

The Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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2016 Annual Meeting Held In Laurel

by the editor

Messengers from the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi assembled on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College October 18 & 19 to conduct their annual business. The final Enrollment Committee report revealed that 56 churches were represented by messenger with an additional 39 by letter only. Officially 121 messengers were present to care for business.

The state WMA held its meeting on Tuesday morning at First Baptist Church of Shady Grove while the state Brotherhood met at Southeastern College.

Solemn Assembly

A special Solemn Assembly service was held at Southeastern at 11:00 AM on Tuesday. SBC Dean Dr. Scott Carson, recently retired chaplain from the U.S. Army after 30 years of service, brought a message on "A Somber Call To Unity". His message stressed unity in pur-

pose, mission and effort. Carson said "This is a solemn call to unity against those who would silence the voice of God's people".

Business Session

President Matt Hudson brought a message highlighting the theme for the 2016 meeting "Our God Reigns".

Association Business

All current officers were re-elected with the exception of Assistant Clerk. Current Assistant Vernon Newman declined reelection due to currently serving as the manager of the Revolving Loan Fund. Bro. Ted Quinby of Midway FBC Sumrall was elected to this post.

Visitors

National workers present included Donnie Parrish and Ron Chesser of Ministers Resource. Parrish reported for Missions, Lifeword and Discipleguide, he stressed the joint work each was doing and the cooperation that helps the overall outreach of the

BMA of America. Chesser spoke concerning the retirement needs of each pastor and staff member of the churches and all entities affiliated with the BMA. He urged churches and individuals to enroll in the retirement program of the BMA of America. Seminary Trustee Don Brown presented a report from President Charley Holmes, along with the two other Mississippi trustees, Dennis Knight and Ted Quinby.

Patriotic Rally

The Tuesday evening God & Country Rally was under the direction of Moral Action and Dr. John Adams. An honorary color guard was provided and the national anthem was sung by Mrs. Sabrina Clayton.

Special guests included State Representative Randy Boyd. Boyd is a deacon and member of First Baptist Church, Mantachie. He spoke briefly and led in prayer. State Senator Chris McDaniel of Ellisville also spoke and led in prayer.

Law enforcement officers, veterans, and first responders were also recognized during the service. An inspiring message was brought by Dr. Adams to conclude the evening worship service.

This editor counted approximately 180 in attendance.

2017 Meeting Information

The midyear meeting in May 2017 will be hosted by Midway First Baptist Church, Sumrall and Pastor Blake McCain. Willie Oldenquist, pastor of Helton Road Church, Mobile, Alabama, will be the speaker. The alternate will be Bro. Larry Trammel.

The 2017 Annual session will again meet on the campus of



Dr. Scott Carson, academic dean of Southeastern College, and retired U.S. Army Chaplain, speaking at Patriotic Solemn Assembly

Southeastern College with Ed Steele as the annual speaker and Dennis Knight as the alternate.

Constitutional Changes

The changes presented by Southeastern College previously published in this paper were approved by a vote of the mes-

sengers. These changes dealt with wording of the purpose and mission of the college.

An amendment affecting the Nominating Committee that allows the committee to nominate a committee member to a standing committee if currently serving and qualifying for an

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2016-17 Officers- (left to right) President Matt Hudson, 1st Vice-president Justin Rhodes, 2nd Vice-president Greg Medenwald, Clerk Justin Cameron, Asst. Clerk Ted Quinby, Director of Public Information Don Brown



Army National Guard Color Guard presenting colors at Patriotic Rally

Ministering To Young People

by Anders Lee

Planning Ahead for 2017

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

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 re-

proach, 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,



Anders Lee

but be patient as you work out the kinks of how you can achieve putting what God has told you on the calendar for 2017. 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 2017.

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 no later than mid-November about the plans for 2017.

No matter how you go about it, trust me, now is the time to plan for 2017!!!

Lee is a church planter for the BMA of America and Mississippi. He is a pastor and former youth minister. Lee may be contacted at anders.lee571@gmail.com



State Meeting Report from page 1

additional term.

Committees

The Nominating Committee elected for 2018 are Leon Carmical, Ray Lee, and Justin Rhodes.

The Enrollment Committee for the 2017 meeting consists of Josh Daniels, Kenneth Ham, and Dwight Lindsey.

Missionaries

All state missionaries were present and gave personal reports. These reports are available from the State Missions office upon request. See a note in the Missions report on how to obtain these reports and other missions department information.

Participation

The BMA of Mississippi is comprised of over 180 churches and as stated in the first paragraph of this report only 56 churches were represented by messengers. The business and ministry decisions were left to only 31 percent of our membership.

Attendance and participation of our churches, pastors and membership has declined in the past few years. It would seem to be in the interest of our churches to have a majority to participate in the conducting of the Association's business.

May the Lord touch our hearts to rally to the work He has given us.

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
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



USPS 353-960
P.O. Box 8181
Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000

Phone 601-426-3293

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Don J. Brown, Editor

E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org

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Special Section - 2016 BMA of Mississippi Department & Commission Annual Reports

This section contains the written reports that each department and commission director delivered at the 2016 annual meeting of the BMA of Mississippi.

MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

Our God Reigns

1 Cor. 15:24-26

"Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet."

