

Baptist

Mississippi

Journal

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

MAY 15, 2011

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Special Session Ends With No Election

by Don Brown, Editor

The special session of the BMA of Mississippi called in conjunction with the 2011 Midyear meeting held at Parkview Church, Laurel, ended with no decision made concerning a new Director of Missions.

By joint request of the Missions and

Revolving Loan Fund Trustees, the special session was called for the purpose of considering their nominee, Bro. Shane Singleton. At this point, Singleton, who serves as president and moderator of the Association turned duties over to First Vice-president Ken Riley.

After the Missions & RLF report was given and at the reading of their

recommendation for director, they requested that the matter of the office of director be considered as a separate matter.

The Missions and RLF report was accepted as presented and then the messengers took up the matter of director. Their recommendation of Singleton as their nominee was presented and Moderator Riley asked if there were other nominations.

Justin Rhodes, pastor of Oakland Baptist Church, Vicksburg, rose and nominated Bro. Larry Geraldson. Bro. Coy Rice, pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Saucier was subsequently nominated (this editor was unable to determine who placed Rice's name before the body). Bro. Willie Oldenquist, pastor of Helton Road Baptist Church, Theodore, Alabama, placed the name of Bro. Arthur Smith before the body. Smith is pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church, Laurel.

It must be noted that the attendance for this meeting was very good and certainly this is attributed to the matter before the body. It is this writer's observation that the great majority of messengers had come to the meeting with their minds made up concerning the direction to be taken.

After the nomination of these four individuals a number of people spoke concerning the matter of electing a new director. Bro. Billy Huffmaster, a member of the missions committee addressed the association and said that the committee felt the Lord's leadership in the matter and that their vote was after serious consideration and prayer.

A request was made from the body to have each nominee share their vision concerning the office and the future of the department. Coy Rice came to the microphone and spoke and answered some questions. No other nominee chose to address the messenger

Midyear Meeting Lively and Informative

by Don Brown, Editor

The recent midyear meeting held at Parkview Church, Laurel, was lively. The anticipation of the special called session seemingly increased the attendance. Read about the special session beginning on page one of this issue.

Parkview Church was practically full as the midyear meeting got underway. After an opening song and prayer, President Shane Singleton appointed Dr. John Adams as the parliamentarian for the day. He read the rules of order and declared the association in session for business. Two petitionary letters were presented and both churches were accepted into fellowship with the state work. They are Maple Street Baptist Church, Columbus, Bro. Joseph Oyeleye, pastor and the Outreach Ministry For The Lord Chapel of Meadville, Mississippi, Bro. Richard Arceneaux, pastor.

Bro. Steve Crawley, newly elected Executive Director of LifeWord Broadcast Ministries, Conway, Arkansas, was present and gave a report and appeal for support. He stated the ministry was in transition and building a new vision. They are working on including 7 new languages in the worldwide ministry of broadcasting. He also



LifeWord Director
Steve Crawley

Native Mississippians honored by BMA Theological Seminary



Honored by BMA Seminary at the 2011 graduation are (left to right) Bro. Vern D. Hollifield, Bro. Grover Laird, and Bro. James Blaylock.

At the 2011 graduation exercises of the BMA Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas, honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees were awarded to three native Mississippians. These degrees are awarded to individuals for scholarly achievement, attainments which demonstrate unusual creativity, or distinguished service.

The three recipients were honored

for their life's work in the Baptist Missionary Association of America and for their deep Christian dedication to the Lord's work. Information about these individuals and their ministries shared with those attending the graduation services on May 14, is listed below.

A hearty Amen is extended to these

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Seminary honorees

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men and their faithfulness to the Lord and His work down through the years. May God continue to bless them. They each are worthy of this recognition.

James Blaylock

Our first recipient is from Jacksonville, Texas (and a native Mississippian). He is married to Jo Ann Blaylock and has two children. He celebrated 50 years in the Gospel ministry in 2010 and has served four Texas churches as pastor. He appeared in Personalities of the South in 1974, Who's Who in the Southwest three (3) times,

and to Who's Who in Religion four (4) times. He is author of numerous articles and four books: most of these dealing with Baptist or local church history. He retired as editor of the BMA of America's Baptist News Service in 1999 following 30 years of service as editor or associate editor.

He earned an Associate of Arts degree from Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel, Mississippi, a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas at Tyler, a Master of Science in Library Science from East Texas State University, and a Bachelor of Theology and Mas-

ter of Religious Education degrees from BMA Seminary. He began serving the BMA Seminary's Kellar Library in 1966 and this year completes 45 years of distinguished service to BMA Seminary.

Vernon D. Holifield

Our next recipient is from Laurel, Mississippi. He is married to Dorothy Holifield and has three sons. He was ordained to the Gospel ministry in 1950 (61 years ago) and earned an Associate of Arts degree from Jacksonville College. He is a veteran of World War II, has pastored churches in Mississippi and Texas and served as moderator of the BMA of Mississippi and several local associations. He served the BMA of Mississippi

Department of Missions as both a missionary and as secretary/treasurer. He was influential in establishing the State Revolving Loan Fund which continues today as a significant and successful endeavor, even beyond the state of Mississippi. He currently serves as director for the Mississippi Baptist Commission on Senior Adults.

Grover T. Laird

Our next recipient is from Fulton, Mississippi. He is married to Esther Laird and has four daughters. He holds an Associate of Arts degree from Southeastern Baptist College and served the North American Baptist Association (BMA) as an interstate missionary to Paducah Kentucky. He has pastored a number of churches,

has contributed articles to numerous papers and is editor of the Revivalist publication that promotes revival and devotion to the Lord. His past speaking engagements include the Jacksonville Bible Conference and the Seminary's Spiritual Emphasis Week in 1972. In 1975, he was elected by the BMA of America to preach the association's Silver Anniversary message.

