

# Baptist

## Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

NOVEMBER 15, 2013

www.bmaofmississippi.com

VOL. 67 No. 22

## Southeastern Trustees Elect Danny Pitts Interim President

At a regular meeting of the Southeastern College Trustee Board on Tuesday, November 12, the trustees elected Bro. Danny Pitts as Interim President. Bro. Pitts is a former trustee member and currently pastors First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel. Pitts graduated with a BS in Political Science from the University of Southern Mississippi and received his Master of Divinity from the BMA Theological Seminary, Jacksonville, Texas. Pitts is a trustee for BMA Seminary and currently serves as chairman.

He has pastored churches in Texas, Florida and Mississippi and has taught for both Southeastern College and BMA

Seminary. Bro. Pitts has written extensively for the Baptist Publishing House and DiscipleGuide helping to produce various literature products for the BMA of America. He has served in a number of positions at both the state and national levels.

Bro. Pitts and his wife Helen have two children and 2 grandchildren.



Danny Pitts

## BMA of America Missionaries Safe

by The Editor

I have communicated with some of our missionaries in the Philippines following the devastating storm that has taken so many lives and left hundreds of thousands homeless and destitute. Linda Moore has relayed that all of our American personnel are safe, but that many of the Filipino pastors and church members have been affected.

While we are thankful that our missionaries are safe, our hearts go out to the thousands who are suffering.

Pray for our missionaries as they minister to those in need and that they will be able to continue to reach the Philippines for Christ.

As we watch the news and get the reports it is beyond our understanding of the suffering and the needs. The article below from Dr. Smith gives us some direction. God has given us the opportunity to share Christ with the Philippines, now we have the obligation and opportunity to meet their physical needs as well.

## Philippine Relief Effort Information

by John David Smith  
Executive Director BMA Missions

In 2 Corinthians 9, Paul is encouraging the believers to participate in the offering to help meet the physical needs of the Christians in Jerusalem. His appeal had three elements: the gift would be proof of genuine faith in the Corinthians, their obedience would be proof of their faith to the Jerusalem believers, and it would be an example of selfless giving much like God did through Christ.

BMA Missions in Little Rock, Arkansas, will serve as a relief center for our Filipino brothers and sisters in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan. This is an excellent way for you or your church to guarantee that your offerings will be utilized 100% for the purpose you indicate. The BMA Missions office staff gets no extra compensation for transferring the funds, and BMAA missionaries get no payment for administering the funds. This allows ALL of the funds to be administered in the relief effort.

In addition to the opportunity in the Philippines, we are continuing to promote the need in the Middle East. Our leaders in Lebanon and Jordan are facing an urgent situation with the millions of Syrian refugees. We encourage you to give to this effort also.

Please indicate on your offering where you want your funds directed. If you have no preference, we will administer those funds in the area of need. You may send your relief offerings to:

BMA Missions - P.O. Box 30910 - Little Rock, AR 72260

## Thanksgiving: A Story of Persistence

*Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, . . . . . but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.* Philippians 3:12-14

Here is a part of the Thanksgiving story you may not know. While the first Thanksgiving was celebrated in October of 1621, it was not until October of 1777 that all 13 colonies celebrated Thanksgiving, for the first time. At one point, our first president, George Washington, proclaimed a National Day of Thanksgiving, but conflict and difficulties among the colonies put an end to its observance.

It was a magazine editor, Sarah Josepha Hale, whose work led to the celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday we observe today. Hale wrote letters to governors and presidents, and editorials in magazines, books and newspapers, promoting the observance of Thanksgiving. In 1863, after 40 years of letter

writing and campaigning, Hale's persistence paid off and President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a National Day of Thanksgiving. Since then, every president has supported Thanksgiving. Forty years of dedication, persistence and passion, all to make sure that this country would celebrate a National Day of Thanksgiving each year. Impressive.

We can learn from Hale's perseverance. It took her 40 years to accomplish what she set out to do. Just like her story, the Christian faith is often described as a marathon, not a sprint. Each day of our life is another day to choose between right and wrong, to help someone in need, to read our Bible and pray. As Paul reminds us in Philippians 3:12-14, Christians are called to persevere, to press on. Sometimes it can feel like an unrewarding task. It is hard, but important, to look to God for the BIGGER plan. What if Hale had chosen to give up after one year or ten years? Her goal would have been left unfinished. Press on towards the call of Christ! Endure! But be forewarned, just like Sara Josepha Hale, it may take 40 years to see the fruit of your labor!





Larry Geraldson  
Director



# Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Department of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund



State Missionaries and Wives



Bob & Edie Burch



Kenneth & Carole  
Pollock



Bobby & Lesa  
Elliott



Danny & Brenda  
Bartlett



Sidney & Becky  
Farmer



Ray & JoAnn  
Boone



Kelby & Jessie  
Johnson



Phillip & Dawn  
Burns



Estuardo &  
Yasmine Marroquin



Elvis & Wendy  
Garcia



Ed & Patricia DuVall

601.428.8616

www.bmams.org

"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."

Proverbs 25:25

I want to begin by thanking our missionaries for the fine job they did, bringing their reports, at the annual meeting of the BMA of Mississippi. You guys did a great job. One of our older pastors commented to me a few days later, "This was the best meeting I've been to in a long time," and I agree.

