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DiscipleGuide Adds Two Team Members

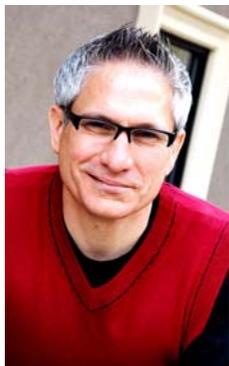
DiscipleGuide is pleased to announce two new staff additions. Bro. Todd West is the new Director of Church Solutions and Dr. Mark Livingston is the Managing Editor of the Compass adult Bible study curriculum. Both positions are part-time and both men will continue pastoring their respective congregations.

Todd West, Director of Church Solutions

West is the pastor of Oasis Church in Maumelle, Arkansas. According to DiscipleGuide Executive Director Scott Attebery, "Todd's experience and track record as a pastor, church

planter, and consultant have prepared him to serve in this role." West's role as Director of Church Solutions is a new position focused on DiscipleGuide's new emphasis on getting personally involved with local churches.

Already, DiscipleGuide is working with several churches through the new Activate initiative, a coach-driven approach to helping hurting churches experience revitalization. Also on the horizon for the new Church So-



West

lutions division are much-needed resources such as an Intentional Interim program and a confidential Pastor's Helpline.

According to West, "It will be an honor to serve pastors and churches who are seeking solutions to the challenges we face today."

Dr. Mark Livingston, Managing Editor-Compass

The Compass curriculum (formerly entitled "Adult Quarterly") boasts a sixty-five year history of trusted materials for Sunday schools. As the new Managing Editor of Compass, Dr. Livingston plans to build upon the foundation of former editors such as C.O. Strong, Dr. Larry Silvey, and Charles Reddin.

"DiscipleGuide is blessed to have Mark on board as the new Compass Editor. His experience and education in the exposition of Scripture are going to be an asset to the churches who use Compass curriculum," explains Attebery.



Livingston

New writers are currently being acquired for the development of manuscripts. According to Livingston, "When churches use DiscipleGuide material they can trust that the entire process is centered on God's truth and the intention is to give our churches sound instruction that is profitable (2 Timothy 3:16). The mission of

DiscipleGuide has not changed and through new writers and new opportunities we will continue to provide the local church with biblically based resources for spiritual transformation."

Attebery notes, "DiscipleGuide is working hard to find ways to invest in the church. Our desire is to be the local church's best friend. In fact, we believe that the local church is the key to fulfilling the Great Commission. No one church can do it alone. But as an association of local churches partnering together for the kingdom, we can make a difference. We are better together."

DiscipleGuide helps local churches make disciples through conferences, curriculum, camps, and consulting. For more information on DiscipleGuide ministries, or to order resources, please call 800-333-1442 or email info@discipleguide.org.

Upcoming Events

Missions & Evangelism Conference

Hillcrest Baptist Church,
Yazoo City
May 1, 2015

Senior Adult Conferences

South - Big Creek Church, Soso
March 24, 2015

North - Unity Church, Guntown
May 12, 2015

BMAA Annual Meeting

April 20-22, 2015
Springfield, Missouri

State Mid-year Meeting

May 19, 2015
Campground Church, Gulfport
Blake McCain, speaker

GMA/Galilean Retreat

Camp Garaywa, Clinton
March 20-21, 2015

Junior Camp

Waukaway Springs
June 1-3, 2015
Speaker - Dr. John David Smith

Ronnie Floyd to Speak at BMA National Meeting

Dr. Ronnie Floyd, President of the Southern Baptist Convention, will be one of the guest speakers at the annual meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of America.

Dr. Ronnie Floyd has been a pastor for over thirty-seven years. His experience, wisdom and passion for God make him a powerful proclaimer of God's Word. He teaches principles from the Bible that encourages and uplifts thousands of people all over the world via TV, the Internet, podcasts, radio, speaking engagements and books.

Since 1986 Pastor Floyd has served as Senior Pastor of Cross Church in Northwest Arkansas. Dr. Floyd's ministry as a local church pastor has been one of commitment to evangelism,

discipleship, and the advancement of the gospel to America and around the world. In Dr. Floyd's twenty-eight years of ministry in Northwest Arkansas, the church has baptized over 17,000 persons.

In 2001 First Baptist Church of Springdale became a multi-campus ministry with the beginning of The Church at Pinnacle Hills. In 2010 the church changed its name to Cross Church, and in 2011 the church further expanded its ministry



Dr. Ronnie Floyd

with the beginning of a campus in the city of Fayetteville. Each week, thousands gather in multiple worship venues. While meeting at various local sites and five campuses, the church is committed to planting churches regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Beyond his church and denomination, Pastor Floyd has spoken at many national and

international conferences such as Promise Keepers and has been featured on numerous television and radio programs including Focus on the Family. Pastor Floyd has authored twenty books including The Power of Prayer and Fasting, revised and expanded; 10 Things Every Minister Needs to Know;

see FLOYD on page 3

Hotel for National Meeting Information

The University Plaza Hotel has booked all of our reserved rooms in Springfield, Missouri for the 2015 National Meeting. The overflow hotel is The Holiday Inn & Suites, 2720 N Glenstone Avenue Springfield, MO 65803. Their phone number is 417-865-8600. The Holiday Inn is honoring the price of \$99 per night. Be sure to identify that you are with the Baptist Missionary Association of America. If you have any problem contact one of the Committee on Arrangements, Leon Carmical, James Ray Raines, or Jackie Manasco



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



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Martin



Phillip & Dawn
Burns



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Yasmine Marroquin



Elvis & Wendy
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Ed & Patricia
DuVall

601.428.8616

www.bmams.org

"Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." Ps 37:4-5

I want to begin by telling you again how much I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your State Missions Director. It is the desire of my heart to honor God and serve Him well. I am committed to doing all that I can to help get the gospel to the lost and see churches planted in every community in the State of Mississippi.

