

Baptist

Mississippi

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ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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Volume 78 No. 3

2023 Annual Yearbook Disbursement Information

by Clerk Sam Oglesby

& Assistant Clerk Ted Quinby

The 2023 Annual Yearbook for the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi will be made available at the registration table at the mid-year BMA State meeting held at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday May 21, 2024, at Southeastern Baptist College and again at the annual BMA State meeting held at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday October 22, 2024, at Campground Baptist Church.

Copies will be mailed out to any church that contacts the State Clerk, Sam Oglesby, by email at pastor_1@comcast.net or State Assistant Clerk, Ted Quinby by email at ted.quinby@bmats.edu and requests a mailed copy. A current and correct mailing address must be provided. Or an email address may be provided, and we will be glad to forward a digital copy.

While we desire to make the availability of these as easy as possible for all churches desiring to acquire copies, we must also be good stewards of the resources God has given us to work with. Considering that, we are no longer blanket mailing out copies to every church as in the past. The cost of postage, envelopes, address labels and printing now nearing \$1,000 and steadily going up. A large number of these are being returned to the post office as undeliverable with return postage due. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this manner.

2023 High Points and What's Next for Missionary Care

By Jonathan Montgomery
Director of Missionary Care

This past year has been a great one for Missionary Care, and anticipated plans for 2024 look as if the coming year will be another blessed one in ministry.

The highlight of 2023 was the Global Care Conference held in April following the BMAA National Meeting. Most of our global missionaries and North American church planters could join us for this time of rest and restoration. We worshiped together. Missionary families fellowshiped with one another. They were able to offer mutual encouragement as they shared their successes and struggles. And our care team had the opportunity to listen and become aware of additional ways to serve our missionary families better. Not enough words can describe what a blessing this global gathering was for our missionaries.

In August, a team from BMA Global, Lifeword, and individuals from BMA churches accompanied Larry and Tammy Wood to Poland for a care conference for our Ukrainian ChangeMakers and their families. Our goal was to provide a time of respite from their year of war and struggles and offer an opportunity for them to be encouraged. Our team listened to how they adapted their ministries to share their hope in Christ with displaced families, orphans, and soldiers. One special moment of this conference was surprising their children with a birthday party. We shared gifts with each kid and enjoyed pizza and party games. After the time in Poland, we traveled



to the Czech Republic to spend time with our ChangeMaker missionaries there.

Our care team's focus during the fall was helping four missionary kids, or Third Culture Kids (TCKs), as they started college in Conway. Transitioning from their ministry countries and families to the United States without immediate family can be challenging for the students and their parents, so we spent intentional time with each student individually, created opportunities for them to get together with one another, and connected them with other TCKs who helped to advise and encourage them with their own stories of similarly transitioning. A goal of Missionary Care is to continue developing new tools to care for all our TCKs serving with their families.

As our ministry offerings have grown over this last year, our missionaries are more readily using our services in care, counseling, coaching, and conferences. Our team continues to assist each family with needs during their stateside assignment (furlough). We regularly check on missionary families to see how they are doing and to offer encouragement and support. Missionary Care works hard to serve our missionaries so they can more effectively serve others.

This last year, I have had more opportunities to share with churches and groups about the ministry of Missionary

Care. This has allowed us to increase awareness of what our ministry is doing to serve BMA Global missionaries and church planters. New partnerships with churches and individuals began in 2023, and we hope to grow this support in 2024. One final thing that started this past year is selling the BMA Global Christmas keepsake ornament to raise additional funds for Missionary Care.

As a new year starts, Missionary Care is excited about upcoming plans to expand our ministry to offer continued encouragement for former missionary families. We will work with Larry Barker and his team to train additional coaches so that every missionary can receive individualized coaching. Missionary Care is partnering with Angela Rice and Short-term Missions to create care trips to allow pastors and individuals an opportunity to encourage our missionaries and church planters on the field. We also hope to start planning more regional conferences.

The greatest need in 2024 for this ministry of care and encouragement is more monthly supporters. Just as our missionaries raise their support, Missionary Care follows this same support-raising model. Most donations to our ministry have

See Missionary Care
on page 2

Applications Accepted For Position of Editor

The Trustees of the Publications Department are accepting applications for the position of manager & editor. At the 2023 annual meeting current Editor Don Brown shared his plans to retire at the end of 2024. Anyone feeling led toward this ministry should contact Trustee Chairman Corbey Jones at 601-337-8886 or by mail addressing correspondence to him at P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441.

The Trustees are accepting application through May 31, 2024.

BMA of Mississippi Department of Youth



March 2024
Special Emphasis Month

More Information on Page 3

2024 Annual BMA of America



Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

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Adam Sloan - Rayburn Freeman
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The Blessing of Giving

What a blessing you have been throughout the years in your support for this ministry. Our Special Emphasis goal of \$10,000 is almost reached. The scripture tells us of the joy of giving. We are told that when we give it shall be given back to us. If you are a "giver" to the Lord's work then you no doubt have experienced His blessings as you have given to His work through the years. This saying is true - You just can't out give God!

All of the work of our Association depends on the financial support of our churches and our people. Thank you for giving to our need. God bless you as you continue to support the work of the BMA of Mississippi and America.

Reminder

I want to encourage our readers and churches to give liberally to the Youth Department in March. Bro. Anders Lee is doing a great job of ministering to the spiritual needs of the young folks in our churches. Help him reach the goal needed to continue this needed ministry.

Changes Ahead

We have been notified by our printer that there are some changes coming. Without going into too much detail I share the following:

Our paper has been printed in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, for a number of years. The company is making some changes and this plant is being closed. Beginning with our April issue our publication will be printed in and mailed from Tupelo, Mississippi. We anticipate the same good service we currently experience, with the only changes being the deliver of our mailed issues from a different location. This may change the delivery dates for some of our readers. Your understanding is appreciated we this change takes place.

Listed below are your Special Emphasis gifts. If you find an error or omission please contact this editor.

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Antioch Baptist Church, Taylorsville | \$150.00 |
| Ballardville Baptist Church, Tupelo | \$200.00 |
| Bethel Baptist Church, Wiggins | \$165.00 |
| Bethel Baptist Church, Louise | \$400.00 |
| Big Oak Baptist Church, Fulton | \$100.00 |
| Buffalo Baptist Church, Mclain | \$300.00 |
| Central Baptist Church, Southaven | \$550.00 |
| Anonymous | \$500.00 |
| Cypress Creek Baptist Church, Brookland | \$500.00 |
| Day Star Baptist Church, Sumrall | \$601.25 |
| Donald Phillips | \$1,000.00 |
| First Baptist Church Of Calhoun, Laurel | \$350.00 |
| Frank Panzrino, Tupelo | \$100.00 |
| Good Hope Baptist Church, Overt | \$500.00 |
| Just The Crumbs | \$300.00 |
| Larry Henderson | \$100.00 |
| Little Creek Baptist Church, Perkinston | \$150.00 |
| Magnolia Heights Baptist Church, Forest | \$80.00 |
| Melba Dunn | \$50.00 |
| Movella Baptist Church, Lucedale | \$50.00 |
| New Bethany Baptist Church, Seminary | \$75.00 |
| Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel | \$200.00 |
| Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis | \$87.45 |
| Pine Ridge Baptist Church, Laurel | \$100.00 |
| Rock Creek Baptist Church, Union | \$200.00 |
| Rocky Branch Baptist Church, Sumrall | \$25.00 |
| Rowland Mills Baptist Church, Burnsville | \$100.00 |
| Shiloh Baptist Church, Mt. Olive | \$1,000.00 |
| Springhill Baptist Church, Laurel | \$56.50 |
| Tombigbee Baptist Church, Mantachie | \$1,000.00 |
| Washington Baptist Church, Neely | \$164.00 |
| Westover Baptist Church, Hattiesburg | \$275.00 |
| Wilderness Baptist Church, Vicksburg | \$200.00 |
| Woodlawn Baptist Church, Pascagoula | \$100.00 |
| Total | \$9,729.20 |

Dr. Tony Cleaver Retires from BMA Seminary

Dr. Tony Cleaver, Professor of Biblical Studies and Director of Distance Education, retired from the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary at the end of 2023 following more than 13 years of faithful service to the seminary.

Cleaver's contribution to the seminary is difficult to overstate. According to Dr. Charley Holmes, BMA Seminary President, "Dr. and Mrs. Cleaver have been incredibly supportive of the seminary's ministry both professionally and financially during my time as seminary president."

Vice-president and Dean Philip Attebery emphasized that "Dr. Cleaver was essential to the formation and initiation of BMATS online distance education and critical to the ongoing quality and maintenance of BMATS distance education. Students



Tony & Jerri Sue Cleaver

have repeatedly expressed their appreciation and admiration for Dr. Cleaver's skill and encouragement as a professor. The Lord used Dr. Cleaver to put BMA Seminary on the cutting edge of theological distance education." Holmes added, "We are all grateful that Dr. Cleaver remains available for consultation when needed."

In response to news of Cleaver's retirement, the Board of Trustees' Academic Committee "expressed its appreciation for Dr. Cleaver's unique and extraordinary contribution to BMA Seminary during his time, especially as it pertains to distance education."

Cleaver began his employment with BMA Seminary following years of serving in the pastorate and as a chaplain in the U.S. Army. Cleaver's higher education includes the B.A. and M.S. Ed. degrees from Baylor University, the M.Div. from BMA Seminary, and the D.Min. from Luther Rice Seminary.

Cleaver has authored numerous books and is well-known for his articles entitled "Leave it to Cleaver" that appear in several newspapers associated with the BMA.

BMA Seminary provides accredited theological education to qualified individuals by seeking to equip them for Christian service and leadership roles. The seminary supports the educational needs of the Baptist Missionary Association of America and other groups who share a like commitment to the authority of Scripture.

