

# Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE  
BAPTIST MISSIONARY  
ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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## Berean Church rebuilding



After a second storm just 4 days after the Easter tornado caused extreme water damage to the auditorium the pews will have to be recovered and the carpet will be replaced. Other damage in the auditorium was sever and will require extensive work to rebuild.

### by the editor

During the Easter Tornado that crossed South Mississippi and hit the town and community of Soso, Mississippi, especially hard, Berean Baptist Church in Soso was heavily damaged. We spoke to Pastor Wayne Rice the day after the tornado and he shared that the education and fellowship facilities were hit hard. I spoke with Bro. Rice on Wednesday April 29 and he shared that after the initial damage to the auditorium their roof was covered with tarps.

On Thursday after the Easter Sunday tornado, the area was hit by another storm. The high winds tore off the tarps from the auditorium and the resulting rain storm increased the damage. Rice said the entire church plant will be reduced to the studs and then rebuilt inside. He stated that the pews survived the water damage, but will have to be re-upholstered. It is estimated it will be 6 to 8 months before the building could be occupied again. In the mean time the church will be seeking



Workers tearing out wall covering, ceiling tile and insulation to make ready to repair fellowship hall and education area.

temporary facilities for meeting when the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

The repair to the facilities has begun and these photos show the damage and the progress. Bro. Rice preached from the church via Facebook on Sunday, April 26 and work on the auditorium began the next day.

## CHANGEMAKERS

# A Journey Worth Taking

by Bro. Jeynor Aristoteles  
BMAP Missionary to Davao City, Mindanao

My name is Jeynor Aristoteles I was a child in Kindergarten when my family joined Labanggal Fundamental Christian Baptist Church in General Santos City, on the island of Mindanao in the Philip-



Jeynor Aristoteles

pines. My earliest memories include being in church services with my family and listening to our pastor, Bro. Deodito Lisas preach about Jesus and His love for the whole world.

At a young age, after the Holy Spirit dealt with me about my sinful condition, I gave my life



Davao City, Philippines

to Jesus, and He saved me. I wanted to live for Jesus and share His love to all my friends, even though I was still just a young boy. A few years later my father entered the ministry, and after spending time working in our home church, the Lord called him to plant a church in a tribal area of Mindanao.

him into my life to become a spiritual father to me. Even when ministry became difficult, and I wanted to give up, he encouraged me to stay the course.

The Lord used Ptr. Lisas to help mold me as a young person

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## Relief Efforts In The Philippines

by BMA Missionary  
Sam Freeman

WOW! I cannot believe how much the world has changed in the last two months. It is as if we went to sleep in one time and place and woke up in a completely new era and universe. Some of you may say that is a dramatic summation of things, but I assure you I am just trying to keep it real.

We have been blessed to be able to keep in contact with our families and friends since all this began, and we have tried to keep up with how your lives have been impacted back home as well.

Here in the Philippines, our normal has changed. Since

March 15, I am the only person in my household allowed to leave the house. I have been issued a Quarantine Pass, and it allows me safe passage to the city for groceries, medicine, and to conduct banking needs.

For the last 2 weeks, the restrictions have been tightened even more. Since my Quarantine ID # ends in an odd number, I am only allowed to go out on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays for our needs. No one is allowed out of their homes on Sundays, and there is a curfew in effect from 10 pm – 4 am every day.

We live on an island, but we cannot leave our city and travel to other cities or towns unless we have a travel permit issued



Loading up food for the needy

by the local government. I was able to secure a travel permit at the beginning of the lock down, and it has proven to be a great

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## BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



Larry Geraldson  
Director



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Howard



Josh and Mary Helen  
Daniels



Estuardo &  
Yasmine Marroquin



Ed & Patricia  
DuVall

### Blessings In the Midst of the Storm

We have been very blessed as God continues to open doors of opportunity and provide our needs, even in difficult times.

### Our Newest Missionary Family

On Sunday, April 26th, Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi, Pastor, Justin Rhodes, voted to become the Mother Church for a new mission effort in the greater Meridian area and to recommend Bro. Chris Yager as a State Missionary. On Tuesday, April 28, the



Yager Family

Missionary Committee held a virtual meeting to interview Bro. Chris Yager as a missionary candidate. He was approved to begin May 1, 2020. The following is a short bio of Bro. Yager: Pastor Chris and his wife, DeeDee, along with their four children, Charity, Samuel, Charissa, and Titus have served together in full-time ministry since 1997. Chris and DeeDee were

married in August of 1994. At the age of 9, Chris realized his need for salvation and trusted Christ as his personal Savior. It was just before his 16th birthday that God called him into the gospel ministry. Since that call, Chris graduated from Pensacola Christian College in 1997 with a Bachelor of Bible and a minor in Biblical Greek. He has served for 4 years as a youth pastor, 10 years as a (BMA) church planter and pastor of Heritage Baptist in New York, and 10 years as the Senior Pastor of Cornerstone Baptist (BMA) in Michigan. Chris has a love for church planting and is enthusiastic about training men for the ministry.

Growing up in church, DeeDee felt the Holy Spirit's conviction at the age of 10 and asked Christ to save her. Surrendering to full time Christian service as a teenager, she has served in various ministries through the years aiding Chris' ministry. Along with her ministries, DeeDee has spent many years home-educating their children.

The Yager's four children are intricately involved in ministry with them. They have helped with the church plant in New York and in the ministry at Cornerstone. Charity and Samuel are currently attending Pensacola Christian College, while Charissa and Titus are at home.

