

Mississippi Baptist

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www.bmaofmississippi.com

VOL. 68 No. 5

Update On Unrest in Ukraine

By Jeff Franks,
BMA Missionary
from Baptist Trumpet

We have consistently asked the Lord to elevate men and women of good character and integrity to lead Ukraine, a nation whose people we have grown to appreciate and love. To encourage (our supporters) who have also prayed with us during the recent troubles, we were delighted last Saturday, February 22, when Oleksandr Turchynov was appointed as speaker of Parliament and subsequently as acting president of Ukraine.

This is the same leader who became head of state security (former KGB) after the Orange Revolution in 2004. An author of several books on battling corruption, he once wrote that to fight corruption in Ukraine you must first be willing to lay your head on the chopping block. Unlike most politicians, he acted according to his word by promptly investigating and preparing to prosecute corrupt oligarchs who were systematically robbing Ukraine's government by depositing stolen gas pipeline revenues into their private offshore accounts. But when President Yushchenko was threatened by them, he fired Turchinov, and the oligarchs have held sway to this day. They were even able to use their vast riches to reinstall the "villain" of the Orange Revolution, Victor Yanukovich, the man who was just ousted from the presidency and has now been charged with mass murder. Apparently, he has gone into hiding.

Most amazing to us (oh, ye of little faith!) is the fact that the acting president of Ukraine is an ordained Baptist minister and weekly preaches the Word of God!

But let us be sober and continue to pray. The newly formed government is tenuous and facing gargantuan challenges. Please know that the oligarchs still retain both their great wealth and their sinister plans to control Ukraine for their own corrupt purposes. Unruly crowds in southern and eastern provinces are holding mass demonstrations and shouting, "Russia, Russia, Russia!"

Ukraine is \$13 billion in debt, with a currency that has inflated nearly 10% in the last few days. The country is totally dependent on Russia for natural gas, and now is surely to pay dearly for it. The European Union cannot underwrite Ukraine's debt because too many of its members are already suffering from austerity measures due to their own runaway debts.

Therefore, pray that President Turchinov will have God's grace and wisdom to face these difficulties, and while you are at it, why not ask the Lord to raise men and women of good character to lead the USA through similar problems that face our own republic? In the absence of such leaders, our own streets may well resemble "EuroMaidan" in Ukraine, God forbid!



Jeff Franks
Trumpet Photo

Danny Bullock Barnabas Touch Trip Coordinator

Every BMA pastor and most members are familiar with the Macedonian call in Acts 16 where Paul unexpectedly received a plea from a man saying, "Come over into Macedonia and help us." That request changed all of Paul's plans for the next few years and redirected his efforts. The result of all this, of course, was the spread of Christianity throughout all of Europe and the known world.

In 2013 Mike Goodwin, President of Evangelistic International Ministries, received a similar plea. He and his dad Rocky had been praying for two years about the possibility of going into Kenya and/

CONSIDER THIS

Jesus didn't come
to make you
a nicer person.

He came to
radically,
dramatically,
and
eternally
transform
you!

"Come over to Tanzania and help us"

The Tanzanian Call

or Tanzania. Ironically, shall we say providentially, Mike received unsolicited emails through the EIM website from both countries on the same day. He receives multiple emails monthly asking for help, and most are deleted due to doctrinal differences, just being pleas for financial help, or because he felt no leading from God. However, the email from Tanzania grabbed his heart. A 33 year old Baptist pastor,



tors and leaders. His dad Cosmas had come to the Tabora region of western Tanzania and planted a church 20 years ago.

He then began to send men into other villages to spread the Gospel and plant churches. At one point there were over 40 churches. Now only 22 remain, and the pastors are teaching different doctrines due to being untaught.

These men now know that they went about this wrong. Their zeal and vision were com-

see page 3

Senior Adult Conferences Near!

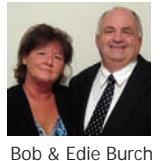
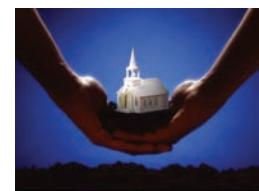


"Gaither Style" singing will again be highlighted in the 2014 Senior Adult Conferences. More information about these meetings can be found on page 3 of this issue.

Larry Geraldson
Director

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Department of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund



Bob & Edie Burch



Kenneth & Carole Pollock



Bobby & Lesa Elliott



Danny & Brenda Bartlett



Sidney & Becky Farmer



Ray & JoAnn Boone



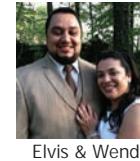
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Phillip & Dawn Burns



Estuardo & Yasmine Marroquin



Elvis & Wendy Garcia



Ed & Patricia DuVall

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Hope In The Midst of Dark Times

I am as disheartened as you about the open attack on our God and His precepts by the Homosexual movement in the United States. However, I am not surprised. David warns us in his prophecy in Psalm 2:2-3 “The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the skirts...” vs 9. In chapter 2 he will explain how God will bring destruction upon the nation: 1) He removes his pity, throws down his wrath, and pollutes the kingdom and the princes. 2) He draws back his hand from Israel’s enemies and aims them like a bow to a target, so that they destroy all that is pleasant. 3) He destroyed her strongholds and broke down her places of assembly, and causes her solemn feast to be forgotten. 4) He despises her king and priests and casts off her altar. It seems all is lost. One might say, what’s the use? Then, in Chapter 3, the prophet falsely, and idolatry in verse 9. He said they would come and stand in the house of God, and say, “We are delivered to do all these abominations,” leaving us to believe that the people must have thought that the priest condoned their actions. Jeremiah would tell them to remember Shiloh. Shiloh was the place where the tabernacle of God first came to rest when the children of Israel came into the promised land. Under the caretaking of Eli, the solemn feast became polluted because of the ungodly deeds of Hophni and Phinehas, Eli’s two sons. Eli failed to stop his sons and soon Israel would lose the Ark of The Covenant, the nation would suffer defeat and shame, and destruction would come to the entire family of Eli. When Phinehas’ wife heard of the death of her husband, she went into labor and gave birth to the child she named for the occasion, Ichabod (“The glory is departed from Israel.” 1 Sam 4:21).

