

Mississippi Baptist

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Gift the *Church Leaders Cruise* for Pastor's Appreciation Month

We love pastors. The sacrifices they make for their congregations effect each church member personally. Their surrender to serve Christ, discipling and shepherding their flock, deserves to be appreciated.

October is Pastor's Appreciation Month. What better way to love on your pastor and his wife than to send them on the Church Leaders Cruise, which will allow them to rest, relax, and recharge, all while being poured in to by excellent speakers and directors of the BMA?

Pastor burnout is a real and present issue in our culture. A 2018 study from the Barna Group discovered that pastors are more likely to feel mental or emotional exhaustion than

the average worker (75% versus 55% for the average person). Additionally, the study found that nearly half of pastors have struggled with depression, and 47% struggle to find time to invest in their own spiritual health.

Hal Seed at PastorMentor.com agreed by saying, "Senior pastors carry a spiritual burden and work load that is different from other professions. According to Fuller, Barna, and PastoralCare Inc., 50% of pastors are so discouraged they would leave ministry if they had another way of making a living. That's staggering."

A large factor in these intimidating statistics is the pastor's lack of rest. Rest and

being poured in to are essential for pastors to continue to



grow, serve, and love well. The Church Leaders Cruise is the perfect opportunity to give your pastor the rest he so desperately needs.

This conference will have three ministry tracks that the pastor can choose from: the Inspiration Track, taught by Dr. Mark Livingston; the Family Ministry Track, taught by Champ Thornton; and the Leadership Skills Track,

taught by Dr. Timothy Paul Jones. In addition to the speakers, Directors of the BMA such as Dr. John David Smith, Larry Barker, Eric Johnson, and Steve Crawley will be present and available to pour in to pastors during the conference, and their wives will be available to pour in to your pastor's wives.

"Everyone needs to get away and spend some time Resting, Relaxing, & Recharging," said Larry Barker. "The Church Leaders Cruise is an excellent way to do just that with good friends, ministry partners, and other leaders. If we want our churches to be healthy, then our leaders need to also be healthy!"

Though a cruise may seem extravagant, the Church Leaders Cruise price-per-day is approximately the same cost as other conferences. And as a gift to Church Leaders, the lowest possible registration rate has been permanently extended.

If you are considering giving a gift to your pastor during Pastor's Appreciation Month, why not band together several small groups or Sunday school classes and send your pastor on the Church Leaders Cruise? The earlier you book the spots, the lower the rate will be, so act soon! The cruise will take place January 19-24, 2019, and more information about registration and booking can be found at discipleguide.org/cruise.

See Ad on Page 3

Sign Ups Open for SOAR 19 Prayer Teams

Intentional prayer

This is the heart and vision for Kristen Riddle throughout this year and in to SOAR 2019.

Her dream is to gather a community of believers who are passionate about interceding on behalf of SOAR students, youth pastors, and staff. She is praying for and anticipating

lives to be changed for Christ, and wants to bring others alongside her.

"God tells us to come to him with our requests. He tells us that he will bless that," said Riddle.

Sign-ups are now available for the two teams that will be a part of this prayerful effort: Prayer Warriors and Prayer

Partners. Prayer Warriors will attend the conference as part of an army, solely to pray for attendees' lives to be changed.



They will commit to praying in the War Room during the sessions, and will also pray with one another before each session. Prayer Partners will commit to praying fervently as well, but they will be doing so from home.

Beginning in January, those who sign up for either team will begin receiving prayer re-

quests and helpful prayer practices, such as praying through Scriptures. These requests will continue weekly throughout the spring and summer, until SOAR 2019 begins.

"God has given us all the tools to withstand the flaming arrows," said Riddle. "Our hope is to rally a prayer team across the nation that will utilize the weapons God has given us to be able to bless our kids through SOAR."

If you are interested in being a part of the Prayer Warriors or Prayer Partners, sign up at gosoar.com/soarprayerteams. If you plan to come as a Prayer Warrior, your registration fees for SOAR will be waived.

Saturday, October 20 at FBC of Calhoun

"We Are Free" Rally

The time for the long-anticipated "We Are Free" Rally is here. On October 20, 2018 at First Baptist Church of Calhoun, the arts and crafts will be ready for viewing at 4:30 p.m. The hamburger plates will be ready for hungry people at 5:00.

As people are eating they will be entertained by Andrew Myers of Bay Springs with his juggling act and balloon art. Dinner entertainment will also showcase two members of the Blue Grass Band, "Foxfire", Randy Corley and Squeaky Hendry. They are really enjoyable entertainment.

Following the meal the crowd will assemble in the Sanctuary of the Church where more enjoyable music is planned by Bryson Hayden and the Shiloh Trio. Then the real gist of the meeting will be Angelyn McMurray and Christy Martin. Christy is Assistant District Attorney of Jones County addressing the impact that human trafficking is having on our local area.

Angelyn is the founder of "We Are Free" which was begun to raise awareness and provide much needed care to survivors of human trafficking.

Please make plans to attend this function to be fed, entertained, and educated about this deplorable situation.

Southeastern Baptist College

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

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

President's Perspective

"And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air." 1 Corinthians 14:7-9

Clear communication in military operations is critical. There is a saying that relates to this, it is called "the fog of war". A battle is total chaos, and the better the communication is, the less confusion there is and the better to see through the fog and accomplish the mission. Miscommunication can be devastating to soldiers on the battlefield.

