

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE
BAPTIST MISSIONARY
ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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Special Midyear Edition

by the editor

This issue of the Mississippi Baptist contains reports from each department and commission that would have been presented at our normal midyear meeting. That meeting was cancelled due to the situation with the Covid-19 Virus. While we look forward to our annual meeting in October, the departments, commissions, and auxiliaries present their reports to our churches in lieu of our normal meeting.

The Silver-Lining in COVID-19

by Paul Gauntt

Pastor of First, Palmer, Texas

As I was listening to my friend Dick Sisk, from Memphis, Tennessee, during his daily Bible study of Habakkuk on Facebook, I was struck by a comment he made concerning the experience of the three Hebrew children in Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace.

He said, "God doesn't remove the fire from our lives, but He does go with us through the fire. The only thing that burned in the fiery furnace was the rope that bound the Hebrew children."

Oh, how that applies to our situation today. We are begging and pleading with God to remove the corona virus. Perhaps it could be He is using it as a tool to strip us of the ties that may be binding us today.

One great result I can see is the fact, as a church, we are less bound up within our four walls, in a "holy huddle." Suddenly, pastors are discovering technology, and are preaching to a camera, or a laptop computer, the message of Christ, and posting it on Facebook, or Youtube, causing the message to literally travel around the world. We may not always have that opportunity, but for now we do.

It is a pleasant surprise to see the view meter under the recording, and see the hundreds of hits the message has had. Where the message might be heard by a hundred people in church, is now being observed by several hundreds or thousands.

Our long-time friend in Picayune, Mississippi, was watching our son-in-law, Matt Loafman, preaching from the pulpit of Central Baptist of Lancaster, and commented on how much she enjoyed it. He was preaching in virtually an empty auditorium, but the message was traveling hundreds of miles away.

Tragic and heartbreaking as it is, seeing thousands of people suffer and die from COVID-19, there is still a silver lining: (1) We are having a golden opportunity to be still and know that God is God; (2) We are, of necessity, moving the message of Christ from within our walls and broadcasting it to the world. (3) We find ourselves praying, as never before, for our families and churches.

-via Baptist Progress



Paul Gauntt

Results of the Voting on the Recommendations Placed Before the Churches of the BMA of America

by President Jeff Swart

As president of the BMA of America, I want to thank the officers of our association, the department directors, and especially John Merriweather and his BMA of America Service Team for their cooperation in providing the opportunity for our churches to vote on several issues that simply needed to be decided this spring. I also want to thank the churches and pastors of our association for graciously cooperating with us as we navigated through this unprecedented national emergency.

The following results express the will of the churches concerning the issues that were placed before them to consider:

Proposed Change to the Amendments to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation Ar-

ticle X - Department of Camp Ministries—In Favor—188, Opposed—1, Abstained—1.

Proposed Change to the Amendments to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation Article XII - Publications Department—In Favor—188, Opposed—1, Abstained—1.

Proposed Addition to the Amendments to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation Article XVII - BMA of America Service Team—In Favor—184, Opposed—3, Abstained—3.

Proposed changes to Reordering the Articles of the BMAA Statement of Principles of Cooperation—In Favor—186, Opposed—2, Abstained—2.

DiscipleGuide Board Recom-

mendations—In Favor—182, Opposed—3, Abstained—5.

Lifeword Board Recommendations—In Favor—185, Opposed—4, Abstained—1.

BMA Seminary Trustee Recommendations—In Favor—186, Opposed—2, Abstained—2.

Advisory Committee Recommendations for the Missions Department—In Favor—182, Opposed—3, Abstained—5.

Moral Action Board Recommendations—In Favor—184, Opposed—3, Abstained—3.

Ministers Resource Services Board Recommendations—In Favor—186, Opposed—2, Abstained—2.

BMA Foundation Board Recommendations—In Favor—186, Opposed—2, Abstained—2.

Resolution on Beholding the Majesty of God—In Favor—154, Opposed—15, Abstained—21.

Nominating Committee Report—In Favor—182, Opposed—3, Abstained—5.

I remind you that since Pastor Richard Smith and the people of Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie, Texas, worked so hard to prepare for our coming this year, we have decided to allow Farley Street to host the 2021 national meeting which will be held April 19—21, 2021. The 2022 meeting will be held in Springfield, Missouri, and the 2023 meeting will be held in Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas.

Baptist Medical Missions International BMMI is ministering in a different way during the recent pandemic.

Our usual trips have been canceled, but God has opened up ways for us to minister to the nations from right here at home. Your donation will help provide food and medicine to our missionaries and church planters to help those in need during these desperate times.

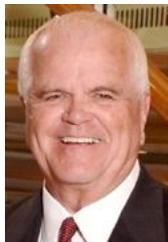
Already, funds have been sent to El Salvador and Vietnam. We are in the process of evaluating other areas that BMMI has built relationships over the years. God bless you and thank you for your support.

To join in the fight for health during the COVID-19 pandemic, send your donation to BMMI, P.O. Box 878, Conway AR 72033.



Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

Editor's Midyear Report

"And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul." Acts 11:27-30

I am currently reading through the book of Acts and recently came to the eleventh chapter. We see that famine was expected and the response to this knowledge and pending condition was one of compassion and action. Each believer decided to do what they had the ability to do in helping those who were in the most need. We are currently in such a time in our nation and around the world.

The BMA of Mississippi mid-

year meeting was cancelled due to the Corona-19 virus. Most churches have suspended normal worship services in order to be safe, but continue to minister and worship in a number of new

Let us go forth in these strange and different times and be a Barnabas - Be an encourager

and different ways. Churches are streaming on-line via YouTube, Vimeo, and Facebook. Many have parking lot services where they broadcast over a low power FM transmitter. I have spoken to some who never stopped meeting in their church and continued to have regular services. It appears that many churches will soon be meeting together with certain restrictions and limitations. May we soon be able to return to regular gatherings.

People have been laid off, lost jobs, lost income, and some have even lost hope. We do not know where this will all end or if it

will ever end. Will we soon be back to normal? Is this our new normal? Our daily routines and the norms of our lives have certainly changed and we dare not speculate what tomorrow holds. However - He knows. God knows. While this world-wide pandemic was a surprise to most of us, it was not a surprise to our God.

Our government has given each of us our \$1,200 for our "economic benefit". Some of our lawmakers want to raise that to \$2,000 each per month per person. We also know that would be 'funny money' because the government does not have it and they just keep printing more

paper which makes all paper less valuable. The government cannot live up to the statement in Acts 11 that every man gave according to his ability. In terms of real money, the government does not have the ability.

