

MARCH 1, 2022
Volume 756 No. 5
www.ms baptist.org

A Clean Desk

by Dr. John David Smith
BMAA Director of Missions

Bro. Jerry Kidd, after 41 years of ministry in God's global Mission, has cleaned out his desk at the BMAA Global Missions Center. Bro. Jerry served



Sue & Jerry Kidd with
Missions Director Dr. John David Smith

our association in various roles as a missionary to Bolivia, the director of international missions, and as the director of missionary care during those four decades. Bro. Jerry will continue to be part of our global missions team in the area of missionary care consulting and encouragement.

Hundreds of missionaries, including me and my wife Kim in our time in the Cape Verde Islands, were so blessed to have Bro. Jerry walk alongside us on our journey in international missions. He and Sister Sue are true servants who have impacted more lives around the world than anyone else I know personally.

Our annual missions offering on World Missions Day (February 27) is named the Jerry D. Kidd Missions Offering in his honor. Thank you Bro. Jerry and Sister Sue. We love you!

**National BMA of America
Annual Meeting
Springfield, Missouri
April 18-20, 2022**

"Girls Retreat"

from Lakelan Flynt Jenkins

The 2022 "Girls Retreat" be March 25 & 26th at Campground Baptist Church in Gulfport. Our theme is "The Kingdom of God" from Matthew 6:33. Bro Sam Freeman is our camp pastor.

All girls are urged to attend. Contact Lakelan at 601-517-1476 for information.

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

The Gospel to the World - A Cultural Look at Missions

Guests are sacred in Syrian culture, so when a Missions team visited the desert camps there, we were invited to visit the home of their tribal leader, Abdullah. Before we entered his cinder block house, we removed our shoes, stacked them neatly on a rack, and sat on cushions atop the floor rug. His wife and young daughter served us small cups of coffee as he offered his greeting and Suhail, a Zarqa church staff member, translated and explained the different

hospitality is the real deal.

The Refugee Story

Our journey to the Middle East had already been an incredible one, especially for those of us who had never been. Our hosts included Jordanian Missionary Sam Jordan and Middle East Coordinator Charlie Costa, who had invited

us to attend Pastor Samer's ministry center dedication. The next day, we drove to the Syrian border to visit refugee settlements and, despite their lack of resources, we received the same hospitality.

Beginning in 2011, Jordan became the primary destination of refugees fleeing the Syrian war. Because the country has no natural resources like oil, salt, and water to fight over, Jordan has a fairly stable economy and no surrounding nations who want to pick a fight with them. Think about it: When was the last time you heard about Jordan in the news? Right. Pretty much never.

Jordan's lack of conflict in the region has made it a safe haven for Syrians who



Syrian tribal leader Abdullah, Suhail, and Pastor Sam, have coffee in Abdullah's home.

cross the border with only the clothes on their backs. Though overwhelmed with the influx of refugees, Jordanians re-

continued on page 2

SOAR 2022 - God's call

by Brad Faulk
Main session speaker at SOAR 2022

I was raised in church. My dad was a railroad engineer so he was gone a lot, but my mother always made sure that we were in church on Sundays. Even though I attended church regularly and knew quite a bit about the Bible as a child, I did not give my heart to Jesus until I was a junior in high school. And that changed everything!

Several months after being saved, I went to a church camp in Colorado and it was there, on a Thursday night, that I felt the Lord calling me into full-time ministry. I wasn't really sure how that would look, I just knew I wanted to surrender to that calling. The Sunday I returned, I let my pastor and the church know I had surrendered my life to full-time ministry and they were of course very supportive. In fact my pastor wanted me to begin preaching, so I, along with two other guys my age, rotated Wednesday nights preaching at Central Baptist Church in Lufkin, Texas. I'll never forget my first sermon. I wrote down word for word what I was

going to say, hoping I wouldn't be too long winded. Scared to death, I got up that first Wednesday night and preached for a whopping two minutes! I'm sure there are people in my church now who wish I could keep my sermons under to two minutes.

After graduating from high school I met a girl who took me to her brother's graduation service at a little college in Jacksonville, Texas. I was raised independent Baptist so I had never heard of this college, but for whatever reason, there at that graduation service I knew this was the college God wanted me to attend. I had three of the best years of my life at that two-year school. One of the neatest things at Jacksonville College was the opportunity to meet many other young preachers and travel to fill pulpits on Sunday mornings. I'll never forget driving those country roads headed to little country churches way out in the middle of nowhere to preach. I met some of the best people I've ever known at



Brad Faulk

those churches, and I ate a lot of good food.

After that first year at Jacksonville College I served in a summer youth ministry internship with Gary Willis at Keltys First Baptist Church in Lufkin, Texas. We hopped on a bus and did a youth choir tour all the way up to Nashville, Tennessee, where I attended my very first SOAR conference. That was 30 years ago. I'll forever be grateful to my pastor who gave a young high school boy the opportunity to get up and preach even though it

was probably the worst preaching that church had heard. And I'm also grateful to a college that encouraged young preachers and opened doors of opportunity to spread our wings and attempt to fly a bit. Sometimes flying right into a tree, but flying nonetheless.

