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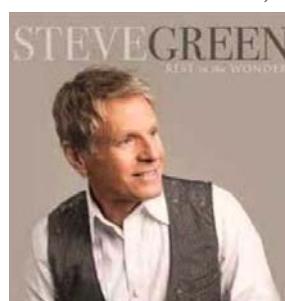
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VOL. 71 No. 17

Senior Adult Conference set for Branson



You are invited to DiscipleGuide's Senior Adult Conference! This year, the conference will be held at the Hilton Convention Hotel in Branson, Missouri; a sleek hotel located in the heart of Branson's historic downtown. When seniors from all across the BMA gather from November 13 through 15, it will feel just like a family reunion!



Chandler, pastor at Central Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas, during the main sessions. Seasoned worship leaders, David Attebery and Neil Dumas, will lead the congregation in singing classic hymns during times of worship through song.

For this year's concert, the accomplished Steve Green will be performing for conference attendees. Green has been using his music for ministry for over thirty years,

and has performed with groups such as the Gaithers and TRUTH. He has received four Grammy nominations, seven Dove Awards, and has 18 number one songs. In addition, the Central Baptist College Singers, who regularly sing in churches across the southern United States, will bless the attendees with Christ-focused music performance.

The conference will not conclude there, though, because attendees who register by October 19 will receive a ticket to the Miracle of Christmas, an interactive show at Branson's premier Sight and Sound Theater. It will be an immersive experience that will bring the story of Christmas to life on stage.

Register today for this BMA family reunion! Those who register through October 19 will receive the ticket to Miracle of Christmas and a discounted rate, but registration is still open after October 19. Visit discipleguide.org/senior to get more information and to register! For any questions, you can contact DiscipleGuide at info@discipleguide.org or 1-800-333-1442.

Have We Lost Our Sense of Association?

by Paul Gauntt
via Baptist Progress

Editor's Note: Bro. Gauntt presents some good thoughts in the following article. While he directed the article to those in Texas, it is applicable to all of the churches and associations in the BMA. He speaks the truth in observing that our work is not what it once was. Those who ignore trends are apt to travel down the wrong road.

I scoffed at a church marquee sign a few years ago. The sign bore the slogan, "Church like it was done 50 years ago." Paul Gauntt Today, I'm seriously rethinking my attitude about it. Might there have been some merit to some of those methods and ministries we em-

braced in years gone by? It might behoove us to address this issue.

We are burying our heads in the sand if we can't recognize that our particular Baptist work is really only a fraction of what it once was 50 years ago. You may agree with me, or you may pass this off as an archaic, non-visionary trip down memory lane by a doddering old man. But don't write this off yet.

continued on page 4

Hurricane Relief Information



The BMA of America Missions Department has released the following information for those wishing to help those affected by Hurricane Harvey. Help will be needed in a number of ways and in several areas hit by this storm.

The relief fund at BMA Global Missions is accepting donations for Hurricane Harvey victims. These funds will be used

in the immediate time frame to feed and help those who are affected, and to assist those who are serving them. Long term, these funds will be administered in the rebuilding effort.

To contribute, send your donation to P.O. Box 878, Conway, Arkansas 72033. To find out how to help hands-on, please call us at (501) 455-4977 and speak to Paige West.

Paper Mobile App Available

Most individuals and families have 'smart phones' and tablets that they use regularly. We are getting our Email, checking Facebook, reading news sites, checking the weather, and texting our family and friends.



Your Mississippi Baptist website can now be accessed via your phone. Both Android and iPhone owners can go to the respective App sites and download our app. Just search for 'MSBaptist App'. The content is the same that is available on our website. Our website contains information of interest to our readers and church members, but it does not contain information from the latest printed issue.

The printed version is available by mail or by email, but are on a paid subscription basis. If you would like to receive an email copy of the paper you may contact us by phone at 601-426-3293 or by email at editor@msbpastist.org.

Ministering To Young People

by Anders Lee

Back to School

It's that time of year when everyone has gone back to school! The buses are running their routes, football schedules are out, and everyone is hoping that the 'dawg' days of summer would end soon! We kind of fall into a routine when school starts back. That can be a good thing, but it can also be a struggle in youth ministry.

As a youth pastor, I always hated to see summer come to an end. Our youth would grow closer during the summer events, and their spiritual lives were better because they had the opportunity to be at camps, SOAR, and retreats. Yet once the "routine" hit again, the struggle returned. Football practices & games, band, cheer leading, home work, projects, tests (the list is unending) all seem to erode the progress made in the summer weeks. They all begin to claim the attention of the teens. The group that was just on fire for Christ leaving SOAR or camp, wouldn't hardly show up for youth worship. Other youth pastors would share with me some of the same thoughts, so I wasn't alone in the process.

Over the years, the big question

among my circle of youth pastor friends was simply, how can we avoid this? Here are a few pointers.

CORRECT YOUR THINKING

Don't feel like everything has been trashed just because your attendance dropped some in the first few weeks of school. It's normal, and seasonal. Most kids can only pack so much into their world, and when all this hits, it's not that they have changed their mind about following Christ, or being involved in youth, they have just suddenly had 20 things thrown at them. Plus, parents are pushing them to get into a routine that helps them with balancing life. Don't let the Devil discourage you over a short term difference.



Anders Lee

BALANCE YOUR PLANNING

There are a lot of things planned for the summer, we are guilty of cram packing it with too much stuff. What I learned is that we put too much emphasis on the summer. It's true we have more time to do things with the kids,

but often we kill ourselves with the schedule we set. Then from late July until Labor Day we don't have much on the agenda because we are having to recuperate from the gauntlet of things we over planned.

Streamline your next summer calendar, it will help you have some important events and activities in the transition from summer to school time. Fill the gap, don't leave a void where the youth disconnect in that period of time.