### Disaster Relief

For the past two weeks I have been assisting with the disaster relief efforts

organized by Big Creek Baptist Church, Pastor Justin Rhodes. I have also been in contact with Evergreen Baptist Church, Pastor Chad Cummins, and Good Hope Baptist Church, Pastor Justin Cameron. I have also been checking in with Bro. Wayne Rice, pastor of Berean Baptist Church at Soso. We made financial distributions to each of these churches to help with the disaster effort. I am hopeful that our efforts were impactful but there is still so much to be done to return so many back to a semblance of normality.

### Please Pray For Our Missionaries

Bro. Johnny Williams and his wife Neta experienced, first hand, the difficulties that come with trying to do things during the coronavirus lock down. Neta had to have gall bladder surgery alone. After returning home, she had complications which resulted re-hospitalization, transfer to New Orleans for advanced procedures and again, all by herself. Bro. Johnny continues faithfully ministering at the mission with carrying the burden of not being at her side. She is home now and doing better, a testament of God's sustaining grace. All of our missionaries are dealing with these unusual challenges. Please keep lifting them up in your prayers.

### Property Purchased

We recently closed on a building and land for the mission at Waynesboro, Canaan Land Baptist Mission. The

Missionary Committee has approved a Matching Funds Campaign to begin June 1st and continue until August 31st. During this time, we will match money raised to offset their indebtedness up to \$50,000.00. Monies must be sent to the Missions Office marked for the Canaan Land Mission Matching Fund.

### Special Emphasis

I am grateful for those who have contributed to our Special Emphasis. Our Special Emphasis extended thru May. Recognizing the hard times that churches may be dealing with, I have chosen not to solicit or advertise beyond these brief comments in my article. Currently, we are running approximately \$10,000.00 behind where we were at the same time last year. Nevertheless, we are grateful for those who have given and those who are planning to give.

### BMA of Mississippi Summer Retreat

Our summer retreat, at Paul B. Johnson State Park, scheduled for August 27-29 has NOT been canceled. Registration is anytime before June 30th at a cost of \$45 per person. Late registration is \$60 per person. Please contact the Missions Office at 601-428-8616 for more information. Send registration to BMA of Mississippi Missions Department (marked Summer Retreat Registration) 4226 Hwy 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440.

## Scripture Thoughts by Cleaver

“The words of Nehemiah son of Hachaliah:”

**Nehemiah 1.3** *“the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.”*

It is true that our own land is in great distress because the walls and gates of Godliness have been broken down and burned. Great trouble and disgrace is upon our people because of the removal of God's blessings on our land. The enemies of morality, decency, and rectitude have overrun our populace! Like Nehemiah, we must be in prayer that God will lend an attentive ear as we

confess our sins and return to His ways.

Yes, Dear Reader, it is not only that we ourselves have sinned, it is also our fathers and mothers who have joined with us. We have acted corruptly by not keeping His commands, statutes, and ordinances we have revealed in the Scriptures. So let us ask the God of Heaven to give ear to our prayer for we desire to revere His Name. Lord, grant us compassion so that You will restore our land. Please rebuild the wall and restore the gates so we will honor Your



Tony Cleaver

Name in our land.

William P. Mackay composed these appropriate words: “Hallelujah, thine the glory! Hallelujah, amen! Hallelujah, Thine the glory! Revive us again.”

**Nehemiah 6.3** *“I am doing important work and cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?”*

Of course Nehemiah's life is replete with lessons in leadership. Here is one of those lessons: Give priority to your work for God. Young man, young lady if you are a worker in the Lord's Church, give it your priority. Pastor, if you are called to a congregation, give it your priority. So the same goes for missionaries, evangelists, writers, teachers, and all other people involved in His

Kingdom's work.

It is OK to have a hobby, some leisure, and some time off. But to have your schedule riddled with appointments for events of this civic club and that fund raiser and many other community events is not good. Certainly God's worker is to be a part of her or his town, but if it detracts from the main mission, that worker has come down from the wall and the work has ceased. Yes, be a part of clubs, philanthropic community activities, and helping the municipal good but only to the extent your main focus is on “the important work” you are called to do.

Those enemies of the Lord's work are always calling with captivating voices

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## Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Lindsey

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

hurting, perhaps even more than today. Ahab had done more to provoke the Lord than any

*When everything that we tend to lean on seems to crumble away . . . God is still here.*

king before him. His idolatry had brought a drought upon the land. While the consequences of the drought were felt, we see a story develop in 1 Kings 17. The widow at Zarephath gave this response to the prophet Elijah's request for food, "And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may

go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die." I pray no one reading this is to this point of despair (if you are, forget executive orders and come have a meal with us at the Home). Whether or not we are in this particular situation I know that some of our people, churches, and departments are truly hurting. Thankfully, I know my family of faith knows where our provisions lie.

God blessed the widow's faith and obedience as we see in verses fifteen and sixteen, "And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah." I do not mean this as any sort of assertion of earthly

prosperity in the purpose of God. I hope this points us to His faithfulness in caring for the needs of His children.

I want to take this opportunity to say, "thank you," to those who have remained faithful in their giving to us in these trying times. Our donations have dropped, like I assume our other departments and churches have, and that is understandable in these circumstances. We don't have any miraculously blessed barrels around here that I know about, but we have the God that uses His people to continue to sustain us. I hope this passage and thought would serve as a reminder to all of us. When everything that we tend to lean on seems to crumble away, our job, our house, our property, our fellowship, God is still here.

### From Abandoned to Assured During Times of Crisis

God is here. God is everywhere. God is with His people. I don't think I am miss speaking when I say everyone has felt alone at some point in this life. While we can feel this way in our individuality, we can also feel this way corporately. With the effects of quarantine and local storms, we can have feel-

ings of despair and abandonment in the midst of these struggles, but given just a moment's reprieve, we can see how we are experiencing these things together. Some are hurting more, some are hurting less, but we are all hurting.