I also want to thank the Master Builders for coming to Burnsville and helping with the construction of the new building for Freedom Baptist Mission. This is a great ministry and we are very appreciative of the sacrifice of

time and talent made by these dedicated folks. Bro. Elliott continues to press toward a goal of being in the new building before Christmas. Please pray for them.

### High Attendance and Total Offerings for October

Church Planters  
Bob Burch 63 - \$1,498.00  
Bobby Elliott 60 - \$1,453.00  
Danny Bartlett 15 - \$659.00  
Kelby Johnson 18 - \$864.00  
Ray Boone 50 - \$2,146.00  
Sidney Farmer 50 - \$5,011.00  
Phillip Burns n/a - \$1,000.00

Hispanic Missions - South

Hattiesburg 15 - \$616.00  
Biloxi 12 - n/a  
Laurel 122 - \$4,062.00 (Pastor Estuardo Marroquin, Coordinator)

Hispanic Missions - North  
Tupelo 33 - \$347.00  
Oxford 29 - \$311.00  
Ripley 99 - \$3,734.00 (Pastor Elvis Garcia, Coordinator)

African American Missions  
Indianola 35 - \$750.00  
Olive Branch 17 - \$1,235.00  
Cleveland 26 - \$2,178.00 (Pastor Ed DuVall, Coordinator)

Collectively, our missionaries re-

ported 488 new contacts, shared the gospel 383 times, had 63 professions of faith and had 3 join by letter for the month of October.

### Holiday Schedule

Please note that the Missions and Revolving Loan Fund Offices will be close for the holidays on the following dates: 28-29 November; 24-26 December and 31 December - 1 January.

### Be an Encouragement

Let me encourage you to be an encouragement to your missionaries and their families during the holiday season. Often we forget or just don't realize how valuable a note or an email or a phone call from you can be to the missionary. If you need information on how to contact our missionaries, you can get it by calling the office at 601-428-8616 and ask for Ms. Kim.

### 2014 Missions and Evangelism Conference

Our Missions and Evangelism Conference for 2014 will be held on Saturday, May 3rd and will be hosted by Shady Grove Baptist Church in Laurel, MS. More information will follow but please mark your calendar now. Our speakers include: Dr. John Adams, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Mantachie; Bro. Justin Cameron, Pastor of Midway Baptist Church of McClain; Bro. Dewitt Bain, Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church; Bro. Bryan Atwood, Pastor of Campground Baptist Church; Bro. Johnny Williams, Pastor of North Gautier Baptist Church; Bro. Gary Smith, Pastor of East Fulton Baptist Church; and Dr. Charley Holmes, President of the BMA Theological Seminary.

### Revolving Loan Fund (as of Nov 13, 2013 and since August 1st, 2013)

Gross assets are now at \$17,443,576.00, a decrease of \$23,345.00. Net assets are now at \$3,002,949.00, an increase of \$53,709.00. We have 4 new loans totaling \$592,642.00. Our current rate of return to our shareholders is 2.67 or 2.7 APY.

Visit Our Website and Facebook Page. Our website is www.bmams.org. Like our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/bmamsmissions.

## Master's Builders work at Mississippi Mission

by Rose Bittner, Reporter  
Master's Builders

The work at Freedom Baptist Church Mission began with Master's Builders RVs arriving at J.P. Coleman State Park in Iuka, Mississippi on Sunday, October 20th. The first few days only 3 were in attendance with the rest arriving on the 22nd. The State Park was a beautiful spot to park the 11 RVs in attendance for this work as it was only about 15 miles from the building site.

The first few days the 3 that arrived early, and Brother Bobby Elliott, spent their days cleaning up the work area and preparing the building for the Master's Builders to begin their work. Brother Bobby Elliott had worked hard to arrange to have the slab and roof completed before the Master's Builders arrived. The work began for all on October 23rd with The Master's Builders working on the new 6300 sq. ft. church building which would house a beautiful new sanctuary, fellowship

hall, kitchen, classrooms, office, storage room, and bathrooms. 12 men from the Master's Builders were able to come for this work.

The Builders met each morning at the building site in Burnsville at 7a.m. for prayer before beginning their day of work. As most of you know, The Master's Builders are not all master carpenters and builders, but they use their combined skills and talents to work together for the Lord on these projects. This group of men worked very hard each day but also took time to have fun and joke around with each other in brotherly love and fellowship. The love of our Lord is evident in all!

Brother Bobby Elliott worked very hard each day and was usually the first to arrive and the last to leave the building site each evening! His love and commitment to the Lord and to hard work for this Mission was evident in all he said and did each day. Several men from the church came to help when they could with all wishing they



The Master's Builders Workers

could take time off from their jobs to help more.

Church services and meals were held in the home of Brother Bobby and his wife, Lesa. The garage and patio of his home had been previously converted into a temporary church building by Brother Bobby and other men from the Mission. Miles Horton from the Classic Builders also came up to lend a hand for this original conversion project and then returned with the Master's Builders to build this new church building.

Many thanks to Lesa and all the ladies of the church for the great supper they prepared each evening. Brother Kenneth Paul from First Baptist Mantachie was on hand each Wednesday to bring the Bible study

continued on page 3



## I Wish I Could Quote

One of the greatest literary minds of the twenty and twenty first centuries, and definitely in my top five author list, Patrick McMannus, penned some of the sagest words that I have ever had the honor of reading. "A goose may honk, but it will never wave". It gives me hope that wise sayings are still being formulated. Take that Ben Franklin! Ole Ben has had the inside track on witty sayings since, well since he was saying them.

