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Annual Meeting Set - President Encourages Unity

by Blake McCain, President

The members of the Program Committee have prayerfully completed their work, and preliminary plans are now set and available for the 216th Annual Session of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi on Tuesday, October 18th, 2022, and Wednesday, October 19th, if necessary. Brotherhood and WMA will meet on Monday, October 17th, 2022 at 7 p.m.

The opening session will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary of South Forrest Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The church's address is 760 Churchwell Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39401. Current 1st Vice President of the BMA of Mississippi Sidney Farmer is the host pastor. We are greatly appreciative of him and the members of South Forrest for their willingness in hosting the meeting. The members of the Enrollment Committee (Scott Kirkland, Sean Piper, and Adam Sloan) will greet you prior to the first session to assist in enrollment proceedings. Each church

must register messengers and receive ballots for voting.

The business of the state association will be conducted in between the two messages, with the reports of our state departments and commissions coming first, and any reports from our national work occurring at the end of the afternoon session, or as a first item of business on Tuesday evening. The church does not have the capacity to seat the association for a meal. The city of Purvis is 8 miles from the church with several restaurants to choose from. Ample time will be given for both meals. With a number of proposals that will be presented during the meeting, I anticipate the possibility for prolonged discussion. I certainly want to give due attention to each matter presented, but I would ask, in respect, of each proposal that discussion remain on point and succinct.

For now, hopefully, each church of the BMA of Mississippi will elect three messengers, invite visitors, and begin prayerfully preparing for the October

2022 meeting of the state association. It is no secret of the tension among our association. After much prayer and consideration, the program committee unanimously approved our theme, taken from James 4:10, "*Humble Yourselves Before The Lord.*" It is not my desire to come off pious. As President, in such a time as this, I am respectfully calling on the churches that make up our Association to humility. Again, it is no secret there are concerns within and about our work. In associational work, each church that makes up the body has every right to address those concerns. I would just remind us as James 4:6 says, "**God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.**" If we approach the annual session and the decisions to be made with hearts of pride, we can guarantee the displeasure of God. God gives grace to the humble. Therefore, as James 4:10 commands, "**Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.**" O, how I desire for the Lord to lift up the BMA of Mississippi! In order to

be lifted up; however, we must first bow before Him. God bless you and your church. I hope to see you all in October!

Directions to South Forrest Church

from Sidney Farmer, pastor

South Forrest Baptist Church is excited to have the BMA of Mississippi as our guest for the annual meeting this year. Our address is 760 Churchwell Rd., Hattiesburg, MS 39401.

Coming from Interstate 59, Exit 51, turn left and proceed to App Slade Road. Turn right until you get to Churchwell Road. Turn left and the church will be 1.5 miles on your right.

Coming from Highway 49, turn at Paul B. Johnson State Park. Continue on that road and the church will be approximately 6 miles on your left.

See Meeting Schedule on page 12

Lifeword Sunday Packets Are On Their Way!

Churches, be on the lookout for your Lifeword Sunday packets! These will include important information for the October 23rd event and how you can best support Lifeword's media ministry. Visit www.lifeword.org/lifewordsunday to register your church, download the Lifeword Sunday video, and order your T-shirts.

Lifeword is reaching millions of people around the world every day. The gospel is currently being shared in 140 languages, with a goal of expanding to 200 languages by year 2025. Our mission is to share the love of Jesus to every tribe, every tongue, and every nation. God's Kingdom has no borders; therefore the ministry of Lifeword has no borders!

We can't wait to see how God is going to use you to grow the reach of Lifeword around the world!

Lifeword Sunday T-Shirts

Lifeword Sunday, October 23rd, is fast approaching! This is a day to pray for, celebrate, and give to the ministry of Lifeword. Be sure to order your NO BORDERS t-shirts to show your support! Adult and youth sizes available in short-sleeved and adult sizes available in long-sleeved.

Visit www.lifeword.org/lifeword-sunday to order t-shirts, register your church, and download this year's media kit.



Eight Years, Eight Missions

by Pastor Oscar Gaitán

Iglesia Bautista Centro de Vida, Masaya, Nicaragua

Many were the tasks that Jesus left to the church, but one of the clearest tasks was to disciple. The way our church disciples is by taking one person at a time, women to women, men to men. They make a weekly appointment for twelve weeks and they share twelve steps after receiving Jesus. These lessons are complemented by the vital part of discipleship, which is the investment of one's life in another person, just like parents to children.

When we started eight years ago in the Masaya mission, my wife, my daughter, and I began discipling three neighbors: I discipled Reynaldo, Tamy discipled Noemí, and Lidia discipled Cristina. After 12 weeks, each of them took another person and we continued with other new converts. This is how God has guided us in opening eight missions: Masaya, Las Flores, San Marcos, La Dalia, Matagalpa, Sébaco, San Juan de Oriente and Cuba.

Each mission carries in its blood the importance of discipling one on one and it has been the specific way in which God has used us to disciple person by person and that has led us to hundreds reached for Christ, as well as the beginning of the missionary work in different places.



See Eight Missions on page 7

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



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A Prayer and Desire of the Heart

A SONG OF DEGREES OF DAVID

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.
Psalms 133

A number of years ago there was a disagreement with some committee members in a local church (true story). The committee was given authority to conduct the church's business. One committee member took it upon himself to make a decision outside the authority he had as a member of the committee.

His intentions were honorable, but he did not have the authority to act on his own. His action actually conflicted with the committee directives and purpose. He had to be approached and corrected. This had the potential to create a break of fellowship among friends and fellow church & committee members.

While some were upset and others concerned, one wise and spirit led member quoted the above scripture with tears in his eyes. The issue was quickly taken care of and seemingly the violation of trust was healed.

I will never forget the calming effect this man's spirit, concern, and reliance on God's Word and leadership had on this potentially explosive moment. You could just feel God's presence in the room and what could have been a burning fire of emotion, was quickly extinguished.

As we gather at South Forrest Baptist Church in a few days to consider a number of issues that could easily cause harm to our fellowship and our associated work, let us hearken to the words of David and may we leave our annual meeting with these words as a measure of our meeting - *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*

A Pastor's Heartfelt Request

Editor's Note: Bro. Ed Duvall is a former BMA of Mississippi state missionary and has a heart for people. I hope anyone who can respond to this request with a positive answer will do so. Maybe you have a vehicle that you could donate to Bro. Ed for this individual.

Bro. Ed Duvall, pastor of Homestretch Baptist Church, Cleveland and former missionary with the BMA of Mississippi has the following request.

He has a disabled individual in his church who is looking to purchase a car to get around in town. If anyone has a car to sell, please contact Bro. Ed Duvall at 662-402-8222 in Cleveland, Mississippi.

RLF Director Submits Resignation

Dear BMA of MS,

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Revolving Loan Fund Manager for the past 16 months. After much consideration and prayer, I have decided to step down from this position, effective October 15th, 2022. My calling as a pastor and minister of the gospel is of utmost importance to me, and it is to that which I will refocus my attention.

It has been an honor to serve the shareholders of the RLF, and I am thankful for the relationships fostered during my tenure. Additionally, I am profoundly grateful to have worked with some of the best people I know. Director Larry Geraldson has served this association well with an unwavering commitment to working with our churches to plant new churches for the glory of God. His firm, highly ethical leadership style has advanced the growth of the Missions and RLF de-

partments as never before. And his spiritual leadership has helped our missionaries form a solid foundation upon which to plant biblically sound churches. Under his leadership, we have received 11 straight years of unmodified opinions from our yearly audits conducted by Horne LLP. This is the highest opinion that can be given by an auditing firm and attests to the quality and excellence in accountability of our management practices. I count it an honor to call Bro. Larry, my friend, and mentor. Also, office manager Mrs. Kimberly Parker has done a tremendous job managing the many facets of both departments. Her professional accounting and customer service skills have been a blessing to all of us. I thank God for the privilege of working with her during my time here. Lastly, I am grateful to have served alongside our RLF Trustees. These men have given me invaluable wisdom and insight into fund management, and I will greatly miss working with them.

Continued on page 11

Church Offers Constitutional Change Concerning Messengers

The following proposed change to the Constitution of the BMA of Mississippi is being made by the First Baptist Church of Bay Springs, Mississippi. This will be presented at the October 18, 2022 meeting to be held at South Forrest Baptist Church, Hattiesburg.

