

# Baptist

# Mississippi

# Journal

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

May 1, 2015

www.bmaofmississippi.com

Vol. 69 No. 9

## President's Message - "Midyear Meeting Near"

by Gary Smith, President  
BMA of Mississippi

I want to remind everyone that our midyear meeting will be held with the Campground Baptist Church on May 18-19. The WMA and Brotherhood will meet Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. and the midyear business session will start Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. We will hear from our department and commission workers, as well as enjoying wonderful singing and preaching.



Gary Smith  
President

God is blessing His work and I know you will want to hear the great reports of all He's doing! Come and be blessed!

**Note:** Campground Baptist Church is located on Highway 53 near Gulfport. For those traveling south on Highway 49 you will turn West on Highway 53 at Lyman. The church is on the left about five miles from Highway 49. Those traveling on Interstate 59 will travel East on 53 at the Poplarville exit. The church will be approximately 30 miles on the right.

## Doctrinal Statement Committee Reports at Midyear Meeting

by Justin Cameron, Clerk

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

"At the annual session of the BMA of Mississippi in October 2014, the messenger body voted that the President of the Association appoint a committee to formulate a proposed addition to our Doctrinal Statement concerning our beliefs concerning Biblical Marriage. The committee appointed consisted of Bro. Danny Pitts, Dr. John Adams, Bro. Larry Geraldson, Bro. Frank Panzirino, and Bro. Justin Cameron. Article XI, paragraph one of the Constitution of the BMA of Mississippi states, 'The Doctrinal Statement of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi may be amended by the two-thirds majority vote of the messengers present and voting at any annual session of the association. In case the proposed amendment is referred to the churches, and the churches send their vote by letter, or by instructed messengers, and 2/3 of the churches thus reporting express the desire for the amendment, the amendment shall pass. Not particu-

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## "We Are All In This Together" Springfield, Missouri Meeting Report

by The Editor

The 2015 Annual Session of the BMA of America was held in Springfield, Missouri, April 20-22. 656 messengers and visitors gathered at the University Plaza Convention Center for three days of worship, reports, fellowship and instruction. The meeting began on Monday evening and after a welcome by Springfield's mayor and a concert from the Jacksonville Baptist College choir, the opening message was brought by President Jason Aultman. The theme for the 2015 meeting was "We Are All In This Together".



President Jason Aultman

To get the meeting off on a positive note, President Aultman recognized all pastors who have been in ministry over 50 years and three men in particular who have been in the ministry for over 70 years. These are Jack Bearden, G.W. Endicott and Otto Hillis. To emphasize the continued growth Aultman also recognized those who have been in the ministry for less than 10 years.

### Marriage Amendment

The amendments to the Doctrinal Statement of the Association to define marriage as between a man and a woman was presented and will be voted on in the 2016 session meeting in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

### Departments Report

Each department reported on its work and its plans for the future. All reports this year were abbreviated due to the change in the meeting schedule. Included in the 2015 meeting were 'break out' sessions leading to instruction and enlightenment in 6 different areas. The sessions included "Taking Your Sunday School To The Next Level", "Leading Change", "Growing Your Sunday Attendance With Social Media", "The Future of America as We Near the End of the Age & What Believers Should Do", "Creative Expository Preaching", and "What Can An Entrepreneur Teach Me About Ministry?".

Since the Department reports were shortened each department leader was available at various times to meet personally with messengers and answer any questions concerning their particular ministry.

### Officers & Meetings

The current officers of the Association were re-elected to their current positions. President Jason Aultman, 1st Vice-president Paul White, 2nd Vice-

continued on page 3



2015 BMA of America Missionary Commissioning Service



Larry Geraldson  
Director



# Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Department of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund



Bob & Edie Burch



Kenneth & Carole  
Pollock



Bobby & Lesa  
Elliott



Danny & Brenda  
Bartlett



Sidney & Becky  
Farmer



Wesley & Holley  
Martin



Phillip & Dawn  
Burns



Estuardo &  
Yasmine Marroquin



Elvis & Wendy  
Garcia



Ed & Patricia  
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*“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*

Matt 5:13-16

## Special Emphasis for State Missions Continues

State Missions Special Emphasis is April – May. We have set our goal of \$25,000.00 based on specific needs to cover unexpected expenditures. These expenditures were 100% in support of missionaries and 0% spent for overhead. Our hope is that you will help us recapture these funds through a strong Special Emphasis for State Missions. Please pray and give to help us do the work of missions.

## Caledonia Mission is Growing

Cherita and I visited with Bob and Edie Burch and participated in services at Caledonia on the 12th of April.

We enjoyed the Sunday School teaching of Bro. David Lawrence and the opportunity to share with the folks at Caledonia



Missions Director preaching at Caledonia



Worship services at Redemption Mission in Diamondhead

about State Missions and preach. God has blessed this work and it continues to grow. They have a fine group of folks and Bro. Burch is doing a good job leading in the work.

## Diamondhead Mission Making Good Progress

Cherita and I had the opportunity to visit with Wesley and Holley Martin at the Diamondhead Mission April 19th on the occasion of their first baptism. It was such an exciting experience and the enthusiasm



First baptism at Diamondhead Mission

of the folks in the mission is contagious. They are getting set to start their first in-home small group meeting and have plans to start others.