SOAR 2022 will be focused on God's call on our lives. God's call to salvation, God's call to serve, God's call to missions and God's call to ministry. This year's SOAR could have a huge impact on this generation of students and our churches for years to come. For more information about 2022 SOAR, go to www.soarconference.com

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

Trustees

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

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

Content may be copied or reprinted without prior permission

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

PRICE

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

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

Postmaster

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

Unavoidable Delay Apologies Offered

As you are clearly aware, this issue of your Mississippi Baptist is several days late. The best laid plans are often interrupted by unforeseen circumstances. My wife and I always try to celebrate our daughters' birthdays. We take them and their husbands out to dinner to celebrate. We traveled to Olive Branch on Friday, February 25 for our daughter's birthday on the 26th. All went well for a while. We enjoyed a nice dinner on Saturday night and really enjoyed the day.

Early Sunday morning about 2:00 am, I came down with what I thought was food poisoning. That was not the case. Highly dehydrated and feeling very, very ill, my loving daughter took it upon herself to have me transported to the ER via ambulance. After several hours, much pain and embarrassment, and multiple tests, I was discharged with medicine and told I would be better soon. That was true - slowly. It turns out it was not food poisoning, but a very contagious and very violent stomach virus. As I was improving my wife came down with it, then our daughter got sick and one of our granddaughters became ill.

Our plans were to worship with our children and travel back home Sunday evening. We were unable to return until Wednesday March 2. We are much better, but really weak from the ordeal. (We are elderly and just take longer to recover).

So, this is why this issue is late. It just could not be helped. I hope you understand and I pray you never suffer the same malady as my family.

Special Emphasis

Your giving to our annual special emphasis drive is greatly appreciated. We will soon be listing those gifts and saying a very public thank you to all who gave to this ministry. God bless you for supporting your Publications Department.

Texas Church Seeks Pastor

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

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

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

Ordination Invitation

Springhill Baptist Church, Laurel, Mississippi, wishes to invite all who wish to attend to the ordination of Brother John Matt Musgrove. Bro. John Matt will be ordained as a deacon and into the gospel ministry. Bro. John Matt has been licensed to preach for sometime. The ordination will take place on April 2 at 7 PM with a reception to follow. For more information contact Pastor Bryson Haden @662-251-0443.



Musgrove

Perry's In Concert

Broadmoor Baptist Church, 5426 Highway 39 North in Meridian will host The Perry's on

A Cultural Look

from page 1

sponded at first with immediate needs then later with more permanent structures including tents, cinder-block homes, one-room schools, and pop-up medical clinics.

The Zarqa church's ministry center dedication the day before explained the context of their outreach to refugees who flooded Jordan and found refuge in both border camps and Jordanian cities.

Mostly composed of women and children, refugee families are usually fatherless, so women are head of the home, which clashes with cultural norms. Syrian culture also dictates that girls are uneducated, so women don't have work skills. In addition, children had to leave their schooling behind as they fled, so there are obvious gaps in their education.

To close this gap and help children catch up to their grade levels, refugee camps we toured have established schools with multi-grade classes for school-aged children. The goal is to prepare them for entrance into public schools. Their instructors allowed us to tour their "one-room schoolhouses" and the children were proud to show us their math skills and writing in both Arabic and English.

Also, to close the employment gap for women, the BMA's Middle East churches conduct training and help them find job opportunities to support themselves and their families. Many traumatized widows and families now live in cities and receive rent-only funds from the United Nations. The following is one of

Friday, March 25, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. One of southern gospel music's premier groups, The Perry's are one of the celebrated groups in the industry. Please join us for a night of celebration and joy. Admission is free and everyone is invited to attend. A love offering will be taken. For more information, please call 601-323-4400 or 601-482-2229.

those stories of desperation:

A Widow's Story

Saba was on her way to the bakery for bread when an explosive barrel for demolishing build-

the bread and sells it mostly to shepherds or farmers who feed it to their livestock. Her cinder block house is crumbling and would be condemned by American standards. The place is dangerous, unhealthy, unstable and many relief organizations have stopped helping her and other refugees.

Accompanying Saba during

In the Middle East, we soon learned, hospitality is the real deal.

ings was dropped on her house. When she returned home, her family was gone, with only a finger and a ring to identify her son and nothing left of her husband and daughter. She is still in severeshock and Suhail sometimes doesn't like to tell the story in front of her

Saba left Aleppo, Syria, all alone and traveled nine days with help from her neighbors. Just like other Syrian widows with no home and no place to go, she ended up in Zaatari, the largest refugee camp in Jordan with a population of 80,000. She eventually made it out of Zaatari, one of few people able to do so.

Saba provides for herself by foraging through trash to find bread and recyclables. She dries

our visit was a young lady who helps her with psychological needs and looks in on her regularly. Suhail says, "We also help her with job training, propane heat and blankets, and we're looking for a new house, some food books for free food, and help with medical and chronic diseases." Now sixty years old, she is very lonely and cries all the time. Her extended family, which she will likely never see again, remains in Syria.

The Syrian refugee story is heartbreaking, but Jordanian churches like those in Zarqa and Ammon are meeting needs and offering hope. Please pray that refugees notice the church members serving them have a joy that they don't, then ask why.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

LAUNDRY

Well, a few days ago, someone posted a picture of a wringer washer and said you should know what it was if you are over 60 years old. I certainly know what a wringer washer is. I wonder how old you need to be

to recognize the wash pot, the punch stick, and the rub board! When we were using those, if a wringer washer had come along, we would have thought that we had died and gone to heaven!

These days you can hardly watch anything on TV without seeing a laundry product commercial. We spend a lot of time cleaning our clothes.

That got me to thinking: Do we spend more time cleaning our clothes than we spend cleansing our hands and our hearts?