Whereas, the body of the Baptist Missionary Association (hereinafter, "BMA") of Mississippi is composed of churches (as provided in Article III, Section 1, of the Constitution of the BMA of Mississippi) and is not composed of messengers to the association; and

Whereas, the history and tradition of the BMA of Mississippi ensures that each church has an equal voice in the decision of matters considered by the association; and

Whereas, multiple messengers to the association being sent from one church should of necessity vote in unity to express the church's wishes in matters considered by the association; and

Whereas, an individual church of the BMA of Mississippi may find it difficult to send her total allotted number of three (3) messengers to a meeting of the association; and

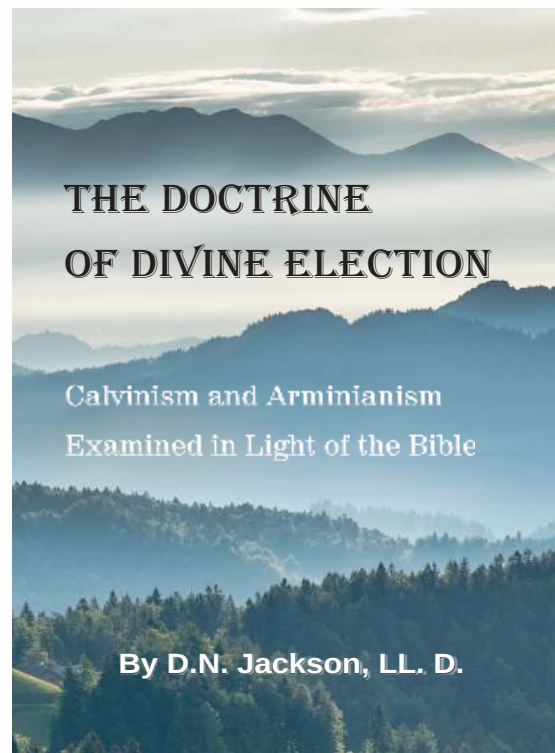
Whereas, under the current constitution, an individual church who sends fewer than three (3) messengers to a meeting of the association may have her vote diluted relative to a church who sends three (3) messengers to a meeting of the association; now, therefore,

First Baptist Church of Bay Springs, Mississippi, requests the churches of the BMA of Mississippi to amend Article III, Section 6, of the Constitution of the BMA of Mississippi to read as follows:

"Each church of this association shall be entitled to three messengers duly elected from her membership. Only one messenger from each church may vote during meetings of the association."

Jackson Book Republished

With the endorsement of the D.N. Jackson family we have republished his book on the doctrine of Election. We appreciate their support and after the cost of publication is covered all profits will go to fund a scholarship in his name at Southeastern Baptist College. Jackson was the founding president of SBC.



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Christian Publications
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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

"For a great door and effectual is opened unto me..." I Corinthians 16:9

The Lord has blessed Southeastern Baptist College again this year with our second largest number of full-time students in the history of the college. Most of our students are from Mississippi with others from surrounding states. Every student is required to study various Bible courses while earning their degree with SBC. Liberal arts Christian colleges in Mississippi require only six hours of Bible for a four-year degree. Southeastern Baptist College requires 60 hours in our conservative Bible courses, taught by caring and dedicated professors who agree with, and have signed onto our BMA doctrinal statement. It is our position that we are not intimidated by inviting other students onto our campus who

may not totally agree with us doctrinally, but while they are here, they will definitely be taught our conservative doctrine and values. We believe in influencing others for the Kingdom of God, not by shutting them out, but by inviting them in! There is guided counsel given to each student prior to admission concerning the Biblical World

View that they will be receiving in every classroom, whether it be Accounting or New Testament Survey. Our students are eager to learn the truth of the scriptures that are presented in both our classrooms and in our online courses. Praise God, we had six trust Christ as their personal Savior at our first chapel program for this fall semester and an additional eight rededicate their lives to living for the Lord in another chapel service! After hours discipleship studies are well attended and additional student fellowships help students to grow in their faith and Christian community. God is truly blessing the campus ministry of SBC!

As the only accredited Bible college in the state of Mississippi, we are

enlarging our influence upon the family of colleges throughout the state. We now have memorandum of agreements to exchange credits with the University of Southern Mississippi, William Carey University, Mississippi Valley State University, and with Mississippi State University. We are pursuing the same with numerous other colleges throughout Mississippi and beyond. Of note, Tougaloo College, without our contacting them, recently approached us with interest of establishing a formal exchange of credits, and, I have a personal invitation from another college president to open dialogue for a closer working relationship between our two schools.



Dr. Scott Carson
President

It is because of the clear evidence that the Lord is leading us that we find strength to rise to these challenges.

What a great opportunity the Lord has provided for SBC to be the conservative BMA voice in our interaction with these other institutions of higher learning!

With all these wonderful blessings also come a great deal of additional work.

Pray that the staff is able to manage the stresses, that at times can become overwhelming. It is because of the clear evidence that the Lord is leading us forward and with your encouraging support through funds and kind words, that we find strength to rise to these challenges. Pray that the Lord increases donations so that we may be able to hire additional staff to help with the increasing workload. Thank you for the evidence of your love and support for SBC. God bless you!

"Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another." Romans 14:9

Equipping the saints,
Dr. Carson

Special Emphasis

Southeastern Baptist College's Special Emphasis Months were July and August for focused donations from churches and individuals. Although our dates for this year's Special Emphasis are now past, we will continue to accept Special Emphasis gifts as they come in. Also, your church may have sent a donation, but if it was not "designated" for Special Emphasis, it was not recorded as such. Please contact us if this may be the case and we will correct it and list your church in a future publication.

Received donations for this year's Special Emphasis Month:

- Paramount, Wiggins
- Forked Oak, Boonville
- Westover, Hattiesburg
- Magnolia, Hattiesburg
- East Amory, Amory
- Washington, Neely
- Judson Baptist Association
- First Baptist, Calhoun
- First Baptist, Shady Grove
- Union, Bay Springs
- Michael Meadows
- Ballardsville, Tupelo
- Spring Hill, Ocean Springs
- New Bethany, Seminary
- Pine Ridge, Laurel
- Little Creek, Perkinston
- First Baptist, Bay Springs
- Parkview, Laurel

Online Bible Degrees

Did you know you can earn your accredited Bible college degree in the comfort of your own home? You can take one class (3 hours) or up to 18 hours completely online. And you need not be living in Mississippi to take classes at Southeastern! You may want to have a discussion with your children or grandchildren today about taking classes with SBC. We are conservative and Bible centered. Our credits are transferable to many other accredited colleges. Go to our website at <https://southeasternbaptist.edu/future-students/application> to begin your college

education journey today! Or call SBC at 601-426-6346.

Available Scholarships

The Arnold Knight Memorial RLF Scholarship is available every semester to Baptist Missionary Association ministers who take classes at Southeastern Baptist College. These funds are administered by the BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund. Contact our Financial Aid Officer for more information.

Washers and Dryers

Our students are in need of three of each: heavy duty washers and dryers. Three of our older and used models have stopped working and are beyond repair. Can you or your church provide for this need? Let us know if you are able to help support our student's needs.

Estate Planning

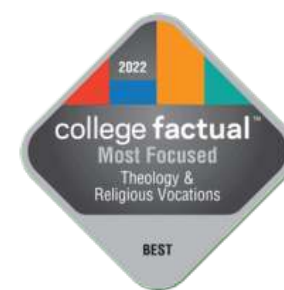
Does your personal estate planning include a donation to Southeastern Baptist College? Contact Rosemary Davis at 601-426-6346 discuss with her how you can bless SBC with your special gift.

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. Chaplain (Colonel) Carson can also provide an update on the BMAA Chaplaincy and deliver a related message. Thank you to Washington Baptist Church of Neely, Mt Calvary Baptist Church of Picayune, and Big Creek Baptist Church of Soso, for allowing me to preach their Sunday messages. Dr. Carson also was invited to the BMA of the Ozarks to report on SBC and the BMAA Chaplaincy. You can reach Dr. Carson at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu



SBC staff celebrate a blessing with a wave cheer



College Factual rates SBC as the 2022 Best Mississippi college for theology and religious vocations



Dr. Carson and members of the SBC Dean's Council met Governor Tate Reeves at a local event



SBC Students working on this year's Everlasting Smiles Christmas Boxes project



Students had a blast at an SBC sponsored City of Laurel scavenger hunt



SBC's Women's Softball Team win both games in a doubleheader over Meridian Community College





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

The Sky Is Falling

Do you remember Chicken Little? When she was hit on the head by an acorn, she thought the sky was falling. And she convinced all her other barnyard friends, too. I believe there is a little “Chicken Little” in each of us.

The story of Chicken Little reminds me of the fear that sometimes robs us of our ability to keep our eyes on Jesus, whose

grip on us is eternally unbreakable (John 10:28-29). Scripture teaches us that God has not given us a spirit of fear (2 Timothy 1:7), but most of us still battle fear.

