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Annual State Meeting Set

At Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel

by Ken Riley, President
BMA of Mississippi

Greetings. I hope this letter finds you doing well and experiencing the riches of God's goodness. Our 217th Annual Meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi will meet with Pastor Shane Singleton and Parkview Baptist Church in Laurel, Mississippi on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. The theme this year is "Trust the Process" taken from Ephesians 3:14-21. The annual message will be given by Dr. John David Smith, our National Mission Director.



Ken Riley

The Program Committee met on Thursday, August 3, 2023, at the BMA Missions Office. They worked diligently to complete the itinerary for the 217th Annual Meeting which involved changing the agenda to make the meeting more enjoyable for those attending. One of the ways the Program Committee felt we could make our meetings more attractive was by excluding the abundance of information from the reports that each director shares. However, this information will still be made available through the Baptist Paper, and hard copies will be placed on the table where the enrollment committee is set up. This change will free up hours of time that we can begin using to plan our meetings to be more encouraging and hopefully increase attendance in the future. The time we will save this year will allow us to complete our Annual Meeting in time for Southeastern Baptist College to present its 75th Anniversary Program at Bethlehem Community Church Fellowship Center. Our hope and desire is to work hard each year to increase attendance and get people involved in our meetings.

I look forward to seeing everyone and can't wait to hear about all that God is doing in the BMA of Mississippi. I challenge each of you, as you read this article, to please make plans to attend our Annual Meeting. The last two meetings have been heavily attended and I pray this one will be no different. Again, I look forward to seeing you all at our Annual Meeting on October 17th.

Lifeword Sunday is October 22nd - Share Jesus

We Tell the Story
by Emily Brantley

Since Lifeword began, her mission has not changed and can be summed up in one sentence: we tell the story. The story of hope, the story of grace, the story of mercy, the story of salvation...the story of Jesus. It's the greatest story ever told, and we have dedicated our efforts, time, finances, and ministries to telling this story to the nations. But we don't do it alone. We need you to join us in taking The Greatest Story Ever Told to the lost, to the hurting, to the broken, to the searching. When you partner with Lifeword, you become a part of this mission. When you partner with Lifeword, you tell The Story. When you partner with Lifeword, you change lives. Here is how.

On February 24th, 2022, Russia invaded the country of Ukraine and for 18 months now, war has upended the lives of thousands of Ukrainians. Many have fled the country. Many have stayed and committed to fight. Many have lost their lives.

War has become their new normal. The sounds of air raids and sirens are no longer cause for alarm. Schools have built bomb shelters in them so they can continue with classes even during attacks. Every Ukrainian has been altered in some way by this war. Many are suffering without hope, without faith, and with fear of what the future holds. They are in dire need of the

hope found in Christ, but how do we tell them?

This month, Lifeword's Executive Director, Donny Parrish, went to Poland to meet with Ukrainian pastors and their wives about how Lifeword can help them tell The Story to their families, friends, neighbors, and fellow citizens in Ukraine. Lifeword is perfectly positioned to come alongside these pastors and help them to share the Gospel message of Jesus Christ in their country that is desperately seeking hope. Through social media, Lifeword is able to reach thousands of Ukrainian speakers, both in Ukraine and those around the world who have fled from the war.

Lifeword's mission is to tell The Story. This is just one example of how we are working to do that in one of the many countries in which we're privileged to work. This is what you make possible when you partner with Lifeword. When you partner with Lifeword, this is how you Tell the Story.

This year, Lifeword Sunday is October 22nd and the theme is "Share Jesus. Make Disciples. Everywhere." Lifeword Sunday is the day set aside each year that the Lifeword Team asks the churches of BMA America to pray for and take a special



Lifeword's Executive Director, Donny Parrish, conducting training for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Poland last month.

offering to help Lifeword expand her gospel footprint around the world. Lifeword Sunday is critical to helping us fulfill our mission. Would you go to lifeword.org/lifewordsunday and register your church to be a part of this great day? When your church registers, your pastor will be entered into our Pastor Giveaway. This year we are giving away a new Macbook Pro! Download the Lifeword Sunday video to show your church exactly what they are supporting and order t-shirts to help us share the message of Lifeword. Then, on October 22, let's all celebrate and worship our missionary God!

New Discipleship Effort from Lifeword

Lifeword is taking steps towards a new initiative in their efforts to share Jesus and make disciples everywhere.

"Our vision was clear - find a way to not only share the gospel of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible, but also show them how to follow Him daily," Yalanda Merrell, Director of Audience Engagement at Lifeword, said. As a media ministry, Lifeword explored how discipleship could be done digitally, and she states, "Getting to this point has taken countless hours of brainstorming, digital planning, and content production."

While it's still in the testing phase, Lifeword gives us an inside look at this new discipleship effort called FOLLOW.

FOLLOW is an interactive, video-based discipleship tool. It introduces people to the hope Jesus offers and what it looks like to follow Him. And, with one click, they can connect to a local church to continue this journey. But it doesn't end

there. FOLLOW is also a tool the local church can use to make disciples.

"The great commission was given to the local church, and we knew we wanted to create something to come alongside the church to accomplish this mission. Our goal is to provide an easy-to-use tool that is engaging, biblical, and accessible on a hand-held device. No matter where someone is in their walk with Christ, they can use FOLLOW to lead someone to Jesus, connect them to a church, and show them how to follow Christ daily."

Merrell said more is coming soon on this project, and she's thankful for those who have a passion for sharing the name of Jesus and discipleship, because that's what Lifeword is all about.

Lifeword Sunday is October 22, 2023. This is a day set aside for churches across the BMA of America to pray for the ministry of Lifeword and to give a special offering to help Lifeword increase her



impact around the world. To register your church for Lifeword Sunday visit www.wetellthestory.com. There, you can also purchase Lifeword Sunday t-shirts to help share the ministry of Lifeword and enter your pastor's name into a drawing for a MacBook Pro.

Lifeword Sunday offerings are crucial in helping Lifeword continue to expand around the world! Together we can Share Jesus, Make Disciples, Everywhere!

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



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Some News & Views

Later this month the BMA of Mississippi will gather in the facilities of Parkview Baptist Church in Laurel to conduct business in its 217th Annual Session.

One highlight of this year's meeting will be the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Southeastern Baptist College. The college began in the facilities of Parkview Baptist Church under the leadership of pastor Dr. D. N. Jackson who also served as the school's first president. As you will read in the college report in this issue there will be a special event on Tuesday evening highlighting the college's ministry and serving as a scholarship fund-raiser. Our churches, pastors, and members are urged to attend and make a generous donation supporting the future of SBC. Under the leadership of Dr. Scott Carson, the school has made improvements and great strides both in the student body size and in new academic programs. Southeastern College has an impressive history and her future is bright.

The annual message will be brought by Southeastern graduate and BMA Global President Dr. John David Smith. Attendance at this year's meeting is not only needed, but promises to be a blessing. The state Brotherhood and WMA will meet on Monday evening October 16 at Parkview Church.

We look forward to seeing you in Laurel on October 16 & 17.

The Breakdown

I have two vehicles. While they are low mileage and not too old, they both have developed some minor repair issues. The older I get the more trips I have to take to visit the doctor. My home is over 40 years old. We have had to replace and repair a number of areas over the years. What is my point? Things, and people, ultimately break down and need repairing or replacing.

An editorial in my local newspaper recently highlighted the 'breakdown' of our American society. You and I see evidence of this breakdown every day on the news. We are a sinful people and as we allow laws and morality to wane, we see the ultimate results. Violence, theft, unruliness, moral collapse...it all falls to the lack of a knowledge of God, living up to His principles, and the appetite of man to sin. People video violence rather than stepping in to help the victims. How shameful!

Political parties are not the answer - laws are not the answer. Knowing and following the Saviour is our only answer. We need a resurgence of common decency and moral values before it is too late to have a viable nation. May our God be merciful and gracious and may we turn and restore our nation, our churches, and our families. I pray it is not too late to return to what many of us refer to as 'normal'.

Opportunity to be A Blessing

Pastor's Wife Unexpectedly Dies

by the Editor

Below is information concerning the sudden death of Mrs. Katie Morgan, wife of BMA pastor Howard Morgan. We are saddened by the Morgan family's loss and will keep them in our prayers. Such an unforeseen event would put most folks in a financial bind. I want to encourage our pastors, churches, and readers to consider helping Bro. Morgan and his family at this time. Your love offering may be sent to Howard Morgan, 9 Emory St., Overt, MS 39469. I have not spoken to Bro. Morgan, but I am sure any amount would be appreciated and help.

Services for Mrs. Katie M. Morgan, age 51, of Overt were held September 20, 2023, at Jones and Son Chapel in Richton. Mrs. Morgan passed from this life on September 14, 2023 at her residence. Bro. Steve Brewer and Bro. Hunter Brewer will officiate.

Mrs. Morgan was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, and friend who loved to cook and take care of her family. She was a member of the Bible Baptist Church, Overt, Mississippi

Mrs. Morgan was preceded in death by her parents, Arthur Elton and Florence Alene Brewer.

She is survived by her husband, Howard E. Morgan of Overt; sons, Howard Lee Morgan, William Chase Morgan, and Emmanuel Nathan Morgan, all of Overt; and granddaughter, Emory Ann Morgan of Overt.

Celebration 2023 Conference Artists Announced

Formerly National Senior Adult Conference

There is something captivating about the blending and swelling of sibling harmony. When that is combined with pure talent and a servant's heart for people, you have the incomparable ministry of The Erwins.

The Erwins will be one of the featured artists at Celebration 2023 Conference, November 28-30 at the Chateau On the Lake Conference Center, in Branson, Missouri! This annual conference (formerly called National Senior Adult Conference) sponsored by the Conference Division of BMA America, has been redesigned to appeal to all of the adults of the BMA! Set in beautiful Branson, Missouri, the conference is a three-day event featuring uplifting worship, fellowship, gospel entertainment, food and fun. Conference

admission includes admission to the conference, tickets to Sight and Sound's production of the musical "Esther" and two buffet breakfasts.

The Erwins started singing as soon as they were each able to talk. Appearing at over 270 dates a year with their father, who has been in full-time evangelism for nearly 50 years, they have been traveling full-time their entire life singing in concerts, revivals, and conferences across the country.

Three of the four siblings, Keith, Kody, and Kris performed as a trio until



2013, when the group announced that their little sister, Katie, would be joining the group full-time on stage officially making them a Mixed Group.

It is with prayer, determination, and focus that The Erwins are blazing new trails in Southern Gospel, proving to their industry peers and

fans alike, that the future of Southern Gospel music is, in fact, secure with a young group like The Erwins.

