

Baptist

Mississippi

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The annual BMA of America meeting was held at the John Q. Hammons Convention Center in Rogers, Arkansas, May 6-8, 2019.

The meeting was attended by a reported 644 individuals representing 218 churches. An additional 204 churches were represented by letter only. 466 messengers were registered with 178 visitors reported.

The current officers were elected with the exception of Clerk James Ray Raines. Bro. Raines has served faithfully for 25 years and offered his resignation due to health issues. Bro. Randy Shepherd of Texarkana, Texas, was elected to fill that position.

The format for this year's meeting was changed with only one business session scheduled. This session was held on Wednesday morning beginning at 8:00 am. While this format made for a shortened

One Lord, One Faith, One Mission

National Meeting Held in Rogers, Arkansas



Bro. Jerry Kidd (center) leads is dedication prayerC missionaries at commissioning service

reporting time for each department, it also left no time for reports from auxiliaries or other associated ministries.

The theme of the 2019 meeting was "One Lord, One Faith, One Mission" and this was the topic of the President's mes-

sage brought by Bro. Jeff Swart.

The 2020 meeting will be held at Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas, on April 27-29. This church has ample space for all facets of our meeting. The 2021 meet-

ing will be held at Antioch Baptist Church, Conway, Arkansas, with the 2022 meeting going to Springfield, Missouri, on April 19-22, 2022.

The 2020 annual message will be brought by Bro. Luis Ortega of Lifeword, with Dr.

Gary O'Neal serving as the alternate.

New Churches

Four churches petitioned membership into the Association at the 2019 meeting, including two from Mississippi - Central Church, Southaven, Mississippi; Daystar Church, Sumrall, Mississippi; Graves Memorial, Little Rock, Arkansas; and Mosaic Church, Memphis, Tennessee.

Highlights

A 'town hall' was held on Tuesday afternoon after a message from Missions Director John David Smith earlier in the afternoon.

The town hall was an opportunity for messengers to question department directors. One area of discussion during the town hall concerned

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Southeastern College Holds Graduation Services

Southeastern Baptist College held commencement exercises on Thursday, May 16. Central Baptist College (Conway, Arkansas) President Terry Kimbrow was the speaker.

Four young men received degrees. Below (left to right) James McGhee, Heidelberg, Mississippi; Zechariah Rogers, Wiggins, Mississippi; Mark Lee, Vicksburg, Mississippi; and Jess Jackson, Hattiesburg, Mississippi.



House Democrats approve homosexual rights bill

WASHINGTON (May 17, 2019) — Democrats in the House approved sweeping homosexual rights legislation Friday. The protections would extend to employment, housing, loan applications, education, public accommodations and other areas.

Called the Equality Act, the bill is a top priority of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. The vote was 236-173.

The legislation's chief sponsor, David Cicilline, who is homosexual, said it affirms fairness and equality as core American values.

Most Republicans oppose the bill and call it another example of government overreach. Several GOP lawmakers spoke against it Friday on the House floor. President Donald Trump is widely expected to veto the legislation if

it reaches his desk.

At a news conference Thursday, the Republicans said the bill would jeopardize religious freedom by requiring acceptance of a particular ideology about sexuality and sexual identity.

Rep. Vicky Hartzler, R-Mo., called the legislation "grossly misnamed" and said it is "anything but equalizing."

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Mississippi Missions

April & May 2019 are **Special Emphasis** Months for BMA of Mississippi State Missions
Your gifts help us build churches and reach our state for Christ

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 2 Cor. 9:7

National Meeting

from page 1

DiscipleGuide, its reorganization, and the future of literature production. Dr. Charley Holmes is currently leading the effort to assume complete literature production under the previous



Dr. Charley Holmes, BMA Seminary President and current Director of DiscipleGuide name of Baptist Publishing House.

The Fall 2019 quarter will see a revamped Bible study curriculum and the resumption of producing literature for all ages groups. In recent years the Association's children's literature production ceased and was offered via downloads from other sources. Holmes shared the new format for literature and how the leader's book and the



Clif Johnson brought annual message

student's book were complimentary of each other and made teaching and studying more student friendly. Examples of the Fall 2019 literature were available for review.

He stressed that the reduction of sales with the Adult literature was tied directly to the dropping of producing our own children's literature. Dr. Holmes stressed that our literature would be faithful to Associational Bap-

tist principles.

DiscipleGuide Board Chairman Aaron Middleton spoke concerning changes at the department. With Sunday School literature currently being produced by the Seminary, at least in the interim, Daniel Springs Camp will stand on its own and report to the DiscipleGuide Board, Conferences and Information Services will fall under the jurisdiction of BMA, LLC. Other departments will help fill the need of each of these ministries.

Lifeworld

Lifeworld Director Donny Parrish



Luis Ortega recognizing Rick Russell and his wife for Rick's 30 years of service

gave a good report on Lifeworld's worldwide outreach to over 120 countries and broadcasting in 53 difference languages. He shared that a new Lifeworld app is in the process of being developed. This will greatly broaden the outreach of this ministry.