If you have a back to school event at

When you show up at the beginning of school and your kids see you there serving, they know that everything you have ever said to them about loving them IS TRUE!

a local skating rink, or say a 5th quarter after the first ball game, it will help connect the dots. You should even get your youth involved in inviting other teens to those events. Use their fire from summer commitments and get them to volunteer to pass out invitations, put up flyers, and post on their social media.

GET INVOLVED AT SCHOOL

One of the biggest things you could do

to communicate to your teens that you are trying to reach is to GO TO THEM! Meet with different staff members and principals at school to let them know you want to serve and help them in any way possible and show them you care. It may take a while to convince them that you really do. Consistency is the key. Show up for events, shake hands, take food to the teacher's lounge, help out wherever you can, sponsor different programs, and just be there. Your work doesn't happen in the office all the time, so go to where they are!

Over the years I've been blessed to be involved in a number of on campus activities and events. When you show up at the beginning of school and your kids see you there serving, they know that everything you have ever said to them about loving them IS TRUE! They will know you care! Doing all of it will connect you with lots of other teens and as providence would have it, you will see some of the staff come to your church as a result! Bottom line, doing this prevents a disconnect from you and the students when school starts.

The gauntlet has already begun in 2017! Jump in and be more determined this fall to make a huge impact in the life of your teens!

Lee is a church planter in Southhaven, Mississippi. He is a pastor and former youth minister and may be contacted at anders.lee571@gmail.com

Daniel Springs is Making a Comeback

Thanks to the overwhelming support of churches and individuals, the financial strain on Daniel Springs is beginning to ease. If donations continue to pour in, the camp will be able to continue changing hearts for Christ in future years.

"I believe the camp is worth it. Not because of the campgrounds, but because of the 54 young souls who professed Christ as Lord this summer, and the twelve who surrendered to ministry. That's why we have camp. That's why Daniel Springs is worth the invest-

ment," said Prewitt. After a time of questioning the future of Daniel Springs, donors have given the camp hope for the future. "We're not out of the woods yet," explained Camp Director Jason Prewitt. But things are looking up.

Over the past year, as Prewitt has shared the camp's needs with churches, many have taken special offerings, begun monthly giving, or increased budget giving.

"It's been a blessing to see our general offerings increase steadily all year. God

is answering our prayers through our local churches," commented Prewitt. "Many of the offering increase has come through special gifts, and we are so appreciative. Now, however, as we look to the future of Daniel Springs, the most crucial factor will be consistent giving on a monthly or quarterly basis. For the camp to continue operating, we still need to see more churches and individuals partner with us monthly."

Currently, the general offerings for this calendar year are up nearly 50 percent from Daniel Springs's budget!

According to Prewitt, "If folks out there have been considering supporting Daniel Springs but are wanting to make sure it's going to make it before they give, now is the time to invest. The momentum we are experiencing financially is stronger than ever, and we are so close to resolving these issues and moving forward. We just need a few

more people to help us close the remaining gap."

The Daniel Springs board of trustees will meet in September to review the finances and discuss the future of the camp. Individuals and churches desir-



ing to help close the remaining financial gap have an opportunity to show the trustees a positive outlook for the future of Daniel Springs by acting now.

As said before, the camp isn't out of the woods yet. Help keep the momentum moving forward. Offerings for Daniel Springs should be marked "Daniel Springs" and sent to PO Box 1749, Conway AR, 72033. Online giving is available at danielspringscamp.com/give.

Ministers Resource Services Accepting Resumes for Executive Director

Bro. Ron Chesson has announced his retirement as Executive Director of Ministers Resource Services (MRS), effective May 31, 2018. The board of trustees will be accepting resumes from individuals who would like to be considered for this position. Resumes may be submitted between September 1, 2017 and November 15, 2017.

At our board meeting on February 23, 2017, it was approved to sell the MRS property in Texarkana and relocate MRS operations to the BMAA Global Ministry Center in Conway, AR upon Bro. Chesson's retirement. As a result, interested individuals would need to be willing to reside in or near the Conway area. Additionally, persons with a strong financial background are highly desired.

Resumes should be submitted to the board chairman: Kenneth M. Lott, 1360 Purvis-Oloh Road, Purvis, MS 39475. E-mail address: KennethL@ssw1776.com

May God grant great wisdom to the MRS board of trustees as we seek to recommend to the association in April, 2018 the Executive Director with which HE would be most pleased.

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 - fbcnjmaj@yahoo.com



John Adams

Judeo-Christian Heritage Series

The Issue of Abortion/Pro-Life

Psalms 13:13-16 · Job 31:14-15

Revelation in regard to human origin and birth, and in regard to the inner mysteries of bodily life, is characteristic of our times. It must suffice us to set before our minds the great truth concerning God and life-birth.

According to our scripture text God designed man, and the complications are beyond us; we can only wonder and adore. Every embryo is a bundle of possibilities. God alone can know the small child in the mother's womb. He knows the child from the beginning. For this reason we in our Judeo-Christian heritage are firmly convinced that life begins at the time of conception in the motherly womb.

When is human life expendable? And the question is answered never. Yet on January 22, 1973 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the landmark, Roe versus Wade decision, that unborn human beings are not legal persons according to the U.S. Constitution. An unborn baby

is the property of the owner, and she can have the child killed at her request. Ours is a peculiar society; we have laws protecting wildlife and dogs but not defenseless human embryos. The real question today is not when human life begins but what is the value of human life?

Abortion Is Evil

Time Magazine states, "even in the earliest stages of pregnancy, the embryo is amazingly babylike. By the ninth week the fetus is kicking and moving, and even today its sex can be recognized at 9 weeks." Dr. Everett Koop, author of the book, "The Right to Live, The Right To Die" said "Once there is the union of sperm and egg, and the 23 chromosomes of each are brought together, that one cell with its 46 chromosomes has all the DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), the whole genetic code that will, if not interrupted, make a human being just like you with the

potential for God-consciousness." He asks a crucial question, "At what point can one consider this life to be worthless and the next minute consider the same life to be precious?" Ecclesiastes 11:5; Deuteronomy 30:9.

