

# Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

## SBC & Host Church Step Forward Meals Provided for Annual Meeting

Big Creek Baptist Church will be hosting the annual meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi on Tuesday, October 19, 2021. Our church is delighted to welcome the messengers of our churches from across the state.

To make it convenient for our messengers and guests this year Big Creek Baptist Church will provide an evening meal. We encourage those who attend the meeting to stay and enjoy the provided meals throughout the day as we meet to conduct business and hear the Word of God proclaimed.

We hope this will be a blessing and benefit to those who attend the meeting. We look forward to seeing you at Big Creek Baptist Church for the annual meeting of the BMA of Mississippi.

### College to Host Lunch

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.

## Director's Take A look at Missions Around the World

by Dr. John David Smith  
Executive Director of Missions  
BMA of America

In this article we continue looking at cultural issues that western missionaries face when adjusting to most other cultures in the world. We must remember



Dr. Smith

that everyone in the world typically will judge another culture through the filter of their own cultures . . . that makes sense. The problem with this view is that most of the time we judge the other culture as "wrong" simply because it is different.

People in the West tend to be very "universalist" when it comes to cultural norms. This means that they live by universal principles that guide all of us in the majority of situations.

Many people in other cultures are "particularist," which means they will judge each situation on its own merit and according to who is involved.

by the late Bro. Grover Laird

"... I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." (2 Timothy 1:12)

The words of our text are the words of the Apostle Paul. It is rather obvious that he knew for sure that he was saved and Why! What was true of Paul can be true of all of us. In this message I will list three things that should give us this assurance, if indeed we are saved.

### I. We Have Done What the Bible Requires Us To Do To Be Saved

The first thing that is required in order to be saved is to open one's heart to the gospel of Christ. God uses the gospel of Christ, or the Good News of Christ, to bring sinners to salvation -

The universalist views the particularist as wishy washy and dishonest. The particularist views the universalist as rigid and uncaring.

If you are judging this cultural reality by your own culture, this is a no brainer. It is very clear to us, right? Well, unfortunately when adapting to new cultures, it is not that easy . . .

Let's imagine that you, a westerner, heard a fellow employee, who is your friend, constantly spreading rumors about the boss. What would you do when confronted by the boss asking if your colleague has indeed been spreading rumors? The universalist will usually not cover up wrong behavior because "right is right".

By contrast, if you live in a particularistic culture, when asked about the same situation, you would do whatever it takes to preserve the relationship with your friend; and to them they are doing the "right" thing. You can see where cultural issues like this can cause great difficulty in building relationships and communicating the gospel.

We are thankful that the gospel is way bigger than cultural issues; however, we all live and minister in our own cultural realities that are not always easy to navigate. We praise the Lord for ChangeMakers all over the world who are ministering in culturally difficult contexts and, many times, in physically dangerous environments.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." (Romans 1:16)

In 1 Corinthians 1:21 we are also told, "...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." One must therefore open his ears and heart to that wonderful message lest he hinders God in bringing him to eternal life.



Bro. Grover Laird

One must also repent toward God and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. I put repentance and faith together because they are inseparable. One cannot do one of these without doing the other. When the Holy Spirit uses the gospel to convince one that he is on the wrong road, serving the wrong master, and headed to the wrong place, it also points him to Jesus as his only hope for deliverance. As he turns FROM his old sin-

ner life, he turns TO Jesus to save him. This was the message that Paul preached - "Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." (Acts 20:21) Those who obey this gospel are saved. (II Thessalonians 1:8)

Consider a few verses that clearly teach that salvation comes by faith in Jesus. As you read each verse, ask yourself the question, "Have I done this?" "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." (Acts 16:31)

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:9,10)

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." (John 1:12)

continued on page 2

## Virus Still Rages Around the World Philippine Pastor's Wife Dies from Covid

From Stan Scroggins, Serving in the Philippines

We are grieving today with Pastor Alan Quimco in the loss of his wife due to Covid complications. Alan is Missionary with Fairview Baptist Mission in Valencia, Negros Oriental. This is the mission started by Missionary Sam and Dawn Freeman outside of Dumaguete.

Pastor Alan has been working as a pastor with the BMAP for close to 40 years, he first started working with Melvin Meade back in the 1980's. Most recently he's been helping Sam Freeman with the church plant Fairview Baptist Mission. He is a BMAP and Changemaker missionary. I started working with him in the 90's. He hosted several of my VSM teams.

His wife taught in Christian schools and was a faithful Christian woman and pastor's wife. Filipinos are very fearful of going to doctors. As a third world country the poor can't afford to go to the doctor, and when they do it is too late. So hospitals and doctors get a bad wrap. Covid is really beginning to have high rates of death, again because once they go to the doctor it's too late for effective care. I'm hearing of deaths every week, another just a few moments ago. One of our former student's father passed. There is also a lot of fear of getting vaccinated.

Pray for the ministry and people of the Philippines as we continue our ministry here.



Pastor & Mrs. Quimco

# Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown  
Editor

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

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USPS 353-960  
P.O. Box 8181  
Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000  
Phone 601-426-3293

### PRICE

\$20.00 Per Year by Mail  
\$15.00 Per Year by Email  
CHURCH PLAN  
\$ 1.50 Per Month per Family

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi.  
Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

### Postmaster

Send address changes to  
Mississippi Baptist Paper  
P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441

## A New Meeting Place The Same Purpose

We have been sharing through these pages, our website, and via email to a number of our pastors and churches, that the 2021 Annual Meeting of the BMA of Mississippi has been moved from First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel, to the Big Creek Baptist Church near Soso.

