

# Mississippi Baptist

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2017 BMA OF MISSISSIPPI ANNUAL MEETING

## New Churches, New Missionaries and a Job Well Done

The churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi held its 2017 meeting in Laurel on October 16-18.

Monday evening the WMA and Brotherhood met. The WMA held a banquet for the ladies in the fellowship hall of First Baptist of Shady Grove. Over 100 ladies were present. They assembled in the sanctuary for a program by Charlotte Johnson of Texas.

The Brotherhood met at Southeastern College and heard from state missionary Dale Broome. On Tuesday morning the WMA held their annual business meeting (see report on page 7 of this issue).

The annual message on Tuesday evening was brought by Bro. Ed Steele. Using Zeph 3:14-17 Bro. Steele spoke of "What a great savior we have in Jesus".



Bro. Ed Steele

### Townhall Meeting

A Townhall meeting was held at 10:00 am Tuesday morning. The directors of the four departments of the BMA of America gave presentations on their specific ministries, shared progress from the past year and plans for the future. A common theme of the meeting was the cooperation between the departments and the unified goal of reaching the world for Christ.

It was noted that the overall efforts of each work complemented the mission of the others.

### Association Business

The 2017 annual session began Tuesday afternoon on the campus of Southeastern College.

Earlier in the morning the college held a photo hanging ceremony in honor of former president Danny Pitts. Bro. Pitts passed away almost two years ago while serving in this office. His photo joins all previous presidents in the college library.

### New Churches

Three new churches joined the Association. Those are listed in the photograph on this page.

### Future Meetings and Speakers

The 2018 Annual meeting will again meet on the campus of Southeastern College. The annual message will be brought by State Missionary Wesley Martin with Bro. Dewitt Bain serving as the alternate.

The May 2018 midyear meeting will be held at Central Church in Southaven, Mississippi. Anders Lee is the missionary pastor and is supported by the state missions department. Jason Goodwin, pastor of FBC of Shady Grove, Laurel will bring the message with Missionary Phillip Burns being the alternate.

### New Member Churches



Pictured above are messengers from the three new churches were welcomed into the state association during the 2017 annual meeting. Left to right: Bro. & Mrs. Denny Patterson of Belle Fontaine Baptist Church, Theodore, Alabama; Bro. & Mrs. Sidney Farmer of South Forrest Baptist Church near Hattiesburg; and Bobby Elliot of Friendship Baptist Church, Burnsville.

### Rule Changes

A constitutional change was presented by the Nominating Committee. The change allows department trustees to serve 3 consecutive terms of 3 years each. The previous limit was 2 consecutive terms.

The Publications Trustees presented a request to change the wording of the requirements for trustees to allow a woman to serve. One is currently serving and this just updated the by-laws to reflect current practice.

### Representation

Fifty seven churches were represented by messenger with an additional 31 represented by letter only. 119 messengers were registered along with 42 visitors.

### Reports

Each department report given

Mitchell.

Nominating Committee members elected for a two year term are Dennis Knight, Vernon Newman, and Greg Medenwald.

### Salaries

The Salary Committee recommendation for department directors was an across the board increase of a maximum of 5%.

### Missionaries

Two new missionaries were introduced to the messengers. Bro. Dale Broome is serving in South Hattiesburg and has begun holding services. Bro. Will Hutchinson, a native Mississippian who has been serving in Texas will begin working in the D'Iberville area on the Gulf Coast. He is scheduled to begin in November.



Dale Broome



Will Hutchinson

at the meeting is printed in this issue. One commission report is printed and others will be shared when they are available.

### Committees

The Enrollment Committee for 2018 will consist of Steven Clark, Richie Hester, and Ricky

Department Reports located throughout this issue

### 2017-18 Association Officers



2017-18 BMA of Mississippi Officers left to right: President Justin Rhodes, 1stVP Greg Medenwald, 2nd VP Bryan Atwood, Clerk Justin Cameron, Asst. Clerk Ted Quinby, and Director of Public Information Don Brown

This issue is late due to illness. With the annual meeting so near the 15th, we held this issue until after the meeting. We will get back on schedule with our November issues.

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



Larry Geraldson  
Director



www.bmams.org - 601.428.8616



State Missionaries and Wives



Phillip & Dawn  
Burns



Kenneth & Carole  
Pollock



Bobby & Lesa  
Elliott



Danny & Brenda  
Bartlett



Sidney & Becky  
Farmer



Dale & Celia  
Broome



Wesley & Holley  
Martin



Anders & Carla  
Lee



Bob & Edie Burch



Estuardo &  
Yasmine Marroquin



Ed & Patricia  
DuVall

Director's Annual Report To BMA of Mississippi

"So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us." 1 Thess 2:8a

God has blessed us with another good year. He has multiplied our efforts even more than we could ever imagine. As I begin my report today I want to take a moment to honor 4 men for, "A Job Well Done."

Bro. Bob Burch began a new church plant in Caledonia, MS in March of 2012. When he and Edie and their son, Justin, moved to the area, they didn't know anyone. Today, Caledonia Baptist Church routinely has over 100 in Sunday morning services, and their membership stands at 109. Bro. Burch has done an outstanding job and deserves the honor of "A Job Well Done."

Also, we want to honor Bro. Sidney Farmer. He and his wife Becky began planting a church in South Forrest county in April of 2012 that has a membership of 52 with regular attendance in the mid-60's. Bro. Farmer has demonstrated tremendous perseverance in the face of two building projects and the great task of discipling his people. I am honored to say to him, "Job Well Done."

