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M.S. Arrington River Boat Lost

by Eric Johnson
International Missions Director



Boat lost in storm

Editor's Note: I have spoken to Missions Director Dr. John David Smith concerning the loss of the M. S. Arrington River Boat. While the Missions Department regrets the loss of the boat, Dr. Smith is encouraged about the future of the Rivers of Blessing ministry. There are plans to continue this productive ministry with different types of vessels. The Missions Department requests that all inquiries concerning the future or any inquiries concerning financial needs be made to Dr. Smith or Bro. Eric Johnson. The Arringtons were native Mississippians and their ministry is dear to the heart of many in our state.

There is much to be thankful for in the BMAA Amazon River ministry. Many souls have been reached. Churches have been started, and the light of the gospel continues to shine in the Amazon River Basin. One of the ways the gospel has reached so many is through the ministry of the Arrington riverboat. Sadly, we have been informed that the Arrington boat has sunk due to a storm. Thankfully, no one was hurt in the accident. This news, although painful, is an opportunity to praise God for the history and legacy of our churches in the Amazonian jungle.

The Arrington was named after BMA missionary M.S.

Arrington who was one of the pioneer BMA missionaries in that part of the world. It is difficult to understand or convey how much these and other missionaries have given for the cause of Christ. Carrying the gospel will always involve tribulation, but going to remote areas like this at a time when outside communication was impossible, illness was a constant threat, and the threat of death was very real, is worthy of thanksgiving to our great God. He has called, protected, and provided for his people as they fulfill the Great Commission.

The churches that have been started along the Amazon will continue to preach the gospel and make disciples. These churches continue to pour in to the lives of future leaders that will go to regions we have yet to reach. The light of the gospel will continue to shine.

With God's help, the BMA River Ministry will continue. We will continue to pray and look for ways to reach further and reach more with the gospel.

We are saddened by the events that have taken place on the river, but rest in the assurance that God is in control. The Lord will build his church. Thank you for your prayers.

2018 BMA OF MISSISSIPPI ANNUAL SESSION - OCTOBER 22 AT SOUTHEASTERN COLLEGE

Together As One; United For A Purpose

President's Message
by Justin Rhodes
President of BMA of Mississippi

The 212th Annual Session of the Baptist Missionary Association is almost upon us. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 23, 2018, at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel. I hope and pray that you will plan to attend the meeting this year. The schedule was shared in the past issue of the Mississippi Baptist paper and we are planning for a one day meeting, which will conclude Tuesday evening with the annual message by Bro. Wesley Martin, BMA of Mississippi Church Planter in Diamonhead, Mississippi.

On Monday evening, October 22, the Brotherhood will meet at Southeastern Baptist College at 7:00 p.m. and the WMA will be hosting a banquet at First Baptist Church of Shady Grove at 6:30 p.m. The WMA will also have their business session Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel at Southeastern, just before the Association convenes.

The theme for the meeting this year is "Together As One; United For A Purpose" which is

taken from Ezra 3:1. As an Association of churches we have a great opportunity to be united together in the work of the Lord. There are many things that we can do together that would be hard to accomplish on our own. Unity in and of itself is not the goal. It is not just enough to have unity, for unity is neutral until it is given its goodness or badness by something else. It is therefore, never enough to simply call Christians to have unity, because it could be good or bad. If a church or a group of churches unify together to say that something is good and acceptable when the Word of God has said otherwise, this is not the kind of unity in which we should find ourselves. Unity only finds its goodness when you consider the source, the view, and the aim of this unity.

It is my prayer that we will unite together around the purposes that bring us together and make us who we are as an association today.



Justin Rhodes
BMAM President

Southeastern College Contributes to HGTV Project

by the editor

Southeastern College is making changes in the college gymnasium which requires removal of older classrooms and offices that were built in the late 1970s. One side of the gym's bleachers were removed to make room for needed space.

With physical changes, relocation of offices, and other needs, this area is being removed to bring the basketball court area back to more usable condition.

The Home Town series is filming its 3rd season. President Scott and Mrs. Linda Carson were new to Laurel during the 1st season and their home was featured on the program. Carson spoke to Ben Napier, the program's star,



Pictured above are SBC President Dr. Scott Caron (middle far left) with HGTV star Ben Napier (top center) and the production crew of HGTV show Home Town.

about some old 'tongue & groove' flooring on the second floor of the area to be demolished.

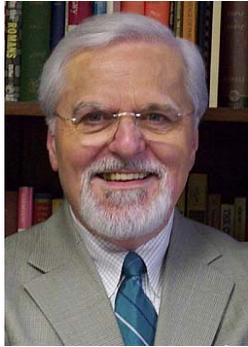
Many remodels by Napier includes reclaiming materials

from other sites. The HGTV crew has taken the flooring to be used in a remodel being worked on in Laurel.

Ten reasons for widowed seniors to marry again

by Joe McKeever

Editors' Note: Dr. Joe McKeever is a Baptist minister, writer, and well known Christian cartoonist. I communicated with him recently and he has graciously allowed us to share some of his work. Since I am now firmly a 'senior citizen' I am more acutely aware of the life and needs of senior adults. Most seniors will face the reality of losing a spouse, a very trying time in life for anyone. McKeever offers some advise and a personal perspective on this change that comes to many.



Joe McKeever

"Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either falls, the other will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when no one is there to lift him up.... And if two lie down together, they keep warm. But how can one be warm alone?" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-11)

A friend whose wife died several years ago said to me recently, "I don't ever plan to marry again. If God has something different about this, He will let me know. But I'm a long way from anything remotely like that."

His reason for telling me that? Probably so I'd quit trying to come up with a good match for him.

Bertha and I have been married 15 months. We love this time of our lives so much – we were each wed for 52

years before the Lord took Gary and Margaret – we wish all our friends could share the joy!

