

Mississippi Baptist

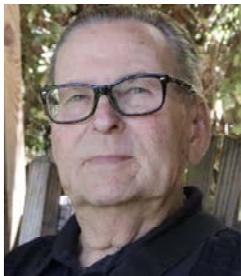
JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Life and Legacy of Don Newsom

by Executive Director John David Smith

This month we honor the life of Missionary Don Newsom, who served in the Philippines for 43 years, a fact that requires no narrative and speaks for itself. However, I would like to add comments on his profound legacy.

A native of El Dorado, Arkansas, Bro. Newsom and his family were sent as BMA missionaries in 1978. Instrumental in inaugurating BMA work on the island of Mindanao, Brother Don spent most of his ministry on the island of Panay. His Gleaner (now mission:world) articles make it evident that the Lord used Brother Don in great ways



Don Newsom

First of all, his ministry was marked by church planting in both the lowlands and in the mountains. He worked in places like Iloilo, Manaripay, Lublub and other locations that most of us cannot pronounce much less locate on a map. However, hundreds of people impacted by his ministry from these little-known (to us) places now have eternal relationships with the God of the universe.

He was known for encouraging and assisting many to attend nursing school and make a difference in communities

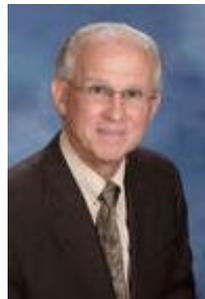
Also, he was influential in helping start an estimated 30 churches on Panay, and Missionary Sam Freeman stated that over 20 of those are still very active congregations. Part of church planting is developing leaders, and Brother Newsom led a Bible institute in Antique for many years. According to Brother Sam almost all of those churches are pastored by men who studied at that institute.

Another important part of Brother Newsom's ministry was helping others to help others. He was known for encouraging and assisting many to attend nursing school and make a difference in communities. The Dorcas House, led by the Newsoms for many years, was a special place for boys and girls who did not have a home.

The following is from Newsom's Gleaner article of February 1983: "Our mountain ministry continues to be the most challenging and rewarding I have

Acts 4:10-12
by Bro. Greg Medenwald
2021 BMA of Mississippi
President's Message

We are to "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" as Jesus taught us in Matthew 28:19 and to "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" according to Mark 16:15, and always in "the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth" (Acts 4:10) for there is "none other name" (Acts 4:12). That is, there is "No Other Name" in the church or in missions under which we are associated, but "the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth."



Greg Medenwald

"Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:10-12)

His is the name we are to proclaim,

ever worked with. We just returned from another four-day tour of some of the work. Brother Melvin Meade went with us to help organize two of our mountain missions into churches. We first went to Soppanga. This is about a seven or eight hour walk from where we park the car. As usual, it rained and the trail was very muddy. Seventy members went into the organization of this church."

The ministry of empowering local leaders (ChangeMakers) to carry on ministry has been part of BMA Missions DNA since the beginning. Brother Don Newsom exhausted his life in the mission of God. We rejoice in his legacy that lives on in a vibrant ministry on an island in the Philippines and beyond.

empathically and resolutely, first "in Jerusalem", then "in all Judea, and in Samaria", and finally to "the uttermost part of the earth" as we are taught in Acts 1:8.

I. There Is No Other Name to Make Universally Known

"Let it be known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name (and all His name represents) of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole." (Acts 4:10)

Let's quickly review the early chapters in the book of Acts.

Acts 1 records the commissioning of the church for global missions, and the ascension of Christ into heaven. The work Christ was doing is now the work the Church of Christ is to do, and we are associated together to maximize that work.

Acts 2 records the empowering of the

church by the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost for the work of global missions, Peter's Pentecostal sermon, and the rapid spiritual and numerical growth of the Jerusalem church.

Acts 3 records the healing of the lifelong lame man mentioned in Acts

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus".

4:10 "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth." (Acts 3:6)

"Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." (Acts 3:6) Notice in the verse that Peter considered the name of Jesus to be more valuable than "Silver and gold". The greatest value in the church is not the size

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5 CHALLENGES FOR YOUR THANKSGIVING

-from Lifeword

The last Thursday of this month our nation will pause and celebrate a national holiday we call Thanksgiving.

And by pause I mean we will run turkey trots, watch turkey parades, eat turkey dinners, cheer on America's turkey team, then fight turkey crowds to save a few bucks on a bigger TV.

Oh, the joys of Thanksgiving!

Listen.

I'm not opposed to celebrating Thanksgiving. In fact, it's my favorite holiday! I love getting together with friends and family. I love watching football. I love the perfect setup of turkey, gravy, dressing, cranberry sauce, and pecan pie!

And I love leftovers!

As you and I celebrate Thanksgiving, there is a tendency to overlook this one very simple element of the day.

We don't leave it out intentionally. We honestly get so busy enjoying the day that this particular thing can easily get pushed to the side.

Here it is . . .

As you celebrate Thanksgiving, don't forget to give thanks!

No, that's not being redundant. We can get so caught up in celebrating Thanksgiving that we overlook the very simple act of giving thanks!

So . . .

Do you want a challenge?

Let me encourage you to do one or more of these five challenges on Thanksgiving. Maybe you already do some of these, and that's great! Keep it up.

Then again, maybe you are like me and can easily overlook the most essential part of Thanksgiving – giving thanks.

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In His Grip by Carolyn Hagler

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



Momma's Table

With the holidays quickly approaching, I'm remembering the many years of making the trip home through the curves and hills of Lincoln and Jefferson County to be with family and Mother preparing a feast worthy of the season. Momma's table of plenty was a symbol of wonderful food, love, and laughter.

It's been many years since all of us were able to go home, but I still remember the fragrances of the mouth-watering food she would cook: a turkey and a ham, of course; several vegetables and potatoes of some kind; cornbread and rolls; and usually a banana pudding.

But for the holidays, we always had her homemade coconut cake, her orange date cake, and a pecan pie. I must admit, though, that her orange date cake was for her oldest sister and not us. When it flopped, we got the ugly one; and she made another one for Aunt Elsie.

Mother was an old-fashioned, country cook who believed in no one going away hungry; so, she covered the table usually with everyone's favorite dish. She was not one of those cooks

who made you eat what she had cooked. Oh, no. She made sure she had at least one dish that each person enjoyed.

The story was that when she was growing up in her family of five girls and three boys, everyone had to work in the field because they grew everything they ate. But somebody had to cook. Mother was always the volunteer because she could cook and read at the same time. (Reading always ran in our family.) She had to learn to throw a meal together in a hurry because many times she got so engrossed in the book that she burned the meal!

