

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

May 1, 2017

www.msbbaptist.org

Vol. 71 No. 9

Missions Conference Held at Former State Mission

by the Editor

The Caledonia Baptist Church was the site of the 2017 Missions and Evangelistic Conference. The unique fact about this year's meeting is that it was held at a

ing the meeting, welcoming visitors from across the state, and providing an abundant meal at noon. The reception the church members gave those attending speaks well of their hospitality,



Gracious Hosts - Pastor Bob Burch and members of Caledonia Baptist Church hosting the Missions Conference.

former state mission project. Caledonia was recently organized into a New Testament Church and demonstrated their commitment to missions by hosting this year's event.

Pastor Bob Burch and the members did a good job of host-

their love for Christ, and their commitment to reaching their community with the Gospel. The church plant is welcoming and the church recently completed the addition of a fellowship hall and additional education space.

The Conference Theme



Bro. Grover Laird bringing closing message on Prayer of "Contending For The Faith" was presented well with various subjects from Rejoicing in Our Woes, to Praying While We Work.

Some of the state missionaries shared their work along with Hispanic Missions Manager Estuardo Marroquin and African American Missions Coordinator Ed DuVall. Music for the day was provided by Jeff & Rosalind Dixon of Yazoo City.

Midway First Baptist to Host Midyear Meeting

by Matt Hudson, President

It's that time of the year again when associational and trustee meetings take place. All of our departments will schedule trustee meetings preparing for our mid-year meeting on May 22,23. Messengers from all over our state will be gathering at Midway First Baptist in Sumrall for the WMA and Brotherhood meeting on Monday night at 7:00 and the official start of our meeting on Tuesday morning at 9:30. Information on hotel accommodations can be found in this issue of the paper. We will hear reports from all of our departments plus special ministries and missionaries.

The meeting will be a glorious celebration of our Lord and Savior. Brother Willie Oldinquist from Theodore, Alabama, will be bringing the message and Brother Jeremy Wilkerson will lead us with great music. I hope to see you there.

Hotels listed on page 2

Missions Director Larry Geraldson planned a great conference with each speaker addressing various aspects of 'contending for the faith' that was delivered to us.

A highlight for this writer was the closing message by Bro.

Grover Laird. He has been in the ministry for over 71 years and has been a living example to ministers of what God can do through a willing and dedicated servant. What a blessing to hear him preach on 'Praying While We Work'.

World Missions Day - Charlie Costa and the Global Missions Fund

Contributions for 2017 World Missions Day are continuing to come in, and every dollar sent will go to the Global Missions Fund, which supports BMA national missionary leaders and church planters around the globe.

At the 2017 BMA National Association Meeting, Dr. John David Smith BMA Missions will officially announce a support partnership called ChangeMakers for individuals and churches.

Dr. John David Smith says, "They

are our local, in-country church planters. They are the heart and soul of international missions. They are the unseen torch bearers that continue and extend the work in each country. They are the fruits of our U.S. missionaries who focus on developing in-country leaders to see sustaining and multiplying impact in each country where BMA Missions is present."

Bro. Charlie Costa, BMA missionary to the Middle East, will be stateside during the national meeting and beyond, and a primary goal of his furlough is to spread the word about those national leaders who are an integral part of international missions. He is available to speak to congregations, and all donations raised during his speaking

engagements will be given to BMA Missions' Global Missions Fund. The following dates (Sundays) are open and can be scheduled by contacting Paige West at paige@bmamissions.org:
April 23rd morning and evening
May 14th (Dallas area only) morning and evening
May 21st (southwest Arkansas area only) evening
May 28th morning and evening
June 4th morning and evening
June 11th morning and evening



Charles Costa

Please consider becoming a ChangeMaker (<http://bmamissions.org/changemakers/>). World Missions Day contributions can be sent to Missions, P.O. Box 878, Conway, AR 72033.

National BMA Meeting Schedule Change

by Paul White, BMAA President.

Due to a scheduling conflict, Dr. Jack Graham, pastor of the Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, will be speaking on Monday night, May 1 instead of Wednesday afternoon, May 3, at the BMA of America Meeting. The President's Message will be Wednesday afternoon. I hope to see you there.

From The Mind of Chuck Lee

The-Ology

School and I never have gotten along very well, even though I thoroughly enjoy learning about all sorts of topics. I was talked into going to college at the age of seventeen after finally being pardoned for good behavior from high school. When I received my diploma from Live Oak High School in Watson, Louisiana, I turned and looked at the building while musing, "I have learned my lesson. Never again will I commit an atrocity so vile that I will have to return to an institute of learning".



Bro. Chuck Lee

Explaining that very sentiment to my mentor and boss where I worked on a local farm, he explained that going to college wasn't simply about book learning, but rather gaining an experience. I can't remember exactly what he said, but it was something along those lines and was instrumental in me applying to LSU

the following semester.

My mentor was right! Boy, oh boy, did I gain some experience! We'll not talk about that here...or ever. So after a couple of years of the college experience, I deduced that higher education wasn't for me, and decided the world needed laborers as well as academia. For several years, I truly enjoyed the life of repairing boats, building houses, running soft-shell crawfish farms, working in the oil field, and helping in the assembly of cars and trucks at the Nissan plant in Smyrna, Tennessee. Single and with little ties to keep me bound to one spot, I was able to experience life in several different states and meet all sorts of interesting people.

