

The Baptist

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Oakland Church, Vicksburg Hosts Midyear Meeting

by the Editor

Oakland Baptist Church and pastor Justin Rhodes hosted the 2010 midyear meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. The meeting got underway on Tuesday, May 18 at 9:30 am. State Brotherhood and WMA meetings were held Monday evening at the church. The church provided three meals for the two-day meeting. They provided dinner on Monday evening, breakfast on Tuesday morning and lunch for all those attending. This was a great blessing and helped keep the meeting on schedule due to the distance from the church to local restaurants.

After normal opening procedures, reports were heard from each department and commission of the state work. Churches from each area of the state were represented, but attendance was



Billy Huffmaster offers resignation as President Leon Carmical looks on

powerful message on Being in the Spirit. He encouraged us to do all that we do with the help and guidance of God's Holy Spirit.

Clerk Resigns

BMA of Mississippi Recording Secretary Billy Huffmaster offered his resignation after 29 years of service. Bro. Huffmaster is stepping down as pastor of Skyway Hills Church, Pearl at the end of the year and felt it necessary for the Association to elect a new clerk before the annual meeting in October. This would give the new clerk the advantage of beginning his work fresh at the October meeting. The Association elected Bro. Danny Pitts, pastor of First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel, as the new clerk. Huffmaster will finish the work of printing the 2009 minute book and helping Bro. Pitts as he assumes this position.

Reports

Dr. John Adams reported for Moral Action and emphasized the need to continue to fight for traditional values and moral issues. This is done through sharing information and through contact

see Midyear Meeting on page 2

Home Discussion Prompts Committee

During the Children's Home report by Director Sidney Davis a question was raised concerning the number of children currently being served. Bro. Harold Floyd, pastor of Berean Church, Soso, asked about the number of children at the home. Davis shared that there were currently 4 elementary school children and one young man who recently completed a course of study at Jones Junior College.

Floyd expressed concern over the lack of children in relation to the size of the facilities and the cost of operating the Home. Floyd stressed the need for us to honor our obligation to the children

currently under our care, but asked for the trustees to study and come up with a solution to the cost of operation as it relates to the number of children served. He discussed the possibility of 'downsizing' the operation to lower costs. Stressing the obligation we have to the current children he was concerned about the future. Floyd said we could "reconsider



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR
CHILDREN'S HOME

see Committee on page 5

Chaplain Bankston promoted

by the editor

Chaplain Lt. Col. Forrest (Bo) Bankston, Jr., has been promoted to the rank of Colonel. Bankston, who currently serves as the head chaplain at Camp Shelby south of Hattiesburg and as the head Chaplain for the Mississippi National Guard, received orders earlier in May, making his promotion official.

Bankston was promoted in a ceremony on May 13, 2010, at Camp Shelby.

The official orders read as follows:

The president of the United State has reposed special trust and confidence in the patriotism, valor, fidelity, and abilities of Forrest Bankston, Jr.

In view of these qualities and your demonstrated potential for increased responsibility, you are, therefore, promoted to the rank of Colonel in the Reserve of the Army for service in the Army National Guard of the United States.

By order of the secretaries of the Army and Air Force:

*Craig R. McKinley
General, United States Air Force
Chief, National Guard Bureau*

Bankston was honored with a reception after the ceremony. His mother, wife Deborah, and one son were present for the promotion ceremony. Bankston was recently the recipient of the Kellar Award, given each year by the BMA of America Theological Seminary to a distinguished graduate.

Congratulations to Col. Bankston for representing the BMA of America, his Lord and his country with distinction.



Major General William Freeman, Chaplain Bankston and his wife Deborah.



Bro. Dewitt Bain brought days message

only about 150 individuals.

The midyear message was brought by Bro. Dewitt Bain, pastor of Shiloh Church, Mt. Olive. Bro. Bain brought a

**A Special Message
From
Bro Grady Higgs
See Page 5**

Midyear Meeting

From page 1

with officials at both the state and national level. He thanked the churches for their financial support and encouraged pastors to stand strong in their pulpits for biblical morality. Moral Action will encourage individuals and churches to participate in their Freedom Offering on either July 4, 2010 or July 11, 2010.

Bro. Sidney Davis reported on the work of the Children's Home. He shared the achievements of the four children currently under the Home's care. They all are doing very well in school and



State Brotherhood President Roger Jefcoat presiding over meeting

other activities. Davis asked for continued prayer for the ministry of the Home. Questions were raised over concerns of the low number of children under the Home's care by some of those in attendance. (This matter is reported on in a separate article).

Baptist Music Fellowship Director Bryson Haden reported on the work of



Mississippi Mr. Senior Galilean Dalton McMillan of Bethel Church, Fulton, spoke to the State Brotherhood as State Galilean Promoter Mark Jones looks on.

the BMF. They have helped with music at a number of state meetings and have plans to possibly expand their reach in the future.

Reports were given by both the State

Brotherhood and WMA to the Association. Reports on their respective meetings will be forthcoming from their reporters.

Dr. Medrick Savell reported on Southeastern College and shared that the



Mrs. Anita Akers brought the WMA program for the Ladies midyear meeting.

college had just granted 23 degrees at the May 2010 commencement. This was a record number and included the highest number of Bachelor degrees conferred. He reminded us that financial aid is available for students and that the college will offer six different courses during the Summer session in June.