One hundred years ago, from October 2 to 8, 1918, men of the 154th Brigade or the 77th "Liberty" Division entered the woods of the Argonne Forest to capture the area known around the Charlevaux Mill. A conglomerate

of 554 soldiers from four separate battalions found themselves surrounded when French and US units on either flank, and without communication or coordination, withdrew leaving the remainder of the 154th under the command of the senior officer, Maj Charles Whittlesey. For the next six days, suffering heavy losses, the men of the "Lost Battalion," as they became known, and the American units trying to relieve them fought a desperate battle for survival.

With food & ammunition running out and water only available when men ran back to a stream under fire they managed to hang on. Every runner dispatched either became lost or ran into German patrols. Carrier pigeons became the only method of communicating with headquarters. On October 4th, inaccurate coordinates were delivered by one of the pigeons and the battalion were

shelled by their own guns. Only the arrival of the last pigeon, "Cher Ami" saved them. Over 6 days the battalion suffered rifle, machine gun, mortar, grenade and flame thrower attacks, but held on refusing to surrender. In the end, they caused enough of a distraction that other Allied units were able to break through the German lines, which forced the Germans to retreat.

Of the over 500 soldiers who entered the Argonne Forest, only 194 walked out unscathed. The rest were killed, missing, captured, or wounded. Major Charles White Whittlesey, Captain George G. McMurtry, and Captain Nelson M. Holderman received the Medal of Honor for their valiant actions. (Source: Wikipedia article). Whittlesey would later serve as a pallbearer at the ceremony interring the remains of the Unknown Soldier along with fellow Medal of Honor recipient Alvin York.

Cher-Ami the pigeon, was awarded the Croix de Guerre Medal with a palm Oak Leaf Cluster for her heroic service. She died at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, on June 13, 1919. Her remains

to this day are found in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

The miscommunication between leadership and units caused great harm to our soldiers one hundred years ago. In the experience of the 154th Brigade, all forms of communication were ineffective. Signaling, human runners, even wrong coordinates by carrier pigeon resulted in the maiming and death of many American lives.

As Christians, the Apostle Paul encourages us to clear up our lines of communication in order for us to be more effective Christian soldiers. Miscommunication, and especially in the preaching of the Gospel, can lead to fog descending on the clear saving message we wish to deliver. Let us seek to share to the good news in the simplest and most effective way our Lord intended and strive to communicate all of God's word in the clearest way possible.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

Now this is a message communicated clearly to a lost and dying world! Equipping the Saints!
Dr. Carson



Dr. Scott Carson
President

Alumni Association Breakfast

During the BMA of Mississippi annual meeting, the Southeastern Baptist College Alumni Association will have a breakfast on Tuesday, October 23 at 7:30 a.m. in the school library. We will be inducting



Terry Stroka volunteered to move the gym debris pile into the dumpster

our first alumni into our Distinguished Graduates roster! Cost is \$3 per person to be collected at the breakfast. Please let us know if you plan to attend so we know how many to plan for. R.S.V.P. no later than Thursday, October 20. Contact Amy Hinton via email at ahinton@southeasternbaptist.edu or by text at 601-422-8710, or by calling the college at 601-426-6346. See you there!

Thank You!

Praise God for First Baptist Church of Midway, Sumrall, Mississippi, for answering the call to help with



Volunteer students manning the SBC table at Laurel's Loblolly Festival

food for our students. They donated \$1,000 worth of long shelf life food for the student food pantry! The students are extremely grateful for their generosity! In addition, they have scheduled a hot meal in the near future, ministering to our student body. If your church family is moved to also help in providing a one-time hot meal for 50 students, or on a routine basis, contact Coach Phillips at 601-426-6346 to coordinate.

Seeking Volunteer Handyman

Having been blessed with 56 students living in our dormitories, and the infrastructure being old, we often have minor plumbing, electrical, window, door, and miscellaneous other items needing repairs. We are offering an opportunity for someone to bless us with their handyman skills to assist us with these needs. Please contact Dr. Carson at 601-426-6346 if you would like to help.



Coach Brad Phillips and volunteer student Sammy Wilkerson, Jr., representing Southeastern Baptist College at Columbia High School College and Career Day.



Guest chapel speaker and recent graduate Ecclesiastes Goodwin receives his official Honor Society medallion from Dr. Carson

a CDL license who would like to help drive the team bus to games. Contact Coach Phillips at 601-426-6346.

The Chargers Basketball Schedule

Let's have a great turn out in support of our first home game scheduled for 2 p.m., Saturday, October 27 in the SBC Gym! The season schedules for the Men's and Women's Varsity Games and Men's Junior Varsity Games can be found adjacent to this article and also is posted on our sports website: <http://athletics.southeasternbaptist.edu/>

Immediate Basketball Program Needs

Coach Brad Phillips provided me a list of immediate needs for the restart of the SBC Chargers Basketball program. The items below are needed as soon as possible. Please contact him directly to coordinate if you, your church, or a business owner wishes to donate (870-378-7203).

1. Team Travel Expenses
Cost: \$2500 per trip (total: \$5000). Overnight games to Louisiana and Florida
2. Ice Machine
Cost: Varies depending on type and quality \$800-\$2500

Special Emphasis

Praise the Lord that churches continue to send their generous Special Emphasis Month donations to us. We are grateful for all the churches and

Continued on page 3

Available to Preach

Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit for preaching or to provide an update about the great things the Lord is doing at Southeastern Baptist College. You can reach him at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu.

