

# Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

## Kenneth Flynt passes away

Rev. Kenneth W. Flynt born August 16, 1931 in Laurel, MS, passed from this life on April 26, 2022 at the age of 90.

Services were held at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi, on Thursday, April 28, 2022. Rev. Danny Stevens, a former coworker and close friend conducted the service.



Bro. Kenneth Flynt

Bro. Flynt was a Korean War veteran, serving in the United States Army 7th Infantry Division from 1951 through 1954. He pastored churches in Texas and Mississippi for over 60 years, and served on many different levels in the

BMA of Mississippi. Most recently he held the position of Director of the Commission on Senior Adults. He resigned from that position one year ago.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Elton and Lena Flynt, Sr. and his wife, Hanieth Jefcoat Flynt.

Those left to cherish his memory are his children, Rev. Scott Flynt and wife, Michelle of Soso, Roger Flynt and wife, Sharon of Picayune, and Krystal Smiley and husband, Scott of Soso; grandchildren, Zachary Flynt and wife, Elise, Savannah Hill and husband, Traice, Isabella Guthrie and husband, Keagan, Lauren Flynt, Peyton Flynt, Jed Flynt, Jordan Flynt, Carlie Flynt, and Ellton Flynt; and great grandchildren, Rhyder Hill, Maddox Scott Flynt, and Ian Britton Flynt.

Bro. Kenneth Flynt was a Christian gentleman, a faithful pastor, husband, father and grandfather. He was a faithful student of God's word. This editor visited him in his home on several occasions and more often than not, he was found in his office faithfully studying his Bible. Kenneth Flynt will be remembered for his love for God, family, the church, and his faithful service.

## John Miller dies

Services were held at April 5, 2022, at Corinth Missionary Baptist Church in Runnelstown for Bro. John Wesley Miller, 85, of Petal, Mississippi. Bro. Miller passed away on March 31, 2022.

John Wesley Miller of Petal, Mississippi, was born on January 15, 1937, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and was the third of four children born to William

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## A Gracious Welcome to Missouri

*'Preach The Word' sets the tone for the 2022 National BMA of America Meeting*

by the Editor

As the messengers of the churches of the BMA of America gathered in Springfield, Missouri, we were welcomed by native son and former Attorney General of the United States John Ashcroft. Ashcroft, also a former Missouri governor and U.S. Senator, was gracious in his comments and his welcome also served as a good mini sermon to start our meeting.



John Ashcroft

The theme for the 2022 meeting was Preach the Word and it was preached well and often during the week. President Clif Johnson, pastor of Garrett Memorial Church, Hope, Arkansas, opened the meeting with his message on Monday evening. He encouraged the preaching of the Word and encouraged all preachers present to do just that. He called for the 'older' preachers to step into the aisles and to be recognized and then asked the younger preachers to join them. There was a time of prayer with each group praying for the ministry of the other group. He called the older ministers our Pauls and the younger ones our Timothys.

When business resumed on Tuesday officers elected for the 2022-23 year are as follows: President Clif Johnson of

Arkansas, 1st Vice-president Charles Johnson of Texas, 2nd Vice-president Gary Longstaff of Missouri, and clerks Greg Medenwald, Jerome Cooper, and Randy Shepherd.

Six new churches petitioned into the association. They are Immanuel Baptist Church of Littleton, Massachusetts; StonePoint Church, Cummings, Georgia; Connection Point Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Arkansas; Midway Baptist Church, Batesville, Mississippi; Cain Baptist Church, Van Buren, Arkansas; and Redeemer's Love Church, Houston, Texas.

Reports were given throughout the meeting by each department and commission. Each director was reelected and all reports were approved. There was no printed Recommendations Booklet this year, but each report and the recommendations are available online at <https://msbaptistarchive.weebly.com/2022-bmaa-recommendations.html>.

A new director was elected to serve the Baptist Publishing House. Dr. Charley Holmes, president of BMA Seminary has been serving on an interim basis. Jordan Tew, who has been the assistant, was elected to head this department. He told of a new kids publication in the works and that a BMA Kids coloring book is available online at Baptist Publishing House.

Moral Action Director John Adams reported early due to the need to travel home for the funeral of his mother-in-

law. He promoted the national day of prayer and the offering for MAC on either June 26 or July 3, 2022.



Bro. Richard Smith brought annual message

Daniels Springs Campground Director Jason Pruitt reported and shared plans for the 2022 Summer camp season. Dr. Steve Crawley reported on both Ministers Resource Services and the BMA Foundation. After reports on each he stated that a feasibility

study will be undertaken to consider the possibility of combining both of these ministries due to their similarities of operation. The object would be to better serve the association and to lower operating costs.

Lifeworld Director Donny Parrish spoke concerning the world-wide ministry of Lifeworld and the opportunities that still exist for expanding the ministry's outreach.

Dr. Holmes reported on the ongoing ministry of the Seminary and the world-wide reach of this ministry.

The Coordinating Council report gave direction and suggestions on looking at

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BMA Annual meeting closing with missionary commissioning service

# Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown  
Editor

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

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## Correcting the Record

by the Editor

In the April edition of the BMA of Mississippi Missions Department MM3 (emailed) newsletter Director Geraldson makes a statement in his personal comments that deserves a response from this editor.

In paragraph 3 of his personal remarks he states the following, "It is our desire to keep you informed with as much information about our missions work as we possibly can. Though we continue to make regular submissions to the Mississippi Baptist, we have noticed that not all of our submissions are being included."

I wish to clarify the situation surrounding this statement. In a meeting on September 9, 2021, Director Geraldson stated to me that he would no longer submit articles for publication to the Mississippi Baptist. He was very clear with that statement. His reason was not clearly stated, but it was made clear to me that it was a personal decision of his that had nothing to do with either the Publications Department or the Missions Department.

He kept his word and has not submitted a regular article since that time. Articles submitted to this publication are received via email from our various commissions and departments. They include their text and any photographs or graphic material they wish to print. This method has worked very well for a number of years and is our official policy. Every other department and commission follows this policy and the current missions director also followed the same policy for the 10 years he has served in that office.

In the January 15, 2022 and February 15, 2022 issues of the Mississippi Baptist we published reports from the missions (MM3) newsletter at the request of the director. Each of these reports were about 2 months old at the time of our printing and had been in circulation via email. When questioned if he wanted to print the older reports the director informed me that he did. We printed them.

The last request we received to print the MM3 newsletter content was on March 11, 2022, and to print the January MM3 content in our March 15th issue. This content is sent by email and each report and photo had to be copied individually and pasted into another document that would be used to include it in the Mississippi Baptist. This creates a great deal of extra work due to the manner in which the director was sending the reports. I replied to the March 11 request that I would need for the director to send his content as he had in the past and as each other department and commission does. I received no response to that request.

Let me close with this statement, "I have never refused to print any content from the Missions Department. I simply need it to be submitted in the proper manner."

Our purpose is to disseminate information about the work of the BMA of Mississippi to the churches we serve. We agree with Director Geraldson that our desire is to keep our readers informed. We encourage cooperation in getting that job accomplished.

**Note:** After this article was written we did receive a submission from the Missions Department generally in the manner we require. It seems to be word for word from their recent email report. The director still states that we do not print all he has submitted. This is just not the case.

## John Miller

from page 1

and Mattie Miller of the Dixie Community. From 1971 until 1987 he preached the word of God in the Methodist Protestant Church. In 1987 he moved to the Missionary Baptist Church, where he preached until 2021.



He was preceded in Bro. John Miller

death by his parents, William and Mattie Miller; one brother, Frank "Jiggs" Miller and two sisters, Mildred Miller and Shirley Murry.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Ina Fay Sellers Miller of Petal; three sons, Michael Miller (Barbara) of Petal, William Miller of Petal, and Charlie Miller of Natchez; three daughters, Beverly Whittington (Donald Gene) of Liberty; Sherri Dye of Petal and Neda Brewton (Mark) of Mobile, Alabama; fifteen grandchildren; twenty great-grandchildren; three nieces and two nephews.

## Letter To The Editor

Editor's Note: The following letter to the editor was mailed to each church of the BMA of Mississippi in April. It is being published at the request of Campground Baptist Church as a letter to the editor.

### Local Church Questions Missions Department Action

April 3, 2022

Greetings to our sister churches in the mighty name of Jesus. We hope this letter finds you busy in the service of the Lord, and with the Lord's blessings upon your congregation.