Big Creek Church is located on Highway 84, 10 miles west of Laurel. Big Creek has hosted the meeting before and annually hosts the South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference. They have great facilities, ample parking, and the church facilities are very accommodating for our meetings.

The Program planning committee, led by President Greg Medenwald, feels the meeting will be concluded in one day.

Plans have been made by Big Creek Church and Southeastern College to provide lunch and dinner for the messengers.

The Annual Message, brought by Bro. Dennis Knight, will be in the early evening. With the meals being provided by the church and Southeastern College, this should be a time saver and leave ample time for messengers to stay for the entire meeting and still have time to travel home.

Reports will be heard from each ministry of our state work, we will worship in song, and hear messages from President Medenwald and Bro. Knight. Each church may have 3 messengers to represent them and all visitors are encouraged to attend. We hope to see you on October 18 & 19, at Big Creek Church.

A short agenda is listed below.

### All Meetings at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso Monday, October 18

7:00 p.m. State WMA Meeting  
State Brotherhood

### Tuesday, October 19

#### Session One

9:30 a.m. Meeting Called to Order – Welcome and Response, Scripture and Prayer, Reading of the Rules of Order  
  
President's Message – Greg Medenwald  
Introduction of Theme  
10:15 a.m. Call for Constitutional Changes  
Enrollment Committee Initial Report  
Election of Officers  
Midyear Meeting Location and Speaker (May 17,2022)  
Annual Meeting Location and Speaker (October 18,2022)  
Nominating Committee Report

#### Reports Begin

Children's Home  
Brotherhood  
WMA  
11:45 a.m. Scripture, Prayer, and Dismissal for Lunch

#### Session Two

1:00 p.m. Worship in Music  
Scripture and Prayer  
Vote on Constitutional Changes if Necessary

#### Reports Continue

Southeastern Baptist College  
Youth Department  
Missions Department/Revolving Loan Fund  
Publications Department/Mississippi Baptist  
BMA of Mississippi Foundation  
Commission on Senior Adults  
Moral Action

## How To Be Sure

From page one

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." (John 3:36)

### II. We Have Experienced What Happens When One Gets Saved

When one believes in Jesus as his Savior, the Holy Spirit moves in. This within itself is one of the greatest proofs that one is saved - "Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit." (1 John 4:13) But more than this, several things happen when the Holy Spirit comes to abide in us.

One thing that happens is, the love of God fills us - "... the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." (Romans 5:5) This love manifests itself in many directions, but the fact that we have it is proof that we are saved - "...for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." (1 John 4:8) Just listening to a person talk, one can often times tell whether this love has been shed abroad in his heart.

This love surely manifests itself first toward God - "We love him, because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19) Nothing surely feels better than to have a strong love for God down deep in our heart, and this is proof of salvation.

Not only does the Holy Spirit shed abroad God's love in our hearts, it also gives us peace.

Commission on History  
Salary Committee Report  
Clerk's Report  
Final Enrollment Committee Report  
Appointment of Enrollment Committee  
Miscellaneous and Additional Business  
Dismiss for Evening Meal  
Worship in Music  
Annual Message Bro. Dennis Knight

5:00 p.m.  
6:00 p.m.

### Registration Table

Tuesday Morning – 8:00  
Tuesday Afternoon – 12:15

(Each church must register messengers and receive ballots.)

One of the clearest proofs of salvation is the fact that this love also manifests itself toward God's people. When one is lost, he feels comfortable in the presence of the unsaved and uncomfortable in the presence of the saved. When he is saved, he feels comfortable with the saved and out of place with the unsaved - "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." (1 John 3:14; See also 1 John 4:12) A strong love for God's people is a clear proof of salvation.

...The gospel message of Jesus troubles one's heart over his condition and need. When he turns to Jesus in repentance and faith, Jesus comes into his heart bringing peace...

This love also manifests itself toward sinners. Often times when a person is saved he immediately expresses interest in a friend who is unsaved. Paul is a good example - "...I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." (1 Corinthians 9:22; See also Acts 26:19,20) This love also manifests itself toward the Bible, the church, and the welfare of all.

Not only does the Holy Spirit shed abroad God's love in our hearts, it also gives us peace.

Here is how it works. The gospel message of Jesus troubles one's heart over his condition and need. When he turns to Jesus in repentance and faith, Jesus comes into his heart bringing peace - "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) This peace of God "passeth all understanding," (Philippians 4:7) and is indeed the fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22) A lost person under conviction can know when he is saved by the peace that calms his troubled heart.

Along with this peace comes joy. It is called the joy of our salvation. (Psalm 51:12) Many times the Bible will mention this joy when it speaks of one being saved. (Psalm 40:1-3; Acts 8:5-8; 8:39; 16:34) If no joy came into one's heart when he thought he got saved, he is surely mistaken about being saved. Joy also is a fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22)

The Spirit also makes us a different person when we get saved. This is one of the stronger proofs of salvation. The Bible calls this work of the Spirit a "washing of regeneration." (Titus 3:5) In John 3:6,7, it is called a new birth. (John 3:6,7) When one gets saved he should therefore be able to tell that things are different - "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Besides all of this, the Holy Spirit has a way of telling a person that he is saved. You see, when a person is lost the Holy Spirit only tells him that he is lost. Often times one can sense the Spirit saying "You are lost," "You are lost." After one comes to Jesus for salvation the Spirit changes His message. He is now saying, "You are saved," "You are saved" Notice the verse that says this - "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:" (Romans 8:16)

The Holy Spirit is also given

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## Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Lindsey

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

We have been blessed by the Lord with opportunities to help many children. Somewhere in our history the most popular question became, "How many kids do ya'll have now?" Over the past two years God has proven through the ebb and flow of the Children's Home ministry that He will continue to send kids our way. From 1 to 16 we constantly lean on Him for our provisions. Private donors and businesses help, but the bulk of our budget comes from our churches. Our associated efforts have sustained this ministry by the Lord's hand for 77 years. I can't thank you enough on behalf of all the lives we have impacted with the Gospel of Christ.

