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Mississippi

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National Association Meets in Texas



Missions Report & Missionary Commissioning service during Annual Meeting in Arlington, Texas

The BMA of America held its annual meeting May 1-3 at the Arlington Convention Center in Arlington, Texas. The Enrollment Committee reported 567 in attendance with 434 churches represented by messenger and/or letter. The Association welcomed 4 new churches by petitionary letter - Grace Hills, Bentonville, Arkansas; Olde Tyme, Gilmer, Texas; The Bridge, Mountain Home, Arkansas; and The Refuge, Terrell, Texas, were accepted into the BMA of America.

The 2018 meeting will come to Mississippi and will be held April 16-18 at the Jackson Convention Center. Bro. Terry Kimbrow, president of Central Baptist College, Conway, Arkansas, was elected to bring the annual message with Cliff Johnson, pastor of Garrett Memorial Baptist Church, Hope, Arkansas, serving as alternate. The messengers approved the recommendation of the Committee on Arrangements to hold the 2020 meeting at Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie, Texas. It was noted that the

church facilities were more that adequate to host the meeting with a seating capacity of 1,200. The rising cost of convention facilities and the lack of increased support for the annual association meeting and minute fund contributed to seeking alternate facilities.

All current officers were reelected for the 2018 Associational year. They are President Paul White, First vice-president Jeff Swart, Second Vice-president Mark Livingston and Recording Clerk Jerome Cooper. Clerks Greg Medenwald and James Ray Raines continue to serve.

Worship Services

Dr. Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church, Plano, Texas, addressed the messengers on Monday evening. His message emphasized the theme for the 2017 meeting of "Brick by Brick". Bro. Paul White brought



Jack Graham

the president's message on Wednesday afternoon from the book of Nehemiah. His message is printed in this issue.

The annual message was brought by Bro. Donny Parrish on Tuesday evening. Parrish stressed to the churches that "We need to see people like Jesus saw people...." He encouraged churches to be missions minded locally, as well as world-wide.



Donny Parrish

Reports

Trustees for various departments and commissions were approved as presented by the Nominating Committee and listed in the recommendation booklet.

Each department and commission director was reelected with the exception of Lifeward. Director Steve Crawley stepped see **Annual Meeting** on page 2

Southeastern Board Presents Dr. Scott Carson As President

The Board of Trustees would like to recommend Dr. Scott Carson as the next President of Southeastern Baptist College. This recommendation was approved on Friday, April 28, 2017. This recommendation will also be brought to the Association during its report during the Midyear Meeting at Midway First Baptist Church.

Chris Floyd, Clerk
Matt Hudson, Chairman



Dr. Scott Carson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brick by Brick: Working Together

by Paul White, President
BMA of America

Can we make a difference? There are thousands all around the world who would answer this question with a resounding "yes." In fact, I am living proof that the BMAA does make a difference. How about you?

Helen Keller said, "Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much." Brick by Brick — Working Together is the theme for this year's meeting, and our text is Neh. 3:1-32.

Nehemiah 3 is one of those chapters that consists largely of unpronounceable names and long forgotten people! It can be discouraging to come to a chapter like this, and sometimes we are tempted to skip over them and move on to the next one. After all, there couldn't be much to be gained from a chapter like that, right? Wrong! If we did that with Nehemiah 3, we would miss some powerful and valuable lessons on building for God!

We have tried to give each person present a piece of a puzzle. My son, Chad, used this illustration in one of his sermons, and I have borrowed it

fortoday. You see, fitting into the big picture is somewhat like an individual piece of a puzzle.

Have you ever tried to put together a jigsaw puzzle? Some of them, like the 1,000 piece ones, can be challenging. What makes them so difficult is that the tiny pieces don't look like much of anything by themselves. They are small, oddly colored and oddly shaped. When you pick up a piece of the puzzle, then look at the box and look back at the tiny piece in your hand, you think "There is no way this is a part of that."

However, as you put each piece in its place, before long a picture begins to emerge. Soon you realize that your tiny, misshaped piece was a vital part of a grand design.

I want to back up for a moment to Neh. 2:18 where we find



Paul White

continued on page 7

COMMISSION ON *Senior Adults*

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt
Director

North Mississippi Conference A Good One!

What a day! On Tuesday, May 9th, a great crowd of people gathered at Greenwood Baptist Church, Dorsey, for the North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference. A great spirit of excitement prevailed throughout the day. It was a great time of worship and fellowship in the Lord. It is always a special time meeting with the people of North Mississippi and Pastor Kelby Johnson.

Door prizes were awarded and a very special plaque was presented to Bro. Grover Laird commemorating 71 years of ministry, preaching the gospel of our Lord. He has been an example of a dedicated servant of the Lord, may be there be more like him. Bro. Jeff Dixon led our hearts in worship during the worship hour. Good spiritual singing was enjoyed throughout the day with Bro. Bryson Haden leading. The afternoon session of Gaither Style Gospel Singing was special. Thanks to each one who helped in this choir.

A generous love offering was given to the Commission and this support is deeply appreciated.

The noon meal was catered by the Dorsey-Friendship Fire Department

and once again there was ample food, catfish and all the trimmings.

Greenwood Baptist Church was gracious host and everything that needed to be done was done. Thank you church and ladies for the many choices of sweets.

It was a great day in the Lord and the uplifting spirit was evident upon arrival. We look forward to the next North Mississippi Senior Conference to be held next year on Tuesday, May 8th, 2018.



Bro. Kenneth Flynt presents a plaque to Bro. Grover Laird recognizing his 71 years of ministry.