## Grace, Clinton has New Location

Cherita and I traveled back from Springfield, Missouri, after attending the BMAA National Association meeting, to attend services with Grace Mission in Clinton, Mississippi, on the 26th of April. We had a good visit with Bro. Danny Bartlett and his wife, Brenda and after the service, enjoyed a time of fellowship around a meal at the church. We had a good time of worship at their new location at 465 East Northside Drive in Clinton. The folks at the mission were so excited about the new meeting loca-



New meeting place for Grace, Clinton

tion and it was a joy to worship with them.

## Sumrall Mission Adds Two by Baptism

Bro. Phillip Burns baptized two: his daughter, Hope and Mr. Tim Pittman, on April the 12th at a special Sunday evening baptismal service at Magnolia Baptist Church in Hattiesburg. Pastor Greg Medenwald invited Bro. Burns to preach the evening message and then conduct the baptism.



Above Bro. Philip Burns baptizing his daughter Hope. Below Burns baptizing Tim Pittman.



There is so much more we could report to you about the good progress at all of the other missions. Everyone is working hard and our calendars are full of upcoming events. Even as I write this article I am preparing to go have lunch with a prospective missionary. God is truly blessing State Missions in Mississippi and I am grateful for all He is doing. I look forward to visiting with many of you at the Missions and Evangelism Conference on May 1st at Hillcrest in Yazoo City. Thank you again for letting me serve you. Please continue to lift us up in your prayers.



Grace Mission in Clinton

# National Meeting Report

from page 1

president Jeff Swart and Clerks Greg Medenwald, James Ray Raines and Jerome Cooper.

The 2016 Annual message will be brought by Jeff Swart with James Ray Raines serving as the alternate.

## Attendance & Participation

The final enrollment report listed 230 churches represented by messenger with an additional 223 by letter only.

## Department Notes

Below are a few brief notes from various department, commission and auxiliary reports.

The WMA project for 2016 is the Philippine Bible College renovation.

Moral Action reported on efforts throughout the year in promoting biblical morality and interacting with various government officials. Dr. John Adams stressed the importance of standing for traditional marriage and opposing ungodly actions by our various branches of government.



Dr. Mark Livingston  
Annual Message

Lifeword stressed the celebration of now broadcasting worldwide in 38 languages and having begun 22 community radio stations on various mission fields. They also stressed the use of social media in communicating the Gospel.



Mrs. Jerri Sue Kellar Cleaver spoke at Kellar Award Dinner and shared memories of her father, Dr. Gerald Kellar.

DiscipleGuide reported that 9 new writers were working on Adult Sunday School literature for future use. They urged participation in the Tuesday Talk broadcasts that are presented each 2nd

Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. central time. The church revitalization program is doing well with 6 churches



Seminary President Dr. Charlie Holmes recognizes Bro. Harley Gordon, oldest Seminary graduate attending this year's dinner.

currently participating and a waiting list of as least 10 more. They presented a video highlighting each area of DiscipleGuide's outreach.

BMA Seminary continues to grow and have a worldwide reach in the area of Christian education. Full degrees are



Bro. Danny Pitts recognized for his service as a Seminary Trustee.

now available on-line. The extension site in Arkansas continues to grow and has added both new staff and financial resources. Central Baptist College in



Seminary President Dr. Charlie Holmes presents Jeff Swart with the 2015 Kellar Award.

Conway provides office and classroom space.

Ministers Resource Services continues to provide retirement services to employees and pastors. Director Ron Chesser shared that the average in-

# Doctrinal Statement Addition

from page 1

lar form will be required.

Therefore this proposed addition is being presented for informational purposes only at our Midyear Meeting on May 19, 2015, at Campground Baptist Church in Gulfport, Mississippi. It will be officially presented for action by the Association at the Annual Session in October."

## Proposed Change to the Doctrinal Statement of The Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

The proposed change is to add:

### 27. Biblical Marriage

God, having created male and female, instituted their union in marriage. God designed marriage as the covenant relationship of one man and one woman for a lifetime.

It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church. God provides in marriage the context for the only appropriate sexual desires and behaviors and the only means for procreation of the human race.

The God-ordained institution of marriage is not subject to redefinition or re-interpretation by human means or practice. Forgiveness and reconciliation are found in God's atonement which is without respect of persons.

(Gen. 1:27-28; Genesis 2:18-25; Matt. 19:3-9; Lev. 18:22-25; Prov. 5:18-19; Mark 10:6-9; Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Cor. 6:9-11,16; Eph. 5:22-33; Heb. 13:4)

crease in retirement funds for the past 12 years is 7.62%. He encouraged each church to enroll their pastor and staff in a tax-deferred retirement plan.

The Committee on Arrangements recommended the 2018 meeting be held at the Convention Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Charles Attebery was unable to attend the meeting due to illness, but reported via video concerning the realignment of the BMA Foundation. Each department of the BMA is currently part of this entity and may receive donations through the Foundation.

## Guest Speaker

Dr. Ronnie Floyd was asked to attend and address the Association. Floyd is currently the President of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastors Cross Church in Springdale, Arkansas.

He spoke on the subject "What Time Is It In America?" He challenged the audience with coming together and going forward with a deep sense of urgency concerning our nation and reaching the masses with the Gospel. Floyd stressed the concern about 'a lack of urgency in the church today'.