I think of a time of great uncertainty in Israel with many

### Thoughts by Cleaver

from page 2

for many "good causes." Sanballat, Tobiah, and Gesham still shout "come down from the wall. Give your attention, energy, and talents to some lesser thing."

The words of William P. Merrill, altered slightly, are suitable right here: "Rise up O Church (women and men) of God! Have done with lesser things; give heart and mind and soul and strength to serve the King of Kings."

**Nehemiah 13.24** "And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak

in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people."

What do you get when you have a marriage made in Ashdod? In Nehemiah's day you got children who could not speak their native language. Ashdod was a city of pagans who despised the Lord. What happens in the 21st Century when a believer marries a non-believer? The result is a marriage made in Ashdod. Ashdod today is any neighborhood where pagans live - they are nice people, pay their taxes, and provide for their families - nevertheless they are pa-

gan. Children are compromised, unable to speak of God, the things of God, and are not in the way of receiving blessings from God.

The Christian Church has many who have Ashdod marriages. One party is a Christian, but chooses to marry someone from Ashdod. Oh yes, it might be she is pretty and it might be he is handsome. But if one is from Ashdod, consider the choice in its consequence: children born of this union will not be able to "speak the language" of Christianity much less be a part of His Grace.

*Dr. Tony Cleaver is a retired U.S. Army Chaplain and Director of Distance Learning for BMA Seminary.*

### Changemakers Journey

from front page

in ministry, and it was through his encouragement that after graduating from High School, I moved to Negros island and enrolled as a student at the BMA Bible College in 2012. I am thankful that I made that move, as it helped prepare me for even more opportunities, I believed God was preparing me for.

After graduating in 2016, I moved back to General Santos City, and began working in full time ministry at my home church. Ptr. Lisas continued to encourage me and help grow me into a better worker for Christ. I faithfully served my church for one and a half years after graduation.

During my time at Bible School my father had completed his task of planting the church in the tribal region, and the Lord had moved him to another area where he had begun another church planting effort. Ptr. Lisas asked me to assist my father in his efforts, so I could get a chance to experience the challenges and rewards of planting a church. For over a year and a half, I helped my father develop various ministries at the mission, lead in services, and I began to sense that God was indeed preparing me for something new.

Earlier this year the BMAP Missionary to Davao City in Mindanao had to leave the field due to health issues of his wife. I began praying if the Lord could use me to complete the work

that God had begun in that area. After spending time in prayer, talking with my father, and a time of counsel with Ptr. Lisas, I believed God was indeed calling me to plant a church in Davao City. I applied to the BMAP Missions Department and after going through the assessment and training require-

*I intend to use all the gifts and talents God has given me to win and disciple as many people as I can into a relationship with Jesus*

ments, on November 1, 2019 I was elected by the churches of the BMAP to serve as their national missionary to Davao City. This is a church planting partnership between BMAA and BMAP.

I am excited about the journey that lies before me. I know it will be filled with successes and failures. I intend to use all the gifts and talents God has given me to win and disciple as many people as I can into a relationship with Jesus. I believe that God is going to use me to plant a church in this city.

I must also acknowledge that the journey before me is only possible because of my journey up until this point. God brought people into my life all along the way to bring me to where I am today. It has truly been a journey worth taking.

Please pray for me and the people of Davao City. I desire God to receive glory from everything we do.

## Expository Preaching Course

June 4-5

First Baptist Church of Lindale, Texas

(register by May 8)

Taught by:

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



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

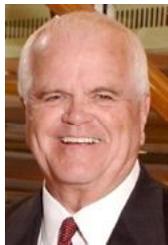


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# Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown  
Editor

## Our Changed World

I speak of the world that we all now live in due to the Corona Virus pandemic. I do not know of anyone who has lost their life to this virus, but I have 3 family members who have had it and recovered. One was seemingly mild and the other two folks were sick, but not seriously so. They had some pretty bad symptoms and were ill for several days. We thank the Lord for their 'light' cases and their recovery.

I also must admit I only know of a handful of folks who are not able to work due to the shutdown. Having said that I know there are untold numbers in our churches who are hurting financially due to the loss of jobs or temporary layoffs.

Church services are just not the same. Faithful men are preaching the Gospel and ministering to their members both spiritually and physically. Folks are watching "on line". The preaching is good, but the atmosphere is not the same. First Baptist Church of Shady Grove (where my wife and I are members) and others are having "drive-in" services. Our pastor stands outside and when he makes a good point that we endorse it is done with "electronic Amens" by way of car horn honking. It really does add to the service and reflects the attitude of those attending.



Evergreen Church, Seminary Pastor Chad Cummings is also preaching to a 'drive up' crowd. I don't know if they honk their horns to Amen, but I do know they enjoy and respect their pastor for his efforts.

Evergreen Church Pastor Chad Cummings bringing his message at their recent drive-in service. In a Facebook post one of Evergreen's members highlighted their pastor and gave word of appreciation for his efforts.

We pray for all of our churches, the pastors, and members as we live in these changing times. May God quickly remove this virus and bless His people as they reassemble to worship in their buildings. In the mean time, let us forsake not the assembling of ourselves together, be it via Facebook, Drive-in, or any other method of worshiping.

### The Immediate Future

When the officers of the Association, led by President Greg Medenwald, made the decision to cancel the midyear meeting, Bro. Greg made the following observation. He said that even though the virus was a good reason to cancel for our collective health, he understood that because of potential job losses and the loss of personal and church income that the money many would spend to attend might better be used in this time of financial need. I fear that this time of financial need will not only affect church members, but also the local church, our state association departments, national BMA departments, and ultimately the goals of reaching others for Christ.