Bro. Bobby Elliott has completed that task of planting a church in Burnsville, MS which has a membership of 64. Freedom Baptist Church is now debt free and has taken her place among the family of churches that make up the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. "Well Done," Bro. Elliott!

Bro. Elvis Garcia came to the U.S. approximately 14 years ago to join State Missions in an effort to reach Hispanic people with the gospel. He has planted a church in Ripley, established a Bible Institute, trained, and sent out missionaries and served as a Coordinator of Hispanic Missions. He and his wife, Wendy and their boys are leaving us for a ministry in Little Rock, AR. They will be missed but we wish them Godspeed and today we honor them for a "Job Well Done."

Today, I begin my 7th year as your Director and I am as excited today, as I was the first day I stepped into the

position. I am delighted to begin my report by telling you that three of our missions, Caledonia, South Forrest and Freedom, have organized as New Testament Churches and two more, Grace in Clinton and Harvest in Olive Branch are scheduled to organize before the end of the year.

It is my great privilege to report to you that we have two new missionaries since our Mid-Year meeting, Bro. Dale Broom, who most of you know about, and Bro. Will Hutchinson who is scheduled to

in their building by the end of the year.

The Revolving Loan Fund Trustees recently approved a loan for Day Star in Sumrall, and a loan for Redemption Baptist Mission in Diamondhead.

Concurrent with this, the Revolving Loan Fund Trustees approved the use of \$100,000.00, from the Missions Discretionary Fund, to be used to fund Matching Fund campaigns for Day Star and Redemption. From October 15th until the end of January, we will match up to \$50,000.00 raised by these missions.



Four Missionaries and their wives and families are recognized for "a job well done"

begin November 1. I am in the process of talking with two other men about the possibility of serving as State Missionaries. My prayer is that we can add at least one more missionary in the upcoming year.

We have 21 men who are presently involved in missions activity that we are supporting (directly or indirectly). These men have engaged 3457 new people, and they shared the gospel 2074 times. This is approximately the same as the year before but the outcome was much better. We witnessed a 59% increase in professions of faith, 61% increase in baptisms and overall membership in our missions increased by 54%. Efforts are being made to train these people so that they can join the ranks of those who are living out their faith in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ.

We have two building projects that are nearing completion. Grace Baptist Mission is scheduled to hold their first service in their new building on November 5, 2017. Central in Southaven should be

We continue to work hard to improve the efficiency of our mission's operation. This past year we closed our books right at 90/10. This is an improvement over the previous year which was 84/16. This means when we take measure of all our expenditures, right at \$.90 on every dollar we received for State Missions was expensed directly to the missionaries. My goal for the upcoming year is to reach 95/5 and with the help of the Revolving Loan fund assuming some office expenses, I am confident we will get there.

Our 2017 Annual Audit is complete and Missions ended the year in the black for the 6th year in a row. Our Auditors gave us an, "Unmodified Opinion" again this year. During his audit report the Auditor said that this is the highest opinion that can be given. I want to specifically recognize Ms Kim Parker, our Office Manager, who is our sole Book Keeper for Missions and Revolving Loan Fund. She has done a superb job and is a priceless asset to our operation.

I also want to express my deep appre-

ciation to Bro. Vernon Newman, our Revolving Loan Fund Manager. He has done an outstanding job. He will be sharing a separate report on Revolving Loan Fund.

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

I want to express my appreciation to the people who served on our Missionary Committee, led by Chairman James Sprayberry and our Revolving Loan Fund Trustees, led by Chairman Kenneth Lott, this past year. Thank you for all the time and attention that you give to our work.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation to my wife, Cherita. She does not like for me to recognize her and I seldom do, but after six years, I think it is ok for me to tell her how much I appreciate her willingness to give up her work, her home, her closeness to her grandchildren, etc., to follow me as I follow the Lord along this great journey of faith.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your Director and I covet your prayers as we face the challenges of the upcoming year.

Prayerfully Submitted,  
Larry Geraldson

Director of Missions and RLF  
Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Revolving Loan Fund Annual Report

Vernon Newman, Manager

The FY2017 report to the Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi is that the RLF remains strong in our fiscal status as well as in our support to Missions. As the RLF Manager, I want to thank our churches for being involved in the support role that the RLF serves to the Missions Department. Our churches and members putting their funds on deposit in the RLF is what allows loans to be made to support our Missions and Churches. To continue to grow the RLF, we need more of our churches and members to come on board with us by opening a Deposit Account in

continued on page 3

FROM DISCIPLEGUIDE

## Feed the Momentum!

by Dr. Scott Attebery, Director  
When I hear the word “Potluck,” I immediately think of Ms. White’s homemade sour dough bread and Mrs. Patterson’s chocolate pie! Those are sweet memories, and not



just because of the food. The local church is where we share life’s most important moments with life’s closest friends. We profess Christ and are baptized in a local church. We take marriage vows and raise our children in a local church. We watch future missionaries and pastors grow up in Sunday School classes and serve in the youth group. We send out faithful families to take the gospel overseas in local churches.

God works through local churches like the ones in the Baptist Missionary Association of America.

That’s why it is so exciting to

see what God is doing right now in our association! We have more missionary families around the world than in our entire history. Meanwhile, the BMA Theological Seminary is raising up world-class preachers. And Lifeword is broadcasting in 40 languages! During recent disasters, BMAA churches have rallied to help hurricane victims. And every year we send Christmas gifts to children all over the world!

Everything God is doing through the BMAA runs through our local churches. After all, our association is the churches!