ANNUAL MEETING from page 1

down and the messengers approved the recommendation from the Lifeword board of Donny Parrish as the new director. Lifeword continues the expansion of ministries around the world. Crawly shared plans for a Lifeword Network, Lifeword Cloud and that all content of Lifeword ministries would be housed and available at Lifeword.org.



Second Vice-president Mark Livingston (right) welcomes messengers from four new churches into the Association

Discipleguide reported that after input from the churches a new Compass commentary edition has been created for those who desire a more traditional format. The 'fill-in-the-blank' quarterly will continue giving classes a choice. Director Scott Attebery shared that other literature publications are being considered and planned. Discipleguide requested the Coordinating Council to review its relationship with Daniel Springs Baptist Camp. This move would be to improve its financial condition and set it on a course of a self sustaining status.

Ministers Resource Services Director Ron Chesser shared the growth of retirement funds and the need for each church to help their pastor and staff with retirement plans and finances. He referenced the picture of the ant in Proverbs storing away food for a later season as the good example of preparing for retirement. Chesser stressed to "Save as much as you can for as long as you can and start as soon as you can".

BMA Theological Seminary President Charley Holmes shared the ministry of the school's 60 years of service and the world-wide reach of its ministry. He shared their goals of 60 new students for the coming year, \$60,000 to remodel Dorman Chapel, and \$60,000 to add to the building fund.

The Annual Seminary Friends dinner highlighted the 60 years of ministry and included comments by two former Kellar Award recipients - Missionary Buddy Johnson and Former Missions Director Grady Higgs. Both shared the blessings of being graduates of BMA Seminary and shared personal memories of their time in Jacksonville.

Moral Action Director John Adams shared the work of representing the Association with our elected officials in Washington, D.C. He has visited with and shared the concerns of the churches with numerous representatives and senators. He encourage messengers to contact their government representatives and share their concerns. He stressed the need to do this in a calm and courteous manner.

Missions

The missions report was given on Wednesday evening along with the annual commissioning service. Stan and Donna Scroggins were elected to serve in the Philippines, Jayna Williams as an endorse missionary candidate, Michael Barton endorsed to Canada, Jordan and Sarah Bowen to a self-funded church planting internship, Nathan Brewer as a church planter to Oklahoma City and Thomas Mobly as associate church planter.

Veteran missionary Eric Johnson was approved as the International Missions Director replacing Bro. Phil Knott who is retiring. Knott will continue for the



James Shoenrock leads prayer of thanks for Ladd's years of service

next year to help transition Johnson into the position.

The Missions Department presented a new plan for funding national missions on the field. "Change Makers" is designed to

sustain national workers on their field. Pastors in attendance were challenged to enroll at least 5 individuals or families from their church to enroll in the plan.

Missionaries John & Shirley Ladd were recognized for their dedicated years of service as they go off the mission field, but continue to serve. The Ladd's will continue to work through BMMI ministries.



Missionary Jeff Franks also was recognized for he and his wife's years of service in the Ukraine. They too will continue to be active in missions.

DiscipleGuide

MUSIC

WE THE UNION

MESSAGE

DUSTIN WISELY

CONCERT

JORDAN FELIZ

REGISTER NOW AT GOSOAR.COM

Southeastern Baptist College

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

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Interim President's Perspective

Isaiah 30:21 says, "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it..."

About one year ago I became the Academic Dean here at Southeastern Baptist College. Little did Linda and I know that the Lord was about to put into motion an experience for us of which we were totally unprepared. When we arrived in our new and beautiful community of Laurel, Mississippi, I agreed with Linda that we should look for a small fixer upper and historic home. We contacted a realtor to initiate the search for our cozy new home. A few days later, our realtor contacted us to relate that he had received a strange call from Canada. He explained that HGTV was in Laurel and was in search for new residents moving to town who might be interested in being in their newest show named "Home Town" starring Laurel natives Ben and Erin Napier. We didn't quite know what to make of this sudden opportunity. As we prayed about the possibilities, the Lord led us to conclude that, as my sister-in-law likes to say, "It's a God thing!"

We were certainly blessed, not only by the experience of being on national television, but also by the entire HGTV crew. All were wonderful and upbeat people who clearly loved their job and believed in their core purpose for the show, that of influencing small towns that may have been in decline, to invest in themselves and to encourage them to celebrate and reinvigorate what they already possess within their communities.

Well, doing the show meant setting us back in getting quickly settled into Laurel as we had planned. Once we made our decision on which home to purchase, we had to sign it over to HGTV for about 7 weeks and promise never to drive by or peak at their progress.

In the end, Ben, Erin and crew performed a marvelous transformation of our historic cottage. If you saw the episode, Linda was very moved by the beautiful upgrades to the exterior and the total renovation of the kitchen.

As part of "the God thing", we are currently leveraging our "15 minutes of fame" and local celebrity status, for the advancement of Southeastern Baptist College. In combination with our television commercial and the community-wide National Day of Prayer Breakfast,

the Lord has enabled us to shine a spotlight upon the great ministry and academic opportunities here at the college. And, as a result, we are seeing an increased interest with local folks inquiring about furthering their education here at our campus.

In all that has transpired this past year, I am reminded and continually amazed how God works in the lives of His people when we yield to His leading in our lives. "... Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:21



Dr. Scott Carson
Interim President

2017 Commencement Exercise

Southeastern Baptist College is proud to announce that our commencement exercises for the graduating class of 2017 will be held in the school gymnasium, May 18 at 7:00 pm. Please note



2016 Graduating Class

that this is a half hour earlier than in years past.

You are invited to come celebrate with our students as they receive their well earned diplomas from your school and one America's top tier Bible colleges!