I have always wanted to become one of the elite

reperti...repourte...uh...person who comes up with a saying that people remember long after they die. The problem lies in my inability to put words of wisdom together and orally communicate them to an interested listener. I have a hard enough time finding an interested listener, much less having something of value to say. My wife had the audacity to suggest that if I had something to say that was worth listening to, I would have more interested listeners. Psshawww!

Yes, I actually said "psshawww"! It doesn't look right when I look at it written down, but that's okay because

it didn't sound right when I said it either. I think you had to have been born before automobiles for it to have the right ring to it. Anyway, I couldn't think of anything else to say to her. You see my point?

When I was a teenager, my tongue was sharper than a...sharper than a...well, it was sharp. My classmates all marveled at my ability for quick wit and often went around repeating what I said all during recess. Surprisingly, this still didn't help with getting the girls. I

would mention some of them here, but that was before I met Jesus and would probably be inappropriate.

I have noticed that farmers normally have some fantastic words of wit. I'm not sure if it has anything to do with sloshing around in the muck of farm animal goo, but I'm sure it helps. For that reason alone, I have a hard time forgiving my dad for not allowing me the honor of waking up at three o'clock on cold winter mornings to go milk the cows and slop the hogs. Some parents are so unfair. It seems that most kids that have had that kind of upbringing generally

do well in college and later as CEO's of major corporations in a big city somewhere. It's because they had all that fun from before daylight to after dark honing their vocabulary skills instead of having to do nothing but play video games all day long.

Even though I am doomed to never become a household favorite of quotable quipsters, I was encouraged with a young man the other night as we gathered to watch LSU play Alabama in a rough and tumble game of football. Even though the game got out of hand in the second half, the first half was fairly close. He, being a die hard Tide fan (What do you call an Alabama Christian? Besides non-existent, he he. You call him a Holy Roller! har har har), he was on pins and needles. You could see the sweat beading up on his forehead as he paced from the couch to the snack table. He kept commenting about how the game was too close for comfort. Now Tyler has only been a Christian for a few months now (I didn't know he was an Alabama fan at the time or perhaps the baptism service would have been much more interesting), so I was unsure what he was going to say as he called for everyone's attention.

"Everyone! I have something to say. I'm not sure if I'm just nervous...or if it's the chicken nuggets, but my stomach is in knots!" Now that's quotable!

### From The Mind of



Chuck Lee

## Mission Building

from page 2



and assist Brother Bobby. Brother Andy Elrod from Freedom Baptist brought the Sunday school lesson each week and blessed our hearts with his love and enthusiasm for the Lord.

Many of the ladies of the Master's Builders Auxiliary met each morning at 7:30 a.m. to walk the tree-lined roads in the State Park. The Lord blessed them with many trees changing to fall colors which became more beautiful with each passing day. Afterwards,

Alene Smith opened her motor home for Bible study with all the women. Each morning a different woman would bring the study or testimony. The study of God's Word, beautiful music, prayer, and laughter were the highlight of each lady's day!

As the end of the 2 weeks drew near, Brother Bobby Elliott said that he was "amazed and so very thankful" for the work that was done there. The excitement and gratitude express each day by

Brother Bobby and Lesa was a joy to witness. There is still much work to be done on the building and there was discussion as to the possibility of the Master's Builders returning in early Spring. This was the 125th job for The Master's Builders, which began their ministry in 1991. As always, we enjoy wonderful fellowship as we gather together at each job. The Lord strengthens our men to be able to do this work and we all are strengthened and encouraged by just being together. We all love HIM, and each other, and are always looking forward to the next job with prayers for HIS will to allow us to attend.

If you feel you would enjoy this ministry, we would love to have you join us. If your church has building needs or you have questions, you can contact John Mangum, Office Coordinator for The Master's Builders at 318-205-5155 or cell 318-607-4100 or Eddie Sikes, Field Coordinator at 903-725-6549 or cell 479-462-1675.

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Scott Attebery

## DiscipleGuide.org Improving to Make Ordering Easier

If you have visited DiscipleGuide's website recently, you've probably noticed some changes. After several months of development, all of the web construction is complete. We have included several new features and fixed several issues. Now, we are eager for our people to take a look and experience our new site.

Our major goal in overhauling our website was to make it easy to find the products you are looking for. A large search window is located on the front of the home page. Simply type in the product you are searching for.

You can also search by product type. The "Shop" button on the menu bar will reveal several categories including products for different age groups, and genres.

At the top of the "shop" menu you will find the "Quick Order

Form" to help with your quarterly church literature order.

Now, you can order materials and literature while also registering for a conference all in one shopping cart—with only one username and password! You can even pay with your Church account number or major credit card.

And, after placing your order, a confirmation email will provide a shipping tracking code link so that you can follow the progress of your order.

If you need assistance while navigating the site, a live chat window is available on the bottom right corner of the screen. If you tried this feature previously without success, give it another try. We've worked out some issues and are ready to help you!

So go ahead, take a look at the new DiscipleGuide.org website. We think you'll be pleased!