Editor's Note:

I was privileged to attend this service and am grateful to our Seminary for their recognition of these three outstanding individuals. May God's blessings continue on the BMA Theological Seminary as they train men and women for His service.

BMA Seminary's 54th Commencement

Thirty-three individuals received degrees from the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary during its 2011 commencement exercises on Saturday, May 14. First Baptist Church of Jacksonville hosted the event.

The Diploma of Christian Leadership was awarded to Betty Wilkinson of Rusk, Texas. The Associate of Divinity degree was awarded to Linda Bouwer of Bronkhorstspuit, South Africa.

The Bachelor of Arts in Religion degree was awarded to Milan Bulak of Decin, Czech Republic; Christopher L. Chadwick of Troup, Texas; Steven Benjamin Clark of Tyler, Texas; Amanda Erickson of Maydelle, Texas; Cody Flo-



rence of Orange, Texas; Roy T. Grammel of Montalba, Texas; Thomas E. Harkness, Jr. of Pflugerville, Texas; Dale Higginbotham of Montalba, Texas; Herman F. Johnson of Nacogdoches, Texas; Thomas E. Kwabena of Gambaga,

Ghana, West Africa; Eric Brandon Lingle of Henderson, Texas; Dennis D. Morris, Jr. of Houston, Texas; Matthew P. Sharrock of Leona, Texas; and William Jacob Waller of Hope, Arkansas.

Master of Arts degrees were

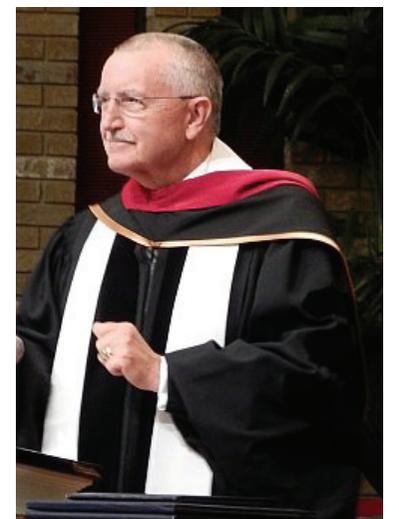
awarded to Eddie A. Ballard, Jr. of Lindale, Texas; Michael Battenfield of North Little Rock, Arkansas; Jeffrey W. Herring of Maumelle, Arkansas; Myron Milholland of Greenbrier, Arkansas; Dr. David Satava of Victoria, Texas; Bobby A. Sullivan, Jr., of Conway, Arkansas; Gregory H. Workman of Jacksonville, Arkansas; Wilbert C. Baker of Humble, Texas; Gino A. Ellis of Little Rock, Arkansas; Susan E. Satava of Victoria, Texas; and Tad W. Traylor of Jewett, Texas.

The Master of Divinity degree was awarded to Xiping Chen of China; Jacob W. Gucker of Houston, Texas; and Jonathan Montgomery of Springhill, Louisiana.

The Doctor of Divinity degree was awarded to James C. Blaylock of Jacksonville, Texas;

Vernon D. Holifield of Laurel, Mississippi, and Grover T. Laird of Fulton, Mississippi.

Dr. Tony Cleaver delivered



Dr. Tony Cleaver

2011 commencement speaker.

the commencement address. Cleaver is an adjunct-professor and M.Div. graduate of BMA Seminary. He retired from the United States Army as a chaplain and the rank lieutenant colonel. He also serves as Director of Skills Center Counseling /Tech Prep at Central Texas College in Killeen, Texas and is author of the column "Leave it to Cleaver" and the eBook Window to My World. His wife is the former Jerrie Sue Kellar, daughter of the seminary's first president Dr. Gerald Kellar

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

DiscipleWay Training Schedule Released

by Tommy and Judy Wallace Training Coordinators

In order to inform our people of the upcoming DiscipleWay trainings, we have added a 'training' link to the DiscipleWay website. The Louisiana Training of Trainers is filled but there will be other general trainings in four different regions of our work.

These dates are tentative and the venues have not yet been set. We will know more on how to best organize the upcoming trainings after we have gone through the one in May.

Probable dates are as follows: July 21-23, DFW

Metroplex Texas; August 25-27, Hattiesburg, Mississippi; September 15-17, Central, Arkansas; October 27-29, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The May training has been scheduled for a Monday through Wednesday time frame to accommodate the regular meeting of the Coordinating Council and the department directors. The other trainings will be on a Thursday through Saturday to hopefully better meet the scheduling needs of bi-vocational pastors.

The general format of the meetings will be similar to the program schedule shown on the Louisiana training link. The

difference being that the regional meetings will include the EV2 Share Your Faith training all day Thursday. Participants that have already been trained in Evangelism Explosion or Everyday Evangelism would not have to attend this day meeting, but would come on Thursday evening to begin the actual DiscipleWay Training. Our plans are then to offer the complete two day EV2 Training in the same areas in four to five months. It will be at least that long before a disciple maker reaches the witnessing discipline with their disciple.

As mentioned earlier, we will

be better able to plan and schedule after we "get our feet wet" so to speak, with this first training. Continue to check the training link for more information that will be posted as available - probably toward the first of June.

Thank you for your patience and understanding through this process and as always, if you have further questions contact us at any time at wallace@discipleway.com.