Our graduates are:

Associates in Bible: Ecclesiastes Goodwin; Trina House; Jarod Hubbard; David Ledlow; James McGhee, Jr.; Zechariah Rogers; and Aida Smith

Associates in Business: Lisa Rock
Bachelors of Science in Business Administration: Maston (Tony) McMahan

Bachelors of Science in Church Ministries: Christopher Sean Piper; Justin Rhodes; and Aida Smith

Our Greatest Need!

We need someone, or a couple of people, who believes in the ministry of Southeastern Baptist College to provide

Available to Preach

Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit for preaching or to make a presentation about the great work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. You can reach him at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu



Senator Chris McDaniel

an immediate donation of \$20,000 to ensure we end in the black this fiscal year. The College ends its fiscal year on June 30. It is imperative that we are in the black while closing out our finances of FY 17 so that we will continue our forward momentum towards Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accreditation. SACS accreditation is absolutely essential for the future of this institution. If you can help us out, or need more information, I invite you to contact me, Dr. Carson, at 601-433-4736. Southeastern Baptist College is a 501(c)(3) certified tax deductible charity.

National Day of Prayer Breakfast

The Laurel National Day of Prayer Breakfast sponsored by Southeastern Baptist College was a wonderful experience and success! Mississippi State Senator Chris McDaniel delivered a powerful message



A large crowd attended National Day of Prayer Breakfast on our first amendment rights and encouraged all Christians to stand our ground when others attempt to degrade this essential American freedom. It was a blessing to have pastors of various local churches participate in the pro-



Dr. Carson welcomes crowd to breakfast. Thank you to all who helped, also to the churches and the Big Creek Association who purchased the meals! Please take note of the pictures of the event.

Big Award!

For a second year in a row, and out of hundreds of eligible schools, Southeastern Baptist College is among the top 25 Online Bible Colleges in the nation! Help us continue our forward momentum in excellence offering the highest quality and soundly grounded Bible education for those attending our great institution. Donate today online at <http://southeasternbaptist.edu/web/99/SpecialEmphasisDonationPage.aspx> or mail your donation to Southeastern Baptist College, 4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440.

Television Commercial

Our first television commercial for Southeastern Baptist College is already producing fruit with several new applicants referencing it as the reason for their discovering our college and desiring to study God's word at SBC. Will you help us to continue the commercial through May and into the summer? One month of television advertisement costs \$2,000.

Summer Course

We are offering a short on-line elective course for credit or audit this summer. The course is Ezekiel and Daniel, and begins June 6. Don't delay! If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Emma Bond at 601-426-6346.

Fall Pre-registration

Pre-registration is open now for the Fall Semester. Classes begin August 15. Among the many courses offered is Greek I. Learn to study God's Word in the original Greek language! Contact Ronnie

continued on page 4

SENIOR SOURCES

byBecky Ulmer - becky.ulmer@jghms.com

"Role Call"

Do you feel "called" in the role you are in? In your home life, occupation, church affiliation, and community -- do you occupy a sense of purpose and responsibility?

In celebrating Mother's Day, I spend a lot of time reflecting on my life and especially on my role of a mother. There are so many things in life that I am blessed to have. The role of "wife", "mother" and "Nana" are the ones I hold sacred. God truly blessed me with the husband, children, and grandchildren that gave me these titles.

The most God-fearing, praying, hard working, and devoted woman I have ever met gave birth to me. She believed in leading by example. She understood the need to show "discipline of love" which was consistent, warranted, and resulted in a changed behavior. She placed very little emphasis on worldly things, desired her children to have more than she had, and taught us based on the scripture passage "All things are possible through God".

It was not until I reached older adulthood that I am understanding why she chose to live without modern conveniences. That was a life lesson for us. A dependence on God but not on anything else. Loss of power, water or phones never

interrupted mama's life, in fact she used these times to seal the importance of being prepared to her children. God is and always has been number one in her life.



Becky Ulmer

The most God-fearing, praying, hard working, and devoted woman I have ever met gave birth to me.

Becky Ulmer is Nursing Administrator of Jasper County Nursing Home, Bay Springs, Mississippi and attends First Baptist, Bay Springs.

The rest of her life is family. Through marriage, birth, work, church and community, she considers all to be family.

One of the things I see with her is a sense of total contentment. Contentment in the past, present and future. Contentment in the past, present and future. She continues to seek out ways to serve God by helping those in need. The only fear she has for the future is the ability to care for herself and not be a burden on her children. The rest is already guaranteed. The home here in Bay Springs, Mississippi, is only temporary. The one in heaven will be for eternity. I challenge you to evaluate yourself on the instructions set forth in the Bible. God places people in your life to inspire, teach, lead and discipline.

My mother, Mary Ann Jernigan Nix has been my role

model for life. I have failed in attempts to follow her pattern as faithfully as I should have. Contentment in my life is becoming a welcomed feeling. If I could go back and make different decisions, would I? Of course, but not in the best decision made in life - acceptance of Christ through Salvation. Eternity is secure. I am accepting past choices, enjoying and thanking

God for blessings of today and trusting him to lead me in the future paths.

"Thou wilt shew me the path of life; in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore" Psalm 16:11

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" Philippians 1:6

Christian printer wins free-speech case

OneNewsNow — A divided Kentucky appeals court panel has ruled that a Lexington business did not discriminate against an organization by refusing to print T-shirts for a gay rights festival.

Chief Judge Joy Kramer wrote in her opinion that the city's ordinance prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation does not prohibit the owners of Hands On Originals from "engaging in viewpoint or message censorship." Kramer said the business objected to the message of gay pride, not anyone's sexual orientation.

Lexington's Gay and Lesbian Services Organization tried to order the T-shirts for the city's 2012 Gay Pride Festival. An owner of Hands On originals, Blaine Adamson, refused the order citing his Christian beliefs, but referred the GLSO to another printer that would produce the shirts at the same price. The Kentucky Human Rights Commission ruled against Adamson and a lawsuit was filed.