Our church has chosen to write this letter to our sister churches as we are concerned about a situation that we feel will need to be addressed at our next bi-annual state association meeting in May. This situation is the recommendation by the BMA of MS State Missionary Committee for the election of Bro. Jason Goodwin as a BMA of MS State Missionary, and his desire to plant a church in the Jones County, MS area.

It is our hope that through this letter

we might be able to share with you five reasons why our church is questioning this decision by the BMA of MS Missionary Committee.

1. In Article 5 "Missionaries" under Section 4 of the by-laws of the BMA of MS Missions Department it states the following: "Missionaries endorsed must present to the Director of Missions a recommendation from the church where they hold membership, and the last church pastored. In the event these cannot be obtained, missionary status will be delayed until the next meeting for associational action." We have interpreted this statement to mean that a potential state missionary MUST provide BOTH a letter of recommendation from the church where he holds membership, AND a letter of recommendation from the church he last pastored. If he cannot provide both of these items, his status as a state missionary MUST be DELAYED until the next meeting of the state association where the body of messengers from our churches can speak to this matter.

see Letter on page 12

## The Cancel Culture Virus

I recently watched a political commentary where the discussion centered on the premise that some in the Republican Party were calling for the censuring on social media of some in their own party with whom they differ on certain issues and policies.

We are very aware of the progressive and liberal factions in our country who indeed are guilty of "cancelling" those with whom they differ. Our society has become so fractured that we actually can not tolerate those with differing opinions and viewpoints. The option the opposition chooses seems to be to 'cancel' them.

Social media is a good and bad tool at the same time. Bad due to its ability to be used as a weapon. Good for its ability to quickly disseminate news and ideas to those interested. Millions of us are thus on social media. Hopefully to be used for the good mentioned above.

Churches use social media. Groups use social media. Families and friends use it to a great benefit. My wife's family has its own Facebook page and it has proven to be a valuable tool of communicating.

We should never get to the point where we seemingly take vengeance out on those with whom we disagree by cancelling them and denying them the use of tools to communicate quickly with a large number of individuals who depend on the free flow of information. It seems counter productive to have a tool for communicating to a specific group for a specific purpose and then denying access to someone who uses it for the purpose it was supposedly intended.

Have you ever been cancelled? When we see this in our society and in the political realm we are outraged and concerned. The political use is obvious - stop the opposing side from getting out their view on certain issues. The personal use is confusing. We rightly question the ability of one group to suppress the right of the other group's freedom of speech.

God's people should have enough integrity to treat others in the manner that they wish to be treated. I think Jesus said something about that...

## 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](mailto:cmhagler@bellsouth.net)



# Silent Storytellers

Looking at my picture collections that represent decades of family experiences reminds me of the lives and memories found in these silent storytellers. They tell me of joyful times and sorrowful times.



Scripture tells us to “Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep” Romans 12:15. In other words, we need to have empathy, the capacity to place oneself in another’s position.

I’ve never been able to see clearly through a microscope or binoculars; by the time I can adjust them correctly, the image I want to see is usually gone. That’s the feeling I have when I look at the more than 1 million men and women who died while serving our country—out of focus and overwhelmed.

But recently several silent storytellers brought my view of the bravery of our men and women, but also their families into better focus. Pvt. Andrew Ladner came home recently to Mississippi for burial after nearly 80 years. After World War II ended, his body was not found; and he was declared nonrecoverable in 1950. I can’t imagine the word nonrecoverable applied to one I love. When an unknown soldier was discovered in 2016, modern technology identified him as Pvt. Ladner. He is no longer missing; he was found.

A memorial served as a silent storyteller for me a few weeks ago when I made a trip back to Jefferson County to place flowers on loved ones’ graves. When I arrived at the town of Union Church, I stopped and read the memorial dedicated to the memory of the young men who attended Jefferson County Agricultural High School and gave their lives for their country. Only 14 names were there, but I recognized most of the family names, bringing sacrifice for country a little more into focus. Most of them were in their early 20s, and one was not returned home, but was buried in France.

Another young soldier helped bring war and loss into focus for me. Years ago, JB and I found some of his family graves in the Ellisville Cemetery, where tombstones stand as silent storytellers of his family. The Bustins have been a family of carpenters; JB never was a carpenter, but he had a carpenter’s heart. He could design projects expertly and even learned to make bookshelves for our bookstore by working with his cousin Paul, who was a skilled carpenter.

But the grave that I remember from

those many years ago is his uncle’s grave. The simple words of his tombstone read “Sgt. Nelson Hannibal Bustin, Jr., March 8, 1922 - August 11, 1944, Co. G 120 Inf. 30 Div.”

Back then I didn’t know very much about Junior, as the family called him. His tombstone told me that he died near the end of World War II. But recently those words reminded me that his story was hidden beneath those words.

My mother-in-law, Junior’s sister Eula, was something of a pack rat. Because of her, that tombstone started telling a story. I found Junior’s 1st grade report card and learned that he was absent a lot that year—30 days—and that he did best in reading and not as well in writing, language, music, numbers, and drawing. I can identify with him.

Memorial Day reminds us of the sacrifice that many made to purchase and keep our freedom in this country—the soldiers and their families.

Apparently, he liked his motorcycle. He seemed to be a dashing young man. Letters during the war added to his story.

A letter he wrote to his sister somewhere in England and dated March 2, 1944, said, “I’m getting along fine now. But we have a job to do. So until it is over I will just wish, hope, and pray that it won’t be long until we can all be together. Love to all, Junior.”

Just as my mother would have asked me lots of questions, his mother wanted to know more about him. In a letter written on August 16, she admonished him to be very careful and take good care of himself.

She continued, “You never tell me anything. Seems you could tell me the name of some town you have been in and something of the French people you have seen. Seems you could tell whether you were in combat.”

In the August 16 letter from his sister, she mentioned how excited everyone was that he was a sergeant. She asked when he became a sergeant and when he ar-

rived in France. I don’t know when the family was notified, but Junior had already died on August 11, a few days before that letter. Many of the family’s letters were returned and marked, “Deceased.”

That same sister wrote Junior on August 29, 1944, saying that they had received a message on August 26 saying he was wounded. “We trust you are improving fast. I hope if you are not able to write that a nurse or someone near you can write us a letter about you. Everyone is



still working to win the war. We are praying for you and hope we can hear from you again and that you are getting well fast. We send our love and prayers.”

Another letter from his sister had a few lines from his mother: “Dear Son: Just a line here. Hope you feel better and can

soon write me a letter. Hurry and get well and remember Mother loves you and needs you.”

Although Junior died in August, services were not held for him until May 20, 1945, in Hattiesburg. Just one week prior, his mother’s Mother’s Day had to have been one of her saddest days. She faced her loss without her husband who died in 1940.

Yet her faith was shown in the service for her 22-year-old son. Because of my mother-in-law’s keeping of many mementoes, I know that his program included the processional, “Onward Christian Soldiers,” two hymns by the congregation, “My Country ‘Tis of Thee” and “Faith of Our Fathers” followed by prayer by Troy Sumrall, special music, and the message by Garland McInnis. The flag was presented by members of the American Legion and followed by Taps. He’s buried with his mother and father and other family members.

The sorrow felt by his mother, siblings, and other kin made my heart connect these many years later and see what many families have experienced over the years. Reading his words and his family’s words brought war and loss into sharp focus for me.

Memorial Day reminds us of the sacrifice that many made to purchase and keep our freedom in this country—the



soldiers and their families. I hope Junior’s story will remind us to thank God for the bravery of those who died, pray for all the families who have suffered loss, and show our gratitude for the ones who served and serve today. May Junior’s story be an example for us to be strong and responsible in our lives as American citizens and as God’s soldiers of the cross.

Junior’s story is history. He represents for me all of those who lost their lives for freedom. I honor him today and all our military who gave their all for our country. May we never forget. Happy Memorial Day!

The Bible tells us His story, though. It’s the one that echoes down through the ages. His hand has been on our country since it began. Our true freedom was established at Calvary. May God continue to bless the USA.

## Baptist Publishing House Summer Quarter

Is God faithful despite my sin? That’s a question we would all love to have answered, as none of us are sinless. The truth is that God is faithful to His people, even when they sin against Him. What a wonderful truth!