Dr. Ronnie Floyd

and reaching the masses with the Gospel. Floyd stressed the concern about 'a lack of urgency in the church today'.

## Missions

The Wednesday evening session consisted of a report on Missions and work around the world. Dr. John David



John & Margaret Lindsey recognized by Bro. Phil Knott (far right) for work in West Africa as they retire

Smith, executive director of missions, stated that 93 cents of every mission dollar makes its way to the mission field. He challenged messengers with the question of "How much of your church budget is spent on the comfort inside the church as opposed to reaching those that are outside the church?"

Smith shared the ministry to missionary families that is under the direction of Jerry Kidd and Sarah Hamilton, the good work of BMMI under the direction of Dr. Ralph Izard and Dr. John Ladd, along with the ministry of the chaplains who serve under the authority of the BMA of America.

The annual meeting concluded with the commissioning service of newly elected missionaries.

*A wise man will hear,  
and will increase learning;  
and a man of understanding  
shall attain  
unto wise counsels:*

Proverbs 1:5

**Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi**  
www.bmaofmississippi.com

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**State Youth Department**  
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Laurel, MS 39440  
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**Baptist Children's Home**  
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**Missions & Revolving Loan Fund**  
4226 Highway 15 North  
Laurel, MS 39440  
601-428-8616

**Commission on Senior Adults**  
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Laurel, MS 39440

**History & Archives Commission**  
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Laurel, MS 39440  
601-729-8098

**Moral Action**  
P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855



Don Brown

# Mississippi Baptist

# Opinion Page

www.ms baptist.org

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Don Brown - Editor

## My Unique Trait

by Maggie Evans  
Meadowside Baptist Church  
From Baptist Herald

It began to get irritating at times, people would come up to me and say, "I just love your curls! I wish I had that kind of hair." If only they knew that if it were possible, I would've been happy to give them my curls. Every person is unique in their own way. Learning to accept myself and who I am was one of the hardest lessons I ever learned.

One early spring morning, my mom moved phlegmatically down the hallway as she entered my room to wake me up, only to find that I wasn't in bed. All those mornings I would wake up an hour earlier for school, to straighten my hair, just to feel a sort of emptiness or unsatisfying guilt with myself.

Growing up with curly hair isn't the easiest thing in the world. All I wanted to do was look a little more like the "in" crowd. Not to mention, I just wanted to wear my hair down every once in awhile. It took me seventeen years to realize,



bedtime, ascending an hour or two earlier, and the unpredictable weather changes, I'd had enough!

My hairdresser told me a while back that I could get a perm. Now, usually people get perms to have hair like me, but in my case it would loosen my curls and my hair would be more like theirs and better yet, easier to straighten. So I decided that was what I was going to do. I told my mom what I wanted, and she just nodded her head and went along. The day of the perm, I couldn't have been happier. I sat in that chair for over two hours gazing at my beautiful curls being swept up in tinfoil.

I remember going home watching the time go by, impatiently waiting to wash my hair and unravel my new

**continued on page 7**

## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

**WOW!  
What a job!**



The other morning I got up with a little bit of a song going through my mind. The words were, "When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside. Bear me through the swelling current, land me safe on Canaan's side." I can't remember the name of the song nor can I remember any more of the words.

I started thinking about younger people and I wondered if they would understand what those words meant. We know that the words to songs that the younger people sing are embedded in their minds by sheer repetition - and some day they'll wake up one morning with those words going through their mind.

Then I started thinking about what the words "verge of Jordan" meant and I've come to the conclusion that it means just getting your toes wet in the Jordan and knowing that there is a big job waiting when you get across.

Just think what awaited the Israelites when they crossed the Jordan. They had to chase out all those people who were living in Canaan. WOW! What a job!

# Mississippi Baptist

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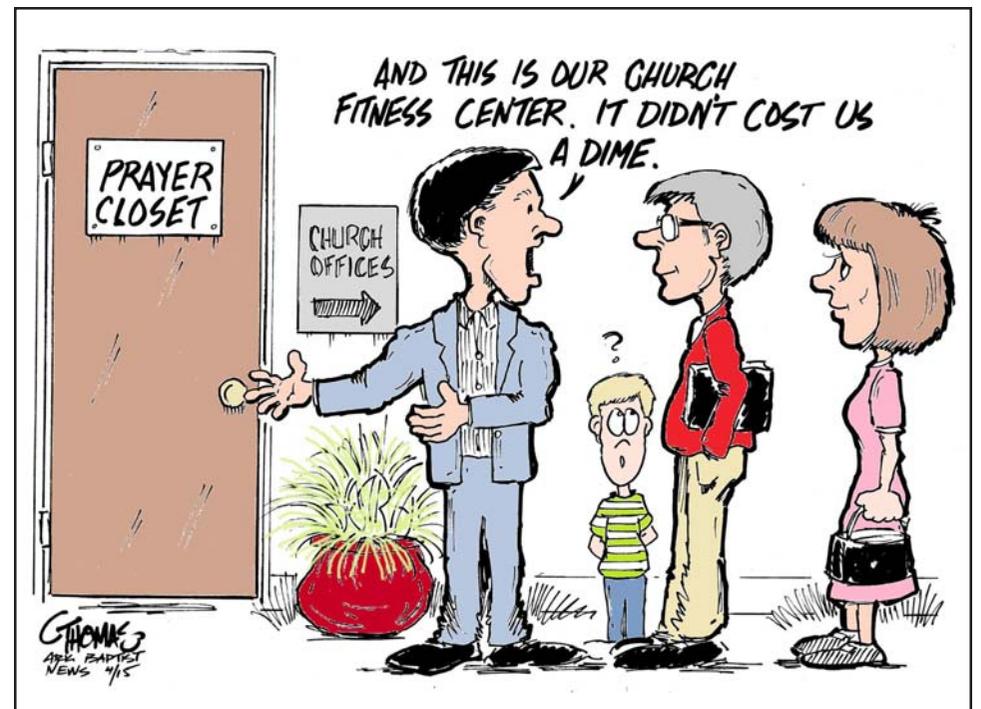
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sure their hair looked similar, but God didn't make any one person identical. He created all of us differently and in His own image.