Judge Jeff Taylor dissented, saying he thought the business

did discriminate against the organization.

Adamson was represented by the Becket. Attorney Luke Goodrich of the Becket explains the ruling:

"The court ruled that he is not discriminating and that it would actually violate the law to force him to print messages that violate his beliefs. So it's a major victory for free speech and for religious freedom."

According to the attorney, Adamson has paid a price over the nearly five years of litigation and thought he might lose the business:

"The local gay rights group organized a boycott [and protests] of Blaine's shop ... and so he has had a very difficult year ... He was even being faced with having to undergo what basically amounts to re-education—the state-mandated diversity training to try to get him to think differently."

Goodrich says the government has no right to force a person to think the way it thinks about controversial moral issues.

Southeastern College continued from page 3

Kitchens or Mrs. Emma Bond at 601-426-6346.

Available Scholarships

No joke! \$1,000 scholarships! The Arnold Knight Memorial RLF Scholarship is available every semester to Baptist Missionary Association ministers who take classes at Southeastern Baptist College. These funds are administered by the BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund. Our recruiter, Ronnie Kitchens, has all the information you need to sign up for classes and financial aid. Contact Brother Ronnie at 601-426-6346 or rkitchens@southeasternbaptist.edu

VA Benefits

SBC possesses the 2017 Silver Award as a military friendly college! Have you served in

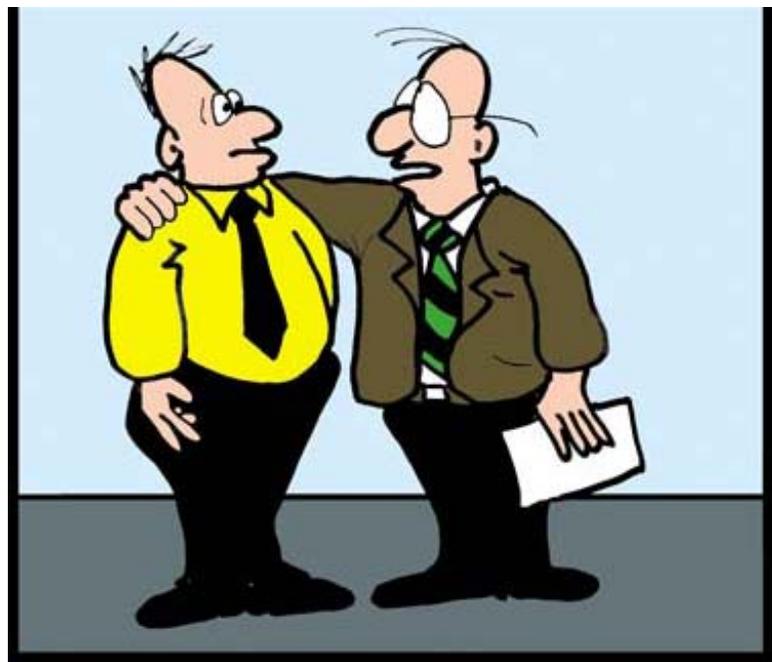
America's armed forces? Then you probably have Veterans Administration tuition benefits that you can use toward a free education right here at SBC. There is a time limit to your VA benefits, so I urge you to contact your local VA representative for an evaluation of your benefits. You earned them. Use them before it's too late! And remember, the Post 9-11 GI Bill is fully transferable to family members. SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

An Idea

I encourage every reader of the Mississippi Baptist to seriously consider contributing toward the BMA of Mississippi's premier school of Biblical knowledge. We were awarded the distinguished Best Online Bible

College in the nation for 2016 for a reason! SBC is the best of the best when it comes to educating people in theology and the scriptures! Will you consider setting up a scholarship in your church to help educate and advance leaders in the BMA of Mississippi ministries? Pastors, youth workers, ministers of music, potential missionaries, deacons, Sunday school teachers and more will all benefit greatly in their personal walk with the Lord and be more effective in their callings. I believe every church in our work should have someone on their church staff taking classes online or in our classrooms. I encourage you to seriously consider what an education in the Bible or in Christian leadership can do to advance the Gospel in your "neck of the woods."

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"You're doing a good job as an usher, but its called an offering, not a sin tax."

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From The Mind of Chuck Lee

It Started About the Mid-1700's

I'm not sure the exact date, but somewhere around the mid 1700's, a pine tree began its journey in this world. I say mid 1700's because of the one hundred and forty something rings my dad counted on a slab of wood taken off of his old home place. His dad, my grandfather, had the tree cut and milled to build their home around 1911. I think that is the correct year. If not, it was within one or two years of that. Dad called it a virgin pine, so I'm guessing there aren't many, if any, of those still around.

The tree withstood drought and flood and hurricanes and tornadoes and...well, who knows what else. Then over a hundred years later it found another use. A couple of men with a crosscut saw, a team of mules, and a

sawmill later, it began serving as the walls to the house where my dad was born and raised. I remember running around the little house as a boy, thinking, how could anyone live here? But

I had a hard time naming my oldest son after our fathers. Mine is Fred Nelton Lee, and Blinda's is Elbert Lavon Haden. I love them both, but I did have to consider my son facing his peers



Bro. Chuck Lee

It probably never thought about its purpose or destination. But God knew its purpose....

Lee serves as pastor of Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis. He may be reached by email at leecharles47@yahoo.com

granny and grandpa did all right and raised about eleven children in it.

