

# The Mississippi Baptist

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## SBC President Scott Carson Featured Speaker at Veterans Day Celebration

Veterans Museum, Laurel, Mississippi - November 10, 2017

by Dr. Scott Carson

*Scott Carson is a retired U.S. Army Chaplain (Col.) after over 30 years of service and currently serves as President of Southeastern Baptist College*

It is truly a tremendous privilege to have been asked to be your guest speaker today. Hav-

ground. • If your attack is going too well, you are walking into an ambush. • If you find yourself in a fair fight, you didn't plan your mission properly. • Don't draw fire; it irritates the people around you. • Any ship can be a minesweeper . . . once. • If the enemy is in range, so are you. • Friendly fire isn't. • Never share a fox-



Dr. Scott Carson addressing the crowd at the Veterans Day service at the Veterans Memorial Museum in Laurel.

ing relocated here to Laurel after retiring from the Army, we have fell in love with the good folks of Jones County. You have embraced us warmly as if we have always lived here! Thank you Brother Lee for this honor!

Having served 30 years as an active duty chaplain with two combat tours, I have learned that most of these military truisms contain much wisdom! For instance:

• Instruction printed on US rocket launcher: "Aim towards the Enemy." • From a US Army Field Manual: "When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is no longer our friend." • Cluster bombing from B-52s is very, very accurate. The bombs always hit the

hole with anyone braver than you are. • The quartermaster has only two sizes: too large and too small. • And never EVER tell your Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do.

Having served as a Senior Chaplain I can certainly relate to this story:

One day, three senior chaplains with the equal rank of colonel, one from each branch of the service, were hiking together and unexpectedly came upon a wide, raging, violent river. They needed to get to the other side, but had no idea of how to do so.

The Air Force Chaplain fell to his knees and called out to God, praying, "Please God, give me the strength to cross this river."

**Editor's Note:** Dr. Scott Carson was invited to be the featured speaker at the annual Veteran's Day celebration in Laurel. On Friday, November 1, 2017, veterans and supporters gathered at the Veterans Museum in Laurel. A good crowd was on hand to honor and celebrate those men and women who served and are still serving our nation in our armed forces.

**POOF!**

God gave him big arms and strong legs, and he was able to swim across. It did, however, take him more than an hour and he almost drowned a couple of times.

Seeing this, the Navy Chaplain prayed to God saying, "Please God, give me not only the strength but also the tools to cross this river." **POOF!**



Retired Army Chaplain and SBC President Dr. Scott Carson

God gave him a rowboat and oars. He was able to row across,

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## A Time for Giving

The holiday season is a time for thankfulness and giving. Families and friends gather together and share their best dishes while enjoying the holiday festivities.

This holiday season, while you are gathering with your local church family for a potluck dinner, join DiscipleGuide and participate in the World's Largest Potluck offering. It's easy to get involved and it helps other local churches in the BMA. Simply take a collection at the potluck meal, which will help DiscipleGuide continue to invest in local churches.

Contributions will help us continue to provide free resources such as our church revitalization services, help line for pastors, and web-casts to local churches. Plus, if we reach our goal of \$200,000 we will be able to provide new services such as an intentional interim program and pastor search services to help churches without pastors. We even have plans to offer teacher trainings, provide resources for pastor's wives, and special conferences for men and women.

As an association, we all pool our resources to help each other—just like everyone brings something to the table at a potluck—and nobody walks away hungry.

So celebrate with us! And partner with DiscipleGuide as we help churches maximize their Great Commission potential. To register, visit [discipleguide.org/potluck](http://discipleguide.org/potluck).

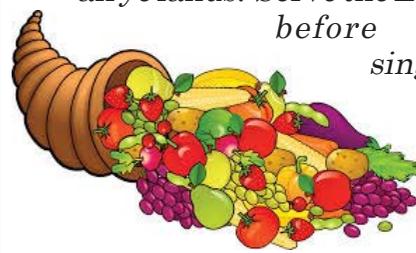


## His Steadfast Love Endures Forever

Psalm 100

*A Psalm of praise. Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into*

*his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.*



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*O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people.” Ps 105:1*

Sometimes you just have to be there to fully experience it. I want to share the dedication prayer, offered by Dr. John Pearce, at Grace Baptist Mission on the occasion of their first service in their new building. It blessed my heart and speaks to the gratitude I have for all that our churches and people do for the cause of missions in Mississippi. I hope it will be a blessing to you.

**Prayer of Gratitude and Dedication and Thanksgiving**

by Dr. John Pearce

“Through the ages, Almighty God has moved his people to build houses of prayer and praise, and to set apart places for the ministry of his holy Word and to carry out His ordinances, which today are baptism and the Lord’s Supper. We can look at the altars of the Patriarchs, to the tent in the Wilderness, to Shiloh, to Solomon’s Temple and the Temple of the returning exiles, and to the synagogues and houses of the New Testament period. It is clear that God desires to be with His people.

It is true that God’s Temple now is not a building, but the hearts of believers in His Son. However, even now God has directed us to meet for prayer, for instruction in His Word, and for His ordinances, and we now have a permanent place to do this. With gratitude for the building of Grace Baptist Church, we are now gathered to dedicate it in God’s Name.

