



# Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

October 15, 2014

[www.bmaofmississippi.com](http://www.bmaofmississippi.com)

VOL. 68 No. 20

## DiscipleGuide Tuesday Talks Meeting Needs

DiscipleGuide Church Resources is making great strides in becoming the "go to place" for equipping and training for church leaders. One of the new exciting tools available to pastors, staff members and lay leaders is called Tuesday Talks.

Tuesday Talks is an on-line, interactive broadcast that is produced live from BMA Productions Studios in Conway, Arkansas. Each second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am, Tuesday Talks addresses different areas of ministry needs. Knowledgeable people who are actually working in that respective field of ministry bring great advice and insight into how church leaders can do a better job. An open chat line gives viewers and opportunity to ask questions and get real-time answers.

Donny Parrish, Conference Ministry Director at DiscipleGuide, hosts Tuesday Talks. "Although we're just in



the beginning stages of Tuesday Talks the feedback and results have already been great! We've had a great response from people watching both the live broadcast and the recorded replay."

Tuesday Talks has highlighted ministry topics such as "How to use Social Media to Reach Your Community" with Brandon Cox, Director of Pastors.com. Veteran Student Pastors Shawn

Hammondtree and Michael Treat shared in September on "How to have a Real Student Ministry." On October 14, Larry Barker, Director of North American Church Planting for BMA America talked about churches that have plateaued or in decline and how the BMA is prepared to help those churches.

To view Tuesday Talks tune your web browser to [www.bmalife.com/tv](http://www.bmalife.com/tv). The training is provided free of charge by the ministry of DiscipleGuide Church Resources.

## 4 Trends in Christianity That Could Scare You

by Ed Stetzer, President of LifeWay Research.

Despite what many think, the church in America is not dying (and no serious researcher thinks that). However, there are some challenges and changes to be considered.

When we consider missiology, part of the discipline includes considering how churches relate to their culture. Since we live in changing times, it's worth thinking through what current cultural changes mean for future church engagement of that culture.

Here are four trends that are already evident, but will become even more important in days to come:

### The word "Christian" will become less used and more clear.

There are three broad categories that make up the approximately 75 percent of Americans who refer to themselves as Christians. I wrote about this earlier in The State of the Church In America: Hint: It's Not Dying, but it is worth keeping in our minds moving forward. The fact is that not everyone who uses the word "Christian" is using it the same way.

Cultural Christians, about 25 percent

of the U.S. population, are simply those who, when asked, say they are a Christian rather than say they are an atheist or Jewish. They are "Christian" for no other reason than they are from America and don't consider themselves something else.

The second type is what I call a congregational Christian. They account for another close to 25 percent of the population. This person generally does not really have a deep commitment, but they will consider refer to themselves as Christians because they have some loose connection to a church—through a family member, maybe an infant baptism, or some holiday attendance.

Convictional Christians, also about 25 percent of the population, are those people who self-identify as Christian who orient their life around their faith in Christ. This includes a wide range of what Christian is—not just evangelicals, for example. It means someone says they are a Christian and it is meaningful to them.



So, what's the trend? Well, first, the trend is that less people are calling themselves Christians and those who are will take it more seriously. In other words, cultural and congregational Christians, or the "squishy middle," is collapsing while convictional Christians are staying relatively steady.

In the future, the word Christian will mean more to those who would be considered convictional Christians. However, it will mean—and will be used—less to those who were nominal Christians in the first place. The word will be less used and more clear.

### The nominals will increasingly become nones.

Basically, type one (cultural) and two (congregational) are what we would generally call nominal Christians. Nominal comes from the Latin, meaning "name" or "name only." A growing number of people are name only Christians. They claim "Christianity" for survey reasons,

## Dr. Henderson Continues to Bless

DiscipleGuide's "We Believe" series, featuring the writings of Dr. E. Harold Henderson, have been well received. The four-quarter series, a part of the Compass adult Sunday school curriculum, began in the Fall with a study of foundational beliefs of BMA churches.



E. Harold Henderson

It's not too late for churches to join in the series this winter for the second quarterly in the series entitled, "What We Believe About God."

For over 38 years, Dr. E Harold Henderson wrote BMA adult Sunday school literature. His writings helped shape the theological foundation of our association. In 1996, Dr. Henderson passed away, but his writings are still blessing churches to this day.

If you have adult Sunday school classes who are not currently using the Compass quarterly, ask them to consider trying the "We Believe" series this Winter. This is the perfect time to make the switch.

For more information, or to order, call DiscipleGuide at 1-800-333-1442 or go to [discipleguide.org](http://discipleguide.org).

but rarely attend church or give any consistent consideration to their faith identification.

They're simply calling themselves Christians because that's who they consider themselves to be, not because of any life change or ongoing commitment. Those types of Christians, about half of the population now, will become a minority in a few decades.

We are now experiencing a collapse of nominalism.

It is fair to say we are now experiencing a collapse of nominalism. Many of

**continued on page 3**



Larry Geraldson  
Director



# Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Department of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund



Bob & Edie Burch



Kenneth & Carole Pollock



Bobby & Lesa Elliott



Danny & Brenda Bartlett



Sidney & Becky Farmer



Kelby & Jessie Johnson



Phillip & Dawn Burns



Estuardo & Yasmine Marroquin



Elvis & Wendy Garcia



Ed & Patricia DuVall

601.428.8616

[www.bmams.org](http://www.bmams.org)

## New Missionary Candidate Approved and Recommended

I am excited to introduce to you our newest missionary candidate. Wesley Martin was interviewed and approved by the Missionary Committee recently and will be recommended to the Association at the annual meeting. If approved, Wesley will begin serving as a State Missionary, sponsored by Campground Baptist Church, in January of 2015.



