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2022 State Meeting Report



A good crown at South Forrest Baptist Church for the 2022 BMA of Mississippi Annual Meeting. Approximately 250 messengers and visitors were on hand for this year's meeting. South Forrest Church and Pastor Sidney Farmer were gracious hosts.

By the Editor

The 2022 meeting of the BMA of Mississippi was held at South Forrest Baptist Church near Hattiesburg on Tuesday March 18. Reports were given by each department and commission of the Association. Most of those reports are printed in this issue and available for our reader's benefit. We will highlight the major points and actions taken by the messengers during this report.

The 2022 Program Committee altered the schedule to have the President's message the first item of note after the opening procedures. President Blake McCain, pastor of Midway First Baptist Church, Sumrall, brought the message from James 4 presenting the 2022 Theme "Humble Yourselves Before the Lord".

With the knowledge that there would be some controversial items discussed and brought before the messenger body, McCain sought to encourage harmony to the meeting. Nearing the end of his message he stated, "I don't know how this day will turnout...I beg we keep our eyes on the Lord...Jesus is our model of humility - Let us keep our eyes on Him.

The first items of business after the president's address was the presentation of constitutional and doctrinal statement changes. Changes of this nature must be presented in one session with discussion and then voted on in a subsequent session without any further discussion.

The three-man committee elected last year to present a resolution to the question of whether one individual could hold the office of director over more than one department and/or commission presented their recommendation. The members of this committee were Brethren Ed Steele, Leon Carmical, and Vernon Newman. The change presented was to add a number 5 to Section IV of the bylaws of the BMA Foundation to read as follows: "In the event that one individual shall be the director of more than one of the eight departments or commissions the director will choose which of the departments or commissions for which he or she will serve as a trustee for the foundation. For the other departments or commissions for which he or she serves as director, the chairman of the board of trustees of said departments or commission will serve as trustee of the foundation." The committee stated that they felt that this would satisfy any need of the future.

Other minor changes were made in the Foundation by-laws dealing with titles and names and meeting times.

There were 3 additional changes presented which involved the constitution and the doctrinal statement. A constitutional change presented by Divine Grace Baptist Church, Long Beach asking that Article IV have a section 5 added as follows: "Any person that is elected, appointed, or hired may be removed from their position for any breach of trust by a majority vote of messengers present and voting during any session of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi (i.e. annual meeting, mid-year meeting or any special called meeting). Upon a vote of removal they will no longer be entitled to any future "financial compensation or benefits".

During discussion it was noted that the wording of this would mean that any employee of any department or commission could be dismissed by the messenger body. While the intent was directed more at department and commission leaders, it was noted that the word-

Two New Department Leaders Elected

During the 2022 annual meeting the messenger body approved the election of two new department leaders.

Bro. Anders Lee, pastor of Central Church, Southaven was elected the new state youth director. Bro. Chris Yager, state missionary to Meridian, was elected as the Interim State Missions Director. Below are comments from both.

New Youth Director Anders Lee Shares His Vision upon accepting the position of State Youth Director

I realize that this body has heavy matters to attend to. It might be advised that I speak briefly, however, I KNOW of no other matter so pressing than the state of the future of the BMA ... our youth. I ask your patience for a moment & your ear.



Newly elected Youth Director Anders Lee sharing the need and urgency of youth ministry

I'd like to thank the youth trustees for their hard work behind the scenes. They have endured the difficulties of unexpected twists & turns since 2019. They deserve the association's gratitude & honor for their diligence through the trials.

Would you join me in recognizing those men: Adam Parker their chairman, Rick Clark, Ben Flynt, Cliff Jenkins, Wesley Martin, Brody McCool & Tommy Shroads.

I am humbled to be put into this position! THANK YOU for the opportunity to serve. I have had a heart for camp & youth ministry for a long while. It is a passion the Lord gave me. As a boy I attended camps sponsored by the BMA of Mississippi as far back as when Bro. Crawley was director. I was saved & surrendered to preach because of the influence of this department's camps. Forever the memories of being in the auditorium at Perkinston resonate within me. It was a joy working with Bro. Latrelle for a few years. Personally, I know & have seen the importance & value of our youth ministry.

See Anders Lee
on page 3

A Message from Newly Elected Interim Missions Director Chris Yager

"I am so honored and blessed to have the opportunity to serve the Lord and this association in this position. Thank you so much for your graciousness and kindness to me and my family. I have so enjoyed the opportunity to travel the state and attend so many of our local associations. Your questions, encouragement, and prayers for me blessed me greatly. I enjoyed meeting so many of the wonderful people of this association. I am excited to come back throughout this year to grow these new relationships into great friendships.



Interim Missions Director Chris Yager sharing his hopes for the future of Mississippi Missions

Let me say thank you to our association as well for the love that was demonstrated to me at the annual meeting. Your willingness to work through disagreement for the cause of missions is, to me, amazing! I am praying that we can strive together this year in an equally unified vision to reach this state with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We have more than 1.4 million Mississippians that are unchurched or de-churched. We have a massive goal ahead of us, but I am confident in Christ that it can be accomplished. Even in this interim role, I am asking the Lord to do big things. I am praying that more missions will be planted, missionaries will be trained to thrive in their role, and that we can begin the needed work to see more men trained to help fill the pulpits of the churches without pastors. I want to work with our Youth Department, College, as well as all of our departments to help get this pipeline of training established. We need more preachers, and more disciplined in in the work of the ministry. Let

See Yager on page 8

Continued on page 9

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



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Publications Department Annual Report

by Don Brown, editor
October 18, 2022

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. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

Psalm 121

This Psalm is classic in both calming and encouraging. It speaks of nature, time, eternity, and the God who is there through it all. Psalm 121 is defined by Bible scholars as a meditation, which results from the question raised in verse 1. Its date and author are unknown. The thought moves from the admission of need for help (vv. 1-2) to the nature of that help (vv. 3-8).

All of God's children and believers should know that we have a God that loves us and one that cares for us with a love that is truly indescribable. The realities of life

and our sometimes struggle should drive us to His presence.

The Lord has been good to me personally and to this ministry for the past 44 1/2 years. I gave my first report to this body in October 1978. This marks my 45th report to the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. I have enjoyed the work and know that God put me here. It is not a job to me, but a ministry lifestyle.

I am disappointed, but not discouraged concerning our lack of growth over the past few years. We have gone from over 5,400 subscribers about 20 years ago to currently only 3,100. If we review the number of churches currently counted as members of the BMA of Mississippi and the decline of church attendance, then we are not as concerned about the Publications Department, but about our Association as a whole.

A couple of years ago we provided the paper to all churches in our state at no charge for a couple of months. Our hope was to encourage each church to subscribe to the Mississippi Baptist. Only one church signed up to continue to receive the paper. I would hope that if each of our pastors would strongly recommend to their church members that it would be greatly beneficial to them and their church that most would

take them up on that challenge. I think - **I know** - the paper is vital to our work. Communication and information is so necessary for our churches to feel connected to the work of the BMA. We surely need all churches to provide the Mississippi Baptist to their membership families. It will pay dividends for our Association AND for each local church.

We are providing the paper to each of our mission projects across the state and encourage their mother churches to help us in this endeavor by paying for each mission's papers. They are members of their mother church and this would help us continue to provide this service. The new members of each mission need to know who they are and the Association of churches that are sponsoring them.

As you have noticed from the trustee minutes, we are recommending to print only one issue per month. Last year we saw financial issues in the forecast and this body approved the move to print only one issue per month when it became necessary. The cost of printing continues to increase at a rapid rate. Our printer keeps passing along their increases in the cost from their basic suppliers - mainly the cost of newsprint. We have seen at least 3 cost increases in this area alone during the past year. Your first-class postage now costs you sixty cents. Our postage cost has gone from about \$650.00 per issue to over \$800.00 per issue. We have tried to publish a 12 page issue once per month in replacing our two monthly issues. We have done most of these issues in color. We can print one 12 page color issue for less than we can print two 8 page black and white issues.

We recently acquired new software which gives us many options that the old software did not. We are still learning it and making updates and changes to our publication as we can.

The economy has hurt us just as it has every area of our nation. We adjust as needed for our work just as other businesses do and as we all do in our household budgets. Our readers are a loyal group and look forward to receiving the paper. We get positive feedback from many of our on a regular basis.

Finances

We have had some expenses above the normal monthly operating costs this year. We upgraded our computer system and equipment. Even with increased costs our expenses were only \$980.00 over our income. If we had continued to publish two issues per month our annual expenses would have been a great deal higher. It is noteworthy that at last year's meeting we were able to report that we ended 2021 with a \$3,000.00 increase over expense.

Your monthly donations above the cost of your monthly subscriptions and your generous giving during our Special Emphasis drive each year keeps us in business. Let me be clear - we are very careful about our

finances and spend only the bare minimum to keep this work financially viable.

Content

Our mission is to inform the churches and members of the work of the BMA of Mississippi and all areas of our national ministry work. We publish reports from each of our departments and commissions and each of our auxiliaries. We get regular input from many of our national departments and several of our foreign missionaries. We seek out and print articles, columns, news, and specialty items that we feel are of interest and benefit to our readers.

We solicit input from our readers, pastors, and churches. Our pages are available for guest articles, editorials, and other beneficial content.