Gospel Sing

May 22, 2011 at 5:00 pm

The Cameron Family

Pine Ridge Baptist Church

220 Service Road Laurel, Mississippi

For more information call 601-649-6111

Is the Second Time Around Different?

Luke 12:35-48

I guess I knew it. The words were in the small print, and I did not pay much attention to them. I simply got out, retired from the US Army. Eleven years later, I received a telephone call informing me I was being called back to active duty! Certainly when I retired the undersized print words were there in the official documents to state something like "you can be called back to active duty." Well, I was being called back much to my surprise, but not without plain and clear information in the papers I was given upon retirement.

It should not have surprised me. All around me at that particular time, many reserve forces were being activated. The media was full of stories about "war and conflict" and the need for additional troops. I had the information before me, but I failed to make personal application to my own life. By the way, I'm glad I was called back to active duty to serve my country. It is a privilege to serve with men and women who put it all on the line for our nation.

Jesus tells his disciples, and by the Gospel tells us, He is coming back. Perhaps, like His story of the master returning, it seems to be in small print to those the message is intended to impact. The servants paid no attention to the master's words and were caught off guard at this return. The servants paid no attention. They went on about their own business, not the business of the master.

Jesus is coming back to this earth! That is what He tells us and that is the story of the New Testament, and that is this story of Luke. Will His Second coming be different from the first? I think so. The differences will be noticeable even to the unregenerate. The Master of the universe will come to take His rightful place. His servants will give an account to Him. He will be the judge of those who have served Him. He will be the final decision of what is good and what is not good.

I hope I don't get lost in the end time charts of the hyper and pseudo end time prophets. They have the answer for everything as to when and how Jesus will return. They have the scheme all worked out with great detail of His return and

how He will do this at a certain time and do something else at another time. They carefully bring all the Old Testament apocalyptic passages to dovetail with any New Testament



Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

passages that suit their own fanciful ideas.

Jesus is plainly speaking to His followers in this passage about a return of a master to his own place to evaluate the work done in his absence. I know the Master has assigned me much to do and has given me great ability to do it. That is the point of this story. He will make eye contact with me and I with Him. I will know without His saying one word how well or how poorly I have done.

It should not surprise any of us that Jesus will come again to evaluate our work. It is not in small print. It is not hidden anywhere within Christian circles. He is to return. His return will involve my accountability to Him. Will it be different the second time around? Yes, I think so. Because it will be different, my behavior must be different today.

Luke 12

35 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

37 Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I

say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

38 And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

39 And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through.

40 Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

41 Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all?

42 And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?

43 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

44 Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.

45 But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken;

46 The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

47 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Singing school set

Shady Grove Baptist Church in Tishomingo County will host a singing school June 13th thru June 17th, starting at 7:00. Sandra Smith will be the instructor. There is no charge for attending. We will end the singing school with a fish fry and singing on Saturday the 18th. Food will be served at 4:00 and singing will begin around 6:00. Pastor Mike Smith and congregation invite everyone to attend.

Southeastern Baptist College

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



Dr. Medrick Savell
President

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Our 2011 Graduates



Those receiving degrees are listed below.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE - Patrick H. Brown, Chase Elkins, Jason O. Howard (High Honors), Matthew Dayne Pittman

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS - Bible - Delicia McCormick Henderson, Jason O. Howard (High Honors), Charles McNeil, Adam Thomas Parker (Honors), David Harmon Parker, Genita Meria Pugh (Honors), Tracy D. Warren

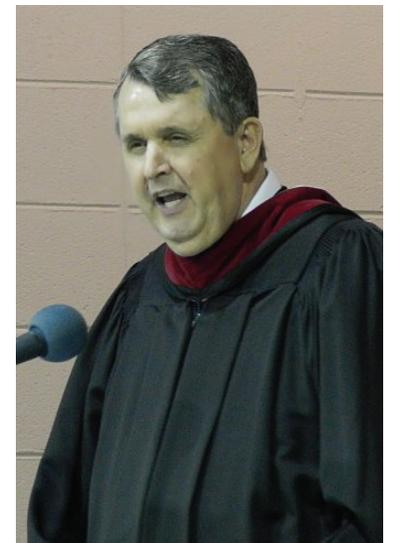
ASSOCIATE OF ARTS - General Education - June Marie Buckingham, Anna Clark, Kimberly Michelle Glenn, Amanda Jean Guy (Honors), Delicia McCormick Henderson, Sonya Lafferty, Adam Thomas Parker (Honors), Hunter Matthew Pittman, Genita Meria Pugh (Honors), Jared Bo Stockman.

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS - Business Administration - Autumn Nicole Allbrooks, June Marie Buckingham, Anna Clark, Maria de los Angeles Estes, Kimberly Michelle Glenn, Sonya Lafferty.

CERTIFICATE OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP - Elijah W. Davis, Homer E. Kemp, Marshall Mason, Jr., Mossie Redmond Phipps, Billy Prestage

DIPLOMA IN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP - Elijah W. Davis.

DIPLOMA IN BIBLE - Annie Clayton-McLean



Bro. Danny Pitts, pastor of First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel, brought the commencement address at Southeastern College.



Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Special Session Held

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body. Geraldson was not at the meeting.

Applicants

This editor is aware that there were a number of applicants for this position and that many were interviewed. The search committee did interview both Geraldson and Rice.

In his presentation Rice stated (and this is not a direct quote) that he felt he was the person for the job and that the association had a 'choice' for this position.

Uncertainty

Again, the perception by this editor and by the statements of many present, it was obvious that the majority of the messengers were not in favor of any one candidate.

