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Attebery Resigns as Foundation executive director

by Holly Meriweather
BMA Global Ministry Center

Charles Attebery has announced his resignation from the role of BMA Foundation executive director effective August 4, 2021. He assumed the role in 2014 after serving as Lifeword's development officer for three years. In 1985 he was named vice president for institutional advancement at Central Baptist College then president of the college, where he remained until 2004.



Charles Attebery

A native of Bearden, Arkansas, he surrendered to the ministry in 1969 then pastored churches in Arkansas and Texas. He and his wife Janice, currently reside in Texas near their son Scott, his wife Meredith, grandson Bryce, and two step-granddaughters, Emma and Maggie.

"It has been an honor to serve the Lord and BMAA churches as director of BMA Foundation, but after much prayer and consideration, I have determined that it is time for me to step aside. I believe the Foundation will prove to be a real blessing to our work in the future and I pledge my support to those who will lead this ministry."

Seventy-Second Annual Meeting of the BMA of America

Updated BMA of America Meeting Information

We are pleased to announce that the 72nd annual session of the Baptist Missionary Association of America will be held Monday August 2 through Wednesday August 4, 2021, at the Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie, Texas. By now, all our older pastors and church members who were most susceptible to the adverse effects of Covid, have had the opportunity to be vaccinated, and so we believe that we can host a national meeting that will be safe for those who attend.

The theme of this year's meeting will be, "Missions: Think Globally But Act Locally." It



Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas

seems both scriptural and logical to "think globally"—support missionaries around the globe and yet at the same time to "act

locally"—share the Gospel with our neighbors next door or across the street. During the time we are together, we hope to share

some ideas that will increase the effectiveness of missions in our local churches that will impact our mission's footprint around the world.

The hotel information is the same as it was for the 2020 meeting and is listed below.

Please pray for your officers and the national meeting production team as we plan a meeting that will glorify the Son and edify the messengers and guests of our churches. We look forward to seeing you in Waxahachie as we set a course for the coming year.

See Reservation Information on Page 2

Religious freedom doesn't matter to Biden White House, says attorney

OneNewsNow.com - In a move perceived by an attorney as a White House attack on religious freedom, the Biden administration is appealing a court decision allowing religious hospitals and doctors to opt out of gender-transition procedures.

That decision, handed down earlier this year, blocked a requirement known as the "Transgender Mandate." It would force medical professionals and religious hospitals to perform the procedures—including children – even when the

procedures are potentially harmful.

"This is unbelievable that this Biden administration and Xavier Becerra, head of HHS, would want to force religious hospitals and doctors to violate their conscience to perform these invasive surgeries that amputate healthy body parts to match someone's confused mind," says Mat Staver, founder and chairman of Liberty Counsel.

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National Day of Prayer held at Southeastern Baptist College



Pictured above is a good crowd of community and church leaders from the Laurel - Jones County area pledging allegiance to the Flag. On the right is Dr. Scott Carson welcoming guests to the campus.

Prayer was led by a number of pastors and community leaders for our nation and for those serving our country.

Last year's event was delayed due to the national pandemic



Missions Department Special Emphasis

April-May 2021 - Our Goal \$25,000.00

Mississippi Baptist

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Don Brown
Editor

Trustees

Adam Sloan - Jean Jeffcoat
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E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org
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In His Grip by Carolyn Hagler

Carolyn Hagler is a retired educator and a member of Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg. You may contact her via email at cmhagler@bellsouth.net



From Mountaintop to Mountaintop

If I were to write a book, I would have to entitle it "All My Endings Were Beginnings in Disguise." I first read that idea in an article by Craig D. Lounsbrough, but it sums up my life and testimony.



View from the Chapel of the Transfiguration, Grand Teton National Park

I've had a lot of endings and valleys of suffering over the years, but I have learned from those valleys to look to the mountaintops. Looking out that window at the Chapel toward the Tetons during one of the sisters' western trips reminded me of Psalm 121:1, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help."

You may have wondered how my family started traveling together. That beginning started with several losses: We lost Mother, Diva Sister, Daddy, and JB in approximately five years. When Daddy died, I felt a little like an orphan. That's when, though, my two remaining sisters and I made a commitment to each other to remain close.

I can't say the three of us were always close, but we didn't want our family relationship to end. Death can sometimes end relationships as abruptly as slamming a door or finishing a favorite book, but my endings have always led to some type of new beginning: closer relationships, a love of southern gospel music, travel, southern gospel concerts, and new eating places.

My favorite teacher in high school was "Miss Mary," who taught me typewriting, shorthand, and a view of life. In preparing me for my first travel experience to Washington, D.C., she taught me that when doors close as only God can close them, He will open another door or maybe a window. That stuck with me all these years.

I also had to unlearn letting fear control me because Miss Mary placed me in many new situations with no choice to refuse. And I had lots of fears as I graduated from high school: speaking before people, flying, facing college, leaving home, meeting new people, and many other experiences. But I remember Miss Mary, who refused to let any of her students say certain words, such as "no," or "I can't."

Five months after ending life with JB, we took our first trip together as three sisters plus a brother-in-law (EW) to the Smoky Mountains. Who would dream that started our years of travel together? That may have been when I discovered the benefits of laughter for my spirit, soul, and body. Going from a fear that I couldn't go on alone to laughing in the moment was quite a revelation.