This summer’s quarter of the Baptist Expositor is titled “Blessed Deceivers” and will be an in-depth study of Genesis 24-36.

This unit is part three of four in our series on Genesis. It emphasizes a great deal of deception by: Isaac, Jacob, Laban, Rachel, Simeon, and Levi. Despite all their acts of deception; however, we particularly see Isaac and Jacob’s faith progressively increasing and God remaining faithful to His covenant promises.

Through this study, you will see Isaac and Jacob’s increasing faith and understand that God remains faithful to His covenant promises regardless of man’s deception and failures.

Dr. Philip Attebery, Bro. Ryan Burchett, Dr. David Hellwig, and Bro. Jordan Tew wrote this study.

You may order it at [baptistpublishinghouse.com](http://baptistpublishinghouse.com) and by calling 800-333-1442

The summer quarter begins Sunday, June 5th.



# National Meeting

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more efficient ways of operation. Details of their suggestions may be found in the recommendations booklet online.

## 2023 Meeting

The cost of meeting in commercial locations such as convention halls is increasing and stretching the budget of the Association's meeting fund. The 2023 meeting is set for Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas. Just as 2021 when we met at Farley Street Church in Waxahachie, Texas, Antioch Church should be more than adequate for our meeting. This trend is good in the sense that it allows the Association to meet with a much lower financial burden.



President Clif Johnson moderating

Buddy Johnson was elected to bring the 2023 annual message with Dr. Gary O'Neal as the alternate.

## Closing Service

The closing service historically has been the missionary commissioning service. New missionaries were recognized along with a host of current missionaries from around the world as well as a number of others serving in various missions related positions.



Alumni attending the annual Seminary Dinner

Director Dr. John David Smith shared his travels to mission fields around the world and related the baptisms, additions, and blessings being seen by our missionaries and their mission efforts. New missionaries were



Pauls & Timothys praying for each other

presented by their sending churches and pastors. Smith emphasized that 'missions' is not a line item in the local church budget, but is the global mission of each local church.

With the invasion in Ukraine and the relief efforts by many of our churches, Smith emphasized that every dollar given for Ukraine relief is going to the field and



New church messengers welcomed helping our churches in eastern Europe minister to those most effected by the war.

The closing prayer of the Association

## A number of support ministries of the Association displaying their mission



Richard Smith, lead pastor of Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie was presented with the Kellar Award for 2022 and recognized at the BMA Seminary Dinner on Tuesday evening.

and the Missionary Commissioning Service was led by long time missionary Bro. Buddy Johnson.

The meeting was well attended compared to some more recent meetings. The final Enrollment Committee report shows that 178 churches were represented with 357 messengers and 167 visitors recorded. \$6,575.00 was received for the Associational Fund.

A number of photos appear in this issue to give our readers a sense of the atmosphere and operation of the national meeting. Great fellowship was seen and enjoyed within a positive and encouraging attitude displayed.



2023 Annual BMA of America Meeting  
 Antioch Baptist Church  
 Conway, Arkansas  
 April 2023



# MINISTERING TO YOUNG PEOPLE

by Anders Lee

## THAT KID!!!

What does success look like in youth ministry? In my last article I shared with you that “numbers don’t equal success.” In this article I want to give you some encouragement about the teens that you would love to choke to DEATH!

In an “ideal” youth setting, when all of your kids show up, they are from the best families. They are well behaved, A & B students, wearing really nice clothes. You know, the kids that wear the latest fashions so you can attract other students like them! They were raised in church and they know how things should be in the youth group. You can take them on trips and not worry about them getting arrested! I mean, the church is filled with perfect kids! That’s how my youth group always was, perfect BMA kids, the kind every student pastor at SOAR envies! Their parents have all kinds of money, so a charter rental to Dallas for these kids is totally feasible! HA!



Anders Lee

Right?

Surely you sense the sarcasm. My youth group never was perfect. You should sit down and listen to some of the stories my wife and I have. It never fails, we all have “good kids” but most of the time we have “THAT KID!” If you haven’t had one yet, YOU WILL!

It’s the kid that cuts up during worship. The kid that brings his skate board and uses the church sidewalk as his personal skate park and his pants are hanging down in the back. Yep, the one that knocks over one of the oldest members of the church. The one that “flips the bird” out the window of the church bus headed to camp. She’s the girl that brings cigarettes in her luggage to SOAR. He’s the one that wears last year’s DNOW T-shirt to school who constantly cusses out their friends. Oh no... yep... he’s the one that showed up with a new tattoo!!! “THAT KID!!!”

Through my years as a youth pastor, I always had “THAT KID.” Goodness, one of them threw rocks at me once! Its ok, he missed! Let me ask you something. Are they welcome at your

church? Do your parents try to get you to run them off? Are they treated well or do people create a natural distance from them? Do people complain that they only come to “youth group?” Are the money people in the church worried more about their stuff than they are these students? Have you had a meeting with your pastor over “THAT KID” yet? Well here’s something to think about.

“You gotta watch Johnmichael!”

“He’s a rebel!”

“He’s a Poulin!”

“He ain’t gonna amount to nothing!”

I inherited a kid, actually a young man, from the previous youth pastor (John Newland). John had poured a lot into him. I came in on the tail end of his youth & college days. Dr. Kevin Clayton had invested in him also. People would strike up conversations with me and ask; “Have

you met the Poulin kids yet?” The night I arrived at Calvary in Horn Lake, the Poulin kids and a few others rolled our place with toilet paper. They left a sign that said “from the welcoming committee.” So I would reply, “Yep, I’ve met them!” I heard all the stories about them. “You gotta watch Johnmichael!” “He’s a rebel!” “He’s a Poulin!” “He ain’t gonna amount to nothing!” Johnmichael would bring a bunch of kids up to the church gym, break in and then proceed to stay until the police came by in the wee hours of the morning. He had a big mouth. He was disrespectful at times and stirred the pot on different occasions. Yep, he did all kind of things that made people want to choke him to death. He was “THAT KID!”

But through time, “THAT KID” got saved! “THAT KID” grew in the Lord (it didn’t happen overnight). “THAT KID” realized a call to ministry! “THAT KID” raised money to go to Bolivia with BMA Missionary Jimmy Swindoll. “THAT KID” spent a year on the mission field as a college student... and yes

“THAT KID” (and his family) is currently a church planting missionary for the BMA in Peru!!!

We know that not everyone of those kids will end up being a missionary. Johnmichael’s story is one of those grace stories! BUT, God has put “THAT KID” in your youth group by His providence. They need the Lord’s grace! They need genuine love! They need the truth! They need you and all of your youth ministry team to care! They need your church to be mature enough spiritually to invest in them willingly, despite all their flaws. When you do that, the face of your community changes because of the investment you make. Their lives are changed for the here-and-now and they are secure in the grace and eternal love of Christ! So, go find them, bring them in, teach them, help them, fight for them and lead them to the way everlasting!

Youth ministry success is all about “THAT KID!”

*Lee is pastor of Central Church, Southaven, Mississippi and may be contacted at anders.lee571@gmail.com*

## Barna: Survey of 'Christian' parents should shame the Church

from American Family News

A well-known researcher who has tracked American beliefs for generations says his latest finding reflects a hard-hitting truth about hypocritical, clueless, culture-chasing Christian parents. According to the latest study from the Cultural Research Center, a whopping 67% of adults with pre-teen children said they are Christians. Once that term is defined, however, only 1 in 50 hold an orthodox belief about God, the Bible, and truth.

For its study, the Center broke parents of pre-teen children into two categories: parents of pre-teens and Christian parents of pre-teens. The pollsters interviewed 600 adults in January and another 1,000 in February for a third annual survey of the Church.

Veteran pollster George Barna, director of research at the Center, told American Family Radio a person’s deeply personal beliefs begin developing when they are still in diapers. It is almost completely formed around age 13.

“So that 12-year span or so in there is incredibly important,” he told the “AFA at the Core” program. “That will shape the rest of your life.”

And that is what makes the role of a Bible-believing, church-attending parent so important, which is why the famous pollster is increasingly dismayed to learn a majority of those parents are failing their own children. Among the Christian parents surveyed, only a slim majority of them, 56%, agreed that they will be in God’s presence in Heaven because they trusted in Jesus Christ. One out of four admitted they go through an entire week without worshiping God, which is surely being seen by their own kids.