In Jeremiah 7:13-14, the Lord declares that because the nation of Israel would not listen to the warning, He would do the same to them that He had done to Shiloh. In Lamentations we hear the prophet weeping for his nation. He cries out in chapter 1 with the question, how can this happen. He cries, “...she dwelleth among the heathen...” vs 2; “...no one comes to the solemn feast...” and, “...her priests sigh...” vs 4; “...her enemies prosper...” and, “her children are gone into captivity...” and, “...the adversaries ...mock her at her sabbath...” vs 5; “...Jerusalem hath grievously sinned...” vs 8; “...her filthiness is in her

cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies.” In verse 40-41 he says, “Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord. Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens.”

What should our response be to these troubling times? May I suggest to you, that we need to plant churches as quickly as God will allow. We need to build strongholds in Mississippi and prepare our people to contend for the faith. Keep our missionaries in your prayers as they labor to reach the lost with the gospel.

Special Emphasis Around the Corner

Our Special Emphasis campaign is just around the corner and I hope you will begin planning for it now. We will be sending all the churches bulletin inserts with information about our missionaries. We hope that each church will use these as a reminder to pray for one of our missionaries each week during the emphasis time. This year, we will be allocating our Special Emphasis offering into three areas: Disaster Relief, Church Ministry (to help struggling churches with supplemental pastoral support), and General Missions. The percentages to each of these areas will be announced in an upcoming issue. We need to have a great Special Emphasis this year and I hope you will plan to help us.

Please Mark Your Calendar Now

The 2014 Missions and Evangelism Conference will be held on Saturday, May 3 at First Baptist Church of Shady Grove in Laurel. Our speakers include: Dr. John Adams, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Mantachie; Bro. Justin Cameron, Pastor of Midway Baptist Church of McClain; Bro. Dewitt Bain, former Pas-

tor of Shiloh Baptist Church; Bro. Bryan Atwood, Pastor of Campground Baptist Church; Bro. Johnny Williams, Pastor of North Gautier Baptist Church; Bro. Gary Smith, Pastor of East Fulton Baptist Church; and Dr. Charley Holmes, President of the BMA Theological Seminary.

This year's meeting will also include the award of two \$2,500.00 Scholarships to Southeastern Baptist College. The Arnold Knight Scholarship (an ongoing scholarship provided by the Revolving Loan Fund) will be awarded to two individuals who are presently pursuing full time education at Southeastern Baptist College. In coordination with SBC, we will facilitate this award in recognition of years of service to our Lord's work by Arnold Knight.

High Attendance, Membership and Total Offerings for February 2014

Church Planters

Bob Burch	68 - 24 -	\$2,459.00
Bobby Elliott	38 - 30 -	\$1,654.00
Danny Bartlett	16 - 5 -	\$1,314.00
Kelby Johnson	21 - 14 -	\$770.00
Ray Boone	45 - 45 -	\$1,745.00
Sidney Farmer	41 - 27 -	\$7,021.00
Phillip Burns	17 - 4 -	\$459.00

Hispanic Missions - South
Hattiesburg 17 - 6 - \$448.00
Biloxi 12 - 3 - n/a
Laurel 124 - 95 - \$5,883.00
(Pastor Estuardo Marroquin, Coordinator)

Hispanic Missions – North
Tupelo? 45 - 16 - \$220.00
Oxford? 45 - 2 - \$641.00
Ripley 89 - 74 - \$4,238.00
(Pastor Elvis Garcia, Coordinator)

African American Missions
Indianola 45 - 45 - \$1,120.00
Olive Branch 17 - 11 - \$1,235.00
Cleveland 26 - 50 - \$1,737.00
(Pastor Ed DuVall, Coordinator)

Collectively, our missionaries reported 432 new contacts, shared the gospel 246 times, had 20 professions of faith and 2 join by letter for the month of February.

New Heart Mission to Organize

New Heart Baptist Mission has announced their plans to organize on March 8, 2014. They have invited everyone



Missionary Ray Boone

continued on page 6

COMMISSION ON *Senior Adults*

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt
Director

Commission on Senior Adults Conferences Near

South Mississippi Senior Conference; Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at Big Creek Baptist Church
North Mississippi Senior Conference; Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at East Fulton Baptist Church

The South Mississippi Conference is just around the corner and much excitement is already in the air as our seniors anticipate a great time together.

Mack's Fish Camp will once again cater the noon meal. The registration fee of \$15.00 will cover the noon meal of catfish and chicken plus all the trimmings. A meal ticket will be given at registration. Each person must have a meal ticket for the noon meal.

Call In

Once again we ask that you call in the number attending from your church. This will help

in many ways. Please either call Big Creek Baptist Church at 601-763-8100 or Kimberly Parker at 601-428-8616. Also, please call either one of the given numbers to give us the name of ministers in your congregation who will complete 50 years in the ministry during 2014. Plaques will be presented and must be made, so please call by March 15th.

The Cameron Trio will provide that early morning devotional and songfest. They will bless your heart.

Bro. Travis Plumlee will preach during the 11 o'clock hour and he will lift us toward heaven.

The afternoon session will again feature a Gaither Style Homecoming music hour with Bryson Haden and an assembled choir. Bro. Earl Smith will be directing congregational singing throughout the day. All of this adds up to a full day of blessings that you don't want to miss. Come and bring someone with you.