Register for Celebration 2023 and make your hotel reservations at <https://bmaamerica.org/celebration>.

What are Galileans?

by Mark Jones

Mississippi Galilean Promoter

What are the Galileans? The Galileans is a young men's discipleship ministry program. It starts at the age of 9 or when the young boy enters the 3rd grade. The Galileans are sponsored by the brotherhood of the local church.

The motto for Galileans is "Followers of Christ, Leaders of others". The theme verses used for Galileans are I Timothy 4:12 "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in work, in conversation, in charity, in faith, in purity." And I Peter 2:21 "for even hereunto were ye call because Christ also suffered for us leaving us an example, that ye should follow his Footsteps."

The Galilean program consists of 6 steps. Through this program, young men

will learn of Jesus Christ and the work of the BMA of America. So many young men who have been through this program are now in leadership positions in BMA churches of America and BMA churches of Mississippi.

To start a Galilean program at your church all you need is 1 man and 1 boy. Being part of Galileans has been one of the greatest things I have ever been involved in. So many blessings over the years of young men being saved and young men surrendering to the ministry.

Jesus commanded us to make Disciples and there is no better way to disciple young men than Galileans. If you would like information on Galileans and how to start a Galilean program at your church, please contact me. My cell is 662-322-6516 and my email is stonwall@yahoo.com

Part Time Children's Ministry Director Sought

Midway First Baptist Church, Sumrall is seeking a part-time director of our children's ministry. Below is information from the church.

-Priority one is the spiritual growth of our children.

-The position includes directing the planning, coordination, operation, and execution of a comprehensive Children's Ministry. This includes, but is not limited to, Wednesday night classes, Vacation Bible School, Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas program, and Children's Church.

-You can send your resume and questions

to midwaychildrensdirector@gmail.com.

Thank you,
Brittany McCain

A Note of Thanks

My dear Mississippi sisters,

I had such joy and excitement to have the privilege to be with you at conference...but I was just too broken. Thank you for your prayers for us and we beg their continuance as we walk through our days ahead. I love you all.

Sabrina Clayton

Surrenders to the Ministry

Skylar Haden surrendered to the gospel ministry recently.

Skylar is the son of Bryson and Jessica Haden, and the grandson of Lavon and Beth Haden. Skylar will preach his first message on October 1st at Hattiesville Baptist Church in Hattiesville, Arkansas.



Please pray for Skylar as he continues his education at Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas, and as he begins his ministry.



SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440 - 601.426.6346

Serving Christ With A Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Presidents Perspective

Since 1948, Southeastern Baptist College has provided a quality post-secondary education from a biblical worldview in a Christian atmosphere. Please join SBC as we celebrate 75 incredible years of serving and giving back to our community, State, and National BMAA work! We invite our local donors, friends (near and far), pastors, business owners, and department personnel to this monumental event.

75th ANNIVERSARY SCHOLARSHIP GALA

The 75th Anniversary Scholarship Gala will be held on October 17, 2023, at the Family Life Center at Bethlehem Community Church (849 Lake Como Road, Laurel, MS). This is the same night as the BMA of Mississippi annual meeting. As a ticket holder, you will help fund our scholarship endowment to aid in recruiting students from our community and surrounding areas. It is through fundraising efforts such as the Gala that we build our scholarship fund enabling many of our students to continue their Christian college education when they may not be able due to shortage of personal funds.

A ticket to our Gala will include event entry, dinner, entertainment, and fellowship with special entertainment presented by Christian comedian Dr. Dennis Swanberg and local musicians. It will be a night to remember! **The dress code is Semi-Formal.**

6:00: Doors open

6:30: Meal begins

7:15: Music and Dr. Dennis Swanberg

Tickets are \$100 for individuals or tables can be purchased for \$1,000 (seats up to 10).

We especially encourage our churches to sponsor a table at the Gala to seat their pastors, staff, deacons, spouses, and church messengers who are attending the State Meetings. (Local associations may want to sponsor a table, as well).

Remember, Pastor Appreciation Day is October 8, 2023. What better way to show your pastor, church staff, and deacons how much they are appreciated than giving them a "night out." Buy your pastor a table to fill at his choice or two tickets for him and his date.

Sponsorship tables or tickets may be purchased by calling the college at 601-426-6346 or by emailing rdavis@southeasternbaptist.edu.

We invite you to come and celebrate with us the tremendous legacy of the faithful work of SBC as we continue to equip our students with a Biblical World View as they pursue their life's calling. We look forward to celebrating with everyone! Remember, this is your college!

Equipping the Saints.

Dr. Scott R. Carson

Future Events

Meet the Chargers:

Join us to meet the 2023 Southeastern Athletes on October 14 including the Baseball, Softball and Basketball teams!

Timeline for the event:

11 a.m.: Ceremony begins

12 p.m. (noon): Pre-season baseball game begins with tailgating fun and food.

Location: Ralph Boston Park, 2321 Queensburg Ave., Laurel, MS 39440

(In case of inclement weather, the ceremonies and activities will move to the gym of SBC.)

Southeastern Gospel Fest

April 18-20, 2024

First Baptist Church of Laurel, MS

\$25 / Nightly, Call 601-426-6346 or

Order online @ southeasternbaptist.edu

National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer for Jones County is scheduled for May 2, 2024 in the Gymnasium of Southeastern Baptist College.

Golf Tournament

The Annual SBC Golf Tournament will be on May 24 at the Laurel Country Club



Dr. Scott Carson
President

SAVE the DATE

JOIN SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE



75th anniversary scholarship gala

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM., DINNER AT 6:30

DR. DENNIS SWANBERG, CHRISTIAN COMEDIAN AT 7:15

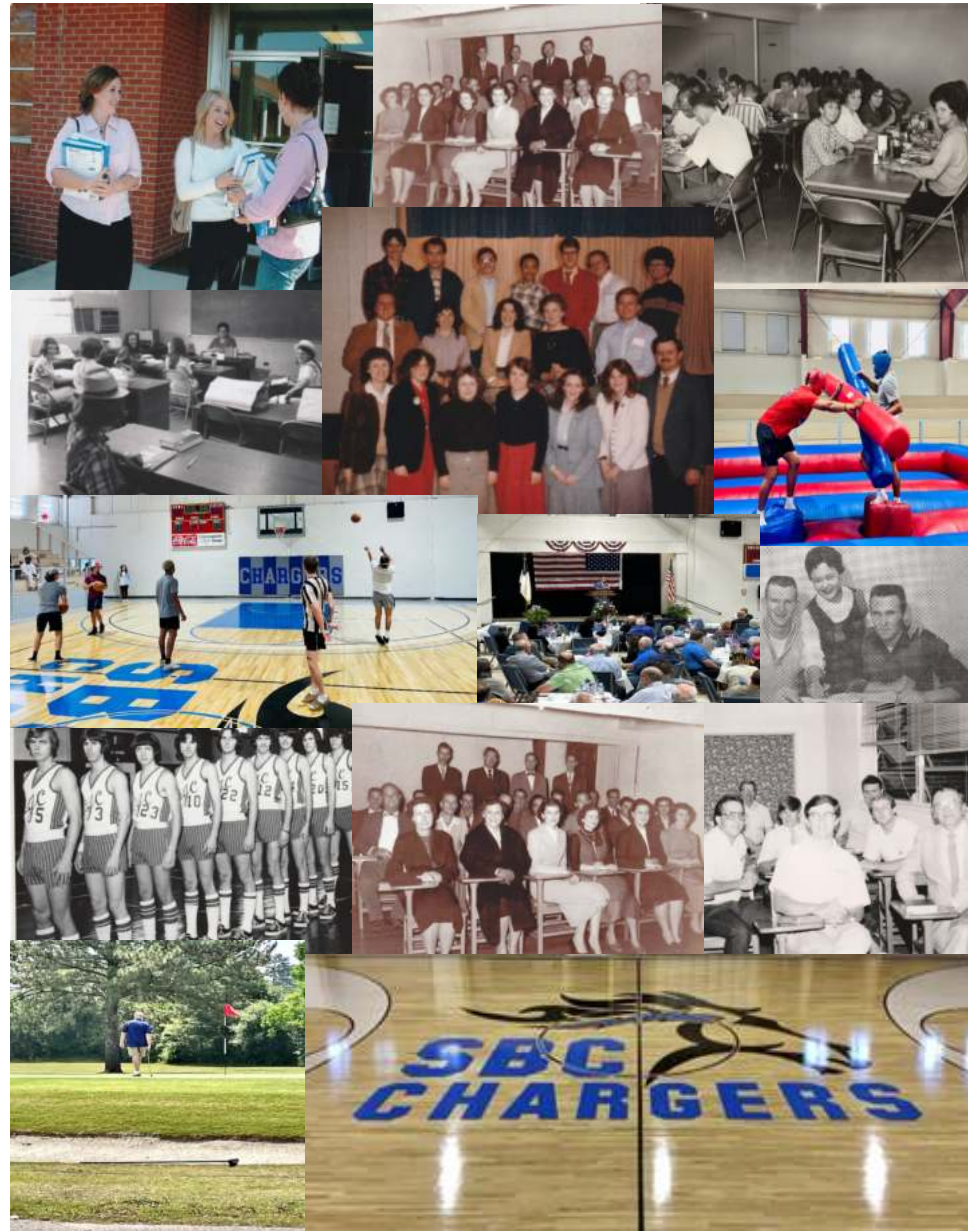
THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER OF BETHLEHEM COMMUNITY CHURCH
849 LAKE COMO RD. LAUREL, MS

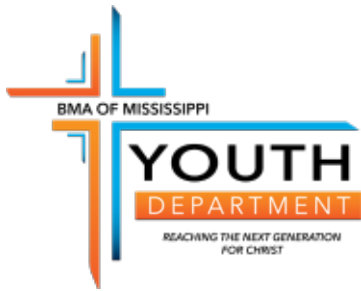


RSVP: [RDAVIS@SOUTHEASTERNBAPTIST.EDU](mailto:rdavis@southeasternbaptist.edu)
OR CALL 601-426-6346



75th ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE: *Through The Years*





Anders

Anders Lee - Director @ 661-843-3293 - anders.lee@bma.org

RENEW IS GONNA BE AMAZING!!!

Excitement is growing over our Winter Conference RENEW! We already have nearly 100 registered for the event! For a long time neither Mississippi or any other of our BMA State Associations have had such a conference. Years ago, Mississippi had "Teen Conference" and Arkansas had "Encounter." As a youth pastor at Calvary in Horn Lake, I took my youth to both events, and I cherish the times I had with my groups at those meetings! Well... we are bringing it back as you may have already heard!!! I have prayed and sought direction from the Lord about this event and I kept thinking... it's missing something! After praying one morning about it, I knew who to call.