I loved visiting there. Granny was going blind, and I remember her feeling our faces when we would come calling. We were Nelton's children. My wife and

with a name like Elbert Nelton Lee. It just seemed wiser and kinder to compromise and go with Haden Fred Lee. Anyway, I can still see chickens running around under the house, and us kids as well. One of my favorite memories is when someone

threw a Roman candle in the fireplace. My poor, blind, hump-backed, little 80 pound granny led the pack out of the living room yelling, "Every man for himself"! Looking back, it was a good thing the door was opened at the time or someone might have gotten hurt.

The house fell way to years of use and so dad went and saved a few of the old boards to use around his place. I like doing a little woodwork, so he brought me a piece about eleven inches wide, twenty inches long, and three quarters of an inch thick. I considered making him something, but couldn't think of anything that wouldn't just gather dust. Then a certain editor of a certain Baptist paper began learning about making pens. After viewing his

handiwork, I consulted him about making a couple of pens from the old board and presenting it to Pop as a momento of his old home.

A few days later they arrived in the mail. They were beautiful. No, they were beyond my ability to describe. Even now I am weepy-eyed just thinking about it. A few days later, I was able to give them to dad. Needless to say, he was thrilled to have them.

Most of the old tree has found its way back into the earth, but a part of it still remains in the form of two pens. It probably never thought about its purpose or destination. But God knew its purpose and it was submissive to the will of God. Maybe we all could learn a lesson from the tree. You did well, old tree, you did well.



Fellowship at Texas Meeting



The editors of BMA state papers, along with their spouses, gathered for a fellowship meal prior to the start of the BMA of America annual meeting in Arlington, Texas

Laurel Church Position Openings

Parkview Baptist Church is currently accepting resumes for the position of part-time music director. Please send resumes to pastor@pbclaurel.com or contact Bro. Shane Singleton at 601-319-0344.

Parkview Baptist Church is currently accepting resumes for the position of part-time church secretary. Must have bookkeeping experience and be familiar with Quicken. Please send resumes to pastor@pbclaurel.com or contact Bro. Shane Singleton at 601-319-0344.

Oak Grove Association Report
by Ed Steele, Reporter

The Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Association will meet with Mount Gilead Baptist Church near Columbia on May 18. The meeting will begin at 7:00 following a time of food and fellowship that normally starts around 6:00. We hope each church will elect her messengers and be present for a great meeting.

Homestretch Church Plans Ordination Service

Homestretch Baptist Church, Cleveland, Mississippi, will hold an Ordination Service on Saturday, June 10, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. Bro. Ambrose Webster, who currently serves as Associate Minister of Homestretch will be ordained as a minister. Bro. Ed Duvall is the pastor.

Texas Children's Home Seeks Applicants for President

by Charles Johnson, chairman

The trustees of Texas Baptist Home are seeking applicants for the position of Home president. Resumes of potential candidates may be sent to Home H-R contact Kelly Saunders at ksaunders@tbhc.org or mailed to TBH, Attn: Kelly Saunders, P.O. Box 309, Waxahachie, TX 75168-9977.

The duties of the Home president consist of supervising the Home employees and acting as a liaison between the Home and churches of The Baptist Missionary Association of Texas and the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. A complete list of the president's duties and qualifications may be found on the Home's website at www.tbhc.org. For more information interested applicants may call the Home office at 972 937-1321.

Deadline for submitting resumes for consideration is noon (CDST) on Friday, June 2, 2017.

The search committee, composed of the board officers, will only act as a nominating committee to present their choice to an executive called session of The BMA of Texas which has the final authority in selecting the Home president.

Texas Baptist Home is a fully licensed and accredited childcare agency which was originally chartered in 1910. The Home is owned by the BMA of Texas and supported by the SBTC. The Home's main campus is in Waxahachie and a satellite branch is located in Bedford.

Former Pastor's Wife Dies

Marjorie Lee Harper, 101, passed away Monday, May 1, 2017, at Longwood Community Living Center in Booneville, Mississippi. She was born November 17, 1915. She taught school for many years. She was a member of Shady Grove Baptist Church, and an avid reader.

Funeral services were held May 2, 2017, at Shady Grove Baptist Church with Bro. Mike

Smith officiating. Burial was in Forked Oak Cemetery.

She is survived by one niece, Carolyn (Wade) Ashmore; one great-nephew, Larry (Lynn) Ashmore; one great-niece, Vicki Lambert; two great-great-nephews, Cory (Kaleana) Lambert and Bradley Ashmore; one great-great-niece, Ashley Ashmore.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Buford Harper; her parents; two brothers; and one sister.

Tired of Fluctuations of the Stock Market or the Low Rate of Return on Certificates of Deposit?

A charitable gift annuity offered by the BMA Foundation can provide you a fixed income amount for the remainder of your life at a rate higher than most certificates of deposit.

IN ADDITION

- You receive a federal income tax deduction the year of the gift.
- Your annuity income can be partially income tax-free.

Contact BMA Foundation Executive Director Charles Attebery for current annuity rates and additional information. charles@bmaamerica.org or cell 501-472-2183



*Annuities issued by the National Christian Foundation on behalf of the BMA Foundation

BMA Seminary's 60th Commencement

The Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary of Jacksonville, Texas, will hold its 2017 commencement exercises on Saturday, May 20 at 2:00 p.m. in the seminary's Dorman Memorial Chapel. BMA Seminary is located at 1530 East Pine Street in Jacksonville, Texas.

The event is open to the public.

The 2017 graduating class will be the seminary's sixtieth. Graduates will receive Associate, Bachelor and Master's degrees during the ceremony.

Dr. John M. Adams, Jr. of Mantachie, Mississippi, will present the commencement address. He has



Dr. John Adams

served as Senior Pastor in churches of Mississippi, Texas, Colorado, and Arkansas. Adams presently serves as Executive Director of Moral Action of Mississippi and the national organization, Moral Action of Baptist Missionary Association (BMA). He has served as Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Mantachie, Mississippi, since 2000. Adams and his wife have two

children and a grandchild.

