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2018 Annual Session of the BMA of Mississippi Held at Southeastern College

On Tuesday, October 23 church messengers gathered in Laurel on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College to care for the business of the State Association.

55 churches were represented by messenger with another 49 by letter only. Officially registered were 112 messengers and 16 visitors, however the crowd numbered around 150 or better for most of the meeting.



I Vice-president Greg Medenwald welcomes Pastor Anders Lee and Central Church in Southaven to the state association.

One church petitioned membership into the state association. Central Church of Southaven recently organized and is no longer a state mission project. Pastor Anders Lee and others from the church were present as Central was welcomed into the state work.

The messengers voted to hold the 2019 Annual Session at Big Creek Baptist Church near Soso, Mississippi. The midyear meeting in May 2019 will be hosted by East Amory Baptist Church, Amory, Mississippi.

SBC president Scott Carson was selected to bring the 2019 annual message with Dr. Steve Crawly as the alternate.

Bro. Dewitt Bain, pastor of Mt. Gilead Church, Columbia, was chosen to bring the 2019 Midyear message with Dr. Charley Holmes, president of BMA Seminary, as the alternate.

All current serving officers were reelected. Continuing to serve are President Justin Rhodes, pastor of Big Creek Church, Soso; I Vice-president Greg Medenwald, pastor of Magnolia Church, Hattiesburg; Bryan Atwood, pastor of Campground Church, Gulfport; Clerk Justin Cameron, pastor of Good Hope Church, Columbia; Asst. Clerk Ted Quinby, member of Midway FBC, Sumrall, and Director of Public Information Don Brown, editor of the Mississippi Baptist.

Reports were heard from

each department and commission. Those reports are printed in full in this issue beginning on page 3. (The Senior Adult Conference report will be listed in our next issue.)

State Missionaries were present and reports were given by the Missionary Coaches serving across the state. Those individuals are Ed DuVall of Cleveland, Estuardo Marraquin of Laurel, Sidney Farmer of Hattiesburg, and Bob Burch of Caledonia.

President Justin Rhodes brought the President's message from Ezra 3 highlighting this year's theme of *Together As One; United For A Purpose*.

After approving the resignation of Jeremy Wilkerson as director of the Baptist Music Fellowship, the messengers voted to dissolve the BMF and allow the Program Committee to be in charge choosing an individual to direct the music at each state-wide meeting.

Sidney Davis Retires - New Children's Home Director Elected

Children's Home Director and Manager Sidney Davis announced that he is retiring after 20 years as director of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home effective May 2019. He and his wife Pat have served faithfully and provided a loving, Christian atmosphere for those children under their care.



Sidney & Pat Davis

The Trustees of the Home presented Bro. Dwight Lindsey as the new director. Lindsey was unanimously elected. Lindsey currently is pastor of Lone Oak Baptist Church in West Point. He will be moving on the field in January to provide a period of transition.

The annual message was brought by Bro. Wesley Martin, state missionary working in Diamondhead, Mississippi.

One new state missionary was introduced. Bro. Johnny Williams will be working on the field in Waveland, Mississippi.

WMA Banquet

The annual WMA Banquet was held at First Baptist Church of Shady Grove on

Monday evening. A large number of ladies were present and enjoyed the meal and program. The WMA project for this year was the 'We Are Free' ministry working with and ministering to the victims of human trafficking. Angelyn McMurray is an attorney working in this ministry and was the featured speaker.

Other reports from this year's meeting will be in our next issue.

WMA Banquet Attendance



First Baptist Church of Shady Grove was the location of the annual WMA Banquet. Ladies from over the state enjoyed a baked potato and salad meal before assembling in the church sanctuary for a program and report from Angelyn McMurray of the We Are Free Ministry.

2018-19 Officers



Special Annual Association Section
Beginning on Page 3

Ministering To Young People

by Anders Lee

Why Are OUR YOUTH Leaving?

When I was a teen at Lee's Chapel #2 in Picayune, Mississippi, there were many things that I LOVED! Back in the day "Youth in the Harvest" was huge. We were always trying to get the "attendance banner" from Mt. Calvary in Picayune! We went to "PERK" in Wiggins for camp when Bro. Latrelle was the State Director. Man we packed Perk out! Occasionally we went to Daniel Springs in Gary, Texas! Whooo it was hot! We loved playing volleyball after church and going skating in Bay St Louis. We took trips to Florida, Branson, Nashville and Memphis. At the end of my youth years I went with a friend to this new thing called SOAR. We all thought it was cool, but many said Bobby Tucker and Donny Parrish were liberal – HA! And... of course every Sunday night our Youth Director, Bro. Doug Lee (now BMA missionary in the Philippines) taught us the Word of God! I miss those days!



Anders Lee

A lot of things have changed since I was a BMA teen! The "Youth in the Harvest" is no more. Perk is no longer packed. A lot of teens could care less about volleyball or skating. Even SOAR has declined some in attendance. Youth groups aren't youth groups any more. I will be the first to say, "changing methods is always needed". Let's face it, "Youth in the Harvest" should have ended long before it did. There's a

problem folks! Our YOUTH are leaving us! We need to ask WHY so we can prevent it!

I love reading the information at www.barna.com. They have been doing very reliable Christian surveys since 1984. Did you know that nearly 6 out of 10 teens raised in church today leave the church they grew up in? 4 out of 10 leave church completely! WHY? In one poll they stated three reasons why students leave.

#1. The busyness of the culture.

#2. Lack of interest & commitment from parents.

#3. The breakdown of families.

Occasionally I find these things true in our youth group. We have teens that don't come on Wednesday nights because of their jobs, band practice, or football. Some of our teens tell us they would be there if their parents brought them. Then there are those who aren't there consistently cause they are with Mom this week and Dad the next.

I asked some guys in the BMA to contribute to this article. My thanks to Larry Barker, Justin Burdick, Clif Johnson, Zac Lee, & Donny Parrish. Here are a few excerpts from them about teens leaving us.

Larry said: "The biggest reason I see is: we love our preferences more than we want to reach the next generation."

... every local church can evaluate and take steps of change that would help the younger generation connect. For each church this will be different. Yet, making an effort to change is huge in itself...

Justin said: "One thing that most churches in the BMA need to understand is that teens lack connection with the church as it is. Youth are not the same as adults. Even if a teen is walking with the Lord, their minds are wired to take everything in and if they are not at a place that doesn't connect with them, they are not gonna want to stay."

Clif said: "Parents are more interested in them being entertained than disciplined."

Zac said: "They feel unwelcome, uncomfortable & not able to fit in."

Donny said: "A lack of realization by parents that their #1 responsibility is to make disciples of their kids."

I agree with Barna and with all of these men. Parents are indeed a huge factor! My parents invested TONS in me spiritually! Today's parents are spiritually lazy! They have not instilled into them love for Jesus, the worship of His name, commitment to the local church, and a longing to read, study, hear, know and obey the Word of God. It's archaic in our culture. They will make sure their kids have iPhones, but they aren't worried if the Word is in their hearts and minds! The spiritual leaders of every BMA church must be aggressive in challenging parents to change!