New Opportunity to Support Church Planting

The Missionary Committee will meet on March 12, 2015 to consider a new opportunity for us to support a new church plant in Mississippi. I am excited about the opportunity and ask for your prayers as we meet. I will have more information for you in the next issue.

First Service of Redemption Baptist Mission

Bro. Wesley Martin, State Missionary to Diamondhead,

Mississippi, has informed me that Redemption Baptist Mission will hold their first service on March 8, 2015 at 10:30 am. Efforts are ongoing to complete the remodeling of the building that has been leased at 4401 Park Ten Dr., Diamondhead, Mississippi. Bro. Wesley is working hard to get the word out that there is, "...a new Baptist church in the city." If you know of someone in the Diamondhead, Bay St. Louis or Waveland area that you would like to connect with this new mission effort, contact Bro. Wesley Martin at 228-380-0690.

Evangelism Explosion Training

The Deadline to sign up for this training is March 2, 2015. At last count about 15 people had signed up to participate, including our State Missionaries. We are hoping that more folks will take advantage of this opportunity and join us. If you would like more information about how to sign-up, please call MS Kim Parker at 601-428-8616. Every year, we sponsor professional development for our missionaries and we encourage our

churches to participate. The training will be conducted by Dr. Phillip Attebery, Dean of the BMAA Theological Seminary.

Missions and Evangelism Conference (May 1, 2015)

This year's Missions and Evangelism Conference will be hosted by Hillcrest Baptist Church in Yazoo City, Mississippi. The event will begin at 10:30 am and will be done at 4:30 pm. We are coordinating with different churches in each of our local associations to provide church van/bus transportation. So far, we have commitments from: North Gauthier, Gulf Assoc.; Paramount & Campground, Ten Mile Assoc.; Midway, Washington Assoc.; Big Creek, Big Creek Assoc.; First Midway, Oak Grove Assoc.; East Fulton, Tombigbee Assoc.

Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend.

Special Emphasis for State Missions

I just wanted to remind you that Special Emphasis for State Missions is during the months of April and May. This year our goal will be \$25,000.00. We have itemized approximately \$22,000.00 in unbudgeted expenditures that we have already paid out this year (all directly related to supporting our missionaries). We are hoping a good Special Emphasis will help us take care of these unexpected needs. We will be mailing some promotional material to each church soon. Also, I remain available to visit your church to speak about State Missions, preach or just answer questions your folks may have. Please give me a call at 601-428-8616.

Expelling Myths

One myth that I constantly address is the myth that the Missions Department has access to monies in the Revolving Loan Fund for operational needs. I realize that this confusion is easy to acquire, because I serve as the Director of both Missions and Revolving Loan Fund. Consequently, I am routinely reporting about the progress of both. But, as much as I try, I have not been able to successfully dispel the myth that the Missions Department can access monies in the Revolving Loan Fund or that the Missions Department somehow benefits from the growth of the Revolving Loan Fund, operationally.

It is true that our Missionaries can apply for and do receive loans from the Revolving Loan

continued on next page



**Redemption Baptist Mission
4401 Park Ten Dr.
Diamondhead, MS**



BMA of Mississippi
**Youth
Department**

Kelby Johnson
Director

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

Junior Camp 2015

I am very excited to invite you to our 2015 Junior Camp. We have put together what we believe will be a great experience for our people. The following is some basic information regarding Junior Camp 15.

Location

We have decided to go back to Waukaway Springs this year. Many of our churches have enjoyed this retreat center and the current director, Bryan Linkins, is a member of Temple Baptist Church in Laurel. Waukaway offers a great camp environment including solid facilities, amazing food, exciting fun in the

water, and helpful counselors. The number of counselors means that each church only needs a couple of adults.

Dates

All of our churches are busy during the Summer so it is difficult to pick camp dates that will fit everyone. We were able to secure June 1-3 for our camp this year!

Ages

Junior Camp is for students K-6th grade. We have had younger children attend in the past and this is acceptable as long as there is a parent present.

Theme

Our theme this year will be "I am a Missionary!" We will challenge our students with the gospel and show them the importance of being a missionary for Christ.

Speaker

The speaker for Junior Camp 15 will be Bro. John David Smith. Bro. John David is the Executive Director of the BMA of America Missions Department.

Cost

The total cost for Junior Camp 15 is \$100 per person. The \$100 will cover 3 days, 2 nights of camp, 5 meals, 2 days of swimming, and help offset the other costs of camp. We are asking for a \$50 deposit by May 1.

Registration

To register or for more information, contact Bro. Kelby Johnson at kelbyjohnson@yahoo.com or 662.316.6233.

Seminary Dinner and Kellar Award Winner

Seminary Dinner

Everyone is cordially invited to the annual BMA Seminary Friends Dinner on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. at the annual meeting of the BMA of America. The 2015 dinner will be in the Oklahoma-Illinois rooms at the University Plaza (headquarters) Hotel in Springfield, Missouri. The cost of the dinner will be \$25 per person. Each attendee will receive a special gift specifically designed for this occasion.

The 2015 Kellar Award will be presented to Bro. Jeff Swart. Bro. Swart is the twelfth Kellar Award recipient. This award, named in honor of the late Dr. Gerald Kellar, the founding president of BMA Seminary, recognizes a seminary alumnus for outstanding contributions in ministry typifying the legacy of Dr. Kellar.

Kellar Award Honoree

The Kellar Award honoree will be Brother Jeff Swart, a native of Girard, Kansas, and the son of the late William L. and Evelyn Gaston Swart. He is married to Debbie Boore Swart, a native of Radley, Kansas. They have three children: Josh; Andy and wife, Carman; and Rachel and husband, Jonathan. They have four grandchildren: Laine, Ellie, Copeland, and Eisley. Brother Swart and his wife live in Galena, Kansas, where he has been Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church since 2009.

Brother Swart has earned a B.A. in Sociology and Political Science from Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas, an M.A. in Professional Counseling from Liberty University,

Lynchburg, Virginia, and an M.R.E. from Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas.