Savell announced that the school is seeking SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) accreditation and also considering adding a Master of Ministry degree. The question was asked by Bro. Danny Pitts if the Masters program was a wise move at this time considering that the school was seeking SACS accreditation. Dr. Savell responded by stating that he felt achieving SACS would be easier if the Masters program was already in place. The college is awaiting work of its current accrediting agency ABHE (Association of Biblical Higher Education) on the approval to offer the Masters degree.

The Youth Department report included a recommendation to elect Dwight Lindsey as the new State Youth Director. Lindsey was elected without opposition. It was noted that the position would be on a part-time basis. Lindsey encouraged input and for our churches to support the department with attendance at camps. He stated that the Junior camp still had a few spots left, but that they would be limited to 150 campers due to the limits of the camp they are using.

The Missions report was given by Director Rayborn Freeman. He highlighted each mission point currently supported by the state. Each missionary was present and reported on their individual field.

Regular monthly support for the overall Missions program is down consider-

Temple, Lucedale plans revival

Temple Baptist Church, 88 Summer St., Lucedale, MS will hold revival services May 30 – June 2. Services will begin at 11 a.m. followed by lunch and an afternoon service at approximately 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 30. Monday through Wednesday, services will begin at 7 p.m.

Joseph Harris, Professor at Southeastern Bible College, Laurel, will be the Evangelist for the services.

Pastor B.J. Hudson and the Temple family invite former members and the community to the services. Lunch will be served on May 30.

Boguefala Baptist Church

Greetings from Boguefala Baptist Church. We are continuing to update our church exterior with flower beds, lamp posts, and a wheelchair ramp. These additions are to make our facility more accessible and more inviting. Also, we now have our flagpoles illuminated to pay proper respect to the Christian flag and the American flag. As we continue these slight improvements, we are also continuing to experience growth in our membership with several new additions since the beginning of the year.

Recently we were blessed by visits from the Masters Quartet for our quarterly singing; along with a Sunday morning appearance by the Servants group. Both services were wonderful. Our Spring revival was held by Dr.

ably. Freeman noted that if special emphasis offerings are not sufficient to make up the current deficit, that "drastic changes are coming". He indicated that these decisions and reviews would be taken care of in July or August.

Freeman noted that he was helping Hillcrest Baptist Church, Yazoo City, after their facility was destroyed in a recent tornado. The church has acquired temporary meeting facilities and plans to rebuild on their current site. It is not known if the insurance settlement will be sufficient to rebuild. Any church or individual who wants to help the church was encouraged to send an offering to the Bank of Yazoo City and request it be deposited into the Hillcrest Special Fund that has been set up at the bank.

Manager Lavell Lee reported on the Revolving Loan Fund. A number of deposits and loans have been made recently and business is ongoing. He noted the slow economy has had some effect on the RLF, but overall the RLF is in good shape.

Vern Holifield reported on the work of the Commission on Senior Adults and told of the 2010 Conferences that were held in the past couple of months. He stressed the need to minister to our seniors and for them to be evangelistic in their day to day lives.

The Association will hold the 2010 Annual Session on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College on October 18 & 19, 2010.

John Adams of Mantachie First Baptist Church. The average attendance for the revival was 150 and we were blessed with two professions of faith.

We are preparing for camp to be held at Tombigbee State Park on June 7, 8, and 9. Our youth have worked on fund raising projects, the men of the church hosted a cookout to honor all moms for Mother's Day. We have set the time for our Vacation Bible School, "Amazing Bible Stories" on Saturday, July 17. Please mark this date on your calendar to attend.

Former Pastor and Missionary dies

William Howard Rhoden, age 87 of Henleyfield, Mississippi, died Tuesday, May 04, 2010 in Carriere, Mississippi.



Howard Rhoden

Bro. Rhoden was a native of Bogalusa, Louisiana, a Baptist Missionary and Minister and a member of First Baptist Church of Henleyfield.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Ervin Rhoden Sr. and Birdie Rester Rhoden, 3 brothers, James Rhoden, Everett Rhoden, and Robert Rhoden, Jr., 1 sister, Leona Rhoden, nephew, Billy Rhoden.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Mary Burks Rhoden of Henleyfield; 3 sons, Howard "Howie" Ervin Rhoden and wife, Beverly Rhoden of San Jose, Costa Rica; Daryl Rhoden and wife, Vivian Rhoden of Apple Valley, California; Barry Rhoden and wife, Carol Rhoden of Plano, Texas; 6 Grandchildren, Benjamin Rhoden, Amanda Rhoden Avery, Danny Summerton, Michelle Summerton Cain, Caitlyn Rhoden, and Bronte Rhoden; 3 Great-Grandsons, Lucas Avery, Owen Cain, and Evan Cain; 3 Sisters-in-law, Betsy Rhoden of Monticello, Leminda Rhoden of Bogalusa, Louisiana, and Verna Wilson of Henleyfield; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Bro. Rhoden was ordained in to the ministry in 1960. He served 23 difference churches and missions during his ministry beginning with College Heights Church, Poplarville, Mississippi and ending with First Baptist, Gardino, California. His missionary service included the Hobolochitto Association, the BMA of Mississippi, the BMA of Louisiana and the BMA of America on various fields.

It is all I can do to serve God - Let me do all I can!

Southeastern Baptist College

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



Dr. Medrick Savell
President

Homer Kemp, GPA 3.54; Jacob McKenzie, GPA 3.50; Adam Parker, GPA 3.50; Mary Lavinghouse, GPA 3.50; and Devon Guy, GPA 3.50.