**Let us pray.**

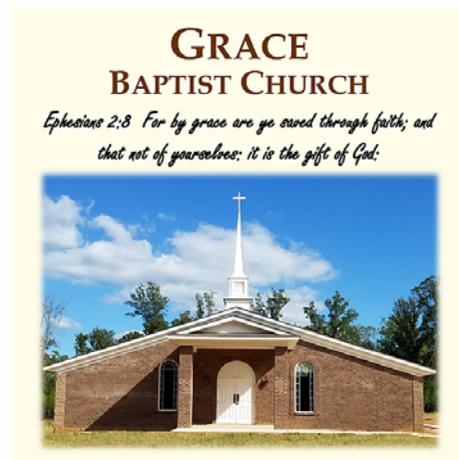
*Eternal God, mighty in power and incomprehensible in majesty, whom the heavens cannot contain, much less the walls of temples made with hands or this building we are in today; yet you have been so gracious as to promise Your holy presence wherever two or three of Your faithful servants assemble in Your Name;*

*Be present with us who are now gathered with humility and gratitude to dedicate this place to the honor of Your great Name. We ask that You keep it from all profane use. We dedicate it to the work of your Kingdom: for*

*reading Your most holy Word, for continuing Your ordinances of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, for offering the sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving, for the blessing Your people, and for the mission of Your Church.*

*Lord, we are also mindful of those whom You have used to bring this day forward. We wish to give thanks to You for the ministry of Your saints and churches which have been particularly important in this day.*

*• We thank You God for the ministry of Br. Ed Waddell. We thank You for his faith and encouragement to all of Grace Baptist Mission. We know that by faith, he saw this day and the joy that we all*



*have today in this building. We thank You that He was determined to see the Lord’s church have a building in which to worship You. We are thankful that he is participating in worship in a building not made with hands in glory even now.*

*• We thank You for the faithful members of Grace Baptist Mission. We thank You that You have continued to bring faithful people into our mission who have supported with joy the work of Your church. Lord, unless You preserve us, we shall perish. Preserve us, Lord.*

*• We thank You for the ministry of Wilderness Baptist Church in Vicksburg in whom You placed the burden to send out a missionary to work here in Clinton. We ask that You build up Your church at Wilderness and sustain and prosper the Gospel ministry there.*

*• We thank You God for the ministry of Br. Larry Geraldson and the churches*



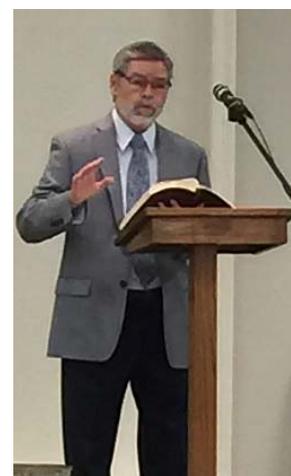
First Worship Service in New Building at Grace Baptist in Clinton

*of the BMA of Mississippi. We are thankful that You placed a burden for missionary work among the BMA churches, and we ask that You continue to carry Your Gospel through them and facilitate the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ through the state missions office. Please sustain and prosper the ministry of Br. Geraldson and the churches of the BMA of Mississippi.*

*• We thank You for the ministry of Creston Hills Baptist Church. We thank You for the many years of making disciples at Creston Hills, and we thank You that when the ministry of that church came to an end, You inspired them to dedicate their resources to another Gospel work. We ask that You help us be good stewards of the legacy we received from them.*

*• We thank You for the ministry of the churches of the Capital Baptist Association who have provided and continue to provide prayer and support for the ministry here at Grace Baptist. We ask that You prosper the Gospel ministry of the churches of the Capital Baptist Association.*

*• We thank You for the ministry of the churches of the East Central Association who have provided and continue to provide prayer and financial support for the ministry here at Grace Baptist. We ask that You prosper the Gospel ministry of the churches of the East*



Missionary Pastor  
Danny Bartlett

*Central Association.*

*• We thank You for the ministry of Skyway Hills Baptist Church who provided labor and resources to build our pulpit area. We ask that You prosper the Gospel ministry of Skyway Hills Baptist Church.*

*• We thank You for the ministry of Br. Justin Rhodes whom You inspired to start the work here at Grace Baptist Church. We ask that You continue his ministry and that You bring a prosperity of true disciples of Jesus Christ through him.*

*• We thank You for the ministry of Br. Danny and Mrs. Brenda Bartlett. We thank You that they have been faithful to teach the Gospel here in Your church and in our community through their words and actions. We thank You for the patient labor they have put into Grace and for constantly pushing forward, often sacrificially, the ministry of Grace Baptist. We ask that You prosper their Gospel ministry for years to come.*

*• We thank You for Your kindness and favor in working with the city of Clinton to gather all of the permits needed. Please bring revival, peace, and prosperity to our community.*

*• We thank You for Br. John Prickett and the time he donated to overseeing*

continued on page 3

# Veterans Day Speech

from page 1

but it still took almost an hour, it was very rough, and he almost capsized several times.

The Army Chaplain saw how things worked out for the other two, so when he prayed to God, he said, "Please God, give me the strength, and the tools, and also the intelligence to cross this river." POOF!

God turned him into a Marine Lance Corporal. He looked at the map, hiked upstream a couple of hundred yards, and walked across the bridge.

And that, my friends, is why every chaplain requires a Chaplain Assistant!

The motto of the U.S. Army Chaplaincy is "Pro Deo et Patria", which is Latin meaning "For God and Country".

Now, that is very appropriate for chaplains who set aside their clerical garb and put on the uniform of our armed services in order to bring God to those

serving our nation whether on a tarmac, or at sea, or in a foxhole anywhere in the world.

But I propose to you that it is also the reality of each of you who left their familiar neighborhoods, raised their right hands, and repeated their oath of enlistment or commission. Because, at the end of your oath you repeated four words. If you remember them, please repeat with me: "So help me God!"

While in uniform you were serving both your God and your country. And, it was a high and lofty endeavor. I would say, a sacred duty! Our country was founded on the Judeo-Christian scriptures wherein we veterans have supported its constitutional freedoms since our hard won independence in 1776. Whether in peace time or in response to a call to arms in war, brave men and women, common citizens from across our nation, stepped

forward – in sharp contrast to our civilian pursuit of peace, and put on the uniform of our armed forces. You, you did this! In spite of danger, in the face of possibly becoming maimed, in

God so graciously bestowed upon our nation.

Edmund Burke once said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."