Brother Swart has been in full-time Christian ministry for forty years and has served as a North American Church Planter in Nevada, Missouri; Dean of Students at Jacksonville College, Jacksonville, Texas; Assistant to the Director of Foreign Missions for the BMA of America; an English speaker for Lifeword Media Ministries; a church growth consultant for DiscipleGuide; and he has pastored churches in Kansas, Missouri, Texas and Arkansas. He has also served as an adjunct instructor at various Bible colleges, institutes, and seminaries and has spoken in 35 countries around the world.



Jeff Swart

Brother Swart is the author of *The Church Planting Model*, which is being used around the world to teach lay people how to plant New Testament churches.

Brother Swart currently serves as Moderator of the BMA of Kansas and Western Missouri, as Chairman of the BMAA Missions Advisory Committee, and the Second Vice-President of the BMA of America.

To make reservations for the Seminary Dinner, contact Carol Shine at 800-259-5673 or president@bmats.edu.

February were \$23,292.38. Our expenditures for February (from the Missions Department) were \$30,235.94, therefore, we will end the month of February in the red \$7,138.23. It is important to note that of our expenditures (for this month) 84% went out the door in direct support of our missionaries. This percentage does not include work fund support as they are designated funds. No money came to the Missions Department from the Revolving Loan Fund.

Even though we ended the month of February in the red, our year-to-date figures still show that we are in the black for the year, and we expect to end the year (July) in the black. We base this on a forecast of the second half of the year which includes consistent offerings from the churches and a good Special Emphasis. That said, it makes no difference that there is over 19 million in gross assets in the Revolving Loan Fund. If we come up short in Missions, then, it is what it is.

Nevertheless, I have not managed this myth well. The reality is that in spite of the fact that more than 80 BMA of Mississippi churches gave more to State Missions last year than the year before, some churches have reduced their giving to State missions or have stopped giving all together. When I

Mamprusi Plus Nabit Equals 36 Lifeword Languages!

by Rick Russell
Lifeword Chief Programming Officer

"This is the first time in about three years that a new language has been

We have hoped that adding new languages and dialects would be a natural



"Hayford Jackson interviews missionary Dale Broom at his church's Community Radio station."

added and it has come about entirely as a result of our new philosophy that concentrates on giving local churches media tools to help them reach their communities more effectively!" Rick Russell

In January of this year, while traveling in northern Ghana with Phil Knott, Dale and Celia Broom, and Hayford Jackson (leader of Community [Low Power FM] Radio in Ghana), I discovered local broadcasters had added at least two new dialects to the local broadcasts in Walewale, Wulugu and Nangodi.

process for Lifeword Community Radio stations and their indigenous programmers all over the world. God is now making His name famous in Mampruli (map rule'ee) and Nabit (nab' it) - two languages that, until last month, we had never even heard of. Praise Him!

Floyd to Speak

from page 1

and Our Last Great Hope: Awakening the Great Commission. His next book, *FORWARD: 7 Distinguishing Marks for Future Leaders*, will be released in 2015.

Pastor Floyd's proudest accomplishments stem from his personal life. He and his wife Jeana have been married for thirty-eight years. They have two sons, Josh and Nick. Josh is married to Kate, and they have three sons, Peyton, Parker, and Jack. Nick is married to Meredith, and they have two daughters, Reese and Norah and a son, Beckham.

"We're excited to have Dr. Floyd spend time with us at our National Meeting," said BMA President Dr. Jason Aultman. "This will be one of the highlights of our meeting this year. There will be several other opportunities for learning and growing as leaders that we will be offering at the National Meeting as well."

President Aultman recently announced that this year's meeting would not only be a time of business, but also a time of encouragement and leadership development. Various breakout topics to help BMA churches do a more effective job of reaching their communities will be offered as well.

The BMA National Meeting will be held April 20-22 at the University Hotel and Convention Center in Springfield, Missouri.

Missions

from previous page

Fund. It is true that our Missionaries benefit from reduced loan rates while on missions status. It is true that sometimes, in accordance with the By-Laws of the Revolving Loan Fund, debt relief is considered and granted to help mission congregations reduce debt. But it is not true that we can take money from the Revolving Loan Fund to pay for the salary, benefits, work fund or misc. expenditures of missionaries as they conduct their various missions activities. We maintain two separate sets of books: one for the Revolving Loan Fund and one for Missions. These monies are never co-mingled. Missions activity supported through your State Missions Department is funded entirely from the regular and special offerings sent to us from the churches and the additional support provided by local associations.

Just to give you an example, this month (February 2015) our total receipt of offerings from the churches for Missions was \$19,112.19. Added to that is the offerings sent in by our local associations which was \$4,180.19. So, our total Missions Department receipts for Feb-

inquire, I often find that the reason is because of this misunderstanding. They see the large amount of money reported to be on hand in the Revolving Loan Fund, which by the way, the majority of that money belongs to the people who invested it into the RLF, and they think the Missions Department doesn't need help. But that is not true! They think that their church's \$25 or \$50 offering will not make a difference. They think it will not be noticed when it is gone. Often their decisions are influenced by their own struggles. Sometimes their thinking is, "Something has to go." So, the offering to State Missions gets cut.

My heart goes out to any church that is struggling to get by. I surely understand that sometimes the dynamics are such that the church must consider restructuring what they do financially. I still believe, however, that when you cut missions, you're cutting off the very life of the church. My prayer is that if it has to be, please don't let it be because of a myth. "Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account." Phil 4:17 I pray that one day I will be successful in dispelling this myth for good, and encouraging every church in the BMA of Mississippi to understand the value of their participation and support of State Missions.

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Don Brown

Mississippi Baptist

Opinion Page

www.ms baptist.org

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Don Brown - Editor

Counsel on Death From One Who Knows It

by Charles Reddin

Reddin is retired but served for a number of years as Adult Editor of Literature for the BMA of America

Editor's Note: *Bonnie and I became friends with Sharon Lucy in the 70's when we were both members of Parkview Church, Gautier. We enjoyed visiting with her and other mutual friends from time to time and were deeply saddened by her recent death. At her funeral Bro. Charles Reddin shared with me what he addresses in this article. I encouraged him to share it through the pages of the Mississippi Baptist.*

Sharon Hudson Lucy wrote a book on death two or three decades ago. Regrettably, the book was not published before Sharon herself died on February 12, 2015, from injuries in a car wreck a month earlier.