All those years straightening my hair, for what, to look like everybody else? I still remember the first time I had my hair straightened. Ever since I was born, we'd been going to see Suzie to get my hair done, but after she moved, we started going to another place. On my first visit, she unexpectedly straightened my hair and you would have thought I'd won the lottery! I felt like a completely different person. Years of spending long hours, staying up past



# MORAL ACTION

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John Adams

## Voting Politics and My Church

Mrs. Adams and I have represented the BMA of America and BMA of Mississippi at the Annual "Watchmen on the Wall" conference in Washington, D.C. on several occasions. Thousands of Christians, from all walks of life, join together in prayer and praise for our nation. We all share a common concern of "reminding spiritual leaders of our nation's Judeo-Christian heritage."

Many churches and Christians are misinformed about their "rights" regarding political activism in relation to the church. Pastors and churches may speak in regard to social and moral issues. They may speak about the actions of government officials in public offices and the positions of political candidates in regard to religious, social, and moral issues.

Pastors and ministers who are acting as individual citizens and not as an official church leader, have the same rights as every other American citizen to involve themselves in political activity.

The IRS (Internal Revenue Service) prohibits churches from participating in or intervening in a political campaign. The IRS Code requires that churches refrain from supporting or opposing a candidate's campaign and they may not make direct contributions to a candidate/political party. Thus the church may not contribute anything of

value to a candidate (eg: the church mailing list).

Many Christian leaders, including pastors, ministers and associational leaders, are concerned about the legal consequences of political involvement in relation to the church. Be aware that you do not have to be passive and silent.

The following is a guideline list for "Political Activity" by churches and pastors published by the Alliance Defending Freedom.

May I encourage our pastors, ministers, and laity to get ready to vote your Biblical values and follow a long line of Spiritual leaders engaging their culture.

Leaders such as:

- . Moses petitioned Pharaoh for the liberty of God's people
  - . Nathan confronted King David for his sinful actions as a leader
  - . Elijah faced off against King Ahab who promoted idolatry and immorality
  - . Isaiah condemned moral decay in the culture
  - . Amos was against injustice in society
  - . Daniel pronounced judgment on King Nebuchadnezzar for promoting idolatry
  - . John the Baptist pointed out the adultery of King Herod
  - . Peter stood up to the Jewish leadership who restricted his freedom to preach
- Be Silent no more! Vote and voice your values!

## Guidelines for "Political Activities" by Churches & Pastors

POLITICAL ACTIVITY	CHURCH	PASTOR
Discuss the positions of candidates on issues	YES	YES
Endorse or oppose candidates	NO	YES
Financial contributions to candidates	NO	YES
In-kind contributions to candidates	NO	YES
Contributions to political action committees (PAC)	NO	YES
Payment of expenses for attendance at a caucus or state/national political party convention	NO	YES
Appearance of candidate at church meeting or service	YES	n/a
Non-partisan voter registration activities	YES	YES
Non-partisan voter identification activities	YES	YES
Non-partisan get-out-the-vote activities	YES	YES
Non-partisan voter education	YES	YES
Lobbying for or against legislation	YES	YES
Expenditures related to state referendums	YES	YES
Distribution of Candidates surveys	YES	YES
Voting records of incumbents	YES	YES
Candidate campaign literature	NO	YES
Distribution by others of political materials in church parking lots	YES	n/a

## Seminary to Offer DiscipleWay Training Summer 2015

by Philip Attebery, Dean  
BMA Theological Seminary

Jesus Christ commissioned his followers to make disciples. Since 2011, the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary has used the DiscipleWay process to assist local churches and their members to equip themselves for the work of making disciples. More than 600 individuals have completed DiscipleWay training since the initial training session held in May 2011. The Lord has used many of those individuals to disciple multiple generations of individuals throughout the United States and in several foreign countries. Spanish versions of the entire DiscipleWay curriculum also exist and have found use throughout North, Central, and South Americas.

The next DiscipleWay training is scheduled for June 8-11, 2015 at the BMA Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas. Although participants will need to pay for their study materials, the Seminary will offer the training itself without charge to those interested in earning DiscipleWay certification. Space is limited so contacting the Seminary Dean's office soon will help ensure a place for participants.

