

Mississippi Baptist

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Seminary Rededicates Dorman Chapel

By Keri Southern, Admn. Asst. to the President

Many members of the BMA Seminary family and friends gathered together on February 15 in order to rededicate the Dorman Memorial Chapel to the Lord's service. The refurbishment of the chapel was the focus of BMA Seminary's 60th Anni-

versary project.

Services began with prelude music by the Seminary Singers, accompanied by Jan Childs. Dr. Charley Holmes, BMA Seminary President, extended a warm welcome and introduced BMA of America President Paul

White, who offered the invocation. Dr. Holmes then provided a brief history of the early days of BMA Seminary, up through the original dedication of Dorman Memorial Chapel on February 20, 1968. The chapel is named for Dr. W.J. Dorman, the seminary's first dean, as well as Greek/Hebrew and Old Testament professor.



Dr. Charley Holmes
Seminary President

The congregation, led by Trustee Reggie Blake, sang "Faith of our Fathers," followed by a scripture reading from John 7 by Trustee Gary Murph. BMA Seminary Dean Dr. Philip Attebery led in prayer, and the congregation followed in singing the hymn "So Send I You." Dr. Holmes preached a message of dedication from John 7, encouraging each of us to make certain that it can be said of us as it was of Jesus — "never a man spake like this man."

Our churches should be speaking and reflecting the truth of the whole counsel of God rather than attempting to imitate the culture and society at large. This is the commitment BMA Seminary has made in rededicating this chapel — to prepare ministers and church leaders who will seek to follow Christ wholeheartedly. Board of Trustees Chairman Tom Mitchell offered the dedicatory prayer and dismissed the congregation.

An informal reception followed in the Gregson Student Center.

Another Worker Profile Meet Donny Parrish

With 40 years of ministry to the churches and departments of the BMA, Donny Parrish considers her people his family and support system. Beginning at Harding Street Baptist Church in Baker, Louisiana, where he, his younger brother and his parents attended, he has loved and served that extended family. Donny recalls his mother, now deceased, as being the "original Wal-Mart greeter" who was hired by



Donny visited First Baptist Church in Damascus, Arkansas, and their youth auxiliaries during 2018 Lifeword Sunday season

Profile continued on page 2

It won't be long now

by Kenneth Flynt, Director
Commission on Senior Adults

The **South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference** is just ahead. That once a year gathering of senior saints and a much awaited event is almost here. March 20th will be here soon so get ready to head for Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso. The host church will have everything ready.



2017 Senior Adult Crowd

It would be helpful for you to call in and say you are coming. The numbers to call are Big Creek Baptist Church at 601-763-8100 or the Missions Office at 601-428-8616. If you fail to call in, come anyway, and bring someone with you. Let's just praise the Lord all day long.

Mac's Fish will provide the noon meal with an all you can eat buffet. Door prizes will be presented, the oldest woman present and the oldest man present will be recognized.

The North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference will be held May 8th with Hopewell Baptist Church, Dorsey (Fulton) and the North Mississippi folks are looking forward to a great gathering. It will be a good time at Hopewell.

Let's make the 2018 conferences the best yet. Save the date, we hope to see you soon!

Hotel Information Available

Central Church, Southaven to host Midyear Meeting

by Pastor Anders Lee

We are excited to host the Mid-Year BMA meeting May 21-22, 2018. The time is fast approaching! I want to personally invite you to come up, participate in the meeting, and see what your missions money is doing here in the northwest part of the state!

We have made a hotel arrangement with the Holiday Inn in Southaven. It is a great facility that you will be very happy with in a safe part of town. Call them at 662-349-0444, tell them you are booking with the BMA of Mississippi. You should get a \$99.00 rate plus taxes per night. In order to get this rate be sure to call BEFORE April 15, 2018. After this date you will have to pay the regular rate of \$129.00 plus taxes.

I know it is a long way off from most of our churches (about four hours and thirty minutes from Laurel), but I know you will enjoy your stay here if you come. Tanger Outlet Malls has just opened one of it's largest shopping centers in the south in Southaven and there are plenty of unique restaurants to enjoy when you come up on Monday. Memphis is just a short drive from Southaven and there is plenty to see there if you take an extended visit.

We will provide clear directions for you to the hotel and the church in the May 1st issue of the Mississippi Baptist. We are looking forward to seeing you!

If you have any questions or needs before the meeting, my personal cell number is 901.343.3293 or you can email me at Anders.Lee571@gmail.com.

Ministering To Young People

by Anders Lee

Looking For A Church?

Last month I shared an article that gave churches some insight (I hope) on what to look for in a student pastor when they are about to call a new young man. Turnabout is fair play, right? Right! What should a young man look for in a church? What should be the expectations & things to consider? Let's jump into the subject!

Doing the Will of God is Preeminent!

We all know that. Isaiah said "Here am I Lord, send me!" You should have the same attitude! Get in the Word and stay on your knees throughout the process of looking and waiting for God's door to open. Ask other pastors that you know and trust to pray with you about the Lord's direction. If you do this, I promise you in due time God will make things clear to you. He will call your heart to a certain ministry and you will know it!

A Concerning Trend!

It has become a "thing" of many young guys in ministry to want to go the best church available. For instance, in the BMA there are a few "flagship churches" around. You know, the ones every youth guy wants to go to.

When I was a student at Southeastern Baptist College years ago, Dr. Gerald Kellar was the President. There were many of us young preacher boys around those halls learning from him. One evening, before a class began, we were chatting about getting the opportunity to go to such a church while we were wait-

ing for Dr. Kellar to arrive. We were throwing out certain church names that we all thought were "THE" churches to go to. I had just blurted out, "I'd love to be on staff with Dr. John Adams." Dr. Kellar strolled in about that time, overhearing some, he stated; "A young man shouldn't think so highly of himself to expect to go to any church." That quieted the room.