I commend all who regularly give of their time to fill the pages of the Mississippi Baptist with informative and beneficial material. A special thanks to Mrs. Carolyn Hagler for her articles highlighting that she is still *In His Grip*. Her articles are unique and always have a spiritual application.

Longevity

Some have asked how long I plan to be editor. To say that I have not given that some thought would be dishonest on my part. My health is generally well and I have no issues that would hinder this work. I am 74 years young on the outside and somewhere between 16 and 25 on the inside.

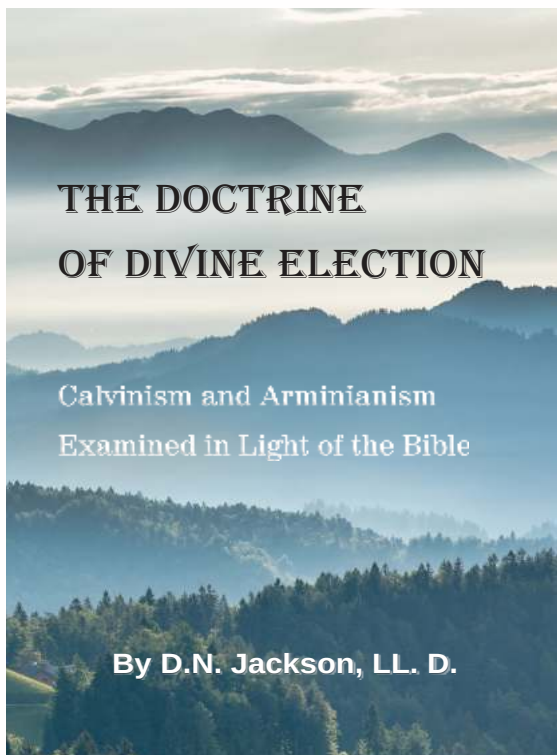
Nothing goes on forever. Have I given some thought to retirement? Yes. A few years ago I thought a goal of 50 years as editor would be really nice. I still think it would be nice, but I would be 79. Does the Lord have a date? I think He probably does. When He reveals that date to me or when I feel that the time has arrived, I plan to be open and honest about it. It would be greatly beneficial for our Association and to this work to train someone in all aspects of our operation. I am the only employee and the only one who knows all the various duties and requirements. There are many areas in which we work including, but not limited to, the following - The U.S. Postal Service, our printer and their requirements, and the financial and banking services. I have shared this with our trustees and they are keenly aware of the operation needs.

My goal is to continue the work of Publications. The ministry of the Mississippi Baptist is important to our work and to the continued health of our churches and association. I ask that you pray for and support this ministry so we can continue the work of communicating and informing and supporting the great work of the BMA of Mississippi.

I close with the words that began this report from **Psalm 121** *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.*

Jackson Book Republished

With the endorsement of the D.N. Jackson family we have republished his book on the doctrine of Election. All profits will go to fund a scholarship in his name at Southeastern Baptist College. Jackson was the founding president of SBC.



Orders may be place at

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with a \$3.00 mailing fee

By D.N. Jackson, LL. D.

Mississippi State Missionary Reports

Help Wanted Update

By Missionary Scott Brocius

In March of 2022, I wrote an article with entitled "Help Wanted," I would like to give an update on how faithful God has been in answering this specific prayer! In my previous report, I requested for the churches of the BMA of Mississippi to pray the Lord would send us some faithful men. With the time that has passed between God has truly blessed our work in sending us two families equipped with faithful men! They have been a blessing and willing to labor wherever they are needed. Most folks don't know how big of a blessing this is to a church planting pastor. Just a few of the places that these men have been willing to serve is in the areas of outreach, Sunday school, and church maintenance.



Scott Brocius

As a mission church, we have been majoring on outreach for some time. Now

our goal is to reach the lost world with the gospel of Christ. The reality is sometimes it's hard for one man. With the addition of these men, as well as others the Lord has blessed us with, we have been able to maximize outreach efforts. The Lord has also opened the door for a new outreach program. We have been blessed to be able to go into the public school system in Buckatunna and have devotions with their sports teams. We have also been growing to the point we have had to add a new Sunday school class. This class is taught by one of our faithful men and is a teen class. What an exciting time for a church planter. Please pray for Brother Devin as he leads our teens in the study of God's truths.

Lastly, just as with any other building, ours comes with maintenance. As a church planter, the pastor has big shoes to fill and often it comes with many roles. Simply put, you're not just the preacher. Some of the titles include but are not limited to preacher, song leader, grounds keeper, and janitor. These faithful folks that have come along sure do make the burden of maintenance a lot easier. As always, we appreciate the time and support of our sister churches of the BMA of Mississippi, please continue to pray for us at Canaan Land.

Anders Lee

From page 1

But this is NOT about me. I share those personal thoughts to wholeheartedly say it is time to provide quality camps again so a new generation of young people can be brought into the kingdom & into His service. God can & will do it again!

We are in a cultural war! The youth are being greatly attacked and it is our task to be in the fight! This will take great effort and time, not just of myself, but of our committee, and our churches to begin participating in planned events. It will take all of us to make this fruitful again with the Lord's grace and blessing. So Pray!!!

I want to pledge to you that I will give you at least 3 years. If we can't get this off the ground in that time I will gladly step aside and let another fill the spot. In these three years I promise you I will give the department 100%. Should the Lord bless & we see growth & fruitfulness, I may hang around a little longer if you will have me.

We begin our efforts with three priorities:

1. Build a good network of youth workers/pastors & directors from all over the State to develop relationships & help each other in ministry. This network will give feedback about future plans and through it I want to hear the heart of those workers in the BMA of Mississippi.

2. Re-establish relationships around the State & restore the confidence that has been lost in this department. I and our committee members will visit local associations. I need local leaders/moderators to let me know when and where you meet so that I can come to you soon. I will do my best to get to you all by the

Spring. You deserve to see us & hear from us!

3. We will plan & set a calendar of events in motion to see this youth ministry flourish once again. Although I do not have anything to communicate at this time, soon as the Lord directs, we will be releasing information.

I ask you for 3 things...

1. Pray for me, this committee, and events forth coming! We need the hand of God in this ministry!
2. Participate in the camps and youth events! Set aside presuppositions dictated by the past and commit to participating.

3. Put us in your budget! Thank you to all who already give!

Dr. Kellar (the beggar) taught us preacher boys at SBC; If you don't ask, they won't give. So, I ask you to put us in your budget!

Once again, thank you and I look forward to working with & for you all!

New Youth Director Requests

Attention Local Associations

New State Youth Director Requests Information

I am very excited to begin promoting the work & plans of the Youth Department! I need your help! I would love to visit each local association soon! I will be making the Big Creek Association on November 10th & the Oak Grove Association on November 17th! If you are the moderator of a local association please contact me and let me know when would be the right time for coming. Contact me at Anders.Lee571@gmail.com or 901-343-3293. Thank you so much!!!

Report on Hispanic Missions in Mississippi

By Estuardo Marroquin
Hispanic Missions Coordinator

During the months of September and October, Hispanic heritage is celebrated in the United States. For the Hispanic missions it was very happy to be able to celebrate these dates. Each church and Hispanic missions field carried out different activities and it was very happy to celebrate with regional food from each Latino country represented in our congregations. This activity left many doors open to talk about Jesus since the gospel of Salvation could be shared with many guests.

In October, we had the opportunity to receive training for Sunday School teachers. The teachers of the different Hispanic churches in our state of Mississippi were present on October 14 and 15 at El Camino Church in Laurel. About 40 teachers from all Hispanic churches and missions attended to receive this great training that was taught by BMAA Baptist Publishing House.

We enjoyed the good fellowship we had those two days but above all for the wonderful teachings that our Hispanic teachers received to be able to use in a better way the material that is used in Spanish-speaking churches in the United States and in the rest of the world where the Spanish language is spoken.

We appreciate the effort of all the brothers and sisters who came from afar to be able to participate in this training hoping that it will bring much fruit in the teaching of the Word of God in the Hispanic churches of our association in Mississippi.

We ask that you pray for the Hispanic fields in our state, and we can move forward to magnify the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Estuardo Marroquin



Mississippi State Guard Seeks Asst. Chaplains

The Mississippi State Guard is recruiting Chaplain Assistants. If you are interested, please contact Chaplain (COL) Scott Carson, Command Chaplain at 601-433-4736.

The Mississippi State Guard is an all-volunteer organization tasked with supplementing the forces of the Mississippi Army National Guard and/or Air National Guard upon the order of the Governor of the State of Mississippi through the Adjutant General of the State of Mississippi. While its primary mission is to assist in coping with any man-made or natural disaster, the MSSG trains to be ready to meet any assignment. As a State Guard Unit, it is not subject to any federal authority, with regard to assignment and/or control.

More information about this professional organization can be found at www.msstateguard.us



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Southeastern Baptist College President's Report BMA of Mississippi Annual Meeting October 18, 2022

To begin this annual report on the ministry of Southeastern Baptist College I quote the words of the great hymn writer, Fanny Crosby, "To God be the glory for the great things He hath done!"

