

Baptist

Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE
BAPTIST MISSIONARY
ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

November 2023

www.ms baptist.org

Volume 77 No. 11

2023 Annual BMA of Mississippi Meeting *Celebrating 75 Years of Founding of Southeastern Baptist College*

by Editor Don Brown

The 2023 Annual session of the BMA of Mississippi was held at the historic Parkview Baptist Church in Laurel on Tuesday October 17th. Parkview, the oldest Baptist church in Laurel, was the site of the founding of Southeastern Baptist College 75 years ago. At the 2022 meeting the messengers voted to return to this historic location in recognition and celebration of the ministry of Southeastern.

After a welcome by Pastor Shane Singleton and some preliminary procedures, President Ken Riley introduced the theme for the 2023 meeting and brought the president's message from Ephesians 3:14-21. The annual theme and message title was "Trust the Process". He stressed the need to rely on God's Word and leading and trust the process that He has laid out for His children.

The business began with the presentation of a constitutional change presented by the Commission on Senior Adults. The change involved designating the month of June as a Special Emphasis time for the Senior Adult Commission. The constitution lays out the special emphasis times for each department in Article VIII, Section 2. The change made June the month for Senior Adults. This was passed in the afternoon session.

Officers elected for the 2023-24 year are as follows: President Ken Riley; 1st Vice-president Johnny Williams; 2nd Vice-president Corbey Jones; Clerk Sam Oglesby; Assistant Clerk Ted Quinby; and Director of Information Adam Sloan.

Southeastern Baptist College was selected as the site for the 2024 mid-year meeting with John Adams as the speaker and Bob Burch as alternate. The 2024 annual meeting will be hosted by Campground Baptist Church, Gulfport. The speaker will be Cris Yager with Don Brown serving as the alternate. Campground



Messengers attending the 2023 Annual Meeting recreate the photo of a 1948 meeting marking the founding of Southeastern Baptist College at Parkview Baptist Church in Laurel. Original photo on next page. Parkview pastor Dr. D.N. Jackson was founding president of Southeastern Baptist College.

Church included in their invitation that they will be providing the noon meal for those attending the meeting.

Three new members of the Nominating Committee are Willie Oldenquist, Skip Holland, and Nathan Brown. They join current members Joseph Bain, Rickey Mitchell and Ted Quinby.

A video presentation was shared with the messengers telling the history of the BMA and including messages from each department and commission director.

Reports were brought by each Mississippi department,

commission, and auxiliary. National workers attending were BMA Seminary president Dr. Charley Holmes and BPH director Jordan Tew.

New Director

Bro. Glen Pace was elected as the new director of the History and Archives Commission. He requested that the Commission have a board of trustees like each other department and commission. He was allowed to choose a temporary board of 3 individuals. They are Paul Spurlin, Harold Floyd, and Ricky Mitchell. They will assist him

until the May 2024 meeting when a permanent board can be elected.

Other miscellaneous business included the Salary Committee recommending a 5% increase cap for each department and commission director. The Clerk's report was given and accepted with the approval to pay the Clerk \$1,000 and the Assistant \$500 for their work. The clerks were authorized to print up to 600 minute books.

The final Enrollment Report showed 52 churches represented by messenger with 97 messengers present. Only listing 4 visitors were officially listed on church

letters, but there were a large number of individuals present who were not registered. The 2024 Enrollment Committee members are Chris Sledge, Steve Clark, and Scott Kirkland.

Annual Message

The Association elected Dr. John David Smith, President of BMA Global, as the 2023 annual speaker. Due to his duties and having to be out of the country, Dr. Scott Carson, elected as the alternate speaker, brought the annual message "I Am Not Ashamed" from Romans 1:14-19. He stressed sharing the gospel, teaching God's people, and encouraging God's people.

The Association adjourned after giving Parkview Church a standing vote of appreciation for hosting the 2023 meeting.

Harmony and Detailed Information

The 2023 annual session was informative and harmonious. A true sense of cooperation and brotherhood prevailed. The reports indicate the blessings of our Lord and a bright future for the BMA of Mississippi.

Detailed reports are listed in this issue from the departments and commissions of our state work. They are printed in their entirety for the benefit of our readers and churches. You are encouraged to read each director's report to understand the needs, plans, and blessings of each ministry.

Southeastern 75th Anniversary Gala

A special evening event was held at Bethlehem Community Church north of Laurel in celebration of the 75th anniversary of Southeastern College. The SBC Gala was a scholarship fund-raiser with attendance from local businesses, individuals, and churches. The evening included a meal and entertainment by Christian speaker and comedian Dr. Dennis Swanberg.

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

Trustees

Adam Sloan - Rayburn Freeman

Danny Bartlett - Clell Allen

Corbey Jones - Joseph Bain

E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org

Web site www.msbaptist.org

USPS 353-960

P.O. Box 8181

Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000

Phone 601-426-3293

Price

\$20.00 Per Year by Mail

\$15.00 Per Year by Email

Church Plan - \$ 1.50 Per Month per Family

Published monthly by the

Baptist Missionary

Association of Mississippi.

Periodical postage paid

at Hattiesburg, MS 39402

Postmaster

Send address changes to

Mississippi Baptist Paper

P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441

Our 2023 Meeting

Parkview Pastor Shane Singleton summed up the day at the very beginning by his opening remarks and his welcome, "Isn't it good to be in the house of the Lord?" Yes, it was a good day and a good meeting of the churches of the BMA of Mississippi. Fellowship between brethren was sweet and the reports from each area of our work was enlightening and encouraging. It truly was good to be in the house!

Personal Thoughts

As you will read in my accompanying personal report you will see that I have tentatively indicated that I will be retiring at the end of the 2024 Associational year. That would be either October 2024 or December 2024. The Publications Trustees were informed of this at our annual meeting. Trustee Adam Sloan will be learning all the ins and outs of the Publications Department over the next 12 months. There are a number of internal operational areas that no one is familiar with but the current editor. The production process of your Mississippi Baptist is of such a nature that there is a learning curve of the operation and process of publishing the paper and other areas that someone must master.

Adam Sloan has an interest in learning the total operation of this work. It is not something that a novice can do. I hope our people will be patient with me and Bro. Sloan as we work through this process. If I continue with my plans to retire by October or December 2024, then the trustees will give adequate notice in the pages of this publication for others to make application.

I have only had two jobs in my working years. My first was a secular job that I held for 8 years and the other is editor of the Mississippi Baptist. I have been your editor since March 1978. What a joy and privilege it is to serve in this capacity. God has blessed me above all that I could have asked or hoped.

The people of the BMA of Mississippi have been kind, gracious, and at times patient, with me. You are dear to this preacher and I do not know of any words that can truly represent my heartfelt appreciation to each of you.

May God have His way in our lives and the ministry of this great Association.

Publications Department Annual Report

BMA of Mississippi - October 17, 2023

Don Brown, Editor

My favorite verse of scripture is John 3:30. Not because of its length, which is short and easy to remember, but because of its message and the impact that message makes on the lives of those who understand John the Baptist's heart when he replied to his disciples in reference to Jesus, "He must increase, but I must decrease." John knew his calling, he knew his place, and he knew God's plan for him and for Jesus and Christ's mission and ministry. Ministry is important and knowing our place in God's plan is important if we are to faithfully do our part and please Him. As the Apostle Paul told the Corinthians "...the body is not one member, but many." That is also applicable to associational work.

Today I give you my 46th annual report. I was elected editor in March 1978 and gave my first report to this body in June 1978. Learning the work of this department was different from any work I had previously experienced. It was new to me, and was quite basic in its nature in the production process. The editorial process had to be learned. I made decisions that were the editor's right to make, but I doubt all those decisions were always the most productive. I grew into the job - it was really a "learn as you go" process. I developed relationships with fellow department workers and learned from each of them. I also learned to love our churches, our pastors, our people, and the work of this great Association. These past 45 years have been a joy and I treasure each day of the ministry of Publications and the Mississippi Baptist Paper. I truly view the position of editor just as any other area of ministry - a calling upon one's life. I will share more along those lines in a few minutes.

Changes

At last year's meeting the trustees recommended that we begin printing only one issue per month. When I became editor, we were publishing twice each month. One pastor and former editor approached me later and said he wished for a time when we could print an issue each week. Due to our size and the increase in overall costs, that day was not going to happen. As we shared last year, the cost of printing and postage along with the size of our customer base, necessitated a new direction. By printing just one issue per month we have reduced the overall cost of operation. We regularly print a larger paper - 12 pages - in full color. This has reduced our cost of operation by enough to keep this department operating in the black. This would not be the case if we were still printing 2 issues per month. That would not be possible with the number of subscribers we have currently which has a direct impact on our income and support levels.

Our finances are presently good due to the lowering of our monthly costs along with your continued support with monthly offerings and our annual special emphasis drive. Our special emphasis offering this past year was \$10,460.31. This good offering, combined with regular monthly donations of \$14,393.43, have made the difference for us financially. For the past 45 years God has used the churches and people of our association to always provide sufficient support for this ministry. We just have to say *Praise Him* (Jehovah Jireh) Who Provides!