**Wesley Martin** was saved and in February 2008. He was ordained in 2013 and has served as Associate Pastor at Campground since that time. He has spent time working in youth ministry, music ministry and preaching the gospel and various pastoral ministry roles. He is currently working toward his Bachelor's degree at Southeastern Baptist College. He and his wife, Holley, have one child, Lawson Reed Martin.

## Missionary Kelby Johnson Resigns as State Missionary

It is with sadness that I inform you of the resignation of Bro. Kelby Johnson as a State Missionary. In an email letter received on September 13, 2014, Bro. Johnson said,



*"To Bro. Larry Geraldson and the Trustees of the State Missions Department, I am writing to inform you of my decision to officially resign from state missions. I am thankful for your willingness to work with me, but after discussion with my family and church, I believe this is the right decision for me at this time. I am very grateful for the support I was given by Bro. Larry and the trustees during the last two years. I have nothing but respect for you all and continue to pray for the advancement of the gospel through the missions department of the BMA of Mississippi."*

*Kelby R. Johnson  
October 12, 2014"*

We appreciate Bro. Kelby's efforts and pray for God's blessings on him and his family as they go forward. Bro. Johnson has secured a full time teach-

ing job in New Albany.

## The following is a list of Bios of those men who are working to plant churches in the BMA of Mississippi



**Bob Burch** was saved in 1970 and surrendered to the gospel ministry in 1987. He attended college at Southeastern Baptist College, and went on to complete his M.M. degree from Temple Baptist Seminary in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He has pastored for 20 years before surrendering to missions in January 2012. He and his wife Edie have two sons: Robert, who is married to Brooke, and Justin, and 4 grandchildren, Hunter, Clay & Carson.



**Sidney Farmer** was saved in 1978 and surrendered to the ministry in 1997. He has pastored three churches: two in Mississippi and one in Alabama. Sidney accepted the call to missions in March 2012. He and his wife Becky have three sons: Austin, Dexter, and Kyle.



**Bobby Elliott** was saved in 1980. He surrendered to the ministry in 1980 at Calvary Baptist Church and was ordained in 1981. He attended Northwest Baptist Institute in Muscle Shoals, Alabama and received a Master's Degree in Bible languages. He has pastored churches in Mississippi and Tennessee for the past 30 years. He and his wife Lesa, have one daughter, Jodi and two granddaughters, Lauren and Katie.



**Phillip Burns** was saved in 1982 and was ordained in 2002 and has served on staff at First Baptist Bay Springs with Bro. James Sprayberry for the past 11 years. Bro. Burns has a BA in Christian Education from New Or-

leans Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Dawn have two girls, Makayla and Hope.



**Danny Bartlett** was saved in 1967 and was ordained in 1977. He is a graduate of Southeastern Baptist College and the BMA Theological Seminary. He has pastored BMA churches in Mississippi, Texas, and Louisiana. He and his wife, Brenda have two daughters; Rebecca and Ashley and three grandchildren.



**Dr. Kenneth Pollock** was saved in 1958 and was ordained in 1979. He has over 21 years of pastoral experience and holds two Doctorates and one Master's Degree from Andersonville Theological Seminary and a BA in Biblical Studies from Luther Rice Seminary. He and his wife Carole have three children and seven grandchildren.



**Ed Duvall** was saved in 1978. He was ordained in 2003. He retired from the U.S. Army in 1998. Bro. DuVall is the founding pastor of Homestretch Baptist Church and is the Coordinator of BMA of MS African American Missions. He holds a Master of Divinity from Mid-America Theological Seminary. He and his wife Patricia, have two children, Essence and Edward.



**James A. Cook** was saved in 1981. He was ordained in 2007. He retired from the U.S. Army in 2005. He has an Associates of Divinity from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. He serves a church planter sponsored by Homestretch Baptist Church. He and his wife Deloris have three children: Kimble, Jonathan, and Jarvis and four grandchildren.



**E st u a r d o Marroquin** was saved at age 6 and was baptized at age 9. In 1999 he started his studies at the Bible Institute at his home church. He surrendered his life to the ministry in 2000. He also has a degree in Music and Administration. Bro. Marroquin serves as the Coordinator of BMA of MS Hispanic Missions (South). His and his wife, Yasmin, have one daughter.



**Inocencio Rivera** was saved in 2009 when a friend invited him to attend a meeting at El Camino Church and was baptized a month later. In 2010, he enrolled in the Bible Institute with the desire in his heart to be a part of a mission work. Today, Bro. Rivera is leading the mission work at the Hattiesburg.



**Rodolfo Galicia** was saved in December 2012 after he received an invitation to attend El Camino Baptist Church. He was baptized in September 2013 and enrolled in the El Camino Bible Institute. He began to serve the Lord as a small group co-leader and in 2013 began to help in the Biloxi Mission Project. He now leads the mission work in Biloxi.



**Elvis Garcia** was saved and baptized in 2000 and later surrendered to the ministry. In 2001 he became a missionary for his local church. He acquired a degree in Bible and Theology from the BMA Seminary in Guatemala City. He is a Certified Trainer for Evangelism Explosion. He has attended Southeastern Baptist College and is presently enrolled at Blue Mountain College. Bro. Garcia serves as the Coordinator of

**continued on next page**

# 4 Trends in Christianity

**continued from page 1**

these who have been labeling themselves as Christians are starting to feel free to be honest about their religious affiliation, or lack thereof. The "Nones," those who say they have no religious preference, could potentially represent as many as half of the population in the next 20 to 30 years—it's already over 30% among college students (with a third of college students still being religious).

