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BMMI Mission Trip on the Tambo River in Peru

by Ralph Izard, M.D.

The Baptist Medical Missions International, commonly called the BMMI, recently completed a Medical Mission outreach in four Ashaninka communities along the Tambo River in the rainforest of Peru. The Ashaninka or Ashaninka are an indigenous people group living in the rainforest of Peru. The Ashaninka are determined to continue their life style, Therefore Pastor Paul Tinoco, who lives in Tarma, Peru, has to obtain permission from the Ashaninka Chief of the community for a BMMI Medical team to visit their community.

The Tambo River is a part of a larger complex of rivers in the Amazon Basin and has a length of 159 KM or 99 miles. Recently the government of Peru decided to build a dam on the Tambo River to supply electricity to Brazil. The decision



BMMI team entering an Ashaninka Village

has been overturned, but the Ashaninka are very suspicious of outsiders visiting their land for this reason. The medical team was well received by the residents of each Ashaninka community visited. The team arrived in Lima, Peru about 11 pm and rested in a hotel until morning and then traveled to Tarma, Peru, elevation 10,018 feet. The highway climbs from

Lima at sea level to a pass in the Andes Mountains of approximately 15,000 feet then descends down into Tarma.

After a good night rest, the team traveled by van for 6 hours to Satipo and then transferred to a boat at Puerto Ocopa for a 7 hour boat ride down the Tambo River to Atalaya, Peru. This would be our home for the next week.

Atalaya is a town in the Ucayali Region of Peru. It is located where the Tambo River and the Urubamba River converge to form the Ucayali River which is a major tributary of the Amazon River. Tambo River is on the eastern slope of the Andes Mountains. Each day we traveled 2-3 hours up the Tambo River to have a medical clinic and outreach in an Ashaninka Community and after working about four hours we would travel back down the river to Atalaya for the evening.

During the week 200 people asked Jesus Christ to be their Savior. Praise the Lord!! Praise the Lord that a Mission can be established in Atalaya. The team then prepared to retrace their route back to the United States. If you would like to learn more about being part of the BMMI Ministry, please call us at 501-455-4977 or send us an E-Mail at bmmi@bmaam.com.

Annual Church Letters Mailed

The Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Church Letters have been mailed. Please fill them out and have them approved by the congregation and return them to the address below or bring them with you to the Annual Meeting on October 23, 2018, at Southeastern Baptist College. If your church does not receive a letter, please contact me at justincameron@bellsouth.net or 601-325-3047. The letter is also available online at BMAofMississippi.com.

Justin Cameron, Clerk
208 Good Hope Rd
Columbia, MS 39429

A Gentle Reminder

This is just a gentle reminder of the RALLY that will be held on October 20, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Calhoun near Laurel.

Lots of folks are working hard to insure that everyone who attends will have a good time. There will be a bake sale, arts and crafts for sale, hamburgers with lots of good food to accompany them. Plans are in the works for special entertainment for the children, music and speakers who will offer information about child trafficking that is becoming a problem all over our country.

All proceeds from this event will be used to furnish a home for those children who are able to escape this horrible bondage.

Mark your calendar and make your plans to be there!

The Cloud Birth Announcement

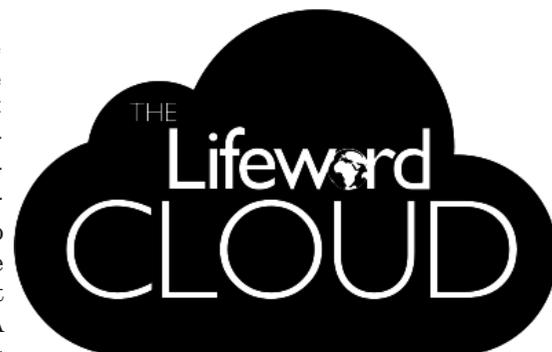
Lifeword's 53rd birthday, September 4, 2018, will also be the birth of a new way of sharing the gospel for your media ministry. The Lifeword Cloud is up and running in five languages, Arabic, Swahili, Garifuna, Spanish and English. So, when you go to lifeword.org and click on "Arabic" in the top right corner of your screen, the copy immediately switches to the right...and in Arabic characters!

Most of us can't read Arabic, so why does that happen? Because Lifeword wants to present the gospel to people all over the world who speak that heart language and, eventu-

ally, 200 languages of the world. Click on the other four language choices and you'll understand why we're so excited to celebrate the birth of The Lifeword Cloud: Lifeword is decentralizing our ministry and changing the way we do things. There are only eight Lifeword USA team members working from our Conway office but approximately 250 global team members, and each one is work-

ing to make Jesus' name famous in their heart language.

POTENTIAL : UNLIMITED



PRAY. GIVE. REACH THE WORLD

Phase One has been completed, and funds have been

raised for the first five languages. Every day new content will be added within those languages, then we repeat the process and add more as God leads us. What an honor it is for Lifeword to be used in his kingdom work! As with the birth of any "baby", the real work and expense has only just begun.

We would like you to celebrate the birth of The Lifeword Cloud with us on September 4th, the day after Labor Day, admire our new "baby" by visiting the website, and consider giving a "baby shower" gift at this link: lifeword.org/donate. Your gift will go directly go to the process of adding content and languages as Phase Two begins and our "child" grows up.