More information will be given on the North Mississippi Conference as the time approaches.

Please pray that we will experience spiritual power from on high as we meet together, Tuesday, March 25 at Big Creek Baptist Church.

Tanzanian Call

from page 1

mendable, but they realize they sent men without proper discipleship and training. Renatus paled with Mike to come help them so that they can continue reaching their people. Plans were made for Mike, Rocky, and me to go, meet the men face to face, assess the situation, and determine if we felt we could work together. Rocky was unable to go so Mike and I left Shreveport on February 9. Almost 40 hours later we arrived in Tabora and went to visit the first church and pastor. What we found there would be repeated at each stop - 90% of the church members do not have Bibles. How can a believer grow in Christ without God's Word? Even some of the pastors only had little Gideon New Testaments.



Then the real work begins! We have pledged to return November 3-22 for two weeks to teach Old and New Testament survey courses to the pastors. We found that none of the pastors have ever read all of the books of the Bible - some have only read portions of the New Testament.

The first and most obvious need is for Bibles so Mike has committed to try and raise \$10,000 to place a Swahili Bible in the hands of every church member in these 22 Baptist churches. After getting home

he is going to wire money to buy reference Bibles in Swahili for each pastor. Anyone wishing to help with this project can send checks to the EIM office at P.O. Box 297, Magnolia, AR 71754.

Who will return with us to teach men hungry to be taught? When we told them of our plans, they begged us not to wait until November. They want the teaching now! These will truly be Barnabas Touch trips as we "come alongside" them to give encouragement to some desperately desiring help. After these survey courses we plan to take multiple trips the following years to complete the training with other subjects. Anyone willing to go and invest in these men can contact me at danbull0550@gmail.com or 870-904-5032.

One thing that excites Mike and me is the potential we see for these men to reach East Africa if this is successful. Their Swahili language is not only spoken throughout all Tanzania, but has now spread to the eight countries that border it, as well as 4 or 5 other surrounding nations. A Swahili broadcast would reach much of East Africa.

Mike left Renatus copies of the BMAA Doctrinal Statement and Principles of Cooperation. Could this become a partnership with our Missions Department? Could Tanzania become

and as they are leaving the second group will arrive to teach the New Testament.

SENIOR JUBILEE

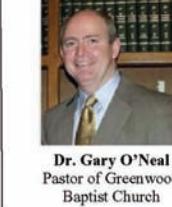
SR. ADULT CONFERENCES

Registration Fee: \$15.00 per person

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Travis Plumlee
Conference Speaker



Dr. Gary O'Neal
Pastor of Greenwood Baptist Church



Roger Akers
Pastor of East Amory Baptist Church

South Conference
Big Creek Baptist Church,
Soso, MS
March 25, 2014

North Conference
E. Fulton Baptist Church,
Fulton, MS
May 13, 2014



"Gaither Homecoming" style of music in the afternoon....

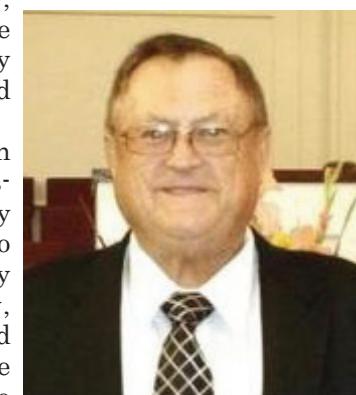


Special Music by:
The Cameron Trio
Congregational Music led by:
Bryson Haden Earl Smith

You don't want to miss these conferences!!!

Former pastor Arthur Shaw dies

Bro. Arthur Hugo Shaw, Jr. passed away on Wednesday, February 19, 2014, at his home surrounded by his wife and daughters.



Bro. Arthur Shaw

He was born in Poplarville, Mississippi, on July 5, 1947, to Hugo and Mary Frances Shaw, who preceded him in death. He was a brother to Sheila Shaw Cruthird of Wiggins, Mississippi, and Angela Shaw, who preceded him in death at four months of age.

a sending station into this part of the world as The Philippines has become in the Pacific Rim area? Only time will tell.

Would there be a young couple who might be willing to move to Tanzania and establish a permanent Bible Institute so that sending various teams throughout the years would become unnecessary? We will see if God has already been working on that. Mike referred to Blackaby's "Experiencing God" and said it looks like God is already working here so let's join Him. Now who else is hearing "Come over to Tanzania and help us?"

Bro. Arthur surrendered to the call of His Lord to the ministry at the age of sixteen. He faithfully pastored and preached God's Word for fifty years. He pastored several churches during his ministry: Evergreen Baptist Church, Seminary, Mississippi; Emmanuel Baptist Church, Prentiss, Mississippi; First Baptist Church of Henleyfield, Carriere, Mississippi; Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, Columbia, Mississippi; Corinth Baptist Church, Lucedale, Mississippi; and Silver Run Baptist Church, Poplarville, Mississippi. He completed his ministry by serving as interim pastor at College Heights Baptist Church in Poplarville, Mississippi.

Bro. Arthur is survived by his wife, Lela Elaine Williamson Shaw; two daughters, Laura Shaw (Nathan) Farmer of Picayune, Mississippi, and Crystal Shaw (Bill) Swilley of Purvis, Mississippi; and three grandchildren, Abby, Katie, and Jacob Farmer.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, February 22, 2014, at Silver Run Baptist Church.

**Baptist Missionary Association
of Mississippi**

www.bmaofmississippi.com

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Don Brown

*Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi*

Don Brown - Editor

Opinion Page

What 's With All Those Mission Articles?

What is it about all that "mission stuff"? We should never get tired or bored with missions and mission news!