I remember Mother always cooked a hen to use for her cornbread dressing. Part of her dressing was then "stuffed" into the turkey for baking. I bet some of you call it stuffing, but not us. It's always

been dressing! And always cornbread dressing without sage.

Lately, the family and I have been talking about Mother's cooking. Overwhelmingly, everyone named her fried chicken as his or her favorite. Her grandson Bill claimed his and Granny's favorite was fried chicken wings, which she cooked for him and her. Apparently, nobody fried chicken like Granny.

Her table always held several meats usually chosen from fried chicken, turkey, ham, and fried pork chops. Those staples were accompanied by all or some of the following: mashed potatoes, fried potatoes, macaroni and cheese, butterbeans, purple hull peas, and fried corn; and desserts usually on Sunday or holidays.



Mother would often sneak in a casserole or two, but Daddy wouldn't eat any of those. In fact, the funny thing about Daddy (and some of his grandchildren, I think) was that he ate his food in courses. Only when he finished a course would he put something else on his plate. He did not want the different foods touching.

But I can't forget Mother's fruit salad for the holidays. As time went on, two granddaughters, Cathy and Darla, had the task of chopping fruit and putting it all together. You had to have fresh coconut for the salad and coconut cake, so Daddy would drain the coconut and then crack it. He left the rest up to Mother and the girls.

We always looked forward to the holidays with family because of the goodies, my favorite part of the holidays. Their granddaughter Pam remembered that



Carolyn Hagler

From the Editor - I rejoiced in Carolyn's memories because they caused me to go back in time to the memories I have of that Family Table. Thanks for sweet memories.

Mother made the best peanut brittle in her cast iron skillet. We've all tried to find her recipe, but no one has. But it was so good. She also popped corn in that skillet; no other popcorn is as tasty.

Daddy was the one who parched the peanuts, always sitting in front of the oven and stirring as they cooked. Then he would say, "Come taste these and see if they're done." He would always remind me, "If they taste done, they're overcooked." I hated that job.

Daddy's other job was to bake the "trash." He called it scramble, but it's the good stuff with all kinds of nuts, several types of cereal, pretzels, and seasonings. Mother would mix it together, but Daddy was the only one who had the patience to stir every 15 minutes for 2 hours. He never moved from his chair in front of the stove.

When Mother died, Middle Sister mixed it for Daddy; and we continued our tradition. When Daddy died, Middle Sister and I modified their recipe to cook it in a crock pot. Sitting still especially at the stove has never been part of my nature.

Holidays changed when Mother died. That first year, Middle Sister spoke up and offered to supply the meal at Daddy's. It, of course, didn't compare to Mother's cooking; but it was great. It was probably a year or so before she admitted that she

got it from Jitney Jungle.

I must admit, though, that holidays at the Hagler home before JB died were nontraditional. He usually did the cooking and opted for grilling steaks or boiling shrimp. Daddy was in the hospital one Thanksgiving just before he died, and our feast that year was chili. That's why those wonderful memories at Momma's table are special.

In preparing for Thanksgiving, I'm reminded not only of my mother's table, but also of the King's table. When David had Jonathan's son Mephibosheth found and brought to him, he told him, "Thou shalt eat bread at my table continually" (2 Samuel 9:7). And Mephibosheth did. I'm so thankful that as a child of God, I will always eat continually at His table and one day see those special people who are missing from our table this year.

I'm grateful for the memories of past Thanksgivings. May your Thanksgiving be filled with plenty and memories of your own in the making. Rejoicing, I remain in His grip. Happy Thanksgiving!

Church Events

Christmas Event Set for Meridian Church

Broadmoor Baptist Church, 5426 Highway 39 North, Meridian, will host Mark Lanier and Andrew Ishee for a Christmas Concert on Monday, December 6, 2021 at 7:00 pm. Mark is a well-known writer and performer of gospel music and has been nominated and received several awards from The Singing News. Andrew is an extremely gifted pianist and composer from Laurel, Mississippi. He has been nominated for and received the award of Musician of the Year multiple times for his work with the Kingsmen Quartet and the Palmetto State Quartet. Currently, among other projects, he is the pianist for Daily and Vincent and plays regularly on the Grand Ole Opry. Together, they will perform Christmas classics as well as original material. There will be a love offering taken and everyone is encouraged to attend. For more information, please call 601-323-4400 or 601-482-2229.

Drive Through Nativity

Broadmoor Baptist Church, 5426 Highway 39 North, Meridian, (just north of Hardee's) will have a Drive Through Nativity on Saturday, December 18, 2021, from 6:00 p.m. till 8:00 p.m. Admission is free and everyone is invited to attend. For more information call 601-323-4400 or 601-482-2229.

Church Positions

Church Seeking Pastor

First Baptist Church of Calhoun near Laurel, Mississippi, is seeking a pastor. For those wishing to inquire concerning the church and this position please contact Chairman Paul Welborn at 601-319-6353 or 601-729-8397.

Texas Church Seeking Pastor

Friendship Baptist Church of Mesquite, Texas, is prayerfully seeking our next full-time pastor. Interested parties should send a resume to office@friendshipmesquite.org. Please enter Search Committee in the subject line. Also include a recent video of a sermon, on a DVD or by a website link. You may also mail the requested information to Friendship Baptist Church, 820 Pioneer Road, Mesquite, TX 75149. Information about our church can be found on our website at www.friendshipmesquite.org.

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The last temptations of the aged

Posted on October 31, 2021 by Joe McKeever

"They will still bear fruit in old age; they will be full of sap and very green..." (Psalm 92:14)

Can I tell you something odd?

While surfing this website's articles from nearly twenty years of blogging, I came across an unfinished draft I had titled "the last temptations of the aged." I breezed right past it, in search of something else I was looking for.

A moment later, I was back. That was an intriguing title, I thought. Must have started that article a couple of years back. Wonder what it says.

After reading it, I deleted the entire thing.

It was indeed written about two years back, and then left in the program and forgotten. But the strange part is that nothing about it is true in my life now.

Not a thing.

I had listed as temptations of the elderly things like not exercising as much, not eating as healthily as previously, reading more for indulgence rather than edification, wanting to sleep more, and such.

"Where was my head?" I wondered. "I'm not reading shallow novels, I'm exercising, and I'm trying my dead-level best to stay healthy. I am not

lying around resting all the time. I'm constantly at work serving the Lord. In some ways, these are the most productive years of my life."

Wonder what was going on to inspire such a depressing list.

So, what, are the true "final" temptations of the elderly? I can come up with an answer to that—but no one should interpret this as any kind of confession.