At DiscipleGuide, our mission is to help local BMAA churches grow healthy and strong. We know that the future of our world mission program depends on the health of our churches at home.

Everything God is doing through the BMAA runs through our local churches

In addition to our camps, conferences, and curriculum, we offer free and low-cost consultation and training services to churches. Plus, we provide pastors and their families with a free help-line so they can always have access to Christian counsel.

We have plans to offer more resources in the near future, such as an intentional interim program and pastoral search assistance. We envision workshops and resources developed for the unique needs of bi-vocational pastors plus events spe-

cific to men and women. And we are looking forward to offering printed literature once again for youth and children. But we are going to need help.

Because we keep our prices low, we depend on offerings from churches and individuals. When you invest in DiscipleGuide, you are investing in local churches who, in return, reach the world for Christ!

God is doing wonderful things through our association. Help us feed the momentum by joining in our World’s Largest Potluck offering during this holi-

day season. Simply take an offering for DiscipleGuide during a church-wide holiday meal, and we will reinvest it into local churches around our association.

Just like at a potluck, when everyone brings something to the table, nobody walks away empty. It’s the same with our association. We pool our resources to help one another because we are better together.

To learn more, or to sign up your church, visit [discipleguide.org/potluck](http://discipleguide.org/potluck) or call 888.333.1442.

## Children's Home Special Emphasis October - November 2017

Greetings from the Mississippi Baptist Children’s Home:

Once again, it is that time of the year for the Special Emphasis period for the Home. We certainly want to express our sincere appreciation, gratefulness, and thankfulness for your continued prayerful and financial support for the vital ministry of the Children’s Home.



We live in an age and period where the sanctity of life is under attack, even in our own nation. It is so sad to recognize the fact that many people consider an unborn baby as a nuisance. In today’s society many times babies are looked upon as burdens to bear rather than blessings to share. By many, babies in the womb are seen as dreaded tumors to be removed and destroyed, instead of persons to be received and enjoyed with arms that are reaching out to welcome them with love. Psalm 127:3; Mark 10:14.

This is where the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Children’s Home comes into play. A Home where the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of children are met. We are asking you to partner with us in meeting these needs by participating in this year’s Special Emphasis during the months of October and November. We would like to suggest to you to consider designating Sunday, November 12th, as “Children’s Home Emphasis Sunday.” We would like for you to have special prayer for the outreach and ministry of the Home on that day. Also, we would like for you to prayerfully consider receiving an Emphasis Offering for this ministry. Will you help us in reaching our goal of \$25,000.00?

God bless you as you partner with us in caring for the needs of children. Caring for God’s Heritage, Psalm 127:3

Sidney D. Davis  
Director

## Revolving Load Fund

from page 2

the RLF. As evidence by the history of the RLF, the Lord has truly blessed our efforts. By becoming a Depositor with the RLF, you too can become a part of what the Lord will bless in the future.

The RLF continues to offer 2.17% rates to our depositors and presently only charges 4.25% rates to our BMA of MS churches. During FY17, we were able to make 16 new loans for a value of \$2,268,895.00. Since the inception of the RLF in the early 1960s, the RLF has made a total of 577 new or refinanced loans for a value of \$71,078,260.00. The RLF already has over 17 new Inquiries or Requests for over \$2,798,000.00 in future loans.

The Annual Audit of the RLF for FY2017 has been completed and the findings have been worded as “An Unqualified Opinion”, the highest audit opinion that can be received (a copy of the audit is available upon request). The Management Practices that are in place in the office received complementary comments from the auditors.

The Lord has truly blessed the efforts and hard work of the RLF and through his blessings, a strong financial position has positioned us to be used by Him for the future of his Church.

Special thanks and words of appreciation are in order for Ms Kim Parker in her role as the Office Manager for the BMA of MS Missions and Revolving Loan Fund Department. She truly is talented in her position and due to her rich history with the RLF, is able to offer customer support to each of our account holders that is unparalleled.

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

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



Don Brown

# Mississippi Baptist

## Opinion Page

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Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Don Brown - Editor

### Editor's 2017 Annual Report BMA of Mississippi

I stand before this assembly today to present my 40th Annual Report. At a special called meeting of our Association at Creston Hills Baptist Church in Jackson in March of 1978, I was elected to the position of Editor of your Mississippi Baptist Paper and director of the Christian Publications Department. As we are all more aware each day, 'Time Stands Still For No One'.

This past Wednesday, October 11, 2017 was the 50th anniversary of my approaching a young sophomore in college and introducing myself. The result of that introduction was a date two days later on Friday the 13th. The result of that date and short courtship was our marriage just 6 short months later. While reflecting on those events last week they became more real and precious due to the specific anniversary being the 50th.

That personal contemplation caused me to reflect on those 50 years and the blessings that have followed. Those actions brought a directional change in my life and influences that led ultimately to my salvation in Christ. I shudder to think of the direction my life would have taken if I had not married into the family of Bonnie Roberts.

That time of personal reflection brought me to consider the past 40 years of ministry. What would life have been like without that election in 1978? I do not question my choice of a wife nor do I question the direction my life has taken.

I know that our God is a sovereign God and nothing happens without His permission and plans. While many of us often have our own ideas, plans, and aspirations, we must be confident and content with the direction our Lord sets for us. It is up to us to seek His way and bow to His will. God has been good!

Our theme for this year's meeting is "Ready for Harvest" taken from Matthew 9:35-38. You have heard the President's message; you have heard other department reports; you have heard many other references to this theme; ... I shall also comment on the Harvest.