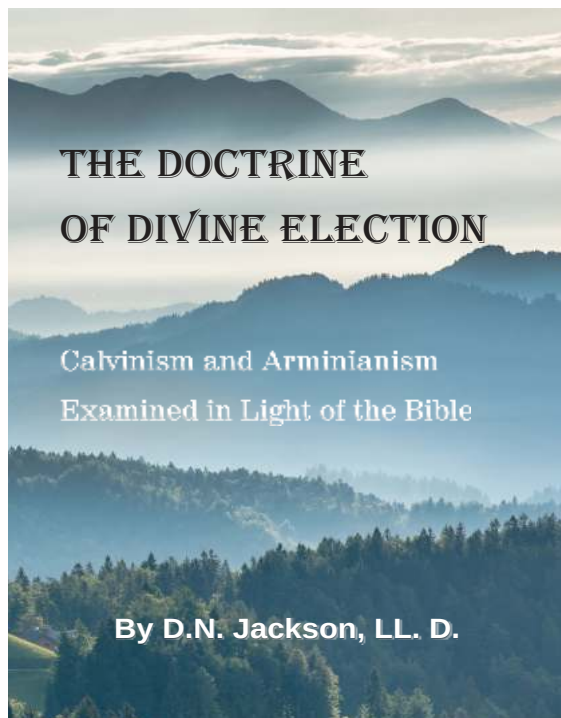
An Information Pipeline

Your Mississippi Baptist is the information pipeline that is used to deliver facts, needs, blessings, and plans to the hands of our people. It is a personal touch that shows

Continued on page 11

Jackson Book Republished

With the endorsement of the D.N. Jackson family we have republished his book on the doctrine of Election. All profits will go to fund a scholarship in his name at Southeastern Baptist College. Jackson was the founding president of SBC.



Orders may be placed at
Christian Publications
Department,
P.O. Box 8181,
Laurel, MS 39441.

Cost is \$10.00 per copy
with a \$3.00 mailing fee



Pictured above is the original photo of those attending the 1948 annual meeting



Anders Lee

Anders Lee - Director - 901-343-3293 - anders.lee571@gmail.com

A Year I Will Never Forget

Years ago, as I sat in state meetings, I always heard directors say this is my 8th report or 15th report or in Bro. Don Brown's case my 82nd report. HA! Well, this is my 1st report. I'm excited to share, yet I will try to be brief.

Highlights of the year: First, it really has been a joy throughout this year to fellowship with our people in local associations! Thank you for making me feel so welcome. You have shown your support, and it is so encouraging. I've been able to give reports to 10 local associations, three over the phone.

Second, you have given financially to the department proving you believe in the vision and direction that we have been sharing. That is so incredible! We set a goal of \$10,000 by Dec. 31, 2022, and you met it. We set a goal of \$40,000 by June 1, 2023, and you met it in January! We set

a \$15,000 for the Latrelle Windham Special Emphasis offering and YOU MET IT!!! Many times, this past year, different individuals, associations and churches gave offerings to help us have a successful year and make plans going forward. I have to say thank you again for having our back! My heart has been so blessed to see this happen. A thousand thanks to you all!

Third, it has been a blessing to be on the campus of Southeastern working with the staff and meeting students. Six of their students helped and served at camp with us this year. Those students received a scholarship by doing so.

Fourth, it has been tremendous to work with the other directors. They each have been a blessing in different ways, and we are so grateful for that! It has also been wonderful getting to work with all the Trustees. They have been supportive & served well!

Fifth, what an amazing camp the Lord gave us. Twenty teens

were saved when all was said and done. Many seeds were planted, and I have even been blessed to carry on a texting relationship with many of the teens from around the State to encourage them in their walk with Christ and 2 of them, those messages have been about their salvation. Pray for them! Two young men surrendered to ministry! WOW! We prayed that God would give us a total of 200 at camp. Well... he did more than that. We saw 302 who officially at camp with 17 more who were staffers, so 319 total. It was truly a team effort of so many working in their various places that made this a success, but of course God gets the glory for it all! The atmosphere was joyful, you should have seen all those teens worshipping together! WOW... the future of the BMA of Mississippi is bright.

Plans for 2023-2024

First, I am still trying to put together mission trips. We did not have a lot of volunteers for this at camp, so it has developed slower than desired, but this will take place in the Lord's time. I pray it happens next year.

Second, RENEW is about to happen. Over 100 are already registered for this conference in December. It will be December 27th - 29th. Bethel Baptist in Fulton, MS is our host church. We have churches from Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi already registered. Many churches are getting close to registering. We are projecting that about 300 will

attend this conference. Please visit our website for all the information. Come see me in person today or call me after the meeting for details. All the plans are listed on our website which is on the screens right now - www.bmamsyouth.org Tracy McMillen is our speaker; Bro. Preston Jones is our worship leader, and we are also featuring Bob Smiley, Christian Comedian. It's going to be a great conference. ITS FREE!!! All you must do is get your hotel for the event. They are listed on our website and in the Mississippi Baptist. Come to this event, whether you bring 3, 13 or 30, we want you to come!!! Go home and get your teens signed up to come with you.

Third, camp has been planned for kids coming out of grades 1st - 5th grades. It is June 10-13, 2024, at Waukaway Springs Camp just outside of Meridian. We can only camp 200 at this facility so it will be first come first serve on registration. Bro. Brody McCool is our speaker from First Baptist Bay Springs and Bro. Maverick Hendricks from Bethel in Fulton is our Worship Leader. It is going to be awesome to get this camp back going for this age group. Register for this camp on our website!

Fourth, teen camp will once again be at Lake Tiak O'Khata in Louisville, MS. The dates are set for July 8-11, 2024. Information and registration will also be on the website for this camp soon, in the Mississippi Baptist and on our Facebook page. We are planning

for a huge turnout, in fact we are looking to camp over 400 for this event. A lot of work will be done on this before Christmas. Please pray for all these efforts!

Our Financial Needs

All these events in this economy cost more money than camps & conferences have ever cost this department. We will need to raise \$85,000 this year to make all of these happen without the year ending in the red on the books. So, I'm asking the churches to do what you can, associations to help, and yes individual to give as the Lord leads them and has blessed them to do so. We have planned aggressively because our churches need these opportunities to be available to them in our own work & association. We are pushing these things back on our agenda and on your calendar. We are asking you to participate in them and support them financially. The need for churches to support this monthly is great. Please don't think the support is for me, or for the department, it is for your kids, your grand kids and for the future of the BMA of Mississippi. The youth of our state should be considered a mission field. OUR MISSION FIELD! OUR VERY OWN!

Let me be clear without trying to sound negative. If we can not raise the money needed for these events, we will have to adjust in

Continued on page 8

Association News & Comments

A Letter of Appreciation

by Bro. Adam Sloan

Director of Public Information

I want to say thank you to the Association for placing your trust in me and electing me to the position of Director of Public Information and for also allowing me to work closely with Bro. Don Brown to learn more about how our paper is published every month. It is our belief that more than one person needs to know how to run the paper.

I am deeply humbled by the trust and confidence placed in me by the BMA of Mississippi and I am eager to embark on this journey of service and responsibility. I recognize the importance of communicating clearly, accurately, and openly about our work in the BMA and our dedication to the gospel, not only to our churches, but also to the public. I understand that this can deeply impact public perception of our work and our churches. I will endeavor to always be a positive impact on our work as we strive together to effectively communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I believe that this effort will be made easier

by the great people of the BMA that I will be blessed to work alongside.

Once again, I express my heartfelt thanks for this wonderful opportunity. I am committed to diligently fulfilling this role. If you have any advice, guidance, or expectations that you would like to share with me, please do not hesitate to contact me. Your insights are invaluable. God bless.

Annual Meeting

Host Pastor

Shares Appreciation

Legacy inspires. Vision invites. We recently came together for our BMA of Mississippi annual meeting to seek and to celebrate both. It was the 75th anniversary of Southeastern Baptist College; a celebration of vision presented by Dr. D.N. Jackson and brought to fruition by our associated work. How wonderful it was to hear the reminisces of generations of alumni! And the recreation of the 1948 picture of the Association was a high point!

Enjoying that legacy created an atmosphere of moving forward that filled our meeting. Each

department sharing where we could go together through their respective ministries. Each person sharing testimonies of Parkview Baptist Church and her place in their personal and associational histories. All shared in a sweet spirit of hope, confidence, and fellowship.

It was a wonderful, worshipful time that was a privilege to host. Thanks to each of you for making it all it was and for our working together for all it can be.

Shane Singleton, Pastor
Parkview Baptist Church

Reader Comments on First Baptist Claim

To the editor of the Mississippi Baptist paper

In the first part of the first video at the BMA of Mississippi the statement was made that Roger Williams founded the first Baptist church in America. He was not a Baptist. He had Ezekiel Holliman, who was not a Baptist, baptize him and started a church which lasted for less than a year.