Then I got saved. Then I got married. Then I had children. Then God called me to preach. Then God set me to pastoring churches. Then, somewhere

along the line, I was given an opportunity to attend Bible college. Life had happened, and age, and, well, I went back to, to, to...OK! I went back to school. I think God was just reminding me that I shouldn't make plans without consulting Him first, but in my defense, that was before I had met Jesus when I said I would never go back to school.

As grateful as I was for the opportunity, it still wasn't my cup of tea. I didn't mind most of the time I was there. I met some great people and teachers. But, I never have enjoyed learning things that I couldn't put into practical use. That is fine for some people who like education for the aspect of becoming, uh, well, educated, but for me, having to learn meaningful material mixed with a spattering of less meaningful material that I have since forgotten, just seemed to me a misuse of mine and everybody's time. It showed in my grades as well, but they let me graduate with a mere 4.0 average. It was my walk of shame, but everyone was very polite and generous and acted just like I was as smart as all the other students while handing me



my degree. I'm not sure what the 4.0 was out of, but I just assumed it was 10. Even I know that is not a passing grade, but they let it slide. Feels kind of nice to confess that and unleash that burden that has weighed me down all these years.

I'm still not sure why I had to learn all of the "ologies", such as theology, Christology, Pneumatology, ecclesiology, biology, psychology, and the other one. You can tell I never learned how to spell them, although spell check seems to think I made a pretty good guess, much less understand them. I would have rather just learned more about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the church, creation and how it all works, the workings of the mind, and, and, and, well, the other one.

I guess learning does have its place though. Whatever we learn, it helps us to know more about our Heavenly Father and His love for us. I really would have liked to have learned more about the end times, but the teacher was explaining Eschatology at the time, so I just tuned him out.

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

SENIOR SOURCES

by Becky Ulmer - becky.ulmer@jghms.com

Prevent & Preserve

The weather is getting warmer, soon to be hot and dry in Mississippi.

Often we lose water from our bodies at a faster pace than we replenish it during this time of the year. Our bodies are exposed to temperature extremes with the convenience of air conditioning. There tends to be a higher consumption of salt in our diets during the

summer months. All of these can predispose us to a higher risk of having a stroke (cerebral vascular accident or CVA).

There are two types of strokes, ischemic (loss of blood supply) or hemorrhagic (bleeding). Both types are medical emergencies and should have immediate medical attention. The signs can be similar in nature. Symptoms can include trouble walking, speaking and understanding, as well as numbness/tingling of arm, leg or face. Paralysis may occur.

The symptoms may come and go over a period of time, leading the person to believe this may be a TIA (transient ischemic attack) or "mini-stroke".



Becky Ulmer

Recent data shows there are over 200,000 cases per year in the U.S. Early medical intervention is the key in minimizing brain damage and limiting physical changes. The medication that can "break up a clot" (clot buster) can be given if the patient arrives in the Emergency Department within an established time-line after symptoms start (usually 3-4 hours depending on the facility).

Strokes affect all ages. People with high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, heart conditions, and smokers are a greater risk of suffering a stroke. Risk can be lowered by controlling blood pressure, smoking cessation, healthy eating habits, weight control, and exercising on a regular basis.

The prognosis for a person suffering a stroke depends on the location and extent of the injury to the brain. Prevention and early intervention are vital in one's quality of life when dealing with a stroke. Facing life with the physical, emotional, and social changes that occur can be devastating to the patient and loved ones. 3 John 1:2 KJV "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

Take control of your health and well-

being. Seek medical advice for problems. Do not ignore the symptoms. Seek emergency help immediately for symptoms of a stroke. Your body is a "temple of the Holy Ghost".

Becky Ulmer is Nursing Home Administrator of Jasper County Nursing Home, Bay Springs, Mississippi. She is a member of First Baptist, Bay Springs.

Hotel Prices

Hotel Pricing for Midyear Meeting May 22nd-23rd at Midway First Baptist Church, Sumrall. The church is located just off Highway 98 West of Hattiesburg.

Microtel Inn & Suites

105 Westover Dr
Hattiesburg, MS 39402
United States
601-450-1592
Single Room: \$74 plus tax
Double Room: \$ 84 plus tax

Red Lion Inn & Suites

4301 Hardy Street
Hattiesburg, MS 39402
601-264-8080
King Size: \$122
Double: \$117

Hilton Garden Inn

133 Plaza Dr.
Hattiesburg, MS 39402
601-261-3770
Standard (King or 2 Queens): \$159
Suite: \$174

COMMISSION ON Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt
Director

North Mississippi
Senior Adult Conference
May 9, 2017 - 9:00 am
Greenwood Baptist Church
Fulton, Mississippi

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



Larry Geraldson
Director



www.bmams.org - 601.428.8616



State Missionaries and Wives



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Burns



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Lee



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Estuardo &
Yasmine Marroquin



Elvis & Wendy
Garcia



Ed & Patricia
DuVall

The activity of a missionary involves a regular and routine encounter with unbelievers with the intent of sharing the gospel and the hope that some will believe and consort (join in or come together in a common cause) with him. Missionaries are not asked to go out and market the gospel or the church but to meet people and engage them with the gospel from the Word of God, "... faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom 10:17.