## Master's Builders at Daniel Springs Baptist Camp

by Rose Bittner, Reporter

The work at Daniel Springs Baptist Youth Camp began with Master's Builders RVs arriving on Saturday, March 28th. 16 Builders and 11 wives were in attendance. Work began Monday morning March 30th with 34 sturdy bunk beds to build, several cabins needing bathroom remodeling, and a remodel of the central bathrooms behind the cafeteria. Bunk beds were built in the cabins after disassembling and removing the old beds for salvage.

This building site is a familiar one for the Builders as this is the 4th trip they have made to the camp since 2012. The Master's Builders really enjoy helping bring new life to the cabins with beds and new bathrooms. The new Camp Director, Jason Pruitt, worked very hard each day with the Builders. His love and commitment to the Lord, and his willingness to work hard for this camp were a blessing.

During the first week on the job the Builders had to stop for several days to travel to St. Charles, Missouri, to the

funeral of one of the Builders, Tony Myers. He and his wife Flo have been with the Master's Builders for 14 years and Tony will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

There is still much work to be done on the cabins and Camp Director Jason Pruitt prays for more help in the future. His prayers include that more churches would sponsor a cabin remodel and send workers as they can. He also prays that some of the WMA ladies would be interested in making curtains for the cabins in the near future.

This was the 135th job for The Build-



ers, which began their ministry in 1991. If your church has building needs or you have questions, you can contact: John Mangum, Office Coordinator for The Master's Builders at 318-205-5155 or (cell) 318-607-4100 or Eddie Sikes, Field Coordinator at 903-725-6549 or (cell) 479-462-1675. If you feel you would enjoy this ministry, we would love to have you join us. Use the contact info above for more information.

## Holifields Celebrate Anniversary

by Pat Davis

Bro. Harold and Mrs. Ann Holifield

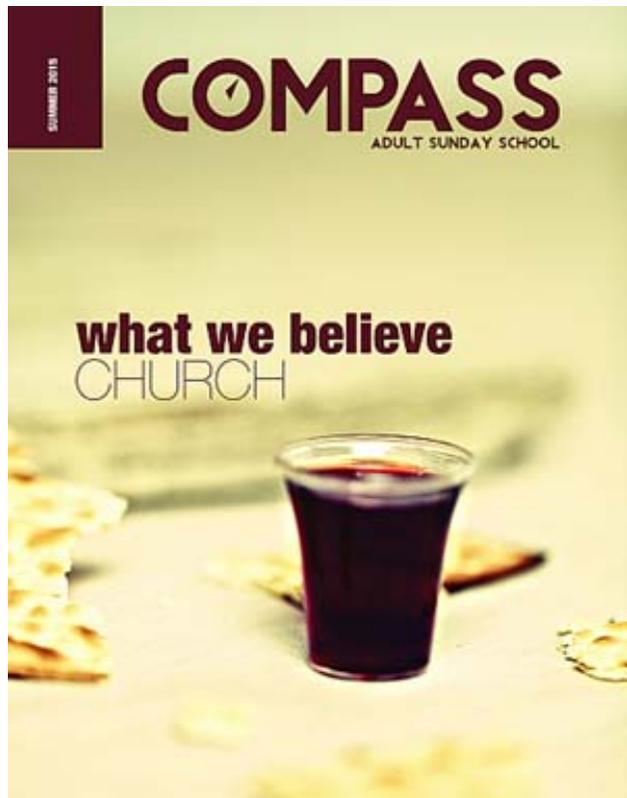
celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary on April 17, 2015 at one of their favorite restaurants in Laurel, Mississippi. Their son



Charles (Kathy) Holifield and daughter Pat (Sidney) Davis enjoyed lunch with them. The Holifields have four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Thanks to our parents for the amazing marriage and Godly examples that they are still displaying. We love you.

## 13 Lessons Vital To Every Church Member

DiscipleGuide believes in the local church. After all, Jesus established, commissioned, and continues to rule the church. Therefore, it should be of utmost



importance to all believers. That's why the summer 2015 quarter of lessons in the Compass adult Sunday School curriculum is vital to every church member.

In this last edition of the "We Believe" series, Dr. E. Harold Henderson focuses on what we believe about the church. Topics include the following: the founding of the first church, the officers of the church, guarding the purity of the church, the ordinances of the church, and the destiny of the church. New church members will be strengthened and long-time church members will be encouraged by these lessons.

For more information or to order curriculum, go to [discipleguide.org](http://discipleguide.org) or call 800-333-1442.

## Ministers Resource Services Retirement Averages 7.62% Annually For 12 Years

Ron Chesser, Director

I want to thank the Lord for His blessings upon Ministers Resource Services during this past year. Each pastor, church staff, missionary or employee of the BMA who had their retirement funds in the BMA Long Term Growth portfolio had a growth of 3.10% posted to their account during the year 2014, which gives us an average growth of 7.62% each year for the past twelve years. In the past twelve years we have posted a total of 91.47% to each LT Growth account.

The 2014 yearly total we received for deposit into retirement accounts for pastors, church staff, missionaries and employees of the BMA was \$1,428,567.01, a daily average of \$3,913.88. As of December 31, 2014 there was a grand total of \$15,808,186.67 on deposit in retirement funds at Ministers Resource Services, reflecting a growth in assets of \$11,926,119.80 over the past twelve years. These numbers represent pastors, church staff, missionaries and employees of the BMA who are diligently preparing for retirement at Ministers Resource Services.