Another friend buried his wife less than a year ago, and tells me that a few days ago he proposed to another lady. Prior to her death, his wife had a lengthy illness, so some might say he did much of his grieving in advance. Friends who know them both are rejoicing in this new match.

We're all different. Just as not everyone needs to marry in the first place, not every widow or widower needs to do so the second time.

I knew a few months after my wife died that it would be God's will for me to remarry. How does one know? The same way he knows anything else is from the Lord: In your spirit. The knowledge is simply there. However, in the case of my wife Bertha – she and I married in January of 2017 – her first two years of widowhood she spent grieving Gary's death. In her journal on the first anniversary of his passing, she wrote, "Oh Lord, how will I ever survive another year without Gary." But before that year had passed, we had met. We both knew the first week we met that God had put us together.

It's necessary to point out that Bertha loved Gary and I loved Margaret. And they each still hold honored places in our hearts. Nothing about that has

changed. What has changed is that God has joined us together as "the love of the rest of our lives." And it's very wonderful.

Here are ten reasons Bertha and I have thought of why the widowed should consider remarrying...

One. You have more living to do.

Remarrying is one way of affirming your faith in the rest of your life. "I believe in tomorrow!"



Age has nothing to do with it. When I knew the Lord wanted me to remarry, I began praying, "Lord, please send me the love of the rest of my life." (To call the second spouse the love of my life would feel like a betrayal to the dear person I spent over half a century with!)

Two. You're not ready for the grave!

You're ready for something new in your life. And new/different it will be, that's for sure, when you remarry. You will each bring new friends and family into the other's life.

A few days after we married, we went on a long trip. First, we visited Atlanta where I spoke at the retirement of a friend of 55 years. The next morning, we had breakfast with a couple who had been best friends for Margaret and me. Then we traveled on to Savannah for a few nights of honeymoon in a lovely old B&B. From there we drove up to South Carolina to see old friends and then on to North Carolina to see my son's family. And from there, back to Alabama to see my siblings. And home. (Btw, I rented a new Cadillac for the trip. And loved driving it!)

A few months later, we drove to Florida to see Bertha's family, stopping along the way to see old friends. Soon, we'll host her family as they come for a granddaughter's college graduation, then a month later, drive to Florida for a grandson's high school graduation. I love it.

Three. You have much to share!

You and your new spouse will have a lifetime of stories and experiences to share with the other. You'll never run out of things to talk about, experiences to share, and interests.

Bertha and Gary served churches in several Southern states and in New England, then served as missionaries in Malawi and Brazil. Margaret and I served churches in the South and then spent over a quarter century in New Orleans pastoring and leading the association. So, Bertha and I have a world of stories saved up to share. We each delight in hearing these tales.

Four. You need some laughter in your life.

A few weeks after Bertha and I met, her daughter Lari, a schoolteacher in central Florida, texted me to say, "Thank you for giving my mother her laughter back."

I read where someone said, "If there is no laughter in your lovemaking, you're doing it all wrong." I like that.

Five. You need a best friend in every sense of the word.

Bertha and I are quick to say our marriage is more than (ahem) companionship. We are in love and we like that. But to say, as many have, that seniors marry for companionship only is to insult them. Who knows love better than those who were married for forty or fifty years? And who would be better at showing it than one who was well-married during that time?

A best friend is there for you, works to understand you, and is quick to do those things that please you. The other day, as I was finishing my round of errands – to the bank, the cleaners, the library, etc. – on the way home I stopped at Kroger's and bought two things for Bertha: an arrangement of purple tulips and a box of Raisin Bran Crunch, her favorite. I came in the house displaying them like I was presenting the Hope diamond. She beamed with pleasure.

continued on page 4

It's Like a Family Reunion!

Join your friends across the BMA at the annual Senior Adult Conference, which will be held November 12-14 at the Branson Hilton and Convention Center. It will be a perfect opportunity to catch up with friends, all while enjoying worship and teaching in the beauty of the Ozarks.

This year's conference host will be Donny Parrish, and Dr. Gary O'Neal, pastor of Oak Park Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, will preaching during the three main sessions.

David Attebery and Neil Dumas will lead in powerful worship through song. These men grew up playing music together at First Baptist Church in Springhill, Louisiana, and are excited to worship with Senior Adult Conference attendees in November. Attendees will also enjoy concerts from professional violinist, Jaime Jorge, and Gospel Trio, N Him.

In addition, a fully-catered breakfast will be served each morning, and during free time, conference goers can walk across the street to the Branson Landing for great shopping.

Those who register by October 13 will not only receive an early bird registration discount, but they will also receive tickets to the Sight and Sound Theater's new show, Samson! This production will be a beautifully-portrayed exploration of the life of Samson. Live animals, special effects, and excellent acting will bring this biblical story of God's providence to life.

Register today for a conference that will be just like a family reunion! For more information about this year's Senior Adult Conference, visit discipleguide.org/senior.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White



Fashion

Do you ever wonder what fashion designer dressed Esther when she was presented to the King? Fashion and styles come and go. That is a good thing. Not only for women, but for men too.

I was not aware of this until a few days ago when I was watching an old program of a quartet of men. They were singing some good old songs and they were wearing some good old style suits. The britches on those suits were so wide, the men looked like they were wearing a big skirt. And the jackets to those suits had big shoulder pads which made the men look like they were wearing a barrel with only their heads sticking out.

After I had a private little chuckle, as I realized how much men's fashions have changed. Now days most men wear skinny legged britches and the shoulder-pad people are completely out of business.

I just can't wait to see how God will clothe us when we get to heaven. I think there will be a lot of white. Revelation 3:5.

Southeastern Baptist College

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

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

President's Perspective

"For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:" Matthew 25:35

It is official. We have more than doubled our student body population over last semester. We are at 106% growth! Praise the Lord!