Associational efforts are vital. During our special emphasis this year we are trying to go beyond our current contributions by \$30,000. This will help us in a multitude of areas, but one in particular. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 tells us, "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat; but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

We need associational funding and we need an associational work force. We have cut costs on a multitude of fronts, but we have had more expenses with

the addition of more children. If we want to continue to sustain and grow in this ministry, we need more funds and more help. We need more monetary support to hire another full time couple to come along side us for the labor, for the support, and for the strength. If we do not see a growth in support and the addition of help, we will continue on our current course of plateau.

We thank you for entrusting us with this ministry and we are thankful the Lord remains faithful to see us through each day. If we can come and share some of our lives with your church please don't hesitate to call me and I will be glad to schedule a time to come and share with you. Call 662-605-0996 or email [info@msbch.org](mailto:info@msbch.org). We look forward to God's work in this ministry, our lives, and the lives of the children.

In His Service,  
Director Dwight Lindsey



Blessings in court

# 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



Celebrating Special Days



Indoor relaxation time

### Submission Policies

Your Mississippi Baptist is the voice of the BMA of Mississippi, her churches, and her ministries. We are pleased to publish reports from all related entities, including the world-wide ministries of the BMA of America. We do not publish news or notices of secular or outside groups.

Article submissions should be sent by email to [editor@msbaptist.org](mailto:editor@msbaptist.org) or in typed format by mail to P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441.

Photos should be emailed in jpg format. Photos lose resolution when printed on newsprint, therefore the original quality is vital. Photos should be well lighted, in focus, clear and sharp. Photos should contain people if at all possible. There is no guarantee that all articles and/or photos will be published. Unsolicited items will be given consideration, but publication is not guaranteed. Date sensitive articles will take priority.

We publish on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of each month with the exception of December. Articles announcing events should be in the issue that is published at least 2 weeks prior.

### Retired pastor and wife die within a few days of each other



Milford & Elsie Magers

Joint funeral services were held for Rev. Milford D. Magers, age 91, and his wife, of 72 years, Elsie Hogue Magers of Lucedale. The Magers served faithfully pastoring churches and serving in the BMA of Mississippi for a number of years. Burial was at Go Forth Memorial Garden with Bro. B.J. Hudson and Bro. Zach Dant officiating.

Both were preceded in death

by son-in-law David Morgan; grandson Eric Magers; their parents and a host of other family members.

Pallbearers were son Phillip Magers; grandsons Donavon Phillips and Jonathan Morgan; and great-grandsons Jordan McClelland, Braxton McClelland and Colby Phillips. Honorary pallbearer is Donald Phillips.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in their memory to Go Forth Ministries' Children's Home (Honduras) P.O. Box 2372, Gulfport, MS 39505.

# 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

*"The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge."*  
Proverbs 18:15

Southeastern Baptist College is a Bible college. In fact, it is the only accredited Bible college in Mississippi! The difference between a liberal arts Christian college and a Bible college are the required number of Bible hours taken by every student attending in order to graduate. Christian liberal arts colleges require only six hours of religion as part of their four-year class require-



Dr. Scott Carson  
President

ments in order to earn their bachelor's degree. A Bible college, like SBC, requires a minimum of 30 hours of Bible for a four-year degree. It is important to understand that every student taking courses at SBC, regardless of their degree path, are taking Bible courses as well. Many of our students take advantage of our two-year Associate of Arts in General Education degree. After earning this degree many transfer to other colleges in order to complete their bachelor's degree in a discipline of study that we may not offer here.

In the past two years, our staff has worked diligently to expand our previous degree paths. As part of this effort, we have grown from one four-year ministerial degree into two degrees that are better focused

depending on the discipline the student chooses. We now offer a Bachelor's in Pastoral Ministry for those students wanting to pursue a pulpit ministry and we also offer a Bachelor's in Christian Ministry with concentrations in missions, children and

istry students are already working with churches and are completing their studies online. The days when ministry students used to come onto campus overnight to attend in-classroom classes in order to earn their degrees has transitioned to a more convenient mode. Students can now study in their home or at their church where they work and still earn an accredited ministry degree.

I am about to make a major effort to promote our online ministry degree programs. We are

ber of online ministry students. I believe there are Christians across the United States desiring to increase their Bible knowledge by taking online courses from a Christ-centered and conservative Bible college, especially in the times we are living. In addition, SBC is one of the least expensive private schools in the nation while recognized as a top ten Bible college in quality education.

As we seek a solution to our student housing needs, pray that the Lord will bless our efforts to expand the number of students taking our online programs. Perhaps you are interested. Contact our admissions office to discuss the possibilities. Studying God's Word is always worth your time and effort!

*"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* 2 Timothy 2:15

Equipping the Saints  
Dr. Carson

I believe there are Christians across the United States desiring to increase their Bible knowledge by taking online courses from a Christ-centered and conservative Bible college

youth, or administration. In the future, we are planning to reintroduce a Bachelor's degree in Music. SBC also offers a two-year Associate of Arts degree in Bible.