Every day in the U.S. 1 every 10 seconds babies are aborted. It's a horrible, painful death considering that the baby's heart is beating at 3 weeks and the embryo's nervous system is very sensitive to pain.

Abortion Is An Error

There is a wrong attitude toward human life. Every human being reflects to some degree the likeness of Almighty God. When man dares to take another human life, he lifts his hand in rebellion against the image of Almighty God – Genesis 4:10. Abortion on demand laws give one person – (the mother) – the legal right to kill another – (the baby) in order to solve the first person's social problems. It's hard to believe that this is happening in a civilized society. A second wrong value is the wrong emphasis on self. That is, that the mother has the right to decide what happens to her own body. The question is raised – is not the rights of the unborn child to be recognized? Former and late President Reagan quoted by L.A. Times "When they put it simply and say 'I believe in the right of someone to have a free choice.' What I came back with was, 'that's what a murderer is insisting on, that he's got free choice to decide

that he thinks somebody should be dead." Job 31:14,15; Isaiah 49:1.

The main question, R. J. Gardner puts is, "What will we do with a human life that has been given to our keeping?"...Medical Society Journal.

Abortion and Its Effect

The effects of this willful death is far greater than we think. Proverbs 24:11,12. Moody Monthly asked – "Have we been sitting – Lot-like, quiet at home, unruffled, even critical of those who are easily alarmed about babies? If the blood of Abel, one innocent adult, cried out to God from the ground, how many more millions of babies since 1973's Legislation.

The problem of throw-away life will not lessen. It presses on the American conscience with great agony. And it should.

To put one's will above God's will is to rebel against the Sovereign of the universe. When we flaunt the will of God we are walking in the footsteps of a doomed and defeated Satan. We cannot expect His help or blessings as individuals or as a nation if we ignore His word and set aside His Bible precepts. Isaiah 59:7,8.

In conclusion, this dramatic statement haunts our nation: "You can kill babies without penalty because according to our U.S. Supreme Court, the word person as used in the 14th Amendment does not include the unborn." We ask God to spare our nation.

Unlimited: Lifeword's New Media Vision

Part One - by Holly Meriweather

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

When Lifeword's board members met on August 18, they were given the details of the new path God has given to Lifeword Executive Director Donny Parrish and subsequently to the Lifeword team. All agreed that as the 2017 Lifeword Sunday T-shirt logo proclaims, this initiative is exactly where and how God is directing Lifeword to "Reach the World."

Donny says that, "When I think of the future of Lifeword, the word that rings in my heart is unlimited. Because we serve a God that is unlimited in his love and power and because he has adopted us as his children, we have his unlimited potential at our disposal. Our God has all power and all authority. He is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

"How could we not dream big dreams for his glory? How could we not take big risks for a God so powerful? How could

we not ask God for a vision that would result in him getting all the glory for something only he could accomplish?

"I am dreaming of an unlimited opportunity to reach the world with the gospel. The Lifeword team and the Lifeword board members have bought into this dream. And I'm praying that you'll dream with us."

The Same Mission but a New Vision

Our mission is set. Jesus gave us our mission in Matthew 28:18-20. We can set no other course than the one our Master has given. The directive is clear. But the method to accomplish that mission has and must change.

For over 50 years Lifeword has sought to accomplish the mission given to us by Jesus through primarily radio and analog technology. This has been the most effective media delivery system available. It was the right approach for the right time.

But the world is changing. In fact, it already has changed.

"The analog technology of yesterday has given way to the digital technology of today," Donny explains. "The internet has made the world much smaller, much more accessible. Lifeword leader-

ship envisioned this day coming when the O3b initiative was introduced several years ago. Dr. Steve Crawley and his team laid the groundwork when they told us of a day approaching when the internet would soon make it possible for the gospel to be preached to the entire world. And that day has arrived.

"That reality is causing Lifeword to think in a new way about how we will tell the world the good news. We believe that we have a vision, a strategy and a plan that will enable Lifeword to capitalize on this new opportunity and will serve us well for years to come. It involves the Lifeword Network powered by the Lifeword Cloud."

Ultimately, Lifeword's forty languages and their gospel programming would be accessible for people worldwide in audio and video at anytime, anywhere. Lifeword.org will be able to control the content locally and be the repository or the hub. Discipleship material would be available as well, bringing us one step closer to "Reaching the whole World" with the gospel.

Next, we will share details of this exciting new vision in "Unlimited: Lifeword's New Media Vision-Part Two."

Unlimited: Lifeword's New Media Vision

Part Two

As Executive Director Donny Parrish began formulating the idea for the Lifeword Cloud on the Lifeword Network, he considered the following: "Is this a big plan? It really is. It will certainly be the challenge of my life's calling in ministry to shepherd this from dream to reality. After introducing this plan to our staff and getting buy-in from our team, there have been nights that I have laid in bed and thought, 'What in the world are you doing? This is going to be very difficult to do! Why put yourself through this?'

"I'm glad that I don't have to accomplish this. My God is big enough to make this happen all by himself. I'm depending on his power, guidance and leadership to make his dream become a reality. I'm confident that what he has birthed in my heart he will see to completion."

The Lifeword Network

Imagine for a moment the opportunity to provide programming in both audio and video for Lifeword Community Radio stations. This programming will allow churches and pastors to stream

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Don Brown
Editor

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Have We Lost Our Sense of Association?

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We have watched our association of churches shrink in number during the past 50 years. We have dropped in the number of local associations. There was a time when most of them were jam-packed into a host church, and it took at least a day and a half to wrap up business which usually entailed denominational and missions support, reports, preaching, singing and prayer. Now the few local associations which remain consist of a couple of dozen people.

The BMA of Texas annual association commonly over-

flowed a large hotel ballroom in downtown Dallas, Houston or Lubbock in the early 1970s. Today, the meeting can be hosted in the fellowship hall of most churches.

May I offer a small "laundry list" of possible reasons why this could be the case?