As we enter the 74th year of this great institution, I am excited to report that following last year's largest full-time student body, our current full-time student body population is the second largest in the history of the college. This semester we have 91 full-time students, down only by four from last year, for a total of 103 students. This also coincides with this semester as the second highest for the number of hours attempted. In comparison, we only had a total of 36 students for the Fall of 2017.

In our current weekly chapel programs of this semester, we have had six students make public professions of faith, with 12 more rededicating their lives to living for the Lord. SBC is not only an educational platform, but we believe it to be an essential ministry of the BMA of Mississippi. A major emphasis among our faculty and staff, is the evangelism and discipleship of the student body.

Last year we were nearly at full capacity in our dormitories. As we anticipated a

housing shortage for future years, the Lord enabled us to secure seven cottages on five acres of land near Soso that can house up to 24 students in their current configuration. Numerous students are already living in these accommodations which have been a great help to us in addressing our housing shortage.

An area of concern we are beginning to address is campus security. Recent events on school campuses have caused us to reevaluate the public's access to the school grounds. SBC currently has an open campus that is no longer conducive to the safety of our students and staff. We are exploring ways to begin securing access to our campus. This will be an expensive project, but it must be done to protect our people, to deter crime in general, and to reassure parents and students alike, that SBC is a safe, educational environment.

Our sports programs are going well as they prepare for their upcoming seasons. We have hired Robbie Walters, an alumnus of SBC, as our new Athletic Director and have new head coaches for men's baseball team, Raphael Farrell and women's basketball team, Ericka Stayton. Women's softball, coached by Stephen Ulmer, took to the



Dr. Scott Carson
President

field for the first time in the Spring Semester and fared well for their first season and we look forward to their upcoming games.

After interviewing numerous youth and assistant pastors in the area and meeting with our theology professors, we have fielded a new Foundation of Ministry certificate that addresses essential elements for new ministers in church ministry. It is a 29-hour program and all credits earned can be transferred toward a degree in ministry, should the student want to continue their education with SBC. We aggressively continue to work on our Elementary Education degree requirements with the Mississippi Department of Education and are exploring an exciting new opportunity to develop an aviation degree through SBC. Please pray that these will soon come to fruition.

As the smallest accredited college in Mississippi, and the only accredited Bible college in Mississippi, we continue to expand our influence among the family of colleges and universities within the state. We have secured reciprocal agreements for the exchange of credits with several institutions including Southern Mississippi University, Mississippi Valley State University, William Carey University, and most recently with Mississippi State University. In addition, we are pursuing other colleges for agreements and of note, Tougaloo College initiated contact with SBC for a formalized agreement.

Holloway's Dairy Bar did not renew their contract with us and after researching options, we settled on providing meals only for students and staff. Our new Charger's Café manager is providing excellent and nutritious meals for our campus residents.

It should be evident to us all that the Lord is blessing Southeastern Baptist College. Please remember our faculty and staff in your prayers. I have learned that with opportunities comes greater demand on time, financials, and our efforts. I am continually amazed at the dedication of all our employees. I will state it again; we are highly blessed with an under paid and over worked group of staff members, who are completely devoted to the mission and ministry of your college!

Thank you for your church financial support and individual special donations which has helped us to advance and grow to become the solid institution the college is today. Your kind words of support are especially edifying. All of us here at SBC are committed to the doctrinal statement of the BMA of Mississippi. We are determined, especially as our society becomes more secular, that Southeastern Baptist College continues to stand as a conservative, Bible believing, Bible teaching, higher educational institution.

Equipping the Saints,
Dr. Scott R. Carson

Special Emphasis

Southeastern Baptist College's Special Emphasis Months were July and August for focused donations from churches and individuals. Although our dates for this year's Special Emphasis are now past, we will continue to accept Special Emphasis gifts as they come in. Also, your church may have sent a donation, but if it was not "designated" for Special Emphasis, it was not recorded as such. Please contact us if this may be the case and we will correct it and list your church in a future publication.

Received donations for this year's Special Emphasis Month:

- Paramount, Wiggins
- Forked Oak, Boonville
- Westover, Hattiesburg
- Magnolia, Hattiesburg
- East Amory, Amory
- Washington, Neely
- Judson Baptist Association
- First Baptist, Calhoun
- First Baptist, Shady Grove
- Union, Bay Springs
- Michael Meadows
- Ballardsville, Tupelo
- Spring Hill, Ocean Springs
- New Bethany, Seminary
- Pine Ridge, Laurel
- Little Creek, Perkinston
- First Baptist, Bay Springs
- Parkview, Laurel

Oak Grove Association
Grace, Clinton

Online Bible Degrees

Did you know you can earn your accredited Bible college degree in the comfort of your own home? You can take one class (3 hours) or up to 18 hours completely online each semester. And you need not be living in Mississippi to take classes at Southeastern! You may want to have a discussion with your children or grandchildren today about taking classes with SBC. We are conservative and Bible centered. Our credits are transferable to other accredited colleges. Go to our website at <https://southeasternbaptist.edu/future-students/application> to begin your college education journey today! Or call SBC at 601-426-6346.

Foundations in Ministry Certificate

SBC has fielded a certificate for new ministers who are interested in gaining knowledge in the basics of theology and church ministries. This is a 29-hour program and the student may take one class or a full load as desired. Numerous ministers throughout Mississippi have already begun their studies and the classes can be taken fully online. Once the certificate is earned, all credits are transferable toward an Associate or Bachelor degree should the stu-

dent desire to continue in their education with SBC. Contact our Admissions Officer today! 601-426-6346, or apply online at www.southeasternbaptist.edu

Available 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 for more information.

Washers and Dryers

Our students are in need of three of each: heavy duty washers and dryers. Three of our older and used models have stopped working and are beyond repair. Can you or your church provide for this need? Let us know if you are able to help support our student's needs. Thank you to Cypress Creek Baptist Church of Brooklyn, Mississippi, for sending a designated donation toward this project!

Estate Planning

Does your personal estate planning include a donation to Southeastern Baptist College? Contact Rosemary Davis at 601-426-6346 discuss with her how you can bless SBC with your special gift.

Need a Preacher?

Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit or to make a presentation about the work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. Chaplain (Colonel) Carson can also provide an update on the BMAA Chaplaincy and deliver a related message. Thank you to Campground Baptist Church of Gulfport and Big Creek Baptist Church of Soso, to preach their Sunday messages. Dr. Carson also delivered the annual message to the BMA of Alabama. You can reach Dr. Carson at 601-433-4736 or scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu

Amazon Smile

Christmas will be upon us before we know it! As you begin to make lists and purchase gifts from Amazon, remember, anyone shopping on Amazon Smile 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! Thank you for those who are already using this unique method to benefit Southeastern College.

More Southeastern College News



An updated scoreboard replaces the old one in the college gym



Students loading Christmas Shoeboxes for our BMA of MS churches

Upcoming Charger Basketball Games

Men

Thursday, Nov 3, 7:30 p.m. @ Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, MS
 Saturday, Nov 5, 6 p.m. @ Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, MS
 Monday, Nov 7, 7 p.m. home game vs Stillman College
 Tuesday, Nov 8, TBA home game vs LA Community Christian
 Friday, Nov 11, TBA @ Bethel University Classic, McKenzie, TN
 Saturday, Nov 12, TBA @ Bethel Univ. Classic, McKenzie, TN
 Monday, Nov 14, 7 p.m. @ William Carey, Hattiesburg, MS
 Friday, Nov 18, 6 p.m. home game vs Bob Jones University
 Saturday, Nov 19, 12 p.m. home game vs Bob Jones University
 Tues, Nov 22, 7 p.m. @ Mississippi College, Clinton, MS
 Friday, Dec 2, 7:30 p.m. @ Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, AL

Women

Saturday, Nov 5, 2 p.m. home game vs Coastal Alabama South
 Monday, Nov 7, 5 p.m. home game vs Stillman College
 Friday, Nov 11, TBA @ Miles College, Fairfield, AL
 Saturday, Nov 12, TBA @ Miles College, Fairfield, AL
 Monday, Nov 14, 5:30 p.m. @ Belhaven University, Jackson, MS
 Tuesday, Nov 15, TBA, @ LA Comm. Christian, Lafayette, LA
 Wednesday, Nov 16, TBA, @ Univ. of West Ala., Livingston, AL
 Saturday, Nov 29, TBA, @ John Melvin University, Crowley, LA
 Saturday, Dec 2, 6 p.m. @ Pensacola Christian, Pensacola, FL

First Baptist, Bay Springs Set Revival

Dr. John David Smith, President of BMA Global Missions, has been in the ministry since 1987. He and his wife, Kim, are from Bay Springs and have been married for 31 years. They have two sons: Josiah, age 26 (married to Baylee and they have one son, Jameson) and Seth, age 24. The Smith family served as missionaries in the Cape Verde Islands from 1992-2004. The Smiths are members at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway. In 2007, Dr. Smith became an international assistant for the Baptist Missionary Association of America. That same year he took on the responsibility of heading up the missions degree program at Central Baptist College, Conway, Arkansas. He is currently an associate professor of missions at CBC. In 2010, he was elected to serve as the President of BMA Global Missions and serves alongside more than 400 missionaries in almost 70 countries.



Dr. Smith

Bro. Jeff Dixon will serve as guest music minister. Bro. Dixon is Pastor at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Yazoo City and has recently been assistant director of BMA revolving loan fund in Laurel. His wife, Rosalind, teaches at Laurel Christian.