Our theme is a good theme and we have celebrated what we know will be a



Larry Geraldson

reality soon. We use it here, metaphorically, to emphasize the spiritual reign of our Lord in our hearts and the sovereign reign of our God in the world. However, in reality, we know that this reality,

which contextually refers to events that take place sometime after the second coming of the Lord, are yet to come. He returns the second time, will return as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

When our Lord came the first time, according to Luke 19:10, He came, "...to seek and to save that which was lost..."

He came as a prophet (preacher). He preached repentance and forgiveness of sins to all who would believe in Him by faith.

By the grace of God, He provided the means of salvation by offering Himself as a holy and righteous and perfect sacrifice. In Titus 2:11 we are told, that, "...the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men..."

According to Hebrew 10:12, "...after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever..." He "... sat down on the right hand of God;" and we know that this is where He is and that He daily maketh intercession for us as our High Priest.

In Luke 19:11-27 we are given a parable which helps us to see, from our Lord's perspective, how these things all fit together, "And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him,

saying, We will not have this man to reign over us. And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading."

Most believers are familiar with this passage in the scriptures and we know how the story unfolds. The nobleman returns and takes measure of the faithfulness and dedication of those servants He entrusted with His kingdom's work. The story informs us to be busy, to be wise, to be diligent, and to serve with expectation of the fulfillment of the reality set forth in our theme. Our God reigns!

The truth is that our efforts will soon come to an end and the measure of our loyalty, dedication, devotion and love for our Lord, will soon be laid in the balance. Soon we will give an account. Soon we will listen with hopeful expectation for those words, "Well done thou good and faithful servant...". Soon we will enter into that kingdom, but until then we have work to do. Until then we must focus on the fields that are white unto harvest.

This past year, in addition to our missionaries collectively making 3640 new contacts and sharing the gospel over 2069 times, witnessing 194 professions of faith and baptizing 44, we saw 92 people join by letter.

We witnessed the completion of the building project at South Forrest Baptist Mission.

We held the 2016 Missions and Evangelism Conference at South Forrest and they did a wonderful job hosting the meeting. In 2017 we will hold the Missions and Evangelism Conference at Caledonia Baptist Mission on April 22.

We finalized the purchase of property in Clinton, Mississippi, for future construction of a first unit building for Grace Baptist Mission and finally received conditional use approval from the City.

We purchased property at Batesville and added a new State Missionary, Dr. Kenneth Pollock, to work with the Midway Baptist Mission at Batesville.

We purchased property and relocated the Way, Truth and Life Hispanic Mission at Oxford, to a property North East of Oxford.

We purchased property in Southaven for the future construction of facilities for Central in Southaven.

We completely reorganized our Hispanic Missions program under the leadership of Bro. Estuardo Marroquin.

We ordained three Hispanic men and licensed three others.

We witnessed the start of two new

Hispanic missions projects.

We witnessed growth in our African American mission program under the leadership of Bro. Ed DuVall, adding one man in mission training, and the assimilation of two existing congregations into the Great Rivers Association, which has a focus on mission work to the African American people living in and around the Delta area.

We are almost finished with the construction of the second phase building at Caledonia, which will provide them with much needed education and fellowship space.

All of these things were done, by God's grace, with less money, and with better efficiency than the year before. Our efficiency rating in 2015 was 84/16 but in 2016 we improved that to 87/13. We continue to move toward our goal of 90/10. This means that 87 cents on every dollar that came into the General Fund of Missions went out to our Missionaries.

In the upcoming year, we anticipate:

The addition of another State Missionary;

The organization of at least two, maybe three, of our mission congregations into New Testament Churches, and the assimilation of those congregations into our Local and State Associations;

The construction of a first unit building at Clinton;

The construction of facilities at Southaven;

The purchase of property and possible building of a first unit building in Sumrall for Day Star Baptist Mission;

To accomplish this, we have submitted an operational budget that is actually less than the year before.

I commend the four Missions that appeared on the Top 20 giving list. I give special thanks to Bro. Dennis Knight and Bro. Kenneth Lott for their leadership as chairmen of their respective committees. I am also grateful to the Rankins for assisting us with unfinished projects at the Missions Office. I also want to thank Ms Kim Parker, our Office Manager, for her hard work keeping our office running.

We are praising the Lord for the addition of Bro. Vernon Newman to our team. He will be serving as the Revolving Loan Fund Manager. He is off to a great start and I look forward to working together with him in the days and years to come.

Thank you for your support and for the privilege to serve you.

If you would like to receive a copy of the written reports given by the Director and all of the Missionaries, just contact our office at 601-428-8616 and we will forward you a hard copy or email you a PDF version.

Revolving Loan Fund Manager's Report

I continue to be excited about how God is using His Churches, the Local Associations, and the State Association



Vernon Newman

of churches in growing His ministry throughout Mississippi. Through the continued evidence of trust that our depositors have shown in the RLF, we have been able to put the fund to work to grow

God's kingdom. Further, the trust shown by our churches through applying for loan to build facilities as their local congregations grow has been deeply appreciated.

The RLF has been able to show growth over the past year and that has allowed us to continue to offer good rates to our depositors: 2.17%. With the deposits staying strong, we are able to offer good rates to our borrowers: 4.25% to BMA of MS churches.

