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State Officers, Local Officers! You're Invited For Lunch!

During National Meeting in Conway, Arkansas



The Coordinating Council of the BMA of America invites everyone attending the BMA National Meeting that serves in the role of a State Director or State Officer to join them for lunch on April 26 at the BMA Global Missions Center. Your Coordinating Council has a burden and a heart to help our churches maximize the opportunities that having thriving local associations afford our association. They not only want to enjoy fellowship around lunch with you, but they want to dialogue about how to make your local associations count for the Kingdom! So leaders, make plans to share a meal with your Coordinating Council at the National Meeting and spend time dreaming about what your local associations can accomplish for Christ!

The lunch will be provided by BMA Global Missions and Lifeword but we need to know if you are coming so that we can prepare! Please email Jennifer Harrell at jennifer@lifeword.org and simply say "I'm coming to lunch!"

2023 Annual BMA of America Information

by Donny Parrish, Executive Director • Lifeword

Grace and peace to each of you from our great God and Savior Jesus Christ! I want to let you know about our plans for the 2023 BMA annual meeting. This year we will be gathering around the theme of GO! As churches self-described as Baptist, Missionary, and Associational, I think it is necessary for us to keep who we are front and center.

With that in mind, on Tuesday night, for our opening session, we will be thinking along the theme of Go to the Word, and the need to be a strong doctrinal people. On Wednesday afternoon, Bro. David McMurray, pastor of Blackwood Baptist Church in New Jersey, will be preaching on the theme of Go to the World—our commission as churches. That evening will be a special night where Bro. Buddy Johnson will address our churches on the theme of Go Together, emphasizing how we fulfill the commission as an association.

I say that Wednesday night will be a special night because, for the first time ever, we are planning to have all of our American Missionaries with us, in which we will be honoring them with a special dinner, and YOU ARE INVITED! This will be a wonderful time to get to meet, shake hands, speak with and hug those who carry the message of the gospel to the uttermost parts of the world. The dates for the meeting are April 25-27, 2023, Tuesday through Thursday, at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas. Meeting on these days is a bit different than normal, but we wanted to allow all of our people plenty of time to travel, instead of having to leave on a Sunday afternoon or evening.

Accommodations have been announced and are available at www.ms baptist.org on the paper's website.

South Mississippi Senior Conference all set

Our South Senior Adult Conference is shaping up to be one of the best yet. We have had to change the date, but we are still on track for a good meeting. March 14 at Big Creek Baptist Church!

Bro. Brandon Wilson will be directing our music for the day, Bro. Anders Lee, our new state Youth director, will be our guest speaker. Our special music group is one you will enjoy. **Avenue** is their name and they will bring our afternoon concert.

Mack's Fish House will again provide our meal and the good folks of Big Creek Church are again our gracious hosts.

We are asking something special of our churches and senior saints...we again want to take special projects. BMMI (Baptist Medical Missions International) will be our guests and one of our projects. They do outstanding work and will share their min-

istry. Our State Youth Department is back and things are looking up! They too will be a project.

Here is what we are asking of our churches. Would you send a special offering with your Seniors to be shared by these two ministries? Seniors, will you come prepared to also give a personal offering for these? What a great opportunity to share in the reaching of souls both in Mississippi and around the world!



Brandon Wilson



Anders Lee

Cost Increase

All costs in every area of our lives have gone up. This will cause us to raise the cost to \$20.00 per person this year. Churches, would you pay your Senior Adults' fees? This will help them out and be such a blessing to them.

Pray for God's blessings on this meeting. See You At Big Creek Church on March 14!



Avenue

FAITHFUL MEN

National BMA Brotherhood News

by Mark Jones, President

The BMA of America Brotherhood will meet at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas on April 26, 2023 at 9AM. Our speaker will be Bro. Scott Small. Bro. Scott is the Camp Director at Stoneridge Baptist Camp in Smithville, Arkansas.

We need the men of the BMA to attend this meeting so we can make our men's ministry stronger. We also need men who are willing to stand up and be an officer. We have several men who have stepped

down and a couple more that are stepping down as we speak. We need to encourage our men to be the leaders God has called them to be.

Our theme this year for the Brotherhood will be "FAITHFUL MEN". our theme verse is 2 Timothy 2:1-2, "You then my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what have you heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men."

Let's encourage one another to do as the scripture says in our churches and communities.

WHAT IF WE NEVER WROTE ANYTHING DOWN

by Jordan Tew
Executive Director

Baptist Publishing House

Recently, I asked myself this question, "What significant role does Baptist Publishing House play in the life of the local BMA church?" I believe that is an important question to consider today, as there appears to be more oppor-

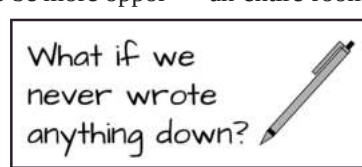
tunities and avenues for churches to access Sunday school curricula than ever before.

As I thought through this question, another question came to mind, "What if we never wrote anything down?"

I have the privilege of living within walking distance of BMA Seminary. The Kellar Library is home to many historical and current BMA books. In fact, there is an entire room dedicated to BMA authors! I sometimes wonder where the BMA would be today if men such as E. Harold Hender-

son, D. N. Jackson, J. E. Cobb, John Gregson, Philip Bryan, L.H. Raney, W. J. Burgess, and others never picked up a pen or sat down before a keyboard. Would we know who we are or what we believe? Would we even know what makes the BMA the BMA?

While the BMA is an association of local, autonomous churches, the churches of the BMA choose to associate under certain doctrinal convictions and cooperate, primarily, for the sake



See BPH on page 3

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Obituaries

Ann Holifield, former pastor's wife, dies

Annie Pearl Holifield, of Laurel, Mississippi, passed away on February 24, 2023. She was born on January 30, 1931.

Ms. Ann was a wonderful pastor's wife. She loved her church and going with her husband to B.M.A. meetings. Back in the



Mrs. Ann Holifield

day she loved sewing and cooking.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold A. Holifield; her parents, Grover Graham and Viney Graham; her brothers, Burlon, Ralph, Jim, Hermon, and Hershel Graham and her grandson-in-law, Daryl Martin.

She is survived by her son, Charles H. Holifield (Kathy) of Gitano; her daughter, Pat Davis (Sidney) of Laurel; four grandchildren, Kristen Martin of Laurel, Rev. Danny Davis (Jennifer) of Starkville, David Davis of Starkville, and Kelly Bigham (Jason) of Starkville. She is also survived by five great-

grandchildren, Connor Davis, Anna Davis, Sarah Cantrell, Levi Cantrell, and Audrey Martin, and two that were just like grandchildren, Desi Brunty and Alden Brunty.

Services were held at First Baptist Church of Calhoun with Rev. Leon Carmical and Rev. Dallas Hickey officiating.

Anne Watts, former pastor's wife dies

Mrs. Anne Myrtle Watts, 91 of Soso, Mississippi passed away Sunday, February 12, 2023. She was born Saturday, August 29, 1931, to Walter and Myrtle Leggett.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, February 18, 2023, at Lebanon Baptist in Laurel, Mississippi with Bro. Ken Riley and Bro. Harold Floyd officiating.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Johnny R. Watts; parents, Walter Alexander and Myrtle Leggett;



Ann Watts

brothers, Martin Leggett, Curtis Leggett, Albert Leggett, James A. Leggett and, James W. Leggett; sisters, Lucille Mixon, Elizabeth Sanderson, Louise Parker and Betty Hathorn.

Survivors include her son, Dr. J. Michael Watts (Tanya Smith); granddaughter, Tara Hulgan (Dr. Coty); great granddaughter, Mary Garner Hulgan and a host of nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Watts was the epitome of a pastor's wife. She was a gracious lady and served the Lord well.

Former Southeastern Librarian Dies

Odell Lugene Bond Lott Stephens was born on March 4, 1927, to Lamar and Erette Bond of Ramsey Springs, Mississippi. She went to be with Jesus February 14, 2023, seventeen days before her 96th birthday.



Odell Lott

She is survived by her children Keith (Rebecca) Lott of

Mobile, Russell (Gena) Lott of Hattiesburg, John (Dianne) Lott of Big Level, Karen Lott Howell of Corinth, and Linda Lott Penton (Randal) of Olive Branch, twelve grandchildren, and sixteen great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Otis Reynolds Lott, the father of her children, and her second husband, Robert L. Stephens, her daughter Judith Lott Blount, and her siblings, Warren Bond, Gorden Bond, Connie Bond Boyette, Angie Bond Hickman, Wynon Bond, Derlyn Bond, Alga Ree Bond, and Wyvena Bond Hatten.

Services were at Paramount Baptist Church in Perkinston on February 18, 2023.

Editor's Note:

Mrs. Lott was a dedicated former employee of Southeastern Baptist College and served as both librarian and instructor. The family requests memorials be made to Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel.