Dixon

Revival services will be held at First Baptist Church, Highway 18, Bay Springs on November 7 – 9 at 7:00 p.m. A nursery will be provided. For more information, please contact Bro. Sprayberry at 601-764-2492.



Chaplain (Colonel) Carson presents the Mississippi State Guard Chaplain's Coin to SGT Kerr, Chaplain's Assistant, for achieving 1st Brigade's NCO of the Year

John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

John 1:15-18

BMA OF AMERICA CHAPLAINCY

In coordination with BMA Missions, the Chaplaincy endorses and cares for chaplains, both civilian and military, as they carry the Gospel

Dr. Scott Carson, Director

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440

601-426-6346 - Email - scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu



BMAA Chaplain Jeremy Promotion

Baptist Missionary Association of America Chaplain, Jeremy Miller, was recently promoted to the rank of Colonel within the Arkansas Army National Guard. Jeremy's promotion makes him the highest ranking Army chaplain within the Arkansas National Guard and elevates him as the Arkansas Joint Forces Headquarters Chaplain. His primary duties among many, are providing senior executive supervision of all chaplains serving in the state's National Guard and he is the lead chaplain charged with the responsibility of advising the senior Arkansas Joint Forces commander and his staff regarding religious support for all their soldiers and family members, as well as Department of Defense employees. Chaplain (Colonel) Miller is currently working to complete a four-unit Clinical Pastoral Education program through the National Guard.



Pictured is Chaplain Jeremy Miller having his eagles pinned on by his spouse, Beth.

Big Creek Baptist Church Seeking Pastor

Big Creek Baptist Church of Soso, Mississippi, is seeking a full-time pastor. Anyone feeling led to pursue this position please send a resume or contact Pulpit Chairman Daniel Hite at 601-577-9723, hitedaniel@aol.com or at the church office.

The church mailing address is Big Creek Baptist Church, 28 Big Creek Church Road, Soso, MS 39480. Church email is office@bigcreeksoso.com and phone and fax numbers are 601-763-8100 or Fax 601-763-4430.

Alabama Church Seeking Pastor

Siloam Missionary Baptist Church of Winfield, Alabama, is searching for a pastor. The church is located in Fayette County in northwest Alabama about 30 miles from the Mississippi state line. The position is bi-vocational. Those interested are asked to call Jim Carlo at 205-412-9881 or contact him by email at 1857jc@gmail.com.

mission:world

NEWS



OPEN HEARTS AND GOSPEL RESPONSES

BY: Jeremiah S
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

Editor's Note: For the past decade, Jeremiah has been serving in the district of Ahmednagar, located in the southern state of Maharashtra, which has a population of 4.5 million people, most of whom are Hindu. Ninety-four percent of the world's Hindus live in India, but there are substantial populations of Christians, Sikhs, and Buddhists. India's massive population includes not only the vast majority of the world's Hindus, but also the second-largest group of Muslims within a single country behind Indonesia. While there are legal protections for religious groups and minorities, Indians still experience "high" levels of government restrictions on religion.

Our work is growing, and most of our churches are also growing after the lockdown period. God is tremendously blessing our efforts in one mission area in the district of Ahmednagar where we have baptized more than thirty people in the last six months. I am working with a young church planter named Bro. Jayesh in three church plants in this district, and Bro. Jayesh and his wife were some of the first people that I baptized eight years ago.

God is opening people's hearts, and the people are responding to the gospel. I want to tell you about two stories, each story about new believers and how they came to know Christ:

First, a lady named Savita visited our prayer meeting at one of the church plants with one of our members three months ago. She had a very rough life and found herself deep in sin after suffering abuse and experiencing drug addiction. Savita lived with multiple partners in the last six years but never married any of them. That day when she visited our prayer meeting, God opened her heart and she was filled with guilt. She cried in front of the whole group and accepted that she was a sinner, repented of her sins, and accepted Christ. She was baptized just three weeks ago. We are gracious to God for opening people's hearts to receive his word, changing their lives forever.

The second story is about a man named Shiva. His wife came to our church regularly, but Shiva never came; he was a very staunch Hindu and an alcoholic. A few months ago, their daughter had pneumonia, so we went to their home to pray for her, and by God's grace he was home at the time. He did not speak a word and almost seemed angry as we prayed for the little girl. After praying, we spoke to him and told him about Jesus, but he just sat there, listening to what we had to say, never speaking a word. A couple of weeks later he visited our Thursday prayer meeting and listened

to the message being preached from the third chapter of John, the story of Nicodemus. The Holy Spirit opened his heart, he was filled with guilt, and that day he accepted Jesus and insisted on getting baptized immediately.

God is great and faithful. He is bringing a revival in this church plant. We praise and thank God for what he is doing in Ahmednagar.





mission:world

NEWS

INDIGENOUS MISSIONS

BY: Dr. John David Smith

BMA Missions

bmamissions.org

The fourth value of BMA Global Missions is that we practice indigenous missions principles. The word indigenous simply means that something belongs locally. The ministries that we initiate around the world must be sustainable and reproducible in each of those local contexts. Those ministries will not last, and certainly will not multiply, if they are dependent on outsiders to provide vision, finances, and leadership.

In missionary ministry, a certain tension has always existed in the instruction and application of biblical truth in local cultural contexts. This process is referred to as indigenization: the attempt to make the gospel belong in a local setting and not be viewed as a foreign idea or expression. Unfortunately, in many places of the world where Western missionaries have pioneered gospel ministry, that ministry has been presented with a significant Western cultural baggage.

Jesus, the Son of God in the flesh, practiced indigenous missions principles during his own personal ministry. He did not walk into a historical/cultural vacuum; he walked into a very specific history and culture in Israel. In his efforts to convey his message and develop reproducing leaders, he worked in and with the cultural norms. He did not view all culture as antagonistic to his mission.

Jesus used four common metaphors to communicate and illustrate his message: farming, vines, sheep, and fishing. These, of course, are obviously taken directly from daily life in Israel. Jesus also utilized the synagogue system as long as they would allow him, and he employed the rabbinical structure of instruction where a rabbi would have a select group of students/followers. Jesus spoke in parables, which was a common teaching method of the local culture. There were many things that Jesus did not accept or utilize from the culture, especially the religious system of his day.

Indigenous missions principles are quite evident in the New Testament. Historically, men like Henry Venn and Roland Allen, who both lived and served as missionaries in the early twentieth century, articulated indigenous principles, and they continue to be a very good resource in the on-going discussion.

For many years, a guiding concept in the indigenization conversation has been the “Three-self” model for churches. In this idea, the goal is for a church that is self-governing, self-sustaining, and self-propagating. This simply means that the church makes its own decisions, pays its own way, and is able to multiply . . . all without outside interference or help. This model has been scrutinized for various reasons. One criticism is that it overly emphasizes the “self” part and creates isolation. Another criticism offered that it was incomplete and two more “selfs” were added: self-expressing and self-theologizing. These simply mean that the local

church looks like a church in that culture in architecture, worship style, communication style, leadership selection, etc. Self-theologizing does not mean it can create for itself some special system of theology, it means that they must build and apply biblical theology in local themes that we simply do not have very often in the West such as polygamy, animism etc.

BMA Global Missions attempts to carry out healthy indigenous principles. Noted missionary Hudson Taylor once said that “missionaries are the scaffolding, not the edifice.” Like Christ, our missionary methods must include local forms that will allow us to develop local leaders in local systems that will carry on after the scaffolding has been removed.

Two primary ways that BMA Global Missions attempts to accomplish this goal include our church planting grant program through ChangeMaker missionaries and our practice of the “principle of the thirds.” Both of these efforts have as their stated goal to partner without creating dependence. Prayerfully, this also does not take us to the extremes where we have no ongoing relationship and do not cultivate the “self” part in isolation but in association.

The grant program through ChangeMaker missionaries is carried out in the lives of non-American church planters who receive a church planting grant for a limited number of years. In essence the partnership is with both the project and the person, but it is not open-ended. It is intended to help the church plant go to the five-self stage and repeat the process as the church becomes part of our worldwide family.

The principle of the thirds is intended to support those churches in their advancement by not giving them gifts where they are not vetted in the process. If they want to make a major purchase or build a building etc., they are expected to fund the first third of the total cost, then we will try to help them with a third, and the last third can be an interest free loan from our international loan fund. In the end, we partner and facilitate; we do not enable and create dependence. Also, the local congregation will have paid two-thirds of the total cost when the project is complete.

Much like our own children, we look forward to the day when they are independent from us as parents in finances, decision making, and other areas of life. That does not end our relationship, it merely changes the dynamics. Overall, we as parents rejoice in seeing our children flourish on their own. BMA Global Missions is thankful that we have many family members in our association around the world that function on their own and yet they are a vital part of the ongoing ministry.

If the edifice is going to shine and the children are going to live in a healthy manner on their own . . . the scaffolding and the unhealthy systems of enablement and dependency must come down.