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

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen." 2 Peter 3:18

As it became apparent that the Lord was blessing our recruiting efforts for this fall with the influx of numerous and much younger students, we anticipated there was about to be a significant culture shift from what we were used to. In the recent past the average age of our student body was approximately thirty years of age. It is now around nineteen years of age! With this dynamic culture change comes many challenges – some known and could be anticipated, while others were unknown and will need to be handled as they arise.

A particularly important reality and a tremendous opportunity with the many new students coming from all across the Deep South, we understood that, although many claimed to be Christians, that we would have some who did not know our Savior.

It is customary at Southeastern Bap-

tist College that the president of the college delivers the first message in our weekly chapel program. Because I knew that many may not know the glorious salvation we can have through our Lord, God led me to provide a gospel oriented message of salvation by grace alone, by faith alone, and in Christ alone. During the invitation, twelve students responded to the invitation! Wow! How exciting is that! And I know that others will be led to saving faith in Christ throughout this semester.

This too is a culture shift among our student population. In previous semesters, our students were mostly mature Christians. We now must assume that, for those knowing the Lord, most are probably "baby" Christians. This means we must be intentional in their spiritual development. We will be providing Bible studies and ministry opportuni-



Dr. Scott Carson
President

ties for them to be involved wherein they can continue to grow in the Lord.

What a great opportunity! What a privilege to be entrusted by the Lord these young adult believers we can disciple into mature Christian men and women! I assure you that some will stumble. Some will find it difficult to "put on the new man". But this is to be expected! Pray for our students as they first put their faith in our living Savior and then begin yielding their lives to the Lord! Pray for our faculty and staff as they, not only teach their assigned courses, but also represent Jesus living in them to our students.

God has given us this mission! The faculty and staff and I are confident also that all our supporters are ready and willing to minister to our students. Praise the Lord for this exciting opportunity that He has entrusted to us!

"But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry." 2 Timothy 4:5

Equipping the Saints!

Dr. Carson

your delivery date (870-378-7203).

National Television

Good things just keep coming! God is on the move on the campus of SBC! We have been notified that we will be featured nationwide in a short "Good News" story on PBS, hosted by Rob Lowe. Filming will occur sometime this October. Look for future announcements for when it is scheduled to be aired.

The Chargers Basketball Schedule

The season schedules for the Men's



Coach Brad Phillips leads the Chargers Basketball team in practice

and Women's Varsity Games and Men's Junior Varsity Games begin in October and are posted on our newly updated sports website: <http://athletics.southeasternbaptist.edu/>

Enlist in the Army!

Brother Chris Floyd is recruiting for Carson's Army! This enlistment includes a pledge at various levels of rank representing their ability to give toward Southeastern Baptist College. If you feel led of the Lord to enlist, call 601-426-6346 today! Praise the Lord! We now have a General, two Majors and a Captain enlisted!

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 con-

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 \$30,000. I will provide a full report on this effort in the next publication.

100% Growth for the Fall Semester

We are off and running! And you read that right! Registration closed on August 23rd. We are excited to announce that we have exactly 100% growth over last semester! Praise the Lord! There are many challenges to having nearly 60 students living on campus, as well as having a much younger student body population! But God is good and we are managing each challenge with prayer and wisdom. Pray for the faculty and staff, and for our students in their "stick-to-it-ness" as they begin their studies.

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 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/>

Danny Pitts Lecture Series

The first Danny Pitts Lecture Series was a wonderful success with Dr. Gary



Dr. Carson presenting the Southeastern Baptist College seal to Dr. O'Neal, our guest speaker at the inaugural Danny Pitts Lecture Series. Dr. O'Neal delivered to us tremendous messages from 2 Timothy. Dr. O'Neal pastors Oak Park Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, and is an online SBC adjunct professor.

O'Neal, pastor of Oak Park Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, and an adjunct SBC online professor was guest speaker. A big "thank you" to the good folks at 1st Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel, who hosted the pre-lecture event and also thanks to all who helped make the series a success! See the adjacent photos of the event.

Thank you!

We are grateful for the many local volunteers who joyfully pitched in to help complete the dorm renovations on

time for our nearly 60 new resident students! Recent donations include a riding lawn mower provided by Shiloh Baptist Church in Kosciusko, a new weed eater provided by 1st Baptist Church of Calhoun, plus individual time and food donated toward making dorm life a little better for your students.

Demolition Day

Watch for an announcement for completing the demolition of the first floor rooms in the Gymnasium. We will need extra manpower that day to demo and remove materials from the gym.

Food Donations

Here's an idea: churches, church ministries and individuals can bless our students with donated food for the dormitories. While purchasing food,



Professor Corbey Jones teaching his full capacity Western Civilization Class

think purchasing long shelf life individual microwavable meals that don't require refrigeration (until cooked). Contact Coach Phillips to coordinate

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Ministering To Young People

by Anders Lee

Game Time

In youth ministry it's important to worship, preach the Word, and disciple intentionally. It's also vital that every youth build community and create fun atmosphere that teens want to keep coming back to. Having games each week and monthly activities will certainly help. If one only expects teens to show up, sit down, and listen up, they won't be drawing teens consistently. You've got to make it fun!!!

When I was going to Southeastern, I took a class under Dr. Medrick Savell that impacted my youth ministry. The class used a book written by Lawrence O. Richards (1931-2016), Creative Bible Teaching. It shared a basic teaching philosophy: "Hook, Look, & Book!" "Hook" them with activities & fun. Get them to "look" at your ministry as something they need to be a part of, then teach them the "book" – the Word! Ultimately the goal is to get teens into the Word so that they can be discipled! When you read this article and see how crazy these games are, remember this!