This requires the missionary to be conscientious. To be conscientious one must obey his conscience. One might describe conscience as that inherent awareness of right and wrong divinely sown into the fabric of our nature. In Roman 2:15 we discover that even the unbeliever has a conscience, "Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another:..." Even after we come to Christ by faith, the Spirit of God will use the tool of our conscience to faithfully strike the cords of warning when we venture away from right and supply us with peace when we navigate an honorable course along God's providential path. In Romans 9:1, Paul said, "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my con-

"Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ. And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas;..." Acts 17:1-4a

science also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost..."

When one regularly obeys his conscience, we say that he is conscientious. The passage refers to Paul's "manner" (custom or habit), "...as his manner was...". Paul was a man of conscience and lived as a conscientious man. In Acts 23:1 the Scripture says, "And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." In Acts 24:16 Paul says, "And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men."

No doubt the missionary fervor of the Apostle Paul was motivated by love: i.e. his love for the Lord and his love for lost people. But in as much as it was motivated by love, it was driven by his conscience, which is evident when we read what he wrote to Timothy in 1 Tim 1:5, "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure

heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:..."

I pray for our missionaries who I know are men of conscience, that they will always be men who are conscientious. I pray for our pastors whom I know to be men of conscience, that they will always be men who are conscientious. I pray for our people that they will be people with a conscience toward God and that their "manner" (custom) will always be to conscientiously live out their faith in honor to Jesus Christ.

Thank You – To Caledonia Baptist Church

Caledonia Baptist Church of Caledonia, Mississippi was the site of our 59th Annual Missions and Evangelism Conference. The people of Caledonia did a wonderful job hosting this event. We had a great conference and God blessed us with great fellowship and preaching. We are so thankful for this new church and the spirit of hospitality

they extended to us. Great job Caledonia!

Special Emphasis for Missions Continues

Our Special Emphasis for Missions is ongoing and will continue through May. Please prayerfully support this Special Emphasis by praying for your State missionaries and financially supporting them through a special offering. Our goal is to raise \$25,000.00. Please help us with this goal.

Mid-Year Meeting

I want to encourage you to attend the Mid-Year meeting of the BMA of Mississippi on May 23rd at Midway First Baptist in Sumrall, Mississippi. We are excited about what God is doing in our work and look forward to sharing with you.

Other Important Events:

South Forrest Baptist organization service – June 3rd, 2017

Freedom Baptist organization service – July 29th, 2017

Visit Our Website and Facebook Page

Our website is www.bmams.org. Like our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/bmamsmissions>.

Scenes From 2017 Missions & Evangelistic Conference





Don Brown
Editor

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Ask Your Church?

In a sister publication I read a letter to the editor from Dr. John David Smith, Director of Missions for the BMA of America. He was addressing questions that were presented to him by a local pastor concerning the recommendations from the Missions Department to the messengers of the BMA of America to be considered at the upcoming meeting in Arlington, Texas.

We are all aware of budget needs to keep the ministry of each of the departments going at both the state and national levels. Economic downturns have a trickle down effect on the family budget, the church budget, and the associational budget. Having been a department worker for over 39 years it is easy to empathize with those

trying to raise funds to continue ministry.

I am often amazed at how so few churches in Mississippi are blessed to maintain so many vital and productive ministries. That amazement also extends to our national work. When considering the size of the BMA of America by the number of member churches and the extensive reach of this work around the world, I stand amazed! God has blessed so few to be able to reach so many.

Bro. Smith's comments in his letter addressed the method of giving that many of our churches use. He pointed out that a great number use the 10% rule. If a tithe is good enough for an individual or family, then it would stand to reason that it is good

enough for a church. While on the surface that may sound reasonable, it would seem to fall short of what God would expect of His churches.

Below are the comments from Dr. Smith's report to the Association to be presented in Arlington. They are certainly food for thought and we shall let them speak for themselves. May God lead us to do all we can to reach the world for Christ. After all, that is the only business we are in.

-Taken from 2017 Report Booklet of BMAA -

Finances

We continue in the phase of bringing our budget in line with the amount of funds that are given from our churches to the World Missions Fund. We have depended on some outstanding individual gifts for many years that have allowed us to do much more in our global missions program. Now that those funds have been taken away by current economic realities, we have had to

tighten our belts significantly. There are two requests that we make of you regarding finances:

1. Please ask your church, "When was the last time that overall missions giving (to all missions) was evaluated and increased?" It seems that most of our churches practice a 10% giving to outside causes. If the church's 10% is up that year, then ministries get more funds. Of course, if the 10% is less that year, the funds to the respective ministries will be less. Who said that a church can only give 10% to

missions? Isn't there an inherent problem with a group that spends 90% of their funds on themselves in various forms and only 10% on the very purpose for which they say they exist? Please rethink this at your church.

2. Please keep your eyes and ears open for ChangeMakers. This will be an opportunity for all of us to give a little more each month than we have been giving to preach the gospel around the world.

Thank you for your faithful support. May God bless you all.



Letters From Our Readers

Letters reflect the opinion of the writer and not necessarily this publication or the BMA of Mississippi

From a concerned pastor:

I want to address the revolving loan fund's [sic] proposal for change in bylaws that has been presented for a vote. I don't mean to be critical or hurtful to anyone in the present or past missions personnel. I have much respect for the office of missions director.