Summer Classes

It is not too late to register for a class in the summer. They will meet June 7 through July 1, on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Courses available are College Algebra, Psychology, Sociology, English Composition I, Old Testament Survey, and New Testament Survey. Anyone interested in these classes should contact the Admissions office at the college immediately (601-426-6346).

Memorial Gifts

Memorial gifts have been sent recently to purchase library books in memory of Mrs. Patsy Wallace Anderson, Mrs. Gladys Fowler Overby, Mrs. Betty Jean Preuett, Mr. John "Johnnie" P. Barrett, and Mr. Lester M. Odom, Jr.

A memorial gift has also been sent to the Southeastern Baptist College Foundation in memory of Mrs. Ruby Wilson.

We appreciate those who give to the ministry of Southeastern Baptist College by sending gifts in memory of their loved ones, and we do pray that God would comfort and bless these families.



2010 Graduating Class of Southeastern Baptist College

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Graduation

The commencement service, May 13, 2010, was a highlight for the graduates and South-



eastern Baptist College. Twenty students received twenty-three degrees, which is the largest number of degrees received in any year. The number of bachelor degrees was also the high-

est ever. A large number of family and friends were present to honor the graduates. Bro. Don Brown gave a good, appropriate, scriptural challenge to the graduates.

In addition to degrees received, six students received certificates upon completing a number of hours of courses.

Honors List for Spring, 2010

President's List (GPA 4.0): Garrett Harvey, 19 hours, Billy Prestage, 13 hours, Charles Lee, 12 hours, Marvin Mathis, 12 hours, Gary Smith, 12 hours, Sandra Buckingham, 12 hours, and Marcus Raymond, 12 hours.

Dean's List: George Grund, Jr. GPA 3.80; Alvin Walker, GPA 3.77; George Matthews, GPA 3.75; June Buckingham, GPA 3.75; Adrain Johnson, GPA 3.75; Matthew Yontz, (GPA 3.75); Genita Pugh, GPA 3.68; Amanda Lavinghouse, GPA 3.67; Mark Williams, GPA 3.63;

2010 Southeastern Baptist College Graduation Address

by Don Brown

President Savell, Dean Parker, Faculty and Staff, Guests, and most of all to the 2010 Graduating class of Southeastern Baptist College. I am honored to be asked to address you on this very special occasion.

What joy you must all feel knowing that you have come to this point in your lives. A point of great accomplishment, yet just one of many important marks along life's journey.

I am confident you have chosen Southeastern Baptist College for a variety of reasons. For some it was denominational loyalty, I commend you for that choice and encourage you to be faithful to your work.

Some may have chosen to study here due to location, the school's reputation as a biblically sound institution, or because it was recommended to you by a friend or former gradu-

ate.

Whatever your reason, I know you have received a quality, biblically based education.

In the Summer of 1980, my wife and I came to work at Southeastern. I left a number of years ago, but she is still here and will complete 30 years of service this academic year. I have attended classes at Southeastern, both of our children completed some of their college work here and my wife holds a degree in Bible from this place that we have grown to appreciate and love.

We love this school, wish her well and we are glad that you too have chosen her. I hope you will be a loyal supporter as an alumnus and that you will recommend her to others.

Graduates, you have completed a course of study prescribed by the faculty of Southeastern and reached this point by your perseverance, your

quest for knowledge and your desire to better prepare yourselves for life and for service to our Lord. You are to be commended for your efforts and this accomplishment.

In delivering the Gettysburg Address, President Abraham Lincoln made this statement, "The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here". He spoke of the brave men, both living and dead, who had fought at Gettysburg.

I do not remember who spoke or what was said at either my high school or college graduation. I do remember three things.

1. I graduated
2. I was pleased that that day had finally come, and

3. I was most appreciative when the speaker finished and sat down.

I will do my best to make the end of this address one of your fondest memories.

While you will most likely forget who spoke here today and probably not retain most of what is said, please let me take a few

moments to challenge you to remember a few things.

1. In Exodus 13:3 Moses told Israel "to remember the day that they came out of slavery from Egypt". To be successful in God's kingdom and His work, we must all remember that glorious day when Jesus brought us out of the world and threw off our chains of slavery to sin. Without our faith in Him and the work He did on Calvary, our time here this evening would be in vain. Remember Your Salvation!

2. Remember that life is short. Job said that his days were faster than a weaver's shuttle and that his life was as the wind. James continued that thought when he said "life is but a vapour that appears briefly and is then gone. Each of us has been to the grave side of one whom we loved dearly and understand that life is truly short. The time we do have to do His work is short and we must be about our Father's business. Remember that life is short!

3. Remember your calling - In the first chapter of his second epistle the Apostle Peter exalts the Lord Jesus Christ as the Messiah who gives faith, grace, peace, and life. He exalts Christ as the Divine Messiah - the Chosen of God. Peter tells us that through His son Jesus, God has given us great and exceeding promises.

He then lists a number of things that should be found in the believer and encourages us to add them to our lives - faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, patience, godliness, kindness and love.

Peter tells us that these things are not found in the lost of this world, but rather in God's children. He then implores us to

"make our calling and election sure."

I challenge you to regularly recall the time of your personal salvation and then to look deep into your own soul and remember the great task to which God has called you. Regularly - make your calling sure!

By keeping our calling fresh in our minds we will be encouraged to run with all our might the race that is set before us.