The breaking news this month is that we have booked **Bob Smiley, Christian Comedian**, to come to RENEW. Bob came to SOAR a few years back and everyone enjoyed him! He is funny, country, goofy, silly, his job is to make ya laugh and have a good time. The Seniors conference in Branson routinely has a comedian for their meeting, this is the perfect add to our youth meeting this December! He will be performing during our "late night" on Dec. 28th at RENEW! We will be putting out a schedule for this event soon.

Information you need to know.

- First, everything is on our website! Visit www.bmamsyouth.org to read up on the event. You can REGISTER your church to come on the website.
- Second, the event is **FREE!!! Yes... ITS FREE!!!** Well it's not free... the department is funding it, but to your group it is!
- Third, I am super excited that Preston Jones, SOAR praise band leader is coming to lead worship, he was also at our camp with Max Sullivan. Tracy McMillan will be our speaker from Bethel Baptist in Fulton! We will be having four sessions of praise and worship and time in the Word of God!

•Fourth, we will be feeding your youth at Bethel both nights. On Dec. 27th we will be serving Pull Pork & Chicken Sandwiches, two sides, and two desserts with drinks. On Dec. 28th we will be serving chicken tenders, two sides and two desserts. I can't wait! These guys can cook!!! I have eaten their vittles before at other meetings and they are outstanding!

•Fifth, LATE NITE will be LIT!!! The teens are gonna have a blast! The first night we have all kinds of interactive games, snacks & fun planned. The second nite we will have Bob Smiley!

•**BOOK YOUR HOTEL!!!** This is the only cost you will have to fund for your group. WOW that's a good deal!!! If you put 4 in a room your cost per student is very manageable! Here is the information. I have secured a block of 110 rooms with a booking rate with Holiday Inn Express in Fulton and Holiday Inn Express in Tupelo. You can call now and reserve your rooms at these hotels. The number of the hotel in Fulton is 662-862-5505. The number of the hotel in Tupelo is 662-620-8184. We have a third hotel now since the last paper, it is the Holiday Inn & Suites on North Gloster in Tupelo. Guests may also call this hotel to make reservations at 662-269-0096. The name of our block of rooms at all of these is BMA YOUTH. There are links on our website that you can click on and use for booking! There are some King rooms at that rate also. First come first serve, once they are gone, they are gone, and you will pay a normal rate not our booking rate. Book before Nov. 15, 2023, because we must release all rooms by that date that are not booked!

I am so excited about this conference and what God will do through it! Please consider coming! Even if you only bring 5 or 10 ... COME ON!!! Bring 30 or 35 that's awesome too! One church already registered 24!!! Let's get this conference back going and do something else besides



camp & SOAR during the summer for our BMA teens!!! They need this spiritual investment and renewal in their lives!

STATE MEETING

I'm looking forward to the fellowship and meeting at Parkview in Laurel for our State Meeting. I will have a table set up with information about RENEW & both camps we are having next summer, pictures & videos of the camp and a brand-new Youth Department pen for your group that attends. Come see me, chat about the youth department, and get a pen! See you at the meeting!

WE NEED YOUR MONTHLY SUPPORT

Pastors, Youth Pastors, and Directors... BMA of MS church members. Your director and trustees are walking out on faith that our churches are going to participate in and support these events. BOY... you have... we have received some amazing offerings this past year! THANK YOU!!! We need those! We also need churches to send in monthly support and add us to your budget. I know... I wrote about this in our last article. I want to keep this before you as a need. We average about \$2000 per month over the last 6 months in monthly support. We desperately need that to grow up to around \$7500 a month. Pray about what you can do as an individual, a church or your local association! Thank you in advance for your help!!!

CHURCH CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS & YEAR END DONATIONS FROM BUSINESSES & COMPANIES

I am the pastor at Central in Southaven. Every year at Christmas we have what we call the "Don York Gift for Christ." Don York was our oldest member who embodied giving to missions and his church. We honored him in 2015 by naming the Christmas offering after him. If your church has such an offering at Christmastime, and many of you do, please pray about, and consider making the Youth Department and its ministries a recipient. We would be so thankful for your help and support!

Individuals across the BMA who own businesses can also give year end donations to the ministry here! Your donations are certainly tax deductible through the department. It would serve as a blessing to you and to us! Pray about this possibility.

Giving gifts to the Youth Department is easy. Go to our web site and hit the DONATE link and you can give online through secured giving or mail checks to our Financial Secretary Brandy Riley, 454 Lebanon Rd. Laurel, MS 39443.

RENEW
DEC. 27-29, 2023
FREE REGISTRATION
 HOSTED BY: **BETHEL**
WORSHIP: PRESTON JONES
SPEAKER: TRACY MCMILLEN
WWW.BMAMSYOUTH.ORG

Walk with Me

Walk with Me

“And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden... And put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it” (Genesis 2:8, 15). As I walk through my

garden most mornings and evenings, I think often about that first garden with its beauty and potential for perfection.

He must have an affinity for gardens, for three important gardens stand out in the Bible: the Garden of Eden, the Garden of Gethsemane, and the garden where Jesus was laid in the tomb. Maybe that’s why even in my less-than-perfect garden, I feel His presence. Walk with me and you’ll get a glimpse of what I’m seeing these days.

When Covid took away most opportunities to be with family and friends, my garden and Sharon’s Prayer Garden at Westover became even more



important. I learned firsthand what Dr. Charlie Hall (Texas A & M University) and many other researchers have found: Gardening can reduce stress and anxiety, enhance memory and attention span, and improve quality of life.

My garden might not be therapeutic for you; in fact, it might stress you because I’m not a gardener who goes by the book. I may buy a plant because it’s new or because I just “love” the way it looks. And I think, “I’ll decide where to put it later.” I’m amazed when my flower beds look as if I planned them. It doesn’t always work out that way. But I just enjoy my yard because it makes me smile. Ralph Waldo Emerson must have understood that when he said, “Laugh often and much... and



Dwarf Mexican Petunias
Cemetery of Broken Pots



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

leave the world a little better by a... garden patch,” among other things.

One of my favorite pastimes has been attending garden shows, visiting nurseries, touring gardens, and searching for “one-of-a-kind plants” from Hattiesburg to wherever. Sister No. 1, though, has always been the better gardener. She introduced



Felder's Garden in His Pickup

me and some friends to a favorite place called the Antique Rose Emporium in Brenham, Texas. It’s my kind of place with beautiful plants, old roses, and quirky displays. My favorite part was a cemetery of broken pots, where “Rest in Pieces” and “Died Broke” and others were buried. It didn’t hurt my feelings, either, to go by the Blue Bell Creamery on our way.

I discovered over the years that my favorite gardening experts were and still are mavericks like Felder Rushing and Dr. Dirt. Felder looks like an old hippy and



Rose Emporium

marches to the beat of his own drum. He often comes to a gardening show driving his old pickup with the bed turned into a garden. They turned me on to passalong plants and bottle trees with a less serious approach to gardening. I learned that my garden could be considered a gallimaufry (a mixed hodgepodge), a cottage garden, or a “lazy” garden. I learned, too, to use native plants and the Mississippi Medallion plants, which adapt well to our environment.

And then the summer of 2023 arrived. Hundred-plus-degree days and over two months of no rain have made me survey my plants, my trees, and my grass more carefully for proof of life. So many seem to be dead or dying. While I’m watching the regression of my yard, I’m identifying with Paul as being “troubled on every side, yet not distressed; ... perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed” (2 Corinthians 4:8-9). Reading about Paul’s troubles makes me realize that my garden is just a garden. So instead of

giving up, I’m thinking about the enjoyment of finding new plants.

My walks through my garden reveal, though, that my plants can be classified as surviving, limping, dying, or dead. I’m



New Gold Lantana

thankful for my surviving plants that are tough as nails, or might I say, “hard as a coffin nail”? I don’t know how hard a coffin nail is, but I’m thinking that some of my plants are more like a Timex watch, “takes a lickin’ and keeps on ticking.”

Overall, my surviving plants are those tough plants (generally the old-timey, passalong plants) you probably saw in your mother’s or grandmother’s yard. Because of this unusual summer, I’m declaring my tough-as-nail, Timex plants to be the following:

-The New Gold lantana.

Planted in May, it has been blooming abundantly all summer.

-My Mexican petunias and their cousins, the dwarf Mexican petunias. Without any water, they act as if I water them every day. I haven’t watered them at all.

-My old-timey orange daylilies. They don’t seem to notice the lack of rain.

-My weeping mulberry tree. A normal summer for it is to have scorched leaves. It looks better than normal. Maybe reverse psychology at work.

-My weeds. They’re doing remarkably well, thank you. Even my evil thoughts about them haven’t harmed them at all.

My wimpy plants are looking pitiful, but they’re not dead:

-My native oak leaf



hydrangea. It’s drooping, and every morning I expect to find it dead.

-My river birch tree. It has shed so many leaves that there won’t be any left to fall when cold weather arrives.

-My dwarf Japanese maples, one red and the other green. Both have some dead limbs and scorched leaves.

My probably dead plants are some of my favorites:

-The Virginia sweetspire and my Limelight hydrangea. They look completely dead.

-My clematis plants. All three are showing no signs of life.

Some of my plants, though, are just confused. My Japanese magnolia thinks it’s late winter or early spring because its beautiful purple blooms have appeared, completely out of season.

If you’re seeing the same thing in your yard as I am, I’m sure you’re thinking, “Everything is dead but the weeds.” But I’m not despairing; I believe many of those dead-looking and struggling plants will come back. I’m leaving them alone. The only way I’ll know for sure about all my plants is when or if signs of life appear or don’t appear next spring. I’ll see which ones are truly tough!

We may have some Christian brothers and sisters just like my garden; some may be dealing with despair, unbearable heartbreak, or a doubtful future. Some may be tough as nails, barely surviving, or just confused. But a touch of the Master’s hand revives those Christians much like rain from the Master revives my plants.

Several years ago, I planted a red rain lily that only shows up after a good rain. That 1½ inches of rain we recently had brought it out of the ground. When I saw it, I thought, “What is that?” I had forgotten it because I hadn’t seen it for a few years. But some drops of rain woke it up. That’s the Master at work.

Let’s be like the rain lily. In His grip, we can be revived when things seem hopeless. He sends what we need when we need it. He’s just like that! Let’s be hard-as-nail Christians, never giving up but always showing up, trusting that He will walk with us.