Our modern economy is one that relies on the flow of currency. This is as true for the church and her ministry as it is for the family unit, business, and government. While we are obligated to provide for our families, let us not forget the Lord's work. Giving is vital to the local church. The local church's financial health is vital to the work of each BMA of Mississippi and America departments.

Let us be found faithful and make every effort to maintain.

## Missions in a Pandemic

from Tim Tyler & Water for Christ Team

We've all had a change in our lives in some way. As we continue to work toward our mission to provide clean, sustainable water and our staff works from home, we are reminded of the verse in Job 42:2 "I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted".

What gives us calm assurance during this time is knowing that we serve a God who is greater than any virus or pan-

demic. We continue to plan, serve, and hold fast to the faith. God is in control - fear is subservient.



While W4C may be affected as some donors cut back financially, understandably during this time, we remain anchored in the fact that the mission of God can't be thwarted. What the enemy has meant for evil God will get good out of it.

Thank you to those who have continued to give during this time as the Lord provides; your love and support changes lives. For those who have had to pause their funding, (and we understand) please continue to lift us up in prayer as we continue the mission during this pandemic. Many lives are affected by Water for Christ especially in Ghana (pastors, travel well staff, administrative staffers, etc. - they are on lockdown just like us and prohibited from social gatherings - no church congregating). Please continue to pray for them as well as for us that God would see us through this difficult time; not just financially, but also mentally, emotionally and spiritually. As we each have more time on our hands, let us draw close to God as he promises to draw close to us.

Thank you all for the love you've sent our way during this time. Each of you are in our thoughts and prayers.

### Local Meeting Information

#### Oak Grove Association Meeting Canceled

by Ted Quinby Moderator

After consultation with the officers of the Association, and due to Covid 19, the safety of our members, and coupled with the recent tornado damages in our area, we felt it best to cancel the meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 14 scheduled at Calvary Baptist Church, Purvis. We have rescheduled to meet on Thursday, July 16 at 6:00 .p.m for meal and fellowship followed by the business and preaching at 7:00 pm. We will meet at Calvary Baptist Church, Purvis. If you have any pertinent business that needs to be addressed prior to this date or have any questions, please feel free to contact Ted Quinby, Moderator at 601-270-9084.

I look forward to seeing you in July.

**Editor's Note** - The Missions Office is in contact with the local associations and their plans for their regular meetings. Below is information available as of April 28. For the latest information contact the Missions Office at 601-428-8616.

- Ten Mile Association - CANCELLED
- Big Creek Association - CANCELLED
- East Central Association - CANCELLED
- Hobolochitto Asso. - CANCELLED
- Oak Grove Association - CANCELLED
- Capitol Association - May 15th
- Washington Association - May 15th

A Song of degrees.

*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.*

Psalm 121:1-2

### Mitzi Goodwin, EIM Director's Daughter, Passes Away

Mitzi Lanette Goodwin, 52 of Warren, Arkansas, passed away April 21. She was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Warren, and was the special daughter of Evangelist International Ministries (EIM) Director Rocky Goodwin and his late wife, Jeanette.



Mitzi Goodwin

Mitzi was a silver medal winner in the International Special Olympics in 1983. She was active in putting together thousands of Shepherd's Bags for EIM. She was also a huge fan of Southern Gospel music and loved listening to Heaven's Echoes.

Other survivors include: two brothers, Ken (LaDonna) Goodwin and Mike (Ann) Goodwin; 6 nieces and nephews; and 18 great nieces and nephews.

A grave side service was held with Ed Stephenson and Reuel Cruce officiating.

Memorials may be sent to EIM Shepherd's Bag Ministry, 114 Bradley Road #23, Warren, AR 71671.

### AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

Listing of names does not indicate endorsement. This column is for information purposes only.

#### Gerald Givens

Bro. Gerald Givens is available for pulpit supply. He is a member of Paramount Baptist Church near Wiggins. He may be reached at 601-928-3796 or 601-528-2517.



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# Southeastern Baptist College

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

## President's Perspective

Wow, we have almost completed the Spring Semester for the 2019-2020 academic school year. However, because of the COVID 19 pandemic, we have had to move graduation from our traditional mid-May date to August 1, 2020. The effects of the COVID 19 crisis has not diminished the visible evidence of the Lord's blessings upon SBC!



Dr. Scott Carson  
President

We project eleven students graduating this year with either a two-year Associate of Arts degrees or four-year Bachelor of Arts degree. The number of graduates is up by seven from four, at last year's commencement exercise.

When I travel throughout

Mississippi, many often comment about the increased activities on campus. Our parking lot before the national crisis was almost always full, drawing attention within our local community. People who had little to no contact with SBC in the last decade, and with no understanding of its ministry and mission, are now very interested in what is happening on campus and are asking questions about the school's future. Whether it be a daily increase of students on campus, sporting events, a new café, partnership with the home school association, or civic groups using our facilities for activities, an atmosphere of energy is evident of an exciting future for SBC. Southeastern is quickly becoming a partner once again with the surrounding communities.

The effects of the COVID 19 upon the general public have negatively impacted this forward momentum by cancelling

all our public on-campus programs, having all our students move out of the dorms and going back to their homes, closing our newly opened café, and constricting our plans for recruiting more students in the coming Fall Semester. It is much more difficult for our recruiters to reach potential students because of high schools being closed

*Our students are able to continue their studies for this semester without interruption.*

through the remainder of this school year. We are aggressively mitigating this challenge and we know God is in control. The evidence of His hand upon SBC is clear to all who are associated with the college. The Lord is not going to allow COVID 19 to distract us from moving forward into the bright future and the forward path He has set us on.