As the RLF has closed out the 2016 fiscal year, our annual audit has been completed very successfully and the findings has been worded as "An Un-

qualified Opinion"; the highest audit opinion that can be received (a copy of the audit is available upon request). Likewise, their comments on the RLF's Management Practices are most complementary.

Bottom Line, all of these figures represents a strong RLF financial position for which we give God all the glory and praise.

Bro. Larry Geraldson has done an outstanding job over the past year in the absence of a RLF Manager. Bro. Lee's retirement left a void in the office that literally took a year to overcome. I have been able to talk with Bro. Lee on numerous occasions and he continues to be a positive influence on your RLF.

Your RLF Trustees have been very active and involved this year. I thank them for their selfless service to this work of the BMA of Mississippi. Their willingness to serve coupled with their dedication to the churches of the BMA of Mississippi has further developed the trust across our work.

God bless you during the remainder of this annual meeting and we continue to pray for God's guidance and blessings on the efforts of the RLF.

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SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE

President's Annual Report Continued Impact for Christ

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord" (I Corinthians 4:2-4).

When we live obedient to the Lord, we often are accomplishing much which we do not recognize. Most ministers have had someone come to them and say, "God had used you in ____?" And you had no idea. Some were saved. Some marriages were preserved. Some commitments to faithfulness or service were made. When you are faithful and dependant on the Lord, only eternity will reveal what God has done. Paul says that we are not capable of judging our own efforts or the efforts of others.

In the same way only the Almighty knows every way in which lives have been and are being touched by the Southeastern Baptist College. With some, the Grace and increased maturity is evident. With others the impact of our ministries may not stand out as much until recognized later. Students of the past and present regularly express their appreciation for the difference that SBC makes.

ENROLLMENT

The good news is that our total num-

ber of students after withdrawals was fifty. This was an increase of ten to twelve over our final totals during the past two semesters. The bad news is the total number of hours are about thirty less than the two previous semesters. We are not paid by the student, but by the hours taken. Hopefully the increase in students will result in more hours in the future.



Danny Pitts

For this semester nearly seventy percent of our hours are online. This figure accounts for some of the reduction in hours and income. Because of their secular schedules, most online students are taking less than a full time load. Several BMA ministers who were full time on campus three years ago are full time online now. We must adapt to this changing reality. James wrote, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him" (James 1:5). If we ask, the Lord promised much wisdom. He also will not fuss at us for not having wisdom. Pray for Him to share that wisdom with us in decisions concerning the ministry of the school.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

The BMA of Mississippi ministers receiving the scholarships from the Revolving Loan Fund this fall are Matt Crumpton, Wesley Martin, David Ledlow, and Jeremy Wilkerson. The

total awarded was \$3,179.00. We appreciate the continued support of the college by Bro. Larry Geraldson and the Revolving Loan Fund.

TRUSTEES

Even though little has been said about the Trustees of Southeastern Baptist College recently, they are greatly appreciated. To help the school, those who have served during the past two cycles (6 years) have paid all of their expenses in travel to the meetings. Some of our Mississippi trustees live four hours away from Laurel. Historically most departments, including SBC, have given mileage reimbursement to those on the Board of Trustees. Financial conditions have made this prohibitive for us in recent years.

The Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi elects three trustees each year for three year terms and allows them to be re-elected for a second term. Also the states of Florida, Alabama, and the Trinity Missionary Association of Louisiana elect a trustee for the board. This totals to twelve trustees who serve each year. According to our constitution, annual meetings of the board are held on the first Tuesdays of October and May. Other special meetings of the board may be called as needed. The telephone and email makes it possible for the board to approve some items without meeting physically. Some issues are delegated to the Executive Committee (Officers of the Board) for their counsel and approval. The President of the college tries to keep the Chairman of the Board informed of many other decisions at the school. The administration and staff has the responsibility for the day to day operations. The board must establish the direction of the college's ministry and evaluate how effective the leadership accomplishes its mission. The board also must insure the financial and academic integrity of the institution. Obviously a great working relationship between the board and administration is key to success.

FAITHFUL SERVICE

Caroline Hagler, a member of Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, will be rotating off of the board this year. She has served faithfully during some difficult years. Because she was elected to fulfill two years of someone else's term first and then two of her own, she has been on the Board of Trustees for eight years. The board chose her as Recording Secretary, and she kept the appropriate notes, usually in shorthand. She has a doctorate and has been a professor at the University of Southern Mississippi. We



SBC President Danny Pitts presenting Trustee Dr. Carolyn Hagler with a certificate of appreciation

appreciate her sacrificial service and love for our school. We extend a special thanks to her and all of the Board of Trustees of Southeastern Baptist College.

HOMEGOING

We pray for Grace to the families of some special friends who recently went to be with the Lord. "Priss" Williams ended some weeks of struggle in the hospital on October 10th. She had served with her husband, Ricky Williams, on the mission field in Mexico for many years. We had met at the BMAA Seminary in the 1970s. During the 1980s we came to know her mother and other family as active workers in the local association in Port Arthur, Texas. May the Lord be with the family in their loss.