Pictured above are Col. (Ret) Scott Carson, Mr. Vic Lee, and Mr. Jimmy Bass at the Veteran's Day Celebration in Laurel.

the chance of death, you stood up and offered your very life in order that our loved ones would continue to enjoy the liberty that

You sensed this very threat. And you are the "good men" Burke refers to. You are the good men and women who did

something! In the face of danger, you served freedom's cause. Some of you were injured in your service. Some earned purple hearts, others received disability ratings. Many have injuries that cannot be visibly seen, some suffer from traumatic brain injuries, others from the terrible effects of PTSD. And some, never made it home.

These injuries were incurred while in uniform and the vast majority of the good people of our great nation, regardless of creed, color or political persuasion, are grateful for your sacrifices!

For God and Country: you responded to your country's call and you also served our nation with a sense of divine calling. You protected your families, your loved ones and your neighbors. Whether you were at the point of the spear or serving in a supporting role, you were there for freedom's cause. You are part of the great brotherhood and sisterhood of our armed forces, wherein George Orwell referred when he said, "We sleep soundly in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm."

Thank God you did your duty! Thank God you served our country. Our nation remains free today because you answered the call. You fulfilled your obligations. You stood ready. You stood in the gap between good and evil. You preserved the precious liberties of our beloved constitution.

No matter what branch you served in, whether you were peace time or war time, whatever your job path or how many years you served, raising your hand and committing yourself to service in the military was a brave and selfless act.

Thanks to those who have served and those who continue to serve today, America can sleep peacefully at night. Military men and women know the risks, but they accept them in many cases so that others won't have to.

Gary "Mike" Rose accepted those risks when he enlisted in the United States Army during the height of the Vietnam War. He knew of the increased dangers he would face when he joined the Special Forces, and he knew the hazards would grow tremendously when he volunteered for overseas duty.

In June 1970, his first mission after arriving in Vietnam resulted in a Purple Heart and

# Missions Report

from page 2

the architectural plans. We ask that You prosper him as his soul prospers.

• We thank You for the skill of Mr. Tim Prevost in constructing this building. We ask that You prosper him as his soul prospers.

• We thank You for the churches and ministers who faithfully teach Your Gospel here in Clinton. We ask that You prosper the Gospel here in Clinton. Please use this church for that purpose.

• We thank You for the countless others who have sacrificed for the construction of this building. We ask Your blessing for all of them.

Lord, You have used many hands to bring this day about. We are truly surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. We do not name these individuals to give them glory. All glory belongs to You alone. Rather, we see that through so many hands, many of whom are strangers to most of us, that You have been faithful to Your promise that You will build Your Church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.

Having this confidence, we therefore pray that

• The One True God, Father,

*Son, and Holy Spirit, alone will be glorified in this place. Lord please preserve Your true worship and alone be exalted in this place.*

• We pray that You will hear the prayers of Your church when we call upon You in this place according to Your promise that when two or three are gathered together, You will be in the midst of them.

• We pray that this be a place where sinners will hear about their sin, come to Jesus for mercy, and cry out like the publican, as all true Christians have done, to "have mercy on me, a sinner."

• We pray that this place will be a school to build up disciples of Jesus Christ.

• We pray that Your peace will be to this house and all who enter here.

• May our Lord Jesus Christ put His seal upon this place and protect it from all evil and darkness, that it may be a beacon of His truth and love.

Everliving Father, watchful and caring, hear us now, as we dedicate this place to which we come to praise Your Name, to ask Your forgiveness, to know Your healing power, to hear Your Word, and to be nourished by the ministry of the Word of Your Son and His ordinances. Be present always to guide and to judge, to illuminate and to bless Your people.

Lord Jesus Christ, make this

a temple of Your presence and a house of prayer. Be always near us when we seek You in this place. Draw us to You, when we come alone and when we come with others, to find comfort and wisdom, to be supported and strengthened, to rejoice and give thanks. May it be here, Lord Christ, that we exalt You together and join the praises of Your church and submit to Your Word, so that our lives are sustained and sanctified for Your service.

Holy Spirit, open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts, that we may grow closer to You through joy and through suffering. Be with us in the fullness of Your power as new members are added to Your household, as we grow in grace through the years, and when we turn to You in sickness or special need.

We ask all of this in the Name of Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit. – Amen

## Matching Campaign Continues

Bro. Phillip Burns and Day Star have already reached their goal of \$50,000.00 raised. This will be matched as they prepare to begin site preparation for their new building. Bro. Wesley Martin and Redemption Baptist Mission have raised \$20,000.00, so far. Paramount Baptist Church has donated half and the Ten

Mile Association, the other half. They are \$30,000.00 away from their goal and have until the end of January 2018 to raise the remaining amount.

## The Hutchinsons (Our Newest Missionary Family) Have Arrived

Will and Kelly Hutchinson and their children have completed their move from Texas to the Gulf Coast. They are busy getting settled in and assimilating into Campground Baptist Church (their mother church). Bro. Hutchinson will be available to accept appointments to visit churches, for the next few months, to share their vision about their work in D'iberville. If you would like to have them visit your church, give him a call at 512-354-6703 or you can email him at will.hutch1@yahoo.com.

## Missions and Evangelism Conference

Please mark your 2018 Calendar. The Missions and Evangelism Conference will be on May 4th starting at 10:00 am at Grace Baptist Church in Clinton Mississippi. More to follow!

## Office Closed

Our office will be closed between Christmas and New Years Day. If you need to deposit or withdraw money from the Revolving Loan Fund, please make sure to do it before we close.

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## MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Director

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On The Web at [www.macbma.net/](http://www.macbma.net/)

Email - [fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com](mailto:fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com)



John Adams

## JUDEO-CHRISTIAN HERITAGE SERIES

### Homosexuality – The Real Problem

Romans 1:24-32

Across the land, pressure is increasing to give homosexuals more and more privileges. They desire access to jobs of every kind (including the ministry), the right to be accepted as foster parents, and the right to marry each other in church weddings. Should they have the right to do something that the Bible convicts us is morally and spiritually wrong? All this is the crux of what is called the “gay-rights” issue.