James said in his letter: "Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye doubleminded." James 4:8



In His Grip by Carolyn Hagler

Carolyn Hagler is a retired educator and a member of Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg. You may contact her via email at cmhagler@bellsouth.net



What a Blessing

You've learned a lot about my family, especially the three sisters. I've been reminded recently of that special bond of sisters when a "Wellness Center friend" shared that her younger sister's cancer had returned. Middle Sister lost a battle to an aggressive brain cancer, glioblastoma, leaving a void in our lives. My sisters and I were and are so different, yet so alike.

Sister No. 1 (Sugar Pie) was the firstborn of Daddy's girls; she was always extra special in his eyes. She had all the attention and was (dare I say it?) spoiled for six years before she had to share the limelight. That little blond-haired girl would not accept money from anyone but her daddy and believed him when he told her she had broken her nose when falling off her tricycle. She was a queen, a drama queen, for the day.

I can still see him when he called her on her 60th birthday. "I can't believe my baby is 60!"

Middle Sister (Pat Baby) drew the supposedly "dumb" spot because she never did anything first and, like Rodney Dangerfield, never did get "no respect." That's probably why she

chose not to compete with the firstborn in school but just had fun.

She was afraid of most things and only learned to ride her bike because Baby Sister learned first. Yet, she was the one who drove the tractor to learn how to drive, took the test, and passed it (Baby Sister didn't have to take the test at all).

Even with her fears, she



Hagler Family Girls

learned to ride her motorcycle, even driving it down one of the

biggest hills in Natchez. Of course, she had to drive down the hill to leave her house and get to the street. Yet, she would not drive or ride or walk over the Royal Gorge Bridge in Colorado.

She was a Marty Robbins fan and finally had the opportunity to meet him. She drove to Houston for his concert, but Sister No. 1 was the one who approached Marty to talk to him in the parking lot. Middle Sister found the courage then.

But we remember her as the Queen of Trivia. If we had a question about songs or television shows, we called her. She could do most things but didn't like to try new things.

Baby Sister had the reputation of being raised the way Mother wanted to raise her because "Daddy had spoiled the others." She regretted those words many times during her life. And this lastborn had very few pictures of her during her childhood and never got a nickname.

But I was blessed to be with our parents in their old age. And to the end, I was their baby, no matter how old I was. I was the one who learned to drive by sitting in Daddy's lap and steering (I couldn't reach the pedals) and the one who got a Volkswagen Bug for college. The child of their older age, I felt like an only child sometimes.

So blessed were we all! But the sisters were not close back then. A rivalry existed.

Sister No. 1 and Baby Sister were always close and spent a lot of time together. But the rivalry

was there with Middle Sister.

That rivalry reminds me of the "The Birth Order Book," by Kevin Leman. I have always found it interesting that our birth order can influence our relationships. It's an old book and, if you read it, you will find yourself guessing the birth order of people you know.

The "Firstborns" (and only children usually) like to take charge. They are goal-oriented, are high achievers, and want complete control. They are usually perfectionistic, reliable, critical, and self-reliant. They don't trust other people as much as themselves. They're often the achievers and are driven toward success.

The "Middleborns" often go in the sharply opposite direction. They tend to be people pleasers and hate confrontation. They aren't as comfortable making decisions as the firstborns. They are usually the most secretive, keeping things to themselves.

The "Lastborns" are usually manipulative, charming, precocious, persistent, and people-oriented. They are usually risk takers and cravers of the spotlight. They have strong people skills and love to entertain and talk to others.

So, how did three sisters be-

come close friends with each other?

I found a card recently that Middle Sister sent after Daddy died; I had forgotten about it. "After Mother and the Diva died, I knew I would not only lose him when he died but also my two



Three Sisters Smiling

sisters. I don't know why I feel that way. Thank you for calling. I really felt better after you called." That phone call started the three of us on the true path of friendship. The adventures you've read about happened later.

Another note I found recently was from Mother's youngest sister to Sister No. 1. She knew how it was to be the last born. "I didn't get to go much." But what touched my heart was about losing her family. "I feel so alone. I know I have my children; they are so good to me. I love them, but it's a lonely feeling knowing there are none of my family left—just me. I wonder why sometimes—all the sisters, brothers, and in-laws gone. I know God does all things good, but it's so lonely. I try not to dwell on it. We were always a close family."

Those words remind me how blessed my family has been. While the three sisters were different in many ways, we shared the precious gift of being sisters. We took our last picture together shortly before we learned the type of brain cancer Middle Sister had. And where there were three, now we are two.

With our smaller family these days, I'm reminded that God has blessed us to be a part of a much larger family than just our kinfolk: our family of believers. What a privilege to share the bonds of friendship and fellowship with our family, our church families, and our circle of Christian friends. We are truly blessed because Jesus calls us friends (John 15:14).

"I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God. I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood. Joint heirs with Jesus" (Bill Gaither, The Family of God).

As I start my day thankful for His timing, I'm tight in His grip.

Conquering Biblical Context

from LifeWord

There are two opposite errors we often have when studying the Bible. The first error is using verses completely out of context. Here are two out-of-context verses to show you that smoking cigarettes or vaping is exactly what God wants you to do. Ready?

First Corinthians 16:9 says, "... your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. ..." Okay, my body is the temple.

Revelation 15:8 says, "The Temple was filled with smoke. ..." Okay, my body is the temple and the temple should be filled with smoke. Looks like the Bible commands us to smoke? Not exactly.