Worship That God Accepts

by **Bro. Grover Laird**
From **Revivalist 2008**

"... *Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*" (Matthew 4:10)

One of our greatest privileges, and one of our greatest duties, is to worship the Lord our God. But

all that we call worship is not acceptable to Him.

The worship of the Corinthian Church was not always acceptable. When writing to them Paul once said that they had "come together not for the better, but for the worse." (I Corinthians 11:17b)

David once decided that he should move the Ark of God from the house of Abinadad to a place that he had prepared for it in Jerusalem. It appeared that they were having a great worship service as they sang and rejoiced down the road toward Jerusalem. But this joy turned into sorrow when a young man lost his life and the Ark of God was carried aside to the house of Obededom for three months. (II Chronicles 13)

They later remembered that they had carelessly ignored what the Lord said about who should move the Ark and how it was to be moved. When they decided the second time to move the Ark, David said unto the Levites that should move it, "For because ye did it not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order." (I Chronicles 15:13) While there may have been some parts of their worship good, in the

main, it turned out to be unacceptable.

Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, died when they dealt with holy things in a way that was not acceptable. (Leviticus 10:1) Under the Old Covenant, the Priest wore a head piece that "Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things, which the children of Israel shall hallow in all their holy gifts...." (Exodus 28:38) We must therefore conclude that "any and every old way" is not acceptable to the Lord for true worship. There are some things that are needful if our worship is acceptable. Consider some of them.

1. We Must Prepare To Worship, if our worship is acceptable.

When the Priest went into the place of worship they must go by the Laver and wash their hands and feet "that they die not." (Exodus 30:17-21) We may also need to be cleansed before we go to up to His house to worship. We can be cleansed from our sins before going to worship by a sincere confession of them to God— "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9) It would help our

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College Report

from page 2

individuals who support God's work here at SBC. Thank you Lebanon Baptist Church who recently added \$2,074 to our Special Emphasis Month tally. Most of our donor churches were listed in the September 15, Mississippi Baptist edition.

VA Educational Benefits Accepted!

SBC possesses the 2018 Gold Award level as a military friendly college! Have you served in America's armed forces? Then you probably have Veterans Administration tuition benefits that you can use toward a free education right here at SBC. I urge you to contact your local VA representative for an evaluation of your benefits. You earned them! And remember, many benefits are now fully transferable to family members. SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.



Laurel Mayor Johnny McGee speaking in Chapel with a message titled, "Don't Despise Small Beginnings". A video of the message can be found on the SBC Facebook page.



Bro. Grover Laird



Linda Carson providing an art activity for the women's basketball team.



The Board of Trustees, led by Brother Leon Carmical executing their required duties and providing great wisdom at the October 2, 2018 meeting at SBC.

JANUARY 19-24, 2019

CHURCH LEADERS CRUISE

A CONFERENCE FOR ALL CHURCH LEADERS

MARK LIVINGSTON
INSPIRATION TRACK

CHAMP THORNTON
FAMILY MINISTRY TRACK

TIMOTHY PAUL JONES
LEADERSHIP TRACK

Conference Registration

\$80 per person @ discipleguide.org/cruise

Cruise Reservations

All cruise booking information can be found at discipleguide.org/cruise

THE PERFECT PASTOR'S APPRECIATION GIFT!

Scripture Thoughts by Dr. Tony Cleaver

According to Matthew

Matthew 9.38 *“Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest.”*

Most parents pray something like this for their children: “God let them be healthy, happy, and successful.” That is not at all evil in and of itself. Prayers might go on to include words like: “God let them make a lot of money by being a...”

Good parent have you ever prayed that it would be your child that the Lord of the harvest sends out? Christ and His Church needs workers for the harvest. What about your child? The response is quick: “No, no, and no not my child in that kind of work! My child will be a doctor, lawyer, engineer, or some other important person.”

Well, Hannah gave her little boy Samuel to God and His work. He became the “tallest man” between Moses and David in Hebrew history. He was a kingmaker, a prophet, and priest. No one can be more successful than that! Lord of the harvest, send my child, my grandchild to work for You!

Matthew 10.12 *“Greet a household when you enter it...”*

“May the peace, prosperity, and blessings of Christ be on this home and with this family!” These are the words someone wants to hear from a guest who enters their home. These words ring caringly in the ears of the mother and father who are trying with all their strength to provide a home where Christ is honored. These words are quickly caught by the little ears of children listening to the guest who just entered.

Dear Pastor, what words do you say when you enter a parishioner’s home? Perhaps the first words from your mouth might be: “Great game yesterday.” Perhaps the words might be: “Super fishing trip!” Perhaps some other light-hearted words cascade from your lips. No, no, and no greet with the words from Christ! Enter that home in His Name!

Matthew 10.32 “Therefore, everyone who will acknowledge me before others, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.”

What does it mean to acknowledge Christ before others? Does acknowledging Him

mean you have a “super-sized, ten pound” Bible on your coffee table in prominent display? Does it mean you have a “Chris-



Tony Cleaver

tian bumper sticker” on your car? Does it mean on several walls of your apartment or home you have a cross or other “Christian art” noticeably dangled? Does it mean you wear “Christian jewelry” around your neck or on your clothing?

No, it means much more than any of the things mentioned above. Acknowledging means to accept the existence of Christ as Savior and admit Him as Lord in your home, neighborhood, world, and especially in your daily behavior. A person acknowledges Him before men by showing Him in special status so as to firmly display His message has been received and is being lived out in your life.