The Local Church needs to seriously look at changes. The technological world teens live in has put them in a different mentality. Let's face it, they process and communicate quickly, more so than any other generation before them. When they come to church, they don't connect because it's slow in concept and method. The message is right, the worship is purposeful, but they don't identify with the presentation of it. This is a cultural disconnect. The older generation must realize that this doesn't make them liberal or backslidden. The younger crowd must realize that their church leaders (or the older BMA generation) don't connect with where they are. It's a two way street.

What happens is this, the two sides blame the other for their differences, draw lines in the sand, and a natural division occurs. Since the older crowd is the money crowd, the youth eventually exit as they get older. It is the perfect plot that OUR ENEMY wants to see unfold! Many of our churches are going through it! It burdens my heart to watch!

The older more spiritually mature generation of the BMA need to consider change for the sake of future generations. Did not Paul say in 1 Corinthians 9:22; "I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." Not every church is going to have a contemporary song set or style that teens or college students identify with. BUT... every local church can evaluate and take steps of change that would help the younger generation connect. For each church this will be different. Yet, making an effort to change is huge in itself. Those that are genuinely wanting to follow Christ among the younger generations will recognize the effort to do so and be more willing to continue and stay.

To the younger generation that might read this article, I have to be faithful to ask. Why do you really come to church? What is your #1 reason? If it's only for social reasons, or because where you go is "legit"; you've missed the point altogether. The church exists to worship the Savior, preach the Gospel, disciple people to follow Christ. As the older generation we understand that we need to keep it happening and fun for you, but it's our heart that you follow Christ supremely!

So really, both generations have to ask themselves some hard questions. Am I willing to change my methods to reach the next generation? Am I really a part of the church to follow Christ?

Heavy stuff...
Lee is a church planter in Southaven, Mississippi. He is a pastor and former youth minister and may be contacted at anders.lee571@gmail.com

Alert and Sober Minded for SOAR 2019

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. Philippians 4:6

For SOAR 2019, Prayer Warriors and Prayer Partners will do just as Philippians 4:6 asks: they will make their requests known to God. These teams will come together to pray over the hearts and souls of those who will attend this student conference on July 3-5, 2019.

"Our hope is to rally a prayer team across the nation that will utilize the weapons God has given us to be able to bless our kids through SOAR," said Kristen Riddle, who is leading the effort to form the SOAR Prayer Teams.

A Prayer Warrior team is currently being formed, which will be made up of men and women who come to SOAR solely to pray over the conference and its attendees. Throughout the conference they will pray for the Lord to work, and they will even receive cards with specific prayer requests from those who attend the conference.

Additionally, the Prayer Partner team will be receiving prayer requests and Scriptures at their homes to pray over SOAR and those who are in attendance.

"The teams will also have a list of churches who are

attending SOAR so that they can pray over those specific churches," said Riddle. "We want people personally praying for each youth group and church in attendance."

1 Peter 5:8 says to be alert and sober minded,



because the enemy prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. These SOAR prayer teams want to be alert and sober minded, just as 1 Peter says, praying well ahead of the conference for hearts and lives to be changed.

"We'd like to see kids coming to know Christ," said Riddle. "That's the goal."

For more information about these SOAR Prayer Teams and how to get involved, visit gosoar.com/soarprayerteams.

2018 BMA of Mississippi Department & Commission Reports

The BMA of Mississippi held its 2018 annual meeting on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College on Tuesday, October 23. We are listing the personal reports of each department and commission in this section. This allows our churches and readers to get the complete report of each department.

Missions Department Annual Report - by Larry Geraldson, Director of Missions and RLF

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ..." Philippians 1:3-6

God has blessed us with another good year. He has multiplied our efforts even more than we could ever imagine.

As I begin my report today, I want to take a moment to say "Thank You" to two men: Bro. Danny Bartlett, and Bro. Anders Lee, for, "A Job Well Done." Both of these men have completed the task of organizing their respective missions into New Testament Churches. This task is long and painstaking. The task itself is enough for those of us who are onlookers, to say, "Well Done!"

Today, I begin my 8th year as your Director and I am as excited today, as I was the first day I stepped into the position. I am delighted to begin my report by telling you that Harvest Baptist Mission in Olive Branch, led by Missionary Pastor James Cook, is planning to organize on November

3, 2018 at 11:00am. Bro. Phillip Burns, Missionary Pastor of Day Star Baptist Mission in Sumrall, has announced that they plan to organize in January 2019. If all goes as planned, Lord willing, we will have organized 9 missions into New Testament churches since 2011. That's nine missions organized in just under seven years. Now, to be truthful, one of those did not remain. But the rest have, and I think, overall, that is a pretty good rate of return.

It is also my privilege to report to you the beginning of a new mission in Waveland, MS. Bro. Johnny Williams and his wife, Neta, will be serving as church planters to the City of Waveland. Bro. Williams was approved on October 2, 2018 by the Mis-



Missions Director Larry Geraldson giving annual report.

sionary Committee and has already begun missionary activity in the area.

As some of our men rotate off support, we will be working to bring new men on board to start new churches. We are currently focusing on the City of Starkville and praying that God will raise someone up to go and plant a church in Starkville. We have 17 men who are presently involved in missions' activity that we are supporting (directly or indirectly). These men have engaged 2983 new people, and they shared the gospel 765 times. We witnessed 119 professions of faith and 36 baptisms. Efforts are being made to train these people so that they can join the ranks of those who are living out their faith in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are almost complete with the building project at Sumrall, for Day Star Baptist Mission. Day Star Mission is scheduled to hold their first service in their new building on October 28, 2018. I am pleased to report, by the grace of God, and because of the generous support of our churches, directly and indirectly through the Revolving Loan Fund, the entire project is paid

for. They will not have to take a loan. Praise the Lord!

We continue to work hard to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our missions' operation. This past year we closed our books with an average efficiency of 90/10. This means when we take measure of all our expenditures, right at \$.90 on every dollar we received, for State Missions, was expensed directly to the missionaries. My goal for the upcoming year continues to be 95/5. I am confident we will get there. I also want to give a sincere thanks to our Coaches and Coordinators, for the work that they do. Each of them is doing a great job!



Job Well Done - Commemorative Plaques presented to Pastor Anders Lee (left) of Central Church, Southaven, Mississippi and Pastor Danny Bartlett (center) of Grace Church, Clinton, by RLF Manager Vernon Newman and the Missions Department for organizing this past year.