- Paradigm shift of culture. This is complements of the electronic age, broken family units and an all-out assault on our way of life with permissiveness and promiscuity, thanks to Hollywood, politics, media, and the education system. I'm afraid much of this mind-set has bled

over into the church and we have, in turn, rejected Jesus' formula for discipline in Matthew 18.

- Programs, once geared to training youth are basically defunct. Girls Missionary Auxiliaries, Sunbeams, Galileans and Young People's Meetings were our own in-house training grounds directed to our own youth. The purpose was to teach them how to study the Word, develop character and responsibility, model church leadership, familiarize them with missions and instill into them something, which we have laughed off today — denominational loyalty.

But today, churches tend to hide their denominational affiliation from the lost and dying world because they've been told that it is a roadblock to the lost entering their doors. The church today has been marketed much like the retail or entertainment industry markets its products. May I go on record as expressing my sorrow and my apology that

I got caught up in the church growth movement years ago? I believe today that it was nothing short of a scheme to try to build the church the world's way, with our own flesh, and I fear we are paying for it dearly today.

To quote my son-in-law, Matthew Loafman, a high school coach and pastor of First at

Cleburne,

Texas: "Church is not for the degenerate — it's for God's people to come and be fed and ministered to — then to be sent out to

evangelize on the other six days."

L.H. Raney had a wooden facsimile of the earth in the entrance of the old facilities of Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie. When one entered the door, they saw the words on it, "enter to worship;" and on the reverse side, as people filed out, they saw the words "depart to serve."

But we have majored on making our services a showbiz type concert, and many sermons are commonly tailored to 12 min-

utes of "How to Have Your Best Life Now" in order to appeal to the lost. We have built country club style facilities to minister to the total man, and we have softened "thus saith the Lord" in order not to cause discomfort or conviction. Oh, God, help us!

We laughed off programs such as Baptist Training Service — Sunday evening classes in which people, including youth, had the opportunity to stand before a group and present a Bible lesson. When it was worked effectively and fervently, it instilled into a young person (and adults) the ability to prepare to stand before a group and lead, and the long-range results were a generation of church leaders that was raised up. Training service could be a huge success, as long as the leadership worked it. I have belonged to churches in which over half of the Sunday School crowd returned on Sunday night for Training Service. In fact, the evening worship services were as exciting and powerful as the morning worship — maybe even more so.

Remember the District Young

People's Meetings? These were

essentially built on the style of

Training Service, with a pur-

pose of providing opportunities

for youth to fellowship with youth

of sister churches, and, in turn,

instill a sense of associational

loyalty and leadership.

Years ago, I recall our youth group in Midland piling into cars and making a two-hour drive to a sister church for the District Young People's Meeting, and returning shortly before Training Service began at our own church. It was a grueling day, but it was rewarding on many fronts.

Then there was the State Youth for Christ — a state associa-

tion of youth which met in a

format much like that of the

BMA of Texas or the BMA of

America. The organization had

a moderator, clerk, treasurer,

song leader, pianist, program

committee and perhaps even a

historian. There was even a

choir, organized to render spe-

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BMA of Mississippi Youth Department

Phone 662-316-6233 www.facebook.com/bmamsyouth

A Lesson From The Marching Band

It is hard to believe that it's already football season. Many of us grew up participating in the sport. I played at Sharon Elementary School in Jones County and went to as many West Jones High School games as possible. Some of my fondest memories of my teenage years was sitting in those home bleachers watching my friends go play football each week. The whole experience was a blast.

As many of you know, a lot of work goes into those Friday nights. The coaches and players have to prepare to coach and play. The school has to have people working jobs like the gate and the concession stand. The cheerleaders are there to get everyone fired up. And then there is the band. They are a valuable

part because they play the fight songs and also provide the half-time entertainment. I've watched many bands over the years of different ability levels.

The best ones are skilled with their instruments and loud with their volume. However, another characteristic of a great marching band is that they are together. They have been trained to stay in sync musically, but also to stay in line physically. As a matter of fact, it's usually obvious when someone steps out of line.

In Galatians 2, we read the story of an awkward confrontation between Peter and Paul. Peter had been eating only with the Jews and the Gentiles saw this as him disapproving of their faith because they did not follow the Jewish ceremonial laws.



Peter had stepped out of line.

Paul knew that not only was Peter being hypocritical, but he was also leading others to do the same, including Barnabas. Paul, who was not one to back down from speaking the truth, said this, "But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all..." (Galatians 2:14) Paul confronted Peter to remind him that justification is by faith alone apart from any works or ceremonial

laws.

The phrase "they walked not according to the truth of the gospel" can be described as "they did not act in line with the truth of the gospel." By his actions, Peter did not promote the good news of salvation by faith

alone.

Just as the goal of each member of a marching band is to walk in step with their teammates, it is the goal of a Christian to walk in line with the truth of the gospel. It is not always easy. A band member must carry their instruments, sometimes battle the elements, and practice time and time again. It is not easy for us. If the apostle Peter can step out of line, then certainly we are all prone to do the same.

If you are able to attend any ball games this Fall, remember the lesson from the marching band. May God help us to know the gospel, to know the truth of God's word, and to stay in line. If you work with youth, there is nothing more important than driving home the truth of the gospel, living it as an example in front of them, and challenging them to obey it.



Don J. Brown, Editor

E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org

Web site www.msbaptist.org

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Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

President's Perspective

Each new semester the president of Southeastern Baptist College provides one of the very first chapel messages to help set the tone for the students and their studies. The following is my message to our tremendous student body of the Fall of 2017.

President's Chapel Message

In the book of Numbers, chapter 13, we find the story of the spies that Moses sent into the land of Canaan. When they returned, they reported a land flowing with milk and honey, but with strong cities and powerful people occupying the land. Ten of the twelve spies then disheartened the entire nation of Israel by saying in verse 31, "...We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we." These ten spies influenced all God's people to rebel against Moses and, more importantly, the Lord himself! It was a disastrous moment for God's people, who lacked the faith to meet their enemies. They lost the power of the Lord, who promised them victory if they only obeyed His word.