Some of the “sky-is-falling” events that created unprecedented fear in the hearts of Americans were the 9/11 attack and the appearance of the COVID-19 virus. Even the coming of Y2K caused panic over the possibility that computers would not be able to read dates in the new year and would bring about the failure of our power, water, phones, airlines, stock markets, etc. I’m sure the death of Jesus on the cross was the biggest sky-is-falling event in the history of mankind. I can only imagine the fear in the heart of the followers of Jesus when He died. All hope seemed to be gone.

We’ve all dealt with fear at some point. As a young child, I was afraid of monsters under the chifforobe that I thought would come out at night and steal me away from home. Outgrowing that fear, I developed a fear of fire, stemming from our home burning when I was about ten. I seemed to find plenty of fears to replace the ones I outgrew.

Middle Sister feared most things that crawled, jumped, scurried, or slithered: lizards, frogs, snakes, and cicadas. She never outgrew those fears.

I’m not sure Sister No. 1 had any fears. She was always my big sister with everything under control. Raising her three children by herself, going to work again, getting a college degree in her 50s, and handling her rise in responsibility at one of the oil

companies in Houston showed that fear didn’t control her. The same faith that helped her control any fear she might have felt still helps her today with her battle with Parkinson’s Disease.

Fears seem to change based upon time and events. Many people 25 years ago shared common fears of flying, public speaking, heights, the dark, death, failure, spiders, elevators, and/or bad weather. Often fears become phobias in adulthood.

As we fast-forward to 2022, our fears have evolved to reflect the times: fearing loved ones dying or becoming seriously ill, mass shootings, not having enough money for retirement, terrorism, government corruption, terminal illnesses, hate crimes, and high medical bills.

Along with those fears, dealing with distrust of our government and manipulation by our government officials and the media has led us to being controlled more and more by our fears.

It seems today that most people are more fearful than hopeful. Remember that awful day of September 11, 2001. We went from disbelief that a plane had crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City to the horror of a second plane striking the South Tower. We’ll never forget where we were when we saw terrorists strike the USA, causing the destruction of the World Trade Center, fires and death at the Pentagon, and a plane crashing and killing all on board in a rural Pennsylvania field. We’ll never forget the heroism shown that day and the days afterward.

But that fear caused a massive return to God and the churches. Churches were full! Whenever I pass the 9/11 memorial in Hattiesburg with jagged gashes representing where the planes struck, I remember the fear when terrorism became real and the response—revival.

Fast-forward again to a few years ago when we heard of a virus in China and then heard of the first case in our country. It wasn’t the first time for major illnesses because this country had already seen malaria, tuberculosis, smallpox, West Nile, Yellow Fever, polio, and others. But it was



the first time we saw businesses, schools, and churches shut down. With the increase of digital churches, people stayed away from church and stayed away and stayed away. And people are still staying away.

A visit to the ghost town of Rodney gives a glimpse of an abandoned church from the past and a possible view of the future. Statistics by the Barna Group indicate that as many as one in five churches could permanently close as a result of the shutdown because smaller numbers of people are attending. Also, nearly two-thirds of churches have seen a drop in giving. While one fear caused



a rush to churches, another fear caused a rush away from the churches.

What does the Bible say about fear?

In different ways, we are told to fear not and not to be afraid. Mary, Peter, Paul, John, Abraham, and Joshua, along with others, were all reminded to fear not. Many of our biblical characters are examples to us of not letting our fears control us. Bravery, to me, is doing what the Lord wants even though you’re afraid. John Wayne, the old western star, said it in his own unique way, “Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyway.”

One of my favorite songs was an old Cathedral song, “Don’t Be Afraid,” written by Roger Bennett before his cancer diagnosis. It seemed a song out of sync with his life with a family he loved and a career that he

had prayed for. Yet that song was his comfort during his battle.

We seemed to share his battle because church family and friends were with Sister No. 1 and me in Birmingham when we learned that he had cancer. Friends were with us in Pigeon Forge when we had the opportunity to give toward his bone marrow transplant which his insurance would not cover. We were also in Birmingham when we learned that Roger had died some 12 years after his battle started. Roger’s testimony of faith during trying times touched more people than the other years of his life.

Roger’s song points out that the disciples were where Jesus wanted them to be when the storm struck (Mark 4:35-40). Even with Jesus in the boat, they panicked. “Don’t you care that we die?” Roger reminded us in his song that we can be “calmed by the strength of the One who’s been faithful and true.”

A song by the Guardians reminds us that “God Fights on My Side,” and “I won’t be afraid.... He will keep me safe.” These songs and others remind us, too, that Satan wants us to give in to fear and God wants us to hold on to hope. Fear that takes our eyes off Jesus will keep us from walking on water like Peter and let us sink like Peter, too (Matthew 14:28-31).

What should we do when we find ourselves playing Chicken Little and letting fear control us?

1. Talk to the One who reminds us over and over to fear not.
2. Search the Scriptures and find those verses about not being afraid. Save them so that you can be prepared when storms come.



3. Trust that God is faithful to do what He says.

4. Listen to hymns and spiritual songs that encourage you.

5. Go back to the Lord’s House if you’re staying away.

Instead of hanging on to the fears of the past, let’s keep our eyes on the resurrection lilies popping up now to remind us that the sky is not falling, hope is still alive, the Lord is on our side, **and we believers are secure in His grip.**

MORAL ACTION

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Alcohol Abuse

Proverbs 20:1
Isaiah 5:22

Some Christians favor the use of alcohol beverages in moderation, where as other believers insist on total abstinence. Some believe it possible to drink alcoholic beverages without damaging their Christian testimonies, and others that the only safe rule is to completely stay away from strong drink.

As a nation, little of what we say or do is based on the Word of God. We have rejected God's counsel in government, business, schools, and in the family and we are paying the price. Will we fail to recognize that God has the first and last word? As Christians, we ought to see the alternatives clearly, pray, and then speak out as those who understand and are committed to the will of God.

Although widely scattered, the majority of tragic happenings all had a common cause – drinking alcoholic beverages. These tragedies take place every twenty-four hours of every day across the nation. Forces outside the church rise to quench the tide of useless deaths by alcohol abuse – such as Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) and Students Against Drunk Drivers (SADD).

The Reasons For the Liquor Problem

First, some people like the thrills that come with drinking, and nothing, including tragedy, will make them give it up. Second, our nation gives alcohol its unholy place because of our insatiable lust for profit. Readers Digest states that “retail sales of alcoholic beverage in one recent year totaled \$223.2 billion. From that our govern-

ment claimed \$6.4 billion in federal, state, and local taxes. Money over people!

The liquor industry, along with many moralists, join in a persuasive chorus: “If people would only learn to drink sensibly, there would be no liquor problem.” However, the very nature of alcohol is to weaken the will to drink with moderation. Alcohol is no respecter of persons. It can touch and destroy you or someone that you love.



Observers and recent newscasts tell us that although per capita consumption of alcohol (beer, wine, vodka, gin, and whiskey) has leveled off in recent years, more young people are becoming heavy drinkers, and more women are drinking now than in the past. Reports are stating

that even moderate drinking by pregnant women can and will damage an unborn baby's brain for life.

The Remedy For the Liquor Problem

In the face of facts like these, what should be the Christian's view concerning social drinking? We must remember that a person becomes a Christian believer only by repentance of sin and faith that Jesus Christ can save your soul. Faith in Christ makes us new creations with new goals and standards. The believer will want to abstain and restrict himself to please the Lord who saved him.

There are four basic reasons that all should voluntarily abstain from strong drink:

First, the Bible proclaims that abstinence is a sound position and a solid footing. The Holy, Heavenly Father required total abstinence for those in close relationship to Him. Leviticus 10:9 forbids the use of wine to priests who ministered in the Tabernacle. Wine was forbidden to those under special vows to God as Nazarites...Numbers 6:3. Even the “little wine for the stomach's sake” of I Timothy 5:23 refers to medicinal purposes and that too was sweet, unfermented wine.

Paul writes, “Let us walk honestly (or decently), as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness...but put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh.”...Romans 13:13-14. I Peter 1:15, 16.

Second, another reason for staying away from strong drink is the role and character of alcohol in our modern day. Liquor today is the partner of excess and evil. One cannot drink without giving endorsement to a baneful custom, and a conscienceless enterprise. It is unthinkable that a Christian or moral person should contribute to an industry that deals in thousands of deaths, misery, and the total ruin of countless lives. I Thessalonians 5:22, “Abstain from all appearance of evil.” One cannot ever argue that drinking is a harmless custom when literally millions are alcoholics. We need to read II Corinthians 6:14-15.