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Dwight Lindsey

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

Director's Annual Report

We are thankful to serve the children the Lord sends our way and aim to be faithful in our service in all the changes we face. We have served 14 children since last year's annual meeting. It has been a constant ebb and flow. We currently serve 5 long-term children that have permanent placement with us and we have served 9 others for various times throughout the year. We have invested the love of Christ in some for a week and others as much as nine months. The verse that has echoed in my mind over the past few months has been, Colossians 3:23, *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.* That is how I've thought about the changes of the chaotic year, from summer schedules to now the more rhythmic school schedule. We seek to serve when our kids and schedules are all over the place, and we seek to serve when our daily events are more nailed down to a routine. We have had 4 emergency placements this summer but have now calmed down after finalizing permanent placement of one of our young men in Wayne County Chancery Court back on August 17th. One of my favorite things of our school schedule is that it allows for a more structured daily devotion time with our kids. It is wonderful to start our days, being in the Word together and keeping a Christ centered focus throughout our days. All but one of our young men are on the A & B honor roll as of their first report

cards, and we are proud of all their hard work.

Our efforts continue to aim at helping as many children and families as we can. While typing my report, I had an impromptu meeting with a school district representative about the possibility of helping with children that come through their system as homeless. We are currently scheduling meetings with other children's homes, adoption agencies, ministries, and educational opportunities that could open doors in the future for more service. Please be in prayer for these meetings and opportunities.

Current needs are lengthy. Our current Special Emphasis this year is aimed at Funding a new roof, Support for Future House Parents, Children's Christmas Gifts, and the general expenses of the Home. We are still in need of house parents, but our most current pressure feels like it is coming from what appears to be an upcoming lull in long-term placements. With our numbers now at capacity from the state, the reporting of new children will inevitably slow. We pray this doesn't hurt our support and ability to continue the work the Lord has begun here. Pray with us about meeting these goals and pray for our resolve through the ups and downs of this ministry.

In His Service,
Director Dwight Lindsey

Yager from page 1

us pray together that the Lord of the harvest will send forth laborers into the field in this vital time. I am so excited to do these big things with you!

In this transition, I know that we will have a lot of adjustments to make that will slow down business for a few weeks, but I hope to have everything up and running as fast as possible. Thank you for your patience as we make these adjustments. If I can be a help to you in anyway, please don't hesitate to call, text or email. Thank you for entrusting me with this amazing responsibility. Missions, church planting, church revitalization, and discipleship are the joy of my heart. May the Lord do exceeding, abundantly above all that we could ask or think this year as we strive together for the faith of the gospel.

May the Lord bless you and May He truly bless the BMA of Mississippi!

Yours for His Service,
Bro. Chris Yager

Missionaries on leave and available to visit your church



Missionaries to the Philippines Danny and Rita Ballard will be on Furlough in the states this December through March.

They are wishing to visit our churches to share their ministry. Contact them via email at Ballardsphilippines@gmail.com.



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home

Special Emphasis

Goal:

\$15,000

Projects:

1. Roof Repairs & Maintenance
2. Children's Christmas Gifts
3. Payroll to add a new House Parent couple to the staff
4. Funds to meet the daily needs of the house

Scripture Thoughts by Cleaver

Dr. Tony Cleaver is a retired U.S. Army Chaplain and Director of Distance Learning for BMA Seminary. He may be contacted at jstmcleaver@gmail.com

...Of David, the Lord's servant." Psalm 36

The title to this Psalm informs us this was written by David. I find it amazing as he identified himself! He could have distinguished himself as the grandson of Ruth and Boaz. He could have used this line of family lineage to leverage himself in a bumptious way. He did not. He could have said he was a special friend of Samuel, the prophet of God. He could have mentioned Samuel sought him out on occasion. But he did not.

He could have said he was an exceptional young man in his skill with a sling. After all, he killed Goliath. But he did not. He could have said he was a special operations commander in Saul's army having had military success unparalleled in the nation's history. But he did not. He could have said he was crowned king of the nation with all the pomp and circumstance afforded any royalty. But he did not. He could have said he was rich beyond measure with gold, silver, and other honors of wealth. But he did not.

How did David label himself in the title of this Psalm? What description did he give himself? How did he define himself? The words are clear in his explanation: "*David, the Lord's servant.*" Dear Reader, how do you identify yourself? What words would you use to speak of who and what you are? Would you list your family history, your academic degrees, your financial accumulations, your standing in the community, your political prowess? Just what would you use to describe yourself?

Jesus was a servant. Jesus came to serve, not to lord it over humankind. This lesson He tried over and again to give to His followers: "*Then a dispute also arose among them about who should be considered the greatest. But he said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who have authority over them have themselves called 'Benefactors.' It is not to be like that among you. On the contrary, whoever is greatest among you should become like the youngest, and whoever leads, like the one serving.'*" (Luke 22.24-27)

However great and powerful and famous David might have been, he knew the greatest title he could possibly have was to be called a servant of the Lord. Jesus again delivered a visual lesson to his disciples as he washed their feet. "*You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are speaking rightly, since that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done for you.*" (John 13.13-15)

Good Reader, are you a servant of the Lord?

Dear Reader, how do you identify yourself? What words would you use to speak of who and what you are?



Dr. Tony Cleaver

Annual Meeting

From page 1

ing would allow for someone such as an instructor at Southeastern College could be dismissed even though that individual may have a signed contract. This was a valid point. This proposed change was defeated in the afternoon session. This writer must note here that this change was presented in response to a ruling in the recent midyear meeting that the association could not dismiss a department leader stating that said authority lies only within the respective board of trustees. It was debated during the midyear meeting that this particular ruling was in error, but the ruling of the chair was upheld in the midyear meeting by the messengers failing to get the required number of votes to challenge the ruling of the chair.

The next change presented dealt with continuing to allow churches to have 3 messengers at each meeting, but allowing only one to vote. The reasoning presented was that we are an association of churches and not messengers and that each church has an equal voice. Also stated was that each church may not be able to send 3 messengers to each meeting giving an unfair or unequal advantage to those churches that have 3 messengers present. Those opposing this change noted that each church has the opportunity to send the allotted number of messengers. It should be noted by this writer that in the past when issues of great importance were presented the association has voted to refer the particular matter to the churches. At this point each church would decide its vote and return that vote at the appointed time. Under those circumstances each church would have only one vote. This change failed to pass in the afternoon session.

The final change dealt with altering the doctrinal statement of the BMA of Mississippi and was presented by Canaan Baptist Church of Lucedale. It was presented as follows: *"We believe in the infallible, verbal inspiration of the Holy Bible, and that the Holy Bible is sufficient and complete for the doctrine and practice of the Christian faith (Psalms 119:160; II Timothy 3:16, 17). The 1769 edition of the 1611 version of the Authorized King James Bible is the English version used because it is our conviction, and it is the complete Word of God preserved in the English language for this age (1769 – today). It is an accurate and trustworthy translation based on the providentially preserved original language texts of the Hebrew Masoretic Text and the Greek Textus Receptus Text."*

As expected this produced much discussion. Some noted that you cannot tell someone which translation of scripture to use and that the adoption of this would certainly cause a break in fellowship. One comment worth noting is that this change would be "extra biblical" in that such an endorsement could not be found or based on scripture considering all Bibles used today are translations of the Greek, Aramaic and Hebrew texts. The messenger body declined to add this to the doctrinal statement.

Attendance

The final enrollment report stated that 82 churches were represented by messengers present and 14 by letter only. 178 messengers were registered with 59 official visitors present. The churches sent a total of \$4,820.00 for the associational fund. The 2023 Enrollment Committee appointed

MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Director

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

www.macbma.net - Email fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com

Moral Action Director's Requirements

The director shall give a report in annual session of the association and shall present a plan of work and proposed budget for the ensuing year.

Dr. John M. Adams, Director

Director's Annual Report:

Your faithfulness to stand with this agency has been the strength upon which we have drawn from this past year. Mrs. Adams and I thank you for your continued prayers as we have joyed in the work of this ministry. We wish to thank each church and association for your continued financial contribution. There have been 73 churches, organizations and association that have pledged to this ministry.

Suggestions:

The Moral Action Agency welcomes your comments and suggestions regarding this ministry. We are dedicated to spreading the message of morality through God's Word. Please feel free to contact us at:

Telephone (662) 282-7425 – FBC

Cell: (662) 231-3863 – Dr. Adams

Email: fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com

MAC Website: www.bma.net

Address: Moral Action Agency of MS, P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855

Service:

During our 2021-2022 associational year, your Moral Action Agency has been

well represented at the Mississippi State House and at our United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. It was my distinct honor to share with Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves and Lt. Governor Delbert Hoseman about our mission. I was privileged again to lead in the opening prayer for the State Senate and our State House. I have also visited with U.S. Senator Roger Wicker and U.S. Representatives Trent Kelly and Michael Guest regarding our concerns.



Dr. John Adams

Schedule of Yearly Special Interest for Moral Action:

2006-2007	Religious Freedom
2007-2008	Gambling
2008-2009	Pro-Life
2009-2010	Homosexuality
2010-2011	Pornography
2011-2012	Abortion
2012-2013	Strong drink
2013-2014	Same sex marriage
2014-2015	Queer
2015-2016	Rape/Incest
2016-2017	Drugs/Marijuana
2017-2018	Muslims/Sharia Law
2018	God & Country Rallies
2019	No – Covid

consists of Scott Kirkland, Ron Montague, and Deborah Montague.