Our ministry degrees can be taken in-classroom or exclusively online. Many of our min-

istry degrees can be taken in-classroom or exclusively online. Many of our min-

## Special Emphasis

Southeastern Baptist College's Special Emphasis Month wrapped up on September 1. Thank you to all the churches and individuals that participated in this year's fund raising activity! In addition to the churches listed in the previous publication, the following also have graciously donated to the 2021 SBC Special Emphasis Month:

First, Bay Springs  
Union, Bay Springs  
Lebanon, Laurel

## 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, Holloway's 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 Gives



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, Mississippi, 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

## On The Campus of SBC



Dr. Carson recognizes Erma Sue and Ben Hensarling for her four and a half years serving on the Board of Trustees



SBC Maintenance Engineer, Eddy Walker, spreads gravel expanding SBC's parking capability

# 7 Ways to Climb Out of the Pit

from LifeWord

As I write this, another change of season seems to be upon us. It's a little cooler. The days are getting shorter. And pumpkin spice is popping up everywhere. The change in the daily temperatures was fairly drastic for us. We were over 90 degrees every day one week, but needed a light jacket in the mornings and evenings the next.

For some, the end of summer comes way too soon. For others, it doesn't come nearly fast enough. But it always happens about this time of year, whether we like it or not. Seasons are just a fact of life.

Seasons in other areas of our lives are just as certain as the seasons of the calendar. But they are much less predictable. Events can seemingly hit us out of nowhere and can put us in a season that we neither want nor are prepared for.

While we may have seasons where life seems very good, there will also be seasons where we just seem to exist through them on the treadmill of life. And then

there are those where we can barely make it through each day.

They can take us into pits of despair and depression that seem beyond our ability to handle. But handle them we must. And with God's help we can.

As long as we cooperate.

## THE EXAMPLE OF ELIJAH

Perhaps my favorite story in the Bible's Old Testament involves one of God's very discouraged servants. It is my favorite story for a particular personal reason, but we'll get to that later.

In 1 Kings 19, we pick up the story of Elijah. He was in the midst of one of those seasons of extreme success, but in a moment's notice, his season changed. He quickly went from a mountaintop season of success to a valley season of despair.

All because of a threat to his



well-being.

It really didn't matter if the threat was realistic or not. It didn't occur to Elijah that the threat might not be credible. It didn't matter to him that he had a God that he could turn to and depend on.

He simply let the threat to his well-being overwhelm him and send him into an immediate downward emotional spiral. We see self-pity and self-deception quickly replace rational thinking.

Sound familiar?

So what prompted this sudden change of seasons for Elijah? In a word, it was fear:

"Elijah was afraid and fled

for his life." (1 Kings 19:3)

Now, I am no mental health professional, counselor, pastor, or the like, but I believe that many of our seasons of anxiety and despair are brought on by fear at some level. It may be fear of failure, health fears, fear of rejection, fear of not being worthy, fear for our family, fear over our jobs, financial fears, or whatever. But at a core level, it is fear.

And like Elijah, instead of challenging our fears for reasonableness, we often fall victim to distorted thoughts and judgments, bad decisions, and ever-increasing regrets. Then before we know it, a self-perpetuating downward spiral engulfs us just like it did for him. Elijah's downward spiral was so severe that we quickly find this tragic picture of ultimate depression:

"He sat down under a solitary broom tree and prayed that he might die." (1 Kings 19:4)

We see the picture of a man who had reached the point of giving up on life. Sure it was unreasonable, but in that moment, it was reasonable to him. It is interesting to me that the

first prayer we see Elijah praying in this season of despair was a prayer to die. It seems that he let things get way too desperate before he prayed. I think there is a lesson there.

But in that very dark moment of his life, we see God providing angels to minister to Elijah's emotional and physical needs. In our dark moments, He will also find a way to minister to our needs.

As long as we cooperate.

## A QUESTION FOR ELIJAH

Then after we see God provide for Elijah's immediate needs, we see Him ask Elijah a question. A question important enough that He asked it twice:

"Why are you here, Elijah?" (1 Kings 19:9 & 13)

That is a question not only for Elijah but for each of us who find ourselves in seasons that we never wanted nor prepared for. How did this happen? What are the lessons from my situation? What is the "reason for my season"?

Until we are brutally honest with ourselves in answering that question, we are not cooperating with God in the handling of our circumstance.

Certainly, things happen that may have been completely out of our control. But often if we peel back the layers, we find something that God needs us to recognize and address. And it is only after we answer that question prayerfully and biblically that we open the door for God's power to guide us through the stormy season.

As long as we cooperate.

## LESSONS FROM ELIJAH

Before we go, let me share a few simple yet profound lessons that we learn from Elijah's painful descent into despair and depression:

1. Elijah fled instead of facing his fear. That didn't work for him, and it won't work for us.

2. Elijah went it alone. It is never God's intention that we face our fears and problems alone. Seek help.

3. Elijah allowed himself to become physically exhausted, which contributed to his emotional deterioration. It is often when we allow ourselves to be physically drained that we react in regrettable ways. God designed our bodies for appropriate rest. Recognize the need.

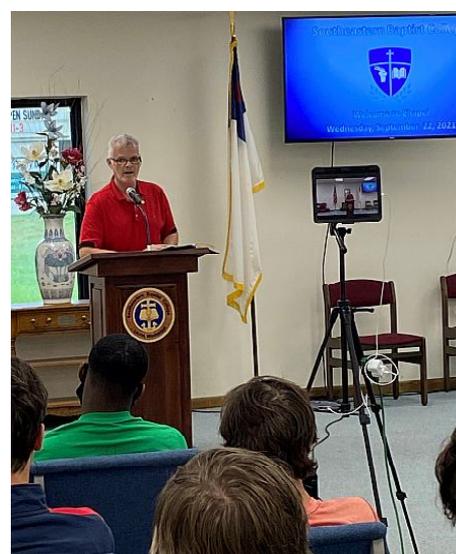
4. Elijah did not take care of himself with proper nutrition and hydration to the point that God sent an angel to instruct him of his need for both. And the

continued on page 8

## Always Something Special at SBC



SBC's chapel is always well attended



Bob Taylor, Associate Pastor of Glade Baptist Church, Laurel, gives his powerful testimony to our students



Laurel's First Baptist Church Minister of Students, Andrew Irwin, delivers a dynamic message in SBC's chapel program



Gabe Roberts of Columbia, Mississippi, signs with the Chargers



An ad hoc student ensemble leads chapel attendees in Amazing Grace

**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](mailto:cmhagler@bellsouth.net)



# The Sounds of Fall

While many of us are enjoying the coolness of a faux fall and are thankful for not having to water our plants as much, I'm thinking about the changing of the seasons. Have you ever thought about what makes the seasons change?