We will also miss Bro. Milton Wright. Not only did he pastor many of our churches during a long ministry, he also taught for Southeastern on many occasions. Dr. Aaron Parker said that the first course he took from SBC was an extension class in north Mississippi which was taught by Brother Milton. Many of you know that he was the father of Sylvia Rankin, whose husband is on the Board of Trustees. Although the void from their departure is real, we rejoice in the confidence that their labors are over and that we shall go to be with them.

LOOKING FOR A DONOR

For the first time in several years, we had to borrow \$15,000 to meet payroll early in this semester. By being very frugal we have made it fine since then, but we need to repay this debt. We are looking for a donor to help the school with this obligation. May God lay this on the heart of someone who loves our school and knows the value of a college education.

Southeastern College Trustees



The Trustees of Southeastern College pause for a group 'working' photo at their recent annual meeting

Special Section - 2016 BMA of Mississippi Department & Commission Annual Reports

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PUBLICATIONS

Christian Publications Department Annual Report to the Association

by Editor Don Brown

Another year

It is a blessing to be able to come before you for my 39th annual report. Time really does fly when you are involved and having fun! In keeping with the theme of this meeting - OUR GOD REIGNS - we affirm that the focus of every life and every department and commission IS Jesus Reigns!

Jesus and His kingdom work is the focus of your Mississippi Baptist. The content of your paper highlights the ministry of our churches in reaching the world for Christ.

Content

Each department, commission, auxiliary, and church of our Association has the platform of the Mississippi Baptist to report on their respective work. If you will regularly look at the full content of the paper, you will be able to get an overall view of the ministry of the BMA of Mississippi. We are open to all of our national departments and ministries and regularly carry information and news about the worldwide ministry of the BMA.

I hope you will pay attention to each report and article concerning the Lord's work. There are so many needs and opportunities for God's people to be involved with and to support. You can not help financially, physically, or prayerfully if you are not aware of the needs and goals. The paper is a great source of the efforts and needs of each department and area of ministry in Mississippi and around the world.

Our trip to the Philippines in March of this year helped us to see the need first hand. I have been able to make mission trips to Mexico, Haiti, and now the Philippines. Each of these times I was exposed to the real 'on the ground' needs of our missionaries and the opportunities for each individual to become personally involved. Reading about the needs and opportunities can spark an ember in your heart and spirit to do all you can in the Lord's work. I urge our readers to look for that opportunity on every page of the paper.

Contributors

I would like to thank some very special people who use their talents to make your paper a success. The offerings of Barbara White, Chuck Lee, Anders Lee, Tony Cleaver, Becky Ulmer and others are profitable and we deeply appreciate each of them for their dedication and their willingness to give of themselves.

Mrs. White has a way of taking us to places that many remember from their past. There is much wisdom and nostalgia in "Sofilthy's Attic".

Chuck Lee impresses me as a calm, humble, insightful, spiritual, and dedicated individual. But when he writes, he seems at times to change personalities and come close to actually 'losing his mind'! (That is suppose to be a compliment). You never know what your are going to get from Bro. Lee, but you can always count on him having a message along with a sharp wit.



Don Brown

Bro. Anders Lee, pastor of Central Church in Southaven, is writing a column addressing Youth ministry in our churches. I approached him about this need and after some time in prayer, he agreed to take on this project. He has a number of years both in the pastorate and in Youth Ministry. I really enjoy his advise and encourage anyone working with young people to read his work and consider his direction and advice.

I have been a senior citizen for quite a number of years and realize that I am becoming more 'senior' by the day. After losing both of my parents over the past few years and reflecting on their needs and that experience, I have come to realize that the 'senior citizen' is a very special individual and have needs and challenges that others to not have and of which many may not be aware.

In seeing the needs of the elderly and wanting to provide beneficial information to both the Senior Citizen and their family and care givers, I sought out someone who could address some of these special needs and areas. I was encouraged by a friend to talk to Mrs. Becky Ulmer. She is a member of First Baptist Church, Bay Springs, and is Nursing Home Administrator at Jasper County Nursing Home in Bay Springs. She is a qualified professional with experience and insight and is addressing topics of need and interest through the column "Senior Sources".

We have had a number of contributing writers covering various topics of interest and needs over the years. These individuals make our job easier and they certainly enhance the quality of our paper. You would do well if you would tell them personally that you enjoy and appreciate their work

Church additions needed

The Publications Department needs to continue to grow and the one way to

produce that growth is through the addition of churches to the "church family plan". We have added some churches this past year, but have also lost some. There are a number of our churches who are not on the "Church Family Plan". There are also churches who are on the family plan, but who choose to only send the paper to those who "voluntarily" sign up for it. Sometimes people don't know that they want or need something until it is placed before them. When I was a child I did not eat mayonnaise or turnip greens. I did not realize what I was missing. Some of the members of your church may not 'know what they are missing'. If you will provide the paper to all the members of your church you may find that they will not only like it, but that they will appreciate it. Do you remember the "punch line" from a commercial a number of years ago? - "TRY IT, YOU'LL LIKE IT". We encourage all churches to join us and help their people be more informed about the work that their BMA of Mississippi is doing.