#### The Conflict of Homosexuality – Leviticus 18:22

Can a homosexual be a Christian? What should be our attitude toward persons in the grip of homosexual practice? Twenty years ago a discussion on homosexual rights in our society was unthinkable. Today, many Christians accept homosexuality and lesbianism as a legitimate alternate life-style. Some time ago, Time magazine in an essay, “The Homosexual in America”, made

this discerning comment:

Beset by inner conflicts, the homosexual is unsure of his own position in society...A vast majority of people retain a deep loathing toward him, but there is a growing mixture of tolerance, empathy or apathy.

Society is torn between condemnation of the homosexual and compassion for him. The deviates plea is that he be treated like everyone else, yet it is known that he is not like everyone else. In simple terms, a homosexual person is in the grips of Satan’s most vulgar sin.

Let’s trace God’s Word for His expression:

- A. Leviticus 18:22
- B. Ezekiel 16:49-50
- C. Romans 1:26-28
- D. I Corinthians 6:9-11

The fact that Leviticus 18:22 is followed by a commandment against sexual acts with animals suggests the unthinkable nature of the homosexual-

lesbian relations.

#### The Confusion of Homosexuality

In all this, the Bible inevitably has come under sharp attack. Some seek to show by the scripture that the Bible itself justifies the homosexual life-style. Some say that the Word of God should have a place in setting moral and marital standards. No Christian should be deceived, for the Bible clearly tells us that this perverted lifestyle is without defense. Genesis 19 describes the lusts of men for men of which led to the destruction of the city. What ultimate confusion came from this sin!

The degrading effect is beyond our understanding. The tragedy above all else is that they are letting their lust come between them and the blessing of salvation. Homosexuals are a society walled off from God.

From his writings “Homosexuality and The Church”, Richard F. Lovelace states that the confusion of sex can be cleared up from Genesis 1 and 2.

Genesis Chapter 1:22 deliberately notes that the man made in God’s image was created male and female, connecting this with the command to reproduce (Genesis 1:27, 28). In Chapter 2 sexuality is also related to companionship; the loneliness of man is remedied not by the creation of another man, but the addition of woman (Genesis 2:21, 22). The woman became a helpmate suitable for the man. The bond of companionship between man and woman is cemented by sexual union and their togetherness

as a family unit. The sexual relationship between male and female married partners continues to be celebrated with unembarrassed candor as a gift of God...such as the Songs of Solomon and Proverbs 5:15-19.

#### The Cure For Homosexuality

God has put the cure in our hands as Christians. The Word of God tells us (I Corinthians 6:11-20) that although no one can hang on to homosexuality and be accepted by Almighty God, some former homosexuals in the church at Corinth had found deliverance. They had entered a brand new life by faith in Jesus Christ.

William Barclay writes, “The proof of Christianity lay in its power. It could take the dregs of humanity and make real men out of them. No man can change himself, but Christ Jesus can change him.”

#### Recommended Readings:

- Facts on Homosexuality – John Ankerberg
- The Gay Agenda – Ronnie Floyd
- The Homosexual Agenda – Alan Sears, C. Oster

#### Louisiana Church Seeking Staff Member

Calvary Baptist Church, Vidalia, Louisiana, is seeking a bi-vocational Youth & Family Outreach Director. Please send resume to [office@calvaryvidalia.com](mailto:office@calvaryvidalia.com) or 2001 Murray Drive, Vidalia, LA 71373.

## Veterans Day Speech

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Bronze Star with Valor. But it was just a few months later during “Operation Tailwind”, in the North Vietnamese Army-controlled Laos, where the medic’s heroic actions would—more than 45 years later—result in the Medal of Honor. Just last month, Rose received the nation’s highest military honor for his selfless efforts to care and safeguard fellow soldiers wounded in the bloody four-day battle.

Of the 16 Americans who were on that mission, not one of them left Laos unscathed. But they all returned home, and 33 Purple Hearts were awarded. Then Sergeant Rose received two of them as a result of being hit with shrapnel from a rocket-propelled grenade. Despite an overwhelming enemy force, debilitating injuries and a helicopter crash during the final mission extraction, Rose never gave up. Facing insurmountable odds, he refused to quit.

Rose’s actions reflect the unique

American fighting spirit!

That refusal to back down is something I have seen day in and day out by my fellow veterans. That fighting spirit on the battlefield carries over as they embark upon the road to recovery. They refuse to back down. They recognize that life may be different—but it is certainly not over.

Many of you have discovered the same reality. And, I encourage you to continue reaching out to other veterans, especially those whose lives have been changed forever by their wartime experiences. There are many military service organizations, the VFW, the American Legion, and others. I myself am a member of our own Laurel chapter of the Disabled American Veterans that meet right here the first Monday night of each month. If you are here in this crowd today, and you know you might need help, or if you know of someone who may need to connect—these organizations

are here and ready to help! The service taught us to never leave a comrade behind. And this also means even after we take off our uniforms for the last time. Our service to other members of the Armed Forces continues.

Over time, every enlistment or commission comes to an end, but a veterans’ service has no expiration date. American citizens should be grateful not only for veterans while in the military, but for all they do to give back to their country and its citizens, long after their discharge is signed. Vocalizing our gratitude to veterans is a good start, but illustrating our thanks is most impactful with actions.

For my fellow veterans, you have the ability to connect with a veteran in a way that is unique

to those of us who wore the uniform by joining service organizations and getting involved. I encourage you to seek out your brothers and sisters in arms, get to know them and ensure they know you’ve got their six!

I know whenever I meet a complete stranger and find out they have served in the military, and especially within the same branch, it is then we have instant credibility and a significant interconnectedness that others just don’t experience.

For God and Country: Our veterans have served both, and continue to do so in our communities today, and right here in the Pine Belt! They voiced a solemn oath when they entered our armed forces. These veterans among us today honorably

fulfilled their duty when their term of service expired. And they continue to reach out to our brothers and sisters who may continue to relive their battlefield experiences long after the guns have gone silent.