The nominal Christians in the squishy middle (cultural and congregational Christians) are becoming those who now answer "none of the above" on religious surveys. In other words, the "nominals" are becoming the nones."

As the Nones rise in their number, Christian influence on culture will begin to wane. The minority of Christians in a culture will begin to feel even more like a minority when more nominals become Nones. As people no longer claim to be Christians, Christianity will be further marginalized, which should change the way we think about engaging culture.

**Christians will increasingly**

## change cultural tactics.

The next 20 years are going to be a challenge for convictional Christians and churches in many places. We will be engaging in cultural conversations often as the minority we truly are. Those who aggressively fight this as a culture war will find it hard to reach people. Instead of being seen as those who are seeking to engage and serve people in the culture, Christians will be seen as an enemy. That's not to say there are not important causes to engage—there are—but how we engage is almost as important as that we engage.

In biblical terms, we may experience what it means to be salt and light in the midst of an adversarial culture.

As the Nones rise in their number, Christian influence on culture will begin to wane.

In response, we should look to two groups of people from the Bible, which I profiled in Creating an Assessment Culture By Being of Berea and Issachar. We must hold the Word of God in high authority as the Berean Christians did in Acts 17:11. Christians must become seri-

ously committed to Scripture and the Gospel in every aspect of our lives. We should also wisely discern the present culture and strategize how to best glorify God.

"From the Issacharites, who understand the times and knew what Israel should do" (1 Chronicles 12:32).

I desire for the church and Christians to be examining the Scriptures daily to know the Word of God and also to know the times, the context, and the Spirit's wisdom to address the culture with the Good News.

As I see it, some Christians will go down fighting. Other Christians, will go on loving. But either way, convictional Christians will increasingly see they are not the moral majority and will advocate less for the

legislation or traditional values and be more focused on protecting religious liberty.

There are ways to stand for the good, advocate for cultural realities that engender human flourishing, and do so in a loving way. That's the future convictional Christians need.

## More robust churches will result from the death of nominalism.

The next 20 years are going to be a challenge for convictional Christians and churches in many places.

It is beginning to cost something to be a Christian in America—not as much as in many places in the world or in much of history, but more than it used to. And, as living for Christ costs more in our cul-

ture, it will mean more in our context.

Churches that are preaching the Gospel and are focusing on biblical truths are going to become more clearly distinct from the culture around them. The end result? Robust Christian communities are going to get stronger.

These gospel-preaching churches will have members who are more, not less, committed and these committed churches will have less nominal Christians in the years to come. Christianity will become more of a minority in culture, but more refined, more biblical, and more missional churches will be the result.

## Where From Here?

The lasting effects of these shifts will force churches to make a critical decision. They will either become a cultural church that allows the societal trends to dictate their ever-changing beliefs. Or they will become a counter-cultural church that faithfully adheres to Scripture and proclaims the gospel in a carefully considered way. The latter church will offer real hope in the midst of an adversarial culture and is the only real future for the American church.

## Missions & RLF Statistical Reports

### BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund Report

(As of Oct 10, 2014 and since August 1, 2014)

Gross Assets .....	\$19,153,115.00
Increase In Gross Assets .....	557,294.00
New Loans .....	2
Total of Loans Made .....	\$275,000.00
Loan Rate .....	4.25%
Shareholder Rate of Return .....	2.67%
Reserve .....	18%

### Reports for Sept 2014

	High Attendance	Membership	Total Offerings
<b>Church Planters</b>			
<b>Bob Burch</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>\$2,640.00</b>
<b>Bobby Elliott</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>\$1,940.00</b>
<b>Sidney Farmer</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>\$5,452.00</b>
<b>Kelby Johnson</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>\$535.00</b>
<b>Danny Bartlett</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$1,453.00</b>
<b>Phillip Burns</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$807.00</b>
<b>Hispanic Missions – South (Estuardo Marroquin – Coordinator)</b>			
<b>Hattiesburg</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>\$785.00</b>
<b>Biloxi</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Laurel</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>\$5,747.00</b>
<b>Hispanic Missions – North (Elvis Garcia – Coordinator)</b>			
<b>Tupelo</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>\$188.00</b>
<b>Oxford</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>\$470.00</b>
<b>Ripley</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>\$4,966.00</b>
<b>African American Missions– (Ed DuVall – Coordinator)</b>			
<b>Olive Branch</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>\$1,252.00</b>
<b>Cleveland</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>\$2,705.00</b>
<b>Collectively, our missionaries reported 638 new contacts, shared the gospel 489 times, and had 37 professions of faith, 9 baptisms.</b>			

## Missions Report

**from page 2**

BMA of MS Hispanic Missions (North). He and his wife Wendy have two sons: Pablo, and Josue.



**Byron Morales** was saved while attending a Christian camp when he was young. After attending Way, Truth & Life in Ripley, he was baptized and began to serve as a Sunday school teacher, a youth leader, and then surrendered to preach. He now teaches in the Bible Institute and serves as the Associate to Bro. Garcia. He and his wife, Claudia have two sons: Samuel and Caleb.

group leader, and discipleship. He now serves as the lead missionary of Way, Truth & Life at Tupelo. He and his wife, Rogelia have two children: Abigail and Aaron.