The actual founder of the first Baptist church in America was Dr. John Clark at Newport, Rhode Island.

Dr. Louis Asher did extensive study on this and wrote a book,

which I believe is titled: John Clark. Others have also written and confirmed that Dr. Clark was the founder of the first Baptist church in America.

Perhaps the reason people are misinformed is that John T. Christian in his well-known book on Baptist history (which is a good book) made the mistake of saying Roger Williams was the founder of the first Baptist church in America. However, though he used the name Baptist, he was never a Baptist in doctrine, neither was his baptism under the authority of a Baptist church.

Charles Bobo

Bro. Jerome Cooper Passes Away

Editor's Note: I first met Jerome Cooper in 1970 in Greenville, Mississippi. His dad, Bro. H.D. Cooper, was the pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Greenville. We were members there for a short time before moving away. Jerome Cooper was a dedicated minister and worker in the BMA of America. He will certainly be missed.



Jerome Cooper, 68, of Alexander passed away peacefully at home on Friday, September 22, 2023.

Jerome was born April 20, 1955, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama to H.D. and Sarah Alice Cooper. He graduated from Russellville High School. He graduated from college at Central Baptist College and then received his master's degree at the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas. He pastored several churches and worked as an editor at the Baptist Publishing House for 25 years. He ended his ministry on staff at Immanuel Baptist Church in Nashville, Arkansas where he worked for 18 years. He was a member of the Collective Church of Bryant where he enjoyed studying the word of the Lord.

Jerome is survived by his wife of 47 years, Peggy Cooper; his mother, Sarah Alice Cooper (Yerby); his two daughters, Sarah Lyn Cooper (Robert Ellison) and Jessica McGinty (Jeremy); his sisters, Camellia Lewis and Jeanine Miller and his two grandsons, Bo McGinty and Ty McGinty. He is preceded in death by his father, H.D. Cooper. He will be missed dearly by his friends and family.



SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440 - 601.426.6346

Serving Christ With A Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

SBC President's Report

BMA of Mississippi Annual Meeting
October 17, 2023

It's here! Southeastern Baptist College is now 75 years old this week! At the 1947 annual session of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi, the messengers unanimously approved the establishment of an association owned and operated college. At a special, called, mid-year meeting, a motion was adopted to

appoint a subcommittee to draw up a workable resolution to be presented to the messengers at the next annual session. The resolution of this committee, to begin a junior college with a Bible department, was adopted by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

on October 19, 1948. The first classes began September 27, 1949, in the educational facilities right here in Parkview Baptist Church, with the President, D. N. Jackson and Dean, L. T. Simmons. The first junior college program was offered in 1955. Ten acres of land, located just north of the Laurel city limits, was purchased the same year. Over the next decade several buildings were erected, and additional land was purchased with the A.M. Wilson building being the last built in 1993. Of note, on November 25, 1958, Southeastern Baptist College became a member of the



Dr. Scott Carson
President

Mississippi Association of Colleges and received accreditation by the Mississippi Commission on Accreditation. The liberal arts junior college was converted to a four-year Bible college in 1974. SBC gained accreditation with the Association for Biblical Higher Education in 1988 and has successfully been reaffirmed every time thereafter.

Since the mid-year meeting, we have continued to experience the blessings of the Lord upon SBC. We currently have 83 students and in our first chapel programs of this semester we had two students make public professions of faith, with several more rededicating their lives to living for the Lord. SBC is not only an educational platform, but an essential outreach ministry of the BMA of Mississippi. A major emphasis among our faculty and staff is the evangelism and discipleship of the student body.

Dr. Bob Burch is an alumnus has been an SBC professor for the last five years. Most recently, the Board of Trustees endorsed Dr. Burch as our Chief Financial Officer and Vice-president. He has been a tremendous asset since coming on board and has worked diligently with our transition to a new Certified Public Accountant. Although our audit is not yet complete, we are told we are in the black again this year.

Our sports programs fared well this past season and we have recently hired J.D. Holloman, as our new Athletic Director. We are actively restructuring sports

administrative services in order to ensure success for the future of the Chargers athletic department.

Anderle Foster has switched from Dean of Student Affairs to Academic Dean and Provost of the college. She continues to work on our Elementary Education Degree requirements and is in conversation with William Carey University for a partnership in licensure for this program. Dean Foster has her sights on a new Agri-business degree for the 2024 Fall Semester and is in the approval process with our accrediting agency. In addition, an amazing opportunity was presented to SBC for the implementation of an Aviation Degree program. We cannot recruit toward this degree until it is endorsed by our accrediting agency, however, the administrative process is moving forward smoothly. As part of the entire package, we have already implemented a Bachelor of Science Degree in Airport Management.

As a result of SBC's very own Cornerstone Trio being the warmup act at the SBC Spring Gospel Fest, they were invited and performed in the August 2023 Ark Encounter music fest in Kentucky.

The SBC Scholarship Golf Tournament that was held at the Laurel Country Club was very successful and filled to capacity with participants.

We also have completed two major renovation projects, one of painting the exterior of three of our buildings and the repaving of our front parking lot. The street sign has also been refreshed with new lighting and with our updated logo.

We are excited to offer our first Gala event tonight! If you have not yet purchased your ticket, the cost is \$100 per seat. The Gala is designed to raise money in order to establish a lasting endowment scholarship account to benefit needful students. It is slated to be a fun evening and

we hope you attend. Come and learn about our long-term goals tonight at the Gala.

It should be evident to us all that the Lord is blessing Southeastern Baptist College. Please remember our faculty and staff in your prayers. I have learned that with greater opportunities come greater demands on time, of finances and effort. I cannot say this often enough, I am continuously amazed at our over worked staff members who continue to be devoted to the excellence of mission and ministry, for the college.

Thank you for your church financial support and individual special donations which have helped us advance and grow to become the solid institution the college is today. Your kind words of support are especially edifying. All of us here at SBC are committed to the doctrinal statement of the BMA of Mississippi. We are determined that, as our society becomes more secular and pagan, we will continue to stand as a conservative, Bible believing, Bible teaching, higher educational institution.

Now for one additional, and major announcement, the SBC Board of Trustees have approved a new BMAA Legacy Scholarship that provides free, yes you heard that right, free tuition to members of BMAA churches! Although there are other standard fees and requirements, tuition is waived beginning the 2024 Fall Semester. Spread the word and sign up today! Remember, SBC is YOUR college! Help us make this college a continuing and growing success while giving God all the glory.

I now challenge you to encourage the youth of your churches to highly consider attending their very own Southeastern Baptist College, with free tuition! God bless you.

Equipping the Saints,
Dr. Scott R. Carson



Recent chapel guest Dr. John David Smith, a graduate of Southeastern College and serving as president of BMA Global

Christmas Boxes Being Loaded for Conway Arkansas & Everlasting Smiles Ministry



Drama Presentation

Thank You!

We want to thank all of our BMA of Mississippi churches and individuals who gave to us during our Special Emphasis months of July and August 2023! We are grateful for you and the support and encouragement you send to our students and college!

Free Tuition for BMA of Mississippi Members

Big News! The SBC Board of Trustees has approved a new BMAA Legacy Scholarship that provides free, yes you heard that right, free tuition to members of BMAA churches! Although there are other standard fees and requirements, tuition is waived beginning the 2024 Fall Semester. Spread the word and sign up today! Remember, SBC is YOUR college! Help us make this college a continuing and growing success while giving God all the glory.

Spring Semester

We are accepting applications for the Spring 2024 semester! Sign up for classes at YOUR college! You can take traditional classes or do them exclusively online. Check out our website for more information at www.southeasternbaptist.edu

Southeastern President's Vision *as presented at the Gala*

"Where *there is* no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy *is* he." Proverbs 29:18

We are blessed with a tremendous 75-year legacy of Christian educational excellence because of our supporters, like you! Over the decades, SBC has produced alumni dedicated to our Lord Jesus Christ, who have gone on to be successful businesspersons, domestic and foreign missionaries, pastors and youth ministers, state representatives and even a U.S. Congressman... as well as many other influential occupations and titles. We have had extraordinary visionaries as past presidents and members of the Board of Trustees who contributed to our great history. And, now, at this, our first Gala in the history of the college, I want to give credit where credit is due. Tonight's event was first suggested by our former Provost Jan Walker. Jan has been a key visionary in recent years, that has helped take us from nearly closing seven years ago, to having the largest student body and the largest graduating class in the history of the school and she worked diligently to elevate our

standing among the family of Mississippi institutions of higher learning. Jan suffered a stroke last January and has since retired from SBC. We miss Jan's encouragement, as well as her challenges, that have made the SBC staff far better professionals because of her leadership.

I will now share with you my vision for its future.

1. I envision a leadership team of SBC that continuously seeks the Lord's direction in every new venture; one that boldly follows the Lord, walking by faith and not by sight, relying on Him to provide for every endeavor in which He leads.