4. Remember Your Mission - God's call on your life is different from the call He has given others.

Pastor - Be the best pastor your church has ever had. Remember, God called you to pastor and shepherd that flock. Remember your mission! Preach to them, teach them, lead them with the dedication and love that Jesus did.

Missionary - God gave you a heart for a certain group of people. He knows their needs and has chosen you to present Him to them. Go to them with the fire deep in your heart and be like Jeremiah when he said he must preach God's word and just could not hold it within himself! In your own unique way, be the vessel God will use to pore Himself out into their lives.

Teacher - With all the love and enthusiasm of the Samaritan woman, who, after she came to know Jesus as her savior, ran into town to share that knowledge with others - I challenge you to share the knowledge that you have gained with those that God will put in your charge.

Mentor - Take that individual under your arm and disciple

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Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Double and Triple Blessings

This editor recently had a double blessing. I was honored to be asked to bring the commencement address to the BMA Theological Seminary a few months ago and had been looking forward to the event (quite nervously I might add). Then a few weeks ago I was asked to address the 2010 class at Southeastern Baptist College. Honestly, I thought "My, My, what are these people thinking."

I am truly honored and humbled to have participated in the program for both of these fine institutions. I serve as a trustee of the BMA Theological Seminary and have previously worked for Southeastern College. My wife completes 30 years of service to SBC this July.

In preparing the words that I would speak and considering that these two events were only two days apart, both addresses share a great deal of similarities.

I am printing the words I spoke at Southeastern in this issue. I pray that they will be a blessing to anyone of you who is graduating or has a graduate in your family.

Triple Blessing

The Brown family has a deep love for the Gerald and Mary Lou Kellar Family. Mrs. Kellar's birthday is May 30. She shares that day with my oldest granddaughter. When Kiersten Ross was born in the year 2000, Mrs. Kellar wrote her a letter. I am printing that letter in this issue as a birthday wish to Kiersten and as a tribute to a lady who loved others and showed it in so many ways. I do this to help

each of us parents, grandparents and friends appreciate the lives of our loved ones and as an example of encouragement.

My 10 year old granddaughter will get this letter and read it. Knowing her I am sure she will be thrilled and excited to receive such a letter. I also feel that as she grows older and if her mother gives her the letter again on her 18th or 21st birthday that it may be even more meaningful.

Let us each do what we can to tell others how much we love them and encourage them as they mature and reach adulthood.

O, by the way, "Happy 10th Birthday Kiersten, from Papaw and Nina!"

July 26, 2000 Dear Kiersten,

Welcome into the home of Glen and Kelly Ross. How happy you made me on my 80th birthday! The gang at Southeastern called me that day knowing that I would be delighted that Don and Bonnie's first granddaughter had arrived. Of course, they were on their way to see you.

It will be easy for people to figure your age when you say that you were born in the year 2000. May those be good and rewarding years for you.

Our prayer is that God will bless you special - along with your kind and loving family.



Don Brown
Editor

Remember that God has great things for those who trust in Him.

Our love always,
Gerald and Mary Lou Kellar

Another Blessing

Congratulations to Chaplain Col. Forrest "Bo" Bankston on his recent promotion. A promotion ceremony was held recently at Camp Shelby (see story on page 1 of this issue) where Chaplain Bankston serves as the head chaplain. He is also the head chaplain for the State of Mississippi National Guard. Congratulations and may God bless your ministry.

Letters From Our Readers

Letters reflect the opinion of the writer and not necessarily this publication or the BMA of Mississippi

Help requested for mission research trip

Dear Churches,

My family and I are prayerfully considering serving as missionaries to Kingston, Jamaica. Jamaica is a country that has seen many short-term missionaries over the years that has led to Christianity as the religious preference (84%). However, of this 84%, only 26% claim to be evangelical. Furthermore, church attendance is somewhere around 25%. John David Smith and I visited Jamaica in March of this year and found the people we visited in Kingston to be largely nominal Christians and open to hearing the Gospel of Christ.

My wife and I have been praying about missions work in Jamaica for about a year and a half. God has laid the city of Kingston on our heart because of the large population (1.7 million people in a country of 3 million), and the many opportunities there to lead many to Christ, disciple them, and establish BMA churches.

Currently, we are planning another research trip to Kingston, Jamaica, June 14-21. My wife and oldest daughter

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"I heard that he left strict instructions that the pastor was not to take an offering at his funeral."

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

Listing of names does not indicate endorsement. This column is for information purposes only.

Harold Holifield

Bro. Harold Holifield is available for preaching appointments or any way the Lord may use him. You may reach him at 601-729-2666 or email him at hah@megagate.com.

Jim Ingram

Bro. Jim Ingram, a member of Shiloh Baptist Church, Mt. Olive, has made known his call to the Gospel ministry. Bro. Jim has been a great blessing to us at Shiloh and we heartily recommend him to our sister churches. He is available for pulpit supply, revivals, or any

(Kailey) will be joining me as we interview more American missionaries and local pastors with the Jamaica Baptist Union. This research trip will cost just over \$3000. We are praying that many churches will prayerfully consider supporting us as we seek more information and confirmation concerning a mission in Jamaica.

We truly appreciate any contribution the Lord lays on your heart and ask that you send it to:
BMAA Missions Department
B.J. and Marci Sullivan Work
Fund 9219 Sibley Hole Road Little Rock, AR 72209
In His service,
B.J. and Marci Sullivan

way the Lord may use him. He may be reached at 601-797-9933 or through his pastor at 601-797-9161.