Dr. Scott Carson
President

With this growth, has come many expected and some unexpected challenges. The men's dorm had been shuttered for several years and a section of the dorm had not been updated in decades. We were able to quickly turn around the inside of this building just in time for fall occupancy. It is now full to capacity!

The downstairs of the women's dormitory needs far less work and is occupied to capacity. The upstairs section will have to be renovated in the near future in order to accommodate more students.

In all, we have 56 resident students living in our dorms during the school

week. Several choose to go home over the weekends. One particular challenge we have discovered, is that many of the students are financially strapped and are finding it difficult to provide nutritious food for themselves. I have done some research on the subject and have discovered that this situation is true on nearly every campus in the nation. I know it was true for me when I was in college not so many years ago (ha!). Most colleges have instituted food pantries for their hungry students. We have one as well and I praise God for those who have already donated toward it. However, there are continuing issues with students not having the skills to create nutritious meals for themselves. This creates a ministry opportunity for you!

Last Friday, Linda and I provided a lunch meal to available students. One student was moved to tears, gave Linda a big hug and thanked her for the meal. It was a touching moment for us.

If the readers of this article feel led to answer this need, I believe we can

show visibly our love of Jesus and our support toward our students. Perhaps you, or your church, or a civic organization would like to participate in providing a meal. This could be a meal once, twice, or more a month, once a



Dr and Mrs. Carson personally provided a meal to the SBC student body.

week, or as often as God leads you. The best days and times for providing a meal is the lunch hour on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday when most of the students are in the dorms. A good number to plan for is 50 students. Breakfast and supper can also be provided, but the number of meals required would probably be less. What to do with the leftovers? No problem, the students will be happy to take the

leftovers back to their dorms.

Pray about your participation in this effort. I trust the Lord will lead several folks and churches to provide toward this need. Contact Coach Brad Phillips to coordinate a day and time for meals (870-378-7203).

"For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward." Mark 9:41

Equipping the Saints!
Dr. Carson

Special Emphasis

Praise the Lord for your generosity! Southeastern Baptist College's Special Emphasis Month recently concluded and listed below are the churches that specifically provided donations toward this effort. Many sent their contributions early and while other churches participated throughout the year giving eagerly toward special needs as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. I wish to express a huge "thank you" to all the churches and individuals who support God's work here at SBC.

Paramount, Wiggins
Little Creek, Perkinson
First, Bay Springs
Riverside, Ellisville
First of Shady Grove, Laurel
Buffalo, McClain
Big Creek, Soso
First of Calhoun, Laurel
Union, Bay Springs
Antioch, Soso
Washington, Neely
Cypress Creek, Brooklyn
Spring Hill, Ocean Springs
Bethel, Seminary
Temple, Biloxi
New Bethany, Seminary
Parkview, Laurel
Forked Oak, Booneville
First, Mantachie

McAlister's Fund Raiser

We have an opportunity to receive a 20% donation from cost of meals of those participating in a fund raiser! All you have to do is go to this website and commit to eating at McAlister's Deli @ 1106 Sawmill Road on Friday, September 28, 2018 at 5:00pm: <https://www.groupraise.com/events/69140>

RSVP before September 25, 2018, or the meal will be canceled. We need 20 commitments. See you there!

The Chargers Basketball Schedule

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

HGTV

The "Hometown" HGTV crew were recently on campus. The Lord just keeps on blessings us with opportunities! You can read Don Brown's article on this event in this edition of the Mississippi Baptist.

We're Number 3! We're Number 3!

Okay, maybe we're not number one, but in a recent posting by BestColleges.com it listed Southeastern Baptist College as the third best college in Mississippi for earning an on campus college degree for 2018! This rating is from among ALL colleges and



Chaplain Sean Piper shares the Word of God at the first Fall Semester SBC student body Bible study.

universities throughout the state. God bless our faculty and staff who have earned this distinction! You can read more at: <https://www.bestcolleges.com/features/best-colleges-in-mississippi/>

VA Educational Benefits Accepted!

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

Alumni Association

We continue to rediscover our former

students and list them in the SBC Alumni Association. One of our primary initiatives in the months ahead is for our Alumni members to consider giving \$56 per month in an effort to raise \$58,000 over the next 12 months. We have many infrastructure issues that must be addressed. Will you allow God to use you? Alumni Sam and Judy Oglesby have graciously accepted to lead this effort. Please contact them at 601-550-8513 or pastor_1@comcast.net to verify that your current contact information is correct.



Chairman of the Board and Pastor of First Baptist Church of Calhoun, Brother Leon Carmical, repairing a broken window in the gym.

Available to Preach

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

Immediate Basketball Program Needs

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

- 2 Sets of Jerseys:** One set for men's J.V. and one set for the Women's teams Cost: \$2000 per set (total of \$4000)
- Shot Clocks** Cost: \$2000 total for both.
- Backboard Padding** Cost: \$360
- Gym Wall Padding** Cost: \$2964
- Score Table** Cost: \$1295 (permanent high grade); or, \$200 for a custom table cover
- Stocked medical kit** Cost: \$500
- Team Chairs** Cost: \$1800
- Possession Arrow** Cost: \$130
- Team Travel Expenses** Cost: \$2500 per trip (total: \$5000). Overnight games to Louisiana and Florida

From The Mind of Chuck Lee

Backroads

A couple of years ago, my wife and I decided to get away for a few days. We had put off celebrating our anniversary until the weather cooled off a bit, (our anniversary is on July the 4th, probably the hottest day of the year). I told her that I would plan the whole trip, which for some reason made her nervous, and so every day for a few months I was asked where we were going and what we were going to do and what should she pack and what kind of clothes would be needed and, well, you get the point. I was, however, resolute in my mind that this was going to be a true surprise and therefore was mute as far as giving her anything to reveal our destination.