One notable piece of evidence that the Lord is with us is that

when other Christian colleges were faced with a decision of switching to fully online courses or suspension of their current semester, some sadly had to choose the latter. They dismissed their students and refunded all tuition due to the fact that they had never previously offered courses online. They had no established platform to go to and their professors had no experience in teaching online. When the time came to make a snap decision for online delivery or to close their college for the remainder of the semester, they chose to close. These colleges simply could not secure an

or staff. So with little effort, all courses were quickly switched to online formats. Our students are able to continue their studies for this semester without interruption. Other colleges may have wasted up to eight weeks of school work for which their students will not receive credit, because their college did not possess established online capability. We, however, are well acquainted with this technology. This is additional evidence of God's providence for SBC as a previous visionary president, Dr. Madrick Savell, secured the online technology a decade ago for our college. Did you know that SBC has been recognized twice in recent years as the number-one online Bible College in the Nation? We are recognized again for 2020!

Please remember SBC in your prayers as we work to overcome the challenges of limited social contact, at a time when we must be fully engaged in recruiting new students for both the Summer Session and the Fall Semester.

*Equipping the Saints!*  
Dr. Carson

## Government Stimulus Checks

Many in the BMA of Mississippi have already received or will soon receive their COVID 19 economic stimulus checks. If you have received your money and it isn't necessary for survival in this economic turndown, I encourage you to prayerfully consider donating it to Southeastern Baptist College. The school has been hit hard financially and I know the Lord will bless you for giving to this vital ministry of the BMA of Mississippi!

## Immediate Need: HVAC Unit

An HVAC unit that serve the college library is no longer operational and must be replaced immediately. Besides the

staff offices that are now located in the library, it is necessary to keep the books in the library at a constant cool temperature to protect them from deterioration. Donating your personal economic recovery stimulus check toward this need would be a tremendous blessing! I estimate the cost for the unit to be about \$6,000.

## The Best Online 2-Year College

Southeastern Baptist College is designated by Intelligent.com as the "Best Two Year University" for Online Bible



Assistant Men's Basketball Coach, Geno White, helps with a recent staff work day preparing the upstairs women's dorm for renovation.

Colleges out of 201 institutions across the U.S. for 2020. That's twice in the last 4 years we have been ranked number one out of hundreds of colleges and universities. And, we have consistently been in the top 25. SBC is also one of the top 10, least expensive schools among thousands of colleges in the country. You really need to contact the SBC Admissions Officer today 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. Contact our Financial Aid Officer, Ginny Singleton for more information.

## Cancelled: National Day of Prayer Breakfast

Due to the COVID 19 situation, National Day of Prayer Breakfast that was planned for May 7, 2020 is CANCELLED.

## Commencement Postponement

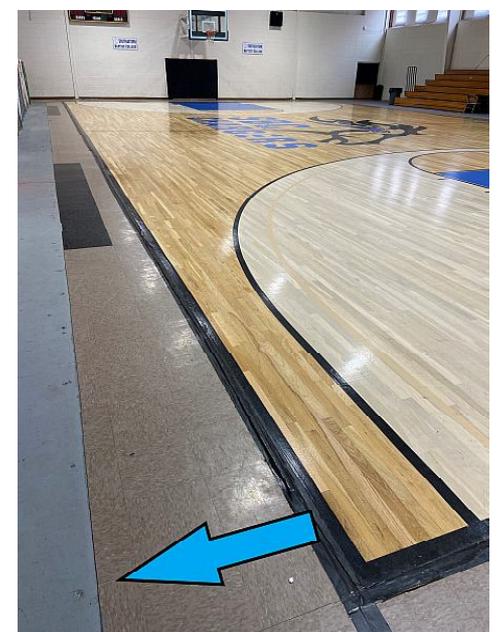
The 2020 Southeastern Baptist College graduation ceremony is postponed to Saturday, August 1, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. and will be held in the College gym. Dr. John Adams is our guest speaker. Dr. Adams is an alumnus, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Mantachie, Mississippi, and the Director of the Moral Action of Mississippi.

## Lighthouse Café

The SBC Lighthouse Café is closed until further notice. Nearly all of our students have chosen to study from home and the café could not find a reliable source of supplies. We plan to reopen the café in the Fall Semester.

**College Report**  
continued on page 6

## Rule Change Means Upgrade



A required project for this summer is expanding the width of the basketball court about 24 inches on both sides. This is to accommodate the new college rules of moving the three-point line out 8 inches. We do not have an estimate as yet, but we suspect it will be costly.

## Fast Track Summer Session

SBC will offer a full semester of courses in a shortened format this summer, and for half price. Each course costs \$375. Dorms are available. Registration is Thursday, May 21, 2020 and classes are May 26 to June 26. Classes are both in classroom and online. You may preregister NOW! Call 601-426-6346 or stop by the college Monday to Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Classes offered are:

- English Comp I
- World Lit I
- US History I
- College Algebra
- Old Testament Survey

\*\*Two online only courses have been added to the Summer Session:

- Old Testament Poetry
- Isaiah, Lamentations, and Jeremiah

# Relief In The Philippines

from front page

benefit during this time. All commercial and private modes of inter-island transport have been shut down, and on some islands

islands and provinces without hindrances. Those of us who lived here during a period of martial law in the 1970's re-



People gathered at local church to receive relief packages

like ours, even the borders between our two provinces (Negros Occidental & Negros Oriental) are closed to travelers unless they have a travel permit issued by a national authority. These measures seem very drastic to us and many Filipinos, as most of them cannot remember a time when they were not allowed to move freely between

member some limitations, but not necessarily to this extent. Most Filipinos trust that their government is doing what it believes is best to protect them from an unseen enemy.