Bro. Jim Ingram
Dewitt Bain, pastor
Shiloh Baptist Church



Midway First Baptist to Ordain Brad Stephens

On Sunday May 23, 2010 the Midway First Baptist Church of Sumrall, Mississippi, will be ordaining Bro. Brad Stephens to the full work of the Gospel ministry. Bro. Stephens accepted the call of God some nine years ago. He has worked as minister of music and with youth in two churches before coming to Midway.

Bro. Stephens is married to Charie Jackson Stephens and they are the proud parents of two children.

His work with Midway has been in the area of Music Minister and Pastoral Assistant. His duties have also included education and outreach.

Bro. Stephens is pursuing a Masters degree at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

All ordained personnel are invited to be a part of this ordination service. The time will be 2:00 PM.

Leon Carmical, Pastor.

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Committee

From page 1

how we are going and the budget we have. We might could do better with what we have”

A number of individuals made comments concerning this topic. Matt Hudson, pastor of Hopewell Church, Fulton, noted that the children were under the care of the Home and not the Davis family, from a legal basis. He encouraged the Association to “look at the situation realistically, to look to the future and what the future is for the Home.” He shared concerns about the amount of funds being spent to care for 4 children.

Board Chairman Donnie Boutwell warned to not “get more concerned about numbers than we do about ministry.” He shared that there were some types of children that the Home does not need to attempt to care for. He noted that we are not equipped to care for certain children with certain types of behavioral issues. He indicated he understood the concern over expenses, salaries and other associated costs.

Bro. A.W. Kirkland said he had been associated with the Home since before the days of former Director G.W. Pierce and understood some of the problems the Home faces.

Arthur Smith, pastor of Hopewell Church, Laurel, shared that he is also on the Big Creek Missionary Committee and discussion has been raised concerning using the Home’s facilities and property in cooperation with the State Youth Department. Funds are available from the Big Creek Association (and the State Youth Department) for the construction of Youth camp facilities.

Smith made a motion for the moderator to appoint a committee to work with the Youth Department and the Children’s Home to consider combining the departments and/or having camps at the Home. After discussion concerning the makeup of this committee, and whether the two department trustee boards should do this study, the motion passed.

Later in the day President Leon Carmical appointed the following to this committee: Denny Patterson, Roger Akers, Ted Quimby, Roy Caldwell, Matt Hudson and the Chairman of the Youth Trustees Philip Burns and Chairman of the Home Trustees Donnie Boutwell. The committee met later to organize. It is expected that a report will be forthcoming at the 2010 annual meeting in October.

A letter of thanks from Grady Higgs To The Churches of the BMAA

It has been my privilege to serve the churches of the BMAA as Executive Director of Missions for the past seven years. It has been a wonderful experience and I thank God for allowing me to serve Him in this capacity. As I close this stage of ministry, I do so with thanksgiving to God for all of His blessings upon BMAA Missions. I also carry a deep sense of gratitude for the pastors and members of BMAA churches throughout the world for their support and cooperation.

My life has been significantly enriched by being a part of the mission

work of the BMAA. I have been so blessed as I have interacted with our missionaries, pastors, and churches. God has truly blessed the BMAA with some of His finest men and women who serve as our missionaries. It has been a blessing to visit various mission fields and to witness their work as well as the dedication and work of our Foreign Nationals.

I thank God for the privilege of serving with the fine men and women in the office, and for those who have served on the Advisory Committee during my tenure in the Missions Office. Another rich

blessing has been to see the response of our people enrolling in the Intercessory Prayer Force. How wonderful it has been to see their commitment in bringing our missionaries to God in prayer each day.



Grady Higgs

I thank my dear wife, Norita, for her faithful support in this ministry. The truth is, I couldn’t have done it without

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Southeastern College Graduation Address

from page 3

them, love them and help them to grow in God’s grace and His knowledge. Help that individual be all that God would have them to be and help lead them to spiritual and personal heights that otherwise they might not attain.

Chaplain - Stand in the gap and give spiritual support and guidance to those who may be in difficult situations; those who have given their lives to areas of service that put great strain and pressure on them. Be there for them and be the one who can bring compassion, understanding, and support into a pressure filled life.

Business person, mother, worker, servant - which ever path or ministry God has placed in front of you, fulfill it as unto the Lord, for He is the one who all of us actually work for. Do all unto Him and for His glory.

Make sure you remember YOUR MISSION!

5. Lastly, let us remember who we serve. In the first chapter of Mark’s Gospel, Jesus goes into the synagogue at Capernaum and is confronted by a man with an unclean spirit. This unclean spirit knew at once who Jesus was. We need to often remind ourselves of who Christ is. The unclean spirit referred to Jesus as “the Holy One of God.”

The world today treats Jesus in a number of different ways - but rarely is He recognized as the Holy One of God.

We understand the world’s view - They do not know Him - They have not studied Him - They have not been called to serve Him - They do not love Him!

We must remember He is the “Holy One of God”. He is the one who saved us. He is the one who called us. He is the one who sustains us!

Let us not overlook that Jesus is the one we serve!

Well, I have challenged you to remember and we must remember much in life. I urge you to remember - 1. Your salvation 2. Your limited time 3. Your special calling 4. Your particular mission 5. The One whom we serve.