Mission Churches - We currently send the paper to each of our mission points. A couple of those missions are paying for the paper, three of the missions are having the paper provided to them by one of our other subscribing churches. It costs money to provide this service. I urge other churches or individuals to step forward to help us with this ministry. The members and prospects of our mission efforts will be well served by having access to the Mississippi Baptist Paper. When I mentioned this need at a local association, a pastor approached me later and said his church would pay the subscription cost of two mission projects in his area. We will continue this policy, but ask your help.

Addresses and changes important

Address updates and corrections are essential for us to be able to deliver the paper in a timely manner. We ask that the clerks and/or church secretaries keep the list as current as possible. Your help in this area is appreciated. When the post office notifies us that an address is not valid or that there has been a change, it costs us 57 cents for each return. This cost adds up. By keeping your list up to date you will help us reduce our costs, plus your members will not miss an issue.

We will be mailing church lists to all of our churches in the near future for them to use to update their lists. If at anytime you have a question about your list, please give us a call. We will be glad to take any information by phone or to

send you an updated list.

Remember that one of the first things you should do when you have a new family to join your church is to add them to your mailing list. Think of the encouragement that will be to that new family when they receive their first copy of the Mississippi Baptist and realize that it came from their new church home. They will truly feel accepted and a part of the fellowship of their new church home.

Finances

Our income this past year showed an increase over 2015. The actual reason for this increase was a record Special Emphasis offering this past January. In 2015 our Special Emphasis offering was over \$6,900, but our 2016 total was \$13,470.02! Some individuals who graciously gave special offerings helped this be a record year. We are humbled by the response of our churches, local associations and individuals who supported this effort.

Donations for this past year totaled \$12,604. This totals 16% of our income. Special Emphasis donations and monthly contributions make up 32 1/2% of our income. Your regular gifts and special emphasis offerings are vital to our operation and they are greatly appreciated.

Services

We are still delivering the Mississippi Baptist to our foreign missionaries by E-mail at no charge to them. We also deliver it to each of our pastors at no charge via Email. An Email subscription costs \$15.00 per year.

Trustees

I thank the Trustees of this department for their work and support. While their responsibilities are not as burdensome as other departments, they are a valued asset to the ministry of publications and are appreciated.

Thanks

Thanks also to our great Association of Churches for allowing me to serve in this capacity. It is truly a labor of love. You afford me the opportunity to serve the Lord and our churches. May God bless us all as we labor in His fields.

In Ephesians 1:3 the Apostle Paul expressed it well when he wrote, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."

Our God Reigns!

Special Section - 2016 BMA of Mississippi Department & Commission Annual Reports

This section contains the written reports that each department and commission director delivered at the 2016 annual meeting of the BMA of Mississippi.

BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

Our God Reigns

This year's theme of the BMA of Mississippi's 2016 annual session is "Our God Reigns." I Corinthians 15:24-26 are the verses that are the focus of our attention for this theme. "For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet." Verse 26. There is no doubt there has never been a time in our nation's history when Jesus Christ needs to reign in the hearts and lives of men, women, boys, and girls. So, in light of the fact that "Our God Reigns" may we as God's children look to the God of the Word so that we can point Him to others who have not yet submitted themselves to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord, "Our God Reigns"!



SIDNEY DAVIS

Financial Report

The financial review during the past year reveals that because of your generosity and good response we are able to report to you that we did not have a deficit in the budget this past fiscal year. We would like to convey to you our supporters our sincere thanks for your support of the Home. There is still a need for an increase of regular giving from the churches. Will you consider placing the Home in your budget or make an increase in giving if the Home is already in your budget?

Special Emphasis—The Months of October and November

Will you help us reach our goal of \$25,000.00 again this year? Last year you helped us reach our goal for this Special Emphasis period. We are asking you to respond in the same way for this year's Special Emphasis. We would

like to suggest to you to consider designating November 13th as "Children's Home Emphasis Sunday." We would like for you to have special prayer for the ministry of the Home on that day. Also, we would like for you to prayerfully consider receiving an Emphasis offering.

God's Blessings

We are grateful to the Lord that He has allowed us to be an extension of His love and care in giving boys and girls a knowledge and understanding of their great need of Him. Because of God's goodness and grace it is a joy to report that two of the girls at the Home came to know Christ as their personal Savior recently. Praise the Lord!

Rallies for Home

We are grateful for the associations and churches that continue to host food and miscellaneous rallies for the Home. It is a big help in the operation of the Home and our thanks goes out to you for your giving.

Christmas Sharing

As you know, Christmas will be here soon. If you would like to help this year at Christmas time you may contact us about your desire to help. We want to express our sincere appreciation to those who have helped brighten the lives of

the children in past Christmas holiday seasons.

Staff and Trustees

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the dedicated staff of the Home serving the Lord and you as they fulfill God's calling in their lives through this ministry.

I also extend my appreciation to the Board of Trustees for their faithful service to this important ministry of the Lord's work.

Also, I would like to acknowledge Bro. I. L. Stinson for serving out his two full terms as a trustee. I would like to acknowledge Bro. Sam Brown and Bro. Steve Krase for their faithful service as trustees from the Mt. Pisgah Association.