Ministry Opportunities & Positions

Music Director Position Open

Lebanon Baptist Church is seeking an enthusiastic and talented individual to be the part-time Music Director. The Director will be responsible for leading Sunday morning and evening worship services along with other special events. A degree in music or music education would be preferred, though it is not required. Experience leading worship services is a preferred background. An ideal candidate will have excellent personal and group communication skills along with a demonstrated ability with computers. A detailed job description can be provided upon request. For more information contact Jeffery McDonnieal at 601-319-4259 or jeffreymc1@hotmail.com.

Louisiana Tech Seeking ABS Director

The directors of the ABS at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana, are seeking a director for that ministry. Resumes & inquiries may be sent to Deryl Jones at 24205 Hwy 371, Sarepta, LA 71071 or emailed to deryl54@yahoo.com. He may also be reached by phone at 318-423-8540.

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Texas Church seeks bi-vocational pastor

First Baptist Church of Omen 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 about 15 minutes from Tyler and 23 miles from Jack-sonville, 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.

Texas Church Seeking Pastor

East Foothills Baptist Church in Lindale, Texas is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Resumes, including references, may be emailed to Eastfoothillsbc@gmail.com or mailed to Marilynn May at 13107 CR 431, Tyler, Texas 75706. Call Josh Richardson at 903-316-3047 if more information is needed.

R & R Retreat is Back

By Paul White, Executive Director

BMA of Arkansas Missions

We are happy to announce that, having endured COVID, which interrupted it for the last couple of years, the R & R Retreat is back and better than ever. Years ago, God laid it on my heart to have a retreat for preachers where they could have fun and enjoy some wonderful worship times. It is called R & R (Relax & Refresh) because we want those who attend to go home rested, relaxed, refreshed and ready.

Churches or individuals, this is an opportunity for you to give your pastors and preachers of all ages a break. Pay their expenses, and you'll be glad you did. Preachers need to be on the receiving end sometimes.

This time is designed to give ministers an opportunity to be themselves while enjoying great food, good facilities and wonderful times of music and worship. Your time is your time — there will be a schedule, but attend all or none, it's up to you. But I will warn you, you are not going to want to miss a single service.

The facilities are good and the beds are not too bad, but the food is delicious! Not only do we worship in the truest sense of the word, but we actually have fun between times. Activities during break times will consist of pistol and rifle marksmanship,

axe throwing, horseshoes, bean bag toss, basketball free throws and hammer throwing, just to name a few. Equipment and ammunition will be provided.

There are no pre-set speakers for the few days we are there. When you arrive to check in, you are invited to drop your name in the bucket and names are drawn after everyone arrives to see who preaches. Who knows, you may be on the program! That is why we say, "Bring your best sermon and leave your tie at home." Singers and musicians are needed as well.

This is a very laid-back, come-as-you-are event. The Jonesboro Association of Missionary Baptist Churches is the one who underwrites this camp. That way we can keep the cost as low as possible. The cost per guest is \$80 and includes snacks, drinks, five hot meals and two nights of lodging. (I know it is hard to believe!) If you would like to attend and cannot afford it, contact me or Ken Beaver for special scholarships.

All preachers really ought to make the effort to come. You will be glad you did, and your people will be glad, too. We even have a guarantee — if you don't enjoy it, you don't have to come back!

The R & R Retreat begins at noon on Tuesday, March 28, and will wrap up after breakfast on Thursday, March 30. It will be held at StoneRidge Baptist Camp in Smithville.

For more information, including a tentative schedule, and to register, visit BaptistTrumpet.com/RR2023. You can also contact me or Ken Beaver if you have any questions. Everyone who registers will be given the chance to win a new Heritage single-action .22 pistol.

We only have room for 300, so register soon! See you there.



Paul White



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

Come and Dine

No matter how depressing the day, Southern Gospel music just perks me up and sets my sights on more important things than Covid-19, storms, grouchy and irritating people, and unruly dogs and children. I just listened to George Younce singing "The Laughing Song"; no matter how hard I tried not to, I found myself laughing. Laughter and joy are contagious, just as doom and gloom are. I chose joy today and will choose joy tomorrow, too!

We sisters found joy in following many Southern Gospel singers all over the country and in enjoying their music. An added benefit was the wild culinary trips we took because of the singers. Southern Gospel singers like their food, and we took their advice to heart. When we heard them talk about food and places to eat, it "flung a cravin'," as Jerry Clower would say.

Mark Trammell's describing the wonderful ice cream at Andy's Frozen Custard



made us hit the streets of Branson to find those frozen delights. I know I've always been highly suggestible and apparently the sisters had the same affliction. And Andy's Concretes were a hit even in cold weather. Freezing to death and eating ice cream

don't make sense, but my craving goes up as the temperature goes down. Just thinking about their Straw-Ana Sundaes makes me want one; I may have to settle for second best and go to Hub City Creamery. It's certainly cold enough today to enjoy a treat.

But we discovered two other favorite places in Branson: Danna's, for the best



hamburgers; and Grandma Ruth's, for her cinnamon rolls. I've got to admit that I always added a banana milkshake to go along with my Danna's hamburger. So, a perfect day for me in Branson was enjoying Grandma Ruth's, Danna's, and music. Sister No. 1 would add shopping at the outlet malls and visiting Dressin' Gaudy.

Cracker Barrel Old Country Store is another favorite of our favorite singers. We saw the Greater Vision guys at the Branson Cracker Barrel; rather, to be honest, Middle Sister saw them. While Sister No. 1 and I were shopping and Middle Sister was waiting in the car, she spotted the group. But always look for Gerald Wolfe and his group when you're in Cracker Barrel! You never



Carolyn Hagler

know. And I think they have discovered Buc-ee's, which will be in South Mississippi soon.

When we attended the National Quartet Convention Spring Break in Louisville one year, the singers talked about Skyline Chili. I didn't say that our gospel singers ate at swanky places, but we were inclined to follow their lead. I don't remember exactly what we ordered, but it was probably a 3-Way, their signature dish—steaming spaghetti covered with original secret-recipe chili and topped with a mound of shredded cheddar cheese. Indigestion City! But I noticed a few days ago that Winn-Dixie carries cans of that special chili. Now you can have indigestion at home. Just add your own spaghetti and cheese.

We also ate at Lambert's Cafe in Kansas City because that same group of singers talked about it. We had to try the "thrown rolls" and the "Pass Arounds." Those spe-



cialties might not be grammatically correct, but we enjoyed it all. You know what I mean. We learned that you have more than enough food without ordering anything.

But the biggest wild ride we took was in San Diego looking for in-N-out Burger, which Sister No. 1 had heard Kirk Talley rave about. We drove, we circled, we looked, and we could not find it (And I rate San Diego as my least favorite place to drive). Maybe with I-Phone maps and On-



Star, it would have been easier. But Kirk Talley really talked about how good the burgers were. We gave up and decided to find another place to eat. Wouldn't you just know? We passed the in-N-out Burger on the way! As Sister No. 1 often says, "Even a blind hog finds an acorn sometimes." Their hamburgers were good.

Our first experience with Krispy Kream donuts came after the first Praise-Fest concert we attended in Pigeon Forge. The first night, all the singers were talking about how good the Krispy Kreme doughnuts were and how close the shop was. Believe me, it was stand-and-wait service be-



cause everyone at the concert wanted to try the doughnuts. I still think about Southern Gospel when I pass our local Krispy Kreme.

In Louisville, Kentucky, many years ago, we were looking for an ice cream shop, which we never found. But we found Domino's Pizza and had a flashback: Glen Payne of the Cathedrals had a reputation for getting lost. The story goes that on one occasion, he found a Domino's Pizza, called in an order to be delivered to his home, and followed the delivery truck. We didn't need to do that, but we tried the pizza for the first time. Anytime the three sisters were together after that trip, we ordered the pizza and shared the memories.

All those dining experiences remind me of shared times with family and the wonderful memories that are evoked. But I must say, regardless how much I enjoyed those experiences, I was always hungry again. So, even greater than our dining experiences associated with gospel music are those feelings that old hymns inspire. Do you remember singing the old hymn, "Come and Dine"? Several versions of that old song exist, but all seem to be based on the one by C. B. Widmeyer and S. H. Bolton.

"Come and dine,' the Lord is calling.

'Come and dine'

We can eat and drink of Jesus all the time!

He's our daily food supply,

Only He can satisfy....

When we eat and drink of

Jesus all the time,

He becomes our life within,

And He fills us to the brim....

'Come and dine'."

And I like some other words I found:
 "You may feast at Jesus' table all the time,
 He Who fed the multitude,
 turned the water into wine,
 To the hungry calleth now,
 'Come and dine'....
 Thus He satisfies the hungry every time.
 Soon the Lamb will take His bride
 To be ever at His side....
 And with Jesus they will feast eternally."

Those words remind me that Jesus' invitation to "Come and Dine" (John 21:12) fills me with constant joy that He always wants to fellowship with me (and you, too). While enjoying my culinary delights and southern gospel music, I'm in His grip.