2. I envision a leadership team of SBC that continues to be unwavering in their commitment to the BMA of MS Doctrinal Statement while expanding SBC's influence locally and beyond; where, SBC increasingly is a viable first choice for those seeking a college education.

3. I envision a staff and faculty fully dedicated to ministering to our students, from leading them to the Lord to discipling them into a greater commitment to His Word; reinforcing our legacy as a fully equipped alumni workforce possessing a Christian World View; and developing

mature believers operating as effective witnesses for the Lord wherever He leads them.

4. I envision a campus population that doubles in size in the next three years and quadruples over the next five years with new and modern buildings, a secure campus and grounds beautification that supports this growth, with our full confidence in the Lord providing for all financial needs as we devote ourselves to His service.

5. I envision new partnerships with industries and private citizens who will invest in conservative Christian college education and an establishment of a robust scholarship endowment that supports needful students as they pursue a Christian education.

6. I envision enhancing our educational career paths to include those we are currently working on: an aviation degree, an elementary education degree, and an agri-business degree. We will confidently endeavor to establish others as the Lord leads and transform our degree paths by incorporating Life Skills to build critical thinking, effective communication, networking, and self-discipline skill sets

that are transferable into secular or sacred work environments.

7. I envision SBC continuing to increase its influence as a leading conservative Christian voice throughout Mississippi and beyond, boldly holding to the truth of God's Word in the face of expanding hedonistic society.

I believe these goals are practical and achievable, as well as impressed by the Holy Spirit's leading among our Board of Trustees, Faculty and Staff members. Southeastern Baptist College almost closed seven years ago, and now we are financially viable with recently having had the largest student population and largest graduating class in the history of the college. It should be obvious to all that the Lord's hand is upon this institution and that He is leading us forward into the future with great anticipation coupled with complete reliance upon Him.

Thank you for your prayers, kind words of encouragement, and your continuing financial support that has brought us thus far and will carry us forward into a bright future. To God be all the glory!

Equipping the Saints,
Dr. Scott R. Carson

Our Recent 2023-24 Meet the Chargers Event



The Annual SBC Golf Tournament will be on May 24 at the Laurel Country Club



The National Day of Prayer for Jones County is scheduled for May 2, 2024, in the Gymnasium of Southeastern Baptist College



BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION MISSIONS OF MISSISSIPPI

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440
Phone: 601-428-8616 Email: missions@bmams.org
Chris Yager, Director

Missions and Revolving Loan Fund Vision 2024

Vision... Is the ability to see what is possible! The Proverbs famously say: "where there is no vision the people perish...". The Biblical idea of vision is not what is possible with man, but what is possible under the



Chris Yager

direction of an Almighty God and His Word. Our Almighty God has given us an amazing opportunity at your missions office, and I would like to take this time to share with you a God-sized and a God-given vision!

Who would have thought that an association of 190 churches in the state of Mississippi could do what God is doing in and through us? Over the years of your missions department, the Lord has used each director to advance the vision further. Churches have been planted and a Revolving Loan Fund has flourished. The vision that I am presenting springs from a Mighty God and the work of faithful men who have gone before me!

The question: What can God do through us? Maybe the better question is What can't God do through us? With the second

question being the better viewpoint, let's dive into a God-sized vision for 2024.

With Your Revolving Loan Fund: Investing In Eternity:

The BMA of Mississippi's best kept secret! A fund that has grown to around 25 million dollars of investment and liquidity! By the first part of 2024, we will have roughly 21 million of that invested in loans throughout the work of the BMA of America and Mississippi.

But we know that we can do more! With that in mind, our committee has wisely adjusted our interest rates from a single interest rate to a tiered rate system. From a 9-month Lock (CD) currently at 5% to a 2-year lock at 4% to an immediate access rate of 2.5%. Your investment in the RLF will yield great dividends. Come Invest with us!

My vision for 2024 is to grow our fund to around 30 million plus. This will allow us to continue to help missions, churches, missionaries, and pastors; and the additional investment will also allow us to begin to do some bigger things in the realm of insurance. But we need your help! We need your investments and your promotion of your RLF to your churches, church members and family and friends.

We want to invest in Eternity! Like Matthew 25 teaches, God has given us resources to faithfully manage, and by investing in the RLF, you will be able to maximize your earthly return while helping the work of the Lord's church to flourish!

With Your Missions Department: Investing in the Lord's Church through planting, training, and revitalization:

Our missions vision has not waned or stagnated, but has only increased for the glory of the Lord and His church. Our goal is to plant churches all throughout the state of Mississippi! We have far too many locations that are over 70% unchurched. We need more churches planted to combat this negative trend.

But church planting cannot be all that we do; there is so much more to be done. Statistics tell us that we have almost 25 churches without pastors. On top of that, we are seeing many of stalwart churches experiencing full decline. If we fail to help our churches revitalize, we will struggle to plant new churches in Mississippi and around the world.

With this in mind, we are desiring to launch a new "wing" of our missions department called "Revitalize"- a church revitalization ministry. Our hope is to help our existing churches who have fallen on difficult times be restored, revitalized or replanted. Through assessment, a church may fall into one of those three categories: needing restoration, revitalization, or replanting. Restoration, for the churches in early stages of decline or the latter stages of decline, involves assessment, guidance, coaching, training, and encouragement for the church to return to life, growth and incline again! Revitalization, for the

churches in the full stage of decline, involves financial help along with the other areas to help see the church return to successful ministry again. Replanting, for the churches whose doors are ready to close, involves the most intensive of intervention. This is the most drastic action but can provide that hope again for the dying church.

We must take the initiative and act strategically to help our struggling churches thrive again! Will you help us accomplish this immense and important goal!

As we invest in church planting and church revitalization, it will highlight a glaring need that has become a nagging problem within our work... qualified and trained pastors, youth pastors and missionaries. The other wing of our missions department that we are wanting to launch is a fuller development of our Associate Missionary Program called Timothy Ministries. Timothy Ministries is meant to help new or young ministers be developed in the gospel ministry. It is a fulfillment of 2 Timothy 2:2. This ministry will provide training, coaching, mentoring, ministerial experience, and financial help for the maturing and development of young pastors. By God's grace, we can help the next generation hear God's call by giving them confidence that can succeed in the ministry. Will you help us accomplish this Biblical mandate of training the next generation of servants for the ministry.

This vision, though already immense, is not yet complete. We have begun the preparation that will help our church within the insurance world. With medical and life insurance, we have partnered with the Hinton Insurance group to help guide our pastors and churches with affordable insurance that can help cut your costs.

Insurance and Media:

As I have stated earlier, we are also working on the opportunity to provide property insurance. We are beginning these steps so, pray with us as we seek to bless our churches in this arena.

Finally, our vision concludes with our newest addition to our missions office, and that is our media room. Our hope is to add a media director to our missions staff that will help our missions office and churches with videos and a social media presence. Please pray about this avenue.

To God be the glory! He is doing great things! Will you be a part of this work? Please help us with missions, revitalization, and with the development of Timothy's in our Timothy Ministry! We can use your help!

Dates and Events to Remember:

Acts 1:8 Conference 2024: September 22nd through the 27th for the South and North. More information coming soon!

Acts 1:8 Boot Camps: Condensed Revitalization opportunities for further training, especially for those who were not able to come to the main conference due to scheduling conflicts. These events will be a two day "boot camp" of concentrated topics to help you help you and your church. This first round will focus on the topic of Evangelism.

North Boot Camp: November 10th-11th at Walnut Grove Baptist Church in Fulton, MS.

South Boot Camp: January 19th-20th at South Forrest Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, MS.

Times: Friday Night from 6:00- 9:00 PM and Saturday from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM.

Hispanic Ministries

by Estuardo Marroquin

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you". (2

Thessalonians 2:5). It is a

great joy to be able to share

with all of you God's blessings

in the Hispanic missions in our

association in Mississippi. In

the last few weeks, we have

witnessed progress in

every Hispanic field and how the

Lord has placed His hand of

blessing on them. During the

month of September, special

events are held in Mexico and

Central America to celebrate

Independence Day. Each of the



Estuardo Marroquin

Hispanic churches membership in our state are made up different Latin American countries, we can say that they are "Multicultural churches". This has become a great challenge in Hispanic church planting and pastors and mission leaders have been able to develop plans to reach as many people as possible for Christ with the gospel.

The days of independence are on September 15 and 16. Mexico and Central America celebrate in a big way with special meetings in churches where they share homemade food, wear regional costumes of their countries, play games and competitions, sing national anthems and the most important thing is to be able to share the gospel of Jesus Christ that brings freedom from sin to anyone who wants to believe. This year was no exception in our Hispanic churches in Mississippi. Each one

made out different activities on Independence Day and around 800 people are reported in total attendance at the different activities. The Hispanic churches in Hattiesburg, Laurel, Ripley, and their respective mission works, celebrated these activities and it was a great blessing to all



those in attendance. Each church and mission field had many visitors and new contacts were made to follow up to conduct home Bible studies.

