

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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ChangeMakers 100: *Missions Executive Director Does it Again*

It started innocently enough ... Missions Executive Director John David Smith wanted to reach a personal fitness goal on his fiftieth birthday in 2018. An avid cyclist for seven years, he was averaging 70 miles per week when that goal became a fundraiser called ChangeMakers 100 during a break at the office.

"In January of 2018," Smith says, "I told my boys (Josiah and Seth) that my goal for my 50th birthday was to ride 100 miles. So I began to increase my distance each week. Then, months later, in a casual conversation with the Production team guys, I mentioned I'd like to raise awareness somehow through the bike ride.

"It was only three weeks or so until my birthday on August 12, but the Production team just ran with it and got excited about it. So it was all them. They literally road with me, well, in the van at least, and that was a huge encouragement. They kept me going."

So the first ChangeMakers 100 was born. The "century ride," a 100-mile bike ride completed in less than twelve hours, would be dedicated to the "ChangeMakers" of BMA Missions. Historically referred to



as nationals, they lead our national church planting efforts in 80 nations.

These missionaries, he says "are the thrust of what we do in BMA Global Missions. In this event, we want to spotlight them and let people know who they are." Numbering in the hundreds, these national missionaries in their native countries are the result of decades of American missionaries' disciple-making efforts.

Last year's end result was \$190,000 for the Global Missions Fund. The 2019 ChangeMakers 100 ride will be on September 20 and it will be broadcast live on Facebook.

Please give to this second annual fundraiser at <https://bmamissions.org/changemakers-100/>.

**Attention
Southeastern Baptist College Alumni
Alumni Breakfast**
October 22, 2019 @ 7:30 AM
Big Creek Baptist Church
PLEASE RSVP if you will attend.
Send to
cjones@southeasternbaptist.edu

Walk T-shirts: Doing Something Different

It was a brand new way of fund-raising, something that Harvest Gleaner Hour Executive Director Paul Bearfield heard about while attending a conference in 1980. It had been very successful for raising money for ministries and organizations, so he came back from the conference excited to try it.

It was called a "walk-a-thon."

The idea was that prior to the event, participants would gather sponsors to give an amount of their choice for every mile walked. For the first three years of the Harvest Gleaner Hour Walk-A-Thon, as it was called in the beginning, that number was twenty.

That only lasted until 1983 when the official number of miles was reduced to twenty kilometers (12.4 miles) then ten miles in 1998. Now, if churches even

have a walk at all, three miles is the standard.

In addition to mile reductions and name changes, the num-



New Walk Tshirt

ber of participating churches has drastically reduced throughout the years.

However, one thing hasn't changed: T-shirts. They have been popular for almost four decades, and if you have saved every one of them since 1980, you should have 38 in your collection.

For every one of those years, churches and individuals have

ordered Walk T-shirts, and every year we've had to pre-order by guessing what sizes people want. When we receive your orders, we then pack and ship them from the BMA Global Ministry Center.

This year we're doing things differently.

Your orders will now go to a T-shirt company that will produce them on-demand and ship them from their central Arkansas location. No more guessing, no more packing and shipping.

For you and for us there will be some adjustments, and we hope you will not even notice the change.

Bro. Bearfield's idea to unite BMA churches in Lifeword Sunday/Walk fund-raising has yielded 12.5 million dollars to

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2019 Senior Adult to feature Dennis Swanberg!

Dr. Dennis Swanberg, "The Swan," is considered by many as "America's Minister of Encouragement" will be one of the featured artist at the 2019 National Senior Adult Conference in Branson, Missouri. Dennis Swanberg uses laughter as a tool to break down the barriers people have in order to promote faith and family values in a lighthearted and humorous way. He has the reputation for revealing and instilling hope and motivating people in all walks of life.

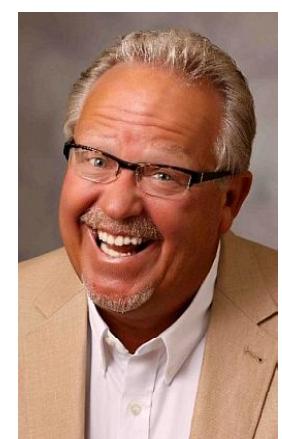
Dr. Swanberg graduated from Baylor University in 1976. He holds a masters and doctorate degree, both from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He was formerly the host of the nationally broadcasted television shows "The Dennis Swanberg Show" and "Swan's Place." He is a much sought-after speaker for churches, civic groups, corporations, fund-raising campaigns, military encouragement, and many family related events.

Dennis prays that the time you spend with him will not only bring you laughter and a time of reflections, but hopefully, you will leave feeling like you have just had a time of fellowship with someone over the back-yard fence. Dennis and his wife, Lauree, have two grown sons and a

daughter-in-law, Chad, Dusty, and his wife Britney. "The Swan" resides in hotels and airports all across the United States and sometimes makes his way home to Monroe, Louisiana.

National Senior Adult Conference is scheduled for November 18-20 at the Branson Convention Center in Branson, Missouri. Cost for the three-day conference is only \$125/person and includes two buffet breakfasts. The Hilton Branson Convention Center Hotel is headquarters hotel for this event.

You may register for the conference and make you hotel reservations at <https://bmaamerica.org/senior/> or book your rooms by call the Hilton directly at 866-442-0959 and use the GROUP CODE NSA19. All attendees are urged to stay at the Hilton so that the price of the conference can remain low for all.