I have read, thought, and prayed about this change and can't get a peace of mind about it. The proposal is for the mission church to pay back any loan, or special offerings, etc. given through the missions office before they can receive a deed or title to property and building. The money paid back must be paid to an entity of the BMA of Mississippi.

I am not in favor of the change, nor the bylaw in general. I know we are not voting on the bylaws themselves, just the change. As I began to study the generality of the bylaws, they overlook the autonomy of the church. May I give you an example? If my church sends a love offering or a gift to a mission church through the missions department [sic], we don't expect anything in return, it's a gift. How is it then that the missions department [sic] can override the wishes of the church and require the mission church to pay back that money? It is a conflict with what we believe as missionary baptist [sic]. The missions department [sic] is a vehicle to which we can support missionaries on the field.

I realize this bylaw was voted on years ago by the association [sic]. At the time there were some churches leaving our association and joining other groups. I don't think we have that problem as we did 20 or 30 years ago.

If a church makes a decision to leave our work, we can't protest or say no because they are an autonomous church. If they are continuing to preach the gospel and folk are getting saved, we are investing in kingdom work and not investing in our own selves. I don't have a problem with that. We rejoice when a church from the SBC or another baptist [sic] denomination join [sic] our association. Perhaps money was given to that church through the years as a mission church from their denomination. We can't have it both ways.

I am not writing this article as president of our association, but as pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church in Fulton, MS. I hope you will consider voting no on this change and we can go back to the drawing board and change the bylaws themselves. I love our association and want to see the work prosper.

In His Service,
Matt Hudson

The 66th Annual National Observance
May 4, 2017

Laurel National Day of Prayer Breakfast
Southeastern Baptist College
7:30 am
Text RSVP to 601-498-8832 by April 27

Laurel National Day of Prayer
Laurel Courthouse
Noon

FOR YOUR GREAT NAME'S SAKE!
HEAR US... FORGIVE US... HEAL US!

O LORD, LISTEN! O LORD, FORGIVE! O LORD, HEAR AND ACT!
FOR YOUR SAKE, O MY GOD... DANIEL 9:19

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
The First Thursday of May

WWW.NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG

Mississippi Baptist

USPS 353-960
P.O. Box 8181
Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000

Phone 601-426-3293

PRICE
\$20.00 Per Year by Mail
\$15.00 Per Year by Email
CHURCHPLAN
\$ 1.30 Per Month per Family

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

Postmaster:
Send address changes to
Mississippi Baptist Paper P.O.
Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441

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Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Interim President's Perspective

Recently, the Southeastern Baptist College staff has picked up on an Army axiom that I often repeat out of habit which is, "make it happen". That saying conveys the idea that the individual is free to be creative in his or her thinking, planning and accomplishment of the mission given. The individual is empowered by ownership of his task with the knowledge his supervisor has full confidence in his ability to get the job done right and on time.

God is often that way with us. He empowers us with the Holy Spirit to step out on faith to do what He has called us to do. He spoke empowerment to His servant in Joshua 1:6, saying, "Be strong and of good courage..." and, again in verse nine, "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua took God at his word and accepted the mantle of leadership to God's people leading them to victory after victory as they conquered the Promised Land.

As a senior in High School, I sensed the Lord's calling on my life to serve as a military chaplain. I investigated the requirements and quickly put the idea out of my head as there were many things needed of which I had none. Later, as I was completing my bachelor's degree, I again sensed God's calling to the chaplaincy and I again looked into the possibilities, only to be disappointed that I still needed a 90-hour master's degree and to be a senior pastor of a church for two years. I was exhausted from my educational requirements, so I ignored God's calling and took the first position that was offered to me. I became an assistant pastor of a small church in a small town. I thought, "after all, I can serve the Lord anywhere, just as long as I am serving Him."

I soon discovered that I was very wrong in my reasoning. God wanted me to be a military chaplain and not a



Dr. Scott Carson
Interim President

pastor in a local church. Linda and I were in that small church for only a year, but we refer to it as our 40 years in the wilderness experience, because it felt like 40 years! Circumstances helped me to realize that I was clearly out of the Lord's will. That was May of 1983.

I do not recommend a believer to do this, but I put God to the test. You see, there were five obstacles to overcome before I could become a chaplain. I prayed to our exceedingly gracious Lord that in order for me to accept the hard work set before me, He had to make certain things happen. First, I was coming from an unaccredited college and He needed to find me a seminary that would accept my credits without any make up work. Second, my schooling needed to be paid in full (we were flat broke). Third, I wanted to complete the master's degree in two years rather than the normal three years. Fourth, I needed to find a church to pastor. And fifth, I needed to link up with a "denomination" that would endorse me into the military as a chaplain. After my prayerful challenge to the Lord I thought to myself, "good luck with that!" (Oh, ye of little faith...)

I could write three more pages on how God quickly removed every one of these barriers. Within three weeks I was in classes at the BMAA Seminary. My tuition was paid in full. I had a degree plan that would get me through my 90 hours of classes in two years. I soon became pastor of Community Baptist Church in Corsicana, Texas. And, the Endorsing Agent for the BMAA was a professor at the seminary who assured me that if I satisfactorily finished my master's requirements, I would fulfill God's calling on my life. In February, 1986 I was sworn into the Army Chaplaincy.