The BMA Ministers Retirement Plan is approved by the Internal Revenue Service for tax-deferred income from the churches, departments and agencies of the BMA. As a participant in the BMA Ministers Retirement, a pastor, church staff, missionary or employee of the BMA may tax-defer up to 100% of their annual salary and compensation not to exceed \$53,000 dollars each year. Manning and Napier Advisory Advantage Corporation of Rochester, NY professionally manage the BMA Retirement portfolio through our broker, Fawcett and Company Investment Strategies.

You may contact Ministers Resource Services, the retirement agency of the BMA of America, at P. O. Box 2866, Texarkana, AR 75504, by phone at 870-774-2654 or email the Executive Director, Ron Chesser, at [RChesser6365@aol.com](mailto:RChesser6365@aol.com) to request a retirement packet or to open an account.

If your church is supporting this ministry, we express our sincere appreciation. If your church is not supporting Ministers Resource Services, we ask you to please give prayerful consideration. May God bless you for your prayers and support of MRS.

## Chaplain Says Free To Minister According to Conscience

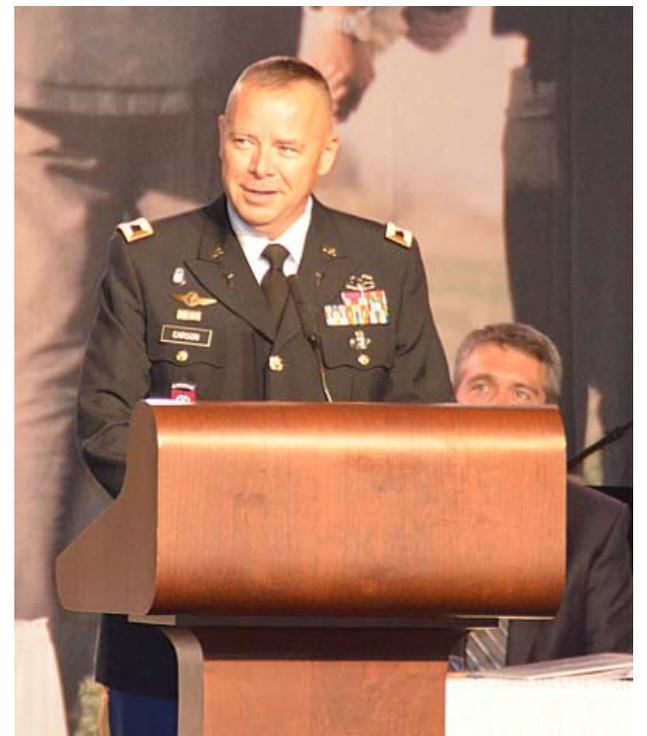
**Editor's Note:** Chaplain Scott Carson was in attendance at this year's meeting and before offering a prayer at the close of one of the business sessions he made the following remarks. We thank him for his service and for sharing his heart with us.

It is an honor and privilege to attend this year's BMAA national meeting! It has been a few years since my last visit. It is also an honor to represent you and the BMAA in the United States Army.

I want take a few moments to share with you before I pray, because I know what is on your mind.

In spite of sensational media accounts, some with truth and some with little truth, I want to assure you that your chaplains still enjoy religious freedom while serving in the Army.

Having served the last 29 years as an Army chaplain, I can say with full confidence that the environment for representing Christ to America's Soldiers is the best it has ever been!



Chaplain Col. Scott Carson

I want to quote to you a portion of a message addressed to Army Chaplains by the Assistant Chief of Chaplains, Chaplain (Brigadier General) Carlton Fisher, and I quote,

"Chaplains, I want to encourage you. You don't have to water down your religious leadership, nor do you have to lower the bar as you help soldiers who believe differently from you. If anybody understands freedom of religion, it's the chaplain. You are champions of the first amendment of free exercise of religion. So, I want to encourage you - remember your calling. Be passionate about your religion. Lead your flock while meeting your endorser's expectations..." End quote.

We Army chaplains remain protected by laws of our great land and by Army regulations to practice what we believe. Now, as in any secular institution, wisdom must be applied, and I think the Bible has a something to say about the application of wisdom, but be rest assured, your chaplains are not compromising their faith in God nor their representation of Jesus Christ as they serve in this very unique corner of God's vineyard.

Keep our chaplains and families in your prayers. And I invite anyone who has specific questions regarding chaplains serving in the Army to speak to me.

I will be retiring about this time next year, so pray for Linda and me as we transition back to civilian life.