A number of individuals spoke concerning the procedure. Dr. John Adams, pastor of First Baptist, Mantachie, addressed the moderator and said "I am not ready to vote". He asked the moderator to call the association to prayer. The altar was filled with many messengers for special prayer and for the Lord's leadership.

After prayer there still seemed to be uncertainty. Bro. Leon Carmical, pastor of First Baptist Calhoun, near Laurel, stated "God is not the author of confusion". He further stated he could vote for 2 of the candidates, but felt it best to stop at this point.

Carmical made a motion to table this matter until the October meeting. After consulting the parliamentarian it was

determined that this motion would have to carry by 2/3 majority.

The vote for the motion to table was 80 for and 57 against, thus falling short of the 2/3 needed to pass. Dr. Adams commented after this vote that "We are a divided house and this presents a problem."

After consultation and discussion, it was determined that to 'postpone' the matter of election of the director of missions, a simple majority would carry that vote. It being obvious that the clear majority did not want to proceed with the vote on the presented candidates this motion was made by Bro. Sam Freeman, pastor of Community Baptist, Poplarville. After a second, this motion passed by a vote of 91 to 52.

Observation

There certainly was tension and a divided mentality among those present. It is the observation of this writer that many of the rumors leading up to this meeting were true. A large number of messengers were present who supported the candidacy of Bro. Coy Rice. They were not in the majority and it is clear that they could not prevail in electing Rice. It is also apparent that the majority of messengers did not wish to elect

either of the other nominees. Had that been the case, then the body would have continued with the vote and someone would have been chosen.

Before the final vote, Bro. Joseph Oyeleye, pastor of Maple Street Baptist Church, Columbus, addressed the association. He stated that he was not happy with what was happening. He asked the question, "Why should we be divided?" and further stated, "Are we working as politicians? Let us remember this is the Lord's work and if we make a mistake, the Lord will correct it." He then stated that we should "go back and ask the Lord to get us to cooperate and work together".

Also, before the vote was taken to postpone this decision, Parliamentarian John Adams stated that if the motion to postpone passed, there would be no nominees on the floor and the matter would be back in the hands of the Missions Committee to continue their search.

After the vote to postpone, the special session was ended and the rest of the regular business was cared for.

A number of messengers left at this point and did not return for the afternoon session.



Don Brown
Editor

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"Mrs. Jones must really like your sermons dear... I heard her say yesterday that every one she heard was better than the next one!"

Letters From Our Readers

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

time, instead of window shopping.

Sorry to be so long, but I just had to share this. Watch those IED's.

God Bless You,
Vernon Watts, pastor
First Baptist Church of Henleyfield

Thankful for BMA of Mississippi

Dear Editor,

I pastored in the ABA in Louisiana for over 15 years. I saw some state meetings that were much more "animated" with vigorous debate. I have seen men cross aisles pointing fingers in the faces of people with opposing views.

I felt that everyone handled themselves in an honorable way in Laurel today. While it may upset some, vigorous debate can be good for clearing the air, if there is enough spiritual maturity to come together after the decision has been made.

I was a little confused today though. I thought we were going to vote on the nominee from the Missions Committee and Revolving Loan Departments. There should have been a vote to accept or reject their nominee. If he was rejected, then and only then should another person be considered.

It is confusing to consider more than one candidate at a time. I teach churches to vote on pastoral candidates one at a

Wedding Invitation Extended

Dear Editor,

We would like to send out an invitation for the wedding of Joshua Phil Spiers and Melissa Lynn Westbrook on Saturday, June 18, 2011, at 2:00 pm at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

Thank you,
Glenn & Patricia Westbrook
Parents of the bride

Reader replies to editorial concerning attendance

Dear Editor,

I do not want anyone to feel this article is written with arrogance nor finger pointing for this is surely not my intention.

To fully answer the question I must go back to the beginning. In 1945 returning home from WWII I resumed pastoral work. Tired of fighting, I was looking forward to serving with our churches. Attending our National Associational Meeting that year I found no peace there. Three groups of ideas were in the American Baptist Association. One group would remain with present idea church membership was not required in the church for which they were voting, one

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

John Miller

Bro. John Miller, former pastor of Parkway Church, Petal for over 16 years, is available for pulpit supply. If you can use him please contact him at 601-545-7179 or 601-520-4736,

Dale Wirick

Dale Wirick is available for pulpit supply wherever the Lord leads. He may be reached at 228-249-3731 or 228-474-8886.



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Midyear Meeting

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spoke of a closer relationship and cooperation with the national missions department. He and Missions Director John David Smith are working on ways to integrate the operations for the purpose of fulfilling the great commission.

Crawley also spoke promoting the new DiscipleWay training program. Training sessions will get underway in May and in a number of locations later in the year.

Reports

Reports were given by each commission, department and fellowships. BMF director Bryson Haden offered the services of the Music Fellowship to any church or group that needed help and input.

The Brotherhood report was given by Roy Caldwell in the absence of President Roger Jefcoat. The WMA report was given by Christie Lee. Written reports from these two groups will be presented in a later edition.

Southeaster College President Dr. Medrick Savell presented the college report. The recent graduation ceremony conferred 28 degrees on 19 individuals. He shared that finances are strained by the economy and said the number one need at the college is increased enrollment. He announced that the college has expanded its online course offerings to a total of 18. He encouraged our pastors and members to take advantage of these offerings.