Remember In Prayer

It is our prayer that the ministry of the Home will continue to influence the lives of the girls and boys the Lord has placed under our care. Continue to pray for the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home that we will provide children with the loving warmth of Christian upbringing in an atmosphere that brings honor and glory to the Lord that will last a lifetime and all eternity.

Our God Reigns
1 Corinthians 15:24-26

STATE YOUTH DEPARTMENT

State Youth Director, Bro. Kelby Johnson

The highlight of our 2016 youth ministry was our State Youth Camp.

We met at Waukaway Springs Christian Retreat Center on June 6-8, 2016. It was our largest attended camp in years as well over 100 people attended. Bro. Blake McCain was our speaker. He did an outstanding job as he spoke to the campers on topics such as "What is the Gospel?", "Responding to the Gospel by Repentance, Belief, and Confession", "What Do I Do After I Believe The Gospel?", and "Sharing the Gospel." We also had Christ-centered times of prayer and singing. One new aspect to camp this year was an Adult Bible Study and prayer time before our night sessions. Bro. Cliff Jenkins led this and was a blessing to all who attended. As always, those who were at camp had a great time of fun and fellowship! We even had a special appearance by Sofilthy McNasty!



Kelby Johnson
Director

group, we'll have room. If you have just a few children, bring them! It doesn't matter how many you bring, but I ask that you pray about it. Please contact me for more information and stay tuned to the paper as we will announcing more information soon. We have confirmed Bro. Donnie Parrish as our speaker for 2017.

The trustees and I have talked about a couple of other activities for 2017 and will put out more details about those shortly.

I want to encourage you today regarding ministry to children and youth. How many of you have taught a child or youth the Bible in the last year? How many of you have baptized a child or youth in the last year? Many of you have! My point is this: There are churches in the BMA of Mississippi who are ministering to children and youth. Let's be encouraged by the testimonies of those around us who are reaching the next generation for Christ and let's all do our part.

I want to encourage you to make the focus of your ministry to children the same as your ministry to all people: the person and work of Christ. If our focus is on evangelism, discipleship, church growth, family ministry, or anything else than the person and work of Christ, all of those will turn into self-serving or man-centered ventures. If our focus is



FW

Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Forgetting Those Things...

I've just returned from the annual meeting of the BMA of Mississippi and it was grand and glorious! I always look forward to hearing the reports of the missionaries and the way God is blessing their efforts and it's always good to hear reports of God's blessings on all the departments.

Then there is the added bonus of being able to see and visit with others who love the work of the B.M.A. of Mississippi. (I like to type that word.) The only problem is, their names don't come to me as readily as they once did. But God also understands that, matter of fact it is commanded in his Word "Forgetting those things which are behind....."

I read the other day: "A good memory is fine, but the ability to forget is the true test of greatness." Now I know that you know that this is talking about petty things that we humans do to each other. Just forget it! It's scriptural.

on the person and work of Christ, then those other things (evangelism, discipleship, church growth, family ministry, children's and youth ministry) will be built on the right foundation!

Continue making the goal of your ministry, even your ministry to children and youth, be the same as the goal of Paul's ministry. He said in 1

Corinthians 9:23, "I do it ALL for the sake of the gospel!"

May we do all our ministry for the sake of the gospel!

Thank you for your prayers and support for the Youth Department. We are working to do more for the churches and for the glory of God. A special thanks to the Trustees and Mrs. Brandy Riley.

Special Section - 2016 BMA of Mississippi Department & Commission Annual Reports

This section contains the written reports that each department and commission director delivered at the 2016 annual meeting of the BMA of Mississippi.

MORAL ACTION

Moral Action continues to stand with all our churches, pastors, and leaders through up-to-date articles in our Mississippi Baptist and State Associational papers. We place articles in ten publications and papers and we distribute free literature on current moral issues. Literature that we distribute as we visit churches and associational meetings are: American Family Association (AFA) Journal, Israel My Glory, The Judicial Watch-Verdict, One Voice United in Prayer, Family Research publications and the Focus on the Family magazines.

We continue to provide access to our Moral Action websites (www.macbma.net) and www.moralactionofms.net. These sites provide our churches with tools for study and information related to the contact of elected officials. You will find Bible Gateway, Got Questions.org., What Can One Person Do?, Reconstructing American History, and the Director's reports, articles, and archives.

Moral Action continues to champion the moral and spiritual causes that are so much a part of Associational Baptist. These are: (1) the battle to keep the words "In God We Trust" on our coins and paper monies and (2) to keep "un-

der God" in our National Pledge. There are many who seek to have these words removed.

We continue to travel to Washington D.C. and Jackson, MS for activism in the long-term fight against abortion, gay/lesbian and homosexual rights and against the advancement of casinos in MS. Since my election in 2005, I have spoken to and interviewed these elected officials and pastors in your behalf: Governor Phil Bryant, MS; Speaker of the MS House, Phillip Gunn; Dr. Jack Graham of Dallas/Plano, TX; Dr. Bert Harper of American Family Radio; U.S. House Chaplain Pat Conroy; the late U.S. Congressman Alan Nunnelee or MS, 1st District; U.S. Congressman Dr. Tom Rice of 7th District South Carolina; U.S. Congressman Mark Meadows of 11th District North Carolina; Historian David Barton; U.S. Congressman 4th District, Robert Aderhold of Alabama; U.S. Congressman Joe Barton 6th District, Texas; U.S. Senator James Lankford of Oklahoma; U.S. Senators Roger Wicker and Thad Cochran of MS; U.S. Congressman Jack Hensarling of 5th District TX; U.S. Congressman Greg Harper of 3rd District, MS (who gave MS Adams and myself a tour of the Congress Prayer Chapel); Presidential



John Adams

candidate and U.S. Senator Ted Cruz, TX (who we interviewed twice); U.S. Speaker of the House 8th District, Ohio, John Boehner, as I had the privilege to lead in prayer before the Congress.