Matthew 12.45 *“Then it (the unclean spirit) goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and settle down there. As a result, that person’s last condition is worse than the first...”*

Some people try with all their heart, mind, and energy to reform their lives. They try to “turn over a new leaf.” They try counseling with no avail. They try some “new and exotic religious process” with no results. Some self-help attempts have all the good and best the world has to offer.

Sometimes after brave tries to reform life, to pick oneself up by the bootstraps, the attempts crash and burn. The old life is back staring ghost-like in the reflection of the mirror. The unclean spirit has returned! That spirit has brought some friends to live with you. Life is not better. Life has sunk to a new low.

Scripture tells us only Christ can regenerate the mind, soul, and life of a man, woman, boy, or girl. Through His death, burial, and resurrection, Christ makes it possible to clean the inward person’s soul of evilness. Our Lord, Jesus, offers to rid our lives of the evil spirit that lives within us. Open your life to Him, now.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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



SIDNEY DAVIS

Special Emphasis Needs

Greetings from the Mississippi Baptist Children’s Home:

Throughout our approaching 75 year history, the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Children’s Home has been driven to make a difference in the lives of children. This ministry has endeavored to help young people learn the ways of the Lord for their lives, to shape them for the future, to lead productive lives for the glory of the Lord. This ministry continues to strive to help children excel in their studies in the classroom at school, understand their role in society as a responsible child of God, to go from this place and live a good life, helping others and making right decisions.

We are pleased to report that Desi Brunty will be graduating from West Jones High School in May 2019. Desi became a resident at the Home when she was nineteen months old. She is an Honors Student. We are thankful of what Desi has accomplished in her academics throughout her school days. Next year she will be attending college. We are asking for your help during this Special Emphasis period in assisting us in providing a vehicle for her as she prepares for this next step in her life. These funds will also assist in providing insurance for her and other college expense in the years to come.



Our Senioir Desi Brunty

Will you partner with us in meeting these needs by participating in this year’s Special Emphasis? We would like to suggest to you to consider designating Sunday, November 11th as “Children’s Home Emphasis Sunday.” We would like for you to have special prayer for the ministry of the Home on that day.

The important work of the Mississippi Baptist Children’s Home would not be possible without your support. With your investment in the ministry of the Home we are able to provide children with a life of stability and structure in a Christian atmosphere that is honoring to God and true to His Word. God bless you as you consider a gift to the ministry of the Home as we ensue the purpose of this ministry to be wholly benevolent, and that benevolence be extended to the care of children in need.

Making a difference in the lives of children,
Sidney D. Davis, Director

Mississippi Baptist

Don J. Brown, Editor

E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org

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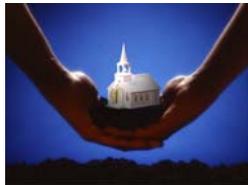
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Annual State Meeting

I look forward to sharing a report with the Messengers of the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi when they meet for their Annual Meeting on October 23, 2018, at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel. Our coaches and coordinators will be reporting throughout the day with specific information about the progress of the missionaries with whom they are working.

Our State Missionaries will be onsite to interact with the Messengers and answer any questions they may have. I am excited about the one-day schedule recommended by President Justin Rhodes and adopted by the Planning Committee. I look forward to a positive and exciting day of sharing blessing after blessing with our churches.

Our Newest Missionary

On October 2, 2018, the Missionary Committee interviewed Bro. Johnny Williams and approved him to serve as a State Missionary to plant a new BMA Church in Waveland, Mississippi. Johnny and his wife, Neta have been serving BMA churches for the past 25 years. Bro. Williams has pastored

churches in Mississippi, Texas, and Louisiana. At the time of his application, he was serving as a member of the State Missionary Committee.

Bro. Williams and his wife share an exciting vision for reaching people in and around the Waveland, Mississippi area. He has already reported that they have a number of people committed to begin this project with them. Campground Baptist Church, Bro. Bryan Atwood, Pastor, voted to sponsor them and serve as the Mother Church. Already, the East Central and Big Creek Associations have agreed to financially support this project. Bro. Williams will begin holding Bible study groups, with those committed, immediately, as he begins the search for a temporary facility.

If you know of anyone in or around the Waveland area that you would like to recommend they contact, please give Bro. Williams a call or text him the



Johnny & Neta Williams

information at 228-234-3121 or email him at brojohnnywilliams@gmail.com

First Service Scheduled

Bro. Phillip Burns has announced that they plan to hold their first service in their new building on October 28, 2018. There is still much to be done, but Lord willing they will be far enough along to keep this date. To date, because of the generous giving of the churches of the BMA of Mississippi, Day Star has not had to take a loan to complete this project. We are hopeful they will be able to finish it out without having to borrow. If you would like to help them, please send your offering marked 'Day Star Baptist Mission Building Fund.'

Harvest Baptist Mission Schedules Organization

Bro. Ed DuVall shared with the Missionary Committee, during his report on October 2, 2018, that Bro. James Cook has set a date to organize the Harvest Baptist Mission in Olive Branch. They will meet on November 3, 2018, at 11:00 am to organize into a New Testament Church. All are invited to attend. If you would like more

information, you can contact Bro. DuVall directly at 662-402-8222.