“Walk for the World” - Big Creek Association

by Ken Riley, Pastor

Lebanon Baptist Church, Laurel

We have scheduled the Walk for the World for October 18th at West Jones High School football stadium from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and would like to invite all the Big Creek Association Churches to attend. Over the last several years we have averaged 10-13 churches in attendance. Our hope is that other churches in the Association will choose to be a part of the event this year. There is always great fellowship and good food. If you plan on coming, please bring finger food and drinks. The event will start off with a small devotion by Bro. Ken Riley. Hope to see you all on October 18th. Please respond to let us know that you will be attending by texting or calling 601-528-4153.

MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of America

“What About the God-Haters”

The atheists’ offensive has already been underway for the past twelve years. They got started as soon as it became clear that liberals would win their elections. Now, slowly but surely, each one of the God-haters’ major groups will unveil a new initiative, a new campaign, a new line of attack on conservative America, Christian America, and churches. Recently the atheist Freedom from Religion Foundation (FfRF) announced it would sue to ban military chaplains from ministering to veterans in VA hospitals. Then, the FfRF announced they would try to have the National Day of Prayer ruled illegal, still it is an ongoing effort. Also, the American Humanist Foundation unveiled a \$40,000.00 ad campaign declaring that God doesn’t exist and attacking Christmas. A coalition of atheist groups announced they would lobby the White House to place military “minders” in American combat units to make sure that no member of the military was practicing his or her faith in public!

Then the extreme and radical American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) joined in. The ACLU has demanded that the Justice Department make prosecuting “violations” of the “separation of church and state” a top priority! The atheists and their allies – who are still in our government – hate freedom of speech. They hate you. They hate me. They hate God and everyone who believes in the existence of good and evil. These are truly warped individuals whose goal is to drive religion out of America and its churches, homes, and schools/colleges. We must pray.

In the last 3 years, Moral Action has visited with or talked with U.S. Senators and Congressmen concerning these God-hating positions. Also, our privilege to talk with U.S. Senate Chaplain Barry Black about the spiritual climate



Dr. John Adams

encouraged us, especially about the Senate Prayer Room that Mrs. Adams and I visited. During more recent years, Moral Action B.M.A. ministries contacted and visited with a heavy heart the downtrodden America that we see. Psalms 6 asks of the Heavenly Father to hear our prayers with His Mercy. Our concerns that have been the longest in our Washington D.C. contacts is to “maintain” the words under God in the American Flag Pledge, under God on our paper monies, and under God on our coinage.

Contacts have been had with Senator Josh Hawley of Missouri on the Armed Services Committee, Senator Roger Wicker of Mississippi on the Rules Committee, Senator Tom Cotton’s office of Arkansas on the Judiciary Committee and we have met twice with U.S. Senator Ted Cruz of Texas. Another desire and effort is to meet and discuss America’s needs with U.S. Senator John Kennedy of Louisiana, who is on the Urban Affairs Committee.

God has opened the door wide on the U.S. House side. Recently we interviewed

Anthony Kennedy Newest BMAA Chaplain Candidate

Anthony Kennedy recently branch transferred as an artillery officer into the U.S. Army Chaplain Candidate Program. Dr. Scott Carson endorsed Second Lieutenant Kennedy to represent the BMAA in the U.S. Army Chaplaincy. The Chaplain Candidate Program is designed for ministry students who want to explore or get a head start on a career in Army Chaplaincy while still in seminary.

Chaplain Candidates gain valuable experience and make a real impact in the lives of soldiers and their families. Benefits include gaining valuable ministry education and training, having the benefits and privileges associated with being an officer and receiving up to 100% of tuition costs. Anthony stated, “It is truly an honor for me to represent the BMAA as a Chaplain Candidate. Throughout my time in the military, I’ve seen deep hurt in many soldiers. I consider it a great privilege as I reach the lost in our military community and help give spiritual guidance to soldiers and families in need. The Lord has used BMAA ministers to lead me to salvation



and disciple me in Christian leadership. To do that for others as a Chaplain Candidate, while representing the BMAA, is a very special thing for me.”

On the civilian side, Anthony and his wife, Adrienne, have been interning under Healthy Church Solutions to help provide resources and equip Faith Missionary Baptist Church of Mena, Arkansas, for discipleship. If you are interested in the military chaplaincy, contact Dr. Scott Carson at scott.r.carson@gmail.com for more information.

Representatives Bryan Steil of Wisconsin, Representative Michael McCaul of Texas, Trent Kelly of Mississippi, and Lee Zelden of New York.

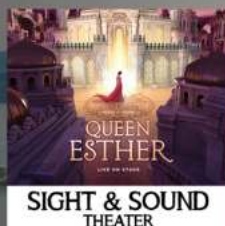
Psalm 6:6-7! *“I am weary with my groaning, all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears. Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies.”*

Dr. John Adams, Director
P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855
662-231-3863 - www.macbma.net

Southeastern
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75 Years of Ministry

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November 28-30, 2023

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Special Section

Minutes of the Departments and Commissions of the BMA of Mississippi
For the 2023 Annual BMA of Mississippi Session
- Listed in the scheduled order of reports -

Southeastern Baptist College Minutes

Southeastern Baptist College Minutes Trustee Meeting July 11, 2023

The chairman called the meeting to order. David Long read scripture concerning the Last Supper; he stressed that each Christian must allow the Lord to use him/her in all areas of life; he ended with prayer.

New SBC staff members introduced themselves to the board members, and each gave a brief history of himself/herself. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the new SBC staff members.

Renovation updates were given to the board: paving and striping of the parking lot, painting the outside of the buildings, and redesigning the school's road sign to enhance its usefulness and beauty. An interim head coach was approved for SBC.

A motion to accept a board management software program was made, seconded, and passed. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve Dr. Matt Olson as Director of Students.

A list of changes to the school's catalog was given to each board member. A motion was made and was seconded to accept the changes; the motion was approved.

A discussion was held on the possibility of initiating tuition-free college at SBC, such as other colleges are offering. Several requirements were discussed:

- The program would be limited to no more than twenty students.
- The program would exclude lab fees and some other fees.
- Students must live on campus and must pay dormitory payments.
- Students must be full-time students.
- Students must be an active member of a BMA church.

f. Students must be recommended by his/her pastor; and

g. Students will be interviewed before becoming a student at SBC.

A motion was made and seconded to move forward with the planning of this concept to become a reality; it was approved.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the 2023 SBC fall faculty. This motion came after a list of the faculty members was given to each board member.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn; it passed with a standing vote.

Southeastern Baptist College Trustee Meeting September 12, 2023

The meeting was called to order by the chairman. A devotion was given by Arthur Broadhead from Paul's writings to the Philippians (Phil. 2:2-4), concerning a Christian's daily walk. The devotion closed with prayer by Arthur Broadhead.

A budget review was presented in notebook form. Each board member was provided a notebook. An explanation was provided for each section of the budget report. Also, a cost analysis sheet was given to each board member; it was explained. A tuition increase was discussed.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the new budget as presented. A motion was made and seconded to increase tuition beginning in the fall session of August of 2024. The motion passed by vote.

Ed Duvall and Ceclia Broom were recommended as new board members. A motion was made and seconded to accept these two as board members; it passed. These two will take board member positions beginning with the October meeting.

A position statement on religious freedom and human sexuality and a statement of the Tenets of Faith were presented. Each board member agreed to and signed the Tenets of Faith sheet.

An update on SBC's 75th Anniversary Scholarship Gala to be held on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, was given by Anderle Foster. The gala's purpose is to raise funds for the college. The location of the gala is the Family Life Center at Bethlehem Community Church. The event is to include a dinner meal, music, and a speaker.

Larry Welborn gave an update on the financial audit of SBC for this year. The audit is not fully finished; work for its completion will continue. The finished product will be presented at a future date.

Dr. Carson gave an update on sports at SBC. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Severance Agreement presented to Ms. Rhonda Sims, the Assistant Athletic Director. The motion passed.

A discussion of having a vice-president at SBC was held. A motion was made and seconded to elect Bob Burch to serve as vice-president of SBC; the motion passed.

The board meeting was adjourned.

Southeastern Baptist College Foundation Trustee Meeting July 11, 2023

Foundation information was given by Larry Welborn. He emphasized that the minutes for the foundation must be separate from the college board's minutes.

A motion was made and seconded for Barlow and Company to audit the SBC Foundation; the motion carried.

No additional business was necessary.

Youth Department Minutes

BMA of Mississippi Youth Department Minutes

Tuesday May 23rd, 2023

Memo to committee from our director. Bro. Sam Yager presented the minutes of the BMA of MS State Youth Department from October 18, 2022 – May 22, 2023 to the association at the mid-year meeting. Motion and second was made to approve his report by the association. The report was approved.

In general session at the Mid-Year Meeting, the association voted to approve Bro. Dave Albert and Bro. Brian Prochaska to fill the remaining terms vacated by Bro. Aaron Waite and Bro. Wesley Martin. They may now actively serve with us.

Monday, September 11th, 2023

The BMA of MS Youth Department Trustees held a remote meeting. Members participating were Bro. Anders Lee, Director; Bro. Rick Clark, Moderator; Bro. Adam Parker, Asst. Moderator; Bro.

Cliff Jenkins, Clerk; Bro. Brody McCool, Asst. Clerk; Bro. Ben Flynt, Bro. Sam Yager, Bro. Dave Albert, and Bro. Brian Prochaska.

Director Lee presented the following recommendations:

1. That we set camp fees for 2024 Jr. Camp and Sr Camp be set at \$135 per person with the option to review and reduce the cost, depending on the response of our churches to increase month to month support of the department. We will review in the Spring of 2024.

2. That Children's Home staff and residents camp fees for 2024 camps be waived. That campers from any state mission church receive a 50% discount for 2024 camps.

3. That we approve Brody McCool and Mav Hendricks as speaker and Worship Leader for Kids Camp and set their pay as \$750 speaker plus mileage and \$2,250 for the band if four (4) members attend and \$1,750 if three (3) members attend. Also, pay only Mav Hendricks from the band mileage.

4. That we approve Jacob Guenrich and Max Sullivan as speaker and worship leader for youth camp and set their pay at \$750 speaker plus

mileage and \$2,250 for the band if four (4) members attend and \$1,750 if three (3) members attend. Also, pay Max Sullivan from the band mileage.

5. That we pay any breakout leaders or teachers at each camp \$200 each.

Motion and second was made to approve all recommendations as a group. Motion carried with no opposition.