My advice to you is not to wait on "THE" church. You might wait quite a while if you do – HA! There are many

BMA churches around that need you that don't fit into that category. Don't follow the trend! Man, blaze a trail! Go find a church somewhere that

doesn't have a youth ministry, jump in, work hard, and don't look back!

I told my son Zac the same thing two and a half years ago. He is in college in Conway, Arkansas at CBC. I'm thankful to say he took my advice. He ended up at one of our churches in Newark, Arkansas. They had not been able to get anyone to come to their church for nearly 6 years. He went in guns a blazing! Started out on the first night with 9 kids, it's not uncommon for them to have 20 to 25 now. Three were saved recently, and he has been thrilled to be there.

You can have that experience too!



Anders Lee

If you are called, bottom line, you must go! God calls you into certain places to advance the ministry there, develop it, solve problems that exist, be God's man with God's Word! So, GO!

Let's me ask you a question. Do you want to go where something already exists, or would you want to go where you can maximize ministry efforts? Just seed for thought!

Less than Ideal!

At times God calls us to go into less than ideal circumstances. I know of a few examples in scripture on this subject. In Acts 14 Paul rolled into Lystra and ended up getting stoned nearly to death. I don't suspect you will ever get treated like Paul. But, you should know, no one who enters ministry should ever think that every church or youth position should be ideal. You would be a fool to think that. God never has, nor will ever, roll out the red carpet for you. Ministry is tough in any location and it's rough in some loca-

tions. If you are called, bottom line, you must go! God calls you into certain places to advance the ministry there, develop it, solve problems that exist, be God's man with God's Word! So, GO!!! It will take time, hard work in that less than ideal place, but by following God's leadership, He can use you to make that ministry one of those churches where every youth pastor would like to go!

A Quick Warning!

If you happen to land a position with a "flagship" church. There are three things you need to know:

First, they are use to certain things. The expectations they will have for you will be greater than the church that hasn't had a youth ministry in a while. In other words, it could be difficult for you to live up to what they are hoping for. Are you ready for that kind of pressure? If you go to a church like this, you better have the ministry training to lead!

Second, they probably just said goodbye to their "beloved youth guy." It's difficult to follow that fella! It will take time, love, personal investment and genuine ministry to win their hearts. Whereas, if you went into a smaller church that's begging for a guy and waiting for someone, you won't have to overcome the former hero for a period of time. You will become their hero (not that this should be your motive), but it's true, you will enjoy a honeymoon period with them!

Third, those "flagship" churches have seasoned pastors who also have expectations of you. I'm a firm believer that youth guys should love and support their pastor. When I was a youth guy in Horn Lake, Mississippi with Dr. Kevin Clayton, I couldn't have asked for a better lead pastor! It was an excellent experience. Yet, there situations where you find yourself dealing with a narcissistic leader. Yes, I realize I just said the most unpopular thing ever, but when you meet him, you will remember this warning.

What You Should Expect From the Church?

Pick up the April 1st edition for part two of this article! Until then... blessings to you all!

Lee is a church planter in Southhaven, Mississippi. He is a pastor and former youth minister and may be contacted at anders.lee571@gmail.com

Parrish Profile

from page 1

a local grocery store in Baker just to talk to everyone who came in. It's easy to see where Donny gets his passion for people

After high school, Donny attended Louisiana State University for a year, then Jacksonville College in Texas for another year. He met "the prettiest girl on campus," Datha Ruggles, at Jacksonville and the two married in 1974. Their first place to serve was First Baptist Church at Springhill, Louisiana, where Donny was youth pastor and worship leader. Their daughter Brittany was born in 1981, followed by Samantha seven years later.

While at Springhill, he and other student pastors invited youth groups to Teen Bible Conference and Donny and Datha sang and led music for the meetings. National Youth Department Director Bobby Tucker could see the potential of gathering teenagers in one place for

worship, Bible study, and fellowship. He shared his dream with Donny, and together they launched SOAR Conference in 1991, where music, drama, video and other creative arts are used to teach and inspire students to ministry. It is the largest conference hosted by the BMA.

In 1988, Donny left Springhill to serve as worship leader and youth pastor at Temple Baptist Church in Little Rock, and his relationship with Lifeword began two years later when Executive Director George Reddin asked him to help create the video ministry. Four years later Donny became worship pastor at Antioch in Conway, Arkansas, and in November of that year, his family endured the most profoundly difficult time of their lives: Eleven-year-old Brittany died of oxygen deprivation after aspirating a balloon at Lifeword's offices.

Three weeks later, Donny returned to Antioch to lead worship, and the choir, accompanists and congregation shared their grief and tears with him, Datha and Samantha. Donny recalls that, "the whole association grieved with us. It was

a heartbreaking time for a lot of people." Twenty-six years later that support continues.

The tragedy has dramatically changed his ministry and given him an understanding of grief, loss and tragedy he wouldn't have known otherwise. He has shared Brittany's testimony and his own countless times and continues to help strangers who contact him about their own losses.

While at Lifeword and serving at churches, Donny led the conference division of DiscipleGuide for over 25 years and the student missions division of BMA Missions for ten years. Also, after leaving Lifeword in 1999 to serve as executive pastor at Fellowship in Forney, Texas, for twelve years, he continued to provide creative content and serve as radio personality for the ministry.

Donny returned to Lifeword in 2012, at the urging of Executive Director Steve Crawley, to be Chief Creative Officer of BMA America. He served as production team leader for all media, conferences, and development. In September of 2016

he was reassigned to the Lifeword team full time to focus on broadcast outreach to the United States. Since his return to Conway, he has helped Central Baptist College as spiritual life director, a position that includes planning chapel services for the students he continues to have a heart for.

Donny is currently Lifeword's Executive Director, a position that he is humbled and honored to hold. His vision, the Lifeword Cloud, is an initiative that will reach anyone with internet access, decentralize the ministry, and move it to creative and talented people around the world who will produce programming. Lifeword USA will be the hub for the Lifeword network of churches and producers all over the globe.

His passion for people and their salvation continues.

Salvation is not a plan
It's A Man!