Missionary Care from front page

helped with specific projects like those mentioned from this past year, but as our ministry continues to grow and develop, we have seen an increase in monthly expenses. Having a base of regular and recurrent donations will allow Missionary Care to maintain what we are already doing for our missionary families while also planning new services. Please pray with us about this need. And if you have questions, feel free to email me at jonathan@bmaglobal.org.

Missionary Care is making a difference in the lives of our missionaries. We will always serve our missionary families so they can better serve in God's global mission. Reflecting on this last year of blessings for our ministry makes our care team even more hopeful for bigger things to come in 2024.

Ministry Positions Available

Children's Ministry Director Sought

Midway First Baptist Church, Sumrall is seeking a part-time director of our children's ministry. Below is information from the church.

-Priority one is the spiritual growth of our children.

-The position includes directing the planning, coordination, operation, and execution of a comprehensive Children's Ministry. This includes, but is not limited to, Wednesday night classes, Vacation Bible School, Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas program, and Children's Church.

-You can send your resume and questions to midwaychildrensdirector@gmail.com. Thank you, Brittany McCain

Texas Church Seeking Pastor

By Jason Prewitt
jasonprewitt@gmail.com

First Baptist Church of Carthage, Texas, a Baptist Missionary Association Church, dually aligned with the Southern Baptist of Texas Convention, is seeking a full-time Senior Pastor. Please submit resume to pastor@firstbaptistcarthage.com. Resume deadline is April 5, 2024.

Mississippi Girls Retreat

March 15-16th, 2024

Campground Baptist Church in Gulfport

Speakers

Bro. Noah and Mrs. Sarah Clark

We'll have Crafts,
Missions, Games,
and Worship.

Available for Pulpit Supply

Brandon Williams is available for pulpit supply. He was licensed at Hopewell Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi in September 2023. He may be reached at 662-321-5259 or tbw2788@gmail.com.



Brandon Williams



ANDERS LEE

ANDERS LEE - DIRECTOR - 901-343-3293 - ANDERS.LEE571@GMAIL.COM - bmamsyouth.org

Latrelle Windham Special Emphasis Offering

\$30,000 GOAL

Last year, as most of you know by now, we named our department's special emphasis after our former director, Bro. Latrelle Windham! He served faithfully so many years and deserved that honor. This year we have set a huge goal! WOW! I know you are looking at that figure of \$30,000 asking yourself if you read that correctly, or maybe it's a misprint. You are seeing it correctly. The goal this year is \$30,000!!!

WHY?

We have three major events that we must fund. As you know we added Kids Camp this year to our summer agenda. It is going to be great to see this come to pass and back on the calendar! We will do Teen Camp once again and RENEW. The three events will need the support to make them possible. Camp costs are high, higher than they have ever been in the years I have been doing & planning them. We have had to raise our camp cost this year since we have 2 camps, and we can't focus on and fund just one. The funds are much needed and necessary.

In this offering we are literally investing in our kids, teens and college students from all over the state of Mississippi! These are your kids & grandkids, literally the future of the BMA of Mississippi! So be generous with this in mind!

WHEN?

Take up offerings during the month of March or early April and send them in to be counted towards the goal! Please indicate on your check that it is for Special Emphasis so we can count it in the total.



LATRELLE WINDHAM SPECIAL EMPHASIS OFFER- ING BMA OF MISSISSIPPI STATE

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THIS MINISTRY IN 2023!
THE "LATRELLE WINDHAM" OFFERING IS CRITICAL IN

IN 2023 WE SAW GOD DO MANY THINGS...WE ANTICIPATE MUCH MORE IN '24!

- 25 TEENS & YOUNG ADULTS GOT SAVED!
- 302 ATTENDED TEEN CAMP!
- 276 ATTENDED RENEW!
- 36 CHURCHES ATTENDED EVENTS!
- ON CAMPUS AT SBC 4 TIMES!
- VISITED 16 ASSOCIATION MEETINGS!
- SOUTH & NORTH YOUTH RALLIES MARCH 9TH & 15TH 2024!
- KIDS CAMP JUNE 10TH - 13TH 2024, AT WAUKAWAY SPRINGS!
- TEEN CAMP JULY 8TH - 11TH 2024, AT LAKE TIAK O'KHATA!
- RENEW DECEMBER 29-31, 2024, AT MIDWAY FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

WE ASK ALL OUR CHURCHES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OFFERING TO REACH OUR GOAL!

THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT NEEDS 40 MONTHLY SUPPORTING CHURCHES!
WE CURRENTLY HAVE 24! PRAY ABOUT BEING ONE OF THOSE!

PLEASE SEND OFFERINGS TO
BRANDY RILEY, 454 LEBANON RD, LAUREL, MS 39443

WHO?

Individuals, businesses, churches, local associations, church auxiliaries can all give to the goal! This is an all-hands-on deck approach. It will take all of us working together to reach the goal! SERIOUSLY! It is a huge amount and will take all of us!

WHERE?

Where do we send the offering? Please mail it to our Financial Secretary, Mrs. Brandy Riley, at 454 Lebanon Rd. Laurel, MS 39443.

So, Pastor, Moderators, WMA ladies, church group leaders from all over the state, talk to your church about giving, or your association, or your group. **THANK YOU** in advance for giving and helping us achieve our financial goals while investing in the youth of our state!

NORTH & SOUTH STATE YOUTH RALLIES!

Just a reminder, I wanted to include the information about our State Rallies in this month's paper! I hope you will take the time to plan and bring your youth group to these events!!!

South Rally

Our South State rally will be held March 9, 2024, at 5:30 PM. Magnolia Baptist Church and Pastor Greg Medenwall has agreed to host! It is located at 148 King Rd, Hattiesburg, MS 39402. A meal will be provided and then the service follows the meal. I will be preaching at this event. A band from Midway First Baptist will lead in worship!

North State

Our North Rally will be held March 15, 2024, at 6:30 PM. Mt Pleasant Baptist Church and Pastor Tim Holsonback has agreed to host! It is located at 1822 Mt Pleasant Rd, Fulton, MS 38843. A meal will also be provided here, and the service follows the meal. I will be preaching at this rally also and Maverick Hendricks from Bethel Baptist will be leading worship. SEE YOU THERE!!!!!!

It is TIME to Register for CAMP!

As you know we have TWO camps in 2024! **Our Kids camp is at Waukaway Spring in Vossburg, MS June 10th -13th.** **Our Teen camp is at Lake Tiak O'Khata in Louisville, MS July 8th -11th.**

Go to our website for all the information. More will be added as we get closer to time, for now what you need to know is there. Of course, if you have questions, please contact me! Registration is open and ready for BOTH camps.

The deadline to register for **Kids Camp is May 15, 2024**. The cost is \$150 per camper. A 35% fee is due upon your registration for each camper. This is a requirement of Waukaway Springs, not our department. You can mail in your deposit or pay it online. Your group payment will be credited to your overall balance, of course. The camp is maxed out at 200 campers. Registration is on a first come first served basis. So, book now and book early!!!

The deadline to register for **TEEN CAMP is May 31, 2024**. The total cost is \$150 per camper. A \$25 registration for each camper is due upon registration. You can mail in your deposit or pay it online and your deposit will be credited to your overall balance.

You must register your group online! (bmamsyouth.org) There is NO MAIL IN registrations this year on either camp! Use the website to register. It is very user friendly! We do provide a downloadable sign-up sheet for you to print out and get your group to sign up at your church. That is just for your use in the local church, it is not for mailing in to register!

ON THE ROAD!

At the writing of this article, I have nine upcoming trips to churches and associations meetings in March and early April. Pray for safety on the road! I hope to see you at one of those meetings soon! I am trying to attend as many meetings as possible. I am a pastor here at Central in Southaven and I have a job in the transportation department. So, at times it is very difficult to attend some meetings. I really appreciate those local associations who allow me to call in during the meeting and connect in this way!

PRAY!

Please add the two camps that are taking place this summer to your church's prayer list! We want to see souls saved, lives changed, and young men surrendering to the ministry! Start now and join in on praying for God to do an incredible work this year!!!

Sofilthy's Attic

By Barbara White

Giving An Account!



Recently, I had house guests from the Northwest part of the country. They were awed by some of our natural surroundings. One of the things that awed them was the politeness of our people. They had never heard so many "Yes ma'ams and No ma'ams".

Then they began to notice the number of churches in every community. This caused more awe!

The suggestion was made that there might be a correlation between the two.

There is no way for us to know the value of the church's teachings and the influence it has on our country as a whole. But we do know that the record is being kept. Romans 14:12 "So then everyone of us shall give account of himself to God."



SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE

Serving Christ With A Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440 - 601.426.6346

SBC PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

President's Perspective

"Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the name of the LORD; praise him, O ye servants of the LORD." Psalm 135:1

After serving 30 years as a BMAA endorsed U.S. Army chaplain, I began to teach as an online adjunct professor for Southeastern Baptist College in January of 2016. In May of that same year, I was hired as the Academic Dean with Brother Danny Pitts as President. We were both appointed by the messengers of the BMA of Mississippi churches with the primary mission set by the Board of Trustees to save the college from closure without compromising our doctrinal statement. Brother Pitts and I conducted numerous assessments and developed strategic plans that might help the future of the college. Brother Pitts and I had the same vision and fervor for the future of the SBC. However, the Lord took Danny home in December of 2016 leaving us all in shock with questions about the next president. I did not desire the role as president for I knew the kind of stress it placed upon the previous ones, and that the president's primary duties were that of being the face of the college and fund raiser. I was little known locally at the time and was unskilled in fundraising activities. However, the Lord gave me a great deal of experience in the Army assuming new roles with little training and with the expectation of figuring it out along



Dr. Scott Carson
President

the way to make the new mission successful. So, after much prayer, I took a step of faith into an unknown, trusting the Lord to lead the way and I accepted the role as offered by the Board of Trustees. To my surprise, I was accepted by a unanimous vote by the messengers of the churches of the BMA of Mississippi.