**Erhlin Pech** was saved in 2009. He began attending Way, Truth & Life and was baptized and joined the church. He later enrolled in the Bible Institute, began serving in a small group, and later became a small group leader. Later he began to teach Sunday school and became the Superintendent. Feeling the call of God to do missionary work, he surrendered and became the lead missionary to Oxford.



**Humberto Navarro** was saved and baptized in 2008. Bro. Navarro enrolled in the Bible Institute has taken classes for 3 years. He has served in the areas of evangelism, worship leader, small

**Note:** All of the men listed in this article, including those working with our coordinators, have reaffirmed, in writing, their agreement with the doctrinal statement of the BMA of Mississippi.

## SOAR:lit to Focus on Holy Spirit this Winter

The Holy Spirit's ministry to believers and to the church is



often overlooked. What a tragedy!

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He is God and, therefore, we must desire to know more about His work in the life of believers and the church.

This Winter, SOAR:lit will focus on the ministry of the Holy Spirit with a special emphasis on His work in the church. Each lesson will uncover timeless truths from Scripture.

Tracy McMillan, Student Pastor at Bethel Baptist Church in Fulton, Mississippi, authored these lessons with a passion for helping students draw closer to God through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

SOAR:lit is DiscipleGuide's downloadable literature for students in the 7th-12th grades. For more information, or to order SOAR:lit, go to [discipleguide.org](http://discipleguide.org).

**Baptist Missionary Association  
of Mississippi**  
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**DEPARTMENTS & COMMISSIONS**

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

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

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

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

**Missions & Revolving Loan Fund**  
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**Commission on Senior Adults**  
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**History & Archives Commission**  
4229 Highway 15 North  
Laurel, MS 39440  
601-729-8098

**Moral Action**  
P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855



Don Brown



*Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi*

Don Brown - Editor

# Opinion Page

[www.msbaptist.org](http://www.msbaptist.org)

## From The Mind of Chuck Lee

# Music Moves Me

I'm not sure exactly when music started influencing my life, but I am pretty sure it was when I was a baby. I say that, because looking at my own children when they were babies, the radio could be playing the sweet sounds of Buddy Holly, Doyle Lawson, Mahalia Jackson, or the Kingsmen, and every single one of them would start, um...well, they would start jiggling. My wife said they were dancing, but they were brought into this world Baptist and hopefully will die Baptist, and therefore, do not dance. So I am guessing it is a genetic thing that my kiddos inherited from yours truly. I can still cut a rug if I have to, but the EMT's need to be handy with an oxygen tank and a hip replacement specialist. All bets are off if Ricky Skaggs and his Kentucky Thunder band breaks into a rendition of "Uncle Pen". That's when I tell folks I'm Orthodox Lutheran, cause we all know how wild and crazy they can be when the music is pumped up loud.

There were some dark years. Don McLean sang about a day the music

died and really bummed me out. Every time I heard that song, I would sink into a state of depression until the chorus came on, and then just couldn't help but, um...jiggle. Hey, I was born into a Baptist family also! What boosted my hopes for the future of music was the fact that he was SINGING about the music being dead. If he was singing, there was hope that life could be breathed into the faltering, weakened soul of the industry and perhaps be given a few more years.

My theory about the revitalization of music was nearly destroyed when I heard my first Gangsta Rap (and I say this cringingly) song. Singing about the thug life and the deladyfying (pretty sure I just made that word up) of women really had me wondering if there was any hope left at all for the sound of music. I would walk around in a daze thinking, man, if this is where the melody of the soul is headed, we need to



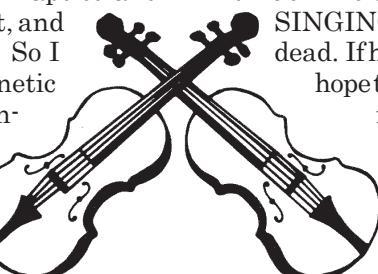
Chuck Lee

just pop a cap in it already. Then I realized that would not be the "dope" thing to do.

Sometimes I get to reminiscing about the good ole days of Don Williams and George Jones and think, "I might just listen to some country music". So, I flip on the radio and scan through the stations and...where did Country music go? I can't find it anywhere! Every once in a while I will happen upon a station that says it is country, but then some guy with a twang comes on rappin' about his John Deere tractor and having a party in a barn. I just keep flipping the radio dial.

I believe there is something deeply spiritual about music. It moves us from within. People are very particular about the different genres of melody and sometimes extremely biased in their opinion on what is appropriate. I am much more tolerable than most folks. I happen to believe that there will be people in Heaven that don't like Bluegrass music, no matter what their opinion is of the banjo.

Where was I going with this story? Oh yeah. Music is deeply spiritual. Let's just be careful which spirit moves us.



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**Don J. Brown, Editor**  
E-Mail - [editor@msbaptist.org](mailto:editor@msbaptist.org)  
Web site [www.msbaptist.org](http://www.msbaptist.org)

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## NATIONAL SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

Hilton Convention Center, Branson, Missouri - October 29-31, 2014

Go to [discipleguide.org/nsa](http://discipleguide.org/nsa) to register!



Speaker  
Charles Costa



Worship  
Randy Anderson



Guest Artist  
Karen Peck & New River



Comedian  
Aaron Wilburn



Branson Show  
Sight & Sound Theater

## College Trustee Report on President

by Matt Hudson, Chairman

The trustees of Southeastern Baptist College met October 7th for our regular scheduled meeting. On the agenda was a vote on college president. After discussion, the board decided to continue one more year with Bro. Danny Pitts as interim. With the financial position the college is in, we felt it was not feasible to pay a full-time salary to the President.