Southeastern Baptist College

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

*Serving Christ
With A Biblical World View
In A Christian Atmosphere*

President's Perspective

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

I believe there is a bright future for Southeastern Baptist College! Yes I do! I am convinced that the Lord's hand is on SBC and He has big plans for the school! How can I know this? It is evidenced by God's working right here on campus.

Here is a litany of "God things" we have experienced in the past few months, and the list is not exhaustive:

We were about to come up short in funds and leaving us in the red for the end of our 2015-16 fiscal year. I asked our supporting churches for extra giving to help us complete the year in the black. Our churches graciously provided enough funds to not only facilitate us to finish in the black, but also a little more to address some infrastructure issues. Our completing the fiscal year financially in the positive enabled us to begin our journey toward a major goal, the applying for accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

1. We were considering selling the college's President's Residence after the death of Brother Danny Pitts. However, Mrs. Pitts needed a local place to live. Brother Ed Steele proposed a plan requesting churches and individuals to assist Mrs. Pitts with her rent into the near future. Many responded with a love offering that enables Helen to stay in the President's Home for 18 months! What a blessing for her and the college!

2. For our first couple of months in Laurel, Linda and I stayed at the school's Faculty House which had not been lived in for a while. Later, we moved into our own home and the Faculty House was unoccupied for a couple more months. I began to think that we might need to sell it to generate revenue. Shortly thereafter, a woman who had lived for 20 years in the neighborhood behind the college knocked on my office door. She asked if she could rent the Faculty House because the home she had been renting was sold from under her. About ten days later, she moved in!

3. Just before the 2017 Fall Semester

began, it became evident that we would not have any in-classroom courses. Nearly all our students chose to pursue their studies through our online option. I stood in the hallway of our main building asking the Lord what we were going to do with all our classrooms and the main building. A few days later I met the Director of the Excellence in Learning Academy, a Christian hybrid home-school that had outgrown their current facilities. I set the conditions for a contract. They accepted the terms and began their Fall courses two weeks later!

4. I have had numerous opportunities to promote SBC on television and in print throughout the Pine Belt and beyond. We have also hosted several area wide events on our campus that have helped to reestablish Southeastern Baptist College as a viable option for potential students as well as an active partner in the local corporate community.

The list of items above demonstrates to me that the Lord is moving on behalf of SBC. I know that Southeastern will continue well into the future and will increasingly grow to become a strong voice for Christian witness in this age of declining religious values.

God has provided SBC with some phenomenally talented and energetic people, both on our staff and as volunteers, who are helping us to develop exciting new initiatives for the future! We are blessed beyond measure with those who want to see SBC recover and grow into a college of choice among potential students seeking a Christian college education. Praise the Lord for the evidence of his working on behalf of Southeastern Baptist College,

Equipping the Saints!
Dr. Carson



Dr. Scott Carson
President

Accrediting Agency Visit

Every ten years our accrediting agency makes a mandatory visit to our campus to review our records. The team of six representatives will be on our campus March 26-29, 2018. This is an extremely important event toward our continued accreditation with the Association for Higher Biblical Education (ABHE). We welcome the opportunity to host the ABHE representatives; however, their visit comes with a hefty price tag of over \$12,000! Southeastern Baptist College must pay for all their expenses including travel, lodging, food, etc. Can you help us meet this obligation? Contact Chris Floyd at 601-323-4400.

Fall 2018 Basketball!

The Lord is doing great things at SBC! We intend to restart the school's basketball program this Fall Semester. We are actively seeking men and women for Southeastern Baptist College basketball! Do you know of any students wanting to join the Chargers teams? Point them our way. Sports scholarships are available. Contact Coach Brad Phillips at 601-426-6346.

Dorm Renovation

Our new recruiter intends to fill our dorms with new students! Because many of the rooms and common areas have been unoccupied for a while, there is great need to bring them back to acceptable standards. Can you help? Do you have materials, or talent, or monetary donations to designate toward this project? Give us a call at 601-426-6346 or send Chris Floyd a note at chfsoso@yahoo.com.

Mississippi Department of Education Honors

On February 20th, the Mississippi Department of Education honored one of



President Carson presenting the prestigious Apple Award to Pastor James McGhee, Jr. at the State of Mississippi HEADWAE luncheon that was held February 20, 2018 in Jackson

our students and professors for their achievements is higher education. Pastor James McGhee, Jr. (student) and Dr. Bob Burch (professor) were recognized at



Southeastern Baptist College Table at the HEADWAE banquet where Governor Bryant was keynote speaker. All Mississippi private and public colleges and universities were represented.

this year's Higher Education Appreciation Day Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) in Jackson, Mississippi. The day began with a tour of the Mississippi Capital Building and concluded with a banquet at the downtown Marriott with Governor Phil Bryant as host and keynote speaker.

Free Tuition?

Yes! And if I were you, I would not hesitate to take advantage of God's gracious gift of a college education at one of the finest Christian institutions in the United States! Thinking about taking courses in the Summer or Fall? There are several scholarship opportunities available for our student body that supporters of the school have graciously provided. In addition, if you are a BMA minister, there are scholarships specially set aside available for you! Our recruiter, Brad Phillips, has all the information you need to sign up for classes or contact Ginny Singleton regarding financial aid. Both can be reached at 601-426-6346.

Carson's Army

Brother Chris Floyd introduced a special individual donor concept named Carson's Army at the SBC Donor and Volunteer Dinner. Each person has the opportunity to "enlist" with their pledge at various levels of rank representing their ability to give toward Southeastern Baptist College. If you feel led of the Lord to enlist, call 601-426-6346 today! Please refer to the "Carson's Army" giving chart in this publication. Praise the Lord! We already have our first Major and our first General enlisted into Carson's Army!

#6 in the Entire Nation!