Dwight Lindsey, director of the Youth Department urged participation in the upcoming camp season and all the activities. Lindsey requested input and encouragement from the churches in ways to better minister to our youth. He had Bryson Haden, youth pastor of Oakland Church, Vicksburg, present the BRAG Conference to be held in July at Oakland Church. Be Real About God (B.R.A.G.) Others churches are

encouraged to bring their youth to this event.

Bro. Lavelle Lee presented the Missions and RLF report. Ray Boone, missionary pastor of New Heart Mission, Hattiesburg, reported on their progress, both spiritually and on their new building. Reports were also given concerning First Hispanic Church, Ripley; El Camino Church, Laurel; Maple Street Church, Columbus; and Homestretch Mission in Cleveland.

Stirring Messages

Bro. Elvis Garcia, missionary pastor of First Hispanic Church, Ripley and Bro. Estuardo Marraquin, pastor of El Camino Mission, Laurel, brought the morning 'message'.



Bro. Harold Floyd welcomes Bro. & Mrs. Richard Arceneaux of Meadville into the Association.

Both preached powerful messages and thrilled the hearts of the association.

After a good lunch provided by Parkview Church, reports in the afternoon session included the Publications Department, Senior Adult Commission, Moral Action, Commission on History and the Children's Home.

The churches were encouraged to make sure their member families received the Mississippi Baptist. The editor thanked those who regularly contribute columns, news, and reports as well as their good financial support.

Glen Shoemake encouraged churches to save their records and have a copy, either electronic or hard copies, stored in the archives for their protection and for the benefit of the association.

Dr. Adams, director of Moral

Action, urged our people to stay in contact with our political leaders and let them know our desires concerning the moral condition of our nation. He and Mrs. Adams will be traveling to Washington, D.C. for a



Christy Matthews speaking at the midyear WMA meeting

Watchmen On The Wall conference and to meet with a number of elected officials.

Bro. (Dr.) Vern Holifield re-



Roger Jefcoat presides over Brotherhood meeting

ported on the Senior Adult Commission and the two conference held this Spring. He reported a total attendance of around 500 at both meetings. He said that the finances of the Commission were holding well and thanked the churches for their support. He encouraged churches to continually make ministering to their senior adults a priority.

Children's Home Director Sidney Davis shared his report. Finances are good and he thanked those who supported the Home's special emphasis drive and the rallies for the Home. He said the three elementary school students were doing very well academically with all having a B or better average. The middle school student excels in the school band was asked to join the High School marching band. Davis stressed that all four of the children at the home have made professions of faith.

The Association will meet again in October for the annual business session.

Commission on Senior Adults

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



It is good to greet our friends around the country through the pages of the Mississippi Baptist paper. We are now sailing on stormy seas in our political world. The moral sea is stormy. The Spiritual seas are troubled as well. It seems that trouble is everywhere. Let us not forget who we are and whose we are. Jesus knows what is going on earth. We should understand that He knows how committed we are to His Cause. (Second Chronicles 7: 14) is still in the Bible and I believe it fits or applies to us as it did to Israel.

It seems to me that we Baptist should keep our eyes on the Lord and the work He has left us to do. We spend a lot of time these days debating, judging, and pushing for, it seems to, our own agenda. Someone said recently that often we folks search for methods while we should be searching for God. Where is God in much of our discussions? Where is God in many of our desires and notions? "God is not the author of confusion, but peace, as in all churches of the saints" (1 Cor. 24: 33). None of us should have a personal agenda that we demand on others. Churches and Associations are made up with people of different God given talents. We are not all alike in thought, we are different but the Holy Spirit can make all these differences work in harmony for the Glory of God and the advancement of His cause. After all it is His cause, His church, His work, NOT yours or mine.

National Meeting

Dot and I had the privilege of attending the national meeting in April. I have missed only three of four National Associations since 1949. The 2011 meeting was one of the best. A good spirit was enjoyed throughout the meeting. The preaching was simply great. The Jacksonville choir was tops. One of the highlights was the Commissioning of the Missionaries. Brother Dale Broom and his wife were elected to a foreign field. Last year three or four BMA of Mississippi ladies were elected to serve on foreign fields.

We have those who never find good things to say about our BMAM work. The Lord

has blessed our BMA of Mississippi churches to produce several missionaries through the years. There of the major Departments of the BMAA have Mississippi men as Executive Directors. Dr. John David Smith BMAA Missions; Dr. John Adams BMAA Moral Action and Dr. Kevin Clayton BMAA Disciple Guide. Brother Greg Medenwald is one of the Recording Secretaries. Don't sell BMA Baptist short. Don't sell BMA Baptist in Mississippi short. We are God's people. We are not the only people that God is using, but we are in the battle for truth and right. Perfect, no, but the Doctrines we espouse to are perfect. We don't have to defend the Bible and its doctrines. We have to preach and teach them. God didn't tell His Church to defend the Truth, but to declare it.

Conferences

God gave us two great conferences. Many said they were the best ever. They were among the best we have conducted. We registered 340 in the South Conference and 150 in the North. Forty plus churches were represented in the South and 18 in the North. Just think if 75 or 100 churches would represent in the South conference. Just think if 40 or 50 churches would represent in the North Conference. The combined conferences witnessed about 490 in attendance. It is sad that many of our dear seniors missed a wonderful day of good things.

I say a great big thanks to all those who were on the programs. I say a big thanks to all the pastors all who attended the conferences. Big Creek Church and Pastor Brother Don Brown, and First Baptist and Pastor Dr. John Adams were perfect host.

Thanks to all who sent us kind notes about the Conferences. Many had positive things to say about the Conferences.

Note: A Photo look at the North Senior Adult Conference held at First Baptist, Mantachie is displayed on page 8

Mississippi W.M.A.