It is amazing to experience what God can do when we simply rely on Him, yield to His will, and allow His empowerment within us to "make it happen." Jesus says in Mark 10:27, "for with God all things are possible."

National Day of Prayer Breakfast

Southeastern Baptist College is partnering with local churches in the Laurel, Mississippi, area to provide a community-wide National Day of Prayer Breakfast at the College. The event will feature Mississippi State Senator Chris McDaniel as our special keynote speaker, along with several local dignitaries and pastors of various local participating congregations. 300 breakfast meals are available free of charge. Reservations are required to ensure there is enough food and seating for those attending. The breakfast begins at 7:30 am on May 4, 2017, and will be located in the school's gymnasium. Later, there will be the annual prayer event on the City of Laurel's courthouse steps at 12 noon. Preferably, text 601-498-8832 to secure your free reservation for the prayer breakfast or call 601-426-6346.

Television Commercial

Our first television commercial for Southeastern Baptist College is already producing fruit with several new applicants referencing it as the reason for their discovering our college and desiring to study God's word at SBC. Will you help us to continue the commercial through May and into the summer? One month of television advertisement costs \$2000.

Summer Courses

If you are interested in taking a short elective course for credit or audit this summer, contact Mrs. Emma Bond at 601-426-6346.

Greek Course Planned in the Fall

Learn to study God's Word in the original Greek language! We are offering Greek I in the Fall Semester. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Emma Bond at 601-426-6346.

Available Scholarships

No joke! \$1000 scholarships! The Arnold Knight Memorial RLF Scholarship is available every semester to Baptist Missionary Association ministers who take classes at Southeastern Baptist College. These funds are administered by the BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund. Our recruiter, Ronnie Kitchens, has all the information you need to sign up for classes and financial aid. Contact Brother Ronnie at 601-426-6346 or rkitchens@southeasternbaptist.edu

VA Benefits

SBC possesses the 2017 Silver Award as a military friendly college! Have you served in America's armed forces? Then you probably have Veterans Administration tuition benefits that you can use toward a free education right here at SBC. There is a time limit to your VA benefits, so I urge you to contact your local VA representative for an evaluation of your benefits. You earned them. Use them before it's too late! And remember, the Post 9-11 GI Bill is fully transferable to family members. SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

An Idea

I encourage every reader of the Mississippi Baptist to seriously consider contributing toward the BMA of Mississippi's premiere school of Biblical knowledge. We were awarded the distinguished Best Online Bible College in the nation for 2016 for a reason! SBC is the best of the best when it comes to educating people in theology and the scriptures! Will you consider setting up a scholarship in your church to help educate and advance leaders in the BMA of Mississippi ministries? Pas-

Big Award For Southeastern

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



Southeastern Baptist College is among the top 25 Online Bible Colleges in the nation

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Southeastern College

from page 5

tors, youth workers, ministers of music, potential missionaries, deacons, Sunday school teachers and more will all benefit greatly in their personal walk with the Lord and be more effective in their callings. I believe every church in our work should have someone on their church staff taking classes online or in our classrooms. I encourage you to seriously consider what an education in the Bible or in Christian leadership can do to advance the Gospel in your “neck of the woods.”

Great News!

The Internal Revenue Service has officially notified us that Southeastern Baptist College Tax Exempt Status is renewed and retroactive to November 2010.

Available to Preach

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

Ministering To Young People

by Anders Lee

The Complaint Department

There are many things certain about student ministry. One of those things is the fact that you are going to get complaints! There will be many days, weeks even, that you will be on a stretch of great times with your kids and parents. Then suddenly it will be like the darkest clouds of negativity roll into your office and just stay over your desk! I have experienced those times in ministry.

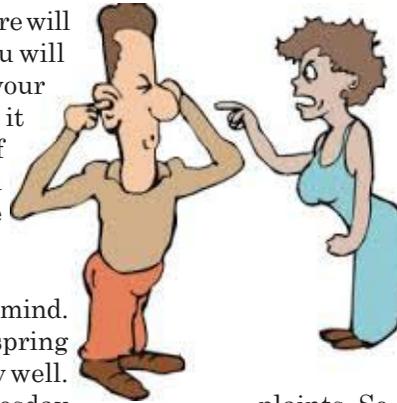
This one particular time comes to mind. We had just come back from a spring retreat. I thought it had gone really well. The retreat was Monday – Wednesday morning. Wednesday night we had food and were going to show a video from the retreat. That event would normally have been a really fun night! Not so!!! I was met with various complaints about different

things from the retreat. MAN! It was discouraging after a long week of hard work and investing in our youth. It didn't stop that night. The next day I got an email and later a text. Honestly, it just kind of continued until Sunday morning.