The day finally came and we loaded the vehicle up and left out of the driveway. "So where are we headed", she asked? With a little smug smirk, I replied, "I don't know. We are just going to see where the car will take us". Confirming all her suspicions that I had failed in my duties as vacation planner, she then tried to exit the vehicle, but we were already up to speed and so she decided to wait until we got to a rest stop to call for someone to come and get her. I did not take the interstate however and therefore she was unable to use this little ruse to abandon her husband of twenty something years. When we did stop, it was at a gas station in the middle of nowhere and she had difficulty explaining to someone on the other end of the phone where we were at so they could come and pick her up. Ha! The plan was working!

As I was finally able to pry her fingers from around my throat, I revealed to her that we were simply going to take the backroads and visit towns which were off the beaten path. We would eat at restaurants that were only indigenous to the area that we were in and there would be no schedule. There would be no talk of work, or problems, or school, or anything to do with our everyday life. We would simply enjoy each other's company and just not hurry. Ahhhhhhh! Best vacation ever! No crowds. No having to be somewhere at a specific time. If we wanted to stop and visit a place or just take a walk in the country, we decided it at the moment.

Responsibility is a fine trait, but sometimes it is just refreshing to completely be void of having to do something or be somewhere at specific times. That may be why God created backroads.

Lee serves as pastor of Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis.



Bro. Chuck Lee

We would eat at restaurants that were only indigenous to the area . We would simply enjoy each other's company and just not hurry.

Ten reasons for widowed seniors to marry again

continued from page 2

Six. You need another point of view.

Everyone needs someone who can disagree with us and still be on our team.

After Margaret died, I would sometimes call a friend and ask them to listen to the article I'd written for my blog that day and "tell me what you think." My wife of 52 years would do this – sometimes with the bark off! – and I missed it terribly after the Lord took her. These days, I ask Bertha to be my sounding board.

Seven. Married people help each other stay safe.

After I was widowed, it occurred to me one day that if something happened to me at home it could be days before one of my children called to check. Not long after we married, I came home to find that Bertha had fallen from the ladder where she was hanging pictures in the living room. We spent hours in the emergency room that day, and together we agreed to stay off ladders, or at least never to climb one when the other is not around.

When I'm backing out of a crowded parking space, even though the backup camera helps, I enlist Bertha's assistance. "Yes!" she calls if the

lane is clear in her direction. Or, "No!" You may be able to tell we had a discussion on the best thing to say when communicating to me. Make it clear, I said to her. And forceful. The idea is to help each other stay safe.

Eight. Married people help each other stay healthy.

We eat better together than when we lived alone. The temptation to have another bowl of ice cream is just too powerful when no one else knows or cares. Bertha eats lots more strawberries and blueberries than she ever did, for the simple reason that I have them every morning of my life with my Honeynut Cheerios.

We walk the one-mile path in the park as many afternoons each week as we can. We hold hands and talk nonstop. Sometimes, if one of us is feeling lazy or unmotivated, the other will say, "Come on. Please? Walk with me." And so, we're helping each other.

Nine. You will have someone to talk with, someone who will listen to you.

After the Lord took Margaret, there were times I would come out of a church where I'd preached and get in the car, then reach for the phone to call

her with a report on how things had gone. I knew she had been praying. And then it would hit me: She's no longer at home. And I would weep.

Now, Bertha goes with me, and we talk nonstop. We talk while traveling in the car, we talk while walking in the park, and lots of other times.

Ten. How to say this...It's great to be in love again!

Before we met, a friend said, "Seniors do not marry for love. They marry for companionship." I said, "Not me. If I ever marry again, it will be for love."

And so it is.

Do I need to elaborate on how wonderful this woman is? She is far more than I could ever have asked for or expected.

A few months after we married, I accompanied Bertha to her high school reunion. We had not gotten out of the car before a classmate of hers (Forest Hill High School, Jackson, Mississippi, class of '58) told me how blessed I was to have Bertha. I turned to her and said, "I'll make you a deal. I'll give you a nickel today for every time someone tells me how lucky I am." Two hours later, I handed her a twenty-dollar bill and said, "Let's just call it even!"

So, so blessed.

MISSIONS NIGHT FOR THE NATIONS

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 23 6:00PM

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH FULTON, MISSISSIPPI

Declare His glory among the nations. His marvelous deeds among all peoples. - Psalm 96:3

BMA Global Missions is pleased to invite you to Night for the Nations, an evening highlighting our ChangeMakers who are reaching the nations for Christ. Make your plans to attend now.

The evening will include music, videos, special guests and featured speaker **Dr. John David Smith – Executive Director BMA Missions**

Contact BMA Foundation Executive Director **Charles Attebery** for more information. charles@bmaamerica.org or cell 501-472-2183

A Gift That Keeps Giving

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

Some Ways to Give

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Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000

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Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



Larry Geraldson
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Ed & Patricia DuVall



Will & Kelly Hutchinson

“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.” Philippians 4:12

We have so much to be thankful for! The Lord continues to shower us with blessings. We have one new missionary candidate that is scheduled to interview with the Missionary Committee soon. We have other applications out and we continue to have discussions with other folks who have shown an interest in Missions. On September 16, Central at Southaven will organize. Day Star in Sumrall is planning their organization for some time in January. Day Star is the focus of our “Spot Light on Missions” for this issue.

Recently, I asked our missionaries to provide me with a testimonial of

someone in the mission who has been impacted by the presence of the mission. I have received many and plan to share them with you in this and upcoming articles. The following was provided by Missionary Phillip Burns about a family in his mission:

“Tim Pittman was an individual I met early in the mission work. He was going through some personal problems during that time, and I had the opportunity to share the gospel with him. Over the course of about six months, Tim came to the point in his life that he placed his faith in Christ. At this point in Tim’s life, he was concerned about his children’s salvation. While he was away from his family for a year, the

Lord began to deal with his daughter Jennifer. My family and I began to get to know her, as she would come to church. Through these opportunities, we had many discussions about the Bible and we would, from time to time, share the gospel with her. It was during the Christmas season of 2016 that Jennifer placed her faith in Jesus Christ. She was delighted to share her testimony at one of the previous Missions and Evangelism Conferences. She has been vocal to others about her faith in the Lord.