From listening to country music in Gatlinburg, Tennessee at



Carolyn Hagler

Gulfport Church Seeks Pastor

Campground Baptist Church, Gulfport, is seeking a qualified pastor. Our congregation has a desire to serve with and follow a shepherd led by God. If you feel God is calling you to serve at Campground please send a resume to southernirrigation@att.net and the pastor search committee will prayerfully reach out to you in confidence.

Our goal at Campground is to serve God and follow his will. We pray for God's blessings on you.

Singing School Set

Rocky Branch Baptist Church in Sumrall will have a Singing School from May 31 to June 4 at 6:30 each evening. Marty and Ann Phillips will be in charge of the school. Everyone is invited to attend.



night, to touring the mountains in the daytime, we spent many days and nights enjoying life. The look on EW's face when Helen Cornelius, the country singer, sang "Happy Birthday" to him was priceless. No. 1 Sister had made the arrangement when we arrived at the restaurant unbeknownst to us. That trip set our pattern of laughing at and with each other.

Those were also the days when Middle Sister did all of the driving and didn't respond well to our directions of "Stop! There's a place to shop." Or "Go like the wind." Or "Whip it in here."

On one certain mountain road, she had heard our requests too many times; so, she skidded into a small gravel turnout and slammed on brakes. A subdued crew climbed out with our knees knocking and looked briefly at all the things to buy. We didn't buy anything, but we learned our lesson that it might be wise to keep silent sometimes, especially on mountainous roads

That same sister suffered

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It's Time to Make Your Reservations

Housing Information for 2021 BMA Annual Meeting

The 2021 session of the Baptist Missionary Association of America will meet August 2-4 at the Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie, Texas. The church and hotels are looking forward to our meeting there. Please make your reservations early. Call the local hotels directly to make your reservations. Local telephone numbers are included below. You must identify that you are with the Baptist Missionary Association of America. Also, when making your reservations, be sure to let them know you want rooms in the block for the BMAA that begins on August 1. Your stay does not have to include the night of the 1st, but that will make sure you get the BMA block rate.

The Fairfield Inn and Suites will serve as our headquarters hotel for the annual meeting in Waxahachie.

- **Fairfield by Marriott**, 2020 Civic Center Lane: (Standard 1 King or Standard 2 Queen: \$135.00). Telephone reservations: 972-937-8886. Reservation cutoff date is July 11, 2021.

In addition to the headquarters hotel, additional facilities are available in the area. Following is a list of properties that have blocked rooms for the BMA meeting.

- **Best Western Plus**, 1701 North Highway 77: (Room Rate: \$99.99). Complimentary hot breakfast buffet daily. Telephone reservations: 972-938-1600. Reservation cutoff date is July 18, 2021.

- **Comfort Suites**, 131 RVG Plaza: (2 queen suite, \$109.00; King suite, \$109.00; for more than 2 people in the room, not including children, there will be an additional \$15.00/person charge). Hot breakfast buffet daily. Telephone reservations: 469-517-1600. Reservation cutoff date is July 18, 2021.

- **Hampton Inn**, 2010 Civic Center Lane: (Double Queen: \$120.00; King standard, \$120.00). Hot breakfast daily. Telephone reservations: 972-923-0666, EXT 0. Reservation cutoff date is July 20, 2021.

- **Holiday Inn Express & Suites**, 984 North US 287 Bypass: (Single King, \$139.99; 2 Queen, \$139.99; King Suite, \$169.99). Use Group Code: BMAA 2020. Telephone reservations: 972-938-3300. Reservation cutoff date is July 1, 2021.

- **La Quinta Inns & Suites**, 311 Stadium Drive: (Standard room, \$104.00). Hot breakfast buffet daily. Telephone reservations: 972-937-5525. Reservation cutoff date is July 1, 2021.

All room rates quoted above are subject to all local taxes. Jerome Cooper, Bill Thornton, and Daniel Williams

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



Larry Geraldson
Director



www.bmams.org - 601.428.8616

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God continues to bless us in our State Missions efforts. Most recently, I had the privilege of helping with the ordination of Bro. Leo Adan, Hispanic Missionary Pastor of El Camino Baptist Mission in Hattiesburg. The meeting was held at Westover Baptist Church where the mission meets. Bro. Sam Oglesby preached the charge and Bro. Estuardo Marroquin, Bro. Marciano Montalvo, and Bro. Byron Morales helped by serving on the presbytery. It was a good service and a wonderful time of fellowship. Bro. Leo is doing a great job and will make a wonderful pastor of this church when they organize in July.

On May 4th, the Missionary Committee met and, among other things, interviewed Bro. Samuel Yager and approved him to serve as an Associate Missionary. He will begin serving in September. He will work as an Associate Missionary for two years before becoming a State Missionary. During this time, he will be given extensive training opportunities and will undergo specific training from our missionary

coaches in the areas of discipleship, church doctrine and church polity. We will be providing you more information about Bro. Samuel in our upcoming articles.

Preparations are well underway for the new construction of facilities for Refuge Baptist Mission at the Kiln. Also, Redemption Baptist Church of Diamond Head will begin construction on Phase II of their building soon. These are necessary projections that will provide a greater permanent presence in each of these communities.

Our State Midyear Meeting is scheduled for May 18 at Southeastern Baptist College. I look forward to giving you a more detailed report at that meeting. If you are able to attend, we encourage you to do so.