Dennis Swanberg

Southeastern Baptist College

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

President's Perspective

"The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him." Psalm 28:7

Have I told you that God is on the move on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College? All of the amazing progress taking place can only be attributed to the Lord! Our tremendous faculty, staff, and volunteers are merely His servants obeying His leading in their lives. Their attitude and obedience to servanthood in support of this ministry of the BMA of Mississippi is personally humbling and spiritually encouraging. It takes many like-minded followers of the Lord, joining together in working toward the vision for the future of SBC, and the Lord is the source of this vision!

In recent days, we have completed many upgrades to the college.

1. Much work has been done remodeling the women's dormitory, common areas, the kitchen and the building entrance.

2. The heavy electric rework

is completed and the majority of the kitchen equipment has been acquired with a new HVAC unit installed for the cafeteria.

3. The gym bleachers have been reworked and moved back for safety purposes.

4. The locker rooms are painted with benches installed and the gym bathrooms have new tile.

5. The carpets in the men's and women's dormitories, classrooms and main hallway along with the library carpets, were professionally cleaned.

6. The tile in the gym entrance and in the lab were professionally striped and waxed.

7. The porticos of the men's dormitory were freshly painted and a new front door installed.

8. The downstairs bathroom ceiling was repaired and the bathroom painted.

9. Insulation has been blown into the attic and the entire



Dr. Scott Carson
President

building was reset for this semester.

10. The carpets on the second floor of the women's dormitory and in the apartment for the Resident Director were removed.

11. Numerous late model computers were donated, upgraded, and are in use.

12. Major gym roof leaks were resolved.

13. The parking lot was repaired.

14. New personnel positions were created including the Dean of Student Affairs, the Director of Athletics, and two new coaches were hired.

15. Several additional profes-

Serving Christ With A Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

sors were added to our roles.

16. Golf and cross-country added to the sports program and other courses were added along with a new degree was developed and approved by the accrediting agency for future implementation.

17. There has been a complete revision of SBC's policy and procedural catalogs.

18. A choral program has returned to SBC.

19. A Community Advisory Council was established.

20. A highly successful start to our Fall Semester has begun with 63 students, most of whom are full time, with an increase of over 250 hours being taken com-

pared to last semester!

This list is not exhaustive. These are just the many projects and focused efforts that I can remember off the top of my head as I write this article and there are many more currently in process and being planned for the future.

Your continued prayers and regular support are greatly appreciated! The stress upon our staff can be strong at times, but our God is stronger! He is leading SBC into a bright future for the BMA of Mississippi and for the glory of the Lord!

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:9

Equipping the Saints!
Dr. Carson

quired two of the most expensive pieces of equipment. The HVAC is installed and the commercial vent hood will soon be as well. The major rewiring project is also completed and will accommodate all the heavy electrical kitchen equipment. Thank you again, Women's Missionary Auxiliary for making this your fund raising project for this year! Pray that we will have enough funds to complete this project and have the "Hi5 Diner" open by the end of September. When open, the diner will be open to the public.

Professor and staff highlight:

Southeastern Baptist College is tremendously blessed to have Jan Bustin Walker on our staff. She is a 41-year educational veteran with experience beginning in the classroom, passing through the educational administrative spectrum, extending to educational consulting, and then being God-directed to Southeastern Baptist College where she now serves as Dean of Academic Affairs.

With teaching and learning as her passion, she is a committed Christian having been saved and raised in the BMA of Mississippi work. She is dedicated to making a positive difference through the many students with whom she is privileged to work. Dean Walker resides in Laurel, Mississippi, and is a member of First Baptist Church of Laurel. She holds degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi, William Carey University, and Mississippi State University.

When asked about her joining the SBC leadership team, Dean Walker stated, "Without saying, we all know that God's plan is directed for His purpose toward His kingdom. In that respect, I think God has a mighty work for Southeastern Baptist College and I am so happy to be a small part of it! As I watch each student enter, I can't help but be aware that we are charged with the responsibility of touching the lives of all who attend. We are privileged to prepare all to become Christian ministers in whatever field of study selected, thus touching this world in a powerful way. In the months to come, we will be extending and adding curricular choices enabling students to fulfill the Great Commission, by going, doing, witnessing, and living for God. Keep your eyes on SBC for the greatness of God's plan, and we covet your prayers for us as SBC continues on the path God has directed."



Jan Bustin Walker, Dean of Academic Affairs

Danny Pitts Lecture Series

Southeastern Baptist College was blessed to host the Danny Pitts Lecture Series with Dr.



President Dr. Scott Carson, Mrs. Helen (Danny) Pitts, and Seminary President Dr. Charley Holmes at recent Danny Pitts Lecture series at Southeastern Baptist College. Dr. Holmes provided in-depth studies at this year's Danny Pitts Lecture Series.

Charley Holmes, President of the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary, as guest speaker at this year's series. Videos of the three presentations are found on the Southeastern Baptist College Facebook page. See adjacent photo of the event.

Special Emphasis

Southeastern Baptist College's Special Emphasis Month wraps up on September 1 for focused donations from churches and individuals. As a reminder, Southeastern Baptist College is a 501(c)(3) certified tax deductible charity. We will be publishing the results of this important fundraising campaign in future editions of the Mississippi Baptist Newspaper. Thank you for your prayers and support of this important work of our association!

Tuesday Talks

Each Tuesday evening, we

bring the student body together for a meal and a spiritual lesson. We invite churches and ministries to sponsor a Tuesday

Talk by providing a nutritious catered meal with a person bringing the spiritual 15-minute lesson. This program was a huge success last year and we already have three churches signed up for this important ministry. Thank you Pine Ridge Baptist

Church of Laurel and First Baptist Church of Sharon who graciously provided for the first two events! We are looking forward to Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church of Ellisville providing the student's devotion and meal on September 3. Contact Dr. Carson soon to schedule your night of ministry.