SBC is rated the 6th most affordable Online Christian College in the nation for 2018! Why spend big bucks at other colleges when you can earn your amaz-

continued on page 4

Carson's Army

Brother Chris Floyd introduced a special individual donor concept named Carson's Army at the SBC Donor and Volunteer Dinner. Each person has the opportunity to "enlist" their pledge at various levels of rank representing their ability to give toward Southeastern Baptist College. If you feel led of the Lord to enlist, call 601-426-6346 today! Please refer to the "Carson's Army" giving chart in this publication. Praise the Lord! We already have our first Major and our first General enlisted into Carson's Army!





Don Brown
Editor

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Southeastern College Report

from page 3

ingly affordable accredited degree here at Southeastern Baptist College? Contact us today!

Go for the Gold

SBC possesses the 2018 Gold Award level as a military friendly college! Have you served in America's armed forces? Then you probably have Veterans Administration tuition benefits that you can use toward a free education right here at SBC. I urge you to contact your local VA representative for an evaluation of your benefits. You earned them! And remember, many benefits are now fully transferable to family members. SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

Alumni Association

We are beginning a major effort to reorganize and re-energize our Alumni Association. We will attempt to identify and contact every alumnus who has ever taken courses at our great school and will meet briefly at the BMAA annual meeting in Jackson. We will share our newest strategic initiatives which include asking our Alumni to consider giving \$56 per month in an effort to raise \$58,000 over the next 12 months. We have many infrastructure issues that must be addressed. Will you allow God to use you? Alumni Sam and Judy Oglesby have graciously accepted to lead this effort. Please contact them at 601-550-8513 or pastor_1@comcast.net to verify that your current contact information is correct.

Have Bible, Will Travel

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

BMA Church Members Recognized for Community Involvement

Jones County Farm Bureau received the coveted 2017 President's Award for having the most outstanding county Farm Bureau program in the state. The announcement was made during the County Farm Bureau Awards & Recognition Dinner held at the 2017 Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) Annual Meeting in December. Jones County Farm Bureau received a crystal vase to display in their county office and a \$500 award.



Pictured with MFBF President Mike McCormick, right, are Roger Jefcoat, president, and Martha McLemore, secretary. (Roger Jefcoat is a member of First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel and Martha McLemore is a member of First Baptist Church of Calhoun, near Laurel)

Condolences To Pastor & Family

We are saddened by the news that one of our trustees, Bro. Clell Allen and his wife Patricia, lost their daughter Dawn Renee Allen recently. Dawn passed away at the age of 52 to be with her Lord and Savior on February 13, 2018. Dawn was a member of Temple Baptist Church in Biloxi where her father is pastor.

She is survived by her parents, Clell and Patricia Allen; daughter, Brooke Walters (Jeff); son Jake Owens; 4 grandchildren, Mackenzie, Joe, Trevor, and Caleb Walters; her brother, Clell Allen Jr. (Robin); her sister, Cherie LeBlanc (Shane); and 2 nephews, Michael and Cole LeBlanc.

A memorial service was held Saturday, February 24, 2018 at Temple Baptist Church in Biloxi.

2018 Special Emphasis Receipts

Below are listed the receipts from our 2018 Special Emphasis drive as of February 28, 2018. Again we are humbled and truly blessed by the generosity of God's faithful. Your gifts are greatly appreciated and will be used for the continuing ministry of Publications. Thank you seems inadequate, but please know that each and every individual, church, and group who gave is appreciated. May God bless you all.

Antioch Baptist Church, Taylorsville	\$150.00
Berean Baptist Church, Soso	\$31.00
Bethel Baptist Church, Louise	\$200.00
Bethel Baptist Church, Wiggins	\$200.00
Bible Baptist Church, Overt	\$300.00
Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso	\$350.00
Big Oak Baptist Church, Fulton	\$100.00
Buffalo Baptist Church, McLain	\$100.00
Calvary Baptist Church, Taylorsville	\$300.00
Canaan Baptist Church, Richton	\$500.00
Canaan Baptist Church WMA, Richton	\$200.00
Centerville Baptist Church, Mantachie	\$73.00
Cypress Creek Baptist Church, Brookland	\$100.00
East Amory Baptist Church, Amory	\$100.00
First Baptist Church, Bay Springs	\$278.00
First Baptist Church Of Calhoun, Laurel	\$500.00
First Baptist Church Of Orange Grove, Gulfport	\$320.00
First Baptist Church Of Shady Grove, Laurel	\$250.00
Forked Oak Baptist Church, Booneville	\$102.00
Hopewell Baptist Church, Laurel	\$150.00
Individuals	\$215.00
Leakesville Missionary Baptist Church, Leakesville	\$250.00
Liberty Baptist Church, Belzoni	\$300.00
Little Creek Baptist Church, Perkinston	\$57.00
Magnolia Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	\$100.00
Mantachie First Baptist Church, Mantachie	\$200.00
Movella Baptist Church, Lucedale	\$33.00
New Bethany Baptist Church, Seminary	\$51.62
Palestine Baptist Church, Bay Springs	\$50.00
Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis	\$25.67
Pine Grove SR Adult SS	\$85.00
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Tupelo	\$40.00
Riverside Baptist Church, Ellisville	\$120.00
Rock Creek Baptist Church, Union	\$1,000.00
South Green Baptist Church, Tupelo	\$200.00
Spring Hill Baptist Church, Ocean Springs	\$85.04
Tombigbee Baptist Church, Mantachie	\$500.00
Washington Baptist Church, Neely	\$87.95
Westover Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	\$75.00
Total	\$7,779.28

COMMISSION ON Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440

2018 Senior Adult Conferences Schedule

South Mississippi Conference

March 20, 2018 - 9:30 AM
Big Creek Baptist Church
Soso, Mississippi

North Conference

May 8, 2018 - 9:30 AM
Hopewell Baptist Church
Fulton, Mississippi

Make plans now to attend!

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

Phone 601-426-3293

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BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



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“Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:” Phil 1:2-6

How long?

