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Recent Obituaries

Shirley Floyd Passes Away

Shirley McLemore Floyd, 81, of Laurel, Mississippi, passed away on Saturday, August 14, 2021 in Ellisville, Mississippi, surrounded by her family. She was born on October 7, 1939 in Walnut Grove, Mississippi.

Funeral services were held August 17, 2021 at Lebanon Baptist Church with Bro. Ken Riley, Bro. Phillip Burns, and Bro. Chris Floyd officiated.

Mrs. Floyd is survived by her husband of 59 years, Harold Floyd of Laurel, son, Chris (Twyla) Floyd of Laurel, and Cal (Melody) Floyd of Soso, 8 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by a sister Patricia (Jimmy) Rogers of Forest, brother Jackie McLemore of Morton and two nephews.

Mrs. Floyd spent a faithful life as a wife, mother, and church worker. As she supported her husband's ministry without regret or questioning, many churches benefitted from the same effort she gave her personal life. Many meals were prepared, clothes laundered, and Sunday School lessons studied for each and every week. Girls at Rankin Academy who worked with her in the lunchroom had an education in workplace efficiency like none other. There was no bigger cheerleader for Rankin Academy sports and later as a booster for Laurel Knight Hawks. She loved her family, church family and YOU!

Donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America.

Former BMA President Vernon Lee Dies

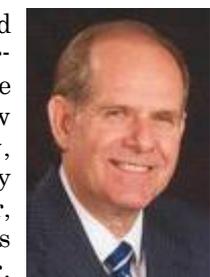
Vernon Lee, 69, of Ruston, Louisiana, passed away on August 26, 2021. He pastored several churches in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas. Bro. Lee served as president of the BMA in three different state associations and also served as the president of the BMA of America.

Vernon is preceded in death by his parents, Bro. S.R. and Evie Lee; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Bro. Milas and Peggy Parker; his brother, Ray Lee; and his brother-in-law, Jr. Parker.

Survivors include his loving wife of 51 years, Rhonda Parker Lee; son Shannon Grant Lee (Tina) of Junction City, Arkansas; granddaughters, Alexis "Puddin" Lee (David) and Kaila Storey;



Mrs. Shirley Floyd



Vernon Lee

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Lifeword Announces New Director of Audience Engagement

by Holly Meriweather

Telling stories is what Yalanda Merrell is all about, and professionally she has done that, first as a reporter and anchor for KAIT in Jonesboro, Arkansas, then as a recruiter for University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). Turns out that Yalanda is not only a talented broadcast journalist, but a writer as well, and she loves to tell her own story because it's a familiar one for many believers.

Although she had walked the aisle at the age of seven, she wasn't saved until her freshman year of college. But another eight years passed until she fully surrendered her life to Jesus, then three more until she obeyed God's call to disciple others. It's a familiar story for many, and one that Yalanda doesn't

grandson, Ryan Storey (Blayne); great-granddaughter, Adelyne "Tane" Parish; siblings, Ann Pearson, Pat Daniels and Sam Lee; mother-in-law, Lorene Parker; sisters-in-law, Debbie Lee, Joyce Temple (Bill), Beverly Mayo, Lori Duty (Mike) and Colleen Parker; along with numerous nieces, nephews, friends and family.

Funeral services were held August 31, 2021 at Cook Baptist Church in Ruston, Louisiana with Bro. Rocky Maddox, Bro. Jeff Smart, Bro. Jim Richards and Bro. John Adams assisting.

Milford and Elsie Magers Pass Away

Long time BMA pastor Bro. Milford D. Magers passed away on August 23, 2021. His wife Mrs. Elsie Hogue Magers followed him in death on August 28. A double funeral service will be held at a later date due to the Covid virus.