A third reason for abstinence is that drinking is harmful to the body.

Thomas Edison, the inventor, said, “To put alcohol in the body is like putting sand on the bearings of an engine. It does not belong.” Shakespeare wrote it this way, “Alcohol is a poison that men take into the mouth to steal away the brain.” Brain cells die when alcohol is taken into the bloodstream. Heart, liver, and kidneys are also permanently affected.

A fourth reason for abstinence is to abstain for the sake of others, especially those who may be influenced by the example...that is children and teenagers. Moody Monthly declares, “Eight out of every dozen social drinkers succeed as moderate drinkers, but four others will fail, and one of them will drop off the precipice of addiction.”

It seems clear that the only safe principle is total abstinence from alcoholic beverages in any form. In light of the extreme cost, in terms of deaths, property, and health, alcohol is a luxury that we cannot afford. If you wish to be high, let Jesus, God's Son, lift you up...”ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.” I Peter 1:8.

Recommended web sites and readings:

- 1) www.PacHills.com
- 2) www.gricetrack.net
- 3) [Addictions – A Banquet in the Grace – Ed Welch](#)
- 4) [God is For the Alcoholic – B. Palmer](#)

HISTORY & ARCHIVES COMMISSION

Jason Howard, Director - 4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440

IT IS TIME TO PREACH DOCTRINES MOST SURELY BELIEVED AMONG US

By L. S. Walker

Preached at the State Missions and Evangelism Conference at Hattiesburg, May 12, 1975 and published in the Mississippi Baptist July 15th 1975.

The most timely theme for this conference is: “It is time to awake.” It is based upon Romans 13:11-12. “And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed. (12) The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.”

The subject assigned to me for this two-day's conference is “It is time to preach the Doctrine most assuredly believed among us.” And in response, let me begin with a resounding “Amen.”

Jude said: “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” (Jude 3)

You Bible readers will readily recall Paul's charge to young Timothy: I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; (2) Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. (3) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; (4) And they shall turn away *their* ears from the

truth, and shall be turned unto fables. (2nd Tim. 4:1-4) A fable is a lie, or a story of one's own invention.

DOCTRINE DEFINED: Doctrine simply defined is “that which is taught; the principles, belief, or dogma of any church, sect or party.”

The Doctrines most surely surely believed, practiced and held among us, are the Doctrines found in the Holy Scriptures.

The Doctrines most surely believed among us are the Doctrines held by New Testament churches in every century since the earthly ministry of our Lord. They are, therefore, Bible Doctrines. These doctrines are referred to in the scriptures as “the apostles' doctrines.” The Apostles' doctrine was the doctrine of Christ. It is first termed “the doctrine of God.”

It is the emphatic intent of our message, not only to identify these doctrines, but more specifically to emphasize the importance of preaching them without compromise, fear, or apology. This we say because we can be absolutely certain that the Doctrines of the Bible are those Divinely inspired, inerrant and eternal principles of Truth found therein.

“Methods are many, principles are few; methods change, but principles never do.”

Continued on page 6

Civil Air Patrol Chaplain Opportunities

To All Denominational Leaders:

The Civil Air Patrol is an all-volunteer, Air Force Auxiliary. Our three missions include: Cadet Programs, Emergency Services, and Aerospace Education. We are proud of the Volunteer Chaplain Service we provide. However, we are looking for Chaplains to serve our units in Columbus, Jackson, the Gulf Coast, Northwest Mississippi, and Vicksburg.

To become a CAP Chaplain, the individual must meet the following requirements:

- A. Possess a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.*
- B. Have an earned Master's degree in Religion, Counseling or Social Work (72 hours). This also must be from an accredited institution.*
- C. Be endorsed by your Denominational Chaplain Support Office.
- D. Both veterans and non-veterans may apply! All genders are welcome!

*Accreditation must be from an institution listed by a regional educational accreditation organization (I.E.: SACS) and the Association of Theological Schools.

For more information, contact me at: 601-677-3687 or Smelserdr@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,
Chaplain David R. Smelser, Lt Col, CAP
Mississippi Wing Chaplain
601-677-3687 (H); 601-770-2816 (C)
U.S Air Force Auxiliary



Jason Howard



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Dwight Lindsey

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

It is a busy time of year for us with association meetings, trustee meetings, and annual inspections. The verse that has echoed in my mind over the past few months has been, **Colossians 3:23**, *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.* That is how I've thought about the changes of the chaotic summer schedule to now the more rhythmic school schedule. We seek to serve when our kids and schedules are all over the place and we seek to serve when our daily events are more nailed down to a routine. We have had 4 emergency placements this summer, but have now calmed down after finalizing permanent placement of one of our young men in Wayne County Chancery Court back on August 17th. One of my favorite things of our school schedule is that it allows for a more structured daily devotion time with our kids. It is

wonderful to start our days, being in the Word together and keeping a Christ centered focus throughout our days. All but one of our young men are on the A & B honor roll as of their first progress reports, and we are proud of all their hard work.

Please continue to pray for our efforts for finding a new set of house parents to help expand our ability to serve more children. I want to thank the churches of the association for their financial support of the past year, and remembering us as we enter our time of SPECIAL EMPHASIS. During this time we will appreciate your added support to continue raising funds for house parent's salary, roof repairs/maintenance, children's Christmas gifts, and other general expenses of the Home. May God continue to bless the ministries of our churches as we preach the Gospel to every creature.

History & Archives

From page 5

Our study for this evening is not to classify the various doctrinal subjects; as for example, Theology, the Doctrine of God; Bibliology, the Doctrine of the Bible; Christology, the Doctrine of Christ, His person, nature and work; Pneumatology, the Doctrine of the person, nature and work of the Holy Spirit; Angelology, the Doctrine of angels, good and evil; Anthropology, the Doctrine of man; Hamartiology, or the Doctrine of sin; Ecclesiology, or the Doctrine of the church; or Eschatology, the Doctrine of last things, etc. We are thinking in terms of the more specific doctrine of the Bible found under these various classifications – the doctrines of the Bible which Baptists have historically held and taught through the centuries. These historic doctrines are held by the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi, and the Baptist Missionary Association of America.

It is time to preach such doctrines as the Trinity of the God-head – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; the infallibility and plenary verbal inspiration of scriptures, etc.

“All scripture is given by inspiration (the breath of God) of God, (not some of it, but all of it), and is profitable for DOCTRINE, for reproof, for correction, for instruction of righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect (complete), thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2nd Timothy 3:16-17). Peter adds: “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were

moved by the Holy Ghost” (2nd Peter 1:20-21).

It is time to raise our voices above the feeble and un-supported opinions of the virgin birth and deity of Jesus Christ.

A frustrated and bewildered human race needs to hear the Biblical Doctrine of the hereditary and total depravity of man in his natural state involving his fall in Adam.

The doctrines of Christ's blood atonement for fallen man; justification before God without any admixture of works or human merit; and the doctrine of the eternal security of the believer in Christ needs to be heard wherever the Word of God is preached.

It is always an occasion of joy to hear to hear the message of the bodily resurrection and ascension of Christ back to the right hand of the Father, making His triumph over sin and death.

It is time to preach the doctrine of the Person and work of the Holy Spirit. In this day when the Holy Spirit is being maligned, and His work so misconstrued by the preachments of late day sensationalists and rank heretics, this doctrine is especially important.

It is time to let all know who want to know, where we stand on the doctrine of the Church. Baptists have historically held that Christ Himself established a local visible church during His personal ministry on earth; and that He is therefore its Founder, Foundation, Head and Lawgiver or Commissioner. Any so-called church institution since the earthly ministry of our Lord, is clandestine.

It is time that our voice be heard on the personality of Baptist churches from Christ's day on earth to His second



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home

Special Emphasis

Goal:

\$15,000

Projects:

1. Roof Repairs & Maintenance
2. Children's Christmas Gifts
3. Payroll to add a new House Parent couple to the staff
4. Funds to meet the daily needs of the house

coming in the rapture for His saints.

Our Lord set two ordinances in His church – water baptism (immersion) and the Lord's Supper. These are to symbolize the essence of the Gospel (1st Cor. 15:1-4) – the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

What is more, it is time to preach the personality of Satan, as “the god of this world,” and the “prince and power of the air.” A sophisticated society led by pseudo-intellectuals needs to quit kidding themselves and know that Satan is a person and his power is real.

It is time to preach the glorious doctrine of the pre-millennial second coming of Jesus Christ back to this earth to reign for one thousand years. This will be the real “golden age” of time.

