the birds, a hug from a friend, or just another day aware of the presence of the Lord. Not just blessed but uncommonly blessed.

I've been uncommonly blessed in ways too numerous to name; but some of the ways have been unusual sights, experiences, friendships, and a faith that encourages me every day.

One of the sights that made me do a double take was an unusual garden in Juneau, Alaska, the Glacier Gardens. Dotted throughout that garden are upside-down trees, "Flower Towers," that



Upside Down Tree

have their tops buried in the ground and their roots up in the air. Netting and moss are used to form a basket that cradles colorful trailing flowers (begonias, fuchsias, and petunias) that bloom

hanging down from the overturned tree. You could think that Alice found her Wonderland here.

The garden could be called a mistake. The Bowhays bought the land near the Mendenhall Glacier after a landslide destroyed most of the landscape. Steve, working to restore the stream on the property, accidentally damaged the moving equipment. In a fit of frustration, he used the machine to pick up a large fallen tree and slammed it upside down into the soft mud.

The image of roots hanging down like vines apparently inspired him to repeat it, inverting over 20 other dead spruce and hemlock trees to plant more than 75 flowers in their root bowls each year. That couple certainly made lemonade when life gave them lemons. What a beautiful one-of-a-kind garden!

Another sight that made me think I might have fallen down the rabbit hole myself and wound up in Jurassic Park occurred on a trip to Victoria, British Columbia. But instead of dinosaurs, it was giant dogs that greeted us. The famous Empress Hotel has two large Weeping Giant Sequoia trees that remind me of large shaggy dogs. But if you haven't seen them already, you're too late. Apparently, the owners decided to "beau-



Carolyn Hagler



Giant Sequoia at The Empres Hotel

tify the property" by removing the trees. Progress is certainly overrated.

Another unusual tree we saw in Canada was the Monkey Puzzle Tree. It has a wildly unusual look that is the origin of that odd name. A famous lawyer seeing the tree for the first time in his friend's yard said, "It would puzzle a monkey to climb that." The name stuck.

A living fossil that's been on the planet since the time of the dinosaurs, the Monkey Puzzle Tree, has teetered on the brink of extinction but has survived. The tree takes up to 40 years to produce cones, and the tree lives up to 1200 years. I might prefer one of those to all the pine trees in Hattiesburg.

You've learned by now I not only enjoy plants but also unusual cemeteries. An uncommon experience in searching for unusual graves led me to the Lutheran



Lutheran Cemetery

Cemetery in Sitka, Alaska. I found the grave of a princess, Princess Aglaida Ivanovina Maksoutoff, the first wife of Alaska's last Russian governor. Lying beside the Princess's grave is the baby son of an earlier Russian governor, marked by the black cross.

We saw another unusual burial site from the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad out of Skagway, Alaska. We not only saw some of the most beautiful scenery ever but also passed a gruesome



White Pass & Yukon Route Railway

trail known as the Dead Horse Trail, where some three thousand horses died. Their bleached bones are still said to be visible to hikers. I'm thankful that was one graveyard I couldn't see. But the thought certainly left me chilled to the bone. If you want the ghastly details, read some of the Jack London books; he named it the Dead Horse Trail.

But maybe the strangest of my experiences occurred at my favorite Natchez City Cemetery: grave dowsing. Don Estes, retired director of the cemetery and the author of "Legends of the Natchez City Cemetery," demonstrated how it's done.

I admit it smacks a little of ghosts and goblins, but watching the demonstration was amazing. I did not know that most old cemeteries have many unrecorded burials. Without knowing where the graves are, it would be easy to disturb burial sites.

If you've never heard of it, grave dowsing can and will identify the locations of unmarked graves and give you the gender of the body in the grave. Mr. Estes located the body of a mother and her baby who both died during childbirth. Now the cemetery has adopted a "douse before digging" approach. Do you doubt me?

With the Lord giving me so many uncommon experiences, it's just like Him to make unusual connections in my life as well. One of the most unusual happened recently at the Wellness Center. While I was on my favorite machine, a conversation started with a lady seated next to me. I can't explain what happened other than an uncommon friendship occurred because of an uncommon Savior.