Those left to cherish their memory are son Phillip (Pat) Magers of Lucedale; daughters Phillis Morgan of Lucedale, Pamela (Donald) Phillips of Anguilla and Susie Crabtree of Lucedale; grandchildren Donavon (Christy) Phillips of Morton, Rebekah McClelland of Conway, AR, Cherish Hearn of Redding, CA, Jonathan Morgan of Ft. Lauderdale, FL and Rachel (Steve) Osborne of Craig, CO; seven great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; many nieces and nephews and cousins; and too many friends to mention.

mind telling and writing about, especially if it will point someone to Jesus.

The Lifeword team met Yalanda in 2018 after Director of Operations Luis Ortega visited the church she and her husband Shaun attended in northeast Arkansas. The Lifeword Cloud had just been implemented and Yalanda was asked to join a team of writers. Her daily devotionals and blogs have been published on Lifeword.org ever since.

After enthusiastically offering to do more, anything that was needed, BMA Missions took her up on the offer. She hosts a monthly show, mission:world.tv, that features BMA missionaries and what they're doing around the world. An extension of mission:world magazine, it comes out on BMA Missions' Facebook page.

Beginning in September 1, Yalanda will also begin serving Lifeword as Director of Audience Engagement. Her years of experience and talent will help take Lifeword to new levels of effectiveness and professionalism.

Yalanda says, "Salvation in Jesus Christ is the single most important decision in one's life. However, it's only the beginning. For many people across the



Yolanda Merrill and her husband Shaun

globe, they don't know the next steps.

"We live in an age where people aren't being shown the examples to follow of how Christ wants us to live and obey Him. So how do we do discipleship in the digital age?"

"Our hope is to move Lifeword from a proclamation ministry to one that engages its audience to tell their own story of salvation and learn how to become a disciple maker. It's an exciting time at Lifeword and I'm humbled and thrilled the Lord is allowing me to use my background in media and communications to help others learn how to tell their redemption story."

"EIM is wanting to help your church"

by Michael Goodwin, EIM President & Program Director

Evangelistic International Ministries would like to make ourselves available to our BMAA churches. This past summer, God opened up new doors for us since we were limited in doing overseas travel. For over 10 years, EIM teams have traveled overseas conducting Overseas Bible Schools. These are done much like Vacation Bible Schools here in the States. God has laid it on our hearts to begin helping the local churches that may not have the manpower nor the finances to have a Vacation Bible School. EIM is wanting to schedule 3-4 Vacation Bible Schools here in the States for next summer. We would be honored to bring a team of 10-18 to your church to help you reach children and parents with the gospel and to help make new contacts for your church.

We conducted two VBS's here in the States this past summer. We were able to work with Bethel Baptist Church in Clayton, Texas, as well as New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Eugene, Oregon.

Here is what Pastor Chris Price said after we had worked with him and his dear church, "Since EIM came to Bethel, the hearts of our members are full of joy again.



continued on page 2

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



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Hurricanes are Tough on Folks

I have lived on the coast of Mississippi and in the Laurel area for the past 48 years. We survived relatively damage free while we were on the coast for 8 years. We left when the first one came our way and that rascal turned east and went to the panhandle of Florida. I refused to leave for the next one. It was scary to watch it race through Pascagoula and Gautier, but it left us unscathed. It was not so kind to others.

Living in Jones County gave me a safe feeling as far as hurricanes were concerned. That is until Katrina. Two large trees fell near our home, but we were spared when they fell away from the house. Many others were not so blessed.

Hurricane Ida has left great devastation in Louisiana and not so much in Mississippi as far as I can tell at this writing. I have spoken to a few pastors in the southern part of our state after the storm left and none were able to share any really bad news concerning any of our churches or church families. That does not mean that there was no damage, but just not available at press time. We are thankful for the good initial report.

Many have suffered loss and harm. Let us help them and pray for God's mercy and grace.

Online Suggestions

Many folks have had to stay away from church due to the Covid virus over the past year and a half. Although it is not ideal, it has been necessary in many cases. A great number of churches have looked for alternate means to minister to their homebound members.

For years churches have broadcast their worship services. Television is a great means to share the Gospel with the world. The cost of producing a quality TV broadcast is not a small investment and most churches just cannot afford the expense.