First Corinthians 6:19 is actually telling us to honor God with our bodies—read the surrounding verses for context—and Revelation 15:8 isn't talking about your body being a

"temple"—it's talking about the Temple in heaven—and that wasn't tobacco smoke; it was smoke of God's glory.

See? You can prove just about anything with out-of-context Bible verses. That's why it's important to understand the broader context of any verse you hear before making theological conclusions or applications to your life.

The other error is actually made in reaction to the first: thinking that verses can and should only be kept in STRICT context and never applied to a situation outside that context—even if you're just trying to extract a general principle. Here's an example from Jeremiah 29, a letter written to a small group of Israelites living in the foreign capital city of Babylon:

War had just been declared against them, many people were killed, and the best and the brightest (like Daniel) sent to Babylon for reprogramming away from God and toward the things of Babylon.

Why did God allow that? Isn't He strong enough? He is, and He could have intervened but chose not to. God told Israel in very graphic terms in Deuteronomy 28 what would happen if they turned their backs on God and began doing evil, detestable things.

They disobeyed God, so He kept His promise and they were conquered and sent into exile. But just like us, they wanted to hear that everything would soon be OK, there wouldn't be lasting consequences for their actions, and repentance was unnecessary. True to the Law of Supply and Demand, the people demanded to hear these pleasant

lies, so false prophets supplied them with pleasant things instead of truth.

But Jeremiah 29:8 says, "This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says: 'Do not let your prophets and fortune-tellers who are with you in the land of Babylon trick you. Do not listen to their dreams, because they are telling you lies in my name. I have not sent them,' says the Lord. This is what the Lord says: 'You WILL BE in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again. For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord.

"They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me I will be found by you," says the Lord. "I will

continued on page 8





SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE

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

Serving Christ With A Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

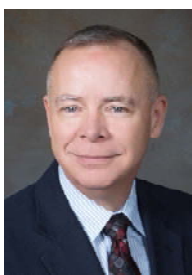
President's Perspective

"I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man." Proverbs 24:30-34

The Southeastern Baptist College staff recently held a facilities meeting to discuss the

ries, gymnasium and the complete remodeling of the President's House which now serves as our third dormitory. The following are six items listed in prioritized order:

1. Replacement of the college sign. As many pass up and down Highway 15, the sign needs to reflect the quality of the profes-



Dr. Scott Carson
President

rooms, and main hallway need fresh paint.

6. A more professional and attractive entryway in the main building is a must.

First impressions are extremely important in decision making process for parents and students as they visit our campus. Many come onto our campus and determine whether or not the college can provide a quality education based upon the school's appearance. This first impression is an important recruiting tool that can influence both the potential student and

Around the Campus

Staff members attend the annual accreditation conference in Orlando. Pictured L-R: Caroline Adams (Registrar); Christina Lucas (Director of Accreditation); Dr. Carson (President); Anderle Foster (Dean of Student Affairs); Jan Walker (Academic Provost)



On the left- Bible professors meeting on Zoom and in person to discuss development of future ministry degree paths

First impressions are extremely important in decision making process for parents and students as they visit our campus.

many areas of the campus that need attention. It was a very lively discussion as individuals named item after item that needed addressing. Numerous concerns were listed then numerically prioritized. As we reviewed the long list, we were in complete agreement that top priority should be parts of the campus that provide first impressions to visiting potential students and their parents. There are areas that I have felt needed much attention, from my first visit to the campus six years ago, but we have had many others that took priority, namely the renovation of the dormito-

sional standards of SBC.

2. The entire front parking lot needs resurfacing because of the many cracks and potholes. This will be a very expensive endeavor, but patching lasts only a couple of seasons and more money will be wasted if something more permanent is not done.

3. We began the project of painting the exteriors of some of the buildings last year and intend on completing this project this summer.

4. All carpeting in the classroom building needs replacing with other flooring options.

5. The interior of the class-

their parents in making SBC their choice for a college education. As we begin to tackle strategic areas of physical concern, we continue to hold to the highest academic standards in the classrooms, while exploring ways to expand our degree offerings.

As we look toward these summer projects, please pray with us that the Lord will motivate our supporters to give generously so that the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi will continue to have a conservative Christian college that they are proud of.

Equipping the saints,
Dr. Carson

On the right- Anderle Foster (Dean of Student Affairs) and Ginny Singleton (Admissions Officer) provide a special breakfast before chapel



Estate Planning

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

Seeking Sponsors

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

Holloway's Dairy Bar

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

Coffee with the President

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

Need a Preacher?

Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit or to make a presentation about the work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College.

Chaplain (Colonel) Carson can also provide an update on the BMAA Chaplaincy and deliver a related message.

Thank you to the Pastor Wesley Whitworth of Ware Prairie Road Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, and an SBC Trustee for recently inviting Dr. Carson to speak.

You can reach Dr. Carson at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu

Women's Softball

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

Wednesday, Mar 9, 2/4 p.m. double header vs Faulkner University
Saturday, Mar 12, 2/4 p.m. double header vs William Woods University
Saturday, Mar 19, 1/3 p.m. double header vs Rust College

Men's Baseball

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

Friday, Mar 4, 1/3 p.m. double header vs Tougaloo College
Saturday, Apr 9, 12/3 p.m. double header vs Rust College
Tuesday, Apr 12, 3/5 p.m. double header vs Spring Hill College
Saturday, Apr 16, 2/3 p.m. double header vs MUW

The Poirier's on mission

For the cause of Christ
from Michel and Ruth Poirier
pasteur.poirier56@gmail.com

It is a privilege to serve the Lord even during Covid 19. It is also a privilege to be a missionary to the French people. During these month that pass by I would said, it was not easy to do without people, to preach to a telephone, imagining a crowd somewhere listening to what the Lord lays on your heart. Here are news form us during the pass month.