But I asked where she attended church. After hearing that she had quit visiting churches and was watching at home, I asked, "What are you looking for?" When she said, "A church where I can hear the Word, a church where the King James Version of the Bible is used, and a church where the old hymns are sung,"

I responded, "We've got you covered." It was a "God moment." She came to church that Sunday! And came again and again and again. And she's still here.

If you believe that God is not restricted nor bound by limitations (but maybe the ones we impose by our free will), you won't be surprised by the "rest of the story."

My new friend recognized a name on our prayer list. Her mother, who died several years ago, had become a "telephone friend" with our church member through some remarkable connections. They never met but talked several times a week for years. I surprised my old friend with my new friend. Can you imagine that meeting? You can't make that up! But God....

Friends whether old or new are a blessing. Most of all, though, I'm uncommonly blessed because Jesus is my friend, too (John 15:13-15). "I'll never get over the love You showered on me from above. It's not ordinary the change You have made in my life. Uncommon blessings are poured out each day. Uncommon favor keeps coming my way. Grace overtaking me, uncommon power You display. I'm going to offer up uncommon praise" (Uncommon Praise, the Guardian Quartet).

It's hard not to be excited for each new day the Lord has given us. Start looking for your uncommon blessings. While looking, **I'm in His grip.**

Southeastern - from page 4

Holloway's Dairy Bar

Holloway's Dairy Bar is open and the public is welcome! The Dairy Bar is located on the campus of SBC. There is an expanded menu and it is open Monday thru Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Come for a delicious meal and support SBC and Holloway's!

Coffee with the President

We invite folks, and especially alumni, to meet with Dr. Carson to discuss any topic that might be on their mind. If you are interested in meeting with Dr. Carson, contact him at 601-426-6346 to make an appointment.

Need a Preacher?

Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit or to make a presentation about the work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. Chaplain (Colonel) Carson can also provide an update on the BMAA Chaplaincy and deliver a related message. Thank you to Pastor Bill Raines of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Union MS, and for Pastor Sam Freeman of Camp-

ground Baptist Church, Gulfport MS, for recently inviting Dr. Carson to speak. You can reach Dr. Carson at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu

Photo Below

Student Emma Harrell of Mobile, Alabama, hit a homer against Faulkner University



MINISTERING TO YOUNG PEOPLE

by Anders Lee

Church Security... for Youth?

It has been a while ago, but on the evening of September 15, 1999, just before 7:00 pm, a crazy gunman entered the youth services at Wedgwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas and began shooting. That gunman killed seven and wounded seven others. Among those were several youth who were attending a "Saw You at the Pole" prayer rally. From the time he entered the building, the gunman fired over 100 rounds from two different handguns, and exploded a homemade pipe bomb in the Worship Center where the youth activity was being held. The gunman then sat down in the back of the Worship Center and ended his own life. That single event stunned Americans and large churches began putting together security teams from then on.



Anders Lee

Two years ago I was introduced to Vaughn Baker at the BMAA National meeting in a breakout session. I learned a lot in short amount of time. Since then I have watched some of his videos to gain further insight on church security. Here at Central (Church, Southaven, Mississippi) we have put together a great team of qualified people to run our security team along with polices learned from Baker and others. I am sure thankful for the resources this organization provides to small churches like Central.

Vaughn Baker is the president of Strategos International. He has over 20 years of experience in law enforcement including patrol, investigation, SWAT and special operations. He has trained thousands of school, church, healthcare, government, law enforcement and military personnel. If you have never heard of him please check out their web site at www.strategosintl.com.

After praying through what we would do at Central and implementing our team and strategies, one Wednesday night I drove up to the church and in

the parking lot sat a complete stranger. Our youth meet on Wednesday nights. Some of them were already there clowning around and hanging out. My heart sank... who is this??? Lots of thoughts rushed through my mind. It turned out that the individual was lost and needed directions.

Later that night at the house I thought back to it and was ashamed because as a church leader we had gone to great links to take care of security for Sundays, but had done nothing about Wednesday nights. As a newly organized church we are having to think through all of these things. It couldn't wait... I messaged our security team leaders

what they found.

1. 61% of incidents/attacks took place during the week. Not on Sundays when most people are there and you are more alert and have more staff to serve. No,



they happened on Wednesdays when we are more relaxed, less people serving, and we don't have our guard up.