Long time Lifeworld employee Rick Russell announced his retirement. He has been the voice of Lifeworld for the past 30 years.

Missions

Director John David Smith shared some interesting statistics during his



Chaplaincy Director Dr. Scott Carson presenting those chaplains present at this year's meeting

report. In 1985 giving to BMA missions was around \$8 million and in 2018 it was only \$5 million. This giving is done by only 16% of the churches of the BMA. Smith also shared that the great majority of churches still give only that 10% to missions (all areas) and that many of our churches are giving less due to smaller attendance numbers.

Seminary

President Dr. Charley Holmes, who has served as president for the past 20 years, reported on the financial and academic progress of the school. He highlighted recent upgrades to the chapel and the entire roof system of the buildings being completed with no debt. Holmes complemented the churches

BMA Seminary Dinner Well Attended

Each year the BMA Seminary holds a dinner for alumni and supporters. Below is a photo of those alums who were present at this year's dinner. Special individuals were recognized during the event.



Bro. Wade Allen presents flowers to Mrs. Carol Shine (left) who serves as director of the Alumni Association. Below Wade Allen awards a lifetime honorary membership to long time Seminary supporters Roy & Donna Grimsley



for rallying to the fiscal needs of the school. He shared that the seminary is debt free and current on all obliga-



BMA President Jeff Swart

tions.

The seminary was named the most affordable Christian college in 2018 and has students from both 14 states and 14 foreign countries.

Department Reports

Each department head created a video of their annual report. These in depth reports may be found on the internet at www.bmaamerica.org/2019-annual-reports.

Gospel singing artist Russ Taft presented a short concert along with a personal testimony time during this year's meeting.



DiscipleGuide Publishing is once again going to be **Baptist Publishing House**. We will be producing Bible Study/Sunday School materials which support associational Baptist Work.

Order today for the 2019 Summer Quarter!

Baptist Publishing House
PO Box 279
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Southeastern Baptist College

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

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

"That ye maybe blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life..." Philippians 2:15-16

The Lord's hand is on Southeastern Baptist College! I believe His will for this school is to continue to recover and expand. It is to clear to me. If I were convinced otherwise, I would not be here. I am personally dedicated to remaining in the center of God's will and following His leading for the future of SBC.

The Lord is bringing to our academic leadership strong Christians, who are highly talented and who have caught the vision for a thriving campus of students who seek the Lord. God has brought person after person, each passionate and determined to instill Christian values in our students.

In only the last two weeks, the Lord has brought to us, a phenomenally talented music teacher who is actively

recruiting a choir for this fall semester. We have been without a music ministry for years. It is time to bring it back! The choir will be available to sing at your church and associational events. The choir will be the Southeastern Baptist College ambassadors to our churches and communities promoting the college, but much more than that, they will be sharing the gospel through music. Can I have an "Amen"? God is good is He not?

In addition, the Lord has brought to us a Cheer coach! Yes, Cheerleading will return to the campus this fall! Some may ask why? Well, Cheerleading adds excitement to sports activities, excitement brings in fans and fans bring with them, further growth and support for the college! But the cheer team is much more than team and fan



Dr. Scott Carson
President

support, they are additional souls who will join our student body and further their education in biblical doctrine and values, through our dedicated professors. Can I have another "Amen"?

The Lord has also brought to us, new coaches who are dedicated to Jesus Christ and His kingdom values. They are actively recruiting athletes who want to follow Jesus while sharing their sports talents. In just a short amount of time, we scheduled tryouts for the Chargers basketball team and forty potential students turned out for the first tryout! There are two more tryouts scheduled. By our adding Cross Country and Golf in the fall semester, the interest and number of students is sure to expand into our classrooms and there, they will be introduced to biblically conservative teaching. At a time when most secular colleges and universities are hostile to the Bible and the Lord's values, these students will learn why God's Holy Word can be believed, trusted and how it can be

applied to their everyday lives. When these Christian students leave SBC, they will become missionaries of God's grace wherever He leads them. Can I have a third "Amen"?

We are leveraging higher education to lead the lost to the Lord and disciple students in the classrooms of an accredited college... our college! In the final chapel service of this semester, I shared the gospel message and four students responded to accepting Jesus as their Savior. Praise the Lord! Can I have a fourth "Amen" and maybe a "Hallelujah"?

I pray you are as excited as I am! I see God's hands all over Southeastern Baptist College! Now the work is not easy! It is one of the most challenging missions the Lord has ever asked of me and of the SBC staff! Pray for us! SBC is not only going to survive, but thrive! Can I have one last "Amen"?

"And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." Matthew 17:20

*Equipping the Saints,
Dr. Carson*

Additional Sports Opportunities

SBC is adding cross-country and golf to its sports program this fall. If you know of anyone interested, please have them contact our coaches at 601-426-6346 for more information.