My friend Carole was a science teacher, and she could describe the science behind the changes in boring detail. But I admit that I just take on faith that God planned it all and did it all!

I know that the seasons come from His design ("And He changeth the times and the seasons," Daniel 2:21). You probably realize that the dog days are over according to the calendar and the autumnal equinox has passed; fall is beginning.

I've got to admit, though, that I think of the sounds of the seasons which revolve around southern gospel music for me; therefore, fall (whether it's cool or not) is always National Quartet Convention (NQC) Season.

The NQC back when it was held in Louisville, Kentucky, provided wonderful memories for Sister No. 1 and me of hearing great singing, talking with many of the artists, visiting historical cemeteries, sightseeing in Kentucky and Indiana, and having fun in general.

It was at our first NQC that I heard Greater Vision sing "My Name is Lazarus." Based upon a sermon of Dr. Adrian Rogers, it was Greater Vision's first number one song. It also won the song of the year, and we've been fans of Greater Vision ever since.

We were thrilled to see the singers who appeared on those early Gaither videos. Eva Mae LeFevre was the same lady in person as she was on the videos. We saw her in the common eating area of the Convention, and she was so gracious to all who approached her.

Talking to Danny Funderburk was a story unto itself. We had listened to the old Cathedral songs on the trip to Louisville. When we met him, I mentioned how distinctive his voice was on all the Cathedral songs. With a mischievous look, he said, "Is that good?" He did sell Sister a cookbook, so he's a

good salesman, too.

While taking a "walking break," I stood by Jonathan Wilburn, who asked me the time. So, rubbing shoulders with the gospel singers added to the thrill.

Sister and I attended several of the National Quartet Conventions with her close friends, George and Vesta.

For the first NQC, we stayed in French Lick, Indiana (Larry Bird's hometown for those of you who remember him). The winding, hilly roads between French Lick and Louisville were bad enough in the daytime but nerve-racking at night.



Carolyn Hagler

Because I don't like nighttime driving, I was happy for Vesta to drive that first night. Do you remember Steve McQueen's driving the Mustang in that legendary car chase through San Francisco in "Bullitt"? If you do, you know how I felt in the back seat with Vesta driving. Too scared to close my eyes, I learned how much praying you can do in the back seat.

I decided that there were worse things than driving at night, so I volunteered to drive every night afterwards. When the singing would end about midnight, I would put in eye drops, pray, and drive.

Those precious people, George and Vesta, have both gone on to be with the Lord, but they provided many laughs on those trips.

The funniest one that Vesta would not want me to tell happened at a concert. First, let me describe Vesta: She was one of those fastidious women who dressed to kill and always had every hair in place, a classy outfit on, and manners that Miss Manners would approve of.

Here's something to try: Sit down into a chair and notice how much you lean forward while sitting. As the four of us moved toward our seats, Vesta was behind a woman with a "Vestal Goodman" hairdo. You know, a lot of hair piled into a beehive. As Vesta sat down, her earring

got caught in the lady's hair. I couldn't help laughing. Vesta was mortified, and the lady was hostile at first. I was still laughing when we finally got them separated. Everyone (including the lady) finally had a good laugh over it. Sometimes laughing is all you can do! But it was safer not to mention it to Vesta.

Another memory with the four of us involved the trip between Kentucky and Indiana. Every day on the freeway, we noticed a large building with the name of a fabric store on the side. We finally decided to find it, and that wasn't easy. But after circling, backtracking, and circling some more, we did find it.

While Sister and Vesta looked at fabric and buttons, I found a section for pets. I convinced Sister that my Gabi needed a custom-made collar and leash. I found them a few days ago and decided that Koda and Brandi needed to wear them. They couldn't have cared less.

Getting lost is an occupational hazard for me and anyone who



My Yard Bird travels with me. Louisville was always a difficult place to get where you wanted to go. We had read about a place called Yardbirds, where they made metal animals from used parts that were unique and whimsical. We were determined to find it.

Back then, we did it the old-fashioned way with a map and directions from the owners. We drove up and down the same streets over and over, knowing we were close. We finally called again, and they gave us more directions. It still took a while until we discovered we were on the wrong street. It was a good thing we drove home rather than flying because you can see our Yardbird originals would not have made it home otherwise.

We were also able to visit legendary cemeteries and famous graves. Walking through those cemeteries was like walking through history. One that I really enjoyed seeing was the

## WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

[WMAofMS20@gmail.com](mailto:WMAofMS20@gmail.com)

**President Theresa Reus**

264 Dean Nursery Rd., Lucedale, MS 39452 - 601-508-9697

**Treasurer Mrs. Shirlene Smith**

730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443 - 601-729-5638

## Retreat Report and State WMA News

by Theresa Reus, WMA President

The 2021 Ladies Retreat was a great success. Ladies from all over Mississippi, and even Texas, came together to celebrate JOY! Charlotte Johnson, our National WMA President, spoke to many aspects of the theme. The ladies had lots of time in fellowship with games, crafts, time in prayer and of course, FOOD! We hope you all had a great time. For those not able to attend, don't worry we're starting plans for the next one!