Enter New Technology - I can go 'live' on my cell phone and provide a quality broadcast to my family and friends. I enjoy seeing my kids and grandkids live when I cannot be with them in person.

Many churches have taken to Facebook Live broadcasts to share their worship services. I have enjoyed many of them. Recently unable to attend church due to feeling a little under the weather I was looking for a particular service online.

I was surprised to see a number of BMA churches in Mississippi (and elsewhere) that were live-streaming their morning services. There was more than one church that I would have stayed tuned to and watched, but I was unable to clearly hear the speaker.

Now I am not up to date on the best technology to make sure the audio is loud and clear, but after commenting on my problem many responded with seemingly easy and low cost solutions.

Video clarity and audio volume are essential for me to enjoy the broadcast and I assume others feel the same. If your church is streaming your services live, I encourage you to test the quality. If it is not up to the standard folks need to 'stay tuned', then you may wish to seek some help from those whose broadcast is of a good quality.

I know that many are doing it well and I am sure they would give your church some advice on upgrading your broadcast. Shut-ins, and home bound folks will appreciate it, you will no doubt gain more viewers, and be able to better minister to those who just can't be with you in person. Try Youtube and Google to get some good information. God bless you for your efforts and may you reach many with the Gospel.

Correction Concerning Legacy Award Prayer

In our last issue we incorrectly stated that the prayer for those missionaries recognized during our recent national meeting with the Legacy Awards was led by Eric Johnson. Bro. Johnson led the prayer at the close of the missionary commissioning service on the final night of the meeting.

The prayer for those 'legacy' missionaries was led by former Missions Director James Schoenrock. We are sorry for the error and wished to correct it for our readers.

Annual Meeting Dates

The BMA of Mississippi Annual Meeting will be held at First Baptist Church of Shady Grove in Laurel. The WMA and Brotherhood will meet at the church on Monday evening, October 18 with the Annual business session beginning at 9:30 am on Tuesday October 19.

For the past several years the association has concluded business in one day, but the meeting will continue on Wednesday if needed. The annual message will be brought by Bro. Dennis Knight with Bro. Greg Cook serving as the alternate.

A full schedule will be printed in our next issue

Annual Meetings of Local Associations

(subject to changes)

East Central Association Meeting - ANNUAL
Saturday, September 11, 2021 | 10:00 AM
Dykes Chapel Baptist Church
262 Dykes Chapel Road, Richton, MS 39476
Ten Mile Association Meeting - ANNUAL
Monday, September 13, 2021 | 7:00 PM
Paramount Baptist Church
63 Paramount Church Drive, Perkinston, MS 39573

Hobolochitto Association Meeting - ANNUAL
Monday, September 13, 2021 | 7:30 PM
CANCELLED - TBD

Oak Grove Association Meeting - ANNUAL
Thursday, September 16, 2021 | 7:00 PM
Westover Baptist Church
4903 W 4th Street
Hattiesburg, MS 39402

Capitol Association Meeting - ANNUAL
Saturday, September 18, 2021 | 9:00 AM
Skyway Hills Baptist Church
3790 US-80
Pearl, MS 39208

Washington Association Meeting - ANNUAL
Saturday, September 18, 2021 | 9:00 AM
Movella Baptist Church
175 Movella Church Road
Lucedale, MS 39452

Big Creek Association Meeting - ANNUAL
Saturday, October 2, 2021 | 9:00 AM
Big Creek Baptist Church
28 Big Creek Church Road
Soso, MS 39480

Tombigbee Association Meeting - ANNUAL
Thursday, October 7, 2021 | 7:00 PM
Hopewell Baptist Church
2100 Hopewell Keys Road
Fulton, MS 38843

Judson Association Meeting - ANNUAL
Saturday, October 9, 2021 | 10:00 AM

EIM is wanting to help your church from page 1

Jesus used EIM to restore hope to a people who have been hurt and were halted because of it. With the hurt gone, hope restored, and hearts healed, we have new faces and new families we are ministering to."