SBC Choir

We are blessed to have Krista McKenzie as the Director of our newly formed SBC Choir. Krista has recruited numerous local students who will register for the Fall Semester. Does your church or ministry want to host the SBC Choir? Now is the time to reserve dates for their performance. Hurry, their schedule is filling up quickly. Contact Krista at 601-426-6346.

Cafeteria Project

We continue to make significant progress on the renovation of our cafeteria. We have ac-

Golf Tournament

The Southeastern Baptist College Golf Tournament will be held at the Laurel Country Club on Wednesday, September 25, 2019. Proceeds will go toward SBC Scholarship fund. This tournament will be a 4-man scramble.

SPONSORSHIPS

Super Charger Sponsor \$5,000 - Includes 8 Players and 2 Hole Sign

Gold Sponsor \$1,000 - Includes 4 Player and 2 Hole Sign

Silver Sponsor \$500 - Includes 4 players and 1 Hole sign

Team Sponsor \$400 - Includes 4 players

Individual Player - \$100

Mulligans \$5 each

See ad on page 3 for more information.

A Golden Opportunity!

SBC possesses the Gold Award level as a military friendly college! Have you served in America's armed forces? Then you probably have

continued on page 3

Southeastern

from page 2

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! SBC has numerous students receiving VA assistance for both online and in-classroom tuition.

Food Donations to the Dorms

Last year several churches and individuals donated food for the dormitories. We would like to continue this opportunity for you to minister to our students. While purchasing food, think purchasing long shelf life individual microwavable meals that don't require refrigeration (until cooked).

Ice Machine

We have an immediate need for an ice machine for the college. Ice is used in support of the sports program as well as the many other activities we hold on campus. It is most urgent for injuries incurred in games or

practice. Can you assist us in this need? Contact us at 601-426-6346 if you would like to help.

Stove

We are in need of a good modern electric stove. If you have one to donate, please contact Dean Walker today!

Big Screen Televisions

We are also in need of a donation of two large flat screen televisions for use in men's and women's dorms. If you can help us with one of these much needed items, contact SBC at 601-426-6346.

Alumni Gifts in Recognition:

John Broome has provided a generous donation in memory of Bro. Grover Laird.

Current Sports Calendars

Found at: <http://athletics.southeasternbaptist.edu/> Select: "view all rounds" for entire schedule.

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Gold Sponsor \$1,000 - Includes 4 players and 2 Hole Sign
Silver Sponsor \$500 - Includes 4 players and 1 Hole sign
Team Sponsor \$400 - Includes 4 players
Individual Player - \$100
Mulligans \$5 each

See ad below for more information.

Southeastern Baptist College Golf Tournament

September 25, 2019

Laurel Country Club

2011 Highway 84 W, Laurel, Mississippi 39440

Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at 7:30 AM – 6 PM

Call 601-426-3293 To Register

Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at 7:30 AM – 6 PM

Hosted by Southeastern Baptist College Athletics

A Pictoral Look at Recent Activity and Progress at SBC



Professor Rosemary Davis and the World Literature class were provided a guided tour at the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art today while learning about ancient world literature, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance.



Brother Brandon Wilson, Pastor of Pine Ridge Baptist Church, Laurel, delivers the first devotion of the Fall Semester at the weekly Tuesday Talk and Meal.



The local Gospel Sing held on the SBC campus was kicked off with Hunter May, the Male Gospel Vocalist and Entertainer of the year, who also had the #1 Southern Gospel song, "Number One Fan"!



Heavy electrical work was done to rewire the cafeteria in order to bring it up to modern code requirements.



Volunteers helped to dismount and deliver a commercial grade vent hood and other kitchen equipment to the SBC cafeteria.

Strong opening for Kendricks' latest flick

OneNewsNow.com - A longtime Christian movie reviewer says the latest feature film from the team behind War Room and Fireproof is the ministry's best so far.

It was a strong showing for Overcomer, the new movie from Sherwood Pictures and the Kendrick Brothers. The Christian film came in third in its opening weekend. It's the sixth movie from brothers Alex, Stephen, and Shannon Kendrick, whose filmography also includes Facing the Giants and Courageous.

On the surface, Overcomer is about a high school basketball coach who is forced to coach a cross-country program after the town's major employer shutters its doors and many families move away. On a deeper level, however, it's about a person's identity in Christ.

MovieGuide's Ted Baehr says it was a strong opening for Overcomer. "I think it's a very good opening for a film that's reaching out mainly to the Christian audience," he tells OneNewsNow. "Now the Christian audience is gigantic."

More than that, Baehr really liked the movie – which he has awarded with a four-star review and recommendations such as "exemplary" and "well worth seeing."

"I think this is their best movie for many, many years. It has less preaching in it, it's more cohesive. I think it's going to have good word of mouth; I think it's going to build for a long time – and I'm a fan of this movie," he adds.

Baehr he has witnessed the Kendrick Brothers growing as filmmakers.

Overcomer carries a PG rating and brought in \$8.1 million at the box office (1,723 theaters) over the (opening) weekend.



Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

Laird Scholarship Drive Growing

I want to thank the churches and individuals who have given to the Grover Laird Scholarship Fund being established at BMA Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas. Individuals have given in honor of loved ones and to honor and remember the ministry of Bro. Grover Laird. Mrs. Ester Laird and her daughters appreciate the support of those who are supporting this effort.