To you, our veterans, the citizens of our great nation salute you!

For everyone in the crowd today, thank you for taking the time to remember our heroes. They never gave up on us and we can’t give up on them!

Bless “all y’all” for your continued support; bless our veterans; bless our gold star families and may God’s grace rest upon each of you; and God bless the United States of America!

And all God’s children said... Amen! For God and Country!

# Mississippi Baptist

Don J. Brown, Editor

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# Southeastern Baptist College

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

## President's Perspective

In the last couple of Mississippi Baptist publications, I shared two of five of my recently formulated talking points for the promotion of Southeastern Baptist College. The first two talking points are:

1. SBC Equips the Saints.
2. SBC Exalts Christ.

The third talking point is: SBC Expounds God's Word

In today's society, where truth is relative and morality is subjective, we at Southeastern Baptist College boldly stand upon the never-changing truth as revealed in the Bible. We will never compromise this position, for we stand with the Lord!

After the successful campaign to occupy the Promised Land, Israel's great general, Joshua, charged the people of God with these words, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Our SBC professors are born again Christians who have chosen to serve the Lord and are dedicated to communicating the truth of the scriptures to our students. Satan and his minions are relentless in their attempts to flip the truth found in God's Word. Almost anything that the Bible declares as evil is now pushed by enemies of truth as good. What is condemned in God's word is

now celebrated and promoted openly, and we who stand upon scriptural principles are demonized and ridiculed.

What disturbs me, as I continue to acquaint myself with Christian higher education, is that many Christian parents continue to eagerly send their children to secular colleges that are now openly and violently opposed to the teaching of God's statutes. Should we not, as mature Christians, desire to channel our children, and ourselves, toward a godly education? Shouldn't we want to send our money, provided to us by the Lord Himself, to Christian institutions that promote God's Holy Word and godly living?

Well, that's why the BMA of Mississippi has Southeastern Baptist College! You can send your children and your hard earned dollars to this godly institution where you know the principles of God's Word will be clearly and intentionally communicated.

I believe the Lord will bless Southeastern Baptist College for refusing to compromise His Word. We must promote Christian higher education, and we must do so boldly in this increasing age of sinfulness.

All of us here at SBC are dedicated to standing on the Word of God, teaching our students how to rightly divide it, and producing graduates who will pro-



Dr. Scott Carson  
President

claim its truth that others may come to faith in Jesus our Savior!

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes." Psalm 119:9-12

## Donors Dinner

We will honor our much appreciated individual supporters at a Donor Appreciation Dinner at 6:30 p.m., on November 30, 2017 in the SBC gymnasium. Invitations have been sent and we request your R.S.V.P. by November 23. This will be a great time of celebration!

## Landscaping Project

Mrs. Delight Jefcoat has graciously volunteered to lead a project to beautify the landscaping of our campus. A major initiative she is promoting is the transferring of flower bulbs from private gardens to SBC. If you would like donate bulbs and participate in this project, please contact Delight at 601-763-4952.

## "Yay!"

Okay, I know that is misspelled, but it is commonly used in instant messaging. The big "yay" is that SBC is rated the 6th most affordable Online Christian College in the nation for 2018! Why spend big bucks at other colleges when you can earn your incredibly affordable accredited degree here at Southeastern Baptist College? Contact us today to register for the Spring semester.

## More Good News

On a scale of zero to three, our accrediting agency requires us to crunch numbers to give us an annual rating. Any rating of 1.4 or below is not good and could place us on probation with the agency. Last year we were very close with a rating of 1.7. But praise the Lord, we cleared the baseline and kept us in

the "safety" zone for 2016. This year we are rated at a whopping 2.6! That is nine points higher over last year. Thank you for your encouraging prayer and financial support enabling Southeastern Baptist College to continue its forward momentum!

## Special Projects

If your church or ministry activity would like to take on a special project to help the college, we have several that need addressed. Some projects include: updating the gym's entrances and bathrooms; fixing the exterior of the men's dormitory; upgrades to our apartments; new flooring in offices and hallways. This list is not exhaustive, but these are some of the projects that are toward the top of our list.

## Available Scholarships

Take note! Thinking about taking courses in the Spring semester? There are several scholarship opportunities available for our student body that supporters of the school have graciously provided. In addition, if you are a BMA minister, there are specially set aside scholarships available for you! Our recruiter, Justin Rhodes, has all the information you need to sign up for classes or contact Brother Ronnie regarding financial aid. Both can be reached at 601-426-6346.

## VA Benefits

Tremendous news! SBC has been elevated from the 2017 Silver Award status to the 2018 Gold Award level as a military friendly college! Have you served in America's armed forces? Then you probably have Veterans Administration tuition benefits that you can use toward a free education right here at SBC. I urge you to contact your local VA representative for an evaluation of your benefits. You earned them! And remember, the Post 9-11 GI Bill is fully transferable to family members. SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

## Vehicle

Southeastern Baptist College is in need of a late model four door pickup truck with low mileage. Our current mini-van is old with high mileage and in need of replacement. Contact us if you are interested in donating your truck. Southeastern Baptist College is a 501(c)(3) certified tax deductible charity.

## Available to Preach

Thank you for the many churches providing Dr. Carson an opportunity to preach the Word of God to your congregations! Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit for preaching or to make a presentation about the great work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. You can reach him at 601-433-4736 or at [scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu](mailto:scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu)

## BMA Chaplain Doug Inman promoted

by Scott R. Carson, D.Min.  
Colonel, U.S. Army Retired -- BMAA Endorsing Agent

On October 10, 2017, Doug Inman, a BMAA military chaplain, was promoted to Major in the U.S. Army Chaplaincy. Doug, his wife Katja, and three children have been assigned to Fort Hood, TX over last the couple of years. A few months ago, Doug underwent successful back surgery requiring an extensive rehabilitation program. With his new promotion to Major also came new orders. The Inman's will move to Fort Sill, OK in early January 2018. He has already been notified by his gaining command of an impending deployment to Southeast Asia shortly after their arrival to Fort Sill. Please remember to keep the Inman's and all our chaplains in your prayers.