Funeral services were held February 19 in Westover Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where Sharon had been a faithful member for many years.

A couple of days before the funeral I was staying in Sharon's home along with my brother-in-law and my wife and her sister, who both considered Sharon another sister, though they were

not truly related. As they combed through Sharon's home for pictures and papers of interest to Sharon's cousins—her only survivors—they came across her manuscript for her book *Understanding Death and Dying*. From it I pass along the following information that Sharon would want all her loved ones to know.

She introduces her book with these words: "I've attempted to combine what I've learned from my own experience with death and dying with what researchers in the field of thanatology (the scientific study of death) have discovered." Her own experience included the death of her first husband, James Hudson, after his battle with a kidney disease, Sharon's grief after his death, and her work with dying patients and their families in her career as a home health nurse.

Sharon lays a foundation by sharing her faith that Jesus conquered death by rising from the grave and then ascending to the right hand of God to intercede for believers. "Because of His victory," she said, "we have hope of everlasting

life—death is not the end!"

Because believers still hurt when they say goodbye, she assures us, "In no way does this mean that we lack faith—it is simply a part of our humanness.... So when we are faced with the loss of a loved one or even our own death, let us not be afraid to express our fear, anxieties, doubts, and sorrow."

She adds that our loving God will help us through these difficult times, and that, "having been through valleys such as these, we emerge with great strength and wisdom."

In fact, Sharon extensively discusses the emotions researchers have observed in terminal patients and in their families both before and after the death. They typically go from initial awareness of

the real possibility of death, to shock and denial, to anger, to bargaining (especially with God), to depression, to—in many cases—ultimate acceptance of death.

She validates this progression from

"In the end our encounter with grief can be a growth experience."

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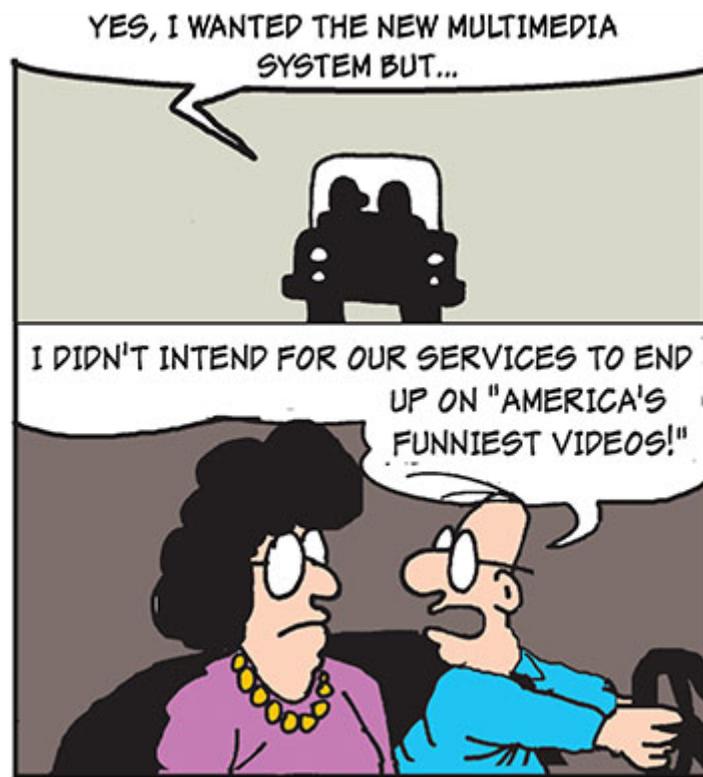
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Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



Former Pastor Dies

Ralph S. Fuller, 82, went home to be with his Lord on Friday, January 30, 2015, at Baptist Hospital, Jackson after an extended illness.

He was born August 23, 1932 to Gusta and Telwell Fuller in Ruleville, Mississippi. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Dot Turner Fuller and his daughter Darla (Dr. John Adams) of Mantachie; Ralph Jr. (Sherry) of Philadelphia; Mike (Gail) of Madison; Rickey of Bentonia; Jay (Carla) of Albany, Georgia; Johnny (Mary) of Yazoo City and fifteen grandchildren and eleven great grand-children.

He served in the United States Army from 1949-1954. He retired from the Mississippi Highway Department as a State bridge inspector. He pastored numerous churches in Mississippi including Red Hill, Jackson; Westhaven, Jackson; Fifth Street, Iuka; Temple, Yazoo City and his last pastorate was Good Hope, Yazoo City. He was a graduate of Southeastern College in Laurel.

Services were held Monday, February 2, 2015 at 11:00 AM at Hillcrest Baptist Church, Yazoo City. Services were officiated by Dr. John Adams and Rev. Jeff Dixon. Internment at Glenwood Cemetery, Yazoo City.

Southeastern Baptist College

Danny Pitts - Interim President

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



Danny Pitts

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Fall Recruiting Time

Now is the time for us to lock in those who will attend Southeastern during the fall. If you are a candidate or know someone who is, please contact the school at 601-426-6346. You can also send email to Ronnie Kitchens, Director of Admissions, at rkitchens@southeasternbaptist.edu. He will be glad to answer any questions which you may have.

Chapel Services Available Online

You may not know, but the chapel services at Southeastern are now being archived online. Go to www.southeasternbaptist.edu to see the services. We have some outstanding musicians who are present to help with the music each week. Last semester we had all but a couple of the state department heads of the BMA of Mississippi to speak. Their schedule did not allow the others to come, but we hope to have them this semester. We have also given an invitation to the national department leaders to plan to speak if they are in our area. Although the messages are short during chapel, they have been very good. Check this out.

Memorial Given

Louise McMahan gave a \$2,000 donation in memory of her husband, Winnie McMahan. Bro Winnie, who went to be with the Lord a few weeks ago, had a great appreciation for Southeastern Baptist College. He was especially grateful for its influence upon his family. His son and son-in-law are graduates of Southeastern.