After Isaiah’s infamous statement, in chapter 6:8 “Here am I; send me,” he almost immediately follows it with a somewhat obscure question in verse 11; “Then said I, Lord, how long?” Paul, in Philippians 1, seems to answer this question for all who might be struggling and wondering, “How long?” The answer is simply, “...until the day of Jesus Christ.” The end date for the work of missions is the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Until then we must work and we must labor and we must wait upon the Lord. David would give all of us some good advice in Ps 27:14, “Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he

shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.”

Missionary Coaches

I appreciate the work that Bro. Bob Burch and Bro. Sidney Farmer are doing as missionary coaches. Together, they are providing encouragement, and, in some cases, discipleship training, and overall support to our missionaries. If you have ever been a missionary, you know the value of having someone else to talk to, besides just the Director. These guys take seriously their responsibilities and I very much appreciate their efforts.

Worshiping With Midway Baptist Mission

I had the opportunity to visit with Dr. Kenneth Pollock and the fine folks at Midway Baptist Mission on February 25. My visit coincided with a visit of the Mission Group from their mother church, First Baptist Church of Mantachie, Pastor John Adams. We had a wonderful, Spirit filled service and Dr. Pollock preached a challenging message and shared his passion and vision. I was struck by a comment he made during his message, referring to Geo-data that suggests that 77,000 people resided within 15 miles of the Mission.



Worshiping with Missionary Dr. Kenneth Pollock and Midway Baptist Mission

As he continued to preach, I couldn’t help but think about the challenges and the patience that it takes in growing a mission. Later, as I set by a couple that Dr. Pollock had baptized since the mission began, and listened to joy and hope in their voices as they conversed with him across the table, I couldn’t help but be reminded of why we do this. Sometimes, things move slower than we think they should and the numbers are not as large as we think they should be. But in every case, when the question arises, “How long?” we need to, “Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen (our) heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.”

Update on Day Star Baptist Mission at Sumrall Building Project

On March 10th folks will gather at the property in Sumrall to erect the pavilion that will be located behind the new church building. This is in preparation for the erection of the new building which is scheduled for some time the first part of April. We are recruiting volunteers to serve on teams to help with specific tasks on that day.

If your church has a group of men who would like to serve, please call Bro. Phillip Burns at 601-670-6191. Each team will need a Team Leader and Bro. Burns will need the Team Leaders’ contact information and the names of each person on the team and any special skills they may have. Also, we are in need of a “Boom Truck” to help set the trusses. If you know of someone who has a boom truck and would volunteer its use, please contact Bro. Burns at the number above.

Mission in Southaven Plans Organization

Bro. Anders Lee reported that Center in Southaven has planned their organization for September 16, 2018.

D’Iberville Mission Update

Bro. Will Hutchinson reported that he will be starting discipleship studies leading to formal Bible studies, with a number of families soon. He is working to establish a presence in the community with different connection events.

Update on Redemption Baptist Mission at Diamondhead

Our application for conditional use has been filed with the City of Diamondhead and now we wait for our public hearing before the Planning Committee on March 27th. Please pray that all will go well.

Special Emphasis

Our Special Emphasis for State Missions is just around the corner. April and May are the months the churches of our association have set aside to emphasize State Missions. I would like to challenge our churches to make preparation to participate in this emphasis. I am available to come to your church and give a report and preach. If you

would be interested in me coming to your church, please give me a call at 601-428-8616.

Also, a number of our missionaries are available on Sunday evenings as they may not yet have Sunday evening services started. I encourage you to invite one of our missionaries to attend your Sunday evening services. In addition, we will be mailing some promotional material soon. We hope this will aid you in informing your church about the missionary activity that is going on across the State of Mississippi.

Missions & Evangelism Conference

This year’s conference will be hosted by Evergreen Baptist Church at Seminary, Mississippi, on May 4th beginning at 9:00 am. The theme of the conference is, “Biblical Baptist Distinctives.” Our speakers include: Bro. Dennis Knight, Pastor of Paramount Baptist Church; Bro. Bryan Atwood, Pastor of Campground Baptist Church; Bro. Greg Medenwald, Pastor of Magnolia Baptist Church; Bro. Jason Goodwin, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Shady Grove; and Bro. Chad Cummins, Pastor of Evergreen Baptist Church.

Conference music will be by Jeff and Rosalind Dixon with special concert music in the afternoon by two different groups. Please plan now to attend. More information will follow in the next issue.

Church Seeks Youth Pastor

East Amory Baptist Church, Amory, Mississippi, is seeking a bi-vocational youth pastor. Those individuals interested are asked to send a resume to East Amory Baptist Church, 905 Hatley Road, Amory, MS 38821.

Gospel Sing To Promote Mission Effort

A Gospel Sing will be held at Skyway Hills Baptist Church in Pearl on March 3 at 6:30 pm. A “love offering” to help support Missionary Carl Sookraj and the Peru Orphanage ministry will be taken. Your attendance and help is appreciated.

From The Mind of Chuck Lee

Stepping Our In Faith

Most of the time when I sit down to write an article, I do so with the intent to bring a little levity into the lives of the readers. It seems we all share similar experiences in life and sometimes it is



Bro. Chuck Lee

nice to know that we aren't alone in the incidents that befall us. I mean, who hasn't been sprayed by a skunk and had to sleep outside for a week? Who hasn't done a one-leggedger down a stump hole while sneaking quietly through the woods in pursuit of game? Who hasn't done a one-eighty split while trying to step into a canoe? Right? We have all had things happen that generally takes years of rehabilitation and therapy to be able to get a laugh out of it years later.

However, today I want to approach a subject that may be a bit more serious in nature, and that is the topic of stepping out in faith. I used to feel that stepping out in faith meant having a desire to do something and just going for it without counting the consequences. An entrepreneur may start a business and say, "I am stepping out in faith". A musician may sell all that he has and thumb his way to Nashville with the intent of becoming the next great Country music singer and think, "Well, I am stepping out in faith".