Starkville Missionary Needed

There are 16,247 households in Starkville, of which 72.81% are unchurched, according to studies that have been done. Missionary Coach Bob Burch and I are praying that God will raise up someone to go plant a church in Starkville, Mississippi, near Mississippi State University. Caledonia Baptist, which is approximately 40 minutes from Starkville, is ready to serve as the Mother Church for a new mission project. We ask everyone to pray with us about this. If you think you might be interested, please contact Dr. Burch at 601-323-2795.

Revolving Loan Fund Trustees Approve Rate Increase on Deposit Accounts

Effective October 1, 2018, our Deposit Account rate of interest is changed to 2.25% (previously 2.17%). We have routine inquiries from churches concerning a possible loan from the Revolving Loan Fund. To meet the needs of these requests, we continue to encourage our churches and church members to become depositors of the Revolving Loan Fund. We specifically encourage churches with cemetery funds to consider placing their money in the Revolving Loan Fund. If you or your church would like to know more about the Revolving Loan Fund, please contact us at 601-428-8616 for more information or to request a presentation at your church.

Help Us Update Our List

We are mandated, by the Association, to maintain a list of preachers who are available to supply or pastor. We also maintain a list of churches without pastors. Our website contains information on each of our churches which we try to keep current (www.bmams.org). Our list is in constant need of updating. If you have changed status, please give us a call and let us know. If your church has called a new pastor, please let us know. You can contact MS Kim Parker at 601-428-8616 or send us an email to missions@bmams.org. Remember to include all your information i.e. name, phone #, email, etc.

BMATS Professor Seeks Help With Ministry Research

by **Ronnie Johnson, Ph.D.,**
Professor of Christian Education, BMATS, Jacksonville, Texas.
Ronnie.Johnson@bmats.edu



Dr. Ronnie Johnson

BMA Seminary professor Dr. Ronnie J. Johnson is seeking pastors and senior-adult ministers to participate in educational research.

In Johnson's 1994 doctoral dissertation, a panel of pastors described and projected changes in older-adult ministries within the BMA of America. Now, twenty-five years later, Dr. Johnson is attempting to objectively verify the projections that were made.

Johnson needs some non-identifying demographic data and experienced opinions on a number of research statements. There are a few optional questions asking for thoughts about the future of older-adult ministry. This Google Form survey may take 10-15 minutes. Johnson has posted a link to the survey on "BMA Preachers and People" group on

Facebook.

If you are willing to participate, click on the Facebook link or send Dr. Johnson an E-mail message to Ronnie.Johnson@bmats.edu. He will respond with a link to the anonymous survey form.

Arkansas Church Youth Position

Oak Park Baptist Church at Little Rock, Arkansas, is seeking a youth/children's minister. Resumes may be sent to opbsearchcommittee@insideoakpark.com; or to the church, Attention: Youth/Children Search Committee, 8200 Flintridge Rd., Little Rock, Ark. 72210.

Tiger Creek Church Time Correction

Tiger Creek's Chitterling Supper is on October 27, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. If you can come and enjoy the fellowship with us we would love to have anyone who would like to come and enjoy the chitterlings.

Reporter Brenda Overstreet

State WMA Banquet

The Annual WMA Banquet will be held at First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel, on Monday evening, October 22, 2018.

Why a lot of professing Christians never attend church

printed with permission
by Dr. Joe McKeever

“Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together”—unless, of course, the Lord reveals to you that you are the church, as one lady said to me. Or, that you are smarter than the preacher, the deacons are trying to run the church, or no one in the congregation will speak to you. Hebrews 10:25, sort of.



Joe McKeever

When you don't want to do something, you shouldn't have to have an excuse.

If you do not want to go to church, for instance, if you can skip church for a whole year and never miss it, you should “man up” and admit, “I'm not a Christian and don't believe all that Bible stuff. Church is for people who take the Lord seriously. Not me. So, I don't go.”

Hmm. That felt ‘mean,’ didn't it? But it's dead on accurate.

Please read on.

By “go to church,” we don't necessarily mean a building with a steeple on it. It could be a group of God's people gathered in a living room to sing and pray and study the Word. Or, fifty people in a storefront. The point is not the location or the structure, but God's people meeting on a regular basis for the work and worship of the Lord.

The redeemed of the Lord will be drawn to one another. They love each other. Jesus said so.

I heard of a pastor somewhere who collected excuses on “why people who call themselves Christians don't go to church.” He did not make these up...

One. A lady in the hills of North Georgia said, “In the winter it's too cold, and in the summer I'm afraid of rattlesnakes.”

Two. A farmer said, “One of my cows gets out of the pasture every Sunday. Keeps me home all four Sundays every month.” When asked about the 5th Sunday, he said, “They all get out on the fifth Sunday!”

Three. A lady told her pastor, “I'm a shut-in and I'm offended you haven't been to visit me.” He kept trying, but she was never home.

Four. “We're not settled in yet.” Oh, I'm sorry. How long have you lived here? “Only 7 years.”

Five. “We're not going to church any more. There are so many churches that we haven't been able to decide which one to attend. If there weren't so many, we probably would have become active years ago.”

Six. “I enjoyed the sermon, the choir, and the singing. But I won't be back.

The sight of all those empty pews depressed me.”

Seven. This woman would not come because “I have to take care of my children.” When they grew up and left home, she declined again and said, “I reckon I won't. I've never been much of a hand for gadding about.”

Why don't Christians go to church?

I think I know.

You're not going to like my answer.