Special Music during recent annual meeting

1. We see from verse 37 that there is a harvest to be had and one to be expected. Jesus tells his disciples and us that "...The harvest truly is plenteous..." That is a positive declaration! There is a harvest to be had...

2. The harvest is large! Plenteous means abundant! Abundant implies it is there for the taking!

3. The harvest is in need of workers. I am from the Mississippi Delta. Many in my family were farmers. When the cotton was ready to pick you could tell because the fields were white unto harvest. In times past individuals would get

their cotton sack, put on their long sleeves, put on their wide brimmed hats, and hit the fields. There was only a certain time to harvest and their was only a limited time to harvest. When the farms were mechanized the farmer got into his cotton picker and he hit the fields. If there were not enough workers to pick the cotton there was the danger of losing the crop. If the cotton picker was broken, there was danger of losing the crop. If the weather turned violent and wet, there was danger of losing the crop.

The harvest belonged to the farmer, the owner of the land. What he relied on was sufficient hands to get the job done. That is my job, that is your job, that is the church's job, that is the believer's job. We are the hands or laborers that God desires to send into His fields.



SBC President Scott Carson and Trustee Matt Hudson hanging photo of former SBC President Danny Pitts

Each ministry that is worthy of being supported by this Association is part of the 'labor force' the Lord uses to reap the harvest. The fields have been white for 2,000 years and will continue to be white until He consummates His plan and gathers all unto himself.

Your Mississippi Baptist Paper is a vital part of this work and an indispensable link to our churches and the individuals in the pew. I believe that every

BMA church member should have the paper delivered to their home. They deserve to and should be in contact with and hear from the ministries that their church supports. By being a member church of this Association, I believe each church should feel a sincere desire to share the needs and work that they are a part of with their individual members. It seems it would be easier to ask my church to support missions, benevolence, Christian education, conferences, local

report continued on page 8

### AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

#### Ambrose Webster

Ambrose G. Webster, II is available for supply preaching and pastoral consideration as the Spirit leads. He is currently the associate pastor and youth director for the Homestretch BMA Church in Cleveland, Mississippi. He is licensed and has been preaching since 2011. He was ordained June, 2017. He has been a youth director since 2005. Ambrose is happily married since 1998 and has a 12 year old son.

In addition, he is currently a certified teacher at Shelby Middle School in Shelby, Mississippi where he teaches technology classes and 5th grade math. Ambrose Webster, a Navy veteran, has been a teacher, coach, and bus driver for Mississippi public schools in the Mississippi Delta since 1995. He can be reached by cell phone at 662-588-8330 after 4 pm or at agwebsterii@gmail.com.

If you need more information please call Bro Ed DuVall, BMA of Mississippi Coordinator of African American Missions and Pastor of HomeStretch Baptist Church, (662) 402-8222.

# Mississippi Baptist

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The WMA held a banquet for the ladies on Monday evening

# Southeastern Baptist College

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

## President's Annual Report October 6, 2017

Since last year's report much has changed here at Southeastern Baptist College. Immediately after the fall 2016 semester, our beloved President, Brother Danny Pitts, underwent emergency heart bypass surgery and passed away just prior to Christmas. We were all very shocked by his death, but we know Brother Danny, even now, is rejoicing in the presence of his Savior.

The Board of Trustees met in early January, 2017 and appointed Dr. Scott Carson as Interim President while still serving as Academic Dean. In May, 2017, Dr. Carson was elected President of SBC by the BMA of Mississippi during their mid-year session.

Southeastern Baptist College closed out the spring 2016 semester and successfully graduated 11 students with 12 degrees awarded on May 17, 2017. A summer classroom course was offered and taught by Dr. Parker. The 2017 fall semester is at its midway point with a total of 40 students. Of note is that all our fall term courses are exclusively online except one. This phenomenon occurred naturally as students elected to take their courses online rather than in the classroom. This has resulted in significant payroll savings for the college.

As it became apparent that our classrooms would be significantly underutilized now and into the near future, the Lord led the Director of the Excellence in Learning Academy, a hybrid Christian homeschool organization, to connect with Dr. Carson. They were looking to move to a better location with more space as they were quickly outgrowing their previous facilities. The ELA now rents our classroom spaces bringing much activity to our campus with a k-12 curriculum. This arrangement is agreed to be a temporary one year lease. The needs of both organizations will be reassessed at the end of the lease to determine if the arrangement is working out for both parties.

This Fall Semester also includes a master's level course offered through the BMATS on our campus with Dr. Carson teaching it. We have three local pastors and one licensed minister taking the class. We anticipate additional master level course opportunities in partnership with the BMATS and eventually cross walking future master courses to be offered solely through SBC.

Our Special Emphasis Month was a tremendous success! Our goal was to raise \$20,000 and we have received in excess of \$32,000. Much of this money came in before our fiscal year ended which enabled the school to remain in the black for FY16-17. SBC is required to remain in the black for FY17-18 and FY18-19 before making application for accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Thank you to all the BMA of MS churches and individuals who helped us achieve step one toward this primary goal set by our college president! The extra monies received have enabled us to address several infrastructure needs including the painting of the front and sides of the gym, new carpet on the gym stage, numerous repairs and replacement to HVAC units, and roof repairs.

SBC has hosted several events that helped the college become better known in our region and throughout Mississippi. In May, the college hosted the National Day of Prayer Breakfast for Jones County. This was a very successful venture as the school partnered with numerous churches of various denominations in Jones County. In August, SBC conducted the Presidential Inauguration event with Lieutenant Governor Reeves in attendance as well as several other dignitaries participating. It was a highly successful affair and was included in local newspapers and newscasts. The Lieutenant Governor soon thereafter appointed Dr. Carson to the newly formed Faith Based Initiative Committee that advises the Governor on religious matters.