The church continues on. The church is the anchor of truth and she must continue to preach and reach. It is incumbent upon God's people to imitate the disciples mentioned in Acts 11 and to do what we each have the ability to do in order to sustain the ministry of our churches which in turn will do what they can to sustain the ministries of the BMA of Mississippi and the

BMA of America. Let us determine to be not just givers, but cheerful givers knowing that what we do financially is turned into the message of salvation to those who are reached via the many ministries of the BMA.

Continuing On

Many ministries, churches, auxiliaries, departments and churches are just continuing on as we have in the past. The state Missions Department has added new fields and missionaries. Southeastern is rapidly preparing for the Fall semester after being able to shift gears and finish the Spring 2020 semester online. Camps have been cancelled, but have plans for additional ministries. The Children's Home has adapted and put some plans on hold, but still looks to the future. The North Senior Adult conference was cancelled, but plans are for activities in the future.

Your Mississippi Baptist paper is unique in that our ministry has not changed or as yet been affected by this pandemic. We continue to operate and share information vital to our work. Our ministry of information to our churches helps to keep us informed of needs and plans.

Our finances are stable. A total of 57 churches supported this ministry, above the cost of their monthly subscription, with either regular monthly support or by a special emphasis offering. Our emphasis this year totaled \$11,332.71. This annual emphasis drive plus regular monthly support above the cost of subscriptions is what sustains this ministry. We are so thankful for your faithful financial support.

We maintain a website at www.msbbaptist.org to keep news available to our churches and readers. We also have a mobile app that can be found for both Android and Apple products. We also maintain an Ar-

chives of previous issues of the Mississippi Baptist. They are available on our website. We encourage you to review them.

Your Publications Department has again published the BMA of Mississippi State Minute Book and recently were able to publish the Alabama Association book along with the BMA of South Alabama book. If we can help your Association or local church with such services, please let us know.

We must thank those individuals who contribute their time and talents to our paper on a regular basis. As you read and enjoy their work we encourage you to write, text, or call them to show them your appreciation.

Your Mississippi Baptist is the one source that contains the latest reports, needs, plans, and blessings for the churches, departments, and commissions of the BMA of Mississippi. We encourage all of our churches to provide this resource to their members by enrolling in the Church Family Plan. Contact your editor for more information.

We look forward to meeting in person at our annual meeting in October. May the Lord grant us health and peace so that may become a reality.

Encourage

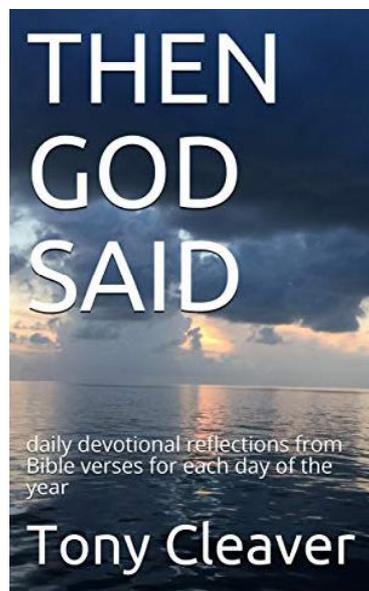
There is an article in this issue from LifeWord about Barnabas. I remember Bro. A.M. Wilson, former instructor and president of Southeastern College, having a personal ministry that he called the 'Barnabas Ministry'. It's purpose was to encourage others in the ministry. Bro. Wilson was an encourager. Let us go forth in these strange and different times and be a Barnabas. Encourage your pastor. Encourage your family. Encourage your coworkers. Encourage your friends. Encourage each other. And of great importance to each of us, let us be encouraged in the Lord.

Cleaver Announces New Book

Dr. Tony Cleaver, who has for years written for the Mississippi Baptist, announces that he has just published another book. "Then God Said" is a daily look at scripture with commentary and application to the reader's life. It is available on Kindle books at Amazon.com. Kindle offers a generous preview of the book as you click on the book and it says "look inside." So please take a look at "Then God Said". The Kindle app is free for your phone or tablet and can be downloaded from your app store.

Cleaver is the inaugural director of Distance Education for Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas. He is also a Professor of Biblical Literature. Tony is a staff writer of Bible study curriculum for Baptist Publishing House. He provides pulpit supply and interim pastoral services. Dr. Cleaver writes the column "Leave It to Cleaver" that appears in five state religious newspapers, including our Mississippi Baptist. He served churches in Texas and Mississippi during his pastoral career.

This editor has purchased the book and recommends it for your daily quiet time. You will find this latest book a source of daily refreshing. Go to amazon.com and search for Tony Cleaver books.



Submission Policies

Your Mississippi Baptist is the voice of the BMA of Mississippi, her churches, and her ministries. We are pleased to publish reports from all related entities, including the world-wide ministries of the BMA of America. We do not publish news or notices of secular or outside groups.

Article submissions should be sent by email to editor@msbbaptist.org or in typed format by mail to P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441.

Photos should be emailed in jpg format. Photos lose resolution when printed on newsprint, therefore the original quality is vital. Photos should be well lighted, in focus, clear and sharp. Photos should contain people if at all possible. There is no guarantee that all articles and/or photos will be published. Unsolicited items will be given consideration, but publication is not guaranteed. Date sensitive articles will take priority.

We publish on the 1st and 15th of each month with the exception of December. Articles announcing events should be in the issue that is published at least 2 weeks prior.

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Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Lindsey

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



Gardening at the Home



Working together definitely changed many things around the home. Our schedule and daily work tasks have been very different. Without having meetings or speaking engage-

ments to fill our calendar we have had more time to work around the property on maintenance and the garden (not necessarily having a green thumb, I needed the extra time in the garden). We are also finishing up a chicken coop built mostly from excess materials we had out in the shop. We do these things in the hopes of giving kids training in areas that many children don't have the opportunity to learn in our modern culture. It has also made for

productive chores instead of just busy-work.

As it pertains to child placement, this is where I most gravitate toward that Dickens quote. We had a meeting in November with a local judge that opened the door to our first placement. We also began conversations with another family in November that led to a placement in late January. Between February and March, we had one short term emergency placement and three more potential cases. All three of these cases were put on an indefinite hold once the Covid-19 restrictions began to come out, and of our three potential cases, I only see one of them still being a possible placement. The Lord always knows what he is doing and is never surprised, but we went from building quite a momentum to a screeching halt. With



Fellowship over a meal

that said we see a need for patient optimism.