Our 2018 Annual Audit is complete, and both Missions and Revolving Loan Fund ended the year in the black. For Missions, this is the 7th year in a row. Our Auditors gave us an, "Unmodified Opinion" again this year. I want to specifically recognize Ms Kim Parker, our Office Manager, who is our sole Book Keeper for Missions and Revolving Loan Fund. She has done a superb job and is a priceless asset to our operation. All of the entries generated by the Audit were due to our Auditor's guidance. Not a single entry was made from some inaccuracy on the part of our bookkeeping. Great job, MS Kim!

I also want to express my deep appreciation to Bro. Vernon Newman, our Revolving Loan Fund Manager. In addition to maintaining oversight of the 741 shareholder accounts and the 63 active loans, and providing routine and regular reports, to me, of the status of the overall fund, this year, I called upon him to travel more, make himself available to visit more of our churches, and local associations, and he has done an outstanding job. He will be sharing a separate report on Revolving Loan Fund.

I am very thankful for our local associations. Our partnerships are critical to the ongoing work of missions throughout the State.

I want to express my appreciation to the people who served on our Missionary Committee, led by Chairman James Sprayberry

Children's Home Annual Report - Sidney D. Davis, Director

As One—United

This year's theme as presented by the President of the BMA of Mississippi, Bro. Justin Rhodes, is "Together as One, United for a Purpose." Ezra 3:1 says, "...the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem." No one can deny that all around us we observe division, dissention and sometimes destruction. We see it on the international level. Nations cannot get along with other nations. You see it on the national level, where in political parties there is only division and debate.

We are seeing Christian homes being pulled apart by sin. We see churches today that are facing division, difficulty and problems. Yes, even the family of God is having a hard time staying together in unity. If you are a part of a church family where there is love and unity, rejoice and give thanks and work hard to keep it that way.

May we as an association be the kind of people that God can anoint with fresh oil. That God can send the freshness of His presence among us, so that we might be "As one—United." Lord, lead us into this most precious spiritual unity for the sake of your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ!

Financial Report

The financial review reveals for this past fiscal year once again, offerings and receipts fell short of expenditures. This year's shortfall was about half as in the previous year. Last year's shortfall was \$2,000 per month in meeting budget, this year there was approximately a \$1,000 per month shortfall in meeting budget. Let me encourage you as churches to prayerfully consider placing the ministry of the Home in your budget or by increasing your giving to this ministry. With



Children's Home Director Sidney Davis giving his final report after 20 years of service. Davis submitted his resignation and plans to retire effective at the end of May 2019.

your consideration and help what a blessing it would be for offerings to exceed expenditures in next year's report.

Special Emphasis 2018

We are encouraging the churches of the BMA of Mississippi to partner with us in meeting the needs of the Home by participating in this year's Special Emphasis which are the months of October and November. One of the needs is providing a vehicle for the High School Senior girl that is graduating in May 2019 as she prepares to attend college next Fall. Another need is the annual insurance premium for the Home that comes due after the first of the year which exceeds \$12,000. It always puts a strain on the budget that time of the year and with a good emphasis we will have the funds on hand to take

care of that expenditure. The Special Emphasis is vital in the Home operating within budget. Will you partner with us in meeting these needs by participating in this year's Special Emphasis? We would like to suggest to you to consider designating Sunday, November 11th as "Children's Home Emphasis Sunday." Also, would you consider having special prayer for the ministry of the Home on that day?

Retirement

This report makes the twentieth time I have given an annual report to the association as Director of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home. These twenty years have come and gone by so quickly. At the annual trustee meeting of the Children's Home I informed the board that Pat and I would be retiring at the end of May 2019. Keep us in your prayers and the future ministry of the Home that the Lord's will may be evident and His leadership followed in the days to come.

Staff and Trustees

I would like to thank the Lord and express my appreciation to the staff serving the Lord and you at the Home for their dedicated years of service to this vital and important ministry. To the board of trustees my appreciation is extended to each one for their faithful service and interest in the well being of the Home and its outreach.

Remember In Prayer

Continue to remember to pray for the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home. May the Lord through this ministry continue to have an influence on the lives of children for many years to come.

Together as One, United for a Purpose—Ezra 3:1

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Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

Publications Department Annual Report - Editor Don Brown

I am as a wonder unto many; but thou art my strong refuge. Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day. Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth. Psalm 71:7-9

We learn from the Psalmist's words that God is our refuge and He never fails His people. It is a joy to give my 41st annual report and count it a blessing and privilege upon my life to serve this great Association. Our work collectively is to share the Gospel of our Lord with the world.

Let me first share that the finances of this department are stable and we ended this past fiscal year in the black. The fee for the Mississippi Baptist is

\$1.30 per month per subscription on the Church Family Plan, but our cost for this past year was \$1.83 per subscription. We were able to meet our financial needs due to the support you give through special emphasis and monthly support. For 2017-18 you gave over \$34,000 in offerings and special emphasis gifts above the cost of your subscriptions. We are grateful for this support.

Postage costs have increased and our printing cost alone has increased by 5% this past year, yet we were able to cover this due to the generosity of our supporting churches and individuals. We have not increased our rates in over 15 years and do not plan an increase if donations continue to cover our expenses.

Writers

I must again commend those individuals who donate their time and talents as contributing writers. Anders Lee, Chuck Lee, Barbara White and Tony Cleaver continue to bless us with their talents. They are totally voluntary and we do appreciate their loyalty. I would ask you to let each of them know by mail, email, a phone call or by personal contact that you appreciate their work. Each of them are special to this editor. I have also received permission from Bro. Grover Laird to use his writings in our paper as needed. What a treasure we have in his writings.

Ministry Goal

Our ministry is to amplify the work of the BMA of Mississippi as a whole. Each department and commission has a worthy ministry and your Mississippi Baptist stands with each of them to support their work and share their needs, goals, and victories with our churches. It is our goal to get our publication in the home of

each of our church families. This will allow them to see the work their church supports and share in the needs and work of each ministry. Each of our member families should be informed about the overall work of each department and commission.

We supply each new state mission project with the paper for one year at no cost to them. A good ministry for each Mother Church would be to pay for the new mission congregation's papers until they are able to assume that cost.

The Mississippi Baptist is the Association's best method of disseminating information to our churches and our members. Information in the hands of supporters is vital for any organization to prosper and survive. When God's people know the needs, blessings, work, opportunities, and desires in the heart of our workers and leaders, they then can catch the vision God has put in the hearts of His people. Knowing the needs allows us to rally to the cause.

Your Mississippi Baptist is the conduit of information to

the people of the BMA of Mississippi. It is the responsibility of our leaders, workers, pastors, and churches to share as much information as possible with our members. We ask for your help in increasing the number of families receiving the paper. The Missions Department, Southeastern College, our Children's Home, our Youth Department, the Commissions and Auxiliaries of our work are depending on the Mississippi Baptist to reach our members with their needs, goals, and victories.