They're probably not Christians. (I know. I said, “Why don't Christians attend church” and then said they're probably not Christians.)

Consider this brief analysis.

There is a social element to church-going, for both believers and unbelievers. We meet friends, enjoy fellowship, and help each other with various situations. God made us that way. We need people. “It is not good that (any one of



us) should live alone.”

In this respect a church may fill much of the same function, in a way, as an Elks Club, American Legion, or lodge. Or even—for some people, I have heard—the friends at the pub.

In the earliest church, the believers gathered for “the apostles' teaching, for fellowship, for breaking of bread, and prayer” (Acts 2:42). Fellowship was, and remains, a huge element in the function of a church.

But for believers—those who truly do take the things of God seriously—that fellowship element, as important as it is, is just the icing on the cake. Underneath it is the dead-serious work of the Kingdom—worshiping God, teaching His word, spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ, supporting those doing the Lord's work, reaching out to those in need, etc.

Don't miss this. There are two strata in this soil, two flows in this river, two elements in church-going. The top one is social and we call it fellowship; it's

COMMISSION ON History & Archives



Ed Steele
Director

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

Preserving & Sharing Audio Sermons

In the last issue of the Mississippi Baptist, I shared that there are many cassette tapes of preaching and Bible Conferences from many years ago contained in the History and Archive Section of the Library at Southeastern Baptist College. These would be treasures if they could be used by others. But one would have to bring a cassette player to be able to listen to them. If anyone has the capability of converting them to a digital format in CDs, I would appreciate you letting me know. There must be more than 100 of these tapes and the time involved would be well over 100 hours since tapes can only be copied in real time. Discs (whether DVDs or CDs) can be copied much quicker.

The 52 radio messages preached by Dr. D. N. Jackson will be placed in the Library in two forms. All of these messages would not fit on a single CD so they are all recorded on a DVD. They

are also recorded on two CDs with each having 26 messages on them. All of these are recorded in MP3. None of the items found in the Library can be taken off site, but you are able to bring a computer and blank discs and make copies of these discs for yourself in a matter of minutes. The messages on the DVD can be listened to on your computer or by playing them on your DVD player connected to your television. The CDs can be listened to on a computer or any CD player that plays the MP3 format. Most newer automobiles have radios that can play MP3s.

I would like to place more preaching and Bible Conferences discs in the Library in the future. Thus, the History and Archive Library will not only be used to keep records, but it can also be a resource where you can come and make copies for your own use. More will be shared about this in the future.



Contact BMA Foundation
Executive Director
Charles Attebery
for more information.
charles@bmaamerica.org
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A Gift That Keeps Giving

Gifts to the BMA Foundation are never spent. They are invested and the earnings benefit BMA departments annually until the Lord returns.

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more visible as a rule. The other is spiritual, it's underlying, and goes by a number of names—worship, ministry, outreach, and so forth. It's what Jesus had in mind when He said, “Teaching them to observe all the things I have taught you” (Matthew 28:18-20).

New believers need the church, they hunger for it as a newborn does its mother's milk. A solid Christian will be in church, doing the work of the Lord, meeting with God's people, and they will do this whether the fellowship aspect is there or not. He/she needs ministry like a fish needs water, like we all need air.

A solid Christian loves the fellowship of a church, but even when he/she cannot find it in a church they visit, that's not a deal-breaker. They are there for Jesus' sake, not their own.

The Christian-In-Name-Only

(CINO) tries some churches, looking for all the trappings of a great fellowship. They rate the churches by their friendliness, the attitude of the preacher (does he seem likeable, did he remember our names), the appearance of the buildings, the fun at the church gatherings, and such. And if the church is lacking in these areas, they move on. When no church in the area measures up, they simply do not go to church.

Because they're there for the fellowship, not for Jesus Christ.

Is that brutal? Probably. And doubtless it's not the whole story, not by any means. But it's something to think about.

Our Lord said, “By this shall all men know you are my disciples, that you love one another” (John 13:35).

I'll see you in church Sunday, brother, sister.

Philippine Missions

Lees on Furlough

Diane and I will be on furlough from October, 2018, to January 4, 2019. Our appointment calendar is filling up fast. We still have a few dates open. If your church, organization or association would like



Doug & Diane Lee

for us to give a report on how the Lord is moving in the Philippines and the ministries of your missionaries, we would be honored. You can reach us at 601-427-0128 or 601-916-5542. Please notify us as soon as possible as we will be traveling in Arkansas, Missouri, Mississippi, and Texas.

We are anxious to be home for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays. This will be the first time with our family and friends for the holidays in 6 years. We have been so blessed to be supported by our families for these years and look forward to being with them during this time.

"MISSION POSSIBLE" was a phenomenal week at BMABC. The students were divided up into 13 different teams and assigned mission points to give assistance to the mission pastors at those locations. They also had the opportunity to interview the pastor and report back to the school what they had learned. The teams assisted the pastors in street evangelism, tract distributions, and personal witnessing.

One of the teams visited a nearby island and held



evangelistic services in two of the schools. One hundred and forty professions of faith were made. Another team rode the bus lines and presented the gospel to the passengers and witnessed to them one on one. Thirteen were saved on the buses! Because of "Mission Possible," 197 came to know Christ as their Savior. The student teams were blessed to have members of the Celebration Church mission team accompany them.

Freemans Back in Philippines

We are glad to be back on the field in the Philippines! Our furlough of 9 months created in us a deep desire to get back on the field and get busy doing the work God has given us to do. We are so very thankful for all the churches and Associations we had the privilege to share with about our ministry in the Philippines.