We hope that we can see the Lord continue to provide as He has with children and provisions as only He can. We want to thank you for your giving that has helped us stay on budget for the first half of the 2019-20 fiscal year. We also want to express that we understand seeing a dip in giving during this time of great trial for so many people. We hope to be able to report enough of a rebound to finish our year as well as we started it. Thank you again for being the extension of God's provisions that make this ministry possible.

Children's Home Midyear Report by Director Dwight Lindsey

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." The famous quote from Charles Dickens "Tale of Two Cities," comes to mind as I try to report on the past six months. For a biblical reference, my mind goes to Ecclesiastes 3:1, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." I don't want to take our minds to the book that categorizes everything as vanity because I have seen some very positive things since the annual meeting.

The Covid-19 pandemic has

MINISTERING TO YOUNG PEOPLE

by Anders Lee

No Camp... NOOOOO CAAAAMMMPPPPP!!!

In 1979, my Dad was pastoring Lee's Chapel #2 outside Picayune, Mississippi. Summer had come and we were all excited about camp. It was my FIRST CAMP ever, I was 8 years old. I really didn't know what to expect. I was just told camp... fun... snacks... food... games... and oh yeah, preaching. I was all in! We went just over the state line with other churches from the Hobolochitto association to a camp named "Fontainebleau." It was a State Park just outside Mandeville, Louisiana.



Anders Lee

The camp had just got underway and well... the ole Gulf of Mexico churned up tropical storm "Bob" unexpectedly. It was making a quick path straight up into southeastern Louisiana and was predicted to become a Cat. 1 storm by its landfall. After being at camp for only a day that week, the camp director and other leaders made the call - CAMP WAS CANCELLED!!!

Needless to say I was upset. We were supposed to have a week full of fun! It just wasn't going to happen. When we complained to my Dad about having to leave, he simply told us that we just couldn't risk staying. Leaders had to make a tough decision. In retrospect, the

storm didn't really do that much, in fact, it was barely a hurricane. It wallowed around on the coast and dumped rain everywhere. It would have been a miserable week to have spent at that camp with pouring rain. All the activities were outside and sitting around in cabins would have been a complete bummer. Looking back it was just a no win situation for those who had to make the decision.

I thought about that summer camp this year as all of this situation with the Corona virus has been looming. I am now the camp director for our association and the leadership shoe is on my foot. Man!!!! I love camp! You hear what I'm saying? I LOVE CAMP!!! I think about it year round! We plan and discuss it starting in September each year. It pumps me up to take teens off to camp and away from the world. They make decisions for Christ that change their life forever! I have really struggled about this decision. I'm glad to have other camp leaders to lean on. Recently, because of many factors, we had to cancel our local association's camp. It broke my heart to do that! After we made the decision, the campground itself had to shut down for all of the month of June.

There are a lot of opinions out there about this whole situation. I have my thoughts and views about it, but that's

just lil ole me. Here are a few things to consider when it comes to camp and this situation.

Camp Grounds can be held liable.

It's sad, but it is true. We are living in a time when people seem to jump on any opportunity they have to sue some body.



Hurricane Bob - 1979

The camp that our association goes to is an awesome lil camp tucked away in the hills of northeast Arkansas. I love Scott Small, the main camp director. I know that he and the board that run that camp will do everything in their power to comply with what their state requires. Yet, even with due diligence they run the risk of having someone take aim and fire at them. The camp itself doesn't need possibility looming.

Sponsors & Mom's have their own opinions.

Have you noticed on social media that people who are normally on the same side of issues all seem to have differing

opinions on this virus? Some have taken a very strict stance on it while many others haven't changed their course of life at all. Even if our camp was able to be held, we had clear feedback that indicated we would not be anywhere near our normal capacity. Moms rule the roost on protecting their kiddos. I certainly respect that! For those who want to take all the precaution they can, including not going to camp; I say more power to them! That fact, however, certainly impacts being able to have camp.

God is in Control!

If you are like me... you want to have camp!!! I have seen so many teens come to Christ at camp! It's certainly why I love planning it! My initial thought was... we have to... We Have To... WE HAVE TO HAVE CAMP!!! Teens get saved at camp!!! In the middle of debating it all, one night I sat alone watching the news, minding my own business. It hit me... Hey Anders, when did you get saved? I answered myself (man it's getting bad when you answer yourself - right?). I got saved in August of 1979. Yep... the year camp got cancelled. Is camp... well and even SOAR for that matter, super important? Absolutely! Yet it hit me when I realized that and put those two things together. God's got this!!! Even when we can do what we want to do to see teens come to Christ... I can trust Him to do a work! So I stopped and prayed... Lord... save kids and teens all over our association this summer, even though we can't have SOAR and camp, YOU can still move in their hearts this year!!!

see NO CAMP on page 8

Southeastern Baptist College

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

Serving Christ With A Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Southeastern Baptist College Midyear Report May 15, 2020

A great deal has changed since my annual message in October, 2019. Southeastern Baptist College successfully closed the 2019 Fall Semester and opened the 2020 Spring Semester with great anticipation. However, the COVID 19 crisis quickly challenged everyone at the college and by the time Spring Break came in mid-March, persons were encouraged to remain at home. During Spring Break we decided to allow any resident student who wanted to, to remain at home until restrictions were lifted. Every student except one chose to remain at home and did not return to the campus of SBC.

And, like many other colleges across the country, we transitioned all our courses to fully online format. We learned later that some colleges had to close their campuses and cancel their Spring Semester because they had no online platform previously established and could not switch to online delivery of courses in a reasonable time frame. We, however, quickly made the transition because we have been offering online courses for over a decade. Dr. Medrick Savell is to be commended for his visionary leadership. He foresaw the need for



New student & granddaughter of Athletic Director Buddy Duke, Kennedy Dale, completes application

online classes and established this ability while he was president of SBC. This enabled us today to seamlessly transition

all courses to online, thus enabling our students to continue their course work without delay.

After two years of planning and hard work, we successfully opened the Lighthouse Café in January 2020. This was a primary necessity for resident students living on campus. We contracted with a l u m n u s R o d r i c k Hollins, a local culinary entrepreneur and student pastor of Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church of Ellisville, to provide meal service. The café was also opened to the public, bringing many people and civic



Dr. Scott Carson
President



This is not student studies, this is evidence of the Mississippi Dept. of Ed. bureaucratic paperwork SBC staff is working on to achieve licensure for our future Elementary Ed. degree students.

organizations onto our campus who had previously never visited. Then, COVID 19 hit and we had to close the restaurant due to issues involving logistics. We plan to reopen the café at the beginning of the Fall semester.