Leading up to the fall 2017 semester, SBC conducted its first television commercial in many years which assisted in reestablishing the school within our region, in recruiting prospective students, and in energizing the college's BMA of Mississippi support base. We will rerun the commercial soon, advertising the upcoming spring 2018 semester.

Dr. Carson has formulated a Strategic Planning Committee consisting of three highly motivated individuals for the promotion of the college. Initiatives the committee are working towards include the Brother Danny Pitts Picture Addition Event to the Wall of Presidents; an Indi-



Dr. Scott Carson  
President



Pictured above are SBC President Dr. Scott Carson (left), Bro. Danny Pitts' Mother Mrs. Betty Pitts, Mrs. Danny (Helen) Pitts, and Trustee Matt Hudson.

Mrs. Helen Pitts was presented a Presidential Medallion during the ceremony of hanging of the photo of former SBC President Danny Pitts. Bro. Pitts photo joined all former presidents of Southeastern in the SBC Library.

vidual Donor Recognition Dinner in late November with a Church Donor Event to be planned; a Christian Concert hosted in our gym December 31; the Danny Pitts Lecture Series scheduled for Feb/Mar 2018; the SBC 70th Anniversary Celebration to be announced; a reenergizing of the Alumni Association; as well as several other plans in the works. In addition, Southeastern Baptist College has added two official volunteer positions: Recruiter filled by Brother Justin Rhodes and Fund Raiser, filled by Brother Chris Floyd. Both are greatly inspired in the support of SBC.

March 2018 will prove to be an exciting period of time for our college staff and leadership as the school hosts the ten year evaluation team from our accrediting agency, the Association for Biblical Higher Education. Please keep SBC's staff in your prayers as we prepare and host this extremely important event.

SBC has formulated five Strategic Talking Points for the college. All who support the college are encouraged to share these points in their promotion of SBC. The talking points are:

1. SBC Equips the Saints (Assisting our churches to meet this biblical mandate)
2. SBC is Christ Focused (Our purpose and foundation for existence)
3. SBC is Biblically Centered

- (Our authority for everything we teach)
4. SBC is of Highest Quality (With numerous awards, student accolades, professional teachers)
5. SBC is Accredited (Transferrable to over 200 colleges and universities)

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

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



National workers taking part in Townhall meeting left to right Donny Parrish of Lifeward; Dr. Scott Attebery of DiscipleGuide; Dr. Charley Holmes of BMA Seminary and Dr. John David Smith of BMAA Missions.

# MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

118 LOWE ROAD, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39443 - (601) 426-3928  
SIDNEY DAVIS - DIRECTOR



SIDNEY DAVIS

## Children's Home Annual Report

### The Harvest

This year's theme of the BMA of Mississippi's 2017 annual session is "Seeing the Harvest Through His Eyes". Matthew 9:35-38. What do you think about when you hear the word harvest? There is no doubt what Jesus was referring to when He mentioned harvest in this passage. He is expressing a desire in reaching lost humanity with the gospel of the kingdom of God. Let us see the harvest of lost souls through the eyes of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May we do the work He has called us to do. May we pray that indeed He would call more workers into the fields that are "white already to harvest." John 4:35. Jesus has issued the challenge and call to work in His field. How will we respond to that call?

### Financial Report

The financial review reveals for this past fiscal year that offerings and receipts fell short of expenditures. This year we had a shortfall of \$2,000 per month in meeting our budget. As you know, over the past several years general operating funds have not kept up with expenses in the operation of the Home. We have made cutbacks in salaries. Salary increases were not given for a number of years, with the exception of last year, and there will be no salary increases for this fiscal year. We have also sliced other expenses that are involved in the operation of the Home.

I am personally encouraging the churches of the BMA of Mississippi to rise to the occasion and prayerfully consider an increase of your support to this ministry. Also, those churches who do not have this ministry in their regular budget to prayerfully consider placing

the Home in your budget. Your prayerful consideration is deeply appreciated.

### A Ministry to Children

You are having a direct influence on the lives of children through the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home. One of the most important things we can do for children in today's world is to expose them to the teachings of God's Word so that they might be saved and become a true follower of Jesus Christ. We rejoice to be able to report that one of the girls and one of the boys at the Home made a public profession of their faith in Jesus Christ and have followed Him in believer's baptism. Praise the Lord for their salvation and remember them in your prayers as they grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord.

### Special Emphasis 2017

Will you help us reach our goal of \$25,000 this year? This will go a long way in helping us reach our budget in the coming year.

We would like to suggest to you to consider designating November 12th as "Children's Home Emphasis Sunday." We would like for you to have special prayer for the outreach and ministry of the Home. Also, we would like for you to prayerfully consider and Emphasis Offering for this ministry.

### Christmas Sharing

Each year during the holiday season many of you share your generosity with the children at Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated and brightens the lives of our girls and boys. If you would like to help this year at Christmas time you may contact us about your desire to help and we will assist you concerning

your wishes to share with the children at Christmas.

### Rallies for Home

We are grateful for the associations that continue to host rallies for the Home. Our thanks goes out to each church, association, and individual who participates in these rallies.

### Staff and Trustees

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the staff of the Home and their dedication in serving the Lord through the ministry of the Home. Also, I extend my appreciation to the board of trustees for their faithful service to this

ministry.