It has been quite the ride over the last eight years and experience has proven that the hand of the Lord is upon Southeastern Baptist College. He presented opportunity after opportunity to stabilize and grow the college. Each one required a great deal of trusting the Lord to provide the funding, equipment, and the personnel to achieve them. But we stepped out on faith and the Lord provided every single time! Some things took longer than others, and on rare occasions I admit I got it wrong. But, again, with Army training I understood that a setback is nothing more than an opportunity to learn, reset, adjust, and move forward.

In my experience, the most challenging aspect of being president of SBC is that of working with people. The administrative side of things is very difficult but manageable. The spiritual growth in students is a tremendous blessing, however, dealing with those who are in opposition to leadership decisions, this is what takes a toll on the emotional welfare of both me and our staff. At times it is absolutely exhausting and very confusing that, as we see scores of souls saved and the Gospel ministry being blessed by the Lord throughout the student body, we have cynics who are not on board with our campus vision and ministry. The "rock throwing" by other believers, most who are within our BMA of Mississippi circle, and apparently do not want the gospel to advance in our student body,

throughout our community and beyond, is personally very disappointing. This is why I often have said publicly that your encouraging words of edification are greatly appreciated... more than you can ever know.

The major accomplishments the Lord has brought about on this campus in recent years are too exhaustive to list, but here are a few highlights:

1. SBC coming from near closure to once again a vibrant ministry of the BMA of Mississippi.
2. Infrastructure that fell into complete disrepair to be remodeled and filled with students.
3. The reset of the college gym that completely physically exhausted us in the labor required to make it happen.
4. The remodeling of the President's House to accommodate 14 students as a dorm.
5. The complete rebuilding of the interior of the café that now daily feeds the student body.
6. The re-establishment of sports that enabled the college to rejoin the family of Mississippi colleges and beyond.
7. The partnerships with Mississippi colleges and universities for the exchange of earned credits.
8. The expansion of degrees offered with more coming soon.
9. The staff team who are completely dedicated to the Lord and the advancement of SBC.
10. The highly qualified and committed faculty that the Lord has brought our way.

11. The wonderful spirit of Christian fellowship among our students, staff, and faculty.

12. The largest student body and largest graduating class in its 75-year history.

The Lord has been good to SBC. I want to thank each individual and every church that supports this vital ministry of the BMA of Mississippi. God has used you to advance your college and to revitalize its grand legacy.

With mixed feelings, but with assurance that I am in the Lord's will, I have announced my retirement to the Board of Trustees. In fact, I discussed my pending retirement with the Board Chairman back in April 2023, but he asked me to remain a little longer before announcing my intentions, and this I did. The exact date for retirement is not set, but I foresee it sometime over the next year. I have prayed about it and the Lord has reassured me of my decision. It is "mission accomplished" with the reset, growth, and financial stabilization of SBC. I am looking forward to passing the presidential leadership on to the next qualified person who will take the school to greater success as the Lord leads. Please keep the board members in prayer as they begin the arduous task of finding the next president of Southeastern Baptist College.

What will become of Linda and me? We are relocating to Huntsville, Alabama, in order to come along side my daughter and encourage our four grandchildren living there.

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

Equipping the Saints
Dr. Scott R. Carson

Presidential Search Committee

The SBC Board of Trustees has organized a Presidential Search Committee. If you know of a person/s interested, have them contact Brother Glen Pace, Chairman of the Board, at 601-520-5376 or mrpmsg@yahoo.com

Southeastern Gospel Fest

The annual SBC Gospel Fest is shortened to two nights. The concert is now Friday and Saturday nights, April 19-20, at Laurel First Baptist Church. Mark your calendars to attend this wonderful and uplifting worship event. This is our third year to promote this SBC scholarship fund-raising event through Southern Gospel music. Please refer to the updated Gospel Fest flyer adjacent to this article for each night's lineup of musicians.

April 19-20, 2024

First Baptist Church of Laurel, MS

\$25 / Nightly, Call 601-426-6346 or order online @ southeasternbaptist.edu

Free Tuition for BMAA Members

Big News! The SBC Board of Trustees has approved a new BMAA Legacy Scholarship that provides free, yes you heard that right, free tuition to members of BMAA churches! Although there are other standard fees and requirements, tuition is waived beginning the 2024 Fall Semester. Spread the word and sign up today! Remember, SBC is YOUR college! Help us make this college a continuing and growing success while giving God all the glory.

Available Scholarships for BMA of Mississippi Ministers

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

administered by the BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund. Our Financial Aid Officer has all the information you need to sign up for classes and financial aid.

VA Educational Benefits Accepted!

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

Annual National Day of Prayer Breakfast

The annual National Day of Prayer Breakfast will be held in the SBC gym. This year's FREE event begins at 7:30 a.m., Thursday, May 2, 2024. This will be the seventh year of hosting this national event for our local community. More information forthcoming.

Annual SBC Golf Scholarship Tournament

Mark your calendars! The Annual SBC Golf Scholarship Tournament is scheduled for May 23 at the Laurel Country Club with tee off at 8 a.m. \$500 per team or \$100 per person. Hole sponsorships available. See adjacent flyer for additional details.

Available to Fill Your Pulpit!

Thank you, Oakland Baptist Church of Vicksburg, for recently providing Dr. Carson an opportunity to preach the Word of God to your congregation! Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit for preaching, or to make a presentation about the work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College, or the BMAA Chaplaincy

Department. You can reach him at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu

Southeastern Baseball Team Having Success



Upcoming Men's Home Games

| | | |
|--------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mar 2 | Rust College | Boston Park 12 & 2 pm |
| Mar 8 | Arkansas Baptist | Boston Park 1 pm |
| Mar 9 | Arkansas Baptist | Boston Park 12 & 2 pm |
| Mar 12 | University of West AL | Boston Park 3 pm |
| Mar 19 | Alcorn State University | Boston Park 4 pm |

Southeastern Baptist College on the Move!



SBC Staff and Chairman of the



Provost Anderle Foster engages students with an impromptu discussion.



Student Hayden Fontana volunteers time to simulcast our games.



Ministerial student Tanner Watts brings the SBC chapel message.

SOUTHEASTERN GOSPEL FEST

PRESENTED BY Southeastern Baptist College

APRIL 19th & 20th, 2024

FRIDAY, APRIL 19TH

CONCERT STARTS AT 6 PM | DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM

BIBLETONES

JEFF & SHERI EASTER

JOSH & ASHLEY FRANKS

KAREN PECK & NEW RIVER

DOWN EAST BOYS

SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH

CONCERT STARTS AT 5 PM | DOORS OPEN AT 4 PM

BRIAN FREE & ASSURANCE

MICHAEL COMBS

GREATER VISION

INSPIRATIONS

MARK TRAMMELL QUARTET

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR | \$25 NIGHTLY

YOU CAN ALSO PURCHASE TICKETS ON THE WEBSITE

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
601-426-6346
WWW.SOUTHEASTERNBAPTIST.EDU

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE

GOLF

Tournament

4 MAN SCRAMBLE

May 23, 2024
Tee Time 8:00AM

PICK YOUR TEAM
Join the FUN

Entree includes:
Green Fees, Cart
Lunch on the Grounds
Awards for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place

LOCATION:
LAUREL COUNTRY CLUB
2011 HWY 84 WEST
Laurel, MS 39440

For more information :
Call 601-426-6346 or email
staylor@southeasternbaptist.edu

southeasternbaptist.edu



Kyle Roach attempts a basket while beating Bob Jones University on February 8



A good turnout for the BJU game.



Chargers post game prayer with BJU team.

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION MISSIONS OF MISSISSIPPI

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



Chris Yager

Salt Light Mission By Bro. Doyle Moore

We had a joint WMA and Brotherhood fellowship and like most Baptists, “When we meet, we eat.” The ladies brought different kinds of soups and fixin’s, then separated to have our inspiring devotionals led by a member of each group. We are looking forward to the next meeting.



Doyle Moore

Sisters Darlene Webb and Helen Rainey teach the children’s Sunday School at Salt Light. In addition to their study of God’s Word, they prepare gifts to pass out at a local nursing home for the patients. What a wonderful practical lesson expressing love for these children to learn.

Thank you all for your prayers and financial support for Salt Light Mission. May God bless you all.



Hispanic Missions By Bro. Eastuardo Marroquin

We have had a good start to the year in Hispanic missions with each field continuing to advance its goals. The Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ continues to be preached to people in the Hispanic community of Mississippi. We want to report that Hispanic missions in the state continue to strengthen as they have new visitors at worship meetings and people continue to be saved and discipled.

On February 11th, El Camino Church in the city of Laurel celebrated its 22nd anniversary, the congregation gathered to thank God for his blessings during these years of service and preaching the Word of God. They had a great worship service and had the participation of several people from the Hispanic Church in Hattiesburg and Canton.

My wife Yasmin and I thank God for the privilege that allowed us in 2002 to come to this city of Laurel and begin the work of planting this church and that we continue to serve with joy to this day. Psalm 126:3 Says: “The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad”. We are glad to see how God has blessed this God-loving church and its congregation and we also thank all those who have supported us in prayer and the BMA of



Mississippi during all these years.

We ask that you pray for us to continue serving in Hispanic ministry in Mississippi. May the Lord bless you!

continued
on next page

God is doing great things!

It is incredible to hear all that God is doing in our Association across the state. I have been blessed to hear of souls being saved, churches working together, renewed excitement for the mission of evangelism, and a sweet spirit being communicated. God is so good, and I am so excited to see all that He is going to continue to accomplish this year. Let’s praise Him for His wonderful works in our midst!

Calling All Preachers!