Assistant Sought

Your editor is the only employee of the Publications Department and the only individual who knows its operation. He is the only person currently with the ability to actually produce an issue of the paper. We will be looking for someone who would be willing to come along side and learn the basics of running this department. We are not looking for the next editor or a replacement, but for a 'backup' who could step in if needed. This individual must have basic business knowledge and good computer skills. This would not be a paid position and would not require regular work. We are wanting to train an individual in the basics and would compensate them while learning the ministry basics.

Appreciation

I would like to thank our trustee board for their support. Their work requirements are minimal, but they do not take their responsibility lightly. Our writers continue to enhance the pages of this publication with their contributions. We cannot thank them enough for their input.

We appreciate our churches for their continued support of this ministry. By supporting Publications they are supporting each ministry of our Association.

May God continue to bless the BMA of Mississippi's ministries through the pages of the Mississippi Baptist.

Missions Annual Report

from page 3

and our Revolving Loan Fund Trustees, led by Chairman Kenneth Lott, this past year. Thank you for all the time and attention that you give to our work.

I also want to, again, express my appreciation to my wife, Cherita for her faithfulness and support. She is my best friend, my best cheerleader. Ours is a journey of faith together.

As we turn our attention toward the coming year, I am laser focused on the need for new missionaries. It is the subject of my prayers, and my promotion of State Missions, everywhere I go. We already have locations identified, across the State. We have the resources to meet the demand, and churches that are waiting in line to be Mother churches of new mission projects. Now, no one should be naïve. Planting a church is work, hard work, and those who are not so inclined to work, should not come this way. There is accountability! Those who are so inclined to not be subject to some level of accountability should not come this way. Missionaries, in their capacities, like me, are servants of the Churches of the Association and must seek to work in harmony with all our churches under the guiding principles set forth in our common doctrinal statement and by-laws. We are not looking for a "John Wayne" to serve as a missionary. Those who

have ulterior motives or separate agendas should seek some other place to engage in their activities. The association, and indeed associational missions, is not a place for the advancement of extremes on either end of the spectrum.

To this end, I pledge to you, that I will seek to do a better job, upfront, as we interview and process missionary applications. This should not require new tools but a more concentrated effort to pray through our decisions. Again, I commend our Missionary Committee which is made up of men who have a wealth of experience. Their counsel is invaluable. But they too shall be asked to pray more and assess more each candidate who applies to become a missionary.

In addition, I believe it is time for us to address some inhibiting factors that almost all missionary applicants face. For example, housing is a big issue when men are asked to relocate to a new town or city. Currently, we provide little to no support in the relocation process other than a token moving allowance. I have recently raised the subject with our Revolving Loan Fund Trustees about the possibility of tailoring a loan guarantee program that would allow Missions to guarantee a loan so that new missionaries, moving to a new field, might be able to purchase a new home. I

believe this will speak to two other inhibitors that we have identified as critical to church planting; namely, first, the missionary must reside in the community in which he intends to plant the church, and secondly, the longevity of the missionary to remain at the church he plants is greater when he and his family have permanent housing.

There is a third challenge that is equally important, and it has to do with compensation. Because our missionaries are staggered as to when they come on and go off support, across the board raises would favor the more junior missionary and penalize the more senior. Also, because of the diversity of cost of living through our State, a single compensation package is not always equal. Yet, we cannot continue to increase our support packages beyond the means provided by the churches. Therefore, I am looking at recommendations that can be reviewed and approved by the Missionary Committee to allow for, and in some cases encourage, the missionary to seek some uncompro-

mising part time income in addition to our support. Again, and again we have found that missionaries who are involved and engaged in their communities, many times through some type of work, find opportunities to connect to people and grow the church. Any such agreement between the Missions Office and the Missionary would have to carry the understanding that all support is subject to the church planting efforts remaining the primary focus to the Missionary.

These are just a few of the internal dynamics that we are looking at. I will not try to fool you; the external dynamics are equally challenging. We are trying to do missions in a State that is extremely diverse, though most do not recognize or acknowledge this. We face cultural diversities, theological diversities, denominational influences, struggles over methodology, varying philosophies of ministry. Our churches are often torn in their loyalties, and preferences and constantly

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Southeastern Baptist College Annual Report - Dr. Scott R. Carson, President

Since last year's report the Lord has blessed us with amazing opportunities for growth. As Southeastern Baptist College closed out the 2017 calendar year we decided to try a new recruiting angle by reintroducing Christian sports to our campus. We began 2018 by hiring a new recruiter, Brad Phillips. Coach Phillips has an extensive and impressive recruiting history and basketball coaching experience – including coaching for our BMA Jacksonville College in Jacksonville, TX.

Southeastern Baptist College successfully closed out the Spring 2018 semester and conducted graduation exercises on May 17, 2018. It was late in the Spring semester that we began to realize our efforts towards recruiting Christian athletes was becoming very successful. Over the summer we focused on the renovation of the Men's dormitory which had not been occupied in numerous years. The 2018 fall semester began with an increase of 106% in students with 72 undergraduates combining both online and in classroom campuses. The dormitory population grew from one occasional occupant last semester to 56 full time students. All of our students continue to be required, regardless of degree program, to take Bible education courses in order to graduate.



Southeastern College President Dr. Scott Carson giving his report to the 2018 Session of the BMA of Mississippi.

you to all the BMA of MS churches and individuals who helped us achieve step two of three toward this primary goal as set by the Board of Trustees several years ago and is now being aggressively pursued as a primary strategic objective.

Many years ago, most secular colleges throughout Mississippi stopped accepting our credits. Yesterday, I had an office call with the President and Provost of Institutional Effectiveness of

We also received significant gifts in kind to the college including 20 acres of land which is almost adjacent to our campus and Paramount Baptist Church of Perkinston donated a 30 passenger bus for our team transportation needs. Many, many volunteers have stepped forward to assist us in numerous ways and means. Thank you to all for answering the call to serve the Lord in support of this great ministry of the BMA of Mississippi.

SBC has hosted several events that helped the college become better known in our region and throughout Mississippi. In May, the college hosted the second annual and well attended National Day of Prayer Breakfast for Jones County. In August, we held the first "Danny Pitts Lecture Series" with Dr. Gary O'Neil as our guest speaker.

This month, we have successfully reinstated the Chargers Basketball team winning our first game which was held in Alexandria LA ten days ago. Our first home game is this Saturday at 2 p.m. and we are excited to be invited by University of Southern Mississippi to be their visiting opponent at their opening home game at their campus, on November 6, at 7 p.m.

We continue to be highlighted on a recurring basis in the local media and will be featured in an upcoming episode in the next season of HGTV's "Hometown" as well as be the focus of a PBS program called "On Demand with Rob Lowe" to be aired later in 2019. The program will highlight the many successes of SBC and how the school was able to turn itself around.