One more thing - Remember that true learning never stops. You have completed a course of study - you have earned the credits - they totaled up to the required number in your area of study. You are about to receive a piece of paper recording that information, but remember, learning never stops! Continue to ask the questions that you want answered. Do not be afraid to ask why. Do not hesitate to question ideas and the truth. The truth will stand on its own. Always believe God - for He is always right.

Now - one last thing - Remember to persevere. Struggles will come, BUT Victories can and will be won! The enemy of mankind will seek out you and your ministry and attack you as you labor for our Lord. He is that roaring lion of whom Peter sternly warned us!

During World War II, England needed to increase its production of coal. Prime Minister Winston Churchill called together labor leaders to enlist their support. At the end of his presentation he asked them to picture in their minds a parade which he knew would be held in Picadilly Circus after the war. First, he said, would come the sailors who had kept the vital sea lanes open. Then would come the soldiers who had come home from Dunkirk and then gone on to defeat Rommel in Africa. Then would come the pilots who had driven the Luftwaffe from the sky.

Last of all, he said, would come a long line of sweat-stained, soot-streaked men in miner’s caps. Someone would cry from the crowd, ‘And where were you during the

critical days of our struggle?’ And from ten thousand throats would come the answer, ‘We were deep in the earth with our faces to the coal.’”

Not all the jobs in God’s kingdom are prominent and glamorous. But it is often the people with their “faces to the coal” who help the Lord accomplish His mission.

Whatever you must do in your life - DO IT AS UNTO THE LORD! It was God who called you to the work and God who will reward the faithful servant!

Later, as Churchill was addressing the graduates of his old preparatory school during some of the dark days of that War, he spoke these words. As you hear them today, I challenge you, as graduates who have been called to God’s royal service and to all of us in His kingdom’s work, to heed these same words.

Churchill said, “Never give in. Never give in. Never, never, never, never in nothing, great or small, large or petty - never give in, except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force. Never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy!”

Let me emphasize that Satan is our enemy. As he confronts us as we travel down life’s road, let us heed Churchill’s words and never give in and never give up.

I leave you with the inspired words of the Apostle John from I John 4. “2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. 4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Make sure that you have set your heart to overcome for Christ’s sake.

Congratulations on your academic achievements and may God richly bless you all.

Want to Make a Gift That Keeps Giving?

The LifeWord Foundation provides that opportunity. Your gift is never spent, it is invested and only the earnings are used to help carry the gospel around the world. Your gift keeps giving until the Lord returns. For more information, call the LifeWord Development Office at 501-472-2183.

GMA Girls

GMA Promoter - Beth Caldwell
166 Twin Creek Rd, Lucedale, MS 39452
601-947-6011

Sunbeam Promoter - Linda Dertinger
132 Howard Hill Road, Soso, MS 39480
601-729-2908

GMA News
by Carli Reeder
Mississippi GMA State President

Hello Everyone! As you all know summertime is arriving quickly which means summer camps will also be here shortly. National GMA Camp will begin June 15th and end June 18th. The Theme is "How Great is Our God", and the theme verse is I Chronicles 16:25. The project for this year is the Philippine Bible College, and the goal is \$25,000.

The Pastor for the week will be Bro. Luis Ortega, Director of Programming for LifeWord Media Ministries. The National Officers have decided to decorate in the theme of stars and outer space. Some of the camp activities will be Shining Stars for girls who are in there Maiden through Princess Steps, and then there will be a Queens Day.

Afterglow will be one of the fun activities for girls to get to share their talents with others. There will be many other activities planned, and it will be a great time for all of the girls to come together. The officers have worked extremely hard for this camp to be the best and for everyone to have a great experience. I hope that you all will be able to come and just join us in the time of Worship and Praise to our God. He is truly going to Bless this year.

I just ask that you would keep this camp in your prayers and also the lives that will be touched. We hope to see many girls come to know Christ through this camp. Pray that God will continue to work in and through each one who has taken part in planning for this camp. Our heartbeat is to reach the lost. We thank you in advance for all your prayers.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Be Eccentric

I get a "briar in my craw" (if you don't know what that is, ask a chicken) every time I hear a youngun' say, "Well, everybody else is doing it." Well, so what? God went to a lot of trouble making us all different, our finger prints, our voices, our DNA, etc., all prove that we are different. Then most humans start at an early age trying to be like everybody else. And age doesn't seem to have much influence on this yearning to be like everybody else. Look at clothing styles, hair styles, cars, trucks, etc., etc. Our preacher said the other day that even adults are influenced by peer pressure to be like everybody else.

Maybe we need to be reminded of the scripture in Psalm 139:14. "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."

Be an original. If that means being a little eccentric, so be it.

Prisoners Bible Crusade Report

For the year 2010 PBC have given free to prisoners 1,916 English Bibles; 640 Spanish Bibles; Bibles totals, 2,556; 344 New Testaments; All Study Books 5,146; 972 Study helps, totals for all Bibles and materials to date in 2010 is 9,018. These were sent into 22 prisons. Chaplains report 544 people saved (19,386 since 1/1/2000). 9 new Chaplain requesting Bibles for the 1st time.

I have traveled 5,988 miles, I have personally seen 2 confessions of Faith in Jesus Christ 2010 (311 since 1/12000), visited 7 churches, 10 associations meeting & 20 prisons visits, taught 23 bible study classes,

taught 1 volunteer worker's class. I have preached 6 sermons in churches, 6 in prisons. PBC's Evangelistic Team has conducted 6 Worship services in prisons in 2010.