Chargers Basketball Tryouts

Next dates for trying out for the SBC Chargers basketball team are May 20 and 28 at 5 p.m. Those interested must register. Cost is \$15.

Chargers Cheerleaders

We are excited to announce that we will be having a Chargers Cheerleading squad this fall! Tryouts are May 23 at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$15.

Southeastern Baptist College Update Needs

SBC has many infrastructure and equipment needs. We have recently acquired a substantial amount of floor tile and now need it installed. If you possess the talent for this and would like to help, call us at 601-426-6346.

Summer Courses Offered

SBC is offering a full Summer Session Schedule of both in-classroom and online classes. Classes begin June 3, 2019 (4 weeks inclusive). In addition, high school juniors and seniors can dual enroll for these classes! Registration is open now through May 20. Contact Admissions at 601-426-6346 today!

On Campus:

English Comp I & II
College Algebra
Art Appreciation
Doctrinal Books (Meridian Extension)

Online:

Intro to Computer App
Biology I
Minor Prophets
New Testament Survey

2019 Graduation Exercise

This year's graduation program is scheduled for May 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the college gymnasium. Our guest speaker is Dr. Terry Kimbrow, the president of our sister BMA school, Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas. This is a free event and we encourage everyone to attend to show your support for our graduating class in this important milestone event in their lives.

Outdoor Lawn Furniture

Now that the weather is getting better, our students enjoy fellowshiping in the warm air and sunshine. We are in need of outdoor furniture for them. If you have any good used backyard furniture that you could donate to the school, give us a call at 601-426-6346

Southeastern Graduation Held



Pictured above (left to right) SBC Trustee Chairman Leon Carmical, Central Baptist College President Terry Kimbrow, and SBC President Dr. Scott Carson after the 2019 graduation exer.



40 local students recently tried out for the fall 2019 Chargers basketball season



Pastor Brandon Wilson of Pine Ridge Baptist Church, Laurel MS leads the students' Tuesday Night Talk and Supper with an interactive exercise

New Staff Hours

Because of an uptick in interest in Southeastern Baptist College, our staff will be adding Mondays to their work week. Work hours are now Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and the administrative offices are closed during national holidays.

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

Thoughts and Miscellaneous Opinions

National Meeting - We had a good meeting in Arkansas and the attendance was a little better than recent years. Too many churches leave the main business to too few churches. More participation lends itself to better understanding and support.

Our 2020 meeting will be held in one of our churches in Texas. This will save the Association some much needed funds. Meeting expense continues to grow and funds received are not sufficient.

Abortion - The cry of our children over the past 60 years can be heard by those who are heartbroken over this pagan practice. A number of states have recently passed legislation severely limiting the practice of abortion. Alabama is the latest and their actions have created a fire storm of reaction across our nation. This is good! The more thought given to this subject the better, and the more individuals understand about abortion the more support we should have to outlaw the killing of our children.

The New York state legislature, upon passing a liberal abortion law that allows the killing of viable children, stood and cheered at its passage. I can only think of the Roman coliseum and the cries of the crowd to 'kill the Christians'. We are becoming a pagan society at an increasing speed.

Slouching Towards Gomorrah: Modern Liberalism And American Decline - Former Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork wrote this book a number of years ago. It was a blunt treatise on the downward trend of morality in our nation. The article on page one of this issue concerning the bill recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives is a stark reminder that Bork was right on in his concerns. This bill, which will soon head to the Senate, is a direct attack on the very morality of our nation.

The liberal leftists in our nation are trying to undermine common sense, common decency, and traditional and biblical morality. Christians will become criminals under this bill for living by biblical principles given to us by our Creator.

We have too long stood by and let Satan's crowd win. We must stand and fight against this movement. Contact your senators and let them know this is unacceptable.

House Democrats

from page 1

The bill "hijacks" the 1964 Civil Rights Act to create "a brave new world of 'discrimination' based on undefined terms of sexual orientation and gender identity," Hartzler said. The legislation threatens women's sports, shelters and schools, and could silence female athletes, domestic abuse survivors and other women, she said.

A similar bill in the Senate has been co-sponsored by all but one Senate Democrat, but faces long odds in the Republican-controlled chamber.

A Trump administration official who asked not be identified, because he was not authorized to speak publicly about the president's intentions, said the White House

"opposes discrimination of any kind and supports the equal treatment of all. However, this bill in its current form is filled with poison pills that threaten to undermine parental and conscience rights."

Some critics also said the bill could jeopardize Title IX, the law prohibiting sex discrimination in federally funded education programs. Former tennis star Martina Navratilova co-wrote an opinion piece in The Washington Post urging lawmakers not to "make the unnecessary and ironic mistake of sacrificing the enormously valuable social good that is female sports in their effort to secure the rights of transgender women and girls."