An Item of Prayer

We continue to struggle with insurance issues. Even though we have completed the list of updates and repairs on the buildings which inspectors required, we have found the wheels of approval for coverage by the underwriters to be extremely slow turning. The current costs are nearly \$24,000 annually. Some changes last summer have caused us to have less coverage for the two dorm buildings, which now have new roofs. You probably sense some frustration in my tone in writing. The Scriptures tell us that God is able to make even our enemies to be at peace with us. Surely He will hear and move some hearts to be sympathetic toward us. Pray that God will solve this for us.

Marvin

I guess it's time for me to tell you about Marvin. For years, my dad has been trying to encourage his children and grandchildren to name a child, Fred Marvin or Fredricka Marvin if a girl. Fred is his name and Marvin is a friend of his from Louisiana. So far he has been unsuccessful, but not for lack of effort.

A couple of years ago, my daughter decided she wanted a goat. Not just any goat, but a pygmy goat. Now, I have had the displeasure to be around a number of goats in my lifetime, so I had an idea of what we were getting into at the Lee household. After much gnashing of teeth and pulling of hair, I finally gave in to her request. To be fair, she was calm through the whole process and I am the one in need of dentures and hair transplants.

As fortune would have it, she was able to purchase a momma goat that was bearing twins. Yaaayyyy! She named the goat Bonnie. A few months later, Marvin came along. Fredricka didn't make it. We thought it was a funny joke to name the goat Marvin so we could tell Dad that we had finally named a grandchild after his request. He didn't take it well.

Marvin was the cutest thing I had ever seen, besides of course, my own children. He was playful and the children loved him, so we allowed him some free time in the yard out of the pen for

good behavior. Eventually, he felt that he deserved free time all the time and decided to live his life completely on the outside. You might say he went on the lamb (heh, heh). That is when we learned why devil worshipers use a goat as their symbol of evil behavior. I don't

reckon he was evil, but he was annoying. Everywhere was his own personal bathroom, although we encouraged him to go to the neighbors. He obliged our request, much to the delight of my neighbors, by

visiting them around 5:30 every morning as he and the dogs enjoyed a game of chase on their front porch.

Marvin thought he WAS a dog. The dogs thought Marvin was a chew toy. Eventually, the dogs began to abuse Marvin unmercifully. Still, he would see them playing across the road and he would join them in their quest to save the neighborhood from squirrels. I was thankful the day I was able to convince my daughter to give Marvin to a church member who was raising goats. He seems much happier now. I know that my neighbors and I are happier.

Bonnie now lives at another church member's house where she is dressed up in clothes and wears hats on a regular basis. She is much happier now too it seems. The grass isn't as green around the house, and neither is the carport or the neighbor's porch, but we still have the dogs. We are trying to train them to visit the neighbors as well, or a church member who needs a dog.

Is there a moral to this story? Yeah, but it is hidden deep. You will have to look really hard. Also, I just wanted you to know about Marvin.

From The Mind of Chuck Lee

Lee pastor's Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis. He may be reached by email at leecharles47@yahoo.com



Counsel on Death

from previous page

memories of her husband's behavior as death approached and memories of her own feelings as he slipped away from her and she had to adjust to his loss.

"Religious beliefs are a factor in determining how an individual copes with the dying process," her manuscript says. "If the person has a deep, strong faith in God and has integrated his beliefs into his lifestyle, then he is able to draw on this resource to help him face his illness and impending death.... This is not meant to imply that the Christian will have no struggles or difficulty in accepting his fate. Rather, when his time comes he will have a resource upon which to draw."

Calling grief "a very natural part of our human existence," Sharon points out that it's worst effects may strike weeks or months after a fatal illness is diagnosed or loved one has died. "Reality begins to cut through the numbness, and a flood of emotions are felt. There is deep sorrow which is usually expressed through much crying."

She documents the persistence of her own grief from her personal journaling.

About six weeks after James' funeral: "Today was especially hard—I don't know why—the tears just kept coming all day—such an empty feeling—what am I going to do without him?"

A while later: "I'm pretty good at pretending nowadays. Guess everyone thinks I'm coping OK, that I've accepted my loss and gotten over it. But if they only knew all the feelings that are still going on, and the tears I cry when I'm alone. To die would be the easy way out—to live is the hard part."

Three months after the funeral: "The loneliness is bad, so bad—I feel like winter—cold, drab, lifeless. Do you think 'spring' will ever come again for me?"

At seven months: "Lord, you've taken away my husband, the closest person in my life; and now you expect me to pick up the pieces and keep on going? Well, that's just too much to ask—I can't do it!... Sometimes I just want to scream and yell and throw things at the wall."

Finally, at eight months Sharon found the grief subsiding a bit: "The Lord has been working with me, I know, for the past month or so. Most of that intense anger has passed.... I am now certain that God still loves me and will continue to take care of me. I'm not sure yet why James had to die; but whatever the reason, it was God's decision and therefore it must be right."

Speaking from her own experience, Sharon would comfort those who now grieve her death with this excerpt from her manuscript. "Many people emerge from their grief experience with an even deeper faith in God. The words of Isaiah 43:2 have become real to them. 'When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.'"

Thus, Sharon says, "In the end our encounter with grief can be a growth experience."

Mrs. Dot (Rev. J.T.) Byrd Passes Away

Mrs. Dot Byrd, wife of Bro. J. T. Byrd, passed to her heavenly home on February 22, 2015 at the age of 82. She was born in Jasper County, Mississippi. She is survived by her husband of almost 63 years Rev. J.T. Byrd Jr; Daughters, Charlotte (Don) Herring, Wanda (Mark) Necaise and Laquido (Kerwin) Necaise; Grandchildren, Marty Grimes (Carley Dossett), Kyle (Johna) Necaise, Lacey (Drew) Osbourn and Heath Necaise; Great Grandchildren, Bailey Grimes, Levi Necaise and Alexis Grace Osbourn.