We, as God's people, must remember that our enemy is actively trying to discourage us from accomplishing God's

will. 1 Peter 5:8 reminds us, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

Our enemy is actively working and devising ways to distract us from what God has called us to. You are called to study here at Southeastern Baptist College. Every semester we witness students give up on their studies because of unforeseen and difficult circumstances. We must remember that Satan is working diligently to sidetrack you from the task that the Lord has given you!

Ephesians 6:12 states, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." We are encouraged by God's Word to keep the proper perspective of the struggles that occur in our lives. The Lord wants us to succeed! He empowers us to face any trial with faith and confidence that we can win the



Dr. Scott Carson
President

Veterans of the Vietnam War honored in Laurel

The Jones County Board of Supervisors sponsored a gathering at the Magnolia Center in Laurel on Saturday, August 26, to honor Vietnam War Veterans. Dozens of veterans were presented certificates of appreciation and American Flag pins. Laurel High School's Army Junior ROTC Color Guard and Concert Choir also participated.

Dr. Scott Carson, president of Southeastern Baptist College and retired U.S. Army Chaplain was the guest speaker. Carson stated, "America remains the beacon of hope to all nations of the earth and in my opinion, though its shining light of freedom has dimmed, it is not extinguished." He told the veterans "You did your duty. You did what others could not, or would not do. You are a special breed. The Bible tells us that we should 'give honor to whom honor is due'. Vietnam veterans, it is long past due to give you the honor that is due to you.



Vietnam Veterans honored by Jones County Supervisors

"really am," said James Edmonds, one of the veterans who attended.

"We served our country with pride and I still love my country with pride," said Pink Riley Whigham, another veteran.

Veterans of World War Two and the Korean War were also recognized for their service.

Partners in Christian Education

Excellence in Learning Academy, a K-12 Christian school, has partnered with Southeastern Baptist College for joint use of the college's classroom facilities. Pray for the ELA staff and faculty as they quickly relocate from their previous rented facilities which they outgrew and begin classes in ours on September 5th.

Members of the Excellence in Learning Academy staff L-R Melanie Gibbs; Angela Brownlee; Jaime Vega, Director



battle at hand. Satan wants to defeat us. God wants us to succeed!

Having been a chaplain in the Army, I know how difficult soldiering can be! Not only have I witnessed it first hand, I experienced it! Even for a chaplain, the Army life can be very difficult. Yes, chaplains really do crawl in the dirt and mud, and often become physically exhausted. But the Army also does a good job in building up the soldier's capacity to endure. Each task builds confidence in the individual and in their team, to increasingly accomplish more and more that one might have otherwise believed to be impossible.

2 Timothy 2:3 encourages the believer by stating, "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

The English translation of "endure hardness" is actually from one Greek word, "kakopathee." It is used three other times in the New Testament and is also translated, "suffer trouble"; "endure affliction"; and "be afflicted."

Endurance is a mental and spiritual predetermination to overcome the most difficult of circumstances. It reminds me of Mandisa's hit Christian song, "Overcomer" which encourages us that in order to be an overcomer, we must stay in the fight to the final round! I've heard a word, or... really, it's not a word, but it is appropriate for describing a person who hangs in there against all odds, the "non" word is "sticktoitness."

Satan wants to distract you, to hinder you, and to confuse and frustrate you. He's going to throw everything he has at you in order to pressure you into quitting! The temptation will be great! It will be "hard"! But we must stick to it!

Endure! Determine now never to quit! Commit yourself to the task at hand. You can make it with God's help. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Trust in God and embrace His empowerment! Romans 8:31 records, "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"

Referring back to the story of the spies in the book of Numbers, there were two who trusted in God. They were Joshua and Caleb. In verse 30, Caleb stunned the people who were seized by fear by declaring to all, "...Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it."

Determine now, today! Determine

that you will not let Satan pressure you into quitting the task that God has appointed to you! You serve the Lord God Almighty! Trust Him! And remember Paul's words, "I can do all things through Christ, who strengtheneth me."

Special Emphasis

Southeastern Baptist College's Special Emphasis Month has concluded! Thank you to all the churches and individuals who believe in this work and contributed toward our goal of raising \$20,000. I will provide a full report on this effort in the next publication.

Fall Semester

We are off and running! Registration closed on August 24th. We are excited to have numerous new students taking courses both online and in our classrooms at Southeastern. And we welcome back all our returning students. Pray for their "sticktoitness" as they begin their studies.

BMATS Course

Dr. Carson is teaching, in conjunction with the BMA Theological Seminary this Fall at Southeastern Baptist College, a course entitled, "Special Studies in Ministry - Current Pastoral Issues". This course is both at the Masters and undergraduate level and explores the pros and cons of modern worship movements.

Special Projects

If your church or ministry activity would like to take on a special project to help the college we have several that need addressed. Some projects include: replacement of the flooring in the main hallway and offices; fixing the exterior of the men's dormitory; upgrades to our apartments; updating the gym's entrances and bathrooms; the purchase of new HVAC units for selected facilities. This list is not exhaustive, but these are some of the projects that are toward the top of our list.

Available Scholarships

Take note! Thinking about taking courses in the Spring semester? There are several scholarship opportunities available for our student body that supporters of the school have graciously

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COMMISSION ON *Senior Adults*

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt
Director

Senior Adult Commission Planning for 2018

The Trustees of the Commission on Senior Adults met Monday, August 21, 2017 at the Missions Complex in Laurel. These men are faithful to this ministry and are a constant encouragement to this Director.

The 2018 conferences are shaping up to be among the best we have experienced. From day one they have all been excellent and enjoyed by a multitude of seniors.