### Worship Services Look a lot Different

Worship services here have had to go completely online,

since the quarantine orders restrict social gatherings of groups larger than 10, and the majority of Filipinos rely heavily on public methods of transportation, that creates great challenges in mitigating the spread of the virus. It has been a wonderful blessing to use social media over the last 2 months and listen to the Gospel message being proclaimed all around the world using various platforms and formats.

I believe that even during this great crisis, our BMAP pastors have risen to the challenge and are leading their churches to the best of their abilities. These faithful men are helping their churches be present and visible in their respective areas. In these difficult times the Lord's churches are moving beyond the walls of their physical structures and are meeting the needs of people in their homes and neighborhoods.

### BMAA & BMAP Relief Operation

Before the lockdowns were implemented, I began having conversations here with the BMAP Missions Department and BMAP Disaster Response Coordinator about how we could best help the indigent families of the approximately 125 BMAP churches and missions scattered all over the Philippines. With their suggestions in hand, we began having conversations with the BMAA Missions office leadership, and other BMAA missionaries here in the Philip-



Relief packages welcomed

ippines. A plan was developed to respond with relief packs of food for those church families here in the Philippines.

With funds from the BMAA Disaster Relief Fund, along with contributions from BMAA missionaries, we were able to designate an amount that would allow us to have an effective response to these families in dire circumstances. The relief operation began last week and is now about 90% completed. There are a few locations that due to travel and movement restrictions are having to wait until April 30 to complete their efforts.

I would like to share that what the Lord and you helped us accomplish is nothing short of amazing. We provided around 2,200 families with food that from their own testimonies, is the first food items many of them have received since March 15. Overwhelmingly they have told us that the amount of food these families received was more than any other relief pack they had received to date. That is really saying something. I am reminded of how Jesus took a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish, and with His blessing, thousands were fed. I believe that our Savior did the same with our efforts here. He blessed them, and the effect was greater than we could have imagined.

We could not have accomplished this without the

churches and Missions Department leadership of the BMAA, and we would not have been as successful without the efforts of the BMAP leadership and pastors of the BMAP churches helping us here. From the beginning, coordinators on each island began to identify and submit the numbers for the needs of their churches on those islands. That is how an association of churches is supposed to function, and I have never been prouder to serve as a BMAA and



Delivery by any available means

BMAP Missionary than I have during this unprecedented time.

Along with so many others in our work I keep repeating, "TOGETHER WE DO MORE." This set of circumstances is where that philosophy, that ideology, has been proven beyond a shadow of a doubt. I pray that more of our people will realize the importance of working together and will come to see that when we put that into practice and let the Lord bless our efforts, the results will ultimately speak for themselves.

# Southeastern Report

from page 5

### TNT

Tuesday Night Talks (TNT) are cancelled through the rest of the Spring Semester, but will start again in the Fall Semester.

### SBC Choir

Do you want to sing in our choir and receive college credit for it? Find out how by contacting Krista McKenzie at 601-426-6346.

### Veterans Benefits

SBC possesses the Gold Award level 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. I urge you to contact your local VA representative for an evaluation of your benefits. You earned them! SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

### Amazon Smile

Anybody shopping on Amazon can select Southeastern Baptist College as your charity. When you do this, a portion of your purchase price will go directly to SBC as a donation from Amazon!

### SBC Sports Gear:

SBC Charger sports clothing and gear are available online and get 20% off when ordering more than \$80. Go to this website: <http://athletics.southeasternbaptist.edu/shop-southeastern-baptist-chargers>

### Rule Change Means Upgrade



A required project for this summer is expanding the width of the basketball court about 24 inches on both sides. This is to accommodate the new college rules of moving the three-point line out 8 inches. We do not have an estimate as yet, but we suspect it will be costly.

Go here to see announcements for other sports tryouts: <http://athletics.southeasternbaptist.edu/>

### The Way of the Righteous and the Wicked

Psa 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. Psa 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. Psa 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. Psa 1:4 The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Psa 1:5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. Psa 1:6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

### Southeastern Baptist College



Best two-year online Bible college for 2020 in the country!

## C-L-O-S-E-D



The Lighthouse Cafe AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER

# The time has come to free churches from 'lockdown'

## From OneNewsNow.com

With some smart planning and careful measures, churches should be allowed to open their doors again without punishment, says a religious liberty attorney who is suggesting a date to make it happen.

Liberty Counsel attorney Mat Staver calls it "ridiculous" and "unconstitutional" for governors and mayors to force churches to keep their doors closed during the coronavirus pandemic.

"You don't have a First Amendment right to go to a liquor store, or to a Walmart or Kmart, or some other place," he says. "But you do have a First Amendment right to exist as a church."

Lights stayed off on Easter Sunday

Nearly four weeks have passed since most U.S. churches turned off the lights over fear of the COVID-19 virus spreading in the congregation, especially among the elderly. But those churches are now witnessing their communities pick and choose what is "essential" for their city, county, and state.

## NC governor defends anti-church order

North Carolina's Democratic governor has suggested churches are a breeding ground for the coronavirus, even accusing fellow state leaders of "luring" people to attend churches.

The comments from Gov. Roy Cooper came during a daily press briefing on the coronavirus, when he was asked for comment about some churches that announced they were planning to reopen in coming weeks and fol-

low state guidelines to do so.

"I think it's irresponsible for some politicians to use faith to lure people into endangering themselves, their families and their own congregation," Cooper told reporters, "especially at a time when the president's own guidelines don't advise North Carolina opening yet."

North Carolina State Sen. Jim Perry (R) suspects he is one of the politicians Cooper was referring to, since he has demanded to know why churches are treated differently than retail establishments.

"We have been outspoken about what we see as constitu-

churches opening their doors is happening in communities across the country.