Mrs. Byrd was a member of First Baptist Church of Orange Grove. She was always faithful to the Lord and proudly supported her husband's ministry through the years. Funeral services were held Thursday, February 26, 2015.

State Galilean Retreat Set

by Mark Jones, Galilean Promoter

The Mississippi Galilean retreat is fast approaching. Our 2015 camp will be March 20-21 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton.

Our theme this year is "BUILDING BARRIERS" II Peter 1:4-8. The camp pastor this year will be Bro. Steven Clark from Skyway Hills in Pearl.

Registration will start at 11:00 am on Friday, March 20, with our first meeting at 12:00. We have a lot planned for these two days, with games, music, and hearing the word preached. We are asking each church to bring a 12 pack of drinks to be sold in the canteen. Money raised in the canteen will go toward our project this year which is Bro Elvis Garcia and his mission work in the Hispanic communities in Mississippi. We encourage everyone to eat lunch when they arrive at camp in the canteen.

The cost of camp this year is \$60 per camper. This is for camp and 3 meals. I need to know how many from your church are coming by March 10, 2015. We must give a count to Camp Garaywa. You may call or text me at 662-231-1435 or email me at stonwall@yahoo.com.

If you have a Junior or Senior Galilean that will go before the review board for Mr. Galilean, I also need to know. Those competing must have passed a step in the Galilean work since last year at camp.

I look forward to seeing everyone at camp, please pray camp this year and for the Galilean ministry. Our young men are too important for us as men of the BMA of Mississippi to not invest time in them and disciple them.

Women's Missionary Auxiliary

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Hoblochitto District WMA Report

The Hoblochitto District WMA ladies met on Saturday, January 31, 2015, at First Baptist Church of Henleyfield. A devotion was given by Carol Watts about the names of God. Bro. Vernon Watts brought the message on the true Lord's prayer. The scripture passage was from John 17. The next meeting place is at Lee's Chapel #2 Baptist Church on April 25.

The attendance banner was awarded to Mt. Calvary Baptist Church. The closing prayer and blessing on the food was given by Greg Lott.

Debbie Lott, Reporter

Ten Mile WMA Report

The January Ten Mile WMA meeting was held at Ten Mile Baptist Church in Perkinston.

Our First Quarter District Project was Sidney Farmer and South Forest Baptist Church. The program was the GMA and Sunbeam Coronation with a theme from Ezekiel: "So I Did". The Young Ladies shared what God wants them to do, their response to God, "So I Did".

Our new local project is Wesley Martin and Family and the Mission in Diamondhead, Mississippi.

Our next meeting will be April 13, 2015, at Temple Baptist Church, Biloxi.

Reporter Maria Ochoa

Daniel Springs Camp - Exciting things happening in East Texas

by Jason Prewitt

Daniel Springs Director

Daniel Springs is an exciting place to be. We were blessed to host the 2015 Frontline Pre-Teen Winter Camp for 4th thru 6th graders over the weekend of February 20-22. Counting staff members and attendees, we had about 130 on the campus. It was a boot-camp-themed program with a focus on Micah 6:8. We are proud of the eight pre-teens who accepted Christ as their personal Savior.

Can you believe that this summer, Daniel Springs will celebrate fifty years of partnering with churches in ministry? We are currently finalizing details for the busy and amazing summer season. All the planning (determining camp themes, working on Bible study materials and interviewing and hiring summer staff) makes for a busy winter and spring.

We are still taking applications for summer staff, so if you know a college student who wants to be used in ministry this summer by helping lead worship, Bible studies or recreation, send them our way.

Summer will be here before we know it, so look on the website to pick your week to come to camp. You don't want to miss it! Check out the summer staff application and summer schedule at www.danielspringscamp.com.



Jason Prewitt

Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White



Sleeping Pigs

A few weeks ago I was in a waiting room and I overheard a man telling about his experience several years ago with some pigs.

A hospital was sponsoring classes to teach Doctors how to use those little instruments for surgery that don't require that the patient be ripped open enough for the surgeon to get in there with both hands. The doctors were practicing on the pigs to use those little instruments. The pigs were sedated and after the practice surgery they were given a shot that brought their life to a happy end.

This same man that had furnished the pigs for the classes loaded them up to take them and give them a proper burial. But on the way, being a good Mississippi Red Neck, he and some others in his family decided they would dress some of the pigs for their own consumption. After a breakfast of biscuits and ham, they began to feel groggy and so sleepy that they were overcome with sleep.

It seems that the drug used for final sedation was still in the meat and it definitely had that effect on those ol' boys. But after sleeping it off they were fine - but wiser.

As I thought about this, it caused me to think about how easily Christians get caught up in the "looks good, feels good, tastes good" temptation and pretty soon they are deep in sleep and no good to the cause of Christ.

Solomon was familiar with this type of behavior. He wrote about it in Proverbs 1:24-33. Go read it for yourself.

Give Water, Give Life

by Diane Spriggs, Editor
Arkansas Baptist Trumpet

When someone gives to Water for Christ, a ministry of the BMA of America, they are giving to help fund people and resources to drill, pipe and install fully



Heavy-duty air compressors needed

functioning water wells, often in remote locations where water is far away and unclean at best. Providing the gift of clean water will transform the living conditions and health situations of an entire village.

The wells drilled by Water for Christ serve as epicenters where people gather, so they try to dig the wells near a Bible school or BMA church plant. That way, when people come for the physical water, they are also told about the Living Water, Jesus Christ.

The next trip to Ghana will be March 13-27, led by WFC Director Tim Tyler, who is a member of Friendship Baptist Church at Greenbrier. With the help of Missionary Dale Broom and Ghanaian workers, he hopes to drill four new water wells this time. They will also check and maintain wells that were drilled by WFC during earlier trips.