### State WMA Meeting Set

If you enjoyed being together with like-minded believers, please join us this month for our yearly meeting. We will meet at 7:00, Monday, October 19, at Big Creek Baptist Church. We will again enjoy fellowship as we work together to select officers, a project, share ideas for fund raising and the next retreat.

Dee Dee Yager, one of our missionary wives, will talk to us about their mission in Meridian and why being mission minded matters. (Romans 10:13-14)

I will see you there!



Chris & DeeDee Yager  
Ministering in Meridian

Frankfort Cemetery, where Daniel Boone's grave overlooks the City of Frankfort. What a view for the legend. Of course, in my mind's eye, he looked just like Fess Parker.

The NQC has moved to Tennessee, but those Kentucky memories always bring a smile to my face. One great addition today is that you can watch it live in the comfort of your own home. Isn't God good? Watch-



Daniel Boone's Grave

ing on the internet is the next best thing to being in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

Fall and NQC Season are here, so let's celebrate the sounds of the season with some good gospel music. Watching the music and singing along, I remember "The Source of My Song" while I am **In His Grip**.

## Available for Service



Bro. Bain with Roger & Trush Speed

Bro. Roger Wood Speed and his wife Trish have been faithful members of Shiloh Baptist Church in Mt. Olive, Mississippi, for several years. Bro. Roger recently made known to the church his call to the Gospel ministry. The members of Shiloh Baptist Church heartily recommend Bro. Roger to the churches of our association and to be used as the Lord may lead. He may be contacted at 601-517-9950 or 601-517-2508. If you have any questions, you may contact Bro. Dewitt Bain at 601-797-9161.

### Texas Church Seeking Pastor

Friendship Baptist Church of Mesquite, Texas, is prayerfully seeking our next full-time pastor. Interested parties should send a resume to [office@friendshipmesquite.org](mailto:office@friendshipmesquite.org). 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](http://www.friendshipmesquite.org).

# Leave It To Cleaver

## The Trail of Band-Aids

by Tony Cleaver

As I have reached that certain age, there are many shots my 12-year-old doctor has recommended I take. Each shot is followed by a band-aid to cover the spot where the inoculation has been administered. A box of band-aids costs about \$3.00 for a box of 30. That's about 10 cents apiece. Right now, it seems I have had a box of band-aids over the last few months.



Tony Cleaver

The first shot was the Pfizer covid administered in a drive through in my county. Finally, after burning nearly a tank of gas waiting in line, it was my

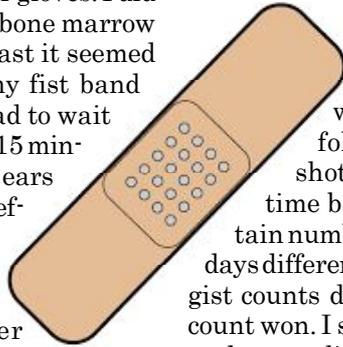
turn. I dutifully had my sleeve rolled up and window rolled down. To my surprise the man who was to administer the shot was a large, burly man. He had hairy knuckles that showed through the rubber gloves. I did not know it was a bone marrow injection - or at least it seemed that way. I got my fist band-aid. However, I had to wait in another line for 15 minutes to see if my ears fell off due to side effects of the vaccine.

My second proud band-aid banner came on the second Pfizer shot. I waited in a large room with other anxious people. I did not know there were that many cell phone rings as I heard

in that room. Nevertheless, I received the honored badge after the ordeal.

The third award of the shiny bandage occurred at the shingles injection. I was warned of the possible side effects of the procedure. All those side effects were hair raising to say the least: "You might have this or that after this injection." Seems the only side effect left out was death. I wanted the band-aid so much I consented.

The fourth level achievement came a few weeks later at the follow-up shingles shot. The proscribed time between was a certain number of days. I count days differently than the druggist counts days. The druggist count won. I showed up one day early according to his count for the second shot. Well, the esteemed band-aid was held before me, dangling in my face. I had to come back. After the one



Yes, I trust the Lord to protect me, and I also take the shots.

day wait, I walked out of the drugstore wearing the armband of honor under my shirt.

The fifth and last band-aid extravaganza occurred this week. I was minding my own business driving home on Sunday afternoon after church. My wife said, "Let's go get our flu shots. Pull in here." Of course, being the very wise husband, I followed the "suggestion." The line appeared to be about an hour long. You do know of course, there are pages to fill out before any shot is given. They ask information that I have no memory of happening or not happening. I muddled through enough to

get into the room to have the shot. By this time (perhaps my behavior showed some wear and tear in waiting) my wife told the pharmacist she would prefer my shot be a 45 caliber or at a minimum a 9 mm. The pharmacist wryly smiled and proceeded with the needle. It felt like a square needle. And to beat it all, he did not count down 1-2-3, he just shoved it in. He awarded me a special band-aid. I was so proud.

I hope I'm out of collecting band-aids for a little while. It feels like I have a \$100.00 collection instead of a 50 cent one. That is my hope at least until my pre-pubescent doctor tells me I need more. We live in a great land to be able to have these shots. Yes, I trust the Lord to protect me, and I also take the shots.