North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference

The Senior Adult Commission, led by Bro. Kenneth Flynt, held the 2019 North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference recently at First Baptist Church of Mantachie.

Good singing, good fellowship, door prizes, a catfish and chicken lunch and preaching highlighted the day.

Music was led by Matt Hudson, special music was presented by a quartet of ladies from the host church and the morning message was brought by Don Brown, editor of the Mississippi Baptist.



At left - special music brought by a quartet from First, Mantachie



The oldest attending this year's northern conference were 91 year old Miriam Moore, of Greenwood Church (left) and 94 year old Earl Brown of Unity Church, Guntown.



Everyone in attendance enjoyed a catered lunch of catfish, chicken and all the trimmings. First Baptist Church was a gracious host and provided an abundance of homemade desserts.



Editor Don Brown brought the morning message

Churches Seeking Pastors

Mill Creek, Picayune

Mill Creek Baptist Church of Picayune, Mississippi, is seeking a full-time Lead Pastor. We are pursuing a man who will be a wise shepherd for the members of Mill Creek Baptist Church, an active participant in Pearl River County Mississippi, and is committed to building a long-term ministry. He must faithfully communicate the timeless truth of God's Word with the aim of leading his listeners to the redeeming quality of Jesus Christ.

The Lead Pastor is responsible for the spiritual oversight, leadership, and care of the church body. This includes training and equipping the saints at Mill Creek Baptist Church for the work of ministry, visitation and counseling of church members, participation in church activities, and provides oversight of the day-to-day operations of the church office. Consequently, he must meet the Biblical standards of eldership as laid out in

1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

If you feel led to pursue this position, please mail your resume to the following:

Ronnie Spiers, 23399 Mitchell Rd., Picayune, MS 39466 or email ronnie.v.spiers.mil@mail.mil.

Greenwood, Fulton

Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church located in Itawamba County, Mississippi, is seeking a full-time pastor. E-mail resumes to kelbycomer18@hotmail.com or mail to 1400 Greenwood Church Rd., Fulton, MS 38843.

Campground, Gulfport

Campground Missionary Baptist Church located in Harrison County, Mississippi, is seeking a full time pastor. If you feel led to pursue this opportunity please Email resumes to southernirrigation@att.net or contact Alan Sullivan at 228-860-8740.

Mississippi Baptist

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Does the Bible Sanction Professionalism?

by Paul Gauntt
Pastor of First, Palmer, Texas
from *Baptist Progress*

Much emphasis has been placed on the importance of professionalism in our culture today. One thing I recall about being in the Navy was the absolute focus on professionalism. Everyone who excelled in his or her specialized field of service must do so with extreme professionalism. The word was the predominant buzz word on the quarterly reports of both enlisted and officers.

While I would never disparage professionalism—after all, it does have its place in society, yet, scripture is not so much interested in climbing the company ladder with professional accolades as it is in stressing doing things from the heart with excellence, not for earthly rewards, but for God’s glory. Colossians 3:23 says “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.” Paul tells us in Ephesians 6 that our work isn’t to be done “. . .with eyeservice, as menpleasers, but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.” Solomon admonishes us to look to the work ethic of the ant, so as not to be a “sluggard.” But even that truth doesn’t guarantee us a place of high prominence in the company—or Baptist denomination. Working heartily as

unto the Lord and following some worldly steps which means human excellence are not synonymous.

I’m so thankful God didn’t choose to call me into the ministry after I had jumped through several “professional hoops” and gained human accolades and medals of honor before He could use me. It’s great to know that God does not toss preacher boys on the ministerial ash heap because scholastic qualifications may not have been stellar or because he may not have had the golden voice of George W. Truett, or measured up to the professional prowess of John Maxwell. This so-called ladder of success in the corporate, educational, or political is not to be a factor in the Lord’s work. In fact, I’m not too sure the illusive “ladder of success” is sanctioned in scripture, and for sure it doesn’t ascend very high in Baptist work. I am 70 years old and if there were a ladder of success in the ministry I’m still stuck on the bottom rung. I’m sure Nimrod came to learn the perils of climbing such a ladder.

I believe the past few years have proven how insignificant that professional ladder of success is in the political world. There is quite a stir in our nation’s capital right now because we have a president who is anything but a career politician. Never mind the soaring economy, military victories across the globe, and the resurgence of a booming industry under his watch—the guy simply does not possess the professionalism which has been demanded by the Washington elite. In their opinion, the nation is much better off with a faltering economy, giant cities with homeless living under bridges, and breakdowns in safety, security, and morals, as long as there is a professional politician in the White House.