Now, before you think that youth games are just adults having fun with kids, you need to know that preparing for and running them is WORK! Ask anyone who does it! Game times take a lot of prep for items needed, set up time and then there is the effort in running them. Coming up with new games is hard. Here are three games I love.

Snot Rocket

This is an old one I did long ago. The game doesn't actually involved "snot." It just sounds better to call it that instead of "rag with lots of lotion on it." Here's how it works. On the youth floor, mark off a 3'x3' square box with masking tape. Get a colorful kitchen hand towel (about 14 inches x 20 inches in size) and lube it up with Vaseline or hand lotion. Make it slick! Make a knot-

ball in the center and put a rubber band around it which will weigh it down on one end, leaving the ends of the towel dangling free.

Evenly divide your group by either grades or size. Sometimes you can make it a battle of the sexes and do boys vs girls. Have them line up on opposite sides of the box. One person will compete against one person at a time. The objective is for one to grab the "snot rocket" when it hits the floor before the other, and then hold on to it, not letting the opponent snatch it out of their hands.

The game leader holds the "snot rocket" between the two and will throw it into the box. Neither of them can go inside of the box until it hits the floor. So, the leader can tease the two as to when it will hit the floor, trying to get one of them to jump prematurely. If one jumps into the box before it hits the floor they are disqualified and out of



Anders Lee

If one only expects teens to show up, sit down, and listen up, they won't be drawing teens consistently. You've got to make it fun!!!

the game. Be creative in how you throw it into the box. Throw it up in the air and the ball that you tied into it will bring it back down and hit the box. Slam it down fast making it bounce. Drop it slow. By the way, wherever it lands, it lands... as long as it lands

inside the box. If it doesn't land inside the box it's a "redo".

So you drop it, one grabs it... count to ten out loud. The other one has a chance to snatch it out of their hands before you get to ten. If they do they win. If the one holds on to it, they win. The loser sits down and the winner goes to the back of the line to compete their next time up. This keeps going until one team loses all its player. The team that remains becomes the winner. It's fun and competitive! Hint—tell girls to take off their rings!



MINUTE TO WIN IT

Hungry Hungry Hippo

This is a new one. We do this with our teens at Central. Credit to Justin Burdick, our associate, on the breakdown of this game.

Items Needed: Flat carpeted dollies (number determined by how many teams you have). Around 300 pit balls (like the ones at McDonald's playgrounds). Laundry baskets (as many as the amount of teams). Masking tape to mark off a team's corner on the floor or chalk if you are playing outside

on the parking lot. Rules:

1. A player is moved into the balls that are in the center while lying on the dolly. One of their team members move this "hippo" by holding their ankles. They grab as many balls as possible by

placing the basket over them and dragging them back to the team's corner.

2. The dolly can NEVER STOP. As soon as the player reaches the center, they must be immediately pulled back (like in the board game Hungry Hungry Hippo).

3. Send the same player back to the center again and again or have the whole team rotate being "hippos."

4. Only balls that are completely in the team's corner that is marked off on the floor count as points. Balls

will quickly become scattered around the room, and it is not enough to have balls "close" to a corner to count.

5. The game ends when all of the balls are gone, or when the 2 minute timer runs out.

6. Each ball counts as 1 point. The team with the most points wins!

Minute To Win It!

I have run out of article room to share details. But... Google "minute to win it games." You will find hordes of these games online that your youth will LOVE! It's one of the latest crazes! There are several links with step by step instructions!

I hope these games sparked your creative energy! Sooooo... when's the next game night?

From the Tip of the Sip! Have a blessed September!

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

Southeastern College

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tact them at 601-550-8513 or pastor_1@comcast.net to verify that your current contact information is correct.

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

Seminary Grad Commissioned as a Chaplain

by Mati Spencer

Matthew Dean, a graduate of BMA Theological Seminary, was recently commissioned as a Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) officer in the United States Navy where he will serve as a chaplain. Dean, a native of Fort Worth, Texas, previously served in the Navy from 2005-2009 and worked as a storekeeper. After completing three tours in Operation Enduring Freedom, he returned to Fort Worth and attended Tarrant County College. During his time at TCC, Dean became a Christian and developed a desire to "know the Lord" (Hosea 6:3). He began to study God's Word and quickly realized the need for professional education to further his knowledge of the Lord. He transferred to BMA Seminary and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion degree in 2014 and Master of Arts in Church Ministries degree this past year.

While at seminary, Dean fostered a



passion for studying the Bible, and his aspiration to help military service members flourish. He says, "My desire for chaplaincy has been mounting from the moment I began my undergraduate study. I started to consider military chaplaincy shortly after I felt called to ministry. The desire that sparked years ago has never been quenched and has

grown stronger with each passing year."

During his years at seminary, Dean enhanced his leadership and ministerial skills through several outlets of opportunity. He pastored at Mixon Missionary Baptist Church in Troup, Texas, for three years. He has worked for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice as a chaplain in the Parole Division.

Regarding his calling, the opportunity to care for the United States Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard service members is no small task. Dean says, "A Navy Chaplain is a sacred duty that encompasses a plethora of responsibilities, such as weekday counseling and Sunday services. Without the chaplaincy's influence, morality would crumble, faith would fail, and hope would diminish for the military service men and women. The Navy Chaplain Corps is an imperative part of fleet readiness."