Since she has come to know the Lord, she has experienced great loss in her life this past year. Her grandmother, mother, and step grandfather all passed away. The mission was able

to have a hand in ministering to the family through this time of grief. Jennifer’s sister, Brianna has since started coming to church with her and her dad. I have had the opportunity to talk to Brianna about some personal things that she has struggled with, and I would share the gospel with her when I would have opportunity. Back about four months ago, Brianna came forward and accepted Jesus as her Savior. It has been amazing to watch a whole family, that was not in church at the time we moved to Sumrall, come to a point of surrendering their lives to the Lord and becoming very faithful members of the church. Praise the Lord! God is Good!”

“SPOT LIGHT ON DAY STAR BAPTIST MISSION”

by Phillip Burns

“WE ARE EXCITED!! Day Star Baptist Church will be having our first service in our new building, hopefully, sometime in October, and we plan to organize sometime in the month of January. It has been such a blessing to see God work things out throughout this journey of our church life. We are nearing completion of our building project, and we are thankful that, so far, throughout this building process

we have not had to draw on the money approved for loan by the Revolving Loan Fund. God is good!

It thrilled our hearts to see all who came to participate on the day we raised the walls on our new church building. Before that day arrived, so many of the BMA churches, associations, and individuals gave generously in helping us out to start the building process. Other volunteers from surrounding churches have come to help during our Saturday work days. God has continued to add to our church, and we are delighted to be a part of what God is doing.

Our church family has been such a blessing to us, as well. As God steadily brings new people into our lives, it has been such a joy getting to know each one of them. God has truly blessed us with some skilled individuals who have



Day Star Baptist Mission Building



been a help, as well. They have sacrificially given of their time and resources, also, to help this process move smoothly.

Day Star Baptist Church is fast approaching the end of this building project. We still have several finishing touches on the inside that we must complete, and landscaping, parking lot and steeple on the outside. We have the bid for our parking lot in hand and are prayerfully moving forward toward the finish line with the hope that somehow God may provide us the means to finish this building completely debt free. James 4:2 says, “...ye have not because ye ask not...” We are trusting that God will make provisions for this.

THANKS AGAIN to all the churches, individuals, and associations who have supported us financially and prayerfully throughout this journey of faith. You have been such a blessing to us and for that we are forever grateful.

Reports for Aug 2018				
	High Attendance	Membership	Total Offerings	Mother Church
BMA of Mississippi (Church Planting Coach)				
Dr. Robert Burch (Caledonia)	115	130	\$6,030.00	Missionary Coach
Sidney Farmer (S. Forrest)	62	55	\$7,019.00	Missionary Coach
BMA of Mississippi (Church Planters)				
Bobby Elliott (Burnsville)	45	65	\$2,055.00	Forked Oak
Danny Bartlett (Clinton)	16	15	\$4,665.00	Wilderness
Phillip Burns (Sumrall)	34	18	\$2,354.00	First Bay Springs
Wesley Martin (Diamondhead)	45	27	\$3,743.00	Campground
Anders Lee (Southaven)	181	166	\$13,359.00	Charity
Dr. Kenneth Pollock (Batesville)	25	9	\$1,275.00	First Baptist Mantachie
Will Hutchinson (D'Iberville)	18	9	\$546.00	Campground
BMA of Mississippi Hispanic Missions (Estuardo Marroquin – Manager) <small>(Estuardo Marroquin is also the Co-Pastor of El Camino, which serves as the mother church for the church plants listed below.)</small>				
El Camino Marciano Montalvo (Laurel)	130	142	\$5,186.00	Mother Church
Church Planters				
Leo Adan (Hattiesburg)	36	19	\$856.00	El Camino
Jorge Galicia (Biloxi)	22	4	\$509.00	El Camino
Lucas Gomez (Canton)	7	2		El Camino
Way, Truth & Life Byron Morales (Ripley)				
	-	-	-	Mother Church
Church Planters				
Humberto Regalado (Tupelo)	-	-	-	Way, Truth & Life
Luis Hurchin (Oxford)	45	10	\$1,817.00	Way, Truth & Life
Daniel Polanco (Horn Lake)	15	2	\$213.00	Way, Truth & Life
BMA of Mississippi African American Missions (Ed DuVall – Coordinator) <small>(Ed DuVall is also the Sr. Pastor of Homestretch which serves as the mother church for the church plants listed below.)</small>				
Homestretch (Cleveland)	21	57	\$2,585.00	
Church Planters				
James Cook (Olive Branch)		25		Homestretch
Our Missionaries reported, collectively, 171 new contacts made during August. They shared the gospel with 41 people. They reported 5 professions of faith and 13 baptisms and 7 joined by letter.				

May God Bless you all!”

Director’s Note: Should your church be interested in helping with this final push to help Day Star finish “debt free,” call me and let me know, so we don’t go through any unnecessary loan process.

MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Director

P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863

On The Web at www.macbma.net/

Email - fbcjdjmaj@yahoo.com



John Adams

“What Does God Do with Your Personal Struggles”

by Dr. John M. Adams

We all desire to feel forgiven for the wrong things we have done in our lives. As a “Moral Action” worker, sin and its by-products are always on my mind.

In the early 1990’s in Texas, I personally grew cold for several months, little prayer, cold Bible studies, and living in the flesh instead of the Spirit. I personally remember the sin and sinfulness well. I remember confessing to God. Most of us know when we fall off the spiritual wagon, our lives become dull and need a fresh visit from God.