I'm doing just fine, and that's a fact. But I've lived a long time and have known a lot of people. So, I think I can identify some of those temptations of the older citizens....

1. The elderly often grow sentimental about the past and negative about the present.

The cartoon showed an old gent on his front porch telling someone, "Yep, in my 88 years, I've seen a lot of changes. And I been agin every one of them!"

That's a caricature. Not all seniors are that way, thank the Lord. There are some pretty wonderful older people. I seize the promise of Psalm 92:14 and claim it. "They will still bear fruit in old age; they will be full of sap (youthful!) and very green...."

2. The elderly often remember wrong—recalling hurts and slights that were passing things from a friend or loved one and now exaggerating them in memory. They should have forgotten and forgiven and never looked back.

My dad was this way. In his 90s, he kept talking about something his mother did to him when he was 18. We would try to reason him out of it, but nothing worked. Only time took care of this.

3. The elderly often grow fearful about their

future. And let's be honest, not without justification.

It's simple logic that as people grow older they have more aches and pains, make more trips to the doctor, have higher medical bills, and become more and more dependent in the period before they exit this life. Furthermore, if their finances are precarious—in the stock market or other investments—the ups and downs of the economy affect them personally and not just in theory.

4. Since the elderly are gradually losing longtime friends to death—death is a fact of life, so to speak—there is a temptation to make fewer friends. So, they get lonely. And they become a bigger burden to their children as a result.

5. The temptation is to become less and less social, to cut oneself off from the few remaining friends and make fewer and fewer new ones.



Joe McKeever



Marguerite Briscoe was a retired elementary school principal when we first met. I was 30 years old and the newest member of her church staff. I quickly came to bask in the light in her eyes and the joy in her smile. And so did everyone else, particularly the single young adults in our church. So,

when they recruited her to be one of their department's "sponsors," she accepted although somewhat tentatively. "What would I have to do?" she asked. And the half-dozen young adults said to her, "You just have to be yourself!"

Even though she was in her late 70s, she insisted everyone call her Marguerite. She attended their Sunday School class and various functions, and would sometimes host Bible studies or informal gatherings in her apartment. The "kids" did all the work and helped her pick up afterwards.

When Marguerite Briscoe went to heaven—perhaps in her early 90s—she left behind a world of friends and loved ones, people in whom she had invested her life after retirement.

She became my role model without ever knowing it.

What Christian seniors do....

—The Christian senior has to keep believing God's word. "The just shall live by faith" (Habakkuk 2:4) and "We walk by faith and not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). So, they must keep their eyes on the Lord.

—The Christian senior has to take the long, long view. "This momentary light affliction is working for us an exceeding weight of glory far beyond all comprehension" (2 Corinthians 4:17). The troubles are temporary, and just on the other side is glory.

—The Christian senior has to find creative ways to bear fruit for the Lord. Pray for that one, write a note to this one, give money to the other. Talk to advisors about blessing some special person or some great ministry in their will. And pray. Nothing is more needed in this fallen world than the faithful prayers of God's people.

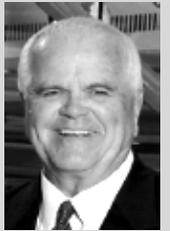
—The Christian senior has to go out of his/her

COMMISSION ON SENIOR ADULTS

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Don Brown

To The Work

by Don Brown

In Ephesians 4:1-11, the Apostle Paul is encouraging the church at Ephesus to be unified and to use the gifts that God had given them to do the work of the church.

In verse 12 he gives the reason, "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

A few years ago I encouraged those in our church who represented certain groups within the church to do "the work of the ministry" in certain ways. Each distinct group of the church, such as Sunday School classes and auxiliaries, is encouraged to "adopt a mission or missionary" as a group project.

In order to do the work of the ministry, there must be a specific goal and ministry taken by the individual, the church, or particular groups. I suggested taking a state, national or international missionaries as a project for a specific period of time. A quarterly project would seem to be more practical. This would allow time to get to know the missionary, their needs, to communicate regularly, and to raise funds for any particular project.

Many church groups have funds in their treasury and could support special projects. Other groups could hold fund-raisers to help with particular needs. Many on the local and foreign field need items to enhance their ministry. Computers, projectors, bicycles, motorbikes, funds for other equipment, books, Bibles, funds for food banks and clothes closets, etc. The list is endless.

Missionaries must raise 'work funds' above their salaries to carry on the special needs and projects of their personal ministry. By helping in these small ways we will be doing two things -

1. We will be a part of a particular work and it will become 'our ministry' as well as that of the local missionary and

2. We will be fulfilling part of the Great Commission by enabling the missionaries on the field to reach individuals for Christ in ways that might not be possible without additional help.

Of course, one benefit of getting personally involved in a local field will be the blessings that we personally experience. Nothing done for the Lord escapes His notice and He promised to bless those who bless others.

Would you take this challenge to heart? Will you personally pray for leadership? Will you bring this to the attention of your Sunday School class, the Choir, the WMA, the Brotherhood, the Galileans, or any other group that can say, "I must work the work of Him who sent me while it is day. The night comes when no one will be able to work."

The world needs Christ. We have Christ. It is our duty to share Christ. To The Work you PrimeTimers!

way to find laughter. Laughter is as much a tonic for the soul as vitamins are for the body. It "doeth good like a medicine," said Solomon. He was right. In fact, laughter is better than medicine and a whole lot cheaper.

—The Christian senior needs to be proactive before stepping outside the house to go anywhere. What should I wear? Which shoes would be comfortable and safe? Should I carry my cane? Yes, but more than these. How about: I must remember to smile; I will speak pleasantly to everyone. God, please use me to encourage the downhearted and give light to those struggling to find the way. And help me to restrain the desire to criticize, to talk too much, or to gossip.

I started to say it's a never-ending struggle, but that's not right. It has an end. This is a "momentary, light affliction," after all.

Before long, we shall see the Lord. "We shall behold His face in righteousness, and I shall be satisfied with His likeness when I awaken" (Psalm 17:15).

It's just a short phase we're passing through, fellow seniors.

Let's pray for one another and encourage each other. These days are short and eternity is long.

MINISTERING TO YOUNG PEOPLE

by Anders Lee

PLANNING AHEAD FOR 2022

The fall season is upon us. The leaves have turned orange, yellow and brown and the grass has quit growing. All of those are sure signs that the summer is gone and the winter is soon coming. The summer was super busy for our youth group at Central! When it was over, we all breathed a sigh of relief. Time for a break from that agenda... right? WRONG!