Saturday September 16th, 2023

The BMA of MS Youth Department Trustees held a remote meeting. Members participating were Bro. Anders Lee, Director; Bro. Rick Clark, Moderator; Bro. Adam Parker, Asst. Moderator; Bro. Cliff Jenkins, Clerk; Bro. Brody McCool, Asst. Clerk; Bro. Sam Yager, Bro. Dave Albert, and Bro. Brian Prochaska.

Director Lee presented the following recommendations for the "Renew" winter conference:

1. That we book 9 Various Bounce House and Interactive Games for late night be rented from

Continued on next page

Missions Department Minutes

BMA of Mississippi Missionary Committee Minutes

The trustees of the BMA of Mississippi Missionary Committee met on December 6, 2022 at the mission's office in Laurel, MS. Trustees present were Matt Hudson, Chris Flynn, Bryson Haden, Wendell Helton, Johnny Williams, and Sam Freeman and interim director Chris Yeager. In the absence of Harold Floyd, the clerk, Matt Hudson called the meeting to order. After devotional by Bryson Haden, Johnny Williams led in prayer. There was a need for a vice chairman and Sam Freeman was elected. The minutes from previous meeting were given and approved. The financials were given by interim director. Motion was made and approved for the financial report.

The director introduced Mrs. Brianna Sumrall as the new director's assistant in office. She is the daughter of Ken and Brandy Riley, pastor of Lebanon Baptist Church. He reported the mission's giving continues to improve. Chris also spoke about the outlook for missions. The theme for this year's mission giving is "Striving Together" from Philippians 1:27. He stated that we need improvements in our inner workings with the other departments within our association. Plans for the year include conferences, training videos, leadership videos, window into the department videos, and missions update videos. He also mentioned about a landing place for department/association on the web linking all sites and calendars together.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the director's report.

Motion was made and approved to donate \$1,500 to Youth Department for camps and conferences. This would come from the Church Ministry funds.

Housing allowances were discussed for the missionaries, associates, and coaches. They are as follows:

Josh Daniels -----	\$0
Scott Brocious -----	\$26,644
Chris Yeager -----	\$24,000
Samuel Yeager -----	\$24,000
Sidney Farmer -----	\$6,000
Wesley Martin -----	\$10,000
Estuardo Marroquin -----	\$19,000

Christmas bonuses were discussed. Motion was made and approved to give a full week's salary plus giving Mrs. Kim Parker a full weeks salary for helping with the transition to Mrs. Brianna Sumrall, the new assistant. Motion was also made to begin accepting applications for Missions Director and send notifications to all papers for one month. Motion was made and passed to adjourn.

Harold Floyd, chairman
Matt Hudson, clerk

BMA of Mississippi Missionary Committee Minutes

The trustees of the BMA of Mississippi Missionary Committee met on May 1, 2023 at the mission's office in Laurel, MS. Trustees present were Matt Hudson, Bryson Haden, Johnny Williams, Chad Cummins, Interim Director, Chris Yeager, and Harold Floyd, chairman. Brother Floyd began the meeting reading from the scripture at 2 Thessalonians 2:13,14. Prayer was offered up on behalf of all our mission's personnel.

Minutes were read and approved. Director's report was given with the financial report being discussed. After looking over statement of finance and expense, it was determined the missions department is on stable and firm foundation overall.

Updates on mission's office building is still ongoing but, looking great. On a personal note, I encourage messengers to go by and take a look at the updates. We can certainly be thankful to God how He has blessed us.

It has been asked of us by the CPA group and Revolving Loan Fund that we move our accounting year to a physical year January 1 to December 31. Motion passed for the move.

At this point an interview with Bro. Chris and Samuel Yager, missionaries to Meridian was conducted. Bro. Samuel stated there have been 7 new families attending since January. Bro. Chris has turned most administration and preaching duties over to Bro. Samuel and he is doing a great job. Bro. Chris is gone a lot since becoming interim director of missions. The missionary transition is going smoothly and the church is in spiritual unity. The goal for the mission in 2023 is "Lift Your Eyes." Leaders are being trained to become disciplemakers. The vision is to become church planters and reach Meridian for Christ. They are finishing the final portion of the building and hope to organize possibly by Oct. 2024.

The trustees gathered around Bro. Samuel, laid hands on, and prayed for him and the mission. Questions were asked to Bro. Chris about becoming Mission's Director. Trustee Matt Hudson stated the association needs a full time mission's director. The churches of the BMA of MS need to know there is stability in the mission's office. Bro. Chris stated he felt God has placed him here for such a time as this. Prayer was offered on behalf of Bro. Chris.

Trustees were also informed of the continuation of talking to a brother from Guatemala of possibly coming to Mississippi as a Hispanic church planter. Continue praying for this endeavor. Bro. Chris updated the trustees on other mission happenings. All mission points are doing well. Motion made and passed to adjourn.

The trustees recommend to the association that Bro. Samuel Yager become church planter in Meridian at Living Hope Mission. Bro. Samuel will conclude his tenure as associate missionary training on June 1. He will have the option to either finish out the five years since the mission started or opt for a new 5 year mission status.

The trustees recommend the election of Bro. Chris Yager as Director of BMA of Mississippi Missions beginning June 1.

Matt Hudson, clerk
Harold Floyd, chairman

Revolving Loan Fund Minutes

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund Trustee Meeting

RLF trustees met on December 8, 2022, at 10:00 am. Trustees present: Roy Caldwell, Dennis Knight, Dennis Rankin, James Sprayberry, Kenneth Lott, John Prickett. and Phillip Burns.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Kenneth Lott.

The devotional was presented by Bro. James Sprayberry, "Trust God."

Prayer by Bro. Sprayberry.
Next meeting devotional is to be presented by Bro. Greg Cook, Alt: Dennis Rankin.

Smith, Shellnut, Wilson (SSW) presentation: Will Johnson and Dodd Williams.

Previous minutes M/S to approve; Approved.

Youth Minutes Continued

BMA of Mississippi Youth Department Minutes

Tuesday May 23rd, 2023

Memo to committee from our director. Bro. Sam Yager presented the minutes of the BMA of MS State Youth Department from October 18, 2022 – May 22, 2023 to the association at the mid-year meeting. Motion and second was made to approve his report by the association. The report was approved.

In general session at the Mid-Year Meeting, the association voted to approve Bro. Dave Albert and Bro. Brian Prochaska to fill the remaining terms vacated by Bro. Aaron Waite and Bro. Wesley Martin. They may now actively serve with us.

Monday, September 11th, 2023

The BMA of MS Youth Department Trustees held a remote meeting. Members participating were Bro. Anders Lee, Director; Bro. Rick Clark,

Telephone/Emails to approve. M/S to approve, Approved. \$100,000 to Celebration Baptist Church, Haskell, AR.

Interest Rates/Loan Adjustment Rates:
Deposit/Investments: 2.5%; Loans: 6.00%, Mission related : 2.5%. (effective 1/1/23). M/S to approve; Approved.

Loan Requests:

Lonesome Dove, Southgate, TX: M/S to approve additional \$2,000,000 per commitment letter. Approved.

Deed Request, Canaan Baptist Church, Richton, MS: M/S to grant a deed from Canaanland Baptist Mission to Canaan Baptist Church. Approved.

Hancock and Whitney presentation. Paula Chastain and Denis Parker.

M/S to approve Christmas bonus of ½ week pay to director with Missions Department, weeks pay for Kim Parker, and \$200 for Brianna Sumrall. Approved.

Closing prayer by Bro. Dennis Rankin.
Chairman, Kenneth Lott
Clerk, Roy Caldwell

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund Trustee Meeting

RLF trustees met on January 26, 2023, at 9:00 am. Trustees present: Roy Caldwell, Dennis Knight, Dennis Rankin, James Sprayberry, Kenneth Lott, and Phillip Burns.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Kenneth Lott.

The devotional was presented by Dennis Rankin from the book of Job.

Prayer by Dennis Rankin.

Next meeting devotional is to be presented by Bro. Philip Burns, alt: Dennis Knight.

Previous minutes M/S to approve; Approved. Financials reported/discussed.

M/S to authorize interim director Chris Yager and board president Kenneth Lott to pursue a tiered deposit structure. Approved.

Telephone/Emails to approve.

Approve loan to Canaan Land Baptist Mission of \$35,000.00 for a sign at the Missions rate. M/S to approve. Approved.

Houses/Property Updates presented.

M/S to authorize the liquidation of the Bond and Knight properties. Approved.

Loan Requests/Updates presented.

M/S to approve a loan for Woodlawn Baptist Church, Pascagoula of \$30,000 depending upon acceptable financials. Approved.

Continued on next page

Publications Department Minutes

BMA of Mississippi Publications Department Trustee Meeting September 19, 2023

The trustees of the Christian Publication's Department met at the State Mission's Office on September 19, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were Don Brown, Editor and Director of the Christian Publication's Department; Corbey Jones (Chairman); Adam Sloan (Clerk); and Rayburn Freeman. The following joined in virtually via Google Meet: Joseph Bain and Danny Barlett.

Chairman Corbey Jones called the meeting to order, and Bro. Rayburn Freeman opened in prayer. Bro. Corbey Jones gave a devotional from Psalm 46 titled, "God is My Refuge".

Editor Don Brown was recognized to give his annual report. The financial report was approved.

A motion and a second was given to give Bro. Adam Sloan \$200 per month for 1 year to be trained in the overall operation of the Mississippi Baptist and the process of creating and editing the paper, including a request that the Association suspend Article X Section 3 for that year. The motion was approved.

A motion and a second was given to dismiss the business meeting and the business meeting was adjourned.

Corby Jones – Chairman
Adam Sloan - Clerk

Commission On Senior Adults Minutes

Commission on Senior Adults Trustee Meeting September 12, 2023

The Senior Adult Trustees met at 10 a.m. in the Ray Thornton Room at the Missions Complex. Director Donnie Brown and Trustees Bennie Clark, Carolyn Hagler, Ron Montague, and Marilyn Welborn were present. Trustees Frank Everett and Tim Holsonback were absent.

Chairman Ron Montague opened the meeting; after a devotion on Philemon, Director Brown led in prayer.

The following business was conducted:

I. Election of Officers

Ron Montague was elected Chairman.
Carolyn Hagler was elected Clerk.

II. Review and Discussion of Finances

III. The 2024 Conferences

- a. The South Conference will be held on March 5, 2024, at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso.
- b. The North Conference will be held on May 14, 2024, at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton.
- c. The registration fee will remain at \$20.