We will be communicating with all of our churches in Mississippi and our church pastors urging them to support this scholarship. I want to challenge all BMA of Mississippi and America pastors and ministers to make a personal gift to this effort. All funds given will be invested and the interest earned will be used to support a BMA preacher as he studies at our Seminary.

Dr. Charlie Holmes said the following about Bro. Grover Laird, *"When I began traveling for the BMA Seminary over 25 years ago, I often was preaching in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Texas. One name that kept coming up over and over was that of Bro. Grover Laird. My observation was that he was the most beloved preacher of the Gospel in his home state of Mississippi. A preaching scholarship in his name at the BMA of America Theological Seminary would be a blessing and a challenge for young ministers to live up to the legacy that Bro. Laird established through his faithfulness to the Word of God."*

A form with more information is available on page 6 of this issue. Your gift will be a lasting memorial to the faithful preaching of the Word of God.

Chessell Celebrates 60 Years of Ministry

Ron Chessell, former director of BMA Ministers Resource Services, will celebrate his 60th anniversary in the ministry on August 30, 2019. He was born in 1943 and married Gloria Hudson in 1962. They have two daughters, Stephanie Coleman and Ronda Porter; four grandchildren, Heather Coleman, Jared Porter, Kristin Loughmiller and Elizabeth Buford; and seven great grandchildren.

He was saved in 1952 and surrendered to the ministry on August 30, 1959 at Central Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas. His pastor at that time was Dr. John Duggar. He was ordained in November 1962 at the same church when Dr. E. Harold Henderson was pastor.

He enrolled in Jacksonville College in 1961 where he graduated with honors, earning an AA degree. Continuing preparation for the ministry, he enrolled in the BMA Theological Seminary, Jacksonville, TX where he graduated with high honors in 1965, earning a Th.B. degree. Since then he has continued his education at Dallas Baptist University.

He served as pastor of seven BMA churches over a span of 40 years. New Hope, Streetman, TX; River Oaks, Baton Rouge, LA; Parkview, Clovis, NM; First, Blooming Grove, TX; Beacon, Bryan, TX, Bethel, Dallas, TX for 20 years and Central, Ashdown, AR. In December, 1999 he accepted the position of Executive Director of Ministers Resource Services for the BMA of America until he retired in June 2018.

Other places of leadership include: BMA of Texas vice-president and chairman of the Nominating Committee, trustee for the Baptist Progress, Jacksonville College and BMA Credit Union, where he was chairman of the Board of Directors for 15 years. He has also served on the BMA of America Nominating Committee and as a trustee of the BMA Theological Seminary, serving as chairman of the Board from 1996-2000.



Ron Chessell

Leave It To Cleaver

My Car Kept Dying

Some years ago I wrote about my complications with the fob on my new pickup. Some of you will remember my learning curve involving no key for a vehicle. Well, now I have another POT story (POT stands for Pore Ole Thang) to tell you.

I bought my wife a different car. It too had a fob. I was ready this time for any fob complications, for I had previously learned all about having a fob for your car. We got through with the paperwork and drove her car out of the dealership. I noticed when I stopped at a traffic signal or a stop sign the car died, that is the motor stopped running. When I stepped on the gas the car would start again. This was perturbing to me. The car kept dying. I knew in my heart I had just bought a lemon. The earliest appointment with the dealership was the next day, and I was going to give them a piece of my mind!

The next morning, I met the nice young lady representative. She looked like her next birthday would move her to her mid-teens. I explained my problem



Tony Cleaver

to her that my car kept dying at stop signs and traffic lights.

"Mr. Cleaver that is not a problem. Your car is designed to do that."

"What do you mean? You're telling me my car is designed to die when I stop? Does it have anything to do with that fob?"

"No, Mr. Cleaver. Your fob has nothing to do with this. The manufacturer designed the car to have the motor turn off at stop signs and red lights in order to save fuel. It is a part of the company's effort to be more environmentally friendly."

"Oh! Well can it be fixed so it doesn't die when I stop? I might not want to be that modern in my POT state."

"Mr. Cleaver I trust you don't smoke pot while driving."

"No, no. POT is my acronym for Pore Ole Thang."

"Certainly, Mr. Cleaver. I understand. Let's take it for a short ride around the block."

We came to the first stop sign. The car stopped running it died.

"See, I told you. Will it cost a lot to fix it so it won't die?" I asked.

"Mr. Cleaver, we can fix this with a simple push of a button."

"Young lady, there are a lot of buttons on this car. Which one will fix it?"

"Mr. Cleaver, before we come to the next stop sign up there, push that button in the left side of the display."

I obeyed her instructions. There was a noticeable silence from the child dealer representative sitting with me in the front seat of my brand new dying automobile I had purchased the day before. Her next words to me were slow and deliberate. She spoke through somewhat gritted teeth and with some sounds of exhaling large breaths as she spoke.

"Mr. Cleaver, you have now turned on the emergency flashers."

"Oh. OK. You didn't mean that button, did you?"

"No, I meant that other button right next to it."

"Oh. OK"

I pushed the button marked "A." She gave me a smiling approval and shake of her head to indicate I had somehow overcome my POT status. Sure enough the car did not die at the stop sign. Of course I was wasting fuel and not being very environmentally friendly by pushing that button. But we did not speak of that.

I'm not sure the car had come to a complete stop before she exited at the dealership. She thanked me for being a customer. She even gave me her card with her phone number to call if I had any more questions. The card she gave me had another name on it - not her name. I wonder if she got it mixed up?

When I got home, I read the owner's manual. There it was in plain print about the motor stopping at traffic signals and stop signs.

Sometimes it's good to read the owner's manual. In life the owner's manual is called the Bible. In the Scriptures there are wonderful words to make certain your life does not die at the stop signs and red lights.