On the front page of this issue there is a report from Missionary Jeff Franks about the political turmoil in the Ukraine. While we do care about the freedom of people everywhere, Bro. Franks gives us a real time look at how the Gospel and evangelism around the world is affected by regional politics.

Here in our country the political landscape seems to be constantly changing and this certainly affects society and the freedom of God's people to share the Gospel and to live by its tenets. Daily we read of religious freedom being slowly taken away.

Our own state mission program is growing. Let us pray for our local, state and national mission works and not forget the pressures that our mis-

sionaries around the world have to deal with.

The article from Barnabas Touch coordinator Danny Bullock is another indication that God is still blessing His Word. I challenge you to read this report on page 1.

Below is a report from our mission work in India. God is blessing His work all over the world. May we continue to be faithful doing our part.

Missionary Available To Visit Churches

by Don Brown, editor

While pastoring Big Creek Baptist Church it was my joy to invite Missionary Prashant Prakash to tell us about his work in his native country of India. I recently received the following note from him:

"Hello Bro, Brown, Greetings from India. Hope you are doing well. We will be on furlough April 9th to June 30th in the coming months. I am working with Bro. Phil Knott at the (national) missions office to visit churches and share the BMAA India work..."

I would encourage our churches to invite Bro. Prakash to visit and share his work in India. I ask him to send some information about the work in India. That is provided below. Pray for Prashant and the work of reaching India for Christ.

Our Work in India

by Prashant Prakash

The BMAA India work was established in 1975 through Missionary Prakash Guruputra. After his death in 2000 the ministry continues to grow and touch the lives of thousands of people with the gospel.

The need to minister in India is ever increasing. With a population over 1.2 billion a significant majority of them are in some kind of crises. God has a plan and a future for them through us. Various ministries carried out through the BMAA for nearly 40 years have been instrumental in helping thousands of these deprived people come to Christ. One of the goals is to touch lives of thousands of people with the Gospel. Primary focus of the ministry is evangelism and church planting. There have been more than 60 churches that have



Prashant Prakash

been planted through the years.

The vision is to train and equip those who have come to the Lord in such a manner that they become fulfillers of the great commission Matt 28:19-20. All areas of the ministry are integrated and tied very closely with each other. From Church planting, evangelism, children's home, Christian school and the radio ministry they all focus on reaching to the lost. Once the word of God touches the people's lives and when those lives are transformed by the power of the word and then we follow up with them to do other things in the community.

There are 25 students in the Bible school and who are being trained in the word of God. Once they are trained and equipped they are sent to plant

churches in the villages where the Gospel has never reached. India has 600,000 villages and it is said that 500,000 of these villages do not have a single witness. These men and women are trained effectively to carry out their individual mission as church leaders. This is done in a very systematic way. Each one has a special call to the ministry and we try to equip them for that.

Extensive work is carried out among children. The majority of the population of India is below the age of 15 years. This helps us to focus and commit ourselves to disciple children, as they are the future generation leaders. Reaching is done primarily through the proclamation of the Gospel and they are discipled to a point to know what they believe about Jesus Christ. There are a total of 1,800 students that we work with on a day-to-day basis through the schools that have been established through the BMAA. Children are introduced to literature that is developed according to their age groups.

Lifeworld radio ministries has done extensive work here in this region. The program is broadcasted in the Kannada language, which is spoken by 55 million people. The Lifeworld broadcast started over 20 years ago and has been instrumental in transforming the lives of thousands of people over the years. Even today it is being very effective to reach those villages where a preacher has never been.

BMAA India also works with communities in the villages to educate children, day care, skill training and adult literacy programs and all this is done as a witness and credible work of the local church.



Bible School Students in India

USPS 353-960
P.O. Box 8181
Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000

Phone 601-426-3293

PRICE
\$20.00 Per Year by Mail
\$10.00 Per Year by Email
CHURCH PLAN
\$ 1.30 Per Month

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Southeastern Baptist College

Danny Pitts - Interim President

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Danny Pitts

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Bible Thought

Proverbs 12:27 says, "The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious." Application of the scriptural idea will demand that the wise person is frugal and does not waste valuable resources. Be assured that the past leadership and staff at Southeastern have worked at finding ways to "cut out the fat" in the use of all assets and income. We continue to evaluate every endeavor with hopes

of eliminating waste while providing a high quality education. Your contributions are precious to us.

Prayer Requested

Since being elected Interim President by the Board of Trustees in November, I have had the privilege of representing Southeastern Baptist College at nine of our local associations. The Lord willing, I hope to make all of our associations soon. The response by you and your heart for the school is en-

couraging. Financial contributions are always required, but prayer for God to bless the ministry is the greatest need. Without Him, all efforts are in vain. Please continue to ask God to show himself strong in every work done for the college.

Seminary Class

Many of you know that our Missions Director has had three BMA Theological Seminary courses offered in our state to enhance the Professional Development of our missionaries. Several pastors have taken advantage of these classes for credit or for the knowledge. Working with the Missions Office and the BMA Seminary, we are excited to announce that a class will be offered this summer at Southeastern Baptist College. Dr. Mark Livingston will teach on Pastoral Ministries.

The class will follow the hy-



Clean up work ongoing in the dorms at Southeastern College by volunteers willing to help. Contact the college at 601-426-6346 to find out what you can do to help in the renovation and upkeep ongoing at SBC.

brid format of the two previous ones. Reading and other assignments will be required online. Face-to-face teaching will occur at Southeastern on June 2-3 and June 24-25. This combination allows students to have personal interaction with the teacher and fellowship with students, plus the advantage of a short time period away from their fields.

To register for the class, please contact the dean's office by email at bmatsem@bmats.edu or by phone 1-800-259-5673. To those

interested in post graduate work, this could be your first course on the way to a Master's Degree. More information about the class and professor will be given in future articles.