Matthew Dean is married to Kaley Dean (Lybrand) of Jacksonville, Texas. They have two sons: John Michael (2 years old) and Nathan (6 months old).

First Baptist Mantachie Celebrates 175 Years of Ministry



Current Facility of First Baptist Church of Mantachie, Mississippi

Moments before (a recent) Sunday's sermon was scheduled to commence something unusual happened in the First Baptist Church of Mantachie. The pastor, Dr. John M. Adams had ascended to the pulpit prepared to begin the main event of the morning service. Seconds later he was joined at the front of the church by one of the congregation's most faithful couples, who appeared teary-eyed and worn.

After a lengthy silence the middle-aged gentleman was

able to compose himself enough to utter the words, "I got saved." Several shouts of "Amen" resounded through the sanctuary, but many were quite perplexed since the man had been a devout member for some years.

Sensing that there was confusion the gentleman, wife's hand in his, fought through the tears and began publicly confessing his sins of the past year. He spared the specifics, but said he had thought for years he was "living right," but recently

he fell back into sins that, as he put it, "almost tore his family apart."

By the end of the evidently remorseful salvation plea and sincere testimony very few eyes were left dry, including the pastor's. A man long-since a pillar to the congregation had willingly shared his private shortcomings with his church family, begging for forgiveness and rededicating his life to his Lord, perfectly illustrating the mission of the First Baptist Church of Mantachie as it nears a very important birthday.

On August 19, 1843, the Mantachie Creek Baptist Church sanctuary was opened to the newly founded Itawamba County area. Located at that time near Centerville, the church was little more than a wooden shack but became vital to the community. Almost fifty years later, in 1891, the church moved to the plot of land that today is recognized as the Mantachie Cemetery, and would remain there until 1943, one-hundred years after its founding.

Horace Ray McFerrin, a veteran of the United States Air Force and former Chief of Police for Mantachie, at 96-years-old is the role's second oldest living member. He can still re-

call early happenings of the church as far back as 1929, when he was only seven.

"I had to help my granddaddy, Judson Morris, prepare the old sanctuary for service every week," McFerrin

sake, were performed in various lakes or "pools" throughout the area.

"I was saved in 1937 when I was fifteen, and the baptisms were at the Blaylock Pool," McFerrin recalled. "It always took several people because while the pastor was dunking, other men had to keep the snakes away."

Also around that time, in 1936, electricity made its way into Mantachie for the first time, making Mr. McFerrin's weekly preparations just a little easier. A few years later the World War II broke causing a steep drift in attendance for while, and it was during this time that the church relocated to its present-day location. Despite a couple of venue changes and numerous advancements in technology two things at Mantachie First Baptist have kept the steeple stable, music and food.

One of the prominent players in both of these areas over the past half-decade is Beth



Older building of FBC Mantachie

explained. "We had to build a fire in a 55-gallon drum for heat, pump air into the hot air organ, and then ring the bell to let everyone know it was time to come."

In those days automobiles were just being assembled at Henry Ford's plant in Flint, Michigan, and had not yet trickled down to Mantachie, so horse-drawn carriages were still the mode of transportation. Similarly, indoor plumbing still had not caught on completely so outhouses were included on the property and baptisms, the church's name-

continued on page 5

From The Mind of Chuck Lee

Crack Shot

Every once in a while, I will say something so profound that even my wife has to agree with me. Just the other day I was thinking about the upcoming dove season and muttered how I used to be a crack shot. As Blinda mindlessly flipped through the pages of a magazine she was perusing, she spoke up and said, "You still are dear, but I love you anyway". I never knew she had much interest in shooting doves, so after twenty-six years of marriage I asked her if she would like to go hunting with me opening day. I had always been leery of her being prolific in the use of firearms because I never wanted to tempt her or give her any ideas in the off chance I did something she might construe as jail-worthy. She said no.

As I thought back on the good ole days, I couldn't help but think of my good friend and



Bro. Chuck Lee

For our effort, we would get to hunt birds the next week. At the time, it seemed like a pretty sweet deal.

neighbor who was indeed a crack shot. The man that owned the farm we worked at as kids would throw a big shindig every opening day of dove season and invite all the big wigs in Louisiana to come and shoot doves and partake of exotic game prepared by a chef. Shane and I got to ride around on the golf cart and three wheeler and carry them water and extra shells and whatever else they wanted. We also got to pick up their trash and expended shells. For our effort, we would get to hunt birds the next week. At the time, it seemed like a pretty sweet deal.

Shane always limited out and then some. I preferred to give the birds a chance. In fact, Shane always marveled at my shooting ability. He would say

how impressed he was that I could miss a dove flying so slow or that was sitting on a branch or telephone wire. We didn't have plugs in our guns in those days, so

I could shoot at least five times at one dove with the skill of not even touching one feather. It was a talent that few have, as Shane often opined.

Shane went out west a few years ago to shoot antelope.

He brought me back some antelope sausage. When I asked him if they were difficult to hunt, he did marvel at how hard it was to get within three hundred yards of one to get a decent shot. But he had done the math, checked the wind and the atmospheric pressure, the velocity of the bullet, along with the altitude and slope of the hills, and killed two in two shots. He said the first one he had to aim at a patch of sky two feet high and to the left of the antelope. The other one was a

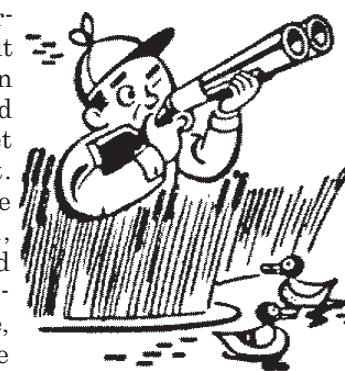
little more difficult. It's funny because that is how I aimed at the doves and never hit a thing.