We continue to ask for your prayers for the Hispanic missions in Canton, Tupelo, and Oxford. Each one has made significant progress and so each of these missions also has its needs. Please pray for the Hispanic Mission in Canton, they need a building for meetings. They are currently meeting at Bro. Lucas Gomez's house, but there is no longer room for meetings in Bro. Gomez's living room. About 20 people gather every Sunday to worship God. Please pray for Bro. Humberto Regalado at the Tupelo Hispanic Mission, they meet at the South Green Baptist Church facility. Bro. Regalado continues to disciple new families who have joined the mission in recent weeks. Please pray for Bro. Luis



Huchin and the Hispanic Mission in Oxford. They are making plans to expand their facilities because thank God the congregation has

Continued on page 7

State Missions

Continued from page 6

grown in recent months. God has been good!

It is also a pleasure to share with you the progress made in the



El Camino, Hattiesburg

meetings of the New Hope (Nueva Esperanza) Hispanic Baptist Association. This

association is relatively new in the state of Mississippi. It is composed of the three Hispanic organized churches and their respective missions.

This association has been learning over the past 4 years from the work and effort of each local BMA association in Mississippi on how to work in partnership for the advancement of missions' work. Currently this Hispanic association has its moderator, secretary, clerk, and missions committee. It holds its meetings Quarterly where the reports of the Hispanic missionary work in our

state are heard and thus support them not only in prayer but financially. The Hispanic association is praying to organize

a large revival event for next year 2024 where they want to bring together all the Hispanic congregations and have two days of training, praise and preaching to encourage

everyone to continue serving our Great God and win many souls for Jesus.



Hispanic Independence Day Celebration

Finally, I ask for your prayers that God will open new doors, "that the word of the Lord may have free course", and new fields can be started to reach Hispanic communities in our beautiful and blessed state of Mississippi. As Hispanic mission's coordinator, I thank each church and local association for their continued and faithful support of God's work, asking for their prayers that

Refuge Mission

By Josh Daniels

"Greetings churches and associations of the BMA of Mississippi. Things continue to move right along for Refuge Baptist Mission.

God continues to bless the work in Kiln, Mississippi, by opening doors for us to minister and serve in our local community and schools. We have a few members that work in the school district and that has helped to give us access to ministry opportunities. Whether it has been feeding many of our sports teams, tailgating at a football game, starting an FCA club in the middle school, being asked to pray during meetings, or to counsel with a student or staff member, the connections and doors opened have been great!!!

Refuge has been able to see families begin to attend, souls saved, and some awaiting baptism from these connections. This mission continues to make an impact and form roots that we

believe will last many years to come. We have recently started a Foundations & Refreshers class

on Sunday mornings. In this class we cover topics such as: the Bible is the Word of God, Prayer, Worship, Giving, Importance of Church Membership, etc. We also have another adult bible study on Wednesday nights. Our Middle School and High School class meets on Sunday mornings at 9 am and Wednesdays at 6 pm. The Gospel of Luke is also being preached through during our Sunday morning sermons.

There has been a group of leaders forming that I continue to meet with and pour into. Prayerfully, these men will serve as ministry leaders, teachers, counselors, & disciple makers in and through the ministry. Pray for



Josh Daniels

Jail Ministry Report

by Paul Spurlin

During September, our ministry made two trips to the Jones County Jail, and we thank Pastor Ken Riley

of Lebanon Baptist for his work with us during September and over the previous few months. Bro. Ken and I visited the jail on September 1 and were able to preach to about six or seven prisoners. We



Paul Spurlin

Canaan Land Mission

By Scott Brocius, missionary

Greetings from Canaan Land Mission. September was a busy month for us!

We started the month with a Back-to-School Bash. All the youth in attendance really enjoyed the day. We ended the month with an outreach in Fruitdale. We were able to

give out treat bags filled with our church information and popcorn! We had a great turnout and lots of contacts were made. We are in the planning stages for a few more outreaches throughout the remainder of the year. We are excited about sharing those once all details have been worked out. Thank you so much for all the prayers and support you continue to give. You will truly never understand how much it is appreciated! Please continue to lift us up in your prayers.



Scott Brocius

these 5 men. They have already shown their desire and willingness to teach, serve, and lead others to Jesus and to support their church. God is growing His church in Kiln, Mississippi and we are all thankful for that. We have a few activities and outreaches planned for the next couple of months, but one I want to highlight. We are going to have a few days that we want to set aside to give praise and thanksgiving to the Lord for the great things He has done

for us and in this mission. Starting Sunday, November 12th through Thursday, November 16th at 6:30 pm each evening, we are having "5 DAYS OF PRAISE" with visiting preachers and special music. ALL ARE WELCOME to worship and give thanks.

We ask for prayers, financial support, and continued support as we push forward toward debt reduction and organization. May God bless you all richly."

Decreasing for HIS Increase, Bro. Josh Daniels

also visited on September 15, and Bro. Ken preached to six men. This night was particularly enjoyable as he asked the prisoners to read each portion of Scripture that supported a part of the sermon. I think each prisoner participated by reading at least one verse.

Following each sermon we preach, we have some time for prisoners to respond to God as they wish, similar to an invitation in a Sunday morning service but allowing each prisoner to remain in place. I usually ask them to bow their heads and pray as they want. During the September 15 service, several of the men began praying softly, but such that we could hear them. It was wonderful to hear these men responding to God audibly based on what they heard from His Word.

By Samuel Yager

Living Hope Baptist Mission Update

Meridian, Mississippi 3 Years!

The first Sunday of October is Anniversary Sunday for Living Hope Baptist Mission.

This year marked three years since the first service at Living Hope, and we rejoice in all God has done!

Leading up to that Sunday, we used the occasion to re-invite many people that had visited with us before. In addition, we planned a shrimp boil and activities to promote fellowship through the afternoon. On Anniversary Sunday, God blessed in giving us an incredible day of worship and fellowship, and He blessed us with our highest attendance to date. Because the attendance that day was comprised solely of those



Sam Yager

Youth Report

from page 3

how we do things and how much we do, that is just a reality. We will do all that we can do with the resources God gives us.

A Personal Note

Honestly there is a lot of work to be done in the Department. I want to do more as time allows. However, I am bi-vocational. At times it is difficult to do some things in person. Currently our transportation department that I drive for has a mandatory policy, meaning no missing. My director is understanding, but it has prevented me from being at some meetings. Hopefully that will be lifted by January 1.

I want to make special recognition of Adam Parker, one of our trustees who is rolling off. He served faithfully and as our Trustee Chairman for a long time in the absence of a director. He is to be commended for his service to the Department and this Association. Last night at our meeting we honored him for his devotion.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your director, what a joy it is and I count it a great blessing in my life! Pray! Pray! Pray! for the teens around our state and this department!

that would call Living Hope their church, it was much bigger of a blessing than just drawing a crowd for a day.

While the events of the day thrilled my heart, the greatest joy of the day was to hear stories of God's goodness being told from all corners of the building and to hear the excitement of all present about what God is going to do in the future. I am so thankful to be a part of what God is doing in Meridian, and I thank God for all of you that have helped make this mission possible.

David Dickson Shares Retirement Statement

52 years have passed since Shelley and I hopped in the cab of our Chevy pickup and began the journey to Nicaragua as missionaries of the BMAA. Since then, God has permitted us to serve in five different countries as your missionaries, and for the last several years I have been privileged to serve as regional coordinator for Central America and the Caribbean. It has been a marvelous, sometimes bumpy, sometimes thrilling journey, however I believe the time has come for us to retire as your missionaries (effective December 31st).

The BMAA made it possible for us to dedicate our lives to what has been our passion since college days: missions. We are so grateful to our churches that, together, made that possible. For someone who loves to talk as much I do, I am truly at a loss for words to express our gratitude for your care, support and prayers through the years. "Thank you" just isn't sufficient to express how much we appreciate all of you, but I guess it's all I've got. We will sorely miss our "family" that is spread out all over Latin America and the Caribbean. We have learned so much from them over the years. They are folks that are easy to love.

This has not been an easy decision; in fact it has been a struggle. But I depend on the godly advice of a "multitude of counselors", prayer support and finally the deciding factor: the inner direction of the Holy Spirit. And He has said, "It is time". His time is always right, His will is always perfect, His love for us is beyond understanding. I think I'm in good hands.



Dickson

Senior Adult Ministry

Commission on Senior Adults - 8 Reagan Lake Road, Laurel, MS 39443 - 601-

Commission on Senior Adults 2023 Annual Report Don Brown, Director

Several years ago Bro. Vern Holifield had a burden and a vision for a ministry to serve the older adults in our churches. I remember him sharing his burden with our Association that led to the establishment of the Commission on Senior Adults for the BMA of Mississippi. Bro. Holifield served faithfully until the Lord called him home. His vision for this ministry grew greatly under his leadership and continued under the leadership of Bro. Kenneth Flynt. These two men left a legacy of service that continues to be the goal of this director.