In a related article about the parent survey, The Christian Post notes that only a few percentage points separate the views of self-identified Christians from parents who are not. In one question, 24% of parents said they view the Bible as their “primary source of moral guidance.” Among those Christian parents surveyed, only 33% agreed with that statement.

In a similar question, 29% of

parents agreed with the statement that God is the “basis of truth” as revealed in the Bible. Among the self-identified Christian parents, 38% agreed with that fundamental, core belief.

“Millions of parents are clearly confused about who they are and what they believe,” Barna said in a statement. “In their efforts to shape their children, they can only give what they have. Many children are not interested in receiving a scrambled philosophy of life.”

According to God’s plan for the family, Barna says, it is the parents’ responsibility to shape the faith of their children as they approach adulthood. The survey’s troublesome percentages, he says, suggest parents are failing in that role because they cannot pass on what they have yet to grasp themselves.

“If ever there was a time when our nation was desperate for a grassroots spiritual revival,” Barna concludes, “led by the remnant in the pews who still revere God, Jesus Christ, the Bible, and truth—now is that time.”



**2022**  
**National Day of Prayer Breakfast**  
 May 5, 2022    **FREE!**    **7:30 a.m.**  
 Southeastern Baptist College Gym  
 4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel MS 39440  
**Keynote Speaker: Senator McDaniel**  
**Mississippi State Senate**  
 RSVP how many are coming in your party  
 By **TEXTING** (601-428-4462) by April 28  
 (but if you make a last minute decision, please come!)



# SOUTHEASTERN

## BAPTIST COLLEGE

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

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

### President's Perspective

Wow! To use a southern colloquialism, "The Lord showed up and showed out"! What a tremendous turn out and time of worship at all three nights of the Southeastern Baptist College's first Southeastern Gospel Fest. The staff planning and execution of this event was highly professional and was on exhibit for all to witness. Afterward, both attendees and the several members of the music talent shared that they were expecting some significant challenges at our event, as previously experienced with other first-time fests. However, they were extremely impressed how smoothly each night went. Many who attended have already pur-



Dr. Scott Carson  
President

chased tickets for next year's event that is scheduled for the nights of April 13, 14, and 15, 2023 and will be held once again at the beautiful sanctuary of First Baptist Church of Laurel, Mississippi. Reserve these dates on your calendar now and plan to attend!

Our next major local community event will have already taken place by the time this article is published. The Southeastern Baptist College Choral Music Festival was held on the campus of Jones College April 30, with ten high schools and twelve choirs participating from across the state. This year's event was primarily the purpose of public relations, with intentional recruiting as rebuilding SBC's music program is essential.

Closely on the heels of the Music Festival is the annual National Day of Prayer Breakfast to be held in the college's gymnasium on Thursday, May 5, 2022, begin-

ning at 7:30 a.m. It is once again free to the public. Special music will be provided along with several guest pastors providing prayers for our area and the nation. Laurel's Mayor Magee is slated to read the scriptures with Mississippi State Senator Chris McDaniel as our keynote speaker. Please note the instructions on the adjacent flyer to this article on how to reserve your seat. However, if you find you are able to attend and haven't yet made a reservation, please come anyway! In the past, there has always been enough food for everyone.

On Saturday, May 14 SBC will conduct our 2022 Commencement Exercises at 11 a.m. in the college gymnasium. Come support our newest graduates at this milestone in their lives. Eleven students will receive their diplomas at this year's event and the keynote speaker will be alumnus, Dr. John David Smith.

Once again, we are looking forward to hosting the yearly Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Mid-year meeting which will be held on our campus May 16 and 17. Please plan to attend this great time of fellowship.

I want to emphasize that SBC is your college! The school belongs to the BMA of Mississippi and the staff and faculty endeavor to honor our doctrinal statement while faithfully seeking the Lord's will in everything we do. God continues to bless us with amazing opportunities and we are dedicated to following His lead for the future of the college.

Please put these events on your calendar and come show your support. I hope to see you soon! May God bless every church family in the BMA of Mississippi.

Equipping the saints,  
Dr. Carson

### Summer Courses

Registration is in process for the special Summer Semester. This is a condensed period of study where successful students can earn their credits over a period of only six weeks. Classes begin May 23. Don't delay, register today!

Courses offered:

- Hospital Ministries
- English Comp I & II
- World Literature I & II
- Western Civ I & II
- Math Literacy
- College Algebra
- New Testament Survey
- Old Testament Survey
- Old Testament Poetry

### 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.



SBC Staff members in action at the Gospel Fest

### National Day of Prayer Breakfast

The annual National Day of Prayer Breakfast for Jones County and the surrounding area will again be held in the SBC gym on May 5, 2022. This year's FREE event will begin at 7:30 a.m. Mississippi State Senator Chris McDaniel will be this year's guest speaker. Please reference the flyer for additional information in this publication.

### Softball and Baseball

We have concluded the season for both Softball and Baseball home games. Congratulations to both teams for a great season! Men's Baseball will be participating in the NCCAA South Regional playoffs May 9-12 in Winston-Salem NC.

### Charger Cafe

We are seeking new contractors who can take over the SBC food service for our students. If interested, contact the Dean of Students, Anderle Foster at 601-426-6346.

### Graduation

2022 Commencement Exercises are scheduled for Saturday, 11 a.m., May 14 on the campus of SBC. Please come to this free event and bless our newest graduates in their important life's accomplishment!

### Memorial Gift

God bless Dianne and John Rainey for her generous donation to the library of Southeastern Baptist College in memory

of Evelyn Gates. Your gracious gift enables SBC to continue preparing young Christian men and women to live their faith in an ever increasingly godless society.

### Coffee with the President

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

### Need a Preacher?

Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit or to make a presentation about the work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. Chaplain (Colonel) Carson can also provide an update on the BMAA Chaplaincy and deliver a related message.



Administrative Assistant DeAnn Rose recruiting for future SBC choir members



A great turnout at the 2022 Southeastern Gospel Fest

Thank you to Salem Baptist Church of Bay Springs, Mississippi, and Oak Grove Baptist Church of Lucedale, Mississippi, for recently inviting Dr. Carson to preach their Sunday morning messages. You can reach Dr. Carson at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu



Wade Clark, deacon at Temple Baptist Church of Laurel, Mississippi gives his testimony in the college chapel service

# Our Ministry in the Philippines

Cris, Alicia, Benjamin, and Asher Samson  
Our address is 67 Dry Branch Rd. Columbia, MS 39429

We have been in the Philippines now for a little over a month and a half. We praise the Lord for safe travels and an uneventful return. There were lots of requirements prior to departure and lots of paperwork in hand as we departed, but praise God we made it successfully and were not required to quarantine upon arrival. I was a little nervous about how well the boys would handle the long travel, but they did great!

Once we arrived, we began getting our house organized. We spent a couple of weeks buying the necessary things needed to make our house a home. The boys enjoyed being able to get out and were more energetic than usual with everything being new and exciting.

Once we got settled, we began spending a day or two each week surveying areas throughout the Negros Island. We started by visiting places where our fam-



Cris, Alicia, Benjamin, and Asher Samson and friends have personal contacts. One area we visited was absolutely beautiful. It seemed to be a very strategic spot for a new church plant just by driving through the area and doing a visual survey.

After returning, for a face-to-face survey with community members, we discovered that the area already has at least five Baptist churches that are being held in individual homes.

As of now, we have not found the exact location where we will begin a new church plant, but we are continuing to survey different locations. Our desire is to plant a new church in an area that has not yet been reached with the Gospel. We continue to prayerfully seek God's guidance

and direction as we also learn to patiently wait on Him and His timing.

The boys are adjusting very well. They do still mention their "Grammy" and "Papa" and other family and friends on a daily basis and often ask about "Mississippi", but we couldn't be happier with how well they are adjusting and enjoying life in the Philippines.

This is such an exciting adventure that we are a part of, and we are extremely grateful for the blessing of being able to serve the Lord in this capacity. Since we are still seeking the place that God would have us to work, Cris and I have begun going through the DCPI church planting materials again as preparation for the



work we will soon be a part of.

Please continue to pray with us about the right location. We are hopeful that we will know the location by our next newsletter.

Pray for us as we continually study and prepare ourselves for God's kingdom



work. In addition to our personal church planting studies, Cris is currently enrolled in the Master's classes being offered by the Philippine BMA Bible College together with the BMA Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas. These classes are held every Monday morning and will be completed by October or November of 2022.