Our Special Emphasis continues through May. Please consider sharing our promotional video with your church



Group meets at Westover Baptist Church for the ordination service of Bro. Leo Adan

as you prepare to take up a Special Emphasis offering for State Missions. You can download the video direct to your church computer at www.bmams.org. The instructions for downloading are simple, but if you need help, we will be glad to assist you. Just give us a call at 601-428-8616. Also, if your church would rather have a DVD version of the video, we can mail you a copy. Again, just contact us at the office and we can get it in the mail to you.

At our annual meeting in October, I explained that we had taken action to

put us in a position to operate at a 100% Efficiency. By this, we mean that 100% of everything that comes to us for missions, goes out the door for our missionaries. Nothing is held back and used for salaries, overhead, maintenance, utilities, insurance, etc. Everything that comes in for Missions goes out to our Missionaries. Since that time, we have operated at 100% Efficiency each month. I believe this is a missions program that is worthy of your support.

In addition to your general offering to BMA of Mississippi State Missions, which is 100% used for the State Missionaries, I would like to encourage each church to add to your monthly giving, an offering for BMA of Mississippi 1) Hispanic Missions Fund; 2) Church Ministries; 3) Jail Ministry; 4) Disaster Relief. These funds are Missions Department designated funds and offerings received will always be used for these specific areas. Some churches have already begun to support these areas with an additional offering, but we need others to do the same.

Midway Baptist Mission in Batesville, Mississippi

“Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! May His mercy and grace be upon each of you who have been so diligent in prayer and support of Midway Mission. The Lord is blessing the work in the Oxford/Batesville area. Some degree of normalcy has returned, and it is much easier to approach people to engage them in conversation. The areas where people gather for lunch, fellowship, or recreation have reopened so we are again mixing with these with encouragement to be involved in church activities. Of course, there is always an invitation extended to attend services at Midway. As we move into the summer months, our expectation is to see new members in our congregation.

For the past few weeks, a series of sermons from Jude’s epistle has been delivered. Worshipers are recognizing the adverse things that are confronting the church, and they are learning how to stand firmly on their Christian faith to achieve victory over the Satanic forces while witnessing for Christ. Wednesday evening Bible Study has focused on I John with emphasis on loving God and loving one another. Really it has been

about living in obedience to the Lord’s commandments. It is a true blessing to be serving a people who are so eager to learn.

Looking toward the future, rough drafts of a constitution and by laws have been written. Several policy statements have also been written. These documents will be presented to the members for approval soon. Please pray for us as we move toward our goal of becoming organized as a New Testament Church. Pray also that we will have boldness in presenting the Gospel of Christ even in difficult times and places.” -Dr. Kenneth Pollock Mission Pastor

Salt Light Baptist Mission in Waveland, Mississippi

“Since our last report, the mission has been doing good as far as attendance goes. Our members continue to be faithful and we’ve been having visitors along with first time visitors in nearly every Sunday morning worship service! We have been praying for new families to join us for the past couple of months and so far we’ve had two families commit to the mission: one on statement and one on profession of faith and

as a candidate for baptism. Most recently, we received a family of three on transfer of letters from one of our sister churches. As a result of this, we now have a piano player! Hallelujah! ...and another man who can help with singing in our worship service! God is so good!

We will be recognizing two young ladies who have graduated: one from PRCC and one from Kiln High School, the 12th of May with New Study Bibles and a reception in the fellowship building. Also, we’ve had one of our members give a donation to get our Baptistry plumbed for water and gas! This is a huge blessing! Glory to God! We have some waiting on this. We’re also excited to be able to give towards special emphasis for State Missions, as well as, regular monthly support. The Lord is truly blessing Salt Light Baptist Mis-



Jonathan and Melissa
Rich joined the Salt Light
Baptist Mission.

sion and we give Him all the glory. We still have a lot to do, so please keep us in your prayers and thank you so much for your faithful support. Knowing that you are praying and supporting us along with the Lord helping us, we feel very confident in this work.”
Johnny Williams, Missionary Pastor



The Lynn Dale Perkins
family joined Salt Light
Baptist Mission

Canaan Land Mission, Buckatunna, Mississippi

“I would like to start by saying thank you always to our faithful supporting churches and our State Missions office. We would not be able to do this work and plant a local New Testament church without you all. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, to those who support financially, as well as, those who

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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

President's Perspective

There's a scene in an Indiana Jones movie where he must take a step of faith off a ledge. There appears to be no support whatsoever and if Indiana were to take a step off the ledge, it looks as though he would fall hundreds of feet to his death. However, being compelled to save his father's life, Indiana Jones summons up all his courage, closes his eyes and steps off. He is relieved to find that although in midair, he is standing on a perfectly camouflaged path across a chasm, and it took that step of faith to find it.

Many of you know that I spent quite a few years in the Army as a paratrooper chaplain. A paratrooper must place complete faith in many people and his equipment. He must have faith in the aircraft engineers that they designed an air-worthy aircraft. He has to trust in the people who actually built the aircraft. He has faith in the pilot and his experience. He has



confidence in the ground control. He places his faith in the hands of the paratroopers on the ground who mark the safe jump area. The soldier trusts the weatherman's predictions for the jump. He puts an enormous amount of confidence in the one who packed his parachute. He trusts the person who inspects the parachute. He looks to the Jumpmaster on his aircraft to safely exit him out of that aircraft. He trusts his parachute to properly open and safely

deliver him to the ground. He must have faith in his paratrooper training so that he executes a safe landing onto the drop zone and there are numerous other elements he must trust. Many would say that's just too much trust in fallible humans and pass on the opportunity to jump from an aircraft while in flight.

