

Mississippi Baptist

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BMA Midyear Meeting at Southeastern College

by Greg Medenwald, President
BMA of Mississippi

The Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Midyear Meeting will be conducted according to schedule on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, Mississippi. SBC President Dr. Scott Carson, and the staff and student body of SBC, will welcome both messengers and visitors to the campus, and request that we carefully use whatever social distancing protocol that will be appropriate for the time.

SBC will also provide lunch



Greg Medenwald

at the Lighthouse Café at no cost, but donations will be accepted with appreciation.

Second Vice-President Justin Cameron, Pastor of the Good Hope Baptist Church in Columbia, Mississippi, will preach the Mid-year Message just before the noon break. An afternoon session, though it will likely be brief, will be necessary due to the presentation of some constitutional changes which will be presented

in the morning session and voted on in the afternoon session.

The meeting, due to lingering Covid-19 concerns, will be expedited. However, each department and commission director will be given quality time to speak and report, and visitors will be recognized and asked to be brief in their comments. SBC will be in charge of the music.

May God graciously bless you in your preparations to attend the meeting, in your travel to Laurel, and in your participation in the cooperative work of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi.

A New Church Organized



Charter members of Redemption Baptist Church line up to sign the church charter during the church's organization meeting. See more information in the State Missions report on page 4.

What Is A Changemaker?

by Dr. John David Smith
Executive Director of Missions
BMA of America

BMA Global Missions values multiplication and considers what God is doing in the nations as its highest goal. The New



Dr. Smith

Testament pattern of multiplication is encouraged and evidenced in the primary areas of disciples, leaders, and churches. For those who have obeyed the command of Christ to practice Great Commission missions, there is no greater personal joy and no more accurate measure of ministry than when we pour our lives into others and they repeat the process! In missions lingo, this is called "indigenous missions." The word indigenous simply means that something origi-

nates and belongs locally.

In BMA Global Missions we call these leaders ChangeMakers.

A ChangeMaker is an indigent believer who, most of the time, has been won and disciplined by a BMA missionary or another ChangeMaker and now carries out the ministry of go, disciple, plant, and repeat in their own country. Currently we partner with over 400 ChangeMakers globally.

The biblical examples of "ChangeMaker missions" fill the pages of the New Testament and are especially visible with Jesus and his earthly ministry with the twelve and Paul in his church planting efforts. Some of the principles for ChangeMaker missions can be found from Paul's words in Colossians 4:7-15:

7 Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. 8 I am sending him to you for this very

purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, 9 with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.

10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom

ChangeMaker missions is about lives changed by the gospel who are now repeating the process.

you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), 11 and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me.

12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. 13 For I bear him witness that he

has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis. 14 Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. 15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house.

Paul is in prison and concluding his letter to the churches in and around Colossae. This passage is the ending of that letter, and he is greeting many in the Colossian churches in the name of some on his missionary team.

However, we do recognize that these outside partnerships are temporary, like scaffolding. They are intended to give support and structure until the permanent building (ongoing local ministry) is ready, then we take our scaffolding and go build in another place. Paul was a great leader, not because he got things done, but because he got things done through others! He had no intention of building his own private empire in any place; it was all about building the kingdom of God through the multiplication of disciples, leaders, and churches.

ChangeMaker missions is based on passing the baton, not paternalism. Historically, many involved in global missions talked much about passing the baton of ministry to indigenous leaders, but rarely followed through. Paternalistic actions where one "partner" dominates the other was more of the norm. In Colossians 4, Tychicus, Onesimus, Epaphras, Luke, and Demas were all Gentiles while Aristarchus, Mark, and Justus

It is in the names of these team members that we have a great opportunity to look into Paul's multiplication ministry and see foundations for ChangeMaker missions.

ChangeMaker missions is based on outside partnerships that are the scaffolding, not the building. We certainly seek to enter partnerships with indigent believers who are doing Great Commission ministry and especially those who are the fruit of our own missionary efforts.

continued on page 2

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



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A Helping Hand Needed

by the editor

Bro. And Mrs. Doyle Moore, missionaries to the Philippines for over 40 years, have a great financial need. A tree fell recently and damaged the roof of their home in Picayune. They had the roof temporarily covered with a 'blue tarp', but heavy rains in the area still managed to break through and severely damage the interior of their home. Sadly, the Moores do not have home owners insurance. The home will need extensive structural repairs along with a new roof and interior repairs.



Exterior damage to Moore home. The tree is also much damage to the interior.

We are appealing to our churches, pastors, and friends to rally to help these who have dedicated their lives to serving the Lord, and more especially the people of the Philippines and other Asian countries.

Donations may be made directly to their bank in Picayune. Checks should be made out to Doyle and Linda Moore and sent and addressed to the following - First National Bank, Attn: Sheila Cooper, P.O. Box 848, Picayune, MS 39466.

The Moores are aware of this effort. They are deserving of our support and greatly appreciative of any help given. God bless you as you bless the Moores in this time of need.

State Meeting Near

As you read on the front page of this issue, our midyear meeting will be coming up on May 17-18 at Southeastern College in Laurel.

The State WMA and Brotherhood will meet on Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. on the college campus. The WMA officers will hold a meeting with a meal at 5:00 p.m. in the conference room of the College Library.

The Brotherhood meeting will feature Bro. Larry Tramel as their speaker while the WMA will again feature Dawn Freeman. WMA President Theresa Reus has all the information on page 7.

The college will provide the noon meal through the Lighthouse Cafe located on the campus. They do a good job and the food is great. We encourage messengers and guests to take advantage of the meal time and to give a donation to help with the cost. Their meals are as good or better than what you will get at other local establishments.