Let us proclaim with all the strength of our souls, the doctrine of the bodily resurrection of the dead, both of the saved and un-saved, in their Biblically designated time and order.

We must not fail to preach with equal intensity and vigor, the doctrines of the reality of Heaven, involving the Divine assurance of eternal happiness for all the redeemed of God; and the reality of Hell, involving everlasting punishment for the incorrigible wicked.

The separation of God's children from the beggarly elements of this present world system must be preached without compromise. For all God's children there should be salvation, separation, and dedication.

Also, we must preach the separation of the Lord's churches from all so-called churches or church alliances which advocate, practice, or uphold heresies and other human innovations which are not in harmony with the Word of God Such as open communion, alien baptism, pulpit affiliation with heretical churches, modernism, liberalism, and all kindred evils (including the

Charismatics and the “tongues” movement) arising from these practices, are unscriptural. There is evidence now that this could include some so-called “independent” Baptist movements. Most of the “Independent” churches we hear about today are not really independent. Rather they are a ministerial hierarchy and pastor dictatorship. Let us realize that there is a vast difference between independence and isolationism.

REJECT UNIVERSALISM: It is time to sound forth our position in total rejection of the Universal Church fallacy, as well as all other late-day innovations. There is no such thing mentioned in the Bible as a universal visible or invisible church. Our Lord established a local tangible body of baptized believers.

We also reject the idea of ordaining to the high office of the ministry persons not scripturally qualified. Especially must we cry out against the modern idea of ordaining women to the ministry. This practice is being accepted by some liberal Baptist groups as well as many Protestant denominations. Let us remember that there is definite difference qualification and justification.

It is time to teach the historic doctrines of the true Baptist faith. I would personally like to invite any among us, if there by any, who may not hold these time-honored doctrines, to fold their tents like the Arabs, and silently steal away. This would be the only honorable thing for them to do.

THE GREAT BIBLICAL DOCTRINES, when rightly taught to people, forms a strong restrictive barrier which protects the church from error without. They also form a clear set of guidelines for rightly dividing and understanding the Word of God, keeping pure the truths within.

Continued on page 10

Mississippi Missions

In Training

By Chris Yager



After 26 years of pastoral ministry, including 3 successful church plants as well as pastoring a large BMA church in Michigan with good size staff and budget, I did not realize how much training that there could be for the Missions and Revolving Loan Fund Director. Interestingly, the last month and half has taught me how much I needed to learn to understand this position.

The month of August was dedicated to learning the missions side of the office, while September has been dedicated to the details of the Revolving Loan Fund. With being involved in multiple church planting and missions my whole ministry, I have found the missions side of the office much easier.

In that training, I have marveled at the blessing that God has given to our missions work within the association through the Revolving Loan Fund. It has been intense to learn, but I am truly excited to see what God can continue to do through this fund for His glory!

Please continue to pray for me as training continues. I definitely need and desire each one of them. I am praying for our association and the missions office. May the Lord use us together to accomplish even greater feats for His honor and praise! Thank

you for the opportunity to serve as your missionary and possibly your interim missions director.

Sowing For Winter Crops

by Scott Brocious

We are preparing, as well as excited, at Canaan Land about the opportunity that is among us to sow the seed of the gospel for a winter harvest. Every year in the state of Mississippi, especially south Mississippi, we look forward to the time of the year that the extreme summer heat comes to an end.



Fall is officially upon us and with all the festivities in and around our community it gives us a great opportunity to get out into our local community and share the gospel message. I would like to take a few minutes of time to tell the churches of the BMA of Mississippi our plan, our prayer, and our need.

Our plan, we have begun searching around our community for any upcoming events so we can get out and represent the mission work that God has richly blessed. These community events have been by far our most successful source of outreach. It is always fun for our church folks, plus it is a great way to put a face to the mission work in which we represent. We have

been beyond blessed with the equipment needed to make these small outreaches successful. Also, they are very cost efficient. God has been very faithful in honoring these efforts with fruit for our labor. It often reminds me of the parable of the Great Banquet in the gospel of Luke chapter 14 in which the Lord says, "And the lord said unto his servant, go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled."

Our prayer, first and foremost, is that as we are present at these events that souls could be saved and written permanently in the book of life by sharing the Gospel message. At these events we will hand out tracts, church invitations, popcorn, and candy. We have found out that free popcorn and candy draws many people in, that gives us the opportunity to connect with them on a personal basis. Also, it often opens the door to share the message of Christ and promote the mission work that the Lord has burdened our heart with. It has been an amazing tool to help our people get more comfortable witnessing to others. It is our hearts desire to equip the people the Lord has entrusted us with to be able to effectively share the Gospel with others.

Our need, we ask you as the churches, that so faithfully support us, to pray fervently for these efforts. Also, there are several in our congregation that are dealing with ailments. We have currently been missing Mrs. June Williams, who is the pianist that the Lord blessed us with. She has been extremely faithful to be at all of our services. She suffered from a stroke and a heart attack several weeks ago and is currently in rehab in Waynesboro. The loss of our pianist has been a big blow to our mission. Would you be willing to pray for Mrs. June? That the Lord may restore her health so that she could return to church if it be his will, or that he would be found faithful once more in providing us with someone to play.

Ordered Steps

by Samuel Yager



Sometimes, God's ordering of our steps is distinctly obvious; and, other times, God does not make the path clear until we are several steps into it. Either way, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way (Psalm 37:23). Through these last couple months, it has been incredible to watch God order the steps of my life.

When I began the assistant missionary role, I was incredibly excited to help in a church plant in any capacity. The only question was whether God would direct my steps to plant a church myself at the end of the two years or whether He would use me to continue the church plant at Living Hope as pastor. In the last couple months, God has made His plan very clear. With Brother Chris moving into the interim director role, my training has moved forward faster than expected in both the preaching and daily ministry realms. In addition, God has enabled my wife and I to purchase our first house, further establishing us here in Meridian. God has used these situations along with encouragement from brothers in Christ to confirm the path He has for me.

This process has been a faith building experience for me. God has given me true peace to continue min-

A Teacher's Responsibility

Edward Kimball was a very modest New England Sunday School teacher. He had a desire to lead all of his scholars to Christ. One day he sought out and spoke to a very unpromising boy, and underclerk in a shoe store. He presented Christ as a personal Savior. The boy responded to the appeal and accepted Christ. That boy became the greatest evangelist of his day. His name: D. L. Moody. How many possible Moody's are there in Sunday school classes today, awaiting the personal appeal of the teacher, the word that will bring them to give themselves to a life of service for the Master.

An angel paused in his downward flight with a seed of truth and love and light.

And he said, "where must this seed be sown To bring most fruit when it is grown?"

The Master heard as He said and smiled, "Go plant it for Me in the heart of a child."

—Copied

Eight Missions

From Front Page

Our church is a cell church and we have centralized the task of the church through each leader who directs a cell at home. Four years ago our country went through a political situation and we had to close the church building, but not the church. Once the situation passed and we returned to meet on Sundays, we had multiplied from 12 cells to 18. Then came the Covid-19 pandemic and the same thing: We closed the building but not the church, and when we were able to come back together, we multiplied the cells from 18 to 27.

We also work with children in small cells. We have 26 houses where we have dedicated Sunday to Sunday

to teach and interact with them and their families and now average 240 children in these houses on Sunday with more than 60 people serving in this ministry.

Lifeworld has been a part of our ministry for many years in our country of Nicaragua supporting different radio ministries, programs aimed at couples, and workshop programs for those who serve in the ministry of teaching children. In December of last year, we opened the new mission in Sébaco and we were going through difficulties for its continuity, but thank God for the assistance of Lifeworld that allowed us to continue.

When we opened the mission in Cuba, the presence of Lifeworld was already in the heart of Bro. Jesús Martín. He had heard the message of salvation through the radio ministry that Life-

word had been broadcasting on the air for many years with *The Christian Contact*, a program by Pastor Richard Robinson. Jesús Martín listened to this program and that seed sown came to germinate years later when we visited the country. We met Bro. Jesús and he shared with us the perfect plan of our God and how Lifeworld was an instrument to reach his life. Today he is our missionary and is the leader of a beautiful mission in Cuba.

The Centro de Vida church is celebrating in May her eighth anniversary with eight missions, but we are not stopping there; rather, it is our vision to establish cell groups in more cities. Thank you, Lifeworld, for always joining efforts through our common goal, which is to spread the gospel of salvation as it is carried throughout the world.