Now is the time to plan for next year, especially bigger summer events. If you want to maximize what happens next year, don't minimize your planning now! The old saying is "plan your work and work your plan." Here are some ideas



Anders Lee

Have a Prayer Retreat

In youth ministry you shouldn't just have a brain storming session. Those are great to have with your ministry team. I love dreaming, pondering through possibilities, thinking BIG! But nothing is more important than getting on your knees and praying about things.

Get away! You won't be able to effectively do this in the office or at home. There are too many things that will claim your attention. Find you a cabin in the woods where you can be alone for a day or two. If possible take your key leaders with you. It's essential to your ministry. This isn't a vacation. You shouldn't look at it this way nor should your church. It's a needed time to hear from God. James 1:5 say "if any man lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him." God has eternal plans, so seek Him fervently before you plan for your key events!

Meet with Your Pastor & Staff

If you are like me, you hate meetings. Yet they are essential when it comes to planning ahead. After your retreat it's time to discuss it with your Pastor and staff so that you all can work it all out on the calendar. Everyone on staff has ministry efforts they want to see come to fruition. Your Pastor has the responsibility to lead and plan for the entire church. It may take a while, but be patient as you work out the kinks of how you can achieve putting what God has told you on the calendar for 2022. One of the keys to working with a staff is being flexible.

Set Your Budget

If God has led you to do something specific, it's time to set aside for it! Major events cost major money. That's a tough lesson for a new youth pastor to learn. I was talking to a couple of brand new youth pastor's the other day. They want to take their kids to SOAR next year. One of them asked me: "How much does SOAR cost?" When I told them, they looked at me in disbelief. I asked them, is it worth it? They both agreed it was, so I said, you have to set a budget for it now!

Get precise with your budget. I'm sure your church has a youth budget included in their overall church budget. If they don't, they should! You should always invest some funds from the youth budget directly into your teens. However, don't let a big event consume your entire youth budget. Have these funds set aside each month so you are building up for events in 2022.

Your parents should be willing to invest in their teens spiritual lives. They need to own part of the load! You shouldn't have to raise all the money! They pay for all kinds of things in their teens life and they can plan ahead to make an investment in their spiritual life. Ask them to give a certain amounts for each event.

There may be some in the church who simply can't do that. Life is hard at times! You don't want a teen from a family like that to miss out on what the Lord is

doing. I know that there are generous people in the church that would help these teens! Don't be afraid to ask for their help!

It is also time for the dreaded phrase in youth ministry – fund raising!!! HA! Oh joy!!! If you want your students to truly be impacted, you will be willing to plan fund raisers. At student conferences like SOAR, teens get saved, commit to walking closer to Christ, volunteer for mission trips and surrender to ministry!

That's huge, and it is worth your time to fund raise!

Share The Plans

When I was a youth pastor at Calvary in Horn Lake, I booked and planned a huge retreat in September for March of the following year. We had an awesome speaker lined

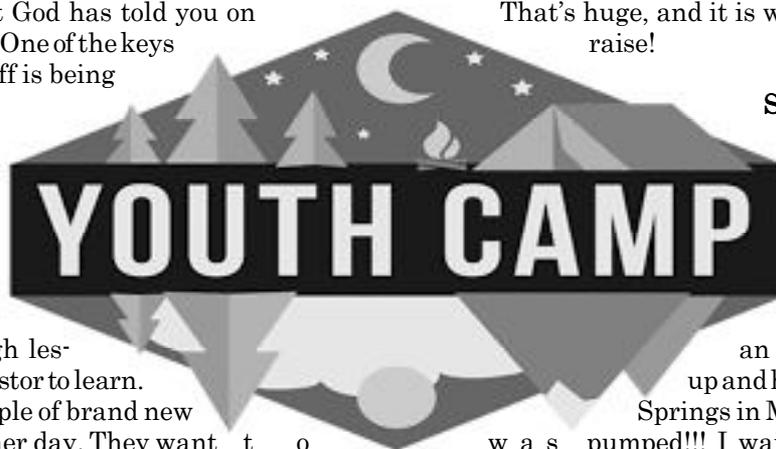
up and had secured Waukaway Springs in Meridian, Mississippi. I

was pumped!!! I waited to share and kept baiting the teens saying I had a huge secret. In January, we had a big night, the parents & teens came. I shared all the plans for 2003 that night. Afterwards, I found out that not one, not two, but five families had already planned trips that overlapped Waukaway! I was sick! Later on two families were able to change their plans, but the others were not.

The families in your church need to know about all the big events NOW so they can plan around them. If you don't plan now you will end up with the same results as I did! If you make it a habit of planning major events early on, your people will expect it and wait to make their plans until they get all the scoop from you. So hold a parents meeting (soon) about the plans for 2022.

No matter how you go about it, trust me, now is the time to plan for 2022!!!

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



SOAR Student Conference: June 29 – July 1, 2022 What's your ministry story?

by Nick Jacobsen
BMA Conference Manager
nick@soarconference.com

My story begins in Tacoma, Washington, where I was born and raised to non-church-going parents. Don't get me wrong, they were great parents, but we didn't go to church as a family. When my friend Garrett and I would ride our bikes all over our neighborhood, we always passed a little light blue church set off the road, Grace Missionary Baptist Church. Since neither of us grew up in church, we decided we wanted to see what it was all about, so we went to church one Sunday.

A few years later at the age of sixteen, it was in that little church that I was saved. The following year I felt a stirring, a calling on my life, and after talking to my student pastor and pastor, I surrendered my life to ministry. Unsure of what exactly that meant, I said yes to God.

In August of 2000, I boarded a plane for Little Rock, Arkansas, to attend a small Christian college and study ministry that fall semester. I enjoyed Central Baptist College (CBC) so much that I spent five years



getting a bachelor's degree in Bible with an emphasis in student ministry. Once I finally graduated, I was hired by a church to work with students. Park Place Baptist Church allowed me to minister to students as a vocation, and I loved it.

God would eventually lead me down another path just a few years later that I never anticipated. He opened a door for me to work in media production, and after a few years at a TV station, God led me to work at Lifeword. For the past 14 years, I have worked at Lifeword/BMA.

In the past few years, I have thought a lot about God's call to the ministry: I was just 17 years old and had no clue. Some say I still don't!

Is God still calling young people to ministry? Are we giving those young people an opportunity to serve?

Are we encouraging students to give their lives to ministry?

At SOAR 2022, we will spend the week looking at God's calling on our lives and how He wants us to serve His church. I believe God calls us ALL to serve. Some serve in leadership roles as pastor or student pastor, but all are called to serve.

Are you cALLED?

