

Communication Barriers

by Dr. John David Smith
BMAA Director of Missions



By calling and by necessity, missionaries are communicators. The ability to communicate in a culture that is not one's birth culture requires much patience and practice as relationships are built. Most people automatically think of learning a new language – and in many cases multiple new languages – in order to communicate well.

Certainly, language proficiency in a missionary's new culture is a must or he or she will always be limited in what can be accomplished. However, there is much more to missionary communication than just linguistics. Other major issues in communication include worldview, literacy, non-verbal language etc. One area that missionaries must understand is how the local people process information and how they learn.

Most people in the west, i.e. the United States, have been taught and conditioned in a culture to be very concept-based learners. But most people in other cultures are more oral and visual in their learning. Some western forms of teaching/preaching are not highly effective in those cultures. Lecture would often not be the best way to teach a lesson. Expository preaching may not be the best way to preach a sermon if the culture's learning structure is much more oral and narrative.

In a missionary's effort to adapt culturally, the communication process – which includes more than just language learning – takes much humility, skill, and patience.

- Notice -

Southeastern Baptist College, in conjunction with Big Creek Baptist Church, will provide the noon meal on October 19, during the BMA of Mississippi Annual Meeting. A brief presentation will be included.

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

The Greatest Job In the World

by Donny Parrish
Director LifeWord

Someone, somewhere designated October as Pastor Appreciation Month. I'm not sure who that someone is, but he of she ought to be commended. I think it's great for churches to set aside time to recognize the sacrificial service pastors give to their people.

There's a shortage of men giving their lives to serve as pastors today. Did you know that? There aren't enough pastors to fill the vacant pulpits in our country. There are many of reasons for that, I'm sure, but I think one reason is that many pastors have a negative view of pastoral life:

The pay can be less than appealing.
The hours are long.
There is a high degree of stress that

comes with the territory. (You live in a glass house and are held to impossible standards.)

People can be hard to lead. (Sometimes they're just plain mean.)



Are you considering answering God's call to serve as one of His pastors? Having served in a pastoral role for the better part of four decades, I can tell you a few things about being a pastor. Can I share with you something that others might be afraid to admit? Being a pastor is the greatest "job" in the world!

There's nothing that compares to the joy of serving as a pastor. Here are four benefits that no other vocation can afford you:

#1 Pastors get to help people during the most important times of their lives.

Whether it's the birth of their first child, the passing of a loved one, counsel during times of decision or just being a good friend, pastors get to be part of people's lives during their most important moments. It's an honor!

#2 Pastors get to watch people grow.

There's no greater feeling than to see someone grow in their faith. Pastors get to be a part of that spiritual process that will impact every part of a person's life.

#3 Pastors get to meet lots of interesting people.

Do you like people? (If you don't, being a pastor probably isn't going to be a good spot for you.) Pastors are always getting to meet new people and dive into the lives of people from all sorts of backgrounds. In fact, when you're a pastor you are essentially in the people business. It's really a lot of fun!

#4 Pastors live in a constantly changing environment.

Do you like change? Do you hate being bored? Then you'll love being a pastor. Every day is a different day when it comes to ministry. Because all the people to whom you minister are different so your work will be constantly changing.

#5 Pastors get to share the greatest news anyone could ever receive!

How much better can it get? Pastors get to tell people the good news! God loves people so much that He gave us Jesus! You can live in freedom!

It's a privilege to give people hope in this life and in the life to come!

I can confidently say that being a pastor is the greatest "job" in the world! If God is moving your heart to give your life to serve others by being a pastor, do it! You'll receive so much joy for your labor, and so much happiness for your sacrifice!



Conference Wrap-up

At a time when pastors and ministry leaders are struggling with anxiety, leaving their churches, and even considering suicide, Healthy Church Solutions offers support and strategies. The church resource ministry of BMA America, its mission is to help strengthen churches to be what God intended.

The most important aspect of helping churches is maintaining the spiritual health and soul care of their leaders.

On September 27-29 Larry Barker and his team poured into pastors, leaders and wives at re:Charge Conference, held at the Doubletree Hotel in Dallas. Shawn Hammtree and Ronnie Mills were the keynote speakers with Neil Dumas leading worship and Katy McCown and Steve Crawley conducting breakouts. In addition, Luke McCown told his NFL story, and Christian music's Ginny Owens was the concert artist and told the story of her blindness. Each guest spoke directly to the hearts of conference goers through their words, prayers, and music.

Healthy Church Solutions Director Larry Barker said, "This year's Re:Charge Conference was a huge success and encouragement! The comment I heard the most was, "Thank you for this, because I needed it far more than I realized."

For more information on Healthy Church Solutions, email heidi@bmaam.com, follow these links: <https://healthychurchpodcast.com>, <https://healthychurchsolutions.org>

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

Trustees

Adam Sloan - Jean Jeffcoat
Danny Bartlett - Clell Allen
Corbey Jones - Anders Lee

E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org
Web site www.msbaptist.org

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7 Ways to Learn Bible Truth

from Lifeword

Almost overnight and about eighteen months ago, our everyday vocabulary took on a number of new words. Before then, most of us had never used the word pandemic in a conversation. But suddenly, it was everywhere. The word coronavirus was new to most of us. And just as we were getting accustomed to it, the terminology changed to Covid. Sometimes I feel like the line from that old Bob Seger song, "I wish I didn't know now what I didn't know then".