COVID 19 also led us to cancel or reschedule several programs. The greatly anticipated National Day of Prayer Breakfast, ordinarily held the first week of May on our campus, was canceled. The Board of Directors meeting that is usually in May, is rescheduled for August. The Accrediting Agency's Board Governance Training is also moved to August and our annual Donor Dinner and Celebration is postponed to a fu-



Chairman of the Board, Bro. Leon Carmical, often stops by discuss strategy with Dr. Carson for the future of SBC

ture date. In addition, our graduation ceremony that is annually held in mid-May has been moved to August 1, 2020. We are blessed to have more students participating in commencement exercises this school year, upping the number of students graduating from four last year, to eleven this year. Noting that we only had five students make the honor roll at the end of the 2019 Spring Semester, our staff, professors, and coaches collaborated in an effort to help the students become more successful in their studies. The result of their efforts was an increase to 15 students achieving the honor roll status at the end of the 2019 Fall Semester!

Our staff continues to work the enormous amount of Mississippi Department of Education's bureaucratic paperwork in order to achieve licen-



Dean Walker meets with potential Fall Semester professors sure for the new Bachelor of Elementary Education we are fielding this fall. Please pray for them as this is tedious and difficult work requiring a great deal of time and effort. The staff is dedicated to the forward progress of this major goal and I commend them for their faithful service to God, SBC, and our future students.

I will begin this paragraph by giving God all the glory for what

Board of Trustees Annual Meeting October 8, 2019

The annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of Southeastern Baptist College was held on October 8, 2019. Meeting was called to order by President Leon Carmical and Trustee Dwight Sibley was recognized for scripture and prayer concerning Job's place in God.

Minutes from the last meeting were not available because of the absence of Clerk Chris Floyd.

After prayer, an audit report was given concerning the SBC Foundation, Inc., as of June 2019. Also, a copy of the report of the audit from Barlow and Company was given concerning the accounting practices.

A motion was made and seconded to form a committee of three members along with the President of the College as a non-voting member. This motion passed. Chris Floyd, Sam Ogelsby, and Erma Hensarling were approved to serve on this committee along with Dr. Carson. This committee will meet quarterly with Mrs. Hensarling as chairperson.

A report concerning Academic progress was given by Dean Jan Walker. A positive outlook was given concerning SBC. Also, Buddy Duke gave an overview of the sports program at SBC.

A report on student ministries was presented to the board.

A motion was passed to accept the budget for the college for 2019/2020.

President Carson was recognized for his report. He presented a five year plan to SBC and after an in-depth explanation of the sections of the plan, strengths and weaknesses of the plan, as well as the opportunities and liabilities, were explained to the board. Further discussion of future building projects was also heard. A motion was made and passed to adopt the five-year plan.

Discussion was held concerning changing the constitution to increase the number of the trustees from 9 to 12. Emphasis was added to have Doctors, lawyers, and other professionals.

Motion was made to present to the association a by-law change to increase the board members to 12. It was second and passed.

Leon Carmical, President of the Board of Trustees

Arthur Broadhead, Assistant Clerk of the Board of Trustees.

has recently happened. Romans 8:28 states, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." He is already doing this with the COVID 19 crisis. While we were determining whether or not to furlough employees, because we anticipated a loss of revenue during this time, a blessing occurred for SBC. The college fully qualified, applied and received the Small Business Administration (SBA) Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) forgivable loan. Shortly after applying for the SBA PPP, the U.S. Department of Education provided a matching Pell Grant that we had already received earlier this fiscal year. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Education provided all colleges that received less than a half million dollars in the first allotment, a grant to match a total of a half million dollars! We have not received this large grant as yet, so I am hesitant to claim it until it is actually in the bank, however, we are on the pre-approved list for this money and we have officially requested the funds. There are stringent rules on to how spend the money and to whom it may go. Chair of the Board of Trustees Finance Committee, and a retired accountant, Erma Sue Hensarling, is helping us navigate and properly account of all these new and unexpected revenue sources. Pray for wisdom as we

create a strategic management plan.

In February, five members of the Board of Trustees attended Board Governance training in Orlando, Florida, paid for by a grant given to our accrediting agency, the Association for Higher Biblical Education (ABHE). This is extremely valuable training with additional sessions into 2020.

The athletic achievements of our Chargers Basketball Teams were significant this year. In only their second year of competition, the Lady Chargers were



Assistant Coaches conduct modified COVID 19 practice with individual players

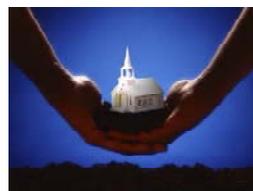
ranked within the National Christian Colleges Athletic Association (NCCAA) at number ten among 80 competing schools. Three Lady Chargers were recognized with honorary member-

**College Report
continued on page 6**

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



Larry Geraldson
Director



www.bmams.org - 601.428.8616

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Johnny & Neta
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Scott and Susan
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Yager



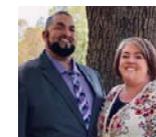
Daniel & Sherri
Allen



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Jason and Kylie
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Josh and Mary Helen
Daniels



Estuardo &
Yasmine Marroquin



Ed & Patricia
DuVall

Mid-Year Report - Director of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.” 1 Pet 1:18-25

Preaching the gospel, to a lost and dying world, is challenging and difficult under normal circumstances. It is even more challenging when you add the Coronavirus pandemic and the multiple tornados that ripped through our state. Despite these challenges, our missionaries have adapted, improvised and continued to faithfully carry out their responsibility to preach the gospel. Their passion and confidence in the truth mentioned in the above scripture, “...the word of the Lord endureth forever...”, has not waned.

Since our last associational gathering in October of 2019, we have added three new missionaries: Scott Brocius, working with Canaan Land Baptist Mission in Buckatunna, Mississippi; Daniel Allen, working with Redemption Baptist Mission at Diamondhead with Bro. Wesley Martin; and Chris Yager, who will be church planting in the Meridian area. We also added Bro. Paul Spurlin as the coordinator of “Restoration Ministry” which replaces New Directions Prison Ministry. We had one missionary go off support at the end of January 2020, Bro. Phillip Burns.