The Trustees had a great time discussing the upcoming conferences and I believe some positive steps were taken to add some features that will enhance these meetings. You don't want to miss them. So save the dates: South Conference, Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, Tuesday, March 20th, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm; North Conference, Hopewell Baptist Church, Dorsey, Tuesday, May 8th,

9:30 am – 3:00 pm. The Gaither-Style music is a favorite with our seniors and an outstanding quartet is being put together for singing throughout the day. Special music from our churches is invited to be a part of the service. Pianist, organist, singers and etc. are urged to make preparations to be with us.

We are always grateful to our supporters of this ministry, it enables us to provide the best in preaching, singing and food.

Our purpose is always to honor our Lord and to show respect to His work, He has been so good to all of us.

Pray for this ministry and let's make the 2018 conferences the best ever, we want you to be a part of it.

Thank you kindly,

*Kenneth Flynt and Trustees of
The Commission on Senior Adults*

...Sense of Association?

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cial music during the meeting. These meetings modeled the format and inner workings of our association, and familiarized youth with it.

The National Encampment was also an effective vehicle to instill this sense of leadership and denominational loyalty into our youth. It created venues to give youth an opportunity for leadership. It seems most aspects of our programs 50 years ago were for the purpose of training.

Promotion of missions has basically died in our churches because we no longer conduct ministries to train our youth in missions. While AWANA, Pioneer Clubs, and other programs could be construed as having been effective in reaching more of the masses of unchurched youth, they do little to promote a spirit of association, leadership training and missions promotion. Today, we have loosely formed activities with not much focus on leadership, or a long-range goal of perpetuating our associated work.

Why was it that the great old Central Baptist Church of downtown Lubbock had scores of young men who gave their lives to the ministry, and the vast majority of them reached places of great leadership in our work? Because the leadership of that church was interested in fostering a rich spiritual environment, which resulted in young men

giving their lives to ministry. And there were just about as many young girls in that great old church who became pastor's wives.

Years ago, a group from our church, visited Buddy Johnson when he was a missionary in Huejutla, Mexico. On our way back to Tampico, where our party was to catch the bus for home, he asked me how I felt about AWANA. My answer was rather curt—all I could think of to say was that I thought it was a great outreach tool. He then shared with me how drastically the promotion of missions had decreased with the demise of the auxiliary programs in local churches. Missionaries felt the drastic drop in interest in mission work among the churches. I failed to consider his words until years later. Now I am convicted by them.

Preaching which fails to convict. A preacher who was preaching a hard sermon on the attributes of God recently told me a couple sent a note later to let him know they would not be back. Although they did not tell him the reason, they told another member, "We felt that he was preaching 'at' us instead of 'to' us." I am afraid in this era of "feel good," pop-psychology "talks" from the pulpit, we have raised up a generation of people in church who have trouble handling "thus saith the Lord."

So, before anyone writes these para-

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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



SIDNEY DAVIS

God Approves of Work

Even in the perfect environment of the Garden of Eden God gave Adam the assignment of taking care of His creation. Though sin brought toil and burden to work, yet labor still remains honorable in the sight of God.

Of course, different jobs require different approaches. Some tasks require a great deal of physical activity while others rely more on mental effort. Yet to give one's all to a task is a worthy goal deserving recognition. Believers who fulfill the responsibilities of their job assigned to them can look forward to the commendation of God as they honor their Lord with faithful labor. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." Revelation 14:13.

Students School Work Recognized

We recently received reports on the progress several of our elementary students achieved during the past school year. These reports (Mississippi Assessment Program) help the teacher, school, and school district in planning student's coursework. Our student's scores were greater than the school average, district average, and state average. We are grateful and thankful for the diligent school work of our students.

Hurricane Harvey

As you know, Hurricane Harvey has had a devastating affect along the coast line of Texas and Louisiana. Those who remember the wrath of Hurricane Katrina some twelve years ago can well visualize some of the destruction that Harvey has brought to those in his path. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone who is hurting and suffering due to this record breaking disastrous storm.

Remember in Prayer and Focus Verse

We certainly want to remember those who have been affected by Hurricane Harvey. Continue to remember the girls, boys, and the ministry of the Home. "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9.

refusing to associate. Tell me why?

The answer might be that we (and I include myself) have abdicated our role as churches, to raise up leaders in our work. It may be that we need to do as Jesus told Ephesus: "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove the candlestick out of his place, except thou repent" (Rev. 2:5).

It may be that we as an association of churches need thee?" (Psa. 85:6).

Have we placed ministries on auto-pilot; and as a result, have cast our identity, our heart for evangelism, our love for missions, Christian education and Christ to the wind?

And by the way, all the above mentioned issues might also give us a hint as to why our state and national departments are in deep trouble financially right now.

You may regard these words as irrelevant, but if this is a conversation that could begin in circles among our work and, in turn, lead to revival fires, then I'm glad I raised the issue. (pop. gauntn@gmail.com)

graphs off as an old man living in the past, I challenge you to write your own article and give us your take on:

Why have our state association meetings have dwindled from over 1,100 in attendance to less than 300?

Why do we have less than 1,200 churches in the BMA of America today, as opposed to over 1,500 about 40 years ago?

Why does our national encampment have 300 in attendance today, as opposed to 1,200-1,400 years ago?

Why did the Plains Association of West Texas have almost a dozen churches that averaged well over 200 in Sunday School, and was considered one of the strongest local associations in the state — but today, there may be one church on the Plains that reaches over 100.

Why do we have 24 local associations today when we had 31 of them just 20 years ago?

What has happened to the camaraderie among our pastors today as opposed to 40-50 years ago? We all seem to each be on our own little islands, paddling our own canoes and

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

President

Beth Caldwell
166 Twin Creek Rd, Lucedale, MS 39452
601-947-60118

Corresponding Secretary

Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443
601-729-5638

'Ladies On A Mission' Banquet

The WMA of Mississippi will host a banquet for all of the ladies of our churches. The banquet will be at First Baptist Church of Shady Grove in Laurel on Monday night, October 16, at 6:30 pm. This is in conjunction with the Annual Meeting held at Southeastern College in Laurel. The theme is "Ladies On A Mission.