Quebec Canada.

Good news! a Haitians family was saved a month ago, the wife (Mary) was from a Pentecostal church claiming to be saved and after talking with her going through the Bible, she realize she was not saved and in need of salvation. For her husband (Rodson) came to church for couple months and not knowing the Lord, but with a desire to know Him. So in their home they received the Lord has their savior, this was during covid restriction, not allow to visit people or to go to church or to congregate to getter for fellowship.



Mike & Ruth Poirier

Praise the Lord for their salvation.

The church is still closed has I write this letter, not allow to fellowship, restaurants are closed, visit at home is forbidden. We preach on Facebook every Sunday, Ruth and I are at church to film because our house is too small to do video and the piano at church is way better

than ours at home. I have been teaching online to other countries, in Africa Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Mali, and Haiti. By the grace of God people are getting saved even during Covid. Our health is good, we plan to travel to USA for the BMAA national meeting this coming April.

Haiti.

Our three churches (Onaville, Cessless, Segur) are doing well even under opposition and persecution from Gangs who run the country. The has been always good to us has we travel in that country under the attack of Satan. My last trip was a miracle that the Lord intercede for me sending a police swat to rescue me and take me to the airport to fly me home. But my heart goes to the thousand that have been

kidnapped and robbed and killed from the gang who runs the country. In our church in Onaville our new primary Christian school we started in September 2021 is doing well, with 17 children that have been going to church with the parents but because of poverty, the children could not attend school like other children. So the Lord step in, giving us a way to hire our own christian school teacher who are member at the church of Onaville.

Pray for pastor: Kedy, Mario, Ecclesiaste
Africa. Ivory Coast

We have new work in Ivory Coast with a group of 70 adults and 46 children. We need to pray for that work, the pastor who graduate is overwhelmed with all the attack of Satan on him and his wife and the church family.

Pray for Yetondji Paul
Africa Cameroon.

We have a group of about 35 participating members and 38 spectator. We plan to dig a well for the village of Bazoo, a 4 hour drive from Cameroon and begin a new work in this jungle village.

Pray for pastor: Kenneth, Julio.
Africa Mali.

We have one man who we are working with through online teaching, who is translating Bible study that he receive from us into an other language that is only use in that par to the country.

Pray for Amegbetto Ankou
Massada.

We praise the Lord to give us open door to reach the French people from the Lord. I pray that our work will always bring glory to our Lord and our churches who support us so faithfully months after months.

We thank you for your support and your love for mission and pray that this news report is encouraging for those that read it.



SBC Alumnus Leander Bridges, Pastor of Springhill Missionary Baptist Church in Ellisville MS, delivers a chapel message to the student body.



SBC student Javaria Jones hit a home run while playing Stillman College



Cody Hilton hit a home run while playing Kansas Christian College



Matthew Dimmick pitched a no-hitter against Kansas Christian College

Submission Policies

Your Mississippi Baptist is the voice of the BMA of Mississippi, her churches, and her ministries. We are pleased to publish reports from all related entities, including the world-wide ministries of the BMA of America. We do not publish news or notices of secular or outside groups.

Article submissions should be sent by email to editor@msbaptist.org or in typed format by mail to P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441.

Photos should be emailed in jpg format. Photos lose resolution when printed on newsprint, therefore the original quality is vital. Photos should be well lighted, in focus, clear and sharp. Photos should contain people if at all possible. There is no guarantee that all articles and/or photos will be published. Unsolicited items will be given consideration, but publication is not guaranteed. Date sensitive articles will take priority.

We publish on the 1st and 15th of each month with the exception of December. Articles announcing events should be in the issue that is published at least 2 weeks prior.

Southeastern Gospel Fest Support Needs

GROUPS and COST

Dixie Echoes
Thursday, April 21 \$1500
Tim Lovelace
Saturday, April 23 \$2000
Jeff & Sherri Easter
Thursday, April 21 \$3500
The Guardians
Saturday, April 23 \$2500
The Lefevre Quartet
Thursday, April 21 \$3000

Brian Free & Assurance
Saturday, April 23 \$3000
Michael Combs
Friday, April 22 \$2200
The Perry's
Friday, April 22 \$2700
The Old Paths
Friday, April 22 \$2700

SPONSOR CATEGORIES

PLATINUM - \$3000-\$3500

8 Artist Circle tickets for ALL PERFORMANCES with Back Stage Passes
GOLD - \$2500-\$2999

6 Artist Circle tickets for ALL PERFORMANCES with Back Stage Passes
SILVER- \$2000-\$2499

4 Artist Circle tickets ALL PERFORMANCES

BRONZE - \$1500-\$1999

2 Artist Circle tickets ALL PERFORMANCES

MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Director

P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863

On The Web at www.macbma.net/

Email - fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com

Lewdness

I Thessalonians 4:1-8 – “Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to please God, so ye would abound more and more. For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication; that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor; not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God, that no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter, because that the Lord is the avenger of all such as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given

unto us his holy Spirit.”