Our Strategic Planning Committee has grown to include six highly motivated individuals for the promotion of the college. Initiatives the committee are working towards include the Alumni revitalization effort and breakfast held earlier this morning where we recognized Dr. John David Smith and his father, Arthur Smith as Distinguished Alumni. A big thank you to Brother and Mrs. Oglesby for helping to lead our initial efforts to revitalize the Alumni Association. The second annual Individual Donor Recognition Dinner is planned for late November; as well as several other activities in the works. In addition, Southeastern Baptist College has added three paid positions including an Interim Dean, Dr. McArthur at \$1 a year salary; a part time Financial Aid Officer filled by Ginny Singleton; and a part time Admissions Officer, Rhonda Sims. We are truly blessed that God sent these highly talented people our way at just the right time. Pray for us as we intensify our search for a qualified full time Academic Dean.

In March 2018 our college staff and leadership were hosts to the ten year evaluation team from our accrediting agency, the Association for Biblical Higher Education. The visiting team was exceedingly helpful providing our staff with a wealth of guidance and insight. In the end, the team provided

numerous commendations and nine recommendations. The recommendations are things we must correct before our accreditation is extended for another ten years. Praise the Lord that we had already corrected eight of the nine issues even before our report was due to be sent to ABHE! We only have one issue left and it is, even now, actively being worked on. We fully anticipate having our accreditation extended. I thank all who faithfully prayed for us during this stressful time and also for those individuals and churches that sacrificially gave to pay for the ABHE visit.

The board of trustees and the strategic planning committee continue to look to the future on ways to diversify and maintain growth to our student population. If we had the housing and support facilities, we believe we could more than double our enrollment over the next two years.

I wish to remind our association of the five Strategic Talking Points for the college. All who support the college are encouraged to share these points in their promotion of SBC. The talking points are:

1. SBC Equips the Saints (Assisting our churches to meet this biblical mandate and we stand firmly upon the doctrinal statement of the BMA of MS)
2. SBC Exalts the name of Christ (Our purpose and foundation for existence)
3. SBC Expounds the Word of God (Our authority for everything we teach)
4. SBC pursues Excellence (With numerous awards, student accolades, professional teachers)
5. SBC is Endorsed (We are an accredited Christian Bible College)

The staff, professors, and students of SBC greatly appreciate your continued support through encouraging words, as well as your time, talent, and monetary donations. Your support of this institution is critical to its continued ministry into the future. We thank you for your prayers as we continue to meet the daily ministry requirements of SBC and plan for the expansion of our school's influence regionally, throughout the great state of Mississippi, and beyond!

I will leave you with this thought and challenge: we believe we can again double our student body population over the next couple of years, but in order to accommodate them, we must find a way to house them! This is quickly becoming an immediate need that we must address, if we want to continue to follow the Lord's leading in the growth and mission of our great college.

For 70 years, Southeastern Baptist College has been leading Christian post-secondary education within Mississippi. The college holds a tremendous reputation producing scores of pastors, Christian leaders, missionaries, civic and business leaders. I believe SBC has a bright future as we follow the Lord's leading! God is on the move on the campus of SBC and we must keep up with Him!

Thank you for your time. God bless Southeastern Baptist College and God bless the churches of the BMA of Mississippi!



The SBC Alumni Breakfast held the morning of the 2018 Annual BMA of Mississippi meeting was highlighted by the first Distinguished Graduate Awards. President Dr. Scott Carson is pictured above (left) after presenting a plaque, honoring graduate Rev. Arthur Smith, to his wife Mrs. Shirlene Smith. Also recognized was Dr. John David Smith. Smith is the son of Arthur and Shirlene Smith, a graduate of SBC and currently Executive Director of Missions for the BMA of America.

Also, with the anticipation of needing our classrooms to accommodate the significant growth of the student body, we did not renew the contract with the Excellence in Learning Academy, which had been renting our classroom facilities during the last school year.

We finished the fiscal year in the black for the second year in a row. SBC is required to remain in the black for FY18-19, and only then can we apply for accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Thank

the University of Southern Mississippi. As a result of this meeting, USM will produce a Memorandum of Understanding for accepting SBC credits! This is a huge strategic step forward for the future of SBC! Praise the Lord!

Extra monies received through generous individuals, churches and organizations have enabled us to address several infrastructure needs including the remodeling of the dormitories and gymnasium, numerous repairs and replacement to HVAC units, and roof repairs.

Moral Action Of Mississippi 2018 Annual Report - Dr. John M. Adams, Director

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men: For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." I Timothy 2:1-2.

Born again believers in the Baptist faith believe that our nation, state, Christian doctrines, Godly morals, the New Testament Church, and our precious families are worth praying for and defending.

There are many issues that Baptist Missionary Association Christians are faced with today. The Lord Jesus will guide our concerned hearts with love and help us with our anxious thoughts.

We know that our Moral Action Ministries and this great association of churches must stand for and sound out the truth. The battle is ours and we take up that challenge until the end. So, are our state and nation worth the effort? Are our children and grandchildren worth it? We are battling the detrimental elements in our society. Yes, and a thousand times, YES! The moral values of our state and nation are worth every conscious effort that we put forth. For decades, the Moral Action of MS has continued in the great fight for morality and the cause of Christ. This is our true mission and I am honored to report this news to each of you.

Your Director and wife, staff, and Moral Action of MS Trustees thank each church and her congregations for your continued prayers, wishes, cards, communication and financial gifts. You keep this ministry viable. We stand with our Associational churches in recognizing



Dr. John Adams

"HIS SUPREMACY." As your Director, I continue to make our BMA voice known in Jackson at the Mississippi State Capitol. Six times, in 2018, I have been your voice before our State Senators and State Representatives. I have led in prayer before the State House of Representatives and met with our Governor Phil Bryant twice. It has been an honor to meet with Secretary of State Delbert Hoseman again. In January, I attended the Mississippi Prayer Breakfast at the Capitol with State Representative Randy Boyd.

A new video is in process at this time. The sharing of vital Biblical beliefs is of the highest importance. I personally share with our State Representatives and State Senators that our churches and Moral Action trustees are praying for them daily. I encourage them to maintain Biblical instructions regarding issues such as Religious Freedom, gambling, abortions and Pro-Life and value voting. Their reception has been both kind and fair.

Moral Action continues to share recommendations of books, literature, internet web sites and monthly articles. Our trustees continue to support these efforts and share reports in our local associational meetings. Ms. Adams and I have been invited to attend the 2019 National Prayer Breakfast at the Washington Hilton.

We welcome your comments and suggestions regarding this ministry. We are dedicated to spreading the message of morality through God's word. Please feel free to contact us at: Cell: (662) 231-3863; Email: fbcjdjmaj@yahoo.com; Web: www.moralactionofms.net; Post: P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855

Surely, we Christians still tremble at the mighty hand of God. Isaiah stated in Isaiah 13:9:

"Behold the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it." VS 11: "And I will punish the world of their evil....."

We know these words are true and they will be fulfilled. So may this great association and agency sound out the truth of God in salvation and moral values.