Dr. Tony Cleaver is a retired U.S. Army Chaplain and Director of Distance Learning for BMA Seminary.

You may contact him at jstmcleaver@embarqmail.com

Letters From Our Readers

Letters reflect the opinion of the writer and not necessarily this publication or the BMA of Mississippi

Pastor asks "Is there leaven in some of the churches composing the BMA?"

A Little Leaven

Matthew 13:33, "Another parable spake he unto them: The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leav-

ened." This is one of several parables that Jesus used to teach "something" concerning His kingdom. Now there are several different understandings of what constitutes Christ's Kingdom, but it seems that most Baptists agree at least that the Lord's churches are the physical representation of His kingdom; that the Lord's churches are the depository of Kingdom authority (Matt. 16:19 & 18:15-20) and are the executors of His last will and testament. Jesus, speaking to what at the time constituted His church said, "I appoint unto you a kingdom"

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BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



Larry Geraldson
Director



www.bmams.org - 601.428.8616



"And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested." 1 Chronicles 4:10

For years I have prayed the prayer of Jabez. I believe God hears our prayers and answers. I would rather see the hand of God moving mightily to accomplish growth than to see all of man's ingenuity at work. As He continues to give us opportunity to enlarge our presence and influence in the State of Mississippi, we will continue to plant churches and spread the gospel. Please keep praying for State Missions.

Our Newest Missionary and Family

On July 23, 2019, the Missionary Committee interviewed and approved a



Daniels Family

new missionary. Bro. Josh Daniels is scheduled to begin missionary activity on September 1, 2019. Bro. Josh grew up in Hancock County, Mississippi and attended Shiloh Baptist Church until he was about 12-13 years of age. In October of 2000, Josh was saved and baptized during revival services at Crain Creek Baptist Church. In 2001, while attending Community Baptist Church near Poplarville, he experienced the call to ministry and surrendered his life to God's call.

In 2002, he married Mary Helen Hariel, who was a member at Community Baptist. In 2003 he began to serve as the Youth Minister at Community Baptist Church.

In 2006, he and his family moved to Fairfield, Texas, where he began to serve as Youth Minister at Round Prairie Bap-

tist Church. In 2007, he returned to Mississippi to become Youth Minister at Campground Baptist Church in Gulfport. In 2009, he moved to Taylor, Arkansas, to serve as Youth Pastor for First Baptist Taylor. Before moving to Taylor, Arkansas, Bro. Josh was ordained at Community Baptist, Poplarville. During this time God blessed them with three children, Hannah (now 14yrs old); Noah (now 12yrs old); Sarah (now 9yrs old).



Left to right,
Sarah, Hannah, and Noah Daniels

In 2013, he was called to serve as Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Hancock County where he has served faithfully for 6 ½ years.

During his interview, he shared that for some time he has had a strong burden for missions, and that desire intensified and ultimately became clear. "God is calling us to plant a church in the Kiln area of Hancock County." He shared that vision with his church and Shiloh provided a letter of recommendation to the State Missions office. He also shared that vision with Midway First Baptist in Sumrall, Mississippi, (Bro. Blake McCain, Pastor) and on August 25th Midway voted unanimously to become the Mother Church and endorse and support Bro. Josh and his family in this effort.

From September through November, Bro. Josh will be visiting churches and local associations to share his vision, in person. If you would like to schedule him to visit or speak at your Church or local association, you can contact him at 228-216-3064 or email him at workin4God@yahoo.com.

State Missionaries, Coaches & Coordinators and Wives



Phillip & Dawn Burns



Kenneth & Carole Pollock



Sidney & Becky Farmer



Johnny & Neta Williams



Wesley & Holley Martin



Jason and Kylie Howard



Josh and Mary Helen Daniels



Estuardo & Yasmine Marroquin



Ed & Patricia DuVall

Annual Local Association Meetings

It is that season. From August through October, we will be attending annual meetings of our local associations, all across the State. Many meet at the same time and we have to split up to attend as many as we can. We hope to see you there and look forward to the opportunity to possibly share a brief report about how God is blessing our Missions and Revolving Loan Fund Department. Here is the schedule that we have. If anyone recognizes any of this schedule as incorrect, please call us at 601-428-8616.

East Central Association meets on Saturday, September 7th @ Canaan, Richton (10:00am) with a meal after the meeting. Bro. Jerry Overstreet is the annual speaker.

Ten Mile Association meets on Monday, September 9th @ First Orange Grove (7:00pm) with a meal after the meeting. Bro. Dennis Knight is the annual speaker.

Hobolochitto Association meets on Monday, September 9th @ Wolf Creek (6:30pm) with a meal before the meeting at 5pm and Missionary committee meeting at 6pm.

Oak Grove Association meets on Thursday, September 12th @ Mt. Gilead (7:00pm) with a meal before the meeting at 6pm. Bro. Dewitt Bain is the annual speaker.

Capitol Association meets on Saturday, September 14th @ Trinity (9:00am) with a meal after the meeting. Bro. Jeff Dixon is the annual speaker.

Letter To Editor

from page 4

Luke 22:29. 19th century Baptists, such as J. R. Graves, J. M. Pendleton, A.C. Dayton, Jesse Mercer and others, who were formative in setting forth distinctly "landmark ecclesiology" were adamant that the Lord's true churches constitute the Kingdom of God, that no one church is the kingdom in its totality, but that every true church is an aggregate part of the totality of His kingdom. This is the view I understand scripture to teach. However, the purpose of this article is not to try to set forth what exactly constitutes the kingdom, but to build on the supposition that at a minimum the true churches of Christ are the physical representation of His Kingdom.