BPH

Baptist Publishing House
from page 1

of missions and education. If the BMA never printed doctrinal statements, never provided a Sunday school curriculum, and never published books, then we would not have a clear standard for our doctrine or practice. There has to be something concrete, something tangible. It helps to have something "written down."

The fact that the BMA is able to publish such works contributes greatly to the continued unity of local BMA churches, the preservation of BMA doctrinal distinctives, and the furtherance of biblically-based New Testament churches.

This happens every week across the BMA. For example, hundreds of BMA churches meet for Sunday school each week and are able to study God's Word using curriculum that supports, rather than challenges, their doctrine. These churches are able to associate and cooperate more closely because they believe the same basic doc-

trines. Those doctrines are affirmed and strengthened by the turning of each page of BMA Sunday school curricula.

Missionaries are working to disciple new believers and develop future pastors using BMA curriculum. Recently, we were able to fund the purchase of a new printer for a BMA Missionary in Africa. The men they are train and the churches they will be planting are not going to believe and teach things that contradict what your church believes and teaches. Having access to BMA materials keeps established and future BMA churches "on the same page."

We are able to see new BMA leaders (in North America and worldwide) be disciplined and new BMA churches planted that reflect what we believe. This is significant in preserving our ability to associate. Consider what would happen if new BMA pastors and churches did not believe or teach what established pastors and churches believe or teach! The outcome would not be healthy.

These things are possible because, decades ago, we started "writing things down." Our BMA forefathers knew the significance of publishing BMA curriculum and other works. The results are evident every time you drive by a BMA church.

Consider this illustration

At one point, that church voted to petition to join the BMA. Part of that process included agreeing to the BMA Doctrinal Statement and Principles of Cooperation. Those things could only be read and voted upon because somebody "wrote them down." After that church joined the BMA, they wanted to preserve the doctrine they voted to affirm. They were able to do this by providing their people with BMA Sunday curriculum. Each week her members learned and grew together. When they met for annual association meetings, they found brothers and sisters with shared doctrine, convictions, and practices. This too, was a result of men "writing things down."

Later, a young man who grew up in that church was called to ministry. He eventually replaced his pastor, who had to retire after many years of service. When this new pastor stepped into the pulpit, the church did not have to worry about what he believed or would teach. They knew he would be faithful to the Bible and their doctrine, for he had been taught the truth each week in his Sunday school class.

See BPH on page 5



Anders Lee

Anders Lee - Director - 901-343-3293 - ander.lee571@gmail.com

The LATRELLE WINDHAM Special Emphasis Begins

AMAZING NEWS TO SHARE!

As you know from my article last month, the trustees and I have named the Special Emphasis Offering the *Latrelle Windham offering*. **Our goal this year is \$15,000!!!**

Let's talk about this goal and all goals for 2023! I know I came through the door talking money. I can't live up to the ultimate fund raiser, Dr. Gerald Kellar, but I can try. HA HA! Why all the money talk? It's simple! It takes money to accomplish all these ministries and to bring the department up to the level of productivity that it needs to be at.

Here is a snapshot of what it takes. Basically, to do what we pray we can do in 2023 it will take \$80,000. We must get to this figure to have two camps in 2024. Both camps together will cost us around \$45,000, if we continue to give the discount that we are this year. I want that to continue! To be on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College we have budgeted \$7,200 for 6 events. For our Winter Blast, December 27-29, 2023, we have budgeted \$12,000. Two mission trips in the year will be right at \$15,000. We round up to the \$80,000 figure. Hopefully, prayerfully we can come in lower than estimated. With this in mind...

I set four goals. 1st \$10,000 by December 31, 2023 (check as done – Praise God!) 2nd \$40,000 by June 1, 2023 (check as done PRAISE GOD!!!!!!) 3rd, \$75,000 by October 1, 2023 (not done). Your church, association or just you as an individual can help us met the next goal!

Wait... did I just say we already made our \$40,000 goal? YES! I sure did say that! Have you heard yet??? God showed up! Through the generosity of individuals, associations, and churches at Christmastime, we met the \$40k goal IN JANUARY! I about became Pentecostal when the news started coming in. Elated! Thrilled! Amazed! Dumbfounded! Flabbergasted! And... I am going to coin a new term. BMAized!!! Talk about making a statement! All of you together made a statement with your money that YOU BELIEVE this ministry must exist and we must push like never before! You have motivated me and mandated me to work like crazy... and WE WILL!!! I want to see God do awesome things in youth all across the State! I am so pumped!!! So... THANK YOU for reaching that goal and proving to me that you are 100% behind this department!

Our 4th goal is to get 40 churches committed to giving at least \$170 a month (or more) by the end of 2023. In this first year it was critical that we raise money aggressively with one-time offerings. In the years following 2023 it is critical to get monthly support up to this level so we do not have to be so aggressive (or as Dr. Kellar said – beggars) in year two of my being the department director. Of course we will assess where we are in October – December to see what kind of monthly support we have before we plan 2024. We can only plan based upon the support we have. **So, pray about this and present it to your church. If you don't have the Youth Department in the budget, maybe it can be added, or your church can give a substantial one time offering in 2023.**

THANK YOU for the way you have received me in this new role and for responding to our needs! I look forward to all God will do! Blessing to you all!

BY THE WAY! I sure am looking forward to being at the Senior Adult Conference on March 14th!!! See you guys there!!!

Youth Department ministers at SBC

by Anders Lee, Director

What a privilege to be on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College recently! The Youth Department fed 52 students and was blessed to have Cullen Jackson give his testimony and do a mini concert for them. Hog Heaven food was delicious! There were games and door prizes and the Gospel was shared! Pray for the students who know Christ to grow stronger in faith & service and for those who do not know Him to come to salvation!!! Seeds were planted and relationships started! My heart was blessed!!! My thanks to Dave & Lisa Albert for coming and helping! They were once students at SBC and now he now serves as a trustee for the Youth Department!!!



State Youth Director Anders Lee (left) helps serve students at recent event on campus of SBC



SBC President Dr. Scott Carson and his wife Linda join in welcoming the Youth Department to campus



Students enjoy a bar-b-que meal with activities, a concert, prizes and the Gospel



Food and prize money enjoyed at this table of SBC students

Fulfilling a Promise to Dr. Jentry Bond

From State Youth Director Anders Lee

I was a student at and graduated from Southeastern Baptist College many moons ago. It is a special part of my life. Carla and I met on that campus. I have many friends from my days as a student there and I learned so much from the professors.

One of those teachers was Dr. Jentry Bond. He was on staff when I started, became Vice-president while I was there, and then later became the President. When we were set to graduate and leave, he called Carla and I into the office one day to talk. I thought we were in trouble. We sat down and he stated in so many words that when he was a student at SBC he was asked to come back and work and serve at the college. He prayed it over and he and Mrs. Bond did exactly that. He continued and stated, I want to ask the same thing of you and Carla. We need the next generation to come back and serve. I felt a sense of obligation to his request and was humbled he would ask such a thing.

Through life's twists and turns, I have not completed my Masters degree. Maybe one day. When I became the State Youth Director it crossed my mind a few times that I needed to do something at Southeastern. Late one night I pulled into the parking lot there and a few students were out and about. The memories flooded back as I watched them hanging out. A lady walked up from nowhere, Anderle Foster. She asked who I was and what I was doing on the campus so late. Good employee!!! Once she knew who I was she said, "You are the new youth guy in the State." She immediately invited me to come on campus and do things for the students. I told her I had been wondering what to do and committed to her that we would plan it.

Since then, the calendar has turned to 2023 and we have planned 6 events on the campus. We will be feeding them, entertaining them and will have guest speakers to share Christ and their testimony. I will get to speak at different times also. On February 20, 2023, we held the first event. I was so nervous. Many prayed for the event and when all was said and done, they ate "Hog Heaven", played games, hung out, heard Cullen Jackson, a Christian Rapper, sing and share his testimony, and I got to share the Gospel at the end.

I didn't come back as Dr. Bond had planned, but I think he would be glad! 52 students were there that night! Seeds were planted and relationships were started! I am praying for some of them to come to know the Lord in a personal way and prayerfully help the ones who do know Him to be closer to Him! Pray with me that this will take place! Thank God for Dr. Bond and now for Dr. Carson whose vision it was to bring students like these to our college! I know God is up to something great! Stay tuned!!! The next event is March 20, 2023.



LATRELLE WINDHAM
SPECIAL EMPHASIS OFFERING
FOR THE BMA STATE YOUTH
DEPARTMENT MARCH 2023

\$15,000 GOAL

THE TRUSTEES & DIRECTOR ANDERS LEE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE **MARCH SPECIAL EMPHASIS** FROM NOW ON HAS BEEN NAMED THE **"LATRELLE WINDHAM"** OFFERING. THIS IS IN HONOR OF HIS LEGACY AND MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR STATE ASSOCIATION.