Mississippi GMAs

Lakelan Jenkins, GMA Promoter
P.O. Box 1694, Collins, MS 39428
lakelanflynt@gmail.com - 601-517-1476

Big Creek District GMA House Party

by Lucy Holloway
Corresponding Secretary

The Big Creek District GMA girls had a meeting recently at Temple Baptist Church in Laurel. The night was filled with fun games and lots of karaoke. The meeting had about twenty girls with five churches represented. Our new district officers are Olivia Spradley as President, Abigail Jenkins as Vice President, Kara Bond as Secretary, Shannon Odom as Adult Secretary, Lucy Holloway as Corresponding Secretary, Lane Flynt as Adult Treasurer, Alex Singleton as Historian, Ginny Singleton as Adult Historian, Juli Bond as Song Leader, and Allison Spradley as Adult Song Leader. Our quarterly project will be to make goody bags to distribute to teachers at our local schools. Our next meeting will be held at Shiloh Baptist Church, Mt. Olive, on January 7, 2023. Can't wait to see y'all there!

Big Creek GMAs
elected officers
and
Had a great time
at their recent
Houseparty &
Meeting



The Master's Builders - "Raising Roofs for Christ"

by Nelda Malone

On September 12th, The Master's Builders began work on a new 11,475 sq ft. building for Celebration Baptist Church, in Haskell, Arkansas. The Master's Builders had helped in the construction of their original building in 2007 and were called upon to help with their new 135' X 85' building. This was such a blessing to The Master's Builders knowing that this church grew so much that we were called on to build again!! This interior had all metal studs and was a challenging, but rewarding, build for the Master's Builders. The building will have 3 classrooms, a large youth room, 2 large restrooms, a large foyer/gathering area, and a new sanctuary with a seating capacity of 299!



Celebration is the home church of Dale and Daisy Redman, one of our Master's Builders couples. Dale Redman worked tirelessly to coordinate the building activities before, and during, the job and his efforts were much appreciated.

Pastor Allan Eakin, and many of the men from the church, helped alongside our men as they worked. We could not have accomplished what we

Women's Missionary Auxiliary

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

WMA RETREAT REPORT & NEWS

by WMA President Theresa Reus

Another annual WMA ladies retreat is in the books! The only thing I would change about our retreats is to make them longer, so we have more time together.

Dawn Freeman spoke to us on being truly thankful with a grateful attitude. She also gave us some new insight on being blessed. She encouraged everyone to be more involved in discipleship. Seek out someone to learn from and pray for someone you can disciple.

We had a creative access missionary speak some very hard truths to us. We live in a very privileged time and place. We need to be in constant prayer for our brothers and sisters who are very much in danger of losing their lives for their devotion to our Christ.

Faith Lee chose a wide selection of music for our retreat. From older hymns to praise choruses, her worship music added so much to the atmosphere of the gathering.

I'd like to thank Kathy Walley most of all. Though it's been a rough time for her, she did a wonderful job organizing our retreat this year. She made beautiful decorations for each area. Her choice in speaker and worship leader were God led. With all the little decisions that had to be made - goodness - she made it look so easy! Thank you Kathy!

Everyone attending is really what made it the success that it was. This was certainly the most we've had in many years. We will definitely need to start exploring ideas for new locations!

Our silent auction raised \$1,010.00 for our project. The project this year is Living Hope, our mission church in Meridian. You still have a few weeks to get those donations in. You can send those to Mrs. Shirlene Smith, 730 HWY 533, Laurel, MS 39443.

State Meeting Set

Our WMA of Mississippi annual meeting will be held Monday, October 17, at South Forrest, 730 Churchwell Rd., Hattiesburg. State officers will meet with any local and associational officers at 5:00 pm, with general assembly meeting at 6:30. Everyone is welcome to come join us. We value your opinion and ideas. A.J., a new creative access missionary will be our speaker. She will be speaking on our theme, Be Encouraged. I hope to see you all there.



If you have questions about our ministry or if your church has building needs, please contact: Mike Green at 972-935-3877, David Axe at 903-918-0729, or Eddie Sikes at 479-462-1675.

did without each of these men. What an amazing group!

Many of the men and women of the church worked tirelessly to feed us each day with delicious homemade meals.

While at Celebration, our ladies group boxed up our Everlasting Smiles shoeboxes ready to go to Conway. This is always so much fun and very rewarding for all the ladies! This year the boxes will go to Ukraine and Romania and each box was prepared with love and prayer.

Get to know us on Facebook! Like us at "The Master's Builders" (we have an arbor logo).



Getting ready for the final exam

by **Joe McKeever**
Used with permission

“Pastor, my aunt Bernice would like you to visit her this week. There’s something she wants to talk with you about.”

I knew this young deacon’s Aunt Bernice. She was up in years and sickly, and while not a member of our church, she was related to quite a number. I figured with her years and health, she wanted to talk with the minister about getting ready to see the Lord.

She did, but not in the way I had expected.

The next afternoon, as we sat in the living room of her small shotgun house, she said, “Pastor, I know I’m saved. I have no doubt about that. I remember being saved. But there’s something else bothering me.”

“Pastor, I haven’t done right by the church.”

She continued, “As a young adult, I got away from the church and quit going. I raised my son without the church and really came to regret it. And now I’m old and can’t even go. But if you’d let me, I’d like to put my membership in and become a member. I’ll pray for you all and send an offering from my monthly check.”

I assured her we would be honored to receive her, and took care of that the next Sunday.

I never forgot her statement — “I haven’t done right by the church” — and have had occasion over the years since to tell her story, then ask my hearers, “Have you done right by the Lord’s church?”

A man in our congregation was dying. On one occasion as I visited in his home, he asked to speak to me privately. I felt it coming - he wanted to confess something that was bothering him before he went to meet the Savior.

I was right.

“Pastor,” he said, “when I was a much younger man, I did some experimentation in my personal life that I’m ashamed of.”

He told the story, then said, “I’ve asked the Lord to forgive me, but it still troubles me. I don’t want to go into eternity with that on the record. Can you help me?”

Have you ever had one of those times when you felt the nearness of the Lord so heavily you could almost reach out and touch Him? That moment was just so.

I said, “My dear brother, the Lord has forgiven you for that sin and all the others. Jesus Christ paid for your sins with His blood.”

He looked at me and said nothing. So I added something I had never said in my entire life to that point.

“I want you to know, **I forgive you for your sin.**”

At that moment, I knew what it means to be a priest. I was standing in the stead of the Lord Himself for a brief shining instant.

The peace of the Lord washed over him and a few days later, he went to heaven.

I need to make a confession here. *I really wonder about so many people in our pews, whether they are believers or not. I say that not because they don’t come to church and give and worship and do all those things we expect believers to do. There is one big omission that causes me to wonder.*

They go into eternity without any thought of getting prepared for that moment when they will face the Judge of the Universe.

They go into their final exams with hardly a thought. I know church leaders who spent great energy and far too much time in their adult lives fighting against their ministers. They opposed the preacher on everything he tried to do that involved faith and sacrifice. They fought against his authority with the congregation, they undercut his leadership by their snideness, and they repeatedly encouraged the

naysayers and dissenters inside the church. And then they died.

They died without confessing and repenting of these grievous wrongs. They went into eternity red-penciled in on the Master’s calendar to give account of what they had done to the Lord’s church (His Body! His Bride!) and to His anointed (the pastor).

How do I know this? Because I was the pastor. Had they repented and wanted forgiveness, they would have told me so.

In my heart of hearts, I forgave each a long time ago. But whether that is sufficient for the Father to remove their names from His appointment calendar, I cannot say.

“Have mercy on them, my Lord,” I frequently pray, knowing that I too will require all the mercy He can send my way when it’s my turn in the dock.

Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel! (Amos 4:12)

Some random thoughts on this subject:

1) We each should keep short accounts with God.

Scripture encourages us not to pile up transgressions without end, but to confess them and receive God’s forgiveness. *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sin and cleanse us of all iniquity* (I John 1:9).

2) We must not hide behind our eternal salvation.

We all treasure the opening line from the 8th chapter of Romans: *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.* There may be no better news than the knowledge that in Christ we are saved for eternity and hell is no longer an option for us. That, however, does not mean we will be given a free pass on judgment.

3) There is yet a judgment for all believers.

There is not one word in Scripture that encourages believers to think we will not have an accounting. *But I say to you that for every idle word men*



Joe McKeever

Senior Adult Ministry

Commission on Senior Adults - 8 Reagan Lake Road, Laurel, MS 39443 - 601-426-3293

Conference Plans Underway

The Trustees of the Senior Adult Commission and I are making plans for our 2023 Senior Adult Conferences. I have heard from some of our Seniors and they are looking forward to the new year.

After missing a couple of years due to the Covid virus our 2022 meetings were well attended and a great success.