In my youth, students were taught that anything was possible with hard work and desire. While there is truth to that, one ingredient (the main and only ingredient) is missing from that formula. A person needs to know God's calling and direction for their life. We

push children to go to school for an education. We encourage them to learn a trade. We spur them toward success and achievement. But if we fail to teach them that God is their Creator, and

You may not know where the journey will take you on this earth, but you can have full assurance that it will end in the presence of your Heavenly Father

therefore has the right to define their life, we will raise a generation to believe that stepping out on faith simply means taking a chance with the results depending upon our abilities.

When Abraham stepped out in faith and left the metropolis of Ur, he did so with the prompting of God. When Moses left the halls of Pharaoh's palace to lead the Israelites through a wilderness, he did so at the direction of God. When Noah moved with fear and built an ark, he did so with God as His architect. All instances of faith in scripture were dictated by the word of God.

Stepping out in faith by a scriptural definition would be anything but taking a chance. You may not know where the journey will take you on this earth, but you can have full assurance that it will end in the presence of your Heavenly Father. Come to think of it, stepping out in faith is the surest thing a person could ever do.

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

Magnolia Baptist Church Hosting COMPLIMENTARY ESTATE PLANNING SERVICE AVAILABLE

The BMA Foundation's complimentary estate planning service is currently being offered at Magnolia Baptist Church in Hattiesburg monthly on a Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning. Frank Stepp, an estate planning consultant with Thompson & Associates, will meet privately with those interested in discussing wills, trusts and powers of attorney. The confidential meeting will be one hour in length and most individuals need three or four meetings to complete the process.

Thompson & Associates is one of the most successful and highly respected estate planning firms in the country with more than 200 years of combined experience among their personnel. They do not sell products, draft wills or manage money. Their only task is to educate families as to the best way to plan their estates to achieve their personal goals.

Magnolia pastor Greg Medenwald and his people encourage all BMA members within the Hattiesburg area to take advantage of this opportunity to receive excellent assistance with this important stewardship matter.

This complimentary service will be available in Hattiesburg for a limited time, so please contact BMA Foundation Executive Director Charles Attebery by phone at 501-472-2183 or by e-mail at charles@bmaamerica.org to schedule an appointment or for more information.

2018 GMA Camp

March 16th and 17th

Camp Garaywa

Clinton, Mississippi

Theme

"The Fruit of the Spirit"

Camp Pastor

Ryan Anderson

Galilean Camp Approaching

by Mark Jones
Galilean Promoter

Mississippi Galilean camp will be March 16-17, 2018. Camp will be at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, Mississippi. Our theme this year is "UNITED" I Cor. 1:10. Our camp pastor this year will be Bro. Larry Tramel. . We must pre-register for camp. I have mailed reminder letters to the churches that come to camp every year and will mail registration letters at the end of February. If your church does not receive a letter please contact me at 662-231-1435 or stonwall@yahoo.com.

GIRLS'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY
 State Youth Auxiliary Director **Becky Farmer**
 464 Churchwell Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39401 - 601-596-1005

State GMA Promoter **Lisa Christian**
 2315 Bankhead Rd., Fulton, MS 38843 - 662-322-1581

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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



SIDNEY DAVIS

Spring Is Near—A Time of Growing

In the weeks ahead many gardeners and farmers will begin preparing for another year's planting. They will prepare the ground by proper cultivation and fertilization. They will plant seeds at the appropriate time. The planting process will be followed by keeping the weeds out and sufficient watering. All of this is done with the expectation to produce a fine crop of fruits and vegetables.

God daily cultivates the lives of His children. He prepares the ground of the heart and plants the seed of His Word. He waters with his grace and mercy. Occasionally He has to weed sin from their lives. He desires to produce fruitful and righteous lives in His children. Allow God to perform His work in you!

Students Continue To Do Well In School

Our girls and boys continue to do well in their studies at school. Grades for the first semester indicate that progress is made by each student. It is good to see them doing well in their studies and we anticipate that they will continue to do so throughout the remainder of the school year.

Remember In Prayer and Focus Verse

Continue to remember the ministry of the Home in your prayers. "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." Proverbs 14:34.

GMA's 50th Anniversary

It is the 50th anniversary of the Mississippi GMA!! This special event will be celebrated at the Mississippi GMA camp on Friday, March 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Mildred Sumrall the first director/promoter of the Mississippi GMA's will be present to speak along with the past directors/promoters Mrs. Chris Smith and Mrs. Beth Caldwell.

All past officers are invited to attend at 6:00 p.m. for a time of refreshments and fellowship.

If you have any questions please call Becky Farmer 601-596-1005.

National GMA Retreat Set for June 12 - 15

GMA Retreat is a great time for girls to make advancements in the program and become prepared for a place in the ministry of the local church. No matter where God leads these young ladies, the GMA program provides a wonderful foundation for life.

Random Thoughts from Revelation 1-3

Revelation 1:4 “Grace and peace to you from the one who is, who was, and is to come...”

Nothing is better than grace and peace coming directly to and at you. That grace and peace is not coming to Christians at an oblique angle. No, it is directly aimed, targeted, and delivered by the Risen Lord. The power of Christianity is that He lives. Certainly the historical figure, Jesus - was the man to whom all look - was not only then in time, but also was before in eternity past. The thinking of this modern age is not much surprises us. We are not an impressionable people. We have seen it all and expect all things to be better designed and dreamed up soon. Our thinking is that if we do not understand

it, it cannot be true. Yet most of our population does not clearly understand the fact He is to come. Yes, that One who was and is present will come to us again. That is inconceivable yet factual in this Scripture. He is the Almighty!

Revelation 1:20 “The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches...”

The paparazzi seek stars to photograph. Media people hunt down stars to interview. Tabloids are filled with endless gossip about the stars. Here are some stars that are not Hollywood or media amplified stars. They are probably not famous stars as the world counts famous, yet they are right here in our presence. The pastor of your church, the pastor of the church where

Leave It To Cleaver



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

you grew up - these are the stars of this Scripture. Probably no paparazzi has ever stalked you brother pastor, but don't give up in the quest of your calling. You are a star in His eyes. You are held in His right hand! You are that one that provides the light, bright light, for those in your congregation.