What about the pastorate—something with which I am familiar? While I am not by any means discounting the urgency of a minister preparing as much as possible, yet it seems strange that there have been men with enough degrees to paper a large study who failed to have the “success” that most churches expect from a professional

pastor. I know a pastor today, who will remain nameless, who only had a few sermons under his belt prior to being called to his first (and only) church. I think he would be the first to admit that professionalism wasn’t in his vocabulary. But he moved into the community—genuinely loved the people, and now, 26 years later, that church property takes up virtually one fourth of the downtown area—their ministry reaches to the entire county. He has baptized hundreds of people. In fact, another church which may have seemed more “prestigious” and that enjoyed a long line of doctors in her pastoral history, extended an invitation to this pastor. But God gave him the wisdom to realize he would not be in his element in such a congregation.

I had always heard that a preacher’s first pastorate is the most blessed. I know why now. When we went to our first pastorate—Enon, Iola (Texas) in 1975, the young, green pastor couldn’t even pronounce the words “Chloe” and “Gamaliel” correctly. In fact, I do not recall doing much of anything with excellence. But ironically, it is those types of ministries that God seems to honor—I think it’s because that the “still wet behind the ears,” inexperienced pastor realizes he has no other recourse but to be totally dependent on God the Father. Professionalism is woefully inadequate and feigning professionalism is absolutely foolish. God receives no glory when we lean on our professionalism. Could that be what Solomon was talking about in Proverbs 3:5? “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”

The Apostle Paul concurred. All through the first chapter of 1 Corinthians he minimized ministerial professionalism. “Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made

foolish the wisdom of this world?” 1 Corinthians 1:20. Then Paul drove the point home in 1 Corinthians 1:21 that “. . .it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.” An omniscient God, who is perfect, chooses the foolishness of preaching.

While preparing this article, I received an e-mail from my boy, Derek who said, “I just love what God does with the messes we make!”

So church member, if you have a pastor who butchers the king’s English and doesn’t know a lick of Greek, but God is overwhelmingly blessing your church with salvation of souls and relationships and fellowship getting right, and the people are responsive to the word, then I would advise you to stand down and permit God to do His wonderful work through him.

Yes, scripture stresses the importance of serving God with all our hearts and for His glory, but not for the purpose of lining our walls with medals, blue ribbons, and framed citations displaying corporate, political (or denominational) professionalism.

Faithful servants in the Lord’s vineyard will receive those rewards at the judgement seat of Christ. That gives great comfort and joy to an old preacher boy like me.

East Central Association

The East Central Association Meeting was held at Canaan Baptist Church on May 9, 2019. After a welcome from the host church and a song and prayer, Bro. Scott Brosich brought a wonderful message from 1 Timothy 4: 6-8 titled The Rose. Bro. I.L. Stinson presented him with the right hand of appreciation. Association business was conducted in an orderly manner and we enjoyed a time of fellowship after the meeting. Our next meeting will be held at Central Baptist Church in Richton.

Bro. Jason Howard, Moderator
Bro. Jerry Overstreet, Reporter

Mrs. Jeannette (Rocky) Goodwin passes away

Margaret Jeannette Goodwin, age 80, of Warren, Arkansas, died Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at the Bradley County Medical Center. She was born March 14, 1939, in Moulton, Alabama, a daughter of the late Lester Cross and Juanita Sparks Cross. She was a homemaker and a member of Calvary Baptist Church.



She was preceded in death by brothers Bob and Ray, and sisters Sue and Joyce. Survivors are her husband Rev. Rocky Goodwin who she married June 14, 1957. Two sons Ken (LaDonna) Goodwin of Warren, Arkansas, and Michael (Ann) Goodwin of Magnolia, Arkansas. One daughter Mitzi Goodwin of Warren, Arkansas; one brother Lester Dale Cross of Knoxville, Tennessee; six grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren. Funeral service were held Friday, May 17, at Calvary Baptist Church.

Memorials are requested to go to Evangelistic International Ministries, 114 Bradley 23, Warren, AR, 71671. EIM is an international ministry begun by Bro. Rocky Goodwin and shares the Gospel around the world.

Missionaries coming home on Leave

Danny and Rita Ballard, missionaries to the Philippines, will be home on



Danny and Rita Ballard

furlough from August through mid October. Churches wishing them to come by and share their ministry while home may schedule a visit may contact them by email me at ballardsphilippines@gmail.com.

Ladies Retreat

September 20th-21st 2019

Camp Garaywa

Clinton, Mississippi

Quest Speaker- Lori Cline

More Information coming soon



For questions call Jessica Haden @ 662-251-0455

Or email @ jessicahaden3@gmail.com

Scenes from the 2019 BMA of America Meeting



Mississippi Missions

April & May 2019 are **Special Emphasis** Months for BMA of Mississippi State Missions

Your gifts help us build churches and reach our state for Christ

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 2 Cor. 9:7

Dynamic Personalities at SOAR 2019

SOAR 2019, to be held July 3-5, will be packed with loads of excitement and learning for your church's youth group! With a revamped SOAR Village, Prayer Teams, Church Time, and much more, your teens will grow closer to one another and to the Lord during the SOAR Conference week.