We are excited about the future and want all of our senior adults to make plans to attend. We will again plan to hold the South Conference in early March 2023 and the North Conference in May 2023.

Pray for those who are working hard to make this next year one our best. We are hoping to hear from you with your suggestions and comments about this ministry.

Address Change

We have made some minor changes in our operation and want to emphasize that all donations and correspondence should be directed to the director at the address above.

50 Years in Ministry

We have some men to recognize soon for their faithful service to the Lord for over 50 years. We continue to seek out any of our ministers who have been serving for 50 years or longer. We will honor their service in our meetings next year. If you or someone you know will celebrate 50 years in the ministry in 2023, please contact me with that information.

May God continue to bless our seniors and the work of this commission.

may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment (Matthew 12:36).

We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ (Romans 14:10).

This, you are probably aware, is what led Bible teachers long ago to decide there must be separate judgments for believers and unbelievers. When Scripture says we will be judged on the basis of our works (Revelation 20:13 among other places), this aligns with the rest of Scripture only if the Great White Throne Judgment is for unbelievers and The Judgment Seat of Christ is the one for believers. That would mean that the eventual destination of each person is decided in advance – by the question, “What will you do with Jesus?” – and the judgment is to determine degrees of reward or punishment.

4. We each would do well to make our final preparations every day of our lives.

I am not suggesting we go around carrying our funeral clothes just in case. Far from it. Nor am I encouraging a morbidity, a funereal attitude about life, or a darkness to our mood. Quite the opposite.

Every day of our lives, God’s children would do well to live so as to be ready when the Father in Heaven calls time.

This means a lot of things—primarily constant obedience and devotion—but it also means always being aware

of those in our lives we may have wronged and who need our repentance.

There is no one among us who has not failed friends. There are none righteous among us. Not one. We are all sinners who deserve hell. Thank God, “He has not dealt with us according to our sins nor rewarded us according to our iniquities” (Psalm 103:10). “If you Lord should mark iniquities, who would stand?” (Psalm 130:3)

There’s something in your past bothering you? Tell the Lord. Ask Him to forgive the wrong, then ask if He will bring you into contact with the person you offended or hurt or sinned against.

I’ve told on these pages how I prayed that once about a girl I stole money from in the seventh grade. At a reunion of our high school graduating class, there she was. I was delighted to see her and glad to be able to confess what I had done. I insisted she take the \$20 bill (which she used to purchase Bibles, she later told me) which was several times what I had taken. When she hesitated, I said, “Take it! I need the peace.” She laughed and forgave me, then we hugged, and I floated away from our meeting.

May I make a suggestion or two on addressing an old wrong?

—don’t make it worse. If the wrong was something unknown to the individual, you may want to get the counsel of some minister before confessing it.

—don’t put it in writing. Do it in person or over the phone. Letters have a way of taking on a life of their own.

PRIME TIMERS WITH A PURPOSE

Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, 2 Timothy 1:9



The Importance of Beneficiary Designations

We typically only think of *beneficiaries* when it comes to life insurance, however when it comes to Estate Planning this applies to so much more. Having beneficiary designations on a variety of things can help avoid having some assets be subject to some type of probate.

Joint Ownership – If you have a surviving spouse and all assets are *jointly owned* then those assets will automatically go to your surviving spouse. Unfortunately most couples have some but not all of their assets jointly owned, leaving some still at risk of probate.

Assigning Beneficiaries – When one spouse dies most surviving spouses do not think about changing their beneficiary designations or joint ownership designations from their deceased spouse to the now living children or others. If this is not done though those assets will likely be subject to probate at the now surviving spouse’s death.

What to Change – All of the following should have clear Payable on Death (POD) or Transfer on Death (TOD) beneficiary designations:

- Bank accounts
- Brokerage accounts
- Annuities
- Retirement accounts
- Pensions
- Life insurance

Making sure you have proper beneficiary designations in place on as many things as possible is simply good practice as a part of Estate Planning.

Interested in learning more? We’re here to help.

MRS is your trusted partner that can help bring clarity and understanding to whatever your situation may be. Let us help explain your options. *Our focus is on educating our churches and pastors to help them make well informed decisions about these very important topics.*

MRS is your trusted resource. Let us serve you today!

Contact:
Mark Bradley
Ministers Resource Services
(501)-499-4205
mbradley@bmaamerica.org



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home

Special Emphasis

Goal:

\$15,000

Projects:

1. Roof Repairs & Maintenance
2. Children's Christmas Gifts
3. Payroll to add a new House Parent couple to the staff
4. Funds to meet the daily needs of the house

History & Archives

From page 6

Most people, by their very nature, seem inclined to extremes. God’s people are no exception. Such extremes often create an imbalance in our teaching ministry. There should be, for example, a balance between doctrine and evangelism in the life of our church. There was a time when doctrines were emphasized to extremity at the expense of needed evangelism. Now the pendulum has swung to the other extreme. Evangelism is being stressed at the expense of doctrinal truths. A people with diluted doctrinal strength do not know what they stand for, much less why!

Yes, it is time to teach and preach the Doctrines most surely believed among us.....

In the Light of The Clear Teaching of Christ: “Beware,” Jesus said, “of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves” (Matt. 7:15). “In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” (Matt. 15:9).

A reflection by the Apostle Peter says: “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scriptures is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy

came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.’ The saddest part of it is expressed in the next verse: “And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of” (2nd Peter 1:20-21; 2:1-3).

In the Light of Paul’s Timely Warnings: “Take heed,” warned the great apostle, “unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing so thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee” (1st Tim. 4:16). Young preachers, and old ones for that matter, listen carefully!

Let us hear once again Paul’s grave charge to young Timotheo: “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom. PREACH THE WORD; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come (and it is here) when they will not endure sound doctrine: but after their own lust shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they

shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” (2nd Tim. 4:1-4). These passages very clearly explain why we have the legion of false religions and the denominational babel we have in the world today.

In a word of warning to the Ephesians, he says: “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive” (Eph. 4:14).

In the Light of John’s Strong Warning: “Whoso transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your houses, neither bid him God speed: for he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds” (2nd John 9:11).

In the Light of Our Historical Heritage: In the light of our historical heritage, it is time to preach the doctrines most surely believed among us. Our forbearers did not fail to preach the doctrines. WE WILL EITHER CONTINUE TO PREACH AND UPHOLD OUR HISTORIC BIBLICAL DOCTRINES, AS DID OTHERS BEFORE US, OR ELSE WE WILL LOSE OUR IDENTITY AS A PECULIAR AND SEPARATE PEOPLE. WE

CANNOT BE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE AND AT THE SAME TIME BE TRUE TO THE SCRIPTURES. Israel’s downfall was in their desire to be like others.

Under the Gathering Storm: It is time to preach the doctrines most surely believed among us in view of the gathering storm of religious error. Ecumenicalism is promoting the coming world church. The universal church idea is taking root even among Baptists as it has for so long among others And this includes some in the ranks of Associational Baptists. The Charismatics and Pentecostalism is obsessed with the “Tongues” movement. The presence of Unionism and hedonism is being felt very strongly. The self-appointed “intellectuals” and “higher critics” are demanding to be heard. Romanism, as always, is constantly moving in to exploit every possible situation to her own advantage in a grab for world domination.

THE PERVERSIONS OF THE SCRIPTURE TEXT BY A RASH OF SO-CALLED NEW AND BETTER TRANSLATIONS, VERSIONS, ETC. OF THE BIBLE THREATENS TO GIVE TO THE WORLD A BIBLE WITHOUT TRUTH OR INSPIRATION; A CHURCH WITHOUT A DIVINE MESSAGE; AND A PLAN OF SALVATION WITHOUT THE ATONING SACRIFICE OF CHRIST. IT IS TIME TO PREACH THE DOCTRINES MOST SURELY BELIEVED AMONG US.

Resignation

From page 2

My heart aches over the divisive, cancel culture climate that currently troubles our state association. It seems that we have lost our focus on why we associate in the first place, for the propagation of the gospel. Our rich history attests to the fact that our Baptist forefathers were tenaciously committed to the truths of the gospel as expressed in the Scriptures. While tracing the historical roots of the BMA of MS, former chairman of the MS Baptist Commission on History, Dr. L.S. Walker, wrote,

“The Mississippi Baptist Association (now the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi) was originally organized at old Salem Church in September 1806. . . From this humble beginning, by God’s grace, came the some 200 churches cooperating with the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. . . In tracing the history of our State Associational work in Mississippi, the trail may at times seem dim, but looking more closely, we find the trail clear and well defined. The historical lineage of our state work was never identified by politico-religious power, prestige nor popularity, but rather by Biblical principles. Our historical chronology is very clearly defined.” - MS Baptist Heritage, Dr. L.S. Walker

My hope and prayer are that we will journey back along the “clear and well-defined” trail laid by our forefathers and rediscover our deep roots grounded in the sufficiency of Scrip-

Positions Available

Texas Church seeks Youth Minister

Greenpond Baptist Church in Como, Texas, is seeking a Youth Minister. Resumes may be sent to terrywbolton@yahoo.com or mailed to Pastor Terry Bolton, c/o Greenpond Baptist Church, 1911 CR 2425, Como, Texas 75431.