The moral values of our state and nation are worth every conscious effort that we put forth

History & Archives Commission Annual Report - Director Ed Steele

The History and Archive Commission continues to oversee the historical records compiled from our churches, local Associations, the BMA of Mississippi, as well as other records from the BMA of America. The only way our records can remain up-to-date is for our churches and the various departments to continue to provide information to us. The clerks of our local Associations are encouraged to send a copy of their minutes as soon as they are printed.



Ed Steele
Director

Our Library contains many books and pamphlets that would be of interest to any who will take the time to go through them. There are over 100 cassettes of messages preached by many, including some who have gone on to be with the Lord. All the messages from numerous Bible Conferences were recorded on cassettes and are also available. However, there is a problem due to the fact that nothing is to be taken from the Library but must be used only on site. You can only enjoy the cassettes by bringing a cassette player to play them and, therefore, is very time consuming. The cassettes can be played into a computer and transferred to CDs in digital form but that process would likely take hundreds of hours to complete. Therefore, I would like to see a change in how we preserve messages and Bible Conferences for future use.

A DVD containing 52 radio messages from Dr. D. N. Jackson is now in the Library. Since all 52 would not fit on a single CD, they have been separated into two CDs with 26 messages on each one. These are all recorded in MP3. They cannot be removed from the Library, but you can bring a laptop and blank DVDs or CDs and in a matter of minutes make your own copies to take with you. A DVD can be played on your computer or by using a DVD player attached to your television where you can listen through the speakers of your television. The CDs can be played through a CD player that can play MP3 (the radios of most late model cars have that capability). You can also copy these discs in MP3 and then use your computer to make regular audio CDs of the individual messages, although it will likely take more than twenty discs to contain all of them.

It will be great if our current preachers will provide a DVD or CD of their preaching or Bible studies that is properly labeled and it will be a blessing to others for many years to come. Visitors to the History and Archive Library can make copies of any they desire to take home with them. Please let me know when you place (or send) them to the Library so I will be able to announce it

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Missions Report

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face those who have an agenda. The growth of our Revolving Loan Fund has inadvertently created a risk imposed by those who seek to join us merely to gain access to our Fund but have little regard for the integrity or fiduciary responsibilities we have to our shareholders. Future loan processing will demand that we scrutinize the long-term objectives of those seeking the loan and more thorough collateralization of our assets. Let's face it, the days of doing business with a hand shake, alone, are gone, even among churches. It is absolutely critical for our Association of Churches to understand that the ministry of the Revolving Loan Fund belongs to the churches, but the Fund belongs to the Shareholders. This reality advances the deep fiduciary concerns that myself, as Director, Bro. Newman, as the Manager and the Trustees carry regardless of the opinions of others.

The blessings we have experienced and the advances we have made in Missions and Revolving Loan Fund are a testament to God's goodness expressed to us and His grace poured out on us. It is His Spirit that maintains our unity in the face of our struggles, our love in the midst of our diversities and our hope in the face of generational transformation. It should be our constant reminder that this is His work and His agenda is what is important, and He is in control and we all serve Him.

Our future is bright and the opportunities limitless. But our future demands unity around our common passion of missions. Let us resolve today that we will strive for this unity.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your Director and I covet your prayers as we face the challenges of the upcoming year. I long for our Lord's return and trust that He will find us faithful.

2018 Revolving Loan Fund Manager's Report by Vernon L. Newman



Vernon
Newman

The FY2018 report to the Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi is that the Revolving Loan Fund remains fiscally sound and continues to focus on supporting our Churches and Missionaries. As the RLF Manager, I want to thank our churches (and church members) that have placed funds on deposit in the fund, which allows us to make loans to our Missions and Churches. As evident by our history, the Lord has truly blessed the efforts of the fund. We invite you to become a part of this Ministry by opening a deposit account.

Effective 1 October 2018, the RLF raised the rate paid on deposit accounts to 2.25% APR (or 2.27% yield if you allow the interest to compound) and the rate for new loans to BMA of MS Church loans is 4.75%. During FY2018, we had 9 loans paid-off and we were able to loan over \$2,500,000.00 in 10 new loans. Since inception, the RLF has loaned over \$76,750,000.00 across our work through 609 new or refinanced loans. The RLF already has Inquiries or Requests for several potential loans for the future.

The Revolving Loan Fund finished the budget year in the black and completed the Annual Audit of the fund. The auditor's findings have been worded as "An Un-Modified Opinion", the highest audit opinion that can be received (a copy of the audit is available upon request). The Management Practices that are in place received complementary comments from the auditors.

The Lord has truly blessed the efforts and hard work of the RLF. Through His blessings, we are being used by Him in the growth of His Churches. Again, this year I say a special thanks and words of appreciation to Ms Kim Parker. She truly is talented in her position as Office Manager; offering unparalleled customer support to each of our account holders. Ms Kim has been blessed this year as she and her husband Adam, who is the Youth Minister at Lebanon Baptist Church, become parents to Mr Easton Parker in May of this year.

The RLF could not do what it does without the dedicated efforts of our Trustees. These nine (9) men have been very busy this year as evidenced by the activity of the RLF. I thank them for their selfless service to the Lord through their willingness to serve as a Trustee for the fund.

God bless you during the remainder of this annual meeting. We continue to ask for your prayers for God's guidance and blessings on the efforts of the Revolving Loan Fund in its support role to Missions.

2018 Youth Director Report - Kelby Johnson, State Youth Director

Good afternoon, I am thankful for the opportunity to stand before you today. Many Christians claim to know Jesus Christ but do not share their faith on a regular basis. If this is true, then what is the missing link between a Christian and being a witness? I believe the missing link is that so many believers do not see Jesus as the greatest treasure in the world.

Do you remember the man in Matthew 13:44? He found a great treasure in a field and he sold all he had to buy that field. He didn't just know there was a treasure he was captured by it. We must teach our youth not only to know God but also to treasure Him. Someone once said it this way, "We must see Him, savor Him, and share Him." May Jesus be our greatest treasure, might we value what is most valuable, and might we teach our youth to do the same. We must be raising up the next generation who will lead our churches.

The youth department is here to support churches in this endeavor. And the main way we do that right now is by providing our Summer Camp. For the last 10 years, I believe we have averaged anywhere from 70-100 attendees at camp. This year, we had 170 camp attendees. It was an awesome group! John David Smith was our speaker and he peached John 15. The students learned all about abiding in Christ. We had a great time of fellowship, fun, and worship through song.

I say this year-after-year, but the churches that attend our camp are truly a joy to be around. They are made up of pastors and lay people who love the Lord. The kids are always great and it's obvious that these churches are doing their part to reach the next generation. I would like to announce today that our 2019 camp will be May 30-June 1. (Thursday-Saturday). Once again, we'll be at Waukaway Springs. I feel like each year our camp gets better and better and would love for you to check it out. Please contact me for more information or to sign up.

Something new and something I hope will be a benefit to you. We are going to add a Bible Drill emphasis this year. One of our pastors had this wise idea and I think it's worth implementing.