Including our coaches and coordinators, we have twelve men directly supported by our Missions Department General and Designated funds. Our Hispanic Missions fund is supporting, directly and indirectly, seven Hispanic Churches and Missions.

Administratively, our missionaries continue to report healthy levels of missionary activity even though they have faced unusual challenges, and many have reported making new contacts.

Financially, we seem to be doing well. The impact to our individual missions is yet to be measured, but the giving to State Missions remains good. I commend

our churches for their faithfulness during challenging times. We have seen some lag in giving to our Special Emphasis, but this is to be expected. We will evaluate the overall impact at the end of the emphasis period which is the end of May. Our efficiency continues to improve. We have had a 97/3 efficiency for the past 4 months which means that 97 cents on every dollar we receive for missions, goes out to our missionaries. We continue to press toward our goal of 100%.

The overall morale of our missionaries seems to be high. All of them have dealt with unique struggles and are surely dealing with the emotions that accompany such challenges. They all need our continued prayer support. We have a great group of missionaries. We are blessed! Lord help us to ever be mindful of your rich blessing upon us.

Revolving Loan Fund

Our Revolving Loan Fund continues to function unabated by the current crisis. Since October we have made 5 new loans totaling \$1,119,083.67. We currently have 68 loans totaling \$13,665,233.01. We continue to service our 651 shareholder accounts. When the Coronavirus crisis began, we immediately began to look at how we could help our churches. We, shortly thereafter, notified our churches, with loans, of the opportunity to pay ‘Interest Only’ through July of 2020. A number of churches, with loans, have taken advantage of this opportunity. We also made available ‘No Interest’ loans, but due to the governments, SBA PPP loan/grant program, we have seen few requests for this help. For the sake of the health of

the fund, we found it necessary to decrease our shareholder account interest rate to 2.0% from the previous 2.25%. To my knowledge, this is still the best rate available.

Effective May 8th, Bro. Vernon Newman is no longer the Revolving Loan Fund Manager. I received his resignation with notice, in April. Bro. Newman began serving as the RLF Manager August 1st, 2016 and has served faithfully. His dedication to the role and his commitment to help our churches, will be missed.

Usually, we hold a Missions and Evangelism Conference each year during the spring. This year we have moved this event to August and renamed it the BMA of Mississippi Summer Retreat.

The overall morale of our missionaries seems to be high They all need our continued prayer support.

We have been advertising the event details in the Mississippi Baptist. I am hopeful that the event will go on as scheduled.

When the tornados ripped through our state, affecting a number of churches and church communities, we moved quickly to provide Disaster Relief support. We made distribution of funds to four of our churches. Gratitude, which I pass on to you, has been expressed by the pastors of each of these churches. We have also received some back fill of funds from our churches. We are very grateful for this. It will enable us to stand ready to help during the next disaster.

Recently, we were able to acquire a building for the Canaan Land Baptist Mission in Buckatunna. The nearly 6000

sq ft building and approximately 2.5 acres of land sits directly along the side of Hwy 45. We were able to negotiate a price reduction with the bank and made the purchase for \$125,000.00. With the approval of the Missions Committee, and with the use of money held from previously sold properties, we have set aside \$50,000.00 to conduct a Matching Funds Campaign from June 1st – August 31st of this year. Funds must be sent to the Missions Office marked for Canaan Land Matching Funds Campaign. Each dollar received will be matched, up to \$50,000.00. We hope your church will prayerfully consider helping.

As we begin to move back to normal, I want to encourage you to consider having Bro. Chris Yager and his family, come to your church or speak at your local association meeting to share his vision for church planting in the Meridian area. You can contact him through the Missions office at 601-428-8616.

From now till the end of July, among our other things, we will be working to prepare our next year’s budget, prepare for year end close out (July 31st) and prepare for our audit in early August.

Our office will be open to walk in traffic beginning May 18th, but we do ask that folks continue to practice social distancing until further notice.

In closing, let me just restate that God is richly blessing us and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your Director. Please keep us in your prayers.

*God bless,
Larry Geraldson, Director
Missions and Revolving Loan Fund
Baptist Missionary Association
of Mississippi*

2020 BMA Salary and Benefits Survey

Ministers Resource Services and BMA America Information Services are partnering on the first BMA Salary and Benefits Survey. The purpose of the survey is to provide churches with benchmark data to inform and assist in the establishment and maintenance of viable compensation packages for their pastor and staff.

Of course, the data resulting from the study will be made available with respect for the autonomy of each local church, but we hope the information will provide churches an objective resource in considering appropriate staff compensation.

To provide the most comprehensive assessment, we encourage EVERY church pastor and staff member to complete the survey. Your participation is completely anonymous. An email about the survey will be sent to every church on May 5th with a completion deadline of May 29th. A link to the survey can be found at <https://bmaamerica.org/salarysurvey/>

For questions about the survey contact: John Meriweather (BMA Information Services) john@bmaamerica.org or 501-499-6810
-OR- Steve Crawley (MRS Executive Director) steve@bmaamerica.org or 501-472-0517

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 - fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com

Moral Action Midyear Report for the BMA of Mississippi by Dr. John M. Adams

1. I wish to share our joy in the efforts to visit the State Capitol in Jackson and for the work of 19th District State Representative Randy Boyd. Randy is a Deacon at First Baptist Church, Mantachie. He has graciously over the years introduced me to State Representatives and Mississippi State Senators and Chairmen of the Committees that Moral Action ministries are interested in. Since 2008 we have made friends of our leading State Officers and have led in Senate and House prayers 14 times.

2. We continue to have our Capitol Prayer walks twice a

year and I truly appreciate the pastor's and laymen who have joined with us.

3. Our 2020 Moral Action Freedom offering will celebrate our July 4th Sundays of June 28th and July 5th. Please ask your pastor and classes to lead out in taking this once a year offering. Our Agency is small, but oh, what a witness the BMA of Mississippi has for Moral Living and the desire to honor Jesus Christ.

Darla and I count it the highest honor to work for you and our great churches.



Dr. Adams

Southeastern College Report

from page 4

ship on the first and second benches of the all NCCAA team. The Men Chargers competed well this year and beat Pensacola Christian University twice, while losing by only one point to William Carey University and two of the men's players also made the NCCAA honorary team. Congratulations Chargers! In order to continue the basketball program, a major and required project to expand the basketball court to meet new college rules for official play must be completed before the Fall Semester, making it an urgent and necessary commitment.