Since 1973 we have given 193,938 Bibles; Total for all bibles and materials: 565,501

Praise the Lord for this note! The WMA Ladies of the BMA of America reached their goal of raising \$10,000.00 to buy books for women in prison. They gave to our ministry 2,410 study books for women. We have sent 1,226 of them along with bibles to 7 state prisons for women already. Our goal is to place all the books along with bibles into as many women's prisons as possible during the coming weeks. This has increased our postage expense but, so far the Lord has supplied for the need.

Once again I ask that you pray about a "Prisoners Family Ministry" in your Church. The Goal is to ministry to families with love ones in Prison!

On May 4, 2010; The Prisoners Bible Crusade was 37 years old, Praise the Lord!

News From BMAA Missions

Couple plans to serve in Africa

Bradney and Eileen Lopez feel called of the Lord to serve as BMA missionaries in Angola, Africa. They are from the "Church Without Walls" in Guayama, Puerto Rico. Bradney will graduate with a degree in missions from Central Baptist College in December.

They are planning a survey trip to Angola in July of this year in order to evaluate current ministries and plan for future ministry. If you would like to support them please send your offerings to the BMA Missions office in Little Rock, Arkansas, marked "Bradney and Eileen Lopez." The Lopez's have two children Jose Daniel and Jireh.

Dr. John David Smith
Executive Director of Missions
BMA of America

Letter from a Women's prison in Muncy, Pennsylvania

Dear Friends in Christ: Thank you for your recent donation of the Spanish and King James Version Bibles, Also the books for women dated April, 2010. The community here at SCI - Muncy greatly appreciate your continued Thoughtfulness and generosity. Have a blessed day.

Sincerely,
D. Reitz, Chaplain; FCPD

Again, our thanks for your prayers and support for this Bible Ministry to people in prisons.

Paul E. Lee, Director PBC
Isaiah 55:11 inside prisons!

The Holy Land

Hosted by Kirk & Toni Shelton

Departing November 2, 2010

\$3,198.00 from Dallas

Your Program Features:

- First-class hotels
- Professional English-speaking guides
- Breakfast & dinner daily plus all tips and taxes
- Visits to sites such as Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Sea of Galilee, Megiddo, Jericho, Qumran, Masada, and much more
- A special overnight stay at a Dead Sea resort

Space is limited! Call for more information:

Kirk Shelton 972.935.6898

kirk@fellowshipforney.org



Kirk & Toni Shelton



Commission on Senior Adults

Vern D. Holifield, Director
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440



I am writing this article on May 19, 2010. We have a beautiful day here in South Mississippi. The Lord has given us some needed rain. The fresh veggies are really good. I pity folks who are not able to have a garden and enjoy the fresh vegetables. God is good today, and He is good all the time.

Associations

My wife and I attended the National Association in April. We were honored to represent our home church, Calvary Baptist in Taylorsville. Brother



Bluegrass Music from Mississippi Five

John Riles is our pastor. The BMAA meeting in Ft. Smith was one of the best national meetings I have attended in a long time. The fellowship was

tops. The preaching was great. The combined choirs did a great job. I was proud of our Southeastern College Choir. One of the highlights was the election of missionaries. Mississippi was well represented as four young ladies from Mississippi were elected to serve on foreign fields. Besides this, our new Executive Director of Missions is a Mississippi native.

We attended the midyear meeting of the BMAM on May 18. We met with the Oakland Baptist Church, Vicksburg, and pastor Justin Rhodes. This was one of the best meetings I have attended here in Mississippi. The fellowship was good, the singing was great, and the message was powerful. Brother Dewitt Bain was at his best. An important matter or two was discussed. Harmony was noted in it all.

It's A Fact

Every facet of our lives is under attack today. Our Christian testimony, our family, our church, our associations, our nation, our lively hood, our bank accounts, and our health



Door prize drawing

care. It is time for us to clean up our own lives. It time for us to check up on our Spiritual temperature. How close am I to God and His will? How committed am I to the Word of God and to the work of God? Am I committed to God and His work, or am I committed to my little world alone? It is a fact, it is time to examine ourselves, and it is time to pray about every facet of our lives. Yourself, your family, your church, your Associational work, your country all need our prayers, not our criticism.

I am humbly proud to be numbered with Missionary Baptists. I love the Bible doctrines we believe. I believe our principles of cooperation are Scriptural. Are we men and women who serve in the Association perfect? No, but neither is any one else.

continued on page 8

BMA Seminary 2010 Class



Grads Front Row Left to Right:

Alfred Kundasai Njau, Kilimanjaro, Tanzania; Ashraf Nabeel Anwer Sara, Baghdad, Iraq; Nicholas K. Kerry, Mineola, Texas; Billy Jo. Garrett, Bullard, Texas; Jill Alana Weisner, Lufkin, Texas; Paulina K. Anaab, Kumasi, Ghana; Dante' McCain, Shreveport, Louisiana; Juanita Johnson, Shreveport, Louisiana; Alice Holland, Shreveport, Louisiana; Wade A. Hobbs, Palestine, Texas; Lucy Wachuka Kamau, Kerugoya, Kenya; Richard Joseph Miller, Mixon, Texas

Grads Second Row Left to Right:

Warner Johnson Collier, III, Tyler, Texas; Scott Attebery, El Dorado, Arkansas; Kenneth W. Johnson, Sr., Ft. Worth, Texas; James L. Brown, Shreveport, Louisiana; Marvin Lawrence Taylor, Tyler, Texas

Grads Third Row Left to Right:

Clinton Eric Goble, Emerson, AR; Gena Medley Smith, Humble, Texas; Brian Keith Harris, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Lawrence Thomas, Little Rock, Arkansas; Joe Dan Ballard, Jacksonville, Texas; Joshua C. Currie, Kennard, Texas; Marcus L. Ellison, Shreveport, Louisiana

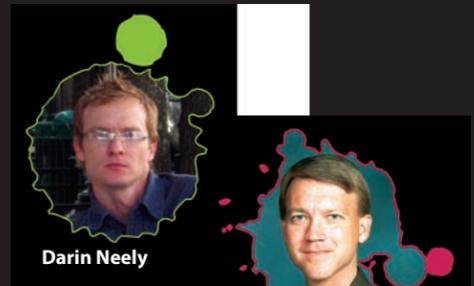


SOAR '10

June 30 – July 2, 2010

Sheraton Hotel in Dallas, Texas
Room rate \$109 per night
1-888-627-8191
Direct 214-922-8000

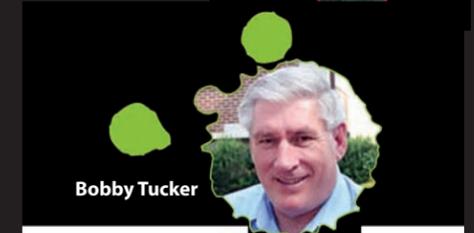
SOAR Registration - \$70
www.DiscipleGuide.org/conferences
Deadline June 7th



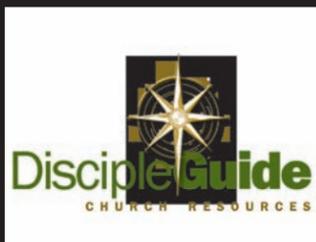
Darin Neely



John David Smith



Bobby Tucker



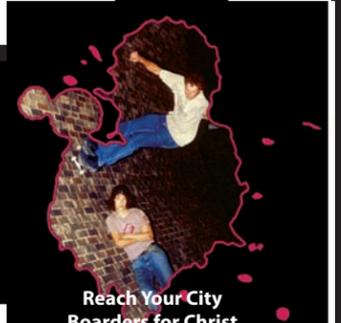
Solace Found
Worship



Know Hope Collective
featuring Mark and Will
from Audio Adrenaline



Thor Ramsey
Comedian



Reach Your City
Boarders for Christ

Grady Higgs Letter

from page 5

her.

Norita and I thank you for your prayers, your invitations to visit your churches and the opportunities to share in the work of BMAA Missions. We have grown to love our people as we visited in hundreds of churches and associations. You have been such a blessing to us.

Words cannot express our shock at your generosity shown to us at the recent meeting of the BMAA in Fort Smith. Thanks for your kind words, your expressions of thanks and the gift of a vacation in Hawaii. We appreciate your kindness and love so much.

How thankful I am that God has raised up Dr. John David Smith to serve as our new Executive Director. He is a man of vision and commitment to Christ. God has especially prepared him to lead in every facet of mission work. Dr. Smith is one of the finest young men I know and he will do an excellent job of leading our mission program to new levels of excellence. He is assuming a role with gigantic responsibilities and he, and his family, will need your prayerful support in every way.

In my opinion, it is time for us older men to step aside and thrust younger men into positions of leadership, and to walk along beside them as they lead. God is raising up a new generation of young men who are anointed of God as pastors of BMAA churches and they need to assume positions of leadership in our Association. I praise God that John David Smith is one of these.

I will continue to assist Dr. Smith anyway he desires. My prayer is that our Father in Heaven will continue to pour out His blessings upon the BMAA and that we will continue to increase our effectiveness in making disciples throughout the nations. May God be glorified through the work of BMAA Missions as we reach the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

With Brotherly Love,
Grady Higgs

Senior Adults - from page 7

The North Senior Day

The Lord gave us a wonderful day. East Fulton Baptist Church and Brother Gary Smith did a wonderful job hosting the meeting. The music was good all day. Dr. John Adams and Brother Todd West delivered two powerful messages. The food was good as well. We registered 140. We will push for 200 next year.

The theme for the two conferences was evangelism. The music and the preaching all zeroed in on the theme. I believe the work of evangelism is coming to life again in our churches. Jesus said go, and as you go make disciples. That Commission has never been changed or nullified by the Lord. As churches we both go and grow, or we dry up and die. The late Brother W.J. Burgess use to say, "a church is either on the way to the mission field, or to the graveyard."

Church Visits

We enjoyed visits to Broadmoor, Meridian and the New Heart Mission in Hattiesburg.

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Missions & Loan Department

Special Emphasis 2010



First Hispanic Mission
Ripley, MS

Bro. Elvis Garcia



Homestretch Mission
Cleveland, MS

Bro. Edward Duvall



New Heart Mission
Hattiesburg, MS

Bro. Ray Boone



Maple Street Mission
Columbus, MS

Bro. Joseph Oyeley



El Camino Mission
Laurel, MS

Bro. Estuardo Marroquin



A Passion

For Lost Souls

Working Together...

To win more souls to Christ in

Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and *then* cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. John 4: 34-35
Peace *be* unto you: as *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you. John 20:21