### New Features for SOAR:lit

We hope students have been challenged and leaders encouraged by DiscipleGuide's new student curriculum, SOAR:lit. Users of SOAR:lit have given the team at DiscipleGuide feedback over this past quarter and we have listened. The coming Winter quarter will have new features and a price we think everyone will like.

New features in the Winter quarter of SOAR:lit will include:

Expanded content on the "front page" of the Student page

A teacher "Prep Sheet" with insight on each lesson's focus and how to teach it

Suggested ideas for teachers to utilize with students during lessons

Larger font size for teacher's guide

Ice Breakers for the Leaders to use

### Special Benefits of SOAR:lit include

Reserved front seating at the SOAR conference

Special SOAR conference T-

### shirts

Entry into a drawing to meet the SOAR conference guest artist

SOAR:lit is only \$11 a year per student! Order SOAR:lit online and we will even include the leader's guide for free! Save money and take care of your student literature needs for the year all at once! If your group grows, just make more copies. There is no need to pay more.

We looked for the best way to save churches money on their student literature. By offering one-year, per-student pricing, we are able to make student literature more affordable than ever. And by including the free leader's guide, we can save churches additional costs in a single package.

Each quarter after you have begun using SOAR:lit you will receive an email letting you know the your next package of SOAR:lit is ready to download.

You can visit DiscipleGuide.org today to find out more about DiscipleGuide's SOAR:lit.

**Baptist Missionary Association  
of Mississippi**

www.bmaofmississippi.com

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**Baptist Children's Home**

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**Missions & Revolving Loan Fund**

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P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855

**Mississippi Baptist** | **Opinion Page**

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

**The Gospel: Red or Blue?**

The Gospel is neither red nor blue. Our country is inundated with red and blue political chatter. To the blue folks, red folks are considered to be too religious. Conversely those who are red see blue folks as not being religious enough.

The genuine Gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. There is no other Gospel Christianity can believe or advocate. This is the center of the Scriptures; this is the center of historic Christianity. This is the simple Gospel—yet unfathomable in its ramifications for me, my family, even my world. Sometimes we Christians stray off with a different idea of what the Gospel really is; a path molded by cultural traditions or political ideology.

Perhaps Christians are ranked red or blue by how many services they attend weekly, the version of the Bible they read, or the songbook (or no songbook) they sing from each Sunday with attending drums, guitars, and other instruments (or no drums,

guitars, and other instruments).

Too much or not enough religiosity is not the standard for judgement of other Christians. If we assess like this, we have based our Gospel on our cultural or on our political assessments. We have muddled being religious with believing and living the Gospel.



**Leave It To Cleaver**

Tony Cleaver

Apostolic words speak to us regarding this matter: "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ."

Let's have the heart of Jesus to be Christian - not religious - in the matter of spiritual liberty. There are clusters of people in every religious circle who masquerade as authorities to issue tickets to be a part of their culturally correct or politically correct religious consortium: red or blue.

**Syrian Refugee Update**

In our October 15th issue we ran an article concerning Syrian refugees and our effort to meet their needs. The article failed to let readers know where to send funds to help in this effort.

All funds should be sent to BMA of America Missions Office, P.O. Box 30910, Little Rock, AR 72260. A note should be placed on the check indicating that the funds are for this specific ministry. We have forwarded some funds that were sent to us.

May God bless the efforts to assist these people.

**Fulton Church Seeks Pastor**

Big Oak Baptist Church of Fulton, Mississippi, is searching for a pastor. Those interested in more information should call Aaron Loden at 662-213-6918 or Robert Loden at 662-397-5395.



**Sofilthy's Attic**

by Barbara White

**The Twenty-Third Pound**

My appetite is my problem,  
I always want.  
It maketh me to sit down  
and stuff myself.  
It leadeth me in the path  
of Burger King for a Whopper.  
It destroyeth my shape.  
Yes, though I gaineth,  
I will not stop eating,  
For the food tasteth good.  
The ice-cream and cookies,  
they comfort me;  
When the table is spread before me,  
It exciteth me.  
For I knoweth that soon I shall dig in.  
As my plate filleth continuously,  
my clothes runneth smaller.  
Surely bulges and excess weight shall  
follow me all the days of my life,  
And I will be fat forever.

-author unknown

**Church of the Covered Dish** BY THOMAS TAPP



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**CONSIDER THIS**

November 2013 is the last month of **Children's Home Special Emphasis** Help Meet Their Needs This Year



Kelby Johnson  
Director

### Youth Department 2013 Annual Meeting Report by Kelby R. Johnson

The youth department enjoyed putting on a few events this year. We heard very positive feedback from the Sharpen Youth Leadership Conference and our Junior Camp. I encourage you to consider making these events part of your schedule in 2014.

But now let me talk with you about the future.

Have you ever used the phrase, "lets just agree to disagree?" I'm sure you have heard it or even said it yourself. It usually comes after two people are discussing an issue and they realize they are not going to find common ground. So, they find common ground in the fact that they disagree. This happens sometimes between church members, friends, or even spouses. The reason I bring this up is because I think it is vitally important for us to find areas in which we agree and then promote that unity. I have two areas that I believe we can agree on regarding youth ministry.