Blinda Lee, President

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2011-2012 National WMA Project by Shirlene Smith, Editor National WMA

At the recent National WMA meeting at Wichita Falls, Texas, the WMA ladies selected as their project for the coming year the following: 40% Haiti Relief Fund under the direction of Bro. Mike Poirier; 40% ISHELP under the direction of Bro. Tony Crocker; 15% Youth Fund; and 5% General Fund. All funds for Haiti and ISHELP will be directed through the BMAA Missions Department in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Bro. Mike Poirier and Sis. Ruth Poirier have provided us with information that will help us better understand the work that is being done in Haiti. "The Haiti relief is organized by the BMAA for the purpose of:

1. Bringing hope to unsaved people that they may come to know the Lord by the preaching of the Gospel. Every time there is a trip planned to Port-au-Prince the Gospel is the first priority. Pastor Poirier has won souls on every trip made and now is teaching a national how to win souls and teach others. This teaching is going on via Internet and meetings each time Haiti is visited.

2. Evaluate the situation of the people in need by meeting them one by one and giving consideration to their need for: a. shelter, b. food, c. clothing.

3. Orphanage: A family of Port-au-Prince has taken in children into their home after the earthquake and has given all the basic needs to save their lives from the hardship of hunger, etc. This is not an orphanage registered with the government and is working alone with the help and generosity of the people. Bro. Poirier's duties when he goes to see them are: a. visiting the children and talking to them about the Lord, b. verifying their needs in order to see where help is needed, c. providing cash for them to buy food (sometimes it is cheaper to buy the food there).

4. Work from home: We organize and collect clothing, food, toys, and hygiene products which are then put into a container and shipped to Port-au-Prince. It takes a couple of months before reaching the destination."

ISHELP is an interactive self-help English learning program to help reach others with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Bro. Tony provided the following information for us: "ISHELP International Incorporated is a new platform established to assist groups associated with the BMA of America make the most of their global opportunities through the effective use of English as a second language. ISHELP was established in late 2009 and is a registered 501c3 non-government, non-profit organization. ISHELP provides volunteer teams of college students and adult professionals the necessary tools and international connections to conduct English Second Language teacher training and interactive learning services in secondary schools, colleges, and universities where opportunities to interact with native English speakers are limited.

We hope that ISHELP will function as a long-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

continued from page 4

group wanted to wash feet and have no designated salary for the pastor and one group wanted to let the church pay the pastor as the church desired and an individual had to be a member of the church for which they were voting.

From 1945 to 1949 these differences and others simmered. In the 1949 Associational Meeting a request was made for a motion that no one could be a messenger outside the church of which they were a member. You may ask voting outside your church membership was an issue. Yes, when there are divisions everything becomes an issue.

The motion was tabled until the 1950 Associational Meeting. As the gavel sounded in the 1950 Associational Meeting the moderator ask for a motion all regular business be dispensed and move to elect a moderator for the 1950 meeting. The tabled issue of the 1949 meeting was to be the first issue of business in our 1950 meeting. As soon as the moderator knew he had votes the opposite side had difficulty getting recognized.

During the meeting after a LONG wait Brother D.N. Jackson's son rose and ask this question, is there anyone here who will admit they are voting for a church of which they are not members? I can see it as if it were yesterday. A man, his wife and daughter rose and stated they were living in Florida and voting for a church in Arkansas. Did they not know this was wrong?

There are preachers to day who remember the details. Anything put into my computer that important can never be forgotten.

How does this compare to our work now?

As it was then there are those who are determined to have their way regardless how others feel. If your church does not agree with us shame on you. Many churches have left our Associational Meeting feeling as if they were unwanted and not needed.

I have had my hands on the pulse of many small churches and their answer is the same. Why should we spend time and money going when we will neither be heard nor needed?

As the issue of the vote came in 1950 churches

short term support program to our professionals living overseas, and provide opportunity for those considering long-term overseas service to receive training that will increase their chance for a success. We offer three training modules that address the most common challenges that go unanswered in an English Second Language Program, as well as cross cultural training for each volunteer.

Our highest goal is that ISHELP will be a bridge of understanding between our people in the United States and the friends we make in schools around the world. This year we are sending our first teams to Beijing, China, and Bangkok, Thailand. Already, we are seeing the need among our contacts as we have started communicating with personnel in four new nations for 2012. If your group or organization is looking for an opportunity to build meaningful relationships overseas, please contact us now about our 2012 opportunities."

I pray that this information will stir and challenge the hearts of our WMA ladies to begin NOW to raise funds and give liberally that Haiti and the nations touched by the ministry of ISHELP will experience the love of Jesus and be saved. "That thy way may be known upon Earth, thy saving health (salvation) among all nations, Psalm 67:2."

Please send your contributions to - National WMA, Pat Duncan, P.O. Box 30, Hardy, AR 72542-0030.

were made fun of because of their stand, the same has happened today over the version of the Bible. Churches in opposition are being made fun of because they are narrow-minded thinkers. Seems some would rather have their way at the risk of destroying the Associational work. I Corinthians 8:13 in my Bible (KJV) that tells us if meat makes my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend. Brethren are you going to continue having your way even if you offend your brother in the process?

Churches what you do is between you and God. Don't try to force what you do on others. This is exactly what brought the first division. When you say use other versions and in our literature do not give options to our churches in some of your literature knowing many churches are against what you are doing, is not your meat offending others?

Doctorial(sic)issues are different.