New Business

- a. A motion to ask the Association to designate a special emphasis in June to help meet the needs of the Senior Adult Ministry was seconded and approved unanimously.

Ron Montague, Chairman
Carolyn Hagler, Clerk

Commission On Moral Action

Moral Action Agency Of the B.M.A. of Mississippi

The 2023 year brought a reaffirmation of the Moral Action biblical statement from the Executive Director Dr. John Adams and the (9) nine member Board of Trustees.

This action was more of a reaffirming of God's plan for strong, healthy desires in the human race that God's people will live according to His Word. As stated in the Bible – Matthew 24:35... "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

These directives of Moral Action are primarily presented as Godly purposes for His churches, legislators in Jackson, Mississippi, and prayers for a greater state and nation:

To present Christ as Saviour to all with whom it may come into contact.

To be responsible for leading the churches of this association in the promotion of biblical morality in all areas of society and in opposition of evils of our time, such as: alcohol and drug abuse, pornography, sodomy, gambling, child abuse, abortion, homosexuality, gender bias, and moral/political issues that endanger the human race, the church and the family.

To be responsible for securing written or printed materials that present the biblical perspective on the issues mentioned.

To be responsible for an organized effort among the churches to present the biblical views to state and national legislators and elected officials.

To be responsible and available to lead in study courses, conferences and to inform the churches of evils and how to deal with them biblically.

Dr. John M. Adams
Executive Director

Board of Trustees:

Rev. Shane Singleton, Chairman, Laurel
Dickey Welborn, Heidelberg
Rev. Jake Staten, Wiggins
Randy Boyd, Mantachie
Rev. Glen Allen, Bentonia
Rev. Greg Medenwald, Hattiesburg
Mrs. Sarah Fikes, Mantachie
Rev. Ed Duvall, Cleveland
Mrs. Lynne Stewart, Tremont – Clerk

Proverbs 11:3...the integrity of the upright shall guide them; but the perverseness of transgressors

RLF Minutes Continued

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund Trustee Meeting

RLF trustees met on December 8, 2022, at 10:00 am. Trustees present: Roy Caldwell, Dennis Knight, Dennis Rankin, James Sprayberry, Kenneth Lott, John Prickett. and Philip Burns.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Kenneth Lott.

The devotional was presented by Bro. James Sprayberry, "Trust God."

Prayer by Bro. Sprayberry.

Next meeting devotional is to be presented by Bro. Greg Cook, Alt: Dennis Rankin.

Smith, Shellnut, Wilson (SSW) presentation: Will Johnson and Dodd Williams.

Previous minutes M/S to approve; Approved.

Telephone/Emails to approve. M/S to approve, Approved. \$100,000 to Celebration Baptist Church, Haskell, AR.

Interest Rates/Loan Adjustment Rates:

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Loan Requests:

Lonesome Dove, Southgate, TX: M/S to approve additional \$2,000,000 per commitment letter. Approved.

Deed Request, Canaan Baptist Church, Richton, MS: M/S to grant a deed from Canaanland Baptist Mission to Canaan Baptist Church. Approved.

Hancock and Whitney presentation. Paula Chastain and Denis Parker.

M/S to approve Christmas bonus of ½ week pay to director with Missions Department, weeks pay for Kim Parker, and \$200 for Brianna Sumrall.

- Note -

No Minutes were submitted from the following:

BMA of Mississippi Foundation
Commission on History & Archives

Mississippi Baptist Children's Home Minutes

Mississippi Baptist Children's Home Minutes

Mississippi Children's Home Trustee Meeting May 2, 2023

Bro. Dwight Lindsey opened the meeting with scripture and led in prayer.

Trustees present included: Michael Jenkins, Nathan Brown, Lane Flynt, Skip Holland, Deryl Jones, George Scruggs, Estuardo Marroquin (teleconference), Brad Creely (teleconference), and Duane Ledlow (teleconference).

Elections of officers as listed:

Chairman-Nathan Brown,
Vice Chairman- Deryl Jones,
Clerk- Lane Flynt,
Assistant Clerk-Jessica Haden.

Motion was made and seconded to elect officers as nominated.

The Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as printed.

The Financial Report was approved as printed.

Bro. Dwight gave his Director's Report. The ministry of the Children's Home remains busy while progressing slowly. Caring for six Children while up keeping the property, meeting with agencies, and churches is a lot for Lindsay and me. Balancing the duties of director and house parent are a constant struggle. In this we remain strengthened by knowing what the Lord has called us to is a worthy task. James 1:27, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." We have had two new placements since our October Trustee meeting and have three current cases that are pending. We had one emergency case that lasted just over a week from a family within one of our BMA churches and another young lady coming from Pennsylvania for long term/permanent placement. Two of our pending cases have been in lengthy discussion while the third is looking to be more rapidly resolved as soon as the end of the school year. Our last trustee meeting left us reaching out to other agencies for possible collaboration in future efforts. This has already born fruit by way of our young lady from

Pennsylvania coming from another home that shut down, one of our pending cases being a referral from a home in Lucedale, and a second pending case coming from an out of state agency. We also have future talks planned with the other agencies for more possibilities. Our remaining prayer needs are for another couple to help shoulder the current and future burdens of growth. We remain diligent in seeking out people within our work to come along side of us, and currently have two couples that we are praying with over this need. Please continue praying with us on this matter and for the continued financial support to make this happen, along with the financial needs to upkeep the property and building.

Motion made and Director's report approved as written.

Motion was made and seconded that the 2023 Special Emphasis be on the funding of a new roof, support for future house parents, children's Christmas gifts, and the general expenses of the home. Motion was approved.

Motion was made and seconded to add \$8000 to the approved amount to replace Minivan with possible 15 passenger van. Making the total amount of money allotted at \$22,366. Motion was approved.

Old Business: Discussion related to Independent financial review and roof project.

Director is still in process of looking for someone to perform an independent review in the future.

"Though our by-laws don't require an annual independent review, the director intends to get estimates for independent reviews to resume this annual practice for next year and for future years. Reminding committee an independent review is not an audit. In discussion of roof project recommendations were made to compare shingles to metal. Discussion about contacting Master Builders and other churches with men able to help with project along with getting other bids for this future project.

No other new business at this time.

Motion was made and second to adjourn. Motion approved.

Bro Skip Holland dismissed us in prayer.

The Mississippi Baptist Children's Home Trustee Meeting September 19, 2023

Bro. Nathan Brown opened the meeting with scripture, led in prayer, and called the meeting to order.

Trustees present included: Nathan Brown, Deryl Jones, Michael Jenkins, (Teleconference) Skip Holland, Lane Flynt, Duane Ledlow, George Scruggs, Josh Daniels, and Estuardo Marroquin.

Motion was made, seconded and approved for the Minutes as printed from the previous meeting.

Motion was made, seconded, and approved for the Financial Report as printed.

Old Business was discussed, but no motions were required on any outstanding business.

New Business:

Bro. Dwight gave commentary on his written report. He emphasized the importance of faithfulness to the ministry of the Children's home by its employees and trustees. This faithfulness is a worthy investment in the lives the Lord has entrusted to us as evidenced by two professions of faith of children in the Home this year.

Motion was made, seconded, and approved for the Director's report as printed and given.

Motion was made, seconded, and approved for Bro. Dwight to discuss and negotiate Associational Synergy with Bro. Chris Yager and trustees for how our department can work together with other departments to achieve the goals of the Children's Home and the Association.

Motion was made, seconded, and approved for the Children's Home to give permission to a local Biker organization to host a benefit to raise funds for the Children's Home.

With no other topics brought forward by the Director or Trustees a **Motion** was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn.

Bro. Dwight dismissed us in prayer.

Clerk - Lane Flynt
Chairman - Nathan Brown

Program Committee Minutes

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Program Committee Minutes Thursday, August 3, 2023

Planning for the 217th Annual Session to be held October 17 (Tuesday) – 18 (Wednesday), 2023, 9:30 a.m. Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel, Mississippi Shane Singleton, Host Pastor

The Program Committee met at the Missions Office on August 3, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Members

present were Ken Riley (President), Chris Yager (Missions), Dr Scott Carson (Southeastern Baptist College), Dwight Lindsey (Children's Home). Also in attendance were Sydney Farmer (1st Vice President), Ted Quinby, (Assistant Clerk) Mark Jones (Brotherhood) and Bob Burch. Also present Via Zoom video was Dawn Freeman (WMA) and Anders Lee (Youth).

The President welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order, and asked Dwight Lindsey to lead in the opening prayer.

The President presented the theme for the annual meeting "Trust the Process" from Ephesians 3:14-21. After the reading of the scripture and discussion about the theme, a motion and second was given to approve the theme. Motion carried.

The committee reviewed the order of the reports for the annual meeting as printed in the handbook. A change was made to the order of reports putting Southeastern Baptist College – Dr. Scott Carson first and WMA – Dawn Freeman second.

A schedule of the annual meeting was discussed. The following changes were proposed:

- (1) Post all department minutes in the Mississippi Baptist Paper prior to the annual meeting.
- (2) Have printed copies of minutes available at the registration desk at the onset of the meeting.
- (3) Any additional, last minute or changes in department trustee minutes will reflect in digital copies and reports submitted to the clerk to go in the 2023 Annual Yearbook.
- (4) Schedule the Annual Speaker for the conclusion of the afternoon session.
- (5) Dismissal at 5:20 p.m. and reconvene at 6:00 p.m. for meal and 75th ANNIVERSARY GALA put on by Southeastern Baptist College.

A motion and second was received to adopt the proposed changes. Motion carried.

Having no other business to conduct President Ken Riley asked Mark Jones to lead in the closing prayer.

Ken Riley, President
Ted Quinby, Asst. Clerk

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION MISSIONS OF MISSISSIPPI

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440
Phone: 601-428-8616 Email: missions@bmams.org
Chris Yager, Director

“Christ loves the Church, and He desires every Church to be revitalized!”

This is a phrase that was echoed throughout the Acts 1:8 conference. Too often in the work of the ministry, we become complacent with the status quo thinking that a declining ministry is all that there is left for our church. We settle for survival mode missing out on the opportunity for revitalization and the ability to thrive again. The Acts 1:8 conference (which Bro. Adam Sloan perfectly described in last month's issue) was established to remind our people that God can revitalize any church that is willing to allow Him.

This conference was an amazing time for worship, training, and encouragement. The worship revitalized our spirits with the presence of God's Holy Spirit. The training and development revitalized our mind with ideas and the “how to's”. And the encouragement refreshed our hearts with the reminder that we are not alone in the battle.