Reminder

Remember the repair and renovation needs which we have. Improvements to the dorms are being carried out at the expense of the workers. The initial estimated cost at one dorm was between \$500 and \$1,000 per room.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

"Are You A Hog?"

II Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; Behold, all things are become new."

I've seen a lot of hogs eat in my time. Hogs are hogs and there are a couple of things you can count on with hogs...

The first thing is, if given the choice between a bucket of scraps or a plate of the finest food Momma can make, he'll pick that bucket of stinking scraps every time.

Second, no matter how stinky that bucket is, or how much of it there is, that hog ain't ashamed.

Think again of the beginning scripture from II Corinthians. If in the middle of his stinking feast that hog was to be re-created and all of a sudden he was a man, then that "feast" would make him vomit. It was so good a minute ago, but now he can't stand to even think about taking that into his mouth. If it still looks sooooo goood... he's still a hog.

Now, seein' that he was recreated while he was in the filth and stink of the hog-pen, he might think that stinky mush that's in the bucket is all that's being offered. He may even stick his head back in there and take a bite... (Yuck, I can't stand to think that one through) but he can't keep it down. It will turn his stomach and he WILL look for, and long for, the good plate fixed for him.

Now, here's the thing: There just seems to be a lot of hog slop finding its way into a lot of churches.

"Church members" going places they ought not to go doing things they ought not to do, talking ways they ought not to talk, and then leaving 'cause their church doesn't have anything to offer.... and it all tastes just fine to them.

Preachers spend so much time begging the "recreated" (the born again) to come and eat off of the good plate. You'd like for me to say it just doesn't make sense, but it does. Watch them hogs. You'll see what I mean.

You'll be showing your good common sense if you will ask yourself, "Am I a hog?"

Trustee Updates Work at College

by Dennis Rankin, SBC Trustee

Thanks to all who have helped on the maintenance at Southeastern. Donald Beasley, a student, has worked on the roof of the back dorm and fixed a leak that has been doing quite a bit of damage inside.

Bro. Roger Jefcoat and some of the other Classic Builders have been quite a help in cleaning out some debris. Bro. Sidney Davis donated most of the paint that has been used. Bro. Geraldson donated the materials used in the lights that were replaced.

In the front dorm, new doors have been installed on four rooms. The rooms have been painted top to bottom. A 2 person desk has been built for each room and new 4-tube fluorescent lights have been installed, along with some new receptacles. New closet shelves and rods have been put in and new closet doors will be installed soon. Sylvia (Mrs. Rankin) has been working on new curtains and they will be up soon.

I would like to have you to come and look at the work that has been done and some that still needs to be done. If you would like to contribute in this endeavor, an account has been set up in the Revolving Loan Fund in the name of College Maintenance Fund. Any amount will be appreciated. We estimate that it has costs around \$1,200 per room to do all this work. This would be a good project for your church, group or class. Thank you for your consideration.



New doors in dormitory



Cathy Johnson

Pastor's Wife Dies

Mrs. Cathy Johnson died on Thursday, February 13, 2014. She was the wife of Bro. Mike Johnson, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, Baldwyn, Mississippi.

Cathy Lynn Crabb Johnson, 60, went to be with her Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, on Thursday, February 13, 2014, at her home. She was born May 7, 1953, to Charles and Mary

Helen Pounds Crabb. She was born again at the age of 26. She was a 1971 graduate of Booneville High School. She then attended NEMCC and the University of Mississippi, graduating in 1975. She taught at the Child Development Center, Prentiss Public Schools, Kossuth Elementary School, West Union Attendance Cen-

continued on page 8

DiscipleGuide

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Twitter: [@scottattebery](https://twitter.com/scottattebery)



Scott Attebery

Game-Changing Church Leadership

In the sports world, there are no perfect teams. Every roster has a weak link.

Everyone loves to see a coach transform a group of athletes into a team of winners. That's part of the fascination with sports.

Likewise, there are no perfect churches. Yet, in God's wisdom, He has chosen to accomplish Kingdom work through his Church. Using the imperfect to accomplish divine plans displays God's majesty.

God's design for His Church includes two offices: Pastor (aka "Elder," or "Bishop") and deacon. The simplicity of the structure is brilliant.

The Pastor/Elder/Bishop role is a role of leadership. All three words (Pastor, Elder, Bishop) are used interchangeably to describe the same role (2 Peter 5:2). The word "pas-

tor" emphasizes shepherding, the word "elder" emphasizes maturity, and the word "bishop" emphasizes oversight.

The leadership of the pastor/elder/bishop is not the final authority. In fact, this role is a stewardship position in which the pastor/elder/bishop represents the interest of Christ, the "Chief Shepherd" (I Peter 5:4). That is why the Scriptural qualifications for the role of pastor call for a man of humility and discipline (I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9). His leadership must always be in the best interest of the Kingdom and the congregation. What an opportunity to display Christ-like servant leadership!

The role of deacon is of equal importance to the role of pastor. The word "deacon" means "servant." However, don't mistake "servant" to mean "inferior." We are one body with many parts (I Corinthians 12:20) and the Bible speaks very highly of the one who chooses to serve (Matthew 23:11-12).

The "servant" title does not mean that the deacons are the only people doing acts of service within the church. Every member should be involved in serving each other (I Peter 4:10). The deacons lead and

DiscipleGuide Church Resources introduced DiscipleKids, a new children's Bible study curriculum, in the fall 2013 quarter. The new curriculum offers a wider choice of materials, but they come in different formats than DiscipleGuide consumers have been accustomed to seeing in the past. Following are some questions that DiscipleGuide hears frequently about the new curriculum.