Attendance is encouraged at this meeting. We have missed too many fellowship times due to the worldwide Covid issue. Things are better now, so let us take advantage.

Business will be taken care of and reports will be given by all departments, auxiliaries, commissions, and other ministries.

Gulfport Church Seeks Pastor

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

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

Changmaker

from front page

were Jews. These men were from a myriad of places and backgrounds, but Paul's aim was always the same: win, disciple, equip, and release into ministry around the known world. Paul really did not have to "pass" the baton because he included them from the beginning.

ChangeMaker missions is about lives changed by the gospel who are now repeating the process. Tychicus was the missionary mailman who delivered many of Paul's epistles. He did this in spite of great personal peril in travel and deep personal sacrifice. Onesimus was the thieving runaway slave from Colossae who, according to history, later became the pastor of the church at Colossae. Epaphras started the church in Colossae; Luke was the beloved physician who wrote the books of Luke and Acts; Aristarchus was with Paul in riots, imprisonments, and shipwrecks.

Their stories were altered by Jesus and they were sharing the story to the known world. That is ChangeMaker missions.

Submission Policies

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

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

Photos should be emailed in jpg format. Photos should be well lighted, in focus, clear and sharp. Photos should contain people. There is no guarantee that all articles and/or photos will be published. Unsolicited items will be given consideration, but publication is not guaranteed. Date sensitive articles will take priority.

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

BMA Seminary Sunday May 16, 2021

"Preaching through our doctrinal statement...Got my Greek New Testament out and read (the supporting passage) with ease. It was very edifying listening to the Lord speak through the original text. It's more emphatic...I am thankful God gave me the opportunity to attend seminary and be taught by our professors. The tools I learned there are still a blessing and useful now...Keep at it."

Bro. Jake Vandenberg (MDiv 2007)



It was a blessing to receive Bro. Jake's message recently. A young pastor is using serious tools to help our people understand the beliefs and practices upon which our association was founded. Bro. Jake is not alone in his appreciation of how your seminary has helped him to pastor his church. Just yesterday, I received a call from one of our former students to say that he was leading his church in Mississippi to begin supporting the Seminary monthly. We have even had a Southern Baptist church in Texas begin regular support of \$100 monthly. This church was unhappy with the liberal trajectory of some of the SBC seminaries. (Another SBC church began monthly support a few years ago.)

Anyone in the United States can easily observe that the trend toward liberalism in the country has accelerated and deepened lately. Many denominations have begun to follow suit. Rest assured the BMA Theological Seminary will hold to the inerrancy and sufficiency of the Scriptures. These principles lead us to teach that individual, autonomous churches are God's means of advancing His Kingdom. Also, the biblical pattern is for these Baptist churches to work together in an associational manner. To my knowledge, no other accredited seminary in the United States teaches this except your BMA Seminary.

Please remember to have special prayer at your church on Seminary Sunday, May 16, 2021. Also, please plan to receive a special offering that Sunday for scholarships. These scholarships are used to help equip qualified men and missionaries with the same tools and beliefs that Bro. Jake received at BMA Seminary.

In His Service,



Dr. Charley Holmes
President



Dr. Philip Attebery
Dean

P.S. Remember that in these days of very low CD rates, BMA Seminary annuity rates are very attractive. As an example, a 36 month certificate of deposit with a balance of \$10,000 is currently earning .50% APY. Compare this with the current Charitable Gift Annuity rate for a 75-year old (single-life) at 5.4%.

MINISTERING TO YOUNG PEOPLE

by Anders Lee

From Anders

During a recent busy season in my life in ministry and personal matters, I asked a couple of individuals to write articles in my place. I know you will enjoy this second article from Brian Prochaska, Youth Pastor at First Baptist Mantachie. I met him about a half year ago and have grown to respect and love him as a co-laborer in ministry. Enjoy these thoughts from him! Great job Brian!!!

Lee is pastor of Central Church, Southaven, Mississippi and may be contacted at anders.lee571@gmail.com



Anders Lee

"My experiences with youth pastoring"

by Brian Prochaska

Greetings youth pastors, workers and teachers. Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Brian Prochaska. I am the bi-vocational youth Pastor at Mantachie First Baptist church in Mantachie, Mississippi. I am married to the former Jana Hood Prochaska (24 years) of Mantachie. I have two daughters Abby who is 20 years old and Lydia 15 years old. I have

served in youth ministry for the past 27 years as a bi-vocational youth pastor/youth director. I first felt the calling to youth ministry in 1994 while attending Itawamba Community College in Fulton. Little did I know what God had in store for me after answering the call into youth ministry? I have recently surrendered to the Gospel ministry this past February 2021. I struggled with the call to the

ministry for 14 years and did everything in my power to drown the call out. I couldn't believe that God was calling me into the ministry! I asked God "why me?", "I'm nothing", "ask somebody else to do it", I felt alone. I had every excuse you could make not to answer the call. After lots of prayer and with the support of my family and church, I answered God's call.

I wanted to write our BMA youth workers, bi-vocational or full time youth Pastors and teachers, about my experiences in youth ministry. Having served 3 churches in the past 27 years I have experienced the challenges of balancing a full time job and a full time minis-

trines too. I've learned what to do and what not to do. I have seen youth ministry change over the course of several years as well. If I could sum up this whole article in one word that I have learned about youth ministry that one word would be "dedication"!