Another word that exploded onto the scene was the word unprecedented. It seemed to perfectly describe the sudden situation in which we collectively found ourselves. Most of us had never had to deal with a

pandemic before. It was overwhelming. The uncertainties, fear, and anxiety that rolled through our land were indeed unprecedented to us.

And the frequency of the use of the word unprecedented was indeed unprecedented!

But was it accurate?

Were we truly dealing with something that had never ever happened before? Clearly it had never happened to most of us. But just as clearly, it had happened to others before us. In fact, over the long arc of human history, it has happened many times. And with that history, we do have reference points and we can find guidance.



guidance.

If we are willing to look.

Over the course of my school years, I studied Georgia history (my home state), American history, and world history. I wish now that I had paid more attention. There are lessons from those histories that are relevant today. I truly

believe the adage that when we ignore the lessons of history, we are doomed to repeat the mistakes.

And indeed, we are seeing those mistakes repeated right before our eyes.

But beyond the lessons of secular histories, we also find a

continued on page 3

If we are willing to look.

IS ANYTHING TRULY UNPRECEDENTED?

It seems to me that there is nothing we deal with in this life that is truly unprecedented. It has happened to someone, somewhere, at some time. And again, with that history, we do have reference points and we can find

Pastor Searches

Mississippi Church

First Baptist Church of Calhoun near Laurel, Mississippi, is seeking a pastor. For those wishing to inquire concerning the church and this position please contact Chairman Paul Welborn at 601-319-6353 or 601-729-8397.

Texas Church

Friendship Baptist Church of Mesquite, Texas, is prayerfully seeking our next full-time pastor. Interested parties should send a resume to office@friendshipmesquite.org. Please enter Search Committee in the subject line. Also include a recent video of a sermon, on a DVD or by a website link. You may also mail the requested information to Friendship Baptist Church, 820 Pioneer Road, Mesquite, TX 75149. Information about our church can be found on our website at www.friendshipmesquite.org.

NATIONAL SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 15-17 2021



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Lauren Talley
Concert Artist



Brian Free & Assurance
Concert Artist

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER GO TO WWW.BMAAMERICA.ORG/SENIOR



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Lindsey

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

I would like to share a brief word of encouragement to you all on behalf of our Special Emphasis for 2021. Second Corinthians 9:7-9 says, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.)"

I pray the Lord warms the hearts of our people to give to our Special Emphasis this year so that we may continue to build on the momentum He has provided in caring for more children.

I will go into more detail in my next article that will encompass my annual report. In the mean time, know that we appreciate your support and look forward to seeing many of you at the state meeting October 19th. If you would like for us to come to your church don't hesitate to contact us 601-426-3928, 662-605-0996, or info@msbch.org. God Bless!

Learn Bible Truth

from page 2

portion of human history recorded in the Bible. Lessons that were specifically chosen and directed by the Spirit of God to be placed there. Out of all the events of history, God thought it was imperative for those words or events to be captured on its pages.

And I know of no author with better credentials than God!

I wish that I could say I enjoy reading the Bible just because I

repeat. In those historical stories of human interaction, there are reference points, and we can find guidance.

If we are willing to look.

LESSONS FOR OUR NATION

The same can be said about our national life. Throughout what we refer to as the Old Testament, we read a very detailed history of the nation of Israel. We see time after time where

show us that there is always grace when we turn back toward God.

In the pages of our Bible, there are reference points, and we can find guidance for our nation.

If we are willing to look.

So if you've stuck with me this far, maybe you are interested in starting, or adjusting, your Bible study habits to more intentionally look for reference points and relevant guidance for right now. Maybe you want to turn what may have seemed a chore, into the daily excitement of being personally mentored by the greatest coach of all times. Maybe you want to learn from the experiences of others recorded in the Bible instead of having to learn those lessons the hard way.

You can if you are willing to look.

A PRACTICAL APPROACH

1. Develop some type of daily Bible reading plan. One chapter a day is a good start. You can begin anywhere, but I usually recommend the book of John as a good starting point.

2. If you are a person of faith and prayer, combine prayer with your reading. Ask God to highlight the exact lesson that He wants to reveal to you that day. And pause as you read to give Him space to do that.

3. If this is all still experimental to you, just look for one point or example in that chapter that seems to have relevance to you at that particular moment. Maybe one point of reference for something that you are

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME



Special Emphasis October - November 2021

Goal: \$30,000

- Projects -

1. Christmas gifts for Children
2. Payroll to add a new House Parent couple to the staff
3. Funds to meet the daily needs of the house

going through or one piece of guidance that seems to stand out.

4. Jot down the thoughts that come to your mind as you focus on that one specific point. It is in those thoughts that you may find the specific lesson God has for you that day.

5. Pause for a few moments to consider how to apply that revealed lesson to your daily life. Jot that down also.

6. Seek to follow through on the point of application that you jotted down.

7. Stick with your reading plan unless God directs you otherwise.

So regardless of whatever you

may be facing today, be encouraged that there are others who have faced those same things. There are reference points and guides available to you.

If you are willing to look.

But always know that there is indeed one truly unprecedented thing in this world. It is the UNPRECEDENTED GRACE available through faith in Christ.

There has never been and never will be anything else like it. And it is available to you.