We had three great candidates that interviewed for the position and either of the three would make a great leader. We were able to finish in the black \$12,000 this year, but without paying a full-time president salary.

The executive committee will be meeting soon to decide on compensation to Bro. Danny for his excellent work to the college. Please continue to pray for the college and the trustees and thank you for your support.

## Pastor's Wife Dies

*Editor's Note: Apologies are in order to the family of Mrs. Hill. We did not get word of her death until some time after it occurred. She was a faithful pastor's wife, worker and mother.*

Effie McCord Hill, of Corinth, MS, born July 27, 1933, died Friday, February 28, 2014 in her home.

Funeral services were held on Sunday, March 2, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at Central Baptist Church. Bro. Harold Floyd, Bro.



Mrs. Effie Hill

Mrs. Hill served as pastor's wife for 50 years serving as State Missionary for 18 years. She was a wonderful Christian woman that enjoyed serving the Lord. She was a member of Central Missionary Baptist Church.

Mrs. Hill is survived by her husband of 62 years: Rev. Thelbert Hill of Corinth, MS; 2 daughters, Marsha Barry and husband Dickey of Corinth and Martha Eden and husband Lossie of Corinth; 5 grandchildren, Ricky Barry and wife Kristi of Corinth, Phillip Barry of Starkville, Tyler Eden of Nashville, TN, Tanner Eden of Corinth and McKenzie Eden of Corinth; one great grandchild, Presleigh Barry of Corinth; one sister, Eva Layton of Stringer, MS; a brother-in-law, Marzell Hill and wife Sylvia; numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and a host of friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Fred and Troy Ishee McCord; 5 brothers, Milton, Earl, Burl, Luther and Burdette McCord and 2 sisters, Willie Pearl Moss and Nellie Jewel Dykes.

## AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

### Wayne Rice

Bro. Wayne Rice has resigned as Pastor of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Picayune after 13 years of service. He is available to preach for fill in, interim or in view of a call. You may contact him at 601-916-9020.

### PASTOR OPENINGS

#### Fulton Church Seeks Pastor

Greenwood Baptist Church, 1400 Greenwood Church Road, Fulton MS 38843 is searching for a senior pastor. Please send resume to church address, greenwoodbma@gmail.com or contact Thomas Brown at 662-862-9375.

#### Arkansas Church Seeks Pastor

South Main Missionary Baptist Church in Malvern, Arkansas, is seeking a pastor. Those interested should contact Gene Clements at 501-844-5822 or email gdclm@gmail.com or mail to the church at 2027 South Main St, Malvern, AR 72104.

**Christ won't transform your problem until You transfer it to Him.**

# Southeastern Baptist College

Danny Pitts - Interim President

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440, (601) 426-6346



Danny Pitts

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

### Insurance and British Petroleum Notes

Inspectors from our insurance company went through the property of Southeastern Baptist College during the summer. We have received a list of eight repairs and improvements which must be addressed within 90 days. The list requires such matters as new roofs for the two dorms, the installation of panic style doors, hard wired fire alarms, and stairs to the upper stories. Meeting these obligations will be expensive, but we must do the work to avoid substandard insurance coverage.

Periodically I am asked about our status with British Petroleum. A couple years ago our school was approached by a Claims Team that seeks payments for those affected by the BP Spill.

Although we were not connected directly, I understand that they suggested that SBC might have collateral damage worth \$200,000 to \$300,000. The forms were filled out and filed. Since arriving as Interim President in November 2013, I have received email each month stating that the process was continuing and that hopefully our claim would be settled soon.

The email received this month was different. It declared that more than 92,000 claims are in process and approximately 120 Business Economic Loss claims per week are being paid. At that rate the last settlements would be over 50 years away. Even though we could use the money, we are not going to hold our breaths until it comes in to our office.

## Celebrate The Little Victories

Have you ever noticed how an amusement park will advertise that they have the fastest, largest roller coaster in the world? Then, next year their competition at another amusement park builds even a bigger one. And every year theme parks have to tear down old roller coasters from just 5 years ago so they can build new, bigger, brighter, faster coasters to attract visitors.

The same is true of football stadiums and arenas. Some of these giant football arenas that they implode are so they can build a newer, bigger facility. Actually, there wasn't anything wrong with the old facility. But the American public demands the best. The biggest. Grand things on a grand scale. And every year, everything from buildings to vacations have to be better and bigger than last year. Where does it end? It doesn't. It leaves most Americans with an insatiable appetite for the things of the world, never satisfied with what they have, but always looking ahead to bigger things. In American society we are used to constantly being told that everything bigger is better. If it is faster, then this is what we want. Society can easily dictate our desires of the world and flesh. This can never be satisfied.

Sadly, Christians sometimes let this societal norm bleed over into their spiritual walk. Many Christian families do not want to go to the little country church nearby, but will travel for miles

to go to the great big church with the great big beautiful building. They have great big youth group, big choirs or praise teams, and lots of big fine buses to carry people to all kinds of activities. This mind-set permeates even into our daily walk with Christ. We want to see a big miracle. We want God to do great and mighty things every day of our lives.

God is greater. There is none greater. God does great miracles.



### Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

There is no other miracle maker. But as Elijah learned in I Kings 19, God doesn't always come in a great big wind, a mighty earthquake, or a huge fire.