My story starts in Amory, Mississippi, back in 1994 (makes me feel old, HA). I was hired by a church, part time to direct their youth program. Let me tell you, I was clueless and non-experienced. I had no idea what I was doing or where I was going. I had a Junior High and Senior High youth ministry. Best I can remember I had about 25 students under my leader-

preparing for the trip. I made sure the church van was reserved, a map in the glove box (we didn't have GPS back then), traveler's checks in my wallet, and all my registration forms in line, etc. I remember sitting in front of our pastor before the trip and he was asking me all sorts of questions. I told him I had everything in line and we were good to go. Then he asked me the million dollar question, "who are your chaperones?" I stared at him with a glazed look on my face and told him "what chaperones, who needs chaperones?" He immediately picked up the phone from his desk and started calling other church members to assist me on our trip. I felt about an inch tall!

This was my very first lesson, you need faithful adult leaders or college students helping you in your youth ministry program. It doesn't matter on the size of your group either, from 5 to 45 students it's always a good idea to have some help. It's hard to

see **YOUTH** on page 7

It doesn't matter where they come from or what they've done, we need to love them and give them Jesus.

try. Even though I was hired as a bi-vocational youth Pastor the youth ministry is never part-time, it's always full-time! I had to make a lot of adjustments. I have had a lot of first experi-

ship at that time. I also remember the very first trip we went on in the Summer of 1994! I took my students to a church camp in North Carolina. I worked hard all that summer

In His Grip by Carolyn Hagler

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



Remembering the Rock

If you visit my home, you might notice the abundance of rocks: big ones, little ones, pretty ones, shiny ones, sharp ones, rocks as varied as people are. I don't know when I became interested in rocks; it may have started with finding arrowheads when I was young. Knowing that my great grandmother was a Creek Indian, I was fascinated with all things relating to the Indians.

Or it may have started when our oldest sister, the diva of the family, died; I got many of her beautiful rocks gathered during her travels.

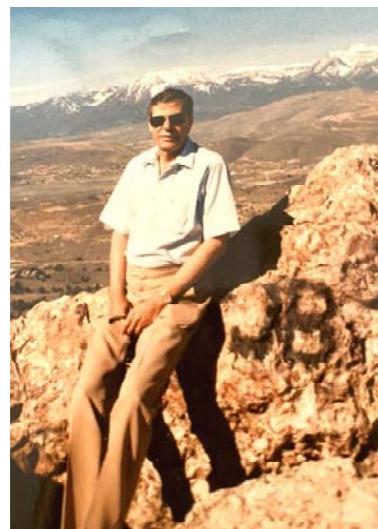
I may not know how my interest started, but I know that rocks are a memorial. Before the Lake Tahoe experience, I had meetings to attend in Reno, Nevada, while No. 1 sister and JB went sightseeing in the area. They were so secretive about their experiences but kept telling me about the surprise they had for

me.

The surprise came back at home when I saw the picture they had taken while they were off gallivanting. You've probably noticed that I often refer to my husband as JB. When I saw the picture of him sitting on a rock with his initials painted on it, I was shocked that he would deface that beautiful rock. It was days before he told me he was covering up the other initials someone had painted. He just



Carolyn Hagler



J.B. on his rock

took advantage of the setting, knowing what I would think—typical JB. He was my rock.

Hiking and seeing unusual places like the Barking Sands wasn't JB's cup of tea or on his bucket list. He preferred sitting on a rock. You can imagine I have quite a few of those pictures.

No. 1 Sister and I thought a hike would be ideal on one of our trips. According to the brochure, the hike was only half a mile—an easy walk. What the brochure neglected to mention was that you had to climb a mile up a mountain path to get to the half-mile trail. I'm not sure I ever admitted that was one of the hardest hikes I ever did. No. 1 sister and I had to take several breaks on that hike to be able to breathe. JB was sitting on a large boulder enjoying the sun when we got back.

Much of my rock collecting occurred on trips post JB. I went looking for rocks with my Gabi on the drive in Colorado when we saw the mountain goats. I'm one who's prone to wander to see what I can find. So I wandered down that winding road and found some beautiful rocks. After gathering as many as I could carry, I discovered the walk back to the rv was uphill all the way. I had to carry not only my rocks but also Gabi. The rocks may have been heavier than she was. So goats and rocks remind me of that day.

But the Alaskan trip was the most memorable of all my rock-gathering experiences. When

No. 1 sister and I hiked to the cemetery and found the waterfall, I also found some Alaskan rocks I really wanted. I gathered as many as my backpack would hold, and the shopping expedition back to the ship seemed never-ending. In fact as my feet were dragging, I remembered Edgar Allen Poe's poem



Colorado Goats

with the raven quoting, "Nevermore." I'm sure I quoted that many times because ravens everywhere.

The real surprise came, though, on the last night of the cruise when we were instructed to have our luggage in the hall by midnight. After I packed my rocks into one of my bags and started moving it to the hall, the bottom of the suitcase fell out. I didn't take it quietly. I was distraught. I wasn't about to leave my rocks; with time running out, my rocks found their home in my backpack.

Would it surprise you that I now have some shoulder problems and a few back pains too? You've got it! I carried those

rocks every step after we disembarked in British Columbia. While in Seattle waiting for our next-day flight home, we did a little sightseeing and found a duffel bag for my rocks. I've been known to buy a suitcase to carry home souvenirs but never rocks. I still use that duffel bag today and remember that trip home with my rocks. As the ravens say, "Nevermore."

But I think my favorite rocks remind me of family and friends. Walking around my yard, I see the colorful ones that the diva collected and one shaped like the home state of a friend. Another one which could really serve as a tombstone reminds me of the recently departed friend who gave it to me.

My rocks tell a story and remind me of trips taken, of the beauty found in this country of ours, of friendships, and of the fun times I've shared with others.

Most importantly, though, I remember the Rock.

I've been many places that post signs prohibiting collecting rocks. So I've had to leave many rocks behind but never the Rock of my salvation, which is always available to all who accept His gift of salvation.