If you are willing to look.

"Seek and you will find." (Matthew 7:7)

...it seems to me that it is a lesson that is being ignored

enjoy reading it. Many people do, but I am not one of them. I read the Bible for the lessons that I learn there. Through those pages, I find example after example of historical happenings that have relevance to my life today. I see consequence after consequence that I do not have to learn the hard way.

My daily devotional times are to me like a personal mentoring session from the God of the universe. Mentoring sessions that are beyond priceless.

And the lessons modeled there go far beyond just personal lessons for us individually. There are lessons to learn for our families, our churches, and any other human entities. There are mistakes modeled for each one that we do not have to

the nation turns its back on God and suffers devastating consequences. That biblical history is not included there simply as a history lesson on Israel. It is included in the Bible as a picture of consequences to any nation that turns from God. It is there as a lesson to America in the present day and age.

Unfortunately, it seems to me that it is a lesson that is being ignored.

And those history lessons show us that there will be consequences. In fact, it seems clear to me that there are already consequences. And unless "we the people" demand a return to godly principles in our governance, future consequences are inevitable and predictable. But the lessons shown there also



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

"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Galatians 5:25

When I was in the Army assigned overseas, it did not matter which country I was in, Army leadership would address incoming personnel and emphasize that whether or not we were in uniform, anywhere a soldier went in public, their behavior was a direct reflection on the Army and on the United States of America. This was expressed policy even in combat



Dr. Scott Carson
President

zones. The point being, that soldiers are expected to represent their own selves well and represent with honor and integrity, American citizens whom they serve as members of the military.

Most recently somebody asked if I knew a chaplain from my Army days. I did indeed know the name, but there were no good memories. In over 30 years of service as a military chaplain, I can count on three fingers the number of people with whom I had serious issues. The chaplain named was one of them. It was difficult for me to be kind and honest at the same time. This chaplain was not just a problem for me, but also for others in the chain of command all the way up to a two-star general! Most people remember

the character and behavior of others before much else. If a person is representing the gospel of Christ as a minister, or as a chaplain in this case, there are rules, regulations, and guidance, to be followed. Our opinion of that person is greatly re-

Most people remember the character and behavior of others before much else.

duced well into the future if he or she is consistently causing disorder or is narcissistic.

A few weeks ago, I was traveling in Florida on I-10 to the annual Baptist Missionary Association of Florida that was being held in Jacksonville, Florida. I pulled off the highway in Chelsey, Florida to fill the gas tank. While waiting in line inside the station, a very tall

young man walked in. He was wearing a coat and tie. I was in shorts and a Southeastern Baptist College t-shirt. The man paused as he looked at me, pointed at my shirt and said, "Southeastern Baptist College! I played Southeastern a couple of years ago when I was a student at LSU!" I replied that yes we did play LSU in an exhibition game in our first season after restarting the basketball program. He asked how the team was doing and then I asked what he was doing in Chelsey. He replied that he had graduated

pression of SBC and our students. I and our coaches often remind our students of who they are in Christ and wherever they go and whatever they do, on the court or off the court, they represent not only themselves, but also their families, their communities, Southeastern Baptist College, and most of all, their Lord Jesus Christ.

Scripture encourages us as believers to represent the Lord well at all times. Colossians 3:17 states, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Whether we are in our homes, visiting friends, at work, on vacation, at ball games, wherever... we should be a positive influence on others as a child of God. Even when we are stressed or become angry, we should yield to the Lord by walking in the Spirit.

"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:" Colossians 2:6

Equipping the Saints
Dr. Carson

Student Loans

Whereas SBC does not participate in the U.S. Government's guaranteed student loan program, several financial institutions have recently begun providing private student loans to individuals. Contact our Financial Aid Officer for more information at 601-426-6346.

Holloway's Dairy Bar

Holloway's Dairy Bar is open and the public is welcome! The Dairy Bar is located on the campus of SBC. There is an expanded menu and it is open Monday thru Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Come support SBC and Holloway's! Of note, Holloways is no longer open Sundays!

Coffee with the President

An SBC alumnus suggested we begin a "coffee with the president" program where we invite folks, and especially alumni, to meet with Dr. Carson to discuss any topic that might be on their mind. If you are interested in meeting with Dr. Carson, contact him at 601-426-6346 to make an appointment.

Amazon Smile

Christmas will be upon us before we know it! As you begin to make lists and purchase gifts from Amazon, remember, anyone shopping on Amazon can select Southeastern Baptist College as your charity. When you do this, a portion of your purchase price will go directly to SBC as a donation from Amazon! Thank you for those who are already using this unique method to benefit SBC.

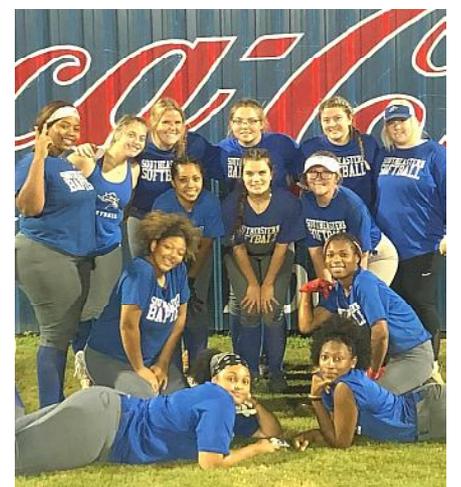
Need a Preacher?

Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit or to make a presentation about the work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. Thank you First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel MS, for recently allowing Dr. Carson to report on the college to fill their pulpit! In addition, Chaplain (Colonel) Carson can provide an update on the BMAA Chaplaincy and deliver a related message. You can reach him at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu

The BMA of Mississippi Christmas Boxes ministry project is about to be processed by our students



The SBC Board of Trustees enjoy a meal and fellowship with the SBC staff



The first Lady Charger's Softball Team will take the field this coming spring!

2021-22 Charger Basketball Schedules listed on page 8

In His Grip by Carolyn Hagler

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



Harbingers of Fall

As I walked out on my patio this morning, I smelled the fragrance of my sweet olive tree and saw my first “nekkid lady.” Don’t jump to conclusions and think I’m peeking through my fence into my neighbor’s yard!



Carolyn Hagler

Fragrances, sights, and sounds all serve as harbingers of fall for me. You might call them “naked ladies,” hurricane lilies, surprise lilies, or spider lilies. I just like seeing people’s expressions when I call them nekkid ladies.

Even though it’s only slightly cooler today, fall officially started last month. I’ve been waiting for signs that fall is here. So, I’ve been looking and finally seeing the sights that announce it: my harbingers of fall.



Red Spider Lillies

The naked ladies are called that because they’re one of the plants that bloom without leaves. Just a single green stalk with a beautiful flower on top, they come at a time when most plants are suffering from the long, hot summer. They are a fresh reminder of fall, my first harbinger.

I have mostly red spider lilies, but a few yellow ones pop up every year as a surprise. I never remember where they’re planted, so I find them among my elephant ears, ginger lilies, and daylilies; under my trees; and almost anywhere. They just make you smile. You can even find them in Miss Eudora Welty’s flower garden. If you don’t have

any, I’m sure you’re seeing them, too, all over town and country. They’re a great passalong plant, so share with friends.

I think my red spider lilies were passed along from my mother’s yard and my yellow ones from a friend. The red ones are tough as nails and can survive lawnmowers and weed trim-

mers. You cannot kill them easily.

They are recognizable this time of the year because of their leafless spears of flowers that look like spider legs that appear where you least expect them. Once their flowers begin to fade, you’ll see the green leaves appear, only to die in the spring. But they’ll be back next fall!

Driving in my neighborhood recently, I saw a confederate rose, which is showing out right now. Legend has it that the name comes from the flowers soak-



Confederate Rose

ing up the blood spilled on Confederate battlefields. “Passalong Plants,” an old book by Felder Rushing and the Grumpy Gardener (Steve Bender) mentions that ladies in Mobile gave these flowers to

Confederate soldiers returning home from the war. We southerners have lots of legends and stories that I enjoy. My confederate rose, though, bit the dust many years ago, and I’ve never planted another one.



Clara Curtis Mums

Other fall reminders are Clara Curtis, the old-timey perennial mum, that seems like a friend coming to visit. When Clara comes to town, you see her everywhere. I paid money for my first one; and when she bloomed, I realized they are everywhere—another passalong plant. So,

you don’t have to buy one; just ask a friend to share. Some people call them daisy mums.

The best tradition of all our passalong plants is one that Sister No. 1 shared with me. Our grandmother told her that you never thank anyone for a shared plant because it will not grow if you do. Now I know why some of my plants died!

Another plant I’ve given to others will be blooming soon: muhly grass. It’s probably one



Muhly Grass

of the ugliest grasses for a major part of the year, but it makes a statement in the fall. If you’re not familiar with the name, I know you’ve seen them. We have a lot in Hattiesburg, and I wish mine looked like them. They remind me of cotton candy, which I thought was the best part of the county fair in earlier times.

My sasanqua camellias are loaded with blooms, but I haven’t spotted a single blossom. One day soon, though,

those beautiful flowers will burst open. I’m thankful that God designed the seasons and provided plants like the camellias that point the way to Him. I was reminded of this truth several Sun-



Sasanqua

days ago from the words of an old hymn written by Isaac Watts, “There’s not a plant or flower below but makes Thy glories known” (I Sing the Mighty Power of God).

Thinking about my eagerly awaited harbingers of fall reminded me of all the less pleasant and more stressful events that we have dealt with for the last year or so with possibly more to come: Covid-19, runaway inflation, earthquakes, fires, socialism, closed churches, a falling away, destruction of history, persecution of Christians, political correctness, and lawlessness, just a few that come to mind.

JB, who did a study on the signs of the times for the men of our church not long before he died, liked to say that he attended the College of Hard Knocks. So, he never claimed to be a teacher. But he really studied his Bible and found some other sources to teach the signs of the time. Books were not as plentiful back then as they are today on the subject. He certainly would have used Bro. Ed Steele’s “A Discourse on the Olivet Discourse.”

But the harbingers he studied were mainly things to watch for. He was looking to future events. Today we’re looking around us; we’re seeing those events happening.

The coming of fall with its sights and fragrances makes me grateful that I can look at the beauty that God gave us and look to Him for the answers I need. And say with John, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20).

The harbingers of His coming that surround us remind me that time is short. Spread the Word! While I wait, I want to watch, witness, and worship, not worry. Until then, I remain in His grip.