Let the churches choose. Just think sixty-one years ago American Association split three ways over issues of how to pay their pastor, washing of feet and church membership required in the church for which you are voting. I would certainly be disappointed to live through another split over which version of the Bible a church uses.

J.B. Stonecypher

Lucedale, Mississippi

Preaching Conference Invitation

Dear Editor,

Please put the following info in the paper if you can. I would appreciate it.

The 4th Annual Reviving the Passion of Preaching Conference will be held on November 4-5, 2011. More information on the website at revivingthepassionofpreaching.tripod.com.

Thanks.

Josh Spiers

North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference

Photos by Bro. Eddie Boutwell
(Photographer Extroidinaire)



Change Made in Distribution of Directories

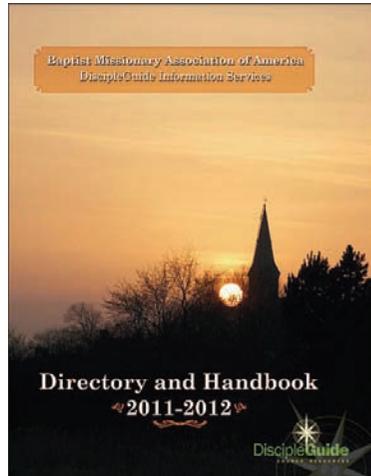
Bobby L. Hudgens
DiscipleGuide Church Resources

In just a couple of months the 2011-12 edition of the BMAA Directory and Handbook will be ready for distribution. In recent years we've made a number of improvements in content and eye appeal and this year will be no exception. We have continued to group department information together to make it easier to find the information you need. We are including photos for the first time of the ABS directors. The book sports a beautiful new cover showing the sun rising on a new day. We feel this is appropriate in light of bold and positive new changes we are beginning to see in our associated work.

We are now taking a new look at how we can continue to provide the BMAA with this extensive information resource and remain financially solvent. Until recently we were able to send out two books to each BMAA church and then liberally supply the churches with additional copies as needed. We

no longer have that luxury.

At the end of 2010 we were in the red by \$2,500. We keep our expenses as low as possible. Other than expenses directly related to printing and



mailing the Directory and Handbook, we only have one part-time salary and general postage to pay. We are creating the church directory, preacher, and staff sections in-house this year rather than outsourcing them as has long been the practice. This is a considerable sav-

ing.

Why is it necessary to make changes in the publication and distribution of the directory? Over the last few years printing costs have soared while offerings from the churches have fallen. More than two-thirds of BMAA churches give no offering to this work. We are being supported by less than one-third of the churches. The bottom line is that we have to increase income and lower expenses.

This year the Directory and Handbook will be available only by purchase and must be ordered. Copies will not be mailed out to all churches automatically as in years past. Please place your order now. If you need one book, order one book for \$20 plus shipping and handling, two books for \$40 plus shipping and handling, etc. For shipping and handling add 10% of your total order. There's a minimum charge of \$5 if the 10% is below \$5. The number of books we print will be based on the number of copies ordered.

Call customer service at 800-333-1442, or order online at www.DiscipleGuide.org and click on "Information Services." ORDER DEADLINE: June 15.

CHILDREN'S HOME

118 LOWE ROAD, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39443 - (601) 426-3928

Homecoming Services

On Sunday, April 17, we were with the Hopewell Baptist Church near Fulton and Pastor Matt Hudson for their Homecoming services. It was my privilege and honor not only to be reared in this good church, but also to serve as its pastor on one occasion. This year Hopewell celebrated 168 years of ministry in the service of the Lord. I would like to thank the church and Pastor Matt Hudson for allowing me to be the guest speaker for this year's Homecoming.

Gardening

Well, at this time of the year a lot of activity takes place outdoors. Besides cutting grass, another important activity includes planting a garden.

As one takes those potted plants and places them in the soil, excitement takes place as you begin to consider the time of harvest. We have the garden planted at the Home and now we look to the Lord for His sunshine and rain from above for His blessings. As we watch the plants grow and the seeds

sprout and produce may we ever be mindful that we have a faithful Heavenly Father who loves us very much and wants to see us grow in Him.

Remembering Those Who Have Gone Before Us

On May 30 we will honor the many who have given their lives to preserve the liberties and freedoms that we enjoy as Americans on this Memorial Day holiday. May we never forget the price they paid and give God thanks for the ultimate sacrifice they gave.

As we honor the patriots of America it is also fitting to show our heartfelt appreciation for the many soldiers of faith. One such true patriot of the faith was the Apostle



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

Paul. He gave his farewell words to us in 2 Timothy 4:6-8. "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: And not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Paul was able to look back on his life and say, "I have fought a good fight." We too need to take time to look back. Have we fought a good fight? Are we doing the will of God in our lives from our heart?

One day life is going to end for you and me. I trust we will be able to look to the Lord Jesus Christ just as Paul did. Praise God for the memories of the many patriots of faith who have gone before us.

School Will Be Out In A Few Days

The children are anxiously awaiting for school to be out for the summer. Summer time always accounts for a busy schedule and summer vacation will be over before one realizes what has taken place.

Continue to remember the Home in your daily prayers and pray for God's protective care upon the activities of the children during the summer break.

Participants, Winners, and Honorees



CHURCH NEWS

Springhill Church to host Gospel Sing

Springhill Baptist Church in Laurel will be hosting a gospel sing Saturday, May 28, 2011, at 7:00 pm featuring The Bibletones Quartet. A love offering will be taken. For more info call 601-729-8019.