Officers

The messengers elected some new officers while reelecting those remaining. Those elected for the 2023 Associational year are as follows: President Ken Riley, pastor of Lebanon Baptist Church, Laurel; 1st VP Sidney Farmer, pastor of South Forest Baptist Church, Hattiesburg; 2nd VP Johnny Williams, pastor of Good Hope Baptist Church, Columbia; Clerk Sam Oglesby, pastor of Westover Baptist Church, Hattiesburg; Assistant Clerk Ted Quinby, member of Midway First Baptist, Sumrall; and Director of Information Don Brown.

Citing some disagreements and inability to work with certain brethren, Clerk Vernon Newman addressed the messengers late in our first session and abruptly resigned. After resigning he immediately gathered his materials and exited the building. Newly elected Clerk Sam Oglesby was asked to come forward and complete the record keeping for the rest of the meeting. Although unexpected, it appeared to this writer that Assistant Clerk Ted Quinby had full control of the situation and assisted Oglesby in catching up and continuing the rest of the day.

2023 Meetings

The 2023 midyear meeting will again be hosted by Southeastern Baptist College

and President Dr. Scott Carson. Anders Lee, pastor of Central Church, Southaven, Mississippi, (and at the time the nominee for Director of the Youth Department) was elected to bring the midyear message. Newly elected president Ken Riley will serve as the alternate.

The 2023 Annual meeting will be hosted by Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel. Pastor Shane Singleton extended the invitation to honor and recognize the 75th year of Southeastern Baptist College's existence. He noted that Dr. D.N. Jackson, pastor of Parkview at the time, was the founding president of Southeastern and that the college had its beginning in the facilities of Parkview Church. Dr. John David Smith, a graduate of Southeastern and current President of BMA Global Missions will be the speaker and SBC President Dr. Scott Carson will serve as alternate. The 2023 meetings will be as follows: 2023 Midyear Meeting, May 22-23, 2023 at Southeastern College and the 2023 Annual Meeting at Parkview Baptist Church on October 16-17, 2023. The WMA and Brotherhood meetings will be held on the Monday evening before the business sessions on Tuesday.

New Directors

Two departmental director positions were vacant coming into this year's annual meeting and expectations concerning those to fill these positions were fulfilled. The State Youth Department has not had an ac-

2020	No – Covid
2020-2021	Value Voting
2022-2023	Respect the Flag

The Valley of Decision:

America is in a "Valley of Decision" as Joel declared in the Old Testament. We recognize the desire by satanic forces to silence the voice of Christ and His Church.

But we that believe in Godly, biblical convictions cannot sit idly by; our voice must be heard. BMA churches still believe in the home, morality, the Bible, the Church, and the greatness and power of God. The Word must be proclaimed. We have a job to do and a call to answer!

ACLU:

The main battlefield today is for our children. Whoever controls the children controls our future. There is an agenda today to guide the children in America from God via television, books, movies, public school mandates, etc. Such organizations as the ACLU and American Atheists are leading the battle in our courts to remove God from our children in the public schools.

The New Testament church has a mandate and unlimited opportunity to engage our children in the teaching of the Word through Sunday School, VBS, Awana, Sunbeams, Galileans, GMAs, church camps and youth groups.

The Moral Action Agency continues to promote Biblical morality and to strongly oppose the evils of our time, such as alcohol, child and drug abuse, sodomy, homosexuality, pornography, gambling, abortion, and euthanasia. As we share articles in our state paper, printed materials, videos, webpage and suggested readings, pray that God will use this work for His cause. I count it an honor to serve.

tive director in a couple of years as former director Kelby Johnson had resigned. Covid influence on camps and other activities led to no activity in the Youth Department for an extended period. The Youth Trustees sought applicants and after a lengthy process recommended Bro. Anders Lee, pastor of Central Church, Southaven, Mississippi to the position. He was elected and addressed the messenger body and shared his vision and the needs of this work. His remarks are found elsewhere in this issue.

With the resignation of former Missions Director Larry Geraldo, which was only effective on October 15, 2022, the Missions Trustees along with the Revolving Loan Fund Trustees presented state missionary Chris Yager as Interim Director. The committees comments in recent letters to the churches and in this publication led to the belief that if things are going well after the initial one year interim term that Bro. Yager would be considered for this position on a permanent basis. Yager is currently the state missionary at Living Hope Mission, Meridian, Mississippi. He also shared comments upon his election and those are printed in this issue.

Missions and Loan Fund

Reports were given by the trustees of the Missions Department and the Revolving Loan Fund. While concern was ex-

Continued on page 11



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

Count Your Blessings with Gratitude

Cooler weather with the hint of Fall reminds me of God's bountiful blessings as we celebrate family, love, and sacrifice this month.

Momma's table of plenty comes again to mind at this time of the year to her daughters and her grandchildren. Momma and Daddy's greatest delight during the holidays was spending time with family. Walking in the woods, visiting neighbors and family cemeteries, eating special meals, snacking on Daddy's scramble, and watching Bill and Michael's fireworks, we celebrated family. Special memories of Thanksgivings past!

That tradition continues. Even though we're often separated by miles, our families still gather and share meals reminiscent of our McKey country holidays. God's sense of humor placed me in a family of great cooks and gave me not the ability to cook, but the capability of enjoying their abilities. Whether it's with the Grahams or

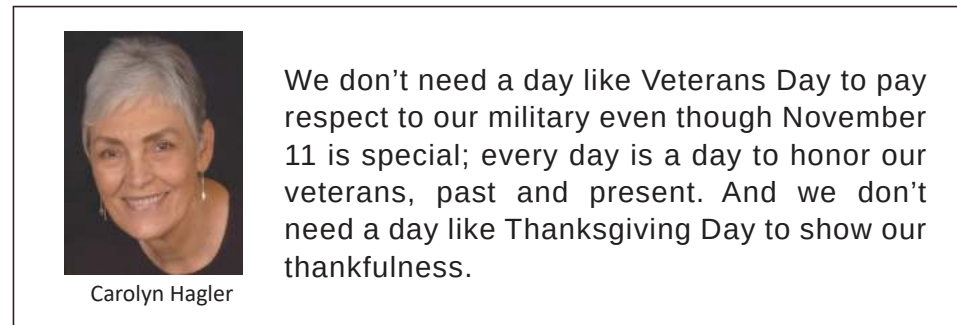


Barrs, I have my memory tickled by thoughts of those past celebrations.

Thanksgiving also reminds me that Daddy went to his heavenly home a few days after our celebration one year. Even though our meal that year was chili and only three of us celebrated together, love showed up. Daddy told me that Saturday night, "I'm going home tomorrow." I thought it would be in JB's old blue pickup, but Daddy was transported instead into the very presence of God with thanksgiving (1 Thessalonians 5:18 and Psalm 100:4).

Thanksgiving also means gathering with my church family and sharing our blessings with each other, a "count-your-blessings" moment. Hearing my church family proclaim the many bless-

ings from the Lord makes us all realize how much He loves us and how much we need to thank Him. "We are so blessed by the gifts from Your



Carolyn Hagler

We don't need a day like Veterans Day to pay respect to our military even though November 11 is special; every day is a day to honor our veterans, past and present. And we don't need a day like Thanksgiving Day to show our thankfulness.

hand...by the things You have done...and what You've brought us through" (Gloria Gaither, Greg Nelson, and William J. Gaither).

As we count our blessings, I'm always reminded in November of how this country has been blessed by our military. The many celebrations sur-



rounding the military are too numerous to name, but Veterans Day for me is a time of gratitude with thanksgiving.

For many years, I found myself with family and friends at the Great Smokies Praisefest in Tennessee. At that event, our veterans were always



honored and celebrated. Hearing those great gospel songs and seeing those proud veterans receive our recognition for their service were a special part of that gospel celebration.

Rather than Praisefest this year, I started my celebration early by visiting the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum

at Camp Shelby. If you want your heart blessed, just visit the Museum. Take your children and your grandchildren; they need to know about the patriotism, love of country, willingness to serve, and sacrifice of Mississippians (I doubt they are learning these things at school). Visiting the Museum will teach us or remind us how blessed our great country is because of our military.

In the Museum, you'll find 200 years of Mississippi military history revealed through artifacts, exhibits, videos, and dioramas. I wandered through galleries that helped me to understand Mississippi's role in the wars

from 1812 to the present. My heart was touched by heroes like Jack Lucas, a Marine Medal of Honor recipient in World War II. I only knew him from a grave in Highland Cemetery in Hattiesburg. But at the Museum, I learned he was only 14 years old when inducted into the service after forging his mother's signature. While he certainly lived a colorful life, he was the youngest recipient of the Medal of Honor, and he symbolized love of country.

But I did wonder how Jack, who was born in North Carolina, came to be buried in Hattiesburg. I learned later that a local icon, Nick Kolinsky, heard that Lucas had fallen on hard times and was living in a meat locker in Maryland on \$200 a month. Kolinsky worked with U. S. Representative Sonny Montgomery to have Lucas' full benefits re-

stored.

Not only did Kolinsky help Lucas in a financial way but also in a personal way when he invited him to Hattiesburg to live with him and his family. Lucas came and never left Hattiesburg. He remarried and always promoted this country and the military. He died and was buried here more than 63 years after his act of heroism. Lucas, a hero who needed rescuing, will be remembered by his words on his tombstone, "Do not judge me by my beginning, only by my end, nor by the path I took, but where it led me."



stored.