Lewdness is a life dominated by sexual lust; “fornication” (verse 3) is illicit sexual indulgence; “concupiscence” (verse 5) is passionate lust and implies a willful yielding to passions; “vessel” (verse 4) is the believer’s body; to “defraud” (verse 6) is to take advantage of; “sanctification” (verses 3,4) and “holiness” (verse 7) come from the same word and mean consecration.

In Paul’s day, living in the light of the second coming of Christ (I Thessalonians 3:13; 4:16-18) called for holy conduct. Pagan religion had made no moral demands on the young Christians at Thessalonica, but their new faith in Christ would. In many ancient nations, married women and their lovers were



Dr. Adams

likely to be put to death by the husbands of the adulteresses; however, not much thought was given to the practice of adultery involving a married man and an unmarried woman. That attitude toward lewdness had to be stopped so Paul encouraged them to “abound more and more” in moral purity (I Thessalonians 4:1).

I. What the Will of God Is. I Thessalonians 4:3-6

Lewd living is contrary to the will of God as expressed in the Ten Commandments. “Thou shalt not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14). Israel had a higher law than the nations about her. From the beginning, God’s plan for man ruled out adultery (Genesis 2:24). To commit adultery is to debase the union which God made between a husband and his wife. Adultery does not respect the bond upon which the family is based, that relationship which is dearer than life to an honorable person.

God takes lewd living seriously (Leviticus 20:10-21). People may joke about infidelity, but it is no joke to God. It is a sin; therefore, we should rebuke it and not water down God’s command concerning it. Christians are not altogether dependent upon the Law of Moses for

instructions concerning sexual impurity, for Jesus elaborated upon the law (Matthew 5:27, 28). It is not only the married man who is guilty when an illicit act is committed; it is any man. It is sin when a married woman is involved, or when any other woman transgresses because the definition of adultery must involve a married person.

Jesus taught that the actual act of adultery need not be committed for guilt to be assessed. If a man only “looketh on a woman to lust after her,” he has committed the sin in God’s sight.

Jesus taught that God did not make a provision for divorce in the beginning, but intended an inseparable bond (Matthew 19:3-9). What an indictment that is of easy divorce, or of divorce for no real reason at all!

Our Lord recognized a whole generation as being wicked and adulterous (Matthew 16:4). He taught that those who repent should turn from the sin of adultery (John 8:3-11). He taught that sex sins derives from an evil heart (Matthew 15:19).

II. What the Bible States I Thessalonians 4:1-2

Sinful living despises the admonitions of the Scriptures. Jesus’ admonition to pluck out the offending eye and to cut off

the offending hands rather drastic, but those who would be willing to take such drastic action for the sake of living for Jesus will probably not find it necessary to do so. When they are that determined to live right, they will find strength from the Lord to do so. His instructions there are equivalent to Paul’s admonition to “mortify” (put to death) the sinful urges of the flesh which lead to sinful acts (Romans 8:13).

Paul advised Timothy that he should flee “youthful lusts” and follow after “righteousness, faith, charity, peace” (II Timothy 2:22). He could not do that and at the same time seek out places of worldly amusements, especially those which feature sinful allurements. Christians will find enough of Satan’s traps in the ordinary pursuits of life without trespassing on his territory. Joseph had to flee from his master’s wife while occupied in legitimate business. David should have fled from his housetop when he became tempted there to take another man’s wife. In particular, the Word says to “flee fornication” (I Corinthians 6:18).

-With thanks to Rev. Glenn Fox and Dr. Chuck Swindoll for excerpts-
Dr. Adams

Philippine Mission News

From Stan & Donna Scroggins

Is the Philippines open for travel? Can I travel to the Philippines right now?

Effective February 10 2022, fully vaccinated Americans and tourists from non-visa required countries will be allowed entry in the Philippines and will not need to quarantine.

Qualified travelers must meet the following requirements:

Passport must be valid for at least six months at the time of

arrival.

Travelers must have a return or outbound ticket to their country of origin or next country of destination.

Travelers must provide a proof of vaccination, except children below 18 years of age.

Travelers must provide a negative RT-PCR test conducted within 48 hours prior to departure from the country of origin

SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING ON?

SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS NEEDED!!!

We are looking for eight people to sponsor eight needy and deserving students for just \$100 a month. This includes their room, board, tuition, food, and medical expenses. We will send you a photo and a bio of “your student” and updates on their progress. Please contact us on Messenger “Elwin Doug Diane Lee” or email us, if you or your church would like to make a difference in these young men and women’s lives. Email address is edouglee70@gmail.com or dianehusserlee@gmail.com.



Bible College Scholarship needs

GROUND BREAKING FOR A CHURCH BUILDING



From Left (Kevin Berayo, Missionary Pastor, Christian Dela Rosa, Pastor of Dos Hermanas Baptist Church, Diane and Doug Lee, Stan and Donna Scroggins and three members of Dos Hermanas Baptist Church (the sending church). Where there use to be two Bible study groups in two villages, they came together and bought a piece of property



This is our fourth year to celebrate “World Mission Day” at the Bible College here in the Philippines. It has been a great way to emphasis the importance of missions and church planting to our students. This was our first chapel back after having to split into two groups during local co-vid requirements.



BUILDING FACE-LIFT FOR SECOND SEMESTER

Happy New Year from Safe Haven!

BMA Missions in Lebanon

What joy it brings us to write this update surrounded by new kids, exciting programs, devoted staff and big dreams!

Our online homework help program that started in the beginning of 2021 was a huge success. We had 34 kids divided between 5 teachers, teaching English, Arabic, French, Math, and Science, as well as Bible stories, character lessons and fun games we could play using Whatsapp and our phone cameras.