SOAR Student Conference: June 29 – July 1, 2022, Hilton Anatole - Dallas, Texas
Lowest price since 2015: \$100 per person.

Southeastern Baptist College

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Serving Christ With A Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

President's Perspective

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

This scripture, as well as many, many more, encourages us to be thankful to God for all His blessings. An old hymn comes to mind that include the words, "count your blessings, name them one by one, count your many blessings see what God has done." I am grateful that our nation has set aside a national holiday to give thanks to the Lord for his enormous blessings He has bestowed upon our country. It is appropriate and important that we recognize that the freedoms and the prosperity this nation enjoys has come directly from the Creator.

As I write this article I am compelled to be thankful for many amazing things the Lord has done for SBC. Let me name some of them one by one:

- I am thankful for His divine hand leading us forward, bringing SBC from the brink of closure to where we are today.

- I am thankful for the Lord bringing together a phenomenal staff who operates as a team and who have a shared vision for the school's future.

- I am thankful for the many students who have invested their futures with SBC.

- I am thankful for the opportunity for the staff and faculty to minister to our students and

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

1 Thessalonians 5:18

to help guide them in their spiritual lives.

- I am grateful for our chapel service that has developed into an evangelistic program where we have seen dozens of students come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

- I am thankful for the many who are investing their personal time to help our students in their walk with the Lord.

- I am grateful for the churches of the BMA of Mississippi who support this vital ministry as we

educated our students in Bible as they prepare for their life's calling.

- I am grateful for our magnificent Board of Trustees who are focused on the present and future of the school.

- I am thankful for the many individuals who have donated from their personal bank accounts in order to help us keep up with the Lord's leading.

- I am thankful for the many volunteers who invest their time and talents to help us rebuild

the infrastructure.

- I am thankful for the growing support of our local community who are beginning to see SBC as their "hometown" college.

- I am thankful for the Lord leading Linda and I to this wonderful community of Laurel.

- I am grateful for the Lord placing me in the leadership position of SBC where I can experience firsthand His divine leading.

- I am thankful for our Christ focused accrediting agency, the Association for Biblical Higher Education.

- I am thankful for the many encouraging words spoken to the Staff and I as we labor to restore SBC to her proper place among the colleges of Mississippi.

The list can go on and on. I truly have much to be thankful for, not only on Thanksgiving, but every day for the opportunity to serve the churches of the BMA of Mississippi as president of SBC.

"O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people." Psalm 105:1

Equipping the Saints,
Dr. Scott R. Carson



Dr. Scott Carson
President

Year End Giving

Are you looking for a worthy cause to donate toward? At the end of the calendar year, many look for organizations where they can contribute in order to impact the world for Jesus Christ and at the same time help in their personal or business annual tax deductions. Southeastern Baptist College is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Your donations to SBC are fully tax deductible. Donate today! Southeastern Baptist College, 4229 Hwy 15 N, Laurel, MS 39440.

Amazon Smile

Christmas will be upon us before we know it! As you begin to make lists and purchase gifts from Amazon, remember, anyone shopping on Amazon Smile can select Southeastern Baptist College as your charity. When you do this, a portion of your purchase price will go directly to SBC as a donation from Amazon! Thank you for those who are already using this unique method to benefit SBC.

Need a Preacher?
Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit or to make a presentation about the work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. Thank you Hattiesville Baptist Church of Hattiesville, Arkansas, for recently having Dr. Carson preach their Veterans Day services. Chaplain (Colonel) Carson can also provide an update on the BMAA Chaplaincy and deliver a related message. You can reach him at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu

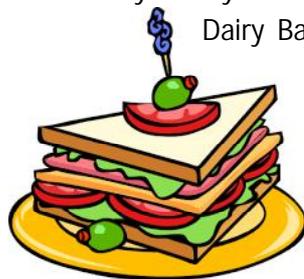
Coffee with the President

We invite folks, and especially alumni, to meet with Dr. Carson to discuss any topic that might be on their mind. If you are interested in meeting with Dr. Carson, contact him at 601-426-6346 to make an appointment.



Holloway's Dairy Bar

Holloway's Dairy Bar is open and the public is welcome! The Dairy Bar is located on the campus of SBC.



There is an expanded menu and it is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Come support SBC and Holloway's! Of note, Holloway's is not open on Sundays.

Around The Campus



Venture Church of Laurel recently hosted a free Bingo for Groceries event for our student body. Thank you Venture Church for your generosity and innovative student activity!



Students take the opportunity to "dress up" for Bingo for Groceries night



Pictured is Dr. Carson with SBC online professor Dr. Bob Burch, pastor of Hattiesville Baptist Church in Arkansas, where Dr. Carson preached their Veterans Sunday message

No Other Name

Annual message from page 1

and grandeur of the building or the amount of money in the offering tray, but “the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth”.

Thirty-three times in twenty-four of the twenty-eight chapters of Acts did Luke mention the significance of the name of Christ.

Acts 4 records the arrest of Peter and John (vv. 1-4), their defense before the Sanhedrin Court the following day (vv. 5-12), and the Sanhedrin’s opposition to any ministry in the “name” of Christ. Notice the words “at all” in Acts 4:18: “And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.”

To this day do the forces of Satan oppose anything done, “at all”, in the name of Jesus. The world does not mind if we are religious, but not in the name of Christ. To this day, however, do we as an association of churches “go” together in His name. We “go” because of the crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and commission of Christ. We “go”

because of the promise of His return. We “go” in the power of the Holy Spirit, or we don’t go far. We “go” with the faith and courage of Peter and John, trusting all circumstances to God. That is, we go, come what may, and we preach Christ, come what may. For there is no other name to make universally known!

II. There Is No Other Name to Fulfill God’s Eternal Plan
“This (Jesus) is the stone which was set at nought (rejected by

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”.

of you builders (religionists building their own religion), which is become the head of the corner (the chief cornerstone of God’s eternal plan of salvation).” (Acts 4:11)

God has always had a plan to bless and benefit people. His first plan, recorded in Genesis 1-2, was that of procreation and is the very reason why all of us are here and enjoying this very day. God purposefully and masterfully created Adam and Eve, a man who was distinctly a man and a woman who was distinctly a woman, an ish and an isha, and we are the result. When

people decide to deny God and thus begin to defy God with their own plans, the only possible result is that of confusion and chaos. Then do people go from dumb to dumber, from silly to sillier, and that confusion and chaos is certainly a reality today.