I guess some people are just lucky.

Anyway, it was nice of my wife to agree with me for once. In fact, I thought she was extolling my virtues the other day with one of her friends, but turned out she

was just discussing something about a cracked pot.

Lee serves as pastor of Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis. He may be reached by email at leecharles47@yahoo.com



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Midway Mission in Batesville

by Pastor Kenneth Pollock

Greetings, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. I am delighted that the spotlight on Midway Baptist Mission in this edition of the Mississippi Baptist is giving me the opportunity to tell about this ministry in the Batesville/Oxford/Sardis area.

Just over two years ago, when First Baptist Church Mantachie, accepted the call and responsibility to



Midway Baptist Mission

sponsor a mission work in Northwest Mississippi, I was commissioned as Missionary Pastor. In January 2016, the mission was formally established with Mrs. Dorothy Shroads, Tommy and Katie Shroads, my wife Carole, and myself committing to the challenge of planting a new church. In the first year, membership almost doubled to nine, and several others attended with regularity. Eight of the nine are still very much involved in the ministry; one, my granddaughter, has moved to Dyersburg, Tennessee, to live with her dad. All are very active in outreach to family, friends, and neighbors, making multiple new contacts weekly. In addition to those active members, eight or nine others attend with some consistency. Some work two Sundays each month, and some are



Recent group attending services at Midway

just not yet adjusted to regular church attendance. Others come from time to time, but are reluctant to make any firm commitments. We are growing, ever so slowly, but we are not at all discouraged. We know that if we are faithful to our commitment to present the Gospel, God will be faithful to give the increase. We have great expectations.

Midway Mission is located on Highway 278 half way between Batesville and Oxford and just south of Sardis Lake. As with most resort areas, much of the population is transient, and seasonal. Of course, many are permanent residents, but several reside in the area for only weeks or months, and others only come for week-end getaways. The high mobility of the population presents quite a challenge, but also allows us to reach beyond the local area with Christ's message of hope. Another unique challenge is being located outside any established community.

The church stands at the intersection of surrounding communities, but is not actually a part of any one of them. Since each community has at least one church of its own, we approach door to door canvassing with care. Having said that, I believe that we are in the right location. We are the only Baptist Missionary Association church or work in the area. The population within a 15-mile radius of the Mission is estimated to be near 70,000, and if statistical information is to be believed, 70 percent of the people are unchurched. That means, with almost 50,000 unchurched people around us, the fields are indeed white unto

harvest.

Midway Baptist Mission is housed in a very attractive church building, once occupied by another church. Since we are not hampered by seeking land and construction of a building, we are free to devote all our time to ministry. Currently, we are having two services per week - Sunday Worship at 11:00 AM and Wednesday evening Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 6:00 PM. Other services are planned for future implementation. Social media is also used to get out



Midway Church service

our message. Study notes used in Wednesday Bible Study are posted on our Facebook page each week, and other posts are made from time to time. Soon I hope to have a website up and running.

We have special services about every three months, inviting local residents to join us in worship and praise. These events have helped us to meet people from other churches and has gained us acceptance in the area. We have answered the call, we are faithfully serving, we are patiently waiting upon the Lord. We present the Gospel and are confident that He will give the increase and that one day soon, we will organize into a New Testament Church. Until then, please continue your faithful support and prayers for us. Blessings upon you all.

Mantachie Church

from page 4

Riley, a now-retired school teacher who has spent her entire life at FBC Mantachie. Having occupied various teaching roles through the years her current duties include preparing the church meals and serving as the organ player during all services.

"I have always been involved in the music of the church," Riley explained. "It has given me so many laughs and warm memories through the years, and I feel like music is a way people find joy

in praising God."

When it comes to food, Riley says that historically the women of Mantachie and FBC specifically have taken meal functions very seriously, with many members becoming renowned for a signature dish.

"For the church, food and fellowship just go together. Just as it is important for families to share a meal together, so too is it good for the church family. It is something we have always delighted in and done well at Mantachie."

Mantachie First Baptist has turned 175 years old, making it second oldest church in the county. There has been

ebb and flow in the members and the times, but the old church in "uptown" Mantachie has been a constant. According to the church's current head Dr. Adams, the sustainability ties back to the mission of the church.

"Our church is committed to teaching the Bible and reaching as many lives as possible through the gospel," explained Adams. "First Baptist Mantachie has never wavered on that, which is exactly why it has been around for almost two centuries and is still trudging onward."

With the church offering various organizations, study groups, and clubs

for people of all ages, Dr. Adams insists that there is a place for everyone at FBC Mantachie.

"We have a church where everyone is welcome and everyone has a place," Adams said. "It is our goal to provide a welcoming environment for all of those in the community who wish to learn more about God. This church is a place of love, blessed by the Lord, and we want it to continue to grow so that we can reach more people."

The official celebration for the church was Sunday, August 19th, the actual 175th anniversary of establishment.

-submitted

Garifuna: A Lifeword Language and a People Group

by Holly Meriweather

The People

African slaves endured a perilous journey, one that often ended in death often caused by disease. The late 1700s was the peak of trans-Atlantic slave trade and shipwrecks were another cause of those deaths, but the story of the Garifuna people, although tragic, was about life...the kind that is eternal.