The Board of Trustees and the Community Advisory Committee continue to look to the future on ways to diversify and maintain growth to our student population. We believe we have the potential to come close to doubling our enrollment for this coming Fall Semester. SBC is currently recruiting a volleyball team and a cheerleading squad. We are also contemplating a baseball team. These programs will attract numerous Christian college athletes that will help us meet our recruiting goal. However, the effect COVID 19 is making it significantly more challenging recruiting at

schools and colleges, but we believe the Lord can help us achieve this goal. In order to accommodate the anticipated growth, we are renovating the upstairs women's dormitory this summer and we encourage churches, organizations, or individuals to sponsor one of the eight rooms, making them ready for use in the coming Fall Semester. A plaque will be placed on each specific room to identify those gracious sponsors.

Once again, we are offering a mini-semester this summer. The Fast Track and Half Price Summer Session begins May 26, running through June 30 and the Fall semester will start August 10, 2020.

I wish to remind our association of the five Strategic Talking Points for the college. All who support the college are encouraged to share these points in their promotion of SBC. The talking points are:

1. SBC Exalts the name of Christ (Our purpose and foundation for existence)
2. SBC Expounds the Word of God (Our authority for everything we teach)
3. SBC pursues Excellence (With numerous awards, student accolades, professional teachers)
4. SBC is Endorsed (We are an

accredited Christian Bible College)

5. SBC Equips the Saints (Assisting our churches to meet this biblical mandate and we stand firmly upon the doctrinal statement of the BMA of Mississippi)

Everyone at SBC greatly appreciates your continued support through encouraging words, as well as your time, talent and monetary donations. Your support of this institution is critical to its continued ministry into the future. We thank you for your prayers as we ensue the daily ministry requirements of SBC and plan for the expansion of our school's influence regionally and beyond!

For 72 years, Southeastern Baptist College has been leading Christian post-secondary education within Mississippi. The college holds a tremendous reputation producing scores of pastors, Christian leaders, missionaries, civic and business leaders. I believe SBC has a bright future as we follow the Lord's leading! God is on the move on the campus of SBC and we must keep up with Him!

God bless Southeastern Baptist College and God bless the churches of the BMA of Mississippi!

Equipping the Saints,
Dr. Scott R. Carson
President

MORAL ACTION - B.M.A.
Dr. John M. Adams, Executive Director

P.O. Box 305
Mantachie, Mississippi, 38855
Telephone 662-231-3863
Home 662-282-4923
E-mail fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com
www.macbma.net

"Promoting Biblical Morality Across America"

Please pray for and give financially to help Moral Action expose the anti-Christian agenda of such groups as A.C.L.U., American Atheists, Freedom From Religion Foundation and the Gay Rights Movement.
Pray for us as we visit Washington, D.C.
-Dr. John M. Adams

2020 Freedom Offering
June 28th & July 5th

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

President Theresa Reus

264 Dean Nursery Rd., Lucedale, MS 39452 - 601-508-9697

Treasurer Mrs. Shirlene Smith

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

Midyear WMA Report

by President Theresa Reus

Sadly, we are not able to meet together at this time. But we must keep reminding ourselves that God is in control of all things and He can work it all to our good, to make us more like Him. We are still making plans to have our Ladies Retreat and our annual meeting in the Fall.

Kathy Wally had been working closely with Charlotte Johnson, our retreat speaker. They will have hands-on sessions, as well as a variety of music with several guest singers. Don't forget we will be meeting in a hotel this year and they will also provide all meals. Registration will begin over the summer so be watching for updates in the Mississippi Baptist, as well as mail outs. I'm sure we will all be ready for a

retreat with corporate worship and fellowship by September 25.

Our annual meeting is still scheduled for October. We hope to meet our goal of \$25,000 for the BMAP renovation project by then. At the end of April, Ms. Shirlene Smith said we had raised just under \$2,000. Bro Sam Freeman is over this project, but all our missionaries in the Philippines will benefit. Please try to keep this project in your prayers. While it may be hard to do fund raising this year, it is still a project worthy of our time, prayer, and sacrificial giving. Just as our theme has been set as Working Together with God, we know that HE can do BIG things with our small contribution.

Our national project is Missionary Care again this year. This is so timely. When we are

tempted to complain about our situation, just think of our missionaries on foreign lands, trying to navigate through these complex restrictions and still serve God by serving His people there. Please keep all our missionaries, church leaders and pastors in your prayers.

2020 Ladies Retreat Information

Ladies, I hope you are making plans to attend our Retreat. It is my desire that we will be ready to experience the "Joy" of being together!

Ladies Retreat, September 25th and 26th, 2020.

The Retreat will be held at Holiday Inn in Pearl, Mississippi. Charlotte Johnson will be our speaker and the Retreat Theme is "JOY." New and exciting things will be happening at our Retreat!

Watch for future updates about registration and T-shirt orders.

GET EXCITED!!

Kathy Walley, Chairman
601-508-1082

BMA of Mississippi Youth Department

Phone 662-316-6233 www.facebook.com/bmamsyouth

2020 Midyear Youth Report

It has been my practice at the midyear meeting each year to give you information regarding our upcoming BMA of Mississippi Youth Summer Camp. However, as you know, Covid-19 has changed everything. It saddens me to inform you that our 2020 Youth Summer Camp has been canceled. I continued to hold off on the decision, but it became evident that cancellation was the wisest move for us at this time. In addition to the corona virus, some of our most faithful churches to attend camp were also impacted by the recent tornadoes in South Mississippi. Continued prayers for all of our churches who were effected. It is my intention to offer another youth ministry activity later in the year. This will continue to depend on the progress of our state getting back to normal. We trust God through this entire process and we pray life resumes very soon.

I typically tell you a little about our camp theme for the year and even though it will not happen, I still want to share with you about our theme. Simply put, this year's theme was,

“Jesus.”

We were going to focus on two main aspects of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The first was the person or the nature of Christ. Jesus is God and Jesus is man.

As God, Jesus was able to bear our sins and rise from the dead so that ultimately He could save us.

As man, Jesus was able to sympathize with us and suffer like us so that ultimately He could save us.

The person of Christ is a topic we could never exhaust. Who He is must always be a foundational aspect of our ministry.

We not only focus on who He is, but also what He did. The



Kelby Johnson
Director

second part of our theme was to discuss the work of Christ.

In summary, he came to dwell among sinners, live a sinless life, die for sinners, and rise again.

We preach this gospel every year at our camp and this year would have been no different!