Past U.S. Congresswoman, Michelle Bachmann, 6th District, Minnesota; U.S. Congressman and now Senator Tom Cotton, 4th District AR; past U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln of AR; past MS Governor Haley Barbour; past Arkansas Governor and recent Presidential candidate Mike Huckabee; and MS Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann. With these personal contacts, Moral Action, has also mailed, text, and telephoned many other political, religious, and influential leaders such as Donald Trump, Dr. Ben Carson, former President George W. Bush, U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders and Candidate Hillary Clinton.

You may ask what we discuss. Always with courtesy and respect, most topics center around (1) the need of a Godly, Christian nation, (2) the need for the recognition of God on our coins and in our national pledge, (3) the concern over Islam, and Muslim Sharia Law and its influence rising in America, and (4) the desire to protect and support God's people "Israel." My joy is to speak the name of Jesus before these political leaders. I always inform them that our churches and people are praying for them on a daily basis.

Out of the Closet

Homosexuality is out of the closet completely today and liberals of America continue the steady push for abortion. These two current practices are ongoing and will continue progression. Our Holy Father detests these two "great abominations." Proverbs 6:16-17 gives Biblical voice regarding God's instructions regarding the "shedding of innocent blood." Leviticus 18:22, states plainly, "Thou shalt not lie with mankind as with womankind: It is abomination."

Main Battle

We continue our main battle for our children and students. It is true that whoever controls the children and teens, control the future of our nation. Our BMA New Testament churches have unlimited opportunity to engage our children, teens, and college students in teaching, training, and discipleship. There are many avenue to do this such as, Sunday School, VBS, Galileans, GMA, Awana, church camps, mission trips, SOAR, enlivened church youth and college groups and Godly worship services.

Our curriculum must include Biblical teachings of morality. We must stand against sin and stand for Godly living. We can do it! We must not give up!

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HISTORY & ARCHIVES

by Ed Steele, Director

The History and Archive Commission was created to be a source of record keeping for our churches and the local Associations in the State of Mississippi. While some material from outside the state of Mississippi is also available, the primary purpose is to have a history of what has occurred in the BMA of Mississippi. Our files will only be complete if our churches and Associations are faithful in providing the information that needs to be kept for historical purposes.

We have files on each church who has sent us bulletins or programs from any special service such as a Revivals, Homecoming, Church Anniversary, Pastor Appreciation, etc., in the past. Any new information you send will be added to your file. If there is not a file on your church, one will be opened when you provide any information you would like to be kept for posterity.

Some clerks of the local Associations are very faithful to send yearly copies of

their Minutes as soon as they are printed. I would like to encourage someone from each church to check with your clerk to ensure that your Minutes are being mailed to us. If this is not currently being done, we would appreciate the clerk being encouraged to do so.

A copy of any book or pamphlet written by any Pastor or member needs to be placed in the History & Archive Library for others to read. This includes Bible studies or articles on current issues and moral problems that will be helpful to any who use the Library.

I would like to thank Southeastern Baptist College for providing space in the Library to store all of our files. Thanks is also extended to SBC Librarian Mrs. Amy Hinton who oversees the archive of all our material and to Mrs. Sandy Tidwell for keeping our financial records in addition to her duties as bookkeeper for SBC.

Thanks to all the churches that have been faithful in supporting the Commission financially. Any item or offering should be mailed to History & Archive Commission at Southeastern Baptist College, 4229 Highway 15N, Laurel, MS 39440.

SENIOR ADULT COMMISSION

Kenneth Flynt, Director

This ministry is proving to be one of the highlights of the year for our senior saints. During the past year over 600



Kenneth Flynt
Director

people attended the conferences provided for them. It truly has been a happy jubilee time as the result of the support you have given, it has remained steady and this is deeply appreciated. It has been a glorious year and 2017 promises to be

the same.

The trustees of the Commission are a constant source of help and always willing to participate in the conferences. The trustees are Jerry Overstreet, J.L. Johnson, Noel Hillman, John Riles, Jackie Gray, and Medrick Savell.

2017 will be a great time for the Senior Jubilee as we will be gathering March 21st at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, and May 9th at Greenwood Baptist Church, Fulton.

We are living in a dangerous world and our seniors have seen many changes over the past few years - many are disturbing. This is a dark day spiritually and morally for our country. We are

to be shining lights in a world of darkness.