Adams graduated from Benton High School, Benton, Mississippi, earned the Bachelor of Arts degree from Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel, Mississippi; The Master of Education from Texas Tech University; and the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Luther Rice Seminary. He also received national certification in History at Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia, Arkansas in 1987.

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.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Poke Salet

Well, I picked a mess of poke salet the other day, washed it, parboiled it, then cooked it with eggs in a little bacon grease. It seemed rather tasty to me. It also brought back memories of when my Mama cooked it. Then it brought back a more recent memory from a few years back.

Our pastor preached a sermon encouraging the members to make news by doing good deeds that others would notice.

Well, we had some kind of eatin' meetin' shortly after that and I carried a mess of poke salet. The preacher asked me what it was and when I told him it was poke salet, he seemed shocked and asked, "Isn't that stuff poison?" I just told him I was trying to make news. I think he thought it was going to be another Jim Jones and the Kool-Aid story.

A lot of news gets published, but not much of it is good news. The Bible speaks many times about "publishing the good news". Let's try to publish some good news by going out of our way to help someone, speak to a stranger about our Savior, help someone in need, etc., etc., You get the picture!

Master's Builders Work at Camp

by Rose Bittner

The second week in April was the time set aside for The Master's Builders to begin their annual work at Daniel Springs Baptist Camp in Gary, Texas. This was the 147th job for the Master's Builders and the 2nd job this year. The Master's Builders first worked at Daniel Springs in 1995 and have worked at the camp a total of 7 times over the years. Once again, Camp Director Jason Prewitt had plans for the men to tear out more concrete cinder block dividers in 6 more dorm



bathrooms and to build new walls and doors for each bathroom.

While at Gary, the Builders attended worship services at Bethel Baptist Church in Clayton, Texas. The Master's Builders helped in the construction of Bethel Baptist in September 2015 and the members at Bethel have always been such a blessing to the group. The Builders enjoyed 2 meals and lots of wonderful fellowship with the great folks at Bethel during this job! The Master's Builders plan to be at Jacksonville Baptist College in Jacksonville, Texas in May, and then on to Summers Baptist Church in Summers, Arkansas in June.

Remember, you can keep up with our work on our Facebook page —The Master's Builders.



"Like" our page for our job updates and photos during each job. If you feel the Lord is leading you toward this ministry, if you have any questions about the ministry, or if your church has building needs, you can contact our Office Coordinator John Mangum at 318-205-5155 or his cell at 318-607-4100; or our Field Coordinator Eddie Sikes at 903-725-6549 or his cell at 479-462-1675. Not pictured in the group photo is Bobby Samuels who also worked on this project.

Recognizing Long Service



Seminary Dean Dr. Phillip Attebery (left) and President Dr. Charley Holmes (right) present a clock to retiring Trustee Bro. Forrest Priest of Arkansas. Bro. Priest served faithfully as a trustee for over 20 years.

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State WMA to Meet

by Beth Caldwell

Ladies, I would like for you to mark your calendar for May 22, 2017, 7 o'clock, to attend the mid-year meeting at Midway Baptist Church in Sumrall. You will be given the opportunity to hear Bro. Tim speak about "Water for Christ" and will first hand know where your mission dollars are going. It is exciting to hear what we, as ladies, have accomplished.

You will also be hearing from Bro. Sookraj. He will share with us what he will be doing to make the lives of children better in Peru. As ladies, I know your heart has a special love for children and we certainly want them to know God loves them. This is the State Brotherhood Project. Let's encourage our men to give so these children can have a chance at a better life.

I believe that there are many women in our churches that are on a mission. Let's do this together and we will be able to say we have accomplished our goal.

I'm looking forward to seeing each of you on May 22. Load your church van and join with me to see what we have done as "Ladies on a Mission."

National Officers



Above are the new officers of the National WMA elected in recent meeting in Arlington, Texas

Below are the new officers of the National Brotherhood



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Daniel Springs is Ready for Campers

The small town of Gary, Texas, is ready to come alive! For the fifty-second summer in a row, church buses full of children and teenagers will roll in to Daniel Springs Camp. Every camper comes with different expectations. Some look forward to paddle boating on the lake, while others can't wait for swimming or team sports.

More important than the recreation, however, is the preaching of God's Word. Every camper will hear the Gospel presented multiple times throughout the camp week. Camp worship sessions are age-targeted and biblically sound. In addition, daily devotional times are led by college-age leaders trained especially for communicating to youth.

For the past fifty-one years, God has saved multitudes of children every summer at Daniel Springs Camp. Pray that God continues to save souls during year fifty-two!

To learn more about this year's summer camp schedule, or to register your group, visit danielspringscamp.com today!

It's a spiritual fight not a left-wing mob

(OneNewsNow.com) The left-wing rage on college campuses and other venues is really a spiritual problem rooted in evil, says a longtime conservative activist.

"The demonic world has a hold of these people," Linda Harvey tells OneNewsNow, "and the same principles apply: Do everything you can to deny truth a voice."

Harvey explained her concerns in a lengthy commentary for WorldNetDaily, describing a "progressive rage" that reflects the "rise of everyday evil in America."

Christians are aware of this spiritual battle, she writes, because demons shudder at the words "Jesus Christ." That's because His name is synonymous with "truth," she says, and hence the world hates truth.

Citing the words of a self-proclaimed witch, Harvey writes that the occult world relies on spoken words such as chants and incantations to produce demonic power.

So the opposite is also true in the occultist worldview," Harvey writes. "The words of one's opponents – full of 'negativity' – must not be permitted."

In other words, darkness masquerading as light must stamp out the real light or risk being stopped.