My desire is to create this as an annual conference that will continue to build in us the hope that the Lord can revitalize each of our churches. We will continue to add more classes while keeping some of the core classes of this past conference. Will you make plans to be a part of our next Acts 1:8 conference? You will not regret it! 2024's date will be given at the annual meeting and will be in next month's article.

Acts 1:8 Boot Camps

If you were not able to attend, we are planning in November to begin smaller and concentrated weekend “conferences”. It will begin Friday night and conclude Saturday afternoon with concentrations that will focus on Evangelism, Revitalization, Discipleship, and Pastoral Development. I would love to invite you to these Acts 1:8 Boot Camps. It will give you the tools that you can use and fit your schedule as well!!

Our first Boot Camp will be in the **North on November 10th and 11th** (location to be determined soon)

Our First Boot Camp for the **South will be January 19th and 20th** (location to be at South Forrest in Purvis)

Don't miss out on the Annual Meeting

Your mission's department is excited to share with you the vision for 2024, and I don't want you to miss all that God wants to do through us! I would like to share with you our vision for discipleship and training, revitalization plan for the help of our churches, and some other ideas that, if the Lord allows, can be a huge benefit to our association and churches. Please don't miss this exciting day.

Hispanic Mission

By Estuardo Marroquin

We are so grateful to our God for the blessings He continues to give to Hispanic missions. Recently all Hispanic churches and missions held their association meeting at the Hispanic Mission in the city of Oxford, Mississippi. It was a tremendous meeting having a good attendance. Each Hispanic field shared the progress they have made in recent months and was encouraged to continue supporting missionary work in prayer and offerings. We thank God for the Hispanic churches in our state and their desire to continue sharing the gospel of salvation in Christ Jesus. We ask for your prayers for these Hispanic churches and for the pastors and missionary leaders who are serving with great

passion in God's work. As a mission coordinator I thank God for this privilege of serving together with all these men who love and joyfully serve our Lord Jesus.



Growing in Grace & Knowledge

Bro. Josh Daniels

Refuge Baptist Mission

Greetings churches and associations of the BMA of Mississippi. It is a great blessing to be able to give this month's update. God has been graciously moving in the lives of the people of Refuge Baptist Mission! We have been able to see new professions of faith, people about to finish membership

classes, many desiring to be baptized, and a 200+ 2-month average on Sunday morning worship. Now while that sounds awesome and numbers may look impressive, one of our favorite things happening is the new discipleship plans and practices being implemented. After attending the Acts 1:8 Conference, we were all challenged in our hearts to make sure we get going on some much needed discipleship.

We are putting some things in place for one-on-one and one-on-two discipleship. Men will lead other men and women will lead other women through the Disciple Way discipleship studies and they will also commit to 9 months to one year of getting to know one another. This will be much more than sitting in a classroom setting to exchange ideas and knowledge, but they will truly get to know one another as they spend time together in real life situations and interactions. Numbers are not our focus! While it is exciting to see a full building, what good would it all be if there were no spiritual growth? We are seeing growth in all areas of the church, and we are GRATEFUL unto the Lord.

I am reminded of this verse in 2 Peter 3:18: *"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."*

We see the physical growth, but we are much more excited about the spiritual and biblical growth that God is graciously pouring out. We praise Him for it! We ask that you keep praying for us as we proceed in reaching our community with the gospel, discipling believers into stronger relationships with Christ, and organizing the ministry of God's church at REFUGE BAPTIST MISSION! We love and appreciate each of you and those who support us as well as the Missions Department.

Canaan Land Mission

Scott Brocious, missionary pastor

Greetings from Canaan Land Baptist Mission! Our Back-to-School bash outreach was a success! We were able to have several youths in attendance. They enjoyed an afternoon full of food, fun, and festivities. We enjoyed the fellowship and seeds were planted. Pray the Lord will bless those. Our next outreach will be September 30. This outreach will be in Fruitdale, Alabama, at the Jeep show. We will have our tent set up and will be giving away popcorn as well as gift bags filled with our church information and tracts. These events are always a great way to meet people from nearby communities and plant seeds. If you would like to participate in either outreach with us, please do! Being apart of an outreach is such a blessing!

As always, please continue to keep the mission in your prayers. God is so faithful, and your prayers are being answered daily.



A Great Door Opened

Living Hope Baptist Mission
Meridian, Mississippi

On September 10th, we had a first responder day at the mission. We held services as normal with a special lunch and service project afterwards. The plan for the day was simply to say thank you to those that serve in our community; however, I could never have planned the door that God would open through this day.

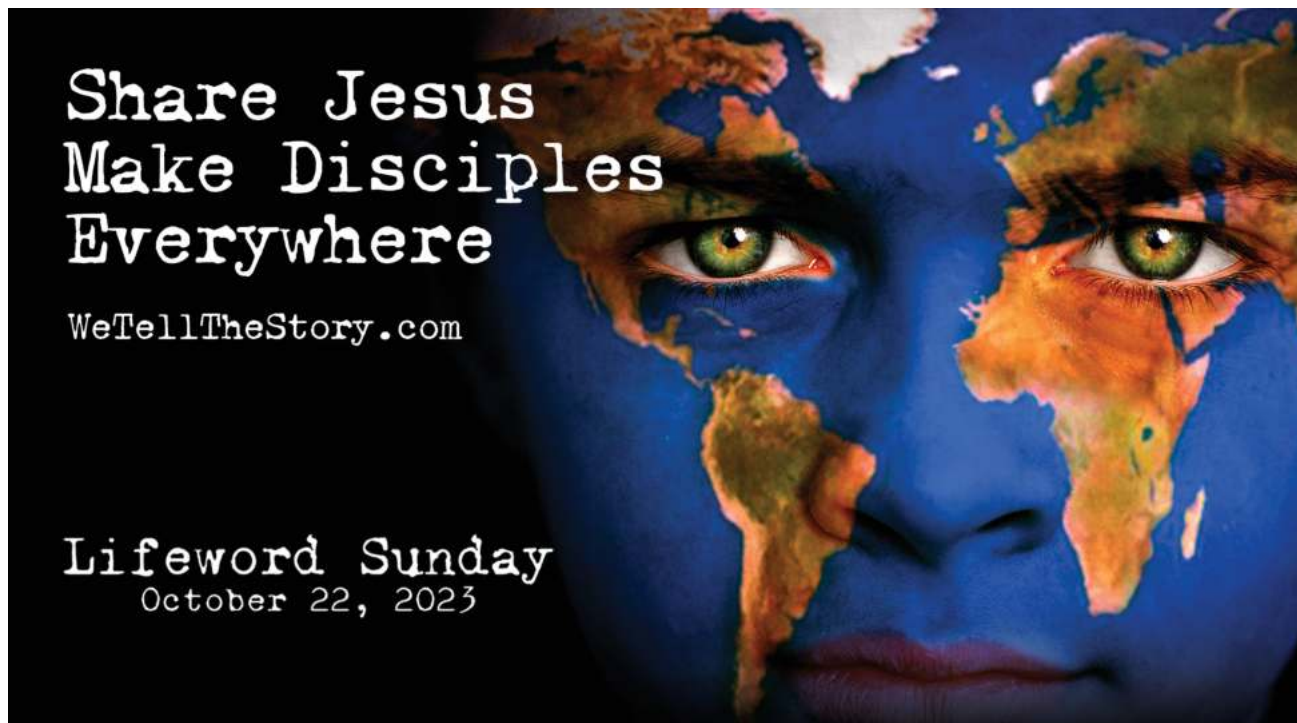
Leading up to the day, we had made sure to invite every possible first responder. In response to these invites, a firefighter unit and a state trooper joined us for the day. It turned out being a great and successful day in God's house. As people left for the day, we had gifts to be taken to each first responder location. Each family took one to deliver on their way home. The response to these gifts is the door God opened that I could never have imagined. First, the firefighter unit that joined us for the day is now planning to attend Living Hope every time they work as long as they do not receive a call. In addition, the ambulance team we delivered the gift to is planning to do the same. I am amazed at the door God has opened for us to continually minister to both a team of EMTs and of firefighters simply because of an effort to say thank you.

As God continues to open doors for us to minister to people and share the Gospel, I ask that you pray for us that God would give us the wisdom and strength to walk through these doors. Please also pray that these firefighters and EMTs joining us and others will come to salvation. Thank you for the continued support and prayer that allows us to do the work of the ministry in Meridian!



2023 Acts 1:8 Conference Images





Mississippi GMAs

Lakelan Jenkins, GMA Promoter

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

National GMA Officers Meet



The national GMA officers had their first meeting August 11-12th to discuss plans for camp. This year's National Girl's Discipleship Retreat will be June 11-14 in 2024. The theme for camp is The Chronicles of Immanuel: The Lion, the Lamb, and the Stone Table. Our theme song will be "The Lion and the Lamb" by Big Daddy Weave and our theme verse is Romans 5:8. Our daily themes are The Traitor (1 Corinthians 2:14, James 1:14-15, and Isaiah 53:6), The Great Deceiver (1 Corinthians 10:13, 2 Thessalonians 3:3, and Matthew 26:41), The Savior (John 17:19, Romans 3:23-24, and John 3:16), and Army of God (Ephesians 6:11 and Luke 4:8). Our speaker this year will be Buddy Johnson. We are so excited to have you join us at Girls Discipleship Retreat 2024!

Big Creek GMA Report

by Abigail Jenkins, Corresponding Secretary

The definition of fellowship- Friendly association, especially with people who share one's interests. This is just one of the reasons I love our GMA quarterly meetings.

Each quarter our Big Creek district GMA girls meet together at a different church for fellowship, fun, and learning. At these meetings, we have time to learn a skill taught by the ladies of the host church, then we have our business meeting planning for upcoming projects and activities.

The Sunbeams and Galileans have been joining us and have their lesson and activity time while we have ours. Everyone has a great time!

These times together to "fellowship", encourage friendships and allow us to work together on common projects.

We would like to encourage each district to meet each quarter and for each state officer to attend these meetings to encourage the girls.

Our state GMA's have several ways you can learn about what is going on and keep up with current news.

The Mississippi State GMA website is google.com/view/msgma

On social media follow us on Instagram at "mississippi gma" and Facebook at "Mississippi GMAs"

2023 Acts 1:8 Conference Images




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NEWS

CHRISTIAN ADVENTURE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

By Sam Jordan
Missionary to Jordan
bmaglobal.org

Serving Christ is a very beautiful task. It is an enjoyable adventure and filled with challenges that raise in the heart a desire to continue despite the fears it sometimes has and the failures at other times. With each one we experience that the grace of God is sufficient, and it gives the “power made perfect in our weakness.”