If you don't have a rock collection, make sure you start with the Rock and then start collecting wherever you go. It may be that your rocks will give you a song, too. Until then, I remain in His grip.

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



Larry Geraldson
Director



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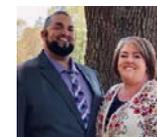
Daniel & Sherri
Allen



Wesley & Holley
Martin



Jason and Kylie
Howard



Josh and Mary Helen
Daniels



Estuardo &
Yasmine Marroquin

“Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” Eph 3:21

One of the greatest joys that I will ever experience is the joy of seeing a mission become a New Testament Church. Recently, I had the privilege of witnessing the organization of Redemption Baptist Mission at Diamondhead into Redemption Baptist Church of Diamondhead. This is the tenth new church, whose organization I have witnessed, since becoming your Director of Missions. We currently have two others scheduled to organize later in the year.

The support for this event was tremendous and I want to personally thank all those who came to take part in this very special occasion. Churches were represented from the Hobolochitto Association, the Ten Mile Association, and the Big Creek Association.

The mother church, Campground Baptist Church, and a number of our State Missionaries and Coaches were also present. Bro. Dennis Knight, Pastor at Paramount Baptist Church in Perkinston, moderated the meeting. Bro. Justin Rhodes, Pastor of Big Creek Baptist Church in Soso, preached the organization message.

Bro. Terry White, from Campground Baptist Church, read the formal request to organize from Redemption to Campground and then shared the response from Campground, authorizing the organization of Redemption and the list of names of the charter members.

Bro. Daniel Allen, Associate Missionary, read the highlights from the Constitution and By-Laws, adopted by the new church, as well as the Church Covenant. Bro. Wesley Martin was elected to serve as Redemption's Pastor and the new church voted to petition the Ten Mile Association, the



Above is Wesley, Holley, and their three boys Lawson, Grayson and Hudson

BMA of Mississippi, and the BMA of America. Bro. Wesley expressed Redemption's desire to work together with other BMA Churches to propagate the gospel through missions.

Wesley Martin grew up on the Gulf Coast where he attended Campground Baptist Church. In 2004, he was saved and in February 2008, he surrendered to the gospel ministry and was licensed by Campground Baptist Church. He was ordained in 2013 and served as Associate Pastor at Campground until January 2015. He has spent time working in youth ministry, music ministry, and preaching the gospel. In 2018, he finished his Bachelor's degree at Southeastern Baptist College. He served as the Mission Pastor of Redemption Baptist Mission outside of Diamondhead, Mississippi, for six years and is now their full time Pastor. He is also a Missionary Coach for the BMA of Mississippi Missions Department.

In 2012, he married his wife Holley, after dating since high school. Holley is a kindergarten teacher and faithfully serves beside her husband. She uses her gifts in numerous areas including nursery, music ministry, and finances. They have

three beautiful sons, Lawson, Grayson, and Hudson. They moved to Diamondhead in 2015 to become a part of the community and start the mission.

Bro. Wesley and Ms. Holley and their boys have done a wonderful job planting this church. I personally want to say to them, "Well Done!" I am also very grateful to the churches of the BMA of Mississippi for your uninterrupted support of this mission project. This is fruit that abounds unto your account. May God richly bless each person and church who contributed to help Redemption Baptist Mission become Redemption Baptist Church.



Above is Daniel Allen and his wife Sherri. Daniel is the Association

Special Emphasis Continues

Our Special Emphasis continues through May. Please consider sharing our promotional video with your church as you prepare to take up a Special Emphasis offering for State Missions. You can download the video direct to your church computer at www.bmams.org. The instructions for downloading are simple, but if you need help, we will be glad to assist you. Just give us a call at 601-428-8616. Also, if your church would rather have a DVD version of the video, we can mail you a copy. Again,

continued on page 5

The Day's Events at Redemption's Organization





Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Lindsey

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

Blessed Be the Name of the Lord

Believer's should have their hearts focused on having an attitude of gratitude because of who the Lord is. I say should because as we continue to live in these tents of flesh, inevitably, we will lack gratitude from time to time. The goal of the Spirit and the challenge to the flesh is to trust that all things are in the Lord's hand. He accomplishes, guides, or allows for His glory and our good. It is the only way I can imagine Job making the

statement found in Job 1:20-21, "Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshiped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, And naked shall I return thither: The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord."

No one has been immune to the Lord giving or the Lord taking away. Most have become especially aware of this over the past year. We have seen life

given and life taken away. We have seen jobs come and go. We have seen fellowship wither and be reborn. This past month has been a time of ebb and flow for the Children's Home. We said good bye to four young men that had been with us for several months, "The Lord hath taken away." BUT! The same week we said goodbye to those men, we said hello to a new young man in need of our help, "The Lord gave."

Trying to connect to kids who have been through so much on a deep and meaningful level is very difficult. One minute they can be kind, affectionate, and caring. Then, without understanding why they can become



The Lindsey Family and Home residents

defensive, angry, and agitated. We are riding a roller coaster together...in the dark, blindfolded, and bound. We are along for the ride waiting to plateau. It is troubling for the child, for us, and everyone else in the house who seem to be riding their own track interwoven amongst each other. Through all the ups and downs, twists and turn, and starts and stops saying goodbye is still difficult. We all been hurting together,

but we've all been healing together. It is hard to think, "Lord even now I will worship you."

A new soul is such an uncertainty. What will he like? How will he act? Will he fit in with the others? Will he listen? How rebellious is he? No matter the answers the Lord has sent him tous. We have nothing but what the Lord has blessed to send to us. He is a blessing. To keep our hearts fixed on gratitude we must praise the Lord in our goodbyes and in our welcomes.