LADIES ON A MISSION

October 16, 2017

First Baptist Church of Shady Grove
Laurel, Mississippi
6:30PM

A Dinner, A Speaker & Door Prizes!

Our speaker for this event

Charlotte Johnson has been married to Pastor Charles Johnson for 45 years. They have served Rosewood Baptist Church, Gilmer, Texas, for 32 years. The Johnsons have two children, Dr. David Johnson and wife Nicole of Houston and Mary Ann Mauk and her husband Brian of Gilmer, Texas. They have three grandchildren Cayden, Triniti, and Allie. They are all involved in their community. Both of the Johnsons are retired school teachers. Charlotte is Reading Specialist and believes if a child can read they can accomplish anything in life.



Charlotte Johnson

She serves as Secretary/Treasurer for Liberty District WMA, Sunbeam and GMA groups and has served as Texas State WMA President, GMA Promoter, and many other offices. She currently serves as Assistant Corresponding Secretary. Charlotte is Secretary of Board of Trustees of Jacksonville College, Jacksonville, Texas and currently serves as the National WMA 2nd Vice President.

Charlotte teaches Sunbeams and the Ignited Life Group at Rosewood. Charlotte loves to go on Big Safaris and looking for big game with daughter and friends. She enjoys walking in the cool of the morning and hearing the Lord talk to her soul.

One of her favorite scriptures is John 4:29, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Is this not the Christ?" Charlotte's heart desire is to share about that man Jesus.

State WMA Project Water for Christ

The deadline is approaching! Please mail contributions by September 15 to be included in the State report. Send to Shirlene Smith, 730 Highway 533, Laurel, MS 39443.

Thank you to all our WMA's for supporting our project.

National Brotherhood and Galilean Reports

by Richey Hester-Editor & Promoter

The National Brotherhood of the BMA met on May 2, 2017 in Arlington, Texas. We had a great turn out to hear Bro. Steve Clark of Pearl, Mississippi, bring the message. He spoke from II Timothy 4 entitled "Will He Find Us Faithful". He encouraged us all to go out and do God's work. He ended by telling us men to stand up, stand up for God. Then he asked the question

State Brotherhood Update

The Mississippi State BMA Brotherhood will meet on Monday night, October 16, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. Our meeting will be at Southeastern College in Laurel. Our speaker this year will be Bro. Dale Broom our new state missionary in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

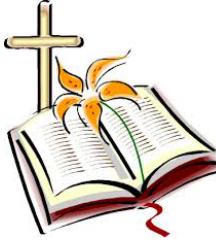
We will also hear reports from the Brotherhood and Galileans. Please make plans to attend and support the Brotherhood and our state missionaries.



Dale & Celia Broom

National WMA News

The 2017-18 National WMA project is the BMA Bible College in the Philippines. The college was established in 1976. Bro. Doug and Diane Lee and the Stan Scoggins family lead the college ministry now. A project video & brochure promoting this project will be available soon.

The support of the college is a very worthy cause. Please pray for the ministries of the college and support it as God leads you and your WMA. Our goal this year is \$40,000, & thus far \$4,268.96 has been raised. Please mail your offerings by February 28, 2018 to Pat Duncan, P.O. Box 30, Hardy, Arkansas 72542.

Southeastern College

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provided. Contact our recruiter, Ronnie Kitchens, has all the information you need to sign up for classes and financial aid. Contact Brother Ronnie at 601-426-6346 or rkitchens@southeasternbaptist.edu

VA Benefits

SBC possesses the 2017 Silver Award 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, the Post 9-11 GI Bill is fully transferable to family members. SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

Available to Preach

Thank you for the many churches providing Dr. Carson an opportunity to preach the Word of God to your congregations! Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit for preaching or to make a presentation about the great work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. You can reach him at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu

"What is your ministry?" Every Christian and Church Member has a Ministry.

After the message we went into business by electing our officers. They are as followed; Mark Jones-President; Van Wedger-1st Vice President; James Lamnae-2nd Vice President; Chris Hamilton-3rd Vice President; Roy Caldwell-Secretary & Treasurer; Jimmy Thompson-Assistance Secretary & Treasurer; Richey Hester-Editor & Promoter; Bill Thornton-Song Leader; Matt Hudson-Assistance Song Leader; Kenneth Covert-Galilean Director; Dan Williams-Assistance Galilean Director

After hearing from Dr. Doug Lee, we voted to accept the BMAA Bible College in the Philippians as our national project. At the end of our meeting, we thanked Robert Bynum for 34 years of service as the National Brotherhood Treasurer. Roy Caldwell is now the treasurer and you can send your brotherhood offerings to 166 Twin Creek Road, Lucedale, MS 39452. Please

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GIRLS'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

State Youth Auxiliary Director

Becky Farmer
464 Churchwell Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39401
601-596-1005

State GMA Promoter

Lisa Christian
2315 Bankhead Rd., Fulton, MS 38843
662-322-1581

State GMA President Report

Hey girls! This is Barbara Jean Williams and I am your State President. Camp will be on March 16th and 17th. The theme is "The Fruit of the Spirit" and the theme verse is Galatians 5:22-23. I want to encourage each of you girls to read this verse and apply it to your life. Please be in prayer for the camp and those who are making everything come together. I pray that all of you can come, and I hope you will. I can't wait to see you all.

National GMA Setting Plans

The National GMA Girls and Counselors met in the Lamar Lee home in Magnolia on August 25th and 26th to plan the programs for 2017-2018 meetings and activities



The new officers who were able to attend were: Back L-R Melody Rinehart-1st VP, Barbara Jean Williams-Recording Secretary, Neely Christian-2nd VP, Mary Key-Song Leader and Cheyenne Collard-Historian. Front L-R Sarah Lunsford--NATIONAL MISS GMA and Autumn Herring-President. The new theme for the year is "JESUS IS MY HERO" based on Psalm 94:16-17.