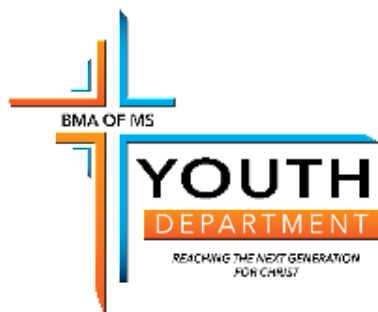
In 2023, we are seeking to reestablish departmental viability. We aim to get back to having two state camps by 2024, minister on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College, restart a winter conference & organize mission trips for youth. We are seeking to raise \$75,000 total from October 18, 2022, to October 1, 2023! The Latrelle Windham offering goal of **\$15,000** will be huge in reaching this overall goal.

Contact Director Anders Lee at 901-343-3293 or
 Anders.Lee571@gmail.com

WE ASK ALL OUR CHURCHES TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS OFFERING TO HONOR HIM & HELP REACH THE GOAL THIS YEAR!

NEED: THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT MUST SECURE 40 MONTHLY SUPPORTING CHURCHES IN 2023! PLEASE PRAY ABOUT BEING ONE OF THOSE!

PLEASE SEND ALL OFFERINGS TO OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY BRANDY RILEY, 454 LEBANON RD. LAUREL, MS 39443



www.bmamsyouth.org

Masters' Builders Enjoy Retreat



by Nelda Malone

The Master's Builders met at Daniel Springs Encampment in Gary, Texas, on January 17th, for their annual retreat. We all enjoyed 3 days of fellowship, fun, food and rest. There were 13 couples and 1 single guy that were able to attend this year and we so enjoyed being together. Thank you to Jason Prewitt and Morgan Standifer for making sure we had all we needed to enjoy ourselves.

While there we had our annual business meeting and discussion of possible jobs that will be coming up in 2023. We plan to start work around the first week of March.

If you have any questions about the Master's Builders ministry or if your church has building needs, please contact: Mike Green at 972-935-3877, David Axe at 903-918-0720, or Eddie Sikes at 479-462-1675.

Get to know our Master's Builders family better by following us on Facebook! See what we do! Like us @ "The Master's Builders"! (arbor logo)

World Mission Day in Philippines



It looked like a wave of turquoise on the campus as the BMA Bible College and Darlene Carey Academy celebrated World Mission Day. We enjoyed Bro. Mike Goodwin, our speaker, the BMABC choir, testimonies and everyone was excited to give their offering for Missions.

The Perry's Coming to Broadmoor Church, Meridian

Broadmoor Baptist Church, 5426 Highway 39 North in Meridian will host The Perry's on Thursday, March 23, 2023 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.

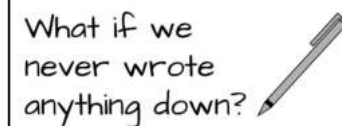
BPH

Baptist Publishing House

from page 3

While the little story above may sound made-up, it is based upon the lives of two men I know personally.

The year is 2023, and Baptist Publishing House is still "writing things down." Our writers are strictly BMA, as they must be members in good standing of a local BMA church and affirm the Doctrinal Statement of the BMA. Each writer is also approved by our board of trustees. Rest assured; we do not outsource writing assignments to non-BMA writers.



While there are many good and faithful Christian publishers, including many Baptist publishers, there is only one BMA publishing department. We are the only publisher that is committed to the churches, doctrinal statement, and heritage of local BMA churches. I hope that what we are "writing down" encourages, strengthens, and motivates your church towards the work of Great Commission ministry.

May God bless you and your church!

2023 STUDENT CAMP INFORMATION

by Anders Lee, State Youth Director

Just as a reminder, student camp this year is at Lake Tiak O'Khata in Louisville, Mississippi, July 17-20, 2023! It is time NOW to get your teens signed up for camp! Start a sign-up process at your church and push it in your bulletin and monthly publications/handouts!

COST: \$75 per camper! The department will be paying approximately \$125 on your behalf per camper! That's huge!

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: May 15, 2023, You can give us an estimated number when you register now, but we must have your actual and final number on this date in May.

THEME: A NEW BEGINNING!

REGISTER: Get registered by contacting Rosemary Davis. Her email is rosemaryfdavis@yahoo.com. You may also call or text her at 601-433-2424.

DEPOSIT: There is a \$25 deposit for all campers upon registration. Send the deposit to our financial secretary, Brandy Riley at 454 Lebanon Rd. Laurel, MS 39443.

CALL ME: You can contact me any time at 901-343-3293!



SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE

Serving Christ With A Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440 - 601.426.6346

President's Perspective

"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD." Psalm 31:24

Since my last report, Southeastern Baptist College's beloved Provost and Academic Dean, Jan Bustin Walker, suffered a stroke and has since had three procedures and remains in ICU as of the writing of this article. There is good news in that there have been no setbacks in her recovery. However, the medical team has cautioned the family that she is not out of the woods yet, and that her recovery may take an extended period of time. Jan has been an integral member of SBC's staff providing vision, talent, and wisdom for our growth over the last four years and her absence has created a major gap in our ability to accomplish our strategic plans. There are many unknowns at this time concerning her future health, so please keep her and her family in your prayers.

In light of this, the staff has had to scramble to pick up the projects Provost Walker was working on. Many are very complicated administrative actions involving several outside and governmental agencies. SBC has an outstanding and highly dedicated staff, but stress levels were already high before Jan's stroke, and now they are even greater. Please pray that the Lord will empower our staff with strength and astuteness as they willingly assume these additional challenges while ensuring each task will be met in a timely and correct manner.

Last week, selected SBC staff members attended the annual Association for Biblical Higher Education accreditation conference. This is a superior training program wherein key staff members learn a great deal about how to better conduct their specific administra-



Dr. Scott Carson
President

tive duties and discover new opportunities where SBC may continue to expand and grow. We are excited about new possibilities that, after meeting with key ABHE administrators, may lead to substantial new avenues of Christian education on our campus.

As advertised in this paper, SBC is sponsoring the Southeastern Gospel Festival, a three-night event of Southern gospel music for the Jones County community. Many local businesses, individuals, and churches have joined together to sponsor this event and SBC will be the benefactor for all ticket sales.

Even with the temporary loss of Jan's leadership, we are confident that the Lord will continue to lead SBC forward and enable us to accomplish each task and opportunity He has set before us. God bless you and thank you for your continuing prayers, funds, and your edifying words of support.

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:9

Equipping the Saints,
Dr. Scott R. Carson



ABHE Meeting in Florida

Seeking Sponsors

We are seeking financial 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!

Now Hiring

We are in search of our next Athletic Director. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please refer them to our website where they can upload their resume: <https://sbcchargers.com/employment-opportunities> or call 601-426-6346.

Online Bible Degrees

Did you know you can earn your accredited Bible college degree in the comfort of your own home? You can take one class (3 hours) or up to 18 hours completely online each semester. And you need not be living in Mississippi to take classes at Southeastern! You may want to have a discussion with your children or grandchildren today about taking classes with SBC. Qualified students can take classes while still in high school and get a head start in their college studies with our dual enrollment program. We are conservative and Bible centered. Our credits are transferable to other accredited colleges. Go to our website at <https://southeasternbaptist.edu/future-students/application> to begin your college education journey today! Or call SBC at 601-426-6346.

Available Scholarships

The Arnold Knight Memorial RLF Scholarship is available to Baptist Missionary Association ministers who take classes at Southeastern Baptist College. These funds

are administered by the BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund. Contact our Financial Aid Officer for more information.

Foundations in Ministry Certificate

SBC has fielded a certificate for new ministers who are interested in gaining knowledge in the basics of theology and church ministries. This is a 23-hour program and the student may take one class or a full load. Numerous ministers throughout Mississippi have already begun their studies and the classes can be taken fully online. Once the certificate is earned, all credits are transferable toward an Associate or Bachelor degree should the student desire to continue in their education with SBC. Contact our Admissions Officer today! 601-426-6346, or apply online at www.southeasternbaptist.edu

Memorial Gift

Thank you Frank Jarveaux for your donation to Southeastern Baptist College in memory of Odell Lott. God bless you!

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.

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 Pine Ridge Baptist Church of Laurel and Salem Baptist Church of Bay Springs for inviting Dr. Carson to preach their Sunday messages. You can reach Dr. Carson at 601-433-4736 or scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu.



SOUTHEASTERN GOSPEL FEST

We are excited to announce the 2023 Southeastern Gospel Fest is fast approaching! Following last spring's wonderful gathering of noted Southern Gospel artists, Southeastern Baptist College is proud to unveil the noted talent for the coming Fest being held again at the First Baptist Church of Laurel for three nights, April 13, 14, and 15 of 2023. These artists are of national acclaim and draw significant audiences. Any dollars beyond expenses are to be used in the building of an SBC Scholarship Endowment. We are actively in pursuit of SGF Sponsors of this inspirational event.