We are still praying for a family to join us in this calling. I know some of what I describe may sound daunting, but to the hearts the Lord has prepared I am sure it sounds sweet. If you are inclined, please email your resume and questions to info@msbch.org we look forward to greeting the next ones the Lord sends our way. "Blessed be the name of the Lord."

MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Director

P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863

On The Web at www.macbma.net/

Email - fbcjdjmaj@yahoo.com

Why Christians Need the Poor

Proverbs 21:13

In spite of all our relief and help programs, the poor are still among us. The battle of poverty goes on and on. Most of us, the world would say, are among the winners. But what should Christians do about the poverty of others?

Recently, the country was told by the Census Bureau that more than one in every ten Americans must be considered poor. Overseas, the conditions are even worse. "The



Dr. Adams

World Food Council tells us that a third of the children in the world die of malnutrition and disease before they have five birthdays" ... Time Magazine. "Each year 100,000 children go blind because of lack of vitamin A in their early diets" ... Chicago Tribune report.

I. Why Do We Have the Poor?

Why are things like that still true today? The Bible seems to say that God allows the poor among us to test our compassion for our fellow man. Do we really love the poor? Our response to poverty reveals our attitude.

Some have wrongly assumed that to be poor is a sign of God's

disfavor. That is not true. God loves the poor and hears their cry. He sees and judges those who wrong them in their weakness... Psalms 14:6, Psalms 107:41.

The Word teaches us that God will bless those who reach out to help the poor, Psalms 41:1. On the other hand, we invite God's judgment if we ignore the needs of the poor, Proverbs 21:13. We, as Christians, cannot ignore the poor.

II. How Can We Help The Poor?

The real question is "how"? Governments contend that we should find some way to redistribute wealth and thus wipe out all poverty. Christ taught that we should share. But nothing in Scripture suggests that Christians can or should change the world's economic structure. Jesus clearly taught that poverty goes with this present evil

world..."Ye have the poor with you always," Mark 14.

Christ's principle of ministry to the poor is that it be done from a heart of genuine compassion. He would say (on the Sermon on the Mount), "When, not if." And that it should be done without glory and fanfare. Such sharing demands awareness of need.

Anyone willing to work was assured of food to feed his or her family. The Old Testament story of Ruth and Naomi tells us that they obtained gleanings in the fields, where grain was deliberately left for that purpose. In New Testament times, the duty of giving alms was acknowledged and encouraged. Jesus often spoke of giving to the poor.

Widows without family support were cared for by the church, as seen in Acts 6:1 and I Timothy 5:9,16. Paul mentions the poor in Galatians 2:10..."that we should remem-

ber the poor." Christian churches and God's saints have always been His channel of mercy to the poor.

III. Why Help The Poor?

First, the presence of the really poor prompts us to exercise compassion. How selfish and self-centered we become when we think just of ourselves and just of our own. I John 3:17.

Second, the presence of the poor gives us opportunity to prove that Christ has touched our hearts and made them new. Our old sin nature prompts us to look the other way. Compassion is an evidence of an inner work of grace. James spoke of faith and works. Our Acts are proof of faith.

Third, the poor give Christians opportunity to lay up heavenly treasure.... Proverbs 19:17.

Fourth, there is a practical side to helping the poor. The church is to be concerned for the poor among its members. Namely, those with inadequate food and housing, sickness which brings great financial crisis, children in need of clothing, someone who needs desperately to see a dentist or be fitted with glasses, etc.

It may be your opportunity to minister, perhaps your chance to win a blessing. Jesus said, "Freely ye have received freely give". Our first and great obligation is to share the Bread of Life - salvation. But we cannot withhold the bread of Material Aid to those who truly have a need.

God please let us be Good Samaritans!

Missions

from page 4

just contact us at the office and we can get it in the mail to you.

100% Efficiency

At our annual meeting in October, I explained that we had taken action to put us in a position to operate at a 100% Efficiency. By this we mean that 100% of everything that comes to us for missions, goes out the door for our missionaries. Nothing is held back and used for salaries, overhead, mainte-

nance, utilities, insurance, etc. Everything that comes in for Missions goes out to our Missionaries. Since that time, we have operated at 100% Efficiency each month. I believe this is a missions program that is worthy of your support.

Other Offerings Needed

In addition to your general offering to BMA of Mississippi State Missions, which is 100% used for the State Missionaries, I would like to encourage each church to add to your monthly giving an offering for BMA of Mississippi 1) Hispanic Mis-

sions Fund; 2) Church Ministries; 3) Jail Ministry; 4) Disaster Relief. These funds are Missions Department designated funds and offerings received will always be used for these specific areas. Some churches have already begun to support these areas with an additional offering, but we need others to do the same.

Upcoming Events

May looks to be a full month. On May 10th we will meet at Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg to ordain Bro. Leo Adan. Bro. Leo has served at

the Hispanic mission in Hattiesburg for quite some time now. The mission is planning to organize as a New Testament Church in July.

Our Missionary Committee will be meeting in May and will interview new candidates making application to serve as State Missionaries. They will receive a full report on the work of missions across the state.

The BMA of Mississippi Mid-year Meeting will be held on May 18th at Southeastern Baptist College and we will be giving a report on Missions and the Revolving Loan Fund.

Southeastern Baptist College

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

Serving Christ With A Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

President's Perspective

The 2021 National Day of Prayer Breakfast is just around the corner! We are excited to be hosting this Jones County Event once again this year on the campus of SBC. Last year we had to cancel due to COVID 19 protocols imposed upon us, but we are excited to be hosting this Jones County event once again on our campus. This event will be held in the gymnasium on Thursday, May 6 at 7:30 a.m. and is free to the public. We only ask folks to text their name and the number of attendees in their party to 601-498-8832 to reserve their meals. Our guest speaker is Brother Leander Bridges, an alumnus of SBC and the Senior

Pastor of Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ellisville, Mississippi.