Is the new curriculum on a cycle? The DiscipleKids curriculum is not on a cycle. Each quarter offers brand new content that will not be repeated.

How is the curriculum organized? DiscipleKids offers five levels of material. Churches have access to two levels of preschool resources (2 & 3-year olds and 4 & 5-year olds) and three levels of elementary cur-

coordinate the service efforts.

As with pastors, scripture provides a list of qualifications for deacons (I Timothy 3:8-13). The main difference between pastor and deacon qualifications is the pastor's requirement to be apt to teach. Of course, this does not mean a deacon is disqualified if he has the ability to teach.

Both roles (pastor and deacon) are pictures of Christ! And when these two roles work together under Christ's divine plan for the church, the results can be game-changing!

Missions Report

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to attend and I would like to encourage you to come out and support them on this very special day. The announcement stated that the service was to begin at 5:00pm.

Revolving Loan Fund (as of Feb 26, 2014 and since August 1st, 2013)

Gross assets are now at \$18,123,062.00, an increase of \$656,141.00 since August 1st. Net assets are now at \$3,029,263.00, an increase of \$80,023.00 since August 1st. We have 7 new loans totaling \$831,172.00 since August 1st. Our current loan rate is 4.25%. If your church is in need of a loan to expand or build new facilities, we encourage you to give us a call.

Visit Our Website and Facebook Page

Our website is www.bmams.org. Like our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/bmamsmissions>.



New Heart Mission Progress
From the beginning to organization on March 8, 2014

DiscipleKids FAQs

by Jerome Cooper

riculum (1st & 2nd grade, 3rd & 4th grade, and preteen).

What resources do I need to order? Every level of DiscipleKids includes the following set of resources. Order



those resources that fit the needs of your children and your classroom. The resources include the following pieces.

Leader Guide—The "Leader Guide" offers a comprehensive session plan. It gives a step-by-step process for presenting the Bible lesson and then ideas for activities that reinforce the lesson. Order one "Leader Guide" for each class.

Student Activity Pages — This bound booklet has one page for each lesson. On one side is a simple activity that goes along with the lesson. The back side is a letter to the child's parents informing them what their child learned in class that day with ideas of how they can review those lessons through the week. Order one set of student activity pages for each child in the class.

Leader Pack — The "Leader Pack" contains teaching pictures, visuals, posters, and many other pieces that enhance the presentation of the lesson. Instructions for how to use the materials in the "Leader Pack" are in the "Leader Guide." Order one "Leader Pack" for each class.

Enhanced CD — The enhanced CD is the most abundant resource for student activities in the classroom. The CD contains coloring sheets, classroom handouts, craft ideas, song lyrics, and many other items for student activities during the class session. Again, complete instructions about how to use the CD contents are in the "Leader Guide." Order one "Enhanced CD" for each class.

DVD — The DVD contains music tracks, music videos, video clips, and other media files to use during the class session. The DVD is intended for use in the classroom, so it will be necessary to equip the classroom with a DVD player and a television screen. Instructions for when to use the DVD contents are included in the

"Leader Guide." Order one DVD for each class.

What is DisciplePoints? DiscipleKids coordinator Cindy Williams writes a weekly blog at www.DisciplePoints.com.



Parents can find Cindy's insights into the weekly lesson, get her suggestions for activities and discussion starters to use with children at home, and sign up for weekly alerts of the DisciplePoints updates.

For the answers to all of your questions about DiscipleGuide's DiscipleKids curriculum log on to www.DiscipleGuide.org, or call a customer service representative at 800-333-1442.

Former Mississippi Pastor's Wife Dies

Opal Irene Vinson Wilson, 92 of Morrilton, Arkansas, died February 13. BMA Minister Woodrow Wilson, her husband of 68 years, preceded her in

death five years ago. Survivors include three sons: Joseph Wilson of Morrilton; Jim Wilson of Portageville, MO; and Larry Wilson

son of Jonesboro; two daughters, Donna Woodard and Donice Berkemeyer, both of Plumerille; a sister, Billie Sexton of Newport; 11 grandchildren, 29 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren. Funeral services were held February 18, at Roller-Farmers Union Funeral Home in Jonesboro, with Wynndel King officiating.

Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.

Prov. 4:1-2

Drivers Needed!

I don't spend a lot of time thinking about juxtaposition. I know it when I see it. I saw it the other day while I was driving by two buildings adjacent to each other. One building was a church. The business next door to the church was a taxi company. The very prominent billboard between these buildings had a large letter message which was easy to read from a considerable distance: "JESUS IS COMING SOON — DRIVERS NEEDED."

I was very confused when I saw this sign. What would a driver have to do with the coming of Jesus? In order for Jesus to come, does He need a driver? Is He coming in a taxi, rental car, or perhaps limousine? Would the newly hired drivers be chauffeurs for the saints who are to come in the glorious entourage that will accompany His coming?

As I got closer and passed the sign along the road, I realized there were two billboards each with a separate message. One had nothing to do with the other. Or did they have a lot to do with each other? For me they certainly did as I began to ponder the two signs. I remembered His words: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done...on earth". Many times I neglect the fact that His kingdom and His will are both to be within me. On the public high-



ways, I am His driver if I profess to be called by His name.

A lot of times all hell breaks loose on public highways. Drivers are rude.

They curse one another while behind the wheel. They motion each other with abhorrent hand gestures. They question the parentage, the intelligence level, and the ability of the "other" driver. Amazingly these are the Baptists, Methodists, Catholics, and the Assemblies people coming home from church on Sundays!

If you promise to tell no one else, I'll tell you that I am at times an unpleasant driver! I get upset and angry with the "other" drivers on the road. "They are not driving like they should!" "They are not driving as 'good' as I am". One man said, "Lord, I thank you that I am not as other men are...especially like the lady in the blue van who just cut me off without a signal."