Not only did Kolinsky help Lucas in a financial way but also in a personal way when he invited him to Hattiesburg to live with him and his family. Lucas came and never left Hattiesburg. He remarried and always promoted this country and the military. He died and was buried here more than 63 years after his act of heroism. Lucas, a hero who needed rescuing, will be remembered by his words on his tombstone, "Do not judge me by my beginning, only by my end, nor by the path I took, but where it led me."

"Do not judge me by my beginning, only by my end, nor by the path I took, but where it led me."

Another local hero is one I see on every trip to the post office here in Hattiesburg: Roy M. Wheat. He was only 20 years old when he died in the Vietnam War after throwing himself on a mine, preventing two other Marines from dying. He was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously. Visiting his grave recently in the quiet piney woods of Eastabuchie, I was reminded of the many sacrifices made for this country of ours.

Their stories are repeated over and over as you wander through the Museum. Many others made sacrifices, too, with some losing their lives and others surviving to battle demons after their service.

It's hard to think of the sacrifice of countless men and women without considering the sacrifice of their families. The Gold Star mothers and widows represent to me that sacrifice; nearly 7,000 of them were taken to Europe after World War II to visit the gravesites of their loved ones. Over 30 women from Mississippi made that journey. This special group and others are still active today; our military families all need to be honored along with their sons and daughters and spouses.

We don't need a day like Veterans Day to pay respect to our military even though November 11 is special; every day is a day to honor our veterans, past and present. And we don't need a day like Thanksgiving Day to show our thankfulness. Let's practice the old rule: **Stop, look, and listen.**

Stop being too busy to reflect on God's blessings with thanksgiving and gratitude. Don't be like the nine lepers who didn't thank Jesus for their healing (Luke 17: 12-19); be the one who showed gratitude.

Look around at everyday blessings; they're everywhere.

Listen to your heart and the Holy Spirit.

Stop, look, and listen should be practiced every day until it becomes a way of life because it will allow thankfulness to penetrate everything we do (Romans 14:6). Have you ever taken the time to list your blessings? Counting your blessings is just as difficult as describing God's love and that sacrifice at Calvary.

An old song reminds us that there's not enough ink nor a large enough parchment nor enough skill to write about God's love (The Love of God, Frederick Lehman, 1917). So, even if we could list all our blessings and how much God loves us, we don't have enough days left to do it. His love should help us, though, celebrate the season with grateful hearts.

While counting my blessings with thanksgiving, I am still **In His Grip**

Senior Adult Ministry

Commission on Senior Adults - 8 Reagan Lake Road, Laurel, MS 39443 - 601-426-3293

Commission on Senior Adults Annual Report

Don Brown, Director
October 18, 2022

What a good year God has given us after missing our Senior Conferences for almost two full years. The 2020 South Conference was held just as the Covid Pandemic was spreading around the world. The North Conference was cancelled that year as the virus began to impact the lives of so many individuals, businesses, and churches.

We missed the entire 2021 year, but the Lord has blessed as we began to come out of the Covid crisis. This year of 2022 saw us resume our conferences with great success. Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso and Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton, were gracious hosts this year.

The South Conference had 200 in attendance with the North Conference attendance at 100. These numbers are good considering many seniors may still have been a little shy about attending large group meetings. Our churches are back in their sanctuaries and for the most part things have just about returned to normal.

Our seniors took on two projects this year in keeping with our theme of "Prime-Timers With A Purpose". That theme was chosen with the intent of encouraging a purpose filled life for Christ. I am so excited about those attending agreeing to adopt a project and give generously to it.



Don Brown,
Director

At both of our 2022 Conferences our seniors gave a total of \$4,121.10. This was divided between Ukraine relief that the National Missions office was supporting last Spring and between Lifeword's Low Power FM ministry. Our people were excited to accept the challenge to be a blessing to others.

Our 2023 Conferences will again be held at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso and Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton. We will also have a special project recommendation for our Senior Adults.

Our Theme for 2023 will expand on this past year's. It will be "PrimeTimers With A Purpose and A Passion".

As you have heard in the minutes from our Trustees, we are keeping the conference fee at \$15.00. It has been that amount for as long as I can remember. Our

costs have certainly gone up along with the inflation that has hit every area of life. With the financial support of our churches we hope to keep this figure as low as possible. Mack's Fish Camp kept their cost down, but their operating expenses also continue to rise. The good folks of Mt. Pleasant Church in Fulton did as good a job as Mack's did with the food and helped us keep our costs down. We appreciate both Mack's and the people of Mt. Pleasant Church for keeping our costs low.

A Special Request

We have a few churches and some local associations who have this ministry in their regular budget. We are very appreciative for their financial support. Let me make this point - The monthly support we current receive is less than we need to cover all the costs of this ministry. Our needs are small, but they are real. I am asking each church that does not have this Commission in your regular budget to please add us. \$20.00 per month would mean a great deal to this Commission. Many could give more, some may only be able to give less. Help us keep our fees low and still be financially able to hold quality meetings for our senior adults. This is an important work and ministry to

those who have been the backbone of our churches and our nation. We strive to build upon the strong foundation that Bro. Vern Holifield and Bro. Kenneth Flynt built during their service. Help us continue to minister to our senior adults in a manner that would please our Lord.

2023 Plans

We have already had some inquiries about our Conferences for this next year. The South Conference will be held with Big Creek Baptist Church on March 7, 2023 and the North Conference is scheduled for Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church for May 9, 2023. Please mark those dates and make sure our senior citizens are encouraged to attend. We are working on the program for each of these and look forward to a great time in the Lord.

Recognition

If you have any ministers in your church who will complete 50 years in the ministry during 2023, we need to receive this information. It is with great pleasure that this Commission recognizes those men who have had long, faithful service to our Lord.

Be Ready

Be ready for our 2023 ConferencesThere will be food, fellowship, door prizes, grand prizes, special recognitions, worship in song and in word, and a "purposeful passionate project" at each meet-

HISTORY & ARCHIVES COMMISSION

Jason Howard, Director

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440

Annual Report of Director of Commission on History & Archives

To the churches composing the B.M.A. of Mississippi

I would like to begin my report by thanking you for the opportunity and privilege to serve as the Director for the Commission on History and Archives. My report today with be two-fold. First to give you an update concerning your Department of History and Archives, and second, to include an article by Bro. L.S. Walker.

I am thankful to be able to report to you that we have completed the initial work of setting up a website for this department. The web address is www.bmahistory.org. I want to personally thank Jerod Meyers of Meyers Media for setting up and hosting the website. I would also personally thank Mrs. Amy Hinton, custodian of History and Archives, for her ongoing and time-consuming work of uploading various documents to the website, and Mrs. Kim Parker for managing the financial account of the Department.

There are presently a number of books, articles, etc. uploaded to the website that you may view. This project will take time. Mrs. Amy is regularly uploading more information to the website, and I trust that you will from time to time visit your website.

This year we celebrate the 216th Annual Session of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. This carries us back to the original constitution of the Mississippi Baptist Association in 1806. I want to conclude my report today by reading an article written by Bro. L.S. Walker. Pastor, former Director of Commission on History and Archives, President of SBC.

B.M.A. of Mississippi Constituted 1806
L. S. Walker

Mississippi Baptists have a great heritage one of which every true Baptist should feel justly, humbly and gratefully proud.

All the Baptists of Mississippi probably have a common heritage. Most can trace their lineage directly or indirectly back to the founding of Salem Church in 1791, and the churches composing the old Mississippi Baptist Association in 1806 the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi, Mississippi Baptist Convention (SBC), American Baptist Association of churches, Faithway Baptist Churches and perhaps others.

The most historic of the several cooperative fellowships of churches in the State of Mississippi is the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi (formerly the Mississippi Baptist Association, General Association of Baptist Churches in Mississippi and Mississippi State Baptist Association).

The Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi was constituted as The Mississippi Baptist Association at a meeting of messengers representing five churches at Salem church in September, 1806. This was only thirty years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the Nation. The BMA of Mississippi is rooted deeply in the rich history of Mississippi and the South.

Those early Baptists who had moved into the Mississippi Territory, and established

the first churches, had been accustomed to cooperating with sister churches. The Baptists from the great Pee Dee River region of South Carolina came from churches that maintained fellowship in the Charleston Association. After the pattern of Baptist churches through the past centuries, this was a typical form of organization of Baptist churches throughout the colonies.

Salem Church was organized in the home of Sister Margaret Stampley with seven charter members under the leadership of Elder Richard Curtis Jr. in October, 1791. By 1798 there were six small churches: Salem, 1791; Bayou Pierre, 1798; New Hope, 1800; Bethel, 1800; New Providence, 1805; and Ebenezer, 1806.

As the number of churches in the Mississippi Territory increased, it was logical and according to historic practice for the leaders of the churches to plan for cooperation among the churches. It was fitting and appropriate that Salem Church should suggest to the other churches the desirability of a cooperative relationship. At the invitation of Salem Church, representatives from five of the six churches met at Salem Church in September, 1806, and organized the Mississippi Baptist Association. The churches sending messengers were Salem, New Hope, Bethel, New Providence and Ebenezer. The Bayou Pierre church did not represent in the Association until 1808. Thus, the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi had its humble beginning in the historic organization of the old Mississippi Baptist Association at Salem Church in what is now Jefferson County (first called Pichering County) about 18 miles from Natchez. These few small churches were scattered in the general area of the old Natchez District in what is now southwest Mississippi.