Just The Crumbs Ministry staying busy...

Just the Crumbs has been serving in Thibodaux, Louisiana for 5 weeks. To date we have served about 20,000 meals. Next week we have plans to move our kitchen to the grounds of Raceland First Baptist. Lord willing, we will serve Raceland and surrounding communities that haven’t gotten as far along in their recovery as Thibodaux. Thank you all for every show of support through your donations of time, money, supplies, and prayers. We continue to need your prayers and other support. We ALWAYS can use volunteers. As many of you know, at this same time Beth Burkes is serving volunteers in a 2 week commitment in Cleveland, Ten-

nessee, while the volunteers rebuild a house destroyed by a 2020 tornado. God bless!

To all those that support us we apologize for not updating sooner. Some areas are still without power and cell service is very poor at times. Bro. Lavon is with a team in Thibodaux and is feeding close to a 1000 meals a day.

The pictures below are from hurricane Ida damage. If you would like to volunteer in this area please contact us by direct message, we would love to have you or your church come jion with us as we reach those effected, with the love of Christ.

If you would like to financially sup-



port JTC You can give by: Paypal [Justthecrumbs21](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?item_id=JTC), BMAA Missions “disaster relief”, By mail: 10 Wagon Trail, Sumrall, MS. 39482

Your gifts are the seed we are able to



sow into the lives of all those we come in cotact with and minister too. Thank you for faithfully supporting JTC, it is because of your gifts that we are able to serve others.

Morality and Simplicity

II Corinthians 1:12

“For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.”

By Dr. John Adams

Executive Director, Moral Action

Most of us have only a vague idea of the meaning of the word “simplicity”. It means “Absence of pretentious styles of luxury”; and seldom do we hear anything about simplicity as an essential in the spiritual life. May we note:

I. Where there is simplicity, words can be taken at face value.

For humor’s sake, Mrs. Jones was preparing an early supper for her 12-year-old son so he could get to swimming practice on time. Everything was ready when she discovered she was almost out of ketchup. She was thumping away at the end of the nearly empty bottle when the telephone rang. “Get that”, she called to her son.

He picked up the phone and told the caller. “She can’t come to the phone right now. She’s hitting the bottle.” Let’s be simple in our words!

There are no hidden or double

meanings in speech. One says what one means and means what one says. Both our Lord and Paul are characterized by simplicity. Their intention was not to confuse or deceive but to clarify and illumine. Jesus often used domestic and agriculture terms—they were simple and easy to understand. May we be simple and clear to understand in our words. Proverbs 25:11 “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.”

The longer I study Jesus’ method of communicating, the more convinced I become that His genius rested in His ability to simplify and clarify issues that others confused and complicated.

II. Where there is simplicity, there is no artificiality.

Matthew 6:5-8 “And when thou



Dr. Adams

prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do, for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them, for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.”

One does not try to appear younger, or wiser, or richer than one is or more saintly! Moffatt’s translation of I Corinthians 13:4 hits it exactly when it says: “Love makes no parade, gives itself no airs.”

The ego always wants attention, recognition, and applause. May we be emancipated from the tyranny of ego. Our consciousness is to be free to turn toward God and to become ever aware of God. Simplicity in life and character will help us with our attack on the ego.

May we never be a conference trotter, a floor stealer, an achievement parade, a conversation hog, and an always honorable mention candidate.

May we be real persons for Christ. Galatians 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

III. Where there is simplicity, there is a strong desire to please God.

Christians should make of their work for God a means of training in simplicity. There should be an absence of pretention.

In making resolutions of the simple life, we can:

A. Make our behavior a Bible to all who know us,

B. Claim no grace we do not possess but seek all the grace available in Christ, and

C. Conform our actions to God’s standards.

No wonder Jesus said, “Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

We should keep in mind the wise caution of Bede Frost: “We cannot, by observing rules, make ourselves simple. All we can do is to show our desire to remove the hindrances in our Lord’s way, to empty ourselves so that we may be filled with the simplicity which is in Christ Jesus”.

Big Creek Association Walk for the World

report and photos by Justin Rhodes

Lebanon Baptist Church near Laurel, hosted the annual Walk for the World at West Jones High School Football Stadium on Wednesday, October 13. Approximately 160 people, representing 8 churches in the Big Creek Association, enjoyed a great devotion by Adam Parker, as well as much needed fellowship.



The Peace Index

by Larry Barker

Leadership is not easy but it can be very rewarding. The best leaders are always focused on helping others achieve their highest potential. In *The 100X Leader* by Jeremiah Kubicek and Steve Cockram they state, “We need leaders who lead for the benefit of others, not just for themselves.” They make us aware that the two challenges of leadership are the leader accomplishing what they need to accomplish while simultaneously helping others accomplish their highest potential. A leader cannot give what he does not possess in the areas of joy, peace, contentment, encouragement, challenge, or support.

A leader needs to be the healthiest person in the room. Notice that I did not say the strongest, the smartest, the loudest, or even the best trained. If you want a healthy church, it must be led by healthy leaders. Please, if you are not healthy spiritually, emotionally, or physically the first thing to do is develop a plan to become healthy



Larry Barker

yourself:

What help do you need to seek first?

Whom do you need to seek the help from?

Reach out to a friend, another leader, or someone who has been where you are and has a heart to help you through the challenges you are experiencing. There are many who do care and desire for you to be healthy.