The fastest growing group in our nation today is Senior Adults. The U.S. population age 65 and over grew nearly five times faster than the total population over the 100 years from 1920 to 2020. One in six in the United States is over the age of 65 and that percentage is growing. I think we can validate that in our churches by just looking at those in attendance on any given Lord's day. As our population ages our responsibility to look after their needs becomes more critical. The financial cost of getting older is evident if you are 65 or older. My mother used to

complain every year when her medical supplement kept raising her rates. She would say, "I just don't understand why." My response was, "Mom, as you age your medical costs go up so the insurance company pays more and thus they raise your rates. Don't worry about it, next year it will even more." I see it personally now and you do too if you are 65 or older.

As we age we seemingly have more to worry about. Physical needs are important, but the spiritual side of our lives is also of utmost importance. I think the Lord wants us to age gracefully...we certainly cannot stop the process, but we can help to manage the process. Your Senior Adult Commission can be a small part of ministering to the senior population in our churches and give them a little encouragement and provide some time and events that will be a blessing to them.

The support of this ministry has continued with growing attendance at our two conferences after missing almost 2 years due to the Covid virus. Our 2023



Don Brown
Director

meetings were well attended. In 2022 we added a feature to our meetings and began adopting special projects and taking a special support offering. This effort has helped us work toward our Themes for the past two years. 'Prime Timers With A Purpose' was expanded this past year to 'Prime Timers With A Purpose and A Passion.' In 2023 our senior adults gave offerings totaling \$3,335.00. These monies were divided between the Mississippi State Youth Department and Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI). Our folks care about the Lord's work and were excited to support these two ministries. This will be a continuing feature of future conferences.

Our 2024 Theme is "Prime Timers With A Purpose, A Passion, and A Project". The response these past two years encourages me to think that this next year will be just as successful. Our *purpose* is to serve the Lord with gladness and with all our heart. Our *passion* should be to please Him and do the things He commands. Our focus in 2024 is to encourage senior adults to take on a personal *Project*. We are encouraging our senior saints to not only serve in their local church, but to seek out a project that is special to them. We want to encourage service on a personal level and to get involved in some individual ministry effort. There are so many things we can do. I am hoping that we can encourage our

senior saints to adopt a special and personal place of service. I know a senior couple who took the project of providing a scholarship to a particular student at our Philippine Bible College. Serving as a volunteer locally is also an option. How many times have you visited someone in the hospital and noticed senior adults involved in providing snacks in waiting rooms and helping visitors in other areas. Local service groups depend on volunteers to provide some of their services. Food banks, pro-life family groups, local foster grandparent groups, meals on wheels, shut-in services, nursing home ministries, etc - the list is endless and the help you can give will bless others and enrich your own spiritual life.

In Billy Graham's book "Nearing Home" he states the following, "For those who are retired and still in good health, there are many opportunities for service. We should always be expecting the Lord to reveal His plans for us. Just because we are retired does not mean our work is done. Retirement provides us the opportunity to spend more time doing God's work, serving others in the name of the Lord." That quote reveals the sentiments of this director and the purpose of this commission. May God lead us and grant us opportunities for serving Him.

Final plans have been made for our two conferences in March and May 2024. Our North

Conference will again be hosted by Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Fulton and Pastor Tim Holsonback. They have great facilities and good folks who jump in to help. The men of the church will once again cook our noon meal of catfish and chicken with all the trimmings. Our speaker for the 2024 North Conference will be LifeWord Director Donny Parrish. Our afternoon concert will be by the gospel group *Avenue*. They sang at our 2023 South Conference and were a great blessing.

The South Conference will be hosted by Big Creek Baptist Church and pastor Adam Sloan. Big Creek has hosted this meeting for a number of years and they always do a great job. The group *New Ground*, from Scottsboro, Alabama, will bring our afternoon concert and we look forward to their appearance. Our noon meal will once again be provided by Macks Fish House. They always prepare a feast for our folks. The speaker for the South Conference will be Bro. Buddy Johnson, former missionary to Mexico and currently serving as a missionary trainer for the BMA.

Bro. Brandon Wilson led our music this past year and will also be helping us at our 2024 conferences. He does a great job and our folks enjoy his work and are blessed by his help.

I must stop here and share our deep appreciation with Bro. Christ Floyd for his help in locating and booking our singing groups for the past 2 years. He has made this part of our work much easier. He has been (and hopefully will continue to be) a special blessing to this ministry.

Our senior adult church members have historically been a rock of stability in our churches. They have been faithful to the Lord's work and we strive to give them these two events as a ministry of thanks, fellowship, worship, and encouragement. I urge each church to pay the fee for your senior adults to attend. This would be a wonderful way to show your appreciation to them for their faithfulness. It is also a great way to reach out to the unchurched or inactive seniors in your membership.

Many of those attending have shared with me that they were able to reach out to others who would not have otherwise attended and bring them to our conferences.

Support

We are keeping our conference fee at \$20.00. This covers the meal and a small part of our overall cost of operation. Currently we have 3 local associations and 21 churches that supported this ministry on a regular basis this past fiscal year. We deeply appreciate their support and earnestly ask all of our



THE GIFT
A CHRISTMAS DRAMA
CELEBRATING OUR 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

December 3rd & December 10th
SUNDAY NIGHT SHOWINGS
December 15th-17th
FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY
7:00 PM FREE ADMISSION

Campground
BAPTIST CHURCH

GULFPORT, MS | AN OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE | BLEACHER SEATING PROVIDED
FOR MORE INFORMATION: 228-832-9016 OR FOLLOW OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Mississippi GMAs

Lakelan Jenkins, GMA Promoter
P.O. Box 1694, Collins, MS 39428
lakelanflynt@gmail.com - 601-517-1476

Scripture Memorization Helps by Ruby Hickma 2nd Vice President

Hey Everyone! My name is Ruby Hickman and I'm your GMA State 2nd Vice-president and pianist. Why should we

memorize verses? Well, it won't just help us, but it can help someone else. Memorizing verses can be hard, but if you can find something that helps you memorize verses it will be easy. Here are some ideas: write out on paper, use blanks, different apps,

erase a word, read through several times, first letter, there are many other ways to memorize verses.

To write out on paper and the blank method, get a sheet of paper and write out your verse several times or put in blanks for words you struggle memorizing. There are several apps you can use to assist you in memorization. You can use about any Bible memory app to help you. If you have a dry erase board, you can write your verse out and each time you say the verse erase a word and repeat this until you have no words left.

Another method is to read your verse several times a day. You can also write it out on a sticky note and post it in your car or make-up vanity to read every morning when you wake up. The one that works the best for me is the first letter. Get a sheet of notebook paper and go through the verse and write the first letter of every word vertically, then you can draw pictures beside the letters for you to remember that word.

I hope this helps someone that's having a hard time memorizing verses. We all learn differently, and all have trouble with memorization from time to time, I know I do. Don't give up on memorizing verses because these will help you throughout your entire life. Hope to see you at State GMA Camp March 15-16, 2024.

Remember you do not have to be in GMA's to attend! We would love to have you!



Heritage Church
3 Baracuda Drive, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402

GREATER VISION • MARK TRAMMELL QUARTET • THE WHISNANTS • MYLON HAYES FAMILY • JIM & MELISSA BRADY • & THE HYMN SING BAND

DECEMBER 1 • 7:00 PM
Doors 6:00 PM

\$25 Artist Circle • \$22 General Admission
\$25 At The Door (if available)
An offering will be taken for the Gospel Music Hymn Sing Foundation.

For Tickets & More Info, Call: 601-261-3371
www.iTickets.com

"IT'S NOT A TYPICAL CONCERT... IT'S A WORSHIP EXPERIENCE...
IT'S THE GOSPEL MUSIC HYMN SING!"

www.GospelMusicHymnSing.com



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Dwight Lindsey

118 Lowe Road, Laurel, Mississippi 39443 - (601) 426-3928
Dwight Lindsey - Director

It was good to see many of you at the annual meeting in October. I just want to say thank you for your continued support of the Children's Home, especially this time of the year during our special emphasis. Your continued support through donation actions and prayer keeps us going. I also want to say a special thank you to the churches who have recently or will soon be hosting us for Sunday worship: Bienville, Ramsey Creek, Temple at Biloxi, & Salt Light Mission. We have had some wonderful fellowship with God's people. Continue to pray for God's provision for new workers at the Home and as always, we would be glad to come and worship with you one Sunday if you would like to set a time for us to come.

Director's Annual Report

By Dwight Lindsey, Director

God weaves our life experiences together for our good; Romans 8:28 teaches us this truth. Sometimes, we like to talk in favorable terms of difficult situations, saying, "I wouldn't want to go through that again, but I wouldn't trade anything for that experience." Those statements are factual, but to be candid, I would gladly learn not to grab a hot pan without going through the experience of burning myself. Some things require a hard lesson, but I would learn plenty of things the easy way rather than the hard way.