The Gospel Fest serves as an evening opportunity in our area opposite the daytime activities of the annual *Laurel Community Bank's Crawfest*. Would you please consider donating in support of bringing these dedicated singers and musicians to our area? Below, you will find a listing of each group, their performance date, and the cost to have them participate. All supporters will be recognized in promoting this event via website, social media, and other media, unless requesting anonymity. ANY AMOUNT OF SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED. Thank you in advance.

NOTE: Southeastern Baptist College is a 501-C3 nonprofit entity relying on support of churches and community.

GROUP	COST IN TOTAL	GROUP	COST IN TOTAL
GREATER VISION Thursday, April 13	\$4,500	INSPIRATIONS Saturday, April 15	\$3,000
MARK TRAMMELL QUARTET Thursday, April 13	\$3,500	BIBLETONES Saturday, April 15	\$2,000
GUARDIANS Thursday, April 13	\$3,000	MICHAEL COMBS Saturday, April 15	\$2,500
DIXIE ECHOES Thursday, April 13	\$1,500	TRIBUTE QUARTET Saturday, April 15	\$3,000
KAREN PECK & NEW RIVER Friday, April 14	\$4,500		
JOSH & ASHELY FRANKS Friday, April 14 [Emcee]	\$2,000		
Jeff & Sherri Easter Friday, April 14	\$3,500		
THE HOPPERS Friday, April 14	\$5,000		

SPONSOR CATEGORY	AMOUNT	BENEFITS [all promotions]
PLATINUM	\$3000 & up	6 Artist Circle tickets for ALL PERFORMANCES
GOLD	\$2500-\$2999	6 Complimentary Reserved tickets for PERFORMANCES
SILVER	\$2000-\$2499	4 Complimentary Reserved tickets AL PERFORMANCES
BRONZE	\$500-\$1999	2 Complimentary Reserved tickets AL PERFORMANCES

More Southeastern College News



Students end chapel with a prayer for Provost Walker led by Cliff Johnson, pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Laurel



Jan and Eddie Walker

Upcoming Women's Softball Games:
 Friday-Sunday, Mar 3-5 @ Mobile Tournament, Gulf Shores AL
 Tuesday, Mar 7, 2 & 4 p.m. @ William Carey, Hattiesburg MS
 Wednesday, Mar 8, 1 & 3 p.m. Home vs Talladega College
 Tuesday, Mar 13, 2 & 4 p.m. @ Faulkner University, Montgomery AL
 Wednesday, Mar 14, 2 & 4 p.m. Home vs Lane College
 Friday, Mar 24, 2 & 4 p.m. @ Talladega College
 Monday, Mar 27, 2 & 4 p.m. Home vs Faulkner University
 Tuesday, Mar 28, 2 & 4 p.m. Home vs Miles College

Men's Baseball Schedule:
 Wednesday, Mar 1, 5 p.m. @ Nichols State, Thibodaux LA
 Tuesday, Mar 7, 12 & 2 p.m. Home vs Stillman College
 Friday, Mar 10 & 11, 12 & 2 p.m. @ Toccoa Falls, GA
 Tuesday, Mar 14, 5 & 7 p.m. @ William Carey, Hattiesburg MS
 Saturday, Apr 1, 1 & 3 p.m. Home vs Rust College
 Tuesday, Apr 4, 5 & 7 p.m. @ Loyola University, New Orleans LA



Chargers Internet Café



Lady Charger Mahogandy McNulty, making a move on SBC court (pic by Kimberly Widderhoven)



Tyrone Rogers (upper right) leads a group of SBC students on a monthly street ministry in Laurel



Laiken David throwing a pitch in the Lady Chargers home softball game season opener

SOUTHEASTERN

2nd Annual GOSPEL FEST

PRESENTED BY SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE

APRIL 13 - 15, 2023

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

Emcee: JOSH FRANKS

APRIL 13
THURSDAY

APRIL 14
FRIDAY

APRIL 15
SATURDAY

GREATER VISION	MARK TRAMMELL QUARTET	GUARDIANS	DIXIE ECHOES
KAREN PECK & NEW RIVER	JOSH & ASHLEY FRANKS	JEFF & SHERI EASTER	LEFEVRE QUARTET
INSPIRATIONS	BIBLETONES	MICHAEL COMBS	TRIBUTE QUARTET

ARTIST CIRCLE

\$30 NIGHTLY
\$80 3-Day Pass

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

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

3 Nightly Concerts

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
607 WEST 5th STREET, LAUREL, MS 39440

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
601.426.6346
www.southeasternbaptist.edu

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION MISSIONS OF MISSISSIPPI

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440
Phone: 601-428-8616 Email: missions@bmams.org
Chris Yager, Interim Director

Revitalization Work!

by Bro. Chris Yager

2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that as believers we are new creatures in Christ; old things are passed away, all things have become new. When Christ redeemed us, He began a revitalization work in us that will continue until the day we go home to glory. Just as every believer needs a continual revitalization work, so also do each of our churches. It is easy to allow our churches to settle into an uncon-

scious routine, or autopilot so to speak. We do because we have always done it this way. We have stopped “growing” or seeking the Lord’s perfect will for our church today. Think of it this way, if our Christian life becomes stagnant or routine, then we will experience an emptiness or decline in our personal spiritual walk. We would need a fresh work of God in our lives;



Chris Yager

this same truth is a reality for our churches.

Where are you at? Just as important, where is your church at? Are you and your church on autopilot? Do you need God to do a revitalization work in you and your church? We can analyze this by being honest with some hard truths. One, do we find ourselves trending toward decline or growth? Two, when is the last time we have seen God move in our lives and churches? Three, when is the last time we have sought God for what HE would have us do in our lives and churches?

The answers to these questions will reveal to you if you are in need of revitalization. The reality is that we all need revitalization, but the question is are we willing to pursue this work of God in our lives and churches? My prayer is that we will take the time to ask these questions and be honest with ourselves and churches. If God reveals that we have settled into that unconscious routine, let us ask God to work a revitalization work in us again.

Tuesdays At 7 a.m.

To help in this revitalization work, we have started a weekly prayer and discipleship training time at the Missions office. Believers sharpening believers in prayer and encouragement. From 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. every Tuesday, we pray for each other, our churches, and laborers to be called into the field of harvest. From 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., we focus on training in revitalization and encouragement. Come be a part of this encouraging time.

Revolving Loan Fund: “Investing in Eternity”

God has continued to bless in our transition with the revolving loan fund. Thank you for your prayers. Let me encourage you to pray about investing in eternity. Your investment in the revolving loan fund not only pays you dividends, but it also pays for missions, churches, pastors, and the work of the Gospel to go out in power.

With our changing economy, we are adapting at the Missions Office as well. We are excited to

share with you that shortly we will be offering a tiered interest rate system that will compete with the deposit rates that are now at the banks. Please be looking for this final roll out of these rates. We are excited about what God is going to do with our Revolving Loan Fund.

Missions Office

We are working on updating our database and making it more thorough. Nicole Sloan will be calling or contacting all of churches to get updated information. If you would personally like to be a part of our database, please email the office with your contact information. We want to keep you in the know! Your email, cell phone number, name, and address would be a huge help to us.

Thank you again for praying for us! We are so honored to serve the Lord with you and this great association. God is doing great things, and I can’t wait to see all that He will accomplish this year!

FROM OUR MISSIONARIES

Refuge Baptist Mission

Decreasing for HIS Increase,
by Bro. Josh Daniels

“Greetings churches and associations of the BMA of Mississippi. First I want to express thanks and gratitude for all the prayer, financial support, & encouragement. It is my honor to continue as your missionary to the Kiln area in Hancock County. It is with excitement I present a few updates and report for Refuge Baptist Mission.



We are making great strides towards getting in the new church building. The metal began going up in December and just recently the sheet rock was finished. Within 2 months, lots of work has been accomplished. We now are entering some of the tedious work of finishing the building. Painting, flooring, ceiling, light switches, plugs, cabinets, appliances, and more will be on the agenda to wrap up. Our goal is to have our first public service in the building is for April 2nd. That’s a lofty goal, but we hope to make it. One lesson learned (the hard way) in church planting is that God truly has His own plans and schedules. Man can plan, but it’s God who knows the



full details. We have been blessed by many churches, associations, & even individuals have helped give toward the building project. This will help go far in being debt free by our organization. If God leads you to give in that way, please send offerings to the BMA of Mississippi Missions office marked for Refuge Baptist Mission Building Fund.

As way of ministry, we continue to often meet new people and occasionally have opportunity to share the gospel and pray with people outside of a regular Sunday service. We have dismissed some of our discipleship classes we were having last year in order to move some fellowship, work evenings, & discipleship opportunities throughout the week. Right now we have some men meeting on Wednesdays for fellowship, teaching, and prayer.