Rodney Castleberry, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church at White Hall, Arkansas, will once again be part of the team. Although he also helps with the wells, his primary focus is evangelism. During the Novem-

continued on next page



GMA Girls

State Youth Auxiliary Director

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State GMA Promoter

Becky Farmer
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Junior Miss GMA Pushes Camp Attendance

My name is Kayley Phillips from Bethel Baptist Church in Fulton, MS. I am the current State and National Junior Miss GMA. I am very excited about our upcoming state camp at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, Mississippi, on March 20th and 21st of 2015. Girls, don't forget to bring extra money for the snack bar, auction items, and the craft sales. This year's state camp theme is "As We Go," based on Matthew 28:19-20 and II Corinthians 5:20. Our camp pastor will be Bro. Justin Rhodes from Big Creek Baptist Church in SoSo. Hope to see you there.

Have You Created A Monster?

by Scott Attebery

Fact: Some congregations chew up pastors and spit them out every two to three years. I don't have a Barna Study or Pew Research Poll to verify that assertion, but I don't think verification is necessary. We've all seen the tragedy of "Monster Churches."

What leads me to believe it is the church's fault? Before I get to that, let me admit that it isn't always the church's fault. I know many men who are just not effective pastors, no matter their congregational context. (That's a topic for a future blog post entitled "Monster Pastors.")

Having said that, there are plenty of cases where the church undoubtedly has a problem. That is particularly evident in cases where:

- the problem occurs over and over for a long period of time with a multitude of pastors. In these cases, the only common denominator is the congregation.
- pastors leave the church to find warm welcome and fruitful, long-term ministry in another congregation. When this happens, change in the church makes all the difference. The pastor remains the same.
- the congregation denies that any problem exists at all. Pride is a powerful deceiver.

Once again, I admit that a church may have experienced all three of these factors and still not be the source of the problems. But that would be the exception, not the rule.

For the rest of us (the ones honest with ourselves), we recognize that these factors point to a Monster Church. If such congregations do not change course, they will eventually experience more problems such as power struggles, authority issues, financial disagreements, loss of members, a tainted reputation, a diminished effectiveness, lack of conversations, decline of maturity, and eventual dismay. Their course will eventually lead to destruction for the congregation and all within its path.

Eventually, all monster churches become either tiny assemblies with big reputations (for all the wrong things) and/or abandoned buildings full of questions about "what went wrong." That is, unless they change.

So, how do you stop a monster from destroying itself and everyone in its path? Here are a few ideas:

- Seek Christ, the foundation, leader,

husband, and purchaser of the church. All issues of power struggles and authority disputes must end at the cross. If Jesus is not Lord of your church, you must repent as a congregation.

- Pray for repentance. Giving intellectual ascent to Christ's rule over your church is not enough. The congregation must be whole-heartedly submitted to Him. This does not happen without serious heart change. Therefore, you must pray for repentance.

Prayers may start with just one person or a small group. God loves to answer the prayers of the few on behalf of the many.

- Beg for revival. I'm not talking about a set of meetings. Revival is an awakening of the church in light of the glory of Christ! Much like a doctor uses the defibrillator pads to awaken a dying patient, the Great Physician awakens His body through revival.

• Be willing to exhort and rebuke (2 Timothy 4:2). This is not a call for vigilante church discipline. In fact, don't exhort and rebuke without first seeking Christ, praying for repentance, and begging for revival. If you can't speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) with a heart for Christ's glory in the church, you will only make things worse. However, keep in mind that most Monster Churches are created because people neglected to have hard conversations with church members who seek to create division (1 Corinthians 11:18) and strife within the church for self-serving reasons (1 Corinthians 3:3).

- Be willing to ask for help. There are many ministries willing to help churches identify problems and work through solutions. Sometimes, an objective point of view helps a congregation see things more clearly. One word of wisdom, however: If you think your church needs outside help, the request needs to come from the pastor or current leadership. "Going over the head" of a pastor or leader can cause more harm than intended. Don't be guilty of helping "create a monster!"

If you are a pastor or leader of a local church in need of assistance, feel free to contact DiscipleGuide. I am blessed to serve alongside wonderful folks at DiscipleGuide who have a heart for helping churches make disciples. You may contact us at info@discipleguide.org.

DiscipleGuide

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Attebery

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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



SIDNEY DAVIS

Needed In Homes Today

One thing that is badly needed in Christian homes today is a better understanding of each family member, their moods, feelings, needs, fears, and hopes. There should be an atmosphere of love where communication can be achieved through sincere conversation. This means that we can talk together and even disagree and still be happy together and love one another.

Parents have at least two responsibilities toward their children. First, to love them with an unconditional love. Simply put, love at all times. Not a love which says I love you because you did this or you did that, but a love that says, I love you always. Second, parents must in love discipline their children. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6. Young people need to remember that their parents are responsible for what happens to them. This may explain to them why they think their parents may seem to be too strict.

Young people have at least two responsibilities toward their parents. First, be open and honest with your parents. Talk to your parents. They

need to know how you feel. Hug your parents for all they do for you. Initiate conversation and watch your relationship develop and grow. Secondly, honor your parents. This means respect your parents. Read Ephesians 6:1-3. This is a commandment from the Lord. Respect their authority. Remember, obeying your parents is not an option given you, it is a command.

May each family member ask the Lord to help them show more love.

Association Rally for Home

The Gulf Baptist Association had their annual rally for the Home on February 12. This meeting was held with the Faith Baptist Church in Moss Point. 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.

Remember in Prayer and Focus Verse

Continue to remember the ministry of the Home in your daily prayers. "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ." Ephesians 4:15.

Give Water

from page 6

ber trip, over 3,000 people heard the gospel and there were 841 professions of faith. Bro. Rodney visits the schools during the day and holds evangelistic campaigns each night.

Bro. Tyler is a Gideon and an integral part of each trip to Ghana is the distribution of Bibles, especially in the schools — elementary through high school.

Ben Temple, the third American on the trip, will be running media operations. "I am helping with the public relations aspect of WFC," said Ben. "There is no better way to tell others about this ministry than to see for yourself what happens and how it happens. I also want to be an asset to the team in aiding and supporting all efforts — evangelism, media, travel plans, labor, cooking — while learning the culture of Ghana."