Pray for our boys: 1. For their growth and development as we minister to people who may not be the best example for them, 2. That Cris and I can parent them in a way that points them to Jesus each and every day, 3. That they will learn the Ilonggo language, and 4. That they will develop great friendships with other Filipinos.

We love you all and we are grateful to have such loving and godly men and women standing with us in this ministry. May all that we do bring honor and glory to the name above all names, JESUS!

## More Southeastern



SBC President Scot Carson addressing crowd at recent Gospel Fest



The awesome supporting SBC staff for the Gospel Fest



Student Miah Hall makes a spectacular catch during the Chargers Softball win over Coahoma Community College

## The Master's Builders work at Daniel Springs

by Nelda Malone, Reporter

On March 14, The Master's Builders began their 175th job in Gary, Texas. Jason Prewitt, Camp Director at Daniel Springs Encampment, had a few projects that the Builders could help with. Daniel Dorm, their event center, needed some more room in the kitchen and bathroom areas. This event center has been such a blessing to the camp. The kitchen and bathrooms, on the west side of the building, were extended into unused space which will give them more room for use with larger groups.

The men also added 8 RV electric hookups and 3 water spikets to outside wall on the west side of Daniel Dorm. This will allow people with campers to use the event facilities at Daniel Dorm.

The Summer Staff Break Room, which was built in 2020 by The Master's Builders, was converted into a Staff Residence for Morgan Sandifer. The men added a bathroom/closet to the 18' X 24' building, which already had a kitchen, washer/dryer, and appliances.

While at Daniel Springs, The Master's Builders had the opportunity to hear more about the work called "Kingdom Kids" in Haiti from Holly Greer who mentors and cares for her "street kids". Joy and love overflow from Holly as she talks about her kids there!

You can follow the work of The Master's Builders on Facebook! Like us at "The Master's Builders" (arbor logo). Rose Bittner does a wonderful job keeping our posts up to date!

Thank you to all our men and women who work with this ministry! To all who have gone before us and the ones God will provide for the future. To God be the Glory!

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



## Daniel Springs Camp Schedule Released

We are so excited about the summer camp schedule and all the great camps that are going to take place. Just a few highlights to take note of: two camps have been added to the summer schedule – a student camp the first of June and a college age camp the end of July. You will also see that Pre-Teen Camp 1 and GMA National Camp have the same dates – Yes, they are at the same time, but will be held on two different sides of the campus so that we can separate the two very distinct camps. If you have any questions, please contact the office (903) 685-2433 or [info@danielspringscamp.com](mailto:info@danielspringscamp.com). We are looking forward to hosting your group and see how God is going to change lives.

## Texas Church Seeks Youth Pastor

Keltys First Baptist Church, Lufkin Texas is seeking a youth pastor. The information is listed below.

Job Description - Pastor of Youth and Missions, Salary Range: No less than \$50,000, not to exceed \$60,000. Objective: The Pastor of Youth and Missions will oversee the church's youth and outreach ministries.

Please send your Resume with References and a sample of your Preaching to [dave@keltys.org](mailto:dave@keltys.org). For complete Job Description Details: Please go to: [keltys.org/YouthPastor](http://keltys.org/YouthPastor).

## Can You Help Us?

BY LARRY GERALDSON  
APRIL 12, 2022

Our association has designated April and May as a time for Special Emphasis on State Missions. It is our hope that each of our churches will take up a special offering to help us. We have a fine group of missionaries who are doing an outstanding job and deserve your support. Please prayerfully consider participating in our Special Emphasis.



Larry Geraldson

Recently, we held our Missions Conference at Big Creek Baptist Church. The sermons and missions' reports were outstanding. We will be posting the individual reports and sermons to our Facebook page over the next few weeks. If you were not able to attend the meeting, you will have the opportunity to enjoy these videos. Please feel free to share them on your Facebook timeline.

It is our desire to keep you informed with as much information about our missions work as we possibly can. Though we continue to make regular submissions to the Mississippi Baptist, we have noticed that not all of our submissions are being included. Therefore, we encourage you to sign up to receive our regular Missions Moments newsletter. To do this, you can visit our website at [www.bmams.org](http://www.bmams.org) and click on the option to subscribe. We would be glad to assist you with this process, if you call our office at 601-428-8616 and provide us with your first and last name, email address and phone number. We will ensure that your name is added to the list to receive our newsletter. If you miss getting our email newsletter you can always visit <https://bmams.org/m3/> and look at any of the articles that have been previously emailed out. We also provide a printable version of our newsletter for churches that wish to include the newsletter in their Sunday bulletin. Just let us know and we will be glad to email you the printable version. If you do not have the ability to print it, just let us know and we will print a number of copies and mail them to you.

Finally, let me thank you for your continued financial support. Over the last five months, we have received record giving from our churches and we are very grateful for your contributions. We promise to do everything in our power to be good stewards of the offerings you send. One hundred percent of all missions' offerings received, goes out to our missionaries.

### Good News

BY JASON HOWARD  
APRIL 12, 2022

This world we live in is full of bad news.

# Mississippi Missions

Isn't it encouraging from time to time to hear good, encouraging news? It is especially good news when the good news concerns the work of the Gospel!!

Recently, I was able to make contact with several people in the New Augusta area, some of whom are relatives. I'm praying they and others will attend the Evangelism meetings we will be having soon!



Just today, I had a very encouraging phone call with Bro. Scott Brocious. Bro Scott has been working very hard in Buckatunna. He has also been met with a lot of discouragement. Just recently, things have been picking up at the mission!!! The Lord is blessing his efforts with visitors. Praise the Lord!

### Return On Investment

BY SCOTT BROCIOS  
APRIL 12, 2022

When starting a church in an unfamiliar area, building a congregation is tough! It takes lots of prayer, patience, and guidance. We realize there are many ways to build a congregation, but we have consulted with other pastors, missionaries, and laymen who have experience with this. They have given advice on what has been successful, as well as, unsuccessful for them. But one thing is certain, we must take the advice of the parable our Lord speaks of in Luke 14 and "go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in."



At Canaan Land we have majored in the area of outreach. On Saturday, April 9th we were blessed with the opportunity to attend, and set up a booth at the Whistle Stop Festival in Waynesboro. This has by far been one of our better community outreaches. We had the opportunity to meet lots of new people. One thing, that many people we met, had in common was that they seemed to be looking for a place to worship that would welcome them. We were able to hand out well over 200 gospel tracts and church invitations and 40 new Bibles. As the

pastor of a mission, I have found that these outreach efforts can be costly, monetarily, as well as, laborious. So, is the return worth the investment? Absolutely! Seeing the joy of our people when visitors join us in worship, knowing it is a direct return of the investment, is very humbling. It also reminds us that God is in complete control, and will continue to be faithful to us, as long as we are faithful to Him.

How long does it take to make a return on your investment? Timing is completely up to the Lord! In our case, we have been blessed with a visitor who has been completely willing and motivated to help since she arrived a month ago. She graciously helped us at the festival, and personally invited a couple to join us in services. The couple, Mr. and Mrs. Bolton, arrived Sunday, April 10! The couple was so gracious to have been able to attend our church services and expressed they were looking for a new church home. Thank you so much to everyone who supports our efforts at Canaan Land! Please continue to pray for us, as well as, the many seeds that we were able to plant with our outreach efforts. God is Good!

### Deputation

BY JASON GOODWIN  
APRIL 12, 2022

It has been just over a month since Midway Baptist Church in Leakesville, MS commissioned me as a church planter



to the South Ellisville area of Jones County. Since that time, I have had the opportunity to present the work in a handful of churches and local association meetings around the state. I am very thankful for the churches and local associations that have allowed me to share the vision of planting a faithful, New Testament, Baptist church in a rapidly growing and developing area. I am thankful for the support of a Gospel-Centered Mother Church, that has been a tremendous encouragement to my family and me, through this transition period. God has blessed us with an incredible support team and a core group of people that greatly desire to be a church where the Gospel is faithfully preached, discipleship is a priority, and the right worship of God is essential. I would love the opportunity to present the work to your local church or association, if you have avail-

ability. We are looking for local churches and associations to partner with us, so that this work may be sustained well into the future. God bless you in and through Christ Jesus, the only One and true King.