The person of Christ and the work of Christ are the rock of our faith and this teaching must continually be preached and explained.

We certainly desire for the youth of the BMA of Mississippi to know Jesus. We want them to know about His person. We want them to know about His work. More than that, we want them to truly know him in salvation. I am praying even now for our churches, our leaders, and our youth. In these unprecedented times, we must pray for one another, we must encourage one another, and we must support one another. Let me know if I can be of assistance to you or your church.

And may we never relent to say that our salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Amen.

Kelby R. Johnson

The 2020 BMA of Mississippi Youth Summer Camp has been cancelled due to the corona virus. We will continue to monitor the situation and attempt to offer a youth ministry event later in the Summer or Fall.

COMMISSION ON Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt
Director

Director of Commission on Senior Adults

Thank you for the privilege of service and thank you for your continued support. God is good all the time.

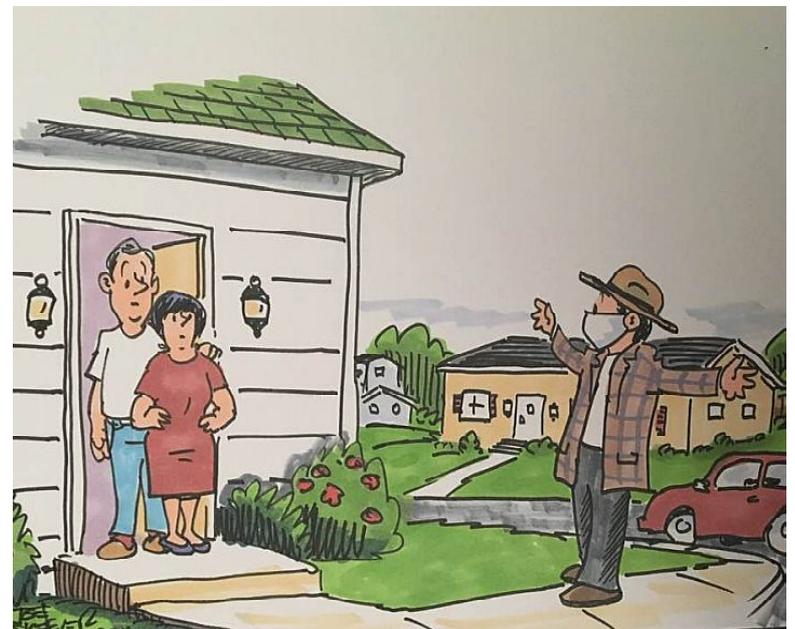
The South Conference at Big Creek in March was a blessing to all who attended. Due to the Corona virus that has changed things for everyone, the North Conference was postponed and will be rescheduled when safe to do so. We missed a blessing, but when God takes something away, He always gives us more.

The recent tornado that ripped through Jones county and elsewhere on Easter Sunday has not dimmed our hope. Its always sunny in Heaven. Our seniors have experienced many trials during their lifetime and have found God to be the perfect refuge. We praise Him and lift up His name.

Continue to pray for the ministry and our trustees are encouraged and thrilled to be of service.

Pray for our seniors and bless one today, another tomorrow.

Cartoon by Joe McKeever



what is YOUR caption?

6 Ways You Can be a Barnabas

from LifeWord Ministries

Barnabas was, in my opinion, the greatest man in the New Testament other than Jesus.

Why?

Because Barnabas was an encourager.

His name literally means “son of encouragement.” We see him mostly in the book of Acts, and he is also suggested as one of the possible authors for the book of Hebrews.

There are several things we can learn from him and transpose into our lives:

1. He was generous. Barnabas owned some property on the island of Cyprus, and he sold it and gave the proceeds to the poor in the church at Jerusalem (Acts 4:32-37). Now, most people wouldn't sell off their real estate and give the profit from that to the poor.

Actually, if you remember, Ananias and Saphira tried to copy Barnabas and get glory for

themselves instead of having a generous heart for the poor. They also sold their land and laid it at Peter's feet . . . only for them both to be struck down by God for lying to the Holy Spirit.

2. He was bold. Barnabas was the one who believed in Paul when no one else did and if there had been no Barnabas—there would have never been a Paul.

After Saul of Tarsus was saved, he returned to Jerusalem to serve the Lord with the apostles (Acts 9:26).

The apostles did not believe that Saul had been saved. They thought that it was a charade—that Saul was trying to infiltrate the ranks of the Apostles to get the names of more Christians that he could persecute. But Barnabas stepped forward and told the apostles that Saul was now a brother in Christ, and the Lord had used him mightily to preach the gospel in Damascus and so they accepted

Paul into the fold (Acts 9:27).

3. He was a leader. Barnabas realized when he needed help and knew how to build up someone to help. While he was ministering in Antioch, there were many people being saved and Barnabas could not disciple them all by himself (Acts 11:22-24). So he went to Tarsus, found Paul and persuaded him to come to Antioch to help him (Acts 11:25, 26).

4. He was a man on mission for the Lord. Paul and Barnabas were traveling companions on the first missionary journey (Acts 13:2-14:28).

I'm sure that Barnabas was a constant source of encouragement to Paul on the way. In Lystra, Paul was stoned and left for dead (Acts 14:19). And the very next day, Paul and Barnabas left for Derbe and the Scriptures state that while they were ministering there they were “strengthening and encouraging them to remain true to the faith,” (Acts 14:22).

First off, it's remarkable that Paul was able to get up and go after being stoned (he was stoned three times and left for dead, by the way). And secondly, he kept going because he had a friend on the same mission as him and they encouraged others, even after being physically persecuted for believing in Jesus.

5. He did not give up on people. Barnabas took John Mark with him on another missionary journey, even after Mark had deserted him and Paul on their first missionary journey (this is actually why Paul and Barnabas separated, Paul did not want Mark on his team and Barnabas did). But Mark was the same Mark who wrote the second Gospel, which means if Barnabas hadn't believed in

Mark and chosen him again, this book may have never been written.

6. His joy was contagious. The Scriptures say, “When Barnabas arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts” (Acts 11:23). Barnabas brought joy and positivity wherever he went, and it was noticeable. He was the opposite of a “Debbie Downer” and more like a Tigger.

Other than Jesus, Barnabas was the greatest man in the New Testament. From his generosity to his encouragement he is a man we should all try to emulate

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VBS options for churches and families

Here are some suggestions and helps for a successful Vacation Bible School for your church...

NASHVILLE (BP) -- The coronavirus pandemic has forced events to cancel, education to be modified and businesses to temporarily close or adjust operations.