Our main youth meeting was on Sunday night. Some in our team knew about the ongoing complaints. So as a joke one of them taped a sign to my office door before youth that night that read: “COMPLAINT DEPARTMENT!” I came and went doing

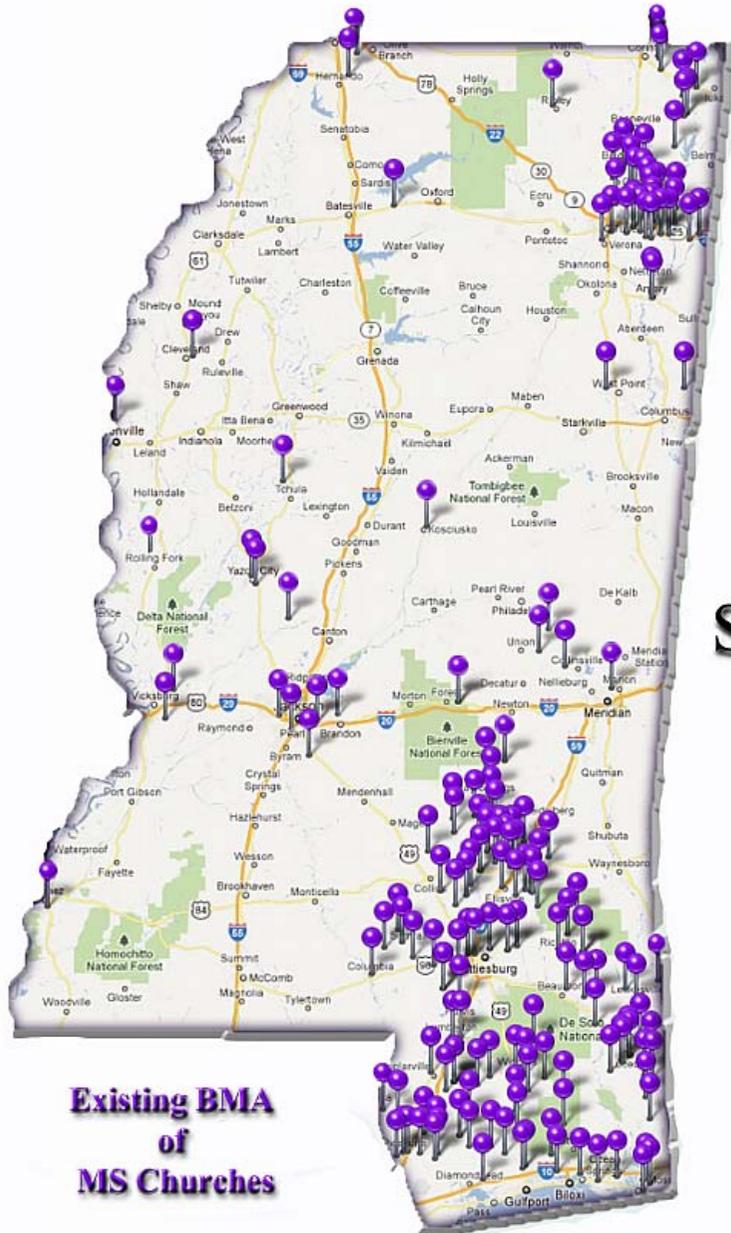


Anders Lee



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Mississippi State Missions

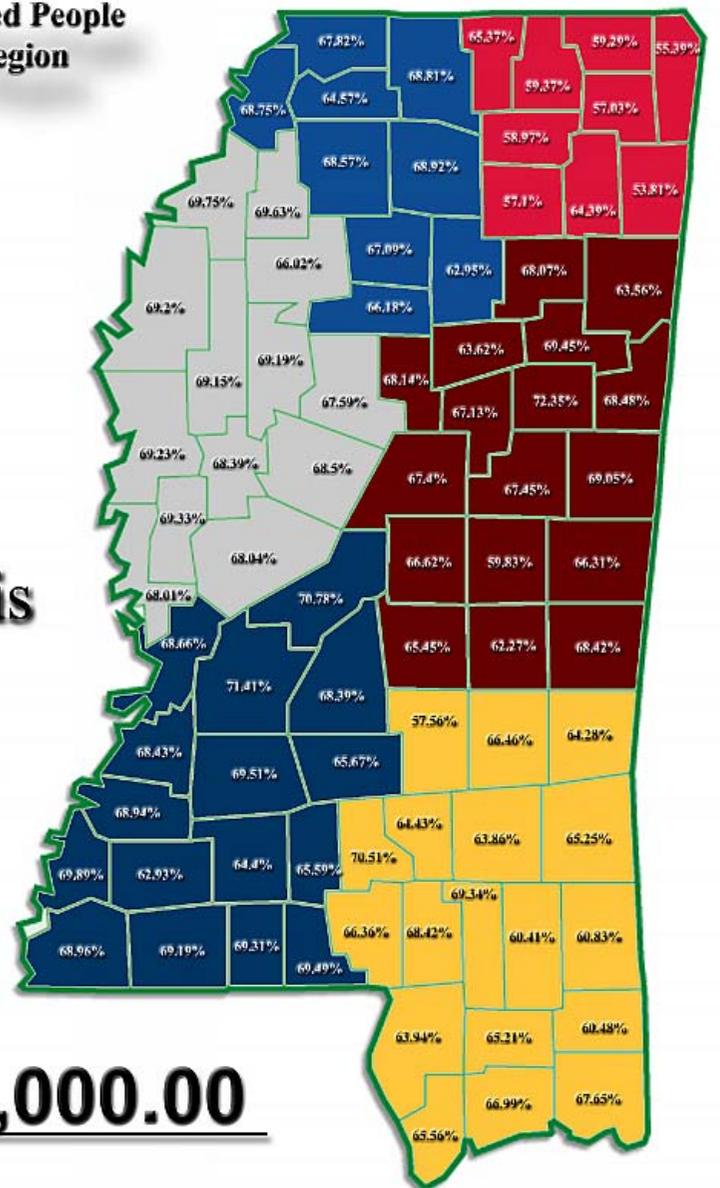


Percent of Unreached People by County & Region

- Region 1 - 67.07%
- Region 2 - 58.97%
- Region 3 - 66.68%
- Region 4 - 68.62%
- Region 5 - 68.22%
- Region 6 - 64.87%