Revelation 2:5 “...do the works you

in to our lives,” explained Thomas. “When we are being tossed around by the storm, it's important that we have truth. In our culture the church needs to be a place to speak the truth in love—we can't back down from either side of the coin.”

Throughout the final session, Adam Thomas will speak about “everyone playing their part well,” encouraging students to go back home and invest in their local church, no matter what that means.

“We want students to play their part in the church and to understand that they do have a part to play, no matter what their church looks like,” concluded Thomas.

Registration is open now for SOAR 2018! Just visit gosoar.com for details. We can't wait to see you there.

Oak Grove Association Report

The Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Association met with Rocky Branch Baptist Church on January 18. After a great time of food and fellowship, the Associational meeting began at 7:00. Bro. Philip Burns reported on his work with Day Star Baptist Mission in Sumrall. Missions Ambassador, Bro. Ted Quinby, gave a general report on all missions work and encouraged all churches to participate in the February 25 offering for our BMA of America Missions Office in Conway, Arkansas. Bro. Sidney Davis reported on the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home. Bro. Greg Bennett, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Oak Grove, delivered the message.

The next meeting will be with Westover Baptist Church, in Hattiesburg, on March 15. Each Church is urged to have messengers present to hear the various reports and participate in any decisions that need to be made.

Ed Steele, Reporter

did at first.”

All churches have a history. The start at a point in time and a place on earth. There was a group of people who banded together to do the work of Christ in this thing we call “church.” Years pass and the church changes a little here and some there. The work of the church has changed. It has accumulated property, buildings, large membership, and some community standing. It has a plethora of activities that jostle for position on the church calendar. Yet somewhere in the midst of the meetings, popular activities, community events, and other programs the church has forgotten its primary mission. Jesus wants His church to “do the works you did at first.” That work is fairly straightforward but it is not simple nor is it easy. We will have to repent of all the attention to the busyness of what is going on today. Let's get back to the work of Christ and his Church.

Revelation 2:10 “Be faithful to the point of death...”

All right now, let's get this straight. Jesus expects me to be faithful to the point of death? Wow! Did I sign up for that? I thought this “Jesus thing and church thing” was simply something social and cultural that I was supposed to do. Well, good reader, there is a commitment to Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. There is a life-changing experience of Grace that enables all on the roll of heaven to be faithful to the point of death. It is not of human energy to do this. It is super human or better said it is supernatural power from God to be able to be faithful to the point of death. Lord Jesus, deliver me from self and selfless ideas. Send Your Holy Spirit to me to the point of pleasing You in Your kingdom for this day, for this time, and for this hour.

Revelation 2:13 “I know where you live...”

Knowing about other people's habitation lets one know many things about them. It offers insight into their life choices and directions. Jesus is aware of where we live. He knows that Satan lurks about like the roaring lion to devour us. He knows and knows well the hellish activities that surround us. He is quite knowledgeable of where we live. He is always offering us hope right in the middle of the most complicated enigmas we find ourselves. Hold on to His name. Do not deny your faith in Him. Look up to Him who lives forever securely and surely on his throne with a hand reached out to his people.

Revelation 2:19 “I know your works...”

Surely in the darkness of secrecy no one knows what I do. No one knows my actions when I'm on vacation away from home. The Lord Jesus knows what

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SOAR Conference to Focus on the Local Church

Guided by the book of Ephesians, this upcoming SOAR Conference will focus on the importance of God's treasure: the local church.

On July 3–5, 2018 students from all over the nation will gather in Dallas, Texas at the Omni Hotel to learn about how to love, serve, and value their local church as Christ has asked them.

The keynote speaker will be Adam Thomas, Pastor of Teaching at Wyatt Baptist Church. In session one, he will cover the first three chapters of

Ephesians, which talk about God bringing people together and saving them under Christ.

“That's what makes up the church,” said Thomas, “people who believe this and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

In session two, students will learn that the church is a place to love. They will learn the importance of loving their local church and its people. During session three, students will learn that the church is a local place for truth.

“We need the church to speak truth



WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

President Beth Caldwell

166 Twin Creek Rd, Lucedale, MS 39452 - 601-947-60118

Corresponding Secretary Mrs. Shirlene Smith

730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443 - 601-729-5638

National Luncheon Deadline Near

Dear WMA Ladies,

I want to say “Thank You” to the churches and individuals that made a donation to the National WMA luncheon to be April 17th. It has helped to cut the cost for each lady attending and to provide for some expenses that we will have.

Each lady will need to pay \$17.50 for lunch. A buffet is being planned. Make your check payable to “National WMA”. I need to know your name and if you are a pastor's wife or widow, as we will honor them at the luncheon and I need to know how many we will have. Please send your check and information to Jodi Rhea, 40156 E. CR 1631, Wynnewood, OK 73098. I need to have your money by March 17th to let the caterer know how many there will be. You will not be able to purchase a ticket at the door.

Your help to pass on this information to every WMA lady or Missionary's wife or any visitor that you know are thinking about attending the meeting is important! I do hope we have a good number to attend. I am sure you will miss a wonderful blessing if you don't, so make plans to be there now! Remember, I need your money by March 17th!

Sincerely,

Jodi Rhea, 1st Vice President National WMA

National WMA Schedule listed on page 8

BMA Seminary Closes Arkansas Site

by BMA Seminary Dean Philip Attebery

On February 16, 2018, the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary's Board of Trustees voted to close the institution's Arkansas Extension Site in Conway, Arkansas at the end of its 2017-18 academic year.

The decision to close the site came following extensive evaluation by the trustees to research the feasibility of the site. In September 2017, the trustees formed a committee of trustees to conduct an initial evaluation. This occurred mostly in response to data showing a recent decline in enrollment. The committee's research focused upon interviewing students, BMA leaders, seminary administrators, the extension site's administrator, and more than 30 pastors in the state.

Current students will have opportunity to complete their degrees through online studies and intensive summer and winter sessions held on the main campus in Jacksonville, Texas.