The scripture is clear. We are called to walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). It also says in Hebrews 10:30, "Now the just shall live by faith: but if any draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."

Joshua and the Israelites were instructed to walk by faith and not by sight. The Lord told them when they were about to enter the promised land, and



Dr. Scott Carson
President

though the enemy appeared to be stronger and more numerous, they were not to fear. The Lord had already given their enemies into their hands, however, Joshua and his soldiers still had to courageously go onto the battlefield and fight them. They only needed to trust in the Lord's good promises and the enemy would be defeated. The soldiers first had to obey the Lord and the Lord would do His part for the soldiers. The odds did not matter. The enemy had the best and most modern equipment and I am sure that the Philistine's iron chariots were a terrible sight to see. But God's people were called to walk by faith and not by sight. God promised that the enemy was already defeated even before the Israelites crossed the Jordan River.

The staff and trustees of Southeastern Baptist College are held to the same standards as all God's children. We are called to walk by faith and not by sight. We entered 2020 with a significant budget deficit. We prayed, we pressed forward and we actually ended the 2020 calendar year in a better fiscal position than previous years! We continue to see tremendous opportunities for growth in the coming Fall Semester. We cur-

rently have more students choosing to come to SBC than we can house in the Fall Semester! Therefore, we must move forward in confidence, knowing God will provide that housing solution.

A major part of that solution is money. We must trust that the Lord will move special people to support this important ministry of the BMA of Mississippi. One of our staff members often reminds us that God has all the money we need; He just has to send some of it our way. Pray God will open hearts and that His people will be obedient to His calling. Our infrastructure needs remain great, but our need for a housing solution is most urgent! The last thing we should do is turn away students who desire to attend SBC simply because we do not have enough room to house them. Are you willing to help SBC grow into the future as Mississippi's premier Christ centered, conservative Bible college?

"But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebrews 11:6

Equipping the Saints
Dr. Carson

National Day of Prayer Breakfast

The National Day of Prayer Breakfast for the Laurel and Jones County area was held May 6 in the SBC gymnasium. Thank you to all who helped in so many ways to make this another successful time of fellowship as we prayed for our community and nation. See the adjacent photos of the event.

2021 Graduation

Commencement will be held on Saturday, May 15 at 11 a.m. in the Southeastern Baptist College gymnasium. Our guest speaker is Brother Bo Bankston, retired BMAA Mississippi Army National Guard Command Chaplain and pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Quitman, Mississippi.

Equipment Trailer

SBC is in need of a small enclosed trailer for hauling sports equipment and luggage for our athletes during out of town games. Perhaps a church or an individual has a trailer that hasn't been used for a while that can be quickly fixed up and donated to SBC for this need. Contact us at 601-426-6346 if you have a solution for us.

Available to Fill Your Pulpit!

Thank you to First Baptist Church of Calhoun for inviting Dr. Carson to recently preach for your great folks. Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit for preaching or to make a presentation about the work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. You can reach him at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu



Dr. Randy Turner, pastor of First Baptist Church of Laurel, Mississippi delivers the final SBC chapel message for the Spring Semester



Makayla Cobb of Stone County Mississippi joins Chargers Softball



The Lighthouse Café was recently featured in the Mississippi Magazine!



Cheyanna Skye Pierce of Vanclave Mississippi signs with Chargers Softball



Ladies Bible study group of Highland Baptist in Laurel take advantage of the Lighthouse Café.



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Lindsey

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

What we shall be

There is so much joy and promise in a new born child. The world around us has lost sight of the fact that joy in children comes from the promise of God's Messiah. Even with that promise fulfilled in Christ, humanity cannot break the cycle of joy at the arrival of children. The hope seen in each child stems from the question, "What will he or she become?" Will they be like their father or their mother? Will they be so inde-

pendent they merely carry similarities of their family while becoming such a unique individual? While we should not pluck this verse completely out of context, there is some overarching truth found in, 1 John 3:2 "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not 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." We don't know perfectly what we will become. We do know what

God has said we will become. One day all believers will be like Him.

A transition event is on our horizon. The first young man the Lord sent our way, Isaac Housley, will be graduating from High School on May 21st.



Isaac Housley

When we came to work at the Children's Home we had no teenagers our own, but by the end of this year we will have a handful of them. Watching young men at this stage in life is not always easy, but we have hope in what they will become by maturing in Christ. Isaac has professed faith in Christ. Now he is growing in him. I cringe when I think back to this phase of my life. I pray none of our kids take the missteps I did. But, I am thankful that if the Lord led me out many of my mistakes then He can lead anyone else out of theirs. As much hope as we have for Isaac's future worry still abounds as a parent. As many know, it is not always easy letting go. Now we trust God to do a better and more complete work than we could ever hope to do.

Pray with us for Isaac during this time. He has kept many irons in the fire as it pertains to

his future. He is still trying to settle on academics, athletics, and vocational trade. Right now it looks like a combination of all it until something sticks. I have often preached progress to find purpose. If any of you would like to help Isaac along the way please feel free to send donations through the Children's Home to help pay for his truck, tuition, books, and the inevitable need for spending money from time to time, or join us celebrating with him 5:00 pm on May 23rd at First Baptist Shady Grove.

If your church would like to hear a more personal update on the work of the Children's Home don't hesitate to call (662-605-0996) and schedule a time I could come and share. Thank you all for your patience and support in this ministry. It is truly a blessing to begin seeing fruits from our labor.