### Expression of Sympathy

We would like to express our sympathy to the family of Bro. David Kinnebrew. Bro. Kinnebrew died unexpectedly recently. His presence will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the Kinnebrew family.

### Remember in Prayer

Pray for the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home that we will continue to provide children with the loving warmth of Christian life and up-bringing in an atmosphere that brings glory and honor to the Lord.

## BMA of Mississippi Youth Department

Phone 662-316-6233 [www.facebook.com/bmamamyouth](http://www.facebook.com/bmamamyouth)



Kelby Johnson  
Director

### 2017 Annual Youth Director's Report

It is good to be with you today and it is good to be home at Southeastern.

### Sharpen 2017

On Saturday, February 18 several leaders from our churches met at Temple Baptist church in Laurel. Brother Cliff Jenkins was a gracious host that night. Brother Josh Daniels taught the group on the topic of the necessity of the Word of God in life and ministry. After a very good message from Brother Josh, the group had some very helpful discussion related to the word of God, family, and ministry. We also spent time in prayer.

How many of you enjoy the fellowship of our state meeting? What do you talk about as you stand around and chat? Sharpen reminds me that we could all be helped by more regular small group discussion where we can share with each other our burdens and blessings, our victories and defeats. Sharpen is an attempt to provide some basic leadership inspiration to our churches.

In 2018, we will meet on a Saturday, February 10 at Shiloh Baptist Church in Mt. Olive.

Bro. Bryson Haden and some lay people at his church have developed a mentorship type ministry for their youth and I've asked him to share about that at Sharpen. We will have more information coming out soon so please consider making this a part of our ministry calendar.

The highlight of our 2017 youth ministry was our State Youth Camp. We met at Waukaway Springs Christian Retreat Center on June 5-7, 2017. We had our consistent number of near 100 attendees. We had a Pastor from Texas, Bro. Mark Williams, who did our music this year. He was wonderful in leading our camp through song that glorified Christ.

Bro. Donny Parrish was our speaker. He did an outstanding job preaching the Word of God in a way that challenged children, teenagers, and adults. We've had good camps for the last several years and this one seemed to continue the trend of good preaching that leads to lives being changed. As a matter of fact, there were several saved as a result of the preaching ministry of the camp. Glory to God! That's what it is all about!

As always, I want to highly encourage you to consider attending our camp. It will once again be at Waukaway Springs in Vossburg! Consider bringing some youth. It doesn't matter how many you bring, but I ask that you pray about it. Please contact me for more information and stay tuned to the paper as we will announcing more information soon.

One point Bro. Donny drove home at camp this year was "Obedience is your highest form of worship."

I like that. You can sing and go to a church building all you want, but if you don't obey the Scriptures, you aren't fulfilling a life of worship.

I actually added one word to it. I added the word "joyful."

So "joyful" obedience is your highest form of worship.

What better way to worship our Lord than to obey His Word and to do it from a heart of joy. May we serve Him and may we minister to those God has given us with a joyful obedience. And may he receive all the praise due His name!

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

## Special Emphasis

October  
November  
2017  
Goal  
\$25,000



## WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

### President

Beth Caldwell  
166 Twin Creek Rd  
Lucedale, MS 39452  
601-947-60118

### Corresponding Secretary

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

## BMA of Mississippi WMA Annual Meeting

October 16-17, 2017

First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel, Mississippi  
by Beth Caldwell, President

The First WMA sponsored Ladies Banquet was held on Monday, October, 16, 2017 at 6:30 PM at First Baptist Church of Shady Grove. There were 105



Banquet speaker National WMA 2nd Vice-president Charlotte Johnson with State WMA President Beth Caldwell

in attendance. Charlotte Johnson, National WMA Second Vice President was the guest speaker.

The Mississippi State WMA met October 17, 2017 at 9:00 AM at First Baptist Church of Shady Grove with President, Beth Caldwell presiding. Cherita Geraldson brought the devotion; Lynn Brown led in prayer. Bonnie Brown gave the welcome and Ruby Bynum gave the re-

sponse. President Beth Caldwell recognized Bro. and Mrs. Dale Broom and had them give a report on the water wells in Ghana West Africa.

Linda Smith and Marilyn Welborn spoke and thanked the ladies for supporting the "Water for Christ" project.

President Beth Caldwell opened the Business Meeting. There were no petitionary letters. Linda Dertinger gave the Registration Committee report. There were 19 churches, 26 messengers and 8 visitors.

Bonnie Brown read the minutes from the officers meeting and minutes of the 2016-17 meeting and mid-year meeting. Motion made to adopt with corrections. Motion approved.

Shirlene Smith gave the Treasurer's Report. Motion and second to approve this report. Motion approved. The "Water for Christ" project received \$9,981.54 which will be rounded off to \$10,000.00. This makes a total given by the WMA of Mississippi over the period of 2 years of \$25,000.00 (or 5 water wells).

Lane Flynt gave a report from the Resolution committee. Linda Smith led in the prayer of adoption of the Resolution Report after motion to adopt and motion approval. That Resolution



2017-18 Mississippi State WMA Officers

is as follows:  
Resolution

We the women of the Mississippi WMA resolve to live our lives in a way that will bring glory to God. To share our time and lives with other young ladies and girls teaching them to be ambassadors of Christ through discipleship. Seeking also to train these girls and ladies to disciple others to continue the work of the Great Commission as given to us in Matthew 28:19-20. We understand this means more than just sharing the gospel. This requires us to be disciple makers helping create disciple makers; for this

necessary in growing the Kingdom of God.