Whether you have been preaching for years or have just surrendered to preach or somewhere in between, the Acts 1:8 Boot Camp Pastors’ Retreat is geared to encourage and equip you for the High and Holy calling that Christ has called us to. It is at Campground Baptist Church in Gulfport. It is March 22nd and 23rd. The cost is love offering based, and it includes: overnight accommodations, all the meals, great teaching, fellowship, and fun. Men you don’t want to miss out! Please call the Missions Office or Campground to reserve a spot. Your reservation will help us to plan effectively.

A great need

The more that I have served in this position, the more that I am finding that one of our greatest needs is for more men (young and old) to surrender to the ministry. This is a nationwide epidemic, and one that is felt within our association here in Mississippi. We are experiencing a lack of men surrendering to the gospel ministry. I am not so sure that it is a lack of God calling; I believe that it is breakdown on our part. We need to pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send forth laborers. We need to preach on the call to the ministry. We need

to evidence the joy of serving the Lord and His Church. We need to train the next generation in service, and I believe the Lord will call.

Exposing teens, young adults, and our congregations to the call of ministry has gone by the wayside comparatively in our modern day. Bringing teen and college age guys to ministry events like the Pastors’ Retreat or doing summer internship, or even spending time in one-on-one discipleship will allow the Lord to stir the hearts of the next generation for ministry.

When they are stirred, we want to help come along side you and help you encourage that call upon their life. Our Timothy Ministry program is established to help these young men be exposed to ministry, as well as to give further and intense training in the ministry. We would love to partner with you and the young men that God is calling around you. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call me at the mission’s office for more details. Also, website details are coming soon at bmams.org.

RLF Update

God is continuing to bless the Revolving Loan Fund. Our interest rates are still at 5% for a 9 month lock; 4.5% for a 12 month lock; 4.25% for an 18 month lock; and 4% for a 24 month lock.

Our hope is to greatly grow this fund to help accomplish the vision of helping more churches, missions, and pastors with construction and conventional loans, and to begin the ability to help with insurance. We have big plans to minister to our churches, missions, and pastors. We look forward to investing in Eternity with you! For more information, please check out bmamsrlf.org website.

**ACTS 1:8
BOOT CAMP**

PASTORS' RETREAT

WHERE?
CAMPGROUND BAPTIST CHURCH
20599 MS-53
GULFPORT, MS
39503

WHEN?
FRIDAY - SATURDAY
MARCH 22 & 23

SPEAKERS:
SAM FREEMAN,
HAROLD FLOYD,
&
CHRIS YAGER

NO COST:
DONATIONS ARE
APPRECIATED

**ACTS 1:8
BOOT CAMP**

RESERVE YOUR PLACE!
REGISTER WITH THE
MISSIONS OFFICE OR
WITH CAMPGROUND
BAPTIST CHURCH
(601) 428-8616
(601) 745-3440

SCHEDULE:

FRIDAY:
• 6:30 PM - SUPPER
• 7:30 PM - SESSION 1
• 8:30 PM - BREAKOUT 1
• 9:15 PM - FELLOWSHIP &
COMPETITION

SATURDAY:
• 8:00 AM - BREAKFAST
• 9:00 AM - SESSION 2
• 10:00 AM - BREAKOUT 2
• 11:15 AM - LUNCH
• 12:45 PM - SESSION 3
• 1:45 PM - BREAKOUT 3
• 2:30 PM - PRAYER
• 3:15 PM - DISMISSAL
(FOOD PROVIDED)

SESSIONS:

SESSION 1:
- DOING THE WORK
BREAKOUT 1:
- YOUNG MEN & THE
MINISTRY
- LOVING BEFORE LEADING

SESSION 2:
- PASSING THE TORCH/
DISCIPLING YOUR
"TIMOTHY"

BREAKOUT 2:
- CONVERSATIONS ABOUT
THE CALL TO PREACH
- LEADING THROUGH
CONFLICT

SESSION 3:
- FINISHING WELL

BREAKOUT 3:
- FORUM: REACHING THE
NEXT GENERATION
(CHOOSE ONE OF THE TWO CLASSES
FOR BREAKOUT 1 & 2)

Mission Reports

From page 6

Refuge Baptist Mission By Bro. Josh Daniels

"Greetings churches and associations of the BMA of Mississippi. A few times throughout Genesis and other areas of scripture, we see God speak the phrase "be FRUITFUL and MULITPY". These were instructions given to creation, Adam, Noah, Jacob (Israel), and others. Now the context here is of the expansion of God's creation, His people and the growth of their influence and their numbers. The command was to fill the earth physically, but we can also see the spiritual connotations as well. As the God-established family of Adam & Eve obeyed this command, what about God's other establishment? His CHURCH?

Jesus left us a command. A commission to make disciples! That takes multiplication and that takes planting, cultivating, bearing, and harvesting fruit. FRUITFUL MULTIPLICATION! We have been blessed at Refuge to see God move in the hearts and lives of many people. Some are beginning their walk with Jesus and some mature believers are still growing to the next levels of making disciples themselves. We do not claim to have some secret success formula. We have taken the many tools offered to us by the BMA of Mississippi & BMAA and continue the journey of making disciples. The training that has been offered to me by men like Bro. Larry Geraldson, Bro. Jason Howard, Bro. Wesley Martin, Bro. Sidney Farmer, & Bro. Chris Yager, as well as some of our national workers like Bro. Larry Barker and Bro. John David Smith, has proven to be vital tools to pass on to our people at Refuge. We have far to go, but we have seen the benefits of training and a plan of discipleship already even at such an early stage of a church life. We have had 5 professions of faith with baptisms to follow soon. We are seeing people step up to serve, lead other ministries, lead lessons/devotions, pray aloud, counsel with others, and grow within the church. We pray that this will be the basis on which we continue to build on the foundation of Jesus in His church: HIS WORD! HIS WORK! HIS WORTHINESS!"

Decreasing For HIS Increase,
Bro. Josh Daniels

Jail Ministry By Bro. Paul Spurlin

On January 12, our ministry had quite an interesting night at the Jones County jail as I met with five prisoners and preached from Matthew 24:37-44 a message entitled "Descriptions of the Day Jesus Returns." Before the service began, one of them asked a question about the 144,000 mentioned in The Revelation, wanting to know if that means only 144,000 people will



JOSH DANIELS

go to Heaven. I explained the true meaning that then led them to ask other questions about end times, including asking about names written in the Book of Life and what someone must do to be condemned to Hell. I answered from John 3:18, that one does not need to do anything to be condemned to Hell because if you have not believed on Christ that you are condemned already because you have not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. All of this was a great segue into our discussion for the night since in the text for the sermon, Jesus was speaking in the context of His disciples asking Him about the end of the world.

After the preaching time, one of the prisoners asked me about some writings by Kenneth Copeland. I told him that I was going to be honest with him and that I thought he should stay away from those writings because I think that Copeland is a false teacher. The prisoner said that he would throw that book away. Another one asked about writings by Charles Stanley. I replied that as far as I know he was a godly, true teacher and that I would feel comfortable if he read Charles Stanley's teachings.

The night was really good. I also began collecting names and contact information from the prisoners so that I can try to contact these men once they are released to help them find their way into a church that teaches the Bible in truth so that they may continue to hear the gospel and grow in maturity in the Lord.

Living Hope Mission By Bro. Samuel Yager New Opportunities

In the last few weeks, Living Hope has been able to launch a new ministry for the college students and young adults in our community. Looking back, it is amazing to see how God has been preparing the way for this ministry for some time.

At the beginning of last year, we were able to gain connections into Meridian's Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Baptist Student Union. These connections led to opportunities on the college campus which led to some college students coming to Living Hope. One of these college students became the answer to my prayer, for I had been praying for someone that would help lead a college ministry. Together, we began planning a young adult ministry.

On February 2nd, this ministry named Crossway Young Adult Community officially began. We began with a worship and connection night at the church that will continue to take place on the first Friday of every month. Every other Friday, we meet at one of the local sports complex for an afternoon activity.

God is already growing this ministry to extend well beyond the walls of Living Hope. I ask for your prayers that God would draw the hearts of many youth in Meridian to Himself through this simple ministry. I invite any churches with college aged young adults to join us for our first Friday worship nights at 6 p.m. Thank you for your investment of prayer and support into all God is doing among us!



SAM YAGER

Canaan Land Mission By Bro. Scott Brocius

Greetings from Canaan Land Baptist Mission. It is our prayer that you all are doing well. God has been good and faithful to us as always. We are excited about what the Lord has done and our plans for the year 2024. We have an exciting vision and are looking to begin the process of organization, continued discipleship, as well as growth spiritually and physically.

As we begin the new year, our congregation, members, and I feel as though we are ready to organize and become an autonomous body. With that being said, we are working diligently on preparing bylaws and a church constitution. We have been very blessed as a mission and will be forever thankful for our mother church, sister churches, and the mission's department that have helped us along the way. Be in prayer for us as we endeavor this journey.

Next, I know I am preaching to the choir when I say this, but continued



SCOTT BROCIUOS

discipleship is a must. As I have traveled this journey for several years now, I have encountered many people that have been involved in very little or no discipleship; it breaks my heart and opens my eyes to the need. We are investing in as many people as possible, knowing that the return will be great. This seems to be a huge downfall in many of our churches today. I would encourage everyone to pray that the Lord sends people our way to pour into, just as someone has poured into you and me.

Lastly, one of the amazing benefits of discipleship is spiritual growth. This, I have found, benefits both the disciple and the disciple maker. I love to see how much the Lord has grown me throughout this journey, not just me but even our people. They are beginning to grow and pour into others; this my friend is how we fill the commission of our Lord. We have also seen a steady rise in growth numerically with new visitors and repeat visitors.

Once again, continue to remember us in prayer. God has provided and his provision has been beyond expected. We are looking forward to his continued blessings on your mission plant in Buckatunna.



www.rlfbmams.org



If you could invest your finances to get a solid immediate return while producing an incredible eternal return, would you?