Sometimes God comes as a still small voice. God is the God of the grand and mighty. He can do exceeding, abundantly above all that we ask or think. But you may get discouraged in your daily walk if you want everything in your personal life to be like the 4th of July. Your marriage may not be unending fireworks, but it doesn't mean that God is not working in your marriage and that there are some good things going on in your marriage. Sometimes we are not looking for the little things to praise God for in our marriages.

Yet, maybe your kid is successful for God and doing exactly what God wants. We miss the joy when we only look for the big and grand events. Don't miss God in the little things every single day and give Him praise for them. You didn't lose your temper all day today. Thank God and celebrate that little victory. You didn't smoke for a half a day. Celebrate that little victory and next week shoot for all day. Maybe your child didn't make the honor roll at school, but they made God's honor roll by honoring you with the way they talked to you this week. These things will not get put in the local paper. No one outside of you may even know about these things. These are not grand things. These are God things.

Try just this week to find some little thing where God blessed you each day. Keep doing it for a couple of weeks and then hopefully it will become a habit. Give praise and thanks to God every day for the little ways He blesses you. Yes, it is a wonderful thing to give a testimony at church about a great thing God did in your life or that of your family. Perhaps there was a miracle of healing. Perhaps a rebellious family member turned around. A financial burden was lifted as God provided in a mighty way. These are all great things from a great God.

**continued on page 7**

# Women's Missionary Auxiliary

**President - Jessica Hayden**  
 3208 Hwy 29 North  
 Soso, MS 39480  
 662-251-0455  
 Email: blhaden@gmail.com



**Corresponding Secretary**  
 Mrs. Shirlene Smith  
 730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443  
 601-729-5638

## What God Can Do In Less Than 20 Years

by Jackie Ricks

In 1995, I sat in a Writers' Conference and heard Bro. Larry Silvey tell about his trip to Ghana and their use of our past quarters of English Sunday School literature as well as their organization into the BMA of Africa. Their zeal inspired me. Ray Loven was the first BMA missionary on the field, before he had to leave for health reasons. The Paul Heuermann family also served for a few years before returning to the states in 2010.

John and Margaret Lindsey arrived in September of 1997 and are still serving part-time today. Margaret and John are currently in the states to care for her 97-year-old mother. Bro. John goes over to Africa several times a year to check on things. He does some training while there. In this manner, the African leaders are becoming more responsible for their work, just as in other countries where American missionaries have returned to the states.

The English literature was one of the foundational tools for spreading and teaching the truth of God's Word. Every one of the BMA churches there receive the literature at no charge. It helps tremendously with the spiritual growth of their members. Many Africans—even those not involved with the BMA of Africa—stand in line for hours to receive one of the books when a shipment arrives. The chance to get to understand the Word of God better is a precious commodity to them. As a former writer for Baptist Publishing House

(DiscipleGuide), I have received many letters and e-mails from all over Africa thanking me for the literature. Many other writers have as well.

The BMA of Africa has about 170 churches and missions in Ghana, with an additional 70 or so in other African nations. The field is dynamic and constantly changing. However, it is a strong work and growing larger. In fact, the nation of Burkina Faso sent African missionaries to both the Republic of Congo and to Niger recently. Thousands of souls come to know the Lord each year on the continent of Africa through the efforts of our BMA workers allowing God to lead them.

In Ghana, new missionaries and church workers are trained in the Bible Institute. Dale and Celia Broom operate the Institute as well as help with the "Water for Christ" ministry. This ministry is led by Tim

Tyler in Conway, Arkansas. Contributions from BMA churches fund the ministry. This ministry works with the leaders of the BMA of Africa to bring souls to Christ and into the BMA churches in Ghana. They drill fresh water wells in villages. Through that simple act, not only do the people have better, healthier lives, they also feel the love of Christ shared with them from perfect strangers.

Our missionaries are trained to use Chronological Bible Stories to help the Africans who cannot or will not read. The missionary tells and teaches the stories to the Christians there. Then they in turn learn it well enough to share it with someone else. And the cycle continues. Sometimes they even make up songs using the story so that they may sing as they work and remember the story better. In this way, they have a "Bible" built into their memories.

Please pray for our work in all of Africa. Besides our American missionaries, there are many national missionaries who carry on God's work. Not only do they need our prayers for spiritual guidance, they also need prayers for physical and health reasons. We do have churches in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, where the Ebola outbreak is the strongest. BMA of America has sent "relief funds" to help them out. Thank you for your prayers.

### Big Creek WMA to Meet

The Big Creek Association WMA will meet at First Baptist Church of Calhoun on Monday, November 3. We will begin at 7:00 pm. All are encouraged to attend this quarterly meeting.

Bonnie Brown, President

### Attention WMA

The State WMA meeting will be held at Southeastern College on Tuesday Morning, October 21. The schedule printing in the October 1, 2014 issue incorrectly stated that the meeting would be at First Baptist Church of Shady Grove. We have met there in the past, BUT this year we will meet at the College.

## MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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# Mississippi GMAs

## State Youth Auxiliary Director

Beth Caldwell  
166 Twin Creek Rd,  
Lucedale, MS 39452  
601-947-6011

## State GMA Promoter

Becky Farmer  
464 Churchwell Road  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
601-596-1005  
becky@southforrest.org

## Sunbeam Project 2013-2014

by Sherry Laminack  
National Sunbeam Promoter

The Sunbeams of the BMAA collected \$2,904.05 for the National Sunbeam Project for the year 2013-2014. Our project was Shepherd Bags. Trophies were given to the top three contributors at the National GMA Camp in Gary, Texas, in June.