The Theme is set by the National Day of Prayer Committee and is "Lord, pour out your love, life, and liberty". The National Day of Prayer has been held nationwide for 70 years! I personally invite you to attend if at all possible. It is a wonderful time of gathering by citizens of our surrounding communities, local civic lead-



Dr. Scott Carson
President

ers, and pastors with their congregations.

If you'll remember, I was appointed as the Command Chaplain for the Mississippi State Guard last year, and I recently spent the week at Camp Shelby. We had a wonderful time of training and the chaplains, while participating in the training, also had many opportunities to minister to these outstanding volunteers of this professional organization. These patriots believe in their mission of supporting the people of Mississippi in times of manmade and natural disasters. They are proud to wear the uniform of our country, so much so, that they willingly leave their regular

work to attend this training while paying for their own expenses. They are truly volunteers who love their state and wish to make a difference when called upon by the Governor.

This is one of the many reasons I "re-upped" with the State Guard. It is a wonderful experience to be among these patriots! There are many strong Christians involved with the organization and the time of service and fellowship is good for my soul. The Lord provided several opportunities for our member chaplains and myself to counsel individual soldiers who were struggling with life events. As we held chapel on Sunday morning in our ad hoc venue with bent and broken chairs, we were moved by the troops singing the great hymns of faith as they readily received the preaching of the Word.

American faith and patriotism is not dead! It is alive and

well as exhibited by these citizen soldiers. It is an interesting uniformed organization and many of the health and age restrictions are waived for participation. If you feel God calling you to serve for the first time in uniform, or to put the uniform back on to serve in the Mississippi State Guard, we would like to talk to you and explore the possibilities. If you have prior service, it may be possible to start at your previous rank. The maximum age for a new recruit is 65! There are many positions available and I am also personally looking for five chaplains.

I hope to see you at the prayer breakfast, but even if you cannot attend, take time to pray for your local community and for our nation on May 6. I know God will bless our prayers of faith.

Equipping the saints,
Dr. Carson

National Day of Prayer Breakfast

After cancelling last year's event due to COVID 19, the annual National Day of Prayer Breakfast will be held in the SBC gym. This year's FREE event will begin at 7:30 a.m. Leander Bridges, an SBC alumnus and Pastor of Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church of Ellisville, Mississippi, will be this year's guest speaker.

2021 Graduation

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

Fast Track Summer Session

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

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

Equipment Trailer

SBC is in need of a small enclosed trailer for hauling sports equipment and luggage for our athletes during out of town games. Perhaps a church or an individual has a trailer that hasn't been

used for a while that can be quickly fixed up and donated to SBC for this need. Contact us at 601-426-6346 if you have a solution for us.

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

Anyone 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 Smile! Thank you for those who are already using this unique method to benefit SBC. Be sure to choose Southeastern Baptist College and NOT the Southeastern Baptist College Foundation. Be sure to choose the correct "Southeastern Baptist College" because numerous organizations have "Southeastern" in their name.

Library Donations

Although we have a continuing need for the purchase of new library books, and we do receive and purchase new books, sometimes we have donors asking to give us a personal library that has been acquired over many years. We greatly appreciate the gesture, however, our library is nearly at full capacity and the receiving of older references can no longer be accepted at this time. Thank you for understanding.

Available to Fill Your Pulpit!

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



Dr. Carson recently put his uniform on for a few days as the Command Chaplain of the Mississippi State Guard for their annual training at Camp Shelby, MS. Pictured is Dr. Carson and his outgoing commander, Major General Doug Hayhurst



The Jones County Board of Realtors held a Corn Hole tournament on our campus. Pictured is Joanna Martin, President of the Board of Realtors, presenting a \$1200 check to Dr. Carson to be used toward scholarships for SBC students



Left - BMA of Mississippi Girls Missionary Auxiliary participated in SBC's Chosen: Camp and Missions Expo

Youth Ministry

from page 3

talk to every student in your group when you have your youth services. There's a lot going on because you find yourself running around and making sure things are ready to go. This is where I lean on my help. I ask them to do simple things such as set up our activity for the night, pick up the pizza (we love to eat), pass out the lesson materials etc. Having dedicated help in your youth ministry is essential.

The second thing I have learned in youth ministry is to "love unconditionally". I told myself a long time ago no matter who walks through my doors on a Wednesday night I was going to love that student no matter what. We all have those crazy students, the ones who talk a lot, the ones who don't say anything at all, the ones that are broken, and the ones who barely have any friends...they need our love and more importantly, they need the love of Jesus! I make it a priority to show them that I care, that they are loved, and that our church is a place where they can find the love of Jesus. It doesn't matter where they come from or what they've done, we need to love them and give them Jesus.

The third thing I have discovered is learning how to balance a full time job and a full time youth ministry (even though I am part-time). I have made a lot of sacrifices over the years. Some of you reading this know where I am coming from. It's hard to manage a family, full time job and a youth group all at the same time. But hey, it's what

Plan out your weeks ahead of time. I am a huge fan of study series, you know the 4 to 5 week study topics. My students love these series and so do I. Planning ahead is always a good thing. When you plan ahead it gives you time to focus week in and week out on your message/activities with your students.

Youth ministry is hard work.

I encourage you to stay the course

we are called to do. Sometimes we have to give up a few things so that we can make time preparing lessons for our youth groups. We have a lot of distractions in our lives. I tell my students one of the biggest distractions we have is that little device that sits in your pocket or purse. Yep, you guessed it, cell phones! I read an article a while back about the average time a person spends on their cell phone and I was blown away by the result. Most Americans spend an average screen time of 5.4 hours a day on their mobile devices. Just think what we could do with a couple hours of spare time and use that time to pour into our youth ministry.