Citing recent examples of such behavior, Harvey writes about a lesbian Florida teacher who forbids students from wearing a cross and an assistant principal who cursed and mocked teenage pro-life activists.

The videotaped confrontation with the pro-lifers is especially revealing because school official Zach Ruff mocks the students when they mention salvation through Jesus Christ.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from front page

nine powerful words: "...so they strengthened their hands for this good work." The key to their success in rebuilding the wall was based on the pronoun "they."

While it has been said that great works for God depend upon great leadership, but in Nehemiah we can clearly see that great works for God also depend upon great follow-ship because, without follow-ship, leadership does not exist. That is where each of us comes in.

This association is not an organization of superstars and mega-churches. It is a team that depends on the willingness of all its members to see the good things our leaders set before us, then work to accomplish them. God has blessed us with Godly leaders that we, as an association of churches, have placed in key positions to bring structure and organization to our combined efforts.

Throughout His Word, God has blessed those who work together in unity. A definition of unity is this: "followers, working side-by-side with other followers."

While building Liberty Memorial Baptist Church in Memphis, two hired hands got upset with one another over something that wouldn't amount to a hill of beans. I came into the building

and saw each of them trying to do a two-man job alone. Their indifference resulted in wasted time and productivity. They had temporarily forgotten our purpose — to build a building. Needless to say, after we had a short "go to Jesus meeting," unity was restored at the building site.

Whether we agree on everything is not important as long as we agree on our purpose. Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant said, "In order to have a winner, the team must have a feeling of unity. Every player must put the team first — ahead of personal glory."

That is why the success of our association, or any association today, depends upon a "side-by-side" mentality. It is coming together in purpose that turns our weak bird shot into powerful buckshot! Great teamwork makes things happen more than anything else in an organization — more than skill, qualifications or money.

I used to hate working all day, then rushing to the ballpark — only to find that we had to forfeit because of a lack of team members. Uncaring people on a team remind me of two guys in a sinking boat, sitting together at one end doing nothing while the people at the other end are bailing furiously. One said, "Thank God that hole isn't in our

end of the boat." I wish we would keep in mind that our lack of involvement leaves others vulnerable.

Sometimes we, as team members, are called on to sacrifice our time, effort, comfort and even our own desires for the sake of the team. The team's success must always be of greater value than our individual interests. When everyone adds their piece of the wall, (their piece of the puzzle) then, and only then, can the work be completed.

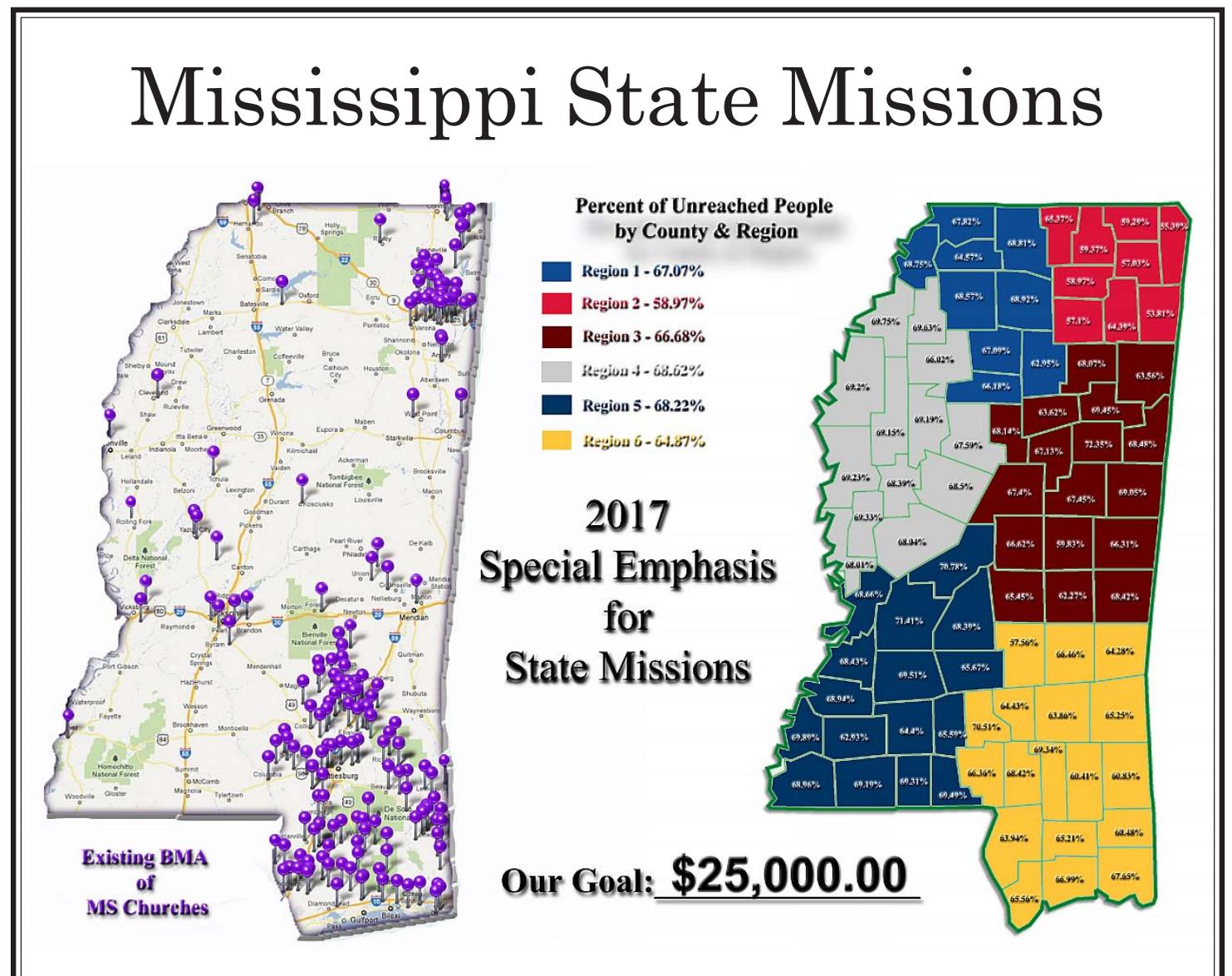
Just imagine, dare to envision, what our association would look like if all of us simply built our portion of the wall and did what we could to help the team! But being followers sometimes goes against our nature. That is why great followers sometimes find themselves doing what they are not used to doing, for the good of the body.