We will have some Bible Drill material for any church that is interested. This will include things like Bible verse memory and locating Bible books. And when we come together at camp in May, we will have a time set aside for all those students who have worked on it to compete in a Bible Drill time. It will be fun, but more importantly it will encourage our students to get into the Word until the Word gets into them. Even if your church does not come to camp, I would love to connect you with these resources for your church. But for those who come to camp, this would be a great way to motivate students to participate in Bible Drill. I'll put out more information on this soon and get the resources to each church that is interested.

As always, I'm thankful for you. I'm thankful for my trustees and Mrs. Brandy Riley. May God bless you all and may we all see and savor and share our Savior.



Kelby Johnson
Director

Obituaries

Missionary Life Mrs. M.S. Arrington

Katherine Byrd Arrington, 94, died Sunday October 21, 2018 in Oxford, where she had lived for the last three and one-half years. Funeral services were held October in Ridgeland, Mississippi. Burial was at Mize Cemetery in Mize, Mississippi.

Born in Mize on March 7, 1924, Mrs. Arrington was the youngest of nine children. Following her graduation from Mize High School, she entered nursing school and graduated as an R.N., training at Jackson Infirmary, the forerunner of St. Dominic's Hospital. In 1948 she married M. S. (Deek) Arrington, a Hattiesburg native, and for the next 15 years the couple made their home in Jackson.

Discerning a call to foreign missionary work, Katherine and Deek moved to Jacksonville, Texas, in 1963. During their three-year stay Katherine worked at Nan Travis Hospital while Deek pursued ministerial studies at Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary. Elected to serve as Baptist missionaries in Bolivia in 1966, they disposed of most of their possessions and moved the following year to Santa Cruz, Bolivia. After a year of intensive language study, they left Santa Cruz and lived for the next 14 years in remote areas in the jungles of Bolivia in the upper regions of the Amazon Basin, where they ministered to the indigenous peoples. Katherine put her nursing skills to good use by setting up a clinic on the banks of the Chapare River. There she performed a wide variety of duties, including delivering babies, giving inoculations, and cleaning and bandaging wounds. A detailed account of her story can be found in *The Arringtons in Bolivia* by Bettye White.

When Katherine and Deek retired from the foreign mission field, they returned to Jackson. She resumed her nursing career at St. Dominic's and later worked at St. Catherine's Village in Madison. She was a faithful member of Victory Baptist Church in Madison.

In addition to her parents she was predeceased by her husband Deek, all eight of her brothers and sisters, three grandchil-



Katherine Arrington

Faithful To The End Bro. Johnny Watts

Rev. Johnny R. Watts, 89, of Laurel, Mississippi, died Sunday, October 21st, 2018 at Forrest General Hospital in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He was born Saturday, October 27, 1928 in Smith County, Mississippi.

Funeral Services were held October 24, at Lebanon Baptist Church. Bro. Harold Floyd and Bro. Ken Riley officiated.

Bro. Watts served his Lord for over 50 years all over Mississippi, including Scotland Baptist Church, Good Hope Baptist Church in Columbia, Sharon Baptist Church, Hopewell Baptist Church and Berean Baptist Church in Soso, Broadmoor Baptist Church and West Hills in Meridian. He Loved his family and church Families. He was loved by all and will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by Frank Watts (Father), Ima Belle Watts (Mother), Leon Watts (Brother), Charles Watts (Brother), Eugene Watts (Brother), Dolphus Watts (Brother), Beatrice Cook (Sister), Inez Harper (Sister), Clemmie Nobles (Sister), Floy Waldvogel (Sister).

Survivors include his wife of 70 years Annie Watts; son, Dr. J. Michael Watts (Tanya); grand daughter, Tara Hulgán (Dr. Coty); great-granddaughter, Mary Garner Hulgán; a host of nieces and nephews.



Bro. Johnny Watts

dren, and a great-grandson. Survivors include a son, Melvin S. Arrington, Jr. and his wife Teresa of Oxford, Maryjane Mathis and her husband Gene of Jacksonville, Texas, eight grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions in Mrs. Arrington's memory may be made to the Rivers of Blessing Bolivian Boat Ministry, Baptist Missionary Association, P.O. Box 878, Conway, Arkansas, 72033.

History & Archives

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in the Mississippi Baptist.

I have prepared many Bible studies using Power Point Presentations that I plan on placing in the Library. I will prepare a DVD of me presenting the study where one can watch the presentation while listening to my voice explaining what I believe. While it took me hundreds of hours to study and prepare these presentations, you will be able to copy them in a matter of minutes. Copies of the Power Points and the class handouts will be provided on a CD that you can copy to your computer and use them as is or change them as you desire. An example of this is a Bible Conference I was asked to teach at Westover Baptist Church on the subject of Calvinism. The six sessions were video-taped. A DVD containing these six videos and a CD containing the printed handouts for those in attendance are in a plastic album in the Library that you can copy if you are interested. I will announce each time a new study is placed in the Library.

The addition of DVDs and CDs to the Library will help it to become not only a place where records are kept, but also a resource where you can go and copy for yourself any of the discs you desire. All you will need to bring is a laptop for copying, blank discs, and a Sharpie to write on the disc what and who you have copied.

I would like to thank the churches who have been faithful in supporting this Commission financially. The total receipts for the year was \$2,038.12 and the total expenses \$1,035.00. All the expenses went to Southeastern Baptist College with \$225.00 being designated for utilities and \$810.00 to subsidize the salaries of the Librarian Amy Hinton who oversees the archives and Bookkeeper Sandy Tidwell for keeping our financial records. Our thanks are extended to these great ladies for the work they do. Any offering should be sent to Southeastern Baptist College, ATTN: History & Archives, 4229 Highway 15N, Laurel, MS 39440.

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

Listing of names does not indicate endorsement. This column is for information purposes only.

Clell Allen

Bro. Clell Allen is available for pulpit supply or any way the Lord may lead. He most recently pastored Temple Baptist Church, Biloxi, Mississippi. He may be reached at 228-861-2465.

Steve Clark

Bro. Steve Clark is available for pulpit supply. He recently resigned as pastor of Skyway Hills Baptist Church in Pearl, Mississippi, and may be reached at 601-498-1827.