2. 1 out of 4 attacks that occurred involved a church member or teen that attended the church.

3. 23% of the time the incidents involved a Baptist Church.

4. An amazing 91% of churches that had an incident during the

I'm not a security guru by any means...
but I know one thing; churches that are
prepared end up with a much better story
than churches who aren't!

sitting in my recliner watching the news that night and we begin to correct that problem. It is sad that we have to make policies and plans like this today.



Vaughn Baker gives us some statistics that will make us think more about security for youth on Wednesday nights (really anything that goes on church wide during the week). They conducted a thorough study of all church incidents/attacks in 2017. There were 261 incidents in 2017. They increase every year! Here's

week had NO security plan for mid-week events. Yet many of them had a plan in place for Sunday mornings.

Now I know what you are thinking; "Something like that won't ever happen here!" That is one of the first things Baker confronts in his training. He is emphatic when he says; "Don't EVER say 'It won't ever happen here!'" I get it, a lot of our churches are rural. Who would ever think that an attack would happen at Rocky Branch in Oak Grove, Paramount in the Big Level Community, Hopewell in Fulton, or Farmington in Corinth? The list of our churches goes on... BUT IT COULD!!!

I'm not a security guru by any means... but I know one thing; churches that are prepared end up with a much better story than churches who aren't! Just look at the differences between the events at First Baptist Sutherland Springs, Texas (Nov.

2017) and West Freeway Church of Christ in Fort Worth, Texas (Dec. 2019) and how they ended. Both of them were tragedies like the one at Wedgwood years ago. Just imagine if First Baptist and Wedgwood would have had a security team how differently that would have ended.

So, youth pastor, director, pastor... it's time (if you haven't already) to put together and implement a security team to protect one of the most valuable yet vulnerable parts of your church, those kids that drive us crazy on Wednesday nights!

Three tips:

1. Go to Bakers website for help and suggestions. I learned a lot from that organization! By the way they offer training on

the local level.

2. Talk to your local police or sheriff's department to see if they offer any help or training for churches. If they don't, they may can point you to people in your area who can.

3. Call a lunch meeting of area pastors and youth pastors and see what they are doing already and learn from what works for others!

I pray that whatever you put in place (have in place) will NEVER have to be used at your church! May the Lord put His mighty angels around us and protect us from our enemies!

Lee is pastor of Central Church, Southaven, Mississippi and may be contacted at anders.lee571@gmail.com

Master's Builders Work in Texas

by Rose Bittner, Reporter

A small group of Master's Builders met this week for two days at Anthony Drive Baptist Church in Ennis, Texas. Pastor Matt Walker called the group because the church had the unique "problem" in that their youth department was growing too fast for the space they had to meet in! Praise God! The Builders were asked to

tear down the walls and ceiling from 3 classrooms and a hallway to make one large youth meeting room. They also put up a door between the room and the hallway to the rest of the building. The Builders had so much help from the congregation on the first day that it made the task much easier to tear down and remove all of the debris. Special thanks to Brother Korey McCrady, the Youth Pastor, and Chris Walker for their "nonstop" help on day one, and for all the other students and church members who showed up willing to help in any way they could. Special thanks to Ms. Vicki Woods for the delicious enchilada lunch that was prepared for us on day two.

It was an added blessing for The Builders to work on a building that was originally constructed by the Master's Builders in 1992. (Job #5 for the group). The Builders were so thankful to see photos of the original project and the original team from this job in 1992 from a memory book at the church!

The Master's Builders have had several changes to their spring schedule and the next project for the Builders is to work at Daniel Springs Camp in Gary, Texas, March 14th to the 25th. Afterwards, they are scheduled to build a new sanctuary for Celebration Baptist Church, in Haskell, Arkansas in April.

If you have questions about The Master's Builders ministry, would like to join, or if your church has building needs, please contact: Eddie Sikes at 407-462-1675, Mike Green at 972-935-3877, or David Axe at 903-918-0720

"Like" Us on Facebook at "The Master's Builders", to follow us and pray for us.



Youth Director Applicants Sought

The BMA State Youth Department is now accepting applications for the position of State Youth director. Those interested in this position please send a resume along with future goals and visions for the Youth Department. Deadline for resumes will be April 22, 2022. Please send resumes and/or questions to Bro. Adam Parker at parkeradam288@gmail.com.