The first area is family. I want to

## Meeting Statistics

### Representation

70 churches by messenger  
45 churches by letter only  
156 messengers registered  
32 visitors registered  
Minute Fund \$6,695.00  
Program Fund \$1,998.00  
No Petitionary Letters

### Officers

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### 2014 Annual Meeting

Southeastern College  
Brian Atwood,  
Annual Message  
Bob Conrad, Alternate

### 2014 Midyear Meeting

Lebanon Church, Laurel  
Donnie Loggins,  
Midyear Message  
Elvis Garcia, Alternate

make a few statements that deal with family and youth ministry and you ask yourself if you agree.

First, God gave the primary responsibility for the spiritual training of children and teenagers to parents. Agree or Disagree?

Second, God gives the church opportunities to come alongside parents in spiritual training. Agree or Disagree?

Third, God gives the church opportunities to reach and train young people who do not come from a Christian home. Agree or Disagree?

I believe we all agree on those three statements. And it is for this reason that we are going to do some ministry next year focusing on the family aspect of youth ministry. First, will we have our second annual SHARPEN Leadership Conference in which the theme will be "Family in Youth Ministry." Additionally, we are in talks about having an actual family retreat sometime in the Spring. More details will be forthcoming.

Let me now shift gears just a moment and give you the second focus for our upcoming year - it is missions. Our children and youth could greatly benefit from doing missions. Agree or Disagree?

We are "Missionary" Baptists so I hope we all agree with that! My two boys (ages 9 and 6) have been to many church camps and a couple of mission trips. I can tell you without question, that the mission trips have impacted them far more than the other things. I am not against camps, we are going to have camps, but I am informing you today that we are going to be working with Bro. Larry Geraldson and the state missionaries to work out a plan for youth groups from our churches to plug into our mission projects next Summer. We are very excited about this opportunity. Imagine taking just one Saturday in the Summer and taking a group of adults and young people to visit with and help one of our missionaries.

In 2014, we are going to promote family and missions among our youth. Will you allow us to come alongside your church by supporting us in these events?

The truth is that each of us have different ideas and concepts and motivations. But ultimately it comes down to this - Can we agree that the gospel needs to go forward? Can we agree that God calls us, His church, to spread the gospel? I hope you would say with me, yes and amen.

# Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Providing Children with a life of stability and structure in a Christian atmosphere that is honoring to God and true to His Word.

## Special Emphasis

October 1, 2013

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home:

We greet you who not only serve and love our Lord Jesus Christ dearly, but also love and appreciate the Baptist Children's Home in Laurel, Mississippi and its ministry. In thinking of writing this Special Emphasis letter this year, at least two thoughts come to mind.

First, there is a great need in our society today to return back to the basics in family life that is to the glory of the Lord. Psalm 127:1 reminds us, "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it." We must look to the Lord to help us accomplish His purposes in each of our homes that it will reflect His glory.

That leads me to my second thought and that is where the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home comes into play. The primary reason for the existence of the Home is to provide children with a life of stability and structure in a Christian atmosphere that is honoring to God and true to His word.

With these thoughts in mind, we would like to ask you to prayerfully consider participating in this year's Special Emphasis for the months of October and November. Your help during these economic difficult days that is prevalent throughout our country is vital to the ongoing operation of the Home. Over the past few years funds have been on the decline for one reason or another. Cutbacks have been made, but they have not kept up with the decreases in revenue. Therefore, offerings received during this emphasis will be used to offset the deficit in the regular operating account.

Pray for the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home as we help provide children with a life of stability and structure in a Christian atmosphere that is honoring to God and true to His Word.

A Ministry for Children to the Glory of God, Revelation 4:11  
Sidney D. Davis  
Director

## October - November 2013

## Mississippi W.M.A.

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## Nest Stop - Language School

by Jackie Ricks

Chris and Holly Huson, along with their three children, are excited to be headed to language school in Costa Rica for a year. In April 2013, they were elected as missionaries to Ecuador, going to help in the work with Trevor and Nafisa Morris. Maybe you're wondering how a couple from Canton, Texas, ends up headed to a foreign country with no doubts or worries about the future. Well, it's a God thing.

Holly's parents divorced by the time she was three. She and her older sister went to live with her paternal grand-

mother. According to Holly, that was the best thing that could have happened to her. She attended church regularly with her grandmother and accepted Christ as her Savior when she was 15. Her grandmother not only took her to church, she taught Holly about God's love by her words and example.

When Holly began working in her first job as a teen, she met Chris Huson. At first, they appeared to be complete opposites. Even when they married, Chris was not a Christian. However, when Mallory, their oldest child, was only two, Chris

decided that he wanted his children raised in church. After trying several different churches, they ended up going back to Oak Grove Baptist in Canton, where Holly had grown up.

Chris accepted Christ in 2004 and God changed him to be a man of God for Him. After a couple of VSM mission trips as a youth minister, Chris and Holly both felt God's hand at the 2010 SOAR conference. They began the process to become BMAA missionaries, but didn't really know where God wanted them to go until they met Trevor and Nafisa Morris. There was just a connection between them.

God has been showing the Huson's through every step



Chris & Holly Huson & Family

that He is behind their call. Their house sold after being on the market only one day. All they did was put up a sign in the yard and sold without having a realtor. Since then they have been living with Holly's sister's family until they have to leave on December 19th for Costa Rica.

The family realizes God's call as well. Holly's grandmother told her not to worry about her. Although she is now 93, the

grandmother told Holly not to return if she passes away, but to wave "bye" because they know where she will be. She will see them again in glory.