Tiger Creek News

Greetings from Tiger Creek Missionary Baptist Church. We had a great turn out for our Harvest Supper and now we're going to have a Hayride on November 4 and on November 18, we'll have our Thanksgiving dinner. November is going to be very busy and we want to worship the Lord and fellowship with our church and family. Remember always, "In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name forever. Selah" Psalms 44:8

Reporter Brenda Overstreet

CHANGES NEEDED - CHANGES COMING

DiscipleGuide: Finding the Way Forward

by Aaron Middleton, chairman
DiscipleGuide Board of Directors

DiscipleGuide Church Resources is the department of the BMA of America that seeks to supply the local church with useful tools for making disciples. Our department was created several years ago by combining existing departments in an attempt to streamline ministry while cutting costs and providing more resources. Some of the ministries we have looked after have a long, rich history in the BMA, such as our Sunday School curriculum, conferences, and Daniel Springs Camp. Other resources we have added along the way included our 'consulting' division, with the Activate program being its best known and most beneficial element. We have sought to provide our churches with the finest content possible by utilizing the best and most gifted personalities in the BMA in all levels of our ministry. However, in the past six months, it has become increasingly clear that we can no longer continue to do these ministries in the same manner as we have done in the past. It simply costs more to run this department than we are able to take in. With Executive Director Scott Attebery's resignation last May, the DiscipleGuide Board of Directors was tasked with the mission of finding a new way forward. In the days that followed, God moved in the hearts of most of our staff to join other ministries in other places. In leaving us with a "bare-bones" team, I believe that God was showing us that the time had come for a radical change in our structure. I believe He was preparing us to rethink the way we serve the churches. I am writing to you today on behalf of the Board

of Directors to bring you up to speed on the progress made so far.

Our first and foremost concern is that God be glorified, and we are convinced that we do that best when we ask, "What is best for His church?" The churches do not exist to support DiscipleGuide, but the departments of the BMA exist to support the churches. So we approach this task from the standpoint of finding the solution that most benefits your church. I want your church to understand that our print, conference, camp, and consulting ministries will continue. While without an executive director, the DiscipleGuide board asked the directors of Lifeword, Minister's Resource Services, and the Missions Department to temporarily oversee our print and conference divisions. John David Smith, Steve Crawley, and Donny Parish have very graciously stepped in during our time of need to oversee the day to day operations, allowing our board time to assess and plan without having to make hasty decisions. This is a short-term solution, as these departments will not be able to sustain this extra load indefinitely. We praise God for these men and their employees who have come to our aide! Their love, wisdom, and dedication are greatly appreciated. These ministries will continue to offer quality resources to your church. Our board has asked Daniel Springs director, Jason Prewitt, to act as Executive Director over the camp. This means he now reports directly to the board, rather than to the DG Executive Director. Jason and his wife, Jessica continue to do a marvelous work at the camp. It has become evident to me over and over again that they are God's couple

for that ministry, and they serve the churches well. The highlight of our consulting ministry was the Activate program, which has been a great help to many churches. Larry Barker was involved in the formation of Activate, and has continued in his passion for it. Our board has given full control of this ministry to the Missions Department under Bro. Larry's leadership. We are certain that under his guidance, Activate will continue as a great benefit to the churches.

Long term solutions are certainly more difficult to find. To continue working as we once did is not a viable option for us, and I do not believe that the churches would be served well if we tried. Therefore, we are seeking wisdom for the way forward. I know that many of you pray for us and we all appreciate you for it. We have sought the Lord and we have sought individuals the Lord may use to help us. Our publications sales began to decline in the 1970's, and that decline continues now at about 5% per quarter. In light of that shocking statistic, we asked for help from experts who have experienced success in the publishing business. We have been able to enlist the help of Sam Rainer, of Rainer Research, in assessing our Sunday School curriculum. Rainer Research describes their mission as providing "answers for better church health" and they have practical experience with publishing ministries. We will soon receive their analysis, which will include their recommendations of viable options for the future. We have also spoken with other BMAA department leaders and pastors seeking their wisdom and

Big Creek WMA & B'hood

The Big Creek WMA and Brotherhood will hold their quarterly meeting on Monday, November 5 at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, at 7:00. All churches are encouraged to attend.

insight. A member of our board recently met with the Coordinating Council to present our findings so far and lay out the various options we have before us now. This season has been one of seeking knowledge, wisdom and guidance. We have tried to heed the words of Proverbs 18:13, "He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him." I realize that in maintaining silence during this season many of you have been left wondering if we indeed were doing anything and questioning whether these ministries would continue at all. I apologize that we have not had much to report - please bear in mind that we are proceeding cautiously and prayerfully to determine how the Lord would have us serve His churches.

Our next scheduled board meeting is in February of 2019. Between now and then I expect to hear the full and final report on a few items that we have been considering. Our board expects out of that meeting to have a more 'in-focus' vision for DiscipleGuide's future, which will be reported to the churches. I would appreciate your prayers as we prepare for that meeting. Pray also for all the ministry leaders who stand with us to ensure the churches are equipped with quality resources. We remain committed to seeing that the churches of the BMA are well served with quality camps, conferences, and curriculum.

Philippine Bible College promotes 'tent-making'

October 4-8 the Bible College hosted a tent-making conference. What is a Tent-Maker?? Tentmakers are missions-motivated Christians who support themselves in secular positions, as they make Jesus Christ known on the job and during free time.

The apostle Paul was a tent-maker. He raised his own funding for his ministry through his trade. For many of our students, who desire to plant churches throughout Southeast Asia, tent making will be their way into many of these countries. As you know, many of the countries of Southeast Asia are closed off to pastors and missionaries coming and doing evangelism. So in order to get in, these future church planters will have to acquire work visas and have a secular job when they get there.

This week was about introducing them to just a few of the trades that could make this possible (small engine repair, household electrical repair, teaching English, computer/tech jobs, cooking & carpentry). You may ask, "What about time for ministry if they are having to work?" What better place to meet people and make contacts than at a work place! We see this as a means to meet people, evangelize & disciple them. Would you pray for these students as they seek God's direction in choose a skill/trade to pursue? Would you also pray for these students who will say yes to God's call to some of these closed countries. Pray for the hearts of those that will hear the Gospel for the first time!



On the last day the students constructed benches/pews for the Augh Baptist mission, one of our church plants in the mountains

The Master's Builders return to We Are Free Home

by Nelda Malone, reporter

The Master's Builders recently spent 3 weeks working on the administration building for the 'We Are Free' project. This building has two stories and is 95 x 35 ft long. The first story will be the Counseling Center. The second floor will be for staff housing. It will have three bedrooms with two bathrooms and a master bedroom and bathroom, den, living room, kitchen/dining room, pantry and closets. The Master's Builders slogan is "Raising Roofs for Christ", but in this job situation, we were "Raising Walls", lots of walls!

The Master's Builders are so grateful for all who were there for us while we worked.

This project was #157 for The Master's Builders in total and is #6 for 2018. We will rest until March, 2019 and see what the Lord has for us then. Please pray for our ministry. Several of our



men are in their 80s, most are in their 70s, and a few are in their upper 60s! We need workers! We all love being together and are blessed in so many ways in this ministry!

If you are interested in serving the Lord in this ministry, have questions about The Master's Builders, or if your church has building needs, contact Office Coordinator John Mangum at 318-202-5155 or 318-607-4100 (cell) or Field Coordinator Eddie Sikes at 903-725-6549 or 479-462-1675 (cell).