God also purposefully and masterfully had (has) a plan of salvation for that moment when Adam would sin and cause his offspring to have a sin nature which would lead to our personal sin and separating us

from God who is holy and is also the one and only source of life. Jesus was and is “the head of the corner”, or chief cornerstone, of the building of God’s salvation plan. The plan was given in prophecy in Psalm 118:22, is in progress in Acts 4:11, and our purpose today is to resoundingly proclaim this truth.

That is, the very people who were harassing Peter and John in Acts 4, says Peter, were rejecting the foundation of God’s plan of salvation for them, and they were doing so to their own confusion, chaos, and condemnation. We can’t be like them!

Instead, we must tell the world, that other than the name of Jesus, there is no name to fulfill God’s eternal plan.

III. There Is No Other Name by Which People Can Be Saved

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

“No other name” is exclusive in that there is no other Savior in the world – never has been and never will be – or any other way by which a person can be saved. Jesus is the Savior for “Jerusalem”, for “all Judea, and in Samaria”, for “the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8), and everywhere “under heaven” (Acts 4:12) which is literally everywhere!

There is no such thing as pluralism, in that there are multiple ways to heaven. Peter said so in Acts 4:12, Jesus said so in John 14:6 (“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”), and Paul said so in I Timothy 2:5: “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”.

So we have to make a decision. Are we going to believe Peter, Jesus, and Paul, or pluralistic thinking people we might see on the ABC, NBC, or CBS news? I think we are better off with Peter, Jesus, and Paul.

There is also no such thing as universalism, in that God will ultimately devise a way – maybe at the last minute – to save absolutely everyone. Why? Because God already has a plan, and His name is Jesus!

Think with me for just a moment. If there were another name by which people could be saved, would it be 5 more names, and if so who would establish the number and set the criteria for savior-hood? Or would it be 50 more names, or 500 more names, or, since there are nearly 8 billion of us alive today on the planet Earth, would it be 5,000 more names? What about this then, why not be saved by just any name, or better by our own name and personal works? There we go from silly to sillier! The truth is that there is only one name by which to be saved, and that name is Jesus!

“No other Name” is also inclusive in that Jesus died for all people, and all people can be saved by faith in Him. Remember Peter being told in Acts 4 not to speak “at all” in the name of Jesus? Well listen to him later on in the house of Cornelius in Acts 10:43: “To him give all the

prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.” Catch those words “through his name whosoever believeth”. That’s inclusive!

IV. There Is No Other Name with Greater Unifying Power

“We must be saved” (Acts 4:12a) “We” are all saved because of Jesus. “We” know and love each other because of Jesus. “We” work together because of Jesus. “We” are all going to heaven together because of Jesus. And “we” would all be doomed by any other name than Jesus.

Here, in closing, are three practical points of application. They are primarily for me as I still have a lot of growing to do in Jesus, but maybe they are for you as well. The Holy Spirit, with clarity, will help you to know.

Maybe there needs to be a little less political thinking and speaking in and about the popular names of today’s political figures, and a lot more speaking, teaching, and preaching about Jesus. Remember that our job is not to correct the world, but to connect the world to Jesus! What fun it would be to correct our planet ethically and morally, and make it a better place to live for everyone. But there is only One who can do such a thing, and His name is Jesus! So preach Jesus!

Maybe there needs to be a little less debating about Biblical themes and issues in the well-known names of religion, and a lot more preaching about Jesus. Surely there are some Biblical matters that have to be settled from time to time, but then the best we have to offer and the strongest of our passions need to be reserved for the proclaiming of Christ! That is, we should not debate with more passion than we passionately preach about Jesus.

Maybe there needs to be a little less vocal criticizing of people we often refer to as John Doe, and a lot more preaching about Jesus. We’re all going to answer for ourselves – and only for ourselves – before Christ in judgment. It stands to reason, therefore, since we will be judged for “good or bad” (II Corinthians 5:10), that we would spend every available moment preaching about “the name which is above every name” which is “the name of Jesus” (Philippians 2:9, 10). So criticize the John Does of the world less, and proclaim the name of Jesus more. For there is no other name with greater unifying power than the name of Jesus!

From the Philippines

Ballards Ministry Update Highlights

We would like to start by saying, “Thank you!” to the Lord and to all those who have been faithful with your prayers and support. Over the past few months, we have been able to minister to over 200 families through the Relief Ministry and this was made possible with the help of all those who donated towards that ministry.

Relief Bags for the Hungry

The ministry of helping all those who have been affected the hardest by the pandemic. We see people all around us who don’t have enough food to sustain their families. The Lord continues to bless this ministry through those who have and continue to donate towards this ministry.

We have purchased and distributed over 200 relief bags with food and basic necessities, along with gospel tracts and information. We are thankful for the recent donations and expect to be able to purchase close to another 100 relief bags. We have to follow the example of Christ by ministering to the physical needs as well as the spiritual needs of others.

Through this ministry, we have had many accept Christ and are now being disciplined through a new Bible study in one of the areas that we distribute the food bags. If you would like to donate towards future Relief Bag operations you can send your donations to the missions office designated Danny Ballard/Relief bags.

Children’s Ministry

Since the pandemic hit we were not able to continue the children’s ministry in the Santiago area. The area was one



of those areas that has a heavy population located in a very small area. But thankfully, at this time, we have been able to start a new version of the children’s ministry here at our home. Because it is in the subdivision, it limits us to a small number of children who can attend. We decided to focus on the children who were understanding and growing with what they were being taught. Our prayer is that they will begin to share with the other kids and that soon we will be able to restart the Children’s Ministry in the Santiago area like before.



WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

WMAofMS20@gmail.com

President Theresa Reus

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

Treasurer Mrs. Shirlene Smith

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

National WMA News

by *Charlotte Johnson*
National WMA President

The theme for National WMA is Intentional. Where do you need to be intentional in your life? Intentional living means to live with purpose or to live deliberately with an aim or a plan.

"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing."—1 Thessalonians 5:11

What can I do, right now, to start being more intentional about my life with God?

How can I encourage genuine discipleship within my church community?

I believe God has BIG plans for your life! He's given you a calling and purpose to fulfill on

earth. I don't just mean some old generic plan, but a SPECIFIC plan just for You! With this plan comes a responsibility to steward it and to actually be intentional about it.

Your calling and purpose are not going to just happen. You will have to put in some work, be diligent and faithful, and then watch how God weaves it all together!

Prayer is KEY! So, start with prayer, first. Ask God to show you how to be intentional with the purpose He has for your life. It's so important that you write down the vision God has given you about your calling and purpose.

The next step to living an intentional life is to set your intention (or set some goals).

What do you want to achieve? How are you going to contribute to the world? Life is short, so how are you going to make the most of it? Once you start living intentionally, you'll notice a few things:

- You'll become a woman who is hungry for God's word.