The Husons are traveling to Ecuador to visit the Morris in November. Then all five of the Husons are looking forward to beginning language school in January after arriving in Costa Rica. It should be fairly easy for Mallory (11), Mason (7), and Myah (4) to learn Spanish. Although it may not be as easy for Chris and Holly to learn to speak fluently as adults, they will have others to help them. Missionaries to Mexico, Tommy and Sara Rose are their "big brothers" in language school. They also know others who are there. They will all help out.

Pray for the Husons as they study the language. Also pray for the work in Ecuador as they prepare to go there. Chris Huson and Trevor Morris have completely different testimonies, which should help them be able to reach many people for the Lord.

## 2013-14 State WMA Officers



The 2013 - 2014 officers were elected as follows: President Jessica Haden, 1st Vice President Linda Smith, 2nd Vice President Marilyn Welborn, 3rd Vice President Blinda Lee, Corresponding Secretary Shirlene Smith, Assistant Barbara White, Recording Secretary Freida McNeese, Assistant Jeanelle Burkes, Historian Bonnie Brown, Editor Helen Pitts, Song Director Dawn Burns, Pianist Anita Akers, Director of Youth Auxiliaries Beth Caldwell, GMA/YLA Promoter Becky Farmer, Sunbeam Promoter Linda Dertinger, Project Promoters Lynn McCoy and Dianne Rainey, Retreat Coordinators Sharon Lindsey and Chris Smith.

## HeartDeep wishing to minister



HeartDeep is a Southern Bluegrass Gospel Group desiring to honor the Lord with their music. We are looking to start scheduling sings in our BMA churches for the upcoming year. God has blessed us with many opportunities and we are looking forward to what He has in store. If you would like to schedule us, please contact Bro. Charles Lee at 601-596-3416, Bro. Haden Lee at 601-596-3419, or Bro. Bryson Haden at 662-251-0443. You can also find us on Facebook under the name Heartdeep.

## GMA 2013/2014 - In God We Trust

by Kimberly Mitchell, II Vice President

The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. Psalms 18:2

Is it not amazing to know that our God is with us in all we do? We have someone to be with us in time of trouble, someone to guide us in every decision that we make, someone to keep us strong, and someone to put our trust in. If not for God, who could we trust? No one else in the world will ever be worthy of our trust like He is.

As we go to camp this year, let's remember to trust in God. Let's trust Him to bring us all together and draw us closer to Him. Let's trust Him to have His hand over us and bless us. Let's trust Him to take care of our sisters and brothers spreading His word. If we trust in Him and pray, He will bless us and answer our prayers according to His wisdom. I hope to see everyone at camp.

**March 14 & 15, 2014 - Camp Garaway - Clinton, Mississippi**

## Golf Fellowship Participants



A group of golfers played a fellowship tournament prior to the annual BMA of Mississippi Annual meeting last month.

# Southeastern Baptist College

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

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

by Matt Hudson,  
Trustee Chairman

The board of trustees for Southeastern Baptist College has elected Bro. Danny Pitts as our new interim President. Bro. Pitts is the pastor of First Baptist Church of Shady Grove in Laurel. Bro. Pitts has experience and education background that is very helpful to this position. He is well known to our pastors and churches. He will be representing the college at local association meetings as well as giving direction for the college. If you have questions or suggestions for Bro. Pitts, please call the school office and he will be glad to listen.

He will be giving of his time

with no compensation except for travel expense while attending meetings. Please pray for him as he gives us direction in our search for a new president.

We received some good news from our accrediting agency this past week. The agency uses a scale to grade the schools that are a part of the accrediting agency. A school must maintain a 1.5 grade to continue with accreditation. We have been receiving grades lower than 1.5 over the past few years. After all information was given to the agency, we received a 2.2 grade overall. We praise the Lord for answered prayer.

We would like to welcome our newest trustee that was

elected at our meeting last month. Bro. Sam Oglesby is the pastor of Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Bro. Sam is married to the former Judy Hill of Springhill community near Laurel. Bro. Sam is a former student at Southeastern, played on the basketball team, sang with the College singers and received a degree. His wife, Judy, is a former student and college secretary under former college president Dr. Eugene Murphy. Bro. Sam has been on staff at Westover as Music minister and now Pastor for about 30 years.

We are still in search for a permanent president for the college. Resume's will be received through the end of March of 2014. Those can be sent to: Matt Hudson, 1530 Loden Road, Fulton, MS, 39443 or by e-mail: mlhudson85@yahoo.com.

I would like for you as a church and individual to continue praying for the trustees as we make important decisions for the future of your college.

## CHILDREN'S HOME

118 LOWE ROAD, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39443 - (601) 426-3928

### A Time To Be Thankful

The song that we often sing says, "Count your blessings, name them one by one." The question is, can you count all of God's blessings He has showered upon you? The obvious answer is no.

What a blessing it is to be a child of God. God provides for all of our needs. Many times He blesses us so much it is hard for us to tell the difference from our wants and our needs. We have a reason to thank God. He is so good to us!

During this Thanksgiving give a try at counting your blessings. Thank Him for your salvation. Thank Him for your Christian home. Thank Him for your church home. Thank Him for the material blessings He gives to you. Thank Him for your country. With all of our troubles and problems it is still good to be able to say, "I am an American." Thank Him for Heaven, the home of the redeemed. The list could go on

after we have completed that first page of thanksgiving to the Lord. Give it a try!