Pictured to the right are Chaplain (Major) Dough Inman, Wife Katja, and oldest of three children, Nathaniel.



# MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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



SIDNEY DAVIS

### Let Us Be Thankful

Our thanks to God needs to be a way of life for the believer. To worship properly includes giving thanks to God for everything He has done for us. When we offer our thanks to God we praise and glorify Him. Thanksgiving helps us to perform our duty to God. It is our privilege and pleasure that God allows us to be involved in His work. So we serve out of thankfulness. May we never take for granted our daily supply of food, shelter, and clothing of the provisions of God. All that we have comes from Him. "Be thankful unto Him, and bless His name." Psalm 100:4. Live each day in thankfulness to God for He is worthy of our praise.

### Special Emphasis Reminder

The Special Emphasis period for the Children's Home is about to come to a close. If you haven't given an Emphasis offering as of yet, let me encourage you to prayerfully consider doing so. Allow the Lord to use you in helping meet the needs of the Home.

### Students Doing Well in Their Studies

Report cards for the first nine weeks of school acknowledge that the girls and boys at the Home have gotten off to a good start this new school year. The fourth grade boy made the Honor Roll. The fifth grade girl was recognized as Student of the Month, inducted into the Beta Club, received the Math Achievement Award, and made the Principal's List. The middle school (7th grade) girl needed one point in one subject in having all A's. The high school (11th grade) girl had all A's. We are thankful for the progress they are making in their academic studies thus far.

### Remember in Prayer and Focus Verse

Continue remembering this ministry in your prayers. "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

## Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



**Special Emphasis  
October - November 2017  
Goal - \$25,000**

## Mission Trip Opportunities

### Attention Adult Church Leaders and Members:

Have you ever thought about taking a short-term mission trip but didn't know with whom or how? Evangelistic International Ministries (EIM) would like to invite you to become a part of what God is doing around the world! This is your opportunity to make an impact on lives overseas. EIM has been taking teams of adults on short-term mission trips for over 15 years. EIM will take care of all the planning and logistics, all you have to do is sign up and raise the money.

We have three different trips to choose from this year that each contain their own unique experience. In Tanzania you will have the opportunity to do house to house (Or should I say Hut to Hut!) evangelism with a local pastor or church planter. The Overseas Bible schools will have 600-1,500 students ranging from 5 to 12 years old. In Honduras you will see firsthand EIM's Shepherd Bag Ministry™. Every morning we will visit one school, distribute Shepherd Bags™, and share the gospel. In the afternoons we will conduct our Bible school and will have 200 - 300 children ranging from 4 to 12 years old. In the country of Romania, we conduct two Overseas Bible schools daily. The number of students may be smaller (20-30) but you will greatly enjoy spending time with Pastor Cristi Ciuculescu and the Good Shepherd church. Our purpose in Romania is to help this young church in a very difficult place reach out to those around it with the Gospel.



Photo from recent EIM trip to Tanzania

Below are the dates that have been set for our 2018 Overseas Bible Schools, as well as the total cost of each trip that will cover airfare, lodging, meals, and transportation while in country. Also, you will see the deadline for registering and the deposit amount.

### Tanzania: June 20 - 30

Cost: \$3,000 Registration deadline and \$350 deposit due January 31, 2018 total team member needed for team 25

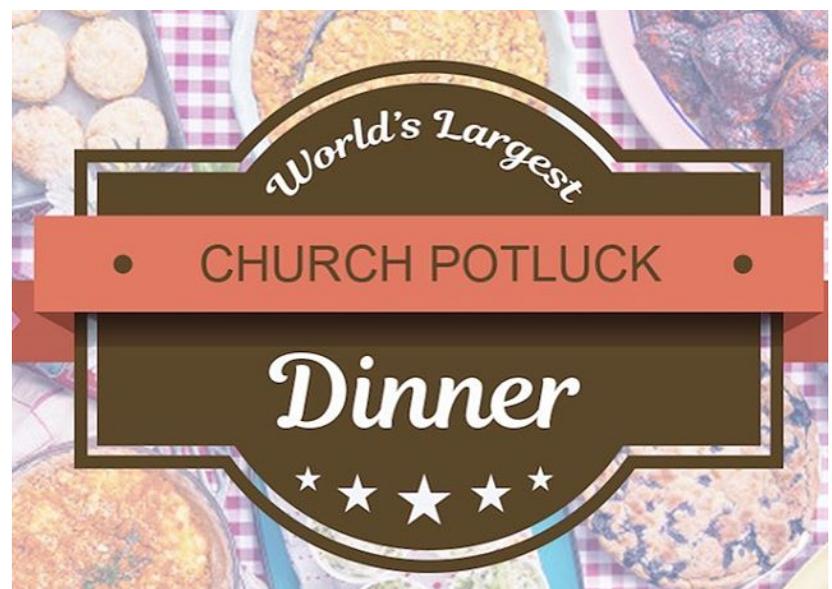
### Honduras: July 14 - 20

Cost: \$2,000 Registration deadline and \$350 deposit due February 15, 2018 Total team member needed for team 16

### Romania: August 2 - 10

Cost: \$2,800 Registration deadline and \$350 deposit due March 1, 2018 Total team member needed for team 10

To register go to [www.eimworldwide.org](http://www.eimworldwide.org) click the "Go Serve With Us" tab at the top, scroll down, and click on Overseas Bible School. Registration has already begun and teams will fill quickly. As you can see, there are a limited number of team members available for each trip, so sign up soon. For more information please contact our OBS Coordinator, Alicia Jackson, at [obs@eimworldwide.org](mailto:obs@eimworldwide.org) or myself, Mike Goodwin, at [mgoodwin@eimworldwide.org](mailto:mgoodwin@eimworldwide.org)



## DiscipleGuide to Offer Compass Classic

Beginning this spring quarter, DiscipleGuide will offer Compass Classic, which is the traditional format of Compass. This format provides the King James printed text with no questions or blanks. For teachers, Compass Leader will be compatible with both formats.