Tombigbee Association report

The Tombigbee Baptist Association met with The Lone Oak Baptist Church on May 5th, 2011. There were 40 members with 3 visitors from 8 churches. Bro. Bryan Wilson opened with prayer, with the welcome from Lone Oak. Ms. Kerrie Smith and Bro. Roger Franks brought the special music. The message was by Bro. Rodney Lindsey with his subject "May God's People be More Unified for the Lord" from Romans 15:1-5.

Reports were by Bro. Lavelle Lee and Bro. Elvis Garcia.

Moderator Matt Hudson
Reporter Debbie Franks

As You Graduate

Finally! Praise the Lord. Graduation is here. It is an exciting time, a fearful time, a sad time, a stress relieving time. There are many emotions that people have when they graduate. It is okay to feel whatever you want. Some of you are just thrilled it is all finally over. There may be some that are kind of sad because of friends moving away, and the end of an era. Still others of you may be a little anxious because you are facing an uncertain future. And still others of you may have everything already planned out for your immediate future, yet you wonder if you are going to be able to make it.

Whatever the mood right now, you need to know some things to help you in this transition period. People have many chapters in their book of life.



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

You are now closing one of those chapters in your book, and getting ready to write a new one. Quit looking back. Turn the page and begin a new chapter. You will write this one yourself. Chances are, it may be the first chapter in your life that you write by yourself for the most part, without the assistance of your parents telling you what to write. Know these facts about life.

1. Don't be fearful of the future.

If you are a Christian - God is going with you. He is already out ahead of you making your way straight. If you leave home, or just move out - God is with you. If you join the military and move far away, take a job in a new town, or just start on your own - God is with you. There is a great deal of comfort and peace knowing that no

matter where I am in this old world - God is going with me. Joshua 1:9

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest". See! God has promised you that he will be with you no matter where you go in life. You will always go with God. So, don't be afraid or discouraged as this scripture states. Go with God and you will be okay.

2. Don't be afraid of the future. Don't regret your past.

"What if." "But." Common comments about the future and the past. Stop fearing the future. Trust God. He is already in the future. He has had plans for you since before you were born. These plans are good. His plans for your future are for good and to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11. Learn from your past. But then leave it and grow on. Never let your past hold back your future. With God, we can always have a brand new start. He is the God of a second chance. People

may not forget your past, but God has. It is covered by the blood of the Lamb and you bear it no more. Philippians 3:13,14 "... this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

3. Scripture also tells you to be yourself.

Don't conform to all the other young people around you. Dare to be different. Dare to live for Christ. God's will for your life, whether you understand it or not, is good and perfect for you. Romans 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

4. Always remember that you can beat anything that you face.

Life is hard many times. There will be some things or some people that will come into your life and knock you down. But you can have victory. You are not going to just cope or manage your problems as a Christian. You will conquer them in Jesus name. Romans 8:37 "Nay in all these things, you are more than conquerors through him who loved you."

5. Don't be afraid, but release the power you already possess.

You will never go as far as God desires for you to go if you always are afraid to step out. Sometimes, decisions will be done not because they make sense, but because you are following God's will for your life. You have the greatest power on the face of the earth living inside of you. All your power comes from God and not from money, fame, education or anything else. But what a power it is! Live out the power you possess and don't be fearful. II Timothy 1:7 "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

6. The devil can't defeat you.

He has no power over you unless you allow him. He is already defeated. Don't let him whisper defeat into your ears. I John 4:4 "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." Eph.6:10 "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might."

7. Always remember who you are.

A son or daughter of the Most High God. You are royalty. Never forget it. And you will always be loved if you are a Christian. Romans 8: 38,39 "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Now get going. Vaya con Dios.

The Mississippi Classic Builders and The Master's Builders work on New Heart Baptist Church Building

by Nelda Malone, reporter

Builders from six states traveled to Hattiesburg, Mississippi, the last of March to help with the building of the mission New Heart Baptist Mission. Two weeks were spent framing the building, putting the metal on the outside and framing up the inside classrooms, fellowship hall, and sanctuary. Members of New Heart Mission helped in the building and put up the insulation.

On April 25th, many of these builders returned to New Heart to resume work. The men wired the building and put up sheet rock on the ceilings and walls.

The builders would like to express their gratitude to Bro. Ray Boone and his wife Joann, all the wonderful members of New Heart and to Bro. Vernon

Lee for taking such good care of us while we were there.

For those who do not know, the Mississippi Classic Builders and The Master's Builders are volunteers who travel to churches that have building needs. We travel in our RVs or stay in motels at our own expense. On each job lasting friendships are made. That is only one of the many benefits for the men and women who travel when called. We serve the Lord and the ongoing of His Kingdom in this ministry.

Two couples in our group need your prayers in a special way at this time. Please pray for Bill and Anita Dees and Jack and Shirley Taylor. We miss being with them so much.

If you are looking for a way to serve the Lord and you think you would

enjoy working alongside of us, contact John Mangum, Office Coordinator for The Master's Builders at 318-205-5155 or Jack Mitchell, Office Coordinator for the Mississippi Classic Builders at 228-627-1316.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Surprise Me!

At a meeting I went to not long ago, the very staid and stoical preacher quoted that very famous and well-loved comedian, Bob Hope. The story goes that when Bob's time to go seemed eminent, his wife, Delores, asked him where he wanted to be buried. Bob looked up at her and said, "Surprise me!"

I don't think humor is listed among the spiritual gifts, but I have found that it's a very handy tool to help us get through some difficult times in our lives.

"He who hath a merry heart hath a continual feast." Proverbs 15:15



New Heart Mission, Hattiesburg benefited from the help of The Mississippi Classic Builders and The Master's Builders