Pastor Clint Perdue had this to say, "There was one key element that stood out to me above all the rest that made the week with EIM special, that was the LOVE that was on display. Each of the team members loved Jesus, and it was obvious. It was shown in the love for the Gospel, for the people that attended the VBS, and it was shown to the Church, as well."

If you would like more information on how EIM could help, please contact me at mgoodwin@eimworldwide.org or call 870-234-5319. You can also go to our website at www.eimworldwide.org and see what God is doing globally through the ministry of EIM.

EIM is a partner of BMAA Missions and Lifeword. We are a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization which began in 1998 and is sanctioned and endorsed by First Baptist Church of Magnolia, Arkansas.

Texas Church Seeking Pastor

First Baptist Church of Palmer, Texas, is a family of faithful people that are prayerfully seeking the leadership of a pastor. If interested, please email your resume to pastorsearch@fbcpalmer.org or mail it to P.O. Box 70, Palmer, TX 75152.

Centerville Baptist Church
25 Centerville Church Road
Mantachie, MS 38855

Harmony Association Meeting - ANNUAL
Saturday, October 9, 2021 | 9:30 AM
Forked Oak Baptist Church
Hwy 365 CR 2312
Burton Community,, MS 38829

Hobolochitto Association Meeting
Monday, October 11, 2021 | 7:30 PM
TBD

Gulf Association Meeting - ANNUAL
Thursday, October 14, 2021 | 7:00 PM
Spring Hill Baptist Church
4500 Gibson Road
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

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

Last year at this time, I listed numerous advancements we achieved throughout the Spring and Summer of 2020. The Lord continues to do wonderful things on our campus through the amazing staff He has brought together. Here are some of the things accomplished over the past few months:



Dr. Scott Carson
President

1. As of today, we have exceeded last year's historical record for full-time students. Last year we had 90 at this time. This semester we have 110 full-time students with a total student population of 123!

2. The President's House has been renovated into a dormitory and now accommodates 14 students.

3. New dormitory furnishings were acquired and distributed in each residence hall.

4. Additional security cameras have been installed throughout the campus and in classrooms.

5. Although the Lighthouse Café closed due to loss of revenue due to Covid, Holloway's Dairy Bar immediately took over the café and is now in full service Monday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

6. A new A.C. unit was installed in the café.

7. The Faculty House is now being used as a dormitory for upperclassmen.

8. Nearly all carpets on campus have been cleaned utilizing a carpet cleaning extractor machine found on campus with an estimated expense savings to the college of \$8,000 that a professional carpet vendor might have charged.

9. The college has partnered with The Timothy Group, who is assisting us with fund raising plans for the future of SBC.

10. While most colleges have Fundraising Offices, in the 73-year history of SBC, we have never had the ability to afford one. But recently, we have hired an Advancement Officer whose sole focus will be to explore new

"we are needing to purchase or build living spaces for additional students..."

funding avenues.

11. We completed our first baseball season in spite of Covid challenges.

12. The men's basketball team won two major tournaments securing the Bible College National Invitational Championship and the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) South Region Championship.

13. We have instituted a women's softball team.

14. The exterior of Granberry

Hall has been partially painted a pleasant light gray.

15. Several trees have been removed to make room for much needed additional parking.

16. The drive and parking area behind the classroom building was graveled.

17. A new roof was put on over the gymnasium stage area.

18. The gym's concrete floors were stripped of old tile and painted.

19. Carpets were removed from Hilbun Hall and the concrete floors painted.

20. New coaches, faculty and staff members were added.

21. We were able to expand our two bachelor degrees into six distinct bachelor degree paths.

22. We have acquired two used 15 passenger vans and a larger and more reliable bus.

This list is not exhaustive, as there have been many additional projects completed. We are grateful for all who have contributed their time, talents and finances over the past few months. As discussed in previous articles, we are needing to purchase or build living spaces for additional students. This is absolutely critical for the future of Southeastern Baptist College. Pray the individuals will step forward who can help us raise the necessary funds for this need. God is leading us forward and we must keep up with Him!