OneNewsNow has reported on two Mississippi churches that were punished by police officers for holding "drive-in" services. The mayor of Greenville backed down after attorneys representing the churches sued in federal court.

In Kansas, a federal court has issued a temporary restraining order after the state's governor banned church gatherings of 10 or more.

Mike Farris, an attorney for Alliance Defending Freedom, said the judge pointed out that Gov. Laura Kelly has stated religious services are an "essential service" but it was the only "essential" activity that was also banned by Kelly's order.

Left-wing media outlets,

## Every church would choose its own course of action

tional infringement and really disparate treatment of churches," Perry tells OneNewsNow, "and discrimination of people of faith in some of the orders that we've seen."

Regarding the governor's "lure" comment, Perry says that implies that people of faith are "simple-minded" which is an accusation he calls "bothersome" to hear from the state's governor.

More recently, tens of millions of Christian believers spent their Easter weekend service away from the church pews on the Church's most special Sunday of the year.

Mirroring the fight over closed-down businesses demanding the right to open back up, and the public pushing back against "lockdown" orders, the legal and moral fight over

meanwhile, are publishing not-so-subtle stories of pastors who defied church-closure orders and have succumbed to the virus. The Washington Post reported April 13 on the death of Gerald Glenn, a prominent Virginia pastor who died from the virus after declaring that "God is bigger" than it, and an April 19 story reported on numerous Church of God In Christ (COGIC) bishops and pastors who have died from the virus.

Rawstory.com reported March 26 on the death of a Virginia-based Christian evangelist, Landon Spradlin, who dismissed the virus as media-driven fear-mongering but caught it in New Orleans. Beneath the brief story, reader comments mock his Christian faith and suggest he deserved to die.

## Let churches decide

According to Staver, the time has come for government to allow churches to open the doors and turn on the lights if they choose to do so, and he is suggesting May 3 for "Reopen Church Sunday."

To keep the congregations safe, he suggests churchgoers maintain social distancing,

church staff should thoroughly clean door knobs and restrooms, and restrict the number allowed in the service.

Every church would choose its own course of action, Staver continues, but churches that want to hold a worship service should have the legally recognized right to do so without being punished by the government.

# Scroggins Ministry Update

Stan and Donna Scroggins, BMA missionaries to the Philippines, are home on leave until July. They have been keeping their church visits mostly through online and recorded messages.

The most important day of the year for Christians is Easter, the day we celebrate as the resurrection of Christ from the dead. We were grateful to be able to celebrate this day with



Donna & Stan Scroggins making church and missionary visits 'on-line'

our daughter Leslie, her husband Graham and our three granddaughters Ava Grace, Edy Rose and Joy Tatum. We loved all the festivities, Easter dinner, stuffing eggs and hiding them, and worshiping on line with several BMA churches and our son-in-law's church Fellowship Bible Church.

## Corona Virus

The world pandemic is the topic of most conversations. There is suffering everywhere, and we Americans are experiencing difficulties like never before. For our dear Filipinos it can be a death sentence. Not just the illness itself, but the precautions associated with it. With shut down of the Philippine economy, quarantines, loss of jobs and transportation comes famine for many, especially our BMA Baptist families.

While it is impossible to equate the suffering in the United States with that of countries around the world, it is suffering none the less. So even in the midst of our own trials, we Philippine missionaries say "thank you" to every person, church, our BMA Missions Department, and all our Filipino Missionaries who have worked together with the Baptist Mis-



Distribution efforts to provide food for those in need



missionary Association of the Philippines to send funds helping feed our brothers and sisters during this desperate time. Here are some photos of the cooperation it took to distribute food to our churches all over the Philippines.

## Darlene Carey Christian Academy Update



Darlene Carey Building

Progress was really moving forward until the corona virus shut down construction. Fund raising continues for the building. \$10,000 will build one classroom. It would be great to finish both buildings at one time before labor and material costs increase.

Seminary  
Sunday  
May 17

**Invest in your next pastor or missionary.**

**Please pray for us and collect a special offering.**

BMA Seminary P.O. Box 670 Jacksonville, Texas 75766

## History & Archives Commission

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440

### ONE BAPTISM

Many modern "Baptists" have accepted Protestant view of 1st Corinthians 12:13, which is, that when a person is saved, they are baptized by the Holy Ghost into the universal body of Christ. This view is not biblical, nor is it the historical Baptist view. In 1802, Pastor T.B. Montanye, representing the elders of the Philadelphia Association, wrote a work on "The Baptism of the Holy Ghost." This work was signed by order of the Association.



Jason Howard  
Director

"The Baptism of the Holy Ghost ... was never inculcated ...[as] the work of regeneration and sanctification...in the gospel, and we think ought not to be considered as constituting any part in the office work of the Divine Spirit in renewing the heart... [O]ur respected [non-Baptist but Christian] friends...may be regenerated, and enjoy the highest consolation in the sweet incomes of the Holy Com-

forter, and the most sensible union with Christ; yet as all this does not constitute the baptism of the Holy Spirit, not is designed by it in the sacred scriptures, it follows in consequence, that, rejecting the water baptism, they have no baptism whatever, and ought cheerfully to submit to that prescribed in the example of Jesus Christ...[T]here is no well found evidence of [the] present existence...of the baptism of the Holy Ghost....The term baptism of the Holy Ghost...was first taught by the harbinger of Jesus Christ, Matthew 3:11, "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire" ... the accomplishment of the promise made by Jesus Christ [of the Spirit Baptism was in]...Acts 2:16-22 ...[as prescribed in Luke 24:49]...Acts 1:4,5 ... Here it is proper to remove some apparent difficulties, which are a means of puzzling the minds of many. First, What baptism the apostle denominates one baptism? We answer, The instituted appointment of Jesus Christ, which he authorized after his resurrection, which remains a standing ordinance in the church, and which Peter, when filled with the Holy Ghost, enjoined on Cornelius and the rest of the believing Gentiles...In 1st Corinthians....there seems no absurdity in saying that the same Spirit influences all nations to yield an obedience to the instituted appointments of Jesus Christ, and so come [by immersion in water] into the union of the body of Christ ... As for sundry other Scriptures, such as Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12; 1st Peter 3:21; Galatians 3:27; they have an evident relation to water baptism, and are no way connected with, nor yet refer to, the work of grace in the heart." (Minutes of the October 5-7 meeting of Philadelphia Baptist Association, pgs. 415-420, Baptist Standard Bearer).