Alabama Church Seeking Pastor

Siloam Missionary Baptist Church of Winfield, Alabama, is searching for a pastor. The church is located in Fayette County in north-west Alabama about 30 miles from the Mississippi state line. The position is bi-vocational. Those interested are asked to call Jim Carlo at 205-412-9881 or contact him by email at 1857jc@gmail.com.

Available For Service

Bro. Wayne Rice

Wayne Rice is available for filling in, interim pastor, or to be considered in view of a call to pastor. You can reach him at 601-916-9020 by phone call or text or you may email him at browayne40@gmail.com. Please leave a message when you call.

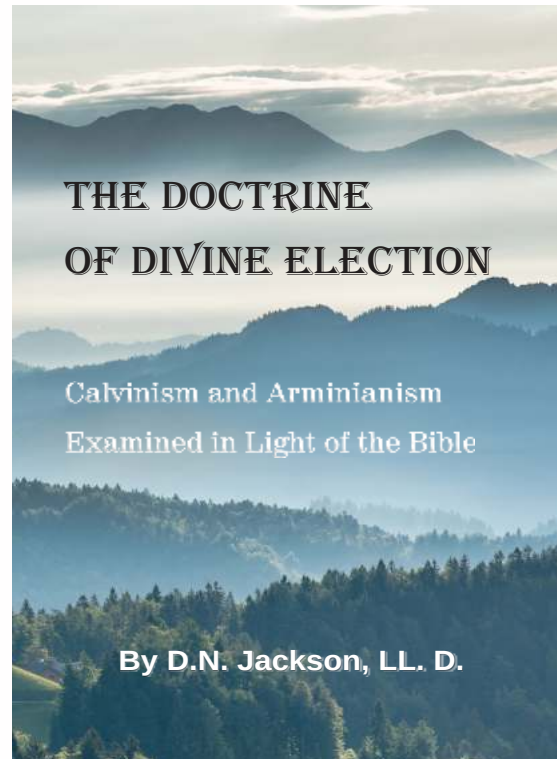
ture and the beauty of the biblical gospel.

The BMA of Mississippi has been a tremendous blessing to my family and me through the years. Whether in my church planting endeavors in Montana or serving in local churches, your generosity will always be remembered with fondness. And for that, I am eternally grateful.

With Love and Thanks,
Jeffrey Dixon

Jackson Book Republished

With the endorsement of the D.N. Jackson family we have republished his book on the doctrine of Election. We appreciate their support and after the cost of publication is covered all profits will go to fund a scholarship in his name at Southeastern Baptist College. Jackson was the founding president of SBC.



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Baptist Publishing House Report

by Jordan M. Tew
Executive Director

I am writing this report so you can be well-informed about the ministry of the Baptist Publishing House. We are a ministry by the local church and for the local church. Therefore, it is important that you are familiar with the work we do and how it serves churches just like yours. I hope the following report will be a blessing to you.

Souls Being Saved!

This is always wonderful news, as I consider evangelism one of the greatest things BPH can help churches accomplish. I have heard a few different stories about how the ministry of BPH has been used by God to bring the lost to salvation. I met a Sunday School teacher from Arkansas, who shared with me how the Lord used the Baptist Expositor curriculum to lead someone to Christ. This man came to faith in Jesus through studying the Bible in his Sunday School class. The teacher noted that the verse-by-verse approach to Bible study opened the door to this man asking questions about his need of Christ and, ultimately, his salvation.

Also, one of our trustees, Pastor Derrick Bremer (Denver Street Baptist, Greenwood, AR) shared this with me, "A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of speaking with a pastor of a non-BMA church that had recently begun using Baptist Publishing House's curriculum. The pastor shared with me that prior to his arrival and acceptance of the pastorate that the church had experienced consistent decline in attendance. I was pleased when he shared that he began using the Baptist Expositor in Sunday school classes ... I praised God when he shared a few weeks later what appears to be the beginning of revitalization in his church as a family of 5 came forward to submit to scriptural baptism."

Reaching the World

BPH partners directly with Editorial Bautista, which is a translation ministry of BMAA Missions. Each quarter, the Baptist Expositor is translated into Spanish and provided free of charge to Spanish-speaking congregations all over the world. Over the last year or so, we have been able to help different congregations across Latin America purchase printers and a laminator. We have also purchased a new printer for a BMA church plant in The Bronx, NY.

In addition to those projects, the Associational Baptist Church Manual has been translated into Spanish. The Spanish language version is being sent to the presses as I type this report. The church manual was also used recently in a Bible College course in the Philippines and has been translated into Swahili and used in Tanzania. Lord willing, I will be helping to train Spanish-speaking pastors in Mississippi this Fall and I will be doing the same in Southern Mexico this January. To

me, BPH is more than a Sunday School printing ministry. It is a vital part of our associated work in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Helping Small Churches

I have said many times that I am "a small church guy." I understand the needs small churches have and I am constantly thinking of ways we can best serve these congregations. We have started giving a free PDF edition of the Baptist Expositor curriculum to any church in need. This offer also stands for any missionary or church planter. Simply put, if a church cannot afford Sunday School curriculum, then we will do all we can to help them.

New Kids' Curriculum Coming Together!

We have spent the last year and a half working on developing a new curriculum for grades 1-6. The DiscipleKidz curriculum will provide churches with the tools needed to teach individual or combined classes. This will be a great resource for small

churches, as only one book will need to be purchased to teach all children. Also, it may be used for any type of class—not just Sunday School! The curriculum will cover Old Testament, New Testament, and Baptist Doctrine. The Old Testament study will be released in early 2023. You can download a free sample from our website (under the resources page).

Planning for Progress

This is a Bible ministry. Our goal is simply to provide churches with the tools they need to reach people with the Gospel and teach them the Word of God. I consider people coming to Christ and growing in their faith the greatest victories we can witness. Therefore, BPH is focused on the Gospel and the local church. Through the support of local churches, we have been able to help churches lead new people to faith in Jesus and many more grow in their knowledge of God's Word. I want to say a heartfelt "thank you" to the many churches that make BPH part of their regular financial support. God has blessed us mightily through you, and I am pleased to share Baptist Publishing House is financially healthy—praise God! There are many things we would like to do for the churches of the BMA, but we need more support to make them possible. We want to be able to provide more for you. Would your church or your local association consider making BPH part of your regular financial giving? I hope this report has been an encouragement to you. If there is anything I can do to serve you or your church, please do not hesitate to ask. If you would be interested in having me visit your church to share more about this ministry, hold a Sunday School teacher training workshop, preach, teach, or anything else, please let me know. I want to help your church in any way I can. I am here for you.



**Baptist
Publishing
House**

2022 Annual Meeting Schedule

South Forest Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Monday, October 17th

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

Tuesday, October 18th

Session One: 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Called to Order-Welcome and Response
Scripture and Prayer
Reading of The Rules of Order
Introduction of Theme and President's Message
- Blake McCain

10:15 a.m.

Call For Constitutional Changes
Enrollment Committee Initial Report
Election of Officers
Midyear Meeting Location and Speaker
- (Tuesday, May 16, 2023)
Annual Meeting Location and Speaker
- (Tuesday-Wednesday, October 17-18, 2023)
Nominating Committee Report

Reports Begin

Brotherhood
WMA
Southeastern Baptist College

11:45 a.m.

Scripture and Prayer and Dismissal for Lunch

Session Two: 1:30 p.m.

Worship in Music
Scripture and Prayer
Vote on Constitutional Changes (If Necessary)

Reports Continue

Youth Department
Missions Department - Revolving Loan Fund
Publications Department
BMA of Mississippi Foundation
Commission on Senior Adults
Moral Action
Commission on History
Children's Home
Salary Committee Report
Clerk's Report
Final Enrollment Committee Report
Appointment of Enrollment Committee
Misc. Business

5:00 p.m.-Prayer of Dismissal for Evening Meal

6:30 p.m.

Worship In Music
Annual Message - Dr. Charley Holmes