Equipping the Saints
Dr. Carson

Special Emphasis

Southeastern Baptist College's Special Emphasis Month wraps up on September 1 for focused donations from churches and individuals. Thank you to all the churches and individuals that participated in this year's fundraising activity! As a reminder, Southeastern Baptist College is a 501(c)(3) certified tax deductible charity.

Student Loans

Whereas SBC does not participate in the U.S. Government's guaranteed student loan program, several financial institutions have recently begun providing private student loans to individuals. Contact our Financial Aid Officer for more information at 601-426-6346.

Holloway's Dairy Bar

Holloway's Dairy Bar is open and the public is welcome! The Dairy Bar is located in the same location as was the Lighthouse Café. There is an expanded menu and it is open Monday thru Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come support SBC and Holloway's!

Coffee with the President

An SBC alumnus suggested we begin a "coffee with the president" program where we invite folks, and especially alumni, to meet with Dr. Carson to discuss any topic that might be on their mind. If you are interested in meeting with Dr. Carson, contact him at 601-426-6346 to make an appointment.

Amazon Smile

Anyone shopping on Amazon can select Southeastern Baptist College as your charity. When you do this, a portion of your purchase price will go directly to SBC as a donation from Amazon! Thank you for those who are already using this unique method to benefit SBC.

Need a Preacher?

Dr. Carson is available to fill the pulpit or to make a presentation about the work and vision of Southeastern Baptist College. Thank you Brother Chris Yager for recently allowing Dr. Carson to report on the college at Living Hope Mission in Meridian MS! In addition, Chaplain (Colonel) Carson can provide an update on the BMAA Chaplaincy and de-

Campus Activity as Fall Semester Gets Underway



A packed house at our Fall Semester chapel services



Ministry student,
Carey Jones, leads
music in chapel



Professor Matt Olson
kicks off the
Old Testament
Survey Course



Women's Chargers
Basketball Team
already practicing for
the upcoming season



Dr. Carson presents a plaque to Mrs. Amy Hinton at Living Hope Mission, Meridian, Mississippi in honor of her 19 and a half years working for SBC



Gideon Miles Farragut explains their ministry and provided 100 Bibles to our students

liver a related message. You can reach him at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu

In His Grip by Carolyn Hagler

Carolyn Hagler is a retired educator and a member of Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg. You may contact her via email at cmhagler@bellsouth.net



Heaven's Jubilee

"Jubilee, Jubilee. You're invited to this happy jubilee." (If that tune is coming to your mind now, you might have listened to or possibly watched the Gospel Singing Jubilee on television while you were getting ready for church on Sunday mornings back in the day.) I don't remember that, but I've heard many of you talk about it.



Carolyn Hagler

With groups like The Blackwood Brothers, The Happy Goodman Family, The Speer Family, Hovie Lister and the Statesmen, and many others, Sundays started with worship even before church began.

My musical memories seem to have centered more around country music, hymns at church, Elvis, and the 50s/60s music. But I'm thankful for being introduced to southern gospel music, though later than probably many of you.

The Gaither Homecoming videos introduced me to artists and songs of southern gospel music. When we first watched the early videos, Daddy was still alive and loved them. Many nights after supper, he would say, "Let's watch some music."

Daddy suffered from depression off and on during his later years and found it difficult recovering from the death of Mother and our oldest sister, the Diva. But the videos really lifted his spirits, along with ours. He especially enjoyed the piano playing of Wally Varner. I can still see his "old" hands tickling the ivories and hear Daddy say, "Look at his fingers move," and "They all look so happy."

My journey with southern gospel music started with the video watching with Daddy and JB. When Daddy died one Thanksgiving holiday, it just seemed so difficult because he lived with us for most of his last 3½ years. We decided to start doing those things we couldn't do when Daddy lived with us. That first Christmas JB and I went to Roosevelt State Park near Jackson to read, walk, and enjoy the quietness.

That's when we decided to

start going to some of the concerts. The Gaither Homecoming in Birmingham in February with some of our Westover family started us on our journey. As we left the concert, JB mentioned how nice it would be if we took a bus to the next one a year later.