If that supposition holds true, then the

Washington Association meets on Saturday, September 14th @ Buffalo, McLain (9:00am) with a meal after the meeting. Bro. Ray Freeman is the annual speaker.

Big Creek Association meets on Saturday, October 5th @ Big Creek, Soso (9:00am) with a meal after the meeting. Bro. Larry Geraldson is the annual speaker.

Tombigbee Association meets on Thursday, October 10th @ Mt. Pleasant (7:00pm) with a meal before the meeting at 6pm. Bro. Kenneth Pollock is the annual speaker.

Gulf Association meets on Thursday, October 10th @ TBD (7:00pm) with a meal after the meeting. The annual speaker is yet to be determined.

Harmony Association meets on Saturday, October 12th @ Shady Grove, Tishomingo (9:30am) with a meal after the meeting. Dr. Kevin Clayton is the annual speaker.

Judson Association meets on Saturday, October 12th @ Oak Grove, Mantachie (10:00am) with a meal after the meeting. Bro. Jason Jones is the annual speaker.

Just for your Information

We are working to upgrade our website which is currently not working properly. We will let you know when it is up and running properly. We are sorry for the inconvenience. If you are looking for information about our churches or men who are available to preach, please don't hesitate to give us a call at 601-428-8616.

leaven, and its leavening work in this parable has a direct application to the Lord's churches. "The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven." Therefore, the kingdom of heaven in this parable is not "only" like unto the leaven but like unto the parable as a whole. And this "leaven" works negatively upon the kingdom, and so upon the churches of Christ as well.

There are several key features in this parable: 1) The meal, 2) The Leaven, 3) The woman hiding the Leaven, and 4) the effect it had upon the meal. The meal, the bread, represents what it does elsewhere throughout scripture. The meal is the bread of life; the saving Doctrines of Christ. He is the Bread of Life. Leaven in all of scripture is used to represent a corrupting influence, sin,

continued on page 8

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

State WMA Project

by Marilyn Welborn
Southeastern Baptist College
Kitchen & Dining Area

Deadline is approaching
September 25

Offerings for project
should be sent to:
Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533
Laurel, MS 39443



Grover Laird Endowed Scholarship

To BMA Theological Seminary
Jacksonville, Texas

An endowed scholarship is being established to honor the memory and ministry of Bro. Grover Laird. Bro. Laird served the Lord for over 70 years as pastor, evangelist, prison ministry worker and a number of others areas. He published the Revivalist Newspaper and shared it at no charge for a number of years.

Bro. Laird had a lasting impact on the lives of so many and was a faithful worker and preacher of the Gospel.

Donations are being requested and received to fund this scholarship. This is being done with the endorsement of the Laird Family and Dr. Charley Holmes, president of the BMA Theological Seminary.



Rev. Grover Laird

Donation

Name _____
Church _____
Address _____
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State _____ Zip _____
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Amount Given or Pledged \$ _____

Send donations to the address below and made payable to:

Grover Laird Scholarship
c/o Don Brown

P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441

Call 601-426-3293 for More Information

All donations will be acknowledged and the fund will be under the management of the BMA Theological Seminary

Philippine Missions News

by Sam Freeman

The BMAP National Missionaries are working very hard in reaching their areas for the Lord. Their hearts desire is to see people from all walks of life come into a relationship with Jesus, and then disciple them to become followers of our Savior. For these men church planting is about "REDUCING LOSTNESS" in the areas God has called them to labor. Please pray for our national missionaries as they labor all over the Philippines. Being able to serve as the BMAP Missions Department Trainer for these men is a blessing beyond measure. I love investing in them and observing how God is moving and working in their specific areas.

Summer Missionaries

The end of June and for a couple weeks in July, our family was blessed to host 2 different groups of summer missionaries. All these young ladies were from our home state of Mississippi, and it was great to see them sacrifice of their time, money, and talents to come and share Jesus with the people of Negros Island. Words cannot express how much of a blessing these young ladies were, not only to our churches and people here, but to our family as well. They all had a great time and I believe their efforts will continue to yield fruit for some time to come.



Our Summer Missionaries
working with
Philippine students



From Stan Scroggins

We welcomed a work team from Garrett Memorial Baptist Church in Hope, Arkansas. This is Missionaries Jimmy & Julie Walker's sending church. To everyone at Garrett Memorial, they did you proud. Their work helped us finish two major capital improvements on our campus, renovating the boy's and girl's dorm.



Garrett Memorial Church Group

Good Hope Baptist
Church, Stringer,
celebrates 100 years
of ministry



Good Hope Baptist
Church, Stringer,
Mississippi, cele-
brated its 100th an-
niversary on Sunday
August, 18, 2019.

Two former pastors
were present along
with former members
and friends. A history
of the church was
read, special music
was brought by
Foxfire, a Bluegrass
Gospel group.

Children of the
church also pre-
sented some special
music.

Pastor Corbey
Jones welcomed ev-
eryone to the celebra-
tion and introduced
former pastors Rich-
ard Clark and Milford
Magers. Bro. Clark
brought the morning message. After the service the church en-
joyed the noon meal together.



Left to right - former pastor Bro. Milford Magers,
current pastor Corbey Jones, and former pastor
Richard Clark



Special music by Foxfire



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Lindsey

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

Fostering Faith...cooperation:

Christ is our everything! Without Him we could do nothing as the old hymn says.