### Reaching the Hearts of Men

BY SAMUEL YAGER  
APRIL 12, 2022

This month, we were able to kick off our Men's Cookouts at Living Hope. These activities are specifically designed to reach those men that are serving at the military base in Meridian.



Since the beginning of Living Hope, God has blessed us with two men on the base that have a strong relationship with Him. With this connection, we hope to reach those men that are serving at the base with the Gospel through these cookout activities. Our goal is to host four cookouts a year in which a free dinner and activity are offered. In addition to connecting these men with Living Hope, we will present the Gospel and a challenge to be a godly man at each of these events.

Our first cookout was a great time of fellowship that set the stage for what we hope this ministry to become. Please pray with us that God will bring men to Himself because of this ministry.

### Missionaries to Preach

BY WESLEY MARTIN  
APRIL 12, 2022

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend and speak at the Missions and Evangelism Conference. It was a blessed day of fellowship, preaching, and mission reports. I believe all who were in attendance came away blessed and excited about the work that is happening and the work that is left to do.



My hope and prayer is that we will all be energized and continue preaching the gospel and reaching the world for the cause of Christ. I came back to our church convicted over this thought. We have so

continued on next page



# Missions Report

from page 8

much work left to do but we need willing men to go on the field and preach the gospel. We have begun to pray that God will raise up men in our congregation that will one day be missionaries. I pray that this will be the case all over our work because Christ has not returned and we are not finished.

## Faithful Promises!

BY ESTUARDO MARROQUIN  
APRIL 12, 2022

Every week we can witness our Lord's promises and blessings on the mission field. The Hispanic work in our state continues to share the gospel and as a result, more people are hearing the good news of salvation in Jesus. We are excited about what God is doing in the Hispanic ministry, currently, and that activities are returning to normal.



Jesus said: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Mathew 18:20). This promise has been the strength in the Hispanic Mission in Canton. Bro. Lucas Gomez remains faithful to God and the plan He has given him to continue planting the Hispanic church in that area where we are beginning to see more people in worship meetings.

Bro. Lucas is discipling new people who have been saved in recent weeks. The members in this congregation are being faithful in supporting the activities of the work, by strengthening themselves with the promise of the Lord Jesus. We ask for your prayers for this field in Canton, as well as, in the other missions points (Gulf Coast, Tupelo, Oxford) that the doors will continue to open to the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

## Striving Together

BY CHRIS YAGER  
APRIL 12, 2022

It is such a tremendous blessing to be a part of a missions minded association.



# Scripture Thoughts by Cleaver

An article from Cleaver's upcoming book:

1 Samuel 23.2 "So David inquired of the Lord: "Should I launch an attack against these Philistines?"

What courage! What audacity! What brilliance! What boldness to inquire of the Lord! Was not David a great military general? Could he not rely on his inner self to guide this plan? Didn't David have those around him he could rely on to plan an attack on the enemy? Yes, David could have brought a plan to fruition by his own design, or he could have relied on a strategy produced by his staff.



Tony Cleaver

He didn't do either.

Many times, we as humankind seek the best advice and guidance from fellow human beings. Much of counsel from humankind is based on failure or inability or illogical reasoning. Advice is at an overflow in our land. Some advice is multiple hundreds of dollars an hour and that hour lasts only 40 to 45 minutes. Those who are the wizened wonders of advice giving are often postcard picture perfect failures in their own lives.

Remember the "how to raise your child" written by those who have no children? These guides or life coaches depend on their own educational accomplishments, their past experiences, even the advice of their contemporaries. They really don't know much more-if anything more-than

you do. At best their words aim at "making you better."

Their counsel or advice at best works in a paltry manner, if at all. Wonder of wonders as to the outcome when we inquire of the Lord! There is guidance that leads from the miasma swamp. There is direction beyond the human mind when we will but seek it. This is the leadership we get from God.

Dear Reader, in life's quandaries - right now - let us inquire of the Lord. David inquired of the Lord. The Lord responded. It did not cost David anything. It provided him everything.

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

It is an honor to strive together with so many churches that love to reach people with the gospel of Jesus Christ!!

This enthusiasm is evident all throughout our Hispanic Association of churches.



Living Hope Mission was blessed to host the Annual Meeting for our Hispanic Association. There were over 80 people there, and the atmosphere was electric. It was wonderful to see and hear of their desire and vision to reach Hispanics and plant churches.

God is doing a great work, and I was so blessed to be a part of that wonderful day. It is awesome to strive together for the cause of Christ!!

## Meet The Neighbors

BY JOSH DANIELS  
APRIL 12, 2022

On April 2nd, a large community wide yard sale took place in Kiln, MS. On that same day the BMA of MS Missions de-



partment held a missions conference hosted at Big Creek Baptist Church. With both events taking place on the same day, my desires were torn in two. Part of me

knew the importance of attending the conference and the other part wanted to be right in the middle of meeting new people in our community. When I shared this with our people at Refuge, it became more clear what to do. The people of Refuge have grown to understand the importance of serving and meeting their neighbors.

As a missionary, God has blessed me directly, as well as, the mission, with people that will serve. It was much easier to be able to attend the conference knowing that not only would they be able to handle the work, but that they would do a good job at it.

Please continue to pray for us at Refuge as we reach the community with the gospel and as we teach disciples the things of God's Word.

## Treasured Friends

BY PAUL SPURLIN  
APRIL 12, 2022

On March 25, my good friend Bro. Michel (Mike) Poirier, BMA Missions French Language Coordinator, accompanied me to the adult jail in Jones County, where one prisoner told us about his treasures.

Bro. Mike Poirier is in our area for



about two months to update churches on his work and to attend the BMA National meeting in April. I asked him to preach at one of our jail services where he shared his personal testimony. After Bro. Mike was saved, he had to leave his old life behind but took time to share Christ with

two of his friends before leaving. One ultimately answered the Gospel's call. One did not.

After our worship service, one of the prisoners shared privately with me and Bro. Mike by saying that he had been reading Jesus's words about laying up treasure in heaven rather than on Earth. Then, the prisoner added that he had never cared much about a house or anything like that but that he sure did treasure his friends and wanted to take them with him to heaven by sharing the Gospel with them as he had a chance. Wow! How many of us so treasure our friends that we make sure they have heard the true Gospel and have considered eternal matters?

## Evangelism Training

BY SIDNEY FARMER  
APRIL 12, 2022



What a joy to be with these folks for some evangelism training the past three weeks. I am speaking of training for Bro. Scott Brocius from Canaan Land Baptist Mission and some of the people from Canaan Missionary Baptist Church.

It is always encouraging to see God's people getting excited about sharing the gospel with the lost. When people are equipped through discipleship, they feel more confident in carrying out the work of the ministry.

Thank you Bro. Jason Howard and Canaan for having us.



## Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Lindsey

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

Greetings,

I want to begin with apologizing for the hiatus from my typical writing rhythm. In my last article I wrote about a difficult goodbye we had last month. That goodbye made it difficult to be myself. I have had a hard time writing with my usual tone. I have often said I am the negative to my wife's positive though I see myself as a realist instead of a pessimist. That is really only in our personal dynamic. Like many husbands I vent my negative frustrations to my wife and I am thankful to have her help in

those times, but I am typically very jovial by nature. I enjoy a good laugh even when discussing something serious. I have tried to keep all my reports on the Children's Home positive even when supplying difficult news. Over the past two months my mind has not been able to think those words nor have my fingers been able to type these lines.

Grieving is hard. I have found it especially hard as a follower of Christ. I know I have all I need in Him, so I struggle to let go and let myself grieve at times. Once

I found myself dealing with my grief I then did not want to let it go. I love DaMiya very much and would almost feel guilty for feeling good again after she left. I would think to myself, "If you love her as much as you say you do you would still hurt and not be over this so soon. But, then I would look to my faith and it would pull me along and say it will be okay. God always reigns.

Thankfully the word of God is always sufficient. Nearly always it takes us, as humans, longer to come to that realization than it should. In a sermon last Sunday I was listening to the text being read and heard the truth that had been their all along. Colossians 2:6-7 says, "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him,

and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." Verse six is one of my favorite verses from early in my discipleship. There is no doubt I read verse seven with it a multitude of times, but it was in that moment that God helped me hear as I walk with Him in faith I will abound in thanksgiving! I am thankful for the time the Lord gave us with DaMiya. I am thankful that He has not left her or us. I am sure I will need reminding of this again and again in the future, but I rest here now.