For over forty years, our investors have enjoyed competitive interest rate returns while supplying the funds needed for the RLF to be able to provide loans to our missions, churches, pastors, and missionaries. These loans are used to purchase property, construct sanctuaries, build family life centers, pave parking lots, and fund smaller financial needs such as purchasing a church van or bus. It is through the RLF that many of our local BMA churches have been constructed.

TIERED INTEREST RATES ON DEPOSITS
(NON-LOCKED INTEREST RATES AT 2.50%)

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 5.00% 9 MONTH LOCK | 4.50% 12 MONTH LOCK | 4.25% 18 MONTH LOCK | 4.00% 24 MONTH LOCK |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|

IF YOU'RE PLANNING ON INVESTING, WOULD YOU CONSIDER INVESTING WITH US?
LET YOUR TALENTS WORK TOWARD AN ETERNAL RETURN! (MATTHEW 25:22-23)

Women's Missionary Auxiliary

WMAofMS20@GMAIL.COM
 PRESIDENT DAWN FREEMAN
 CDFREEMAN7327@GMAIL.COM
 601-325-7226



Dawn Freeman
 President

WMA National Project Information

Last year, Lydia Dunlap, went on a mission trip to South America. She wrote about the experience. In the article she talked about giving out shoeboxes, and being asked to teach some of the local kids how to jump rope. After showing them how to swing the rope for themselves, she teamed up with a young mom to swing a longer rope for them to take turns jumping. She went on in her article to describe her feelings on realizing, the young mom was actually her age and the differences in their lives because of the cultures they were raised in.

I enjoyed the article very much, but it sent my thoughts in a different direction. Thinking about the two girls swinging a rope for the kids to jump gave me a mental picture of how we can work with others too. Each person has a job but on different ends of the rope. You have to work together in a good rhythm to get the right results.

This is a great example of how the WMA can work together with the workers at the Jeevan Prakash School to provide for their students. We can't all go to India to help with this ministry or education of the children. But we can work on our end, doing what we can to keep the rope swinging. If we raise money for the much-needed renovations, there are plenty of laborers in India ready to do the renovations. We will be working together to provide the kids with a safe, comfortable place to learn.

The children are attending school now in a building that needs foundational work to be safer. There is no ventilation for the building that houses all grades. The temperatures in their area often exceed one hundred degrees. The school is unable to provide safe drinking water. Most of us would agree this alone is a dangerous combination. We would not want our own children in this situation.

Those that run the school have stepped out on faith and have begun renovations. Already the lack of adequate restrooms has been addressed. As money comes in they will continue to do any repairs they can without disrupting ongoing classes. The bulk of the construction would need to be done when the school year ends for them in April. Let us try to have our funds in and ready for them to draw from by then. Our hope is that more than enough will come in for the building repairs. The extra can be used to replace the well-worn furniture. New tables and chairs would be such a blessing and brighten up the school. Maybe these renovations and updates will attract more students to the school.

Surely a familiar verse in a situation like this is Ecclesiastes 4:9, "two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor." Over the years we have worked together to raise money for many projects. This year is no different, let us work together to bless the children and staff of Jeevan Prakash school with a safe and comfortable learning environment. We can do our part in swinging the rope on our end and have faith the Lord will provide someone to swing the other end.

Please send any contributions to the national WMA project, c/o Janet Widger, P.O. Box 23, Salem, MO 65560.

State WMA Project

Just The Crumbs

Send Funds to:
 Theresa Reus
 1264 Dean Nursery Rd
 Lucedale, MS 39451

Senior Adult Ministry

COMMISSION ON SENIOR ADULTS - 8 REAGAN LAKE ROAD, LAUREL, MS

A PrimeTime Challenge!

by Barbara White

One of the most enjoyable meetings that we have here in Mississippi is the PrimeTimers meeting. Most of you know this is a meeting for older folks and I seem to fit in that category.

We have been challenged the past few years with the theme: PrimeTimers With A Purpose, and last year it was PrimeTimers With A Passion, and I understand that this year's theme is PrimeTimers with a Project.

Well, I want to tell you about a little project that I've had for a few years.

A few years back, around Valentine's Day I was feeling kinda down because what fun is Valentines Day without a Valentine? So, with my self-pity

prodding me, I decided to invite the widows that I knew to my house for lunch. I arranged a few little fun games and cooked up some soup and corn bread to eat and they can and ate and we had a good time.

This has become an annual thing. We have come to call it the "Old Hens' Party" and the invitation says that you'll know you're at the right place if you drive up and hear a lot of cackling!

So out of my self-pity has come a fun time for others. I give God praise for directing my thoughts and actions. We sometimes miss out on blessings because we fail to act on the nudges that the Holy Spirit gives us.

I would encourage you to look around for a Project that will enrich your life and the lives of those around us!

National WMA 2024 Ladies' Conference

April 17, 2024

Chateau on the Lake, Branson, Missouri

Registration 8:30; Program 9 to 12

Breakout sessions: 1:00-1:45 and 2:00 – 2:45

Keynote Speaker - Judy Wallace

Looking Unto Jesus How do we reach the goal of living a life that exudes more of Jesus and less of me? It is by learning more about Him. Using Hebrews 12:1-2 as our text and the book of Hebrews as our context, Judy will lead us on a study of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who He is, why He is 'better than', and what that means for our lives today.

Breakout Sessions: You may choose two

More Like Jesus in Ministry

Yalanda Merrell is the Director of Audience Engagement and blog writer at Lifeword Ministries, a media organization of the BMA. She and her husband Shaun live in Cherokee Village, Arkansas where they work alongside their son Hunter to raise and train labrador and golden retrievers. Yalanda's Title: One King, One Mission, One You Synopsis: Join us in this unique ladies breakout session as we unwrap the beautiful mission of Christ and discover how we can serve more like Jesus in our ministries.

Pastor's and Missionaries' Wives Only

A panel of pastor's wives will lead this discussion about the joys and challenges that face the pastor's/missionaries' wives. We ask that only those who serve or have served in this capacity to attend this breakout session. It will be led by Mrs. Charlotte (Charles) Johnson, Mrs. Kelly (Ken) Williams, and Mrs. Haley (Jacob) Norman. These ladies have many years of experience in this place of service.

More like Jesus in Relationships

Sharon Carter is from McNeil, Arkansas and owns her own business as a consultant and lecturer for Optometry. For the last 26 years Sharon has traveled all over the U.S. and Canada with her company Eye Care Optometric Consulting educating and motivating doctors and their staff. One of the key tools in her success with her teams is the ability to find the right personality for the right position. In the ministry, that is even more important as it can mean the difference in someone choosing to be in the kingdom of God or not. This class explains the strengths and weaknesses of each personality and how God can best use those personalities to further His work.

More like Jesus through suffering

Judy Biggers lives in Springfield, AR, and has been married to her high school sweetheart, Gus, for 43 years. She says, "we have three beautiful daughters, two we hold here on earth, and one God holds in heaven." The Son of God is called "A man of sorrows, acquainted with grief." Even in grief we do not lose hope in God! This Hope in God's redemption and ultimate victory allows us to grieve well. This good grief is the action of FAITH on our road Home.

Hispanic Ladies Breakout Sessions

1st session - Relaciones personales con otros
 2nd session - El discipulado - Wendy Fontina de García

GMA Camp Draws Near

by Helen de Jesus

Is it almost March 15? Yes, each day we get closer and closer to March. This means we are getting closer to our GMA retreat!! We are all excited about seeing everyone we know and even more excited about seeing new faces. Please pray for everyone who is going to be part of this camp. Be praying for our guest speaker Bro. Noah Clark and his wife, Sarah. Pray for our officers and everyone who is behind this making it possible for many girls to be reached out. Pray for our upcoming officers that will be elected. And more importantly, pray for all

the girls that are coming so that they can grow closer to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Our project this year is the Bible Institute in Mexico. Our goal is to collect \$5,000 for this project. Donations to the project can still be mailed to Mrs. Nicki Downs at 111 Holeman Street Wiggins, MS 39577. We encourage girls in 4th- 12th grade to come to the retreat. You do not need a GMA program to attend the retreat however if you would like to know more information about the GMA program, visit sites.google.com/view/msgma and see the "About" tab. If anyone is interested in attending the retreat feel free to contact Mrs. Lakelan at 601-517-1476.



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Dwight Lindsey

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

The Holy God, Creator of the universe, and Savior to all who believe is the provider of our needs. This is seen throughout scripture in such passages as the 23rd Psalm, David identifies Him as our Shepherd in whom we shall not want. We are in the midst of praising Him for His provisions. He has cared for our children in seeing them through health scares. He has cared for Lindsay and I as we were stretched thin taking care of the kids while one was in the hospital. He has also cared for new children in the home who were absent from the care of their family. In all over the past month we have been through a lot that only He could handle and we are

praising Him for His faithful goodness.

At the beginning of February our normal busy-ness reached a new level. The kids were close to winding down basketball season and getting ready for baseball when we received a call to help a young lady in the Petal school district. Her family had hit some difficult times and were in desperate need of stable care. This new placement would require adding multiple hours of commuting to our schedule, but we felt like we could manage to help this young lady finish out her junior year of high school with minimal disruption. Our other kids were playing in a tournament in

Hattiesburg that week to wrap up their regular season and we saw this as a helpful timing as we could manage Hattiesburg and Petal fairly easily. Then after surviving two different rounds of the flu before and after the holidays one of our kids comes down with Covid. Thankfully it was mild but still carried some quarantine time. To wrap up the week I had Phillip at another tournament out of town when Blake took a spill off the court and into some chairs. We found out that this led to a lacerated spleen and the weekend in the hospital. After some frantic phone calls we were able to coordinate a Petal school pick up, kids to all their engagements, and Lindsay to the hospital to sit in ICU with Blake. We were praising God for family, family in the faith helping us get through the ordeal.