While the Mississippi Baptist Association was the first and only Association in Mississippi for some fourteen years after its organization, we would, perhaps, think of the

Annual Meeting

From page 9

pressed over the length of time from the official resignation of the previous director and manager of the Loan Fund and the concerns over continuity, the Trustees explained that there were a number of steps that must be taken to insure legal requirements were met and regulations were adhered to. With the director, loan fund manager, and bookkeeper all leaving the office as of October 15, 2022, concerns were shared about continuity. The Trustees reported that Bro. Yager has been in training for the last two months and they are confident that operations will return to normal in a speedy fashion.

Other Reports

Each department and commission director gave optimistic reports on their various ministries. These reports are printed in this issue.

small fellowship of churches in terms of associational structure as in our time, as a local association. By 1820 there were about 42 churches cooperating in the work of the Association. These churches were spread over an area in southwest Mississippi from old Natchez south to St. Francisville, Baton Rouge, Washington and Tangipihoa Parishes in southeast Louisiana; from the Mississippi River on the west to east of the upper reaches of Pearl River. Two other Associations, the Union and Pearl River, were organized in 1820.

Within a few years afterward, the Association was being disturbed by those holding views of cooperative work identified

Continued on page 12

Senior Adult Commission Recognized two at recent Annual Meeting

At the recent BMA of Mississippi Annual Meeting two individuals were presented plaques of recognition. Below, on the right Director Don Brown presents Bro. John Adams with a 50 Year in the Ministry plaque.

Also, Mrs. Kim Parker is presented a token of appreciation for her 10 years of service as bookkeeper for the Commission.



Hey - Youth Directors, Youth Pastors, Youth Workers!

From Director Anders Lee

We are starting a NETWORK specifically for YOU here in Mississippi! If you are leading the youth at your church, it doesn't matter whether you are called into ministry or not; you may be a lay leader in your local church. I want YOU in this network! Some pastors are pulling double duty leading your youth as well. I want YOU TOO!!!

It DOES NOT MATTER what size your group is. Even if you only have 3 or 5 teens... I want YOU in this group! SOOOO....

Please send me your cell number & email! I want to start this immediately! My email is Anders.Lee571@gmail.com and my cell number is 901-343-3293.

I look forward to working with you and seeing God do great things in our state youth work! THANKS SO MUCH!!!

Sending "Everlasting Smiles" to Ukrainian Children

By Margaret Anderson

It's that time of year again! These days are always very exciting around the Global Ministry Center because it feels like Christmas! Since July we've been working with and hosting churches to take part in preparing Everlasting Smiles Christmas Shoeboxes to be distributed to Ukrainian refugees in Eastern Europe, and just last week, the first container of gifts was packed and sent on its way! Missionaries Larry and Tammy Wood will receive the container in Poland and coordinate distribution of the shoeboxes.

With your help, we reached our goal of 10,000 shoeboxes, but we still have space available on the second container. If you would like to help us fill the container, we are collecting items that have been requested by Ukrainian refugees—scarves, hats, gloves, socks, slippers, bags, blankets, warm clothes, and stuffed animals. We have an Amazon wish list which allows you to place an order and have items sent straight to the Missions office: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2FDSD0PR29H7R?ref=wl_fw_le.

We are also accepting donations online or through mail. Visit bmamissions.org, select "give," then "designate my offering" and choose "Christmas Shoeboxes," or make checks payable to Everlasting Smiles, 611 Locust Ave., Conway, AR 72034. We are accepting items until Friday, November 4, which is when we hope to load the second container.

The children and families who will receive these shoeboxes and gifts have experienced unfathomable loss, and their worlds have been turned upside down since February. Our prayer is that these small gifts make a big impact, and that not only will these fami-

lies receive material gifts, but more importantly, the best gift of all—a relationship with Jesus Christ.



Loading shoeboxes for Ukraine

Brotherhood Annual Report

By Mark Jones, President

The BMA of Mississippi Brotherhood met October 17, 2022, at South Forrest Baptist Church. Our numbers were very low compared to past years. Bro. Scott Brocious from Canaan Land Baptist Mission was our speaker this year and he did an outstanding job.

The officers this year for the Brotherhood are President Mark Jones, 1st VP Richey Hester, Sec/Treas. Roy Caldwell, Galilean Promoter Mark Jones, Asst. Galilean Promoter Larry Tramel. As you can see we are short a couple of officers. Bro. Roy Caldwell has asked to step down as Sec/Treas., so if any man in the Association feels led to help with these positions please call Mark Jones at 662-322-6515. Our project this coming year is Bro. Scott and Canaan Land Mission.

The question I want to ask is 'Why do the pastors not support the Brotherhood?' If the pastors supported, the men in the churches would support the Brotherhood. Thanks to the churches who have supported the Brotherhood this past year.

HISTORY & ARCHIVES

From page 11

today as the modern Convention system. An abortive effort was made to organize a state general body along these lines in 1824. The leaders of the old Mississippi Association resisted, and this organization ceased to exist within three or four years. However, the present State Baptist Convention was organized in 1836.

The growth and increase in number of churches continued. By 1836 there were eight other Associations in Mississippi: The Union and Pearl River Associations both constituted in 1820; the Buttahatchie in 1825; Leaf River before 1829; Yazoo, 1833; Choctaw, 1834; Bethel, before 1834; and Yallahusha, 1836. All these local Associations were either disbanded or merged with others later.

Among other local Associations organized soon afterward were the Judson in 1853, and the Hobolochitto in 1856. These are the two oldest of twelve Associations whose churches are now identified with the cooperative work of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. By this time the gospel was being preached in most every section of Mississippi and southeast Louisiana.

Such men as Zachariah Reeves, 24 times moderator of the old Mississippi Baptist Association; J.R. Graves, moderator during the

Civil War years, and others who were always identified by their contemporaries as Landmark Baptists, were their leaders. These men all stood firmly in opposition to modern Convention system of cooperative work.

The old Mississippi Association continued as The State General work to some. It was relegated to the status of a local Association in the minds of those sympathetic with the principles of State Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

To the honest and objective researcher tracing the history of our State Associational work, it can understandably be confusing. The trail may, at first glance, seem blurred, but looking more closely, as a matter of historic principle and practice, one finds the trail clear and well-defined. The historical lineage of our State Associational work was never identified by prestige nor popularity, but rather by Biblical principles and practices. We submit therefore that our historical chronology is very clearly defined.

When the old General Association of Baptist Churches in Mississippi was constituted in 1855 under the able leadership of Dr. Nathan L. Clarke and others, it was simply the old Mississippi Baptist Association continued as the state-wide (General) body of old-line Association or Landmark Baptists. It was realized by some that the old Association was being swallowed up by the State Convention.

Clarke College at Newton was established after the turn of the century by the churches of old General Association under the Leadership of Dr. Clarke, who never was in sympathy with the principles and practices of the State Convention. Clark College was actually taken from our people, perhaps legally, but rather craftily at a time when the old General Association had become rather weak and compromising. Dr. Clarke was moderator of the General Association in 1855 and for a number of years to follow.

Elder James P. Johnston was a missionary for the churches of the old General Association throughout south Mississippi for most of his ministerial life. A man of great courage and deep conviction, he constantly warned the churches of the error of Conventionism. He, like Dr. Clarke, and others of his time and before, was every wit an old-line Association or Landmark Baptist.

Brother Johnston was licensed to preach by Mt. Nebo (now First) Baptist of Bay Springs in 1850. He was ordained by the same church in 1853. He pastored the old church (constituted in 1828) for a long number of years according to Brother. E. B. Cox in his book *Life and Works of James P. Johnston*.

When the old General Association of Mississippi began to compromise its principles, and cooperate with the State Convention work, out State Associational work once again suffered division as a result. Realizing that what

had happened in the past may be about to happen again, old Mt. Nebo (First) Baptist Church invited the churches to meet with them in 1908 for a re-organization of the state Associational work. From that time for a number of years our State Association was known as the Mississippi Baptist Association of Baptist Churches. IN the years which followed, the year books showed various other modifications of the Associations name, adding or dropping such words as Regular, Missionary, State, etc. which may or may not have been by official action of the body. In later years the original name, The Mississippi Baptist Association, was again officially adopted. The old Association was familiarly and affectionately known by its historic name until 1969 when the name was changed to Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi.

We believe the spirit which moved men like Richard Curtis Jr., William Hamberlin, Stephen DeAlvo, Moses Hadley, Thomas Mercer, Ezra Courtney, Zachariah Reeves, Nathan L. Clarke, J. R. Graves, M. P. Lowery, James P. Johnston, J. P. Martin, John Moffatt, and later C. A. Gilbert, J. E. Glenn, Marion Walters, D. N. Jackson, L. T. Simmons, and others, their associates and contemporaries, along with those people they pastored, still lives in a great host of true Association Baptists in Mississippi today. May God richly bless them, and may their tribe increase to the glory of and in the service of our Lord.