In 1797, this West African people group was deported to Honduras by the government from a small Caribbean island called Saint Vincent. Some seventy years before, they had been rounded up from the modern-day countries of Nigeria, Congo and Ghana and put onboard two Spanish slave ships bound for plantations in the "New World." However, their journey ended near the West Indies island of Saint Vincent when they were shipwrecked

and had to swim for their lives.

Once ashore, survivors blended into the indigenous Carib people group and tried to avoid detection by the British, who controlled the island. But in 1796, the Garifuna surrendered to them, and their captors put them in prison where many died from disease. A year later, they were released to the Honduran government and allowed to settle there and on neighboring islands.

The Language

Fast forward two centuries to the fall of 1980 when BMA Missionary David Dickson and his family went on holiday to the Atlantic Coast, an hour's drive from their home. As they enjoyed a day at the beach, they overheard two boys speaking in a dialect they had never heard. As Bro. David conversed with them in Spanish, he learned about a people group called the Garifuna.

God placed a burden on his heart about them, and his research on the Garifuna led him to the national library of Belize where he found an English-Garifuna dictionary and copied its pages. His next stop was Guatemala and the Wycliffe Linguistic Institute where he met Lillian Howland, who shared his interest in this people group.

In the two years following his meeting with Lillian, she passed on her knowledge of the language and coached



Bro. Ricardo & me

him as he learned to read, speak and preach in this strange tongue that had no alphabet, no written record, no Bible.

Garifuna is the heart language of these people, and the older ones, who are usually illiterate, had virtually no record of its written form. Young children learn Spanish in school and become bilingual, but the only way to reach the older generation with the gospel is to preach in Garifuna and teach them to read, beginning with the Bible.

The Gospel

In September 1982, Bro. David preached his first sermon in Garifuna and a twelve-year-old boy was saved. His message to the Garifuna was that "Jesus can speak and understand your language, your culture and your needs." Since that time many Garifuna have surrendered their lives to Christ, been trained and disciplined, and have planted

churches all over Honduras. Bro. David's sermons and teachings have been recorded and archived by Lifeword, and they are still being used on current broadcasts now produced completely by Garifuna.

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 Garifuna. To determine the best languages to use, Lifeword personnel considered the following about the 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 and community radio?

The Garifuna broadcasts can answer yes to all of those questions. Thanks to the burden God gave to Bro. David Dickson 36 years ago, many of these people once bound for slavery have a new freedom and new life in Christ.

COMMISSION ON Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440

The Commission on Senior Adults enjoyed two of the best conferences during this present year and plans are in the making to provide other conferences that will prove to be a spiritual time of blessings from the Lord. I am always appreciative of the host churches who do such an excellent job for our seniors.



Kenneth Flynt
Director

The 2019 conferences will be held Tuesday, March 12 for the South Conference at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, and the North Conference to be held Tuesday, May 7 at Mantachie First Baptist Church. The registration fee will remain at \$15 per person.

The support from our churches continues to be good and it is always a blessing to know our churches are supporting our senior members so well. Thank you and God bless you for your continued support and attendance at these gatherings for this special day for our senior members. It is always a day filled with joyful excitement. Your participation is a special joy and we hope many of you will come to these conferences ready to use your talent for the joy of others. Let's look forward to another good year in this ministry.

Save these dates, South Conference, Tuesday, March 12. North Conference, Tuesday, May 7. We hope to have some added features that will be enjoyed by all. The Trustees of the Commission will be meeting soon to address these conferences.

First Baptist Church, Bay Springs Update

by Barbara White, reporter

First Baptist Church, Bay Springs, is alive and well and giving God praise for all the blessings he has bestowed on the church. One Sunday morning the church witnessed six people follow the Lord in baptism and sometime later four souls were baptized on a Sunday morning.

Another great blessing has been the care that God is giving our pastor as he had open heart surgery. He has done well and continues to follow a regime for rehabilitation.

During the pastor's illness different members have stepped up and assumed some of the duties that generally are expected of him. Paul Spurlin fed us well as he preached on the Sundays before Bro. Sprayberry was able to assume the pulpit.

Recently one of the laymen volunteered to drive the van as some of the members went to visit one of the members in a nursing home. She then accompanied the group to visit Mrs. Alto Mae Spradley's beautiful flower garden after which, the whole crew went to Pearl's Diner in Laurel for lunch.

On Sunday, August 12, there was a special service in which all of our students were recognized and special prayer was offered for each group. Following the service everyone enjoyed "dinner-on-the-ground" followed by a fun time on a water slide, playing games, jumping on a trampoline, etc.

Barbara White, Reporter

Church Seeking Pastor

Vardaman Street Baptist Church of Wiggins, Mississippi, is prayerfully 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.

Johnny Watts Celebrates 50 years of ministry

Bro. Johnny Watts surrendered to the ministry on August 8, 1968 during revival services at Lebanon Baptist Church, Laurel. Bro. Milton Wright was the pastor and Bro. Eugene Murphy was the revival speaker.

His first pastorate was Scotland Baptist Church in Yazoo County and he and his wife and their son Mike moved on the field. He was at Scotland for 8 years. Other pastorates include Good Hope at Columbia (twice), Sharon at Laurel, Berean at Soso, and Cornerstone east of Laurel. He served as interim pastor at Broadmoor and West Hills, both in Meridian, and also as interim at Mt. Moriah, Ellisville.