Ministry teams and organization of these teams have been taking place for the last 2 weeks. As we prepare to move into the new building, we will need the members of Refuge to be ready to serve, teach, minister, setup, & more. We anticipate growth and visitors and we pray that we will be ready to welcome them in, serve them, and answer any questions they may have.

We are in a busy, busy season of ministry and greatly appreciate and need your prayers, encouragement, and continued financial support. May God continue to bless you and the BMA of Mississippi.

Canaan Land Report

By Scott Brocious

The Lord continues to bless at Canaan Land Baptist! Over the past few months we have had several visitors, and we are so thankful for that answered prayer. We were able to have a fish fry January 8, and an ornament exchange. It was such a wonderful event. The men cooked the fish, while the ladies exchanged ornaments. Being able to have sweet fellowship allowed all of us to enjoy each other’s company.

We are in the planning stages of a Youth Event. March 25, 2023 at 5:00 pm we will be hosting a Youth Night. We will have special music by Bro. Jared Meyers. Bro. Charlie McNeil will be bringing the message. After services, we will have outside activities for the youth. Activities will be sports related and casual dress is encouraged. We will have activities for older and younger youth along with refreshments. We would like to invite all of you to bring your youth and participate.



On February 26, we baptized our newest member. The baptism was at Canaan Missionary Baptist. We are thankful for this opportunity.

Please continue to pray for us. The Lord is doing great things! Thank you for all the support and prayers that you have given.

Put to Shame

by Samuel Yager
Meridian

Since the beginning of the new year, I have been preaching through our theme for the year. Our theme *Lift Your Eyes* is based on John 4:35 in which Jesus states, “Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.” As the one preaching through how the Word of God commands us to be continually reaching people with the Gospel everywhere we go, my hope was also to be the example of what this looks like. However, this past Sunday, I was put to shame in this endeavor.

Recently, a homeless young man had begun living under the HVAC units behind the Dollar General next to our church building. As it became obvious that he had made his residence there, I made no immediate effort to reach out to him and, there-

Continued on page 9

FROM OUR MISSIONARIES

Yager from page 8

fore, I failed to live the very theme I was preaching. Then, Sunday the 12th happened. That Sunday, we put together gift bags to give out through the week as an opportunity to present the love of God. As we were putting them together, some of the kids decided they wanted to give their gift bags to this homeless young man. Accompanied by an adult, these kids brought him gift bags, brought him lunch, and prayed with him. I was humbled by their display of love. Then, this past Sunday happened.

After church, the kids again brought him lunch and prayed with him, but this time, an unbeliever named Brian who has been attending our church got involved. Brian purchased some trash bags from the Dollar General and began cleaning the homeless young man's living area. As a result of this, the young man attended our afternoon service. Although he was worried that he was too dirty to come, our church welcomed him with love and compassion. As the day went on, Brian took this young man named Matthew to get cleaned up and eventually to get medical attention. On Sunday evening, we get an update that Matthew was septic and we quickly realize

that the kids taking an interest in him may have saved his life.

The next day I took one of our church members to visit Matthew in the hospital. While we were there, we were able to present to him the Gospel. Afterwards, we asked if that was a decision he would like to make. He said yes and he then prayed silently to believe in Jesus. Following his prayer, we asked why he was going to heaven now. His answer was that Jesus paid for his sins and he wants to follow Him.

As I look back on this amazing story I must admit that I was put to shame by some children and an unbeliever in what lifting our eyes to see the people around us that

need Jesus truly looks like. God used this situation to convict me about how many people I look over every day and yet He still allowed me to have a part in the ministry to Matthew. I thank God for what He is doing in the lives of the people here at Living Hope Baptist Mission and I thank God that He has counted us worthy to entrust us with the Gospel. I ask that you would be in prayer for Matthew and for us to be able to disciple him in the faith. I also ask that you would be in prayer for Brian. God is drawing his heart and I ask that you pray for any obstacle of doubt or fear to be removed and for him to place his faith and trust in Jesus alone. Thank you all for your prayers and your fellowship in the Gospel!

Restoration

Jail Ministry Update

by Paul Spurlin

First, I want to thank you for praying for the challenge I mentioned to you in December. We had been having difficulty going into the Jones County Jail due to short staffing at the jail on some Friday nights. During January and February, we held a worship service at the Jones County jail three times. On a fourth occasion, we were turned away due to staffing issues, but a

25% rate of refusal is better than about 50% we had been experiencing. Praise God for opening the door more frequently.

During the visit in January, we met with ten prisoners and were encouraged as a man named Nathan told me that he would like to visit our church when he is released. May God bring his thought to action. We were also encouraged during our first trip in February as we met with six prisoners, and Gregory asked for me to pray that he and Wesley, who both are to be released shortly, will stay away from the lifestyle

that caused them to be in jail. May the Lord bless and keep them. The second visit in February was an example of racial unity as I met with eight prisoners, all of whom are Black. We joined together in singing, prayer, and studying God's Word, and several of them repeatedly thanked me for coming. One said that he had been there for two months and that our meeting was the first opportunity he had been offered to attend worship service. There are just too many prisoners for all of them to attend the

available services. Several of the men mentioned specific prayer requests.

As you pray for our ministry, please continue to ask that we will be allowed inside the jail as we have opportunity to go. There are so many helpful staff members at the jail, but they sometimes find themselves with limited staffing and cannot allow us inside. Also, please mention the following men to God by name: Nathan, Gregory, Wesley, two men with the name Jeremy, Ethan, James, and Ty'Qirious. May the Lord bless each of you.

Hispanic Missions Update

by Estuárdo Marroquin

Hispanic Missions Coordinator

We are grateful to God for the blessings we have received during January and February of this year. Hispanic missions go forward guided by the Holy Spirit to carry out the work of making more disciples. We are happy to share with all of you that every Hispanic field is developing plans and activities to share the gospel of Jesus and magnify His kingdom.



Early in February we had the privilege of meeting with all Hispanic pastors and missionaries with our Interim Mission Director Brother Chris Yager at missions office in Laurel. It was a very exciting and uplifting meeting and every Hispanic leader in our state of Mississippi was able to personally meet our director and establish good relationships with him and the mission's office in Laurel. We received good encouragement from Brother Yager and learned new strategies to reach our Hispanic communities.

Each Hispanic leader had the opportunity to express their goals and their needs, and our Missions Director was



very attentive and willing not only to listen, but to express support to continue working the Hispanic field in Mississippi. We thank God for the life of our brother, Director Chris Yager, and pray that he will be used in a great way to lead missionary work in our state.

We also want to share with you the joint work that our Hispanic Association New Hope (Asociacion Hispana Nueva Esperanza) is carrying out in our state of Mississippi. They meet quarterly and are composed of Hispanic churches and missions (Laurel, Hattiesburg, Ripley, Oxford, Tupelo and Canton). They have done a good job of coming together as an association with the goal of supporting missionary work in our state prayerfully and finan-

cially. Next March they will hold a men's conference to be held on March 10 and 11 at Waukaway Springs Christian retreat center. It will be two days to encourage and challenge all Hispanic men in our churches and encourage them to continue collaborating. The theme of the conference will be CALLED (Ephesians 4:1). We ask you to pray that God will work in a great way in the lives of all who attend this great conference.

I thank God and our BMA of Mississippi Association for the privilege it gives me to be part of this great work of Hispanic missions and I ask prayers for my family.

Sofilthy's Attic

By Barbara White

Thoughts About The Hair



Well, I got to thinking the other day about hair and realized that hair styles change just as clothing styles change.

I remember years ago that if an old gray-headed woman went to the beauty shop she came out with blue hair, from the rinse that was applied to her hair and she probably had little finger waves all over her head!

Then the bee-hive hairdo came in where the women walked around looking like they were sending their hair on to heaven ahead of them.

The beehive was replaced by straight and stringy, which is still around today.

I'm not casting my vote on which is more attractive, but since I was a natural red-head, I always thought "the less the best".

Hair is mentioned throughout the Bible but the one incident that comes immediately to my mind was when Mary, sister of Martha and Lazarus, washed Jesus' feet and dried them with her hair. One certainly couldn't accuse her of being too vain about her hairdo! Oh, to have that kind of love for my Savior!



CONFERENCIA DE VARONES 2023

LLAMADOS EFESIOS 4:1

© Predicacion
© Talleres
© Manualidades
© Musica
© Fogata Y más...

Predicador invitado: Michael Hight

© Fecha: Viernes 10 y sábado 11 de marzo
© Precio: \$70.00
Incluye hospedaje, comida y camiseta.
© Lugar: waukaway Springs
189 co Rd 2351, Vossburg Ms 39366

NUEVA ESPERANZA
Asociación Bautista hispana de mississippi

Waukaway Springs Christian Retreat Center
Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Scripture Thoughts by Cleaver

Dr. Tony Cleaver is a retired U.S. Army Chaplain and Director of Distance Learning for BMA Seminary. He may be contacted at jstmcleaver@gmail.com

Original Sin

Our pandemic of Covid 19 (SARS-CoV-2 or severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2) has brought a flurry of laboratory investigations about this virus. One of the most recent and most interesting research theories is called “original antigenic sin (OAS).” In my own non-scientific explanation, this means a person’s first response to a virus has a remarkable effect on their response to a similar or variant virus. Our bodies respond much the same way to a variant as they did to the original virus.