*Dr. Tony Cleaver is a retired U.S. Army Chaplain and Director of Distance Learning for BMA Seminary.*

*You may contact him at [jstmcleaver@embarqmail.com](mailto:jstmcleaver@embarqmail.com)*

## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

### Have You Ever Said???

Have you ever said, "Good morning" to someone and had them reply, "What's good about it?" "Good morning" is a wish, not a statement. I came across a "Good Morning" acrostic the other day that I thought was a good way to start a day. Here it is:



**G**et up.

**O**pen your heart.

**O**pen your mind.

**D**edicate your day to God.

**M**editate on God's Word.

**O**ptimize your faith

and hope.

**R**ebuke all evils.

**N**ever doubt God's love.

**I**nspire someone.

**N**othing should scare you.

**G**o out with joy.

Psalm 30:5 "...weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

## THE SUPPORT CHALLENGE MATRIX - Put Your Oxygen Mask on First

by Larry Barker  
Director of Church Planting  
& Church Health  
BMA of America

Are you spiritually healthy? Are you 100% spiritually healthy or 50%? You cannot expect those around you to be spiritually healthy if you are not healthy yourself. On an airplane you are told that if there is an emergency and oxygen is needed you should put your oxygen on first. Why? Because if you are not breathing you cannot help anyone else. If you are not breathing well spiritually you will not be able to help others to breathe spiritually either.

As a leader you should strive to be 100% spiritually healthy so that you can lead your team and church toward spiritual health. Paul's challenge was to follow him as he followed Christ.

A great step towards spiritual health is taking a hard look into the mirror of the Word of God. Do you value spiritual health? How much do you value it? If you truly value it then there will be evidence in your life of that value. If you value prayer, you do not just talk about prayer,

you pray. If you value sharing the gospel, you do not just talk about how to share it but you share it regularly. This requires honest evaluation of where you are spiritually, relationally, and structurally in your ministry and at your church.

A big part of this journey begins when you are willing to honestly assess what type of leader you are:

Are you a leader worth following?

Are you a leader that others enjoy and wants to follow more than they feel like they have to



Larry Barker

The four quadrants help us determine which disposition we lead from: Liberate, Dominate, Protect, or Abdicate

follow?

In *The 110x Leader* by authors Jeremie Kubicek and Steve Cockram, they utilize "The Support-Challenge Matrix" to help us become healthier leaders. The four quadrants help us determine which disposition we lead from: Liberate, Dominate, Protect, or Abdicate. The authors state that, "The art of leadership, then, is the appropriate calibration of support and challenge at a specific moment, in a specific context for a specific person." Where would your team place you on the matrix and what kind of leader do they see you as?

All too often in leadership, we begin to challenge before we ever consider how we will support those we challenge and train them in what we have challenged them to do. A great question to ask those you lead is, "What can I do to help you be successful?"

Jeremie and Steve say, "To become a person worth following, it is vital that you first establish support with those you lead before you challenge them." Great leaders always begin with support. Support is equal to equipping and training them

properly. It is not enough to only challenge people what to do without explaining how to do it and showing them.

One method of leadership development is referred to as M.A.W.L.: Model leadership through demonstration, assist your leaders by helping them model it for others, withdraw by watching the one you trained demonstrate leadership, then leave it to the those you have poured your support into as they launch out on their own while you focus on helping others. Your job as a leader is to help them reach their highest potential by discipling, training, and

providing those you lead with the resources necessary to accomplish what you have challenged them to accomplish.

The journey involves discovering, developing and deploying those you lead.

Once your support level is where it needs to be, you can now begin challenging them to accomplish what they never believed was possible. Listen to what Jesus said to His followers in John 14:12: "The one who believes in me will do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these."

Jesus discovered, developed, and deployed His disciples.

The book of Acts records the church's exponential growth. A leader worth following is one who desires followers to accomplish even greater works than he or she accomplished, so support and challenge them to even greater influence and impact.

To determine your leadership style, ask the following:

1) Would the word liberate describe how you lead? This leader gives high support and high challenge, and creates a culture of empowerment and opportunity. Jeremie and Steve state, "To liberate means to fight for the highest possible good for those you lead."

2) Can I be described better by the word dominating because I give high challenge but low support? If so, you are good at expecting a lot but lacking in providing resources needed for your

continued on page 8

# Lifeworld Sunday Allows Lifeworld to Reach The World

by Donny Parrish  
lifeworld.org

70,000 people who live in groups unreached by the gospel die every day. Let that sink in for just a second. 70,000 souls lost to eternity. The thought is



really overwhelming, isn't it? Millions of people entering eternity without the Savior. Millions destined to spend eternity tormented without ever

having the opportunity to hear the saving message of Jesus. When we live in a day of such incredible communication opportunities the thought that anyone would die without having the opportunity to hear is a scandal of immeasurable proportions.

October 24, 2021 is Lifeworld Sunday across the BMA. It is the one day of the year when Lifeworld asks the churches of our Association to take special time to pray for the ministry of Lifeworld and to give so that others can know The Savior. Lifeworld is determined to answer the call of



## TO THE Ends OF THE Earth

LIFEWORLD SUNDAY 2021

the Master. He very last words to His followers before He ascended to the Father were, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses

to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8.

Jesus met with all kinds of people during His ministry. He encountered Jewish people, Gentiles, Roman soldiers, prostitutes, tax collectors, men, women, couples, families, people possessed by demons, people with horrible diseases, and the list could go on. The ends of the earth to Jesus meant people. All people. People dealing with all sorts of hang ups.

Lifeworld is reaching out to people all around the world. In fact, today Lifeworld offers a gospel presentation in over 130 languages spoken around the world. Our goal is to be at 200 languages within the next five years and lifeworld.org we are well on our way to reaching that goal. But more than just speaking into the heart language of people, Lifeworld is interested in speaking their cultural language as well.