He served in numerous positions on the association level including the state Missionary Committee, Revolving Loan Fund, and Moral Action. He also served as director of History and Archives Commission.

The Watts are retired, living in Laurel, and members of Lebanon Baptist Church. They look for someone to share the gospel with every day.



Bro. Johnny Watts

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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



SIDNEY DAVIS

Grandparent's Day

In a few short weeks Grandparent's Day will be acknowledged by many. Maybe you remember that special meal that you enjoyed at Grandma's house. Perhaps you helped Grandpa with the garden or the milk cow at the barn. These images trigger sweet memories of departed grandparents. Even though they have been gone for many years, just to reflect back into the past brings back memories of their faces, their homes, and the special times spent at their house.

Grandparents give us a tie to the past. They reveal our personal history and heritage. They remind us of the goodness of God, their love for the Lord's church, His people, their family, and their country. Although the world may be different today those of us who are grandparents are challenged to leave a godly heritage for our grandchildren to observe. Thank God for grandparents! If you can, let them know you love them.

Unexpected Expenditures—The Lord Provides

Over the course of the summer there has been a number of unexpected expenses to occur. With the usual expectation of the regular upkeep and maintenance of the Home any additional expense is not welcomed or considered in the day to day operation of the Home, but has to be dealt with and taken care of. The Lord has provided our needs in this regard with unexpected funds for which we give Him praise. Philippians 4:19.

The Lord Is Good

Well, school has started back, but the summer is still in full force as far as the hot temperatures are concerned. There was a great deal of activity in the garden this summer. We had a good pea crop and were able to gather a nice picking of them for the freezer. The tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumbers, and okra were good also. We thank the Lord for His blessings on the garden. "Oh give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for His mercy endureth for ever." Psalm 107:1.

Remember In Prayer and Focus Verse

Continue to remember the Home and its ministry in your prayers. "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19.

Oak Grove Association Annual Meeting

by Ed Steele, Reporter

The 60th annual session of the Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church will be hosted by South Forrest Baptist Church on September 13 at 7:00. This will be the first time the Association has been blessed to meet with this church since they only joined the Association last year. Bro. Justin Cameron will be preaching the annual message.

The time for food and fellowship will begin shortly after 6:00 with the Associational meeting beginning at 7:00. Each church is urged to elect messengers to attend this meeting. It will also be helpful if each church can complete their Letter to the Association and mail it with their Minute Fund contribution to our Clerk Bro. Sam Oglesby so he will have them to present to the Committee on Digest of Letters and Finance on their arrival.

Woodlawn 60th Anniversary

Woodlawn Baptist Church of Pascagoula will celebrate 60 years of ministry on September 9, 2018. Services will begin at 10:30 am with lunch to follow. The church is located at 2919 Old Mobile Highway, Pascagoula, Mississippi.

Friends and former members are invited to help them celebrate this ministry milestone.

The Right To Choose

by Lucille Lawson

Member of Mineral Springs Church
Taylorsville, Mississippi

No one heard my scream as the
scissors entered my brain
But my Father in Heaven heard
and sent an angel with my golden wings

When I entered Heaven with all the
aborted children around my Father's
throne
He smiled at me and said welcome home

Some times I see my mother's face and
oh it looked so sad
I wonder if she thinks about the joy we
could have had

About the pretty dresses and the little
dancing shoes
But my mother had the right to choose

Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White



Epitaph

Here lies a poor woman
who always was tired,
She lived in a house
Where help wasn't hired.

The last words she said were:
"Dear friends I am going
Where washing "ain't" wanted,
Nor sweeping nor sewing;

And everything there is
Exact to my wishes,
For where folks don't eat
There's no washing of dishes.

In heaven loud anthems
Forever are ringing,
But having no voice
I'll keep clear of the singing.

Don't mourn for me now,
Don't mourn for me never,
I'm going to do nothing
Forever and ever."

*(This was sent to me recently by a friend
who seemed to be tired. Thanks, Faye)*

Texas Pastor Passes Away

via Baptist Progress

James Howard Pope, 86, of Weatherford, Texas, passed away August 26, 2018. He was born May 30, 1932 in Corsicana, Texas, to Burt Pope and Lillian Kate Dixon Pope. James was a Baptist minister for over 53 years. He pastored a number of Texas churches during his ministry.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Bobbie Pope; son, Randy Pope; brother, Kenneth Pope and his parents. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Jettie Pope; five grandchildren, Stacy Siskles, Chris Pope, Jason Pope, Justin Pope, Jeff Pope and sixteen great grandchildren.

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

2018 Ladies Retreat



Over 140 ladies gathered at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, Mississippi on August 24 & 25. Sabrina Clayton was the guest speaker and the Shiloh Church Trio brought some special music. A silent auction was held as a fund raiser.

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

National GMA Week

National GMA week is September 16-22. I would like to encourage all GMA groups to participate and promote GMAs this week. We encourage you to spend some time together, work on service project, raise money for the project, and recognize your girls. Please share pictures of what you do with your girls on the GMA Facebook page (Turning the World Upside Down) or tag us on Instagram @nationalgma.

Thanks for all your work,
Lane Flynt, Assistant National GMA Promoter

Lifeword Sunday - Supporting the Gospel Worldwide

by Donnie Parrish, Executive Director

Greetings from your Lifeword team! Today over 250 broadcast producers, writers, creatives and artists are working on your behalf to carry out Jesus' Great Commission through media. Over the radio and through the Internet to an audience numbering more than two billion, Lifeword is preaching Jesus in 42 languages to 121 countries. And those numbers are poised to grow exponentially.