One of the most exciting parts about SOAR 2019 is all of the personalities that will be a part of this year's conference!

First, Andy Comer will serve as the keynote speaker for the conference, talking about the missions-focused topic of "One Lost Sheep." Andy is the lead pastor of Antioch Georgetown in Texas, and this will be his second time speaking at SOAR. His passion is to clearly communicate God's Word to people in a way that they can understand.

SOAR Collective will lead worship SOAR 2019. Every member of the band comes from various BMA churches, and they all attended or currently attend Central Baptist College. SOAR is excited to host this dynamic group!

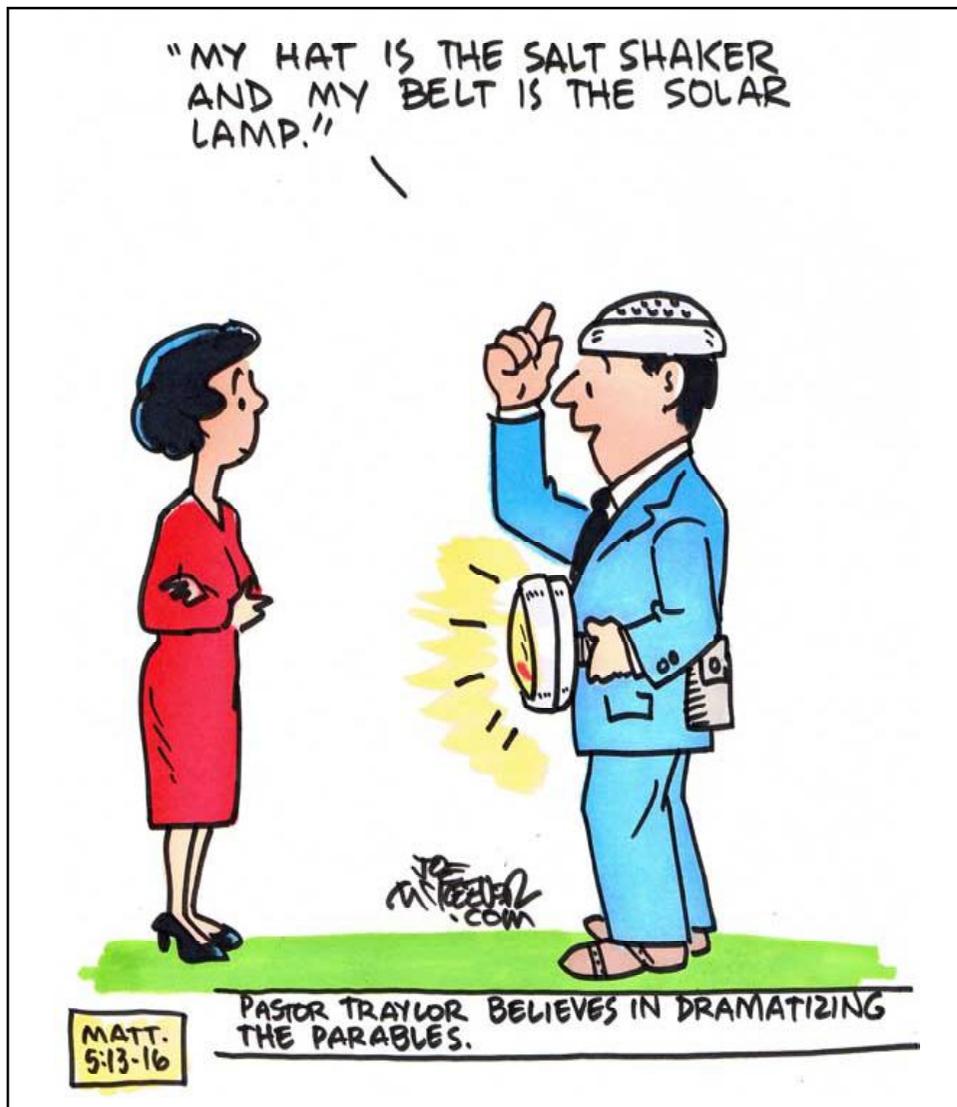


The concert for this year's conference will be a band called CITIZEN WAY. They are known for songs such as "When I'm With You," "Bulletproof," and "How Sweet the Sound." The members of CITIZEN WAY consider themselves "musicianaries," or musicians with a missionary-like calling.

Yukon, a Christian rapper based out of Memphis, Tennessee, will host another concert in the SOAR Village. He is an active member at Central Church in Southaven, Mississippi, and is looking forward to performing at SOAR 2019!

Finally, DJ TruStorey will perform throughout the conference, bringing his excitement and music to energize students. DJ TruStorey lives in Conway, Arkansas, with his wife Blayne, serves at his local church, Oasis Conway, and daylights as a barista. His passions are music, Vine references, corgis, and his renovated church van.