One area of health that is vitally important is experiencing the peace of God in your life.

Kubicek and Cockram utilize a tool called the “Peace Index” that enables you to determine how healthy you are personally. In some of their training materials they state, “The Peace Index tool will help you understand and express how key factors and specific stressors affect your peace, and consequently your leadership behavior.”

When your Peace Index is high, we tend to think more clearly and without distraction. We also tend to view obstacles

“We need leaders who lead for the benefit of others, not just for themselves.”

How would you rate the level of peace in your life right now? How would you determine how healthy you are and what you need to work on? Paul challenged believers (Philippians 4:6-8) to not be anxious about anything, but instead to allow the peace of God to guard their hearts and minds.

The real challenge of leadership is not eliminating every unpleasant circumstance. The greater challenge is trusting God in the midst of the unpleasant circumstances. God’s peace is what lifts the leader above the most debilitating trials.

more as challenges, and we tend to operate from a place of secure, confident, and humble leadership. In short, you will be better able to bring your best and liberate others.”

When your Peace Index is low, you become so focused on navigating your own journey that it becomes increasingly more difficult to lead others to be healthy. Scoring yourself in the five areas of the peace index will enable you to become more self-aware. Then use these indicators to lead you to the areas in

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MISSIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The Ballards in the Philippines

*Danny & Rita Ballard
Missionaries to Philippines*

Things in our area are still about the same. We are under General Community Quarantine at this time which has a little more freedom, but not much. They finally got smart about the lock downs and started doing local lock downs in areas that have a high amount of cases and not just a blanket lock down for the entire region.

We are thankful that the Lord has



Unloading food bags out of the trunk of their personal vehicle to show their love and concern

allowed us to continue with the Bible studies we have been doing and added a few more. The Relief Ministry has been a blessing to so many people and we are thankful for all those who have been donating to that ministry. It allows us to minister to those that are in great need of the basic food supply. It allows us to help with the physical need and share the gospel for their spiritual need. We rejoice that several have accepted Christ as their Savior through this ministry.

The two missions in the Rizal area have been doing a great job. The con-



Rita Ballard passes out food bags to those in need. Covid has hurt those who need help the most

struction of the new mission building in the landfill area is 90% complete. We thank the Lord and were able to baptize 11 there last weekend.

Prayer requests would be for the missions (Quezon Province, 2 in Rizal, 2 in Pangasinan), The Relief Ministry and those we minister to, as well as the funds to continue to come in for that, and the Bible studies. Also for a lady name Jhe as she is about to have a baby, but can't afford to go to hospital so she will have it at home with a midwife. She is one that was saved through the relief ministry.

Pray for us as we are trying to come home just for Christmas as a vacation time. We haven't taken a vacation since we have been on the field. Pray for safety and our health as we continue to do our best for the Lord in spite of the risk of the virus. Lord willing, we will get our first dose of the Pfizer vaccine on Thursday.

Thank you for your prayers and work you are doing there,
Danny & Rita

Reaching Out to the 'Forgotten People'

*by Daine Lee
Missionary to the Philippines*

The indigenous people in the mountains on the island where we live are sometimes referred to as "the forgotten people." God laid it on our hearts to reach these tribal people with the gospel. Since they have their own language and dialect, we began supporting Pastor Joel Francisco and his wife, Diesserey, four years ago. They are graduates of the BMA Bible College and are members of this tribe. Not only do we try to help Pastor Francisco to share the gospel to these people and provide their spiritual needs, but to assist with their physical needs.



Diane Lee passes out school bags

the children in the villages. Praise the Lord for people who supplied a need for people they do not know! Because of their impoverished condition, school supplies help them with an education which can lead to a better quality of life.

There was also a need for a church building where they can meet, and while we were home, we presented this need to one of our churches in Texas, who generously supplied the funds for a church building for them. Not only did we deliver school supplies, but were blessed to have a ground-breaking for their new building, which should be complete in late December.



Bro. Doug Lee participating in groundbreaking for new church building

Thanks to Westlawn Baptist Church and Catahoula Baptist Church, both in Picayune, Mississippi, for providing school supplies for the children in this area, which otherwise, they may not have ever had. With help from the BMABC staff, we put together 150 bags of school supplies and delivered them to

School Supplies

from Doug and Diane Lee

BLESSED to give 150 school supply bags to the tribal children. They were excited and thankful! Thank you, Westlawn Baptist Church and Catahoula Baptist Church for supplying notebooks, pencils, coloring books, crayons, pens and much more! Thanks Darlyn Joy Balbaguio, BMABC staff member and Antonette, one of our students, for your help in assembling the bags and traveling the wild 2-hour Jeep ride to distribute them.

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your life you need to work on and improve your overall health in. You can score yourself in these five areas on a regular basis to see where you need attention and develop a plan for improvement.

Self-awareness should marry itself to a plan of action in the area that your peace index is the lowest in:

#1 Score yourself (usually between 50% and 95%) in the area of purpose.

The question to ask yourself is, "How strong is your sense of meaning and fulfillment in your life right now?" Are you actively involved in something that energizes you?

#2 Score your level of peace with the people in your everyday life.

How are your relationships with the people you do life with at home and at your place of service? These two areas, purpose and peace, are the leading indicators that will impact the other three the most. If you lack peace in fulfilling your purpose or the people in your life, you will struggle with your peace index.