While unbelievers may think these statements seem to be discouraging, believers can look to them with confidence. His Word has told us that He has not left us helpless or powerless. The apostle John records that He will come to us as the Great Helper in the form of the Holy Spirit (John 14). Just a few chapters later in Christ's prayer for future believers He prays for our unity. The church, the local assembly of believers, is a powerful instrument of help.

We will be having our annual trustee meeting in just a couple of weeks. I know Christ is over all things. Pray that as we come together we would work in cooperation that Christ has given us as a tool to accomplish His plans and goals for this ministry. Pray for our wisdom, humility, and compassion as we make decisions that will shape the future of this ministry. I know that each of us desire to represent our Lord well and we desire to represent our fellow believers well as we serve.

I pray these things. I am one voice and one heart crying out to God. Paul said, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." I believe it is much more productive if you pray for my burdens and I pray for yours. When we lay a hold on the power God has given us in the assembly we can see that hundred if not thousands praying for our burdens is always better than going it alone. Praise God for His provision for His people.

Please contact us if you would like for us to come to your church in October, November, or beyond. Contact the office (601-426-3928), our Facebook page, or my cell phone (662-605-0996). Stay on the lookout for updates, prayer needs, and service opportunities.

Help Available For Declining BMA Churches

Editor's Note: I recently received a call from a member of a church that is experiencing decline. He was looking for an article we had published in the past dealing with 'dying churches'. I forwarded him what I could find from a previous issue and also the information below that is available from our National Missions Department. If your church is in decline or needs a boost, you may be interested in this ministry service from our national work.

WHAT IS ACTIVATE?

BMA's Activate ministry provides a healthy, biblical approach to church growth, revitalization, system evaluations, and pastor support. Activate is a 18-36 month huddle-driven process that works with pastors, church leaders, and congregations through three phases: 1) Health 2) Mission, and 3) Multiplication. BMA offers Activate to churches at no charge and pastors proceed at their own pace. Our team offers suggestions, but doesn't tell pastors what to do. We understand that each church is unique within its community. There is flexibility to adapt tools to your setting. Approximately 50 churches are receiving help through Activate across 10 different states. The program is made possible by contributions from churches and individuals.

IS ACTIVATE FOR YOU?

Activate is for full-time or bi-vocational pastors and churches of any size. We believe every church has something to work on. Activate uses biblical tools

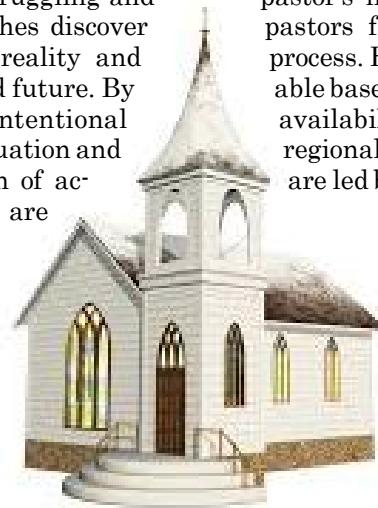
to help both struggling and thriving churches discover their present reality and God's preferred future. By utilizing an intentional process of evaluation and forming a plan of action, churches are turning their ministries around and beginning to experience growth and life-change.

WHAT IS AN ACTIVATE TEAM?

Pastors engaged in Activate form a team from the congregation to help them discover the heart condition of the church and prayerfully seek next steps. This team gives the pastor support and helps inform the congregation of discoveries and changes.

WHAT IS THE ACTIVATE PASTOR HUDDLE?

Pastors that decide to begin Activate are plugged into a



pastor's huddle with other pastors familiar with the process. Huddles are available based on schedule and availability. Huddles meet regionally or on-line, and are led by trained pastors who act as facilitators and coaches. Huddles meet every 6-8 weeks and the purpose is to encourage pastors both in ministry and in their personal lives.

HOW DO CHURCHES BEGIN ACTIVATE?

If you're interested in Activate please contact our Pastor Advocate Heidi Sorrells at heidi@bmaam.com or 501-749-4500. She'll explain the process; help you decide if Activate is a fit; get you plugged into a pastor's huddle; and guide you through choosing an Activate Team and doing a church assessment.

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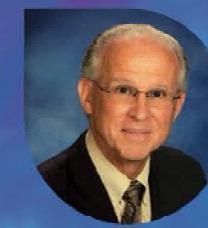
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Fifteen Reasons Why Your Pastor Should Not Visit Much

by Thomas Rainer

Editor's Note: While all will not agree with the conclusions of this article, it may be profitable for churches in helping to set ministry priorities.

I read the sad story recently of a church that fired its pastor because "he didn't visit the members enough." Granted, I don't know all the details about the situation, but I am not optimistic about the church's future.

"Visitation of the members" became a common job description of pastors about a century ago.

It's a bad sign.

While I am not advocating that pastors never visit people, I am concerned that such expectations are well beyond those with serious and emergency needs.

The truth is: Your pastor shouldn't visit much. Here are

15 reasons why.

It's unbiblical. Ephesians 4:12 says that pastors are to train the saints or believers to do the work of the ministry. It does not say pastors are to do all the work of ministry.

It deprives members of their roles and opportunities. The second part of Ephesians 4:12 clearly informs us that ministry is for all those in the church. When the pastor does all or most of the ministry, the members are deprived of a God-given opportunity.

It fosters a country club mentality. "We pay the pastor's salary. The pastor works for us to do the work and serve us." Tithes and offerings become country club dues to get served.

It turns a church inwardly. The members are asking what the pastor is doing for them, rather than asking how they can serve others through the church.

It takes away from sermon preparation. Those same members who complain that a pastor didn't put enough time into the

sermon are the same ones who expect the pastor to visit them.