We made it through the weekend with a new outlook and a new kid. Doctors were able to repair the laceration on Blake's spleen with a minimally invasive procedure and without having to remove the spleen all together. He was pretty excited about that because he was way less excited about the possibility of surgery. Kids old and new didn't miss any

of their planned functions and we began a new week. Monday comes with a phone call of another young man needing our help who had come here from the country of Belize. Just like that we had two new kids and a newly repaired kid. Again, we were praising God for giving us the ability of helping a child in need, and for preparing us with the help of a trustee, Estuardo Marroquin, to help with his transition. This has put us in such a place of service and gratitude over the past few weeks.

All believers know we should praise God for His goodness and provision. As I've prayed and thanked God over these past few weeks, He has brought my attention to a passage that encourages my thankfulness beyond obedience and obligation. In Paul's second letter to the Corinthian church he addresses God's provision and what it does for us and others, "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. 10 Now he that ministereth

seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men." This passage tells us to be thankful for the abundant provisions of God. But, beyond the blessings granted to us by the provisions of God these blessings extend from us to all men so that they would praise God for His provisions. I see this when God blesses us to extend help to the children He sends our way as He blesses us to help them, He also blesses them through the abundance of blessings to us. All I can do is echo the words of Paul, "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."

EIM Vacation Bible School Literature Available

by Michael Goodwin, President/
Program Director
Evangelistic International
Ministries

Are you looking for gospel-centered Vacation Bible School literature for 2024? We believe we have something that you may be interested in. Evangelistic International Ministries has been conducting children's Bible schools around the world for the past 15 years. With a desire for something that was completely gospel centered, our volunteers began writing and developing our own curriculum. EIM has now

formatted all of our material so that it can be used here in the U.S. by local churches,

This summer, take your students on a Gospel Cruise. Your students will enjoy sailing aboard the S.S. Gospel Voyage. Each day, the S.S. Gospel Voyage will make a port of call at a very important place. On the first day, your port of call is at the Garden of Eden. In the Garden, you will discover God's creation and man's fall. The second day, your port of call will be at Bethlehem. At Bethlehem, you will discover God's plan to bring sinful man back into fellowship with Himself. The port of call on the third day will be at Galilee. It's at Galilee that you will hear Jesus teaching about who He is by looking at the seven "I AM" statements that He made. The last day's port of call will be at Gethsemane. It's here at the cross your student will see God's incredible love and grace. It's here that they will see the wrath of God poured out on His own Son.

In our VBS package, you will have everything necessary to conduct a 4-day VBS. The package will include a Teacher Guide and a Student guide for each age group. Also included are crafts, games, skits, and posters to go along with each day's lesson. All of this was done by EIM's volunteer staff of mothers who are passionate about God's word, the gospel, and children. Each lesson is intentional in pointing students to the fact that they are sinners in need of a Savior.

I have seen these lessons taught by seasoned teachers as well as those who are teaching for the first time. In each case, I have seen hundreds, if not thousands, of boys, girls, and yes, even adults come to faith in Jesus Christ. As a Missionary/Pastor, I have found no better curriculum as gospel focused and gospel centered.

All of this material will be available to download and print. We will have this available to view on our website at www.eimworldwide.org. If you would like more information about our VBS literature, please contact me, Mike Goodwin, at mgoodwin@eimworldwide.org or text me at 870-904-2091. All of the materials that we are offering are completely free for any church. We will be available to have all-weather banners made for purchase, if so desired. We would ask that you consider making a donation of any size to EIM after you have printed and used our material.

SCRIPTURE THOUGHTS BY CLEAVER

DR. TONY CLEAVER MAY BE CONTACTED AT JSTMCLEAVER@GMAIL.COM

You Might Be Over the Edge - Gone Too Far

Almost all churches want to be known as a friendly church. Churches use many devices to invite and welcome people to their services and membership. Churches of all denominations make use of greeters, welcome centers, visitors' cards, special seating, and many other processes to ensure people are welcome in a worship service.

Some churches today use different approaches. They are known as seeker-friendly churches. A few churches adopt the current computer language as being user-friendly churches. Churches are constantly in the process of being up to date to target the audience that they feel is the most likely to join their fellowship. I applaud all efforts to enlist people to be converted to Christ and committed to His church.

In the unlikely scenarios mentioned below, your church might have gone too far in its effort to be user and seeker friendly and in targeting audiences if some of these events made up from the left corner of my brain are occurring:

Your church might have gone too far and over the edge if:

Your pastor preaches his Easter sermon dressed in a large bunny rabbit suit.

You feature a plethora of tattoo kiosks on the way to the youth Sunday School area.

Your outdoor sunrise Easter service has the offering taken by

large men with black leather clothing riding on chopper motorcycles.

On Sunday evenings you have a choice of services to include but not limited to a battle of Reggae bands, Salsa choir rehearsal, and Hip-Hop ballroom dancing.

All your deacons come dressed as Santa's elves during the Christmas season.

You take only credit or debit card-no cash please-for the morning offering.

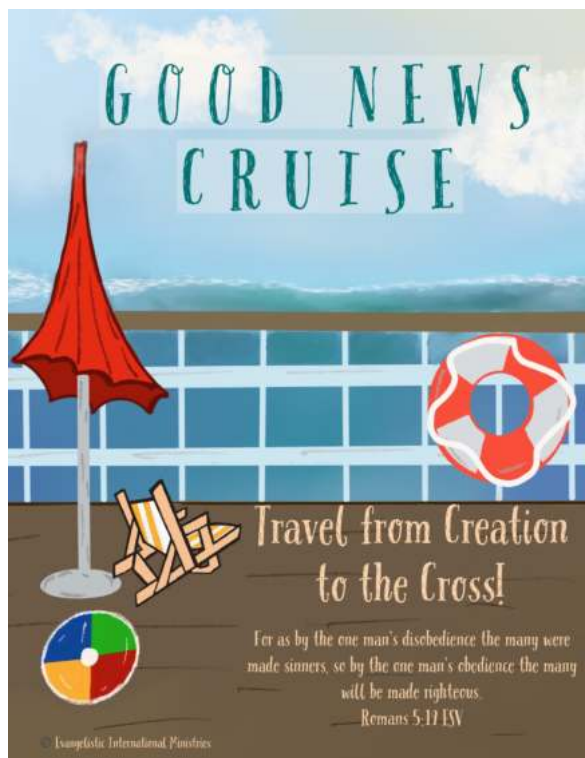
There are two smoking sections; one is in the balcony, the other on the left side, first four pews, next to the organ.

Your communion service features a choice of fat free, low carb, or regular communion wafers.

All of us who have come to Christ know it is important to work diligently to have a friendly church. All churches understand it is important to try with great effort to encourage our family, neighbors, community, and world to come to Christ. He is the hope of our world and that is expressed in the ministry of His Church. We must not be too over the top or off the wall in what we do to win men, women, boys, and girls to Christ. Sometimes what seems to be a good idea today might not really stand the test of time and the judgment of our Lord.



CLEAVER





In His Grip

By Carolyn Hagler

What a Diff'rence

Have you noticed how often time makes a diff'rence? Only a few mornings ago at the dawn of a new day, I was struck by the sight of a dreary-looking, sad, pitiful, and any other doom-and-gloom adjectives that describe something unpleasant.

That's what I saw as the light revealed my back yard. Not the best start for my day. But then only a few days later, I spotted a single cluster of paperwhite flowers. And then a few days later, I had several clumps of paperwhites. And then, I saw my first daffodil.

You may have already spotted a field of seemingly out-of-place, old-timey daffodils (often called Lent Lilies),



marking an old homestead where someone planted a few daffodils long ago. The home is gone, but the daffodils appear each year. Surely, the blossoms of the dogwoods and Easter lilies can't be far behind. The sudden appearance of flowers sprouting in a mostly dead landscape made me think what a difference time makes, sometimes even a day. Maybe it was the

fleeting memory of an old song sung by Dinah Washington, "What a Diff'rence a Day Makes," that brought it to mind. I think our Creator God gave us flowers like the daffodil to remind us of the Resurrection each spring in time for Easter. In the blinking of an eye, those flowers spring forth! I think of all those different daffodils and Easter lilies as Resurrection flowers.

Our Creator gave us many things to make us look back to His Resurrection but also forward to our change from the perishable to the imperishable. One of His object lessons, I believe, centers around butterflies showing us that time truly makes a difference.

I'm partial to the Monarch butterfly. From an egg to a caterpillar doesn't seem so striking to me; but if you're into caterpillars, they do seem pretty. But stripping its host plant (the milkweed) of all its leaves isn't so charming to most people, but it's a necessary evil. Then...the caterpillar changes its form; and from this cocoon, a Monarch butterfly emerges. Sometimes it takes something ugly to bring forth beauty.



Time makes a difference in the life of the butterfly, with its changes from a caterpillar into a cocoon and then into a beautiful Monarch. I may not understand how that happens; but it's a reminder of Jesus with His life on earth (the caterpillar), His death and burial (the cocoon), and His resurrection (the butterfly).

We often see, though, the reverse progression when time brings about changes that are sad to see. Time never stands still except the time when God listened to Joshua,



and "the sun stood still in the midst of heaven and hasted not to go down about a whole day" (Joshua 10:13).

Time has not been kind to my old high school. When our country school was consolidated and students were bused to the "big city" school in Fayette, it was a big change—a bigger building and more students. Even though we moved to another bigger building when Red Lick students joined us, the original building is the one I remember with its dignified look from the 1920s. But when the school was abandoned, time and the elements took their toll. First came neglect and then came deterioration. One day, it will be as if it never existed.



I'm thinking that the death of my old school is similar to the spiritual change in our country. It's hard to realize that the earthly ministry of Jesus lasted for only three short years. Even though He spoke clearly about his death and resurrection, no one expected Jesus to die much less to rise from the dead. He did, and that message has spread throughout the world.