### Special Emphasis Reminder

One month has already passed by as far as the Special Emphasis period for the Children's Home. If you haven't given a Special Emphasis offering as of yet, let me encourage you to do so. November would be a good month to remember the Children's Home in a financial way. We have so much to be thankful for. Allow the Lord to use you in helping meet the needs of the Home.



SIDNEY DAVIS  
DIRECTOR

### Remember In Prayer

Continue to remember the ministry of the Home in your prayers.

## The Great Escape Youth & Children's Leaders Cruise January 18-23, 2014



Keynote Speaker  
Donny Parrish

Departing from Galveston, Texas  
Ports of Call Progresso, Yucatan & Cozumel, Mexico  
Cabin Prices - Starting at \$356 & Up Per Person  
Registration - \$50 Per Person  
See all the details at [www.DiscipleGuide.org/thegreatescape](http://www.DiscipleGuide.org/thegreatescape)  
or contact DiscipleGuide at 501-513-3726 or [triciak@conwaycorp.net](mailto:triciak@conwaycorp.net).

**DiscipleGuide**  
CHURCH RESOURCES



## Gospel Concert set at Evergreen Church in Seminary



The Legendary Dixie Echoes Quartet will be appearing at Evergreen Baptist Church in Seminary, Mississippi, on Saturday, November 30, 2013 at 6:00 P.M. Prior to the concert Evergreen's youth will be serving a spaghetti meal with all the trimmings beginning at 4:30 P.M. There is no charge for the meal. A love offering will be taken for the Dixie Echoes during the concert. The church is located at 65 Evergreen Church Rd, Seminary.

For over 50 years, the Dixie Echoes have been delivering the Gospel message in song across America through their spiritually uplifting musical ministry. Respected by their peers and industry leaders alike, the Dixie Echoes are recognized as one of the premiere groups in gospel music. This year, they were voted one of the Top 10 Quartets in America in the Singing News Fan Awards!

It will be a night filled with comedy, amazing music, and the precise four-part harmony the Dixie Echoes are known for! For more information contact: Pastor Chad Cummins at 601-722-3796 or James Clark at 601-517-6302.

## MORAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Baptist Missionary Association of America  
 Dr. John M. Adams, Director  
 P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863  
 Email - fbcjdmaj@yahoo.com



John Adams

### Upcoming Supreme Court Cases

The following article highlights upcoming, high profile Supreme Court cases on the docket for November and December, 2013.

Churches need to be in prayer for the justices that they will see the need to defend Christian faith and principles. These cases are:

(1) Oral argument on November 6 – Town of Greece v.

Galloway

Does a town's policy of having local clergy recite prayers at government meetings violate the First Amendment's establishment clause when nearly all the prayers are Christian?

A three-judge panel of the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last year that the predominance of Christian prayers "impermissibly affiliated the town with a single creed."

## "Hot Topics" for Winter Compass Sunday School Literature

Pope Francis recently remarked that the church has become too focused on "small-minded rules" on hot-button issues like homosexuality, abortion, and contraceptives. However, he later clarified his remarks by saying, "The church's stance against gay marriage, abortion, and contraception has not changed." But he said the church must find a "new balance," adding that the "thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful."

Even the pope can get caught up in the controversial topics of the day when he attempts to apply the official position of the Roman Catholic Church to the changing attitudes of today's society. Your own pas-

tor and your own church may encounter the same kind of reaction in your community when you seek to share what the Bible says about the key issues of the day.

Your Compass Sunday school study guide for adults for the winter of 2013-14 will help you examine the Bible's teaching under the theme "Hot Topics." The Corinthian church of the first century was unruly and worldly. The Apostle Paul wrote two surviving letters condemning their ungodliness and offering corrective measures.

Churches of the twenty-first century continue to grapple with many of the same issues. How will believers and your church respond to the attitudes of the world that stand in opposition to God's revealed stan-

Marsh v. Chambers (1983) held that the Nebraska Legislature could fund the opening of its sessions with a chaplain's prayer, citing the "unique history" of the United States.

(2) Oral argument possibly November or December – Cline v. Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Justice.

Can a state limit the administration of abortion-inducing drugs to the protocols specified on their labels, thereby restricting so-called medical abortions?

The Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled in December that a state law barring off-label uses of such drugs is unconstitutional. The U.S. Supreme Court asked the state court to clarify its ruling before pro-

ceeding. You and your church must decide how you will respond to today's attitudes on such issues as immorality, marriage, Christian liberty, spiritual gifts, suffering, tongues-speaking, and personal accountability. In his letters to the believers in Corinth, Paul addresses these issues and many others as God revealed His will and His standard for His church and His children. Ultimately, you will be challenged to understand, accept, and live by the Bible's position on controversial topics.

Ken Adams wrote the commentary for this series of lessons. Ken has served in key ministry roles in both the church and in the publishing ministry for over thirty-five years. He has served churches as a pastor and teacher. He ministered on the staff of DiscipleGuide Church Resources for more than twenty-five years, and he has been writing on the Compass curriculum team since 2008.