"Where the Battle Rages"

by Josh Howard

Christians face many challenges in this day and age and new challenges seem to present themselves on a near daily basis. A quick scroll through the news on any given day could provide plenty of cause for consternation: high-profile stories of apostasy, disagreements over doctrine, governmental interference in church life, etc. In the face of such challenges (both from without and within), it may be tempting to step back and remove oneself from the conflict altogether. After all, one might argue, is not love more important than dogma? Is not unity more important than theology? Is not peace more important than principle?

We may certainly recognize that none of us should be engaged in foolish controversies (Titus 3:9). Yet what do we do



Dr. Josh Howard

with more pressing issues? Issues of salvation and damnation? Light against dark? Truth against falsehood? We may consider Martin Luther's words from the not-so-distant past: "If I profess with loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except that little point which the world and the Devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved, and to be steady on all the battlefield besides, is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point." Luther's conclusion is powerful: our love for Christ compels us to fight for our King wherever the battle rages.

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Religious Freedom

from page 1

Staver points out that despite the fact America was founded to protect religious freedom, "the Biden administration and this Cabinet and these agencies under Biden's authority literally could care less about religious freedom," the attorney continues. "Their agenda is L, G, B, T, and Q and abortion – and nothing else matters to them."

Staver characterizes President Joe Biden as a "kind of pretender in the White House" who is out to destroy America and Judeo-Christian values.

"It's time for people to wake up [to that], and we must push back and speak up at every opportunity," he adds.

By way of illustration, Staver says doctors aren't expected to give liposuction to someone who is anorexic and requests the procedure.

"[Such patients] think that they're overweight when in fact they're emaciated," he describes. "You don't give them liposuction to match their confused, distressed mind – you do mental health behavior modification; and that's exactly what you have with these people who are confused about whether they're male or female. You don't cut off parts of their body and give them opposite-sex hormones that will

ultimately destroy them for the rest of their lives and permanently maim them."

Christian Medical & Dental Associations is also concerned about the Biden administration's appeal, describing the White House's appeal as "misguided" and not science-based.

The administration's appeal is based on a January 2021 ruling in the U.S. District Court for the District of North Dakota Eastern Division involving the Religious Sisters of Mercy, Catholic Benefits Association, et al. against the federal government and the Obama-era mandate for doctors and hospitals to perform gender-transition procedures.

THE TEACHER'S CORNER

HELP FOR THE CHURCH'S CLASSROOM

Don't be Afraid to Say "I Don't Know"

A friend of mine called to ask me a question during my days as a student at BMA Seminary. I cannot remember the question, although it related to Bible, but I do remember my answer. I simply responded with "I don't know."

My friend began to laugh and said something like this, "You don't know! You are studying for a master's degree at the Seminary and you don't know?" I affirmed that all she had said was true and that "I just don't know."

My friend attended a Baptist college which was well-attended at the time by students preparing for the ministry. She said, "You know we have lots of preachers here. They always have an answer to any question, even if they have to make one up. I cannot believe that you are willing to admit that you do not know."

I learned a few good lessons that day. First, people are more aware of a leader's weaknesses than he or she might realize. Second, willingness to admit "I don't know" is rarer than we might realize. Third, willingness to admit "I don't know" is appreciated by others. I do recommend that a leader commit to researching the question in hopes of later providing an answer. Let me encourage you, when necessary, do not be afraid to admit or say, "I don't know."



Philip Attebery

Fast Track Summer Session

SBC will offer a full semester of courses in a shortened format this summer, and at a significantly discounted rate of \$450 per class. That is half price! Dorms are available. Dates of classes are May 26 to July 2. Courses are both in classroom and online. You may preregister NOW! Call 601-426-6346 or stop by the college Monday to Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.1.

- New Testament Survey
- Old Testament Survey
- Evangelism
- Art Appreciation
- Accounting Principles I
- Accounting Principles II
- English Composition I
- World Literature I
- History of the U.S. I
- College Algebra

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

WMAofMS20@gmail.com

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

From No Hope To New Hope

from Jackie Ricks
National WMA

The people in Ukraine believe they have no future because they have a "God void." Therefore, they have no hope. They just exist from day to day, going about life as if it's a drudgery. Larry and Tammy Wood spend their days in Ukraine trying to offer the people hope—the hope that can only come through God's Word and Jesus Christ.

The Woods have spent over the last 2 years in the country, learning the language and helping organize churches. They had



Larry and Tammy Wood a plan, but so did God. Needless to say, God showed them how much better His plan was. They had hoped to organize a church after many months. Instead, God worked things to get the Water of Life Baptist Church going by November of 2019, just

after three months on the field. Within a year that group averaged 65. A second church plant, Grace Church is also moving along. God's time line is faster than the Wood's.

You may wonder how the work is growing so fast. Well, besides the fact that God is obviously in it, the Woods use the concept of teaching the English language to gain the confidence of the people. At first, they were able to teach in person, as they had done many times before on mission trips. Now, however, due to the pandemic, they have to use the virtual teaching over the computer. They also gain help with learning the language there, spending two to three hours a day in a coffee shop studying and making friends with the ones who come in. They have learned a most important lesson to "wait on God."

In Ukraine, "Christian" simply means being part of the Orthodox Church. Yet, many don't even know who Jesus is. Sometimes the people ask Tammy or

Larry for "help" and what they mean is "prayer." They don't understand all the concepts of Christianity that most of us grew up with. It usually takes about three years for a person to

down some. They returned to find the work was continuing. Now they are back for a brief stay for family reasons. The Sunday before they left was Easter Sunday in Ukraine. That



Home Bible study group by the Woods

move from being interested in the gospel to being a follower of Christ in Ukraine.