2017 Special Emphasis for State Missions

Our Goal: **\$25,000.00**



Young People

from page 6

things for some 30 or 40 minutes. It was funny to me! However, it offended one of the parents who had given me their opinion a time or two that week. I ended up apologizing to her for the sign! It all diminished over time and wasn't a long term issue. But it was awkward!

Let me assure you if you haven't had a time like that yet, IT'S COMING!!! Here are some pointers on the subject?

Don't Be Surprised Where the Complaints Come From!

Sometimes your biggest critic can be the parent that's always there by your side helping you. It can come from the core of your youth group. At times some members on your ministry team will be the ones chewing on your ear. The shocker is, it could be your pastor! What? Yep, it might be. That's ok as long as you realize that iron sharpens iron and all good relationships are meant to be the ones in your life that challenge and build you up. Remember, "faithful are the wounds of a friend." After all, it might seem like a complaint at first, but later you will find it to be constructive criticism.

Listen & Learn!

When someone comes to you with a complaint, use your ears! Now, you could do the opposite on this one and see how it works. Ignore the parent as long as possible. Accept no responsibility for what happened by denying it to the pastor. Drive a wedge between you and that ministry team member or even your youth. If you do that, you will find out pretty quickly how that will go!

A wise man learns from the critic. So, be humble! Make sure they know that what they are saying is important to you. Listen carefully so that you understand completely what the problem is. When you do that, you can avoid this in the future and gain respect from your critics!

In ministry you will always be learning. Just remember to have the attitude that you are open to listen and grow from any experience!

Communicate & Clarify

After you have heard what is being said, say the things that should be said. It can be hard because of our pride. If you were at fault, say "I'm sorry." Tell them you are glad they pointed it out so you could learn from the experience. You may even ask what they might have done differently. When you're humble and say the things Momma taught you to say, it will surely smooth things over. It will be at this point that you will have the opportunity to clarify what the intention of your heart was in the matter and what you were trying to

Lillian Bynum Passes Away

Lillian Franklin Bynum, 97, of Laurel, born October 2, 1919, went to her heavenly home April 22, 2017. Funeral services were held at Lebanon Baptist Church on Tuesday, April 25.

She was a member of Lebanon Baptist Church where she served as teacher for many years and was a diligent prayer warrior. Mrs. Bynum was a cancer survivor. While working at Southeastern Baptist College, she earned a bookkeeping degree and later served as secretary at the Baptist Missions office. She served as church clerk at Lebanon Baptist Church for 36 years and also worked as church secretary at Parkview Baptist Church. She also served as a hospice volunteer at SCRMC. She was loved by so many and she was such a positive influence to all who knew her. She was preceded in death by her father, Millard Franklin, mother, Earnest Franklin, her husband, Toxie Bynum, one sister, Thelma Adams, and two brothers, Lawrence and Jessie Franklin. She is survived by her son, Marshall Bynum and wife, Clara, and grandson, Justin Bynum and wife, Paulette.



Mrs. Lillian Bynum

She was a gracious, loving, Godly woman that loved her family dearly. The family would like to give special thanks to her caregivers at Jones County Rest Home.

accomplish. Since you were willing to listen to them, maybe it will open their mind to hear what you have to say too! And... don't forget, if they happen to come to you in an angry tone or a huffy spirit, "a soft answer turns away wrath."

Be Flexible!

No matter what, find a way to be flexible and make a change that will satisfy the person with the concern. A youth guy that is on an ego trip, (the one who has to have it their way all the time - you know that self-centered one) ... well... he won't be able to stay very long at a church being that way. So, work with people, give a little when and where you can.

Stand Your Ground

Without trying to contradict myself in this article, there really is a time to not give in. There are times when you will be absolutely right. You will find in youth ministry that there is always that one person who will never be satisfied, and who themselves are obnoxiously right on all things. God can take care of them in His own way. As for you, be gracious but firm. One can actually

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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SIDNEY DAVIS - DIRECTOR



SIDNEY DAVIS

In the Presence of the Lord

David said in Psalm 16:11, "In thy presence is fullness of joy." I didn't know much about the presence of the Lord until I was saved a few days after my fourteenth birthday. I was attending revival services at my home church and on that Thursday morning, I surrendered my life to Jesus Christ and God's presence came into my life.

I will always remember that with that presence came joy. I knew that something special had happened to me that day because I immediately had a great desire to read and study God's Word. It was through the Word of God that the presence of God became real to me.

Youth Group Shares with Children

The youth of the Good Hope Baptist Church near Columbia presented each young person at the Home with a basket of goodies this Easter. Our thanks and



appreciation is extended to the youth workers, Josh & Jessica Anthony, and the youth of Good Hope Church for your thoughtfulness. Thank you!