In Luke 7:47, Jesus said “Wherefore I say unto thee, her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.” This is the story of the sinful woman anointing Jesus. It’s beautiful to see the abandon with which she throws herself at Jesus’ feet. She

would bathe His feet with tears.

I cannot begin to count the number of people I talked with who are mired in shame over their pasts, just like this lady of Luke 7. It is stunning: because of her sinful past, she loves God all the more. In God’s economy, her sin can be used for the good; and somehow, God (who never desires that we sin) has made her better, not despite her past but because of it.

The Guilty Sin.

How much does sin matter to God? He cannot tolerate it. “Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong” (Habakkuk 1:13) “God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.” (1 John 1:5)

God never lightly views sin. Because of one sin, Adam and Eve were exiled from paradise. Because of sin God brought a flood upon the earth’s

inhabitants in the days of Noah. He brought fire upon the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their blatant immorality. Sin kept the original children of Israel in the wilderness for forty years.

God hates sin. Yet to us, sin feels good, and we do it. Like Adam and Eve, we think we can know evil and yet not be overcome by it.

The Guilty Party.

On the lighter side of this subject, the I.R.S. received a letter, “Enclosed you will find a cashier’s check for \$150. I cheated on my tax return last year and have not been able to sleep ever since. If I still have trouble sleeping I will send you the rest”.

Bible people sinned just like you and I sin. Abraham lied, Lot was hurtful in his drunkenness, David in his adultery and murder, Peter in his denial and so on and so on. From the writing of “Starting with God”: “Whenever you sin, God’s Spirit inside you is grieved. The Holy Spirit will cause you to feel guilty. In sinning, you are choosing at that instant to live independently of the Lord’s will for you”.

The scripture of Luke 7:47 shouts out to us, “Her sins which are many”.

The Guilty Restored.

Can God forgive you and me of our gross and willful sins? Reading on in Luke 7:48-50, “And He said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. And they that sat at meat with him began to say

within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also? And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.”

God has completely forgiven you of all the things you have done. “Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1) He doesn’t look back now on your sins or your failures with condemnation, and neither should you. Again God says, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” (Hebrews 10:17) The cloud of guilt is gone! Accept God’s complete forgiveness. He can and will use you again!

With a flashing red light, every reader must stop and understand, “that every Christian in the world wrestles with sin every single day of his or her life”....Dr. Billy Graham.

Even the Apostle Paul complained, “The good that I will do, I do not do; but the evil I will not do, that I practice” (Romans 7:20). None of us is conformed to the image of Christ overnight. It’s a process that will not be complete until we leave this world and see the Lord face to face. In the meantime, our assignment is to trust God and keep on “walking in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:16).

So every time Satan brings up your past sin or sins, give it to Jesus. I’ll never forget my lapse of the early 1990’s and the great lesson God has taught me. Luke 7:47...“her sins, which are many, are forgiven!” Praise God, Praise God!

Swahili: A Language and a People Group

from Lifeword Ministries

Only five languages have been chosen by Lifeword as “starter languages” included in the beta-testing stage before the public rollout of the new lifeword.org in August...and one of those is Swahili. To determine the best languages to use, Lifeword personnel considered the following about existing broadcasts:

* Are they produced only by indigenous people?
* Is the quality excellent, meaning biblically sound and culturally relevant?
* Are there variations in the formats, such as long form and short form, and videos?

* Do they use various media outlets, such as online radio, internet broadcasting, and community radio?

The Lifeword language of Swahili has been on air since 2015, and its round-table-discussion format has been very effective in reaching Tanzanians with the gospel. For Tanzanian broadcasters and brothers Deus and Renatus

Kanunu it is simply a part of their tribal culture where problems are solved through discussions. A resolution is reached when the chief has the



Swahili Deus Kanunu at his radio station

last word.

The idea was first used by the Garifuna of Central America, who created this culturally relevant broadcast format in 2009: eight pastors sitting at a table and interrupting each other with their opinions.

The Garifuna people group originated in Africa (see the June newsletter for their incredible history), so Di-

rector of Operations Luis Ortega and Director of Broadcast Equipping and Training Rick Russell thought a similar format might work in the Swahili culture. Planning meetings with Tanzanian pastors in 2014 revealed a similar Swahili custom: The tribe’s chief meets with family leaders and presents a difficult village issue. If the group cannot come to a consensus after various solutions have been offered, he will make the decision.

The chief is the ultimate authority just like God’s Word is for Christians. This method of reaching Garifuna and Swahili speakers is a great example of Lifeword’s philosophy that broadcasts should be created by and for indigenous people.

To do that effectively, Lifeword has hundreds of personnel around the world working on translating and contextualizing content that speaks to the hearts of the people groups they represent. Lifeword Programmer Deus Kanunu is that representative for Swahili speakers. As an indigenous speaker, he will create gospel presentations that can be streamed, shared and downloaded to anyone, anywhere who speaks Swahili!

August of 2018 is when lifeword.org went live with the five languages cho-

Wiggins Church Seeks Pastor

Vardaman Street Baptist Church of Wiggins MS, is seeking a full-time pastor with a heart for Christ and people. Potential candidates should firmly believe and support the doctrinal statement of the BMAA. We are seeking a pastor who can lead the church to win the lost to Christ, encourage and challenge Christians in growth and maturity through biblical preaching, and discern God’s direction and plan of growth for VSBC. If you believe God is leading you to pursue this position, please send a resume to VSBC Pastor Search Committee, Post Office Box One, Wiggins, MS 39577 or via e-mail to vardamanstreetba@bellsouth.net.

sen for the testing process: Garifuna, Swahili, Arabic (to be featured in the August newsletter), Spanish and English. As Executive Director Donny Parrish puts it, “For a year, we have been in the building process; after the Cloud is built, we will begin the creative process. Long term we hope to have gospel presentations for 200 of the world’s languages. Following the lead of BMA Missions, our ultimate goal is to help them plant churches.”