- You'll create possibilities and goals for your life that fill your cup and glorify God in the process.

- You'll live each day on purpose – no more coasting or just getting by.

Are you ready to be intentional in your life and serving God with purpose?

The National WMA project is the Darlene Carey Christian Academy in the Philippines. If you have not given to this project, we ask that you give today. It is a worthy project.

If you need any assistance, please contact me and I'll be glad to come and speak at any of your meetings. Charlotte Johnson, 903-790-1385 or email chj1054@etex.net.

Be intentional in your service to your church, your community and to the Lord.

Big Creek District WMA Report

The Big Creek District WMA held its quarterly meeting at Big Creek Baptist Church on November 1st. The ladies conducted their regular business meeting and also received updates from our state treasurer, Mrs. Shirlene Smith, and our state regional project promoter, Mrs. Marilyn Welborn.

Mrs. Lindsay Lindsey shared the latest news from the Children's Home along with ways that our WMAs can help and serve the mission of our Children's Home. Please contact her at 601-426-2397 for more information about how your WMA can participate in the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home.

The Big Creek District WMA awards a banner each quarter to the church WMA that has the largest representation at our meeting. We had a TIE between FBC Calhoun and FBC Bay Springs! In the case of a tie furthest distance is factored in, so the banner was presented to FBC Bay Springs for this quarter.

After business was concluded, the ladies of Big Creek Baptist Church presented a wonderful program that reflected the history of our WMA and how it has influenced and supported the missions of the BMAA and BMA of Mississippi over the past 7 decades. Our WMA's have purchased property, buildings, buses, and even a plane (!) in support of missionaries of the BMA. We have a profound history of service within our work and we are excitedly looking to how we can serve in the future!



Our next quarterly meeting will be on February 7, 2022, at Lebanon Baptist Church. I invite you to come and find out how your church's WMA can get involved in the missions and projects of our work!

The Pasleys: Missionaries to France

from Holly Meriweather
BMA of America

Sean Pasley was called into missionary service to a country in which less than one percent of the population (670,000 people) identifies as protestant evangelical Christians. Sounds a lot like North Korea, the most anti-Christian nation in the world, but it's not. It's the country of France.

Their Story

Sean and Kendall Pasley were born and raised in North Mississippi, where they have lived and ministered together for the past decade. Married since 2010, God has blessed them with three boys: Liam, Ewen, and Declan. His wife Kendall is a full-time mother, homemaker, and teacher to the children, as well as being a piano and vocal instructor.

The Pasleys have served in church ministry since he accepted an intern position in 2009. Currently a seminary student at Midwestern, Sean's most recent pastoral role was at Calvary Baptist Church in Horn Lake, Mississippi, where he began serving in 2017. A missional church pastored by Greg Cook, Calvary had been praying for a church planting partnership before Sean came on staff, and



now they are the Pasleys' sending church.

For a long time, however, especially while attending seminary, Sean says, "I had a problem with the term missionary because mission trips seemed to only be about humanitarian aid and Instagram pictures. It wasn't until I met a missionary to Central Asia whose ministry was focused on evangelism and church planting (caring for people's spiritual needs rather than solely their physical needs) that I changed my mind."

Also, when God first gave Sean the desire of going abroad for mission work and a heart for French people, he had a lot of "yeah, but's" for God; however,

the following cultural realities changed his thinking:

But don't they have a lot of churches already? Yes, there are many churches, and the overwhelming majority of them are empty.

But don't they have plenty of people to reach them? No, the number of evangelical Christians is almost zero.

But aren't they a wealthy country? Yes, but they lack the riches of Christ.

With that positive missionary experience and those questions answered, he felt even more burdened to leave the U.S.

Laborers are Few

Sean's mother is a native of France, so he is familiar with French culture, but, he says, "... we never truly realized how little the people of France knew of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ until recently. We were grateful to learn of the work that God is doing through His people in France and we believe that He would have us labor alongside them."

France is the most historically Catholic country in the world and Catholicism is their national identity; however, only four percent attend mass, go to church, or carry a Bible. Forty-six percent of the French popu-

lation claim that they have no religion and identify as atheist, agnostic, or nonbelievers. That's 25-32 million people.

French-speaking Muslim immigrants from North Africa make up five percent of the population and live in southern France, the largest percentage of Muslim immigrants in all of Western Europe. There is less than one percent Protestant, so there are really no evangelicals, only small churches of fifty to sixty regular attendees, which in France would be considered a megachurch.

Gospel Hindrances are Many

Very few of the 67 million people of France have any understanding of the good news of the gospel. It is estimated that as many as 50 million French people have no real link with any Christian church at all. When that statistic is combined with the fact that Christian beliefs and values are seen as antiquated roadblocks to progressive thinking, the French are practically an unreached people group.

Basically, secularism is the unofficial state religion of France. While similar to the United States Constitution's first amendment, France's secularist policies effectively grant

freedom from religion.

But the real roadblock seems to be a completely anti-Christian culture, one where the occult is prominent and Bibles are almost non-existent.

Sean tells the story of a church planter in France whose wife began a Bible study, but no one had ever even touched one, much less owned one. They even seemed fearful of doing so, as if it was prohibited.

In addition, Sean explains that, "Occult practices are everywhere; there are more palm readers than preachers, pastors, or missionaries. Witchcraft and 'dark arts' businesses are on every street, but the answer to all that darkness is the gospel."

Thankfully, he says, there has been an increase of evangelical churches in recent years, but the need continues to increase with a growing immigrant population and a youth population that is largely uninterested in the gospel.

Their Call is God-Given

"While we love our ministry in the States," Sean says, "we believe that the Lord has work for us in France. Through much prayer and reliance on Scripture, we are obeying God's call

continues on page 8

Scripture Thoughts by Cleaver

Ecclesiastes 5.2 *"Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few."*

David had some words like this in Psalm 46.10: "...know that I am God, exalted among the nations, exalted on the earth." The prophet Isaiah (chapter 6) was overcome as: "...I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne... Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Armies; his glory fills the whole earth..."