Jesus teaches us to count the cost of an undertaking. Luke 14:28 says, "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?" I've heard this quote more times than I can count in life. I have thought about this as we enter our 5th year at the children's home. I took these verses to heart as we prayed about this ministry. We knew we couldn't understand what the Lord would lead us through. It is like stepping off into parenting for the first time. You can read books, talk to other parents, and study the cost of diapers and formula, but you still won't know everything you need to know. You walk by faith. You trust that the Lord will equip you as needs arise. That's genuinely the lesson the Lord was teaching in Luke 14. He wasn't saying have a perfect understanding of every penny the tower will cost. He was leading His listeners to the cost of following Him. In verse 33, he says, "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." So what does the tower cost? The tower, discipleship, costs everything.

Following Christ in the ministry of the Children's Home costs everything. It costs more than the dollars and cents. It's the joy of parenting and the heaviness of heart in parenting. It's sleepless nights. It's hours at a table doing schoolwork. It's hours over a stove cooking supper. It's telling a child to pick up the same toy for the 100th time. It's biting your tongue and showing grace so that the child doesn't only hear reprimand from your voice but also love and care for them. I don't know what the final receipt will read when my time in this ministry ends, but I have learned it costs everything daily from now until then.

It has been another busy year. We have had four new placements this year. Two of those were short-term, and two of those are with us long-term. Those two long-term placements bring our current total up to 7, and our total children helped over the past four years to 30. We are thankful for these opportunities because of our best news to report. This year, two of our children have made public professions of faith in Christ as their savior, AMEN! There is no better report to give in this ministry than the salvation of souls.

Support beyond myself and Lindsay in this ministry is a constant need. We need our churches' continued and growing support in finances and prayer. We need the support system of added workers to make future growth possible. We need the Lord to continue sending children to us, and we need to trust Him to give our all to Him as He has given His all through His son, Jesus Christ, for us.

Director Dwight Lindsey
Office: 601-426-3928
Cell: 662-605-0996



In His Grip

By Carolyn Hagler

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

I Hear a Train a Comin'

In these days of instant communication via the internet, 24-hour-a-day news, and social media, I really don't care to hear all the details that bombard our senses. Maybe that's why I like to remember when life was simpler, most families were intact, most people attended church sometime at least, and people helped people. Hearing the forlorn call of a train takes me back to those simpler times.

My earliest memory of trains was that old story about the Little Engine That Could; some version of that story has been around since 1902, and I think every mother told her child, "Can't never could." How wonderful it would be if we encouraged everyone from the cradle to the grave to just try because "no one can do everything, but everyone can do something" (Max Lucado, *God Is with You Every Day*, 2015).

In simpler days, men and women worked to take care of their families, with women working in the home usually and



men in any job they could find. In fact, I remember hearing tales about my husband's father, the original JB, who hoboed on rails across the country, looking for migrant work--a way of life that none of us have experienced. From his nursing home near the train tracks, he would tell of the trips he had just taken or he was about to take. The whistle of the train brought back memories in his Alzheimer's brain.

Train rides in my life revolved around trips near and far. My earliest ride was to Houston, where my favorite aunt, Aunt Lee, lived. She and Uncle Austin never had children even though they helped raise lots of children and certainly provided the family with a home away from home. I remember Mother and Daddy putting me on a train in Baton Rouge to visit her. We would be afraid to send a child on a trip alone today, but I wasn't afraid. My books and snacks were all I needed to make my trip.

The longest train ride for me was from McComb to Chicago with two college friends to attend a convention. I wonder if we were on the train they called the City of New Orleans, or I may just remember the song that Willie and Arlo and many others (Steve Goodman, 1970) sang. I imagine that was the longest trip we had ever taken. Surprisingly the only thing I remember was the taxi driver asking where we were from.

Hattiesburg was the answer as if even Chicagoans would know where it was. We certainly dressed better when we traveled back then than we do today.

My best train-ride experience was an excursion on that first Alaskan Cruise. Sister No. 1 and I wanted to experience a trip back in time on the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad, a train born during the Klondike Gold Rush. Built



between 1898 and 1900, the vintage rail cars took us past cascading waterfalls, up craggy mountainsides, and through tunnels blasted through solid granite past the Gold Rush Cemetery and the Dead Horse Gulch. That trip took us from Skagway to the Summit (the international border between Alaska and Canada), back to Skagway.

Sometimes I just want to freeze those images of beauty and man's tenacious nature to build something like that to remind me of God's blessings on this great country of ours.



Carolyn Hagler

With my thoughts of trains today, it seems fitting that I live in Hattiesburg, known as the Hub City. If you're not familiar with its history, Hattiesburg was conceived by Captain William Harris Hardy, who wanted to build a railway from Meridian to New Orleans in 1868. The line



he drew intersected the New Orleans and North Eastern Railroad where Hattiesburg is located today. The trains came (1883) before Hattiesburg (1884) existed. But for the railroads, Hattiesburg might not be. Yet, Hattiesburg had to go to court to retain the Bonhomie & Hattiesburg Southern Locomotive #300, purchased by the Tatum in 1925; it was one of the last steam locomotives in regular common carrier service in the United States.

It was only five years after Hattiesburg came into existence that a train from New Orleans brought people to a spot near Hattiesburg for the last official bare-knuckle prizefight, an illegal event in all, the then, 38 states. The fight between Sullivan and Kilrain lasted for 75 rounds, 2 hours and 16 minutes, with temperatures of 100 degrees in the shade. Just a sign and a road known as the Sullivan-Kilrain Road remain to remind people of that famous fight. A little more trivia for you is that Bat Masterson (you western fans should remember him) was Kilrain's timekeeper and both Sullivan and Kilrain stood trial in Purvis for that fight.

It seems that riding the rails is being encouraged more than it has for years. While some take special trips on passenger trains today, trips are mainly taken by automobiles and/or recreational vehicles. But with talks of passenger rail service operating between New Orleans and Mobile again, a bullet train between Dallas and Houston (240 miles in a 90-minute ride),

and gasoline-driven cars being banned, maybe we'll hear more, "On Board."

All the railroad songs, though, make me think more about that Railway to Heaven. "Blessed Savior, Thou wilt guide us till we reach that blissful shore. Where the angels wait to join us in Thy praise forevermore" (M. E. Abbey, *Life's Railway to Heaven*, 1890).

A dear friend of mine stepped off that train into glory a short time ago. Rosemary and I never discussed how our lives were like a mountain railroad, but I know she could have told me about the valleys and the mountaintops of her journey. Instead, she loved to talk about her family, friends, gardening, poetry, and the Lord. She was faithful to the very end; Her being in church



Sunday and in glory Tuesday was an example and encouragement to all of us who knew her.

One of her poems reminded everyone, "That faded Rose has gone on to rest.... I am that Rose that has faded away, waiting for my resurrection day." I can imagine her arrival with the words, "Well done; welcome home."

Looking back at those simpler times reminds me that *In His Grip* my train ride has been much like those songs and trips I've taken. I've been on the curves and the hills, but I've seen the mountaintops, too. I've traveled through tunnels that were pitch-black, but I've seen the light at the end of the tunnel. I've seen the beauty that God has provided, and I'm thankful I'm on board the train bound for glory. I don't know when my journey will end, but I know our Engineer is faithful!

RENEW

DEC 27 - 29, 2023

| FREE REGISTRATION |

WWW.BMAMSOUTH.ORG

A YOUTH CONFERENCE FOR 6TH GRADE - COLLEGE

TRACY MCMILLEN
SPEAKER

PRESTON JONES
WORSHIP

BOB SMILEY
FEATURED COMEDIAN

HOSTED BY:

LOCATED AT:

Senior Adult Report

Continued from page 2

churches to join this ministry by including your Senior Adult Commission in your regular monthly budget. The Commission needs your support and we are asking each church to consider giving at least a \$25.00 per month offering. One church saw our appeal in the Mississippi Baptist and sent in \$300.00 with a note stating they were saving postage by giving their \$25.00 per month support for the year.

We have provided sign-up forms for you to use. We are asking you to sign up and pledge to add your Senior Adult Commission to your church's monthly support. Would you take this challenge back

to your church and ask for their support? It is not much, but it means a great deal to this work.

The Senior Adult Commission is the only ministry supported by our Association that does not have a "special emphasis" month. We are asking this body to designate the month of June each year as the special emphasis time for us. Our churches and members faithfully respond to special emphasis requests from our departments and commissions, and we think they will for this ministry as well.

Each conference that we hold costs much more to fund than the fees our senior adults pay. We are trying to provide quality conferences with features that encourage and bless those attending. The cost for everything has risen and this is true for our

activities as well. Your help and support is essential.

Trustees

The trustees of your Senior Adult Commission are faithful and intimately involved in this work. They have a Purpose and a Passion for the Commission. We appreciate their support and leadership. They are a blessing and I thank them for their service.