We are blessed by your support in this ministry and pray that continues both physically and spiritually. Please continue to pray for us in our search for new house parents and pray for

us as we care for the children. We praise the Lord that after nearly a year our youngest boy Jae has finally been granted permanency with us by the court. Another prayer request comes for our latest placement. It has been difficult to parent her while teaching her to parent with the language barrier. We have now learned that she came to us with even more prior issues that were unknown when she arrived with us. Pray for her. Pray for us. Pray for our family and ministry while we do our best to help her through this. If you would like us to come and share more with your church please don't hesitate to reach out.

For Christ,  
Dwight Lindsey

## 2022 National WMA Women's Conference

by Jessica Haden,  
Recording Secretary

The Women's Conference, sponsored by the National WMA, began at 9:00 A.M. At Grandview Baptist Church in Springfield, Missouri.

After the meeting opened Lisa Rust, National GMA Promoter introduced National Miss GMA Lydia Dunlap to lead in our morning devotional. Lydia read Acts 13:47 speaking to us on three methods of preaching the gospel to non-believers.

Ukraine missionary Tammy Wood gave an update on the status in the Ukraine. A special offering was taken for the relief effort for the Ukraine ministries with \$5,859.40 being collected.

Judy Wallace led the congregation in singing the WMA theme song "Called".

An offering for the project was taken with \$1,062.00 given for the Darlene Carey Academy.

The officer's recommendations are as follows:

1) The offering collected at the meeting designated for general fund be designated for the Ukraine relief. As been posted on social media.

2) We give \$2,000.00 from the general fund to the Ukraine relief over and above what has been designated.

3) We give \$2,000.00 from the general fund to Just the Crumbs ministry.

4) We give \$1,000.00 from the general fund to Water for Christ.

5) We give \$1,000.00 from the general fund to BMMI.



National WMA Officers

6) We give \$1,000.00 from the general fund to Moral Action.

Project P promoter Beth Caldwell reported on the Darlene Carey Academy project with a video presentation. The total money raised for this project was \$65,237.40.

Daniel Springs Camp is our new project with a goal of \$66,000.00.

Judy Biggers challenged us to "be intentional" as Nehemiah was intentional in his prayer, planning, purpose, priorities, and praise, Nehemiah 1:1-11.

Our 2022/2023 Theme is "Let Love Overflow" from 1 Thessalonians 3:12.

The new officers for 2022/2023 are as follows: President Charlotte Johnson, First Vice President Brenda Hornaday, Second Vice President Cindy Allen, Third Vice President Kelly Williams, Recording Secretary Jessica Haden, Asst. Recording Secretary Jodi Rhea, Treasurer

Janet Widger, Asst. Treasurer Sara Buckley, Media Director Victoria White, Editor Jackie Ricks, Historian Tracy Goede, Director of Youth Auxiliaries Lane Flynt, Asst. Director of Youth Auxiliaries Katy Nix, GMA/YLA Promoter Lisa Rust, Asst. GMA/YLA Promoter Hayley Rasco, Sunbeam Promoter Sandra Kizer, Asst. Sunbeam Promoter Linda Dertinger, Song Leader Judy Wallace, Pianist Linda Strickland, Project Promotion Committee Diana Morris Chairman, Connie Reifsteck, Theresa Reus, Salary & Expense Committee Sherry Laminack Chairman, Pat Dunan, Martha Langley, Inspirational Resources Committee Kirby Pool, Chairman, Valerie Fish, Susie Edgar, Advisory Committee Bro. Randy Rhea, Bro. Kenneth Strickland, Bro. Ken Williams.

We had 175 ladies in attendance.

## North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference

### Back To The Future!

Many of you may remember a series of movies based on the title "Back to the Future". Your Senior Adult Commission is not 'going back' in history (except to remember the good conferences we have experienced) but we are going forward to the future conferences we have scheduled.

Your director and Senior Adult Trustees have planned the 2022 conferences and are hard at work finishing a few details for the NORTH Conference. We will



meet at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi. We will begin at 9:00 am and finish around 3:00 pm on Tuesday, May 10, 2022. The good folks of Mt. Pleasant Church are making preparations and looking forward to hosting this meeting.

The South Conference was held on March 8 and was a great success. We look forward to the North conference where we will have good preaching, good music, a catfish and chicken lunch with all the trimmings, and an afternoon gospel concert! Door prizes will be awarded throughout the day with a few specials thrown in. The cost for each one attending is still just \$15.00. We encourage the local church to pay this for your seniors or at least help with some of the cost.

Ministers who have served 50 years in the ministry will also be recognized. If you know of someone who has been in the ministry for 50 years or longer, please contact Director Don Brown at 601-426-3293 as soon as possible.

### Prime Timers with a Purpose

Our Theme for this year is to encourage our Senior Adults to 'remain on the front line' of service. We all have a purpose in our spiritual lives. Make sure you are open to God's calling and make sure you are 'purposeful' in your spiritual service.

We look forward to seeing you all at Mt. Pleasant Church on May 10!

*"How will you outlive your life?"*

# Legacy Missionaries Honored

Four missionary couples were recognized as the 2022 BMA Legacy Missionaries on Wednesday, April 20, in a ceremony at the BMA National Meeting in Springfield, Missouri. These missionaries dedicated their lives to global missions and have impacted countless others.

Dr. John and Mrs. Shirley Ladd served in Mexico for 57 years. The Ladds constructed the Good Samaritan Clinic in Aquismón, Mexico, in 1978, and Dr. Ladd served as the medical director of the clinic until 2012. The clinic is still serving the people of Mexico today and is staffed by local medical personnel.

Bro. Marvin and Mrs. Helen Loyd served throughout Nicaragua, Bolivia, and Guatemala from 1966 until 1993. Their ministry included teaching school, volunteering in a medical clinic, assisting with church planting, flying supply planes to missionaries and locals, building a seminary, reaching primitive tribes, and more.

Bro. Dale and Mrs. Barbara Thornton served in Taiwan for 40 years. The Thorntons moved to Taiwan in 1961 and worked alongside Jack and Latrell Bateman planting churches and discipling believers. Although they faced multiple challenges, they remained faithful to God's calling,

and God continued to bless their ministry even after they returned from the field in 2001.

Bro. Don and Mrs. Linda Newsom served in the Philippines from 1978 until God called them home to heaven. The Newsoms spent nearly half a century planting over 30 churches and caring for the children of their community. Mrs. Linda passed away in 2012, and Bro. Don in 2021, and they are both buried in the country that they loved so well.

**...a legacy demands that we must live for things we are willing to die for, commit to others, and realize that we will not see the full effects of our efforts.**

During the ceremony, President of Global Missions John David Smith posed this question: "How will you outlive your life?" He shared that a legacy demands that we must live for things we are willing to die for, commit to others, and realize that we will not see the full effects of our efforts.

Smith stated, "In order to leave a legacy of eternal value after this life, we have to seek things of eternal value during this life."

The Ladds, Loyds, Thorntons, and Newsoms each leave a legacy in their respective fields as the Lord continues to work in the lives touched by these faithful men and women.



The Ladds



The Loyds



The Thorntons



The Newsom Family

## BMA ALIVE AND WELL

by Jerrie Sue Kellar Cleaver  
Killeen, Texas

Full Disclosure: I am not the Cleaver who usually does the writing. But I feel compelled today to make some observations from attending the 2022 meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of America in Springfield, Missouri. These are random thoughts that crossed my mind over the last five days and 1243 miles.



Jerrie Sue Cleaver

Number 1: I am overjoyed to report that I found the BMA to be alive and well! Thanks be to God who has raised up men and women to carry on the traditions and practices of this association. It was my joy and privilege to meet new (young and not so young!) people whom I now feel I can call friend. Their spirit, demeanor, and zeal were apparent. They displayed a love for the Lord and His Word as well as maturity and insight beyond some of their years. I, for one BMA Baptist, am delighted that the Lord has impressed these folks to carry on the traditions of this association.

Number 2: I was elated to hear Gospel preaching; I feel that the theme of the meeting "Preach the Word" was indeed carried out. We live in perilous times, and the Gospel message is not always the most popular. But I was inspired and challenged by the presentation of the Word of God. Indeed the Lord is providing young men like Timothy to carry on the work of the ministry.