EIM Ministry Bringing VBS to Mission Field

By Mike Goodwin, EIM Director

As Evangelistic International Ministries wraps up an amazing summer of Overseas Bible School and we reflect on all of the beautiful people that heard the Gospel, we're in awe and humbled to be servants of Jesus! We were blessed to see the work of God in Shinyanga Tanzania, La Flecha Honduras and Ramnicu Valcea Romania! The cultures are vastly different, but the power of Jesus' saving grace is universal!!

Each summer we are amazed as God handpicks and prepares each team to come together and serve Him in a foreign country. The teams this summer were most definitely called by God for His purpose and glory.

We started our summer OBS in Shinyanga Tanzania. Renatus Kanunu serves as EIM Tanzania Missionary and he led our team with wisdom and confidence in the Lord. As we traveled Hut to Hut to share the Gospel in the village nearby Renatus' young church, our team saw the power of the Living Word of God!! The following Sunday there were 22 new visitors in attendance for worship service! In the afternoon we had OBS in a school close to a village where there are plans to plant a church. Our team led 300 children through scripture from creation to the cross. Lives were changed, hearts were touched and souls were added to the Kingdom of God thru the work of the Holy Spirit!

Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Guy, Arkansas, sent a fantastic team to serve with us in La Flecha Honduras. Manuel and Maira Lepe have served as EIM Honduras Missionaries for 12 years. We served with them each day in several different schools as we presented the Gospel and gave the children a Shepherd's Bags. In the afternoon we had OBS at a large school in La Flecha close to Maira and Manuel's home church. The children and parents loved learning about the love of our creator and his perfect plan for our Savior! Pastor Jose' served with us throughout the week and I'm excited to hear how he has been able to disciple this community.

To close our summer OBS a team from Antioch East Baptist Church in Magnolia, AR traveled with us to Ramnicu Valcea Romania. Throughout the week we served with Cristi Ciuculescu, Pastor of The Good Shepherd Church. Each morning we went into a gypsy village for OBS. The children and their parents were so excited

for someone to care enough to come to them and share the love of Jesus. In the afternoons we had OBS at a soccer arena in Poscesti. Jesus Christ was made famous in both villages!

We have started plans for our 2019 Summer OBS!

Philippines - May 22-June 1, Honduras - June 22-June 28, Tanzania - July 10-July 21, Honduras - August 3-9

Please visit our website if you are interested in serving with us next year!



www.eimworldwide.org

"The call of missions is to love Jesus in such a way that we strive to live every single moment committed to being witnesses of the Gospel and it's transforming power."

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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



SIDNEY DAVIS

The Goodness of God

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17.

Whatever God thinks, says, plans and does is good. He is the giver of everything that is good. The Bible says in Psalm 33:5, "The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord." If this were not so we could not quote Romans 8:28 and really believe it. Because He is good we know that all things are working together for those who love and obey Him. Psalm 23:6 states that God goes before us with the blessings of His "goodness". Isn't it good that we can just trust God? Yes, God has been good to supply the needs of the Children's Home. We just want to thank Him for His goodness!

Woodlawn Homecoming Services

It was good to be with the Woodlawn Baptist Church, Pascagoula, for their 60th Homecoming Celebration service as one of the former pastors. I had the privilege to bring the Homecoming message. The Homecoming was uplifting and encouraging as families and

friends renewed old friendships and acquaintances. The Homecoming was well attended with estimates of about one hundred eighty. Praise the Lord for the ministry of Woodlawn Baptist Church for these past sixty years in the salvation of those that have come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and the many who continue to serve the Lord not only in the Pascagoula area, but in various and numerous places around the world. To God be the glory!

Graduating Senior

Desi Brunty will be a part of the 2019 graduating class of West Jones High School this year. After graduation she plans to attend college at Jones County Junior College. Remember her in your prayers during her senior year in school as she completes her high school studies and all the activities that goes along with being a senior.

Prayer and Focus Verse

Remember the ministry of the Home in your prayers. "For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generation." Psalm 100:5.

Christmas Shoeboxes On The Move



It's that time of the year again. Thousands of Shoeboxes being unloaded in Conway, Arkansas, for the annual BMMI Everlasting Smiles Shoebox distribution. BMA churches from many areas donate to help reach kids.

The Shoeboxes are distributed to children at mission points around the world. Many of the children who receive these have never been given Christmas presents before. They are told about Christ and how He loves them.

These simple gifts held to open up lines of communication and develop trust in those who are sharing the Gospel.

Parkview Church Reunion Set

Former members and friends of Parkview Baptist Church of Gautier, Mississippi, will hold their annual member's reunion on Saturday, September 29. We will meet at First Baptist Church of Shady Grove in Laurel. The meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. and will include lunch.

All former members and friends of this former BMA of Mississippi mission effort and church are invited.

Wiggins Church Seeks Pastor

Vardaman Street Baptist Church of Wiggins MS, is seeking a full-time pastor with a heart for Christ and people. Potential candidates should firmly believe and support the doctrinal statement of the BMAA. We are seeking a pastor who can lead the church to win the lost to Christ, encourage and challenge Christians in growth and maturity through biblical preaching, and discern God's direction and plan of growth for VSBC. If you believe God is leading you to pursue this position, please send a resume to VSBC Pastor Search Committee, Post Office Box One, Wiggins, MS 39577 or via e-mail to vardamanstreetba@bellsouth.net.