A couple weeks after arriving in the Philippines, we had the opportunity to drive across the island to Bacolod City. While there we were able to check on the BMA Philippines Publications Department, meet with pas-



Sam Freeman

tors and leaders of the BMAP, and have some time with our fellow missionaries in the Philippines.

The children of our Barangay were very glad to see us again. It is amazing how God opens our hearts to love and care for kids all over the world. I remember as a child singing, "Jesus loves the little children of the world" in Sunday School. Little did I know that God was going to use our family to show that love in a unique and personal way right here in the Philippines. We are excited about what God is doing here. Please pray with us as God is opening more doors of opportunity for us to share His love.

Two weeks ago I had the privilege of visiting our work on the island of Mindanao. It was very encouraging to find the work prospering and our pastors excited about the work God is doing among His people on that island. I was able to address the Bible Institute students who were busy attending night classes after having worked all day at secular jobs. It does my heart well to see the passion and commitment of God's people here who have a desire to serve in any way possible for God's glory.

I also met with the pastors on that island in a Pastor's Conference. This meeting allowed me to share with these men about the vision and plans we have for establishing more churches on their island. In spite of an ongoing conflict with radical Muslim extremists on this island, the Word of God continues to go forward and prosper! Although the island is still under Martial Law, and skirmishes between government forces and isolated terrorist groups still happen sporadically, God is still moving! Glory to God for what He is doing!

We want to thank all our supporting churches and associations. We can't do this ministry without your continued prayers and financial support. We are overwhelmed at how God meets our needs through His churches and people of the BMA of America.

The Master's Builders Work in Arkansas and Texas

by Nelda Malone

On September the 17th, The Master's Builders traveled to the Three Creeks Community, near El Dorado, Arkansas, to begin work with Hopewell Baptist Church. They needed help with the framing of rooms in their Family Life Center. The Builders framed and walled up the kitchen, two bathrooms, a storage area and built stairs up to and decked the future Youth Room. We spent eight days working on this project.



Thank you to the ones who prepared our evening meals. Also, thank you to Bro. Grant Barnett, pastor of Hopewell and also to Herbert, Tanner and Tate for joining right in and helping us work. Former pastor, Bro. Deryl Jones and his wife Cinda, joined us on Tuesday and we all enjoyed a day of work and fellowship. This always encourages us!

The Master's Builders spent the week of September 10-15 at Concord Baptist in, Gilmer, Texas. Concord needed help with putting up sheetrock in their new building. They had lost their building in a fire over a year ago.

The framing of the new building had already been



done, so the Master's Builders put sheet rock up in the entry, sanctuary, fellowship hall, bathrooms, and four classrooms.

Thank you to all the members of Concord. The fellowship was wonderful and the meals you provided for us were delicious. Thank you to their Pastor, Bro Clay Potter and to Bro Dale Pruitt, the building coordinator. I want the zeal for the Lord's work that brother Dale has!

This was the Master's Builders 155th project.

The Master's Builders plan to work at the 'We Are Free' project in October. Please continue to pray for our men as they work and pray that the Lord will lay the Master's Builders Ministry on the hearts of men willing to serve.

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

If you are on Facebook, you can keep up with us as we work by liking us at "The Master's Builders". (Has an arbor logo)

Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Languages



FW

There is a group of people who seem to have dedicated themselves to keeping their thumbs in tip-top condition. I've learned recently that they aren't just exercising their thumbs but that the little device that they are poking with their thumbs is actually a texting machine.

In order to expedite their messages they have devised a whole language of abbreviations such as: AYCE – All You Can Eat, BBB – Boring Beyond Belief, LOL- Laughing Out Loud.

I came across a list of abbreviations for Seniors. Some of them are: BTW- Bring the Wheelchair; ATD – At The Doctor's; FWIW – Forgot Where I Was; GHA- Got Heartburn Again; LMDO – Laughing My Dentures Out; WWNO – Walker Wheels Need Oil.

All of this brings to mind the Biblical account of the confounding of the languages at the Tower of Babel. Then a verse from Zephaniah seems appropriate for all of the communicating that goes on. "For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent." Zephaniah 3:9.

**Southeastern College Chargers
Men's Varsity Basketball Schedule**

Oct 12-13	@ LA Prep Jamboree	TBA
Oct 27	New Rock Prep	2:00 pm
Nov 2-3	@ Trinity Baptist Classic	TBA
Nov 6	@ USM	7:00 pm
Nov 10	@ Delgado	2:00 pm
Nov 13	@ Southern AR	7:00 pm
Nov 16-17	@ Battle of the Borders	TBA
Nov 30	@ Tougaloo	7:00 pm
Dec 1	Trinity College	2:00 pm
Dec 7	@ Covenant Col	6:00 pm
Dec 8	@ GA NW Tech	6:00 pm
Dec 11	Webber Int'l	6:00 pm
Dec 13	@ Hiwassee	7:00 pm
Dec 14	@ Welch	8:00 pm
Dec 18	@ SAGU	7:00 pm
Jan 7	Thomasville Prep	7:00 pm
Jan 11-12	@ Oakland City Univ	TBA
Jan 14	@ Blue Mountain	4:30 pm
Jan 19-21	@ MLK Classic	TBA
Jan 26	@ Selma	7:00 pm
Jan 31	@ Crowley's Ridge	7:00 pm
Feb 2	Welch	4:00 pm
Feb 9	Trinity Bap College	TBA
Feb 12	Selma	7:00 pm
Feb 14	Tougaloo	7:00 pm
Feb 22	Thomasville Prep	6:00 pm
Feb 27-Mar 2	ACCA Nat'l Champ	TBA

PBS Show to feature Southeastern College

by the editor



SBC President Dr. Scott Carson sitting for an interview that will air on PBSs "On Demand With Rob Lowe". The program will air sometime in the next few months.