The last thing I would recommend to any bi-vocational youth Pastor or teacher is plan, plan, plan! Do your best to stay ahead of the game. Don't wait until the last minute to whip up a quick message or anything else.

It's definitely a God called work. It requires dedication, love, support and lots of prayer. I pray for my students a lot. I have seen so many students over the years that are broken, depressed, confused and lost. I have also seen several students give their lives to Jesus through our ministry at Mantachie First Baptist Church.

I encourage you to stay the course, stay dedicated, have faithful workers, love unconditionally, and plan.

Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

God bless,
Bro. Brian Prochaska
Dir. of Student Ministries
"The Main Event"
Mantachie First
Baptist Church

I may be reached by email bjapro@nexband.com or cell 662-401-5531

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

WMAofMS20@gmail.com

President Theresa Reus

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

Treasurer Mrs. Shirlene Smith

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

Midyear WMA Meeting Set

by *President Theresa Reus*

I wanted to take the time to invite you to the WMA mid-year meeting. We will be meeting at Southeastern College, on Monday, May 17, at 7:00 p.m. Take note, this is the night before the BMAA midyear meeting. Now, if you're like me and you want to know all the details of what's going on and you just love a good business meeting, then come join us and let us know what you think. But, if you're like some people and dread business meetings and avoid them like the plague, well this is the one for you! We really won't have TOO much to discuss as far as business (and I promise to make it as painless as possible) so we will be getting to our guest speaker very quickly.

We all enjoyed her so much at the annual meeting in October, so we've asked Dawn Freeman back to speak. We wanted to capitalize on her time in the states. Dawn and her husband, Sam, are missionaries to the Philippines. Dawn is well aware of the need for the renovations of the BMAP building in the Philippines, which is our state project. So she will give us an

update on that. Dawn and I briefly discussed a theme for this meeting. I feel like so many these days are dealing with what we can only



Dawn Freeman

call grief. It comes because of the sense of loss we feel over 2020. Many of you have literally lost someone this past year. But, also the loss of what we would call normal. We've all been trying to process this and move on from it. Dawn has certainly been through this herself and will speak on "Joy in Sorrow." While Dawn doesn't mind speaking on this subject if it glorifies God, she has asked for prayer as she does.

Don't forget, "JOY" is our theme at the ladies retreat in September. Kathy Wally will be available to ask questions and hear suggestions for this. We will also have flyers about our ladies retreat to send back to each church so please try to have your church represented.

I hope to see many of you at the meeting for a time of worship and fellowship.

Campus Activity at Southeastern Baptist College



Wesley Martin, Pastor of Redemption Baptist Church in Diamondhead, MS brought the keynote message at SBC's Camp and Missions Expo



SBC's choir, "Cornerstone" recently performed at Parkview Baptist Church in Laurel, Mississippi



Renovations in the President's House are progressing. When finished the house will be able to accommodate 14 students



A good turnout at SBC's Camp and Missions Expo event



Cornerstone performs for the Jones County Board of Realtors



The Jones County Board of Realtors held a Corn Hole tournament on campus

History & Archives Commission

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440

Excerpt concerning Alien Baptism from, "Origin, Work and Practices of Association Baptists and Convention Baptists: Differences Shown and Modernism Exposed" by C.A. Darst, 1951.

Several years ago, a member of the Overland Baptist Church, who was baptized by that church, came to Bethany Baptist Church, St. Louis, seeking membership. A committee was sent to investigate the soundness of the Overland Baptist Church. I have that report before me as I write this article. Here is one question the committee asked Mr. Score, who at that time had been the pastor for 15 years: "Do you take baptism from churches that are not Baptist Churches?" The pastor answered: "Yes, if they say they have been saved." That church had been practicing that for 15 years at the time the investigation was made. The investigation was made at least 10 years ago. And mind you, that church is in the St. Louis (Convention) Association. Letters and Baptisms are exchanged freely among those churches.

The Second Baptist Church has been ousted from the St. Louis Association (Convention). Why? One of the daily papers had this to say, and I quote: "The complaint was based upon the practice at Second Baptist Church of admitting into membership in the congregation persons from other denominations who have not been immersed in baptism as required by strict Baptist doctrine."

The complaint states that the church had received members from other denominations who have not been immersed. If the members received by the Second Baptist

Church had not been immersed, then what kind of baptism had the church received? If it didn't receive immersion, it had to receive sprinkling or pouring. However, the news report says that it was sprinkling.

The charge stated that the Second Baptist Church had received baptism which was contrary to "strict Baptist doctrine." The other churches would have recognized the Second Baptist Church if she had received immersion from other faiths, instead of receiving sprinkling. Strict Baptist doctrine requires more than immersion from other denominations. True Missionary Baptists do not consider immersion by other faiths as scriptural baptism, but the convention churches in St. Louis recognize such baptisms. Yet they claim that they are contending for the faith of our forefathers. May I raise this question: Will the churches that excluded the Second Baptist Church receive her baptisms? They accept immersions from the other denominations! In either case, it is alien Baptism.

A few years ago, I asked a certain convention pastor this question: "What kind of baptism do the churches of the St. Louis Association (Convention) consider as being scriptural baptism?" I asked this question knowing that some Convention Churches in St. Louis had received immersion from other faiths and these churches were not ousted from the St. Louis (Convention) Association. The pastor an-



Jason Howard
Director

swered: "We consider any baptism that is by immersion as scriptural baptism." I have witness that can testify to the truthfulness of this statement.