The Lord Is On The Side Of The Right

by Bro. Grover Laird

"...Deal courageously, and the Lord shall be with the good." (II Chronicles 19:11b)

Our text records the words of King Jehoshaphat when he was encouraging his Judges in Judah. In explaining their duties, he had warned them that they "trespass not against the Lord" (Verse 10). Then he assures them that "the Lord shall be with the good," or the Lord will be on the side of right. These words are so comforting and reassuring to the righteous. May we consider them further in this little preachment.

These words of our text are not comforting, however, to the disobedient and sinners. They are frightening to them. Our text is saying that a person whose life is out of line with the Bible is on the losing side. He stands in conflict with the God who

holds his breath and destiny in His hands, and he will therefore be the loser. For you see, God is the all-powerful One, and He will always have the final word.

But may the righteous be encouraged by the words of our text, as well as other verses. Many are the times that the Bible assures us that when we stand for what is right, the Lord will be with us.

The prophet Azariah preached it this way—"...The Lord is with you while ye be with him..." (II Chronicles 15:2).

We see an example of the Lord being on the side of right when Moses went down to Egypt to deliver Israel from their bondage. At first, Moses got into a frightening conflict with Pharaoh, King of Egypt. Yet, when the conflict ended, Egypt was destroyed, their army was washed up



Grover Laird

on the shore of the Red Sea, and Israel was singing praises to God on the other side (Exodus 14:26-15:1). The Lord was on the side of right.

The truth of our text shows up again in the days of Daniel. Daniel had some enemies who sought to destroy him (Daniel 6). Their plan called for tricking King Darius into casting him into the lion's den that he might be killed. Yet, God was on the side of right and turned it all a round. Daniel was delivered, and his wicked enemies were crushed in the den of lions.

We will need to remember, however, that help may not always come when we expect it. Our patience may be tested. Israel's deliverance from Egypt surely came slower than Moses expected it (Exodus 5:22,23). But God was on the side of right.

Also, help may not come the way we look for it. Abraham expected God to work for him when he offered up

Isaac his son (Genesis 22). However, help did not come in the way he had it figured out. He expected God to raise up Isaac from the dead (Hebrews 11:17-19). Instead, God provided a substitute which Abraham surely liked better (Genesis 22:10-13). But either way, God being on the side of right met Abraham's need.

In these last days we can expect to get deeper into a conflict with the powers of darkness. It may appear at times that the forces of evil have the upper hand. It may even get more involved and drawn out than we expect. But regardless of what may come, we should never get discouraged and faint. "The Lord shall be with the good." Right will win in the end (1 Samuel 17:45,50; Acts 1:14; Acts 2:41; Acts 11:19-21).

-Taken from, SERMONS, DEVOTIONALS, THOUGHTS

Johnny & Ann Watts Celebrate 70 years

Bro. Johnny & Mrs. Ann Watts were united in matrimony on September 25, 1948.

The ceremony was performed by Bro. Ollie Parker at First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel. The Watts were blessed with a son, Dr. Michael Watts, and they have one granddaughter, Tara, and one great-granddaughter, Mary Garner.

The Watts are members of Lebanon Baptist Church, Laurel.

Editor's note: I was 2 and ½ months old when the Watts were married...I remember it well... Congratulations to two wonderful people. May you celebrate many more years of health and service. God bless you both.

Pastor and Wife Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Bro. Dennis Knight and Mrs. Jean Knight will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on September 22, 2018 with a reception at Paramount Baptist Church, 63 Paramount Church Drive, Perkinston. The reception begins at 2:00 p.m. You are cordially invited to celebrate with them.



"The words of Amos..." (Amos 1.1)

by Dr. Tony Cleaver

His words are a roar not a politically correct tone. In these words there is an inescapable parallel from centuries ago in Israel to this day in America.

Amos 3.2 "You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities."

Tough love is difficult for any parent. Tough love means to let children come to consequences without interfering or rescuing. The parent simply steps out of the way while the child receives the penalty, and that penalty is mostly arranged, prepared, and settled by the parent. Israel was God's special nation, and they received the punishment of God for their sins. God's people today are known by Him, are an object of focus by Him, and are loved by Him. Christians, even



Dr. Tony Cleaver is a retired U.S. Army Chaplain and Director of Distance Learning for BMA Seminary. You may contact him at jstncleaver@embarqmail.com

Christian nations, today stand in the place of punishment as falling away comes to normal behavioral practice. What made the Christian once blush is now known in their inner circle of practice. Yes, God has a prominent place in His heart for those called Christian, yet those with that name must live up to His Name in word, deed, and thoughts of heart emphasis and motivation. Amos told his contemporaries God would punish for all their iniquities. God did do just that.

Christian, God knows you of all people on His earth. Live for Him. Respect His knowing you in a special way.

Amos 4.12 "...Israel prepare to meet your God!"

This is not some weirdo walking around in sackcloth and sandals on your street corner holding a sign saying, "The end is near." No, this is Amos speaking to a real live people in a real live time in history. This word came because of the nation's blatant rebellion against the ways of the Lord of Armies. They met their God in a tornadic typhoon of cataclysmic horror. Israel was defeated, overthrown, and became a nation to be no more.

Dear Reader, you might say, "That was then and this is now. God would not say those words to our country. We are, after all, a Christian nation." Remember, Israel was God's nation too. We live in a great land. God has blessed our land. There is a Christian church on most every corner in small town and city. We observe the Christian holidays. We have set aside times for Christian activities.

Yet they all seem to be compartmentalized from daily behavior. Our land talks the Christian talk, but we do not walk the Christian walk. The words of Amos break in and over our smart phones, the words interrupt our podcasts, the words snap across our live streams, the words suspend our thousand channel TV choice as they thunder out: America..."prepare to meet your God!"

Southeastern College National TV Exposure



Local HGTV star Ben Napier (center) posing with SBC Basketball Coach Brad Phillips (left) and President Dr. Scott Carson (right) during recent filming of the show Home Town at the college. See story on page one of this issue.