Adam and Eve responded to the Lord with a great big “No!” They said: “We will not follow your words. We will do things our own way and behave to please ourselves.” Thus, the original sin of humankind. God put them out of the garden. That original sin was passed down to their children, their children’s children,

and so on down the line of generations. We, like all of Adam’s children, have original sin. We respond to the Lord in the same way we have in the past. We shake our fist in His face to tell Him we will do it our way.

We as human beings inherited a sinful nature. We have no option other than to choose to sin. Psalm 51.5 states this succinctly: *“Indeed, I was guilty when I was born; I was sinful when my mother conceived me.”* The New Testament is clear in Romans 5.12: *“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all people, because all sinned.”*



Dr. Tony Cleaver

We have a need to be made right with God. How can this happen? The Apostle John tells us how: *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 John 1.9) Further clarification enlightens us in Romans 10.13: *“For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

Certainly, lab researchers have found our bodies respond to a new virus much the same way as they do to a new strain of that virus. The Bible has for centuries told us we respond to the opportunity of sin the same way each and every human being before us has done. We have a bad case of original sin. We can’t help it. We choose to sin. We like it! We think we know more than God and can run our lives better than He. The only vaccine for our original sin is the blood of Christ on the cross. *“For you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb.”* (1 Peter 1.18-19)

Mississippi GMAs

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Special Service Planned & Prayer Week Requests

March 17 & 18th- Girls Retreat
Campground Baptist Church
Gulfport, Mississippi

The GMA’s will have a special service honoring Mrs. Beth Caldwell and Mrs. Chris Smith during our camp on Saturday, March 18th at 10:30. Everyone is invited to join us for the service even if they can’t make camp.

Please join us in praying on the following dates in preparation for GMA Camp -

Monday, March 13th: Pray for our speaker, Bro. Buddy Johnson, and his wife, Mrs. Taffy, as they come to fellowship with us.

Tuesday, March 14th: Pray for all the girls that are attending camp and that they will open their ears and hearts to what the Lord has for them.

Wednesday, March 15th: Pray for all the staff at Campground as they prepare for us to come.

Thursday, March 16th: Pray for the officers and the church counselors.

Friday, March 17th: Pray for our mission project, the Pasley family in France.

BUILDING TRACKS TO MOVE FORWARD

By Larry Barker
Vice President Church
Strategy and Training
BMA of America

Mobilization is described this way in *Made for More* by Todd Wilson and Rob Wegner: “The role of the local church is to be the mobilizing home base. This empowers all disciples to discover their personal calling then deploy them to express the fullness of Jesus into every corner of culture and into every sphere of society.”

You must ask this question up front, in your life and in your church: “Is the Great Commission in the driver’s seat?” Mobilization moves your church from spiritual health to living on mission with the ultimate goal of multiplying disciples, leaders, groups, and churches.

Matthew 9:37 makes the issue very clear that there is an abundant harvest ready to be harvested but there is a labor shortage. This is not only a crisis in quantity (laborers are few) but also a crisis in quality (laborers are not equipped and ready). Both areas are crucial to a proper evaluation of your congregation. The issue is not only quantitative (how much ministry you actually provide) but also qualitative (how well you provide that ministry). If the Great Commission is in the driver’s seat, disciples are being made who make disciples. Something is wrong if our goal is making

more disciples without any new disciples.

Are you willing to do the hard work of making the following primary missional paradigm shifts? 1) mobilizing your people from an internal to an external ministry focus 2) mobilizing your leaders’ core activities from program development to people development 3) mobilizing your congregation’s leadership agenda from church-based to kingdom-based Spiritual renewal and strategic initiative work side by side and are both necessary.

Spiritual renewal occurs through the Word of God, prayer, and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Strategic initiative occurs through prayerful planning and intentionality.

Developing a strategy requires building a track on which to move forward. Mobilization runs on two rails: building biblical knowledge (what you know) and biblical character (who you are). Biblical knowledge is your biblical literacy and I.Q. It stresses the importance of handling the Word of God correctly (2 Timothy 2:15). This foundational rail must be laid well and properly. The other rail running parallel to biblical knowledge is biblical character and behavior. This is the application of obedience to the knowledge you have learned. Spiritual renewal shows you the next steps of strategic initiative in how you will obey His mission.



In *Total Church* Tim Chester and Steve Timmis state, “Being gospel-centered actually involves two things: being word-centered because the gospel is a word – the gospel is news, a message. And being mission-centered because the gospel is a word to be proclaimed – the gospel is good news, a missionary message.”

Placing the Great Commission in the driver’s seat means that your church joins God on His mission. It is not just ecclesiology (what the church does) but deeper theology (who God is). Being missional is your church partnering with God in His redemptive mission in the world.

These two rails have a goal that helps to accomplish mobilizing “every disciple into every corner of culture and into every

sphere of society.” Kenneth E. Priddy defines the goal of building biblical character like this: “To help leaders study the Bible, know the Bible, teach the Bible, and apply scripture to life.” He defines building biblical character as helping “leaders develop and demonstrate strong biblical character in their lives, reflected in godly behaviors, decisions, and relationships.” Together they require an obedience mechanism through accountability that only occurs best in relational discipleship.

About 15 years ago I asked my friend Steve Ogne to help put together our very own BMA *Church Mobilization Toolkit*. In that toolkit he wrote out a mobilization covenant for every church that would begin the journey down these tracks. Here it is: “Goal — To confirm the ownership of the senior leadership, including pastor and elders and/or deacons, for the mobilization process. This tool is best used with the deacons/elders and staff. Instructions — Read, discuss, pray, and commit to the following (may take more than one meeting!):

“We the leaders of (*Insert church name.*) covenant together to begin the process of intentional ministry mobilization being offered to us by the Baptist Missionary Association. We understand that the primary goals of the process are increased health, increased local mission, and multiplication of new

churches. We understand that the Health Phase of the process will require us to take an objective look at our current reality, see a preferred future, and align our ministry accordingly. We understand that the Mission Phase of the process will require us to focus on lost people, intentionally make disciples of lost people, and multiply leaders who can do the same.

We understand that the Multiplication Phase is designed to engage our congregation in the process of church planting. We understand that the process will require flexibility and a level of change that will not always be comfortable, and we agree to support that change with our time and our treasure for the sake of God’s kingdom. We understand that if all goes well, we are launching an 18-to-36-month process that will require some financial investment on the part of the church. Finally, we the leaders of (*Insert church name.*) covenant together to positively participate and positively represent this process to the congregation.”

In church mobilization, if you are going to move your congregation forward, the rails are: Building Biblical Knowledge and Building Biblical Character. Now you can begin laying the tracks down utilizing the strategic initiative of Living Missionally, Making Disciples, Mobilizing Ministry, Leading Ministry, and Planting Churches.



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Dwight Lindsey

118 Lowe Road, Laurel, Mississippi 39443 - (601) 426-3928
Dwight Lindsey - Director

Spring is quickly approaching. It is easy to have our minds drift to the soon budding plants that will cover yards and fields, changing the colors from the drab winter to the vibrance of spring. It is a beautiful time of year that should prod thanksgiving in our hearts to the God who designed such a gorgeous creation. He shows us a preview of what is like to come out of the despair of death and into new and glorious life.

In Matthew 13 Jesus teaches the through parable of the sower or some would say the parable of the soils: "And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, *Behold, a sower went forth to sow; And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root,*

they withered away. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."

This parable is a great lesson of the work of God in every man's life, and the nature of sin's attack on true belief. The way side, the stony places, and the thorns are the many things that fight against man's response to God in repentance and faith.

A good gardener knows that you can't make something grow. All you can do is create the most favorable conditions for something to grow. That is also pretty biblical, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase." As many of you may remember from our last article we added a young lady last month and this has been our focus. We are trying to do our best to make sure that she has the best soil for

her roots to grow deep and strong. We also had another emergency case during February and this parable has stuck with me as I saw a child who was clearly fighting against the soil conditions that had surrounded their life. One can see the difficult conditions making it hard for this young person to take root in faith. On another front one of our young men who has been with us for quite some time beginning to ask probing questions about the Gospel, salvation, and baptism.

We ask that you would pray with us for these children. Pray for the young soul who has experienced a lot of transition with fewer chances for faith to take root. Pray for the young lady who is now settling into soil that should allow her to take root and grow in her faith. Pray for the young man who seems to have taken root and now is beginning to show sign of that faith springing forth from the ground. Finally pray for Lindsay and I that we would remain diligent to keep the soil here at the home tilled and ready to receive and grow the seeds that land here. We pray that they would all be those that accept Christ, take root, grow attached to the vine Jesus Christ, and produce much fruit.