But for LifeWay and the kids ministries it serves, Vacation Bible School (VBS) is still on.

"VBS is the highlight of the summer for most churches and the highlight of the year for most kids

ministries," said Chuck Peters, director of operations for LifeWay Kids. "And it is the most evangelistic outreach that most churches do all year. It's centered on Jesus and the message of salvation. That message must be heard and must not be deterred or deferred. There is urgency around the Gospel. That urgency is only amplified during a time of crisis."

To effectively - and safely - utilize this important strategy to reach communities this year, LifeWay is rolling out four VBS options for churches. Church leaders can choose the format that works best for their context and that meets guidelines set by local health authorities.

In keeping with the planned "Concrete & Cranes" theme, the four options are:

1. Traditional VBS -- This is the "VBS as usual" approach. For some contexts, if it's safe to meet as usual, VBS can go on as it always has. Churches may have to change the dates, but VBS can still happen as planned.

2. Neighborhood VBS -- Churches can deploy volunteers to conduct socially-distanced VBS programs in driveways, on front porches, in backyards or in cul-de-sacs. This approach uses church-member "hosts" in multiple neighborhoods throughout your community to conduct a small-scale

VBS at their homes. This could be a great solution for groups that are able to meet in smaller numbers.

3. Alternate VBS -- Churches can use alternative timetables such as conducting VBS over several consecutive weeks (e.g. Wednesday nights, Sunday nights, Saturdays), as a back-to-school kick-off, or over Labor Day weekend or fall break. This approach allows churches to still do a delayed VBS in a low-maintenance, low-prep manner.

4. VBS at Home -- VBS materials can be directly delivered to homes. Churches can post or livestream media-driven worship rallies to engage kids as viewers and use delivery methods to equip parents to facilitate Bible study, recreation and crafts at home.

"We need to think of VBS as a content-based experience, not necessarily as a gathering. It's fundamentally about connecting kids to the Gospel through music, Bible

teaching and activities," Peters said.

"Ultimately, those things do not require a large gathering. Once we realize that VBS might look different than we are accustomed to, we can come up with all sorts of creative ways to accomplish the heart of its ministry like we have never done before."

As a part of launching the four options, LifeWay Kids also developed a new free e-book, "4 Ways to Do VBS This Summer." This resource is intended to help church leaders, volunteers and parents understand their options, instruct them in how to approach new strategies and inspire them to leverage VBS in new ways.

"The response to these options has been overwhelmingly positive," said Peters. "It is possible that what might at first seem like an obstacle could turn into an unprecedented opportunity for the ministry of VBS to reach farther than ever before."

Just the Crumbs Disaster Relief Ministry

by Lavon Haden, president
May, 2020 Update

As many of you know, Just the Crumbs has served in Nashville, Tennessee, since March 12, following a very destructive tornado. Shortly after, COVID 19 began to get national attention and Nashville was hard hit by the virus. Connect Nashville, a local Nashville nonprofit organization that seeks out and helps the homeless and elderly in that city, asked us to work with them until the area where we are serving improves. We agreed to help as long as funds and/or need continue.

We continue to serve 400-500 meals per day. We swap out teams every week to 2 weeks to allow some downtime for our workers. God has richly blessed us all to stay healthy. We desire your prayers as we seek to allow God to guide us in how long we are used in Nashville.

During this time we spent several days feeding in Jonesboro, Arkansas, following a tornado. That community came alongside us and we served until our help became unnecessary. Then after devastating tornadoes in South Mississippi, we provided meals and/or helps from 4 different locations until others took up the feeding. God richly blessed us with donations of food and supplies to be able to serve in all of these locations during such a short time.

We are humbly grateful to every individual, church, and organization that reached out to help us in every way possible. It was sweet to see numerous people and organizations step up to help their friends and neighbors; we were also blessed to see crews from other areas come in to assist in cleanup. May God bless each one.

Please continue to pray for the individuals we serve and our crews as we serve. Contributions may be made through PayPal: justthecrumbs21@gmail.com, mail to BMAA Missions office in Conway, Arkansas, or mail to Just the Crumbs, 10 Wagon Trail, Sumrall, MS 39482.

History & Archives Commission

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440

Making History Available

One of the objectives I have worked toward achieving this year as your Director of Commission on History and Archives, is to put History back into the hands of the Lord's people and churches.



As you are aware, we have reprinted Bro. Preston Cochran's book *MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS, THEN AND NOW*, which is currently available. As of this writing, Bro. W. J. Burgess' book *BAPTIST FAITH AND MARYTRS' FIRES* is be-

ing reprinted, and should be available within a few weeks. I had intended on having these books available with me at the various associational meetings throughout the state this year. However, due to the Covid-19 situation, most associations have cancelled their meetings. Hopefully we will soon be able to gather again in our accustomed manner. As soon as *BAPTIST FAITH AND MARYTRS' FIRES* is completed, I will be announcing via our state paper. If anyone is interested in any of these works, please feel free to contact me via email at jasonowenshoward@gmail.com or 601-394-8723.

No Camp

from page 3

Improvise!

Things look very promising for July! As a youth director, youth pastor, or for some of you pastor's out there who wear the hat of leading the youth also, there is plenty of time left on the clock to plan your own D-Now Weekend or a retreat for your church group. No, it won't be the same, but I believe these kids and teens who have been at the house since school stopped

are dying to have something to look forward to! In fact, there are some Mom's that are ready to send them somewhere (HA HA!)! There are seniors in these youth groups who were looking forward to their last summer in the youth group before college. For their sake and for all those who can and want to... improvise! Plan new events for late summer to give them hope in the middle of this mess. That's what we are doing here at Central.

On a personal note... It's been a tough time for everyone this year! I pray that all the churches

in the BMA of Mississippi are doing well and will come through this for the better! In 30 years of ministry I have never seen anything like it! I hope we never see this again! Pray for all of your leaders who are making difficult decisions, especially pastors who are trying to find the perfect way to get church back going again.

Blessings to you all!

Lee is a church planter in Southaven, Mississippi. He is a pastor and former youth minister and may be contacted at anders.lee571@gmail.com

Expository Preaching Course

June 4-5

First Baptist Church of Lindale, Texas

(register by May 8)

Taught by:

Dr. Voddie Baucham, Dr. Charley Holmes, Dr. Tom Buck



Call 1-800-259-5673 to learn more and register.



Baptist Missionary Association
Theological Seminary

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