Through the use of social media, today's version of the town hall, Lifeworld is presenting the gospel right where people are living. With roughly 2.89 billion users monthly, Facebook is the biggest social media network in the world. In fact, if Facebook were a country it would be the largest country on the planet. During the first quarter of 2021, the company reported that 3.51 billion people were using at least one of the company's core products,

WhatsApp, Instagram or Messenger each month.

Lifeworld is leveraging the power and reach of social media to speak to people in their cultural language. When radio was the primary source of information for the world and the best way to use media to reach the people of world, Lifeworld was primarily a radio ministry. Today video has become essential. So, Lifeworld has shifted gears and made video along with radio a primary communication tool. Through various programs in English and Spanish Lifeworld is reaching into the cultures of America through video, radio and social media. We are expanding our video studios in Conway to produce more video content to impact different English speaking demographics. And we are training media missionaries around the world to use video and audio to reach their own people as well.

A great Lifeworld Sunday response from BMA churches is essential to the success of the ministry of Lifeworld. On October 24, Lifeworld is asking each church in the BMA to give a one time special offering so that others can hear the message of salvation. To register for Lifeworld Sunday visit us at [www.lifeworld.org/lifeworldsunday](http://www.lifeworld.org/lifeworldsunday). There you will also find a promotional video to show to your church family, bulletin inserts and Lifeworld T-shirts to help your church family celebrate the day.

## Out of the Pit

from page 5

angel issued those instructions not once but twice. So that must be pretty important.

5. It appears that Elijah waited until the moment of complete desperation before turning to prayer. Certainly better late than never. But it seems to me that prayer should be our first response to any feeling of anxiety, fear, or discouragement. Or even better, a part of our everyday life in every season.

6. God asked Elijah a very direct question about his situation, "Why are you here, Elijah?" And it was important enough that He asked it twice. He still asks that question of us today. We need to be brutally reflective and honest with our answer, painful as it may be

7. In the end, God gave Elijah a set of instructions to follow to move forward out of his season of depression. Likewise, He has similar instructions for us that can help us move forward.

As long as we cooperate.

### ONE LAST THING

I mentioned earlier that this story is my favorite one from the

Old Testament and that I would let you know why. It is because this was the topic of the sermon the morning that I truly accepted Christ into my life. I walked into the church building that morning for the first time in 32 years, not really understanding why I was there.

But as I sat down, I looked up at the screen on stage and saw these words:

"Why Are You Here, Elijah?"

Well, my name's not Elijah, but I was quickly going to learn why I was there. It was time for me to face the "reason for my season". It was time for me to surrender my life to Christ. And I thank God every day that I did.

## How To Be Sure

From page 2

to enable us to live the Christian life. It aids us in things like prayer, (Jude 20) Bible study, (John 14:26) and witnessing. (Acts 1:8) If we know that the Spirit helps us in living for the Lord and serving the Lord, this should also add to our assurance.

Many of the things that the Spirit works in our lives do not continue as strong as they were at the first. Whether things like love, joy and peace continue as strong as they were at first will depend upon our faithfulness to the Lord. For an example: when we get saved the Spirit sheds abroad God's love in our heart. But it is up to us if it continues strong - "Let brotherly love continue." (Hebrews 13:1)

### III. The Bible Tells Us That We Are Saved

Let me explain what I mean. There are verses of Scripture

that promise eternal life to any person who will do certain things. If we know that we have done that, or experienced that, we can therefore put our finger on that verse and claim the promise of salvation. (The Holy Spirit that bears witness with our spirit can help us to know, Romans 8:16.) The Bible says, "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." (1 John 5:12) If we know that we have received Jesus into our heart, and know that He lives in us, we can put our finger on that verse and claim the promise of God's Word that we are saved.

The Bible says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13) If we know that we have called upon the Lord for salvation in the right way, we can know that we are saved. (I must say here, the Lord doesn't count our faith, or repentance, or calling upon Him unless it is

with all of our heart, Romans 10:9,10.)

The Bible says, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" (John 1:12) If we know that we have received Jesus into our heart as our Savior, on the basis of this verse we can know for sure that we are saved.

The Bible says, "... I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." (2 Timothy 1:12) If we are sure we have turned our sin problem and eternal destiny over to the Lord, we can put our finger on that verse and claim the promise of salvation.

Someone once said, "The greatest blessing of salvation in this life, is the assurance that we have it." One thing for sure, assurance of salvation is indeed a "Blessed Assurance."

### 'Walk For the World' With Lebanon Baptist Church, Laurel

Lebanon Baptist Church in Laurel, Mississippi, would like to invite you to our annual Walk for the World event on Wednesday, October 13th. This event is held at West Jones High School at the football stadium. It starts at 6:00 pm with a devotional then the walk and fellowship will follow at 8:00 pm. All we ask is that each church bring some finger foods and drinks. Lebanon Baptist will provide everything else. If you have any questions please contact Bro. Adam Parker (Youth Minister) at 601-498-0546.

## The Support Challenge from page 7

team to succeed. Sometimes we are setting people up for failure by building a culture of fear and manipulation.

3) In your leadership, do you give high support but very low challenge? You never want to offend, and you cannot stand the idea of anyone ever being upset with you so you protect instead of challenge, and if you're not careful, you will build a culture of entitlement and mistrust. Instead of challenging team members that you have supported, you will simply go

around them and ask someone else to accomplish the goal.

4) The last quadrant is low support and low challenge and is referred to as those who abdicate leadership. This creates a culture of apathy and low expectations, then you succumb to the status quo, and the team just goes through the motions.

Remember, before you can support others you must first support yourself. In other words, put your oxygen mask on first and then help those around you with theirs!