If you and your group would like to register for SOAR and get the early bird rate, a free SOAR T-shirt, and a free Paradise Springs water park pass, visit gosoar.com/register. The discount and free T-shirt are available until June 1.



WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

President **Beth Caldwell**

166 Twin Creek Rd, Lucedale, MS 39452 - 601-947-60118

Corresponding Secretary **Mrs. Shirlene Smith**

730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443 - 601-729-5638

National WMA Chooses New Project for 2019-20

When the National WMA met in Rogers, Arkansas, we celebrated reaching our goal for last year's project, We Are FREE. The National WMA gave \$60,000 to We Are FREE to furnish the first resident' home (which houses 12).

There were two projects nominated for the 2019-2010 National WMA Project. They are the remodeling of the Baptist Missionary Association of the Philippines printing building into a training facility for national missionaries, and the Missionary Care Ministry led by Bro. Jerry Kidd. The ladies chose the Missionary Care Ministry for our new project.

The Project Promotion committee, as well as several national officers, met with Bro. Jerry and Mrs. Sue Kidd regarding how we can help this year. Bro. Jerry shared what the Missionary Care Ministry has been doing and what they would like to be able to do in the future for our American as well as our national missionaries around the world. This ministry provides coaching and

counseling to missionaries on an ongoing basis in order to help them stay longer on the field. They also have provided conferences for the missionaries so that they can meet one another and be trained further.

The group set a goal for this new year of \$85,000. All the national WMA Officers, as well as the committee, are willing to come and speak to your district or local group about this project. Bro. Jerry also stated he is willing to come and talk about the project.

The video will soon be available on the National WMA website (nationalwma.org) for you to download and show your group. There will also be a pdf file of the brochure available soon there as well.

If you have any questions, or you would like someone to come and speak, please contact Kelly Williams, Project Promotion Chairman, at kelgirl0805@gmail.com or 214-534-9875.

GIRLS'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

State GMA Director **Jessica Haden**

795 Highway 532, Mt. Olive, MS 39119

601-797-4597 or 662-251-0455

Email jessicahaden3@gmail.com

Contributions to the Mississippi State GMA Project

April 1, 2019 - by Mrs. Shirlene Smith

1. Hopewell Baptist Church, Laurel	\$ 143.00
2. Movella Baptist Church, Lucedale	100.00
3. Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Carriere	100.00
4. Paramount Baptist Church, Wiggins	159.00
5. Shiloh Baptist Church, Mt. Olive	165.00
6. Skyway Hills Baptist Church, Pearl	50.00
7. Temple Baptist Church, Lucedale	350.00
8. Activities at camp: Craft Sales	232.69
9. T-shirt Profit	271.00
10. Snack Shop (1/2 profit)	251.50
11. Silent Auction	312.00
12. Officer Competition	7.38
Total Received	2,41.57

Total Received for the GMA Project

25% plus designated offerings for the General Fund	\$ 467.62
(Already added to the G.F. Balance)	
75% Missionary Carl Sookraj, Peru	1,73.95
Total Received	2,41.57

The Mississippi State GMA project for 2019-2020 is 25 % General Fund; 75% divided equally between Cris and Alicia Samson, Philippines and Moral Action (Bro. John Adams). Please send all your Offerings to our new treasurer: Beth Caldwell; 166 Twin Creek Rd.; Lucedale, MS 39452. Pray and give to these worthy causes during this year. God bless you for your service to Him.

MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Director

P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863

On The Web at www.macbma.net/

Email - fbcjdmaj@yahoo.com



John Adams

Children and Their Rights Proverbs 13:4

Dr. Chuck Swindoll: "Sometimes I meet parents who think that if they love their children enough they will never have to exercise corporal punishment. Few things could be further from the truth. Proverbs 13:24 doesn't call that love: "Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children." That may make us gag a little, but that's what God has said.

The simple fact is that fair, consistent, biblical discipline confirms your love for your child. Children don't know how to behave properly without the security that discipline brings. Discipline is essential for learning self-control, but take note: correction and discipline should be given while upholding your child's dignity and value. Parents, and not the government, have the primary responsibility for the education of their children. The late President Ronald Reagan in an address to the National Commission on Excellence in Education stated: "Parental authority is not a right conveyed by the state."

The following are radical ideas being upheld by court decisions:

(1) Children have the right to divorce their parents and receive alimony.

(2) Children are eligible for mini-

mum wages if they do household chores.

(3) Children should be able to charge their parents with child abuse if they use biblical disciplinary measures.

(4) Children have the right to sue their parents for being forced to attend church or to avoid going places with them.

(5) Children and teenagers should have the right to decide whether to have an abortion, quit school, or to hire their own attorney.

The liberation of children by parents' slackness has been under way for nearly three decades – so gradually that most parents are unaware of it. Christianity teaches that one of the most sacred of all rights and responsibilities of parents is to rear their own children.