The above statement made by the Convention pastor is also the practice of the Convention churches in St. Louis. I know of definite examples of open communion. Many, many of them make it a practice of exchanging pulpits with other faiths. Many of the members of the Bethany Baptist Church are acquainted with a lady who united with the Fourth Baptist Church of St. Louis on her "Christian" baptism, that is, she received baptism from the Christian Church in Herculaneum, Mo. This lady wanted to come from the Fourth Baptist Church to the Bethany Baptist Church, St. Louis, on the

swere to this kind of religious prattle." Really, simply because we are "the land of the free and the home of the brave" this can't happen? The Lord of Armies wanted His people to focus their resources on His work of building the Temple. They didn't. Haggai exposed the cause of their financial blight. The same Lord wants His people today to focus their financial resources--and there are super abundant possessions in Christian hands--on the work of Christ and His Church. The same Lord still speaks to us: "Think carefully about your ways..."

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

You may contact him at jstmcleaver@embarqmail.com

TEACHER'S NOTES

HELP FOR THE
CHURCH'S CLASSROOM

Don't Be Afraid of Silence

While in college, I had the opportunity to work for the campus radio station. I worked in the newsroom and occasionally as an on-air disc-jockey. One of the most important tasks for a DJ is to avoid silence while on-the-air. Just a few seconds of "dead-air" makes listeners nervous.

Although silence is a problem for radio, it can be appropriate and useful for educational settings. This is particularly true when asking questions about what a biblical passage says. If teachers genuinely expect learners to respond, they need to give a reasonable amount of time for students to read, think, read again, and think again as they search for an answer to a question.

Teachers who allow learners to read and think multiple times cannot be afraid of si-

lence. I suspect that learners will simply give-up trying if they know there will not be enough time given to find an answer.

In other words, the teacher will speak and provide answers. Also, the questions should focus upon answers that can be found clearly in the biblical text. Teachers can set students up for success by asking questions that appear in the biblical text.

If you are a teacher, do not be afraid of silence. Instead, embrace the opportunity to help students discover answers for themselves.

Dr. Philip Attebery has served as Academic Dean at BMA Theological Seminary, Jacksonville, Texas since 2000



Philip Attebery

baptism that the above-named Convention Baptist had received. However, she did not come, because she refused scriptural baptism. Again, the Pine Lawn Baptist Church has a member who has Methodist baptism. These are only a few of the many cases that could be mentioned.

I am not censuring the individuals in these cases; I would like to help them. The blame and responsibility must be placed at the doors of the churches and upon the pastors who refuse to "preach the word," therefore we should expose their loose practices.

Dr. Paul Weber, Secretary of Missions of the St. Louis (Convention) Association, admits that some of the churches receive alien immersion. In a letter to him, I inquired as to the practices of the churches as to baptism. He replied very briefly and said: "Some of our churches accept 'Alien Immersion' -- most of them do not." But he did not answer the question that was asked: "Do the churches consider immersion of other faiths scriptural or unscriptural?" Why are churches that receive alien immersion from other faiths allowed to remain in the fellowship of the Convention churches of St. Louis? Why did they merely point out the church that accepted sprinkling? Is it because they wouldn't have any churches left if they drew the line and accepted only churches that adhered to true Missionary Baptist doctrine?

There are many, many more cases that I could relate about the Convention Churches here and elsewhere, but space will not permit. Modernism and loose practices are adhered to on the wholesale order in a great host of Convention Churches, and true Baptists need to be blind to these things. Such churches are Missionary Baptist in name only; they are not Missionary Baptist Churches in faith and practice.

May I urge all true Missionary Baptists everywhere to stand for "the faith" that was once delivered

to the churches of our Lord Jesus Christ. True Baptist Churches should know what kind of baptism they receive, and this can only be true by knowing the church from which the baptism comes. It is time for true Baptists to wake up if they are not already awake. Heresy is on the march; therefore, we should be on guard. This little booklet is being sent forth with a prayer that Association Baptists might hear the trumpet, and that we might be better prepared to meet the issue of modernism in the name of Baptists today. Association Baptists, that is, the Churches of the North American Baptist Association (now BMA) have gone on record condemning open communion, alien baptism, pulpit affiliation, and modernism. May her flag wave in favor of the New Testament principles until Jesus comes.

Observations and Considerations by Jason Howard, Director of History and Archives.

1. What was the practice of many Convention Baptists then is very much common place today. I have spoken to many SBC Baptist ministers, and many seem to hold the view expressed by the writer above in 1951, which is, that scriptural baptism does NOT require a scriptural church.
2. What is our own practice today? Have we relegated scriptural baptism to the immersion of a believer under any "church" authority?
3. It appears Missionary Baptists then considered the baptism a church is willing to receive is the baptism they administer and grant. If they receive Protestant immersions, then it stands to reason they administer and grant, by letter, Protestant immersions.
4. Committees were formed to investigate the soundness of a church before receiving a transfer of letter.
5. A church letter is more than the transfer of a person, it is the transfer of a baptism.

Scripture Thoughts by Cleaver

Haggai 1.5 *Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.*

Commanders of military forces give orders that are more than words. Parents say to children: "Don't make me tell you again." The Lord of Armies repeats his commands to His nation and His words to His children two times in this opening chapter: here and verse seven. We need to hear these words in our day. Good Reader, let's ask this question: Does the Lord of Armies have anything to do with the financial situations of individuals, even nations? Yes, when the people of Haggai's day did not follow His words, the entire country was stricken in the pocketbook by the Lord of Armies. One might think, even dare to say: "This doesn't happen today. Our stock market is the highest it has ever been. The economy is booming. We are the most prosperous nation on earth. We are im-



Tony Cleaver