The Wood family came home on furlough during the pandemic of 2020. In that time, they also got the corona virus. Besides causing health problems at the time, it also slowed them

was May 2, 2021. Seven members were baptized into the Water of Life Baptist Church in Lutsk that day. Larry and Tammy are excited to see what happens while they are away as the new believers trust Jesus to give them new hope in Him.

"Where the Battle Rages"

from page 5

Consider three biblical examples. First—in Jude 3, we are told that although Jude longed to write the 'beloved' concerning their common salvation, he "found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints." Though Jude longed to write about other things, his attention was directed to the battle at hand. Christian: contend for the faith. Second—near the beginning of his encouraging and instructive

letter to Timothy, Paul reminds Timothy of the battle they are engaged in: "This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare" (1 Tim 1:18). Paul's letter to Timothy exalts Christ, lauds the power of the gospel, and encourages Christian unity, humility, and faithfulness. Yet, this instruction includes an early charge to engage the battles that arise.

Christian: wage the good warfare.

Third—near the conclusion of this warmly-written letter full of pastoral instruction, Paul instructs Timothy to "fight the good fight of the faith" (1 Tim 6:12). Paul's final words in this letter urge Timothy to go to battle, defending believers against the dangers of false doctrine. Christian: fight the good fight.

We do not pick the battles we are given, yet we are called to engage the battles as they arise. Consider that in all the above examples, the threats they faced came from within the church as well as from outside it. Fighting

false doctrines within the church is surely a difficult battle to face. Yet we remember that we profess Christ and we do not run from the battles that assail His people. We are called to love, yet we are also called to contend for

the faith, to wage the good warfare, and to fight the good fight. Let us do so with courage in whatever battle we may face.

Howard is Associate Pastor at Calvary Baptist Church, Horn Lake

Sofilthy's Attic by Barbara White



Fall In!

Our Preacher is all time telling us to "fall in" which I understand is a military term meaning line up and get ready to march.

Well, I took the term "fall in" literally and I fell into the church building after stumping my toe on the threshold. I was wallowing around trying to get up when God sent a young lady to help me. She asked if I had fallen and of course I said, "yes" even though I wanted to say "No, I'm just taking a quick nap."

All this got me to thinking how quickly our lives, our days, our minutes, can change with no forewarning. I didn't know I was falling until I hit the floor. It's not the fall that gets you, it's the landing!

None of the changes that come to our lives is a surprise to God. He orchestrates every change.

One of my go to scriptures is I Cor. 10:13. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

Daniel Springs Summer Schedule Released

by Jason Prewitt, Camp Director

We are excited about the upcoming summer after very limited



events for the past year due to the global pandemic. The summer schedule will feature nine different camp options, beginning with Pre-Teen Camp 1, followed by

two split-week "combo camps" for both Pre-teen (3rd - 6th grade) and Students (6th grade through college), then Pre-teen Camp 2, followed by two Ark-La-Tex camps and finishing the summer with Student Camp. Here is the summer camp schedule:

- GMA National Camp - June 15-18
- Pre-Teen Camp 1 — June 23-26
- Combo Camp 1 — June 27-30
- Combo Camp 2 — June 30-July 3
- Pre-Teen Camp 2 — July 14-17
- Ark-La-Tex Camp 1 — July 18-21
- Ark-La-Tex Camp 2 — July 21-24
- Student Camp — July 25-28

Daniel Springs is also available for retreats and private event rent-

als. We pride ourselves on providing beautiful, clean and spacious facilities that will make a lasting impression on all that attend. Contact us to reserve a time for family reunions, birthday parties, college groups, weddings, corporate events, community events, field trips, Bible study groups, church groups, school events, crafting events, team building tournaments, recreational activities, such as archery tag and pool rentals, or anything else we can help make memorable!

For more information about any of our camps or making an event reservation, please visit our website at www.danielspringscamp.com or call us at (903) 685-2433. You can also email us at info@danielspringscamp.com.

Missions

from page 3

support prayerfully. We thank our Lord for you all. Over the course of the last month, we have been busy here in the Buckatunna area. We have been



New family (The Taylor Family) joins at Canaan Land Baptist Mission

doing visitation and meeting some amazing people. Please pray for these efforts that seeds planted may take root and grow according to the will of God. Since our last update, our God has proven Himself once again faithful! He is answering the prayers of his people and this preacher in particular. We have spoken of and asked the interest of your prayers for a family that has been visiting with us and spoken of looking for a church home. After much prayer, they have decided to join the Lord's work here at Canaan Land, and we are thankful to welcome our newest members, the Taylor family! The Taylors have hit the ground running in their efforts to serve God in our church. They have shown interest in wanting to start a Wednesday night class for the youth in our church. Our first youth class should be May 19th! We are excited for our youth. Please be in prayer for these efforts that they may grow into something that can benefit the community.

Also, we have been blessed by Bro. Yager, with Living Hope in Meridian coordinating a missions team coming from Michigan to help them, and to help us at Canaan Land. Our intentions are to pass out flyers and church invitations in the Waynesboro area. They will also be in services with us while they are here. Please help us pray for this outreach effort, as well as, the team's safe travel. We also have had couple of visitors with us over the last couple of weeks, and some have returned multiple times. This is always encouraging. We have had another opportunity to help someone in

a community by building a much-needed wheelchair ramp. It is our intention to show those around us that Canaan Land loves them and our community. If you know someone in our area that may be elderly, widowed or in need of yard work or light carpentry projects, please do not hesitate to reach out. This is a good way to show the love of Christ to those around us.