We feel this is a very worthwhile project. EIM reports that 1 in 3 bags results in the salvation of a soul. We are excited to be involved in such a ministry. Our project for the year 2014-2015 continues to be Shepherd Bags. If your group of Sunbeams would like to get involved, please start collecting for this goal. Your offerings need to be received by May 31, 2015. Trophies are given to groups raising \$500.00 or more and certificates are given to groups raising \$100.00 or more. Please make your checks payable to the National WMA and designate National Sunbeam Project in the memo of your check. Send your money to: Mrs. Pat Duncan, P.



Second place - Lynch View Baptist Church, North Little Rock, Arkansas - \$803.57



Third place - Denver Street Baptist Church, Greenwood, Arkansas - \$516.50

## We Have Rebuilt the Middle Wall of Partition

For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us... Ephesians 2:14. These Apostolic words reference the separating wall that kept the Gentile from the strictly Jewish area of the Temple. Archeologists have found inscriptions of threat of death to those Gentiles who would pass this boundary called the soreg. Paul rejoices in the fact that in Christ Jew and Gentile have been made one. However our congregations today have rebuilt that dividing wall in many ways.

The wall of separation has been rebuilt on cultural, racial, ethnic, even age lines. The most segregated time in America is 11 o'clock on Sunday morning. "Those" people do not talk like we talk, do not dress like we dress, do not have the same standards as "we" do, and certainly their behavior - especially those millennials - does not meet our expectations.

The barricade of division has been reconstructed on political ideology. If you do not vote like "we" vote, then you are not welcome in our church house. After

all "we" know what is politically correct and expediently best for "our" country.

The soreg has been modernized to emphasize educational status. We in "our" group do not favor those of lesser educational standing. We are not too keen on having members who have not participated in higher education as "we" have.



### Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

The blockade that divides has been updated to exclude "those who are not part of the original church founders or families." The members of long standing exclude those newer members to the congregation. After all "we of long standing" have our place.

The obstruction between peoples is commonly erected on financial rank. "Our members" all have a certain income level that excludes those below us. This works both ways. The poor

man is asked to take a lower seat in a wealthy church. The rich man is mistrusted in a poorer group of Christians.

Adiaphora - those non-essential items, those things the Word does not forbid nor command surrounding the Christian faith - is a barrier of hostility reinforced many times over in churches. Shall we have an instrument other than the piano? What about hymn books - if at all and if so what shape shall the notes be and will it be soft or hard back? Which English translation of the Bible shall we use? How many services are there each week? What time are the services to be held? How shall we enforce the unwritten dress code? How shall we grow?

Brothers and sisters of our churches: let us reread and recommit to the words of this passage of Scripture. Let's not rebuild that wall after Christ has paid the ultimate price to take it away. It is His death, burial, and resurrection that enabled God to make us one body regardless of middle walls of partitions that we construct to keep us divided.

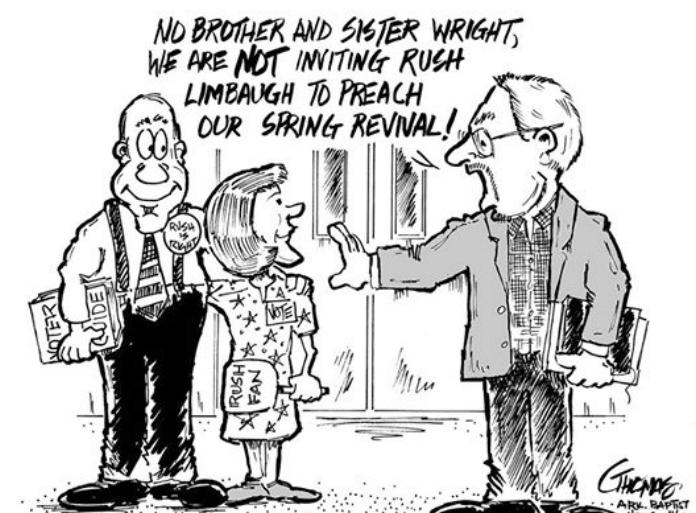
## Celebrate Victories

from page 5

But on a personal level be sure and have little thanksgiving prayers all day and night for the little ways the Lord blessed you throughout your day. If you start watching for them, they will add up each day. He restored power quickly when the electricity went off. He didn't let you burn yourself on the stove tonight. He had you turn left instead of right where the accident happened. Praise the Lord that you have food to eat today. You gripe about your lunch, yet God gave you food for lunch. That is a little victory. Celebrate the little victories each day and you will have a victorious life. You will also be giving thanks more to God. You will really start increasing in your joy and rejoicing more. Not at a revival, but every day.

And then you will fulfill I Thessalonians 5:16-18 which is God's will for your life in Christ Jesus. "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In EVERYTHING give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Celebrate little victories!



## Want to Make a Gift That Keeps Giving?

The **BMA Foundation** provides that opportunity. Your gift is never spent, it is invested and only the earnings are used to support any or all departments of the BMA of America as you specify. Your gift keeps giving until the Lord returns. You may make a cash contribution or contribute through your estate plan. Checks should be made payable to BMA Foundation and mailed to P.O. Box 1188, Conway, Arkansas 72033. For more information, call the BMA Foundation office at 501-329-6891.



# The Master's Builders work in Mississippi

by Nelda Malone, *Master's Builders Reporter*

Our Master's Builders "family" gathered south of Hattiesburg on September 22nd, to help with building a larger sanctuary for South Forrest Baptist Church. South Forrest is a mission church for the BMA of Mississippi.