As the school year came to an end, we were anxious to get started in person, but the situation in Lebanon was deteriorating quickly, so we continued online throughout the summer with games and Bible stories.

Finally in October, as the new school year began, we were able to launch our community center! We started with three programs: a preschool program to prepare kids to go to school, a language and literacy program for older kids who are unable to go to



school, and an afternoon homework help program for kids in school who need extra support.

All three of our programs quickly filled up and within a few weeks we had already outgrown our temporary location - what an amazing problem to have! We are currently searching for a bigger space that would enable us to expand our capacity and our programs. Please pray with us that the Lord would lead us to the perfect location... and soon!

With most recent estimates saying approximately 700,000 children are out of school in Lebanon this year, we know that the work we do is crucial to helping keep kids engaged in learning and off the streets. We don't want to be just an educational center, however! We want to create a safe space where chil-



dren at-risk can be filled - physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. So in addition to our educational programs, we are giving weekly Bible lessons, feeding breakfast to our morning students, and offering time for arts & crafts, games and more.

As you all know, it's been a bumpy road the past two years for our organization, and for the country of Lebanon as a whole, but we are so grateful to God for all He has done to prepare us to serve these kids... at this time... and in this place. And so thankful for all of you as well, who have not forgotten to pray for us and who have continued to support us as we navigate this new phase of ministry in the life of Safe Haven.



2022 National WMA Women's Conference

April 19, 2022

Grandview Baptist Church

3208 N Barnes Ave, Springfield, MO

Theme - Intentional

Lunch will be provided at the church \$15.00 per person/ send money to Charlotte Johnson, 1044 S. Mimosa Rd., Gilmer, Texas 75644 or email chj1054@etex.net to tell me you are Minister's wives/widow because they may eat free but must register. Deadline March 31, 2022!!!

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
Short business meeting & Conference
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker
Judy Biggers, Arkansas

Judy Biggers lives in Springfield, Ark. She is a founding member of the Southern Gospel Quartet, Heaven's Echoes, singing lead for 36 years. She has been married to Gus for 39 years and they have 3 girls (2 on earth and 1 in Heaven) and 3 grandchildren. Judy desires to inspire everyone she meets with God's Word through song.



Judy Biggers

Breakout sessions

- Intentional with faith—Kelly Johnson
- Intentional with Hospitality—Diana Morris
- Intentional with Discipleship—Mandi Townsend
- Intentional Transformation—Judy Wallace

Send registration information to address above and make check to Charlotte Johnson, 1044 S. Mimosa Rd., Gilmer, Texas 75644

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

WMAofMS20@gmail.com

President Stacy Smith
119 Bradford Ave., Fulton, MS 38843 - 662-322-6974

Treasurer Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443 - 601-729-5638

Ladies Retreat 2022

Mark your calendars for **September 16-17!**
Holiday Inn Trademark Plaza, Pearl, MS.

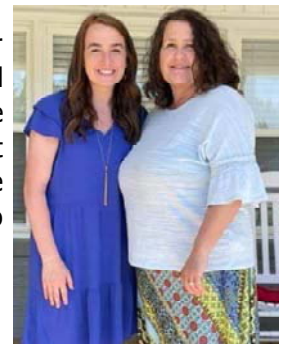
Speaker will be **Dawn Freeman.**

Can't wait to see you there.

(More info to follow at a later date.)

Ten Mile Church Ladies Retreat

Ten Mile Baptist Church is hosting our annual Ladies' Meeting. All ladies are invited to attend! We will have guest speakers, Bible study, games, door prizes, and lunch. Guest Speakers include Sis. Becky and Sis. Katie Farr, a mother-daughter team. There is no cost to attend.



Becky & Katie Farr

Ten Mile Baptist Church

65 Ten Mile Church Rd
Perkinston, MS 39573

March 12th, 2022 - 9:00 am until 2:30 pm

GIRLS'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

State GMA Director Jessica Haden
795 Highway 532, Mt. Olive, MS 39119
601-797-4597 or 662-251-0455
Email jessicahaden3@gmail.com

Mississippi Girls Retreat, March 25 and 26, 2022 by Saidee Walley, Song Leader

All of the officers are busy making plans for GMA Camp this year. Our theme this year is "Kingdom of God" and our theme verse is Matthew 6:33. The retreat will be held at Campground Baptist Church in Gulfport. All girls 9 years old or older are invited to attend.

We are very excited about camp this year and hope you are making plans to attend. We would like for you to bring Silent Auction items to be bid on. Also, we need items to be sold on the Craft Table. These items can be homemade or bought. The money made from the sale of these items will go to our project. Registration forms have been mailed. If you didn't receive one, please contact Lakelan Jenkins at 601-517-1476.

Looking forward to having fun with y'all at camp and grow in the Lord.

**National BMA of America
Annual Meeting
Springfield, Missouri
April 18-20, 2022**

THE BACK PAGE

Leave It To Cleaver

So You're on the Pulpit Committee

God does have a way to get our attention, and our fellow church members do sometimes get even with us. You have been placed on the pulpit committee! Wow, what a task! Set aside time to pray more than once a day about what you are doing. What you are doing is so very important to the life of your congregation that it cannot be handled any other way than through the unction of the Holy Spirit. May the fire of His presence fall on you as you serve on the pulpit committee/pastor search team!