Number 3: This meeting afforded me the privilege and opportunity to renew "old" friendships – it is always so good to shake hands and hug necks of friends. I carefully do not refer to "old" friends, but friends of long standing. How wonderful to see and visit with folks I have known, admired, and respected over the years.

Number 4: I look and long for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, but until then I am challenged and inspired to continue the work that He has set before us. May the Lord bless the BMA of America!!



## East Central Baptist Association

CHURCH CAMP 2022

**JUNE** Waukaway Springs  
**27-30** Christian Retreat Center  
Vossburg, MS

*"Equipping the Saints" Ephesians 4:12*



**BRO. JASON HOWARD**  
(601) 689-1491  
jasonowenshoward@gmail.com

## Summer Youth Camp Planned - Open to all



Shiloh Baptist Church of Mt. Olive is planning a church camp on June 2-4 at Campground Baptist Church, Gulfport. This camp is open to anyone, but space is limited. We're going to take people on a first come first serve basis. Anybody interested please contact Lakelan Jenkins at 601-517-1476.

# THE BACK PAGE

## Mississippi GMA Camp Held at Campground Baptist Church

by Payton Thompson  
Corresponding Secretary  
This year's 2022 Mississippi's State GMA Camp was held at Campground Baptist Church in Gulfport, Mississippi, on March 25 and 26. All 116 girls that joined together to rejoice in the love of God left with new friends and uplifting messages. Bro. Sam Freeman brought the sermon Friday night from Matthew 6:25, teaching us to worry less and depend on God more. Saturday morning, First VP Emily Carroll shared a heart-warming devotion from Matthew 28: 19-21. She helped us understand that we are given a very important assignment. Will you accept?

As we kick off the new year, we also introduce our new officers. These girls are all hoping to be great leaders and help set an

example for all the younger girls. The new theme is called "Through the Ages" with Hebrews 13:8 being our theme verse. Our project for this year is

the Pasley Family in France. If you'd like to learn more about them, you can join their Facebook group - The Gospel to France for the Glory of God.



New GMA Officers - (Right to left) President Hannah Mitchell, 1st Vice-President Emily Carroll, 2nd Vice-President Lacie Clark, Secretary Abigail Jenkins, Corresponding Secretary Payton Thompson, Song Leader Ruby Hickman, Historian Hannah Carroll, Committee members Helen De Jesus, Abby Marroquin, Allece Shaw, and Lauren Disalvo.

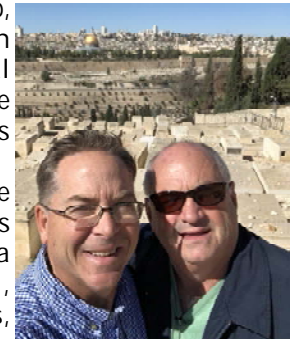
## Israel Trip Invitation

from Angela Rice, BMAA Missions

Stroll down Bethany road to the Mount of Olives and Gethsemane. Take a moment to look across the Kidron Valley toward the Temple Mount in Jerusalem at the Eastern Gate. Walk through the Old City, pray at the Western Wall, witness sights that you have read about and imagined. Visit the Garden Tomb, walk the Via Del Arosa, take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, and watch the biblical narrative come to life as you listen to the sounds, see the sights, and interact in this unique culture.

This is only a snapshot of what will be experienced by those of you who will join us October 20- November 5th for the trip of a lifetime. The countries of Greece, Israel, and Jordan provide breathtaking views, unexpected encounters, and a depth to biblical study that in my estimation is irreplaceable. This is a trip that will enrich your journey as a follower of Jesus, and it will provide images and memories that will last a lifetime.

This trip is for everyone! We would love for you to go with us. Don't just dream about going, think about going, contact Angela Rice at the BMA Global Ministry Center, [angela@bmamissions.org](mailto:angela@bmamissions.org), 501-455-4977 and reserve your spot. Church leaders, there is no greater gift that you could give your pastor than a trip to the Holy Land. Prepare now for Pastor Appreciation which is in October by making His reservation today. I look forward to experiencing this trip of a lifetime with you.



## Letter

from page 2

It is our understanding that Bro. Goodwin has not been able to provide a letter of recommendation from his last pastorate, First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel, MS. Therefore, in our opinion, his status as a state missionary MUST be delayed until the next meeting of the association, and as such he should not be able to partake of any/all of the benefits that may come with being considered as under "missionary status".

Furthermore, it is our opinion that the reason this is specifically mentioned in the by-laws is to give the missionary committee pause should they encounter an applicant who although qualified, and who may fulfill all other requirements for missionary status, but by not having the necessary letter of recommendation from his last pastorate, may indicate a problem or situation that would need to be addressed by the entire body, rather than just the missionary committee itself.

2. Last year, a member of this potential mission project, who is also a part of their ministry leadership team, while speaking with a BMA of MS pastor, let it be

known that not only did he hold to "Reformed Doctrine", but that he would consider himself a "Calvinist". Our concern in this matter is whether or not this person is referring to himself as simply "reformed" or as a "hyper-Calvinist"? Did the missionary committee interview him to determine whether he is a "fatalist" or "determinist"? Does this person, or any other person in the ministry leadership team of the mission, hold to Theological Determinism, or Theological Fatalism doctrine? We believe that any person who will be working alongside the missionary in this church planting endeavor must also align doctrinally with him, as well as the association of churches they will represent.

It is not our intent to divide or drive a wedge between our brethren in the faith. We fully understand that the BMAA Doctrinal Statement makes clear that both positions of the Sovereignty of God and the Free Will of Man are found in God's Word, and this is not an attempt to make either of these positions a test of fellowship. However, it is our belief that one who would hold to a "fatalist or determinist" position, or whose doctrine is Theological Determinism or Theological Fatalism, would in fact fall outside of what all of us would consider as "regular missionary

Baptist doctrine". Furthermore, understanding that doctrine is of utmost importance in the planting of a church, and that unity in doctrine allows us "to walk together", we only ask that those associated with this potential mission be proven to be "with us" in doctrine. 3. Is there not a church in the Big Creek Association of churches that would sponsor or act as the mother church to this mission in the Jones County area?

This church plant will be geographically located in the middle of the Big Creek Association, and as such would be benefitted by having a mother church in its close proximity.

We understand there are times when within a certain geographical area there are no potential churches to extend an arm for a church plant, but is this the case in this matter? Were other churches in the local area approached about sponsoring this mission, and if not, why?

4. Is it the best use of the churches of the BMA of MS funds to plant a church in the Jones County, MS area?

We currently have several BMA churches in this same geographical area, while there are many areas within our State where we have no presence at all. Is this really our best option?

It has been stated that there are currently counties in MS that have over 70% unchurched people in them. With that being true, is planting another church in Jones County, MS the best use of the BMA of MS church's missions funds at this time?

We realize that this endeavor will require funds from our churches to pay a salary for the missionary for several years, as well as, at some point more funds will be needed to go towards purchasing property to either renovate or construct a building to serve as a location for this body of believers to meet corporately. With that said, is this the best use of the funds from our churches at this time?

5. It is our understanding that the group of people associated with this mission project is for the most part the same group of people that split from Bethlehem Baptist Church (SBC), Laurel, MS in 2020, who then joined First Baptist Church (BMA), Shady Grove, Laurel, MS, and once again split from that body of believers in September 2021.

We question why the churches of the BMA of MS are being asked to bear the burden of financially supporting this endeavor, which in our opinion has not displayed stability, and has already been a part of two splits? Is this the best

use of the BMA of MS church's missions funds?

We also question why this group of believers have not attempted to join another church of like faith within the Jones County, MS area? We believe there are many BMA churches in the area that would benefit from approx. 40 members joining their body, and looking to serve the Lord in His church. Is there a compelling reason why that is not a more practical and sustainable solution?

I hope the brethren of our churches understand our heart's desire in this matter. We are not trying to single anyone out, and none of our objections are intended towards any one person. Our church however, does question the necessity of supporting this particular mission project for the reasons we have listed.

It is our prayer that this letter will allow all of us some time to pray and seek God's will and direction in this matter before the next state association meeting. We believe it is of utmost importance that the churches of the BMA of MS are present and represented by messengers at our next scheduled meeting to address this matter.

*In Christ Alone,  
Bro. Sam Freeman  
and the congregation of  
Campground Baptist Church*