## 2015 National WMA Officers



President Janet Widger; First Vice-president Ruby Poteet; Second Vice-president Jodi Reha; Third Vice-president Charlotte Johnson; Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer Pat Duncan; Assistant Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer Glenda Tipton; Recording Secretaries Ann Pugh, Linda Faye Dertinger; Editor Jessica Hayden; Reporter Norma Womble; Historian Linda Thomas; Director of Youth Auxiliaries Mandi Townsend; Assistant Director of Youth Auxiliaries Laurie Hicks; GMA/YLA Promoter Jayna Williams; Assistant GMA/YLA Promoter Beth Caldwell; Sunbeam Promoter Sherry Laminack; Assistant Sunbeam Promoter Sandra Kizer; Pianist Sabrina Clayton; Song Leader Jerene Reddin; Salary & Expense Committee 2018 Bea Evans, Ladonna Baker, Ann Raines; Project Promotion Committee Alice Smith, Carolyn Colvert, Linda Strickland; Study Book Committee Linda Norvell, Connie Reifsteck, Jackie Ricks; Advisory Council Claude Evans, Don Brown, David Kizer; Project for 2015-2016 - Doug and Diane Lee, Phillipines

# This Ole World Can Sling A Lot At Ya But God Can Sling More

I hear people say that they have had such a run of bad luck. It's not really bad luck they are experiencing. It is life in a sinful broken world. This is the world we live in. Every single person and family will experience disasters, disease, depression, death, relationship problems, encounter mean, hateful people and the list goes on. We will experience a devil that

wants to defeat and discourage us every step of the way on life's journey. Some people will have people that should love them, instead trounce them into the ground with their words. Then, we will have financial concerns, flat tires, washers that break, and kid's bones that sometimes break. Yep, that's life. And life is sometimes pleasant and

## Family Ark Ministries

Dr. Travis Plumlee is a full-time professional speaker and leads Family Ark Ministries. For more information or to contact him, visit [www.travisplumlee.com](http://www.travisplumlee.com).



people will have people that should love them, instead trounce them into the ground with their words. Then, we will have financial concerns, flat tires, washers that break, and kid's bones that sometimes

good. It is not always rocky and hard. When we go through our trials and tribulations it is very important that we never lose sight that we will not be defeated as children of God. No matter what this ole world slings out at you to defeat you, God can sling more. God can sling out grace, mercy, strength, wisdom, patience, peace, perseverance, courage and His list is endless. God can always give you greater things than this world will give you to hurt you or pull you down. His grace is sufficient in all things. That means that nothing else will be needed. His grace is enough. You won't have to seek something else to make it. God can give you a peace that passes your understanding. You will still have troubles, but you just have this quiet peace in your heart and spirit; and that is a gift from God. Peace

in the midst of the storm is what He will give you.

God never runs out of gifts to give us. He can give you strength. This strength is not only spiritual or emotional, but God can literally give you physical strength to get through something. Many of us will have some trials where we are fearful or doubting. We are worried and concerned. We are after all, human. But God can sling out so much courage for your mind and soul that it overwhelms and overcomes your fears and doubts.

He gives to us abundantly and generously. You have to remember in your trials, that God will not abandon you. He will not leave you. He will not forsake you. He is always a constant

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## My Unique Trait

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hairdo! I was so anxious; I hurdled into the shower thirty minutes early. As I was scrubbing my hair, I remember feeling of my hair like I was expecting it to feel differently. As I got out of the shower, I hustled over to the mirror, only to see no change at all.

When mom walked in, instantly she knew it didn't work. All those hours spent anxiously waiting, and it didn't work! If that wasn't bad enough, what I went through with my hair for months after was a nightmare! My hair went from beautiful shiny curls to a dry, broken, frizzy mess. My dry, broken, and frizzy curls took over six months to repair.

It was through all that, I realized how precious my hair really was and how it's such a big part of my personality and who I am. Looking back, I'm thankful and blessed to have my mom who through all those years, just sat

back and watched.. She knew I would have never been attentive and it was something I had to figure out and experience all on my own.

This past summer at church camp, the topic of our high school class was I Peter 3:4 which says, "No, your beauty should come from within you—the beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit that will never be destroyed and is very precious to God." Once again, I was reminded of how imperfectly perfect God created me and how my beauty on the inside means more than beauty on the outside. Now don't get me wrong, I still straighten my hair every now and then, but I no longer take my curls for granted. Being myself is one of the hardest things I've ever had to work at. God created each and every one of us special and unique in our own ways. I'm so thankful I finally realized who I am and the beautiful unique curls that I have.

## Until She Rode Away

It's not easy to face reality and own up to the truth. In the words of one politician, "I'M A MAN!" Men are notorious for denying truth. We still think

our bodies are teenage bodies when someone mentions a little pickup game of basketball. With smiles on our faces and pats on our backs for a "great" game, we head home where our wives pry us out of the car seat so we can find a nice, comfortable floor to lie on while we moan and groan and swear "We're coming to see you, Elisabeth!" (That's an old Sanford and Sons reference,



by the way, for those of you who only grew up on tween sitcoms.)

Reality has a way of smacking you right across the jaw when you aren't looking. My reality "smack" came this past Saturday when my daughter got married. I wouldn't say that I was in complete denial about her being a woman. I mean, I'm not completely blind. I was there when she graduated high school. I saw her taking on responsibilities. I vaguely remember her asking permission for a young man to come and ask permission to take her on a date. I even found pleasure in interrogating the young fellow. Later on, he asked to marry her and I wasn't quite as joyful at that meeting.