My family and I came to Jordan ten years ago in 2013 as missionaries. God has blessed our ministry in great ways, and we have been able to share the love of God in practical ways. Here is what God is doing in our ministry.

Life Changing Ministries

“Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven” (Matt. 5:16).

This is our motive to serve thousands of people who are in need of help spiritually, emotionally and physically. Our goal is to glorify our Father and share the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We continue helping people with medical treatment and medicines at Mercy Medical Clinic, and we still reach around 2,500 patients each month.

Two-thirds of those patients are refugees, mostly women and children. We’re seeing different types of illnesses. Many suffer from severe trauma as a result of eleven years of civil war in Syria. We’re helping some people with critical conditions, and many were referred to hospitals as “lifesaving cases.” Hundreds of food boxes are distributed every month to help the needy, especially those who have no chance to eat.

The Non-formal Education Program now is helping around 200 Syrians. We teach them life skills, offer schooling and classes, and explain Christian values. It fills our hearts with joy seeing kids expressing their appreciation because they have ambitions for their future. We believe that one day they will testify how they were impacted by the church.

Life Center for Women: Focusing first on women’s lives and hearts, the center offers post-trauma healing for those women affected by the conflict in Syria. In addition there is vocational training such as sewing, cooking, and handicrafts to help them generate some income to survive. Empowering women is an essential and crucial need in our region because they were abused and suffered for a long time. I believe that our team is doing an amazing job.

The other women’s ministry is concerned about women, especially widows and the elderly. My wife Sue and three other ladies started a **Blessings Center** where women can find safe haven and a place to be encouraged and taken care of. Widows especially are facing the hardship of life. At the center they offer Bible study three times a week and train women to share their testimonies with others. The center also offers food and different kinds of help in the name of Christ. Many of the women who never attended church have become regular attendees.

Theology Training: This is God’s calling for the church. Luke 10:2 says,

“And he said unto them, the harvest indeed is plenteous, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore to the Lord of the harvest, that he send forth laborers into his harvest.” I took that as a personal calling; therefore, we started a theology program, and right now I am teaching a preaching class to students and this is my fifth course.



Helping Churches and Pastors: The church in Jordan went through a tough time due to the Covid virus pandemic, and it suffered as everyone else did. Some churches lost members and even some sponsors. As a result of the curfew, the church used social media to continue its pastoral work and care for its members, and meetings shifted from in-person to virtual churches. Perhaps curfew helped families to spend more time together, and the church went on to carry out field service to help its members. However, the pandemic weakened the church because it dispersed its members, and when returning to the church to meet in person, half of the members didn’t show up. We had an obligation to share with other churches, help them, and support them spiritually by encouraging their pastors and praying with them.

The “**Come and See**” ministry focuses on holding revival meetings and training churches how to use the discipleship materials we have. Our team recently visited Anjara Baptist Church in Anjara, Jordan. That church is led by Pastor Mousa Tadrous. The church was heavily impacted because people are moving from that city to other big cities searching for better job opportunities. In addition, the church suffered from the effects of the pandemic. During the meetings, our worship team led the worship time and everyone enjoyed it. I shared an encouraging message for the believers, shared the gospel, and many accepted the Lord as their Savior.

Life Café: The church opened a café last year that is a safe haven, especially for young people and families. Open six days a week, it became a center of discipleship and provides a community gathering space. During the World Cup, we used the café to be a ministry outreach center. It was an amazing tool to gather young and old people together. It connected the church members to become one family.

Fruits to Celebrate: As a result of our discipleship effort, recently nineteen people decided to follow the Lord through baptism. It’s a great joy to celebrate the fruits of our labor. We give glory to God for his grace because it is sufficient to use a weak vessel like us.

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NEWS

SPREADING HOPE AND EMPOWERING VILLAGES

By Joshua Phiri
Missionary to Zambia
bmaglobal.org

In our commitment to spreading the transformative message of faith, we have embarked on a journey of planting churches in the villages of Zambia, each with its unique set of challenges and opportunities. This article highlights our efforts in establishing these churches, addressing challenges related to witch doctors and the cultural practice of marrying multiple wives, and celebrating the passion of young people to reach neighboring villages. Furthermore, we focus on our goal of raising up leaders who will not only lead their churches but also plant more churches and make disciples who will continue the chain of transformative growth (2 Timothy 2:2).

Planting Churches in Three Villages

With a vision of expanding the reach of the Gospel, we have successfully planted churches in three villages. Each church serves as a center for spiritual growth, village unity, and comprehensive development. Through prayer, strategic planning, and collaboration with local villages, we have witnessed the establishment of vibrant congregations and Bible study small groups that are transforming lives.

Challenges of Witch Doctors and Cultural Practices

One of the significant challenges we have encountered in these villages is the presence of witch doctors and the cultural practice of marrying multiple wives. Witch doctors often hold influence over the village, perpetuating beliefs and practices that are contrary to the teachings of Christ. In these villages, there aren't any doctors or hospitals, so when people get sick, they go to witch doctors for help. These witch doctors are seen as sources of hope and healing.

But we wanted to bring true healing to the village with the love of Jesus. We showed kindness, prayed for people, and shared stories of how God has miraculously healed others. We wanted to show that faith in God can bring real love and healing. As time went on, we saw a change happening as people started to see that they could find genuine love and healing through a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.



Additionally, the practice of marrying multiple wives poses its own set of challenges, including strained relationships, gender inequality, and emotional turmoil within families. Upholding our core value of caring for families in distress, we approach this issue with sensitivity and respect for cultural traditions. Our goal is to help families thrive by promoting biblical values of love, respect, and unity. By providing support, guidance, and family discipleship, we strive to strengthen marriages and create a healthier and more harmonious family life, reflecting the teachings of the Bible and the love of Christ.

The Passion of Young People and the Call to Reach Neighboring Villages

Inspiringly, we have witnessed a fervent passion among the young people within these villages to reach neighboring villages with the transformative message of Christ. Their desire to make a difference and share the hope they have found in their own lives is a driving force behind our efforts. These young people, fueled by their faith and full of excitement, are like sparks that bring positive changes. They share God's teachings and help their villages grow.

Raising Up Leaders and Making Disciples

To ensure the sustainability and growth of the churches we have planted, we are committed to raising up local leaders. Through comprehensive training programs, mentorship, and discipleship, we equip individuals within the village to take up leadership roles within their churches. These leaders are empowered to shepherd their congregations, nurture spiritual growth, and address the specific needs of their villages.

Furthermore, we emphasize the importance of making disciples who will, in turn, make more disciples. By instilling the value of intentional discipleship, we create a culture of continuous growth and multiplication. As Jesus instructed in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

Conclusion

Our journey of planting churches in the villages has been marked by challenges, triumphs, and a deep sense of purpose. Despite the obstacles posed by witch doctors and cultural practices, we remain committed to sharing the transformative message of faith, hope, and love. The passion of young people fuels our efforts, while the training and equipping of local leaders ensure the continued growth and expansion of the churches.

As we raise up leaders who will lead their churches and plant more churches, we strive to make disciples who will carry the torch of transformative growth forward. Through the power of faith, community empowerment, and the commitment to spreading the Gospel, we envision a future where these villages and neighboring communities are touched by the love and grace of Jesus Christ. Together, we embrace the call to empower communities, make disciples, and bring about lasting transformation.

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NEWS



WE NEED YOUR HELP

By Johnmichael Poulin
Regional Coordinator for Africa and South America
bmaglobal.org

“We need your help!!” That is something that we hear all the time. Normally when we hear it the first thing that comes to mind is that someone wants our money. This time we are not asking for your money. I am conveying a request that was made to me recently on my last trip to Africa. On this trip I was able to visit three countries where the BMAA has a presence: Ghana, Nigeria, and Liberia.

As I visited these three countries, I was able to visit with pastors. As I visited with these pastors, I heard about what God was doing in all these beautiful countries. I was also able to listen to their needs—both physical and spiritual. I was able to listen to their difficulties. Most are the same difficulties we have here in the United States, and some are specific to the region in which they were working, but none are new to ministry or following Christ.

As I listened to all their needs, there was one common theme in all three countries. They were asking—truly they were begging—for our help in theological training. Most of the pastors in these countries do not have large libraries. If the truth were to be told, most of them only own a Bible, and if it is a study Bible that is something very special. Most of them have not studied formally. The only training that they have received is reading the Bible and the discipleship of their former pastors.

These churches understand that ultimately it is their responsibility to train their people. They are not trying to shift their responsibility to anyone else. They are asking sister churches to come alongside them and to help them in their theological training so that they might be able to train their own pastors and leaders in the future.

This is where we’re asking for your help. We are asking that your church make a three-year commitment to a specific area in Africa to help train these churches. BMA Global will help to identify an area that would best fit your church. We will help with training material that will be doctrinally sound and easily reproducible so that they can teach their own people. We will also provide all the necessary pre-field training for this commitment.

Let’s talk about what this three-year commitment looks like. The first thing that we would ask is that your church would commit to making three trips per year. Each trip will be to the same area, hopefully working with the same pastors. If your church cannot do three trips in a year, you could partner with two other churches and each church could do one trip per year. BMA Global can help in the coordination of this.

The second part of the commitment would be to do the training that BMA Global provides. The first part of that training would be security training. This is for the safety of your team members as they travel abroad. The second part of that training would be on the topic of “when helping

hurts.” This will help you understand why we will not be meeting every request that is made to you and to us concerning physical needs.

The third part of the commitment is that you come up with a plan of what will be taught on the nine trips that will be made over the three-year commitment. BMA Global has great material that we would love to share with you. We also understand that some pastors feel more comfortable developing their own material. We ask that this material be easily reproduced so that they can teach it to others. We also ask that there be a systematic plan to what is being taught.

I pray that we will have several churches that will commit to helping our sister churches in Africa. Our sister churches in Africa are pleading for help. Truthfully, most of our Sunday school teachers here in the United States are better trained than most of the pastors that are in Africa. I pray that our churches in the United States will be willing to help our churches in Africa so that they will be able to help themselves in the future and help neighboring countries just as we were able to help them.

To learn more, email johnmichael@bmaam.com or call 901-848-2294.



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NEWS



CHRISTIAN ADVENTURE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

By Sam Jordan
Missionary to Jordan
bmaglobal.org

Serving Christ is a very beautiful task. It is an enjoyable adventure and filled with challenges that raise in the heart a desire to continue despite the fears it sometimes has and the failures at other times. With each one we experience that the grace of God is sufficient, and it gives the “power made perfect in our weakness.”

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