Ken's involvement in the Compass curriculum is another illustration of how DiscipleGuide is using the talents of BMAA contributors to offer quality resources to DiscipleGuide customers. To learn more about the Compass curriculum line or to order Compass products for your church visit [www.DiscipleGuide.org](http://www.DiscipleGuide.org).

November 2013  
 Children's Home  
 Special Emphasis

ceeding.

Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992) upheld the right to abortion established in Roe v. Wade (1973) by a 5-4 majority, although it approved several new restrictions.

(3) Oral argument possibly December – Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby Stores

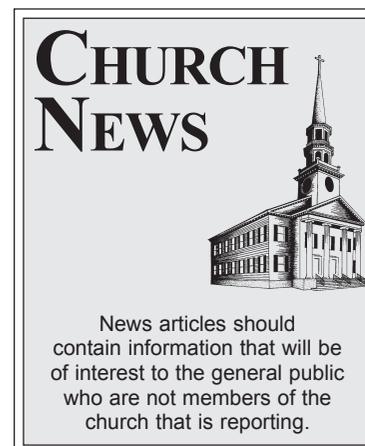
Can a family-owned corporation whose owners oppose abortion refuse to offer health insurance policies that include coverage of contraceptives, as required by President Obama's health care law?

The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in June that the company should not have to comply with the requirement. But a three-judge panel of the 3rd Circuit Court of appeals ruled in July that another company did.

These are among the first cases to reach the Supreme Court since the Affordable Care Act, colloquially dubbed "Obamacare," was enacted in 2010.

Richard Wolf of USA Today stated, "after two blockbuster terms in which it saved President Obama's health care law and advanced the cause of same-sex marriage, the Supreme Court appears poised to tack to the right in its upcoming term on a range of social issues, from abortion and contraception to race and prayer."

The justices, whose term begins soon, could rule against racial minorities in two cases and abortion rights in one or two others. They also could uphold prayers at government meetings."



### Pleasant Hill scheduled revival

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Saucier, Mississippi, will be having Fall Revial November 17-20. Bro. Mike Powell, pastor of Hebron Baptist Church in Meridian, will be the speaker. Sunday School begins at 9:15 a.m. with worship at 10:30 a.m. followed by dinner on the ground. Monday through Wednesday services will begin each night at 7:00pm.

We invite all who can to come and attend.

Bro. Nick Ulmer, Pastor

### East Central Association meets

The East Central Association held its November meeting with Bible Baptist Church near Overt, Mississippi. Pastor Edward Williams welcomed the association and Bro. Howard Rogers brought the evening message. Reports were heard from Senior Adult Director Kenneth Flynt, Children's Home Director Sidney Davis, and State Missions Director Larry Geraldson. Reports were also given on the work of missionaries Bobby Elliott and Bob Burch.

We enjoyed a time of food and fellowship after the meeting.

Henry Lott, reporter

### Harmony Report

The November meeting of the

Harmony Association was held at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Tupelo, Friday, November 8th. The evening message was given by Bro. George Rogers from Luke 12:42-48.

Five churches were represented with 36 present, and 1 visitor. The December meeting will be held at Farmington Baptist with Bro. Jarrod Cox the speaker, and Bro. Frank Wilson, alternate. A report was given by Bro. Bobby Elliott on their building progress and work at Freedom Hill Mission. Bro. Mike Johnson from the Tombigbee Association reported on the upcoming Missions Conference. After the meeting we enjoyed a time of food and fellowship.

Bro. Mike Smith, Moderator  
 Tony Marolt, Reporter

### Tombigbee Association Report

Friendship Baptist Church hosted the monthly meeting of the Tombigbee Association on November 7, 2013. A delicious meal was served and the fellowship was enjoyed by all. Bro. Mike Johnson, pastor, introduced his son, Bro. Chip Johnson as the guest speaker. Bro. Chip is the pastor of County Line Baptist Church in Randolph, Mississippi. Bro. Johnson brought an inspiring message from Colossians 2:8-10 challenging the church to believe whole heartedly that "in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."

Nine churches were represented by 42 messengers and 5 visitors. It was announced that if churches could help Freedom Baptist Mission with purchasing 150 folding chairs for their auditorium, it would certainly be appreciated. Bro. Bobby Elliott is the pastor. Bro. Jimmy Daughtery and family were introduced as Ballardsville Baptist Church's new pastor.

Moderator Matt Hudson  
 Reporter Cathy Johnson

## 2013 Brotherhood Thoughts

by Josh Awtrey

(Bro. Mark Jones asked Josh Awtrey to share his thoughts on the 2013 State Brotherhood meeting)

"What did I take home from the meeting of the Brotherhood at the 2013 annual meeting? A vision." Bro. Mark Jones, President of the state Brotherhood, shared a glimpse of what could be... IF we all work together for the glory of God.

We were challenged to raise funds to support the ministries of Bro. Elvis Garcia and the Galileans. Seventy-five percent of all raised funds will be given to Bro. Garcia while twenty-five percent will go to the Galileans.

Next year's Brotherhood theme is "Act Like Men," and it comes from I Corinthians 16:13 - "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong." Brothers, please be in prayer for the work at hand, and join in as we strive to serve the Lord. Also, be sure to join the newly created "BMA OF MISSISSIPPI BROTHERHOOD" Facebook group to stay up to date on current goals and announcements. May God bless you in a mighty way, and may He receive all of the glory."