Pray for this work, pray for and support the senior adults in your church, and support your PrimeTimers who have a purpose and a passion for our Lord's work.

I am blessed to be the director of the Commission on Senior Adults. I count it a privilege to serve and look forward to blessing our senior adults through this ministry.

Final Thoughts

The Psalmist wrote the following in Psalm 71 - *O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works.* ¹⁸ *Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.* (vss) 17-18

Our seniors are an example to the younger generations...let us now serve them for their faithful service to us.

Our prayer is for God's blessings on you all and the overall work of the BMA of Mississippi.

Publications Report

Continued from page 2

our churches and members that they are an integral part of our denomination, our association, and the collective ministry of the BMA of Mississippi and the BMA of America. We should consider the paper a personal monthly letter from every ministry of our association to share good news with the individuals and families that are the backbone of God's churches.

New Ministry Feature

There are times when news and information should reach our churches and people between our monthly issues. We will soon begin a new feature for our association. It will consist of developing a comprehensive e-mail list to use to send out news bulletins on short notice. We will call it E-News Alerts. Examples of the way this would be used are notices of interest (personal needs, deaths, etc.), changes in ministry plans (cancellations, postponements etc.), urgent needs (financial, prayer, disaster, etc.), and simple reminders of upcoming events (conferences, meetings, offerings etc.). We are providing sign-up cards today and asking that you give us your email address for this purpose. We urge you to take cards back to your church and ask each member to sign up for this service. This can be a great benefit and service to our Association, and we urge your participation. This list will be maintained as a private list for our use only and never to be shared with anyone.

Content

This publication is the only place our churches and readers can get a comprehensive view of the overall work of the BMA of Mississippi and America. That is the purpose of this ministry.

I recently spoke to a state officer of the Mississippi Southern Baptist Convention. He stated that one of the big mistakes they had made was to cease publication of their state publication, The Baptist Record. He said even with other contributing causes, many Southern Baptists believe this resulted in lower income, lower participation, and an increased attitude of apathy. He attributed these trends to the lack of sharing directly with the local church.

The strength of biblical denominations is based upon their doctrine, their goals and mission, their purpose and good fellowship.

These are areas that are strengthened and maintained through regular and open communication and dialog. The success of any relationship – marriages, families, business, religion, and government, suffers when we fail to share our news, our thoughts, and our needs. The lack of communication breeds a lack of knowledge and trust which leads to weaker fellowship and less participation. It leads to misunderstandings.

Your Mississippi Baptist has lost some cooperating churches over the past year or two. I believe this is a symptom of the overall health of our associated work. Many years ago the national BMA developed a slogan – 2000 churches by the year 2000. Many in Mississippi were looking forward to 200 churches in our state work. We have added churches, mainly through new church plants by our state Missions Department. But we have fewer BMA churches in our state and fewer who participate as full members of this association.

Some have closed their doors. Some have left the BMA. Some have dropped the paper due to low attendance and low finances. Some have dropped the paper due to personalities and doctrinal issues and beliefs.

When this happens two things are the result – 1. The overall ministry and work of the BMA of Mississippi and each area of ministry of this association suffers and 2. The members in the local church are deprived of the knowledge and information needed to fully understand with whom they are affiliated and what our associated work is doing to reach people for Christ.

The result is heartbreaking. We are members with each other for a purpose. We have more than enough in common to work together to preach the Gospel so the lost may come to Christ. Paul said in the book of Philippians that "Christ is preached and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice." The reasons he was addressing were no doubt different from the ones we deal with, but Christ was preached and that was His point.

May we do all we can to see that Christ is preached and souls are told about His marvelous Grace!

Some Personal Notes

I accepted Christ as my savior on October 13, 1974 – 49 years ago. I surrendered to ministry on June 12, 1977. I went on a whirlwind! I had a full-time secular job and was thrilled to travel and preach practically every weekend for quite

some time. Many pastors were gracious to give me the opportunity to preach in their pulpits. I was soon filling in for many when they needed to be away.

I put my eye on a particular church with which I was familiar. I begged God to give me that church. He basically conveyed to me this message "I am no fool, but you might be just for your asking". His answer was a quiet, but firm, NO! He had other plans.

He put a desire to minister in my heart and a bitter taste in my mouth for my then, secular job. My pastor at the time knew of my desire and he told me that the BMA was looking for a full-time editor. The short story is that I applied, the trustees interviewed me and a special session of the BMA of Mississippi was called at Creston Hills Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi, just to elect me as your editor. That was in March 1978.

Time slips by rapidly and as I began to think about the time I had served, I had the thought of maybe going for the round number of 50 years as editor of the Mississippi Baptist Paper. We are currently publishing our 77th volume. I am almost as old as this publication. I just turned 75 and in about 3 ½ years I would reach that 50 year number. As I stated earlier, this report is my 46th. If I stayed in this position until my 50th year of service I would turn 80 prior to my 50th report. At my first annual report I was a young 30 years old.

80 is not that old in today's years. If 60 is the new 40, then 80 would be the new 60. I remember 60...and what a great year that was!

But I realize a number is just a number. After much prayer, family discussion, and conferring with the trustees of this department – my wife and I feel that serving 46 ½ years may be the best. We are at peace with those thoughts and think October 2024 would be a good time for my retirement.

Many factors were involved in this process. Some public and some private. No, I am not terminally ill. I am not sick. As a matter of fact – I think I am doing OK – to be as old as I am. (Woodlawn boys' story)

The Future

I do not want you to misunderstand, but the operation of your publications department involves many areas of expertise. I am the only employee. I do it all. I am the only one who knows the operation of this ministry. What I know concerning the operation of this

department, the publishing of the paper, and its many facets, have taken years to learn and to develop our operating procedures. With only one individual doing all the work and no other individual having any idea how to do it, puts this work in an awkward position. Several years ago when we purchased our first computer, I was showing the trustees how we were using the new equipment and how it benefited the work. When I finished my presentation one of the trustees addressed the rest of the committee and said, "Fellows, this is what I call job security, because none of us have any idea what he is doing or how to do it!"

That was not as true back then as it is today. You will notice in the minutes of the trustee board there is a recommendation to compensate Bro. Adam Sloan, who is a current board member, as he begins to learn the overall operation. The work of Publications is tied to technology, powerful software programs, internet operations, along with accounting procedures, the U. S. Postal Service, and much more.

Adam has shown interest in this work beyond that of a trustee. He has the technological background required, and is in the early process of acquiring the knowledge and skills to publish the Mississippi Baptist. We are not recommending him as a future editor, but being totally open and honest, he has shown serious interest. He is currently the pastor of Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi. He will not be an employee of the Publications Department, but we thought it fitting to give him some financial support for the time he will be studying and learning the operation.

The trustees have agreed that IF I continue to hold to the date of October 2024 for my retirement, ample notice would be made for interested individuals to apply for the position. This was openly discussed during our annual trustee meeting.

I love the work of the BMA of Mississippi. I love the work of the Mississippi Baptist. I love our Lord. The Apostle Paul put it this way when writing to Timothy " ...I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. 2 Timothy 1:12".

With the unfolding of current events in Israel and the turmoil evident around the world, who knows...We may not even see October 2024...even so, Come Lord Jesus!

I will be glad to answer any questions. May our Lord bless you all.



LIFEWORLD EXPANDS ACROSS LATIN AMERICA

By Heather Harrison
Lifeworld
lifeworld.org

Joy. Excitement. Thankfulness. Those were the sentiments as twenty-five Lifeworld representatives from various Central American countries gathered in El Salvador at the end of June. Their purpose was to learn from and encourage one another, celebrate what God has done, and look ahead at Lifeworld Latin America. Every Lifeworld team member is a firm believer in discipleship, and it is backed up by the fact that each is discipling someone. Most reported having multiple professions of faith and new believers being discipled.

Team members, representing churches and countries from México, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panama, and the United States, were trained in editing, recording, voice, ministry, and preaching. They also worshiped God together and shared his word—encouraging each other to serve in humble obedience, giving all glory to God.

One of their primary tasks was to select a new Lifeworld coordinator for Latin America. They unanimously agreed and appointed Rigoberto Jimenez Cruz. Brother Rigoberto is the BMA Global Coordinator for El Salvador. He pastors Centro De Vida Montelimar Baptist Church and is a team player, leading in serving, evangelism, discipleship, and church planting. The new mission

points in El Salvador are progressing and discipleship is ongoing. As the new coordinator, Brother Rigoberto will oversee Central America, South America, Caribbean, and Spain.

Here are some updates of what God is doing through the three-way partnerships of Lifeworld, the local church and BMA Global:

- Lifeworld team members plan to share the gospel through three new initiatives at the border of Colombia and Venezuela, as well as through other formats and digital platforms to reach additional audiences.
- Three new language speakers for the Guahibo (aka Jivi), Puinave, and Tenec have been identified. Other languages are currently being explored. This means many more will be able to hear the gospel in their native language.
- The Garifunas are now reaching the Mesquito people group.
- Praise God for the work being done in Latin America!