The Biggest Need

A problem the team will face on next month's trip is that it is the dry season in Ghana and water is scarce. The drilling rig they currently use operates primarily by using a large amount of water that is hauled in to help to excavate the ground and to help cull dirt, rock, mud, soil, cuttings and earth debris that must be removed from the

drilling site. Many of the ponds and other water sources are almost dry now, and this could present a problem.

A heavy-duty air compressor (like the one shown at the top of this article) would make Water for Christ's efforts much more efficient. The ministry is looking for a used compressor — high pressure, 250 lb. output with 700 cfm (cubic feet per minute) capability, in good condition. These compressors allow drilling to be achieved in locations where water is scarce and allow for drilling almost anywhere and at any time. "Although a new one would be nice," said Bro. Tyler, "a used is preferred because the drilling location is in Africa."

The compressor will cost around \$20,000 used and is very expensive (estimate, \$15,000) to ship overseas.

If you'd like to help with this project, WFC is working with the BMA in Conway to get set up, hopefully by the time you read this, to be able to receive donations online. Water for Christ will also soon have a donation page setup on BMAmissions.org website, under the give tab or make a donation link. Donations can also be sent to Water For Christ, P.O. Box 878, Conway, AR 72033.

For more information, visit the WBC Facebook page at www.facebook.com/waterforchrist, Instagram User ID [water4christ](https://www.instagram.com/water4christ) or their website at www.waterforchrist.com.

"Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the Gift of God?"

-Thomas Jefferson

COMMISSION ON Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt
Director

Hallelujah - "Glory, Glory, His Truth is Marching On."

The good news, our Senior Adult Conferences "Heaven's Jubilee" are almost here. Much interest and great anticipation are in the hearts of our senior citizens who are looking to be in attendance.

The registration fee for the conferences is \$15 per person. This helps cover the noon meal, door prizes and other expenses. You will be given a meal ticket upon registering. Each person must have a ticket for the noon meal.

All Roads Lead to Soso

South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference: Tuesday, March 24th at Big

Creek Baptist Church, Soso. Last year the building was filled to capacity. Let's do it again. Make plans to be in attendance. As time gets closer we are asking you once again to call in the number attending from your church. Do this within 10 days of the conference. Mack's Fish Camp needs this information. You may call 601-763-8100 between 8:00 am - Noon, Monday through Friday or 601-428-8616, the Missions Office, and Mrs. Kim Parker, Commission Secretary, will take your call.

All Roads Lead to Guntown

North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference: Tuesday, May 12th at Unity Baptist Church, Guntown. You may

call 662-282-4966 or cell 662-891-5510 and give the number attending. The Dorsey Friendship Fire Department will cater the noon meal again. The \$15 registration fee will help with the expenses of the day.

Call in the number expected to attend within 10 days of the meeting. If you fail to call in or you decide at the last moment to attend either conference, come on anyway!

Preachers 50 year ministry

For those reaching the 50 year mark in 2015 you will be given special recognition. Call the same numbers listed above and give the names of those reaching this milestone. "His Glory" will be our theme this year and this should excite us as we worship Him on these special days.

In addition to our morning worship hour we will have the "Gaither Style Homecoming Celebration" in the afternoon at both conferences, led by Bro. Bryson Haden. "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the King"

Thank you and God bless you! See you at Big Creek Baptist Church and Unity Baptist Church!

Jim Beard Dies

Jim Beard, Sr., 87, died February 13, 2015. He was a charter member and deacon of Oakland Baptist Church.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Ruthie Mae Beard; his parents, Matthew L. Beard and Eula Evelyn Beard, and siblings, Columbus Beard, Millie Ann Devore, Frank Beard, Grace Beard, Wes Beard, Mack Beard, Carrie Evader James, Jeff Beard, and Fount Beard.

He is survived by sons, Jim Beard, Jr. (Linda) of Edwards, Ms. David Beard (Sherry) of Vicksburg, and Timothy Beard (Patti) of Vicksburg; daughters Carrie Williams of Vicksburg, Patsy Higginbotham (Billy) of Vicksburg, Brenda Weeks (Michael) of Olive Branch, Ms, and Myra Beard of Vicksburg; sister in laws, Bonnie Jean Beard of Morton, Ms. Faye Moseley of Laurel, Ms, and Brother in Law and Sister in Law William and Thellas Moseley of Flowood, Ms; 11 Grandchildren; and 17 Great-Grandchildren.

Services were held Monday February 16, 2015, at Oakland Baptist Church with Dr. Michael Weeks, Bro. Billy Higginbotham and the Rev. Dwight Sibley officiating.



Reports by:

State Missionaries



State Missions Coordinators



57TH ANNUAL MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

MAY 1, 2015

SPONSORED BY: THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

HOSTED BY: HILLCREST BAPTIST CHURCH YAZOO CITY, MS



Music by:

and...

The Big Creek Trio

Theme: "Follow Me"

Preaching by:



Larry Geraldson
Director of Missions,
BMA of MS



Ben Dixon



Dwight Sibley
Pastor of Oakland
Baptist Church,
Vicksburg



Jarrod Cox
Pastor of
Farmington Baptist
Church, Corinth



Dr. Kevin Clayton
Pastor of Bethel
Baptist Church,
Fulton



Holden Stegall



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



Dr. Charley Holmes
President of BMAA
Theological
Seminary



Greg Medenwald
Pastor of Magnolia
Baptist Church,
Hattiesburg

April 10 & 11, 2015 BIG CREEK LADIES RETREAT Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, MS Loving God's Abundant Life

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. John 10:10

For more information or to register, contact

Big Creek Baptist Church at 601-763-8100 Monday -Friday between 8:00am and noon, or email office@bigcreeksoso.com Registration deadline is April 2.

Guest Speaker
SABRINA CLAYTON
Fulton, MS

"It's Heaven's Jubilee"

South Mississippi
Senior Adult Conference
Big Creek Baptist Church
Soso, Mississippi

March 24, 2015
9:30 am - 3:00 pm
Food & Fellowship

Message by Bro. Bo Bankston
Music by Brandon Wilson