Continue to pray for us as we labor here. We have several new ideas to reach and connect with those in our community. Pray the Lord gives wisdom and opens all the doors to minister to our community." Bro. Scott Brocious, Missionary Pastor

Living Hope Baptist Mission, Meridian, Mississippi

"The month of April brought Living Hope Baptist Mission rich blessings from the Lord! We were able to see visitors attend our services as a direct result of contacts made in our community. It is always a joy to be able to see fruit for your labor as a young mission church. It is



Bro. Chris Yager runs in the "Alley Cat Run" in Meridian which led to new contacts for the mission.

encouraging to those already attending, as well as, to the church planter! I pray it is also encouraging to those hearing this report, knowing that it is also fruit to your account because of your faithfulness to pray and give so graciously.

Another blessing was the opportunity to participate in Meridian's Alley Cat Run & Festival which raises awareness for Donate Life Mississippi. It was a beautiful day to be out with the community and we were able to make many more good connections. One in particular was a young man named Bo who works at Meridian's National Guard Base. We are

Missions Department Special Emphasis April-May 2021 - Our Goal \$25,000.00

excited for the possibilities to minister to those on base, as well as, begin a Bible study soon for these young men and women seeking answers and Christian fellowship.

One more blessing was the ability to host our first Men's Steak Out & Bible study. It was an awesome evening of fellowship and some good eating too! We are so blessed to have men at Living Hope that love God's Word and are willing to take the extra time out of their busy schedule to be challenged by it and desire to grow closer to our Savior.

We are faithfully praying together with you as we reach out to those in our community, passing out invitations door to door weekly, that the Lord will direct our steps to reach souls with the gospel of Jesus Christ and be saved. We are praying for open doors in the community to continue to promote the ministry of Living Hope. We are praying for the Lord to show us every day how we can all be missionaries with the Good News that Jesus Saves!" - Bro. Chris Yager, Missionary Pastor

Bro. Daniel Allen, Associate Missionary

"Greetings from Redemption Baptist Church. As most of you know, Redemption is now organized and is no longer a mission but a church. "All Praise and Glory be to God." Now that this process has been completed, I will continue to serve there and work with Brother Wesley Martin. However, I will also continue in my training in the areas of church doctrine and church polity. I am receiving many opportunities to fill pulpits as a part of my ongoing training. The month of April, I was able to fill the pulpit at Helton Road Baptist Church, in Theodore, Alabama. I preached my first Easter Sunday message there. It was a great day. God continues to give me opportunity and I am truly thankful for it. To Him be all the Glory! I also want to personally thank you for your continued support and prayers. God Bless!"

Hispanic Missions Report, Bro. Estuardo Marroquin, Hispanic Missions Manager

Ordination Photos for Bro. Aden



Bro. Aden answering questions



Presbytery meets for ordination

Below - Laying on of hands



Ordaining council with Bro & Mrs Aden

We thank God for His blessings over the past few weeks in Hispanic missions in our State of Mississippi. Each field continues to advance sharing the gospel with the goal of magnifying the kingdom of our Lord Jesus.

CANTON - The Hispanic mission in Canton continues to advance in its work plan for this year 2021. Brother Lucas Gomez reports several people contacted, the gospel was shared with eleven people and three accepted Jesus as a personal savior. Worship meetings each Sunday have

an average attendance of 12 people. We continue to ask for your prayers so that soon our brethren in this missionary field can find a place to have their meetings. In the coming weeks, we will be visiting Clinton, Mississippi with the goal of evangelizing people who Bro. Lucas has contacted in this city.

HATTIESBURG - "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry". 1 Timo-

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In His Grip

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from 'Insectophobia' for a lack of a better term. She feared frogs, lizards, snakes, taking a wrong road, being lost, but there doesn't seem to be an inclusive term for all that she was afraid of.

On that first trip to the Smoky Mountains, we discovered Rising Fawn, Georgia. But as we were leaving, I kept hearing a noise and said several times, "Something's wrong with the car." She seemed to ignore me because she kept driving until she suddenly jumped from the car, clawing at her clothes. EW was able to jam his foot on the brake before we headed down the bluff. Then we saw it! A cicada flying away. Middle Sister didn't find it funny since it was in her blouse, but a cicada's buzzing serves as a memorial to me and brings a giggle

every time. Have you started hearing them this year?

Our travels turned our small group of four into friends until another beginning came when EW developed cancer. Our travels continued, mainly to M. D. Anderson, where we were able to laugh over new skills learned in cleaning IV ports, driving on railroad tracks, and being lost. Because of Middle Sister's fears, she insisted No. 1 Sister also had to be trained with her to clean his PICC line. (They had to pass a test before they could be approved.) My job was to read the directions. We found togetherness even in chemo and radiation treatments. EW used to credit his cancer to my not being in Hattiesburg for Hurricane Katrina.

Because of that kinship that became friendship, we sisters were together when we came to the end of that chapter. Shared ends are sweeter, and memorials bring them to mind.

All my endings have turned into be-

ginnings because through them all, He has been and will always be faithful. If it were not for the endings, I would have never understood, "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." Romans 8:28.