6 THINGS TO STOP DOING

by Larry Barker

Leading your church in being a healthy and growing congregation of believers means that you must stop doing certain things. While there are many “must dos” there are also many “must don’ts” that require honest evaluation. They are things that, if you continue to practice them, will cause you and your church to remain plateaued or even headed in a downward death spiral. Refusing to stop doing these things could very well lead you to a place where you will crash and burn . . . emotionally, spiritually, and physically.

Stop ignoring the importance of your quiet time and building your personal intimacy with Christ.

A.W. Tozer said, “God doesn’t have favorites, but He does have intimates.” If you are not careful you will know a lot about God, but not really know Him personally. What are you doing to ensure that your personal relationship with your heavenly Father is close, intimate, and vibrantly alive? There is a huge difference between having knowledge of God and having a deep relationship with God. Do you know more about Him than you actually know Him personally?



Barker

Stop talking about prayer and pray.

It is a discipline that takes a lot of time and dedication to develop, but is well worth the journey. Bill Elliff, in *Simply Prayer*, reminds us of the need to begin prayer with adoration, “Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name.” Are you worshiping Him daily? Are you slowing down long enough to focus on His presence? While there, what are you noticing about who He is and how He operates? Bill says, “Don’t rush this moment in prayer. It will set the tone for the rest of your praying. Let a vision of God fill your soul and direct your praise.”

Stop deciding what you will do each day.

Bill Bright used to lay his calendar before the Lord every morning and ask Him what needed to be removed



and what needed to be added. He sought to make sure that everything was run through the filter of obeying the Great Commission. We should also pray, “Your kingdom come, your will be done in earth as it is in Heaven.” Every day should begin by focusing on aligning with God’s purpose for you and for that day. Stop striving to get God to do what you want through persuading Him to bless what you have planned.

Bill Elliff reminds us that Jesus listened to His Father in heaven and did only what the Father initiated. Planning is important and calendars are good but we must remain sensitive to the leading and prompting

Remember, just because you cannot see the way does not mean that God doesn’t have a way for you and your church.

of the Holy Spirit. Jesus made it clear that He could do nothing of His own initiative. Are you living by divine initiation? If you are not careful, you can schedule God’s divine interruptions right out of your day because it was not on your calendar. It is good to be goal and time driven, but it is even better to take your goals and your calendar and allow them to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Stop believing your critics.

Yes, everyone has them and unfortunately, they impact us far more than we like to admit. If we are looking for our sense of worth and accomplishments in

what others say, there will always be the temptation to allow the praise to corrupt us and the criticism to crush us. One of the enemy’s greatest weapons is words of accusation. Satan is the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10), and it brings him great joy when someone allows him to use them as his spokesman. Words do hurt, and accusatory words can be vicious either in nature or in the way they are said.

Stop trying to do it by yourself.

In Exodus 18:17-18 Moses was trying to handle everything himself and received some very wise counsel. “What you’re doing is not good,” Moses’ father-in-law said to him. “You will certainly wear out both yourself and these people who are with you, because the task is too heavy for you. You can’t do it alone.” Great advice because exhaustion and burn out are real if you do not find some margin in your life. It is easy to just keep saying yes and doing more and more and more, but you must begin saying no to some things in order to say yes to others.

Maybe you want others to help, but right now there just isn’t anyone available. First, usually there is someone. Realize that you can burn the candle at both ends for a season, but you cannot sustain that pace forever. Begin praying for God to raise up leaders out of the harvest and begin pouring into them and training them. If you do not have someone to oversee and direct that ministry, maybe you don’t need it. That is hard, but it is better to do a few things well than to do many things poorly. Do you have a discipleship pathway that leads into a leadership pipeline?

Stop wondering if there is any hope for your church.

As long as Jesus is on His throne and at work, there is always hope. Your labor is not in vain. John Maxwell said, “Where there is not hope in the future, there is not power in the present.” Remember, just because you cannot see the way does not mean that God doesn’t have a way for you and your church. There is power in the present and real hope when you place a radical trust in God that includes a candid admission that you do not know the details of the future. What you do know - that He is God - far outweighs what you do not know.