The Project for the 2017-18 year will be Carl Sookraj, missionary to Peru for the orphanage he will be starting (75% to the project and 25% to the General Fund). Motion and second to adopt. Motion approved.

The following officers were elected for 2017-2018: President Beth Caldwell; First Vice-president Theresa Reus; Second Vice-

president Elaine Smith; Third Vice-president Jessica Haden; Treasurer Shirlene Smith; Assistant Treasurer Barbara White; Recording Secretary Bonnie Brown; Assistant Recording Secretary Jeanelle Burkes; Historian/Media Ginny Singleton; Editor Rita Clark; Pianist Pat Davis; Song Director Sabrina Clayton; Director – Youth Auxiliaries Becky Farmer; GMA/YLA Promoter Lsa Christian; Sunbeam Promoter Linda Dertinger; Project Promoters Linda Smith and Marilyn Welborn; Advisory Council Don Brown, Bryson Haden, B.J. Hudson; Retreat Committee Chairman Jessica Haden; and Co-Chairman Beth Caldwell.

Elaine Smith led in the installation for the officers using John 3:16 as her text.

Jean Knight gave the Hand of Appreciation to Cherita Geraldson for the devotion.

Dismissal prayer was led by Theresa Reus.

## Children's Home Special Emphasis

Our goal - \$25,000

## From The Mind of Chuck Lee

### Photoshopped

I wish I had taken the time to research this topic a bit more before wading out into the ocean of computer-speak. It may have prevented me from venturing into the tide that carried me further into the depths of a language of "I's" and "O's" that have taken over the populace of today's youth. In other words, I probably should learn to swim before I go scuba diving.

The issue is whether the correct spelling is, "photo-shopped", or "photo-chopped". I assumed that photo-shopped was the right spelling, thinking that you simply shop around until you find the right physique to place your head upon. Then I thought, photochopped, because you have chopped your head off and placed it on someone else's body. Maybe I just think too much.

Either way, (is that pronounced eether, or ither?), it has led me into the topic of what you can and can't believe when looking at photographs on the social pages of the internet.

People can get rather upset over a sign that someone has held up, only to find out later, that sign has been passed around to different locations of the country for different events. I hate getting upset

with some famous person for holding up a sign that I found out was simply photo...um...chopped (?), shopped (?). My righteous indignation is left with it's mouth agape saying, "Whaaaaat"? And then I feel smug when I see someone else, who thinks they are exceptionally brilliant, fall for the same artistic license of a computer scammer that I discovered was a phony. It's the little pleasures in life.

Then I realized how easily we are deceived. We observe something and believe it to be truth; truth with the physique of a



Bro. Chuck Lee

body builder. Church signs, famous quotes, Hollywood actors, and inspirational speakers are all great at giving us a new spin on what is really the truth. Then we try and justify the new and improved truth because of the wittiness of the saying. Over

*After awhile, we may not even be able to recognize the truth in it's original form*

time, we begin to believe a lie on intellectual terms instead of believing the truth that is spiritually discerned.

So, whether we are shopping around to give the word of God a "better" look, or even chopping around to trim up the gospel, maybe we ought to leave perfection alone. After awhile, we may not even be able to recognize the truth in it's original form. And by the way, the correct terminology is "photoshop". I had to look it up. It was driving me crazy. Although "photochop" has a nice ring to it.

*Lee serves as pastor of Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis.*



A large crowd was in attendance at First Baptist Church of Shady Grove in Laurel for the Ladies Banquet held as part of this year's WMA meeting. A soup & salad meal was provided with officers of the State WMA serving the ladies and guests. After the banquet the ladies assembled in the church sanctuary for the program. Charlotte Johnson brought an inspiring program with music by Sabrina Clayton.

# COMMISSION ON *History & Archives*

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440  
601-794-8861



Ed Steele  
Director

## History & Archives Annual Report

The History and Archive Commission continues to be a source of record keeping for our churches and the local Associations in the State of Mississippi. You are able to search the files to discover historical data on your church, your local Association, or the BMA of Mississippi. The bookcase contains books and pamphlets written and provided by the pastors and

members of our churches. Other interesting memorabilia are also there for you to look over. One item donated this year (I believe by Bro. Edward Williams) is a Bible that belonged to Bro. Luther Parrish in his early ministry.

In years to come, someone will be searching for information on your local church and that is why it is important for you to continue sending bulletins and

programs from any special service such as a Revival, Homecoming, Church Anniversary, Pastor Appreciation, etc., to be added to the current file. The history of your local association can best be kept up-to-date when the clerks send yearly copies of their Minutes as soon as they are printed.

We would also like to thank the churches who have been faithful in supporting the Commission financially. Our total income this year was \$2,159.49. Our expenses were \$1,552.50. Normally, our only expense goes to SBC to subsidize the cost of utilities and the salary of the Librarian. This year, however, I took the initiative of instructing Mrs. Tidwell, our Bookkeeper, to also transfer funds from this account to SBC to subsidize the work she does in keeping the financial records. After hearing Dr. Carson report

on the need for special offerings in June to help Southeastern finish the year in the black, I called Mrs. Tidwell and asked her to go ahead and make all these transfers before the end of June. Therefore, when you send offerings to the History and Archive Commission you are also helping Southeastern.

Thanks again to Southeastern Baptist College for providing space in the Library to store all of our files. The SBC Librarian (Mrs. Amy Hinton) oversees the archive of all our material and the Bookkeeper (Mrs. Sandy Tidwell) keeps our financial records in addition to their regular duties at Southeastern. Any item or offering should be mailed to History & Archive Commission at Southeastern Baptist College, 4229 Highway 15N, Laurel, MS 39440.