Other concerts with the Cathedrals and the Gaithers intervened, but the following December, I had a shock. When I came by the bookstore, JB informed me, "I rented a bus today for all of us to go to Birmingham."

I don't remember my words, but I may have been too shocked to say anything. When he saw my face, he quickly added, "But



I only had to put down \$100." JB could sell refrigerators to the Eskimos, so I admonished him, "You better start today!"

Your thoughts may have jumped ahead to the "but" of this story because JB died a few weeks later at Christmas. I didn't even know who had booked the bus for him. But a week later, a man walked into the bookstore, and I just knew it had to be him. JB's plans didn't miss a beat.

Maybe sympathy filled that bus, but I choose to believe the Lord did. So, a busload of believers made that pilgrimage to Birmingham: a special memory and a wonderful way to begin the journey of grief with old friends, new friends, and family celebrating with me. I wonder if any of you readers were on that journey?

My musical journey went from a simple beginning of watching videos to planning trips around concerts—even cruises—to loving gospel groups that their love of the Lord has been evident through their lifestyle, singing, expressions, and words.

Those early videos started my years of being a "groupie" of my favorite groups. Sister No. 1 and I started our tradition soon after JB died, and we attended many concerts together. But down the road, Middle Sister joined us,

and we all attended many concerts together and shared the love of the music.

I hope you're remembering that we have always been a dysfunctional musical family. But having musical ability and enjoying singing can be poles apart. The biggest compliment was paid to us as we sat on the front pew of a church to see the Mark Trammell Quartet. Randy Byrd came off stage at the intermission to tell us how encouraging it was to him to see our big smiles and handclapping. Well, Middle Sister always had the biggest smile of all and couldn't keep time to the music if she had to.

A favorite group from the beginning was the Cathedrals, with the bass singing of George Younce, the funny stories about Glen Payne and his enthusiasm, the piano playing of Roger Bennett, and the smooth harmony of all the guys with Scott and Ernie.

Shortly before they retired, Sister No. 1 and I went on a trip with the family to South Texas, returned to Houston to attend a Cathedral Reunion concert in Houston, and followed them to Denham Springs, Louisiana, to meet some Westover people for another concert.

Sister No. 1 and I were there at the last National Quartet Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, where the Cathedrals performed without Glen Payne. Dr. David Jeremiah preached one morning at the convention, led in prayer for Glen, and mentioned how sick he was. (I thought he had mistakenly mentioned Glen instead of George.) We learned afterwards that Glen was critically ill.

That night as the Cathedrals performed, we were there to see George call Glen's hospital room; when Glen answered, George asked him to sing, "I Won't Have to Cross Jordan Alone." A strong voice from a dying man looking forward to Heaven truly blessed me. I'll never forget.

Many of my favorite gospel singers have moved on to glory. But the music continues. I just watched a few days ago part of Gerald Wolfe's latest Music Hymn Sing and realized once again why I love gospel music and the old hymns: The joy I see on the faces of the artists and the audience alike encourages me and reminds me of truths about the Lord and His work. The music has brought me through many sad times and set my thoughts away from myself back to the Lord.

Sandy Payton, Queen of the Hammond, was playing her



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Lindsey

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

A New Baby in the House

From practically the beginning of the biblical narrative a child is introduced. The introduction of this child comes from man's darkest moment, when they are plunged into sin. Genesis 3:15 says, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

After Genesis 3:15 babies became this constant picture of God's promise to defeat sin. They signaled the provision of God and His keeping of His promises for His people. They built up hope and anticipation in every family. They still point to the Seed, the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ. They pointed ahead to the coming Christ and now they point to God's accomplished work in His Son. Babies are a joy!

For those who have not yet heard, we have a new baby in the house. She has brought a different kind of joy to the home. Of

course she brings the fun and cuddliness of being a baby, but she has also brought the wonder of what the Lord may have planned for her life. Just like anyone with a new baby we are excited to share so much with all of you, but we are also restrained knowing that at the moment this



is only temporary. We give love and care to baby M and ask that you pray for her, her family, and the Lord's will. In the meantime we'll take the great and the not so great: baby grins and giggles, less sleep, soothing snuggles, stinky diapers, cuteness galore, and even more laundry. We'll take it all.