Because DiscipleGuide will now offer Compass and



Compass Classic, every adult class in your local church will be able to choose the format they prefer while all studying the same lesson. Samples of Compass Classic will be placed in every shipment of DiscipleGuide curriculum this winter so that every church can get a preview. If your church needs additional samples of the lesson, contact DiscipleGuide and we will be happy to provide additional copies.

Compass Classic is available to preorder now! Just call 800.333.1442, email [info@discipleguide.org](mailto:info@discipleguide.org), or visit [discipleguide.org/classic](http://discipleguide.org/classic) and fill out the preorder form. It will be offered in the regular size that fits in most bibles as well as a large print size. For more information or to request more samples, call or email DiscipleGuide at the above contact information.

## Mt. Calvary Association Invests in DiscipleGuide

Generosity and love are two essential qualities of Christ followers. When a believer shows selflessness in this way, they live out obedience to the Savior.

Recently, the Mt. Calvary Association demonstrated this love toward DiscipleGuide and Daniel Springs Baptist Camp by donating \$1,000 to each organization at their annual meeting in October.

Originally, this association had been saving and raising money for a camp of their own, but God changed their plans. As a result, they've been able to financially bless many ministries.

"Several years ago, our Mt. Calvary Brotherhood began raising money for an Encampment Area," explained Bobby Kelley, clerk of the association. "The fund had grown to over \$25,000.00. This was placed under the Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Association to oversee. After much discussion, we decided that purchasing and maintaining a camp was not feasible. The account was then named Mt. Calvary Ministry Fund and would be used as we saw the need and as God led."

Since 2015, they have been able to financially assist six different ministries, two of which are DiscipleGuide and Daniel Springs.

"In seeking the financing of a camp for our youth, God has led us in a different direction. Now we have the means to support missionaries and ministries that need help," said Kelley.

The members of the Mt. Calvary Association decided to donate to DiscipleGuide and Daniel Springs after Bro. Jonathan Wilson of DiscipleGuide attended their

## It's a Wrap!

Just as Christmas season is getting started, Everlasting Smiles Christmas Shoeboxes is ending.

At least our part is.

Since July, our warehouse has been busy with Christmas. Wrapping boxes, filling boxes, loading, packing, and transporting boxes. We have had a multitude of volunteers come and serve with us, and we know that we could not provide this ministry without you. Our churches packed close to 12,000 shoeboxes this year, and we are so thankful for everyone who helped make this special for the children. You never know how a life will be changed because of your actions.

How will this change a life, you ask? Some children that will get a box this year have never received a gift before. That will be special in itself, but the best part of this ministry is that every shoebox contains a Spanish Bible, so everyone has the opportunity of the



greatest gift ever given: salvation and a relationship with Jesus.

One of the best things about these boxes is the amount of times they have been prayed over. Many of our volunteers started their morning praying over the shoeboxes. A middle school group of girls from Greenbrier Public Schools served one day, and before leaving one of the students asked to lead a prayer over the boxes and the children that would receive them. A youth group from a nearby church also served and prayed over the boxes. Chances are that the families, churches, and classes prayed over the boxes as well.

On Monday, November 6, Missions finished loading two large shipping containers full of shoeboxes to send to our missionaries. Those shoeboxes are off to Bro. Denis Lopez in Honduras and Bro. David Marroquin in Guatemala. Please continue to pray for these missionaries as they plan for the best way to use the boxes. Pray for the children and families that receive them.

Thank you so much for your involvement with our ministry. Our missionaries are so thankful for your generosity. These boxes are used to help build relationships for our missionaries and churches. You are a blessing to so many.

Begin now planning to be a part of Everlasting Smiles Shoebox Ministry in 2018. All boxes for next year will be sent to our missionary in Peru, Bro. Johnmichael Poulin, to distribute throughout the country of Peru. Children from the mountains, desert, jungle, and coast will be receiving these boxes.

## Big Creek WMA Meets



Pictured is the Big Creek Ladies WMA presentation of "The Fruit of the Spirit". Top Row Frances Dykes; Middle Row, Left to Right Karen Dykes, Brenda Broadhead, Kathy Hopkins; Bottom Row, Left to Right Tammy Newman, Freida Merchant, Barbara Hollingsworth, Delane Carr, Sonya James, June Hollifield, Cherita Geraldson, and Bettye Jefcoat.

Big Creek Baptist Church hosted the Big Creek District WMA quarterly meeting on November 6. Six churches were represented and participated in the meeting along with one visiting church. President Martha McLemore did a great job presiding over the meeting. The Big Creek Church WMA presented the program Encouragement led by Freida Merchant. Several ladies of the Big Creek WMAs assisted her in the program presenting "The Fruit of The Spirit".

As part of the program to encourage our younger ladies to get involved, one of our GMAs, McKenzie Rhodes, presented a song "Go Light Your World". We would like to encourage all ladies to get involved in your church's WMA and the local district WMA. You will make new friends, have a great faith based support group, and receive a lot of blessings.

annual meeting and shared about the two ministries. What a blessing!

At DiscipleGuide, we want to thank the Mt. Calvary Association for their loving support of our ministries! If your local church or association is interested in supporting DiscipleGuide, consider participating in our World's Largest Potluck offering, which will be held this holiday season. Check it out at [discipleguide.org/potluck](http://discipleguide.org/potluck).

## WMA NEWS

### Ideas to raise funds for National WMA Project

The 2017-18 National WMA Project is the Baptist Missionary Association College in the Philippines. Our goal for this year is \$40,000. The due date for the project donations isn't until early 2018, but thought some ideas of how to raise money would be helpful.