Tony Cleaver

Mississippi State WMA Treasurer's Report

November 3, 2021

BMA of Mississippi Churches receiving certificates for contributing \$100.00 or more to the WMA project:

1. Bethel Baptist Church, Louise,
2. Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso
3. East Amory Baptist Church, Amory
4. East Fulton Baptist Church, Fulton
5. First Baptist Church, Bay Springs
6. First Baptist Church, Calhoun
7. First Baptist Church, Shady Grove
8. Homestretch Baptist Church, Cleveland
9. Hopewell Baptist Church, Laurel
10. Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel
11. Shiloh Baptist Church, Mt. Olive
12. Skyway Hills Baptist Church, Pearl
13. Temple Baptist Church, Lucedale
14. Vardaman Street Baptist Church, Wiggins

Top Five churches in contritions

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Skyway Hills Baptist Church, Pearl | \$4,808.84 |
| 2. Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel | 1,000.00 |
| 3. Temple Baptist Church, Lucedale | 760.00 |
| 4. First Baptist Church, Bay Springs | 750.00 |
| 5. Bethel Baptist Church, Louise | 575.49 |

Honorable Mention:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. Homestretch Baptist Church, Cleveland | 550.00 |
| 2. Hopewell Baptist Church, Laurel | 523.80 |

Total received for the 2020-2021 Project:
 75% Renovation of the Publications Building in the Philippines \$9,956.19
 25% General Fund 1,445.58
 Total Received 11,401.77

Update on the past two years of funds received for the renovation of the Publications Building in the Philippines:

2019-2020	\$9,935.23
2020-2021	\$9,956.19
Total Received	\$19,891.42
Funds from G.F.	108.58
Total	\$20,000.00

The project selected for 2021-2022 is:
 75% Living Hope Baptist Mission, Meridian--
 Missionary Bro. Chris Yager and Family
 24% General Fund

Please send all offerings for this project to Shirlene Smith; 730 Hwy 533; Laurel, MS 39443

Woe is me...because my eyes have seen the King..."

Good Reader, God is not our "buddy", nor is He our "ole pal." He is not like us. He is totally other than we who live on this terrestrial ball. Let us think carefully before we get to the point of "giving God a piece of our mind." Several not so often sung hymns of yesterday speak to this point:

· The great anthem, Holy, Holy, Holy has these words "...tho' the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see...only Thou art holy..."

· A line from All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name says: "Let angels prostrate fall; bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all."

· Handel's Hallelujah Chorus sings from the halls of heaven: "King of kings and Lord of lords...and He shall reign forever."

· Martin Luther wrote fitting words: "A mighty fortress is our God a bulwark never failing..."

So, Dear Reader, as we go into the time of seclusion with God today, let us do more listening than speaking; practice more hearing than telling; be more submissive than demanding as we bow in hushed awe before Him.

Ecclesiastes 7.14 *"In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him."*

The Christian life must at times side-step extremes. The wise writer of Ecclesiastes urges us not to be in excess on any particular subject or situation or state. He quantifies many perplexities of life as beyond understanding. As a matter of fact, there are inexplicable times

when we might have little, and there are days when our resources are in excess. We rejoice in the excess and are not so glad with the scarcity. Yet it is the Lord who guides us through these times at both ends of the scale. We depend on Him more as we have less. We neglect to depend on Him when we have more. It is true and it is good to remember in those days of adversity or prosperity: "God has made the one as well as the other..."

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

You may contact him at jstmcleaver@embarqmail.com

The Pasleys

from page 7

to move our family overseas for the sake of His gospel. There are obvious challenges facing gospel ministry in Europe, but we are ready to spend our lives participating in God's plan."

The Pasleys will be living in Albertville, France, where they will search for like-minded churches in which to get a foothold in an area where missionary work is not encouraged.

Their five-year ministry plan begins with one to two years of language school, cultural acclimation, and evangelism. In the next three to four years they will prepare for church planting and partner with a local church in discipleship . . . then they begin the process of planting

churches.

Sean says studies have shown that it takes ten years from the time they hear the gospel for French people to believe and accept it, but he knows that their plans are in God's hands.

Sean requests the following prayers: Please pray for the salvation of French people, and that God would prepare hearts to receive the gospel even now

Please pray for our family as we prepare to live and minister in a foreign culture.

Pray that the Lord allows France to soon become a beacon of light and life for His glory.

If you or your church would like to partner with the Pasleys email them at pasleysj@gmail.com or go to <https://app.securegive.com/BMAMissions/main/donate/category>

Challenges

from front page

Here are my 5 challenges:

1. Sandwich the Day in Prayer.

The last thing you want to think about on Thanksgiving is another sandwich, but go with me here. Sandwich the day in prayer.

When you first wake up, start the day in prayer. When you go to bed at night, end the day in prayer. Let the first thing you do and the last thing you do be a simple prayer of thanksgiving, thanking God for His innumerable blessings upon your life. There's something special about having a conversation with God on the bookends of your day.

2. Share on Social.

Go public with your thanksgiving. Share with others a few things you are specifically thankful for, and while you're at it, make sure they know that you are a believer, and it's Jesus who changed your life when you surrendered to him.

3. Make a Private List.

I do believe it's important that we, as followers of Christ, publicly share with the world the great things the Lord has done in our lives. However, let's not pass up an opportunity to privately make a list of things we are thankful for. There are some things that are personal between you and God. Use this opportunity to be open and transparent before the Lord.

If you do this, you will find it hard to stop. You may start out aiming for a list of 10 to 20, but you'll quickly realize 100 to 200 is very feasible.

4. Commit to 24 Hours of No Complaining.

This one may be the most challenging. We often don't realize just how much we complain. Complaining is the fruit of a spoiled root and as Americans we have

Churches Walk for Lifeword

Bethel Baptist Church of Bassfield and Grace Baptist Church of Columbia, participated in the 2021 Walk of Faith to support LifeWord ministries on October



16. They raised \$750 to help spread the gospel to 130 countries in 120 languages. Those from Bethel Church were Freida McNeese, Leanne McNeese, Charlie McNeese, Kegan McNeese, Toni Harrell, Kaydence Harrell, Bailey Harrell and Sandra Smith. From Grace Church were Pastor Robert Cole, Ginger Cole, Kason Cole, Remington Cole, Martha Dement, Lauren Sandifer, Winford Cole and Peggy Cole.

been spoiled. We have acquired an attitude of entitlement. I deserve . . .

This is most evident when we complain about something that doesn't go our way. Try going an entire day without complaining. You may need to recruit someone to help point out when you slip up.

5. Encourage Someone.

Your words are powerful to a broken world of anxiety-ridden, suicide-considering people. When you encourage someone and point them to the gospel of Jesus, you are speaking life to their soul and possibly saving their life. Call a relative. Text a friend. Message a co-worker.

Let someone in your life know you are thankful for him or her and explain why!

As you and I celebrate Thanksgiving, let's not forget to give thanks and love someone who isn't feeling it this season. Don't let the most important part of the day get overlooked because of a crazy turkey.

And you don't have to wait until that Thursday . . . Start now!