The Builders put metal on pre-built trusses, framed all the

outside walls, framed the walls for classrooms, pastor's study, and bathrooms on the first floor, built stairs, a balcony, and framed walls for several storage rooms (future classrooms) on the second floor.

We spend two weeks at a church, accomplishing what we can to help with their building

## CHURCH NEWS

News articles should contain information that will be of interest to the general public who are not members of the church that is reporting.

### Hobolochitto Hosts Men's Retreat

The Hobolochitto Baptist Association, along with the Ten Mile and Gulf Associations, recently conducted a Men's Retreat at Campground Baptist Church north of Gulfport. Approximately 25 men enjoyed an afternoon of fishing or golfing, a worship service that night, and a round table discussion on Saturday morning about any issues involving our churches and associations.

One unique event during this retreat was the cooking of a pig in the ground all night Friday night and enjoying the meat from the pig at noon on Saturday.



Speakers for the worship service were Bro. Brian Atwood and Bro. Vernon Watts. Plans are already being made for another retreat around this same time next year.

### Revival Set for First, Bay Springs

First Baptist Church, Bay Springs, Mississippi, extends an invitation for you to worship with us Sunday through Wednesday, November 9-12, 2014. Sunday services will be 11:00 AM & 6:00 PM; week night services at 7:00 PM. Our speaker will be Bro. Travis Plumlee. A nursery will be provided. If you have questions or need further information call 601-670-5005.

### New Years Sing Planned

Pine Ridge Church in Laurel is planning a New Years Eve Quartet gospel sing. Spoken 4 Quartet from Branson, Missouri and Bro's 4 Quartet will be with us on December 31. The program will begin at 6:00 pm at Pine Ridge Baptist Church 220 Service Road Laurel, MS 39443. For more information you may call 601-319-8466.

### Washington Association report.

The 102nd Annual meeting of the Washington Association met at Midway Baptist on September 20th.

Bro. Frank Panzrino was elected as the moderator and Bro. Donald Brown as the Assistant. Bro. Leo Sketo was elected as the clerk and Roy Caldwell as the Assistant. Bro. B.J. Hudson was elected as the Reporter and Margaret Everett as the Assistant. Bro. Milford

Magers was elected as the Treasurer and Frank Everett as the Assistant. Bro. Donald Brown was elected as the Youth Director and Bro. Justin as the Assistant.

The speaker for the 2015 Annual message will be Bro. Frank Panzrino with Bro. Justin Cameron as Alternate.

Reports were given by Bro. Paul Lee, Bro. Fulton Lindsey, Bro. Sidney Davis and Bro. B.J. Hudson read a report from the Senior Adult Commission. Bro. Justin Cameron read a report from the Director of Missions and Bro. Donald Brown gave a report on Youth In Harvest. A report was also read from Dr. Charley Holmes.

Bro. Wade Ivey brought the Annual Message from Luke 5:1-11 entitled "the Purple Worm".

The next Annual meeting will be at Movella Baptist on September 19, 2015. The next monthly meeting will be at Inspire (formerly Harmony) Baptist on October 17, 2014.

B.J. Hudson, Reporter

### Riverside Sets Revival Services

Riverside Baptist Church of Ellisville will hold revival services on October 26-29. Bro. Sidney Davis will be our speaker. Sunday services are at 11:00 and 1:30. Monday - Wednesday services begin at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to come and worship.

Dr. Medrick Savell, pastor

project. The church supplies one meal a day and we always enjoy fellowshiping with the members and it is very hard to say goodbye when it comes time to leave!

Thank you to pastor, Sidney Farmer and wife Becky, for all they did for us. They, along with their three boys, are a hard working family who are dedicated to the Lord and His work. Thank you to John Prickett and the other men of the church who worked along side the Builders, to the women and men who cooked the meals for us, and the ladies who brought some special "treats" to us. Thank you to all!

This has been a very busy year for The Master's Builders. We will begin work at Abundant Life in Christ Missionary Baptist Church in Charleston, Missouri, on October 13. We will have worked eight jobs in 2014 and this will be the 133rd that The Master's Builders have worked since they were organized.

Funds are still coming in for a new tool truck. Thank you to all who have given for this need. Please make this a prayer concern for your church. Any offering can be sent to Office Coordinator, John Mangum at 871 Rough Edge RD, Ruston, LA 71270.

If you have questions about The Master's Builders or would like to join us on a job, you may contact Office Coordinator, John Mangum at 318-202-5155 or (cell) 318-607-4100 or Field Coordinator, Eddie Sikes at 903-725-6549 or (cell) 479-462-1675.

## Results of Master's Builders Help



### Noah's Ark project singled out

(OneNewsNow.com) - The Noah's Ark project planned in Kentucky is now receiving opposition from the state in a clash over freedom of religion.

*Noah's Ark Encounter*, a project of Answers in Genesis, received tax incentives for the park from the state tourism agency in 2011 but because of cutbacks had to reapply with a smaller scope. Ark Encounter Executive Director Mike Zovath tells OneNewsNow they received tentative approval but later received a notice from the state.

"They decided arbitrarily to add a requirement to our application that they don't require of anybody else, and it was basically they want us to eliminate religion from our hiring requirements," he says.

That's in spite of the fact that it is a Christian organization. Zovath was asked if the situation was perhaps created by pressure on the state from Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

"Yeah, I think they use a lot of bullying tactics because they really recognize they don't have a legal position to stand on," he says. "You know we're in the middle of a political year, an election year, and I think they use that to try to make as much noise as they can."

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