The majority of the money donated to the WMA usually comes from smaller churches giving what they can instead of a few larger churches giving a lot. So don't think that your group is too small to contribute!

Here are some ideas and the Project Committee would welcome any ideas you have. An easy way to raise money would be to have a potluck lunch after church one Sunday (or several times throughout the year) and put out an offering plate. Lots of folks go out to eat on Sundays and this meal would be better because it is homemade and offers an opportunity to help a worthy cause at the same time.

Another idea is to provide small banks for each Sunday School class to fill with change and dollars, and one person suggested having the school children save their small milk cartons, then clean them up and spray paint them or decorate them.

Perhaps my favorite idea is to have a silent auction at your district WMA meeting. I'm planning to do this in January at our district meeting because many times we receive gifts at Christmas that could be "donated" to the Silent Auction.

Our church recently sold hamburgers at the Fall Festival in our town to raise money for the Project. Bake sales are usually successful too.

Kelly Williams  
National WMA Project Committee

# DiscipleGuide

Scott Attebery, Executive Director  
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Scott Attebery

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**Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi**  
[www.bmaofmississippi.com](http://www.bmaofmississippi.com)

### DEPARTMENTS & COMMISSIONS

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

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

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

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

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

**Commission on Senior Adults**  
4226 Highway 15 North  
Laurel, MS 39440  
601-729-2613

**History & Archives Commission**  
4229 Highway 15 North  
Laurel, MS 39440  
601-729-8098

**Moral Action**  
P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855  
662-282-7425

## Dealing With Conflict and Criticism

by Larry Barker

Director of Operations North America  
BMA of America Missions Department

How do you please people without being a people pleaser? Pastors have a desire to get along with their members, and have a strong burden for unity. Sometimes that is quite a challenge with so many different opinions on how people think churches should be run and what they believe the pastor's responsibilities are. People can sometimes be difficult, and when conflict comes, we must be ready to have a plan in place for how we will handle it. Will we handle it biblically?

The greatest challenge is to make sure you respond to conflict rather than react to it. The biblical standard that is given multiple times throughout the Word is that we are to refuse to guard (hold on to) resentments. We must refuse to carry grudges or nurse hatred and anger. Oh, we will get angry and we will get hurt, so we must be ready to zealously banish all resentment and anger from our life. We will have to choose, over and over again, whether we will get better or get bitter.

When you do get hurt or mad, the first thing to do is to take a really good deep breath. That moment is your opportunity to ask God for strength and wisdom. You might not be able to handle the stress and conflict, but He always can. The key here is choosing to be under His control and direction instead of your own. It is hard, but it is possible because "we can do all things through Christ" who gives us the strength we need when we need it.

"When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He was suffering,

He did not threaten but entrusted Himself to the One who judges justly!" (I Peter 2:23). Jesus did not retaliate! When conflict or criticism come, we will have to

decide how we will respond to it. Will we choose to allow Him to be in control, or will our flesh be in control? Jesus chose to not retaliate and to trust the Father to handle the judgment end of things. Do we trust God enough to allow Him to handle that end of it?

There are a lot of options, but let's take a look at four. We must choose how we will handle difficult people and difficult situations daily. You should not judge a church by whether or not it has problems, but by how they handle their problems.

That same principle applies to leadership because the real litmus test is how we respond to and handle conflict. A pastor posted this sentiment on Twitter, "I refuse to be a Christian who is generous with damnation and stingy with grace."

• First, you could choose to give in and pander to the criticism or conflict. The temptation is to just agree with them, even when you do not agree with them. You do not want to offend them, upset them or rock the boat. Everyone has a desire to be liked, but that desire should not override the truth and must confront the difficulty in love. Remember that Prov. 15:1 says that, "A gentle answer turns away wrath..." So often, it is not what we say, but how we say it.



Larry Barker

• Second, you could choose to isolate yourself from them or ignore them. The temptation here is to hope that if we ignore the problem, it will just go away or solve itself. The truth is that almost never happens. It is sad when people in a church will avoid certain people and use a different entrance to make sure they do not have to speak to them. That could be called stealth avoidance, but a more correct description would be escapism and an unbiblical approach to conflict resolution.

• Third, you could get defensive and power up for the confrontation. This is where you try to overpower the difficult person using intimidation. You have the mindset of straightening them out, showing them once and for all and telling them a thing or two. The focus becomes more about changing them than being the person Christ wants you to be. Powering up is where you want to blow them away with what you say, and shut them up once and for all.

• Fourth, you show courage and stay calmly connected to them. This is the most biblical approach, where you speak the truth in love. You refuse to see them as the enemy and ostracize them. Your focus is on biblical resolution and restoration of the relationship. In Acts 20:27 Paul said, "For I did not shrink back from declaring to you the whole plan of God." Later, in Gal. 4:16, he says: "Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?"

The biblical response to conflict and difficult people is found throughout the scriptures in verses like Rom. 12:17, "Do not repay evil for evil." And also in I Peter 3:9, "Not paying back evil for evil or insult for insult but, on the contrary, giving a blessing, since you

were called for this..."

Once again, the key is not necessarily what you say, but how you say it and the love you have for the one to whom you are saying it.

Nehemiah is an excellent example of handling conflict by not allowing it to distract him from the task God had assigned him. You must continue to labor and press forward, even when you conflict and criticism comes. In Nehemiah 5 it says he was "extremely angry" when he heard their outcry and their complaints, but in verse 16 he says he "devoted" himself to the work. When the detractors asked him to stop the work and come down and discuss it, he refused.

Nehemiah made it clear that there was nothing to the rumors they were spreading and even told them in Neh. 6:8, "you are inventing them in your own mind." He knew their attempts at intimidating him were focused on trying to discourage him and bring the work to a screeching halt.

Then in Neh. 6:11, he says something we should all remember when faced with conflict and criticism, "Should a man like me run away?"