In His Service,
Dwight Lindsey, Director
Mississippi Baptist Children's Home
(601) 426-3928

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Financial Information for Seniors & Others



The living will

There are many reasons to make a living will: to give guidance to your doctors and health care surrogates, provide clarity and closure to your loved ones, prevent conflict or disagreements among family members, and limit the emotional burden on your closest people at the time of your death.

Most important is that you remain on control of the authority to dictate how you want to live and die. Considering that the majority of dying people are unconscious, in distress, or otherwise not able to speak, the living will serves as your voice when you may not have one.

Despite all these reasons, *less than half of U.S. adults have a living will.* This means most Americans are

rolling the dice on who will be making decisions for them at the end of their lives.

How it works

A living will is a written, legally binding document that informs your family and doctors about your preferences for medical care at the end of life. Because these are legal documents, you may use a lawyer to help you understand and write a living will. However, you do not need to. With a little research and reflection, you may create your own living will with ease and for no cost.

Every state has different laws and practices, so please be sure to use a living will that your state recognizes. Some use standard forms, some allow you to draft your own. And be sure to follow your state's rules about what kind of witnesses you should use and whether the document needs to be notarized.

What to include

In general, your living will may have:

- Typically a standard direction that you do not want life-prolonging procedures administered or continued

if there is no probability of your survival.

- Specific directions about what care you do or do not want (for example, dialysis, mechanical ventilation to assist with breathing, artificial hydration and nutrition or CPR).

- Anatomical gift decisions (meaning, whether you wish to be an organ and tissue donor).

- Palliative care wishes (like whether you wish to die at home or avoid invasive tests or procedures).

- Spiritual and religious considerations (your faith may have its own directions for how to create a living will).

Don't wait until confronted with an illness to create a living will. Take into account that an unexpected illness or accident can happen at any time. Write your living will when you're in good health, but review and update it as needs and conditions change.

As you do this, talk to your doctors about your wishes. Have them put your living will on file. Also speak with your closest family and friends, particularly the ones who may be your caregivers one day, so they know what your wishes are. Having these talks and writing your living will ensures that you live according to your own terms until your last breath, while giving your

loved ones a sense of peace when it matters most.

Interested in learning more? We're here to help.

MRS is your trusted partner that can help bring clarity and understanding to whatever your situation may be. Let us help explain your options. *Our focus is on educating our churches and pastors to help them make well informed decisions about these very important topics.*

MRS is your trusted resource. Let us serve you today!

Contact:

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ANTICIPATING HIS ARRIVAL



from LifeWord

On Sunday nights, my church has started going through a deep study of the book of Revelation. It started at the beginning of this year, and although we are not far into it yet, I am looking forward to seeing how much I can learn from it.

Revelation is a mysterious book. We love to look at it with a sense of curiosity and wonder, or we fear to look at it over anxiety about the future. There is so much we do not know, and so many ways that different scholars and teachers have interpreted that unknown data across the centuries.

I am the kind of person who, by nature, likes to know details. If my wife and I are making plans, I want to know the “wheres” and the “whens” and the “how longs.” I don’t want to go into something without information that would have helped me better prepare. So when it comes to a book like Revelation, with so much vague symbolism and mind-blowing imagery, there’s no way I can fully comprehend or predict exactly what will happen and when it will come.

Regardless of which of the many camps of study you sit in, there is one thing that virtually all of them agree on: Jesus is coming back. There’s no room for debate on that. He said it Himself: “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also” (John 14:3).

I don’t think it’s a coincidence that one of the few things we can very accurately predict from Revelation is that Jesus will, some day, unquestionably return. Though there is disagreement on when that will happen and the nature His return will take, the fact of He is returning is set in stone. I believe this reminder was placed in the Bible—at the very end, no less—to be our reminder that a greater hope is on the horizon, that no matter how bad things get, His second coming will wipe that all away.

This got me thinking about

my expecting wife. Our baby is due soon, and needless to say, we are very excited! We are eagerly anticipating her arrival, looking forward to the day when we can cradle her and talk to her and simply enjoy her presence. That is going to be a great day, one of unspeakable emotion and excitement. I wish we didn’t have to wait so long, and my wife would agree—we want her here now. Do we anticipate Jesus’ return the same way? Are we on the edge of our seat, hoping that His return will happen sooner than later? Or are we content to go about our lives, as if He’s so far off that He’ll never return in our lifetimes? It’s true that we don’t know the time, but shouldn’t we be preparing just the same?

It would be irresponsible of me or my wife to not prepare for our baby. If the nursery was not a nursery yet; if I was using that room instead for a game room or an office, and no decoration or furniture was to be found indicating that a baby would soon reside within; if we had bought no clothes, no essentials, saying “she’ll get here when she gets here,” we might say, “and we’ll

worry about her once she does” – that would be the height of irresponsibility, wouldn’t it?

We have certain duties and obligations as soon-to-be parents, but more than that, we should be ready out of love.

The same could be said of us as Christians. We know Jesus is coming, and we know He has given us instructions on what to do in the meantime.

We are to make disciples, grow the church, and preach the Gospel around the world.

He gives us plain instructions in Matthew 28:16-20. There really isn’t room for discussion on what we’re supposed to do while waiting for Him.

So, not just out of duty, but out of love, what are we doing to prepare for Jesus’s arrival? How are we preparing our hearts and the hearts of those around us to see Him one day? We know that eternal life waits only for those who believe. Have you believed?

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9). Salvation comes by faith in God, a gift of His grace alone.

If you have been saved, what are you doing to make sure others have the same opportunity? Romans 10:17 says, “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” Are you giving others the chance to hear the word of Christ? They need Him. You can be the one to show them the way. In anticipation of His return, we must prepare our hearts and prepare the world. Are you ready? Or will He find your life like an unfurnished nursery?

THE LORD IS THE HELPER OF MY COUNTEenance.
- Psalm 43:5 (KJV)

People say to me, "I don't smile." I say, "Are you saved? Where is your joy?!" After all,

A smile is joy visible.
A hug is joy palpable.
Laughter and a song are joy audible.

"The joy of the Lord is my strength." (Nehemiah 8:10)

WHY AREN'T YOU SMILING!?

by Joe McKeever

2023 BMA National Meeting Tentative Schedule (subject to change)

BMA Global Ministry Center opens at 9:00 for tours.

April 25	
6:00 pm	Session One
Worship	Clif Johnson and Antioch Worship Band
7:30 pm	Fellowship Time
8:45 pm	Close
April 26	
7:30 am	Breakfast provided by Central Baptist College
8:00 am	New BMA Pastors Orientation - Watkins Building 212 CBC
8:30 am	Department Committees - Watkins Building CBC
9:00 am	WMA Meeting - Central Baptist College Brotherhood - Antioch Baptist Church
9:30 am	Pastors Conference - Antioch Baptist Church The Leadership Imperative - Dr. Steven Crawley Preventing Abuse and Protecting Your Church Brotherhood Mutual Helping and Resources for Mental Health - Lee Poe Leading for Growth - Pastor Bill Elliff Sanish speakers Breakout - Elvis Garcia
10:30 am	Global Missions Center Tours
12:00	State and Local BMA Leaders Lunch Global Missions Center
1:30	Worship Service - Antioch Baptist Church Pastor David McMurray
3:00	Legacy Missionary Service Introduction of New BMA Missionaries
6:00 pm	"Dinner On The Ground" - Conway Expo Center
8:30 pm	Close
April 27	
8:30 am	BMA Department Reports
12:00 pm	Close of National Meeting

Water For Christ Ministries

Nigeria Receives 2 Water Wells

We thank God for this great opportunity to be a part of what He is doing in Nigeria to save souls. By His grace, He has given brother Joseph (in photo) enough water for mission work here in Ibadan, Nigeria.

The community is pleading for another well close to them which we believe can help brother Joseph reach more of them with the love of God. Brother Moses (left) preached to 15 young boys in the area who are very violent and under the influence of drugs. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will use what they heard and see (Water For Christ meeting their physical needs) and bring them to Christ.

We are excited to be working in Togo this year. We recently sent Kelvin (professional well driller) and Moses (Africa Evangelism Director) to visit Pastor Joel Kpodja in Togo. Water For Christ met Pastor Joel last October while he was in America requesting wells.

Pastor Joel mentioned that in this one area, they have tried to drill water 3 times, and 3 times they have not gotten water for his people. Enter...Water For Christ. That's why we sent Kelvin who is very good at finding water to help look for water for the people of Togo who are in dire need. We have found 3 spots that are suitable drilling locations. Praise the Lord! Plans are in the works to start drilling wells very soon in Togo. Togo is the country East of Ghana. If you'd like to give toward this project please visit the Water For Christ giving page where you can directly donate to the TOGO FUND. <https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/WaterforChrist/general> For checks, write TOGO in the check memo line.

For more information on Togo or the project please e-mail (ben@waterforchrist.com)