Jesus is coming soon - drivers needed. I think Jesus needs me as His driver right now. On the paved four, six, or eight lane highway or the back country gravel road, I want to be His driver. In fact if I am not His driver - that is if I don't clean up my act to become a more considerate and focused driver - He may come sooner in my life than I thought He would - even at the next intersection.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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



SIDNEY DAVIS

Lord. Be the extraordinary godly parents who fear the Lord and walk in His commandments. Pray for God's guidance as you live your life as a family for God's glory.

Thank the Lord for the blessing of a child! That child is God's heritage to you!

Association Rally for Home

The Gulf Baptist Association held their annual rally for the Home on February 13. This meeting was held with the Woodlawn Baptist Church in Pascagoula where Bro. Danny Creswell is the pastor. We thank the Lord for the good response to this rally and want

to express our appreciation to each individual and church for your support of the Home and its ministry.

Expression of Sympathy

We would like to express our sympathy to the family of Bro. Arthur Shaw. Bro. Shaw was a faithful pastor in the Lord's work. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Shaw family during their time of loss and bereavement.

Remember in Prayer

Continue to remember our girls and boys and the ministry of the Home in your prayers.

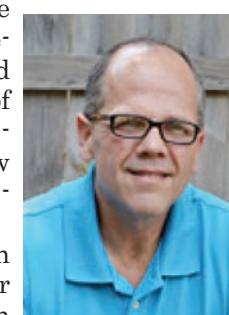
Old vs New

by Larry Barker
Director of Operations North America
BMA of America Missions Department

Newer churches usually see more growth than older churches. It has been estimated that it takes 88 members in a church over 15 years old to bring one person to Christ. Yet, in a church five years or younger it only takes eight members to bring a person to Christ. Why are new churches more effective? Why are newer churches so much more evangelistically inclined? Here are some possible answers to these questions from Dynamic Church Planting International Training, Churches Planting Churches:

- Focus — "Established churches tend to focus on ministering to those already present. The older a church gets, the easier it is to concentrate on nurturing and satisfying those who are already involved. This tendency is very

difficult to fight, even among people with the best of intentions. In many new churches, the core group is small and those people know they must focus on winning the lost, or else the church will not survive. New churches tend to concentrate on evangelism and the goal of establishing a new congregation."



But an older church can refocus on

Larry Barker

evangelism and pursuing the lost as Jesus did. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10) Begin living as missionaries in your zip code. Churches should approach every day as if they are headed out on a short-term mission trip because they live and minister in the third largest mission field in the world.

- Style — Dynamic Church Planting International puts it this way: "Established churches tend to prefer to use the style of ministry that was relevant and effective when the church was started. Such tra-

ditions are usually very hard to change. Style includes issues such as: music (old style or new), dress (traditional formal clothing or come-as-you-are) and vocabulary (words and phrases that are not understood in today's culture referred to by some as 'Christianeze.') Christians in established churches often resist changing with the times."

But older churches can take steps to change their approach to ministry in order to reach more people with the gospel. You can remain Biblically sound while also remaining culturally relevant. Truth never changes, but methodology can. Remember, form follows function! Paul said in I Cor. 9:22: "To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."

- Lack of Vision — DCPI Churches Planting Churches says, "New churches begin because of a vision of starting a church to reach the lost. Established churches tend to become comfortable and satisfied with the status quo and lose their vision for reaching lost people. Proverbs 29:18a says, 'Where there is no vision, the people perish.' Over time, most churches lose their vision and passion for reaching the lost. Instead of being fishers of men, they become keepers of an aquarium!"

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Mississippi WMA

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Capital WMA Luncheon Invitation

All ladies in the Capitol Association are invited to attend a brainstorming luncheon on Saturday March 8, 2013 at Skyway Hills Missionary Baptist Church in Pearl. The meeting will begin at 11:00 am and last until 1:00 pm. We ask that each lady bring a potluck contribution for the lunch and any and all ideas to help grow our WMA group both spiritually and numerically.

In recent years, the interest in WMA appears to have waned and attendance is very poor to these meetings. Come join us in wonderful Christian lady fellowship while we seek to serve the Lord! Any questions may be directed to Tracy Strickland 601-354-4499 or email junkofbox@gmail.com

Oak Grove Association to Meet

The Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Association will meet with Corinth Baptist Church in Runnelstown on Thursday night, March 13, at 7:00 p.m. Each church is encouraged to elect her messengers to attend this meeting.

Ed Steele, Reporter

Digging Worms

I guess it's time to face the facts. After many years of turning a deaf ear and a blind eye to the cold, hard truths of life, somewhere along the way I made a wrong turn and came face to face with reality. It was a shocking experience that left me wondering if the world had actually come loose of the axis that it turns on and careened off into a mystical universe that makes us look at things in which we have no desire to view.

My scientific theories aside, no matter how well thought out, I realized that extreme measures would have to be taken. DENIAL! Plead the fifth, ask if facts really mean facts and generally become a politician. Not having the finely sculptured hairdo, the Italian made threads, or the ability to think of a good lie off the cuff, it became apparent that I would just have to buckle down and accept the truth.... I'm getting old.

I'm not ready to sit at the Country Store with the other old men and tell stories and drink coffee, but it seems I am headed down the other side of the hill of life. Some people realize this when their eyesight begins to falter, their teeth are put in a cup at night, and it is

From The Mind of



Chuck Lee

completely acceptable to walk in public wearing Bermuda shorts with a black sock and a blue sock while sporting sandals. I realized it when I went to dig worms for a little fishing trip I had planned. I gave up going for the big fish years ago. Anyway, as I spaded up half an acre looking for giant night crawlers, all that I found was a pale, white grub and a pretty decent little garden spot. I wish I knew how to garden.