Our text tells us that when someone finished their portion of the wall, they immediately moved over to help those next to them. Even in the presence of opposition and negativity, they remained faithful to the team and the team's cause.

I have always loved Nehemiah's answer to those who were against him and the good work that was being done: "...I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?" (Neh. 6:3).

A few years back in one of our Coor-

continues on page 8



Putting a global spotlight on Christian persecution

OneNewsNow.com - More than 600 Christian delegates from some 130 countries are gather(ed) in America's capital for the first-ever World Summit in Defense of Persecuted Christians.

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association hosted this historic Summit. Franklin Graham, president and CEO of BGEA, kicked off the event. The son of the renowned evangelist acknowledged that this is a time of increasing global persecution.

"Today our Christian brothers and sisters in many countries are facing persecution and martyrdom on an unprecedented scale," he said. "In fact, throughout the world the number of

Christians facing hostility, persecution, and even death is greater than any other time in history. No part of the Christian family is exempt – Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox – nor is any part of the world exempt."

Graham said believers must never forget the responsibility they have to speak out for those undergoing persecution for their faith.

"We must do all we can to defend and aid those who are victims," he added.

According to Open Doors USA, approximately 215 million Christians experience "high, very high, or extreme persecution" in the 50 countries where it's most difficult to be a Christian. Gra-

ham urged his audience to call attention to the plight of the persecuted and demonstrate solidarity with those who suffer because of their faith.

The keynote speaker at the Summit was Vice President Mike Pence. He spoke directly to those currently facing oppression because of their faith, assuring them of his prayers as well as the prayers of President Trump and the American people.

Pence pointed out the atrocities taking place such as the church bombings in Egypt on Palm Sunday – and the vice president told the crowd that the presi-



"Vile acts of persecution animated by hatred: hatred for the gospel of Christ," he stated. "And so, too, does the president know those who perpetrate these crimes. They are the embodiment of evil in our time, and he calls them by name: radical Islamic terrorists."

In particular, the vice president called out ISIS.

"That brutal regime shows a savagery frankly unseen in the Middle East since the Middle Ages, and I believe ISIS is guilty of nothing short of genocide against people of the Christian faith – and it's time the world called it by name."

According to Pence, "protecting and promoting religious freedom is a foreign policy priority of the Trump administration."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from front page

dinating Council meetings, Dr. Steve Crawley used a term I thought for sure he must have made up — synergy. Then I discovered that synergy occurs when combining forces produces better results than individual effort. When each of us does our part, amazing things begin to happen. That is what we saw taking place in the rebuilding of the wall. Teamwork produced a greater outcome than going solo. In other words, 1 + 1 = 3! Here's a simple illustration of what I mean:

Person A is too short to reach an apple on a tree, and so is Person B. But when Person B sits on the shoulders of Person A, they are more than tall enough to reach the apples and both of them can eat their fill.

Think what we have accomplished together as an association of churches that each church couldn't possibly have done alone.

Another quality of great followers is that they are tireless workers who are focused on the prize, the goal of the work at hand, and do not compare what they do with others. That's why we must maintain the right focus.

To make the main things the main things takes loyalty and determination because commitment is the glue that holds the teammate to the team and the team's objectives. It has been said that "Many hands will make light work." That's just common sense!

Enthusiasm is contagious! The people in our text were so fired up about the work that they finished it in 52 days. Nearly all the people were eager to join in the work at hand. Sadly, there will always be those who, for whatever excuse, will justify their inactiveness — like the leaders of Tekoa, who must have thought the work Nehemiah and the others were doing was beneath them.

If you don't get anything else out of this message, remember great follow-

ers (not so much great in size, but great in passion) is where it's at! Nehemiah is not even mentioned in Nehemiah 3, but the names of the people who built the wall have their names recorded there in God's Word. Let that be an encouragement to you.

When people make up their minds to work together, nothing can hinder them from fulfilling what God has called them to do. We, as an association, have been given the privilege of being a part of something much larger than ourselves. We have been given the opportunity to work together and to invest in local, state, national and global ministries through the planting of churches, broadcasting to people who had never heard the Gospel before, providing teaching materials and aiding local churches, and educating the Nehemiahs of tomorrow — and the list can go on and on.

A 17th century quote says: "If everybody would sweep the area in front of their own home, the whole street would be clean." That means, in order to accomplish God's purpose, we need a common vision, dedicated leaders and willing workers who do their part.

There will always be resistance to the work of God. That's why we need to work together as if it all depends on us, and pray together as if it all depends on God.

I will close with Paul's exhortation to the followers in Corinth: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (I Cor. 15:58)

Can your association count on you to exercise your influence and leadership? Can the association (the team) count on you to help her be all she can be for the glory of God? If we can do that, the best days of the BMAA are yet to come!

-courtesy of Baptist Trumpet



Vice-president Mike Pence talks with Franklin Graham

dent sees these crimes for what they are. priority of the Trump administration."

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