It takes away from the pastor's outward focus. If pastors spend all or most of their time visiting, how can they be expected to get into the community and share the gospel?

It takes away vital leadership from the pastor. How can we expect pastors to lead if we give them no time to lead since they are visiting members?

It fosters unhealthy comparisons among the members. "The pastor visited the Smiths twice this month, but he only visited me once."

It is never enough. When churches expect their pastors to do most of the visitation, they have an entitlement mentality. Such a mentality can never be satisfied.

It leads to pastoral burnout. It is impossible for pastors to maintain the pace that is expected of all the members cumulatively, especially in the area of visitation.

It leads to high pastoral turnover. Burnout leads to pastoral

turnover. Short-term pastorates are not healthy for churches.

It puts a lid on Great Commission growth of the church. One of the great growth barriers of churches is the expectation that one person do most of the ministry, especially visitation. Such dependence on one person leads to a cap on growth.

It leads pastors to get their affirmation from the wrong source. They become people-pleasers instead of God-pleasers.

It causes biblical church members to leave. Many of the best church members will leave because they know the church is not supposed to operate in this manner. The church thus becomes weaker.

It is a sign that the church is dying. The two most common comments of a dying church: "We never done it that way before," and "Why didn't the pastor visit me?"

The pervasive mentality in many churches is the pastor is the chief visitor in the church.

It's a key sign of sickness. It's a clear step toward death.

I Found Him At The Cross

Nellie M. Rich

I see His living beauty

In the budding of the rose.
In the white and lovely lily,
Graceful, bending as she
blows.

I trace His shining footsteps

In the dew upon the moss--
Everywhere I see His glory,
But I found Him at the Cross.

I feel His breath upon me

In the breeze at purple dawn;
I sense His heart reach for me
In the lonely woodland lawn,
Methinks I see Him beckon,
Beholding treetops toss--
Everywhere I see His glory,
But I found Him at the Cross.

I hear His lonely weeping

In the moaning of the bar.
But see His living victory
In the rising morning star.
His bleeding heart's a message
Of Him Who knew my loss--
Everywhere I see His glory,
But I found Him at the Cross.

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
www.bmaofmississippi.com

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662-397-6832

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601-426-3928

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Laurel, MS 39440
601-428-8616

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Laurel, MS 39440
601-729-2613

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601-729-8098

Moral Action
P.O. Box 88
Mantachie, MS 38855
662-282-7425

faith of the church will be preserved in its purity, but that a corruption of the saving doctrines follow immediately upon a perversion of the ordinances. Let these be perverted in their design, and the more extensive the missionary operations of the churches, the greater the injury to both Christianity and the world. The first and most important work of the churches is to guard the purity of the ordinances, that a pure faith and practice may be conserved" J.R. Graves. Proper observance of the Ordinances keep the churches pure.

The second and final application I would like to make concerns the associational work of the churches that compose the BMA. The doctrinal undergirding of the BMA is excellent, but is that doctrinal statement reflected in practice? Just as the leaven of false doctrine works to corrupt a local church, it can work to corrupt the churches of an association, BMA or otherwise. The Association is the churches! Now as each church is autonomous, the association has no authority to dictate what any local church can or cannot do. However, the Association does have a test for fellowship, and that test is bible doctrine. Bible doctrine is reflected, in part, in our doctrinal statement. Is it enough to say I "accept" the doctrinal statement, if my practice does not reflect the doctrine? It appears that the only real avenue any one local church has to plead with another is the Word of God!!

Is there leaven in some of the

churches composing the BMA? We might answer this question by considering the following types of Leaven. 1) The Leaven of Liberalism & Modernism (Worldliness). James 4:4, "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." There is the idea that to win the world we must become "like" them. However, the only way to remain relevant is to remain distinct and different from the world. Is it possible that it is, or could be, the compulsion of modernism that drives modern versions, modern music, dress, etc.? The Leaven of Modernism tends to want to change everything. 2) On the other hand, there is the Leaven of Ritualism. Those infected with this leaven refuse to change anything. Ritualism is insisting on doing something a certain way just because it has been done that way for as long as can be remembered. Traditions are not bad simply because they are traditions. Principles in the Word of God dictate form or practice, and the exact form or practice used evolves into tradition. But just as forms dictated by principle evolve into tradition, tradition can easily devolve into ritualism. We must love and cherish the Word of God above tradition. Jesus said, "But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" Matt. 15:9. 3) The Leaven of Passivity or Apathy. Those infected with this leaven have a passive attitude toward everything. It is an

attitude of not having any concern, and therefore the passive acceptance of whatever happens without response or resistance. 4) Lastly, there is the Leaven of Protestantism. The Protestant notion of a universal church and mystical baptism into this mystical church may be popular, however, this teaching is in direct opposition to the Word of God as well as our Doctrinal Statement.

This is not a condemnation of anyone or any church. It is simply an observation. Nothing I have said is in opposition or contradiction to our Doctrinal Statement, and far from being taken as an attack upon the churches composing the BMA, it is a plea to purge out the leaven before the whole becomes corrupted! We must be diligent to guard against giving a pass to doctrines and practices that are in obvious conflict with our doctrinal statement, and more importantly the Word of God, as long as it is covered with the BMA emblem. The BMA cannot become to us a golden calf! We must love the Lord and cherish the doctrines of His Word more than anything else. Churches can do more by working together. But we must stand for the Word of God and not be fearful of calling out error. If we do not do this, we will devolve into a defunct group; a whitened sepulcher which is beautiful on the outside, but inwardly full of dead men's bones.

Jason Howard, pastor
Canaan Baptist Church
Richton, Mississippi