When I was a kid, finding a night crawler was no problem. We had them crawling on the sidewalk, under any piece of old wood lying on the ground, and under extreme circumstances, we could kick some leaves around and fill a bucket full in just a matter of seconds. Even Wal-mart was out when I went to buy a box.

Granny's Fish House and Tanning Beds had a pretty good deal on catfish though, so digging worms turned out to not be so big an ordeal after all. Actually, I kind of enjoyed discovering where old people go when they can't dig a worm anymore. It also gave me an idea that might help walking around in public in Bermuda shorts. That is, when I get to that age.

witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

DCPI Churches Planting Churches training reminds us that, "From 1800 to 1960, the number of Baptists grew from 100,000 members to 20 million! Lyle Schaller estimates that 60-80% of the people in a new church become Christians through that church, therefore it is likely that 12 to 16 million came to Christ through these new Baptist

Missionary's Mother passes away

Edith J. Frierson, age 82, of Picayune, passed away Wednesday, February 12, 2014. Funeral services were held February 17, at Flat Top Unity Baptist Church near Picayune.

Mrs. Frierson was the mother of BMA missionary Linda (Doyle) Moore who work in the Philippines. Bro. Randy Shaw and Bro. Doyle Moore officiatee the service.

A lifelong resident of Picayune, Edith was a loving mother and grandmother; she was an exceptional cook and enjoyed preparing meals for her family and friends. Edith had an unwavering faith in God and was a faithful member of Flat Top Unity Baptist Church. Edith worked for the Picayune Item for over 30 years and was the circulation manager when she retired.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Edward J. Johnson and Bessie Carney Johnson; her husband of over 48 wonderful years, Oliver

"Bud" Frierson; her granddaughter, Aileen Moore; her great-granddaughter, Lauren Self; her three sisters, Bertie Mae Furr, Myrtis Christine Regan, Dorothea Frierson; her two brothers, John Albert Johnson and Charles Nathan Johnson.

Survivors include her three daughters, Linda Moore and husband Doyle, Janis Stockstill and husband Kenny, Beth Malley and husband Roger; her son, Wendell Frierson; her eleven grandchildren, Myrna and Doug Kiper, Kara Moore, Rebecca and Charles Bowers, Rachel and Shawn Self, Nick Stockstill, Anna Stockstill, Mark Frierson, Madison Frierson, Lesli and Josh Jordan, Kelsi Malley, Brock Malley; five great-grandchildren, Stephanie and Thomas Vest, Doug Kiper Jr., Nikki Moore, David Self, and Shaelynn Self; and her sister, Ann Chilton.

Cathy Johnson

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ter and Walnut Elementary School.

She was a faithful pastor's wife and teacher for 41 years, and taught many children the Word of God in Sunday school classes. She used her talent and passion for playing the piano to honor the Lord. She was a public school teacher for 38 years, helping children find their voice with speech therapy. She loved supporting her children and grandchildren in whatever activity in which they were involved, especially ball games. She enjoyed crossword puzzles, watching birds and

churches. The facts are clear: Associations that aggressively plant churches reach people for Christ and grow. The more aggressive they are, the greater the evangelism and growth."

Do we need to plant more churches? Most definitely, but we also need all churches to return to a passionate desire to do whatever they have to do to make sure their church is fulfilling the Great Commission in their Jerusalem!

growing daylilies. She was the best ""Meme"" in the world to her grandchildren. She was also a wonderful caretaker to her parents. She was adored by her husband, children and grandchildren.

Services were held Sunday, February 16, at Gaston Baptist Church with Bro. Mike Johnson, Bro. Chip Johnson, Bro. Floyd Lamb and Mark Franz officiating. Burial was in Booneville Cemetery.

She is survived by her husband, Mike Johnson, whom she

married May 25, 1973; her son, Chip (Amanda) Johnson of Randolph; two daughters, Jade (Josh) Hutchens of Booneville and Amber (Kyle) Heard of Pontotoc; her parents, Charles and Mary Helen Crabb of Booneville; a sister, Cindy (John) Simmons of Savannah, Tenn.; five grandchildren, Kaylee Faith Johnson, Kylee Grace Johnson, Kellan Hope Johnson, Kynslee Lane Johnson and Brody Kyle Hutchens; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Kelby Johnson
Director

Phone 662-316-6233 www.facebook.com/bmamsyouth

Sharpen 2014

Theme: The Importance of Family

March 28, 2014 @Springhill Baptist Church (Laurel, MS)

5:30 pm	Dinner
6:30 pm	Session 1 "The Bible & Family" by Bro. Larry Geraldson (Director of Missions & RLF)
7:30 pm	Session 2 "The Church & Family" by Bro. Cliff Jenkins (Pastor, Temple Baptist, Laurel)
8:15 pm	Discussion led by Bro. Kelby Johnson
9:00 pm	Dismiss

April 4, 2014 @South Green Baptist Church (Tupelo, MS)

5:30 pm	Dinner
6:30 pm	Session 1 "The Bible & Family" by Bro. Gary O'Neal (Pastor, Greenwood Baptist, Laurel)
7:30 pm	Session 2 "The Church & Family" by Bro. Blake McCain (Pastor, South Green, Tupelo)
8:15 pm	Discussion led by Bro. Kelby Johnson
9:00 pm	Dismiss

For more information or to register

Email: kelby@gracechurchna.com or
visit www.facebook.com/bmamsyouth

Old vs New

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Once again, an "older" church can regain a vision for the mission of God. If a church is not living on mission for God to reach the lost, disciple them and reproduce themselves, then they have lost the reason for their existence. Jesus made it clear in Acts 1:8: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be

Church of the Covered Dish

BY THOMAS TAPP