Please don't let the good news curb your prayers for the Children's Home Ministry. Continue to pray for others to expand their financial support so that we can take steps to help more children. Pray for potential new house parents that would add a much needed layer to our daily ministry. Remember each other as we all continue to deal with pandemic problems. Ultimately pray that in all things Christ would be glorified.

BMA of Mississippi Annual Meeting
October 18-19, 2021
First Baptist Church of Shady Grove
Laurel, Mississippi

heart out on the organ for the Hymn Sing with a smile on her face at the age of 81. I may not be able to sing and play like she does, but I delight in that toe-tapping music.

We're blessed to be in an area of good singers and good concerts to attend. If the Lord hasn't come for us and the virus doesn't interfere, Southeastern Baptist College is hosting The Southeastern Gospel Fest in April 2022; and The Gospel Music

Hymn Sing is scheduled for Hattiesburg in May 2022.

I'm planning on being both places. What about you? I'll be singing with the saints here or heading for that Heavenly Jubilee: "Some glad morning we shall see Jesus in the air coming after you and me...." Until then, I'm going to "serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing" (Psalm 100:2), knowing that I remain in His grip.

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Missions Department & Revolving Loan Fund



Larry Geraldson
Director



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Daniels



Estuardo &
Yasmine Marroquin

Bro. Jeff Dixon, evolving Loan Fund Manager

"Our sufficiency is of God; who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament." – 2 Corinthians 3:5-6

It has been a tremendous privilege to serve our churches through the BMA of Mississippi Missions and RLF Department. The summer months have allowed us to visit several mission sites and it is encouraging to see what God is doing through our missionary families. These men uphold the supremacy of the Scriptures through faithful preaching and teaching and are committed to the proclamation of the biblical gospel.

The months of July and August have been very active. In July we closed out our fiscal year and prepared for our team of auditors to arrive the first week of August. They were able to finish the annual audit in record time. Their final report is forthcoming, but the initial results of our audit seem to indicate that the 2020/2021 fiscal year will be one of our best. We give God the glory for sustaining and blessing us even amid difficulty.

One of the highlights of August was meeting with our missionaries and missionary coaches for a time of fellowship and training. We are thankful to South Forrest Baptist Church and Pastor Sidney Farmer for hosting this meeting. The focus of our time together was on the importance of Church Doctrine, especially as it has to do with the Doctrine of Church Discipline. We had a very enlightening conversation on a biblical doctrine that is not discussed much in our day. Also, Dr. Paul Spurlin gave a very informative presentation on how to set up a church budget. Bro. Justin Rhodes concluded our meeting with a message on the importance of upholding sound doctrine. Our goal is to give our missionaries the tools they need to thrive within the framework of church planting. We supply them with the tools to plant and to water, knowing all the while it is God who gives the increase.

As you read the reports from your missionaries and missionary coaches, we hope you will be encouraged by the work God is doing through them. "We have this treasure [the treasure of the gospel] in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us" (2 Cor. 4:7). In the coming months, we look forward to sharing with you the work of State Missions and the Revolving Loan Fund. Thank you all for your continued support and prayers. To God be the glory.

Hispanic Missions Report by Bro. Estuardo Marroquin

We are grateful to our God for the blessings we have received in recent weeks in Hispanic missions and want to share them with you.

Canton Mission

In recent weeks, the mission has made

good progress in missionary work. Worship, visitation, and evangelism meetings have been held each week. Bro. Lucas Gomez reports that the Hispanic community in the city of Canton continues to grow and with this also the need to talk about the gospel of Jesus. In recent weeks, they have had new contacts and shared the gospel with 15 new people, and four have accepted Jesus as a personal Savior in their lives. They are discipling several new people in the mission, as well. On August 14, brothers from El Camino Church Laurel visited the mission in Canton to encourage our Brother Lucas and his family. After a while of Bible study and eating together, they took to the streets of Canton to help Bro. Lucas evangelize the people in the area. Thank God there were several people saved and several expressed a desire to receive Bible study in their homes. Bro. Lucas shared the need to keep praying that God would lead them to find a building for their worship meetings. We thank God for what is happening in Canton and for Bro. Lucas and his family.