The spiritual difference in our world didn't occur in a day; but time has made a difference, not in the message but in the people. With the Bible's warning us to depart from evil, to hold firmly to our faith, and to expect to see the departure of some from the faith in the latter days, we should have been prepared for the decline in sound doctrine.

Yet, when I read that about 70 percent of born-again Christians don't see Jesus as the only way, I'm shocked. Even with the possible errors made with research and statistics, the trend is away from what the Bible teaches. I'd have to say that all "Christians" who see Jesus, Buddha, and Muhammad as equal need to read their Bible, all of it. Greg Laurie calls them almost Christians.

We often blame Covid for the church's decline in membership and/or attendance. But that's the easy answer; maybe we've forgotten the admonishment to watch and be ready. Maybe we don't think Jesus is coming back. Maybe we've become like the scoffers of old, "Where is the promise of His coming?" (2 Peter 3:4).

Whether we understand or not the changes we're seeing in our churches and our nation, the cross is still a reminder of Jesus' suffering and death in our place. We can celebrate the saddest day in human history because we know what a

difference three days made. His mutilated body was placed in a borrowed tomb to rise again. What a difference! His tomb is the only empty one.

Because of His Word, we know that all who die in Christ will rise too. He was just the beginning. When I stand before the grave of a loved one, I don't see a final resting place; I see a temporary home for a body that will be like His in the home He has promised.

We don't have to wait, though. As believers, we're in the process of metamorphosis like the butterfly even now; Paul reminds us in Romans 12:2 that we undergo that spiritual metamorphosis when we are transformed by the renewing of our minds. We're being changed from the inside out.

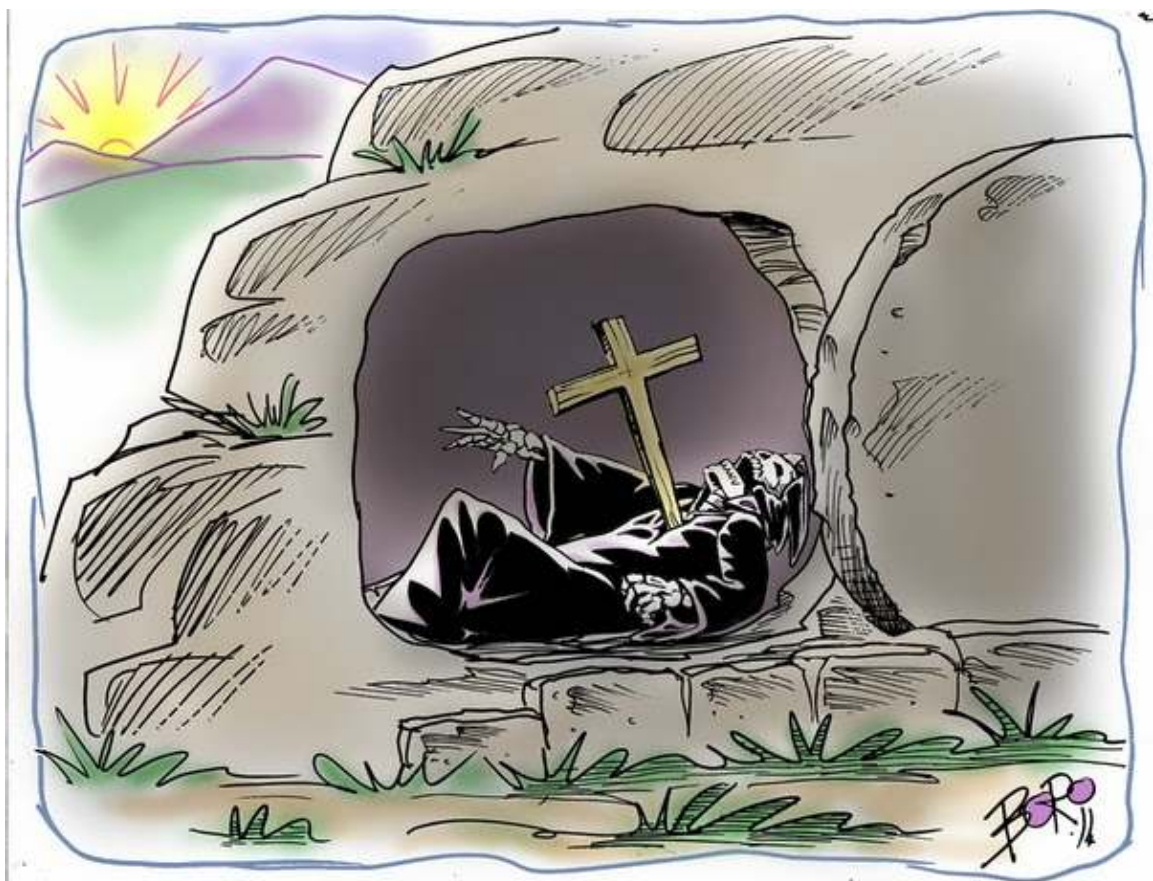
One thing I know: After every night comes the dawn and after every winter comes the spring. And just as sure, one day He's coming back. I want to look for Him every day, even in the ordinary. Time and events can make a difference; so, can we.



Each morning is a fresh start for each of us with opportunities to make a difference. We all have the same time--24 hours, 1440 minutes, 86,400 seconds. It doesn't carry over. An old Gaither song puts it this way: "We have this moment to hold in our hands and to touch as it slips through our fingers like sand. Yesterday's gone and tomorrow may never come, but we have this moment today" (We Have this Moment, Today, Gloria and Bill Gaither).

No matter how long a day may seem to us, it's like the twinkling of an eye from God's perspective. So, let's not waste it by waiting for tomorrow. Can we say, "Today, I will make a difference"? In His grip, we are being transformed. One day, we'll be like Him! It could be today.

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



MORAL ACTION

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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Devilish Abuse of Children

Matthew 19:13-15

"Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me; for of such is the kingdom of heaven. And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence."

There is much child abuse in our wicked society. Some of the things which are done to children defy description. We may sometimes be tempted to hide our faces from such things and pretend that they do not exist. Little children are at stake. They are defenseless before those who abuse them. God alone knows the extent of this madness of society, and He alone will judge it.

Not all that is called child abuse really is. Some would think it abusive to a child to have him in church regularly. Some would think that discipline is abuse. There are those who suppose that children have the constitutional right to do as they please, and such people try to incite children to rebel against their parents. "We must be careful not to be taken in by the dogooders who are guided by human philosophy..." (copied)



DR. JOHN ADAMS

Child Abused – How?

Many children are physically abused. A man was released from a California prison where he served time for setting his little boy afire. Another man was recently in court for shaking his

"girlfriend's" little girl to death because she would not stop crying. It is common to hear or read news reports about a child being beaten to death. Their bones are broken. They are burned with cigarettes. Justice cries out that those who do such things should be punished. The law of Moses required "life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe" (Exodus 21:23-25)

Children are abused by broken homes. The selfishness which causes one to abandon one's marriage vows often hurts the children involved more than anyone else. They are the innocent pawns in the "games which adults play." God's plan is for a man to leave his father and mother and to be joined to his wife. As God gives them children, they are to rear them in the shelter of a loving home.

Perhaps the most common practice of child abuse is neglect. The Bible teaches that a man is to provide for his own (I Timothy 5:8) and that women are to guide the home and care for the children (I Timothy 5:9, 10, 14). Little children are left alone, cold, and hungry, while their parents go to the bars. They are left with incompetent baby-sitters while their mothers "paint the town".

Children Abuse – By Whom?

King Manasseh "made his son pass through the fire" as a religious ritual (II Kings 21:6), and Judah did the same (Jeremiah 19:5). As wicked as that was, it is not uncommon to hear of some child's murder and mutilation in connection with suspected devil worship today.

Do you remember Jim Jones and the mass murder in which he was involved? Religious leaders can abuse children. Witness the sexual abuse of boys by renegade priests, preachers, coaches, and homosexuals/lesbians.

"Pharaoh ordered the death of newborn Jewish boys. Herod caused the death of the children around Bethlehem in an effort to kill Jesus. Hitler also had political reasons for trying to wipe out God's chosen people, the Jews. Thousands of children were sent to death". (copied)

Joseph was seventeen when his brothers sold him into slavery. Most child abuse is perpetrated by relatives. Children are beaten, battered, starved, neglected, sexually assaulted, burned, cursed, and exposed to all kinds of ungodliness.

God remembers those who abuse children. Pharaoh lost his first-born. Manasseh's and Herod's names have gone down in

infamy. Joseph's brothers had to face him. Judah went into captivity. Hitler died in the ruins of his country. Jesus said, "Whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:6).

Children Abused – Why?

Abuse is caused by **selfishness**. Some who bring children into the world do not want to be bothered with them. Children require time which parents could spend in the pursuit of pleasure, money which they could spend on themselves.

Abuse is caused by **sadism**. One who can get pleasure of any kind from hurting others is sadistic. Grown men take advantage of helpless children. Wicked people take pictures of all sorts of child abuse. Dads and Mothers beat their children, not to make them better, but to satisfy their rage.

"Abuse is caused by **sickness**. Sin is a sickness which can be cured by conversion to Christ. Some must be the result of mental illness, maybe even demon possession."

...there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches (2 Corinthians 11:28).

Pastoring God's people can be exhausting

A Facebook Post from Dr. Joe McKeever

It's the little things about pastoring that drive ministers to early graves.

Even when you do your best to serve God by ministering to His people, some are not going to give you the benefit of the doubt on anything nor forgive you for not living up to their impossible expectations.

You didn't do it their way, weren't there when they called, didn't jump at their bark. They don't like the way you comb your hair; your wife did not speak to them in the grocery; your children are just too perfect.