Now is not the time for people of God to panic, to "check out", or head for a remote location. Rather let us be confident in the sovereignty of God and His Word. "And let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (Galatians 6:9)

Let us determine to be faithful to the entire word of God even if it puts us in the margins of society. Remembering the words of Jesus who said, "In this world ye shall have tribulation, be of good cheer, I have overcome the world". John 16:33

While we continue to have respect for authorities ordained of God (Romans 13:1-7), we strongly disagree with many directions and rulings, therefore let us pledge that we will not disobey God (Acts 5:29), nor violate the scriptures for the sake of cultural approval. Our senior members are worthy of our prayers and the support this ministry provides.

May God bless our commission supporters as we communicate the truths of the Word of God with faithfulness to Him and love for one another. Pray for this ministry.

WMA 2016 Annual Meeting Report

by **Beth Caldwell, President**

The Mississippi State WMA met October 18, 2016 at 8:00 AM at First Baptist Church Shady Grove with President, Linda Smith presiding. After an opening song and prayer visitors and missionary wives were recognized. Mrs. Sandra Carmical led in prayer. A general fund offering was taken (\$152.00). Dawn Burns sang a special in music, "What A Day That Will Be."

Our speaker for the morning was Mrs. Celia Broom, wife of Bro. Dale Broom, missionary to Ghana, Africa. "Water For Christ" was the 2015-2016 project. Mrs. Broom spoke of the work of the great need for water in Africa. The opportunity for speaking for Christ is made so much easier due to this great need of the people for water.

Registration Committee Report

26 messengers, 16 visitors, 19 churches, 42 Total Present

2015-2016 Project Report

75% "Water for Christ" \$13,048.67

25% General Fund \$1,960.01

Total: \$15,008.68

Project for 2016-2017

25% General Fund

75% "Water for Christ"

We voted to:

1. To give \$200.00 to the BMA State Minute Fund.

2. To give \$100.00 to First Baptist Shady Grove for meeting expenses.

3. To give \$2,000.00 to the Haiti Relief Fund.

4. Take \$1,951.33 from General Fund to make the total for "Water for Christ" \$15,000.00 (3 wells).

5. To give \$200.00 per month to the Brooms for their salary.

6. To change the "Corresponding Secretary" position to "Treasurer."

Resolution

Be it resolved that:

We as WMA ladies of the State of Mississippi commit to study our Bible and spend time in prayer.

We commit to take a stand for the Word of God and will defend it when

necessary.

We commit to teaching the Word of God to our children in our churches and in our families.

We commit to pray for our BMA work at every level and pray for those in leadership.

We commit to prayerfully seek God's will in the election of our President – praying for God's mercy and divine will.

We commit to give a rising vote of appreciation to our State WMA officers and Shady Grove Baptist Church for hosting our meeting.

Installation of Officers: Jessica Haden, Second Vice President, Psalm 63:1.

2016-2017 WMA Officers



President Beth Caldwell, First Vice President Ruby Bynum, Second Vice President Elaine Smith, Third Vice President Jessica Haden, Treasurer Shirlene Smith, Assistant Treasurer Barbara White, Recording Secretary Bonnie Brown, Assistant Recording Secretary Jeanette Burkes, Historian Ginny Singleton, Editor Rita Clark, Pianist Pat Davis, Song Director Dawn Burns, Director Youth Auxiliaries Becky Farmer, GMA/YLA Promoter Lisa Christian, Sunbeam Promoter Linda Dertinger, Project Promoters Linda Smith and Marilyn Welborn, Advisory Council Don Brown, Bryson Haden, B.J. Hudson; Retreat Committee Chairman Jessica Haden & CoChairman Beth Caldwell.

Moral Action Report

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Special invitation

United States Congressman Trent Kelly of 1st District, MS has invited Mrs. Adams and I to be his guest at the February, 2017 National Prayer Breakfast, Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C. We are honored to accept.

The Support

Our Moral Action recognized the support of our churches, pastors, and individual groups throughout the Association. We thank each one who has supported this ministry on either a monthly or annual basis. The July 4th Freedom Offering is always a success. This is evidence of your understanding of moral needs our nation continues to face.

Mrs. Adams and I count it an honor to serve you. Your voice is being shared and heard. We thank First Baptist Church of Mantachie, MS for allowing us to travel and serve this agency.

Would you pray for us in this special ministry? Make your voice and concerns known to your elected officials and pray, pray, pray for them. Pray for a revival in America! Pray for God's will in the November election. God bless the BMA of MS churches, members, pastors, deacons, auxiliaries, and our teens and children.

HELPING CHURCHES IS AS SIMPLE AS...

Every time a church closes its doors, the effects are devastating -not only to the community, but also to missionaries around the world who depend on local churches for their support.

DiscipleGuide's **Activate** program is currently helping revitalize almost 40 churches. Meanwhile, 30 churches are on the **Activate** waiting list. The need is urgent, and requires great resources.

Proceeds from Compass Bible study materials help DiscipleGuide invest in local churches through **Activate**. If 100% of Adult Sunday school classes in 100% of BMA churches would use Compass Bible study materials, we could help every church on our waiting list.

Your church is going to order Sunday school material from somewhere. **Why not help revitalize a BMA church while you're at it?** It's as simple as that.

Help us help local churches. Order Compass for every adult class in your church today!

Go to discipleguide.org/compass or call 1-800-333-1442. Be sure to ask about our new 100% money back guarantee.



ACTIVATE DiscipleGuide