In 2003, the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary received approval by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) to offer seminary courses and degrees through an extension site on the campus of Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas.

Administrators from the seminary's main campus in Jacksonville, Texas and Dr. Thom South in Arkansas worked successfully to gain the approval. At the time, BMA Seminary's extension site alone had approval to offer complete seminary degrees in Arkansas.

Seminary administrators continued to enhance the site by gaining its accreditation from both the Commission on Accrediting for the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and continued



Philip Attebery

approval by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

Regretfully, the site will close after 15 years of service to Christian leaders in the great State of Arkansas. The caliber of students coming through the extension site has been outstanding. The total number of unduplicated students educated at the site from fall 2003 to fall 2017 totaled 122. Thirty-four have graduated with three more extension site students scheduled to graduate in May 2018. Nine graduates have since completed doctoral programs. Sixty-eight percent of extension site graduates continue to minister as pastors, chaplains, departmental workers, missionaries, or in other ministries for the BMA.

Central Baptist College has graciously hosted the site for 15 years. Like a true sister institution, CBC administrators and personnel have consistently and kindly provided for the extension site's many needs. Additionally, Lifeword Media Ministries housed an extension library on its campus for several years. Although on-campus classes in Conway will cease, the seminary's online enrollment continues to increase significantly. The seminary offers two graduate degrees completely online: Master of Arts (Religion) and Master of Arts (Pastoral Theology).

Seminary administrators recognize the contributions of Dr. Thom South and Professor Brian Rickett who served as extension site administrators and the many highly-credentialed professors who led in providing the site with exceptional higher religious education.

The seminary must also express its appreciation to supporting individuals, churches, and local associations who made the site's existence possible by financially and prayerfully providing for the site. BMA Seminary hopes to continue providing education to Arkansas churches and leaders mostly through short-term seminars and workshops, free non-credit online courses, and for-credit online courses.

Thoughts from Revelation

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we do. He is not the "old man upstairs" who delights in our failures. Rather he is One who is delighted as His children behave like His children. What is it Jesus is pleased about regarding our works? Those pleasing works are plainly stated: love, faithfulness, service, and endurance. These are those works that please the One whose blazing eyes penetrate the darkest of evil cover. He sees through to observe His precious ones engaged in love, faithfulness, service, and endurance.

Revelation 3:1 "... you have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead."

Our current culture is enamored with zombies. A zombie is a living-dead type person. There are no such things, but zombies sell air-time and print space. Jesus tells people in His church they are zombie like; you are no longer living for Me; you are dead. The TV zombies I see have dirty, filthy clothes. Jesus tells His church members if they will repent, they will walk in white clothes because they are worthy. I don't want to be zombie like in my Christian life - neither do you, good reader. Let's go for the clarity of serving Him who offers us clean, white, and bright clothing as we come to him.

Revelation 3:7 "... the one who has the key... Who opens and no one will close, and who closes and no one opens."

Islamic faith regards the Kaaba as a most sacred place. It is in Mecca built over the place of holiness as they recount Islamic theology. The key to the Kaaba formerly was in Istanbul. Only the Sultan could open the Kaaba. Now I don't know who has the key. This passage affirms for all time it is Christ who has the key for all to life and death. He can open and no one can close. He has closed and no one can open. Dear reader, let him open the gates of heaven and shut the door to hell for you. Right now at this very moment in time, He can restructure your life so that you have the quality of life that God intended you to have as He created you.

Revelation 3:17 "... you don't realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked."

Robert Burns wittily wrote: To a Louse. He saw a prim and proper lady elated in her finery at church. This lady had lice in her hair. How so are we! We bring a basket full of our good stuff to God. We fill up containers of 'atta-boys' to show Him. All the time as we look into our mirror we are like the lady in church who seemed to be well dressed. We have lice in our hair. There is a difference in our mirror and God's mirror. He sees all things we overlook in our smugness of superiority. The truth be known, we are wretched, pitiful, blind, and naked. Good reader, let's look again at ourselves. Let us see ourselves as God sees us. Lord Jesus, as you examine us, forgive our sins. Save us from being wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.

COMMISSION ON *Senior Adults*

4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440

South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference

March 20, 2018 - 9:30 AM
Big Creek Baptist Church
Soso, Mississippi

Daniel Springs 2018 Schedule Released

Daniel Springs is excited to release the 2018 summer camp schedule:

June 5-8: Leadership Camp (student leaders)

Andy Comer will be the speaker. This is a camp for your youth group's student leaders. They will learn what it means to be a good leader, as well as participate in team building activities.

June 19-22: Combo Camp (4th grade – college)

P.J. Noland will be the pre-teen speaker. Shawn Hammontree will be the student speaker. Programming is provided simultaneously for 4th-6th grade students and 7th grade-college age students in various formats. Save gas and only make one trip to camp while ministering to both preteens and students at Combo Camp!

June 26-29: Preteen Camp 1 (4th – 6th grades)

Jordan Bowen will be the speaker. This camp is designed for boys and girls. The music, Bible study, worship and recreation are geared toward helping preteens meet Christ and move forward in their spiritual journeys.

July 10-13: Preteen Camp 2 (4th – 6th grades)

Billy Sheets will be the speaker. This camp is designed for boys and girls. The music, Bible study, worship and recreation are geared toward helping preteens meet Christ and move forward in their spiritual journeys.

July 17-20: Ark-La-Tex Camp (all ages)

Scott Attebery will be the speaker. This camp draws from churches in the center of the Bible belt. Families have a great time learning, worshipping and playing together as a family and as a group of Christians. All ages, "from the cradle to the grave," are welcome to attend!

July 24-27: Student Camp (7th grade – college)

Dustin Wisely will be the speaker. This camp is a co-ed teen camp. It is fast paced and high energy to match the pace and energy of this age group. Worship and Bible studies center on discipleship and relationships.

To register your group for any of these camps, visit danielspringscamp.com/register.