The launch of the Lifeword Cloud in August is a momentous step for your media ministry. It increases our capacity to add broadcast languages and strengthens our ability to disciple new

converts around the world. Soon we will be able to expand the broadcast footprint of Lifeword to hundreds of new languages and people groups...many of which no one is reaching with the gospel. Producers are hard at work adding new languages to the Cloud every day.

Once a year Lifeword reaches out to our BMA churches to ask for a special day of prayer and giving to Lifeword. We call it Lifeword Sunday, and it is slated for October 21. Owned by the churches of BMA America, Lifeword is dependent on churches for financial support. Lifeword Sunday is a crucial piece of our financial plan.

Would you make Lifeword part of your church's Great Commission strategy? On October 21 churches all across the BMA will make this a special day to partner with Lifeword in reaching the world. Will you help by championing this ministry with your people? Here's how to participate in 2018 Lifeword Sunday-

1. Register your church at lifeword.org/lifewordsunday or call Lifeword to register at 501.329.6891. (You'll be entered to win a new iPad Pro!)

2. Enclosed are poster and bulletin insert samples you can use to highlight the day. A short video you can use for

Lifeword Sunday is downloadable at lifeword.org or call us for a DVD. It will help your church understand what Lifeword is all about.

3. Order Lifeword Sunday T-shirts at lifeword.org/lifewordsunday. This helps promote the ministry of Lifeword.

4. Pray for the millions who need to hear the gospel on October 21 and take a special offering for Lifeword.

Thank you in advance for partnering with Lifeword. We are honored to be part of your Great Commission strategy! Call or email me if I can be a personal help to you in any way. God Bless...thank you!

Zephaniah Points - Not too many people read Zephaniah

by Tony Cleaver

Zephaniah 1.5 "...those who bow and pledge loyalty to the Lord, but also pledge loyalty to Milcom."

The Lord is to sweep away all those who are worshippers of Baal. Zephaniah mentions those who worship in other places than the Temple and who worship other gods. He is specific to mention those who pledge loyalty to the Lord, but also have a backup plan with a pledge to Milcom. Who or what is Milcom? Milcom is another Canaanite god who required some sort of child sacrifice for worship. That is not much of a backup plan!



Dr. Tony Cleaver

So on one hand the people were saying they held loyalty to the God of Armies while on the other hand also pledging loyalty to Milcom. Now that is a paradox! Good Reader, certainly that is not the case today with any of us...or is it? Our names are on the church rolls, and we sing "Oh how I love Jesus..." and at the same time our back up plan is some philosophy or lifestyle that is contradictory to Christianity.

Zephaniah's words regarding the Lord sweeping away all those like that are no less potent and in force today than when first spoken.

Zephaniah 3.2 "She has not trusted in the Lord; she has not drawn near to her God."

The prophet speaks of Jerusalem as a rebellious and defiled city. The city's leadership behavior is like wild pack animals. The religious leaders are irresponsible with blasphemous behavior. Even when the leadership and religious authorities see the chaos of their city, they still do not acknowledge the Lord of Armies.

Dear Reader, look at our own cities. In our nation the city streets overflow with violence. Schools, where safety is assumed, have been shot up. Our homes vomit unconscionable animosities. Leadership tells us what was once considered bad is now good and what was once considered good is now bad. Religious leaders have no force to offer words concerning right and wrong. No one can find a solution. Wisdom stands at each corner calling out to our land to accept the words of the Lord. He will overcome our land with gladness if we will only look to Him.

Missions in the Dominican Republic

by Missionaries Jesse & Revecca Hales

Roughly 100 men and women crammed in 3 underground jail cells with very little ventilation on a hot August day. I've never seen an audience more excited about seeing the preacher. For one, it is the only break from the madness they get all week (no yard time, no leaving the cell at all, no TV to watch, not even a radio). Besides that, they are scared and desperate for something different. An encouraging "amen" from the audience sounds different when it's coming from the other side of steel bars. I was amazed as I watched those rough men and women stand up out of respect to listen to the sermon. At the end every hand was raised mostly, no doubt, in search of a quick fix, but the faces of some had genuine repentance written on them. Pray for pastor Paulino and his companion in ministry, Roberto, as they minister here.



Dominican Pastors Retreat

VSM Team Philippine 2018

We are thankful for Bro. Jeff's passion for missions. He led a VSM team last year to the Philippines and partnered with us in Luzon. We appreciate his leadership and commitment to VSM and eagerly anticipated this year's VSM team. The 2018 VSM Team arrived at NAIA airport as expected and made it safely to Manila. It was great to see all their tired, but smiling faces as they came strolling out to the exit. There were some familiar faces and a lot of new ones, but all had that sweet spirit about them even after such a long flight. We got them all settled in for the night so they could get some much needed sleep because the adventures began the next day.

I was very impressed with each member of the team. They all had and kept a sweet spirit about them even when things didn't go as planned. They were

very well prepared - special thanks to Kristen for her organization skills which helped tremendously when things had to be modified because of the changes



Our VSM Team - Bro. Jeff and Kristin, Abigail, Autumn, Austin, Jasmine, Hannah, Sydney and Katelyn

due to the weather.

We were very thankful and truly blessed by the ministry effort and fellowship from each member of the team.

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