Let's get another thing up front about your job. You must decide on the validity of New Testament passages (at least 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1) regarding qualifications of the man you seek. Are these descriptive and prescriptive of your pastor? You must settle this and add to it your own church's history, denominational understanding, and community requirements.

With the two most important things out of the way, let me talk to you about what I would recommend to you in addition to the normal process. I have been on

the other side of the pulpit search team, and I observe this in the process of pastor search today.

Look at his education and experience. The point of the search is to find the educated and experienced man who will walk with God. Education is a requirement for today's pastor; period. I understand some educated preachers are not able to minister. However, most educated preachers are able and most do minister. This is their training. This is their work. Experience is a fickle resume teaser. Some have one year's experience replicated over ten years. That's not ten years' experience. It is one year's experience repeated ten times. Solid experience, not the exotic, is what you are seeking in a pastor.

Seek a pastor with leadership ability. Pastoral leadership is getting the church on to God's agenda. Being a good speaker or counselor is of prime importance. Being friendly and affable is necessary for the good of the congregation. However, most churches are in stagnation or regression due to lack of leadership. Being a good leader is what is de-

So, you're on the pulpit committee?
There is no more important work in
the church for you right now.



Tony Cleaver

manded of the pastor. Look for those clues in resume minutiae that indicate management has been mistakenly labeled as leadership.

Ask about his devotional life. (I have never had anyone to ask me this.) Have him describe his time alone with God. A church needs a pastor who is regular and systematic in his own devotional time.

Check his background. In our day a pastor must be more than pure; he must not have a serious, even recurring criminal record. I understand several of the Saints were arrested for the Gospel. I also understand conversion recalculates life. I would check background and initiate serious and private conversation with the prospect if there were any question. Also look at his financial process, history, and situation. This kind of inquiry is not prying; it is looking for the best for your congregation.

Find out what he does for fun

or recreation. The pastor who tells you he simply sits all day reading his Bible might not be the one you want to call. I would want the candidate to be serious about time for himself, his wife, and his family. I would ask him about his wellness program. Staying healthy is a must in today's demanding pastorate.

Run his references. I would check references. Tell me how you know this man and in what ways do you know him? I would ask members of his congregation about him. Of course there are those who never liked any preacher and those who loved every preacher. People generally give you the best regarding their pastor. They still have some respect for that office.

Make this more than a one-time shot. You certainly know most preachers have at least one good sermon. They preach that one in view of a call. The call goes better if the wife plays the piano or sings. The call is assured if

their children sing as a group or in family array. How could a church go wrong with this kind of performance? I know behavior in the description above does not happen—often.

Spend some time with the man. It's OK to take more time than one Sunday with a candidate. Spend some time with this guy! Get to know him now rather than having an "uh-oh" a few Sundays down the road. You need to be able to tell him about your church and where you think it is going. That helps get a better fit. It's OK to say of a candidate, "I don't think he is a fit." Be certain it is not your own or committee parameters of age, culture, or obsessions speaking. Look carefully for the candidate who might not think he is a fit. Talk to him a little more.

So, you're on the pulpit committee? There is no more important work in the church for you right now. The congregation has entrusted you with the future. The Risen Lord is ready to talk to you about His man coming to your church. Let Him speak to you. Act upon His directions.

Dr. Tony Cleaver is a retired U.S. Army Chaplain and Director of Distance Learning for BMA Seminary.

You may contact him at jstmcleaver@gmail.com

Biblical Context

from page 3

end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land."

So what does Jeremiah 29:11 really mean in its original context? God says yes, you'll be punished for seventy years, then God will bring you back home to start all over. Their disaster—which they were living in—would not be ultimate. The nation of Israel did have a future even though things looked hopeless.

If you believe in keeping verses in the strictest of contexts, Jeremiah 29:11 only applies to people in this situation at this particular time in history.

No need to text this verse to people—it doesn't apply.

No need to put it on a graduation cake—it's not relevant.

But that belief is too narrow. Sure, thinking that this verse means winning a state championship because God has good plans for you and a future in the

NFL—that's too far in the other direction. There is a middle ground between these two extremes as we apply God's Word and extract helpful life principles things from Scripture.

First, we reap what we sow—or to use modern language, we

harvest what we plant. God didn't allow the nation of Israel to flagrantly sin—God said there would be consequences. And there were.

Second, God's disposition is good. He punishes the nation but wants them to know there is hope for a good future. When they seek Him they will find Him. God has not abandoned them. Is God just—and therefore must punish sin? Absolutely. Is He also full of grace and redemption? Yes to that, too.

Third, God isn't building the

plane while flying it—He's not only all-powerful and can insert Himself in history, He also knows the future. God wasn't blindsided by Babylon's conquest and saying, "Hey, I'll get you out of this, just give me seventy years to come up with a plan to get you back."

No, God knew when they were captured that seventy years later

You can know God personally today.
He is seeking after your heart.

Babylon would be conquered by Persia and they would be released.

God knew when they abandoned Him that Babylon was becoming an ambitious nation.

God knew when He gave them the law, they would turn their backs on Him, and He still knows today.

What does this mean for us? God already knows your life—the triumphs, heartaches, and sin. He knows it all. No matter where you are today, you can know that God "knows the plans



[He] has for you."

"They are plans for your [ultimate] good and not for disaster, to give you hope and a future." The question in verse 13 is, "Will you seek God wholeheartedly?" If you do, you will truly find Him

to be your hope and guarantee of a good, eternal future.

You can know God personally today. He is seeking after your heart.

Copyright © 2022 printed by permission