I have held to His promises to walk with me, to be by my side, and to provide sufficient grace as it's needed. One day my book will come to The End, which will still be a beginning when I see Jesus face to face and all the saved who have been a part of my life. Makes even a Baptist feel like shouting, "Hallelujah; praise the Lord!" Until then, I remain in His grip.

*Everything we truly
believe, we obey.
Everything else is
just religious talk!*

Some people go to church
three times in their lives:

when they're born,
when they're married,
and when they die -
hatched, matched,
and dispatched,
The first time they
throw water,
the second time rice,
and the third time dirt.

-Adrian Rogers

Missions

from page 7

thy 1:12. We thank God for the life of our brother Leo Adan, who was ordained to the Ministry on May 1st. It was a very special ordination service. Many people from El Camino Church, Laurel and Hattiesburg Mission were present at this important activity. Bro. Larry Geraldson, Bro. Sam Oglesby, and Bro. Byron Morales were present, also. Brother Leo has served our Lord for the past 5 years in the Hattiesburg mission by doing a great job in the missionary field. We are pleased by his call to ministry and continued service to our Lord Jesus. In the last few weeks, they have contacted more people and shared the gospel. Everyone in the Hispanic mission continues to be faithful to prayer meetings, small groups, and worship services. We want to announce that on July 10th, this Hispanic mission will be organized in a New Testament church. Service will be at 2:00 p.m. We invite all pastors who would like, to attend this organization service and support us with their prayers.

El Camino, Laurel- People in El Camino Church keep serving the Lord faithfully. The evangelism team continues to do a good job. In recent weeks they have been able to take to the streets and share the gospel. Thank God they have had good results by sharing with more than 25 people and eleven accepted Jesus as their personal Savior. The church has returned to its prayer services in the middle of the week; small groups continue to move forward each weekend and there is good attendance in worship services. The Bible Institute continues to train more than 15 people every Sunday and people in the church are praying for more laborers. People at El Camino Church are preparing to hold their Summer Camp on June 12

and 13. Everyone is very encouraged by this activity that is carried out every year with the participation of people from the missions of Hattiesburg, Canton, Biloxi and Laurel.

We are praying for more laborers to send to the missionary fields in our state where the Hispanic community continues to grow, and so the need to preach the gospel becomes more and more necessary every day. We thank the churches and associations in Mississippi for their prayers and their continued support for moving forward in Hispanic missions, in Christ."

Refuge Baptist Mission Kiln, Mississippi

"Greetings to the churches of the BMA of Mississippi! We are thankful to report to you about the work going on in Refuge Baptist Mission. Currently, we are still meeting in the Kiln Shelter for our Sunday morning worship services and for the children and youth ministries on Sunday evenings. We continue to meet new people in our area and invite them to church, as well as, many of the regular attenders and members have been doing. Personal evangelism and personal invitation is working, as we often have new visitors and the average attendance has increased some through the first few months of the year and seems to be holding steady. Along with attendance increase, we have witnessed God put on many hearts to tithe. Offerings have increased as well, and that is a good thing, as we prepare for a building project sometime this year.



Mission team from Faith Baptist Church in Warren, Michigan come south to help Bro. Chris Yager and Bro. Scott Brocius. They knocked doors and placed door hangers and handed out flyers across Meridian and Buckatunna

We are beginning to meet once a month again to discuss, plan, and organize different activities, outreaches, ministries, and services. This has been a great need that we have neglected, but pray that it will give us some organization and better function again in the areas of visioning and planning ahead. Our mid week classes are still being held in two different homes and continue to be well attended. Many of the people of Refuge continuously grow in unity, friendship, and spirit. It is a blessing to watch this happen. This summer we are attending summer camp with other BMA missions and former missions at Waukaway Springs. This has been an exciting spark for many of our people and the sign up list continues to grow each week.

There is also great excitement and expectation for the start of the building project on the Refuge property. God willing, we will be able to start sometime this year and work toward accomplishment through 2022. Plans have been made and final drawings are being put together to give to contractors and building companies. Please pray for us as we move in this direction. This can be a difficult time that needs much patience, wisdom, and a move of God each

step of the way. Our people are READY to be in a set location that does not need setup and breakdown each week, but that in itself has been one of the things God has used to bring unity and closeness.

I close with a petition to consider supporting Refuge Baptist Mission through prayers and finances. We have been blessed with five supporting churches and three associations. If you personally or your church has room in the budget, we would greatly appreciate your considering partnering with this work in Kiln, Mississippi. As we take the next steps of permanent location, building, and even organizing in the next few years, your support will help us get to that place in better shape and to be better prepared for further ministry as an organized church. May God bless the churches and associations of the BMA of Mississippi. Decreasing for HIS Increase!" - Bro. Josh Daniels, Missionary Pastor

Sidney Farmer, Senior Missionary Coach

"The missionary coaching/training continues to go well. Missionaries are progressing with the various trainings/coaching available to them with visible results. For the next few Sundays, we will be with Bro. Wesley Martin and Bro. Daniel Allen and some folks from Redemption to provide evangelism training. Recently, our coaching team: myself, Bro. Jason Howard and Bro. Wesley Martin, appeared before the Missionary Committee to give a report on an assessment of each missionary, requested by Bro. Geraldson. We provided our input and explained our strategy for helping each missionary in their areas of need. Please continue to pray for all of our missionaries and their families as they serve the Lord in the areas which He has placed them and pray for us, as this is a much needed ministry."