A PBS affiliated production staff was on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College recently filming a special segment for the PBS show "On Demand with Rob Lowe".

The crew interviewed President Scott Carson, other staff members, and students. The crew filmed classroom activities and even a basketball practice.

Former State Senator and SBC graduate Phillip Gandy was also interviewed.

President Carson said about the process, "This is an amazing opportunity that will further advance the school. It could not have been done without the prayers, love and support of our faithful followers, sponsors, donors, staff, and media partners.

Local TV station WDAM was also on campus that day and presented a well made news report that aired on their station. That video is available on the Mississippi Web Site at www.msbsbaptist.org. It may also be seen on the internet at <http://www.wdam.com/2018/10/11/southeastern-baptist-college-be-featured-pbs-series/>.

**Southeastern College Chargers
Lady Chargers Basketball Schedule**

Nov 2-3	@ Trinity Baptist Classic	TBA
Nov 8	@ Judson College	6:00 pm
Nov 13	@ Southern AR	5:00 pm
Nov 15	Blue Mountain JV	4:30 pm
Nov 30	@ Tougaloo	5:00 pm
Dec 3	@ Centenary College	7:00 pm
Dec 4	@ Univ of AR Mont	5:30 pm
Dec 7-8	@ GA NW Classic	TBA
Dec 13	@ Hiwassee College	5:00 pm
Dec 14	@ Welch College	6:00 pm
Jan 7	Crowley's Ridge	5:00 pm
Jan 14	@ Blue Mountain JV	4:30 pm
Jan 19-20	@ MLK Classic	TBA
Jan 26	@ Selma College	3:00 pm
Jan 29	Judson College	6:00 pm
Jan 31	@ Crowley's Ridge	5:00 pm
Feb 2	Welch College	2:00 pm
Feb 12	Selma College	5:00 pm
Feb 14	Tougaloo College	5:00 pm
Feb 27-Mar 2	ACCA Nat'l Tourn	TBA

MEN'S Junior Varsity

Oct 20	@ Stillman College	2:00 pm
Nov 9	@ Univ of Mobile	7:30 pm
Nov 15	Blue Mountain	6:30 pm
Nov 19	CMP Prep	6:00 pm
Nov 27	@ Louisiana Prep	7:00 pm
Dec 4	Gulf Coast Prep	6:00 pm
Dec 5	@ Stillman College	6:00 pm
Dec 8	Gulf Coast Prep	6:00 pm
Jan 17	Brown Sports Acad	5:30 pm
Jan 18	William Carey	6:00 pm
Jan 22	Louisiana Prep	7:00 pm
Jan 25	Spring Hill College	6:00 pm
Jan 28	@ William Carey	6:00 pm
Feb 5	@ Spring Hill College	TBA
Feb 23	CMP Prep	2:00 pm

**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
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-428-8616

Commission on Senior Adults
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-729-2613

History & Archives Commission
4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-729-8098

Moral Action
P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855
662-282-7425

Worship God Accepts

from page 3

worship services if each family would spend some time together in prayer before going to church for worship.

2. Holiness Is Also Important, if our worship is acceptable.

The Bible says, "O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth." (Psalms 96:9) This could be accomplished by living a separated life each day, and seeking forgiveness and cleansing before going to worship.

3. Sincerity Is Required, if God is pleased with our worship

The Bible says, "Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth...." (Joshua 24:14) Many things in our worship services are in need of more sincerity.

4. The Joy Of The Lord Is Also Vital, if God is pleased with our worship.

The Bible says, "O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms." (Psalms 95:1,2)

5. Giving Is Part Of A Good Worship Service.

Again The Bible says, "Give unto the LORD the glory due

unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts." (Psalms 96:8) However, this should be "as to the Lord, and not unto men." (Colossians 3:23) In other words, we are told to "Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:" (Proverbs 3:9)

Most of our worship services provide many opportunities for acceptable worship. The reading of God's Word, the singing of hymns, the praying of prayers, the preaching of God's Word all provide opportunities for sincere, whole-hearted worship. Yet many cold, indifferent hearts miss these opportunities, which greatly hinders what God does in our services.

The Bible records several worship services that surely were pleasing to the Lord. I will mention two in closing.

There was a worship service back in the days of Ezra when the Bible was distinctly read for hours. In the midst of this service the people worshiped and wept. (Nehemiah 8:1-10) All that we read about it suggest that it was a God-honoring worship service.

The next one I will mention is in the New Testament. After being in a service where about three thousand were saved, (Acts 2:41) and later five thousand, (Acts 4:4) Peter and John were threatened if they continued to preach Jesus. When the Church heard of it, they had a prayer meeting. At that service, the Church seemed to dedicate their all to Christ. That service became so Spiritual until "the place was shaken where they were assembled together." (Acts 4:23-33) Imagine such a service.

Surely we would experience more Spiritual services today, with more conversions and rededications, if our worship services were more acceptable.