I. What Rights for Children Does the Child Rights Movement (World Forum Foundation) Seek?

John Eidsmoe, author of "God and Caesar" answers this question in behalf of Child Righters:

A. Freedom from any kind of physical punishment. Sweden already has a law prohibiting spanking.

B. Freedom from any type religious indoctrination. Parents should not be allowed to compel children to attend

Sunday School and church.

C. The right to divorce one's parents, arguing that a child should not have to live with his parents if he doesn't want to.

D. The right to birth control information and abortion without parental knowledge.

E. The right to choose one's own sexual preference.

These so-called kiddie-libbers are certainly not pro-family and it is unique in that it is led entirely by adults. They have been instrumental in that three decades ago most states set the age of independence of 21, today's legal coming of age occurs around 14.

II. What are the Pro-Parents, Pro-Family Policies?

A. Promotion of the traditional Judeo-Christian values instilled in children by solid families and Bible teachings.

B. Advocating the restoring of parents to the overall educational process of children and teenagers.

C. Opposed the government's role in facilitating and encouraging adolescent sexual activity.

Families, not government programs, are the best way to make our cultural and spiritual heritages perpetrated, and our values preserved. We must be strong on the family unit.

III. What are God's Guidelines that Instill Strong Family Ties?

Some people may ask with sincerity, "What would be wrong with giving children every right of adults?" The Biblical News Service publication an-

swers, "Attached to every right is a responsibility! To give children all adult rights is to burden their immature and inexperienced minds with the responsibility of forming judgments and making life determining decisions which are difficult for even the most mature adults. This is child abuse in one of its cruelest forms! Scriptures of God declare great truth:

Proverbs 1:8, 9 – "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother; for they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck."

Proverbs 22:6 – "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 23:13, 14 – "Withhold not correction from the child, for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."

Proverbs 29:15 – "The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."

Hebrews 12:11 – "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

Ephesians 6:1-4 – "Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. Honour thy father and mother which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

NOW The Sons Of God

by Grover Laird

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth now yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him: for we shall see him as he is." (I John 3:2)

Blessed Truth! We that have been born of the Spirit, (John 3:8) and washed in Christ's blood, (Revelation 1:5) are NOW the sons of God. We are not working on becoming one, nor hoping that we might be God's child some day. We are Now the sons of God. This blessed truth reminds us of several other truths set forth in the Bible. Consider some of them with me.

Since we are NOW the sons of God, our going to Heaven does not depend upon our holding out faithful until the end. If our going to Heaven did depend upon our holding out faithful until the end, no one could be sure of Heaven until he gets there. If backsliding made one lost again, the Apostle Peter could have been in Hell for all eternity if he had died at the wrong time. (Mark 14:71) Since Hell is dreadful and God's love is so great, He has fixed a plan that is more dependable than that. (John 5:24; 6:35,37; 10:28) Our going to Heaven does not depend upon when we

die, but upon whether we have Jesus as our Savior (I John 5:11,12).

Jesus not only makes us right with God, He keeps us that way. He ever lives at the right hand of the Father to keep us saved "to the uttermost." (Hebrews 7:25) His death brings repentant, trusting sinners into a peaceful relationship with God, and His life keeps us that way. (Romans 5:10; I John 2:1; 2:2)

Since we are NOW the sons of God, we can live our life with the right purpose in mind. The Bible teaches us that we are created for God's glory and pleasure. (Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:11) What our Heavenly Father gets out of our lives is what counts; not what we get out of them. Paul taught that we should do all that we do for God's glory. (I Corinthians 10:31) Since we are already God's sons, we can cease living right for our benefit, and start living holy lives and serving God for His benefit. There is a difference.

To say the least, serving the Lord without fear (Luke 1:74) is a happier way to live this life. We all do fail the Lord every day we live. (I John 1:8-10) Yet our Heavenly Father chastens us. And he chastens us after the order our

earthly father chastened us. (Deuteronomy 8:5; Hebrews 12:7) And this means that God does not disown us when we sin, but rather chastens us.

Since we are NOW the sons of God, we can go on and rejoice in the fact that we will go to Heaven when we die. Many Scriptures tell us to rejoice in hope of the glory of God, or rejoice in the assurance of our going to Heaven one day. (Romans 5:2) Since our hope, or expecting to go to Heaven, is based upon the promise of God "that cannot lie." (Titus 1:2) we know that it is settled and we can go on and rejoice in it. (I Peter 1:3-6; Hebrew 6:11,19)

Since we are NOW the sons of God, we should still have a strong desire to live for the Lord. We have reason to be concerned about a person's salvation that seems to only live right in order that he would go to Heaven. Sinners do not delight in living by the Bible, but saved people do. They "delight in the law of God after the inward man" (the part of us that is born of God). (Romans 7:22) After Paul had made it clear that we are justified "without the deeds of the law," he then said that salvation being by grace establishes it. (Romans 3:28,31)

Praise the Lord, we are NOW the sons of God! Amen and Amen!

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