"The Georgia Baptist Association of Elders and Brethren, to the

Churches which they represent, send Christian salutation [In 1828]... We now advance some plain bible proof of that gospel order observed by us.... We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper, are ordinances of the Lord, and are to be continued till his second coming. That true believers in Jesus Christ are the only subjects of baptism, and that dipping is the mode. That none but regularly baptized church members have a right to commune at the Lord's Table. In vindication of these doctrines we bring the following plain scriptures: ....For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free..." (History of the Georgia Baptist Association, pg. 175-181, 1838).

Let's reach further back with one final example. The Baptist Historian David Benedict concluded the Donatists (AD 311) were Baptists. Using Augustine's writing, who was a contemporary of the Donatists, he shows that Augustine makes the Donatists Baptist. These same were called Ana-Baptist later in 1605. John T. Christian gives us this information concerning their view of "One Lord, One Faith, and One Baptism."

"Our modern Anabaptists [1607] are the same as the Donatists of old [311 AD]....These rigid moralists, however, did not count themselves Anabaptist; for they thought that there was one Lord, one faith, one baptism and that their own ... They took no account of the baptism of others, and contended that they were wrongly called Anabaptists." (Christian, John T., A History of the Baptists, Volume One. Pg. 46. Bogard Press)

It's clear that these ancient Baptist believed the "one baptism" was water baptism. It is also clear that they believed that "baptism" belonged to them and no one else. They rejected the name Anabaptist on the account that they did not consider themselves to be re-baptizing anyone, but that they were justly and rightly administering baptism in the first place.

## BMA of Mississippi Summer Retreat

### Theme: Our Journey with Jesus

### Schedule

#### Thursday

2:30 - 3:30pm - Registration  
3:30 - 5:00pm - Softball Competition  
5:30 - 6:30pm - Dinner  
7:00 - 8:30pm - Session 1 (Music & Larry Geraldson – Intro. of Theme – Eph 2:10 (Fellowship Afterwards)

#### Friday

7:30 – 8:30am - Breakfast  
9:00 - 11:30am - Session 2  
**Pastor & Layman's Breakout**  
Music  
Dennis Knight – Walk Worthy – Eph 4:1  
Chris Yager – Walking Not As Others – Eph 4:17  
Greg Medenwald – Walking in Love – Eph 5:2

#### Ladies Breakout

Music  
Sabrina Clayton

12:00 - 1:00pm - Lunch  
1:30 - 3:00pm - Session 3  
Music  
Johnmichael Poulin – Walk as Children of Light – Eph 5:8  
Wesley Martin – Walk Circumspectly – Eph 5:15  
3:00 - 5:30pm - Organized Recreation — Volleyball Tournament, Kayak Races, Hiking  
6:00 - 7:00pm - Dinner  
7:30 - 9:00pm - Session 4  
Music  
Speaker - Dewitt Bain – Walk Ready – Eph 6:10-12

#### Saturday

7:00 - 8:00am - Breakfast  
8:30 - 10:00am - Session 5  
Music  
Speaker - Kevin Clayton –  
Walk As Long As It Takes – 1 Tim 1:1-12

#### Activities

Slow Pitch Softball Game - (Missionaries vs Pastors)  
Missionaries – Head Coach, Larry Geraldson, Assistant Coach, Sidney Farmer, Assistant Coach, Vernon Newman  
Pastors – Head Coach Justin Rhodes, Assistant Coach, TBD, Assistant Coach, TBD  
Plate Umpire – Kenneth Pollock; 1st Base Umpire – Ed DuVall  
Kayak Races – Ten Kayaks will be available. Sign up, to compete, when you register.

#### Volleyball Tournament

Team 1 – Captain, Mike Angus  
Team 2 – Captain, Daniel Allen  
Team 3 – Captain Blake McCain  
Team 4 – Captain Chad Cummins  
Note: The winner of the first two matches will play in a championship match.

#### Early Registration

\$45 per person (which covers 5 meals and 2 nights lodging at the group camp.) Late registration (after June 30th) is \$60 per person. To register, send your check made payable to the BMA of Mississippi Missions Department. Place in the memo "Summer Retreat Registration. Make sure your check is accompanied by a note with the names of the individuals registering.

Churches wishing to contribute to help offset the extra cost not covered in the registration fee, can send a check marked BMA of Mississippi Missions Department, and place in the memo "Church Ministries."

Couples desiring to rent a cabin or RV spot, must contact Paul B. Johnson State Park directly at 601-582-7721. Any cost of a cabin is a personal expense and is in addition to the registration fee.

**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**  
4229 Highway 15 North  
Laurel, MS 39440  
601-426-6346

**State Youth Department**  
4226 Highway 15 North  
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662-397-6832

**Baptist Children's Home**  
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601-426-3928

**Missions & Revolving Loan Fund**  
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Laurel, MS 39440  
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**Commission on Senior Adults**  
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601-729-2613

**History & Archives Commission**  
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charles@bmaamerica.org or call 501-472-2133