#3 Score yourself according to the place you are in right now.

How is it where you live, work, and play? Is your environment healthy or unhealthy? Are you going through a major transition right now or has your community gone through a major catastrophe?

#4 Score yourself in the area of physical health.

Are you able to rest well and are you sleeping well? Are you able to get a sabbath in order to take a deep breath and relax?

#5 Score yourself in the area of provision.

Are you happy with your level of in-

How would you rate the level of peace in your life right now?

come or is it at least headed in the right direction? Does it bring confidence to you or does it cause you fear and conflict?

Now give yourself a score between 50 and 100 in each of these five areas to

represent your level of peace in each one. Add the five together for your total and divide by five. This is the indicator of your overall peace, calm, and absence of anxiety in your life.

Remember that it is subjective and not objective but gives you a metric to see what you need to work on first. The number is not as important as the self-awareness in a particular area that can now marry itself to a plan of action!

Be driven by this principle first: Galatians 1:10 tells us that if you please God, it matters not who you displease, but if you displease God, it matters not who you please.

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Col. 3:17

Ladies Retreat Wrap-up and Report

by Kathy Walley

To the Ladies who attended the 2021 Ladies Retreat in Pearl, Mississippi

I appreciate you! Thank you so much for making a long awaited retreat a success. I so much appreciate all the prayers and the people who helped me so much!

Shout outs to first of all my mama, Beth Caldwell. I could not have led this without her! Theresa Reus, my side-kick the whole way! Charlotte Johnson, for patiently waiting for 2 years and being an awesome speaker.



Kathy Walley

We were grateful for having our special missionary guest and please continue to pray for her. Mary Sprayberry, thank you so much for making sure my one song request happened! It was great! Thank you for having our special music guests, Diane, Brittany, Faith, and to Anna for playing special music.

Thanks to Jeanina Cochran for leading our prayer time. What a great time it was! Thank you to Mrs. Barbara White for the Silent Auction and to all that gave her a helping hand. Marilyn, Theresa Reus, Linda Dertinger, thank you for a wonderful spread of snacks. Gina, the Photo Booth was so pretty! I know ladies made great memories there.



To Jenny and Stacey, thank you for making the door prize give-aways so much fun! Jessica, the 2021 retreat shirts were awesome! You did a great job!

Looking forward to our next retreat!

Comments from one who attended...

The Mississippi WMA retreat was wonderful. Spirit-filled and fun. Charlotte Johnson had wonderful sessions on joy and prayer, so appropriate for our needs today. I loved the special prayer time, very powerful. The ladies were warm and inviting. The food was great, and tons of it. If you went away hungry it was your own fault. Loved, loved, loved the retreat.

Blessings,
Glenda Chamberlain

Baptist Publishing House Updates...

The Lord said these words through the Prophet Hosea, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children" (Hosea 4:6). Although this was directed towards the priests of Israel, we are experiencing similar problems in local churches today. There is a lack of knowledge of the Word of God among our people and, certainly, across our nation.

The Baptist Publishing House is committed to providing churches with solid Sunday School/Bible Study curriculum. In a day where many are seeking to "lower the bar" when it comes to Bible teaching, it is our conviction to "raise the bar." Simply put, God's people need God's Word. We stand behind local churches and seek to give them the very best curriculum possible.

The Baptist Expositor provides more than just a Sunday School lesson. It teaches people how to study the Bible. The difference between merely providing a lesson and teaching people how to study is the difference between spoon-feeding and teaching someone how to cook their own dinner. We would love nothing more than to see every member of every local church know how to study their Bible better than ever before and to walk with God more closely. Imagine the impact that would have on our homes, our churches, and our

world!

Here are some facts about the Baptist Publishing House:

-We are the only publisher that writes according to the Doctrinal Statement of the BMA of America. All of our writers are members of BMA churches and must agree with the statement in order to write. We do everything with your church in mind.

-We have updated and expanded the Cobb's Church Manual. It now includes many helpful things for pastors, such as orders of service and an ordination preparation exam.

-We offer children's curriculum too...and we are beginning to create new curriculum for them!

-Our website: baptistpublishinghouse.com provides resources such as our Doctrinal Statement, a study course over the Doctrinal Statement, and the new Church Manual (all for free download!)

-We are seeking the support of more local churches. We are able to keep curriculum and shipping costs low because the financial support of local churches and associations. If every church gave \$20/month or \$50/month, it would be a great help to us!

-We are ALWAYS willing to visit your church. Bro. Jordan Tew would love to teach Sunday School, preach, or even host a Sunday School teacher training workshop. No church is too small!

attend on Sundays.

My wife and I continue to visit other Arabic families, sharing the gospel with them and praying with them in their homes. We need your prayers. During the pandemic, we created a church group on WhatsApp and recorded messages or short videos to share with our contacts. We continue to pray for the future of this church.

Please keep us in your prayers. We have several plans for the church includ-

ing special services and dinners to encourage new people to come. Arabic people in Orlando live at many different locations, and we try to serve them as best as we can. Thank you to our BMA family for your prayers and all you do to support us.