Just A Few More Weeks of School

Well, it seems like the year of 2017 is running along at a fast pace. There are just a few more weeks of school before this school year will be history. The girls and boys always look forward to summer break. We are thankful for the progress each one has made over the course of this year in their school activities.

Remember in Prayer and Focus Verse

Your prayers are an encouragement to us. Pray for the ministry of the Home and the girls and boys the Lord has placed under our care that we may look to Him for the strength and guidance to do the work He has called us to do. "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." Psalm 16:11.

be velvet covered steel! State the reasons to them why you will not make a change on that particular occasion. Reasonable people will back off and let you lead when they know you are a person of principle and conviction.

My final advice on this is simple; don't put a "complaint department" sign on your office door! Ha!

Lee is a church planter for the BMA of America and Mississippi. He is a pastor and former youth minister.

Lee may be contacted at anders.lee571@gmail.com

**BMA of America
Annual Meeting
May 1-3, 2017
Arlington Convention
Center
Arlington, Texas**

Baptist Missionary Association Bible College, Philippines

Financial Needs Great for Bible College

by Dr. Doug Lee, BMABC President

As most of you know, Bro. Doyle Moore, Missionary to the Philippines, will be coming home May 31, 2017. After 40 years of ministry in the Philippines he has done a tremendous job in establishing a Bible college along with church planting and many other ministries. His work has even taken him to all parts of the Asia Realm. This has created an opening for a new Director and President of the College. I have been appointed to that position in which I realize there are many challenges ahead.

First, the funding from the BMA Missions Department has been cut completely. We do understand that a business, school, church or even personal finances cannot operator in the red. But, to maintain the college and its present enrollment, we must do something to create income so there will be NO gap in the studies of our present students.

Second, I have cut the budget to only cover the necessary essentials. We need help from the churches and individuals, since there are not enough donations, at present, to cover the expenditures. Our monthly budget is very close to \$7,000 per month and we are receiving about one-half of that. We need another \$4,000 a month to meet our obligations.

Third, we are asking 40 churches or individuals to accept the challenge and contribute \$100 a month for the next 24 months. We have 4 individuals, churches, and/or associations accepting this challenge. That only leave 36 more. If we are to open the doors of the school in June, we must have the funds to so.

The Bible College is a training center for the work in the Philippines and southeast Asia. With no training center, the work in this part of the world will suffer. Please help us reach our goal by June 1.

Donations are tax deductible and can be sent to BMA, Conway, AR, or Doug and Diane Lee, BMABC Funds, 28 R. T. Lee Road, Carriere, MS 39426, or Mill Creek Baptist Church, 11 Old Kiln Road, Picayune, MS 39466 Make sure you specify on the check Doug and Diane Lee, BMABC Fund.

Texas Children's Home Taking Applications for President

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

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

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

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

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

Charles Johnson, chairman
TBH Board of Trustees

CBC Adds Autism Support Program

CONWAY, Ark. - Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas is proud to announce a new program to ensure student success called the Autism Spectrum Assistance Program (ASAP).

ASAP is a program for students interested in attending college, but are in need of additional supports in order to be successful. Paula Bender, Disability Support Services Coordinator for CBC said, "Our goal is to support students on the autism spectrum through college. We believe ASAP will be a tremendous benefit to these students and allow them to have the full college experience."

The Autism Spectrum Assistance Program is accepting applications for a limited number of openings for the fall 2017 semester. The program is open to students admitted to CBC in any degree program and there is a cost for the services in addition to tuition. Information and applications are available on the program's website at cbc.edu/asap.

ASAP provides extensive support in addition to the appropriate accommodations required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Academic tutoring and study skills instruction will be provided. Peer mentors will be assigned and counseling provided to assist with social skills. Students may also participate in ASAP Bootcamp. Bootcamp allows students to experience campus life in a very structured, small group

NEED A PROJECT FOR VBS?



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Making Disciples
The only business
of the church

setting, during the summer, in preparation for the beginning of school.

Bender added, "Central Baptist College provides a unique opportunity for students on the Autism Spectrum. The small student-faculty ratio allows more access to instructors and individual attention. The small campus environment is where students can discover their place and feel part of the campus community."

Students must meet the minimum admissions requirements of CBC, provide documentation of disability, and letters of recommendation from educators and or counselors to be considered for the program. For more information, contact: Paula Bender, Disability Support Services Coordinator, at pbender@cbc.edu or (501)205-8926 or visit cbc.edu/asap.

National BMA Meeting Schedule Change
by Paul White, BMAA President.

Due to a scheduling conflict, Dr. Jack Graham, pastor of the Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, will be speaking on Monday night, May 1 instead of Wednesday afternoon, May 3, at the BMA of America Meeting. The President's Message will be Wednesday afternoon. I hope to see you there.

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
www.bmaofmississippi.com

DEPARTMENTS & COMMISSIONS

Mississippi Baptist Paper
P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441
601-426-3293

Southeastern Baptist College
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Laurel, MS 39440
601-426-6346

State Youth Department
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
662-397-6832

Baptist Children's Home
118 Lowe Rd., Laurel, MS 39443
601-426-3928

Missions & Revolving Loan Fund
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-428-8616

Commission on Senior Adults
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
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History & Archives Commission
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Laurel, MS 39440
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Moral Action
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662-282-7425