SOAR Session 3 - Ministry for Every Believer

Five people who grew up attending SOAR. None serve in vocational ministry, yet all live a life completely sold out for Christ.

Meet Jeremy Riddle: he is a father who looked at the lack of positive, godly influences in young men's lives and decided to become that positive influence. Having a seventh grade son himself, Riddle followed the burden that God placed on his heart to found a group of fathers and sons called "Iron Men." They meet weekly to teach boys what it really means to be a man.

Meet McKenna Marlow: she is a recent Central Baptist College graduate who sacrificially uses her time to serve overseas on missions trips. She has been on six missions trips, including last summer when she traveled to Ghana, West Africa on a Volunteer Student Missions trip.

Meet Jay and Elizabeth Glass: Jay is a businessman and Elizabeth is a physical therapist. They live a life of ministry by investing in young children's lives through foster care. They have one biological son, and another son who has been adopted into their family through the foster care system.

Finally, meet Luke McCown: he is a former quarterback for the New Orleans Saints who recently signed with

the Dallas Cowboys. Not only is he a minister in the locker-room, discipling his teammates and considering his line of work as a mission field, but he also works with "Rock the Block," which is a ministry that takes VBS outside the walls of the church, into neighborhoods where kids would not normally attend church.

During SOAR 2017, these men and women got to share how they were once in the same seats as the students, and are now living their lives in selfless ministry for Christ. Through their individual testimonies, these role models explained from first-hand experience that even though none of them became pastors or workers in the church, every single believer has the responsibility and opportunity to serve the Lord with their lives.

Mckenna shared that the reason she chose a life of ministry was because she only feels pure joy when she is doing what God has called her to do. Likewise, Elizabeth Glass shared with students



Dallas Cowboy QB
Luke McCown

that the reason she lives a life of ministry is simply because God commands it.

Luke McCowan continued in that vein by saying, "Living a life of ministry is worth it. The struggles are worth it. He is worth it. Understand the magnitude of what he did for you."

The keynote speaker for SOAR 2017, Dustin Wisely, concluded the session by challenging students with this thought: "If God speaks to you, will you follow? What are you going to do, and how are you going to respond? Ministry is not just for vocational ministers. Pray that as God lays ministry on your heart, you would joyfully say, 'I get to serve Christ. I want to do what God has called me to do.'"

SENIOR SOURCES

by Becky Ulmer - becky.ulmer@jhms.com

Be In Control

This is not a conversation you may want to initiate, but likely have had an experience similar to those around in the same age group. The bladder is a small organ with a "big" impact on quality of life. The urinary system tends to be taken for granted until there is a problem. Jokes about improper function may resonate humor in the young, but with the aging population these may be used to disguise the embarrassment when accidents occur.

Natural changes are imminent. Weakened muscles contribute to the loss of control. There are medications and surgical procedures available if the severity warrants them. Prevention remains vital and if started at an early age - results will be appreciated. Water intake is important, 6-8 ounce glasses a day are recommended. Allow enough time to adequately empty bladder. Report to your health care provider if symptoms such as burning, increased frequency, increased urgency, blood in urine or any change in color / consistency occur. Avoid wearing tight binding undergarments.



Becky Ulmer

There is an exercise called "Kegel" which if performed regularly, can strengthen the pelvic floor muscles. This exercise should be started early in life even before the muscle changes occur. Simply tighten (contract) the muscles in the pelvis floor area of your body. Tighten and relax - repeat - increase the length of the time you contract the muscles. Once a day, twice a day, you are in control of the results. True this exercise is geared more for women than men.

Guys, the prostate gland may be

Prevention remains vital and if started at an early age - results will be appreciated.

small, but it can deliver a life changing punch. Prostate exam and blood test (PSA) are a must. You have the same water requirements as the women and the need to allow for full urination. The symptoms are the same to watch for. Consult your provider for inability to initiate urination, control urination, or frequent night-time urination.

Proverbs 14:23 In all labor there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.

Becky Ulmer is Nursing Administrator of Jasper County Nursing Home, Bay Springs, Mississippi and attends Palestine Baptist Church, Montrose, Mississippi..

National Brotherhood

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help with our national project.

The Galileans had camp at Stoneridge Camp in Smithville, Arkansas, this summer and elected officers for the upcoming year. They are as follows: Braeden Martin (MS)-President; Joshua Barnes (AR)-1st Vice President; Austin Krissel (AR)-2nd Vice President; Neil Aga (TX)-Secretary; Michael Warren (MS)-Historian; Maverick Hendrix (MS)-Music

Mr. Senior Galilean is Maverick Hendrix from Bethel Baptist Church in Fulton, Mississippi. Mr. Junior Galilean is Cooper Little from Bethel Baptist Church in Fulton, Mississippi.

These officers met in Ponca, Arkansas, on July 28-30, 2017 to discuss the plan for the upcoming year and next year's national camp. The 2018 National Galilean Camp theme is "Separated", coming from II Corinthians 6:17. Please pray for these young men that they will grow in the Lord.

Oak Grove Association

by Ed Steele, Reporter

The 59th annual session of the Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Association will meet with Cornerstone Baptist Church in Hattiesburg on September 14 at 7:00 p.m. Bro. Greg Medenwald will be preaching the annual sermon.

Each church is encouraged to elect messengers and have her letter in early to assist the Committee on Digest of Letters and Finance and to prepare their report during the time of food and fellowship which will begin at 6:00.

Vicksburg church seeking pastor

Wilderness Baptist Church, in Vicksburg, MS is seeking a full time pastor. Our current average Sunday morning worship service attendance is 45 to 48. Our Sunday School attendance averages around 20. For anyone interested, please send a resume' to Wilderness Baptist Church, 5415-C Gibson Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

Zechariah Rogers

Zechariah Rogers is available for preaching opportunities or pastoral work as the Lord leads. He is currently attending Southeastern Baptist College working on a Bachelor in Christian Ministries. He may be reached by home phone at 769-301-5004 or cell phone at 662-372-5730.