God bless you!
Adam Batarseh
407-729-3493
adambatarseh@gmail.com

Southeastern Baptist College Men's Basketball Schedule 2021-2022

Date	Opponent	Time	Location
Tuesday, Oct. 19	@Dillard	7:00pm	New Orleans, LA
Sunday, Oct. 24	Lindsey Wilson College	3:00pm	Laurel, MS
Tuesday, Oct. 26	@LSU Alexandria	6:00pm	Alexandria, LA
Friday, Oct. 29	@Life University	TBA	Marietta, GA
Saturday, Oct. 30	@Life University	TBA	Marietta, GA
Monday, Nov. 1	@University of Mobile	7:00pm	Mobile, AL
Tuesday, Nov. 2	@William Carey University	7:00pm	Hattiesburg, MS
Saturday, Nov. 6	@Lindsey Wilson College	8:00pm	Columbia, KY
Sunday, Nov. 7	@Campbellsville University	2:00pm	Columbia, KY
Wednesday, Nov. 10	@University of Mobile	7:00pm	Mobile, AL
Friday, Nov. 12	@SE Louisiana University	TBA	Hammond, LA
Tuesday, Nov. 16	@Point University	7:00pm	West Point, GA
Friday, Nov. 19	@University of West AL	7:00pm	Livingston, AL
Saturday, Nov. 20	@Miles College	5:00pm	Fairfield, AL
Monday, Nov. 22	@University of AL Huntsville	7:00pm	Huntsville, AL
Tuesday, Nov. 30	@William Carey University	7:00pm	Hattiesburg, MS
Wednesday, Dec. 1	@Auburn University Mont.	7:00pm	Montgomery, AL
Monday, Dec. 6	@LSU Shreveport	6:00pm	Shreveport, LA
Friday, Dec. 10	@Blue Mountain Tourn.	TBA	Blue Mountain, MS
Saturday, Dec. 11	@Blue Mountain Tourn.	TBA	Blue Mountain, MS
Monday, Dec. 13	@Stillman College	7:30pm	Tuscaloosa, AL
Saturday, Dec. 18	@University of North AL	1:00pm	Florence, AL
Wednesday, Dec. 29	@Jackson State University	6:00pm	Jackson, MS
Saturday, Jan. 9	@Delgado	4:00pm	New Orleans, LA
Thursday, Jan. 13	Toccoa Falls	6:00pm	Laurel, MS
Saturday, Jan. 15	@Bob Jones	4:00pm	Greenville, SC
Saturday, Jan. 22	Delgado	4:00pm	Laurel, MS
Tuesday, Jan. 25	@MUW	6:00pm	Columbus, MS
Friday, Jan. 28	@Pensacola Christian	7:30pm	Pensacola, FL
Saturday, Feb. 5	@Toccoa Falls	3:00pm	Toccoa Falls, GA
Tuesday, Feb. 8	Pensacola Christian	7:00pm	Laurel, MS
Thursday, Feb. 10	Bob Jones	TBA	Laurel, MS

Women's Basketball Schedule 2021-2022

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	LOCATION
Tuesday, Oct. 19	@Dillard	5:00pm	New Orleans, LA
Monday, Oct. 25	@LSU Shreveport	5:30pm	Shreveport, LA
Thursday, Oct. 28	@Millsaps College	6:30pm	Jackson, MS
Monday, Nov. 1	@Southern Mississippi	6:00pm	Hattiesburg, MS
Tuesday, Nov. 2	@University of Mobile	5:30pm	Mobile, AL
Friday, Nov. 5	Toccoa Falls	5:00pm	Laurel, MS
Saturday, Nov. 13	@Blue Mountain	2:00pm	Blue Mountain, MS
Monday, Nov. 15	Coastal Alabama South	5:30pm	Laurel, MS
Tuesday, Nov. 16	@Point University	5:00pm	West Point, GA
Friday, Nov. 19	@West Alabama	5:00pm	Livingston, AL
Saturday, Nov. 20	@Mississippi College	5:30pm	Clinton, MS
Monday, Nov. 29	@Xavier University	TBA	New Orleans, LA
Tuesday, Nov. 30	@William Carey University	5:00pm	Hattiesburg, MS
Wednesday, Dec. 1	@Auburn Univ, Montgomery	5:00pm	Montgomery, AL
Saturday, Dec. 4	@Coastal Alabama South	3:00pm	Bay Minette, AL
Monday, Dec. 6	Loyola University	5:30pm	Laurel, MS
Monday, Dec. 13	@Stillman College	5:30pm	Tuscaloosa, AL
Tuesday, Dec. 14	University of Mobile	5:30pm	Laurel, MS
Friday, Dec. 17	Louisiana College	5:30pm	Laurel, MS
Saturday, Dec. 18	@Loyola University	1:00pm	New Orleans, LA
Tuesday, Jan. 4	@Xavier University	TBA	New Orleans, LA
Saturday, Jan. 8	@Delgado	2:00pm	New Orleans, LA
Tuesday, Jan. 11	@Stillman College	5:30pm	Tuscaloosa, AL
Thursday, Jan. 13	@Grace College	TBA	Pensacola, FL
Saturday, Jan. 22	Delgado	2:00pm	Laurel, MS
Friday, Jan. 28	@Pensacola Christian College	5:30pm	Pensacola, FL
Tuesday, Feb. 8	Pensacola Christian College	5:30pm	Laurel, MS
Thursday, Feb. 10	@Toccoa Falls	5:00pm	Toccoa Falls, GA