## Editor's Annual Report from page 4

work, state-wide work, and God's work around the world if the members of my church were regularly kept up-to-date with the overall work of the Baptist Missionary Association. Information that is regularly shared through the pages of your Mississippi Baptist.

We send the paper to our state mission points at no cost to them. It is especially important for that new congregation to get a feel of the Association of churches that are helping them to establish a local church. When a mission organizes into a new testament church we encourage them to become a full partner and join the church 'family plan'.

The Family Plan is the most efficient method of getting the paper into your members hands. They may pick it up at the church, but if they get it in their personal mail they will have to personally deal with it. The church member who receives it at home will look at it and learn two things:

1. They learn their church cares about them and wants them be informed and involved in their church's work.

2. They will learn about the work their church supports.

I ask you here today who are not on the Family Plan to just think about the positive effect more information can make in the lives of your members and the work of your church.

## Finances

A complete financial statement is always provided in the minute book. Let me highlight a few points.

We ended our fiscal year in the black. Amen!

We had a record Special Emphasis offering of \$10,167.41. Without this good offering and your regular monthly offerings we could not operate.

We keep expenses at the lowest level possible. There is no 'fat' in our budget.

Thank you for your generous financial

support. The cost of operation is far above the cost of your paper subscription. Our cost of operation is about \$1.80 per subscription per month. The fee charged to the local church is \$1.30 per subscription per month.

## Subscriptions

It goes without saying that the MORE subscribers we have the LOWER our cost of operation per subscriber. One way to support this ministry is to simply subscribe.

There are many ways to subscribe:

1. The Church Family Plan
2. An individual mail subscription and
3. An Email subscription.

## Website & Phone App

We maintain a website at [msbaptist.org](http://msbaptist.org). This contains information that is informative, but not the latest news or reports from our departments. The site is to be a point of contact and hopefully encourage those who go there to subscribe to the paper. We also have a MOBILE app for your phone. Whether you have an Apple phone or an Android, you need only to go to your application site and search for MSBAPTIST APP. I encourage to do that now. We keep up articles on the site for a longer period of time to help distribute information that is needed periodically.

## Content

We continue to try to fill the pages of the paper with news and items that are informative, uplifting, and interesting. Our interest is mainly in the Lord's work through His churches and around the world. Priority is given to the BMA work. We include other items of interest and try to stay focused on the Lord's work.

## Contributors

We enjoy the support of a number of individuals who freely give of their time, their insight, and their love for God's work. Anders Lee, Chuck Lee, Becky

Ulmer, Barbara White, Tony Cleaver, and others bless us and our readers with their contributions. We simply say thank you and may God bless your efforts. I hope you will take time to let these individuals know you appreciate their input.

We encourage our readers, pastors, and members to share your thoughts and desires through the pages of the paper. If you would like to make a positive comment on the work of the BMA or a comment about an issue of interest to our readers we encourage your input and participation.

## Church Reports

We like to hear from our churches. Many individuals, churches, and groups are involved in particular efforts and projects. If your church has a ministry that is a little out of the ordinary; if you or your church make a mission trip; we encourage you to share that with our readers. It is not bragging or patting yourself on the back, but is sharing God's blessings or His opportunities with others. I find that this is encouraging to others. Someone may be inspired by what God has blessed you to do and it may encourage them to get involved in something similar. What many people need is a good example and then God lights the fire in their heart to go and do likewise.

Recent articles we have run are examples of what I am talking about. My pastor and his oldest daughter made a mission trip with EIM ministries to Tanzania this summer. I asked Kennedy Goodwin, the now 13 year old daughter of Jason and Jessica Goodwin to write a report. I was very pleased with her effort. She did a great job! This may encourage and challenge other young people and (and people of all ages) to get more involved in the Lord's work.

When the Master's Builders send a report we are made aware of what can be done by those who want to be a blessing to others by using the talents and abilities they have been blessed with.

Does your church take regular mission trips? Do they help mission churches with VBS or other activities? Do you take missionaries as special projects? Does your church have a ministry that is a little different or of such a nature that it could be an inspiration to others? Please share your blessings and be an encouragement to others. Remember - IT IS NOT BRAGGING - IT IS SHARING AND BEING AN EXAMPLE!

I thank the Trustee of this ministry for their support. Their requirements are small compared to some of our other departments, but they are faithful in their duties. I thank the Lord for putting me in this ministry in March 1978. It has been the blessing of my life to serve Him and you in this manner. I also thank that beautiful college sophomore in 1967 for accepting that first date. God Is Good!

## Church Celebrates 70 Years

First Baptist Calhoun, Highway 84 West near Laurel, would like to invite all friends, sister churches and former members to our Homecoming services on November 5, 2017. After a tent revival in the Calhoun Community, First Baptist Calhoun was organized on November 2, 1947. Former pastor, Bro. Randy Clark will bring the morning message with regular services beginning at 9:45 for Sunday school and morning worship at 10:50. We will also have lunch in the fellowship hall and an afternoon sing at 1:30. We invite you to come join us in celebrating 70 years of service to our Lord.

Bro. Leon Carmical, Pastor.

## Louisiana Church Seeking Staff Member

Calvary Baptist Church, Vidalia, Louisiana, is seeking a bi-vocational Youth & Family Outreach Director. Please send resume to [office@calvaryvidalia.com](mailto:office@calvaryvidalia.com) or 2001 Murray Drive, Vidalia, LA 71373.