Such members are the exceptions, true. I say that to those who wonder why we overlook the 98 percent of healthy members and focus on the two percent who drive us batty. It's the two percent of drivers who are the crazies on the highways and ruin the experience for everyone else. It's the two percent of society who require us to maintain a standing police force to protect the citizenry. Rat poison, they say, is 98 percent corn meal. But that two percent will kill you.

I confess it as unworthy of a child of God that I remember these difficult moments with God's headstrong people more than the precious times with the

saints. Perhaps it's because the strained connections and harsh words feed into my own insecurities. Or maybe it's because there are so many more of the blessed times.

Even so, here are two instances from my pastoring journal that stand out...

First, the church member who is mad at you for no reason.

On returning from an out-of-town engagement, a staff member told me I needed to call Selma, that she was angry about something. Selma was married to a deacon, a good guy, and they were not high maintenance but generally supportive. I could not imagine her being angry with anyone. I called her immediately.

"My sister is in the hospital and none of you have come by to visit." That was her complaint.

I said, "Oh, but we have. I was there two days ago and I'll be there tomorrow. Someone from our staff has been there every day. We've not missed a day coming to see her and praying for her."

She was quiet, then said, "Well, I didn't know it."

I said, "Is that a problem?"

"We were all in the waiting room," she said, "and it does look like you could have come by to see us." I said, "Selma, I couldn't find the SICU waiting room. I looked all over for it."

Nothing would satisfy her. She was angry and hurt and no words of mine would erase the pain. Finally, I said, "Selma, I'm sorry. Will you forgive me?"

A purist would say I had nothing to apologize for, and they would be right. But she was hurting and if my words would ease the distress, I could certainly do that.

She muttered something about it being all right and ended the call.

A few years later, I did her husband's funeral and we continued to be friends for the rest of my ministry in that church.

The church member who simply cannot be reasoned with.

Annie was a young mother in the church, married to an insurance man. He and I were fairly close friends, I thought, but I was still trying to find the combination for befriending Annie.

We had held a fundraiser, "Crafts for Missions," the ladies in the congregation had called it. They brought hand-crafted items to the church for people to purchase, with all proceeds going to missions. I was proud of these hardworking members, but Annie was having a problem with it.

Her husband had phoned to say they were thinking of leaving the church over this. Knowing him, I figured she was the problem. And I was right.

Before calling her the next day, I researched the biblical subject of raising money for the Lord's work. I asked three questions:

–Is there a scriptural principle to support selling crafts for missions? (The principle that most fits here is "redeeming something given to the Lord." A firstborn son, for instance, could be redeemed for 5

shekels. Or two pigeons if the family was poor. And for first-born animals, etc.)

–Is there a scripture that prohibits what we are doing? (None that I could think of.)

–Are we detracting from our people tithing to the overall ministry of the church? (Absolutely not. Our people were giving far above average. So, this was not interfering with the tithe.)

So, I called Annie. And proceeded to share these three principles. At the end, I asked for her thoughts on the subject.

"Well, I am not a Bible scholar," she said. "I cannot argue scripture with you. But I know in my heart I'm right. And when I'm right nothing changes my mind."

When. I'm. Right. Nothing. Changes. My. Mind.

That's what she said.

According to my notes, the conversation went on, but got nowhere.

In the afternoon, her husband called, and I recounted the conversation. In so many words he told me how impossible it was to live with her. I felt only compassion for him.

That evening, I told my wife about this. She said, "Annie is beautiful. But you get past that real quick."

Indeed. In fact, I suspect that most of us are drawn to beautiful people in some way. But once we find their inner spirit to be hard and their attitude harsh, the outer beauty actually works against them. Cruella deVille, you will recall, was actually beautiful. In a harsh way.

That couple remained in the church until his job moved them away. I was not unhappy to see them leave.

And you wonder why pastors get gray.

Pray for your pastor. And if you can think of anything which might ease his burden, do it.



DR. JOE MCKEEVER

Preaching The Truth In Love

by Bro. Grover Laird

"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:" (Ephesians 4:15)

Most people are poor judges of good preaching. This also includes preachers. What excites some people may not impress God. Things like sincerity, humility, boldness, and with all assurance are very important in preaching. However, preaching the truth in love may be more important than either of these. The better preaching, of course, is all done in the power and blessings of the Holy Spirit.



Bro. Grover Laird

I. Consider The Importance Of Preaching The Truth

Some can see the importance of preaching in love, but fail to see the importance of preaching the truth. The Bible says, "...the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable... ." (James 3:17) I believe we can therefore say, "Good preaching is first the truth, then done in love.

Preaching the truth means preaching God's Word--"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." (John 17:17) It means preaching God's Word as it is. Though this is not easy, we who preach should never hesitate, or be ashamed, to preach God's Word as it is. Anything that is so valuable and so greatly loved, (Psalm 119:103; Proverbs 3:15) should never be shunned or changed by those who preach.

The Apostle Paul, who was surely among the greatest of preachers, practiced preaching God's Word as it is-- "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." (Acts 20:27) While this does involve reproofing and rebuking, the Bible commanded us to do it-- "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." (2 Timothy 4:2)

When addressing a congregation where many are worldly or backslidden, there is a strong temptation to skip over certain parts and not preach "all the counsel of God." Maybe it was because of this temptation that the Lord once instructed Jeremiah to speak "all the words that I command thee to speak unto them," and then said, "diminish not a word:" (Jeremiah 26:2) All who preach should never forget that it is against the law to add to or take from God's Word--"Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you." (Deuteronomy 4:2)

II. Consider The Importance Of Preaching In Love

While all preaching should be done in love, sometimes it is not. A preacher should always feel convicted when he fails to preach in love, and he probably does.

There is a side, however, that some do not understand. When the Lord places a man as the Shepherd of a church, he experiences feelings that no one else experiences. It is something like the feeling of parents who rejoice when their children succeed and weep when they fail. This is why preachers can be overly excited and deeply hurt. And please do not criticize them if the hurt sometimes shows. You see, the stronger the love, the deeper the hurt. But still, the preaching of truth should always come from a heart of love and compassion.

But we must not forget that preaching the truth in love does not mean that we leave off part of the truth. It rather means that we preach the truth where it will be appreciated, and accepted, and do the most good.

When the truth is preached in love, sermons are not preached with the thought of making them impressive. Sermons are preached with a prayer that sinners will be saved and Christians will grow. In preaching the truth in love, we cease preaching to impress, and start preaching to help. We cease thinking in turns of what will help us, and begin to think in turns of what will help others.

To preach the whole truth and "diminish not a word," is not always easy for the preacher to do. To preach it out of a heart of love may not come natural at times. Yet by visiting

Master Builders Hold Retreat

The Master's Builders gathered at Daniel Springs Baptist Camp on January 23-26th for our annual Retreat. It was a wonderful time for fellowship, food, fun, and relaxation for all of us. We had 29 Builders that were able to attend this year. Because of extreme cold and dangerous driving conditions the week before, the date was moved from the 16th to the 23rd which caused several couples to miss out on our time together. They were missed very much by all. We did have two first time "retreaters", Billy and Dawanna Keys, from DeValls Bluff, Arkansas. This sweet couple joined our group this past year and were formerly working in the Nail Benders Ministry.



While at retreat, we had our annual Business Meeting and learned of the possible opportunities to serve that we have coming up this year. These will be updated on our Facebook page as we prepare to work. The Lord has blessed us with a full calendar for 2024 with several new buildings to build, as well as additions and repairs to others.

A special thank you to each of you that pray for this ministry. Please come and join us if we are in your area. Our first job will be March 4-15th at Stoneridge Baptist Camp in Smithville, Arkansas. We would love to have you come to help, or just pop in to visit and see what this ministry is about!

A big "Thank you" to Jason Prewitt, Camp Director at Daniel Springs for hosting our group. We ask you to pray for his camp, and for our group, as we strive to serve the Lord and further His Kingdom. Please pray for workers to come help with this ministry! Come join our Family! The blessings are abundant!

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.

Follow us on Facebook and see where we are and what we're doing. Like us at "The Master's Builders" (arbor logo).

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God's Throne of Grace daily, one can find the courage and love that is needed to preach the truth in love. And when it is done, the preacher will enjoy it more, others will enjoy it more, and God will be glorified. Then all will agree that preaching the truth in love is always "good preaching."

ACTS 1:8 BOOT CAMP

PASTORS' RETREAT

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| WHERE? CAMPGROUND BAPTIST CHURCH 20577 MS-53 GULFPORT, MS 39503 | WHEN? FRIDAY- SATURDAY MARCH 22 & 23 | SPEAKERS: SAM FREEMAN, HAROLD FLOYD, & CHRIS YAGER |
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| SCHEDULE: | SESSIONS: |
| FRIDAY: • 6:30 PM- SUPPER • 7:30 PM- SESSION 1 • 8:30 PM- BREAKOUT 1 • 9:15 PM- FELLOWSHIP & COMPETITION | SESSION 1: - DOING THE WORK BREAKOUT 1: - YOUNG MEN & THE MINISTRY - LOVING BEFORE LEADING |
| SATURDAY: • 8:00 AM- BREAKFAST • 9:00 AM- SESSION 2 • 10:00 AM- BREAKOUT 2 • 11:15 AM- LUNCH • 12:45 PM- SESSION 3 • 1:45 PM- BREAKOUT 3 • 2:30 PM- PRAYER • 3:15 PM- DISMISSAL (FOOD PROVIDED) | SESSION 2: - PASSING THE TORCH/ DISCIPLING YOUR "TIMOTHY" BREAKOUT 2: - CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE CALL TO PREACH - LEADING THROUGH CONFLICT SESSION 3: - FINISHING WELL BREAKOUT 3: - FORUM: REACHING THE NEXT GENERATION (CHOOSE ONE OF THE TWO CLASSES FOR BREAKOUT 1 & 2) |

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