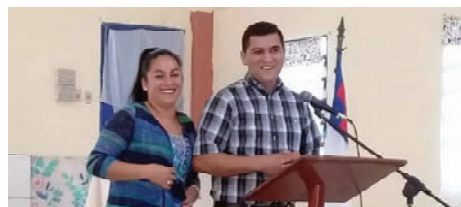
The Forgotten and Abandoned

From Bolivia to Paraguay and Back

“When I was seventeen years old and in high school a friend told me about Jesus. He shared the gospel and I trusted Jesus as my Savior. Like any young person, I was very excited about my new life and very happy to know Jesus. Soon, however, problems arose that drew me away from a deep relationship with Him. I went through some very bitter times before I learned that the love of Christ has no limits.”

Bolivian Ivan Filippini loves to share his salvation story. A church planter in both Paraguay and Bolivia, he is also a Lifeword global partner and shares the gospel to the Americas through media.

Brother Ivan continues his story, explaining that, “As I reached rock bottom I found the sweet grace that transformed my life. I begged God to forgive me and I rejoice that His perfect peace became mine. After this, I had only one desire, to serve Christ with all my being! I began



trying to tell everybody about Christ and His forgiveness of sin.”

His enthusiasm for God’s mission led to his ministry calling, and in 2015 Brother Ivan met Regino Acuña, who disciplined him, teaching him biblical principles and other aspects of ministry that, as Ivan puts it, “have been a true blessing to me and drastically changed my life forever.”

Brother Acuña continued to be a great influence on Brother Ivan’s life and introduced him to the BMA (Baptist Missionary Association). The two men began working together pastoring and planting churches in both Bolivia and Paraguay, and in 2019 Brother Ivan planted the first BMA church in Para-

guay and now visits churches there to sure make sure they are thriving and multiplying.

Unfortunately, during the pandemic, church members in one area fell victim to people with ulterior motives.

Fighting Back For Lost Souls

It’s called “the forgotten, or abandoned, place.” Tapuinkue is an indigenous community in Paraguay where the Guarani language is spoken. Completely cut off from access to the Internet, the Guarani live far from civilization but not far enough away from groups who preach false doctrine and take advantage of them.

Before Covid hit, there were 45 candidates for baptism among the Guarani, but Brothers Acuña and Philippini were not allowed to travel for five months, so they could not stay in touch with believers there. During that time a group of charismatics entered the community, telling the Guarani their beliefs were the same doctrinally. Unfortunately, much of the work there was destroyed.

When Director of Operations Luis Ortega heard what happened in Tapuinkue, he asked Pastor Ivan Philippini, Lifeword’s Guarani-language speaker, if there was any way the Lifeword team could help. Efforts were already underway to build back the churches’ pre-pandemic numbers, and the result of that conversation led to a technology solution: Brother Ivan would record Bible, discipleship, and teaching content in the Guarani language, then load it onto memory cards for people’s phones so new believers could hear and understand truths from Scripture in an area with limited internet access.

Once a month, Brother Ivan and Brother Regino conduct house-to-house evangelism, preaching, and worship services in Tapuinkue and 60 people recently accepted Christ. The Lifeword team is honored to be part of this initiative.

Please pray that the lives of Guarani in this forgotten and abandoned area will be transformed in the same way as Brother Ivan’s life was long ago.

THE BACK PAGE

A Sad Substitute For the Real Thing

from LifeWord

I love educators. The conventional, went-to-college-and-know-what-they-are-really-doing type teachers, dedicated people who enter a classroom every morning with a plan, curriculum and a can-do attitude. They go to work ready to lead and invest in little minds, helping them grow and learn. They are amazing people.

I'm not one of them.

In my early twenties I got a job as a substitute teacher at my local elementary. It was short lived, but nonetheless, desperation for "good" substitutes meant that I quickly found myself in classrooms. And here's the thing

— while I am a very spirited lady with lots of energy and leadership skills, I am not the real deal!

I was left with no choice but to fake it through each day because with my lack of experience, limited skills, and little knowledge of the curriculum, the job was much harder than I imagined.

But there I was in charge. The kids will never know what they missed. I mean, we made it. We had fun. I'm sure I taught them something, but my concern was for what they simply did not learn, certain gaps were left that the real teacher had to fill in after I was gone. I was out of my league.