Before the wedding, people would ask me if I would be able to walk her down the aisle and then officiate the wedding. No problem, I said. Inquisitive eyes probed my face for streaks of tears and signs of sensitivity. "I'M A MAN! I

DON'T DO SENSITIVE!" She said, "I do". He said, "I do". I said, "That's good enough for me. I now pronounce you, husband and wife. You may shake the

bride's hand". The reception went well. Great food had been prepared by my sister in law (thank you Jessica). A church member prepared a cake (thank you Sister Sheila). My brother in law provided some great music (thank you Bryson). Many others chipped in and made sure everything went perfectly. In the midst of days of showers, God parted the clouds and gave us a great, rain free day (Thank you my most loving Heavenly Father).

They loaded up in a 1927 Model T Ford that another church member provided (Thank's Bro. Dwyann) and drove away. Everything was fine until she rode away. Then out of nowhere...SMACK! Reality. I have to be honest; that hurt a little.

One day we will all ride away. Let's not let reality sneak up on us when that day happens. It is then too late to prepare for the moment of truth.

## BMA Announces Town Hall Meetings for 2015

BMA department and agency directors will be hosting the third annual Town Hall meetings in three locations in June, August and December of this year. Pastors, staff members and their spouses are invited to attend their area event, which will begin with a noon luncheon followed by a 1:00 meeting.

Dates and locations for each Town Hall meeting are as follows:

- Southwest Arkansas: Thursday, June 11 at the ABS House (2223 North Washington) in Magnolia, Arkansas – Host Chad Stephenson
- South Mississippi: Thursday, August 27 at First Baptist Church in Bay Springs, Mississippi - Host James Sprayberry
- East Texas: Thursday, December 3 at First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Texas - Host Vernon Lee

Donny Parrish, Chief Creative Officer of the BMA, said, "The goals for these meetings are for your BMA national directors to listen to the concerns and suggestions of BMA Pastors and to allow for a time of prayer and fellowship."

Pastors in area associations will be contacted by phone and/or email in the weeks prior to each meeting to invite church staff members and their spouses and to get an exact head count for the catered meal. However, accurate contact information may not be available, so if you have not received an invitation or if you need additional information, please contact Holly Meriweather at the BMA Global Ministry Center at 501-205-1127.

## From The Mind of Chuck Lee

Lee pastor's Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis. He may be reached by email at [leecharles47@yahoo.com](mailto:leecharles47@yahoo.com)



## Newly Elected Missionaries



Daisuke Okada to Japan



Brian Cleary to Colorado



Matthew Barker to Missouri



Justin Owen to Estonia



Sam Freeman Family to Philippines



Todd Cox to Georgia



Cody Woodward to Arkansas



Michael Smith to Arkansas

## Plumlee

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and present help in times of trouble. Scriptures tells us this. You have to remind yourself of this every day during your trials and tribulations.

God is not a stingy God. You are His child. He wants to provide for you. You want to provide good things to those you love. How much more will your Heavenly Father provide for you? We humans can't possibly and fully understand the depths of how much God and Jesus love us. But they will help us and hold us near to them. God will not stand back and watch us suffer and be apathetic to our current dilemma. He is for us. He is for you.

Ask for help from God. Whatever you have need of in your body, mind or soul to get you through this storm; God will provide. Ask. Seek. Believe. Pray and pour out to Him. Philippians 4:6, "Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving; let your request be made known to God." I Peter 5:7, "Casting your care upon him, for he careth for you." So should we expect the world to sling out troubles our way?

John 16:33, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

I Peter 4:12, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you."

Yes, life on this broken sinful planet will be full of woe. But aren't you glad and rejoice that we have a risen savior and an all powerful God who loves us. Ephesians 3:19, "And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God."

He cares for us and will give us abundantly everything we need to get through these troubles. Ephesians 3:20, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." Philippians 4:19, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." And not just to hang on by a thread. He will give us from His fullness.

Don't think it strange what you are going through. Don't call it bad luck. Call out to God and He will give you

## Harmony Association Meets

The April Harmony meeting was held at First Hispanic in Ripley on Friday April 11th. The evening message was brought by Bro Humberto Regalado, with interpretation by Bro Elvis Garcia.

There were 6 churches represented and 54 attending. The May meeting will be held at Central Baptist in Corinth with Bro. Frank Wilson as the speaker, and Bro Bro Jarrod Cox as alternate.

Reports were given by Bro. Mike Johnson on the youth camp and Bro. Mark Johnson with the Gallieans and National Brotherhood. Mission reports given by Bro. Bobby Elliott, Bro. Humberto Regalado on Tupelo, Bro. Luis Huchin and Bro. Erlin Pech with the Hispanic mission in Oxford. Bro. Danny Pitts gave a report on Southeastern Baptist College. After the meeting a meal with a Hispanic flavoring furnished by the host church.

Bobby Elliott, Moderator  
Tony Marolt, Clerk

what you need to get through it. God is good. All the time. This world, that Satan, those people can all try and pull you down. Don't let them pull you down. Let God lift you up. Look up. Call out. He hears your prayers. He may not make it all easy and perfect like we humans want sometimes. He will give you what you need to get up and go on. Grow on. God has so much more grace to pour out on you than this world can take from you. He is the God of all comfort. He will give you mercy and strength. This will not beat you or defeat you. You have victory in Jesus!

Faith  
sees the invisible,  
believes the incredible,  
knows the unknowable,  
and receives the  
impossible.

- Adrian Rogers