I was just a substitute. Now try to imagine a substitute for God. Someone or something that can do what God can do and be who God is. With thought, we would probably agree that a quality substitute for God would be an impossible joke. Who in the

world could step into His position and succeed? However, a substitute needs only to be "a person or thing acting or serving in place of another" to qualify as such.

And so, as ridiculous as it is, we make substitutions for God all the time.

In unchecked desperation we turn to "good substitutes": people, ideas, governments, institutions, religions, traditions, newsfeeds, foods, addictions, you name it, to serve as little "gods" in our lives. We dethrone the one true God and His ways and we put other things and people — namely ourselves — in charge. And they, and we, are way out of our league. Lives fall apart. The gaps are certain.

So we blame the substitutes. Then we blame God.

Reason speaks to the truth that there is only one true God.

As we begin to know Him, it is obvious that there is no other. No other can be who He is. Only God can give true wisdom, determine the right way, show unconditional love, completely forgive and change our lives for eternity. Just one.

Peace, happiness, hope, the things every heart longs for are found only in God and through faith in Jesus. And so a relationship with God is IT because God alone is the real deal. Everything and everyone else is just a substitute.

Ummm . . . let that sink. Everything else is just a substitute.

Maybe today we should just stop subbing?

Instead of depending on the substitutes and then blaming God for our despair, let's look to Him. Let's trust Him to be the one who can help. Let's de-elevate our lousy counterfeits and focus on learning from the real deal: the one for whom the world has never been able to provide a satisfying substitute.

Copyright © Lifeword.org.

Southeastern Gospel Fest

presented by Southeastern Baptist College



EMCEE - JOSH FRANKS



3 Nightly Concerts
April 21-23, 2022

Thursday
APRIL 21



HOPE'S JOURNEY DIXIE ECHOES JEFF & SHERI EASTER LEFEVRE QUARTET

Friday
APRIL 22



JOSH & ASHLEY FRANKS MICHAEL COMBS PERRYS THE OLD PATHS

Saturday
APRIL 23



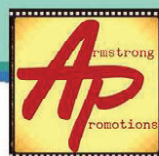
THE BIBLETONES TIM LOVELACE GUARDIANS BRIAN FREE & ASSURANCE



CONCERTS START AT 6:00PM / DOORS OPEN AT 5:00PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

\$20 NIGHTLY / \$50 3-DAY PASS



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Laurel, Mississippi †
607 West 5th Street, Laurel, MS 39440

For more information:
601.426.6346 or visit
www.southeasternbaptist.edu

Texas Church Seeks Pastor

First Baptist Church of Omen, Texas is seeking a bi-vocational pastor to share all aspects of a small Baptist church, with particular interest in a family-oriented ministry. We prefer some seminary training, but more importantly a true calling by God and led by the Holy Spirit to discern the Word of God and love his congregation and a commitment to Biblical Christian principles.

Omen is located between Whitehouse, Troup and Arp, Chapel Hill, and located about 23 miles from Jacksonville, Texas.

Please send resumes to firstbaptistchurchomen@gmail.com or mail to P.O. Box 508, Arp, Texas 75750. If available, please attach any links of video or audio clips of your recordings.

Southeastern Gospel Fest Support Needs

GROUPS and COST

Dixie Echoes Thursday, April 21 \$1500	Brian Free & Assurance Saturday, April 23 \$3000
Tim Lovelace Saturday, April 23 \$2000	Michael Combs Friday, April 22 \$2200
Jeff & Sherri Easter Thursday, April 21 \$3500	The Perrys Friday, April 22 \$2700
The Guardians Saturday, April 23 \$2500	The Old Paths Friday, April 22 \$2700
The Lefevre Quartet Thursday, April 21 \$3000	

SPONSOR CATEGORIES

- PLATINUM** - \$3000-\$3500
8 Artist Circle tickets for ALL PERFORMANCES with Back Stage Passes
- GOLD** - \$2500-\$2999
6 Artist Circle tickets for ALL PERFORMANCES with Back Stage Passes
- SILVER** - \$2000-\$2499
4 Artist Circle tickets ALL PERFORMANCES
- BRONZE** - \$1500-\$1999
2 Artist Circle tickets ALL PERFORMANCES