Hattiesburg

The brethren in the newly organized church are very grateful to God for the blessings they have been receiving. The congregation continues to be very involved by supporting missionary work and carrying out its work plan. Pastor Leo Adan reports good progress in the Hattiesburg area. In recent weeks, they have had new contacts giving opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus to 15 people, and three have accepted Jesus as a personal Savior. They continue to disciple several new people. The congregation is very lively, and many of them are getting involved in the different ministries that the church is developing (Music, evangelism, prayer, small groups). They are also preparing several activities for the coming weeks with the goal of meeting more people and talking to them about Jesus. We thank our association and Westover Baptist Church for all the support they have given to the brethren of the Hispanic church in Hattiesburg. We ask you to pray for Pastor Leo Adan and his family.

El Camino, Laurel

It has been a very exciting few weeks for our brothers in the congregation in Laurel. Everyone is very happy because in the last few weeks they have had new people in worship meetings and small groups. Pastor Marciano Montalvo reports good progress. The church has an evangelism group, and every two weeks they are going out to visit and knock-on doors to share the gospel of Jesus. Thank God people have opened their doors. Even though Covid continues to advance, it has not been an impediment to the carrying out of the gospel. In recent weeks, they have shared the gospel with 30 people

and 12 have received Jesus as Savior of their lives. More people continue to be trained for leadership within the church and missionary work through the Bible Institute. Every Sunday about 20 students of different ages attend the classes offered by the Bible Institute. Most of these students are also serving God in the different ministries that the church has developed in Laurel. We thank God for the brethren of El Camino church in Laurel and their efforts to continue to support missionary work.

It is a joy to be able to share with you all this incredible news and what God continues to do in the Hispanic work. I personally thank God for the lives of all these brothers and sisters who serve our God with enthusiasm and faithfulness. Also, I'm thankful for all the local churches and associations for their continued prayer and support for the Hispanic work to continue to grow in our state of Mississippi.

Bro. Scott Brocius, Missionary at Canaan Land Baptist Mission in Buckatunna, Mississippi

"Hello", from Canaan Land. God is good, and he has continued to bless us here in Buckatunna. We, as always, want to express our gratitude for the churches that make up the BMA of Mississippi. We are thankful for your prayers and continued financial support. We would not be where we are without you all. We have been busy since the last time we wrote an update to the churches. I have had the amazing opportunity to baptize my son, Zane, as he followed the Lord in baptism. You all please remember him in prayer as he starts his journey as a new disciple of Jesus Christ. It seems like this is the time the adversary strikes the hardest. We have been very blessed, as we have seen a huge increase of illness that has gone on around us, that no one in our congregation has fallen sick and I believe the God of heaven has been watching out for us.

We were honored to have Bro. Larry Geraldson and Bro. Jeff Dixon, as well as, their families with us in service on Sunday July the 25th. We are also in the process of designing a new website for Canaan Land. I am excited about this. We will start to upload weekly services on this site, and I think it could be an amazing tool for this ministry. We are continuing to meet on Wednesday night for discipleship class. It is amazing to see the growth in the saints of God. Please continue to pray for this ministry. I firmly believe this is much needed for the perfecting of the saints. We also have had the opportunity to recently hold our first revival meeting August 18th – 20th. I think this was very beneficial to myself, as well, as the people that make up our congregation. We are in the planning stages of reaching our local community with a bulk mailout church invitation. This will be an opportunity to reach over 700 mailboxes with

an invitation and information about the work that the Lord has placed us. Please be in prayer for these efforts.

Recently, I had a conversation with the principal, Coach Hill, at the local school in Buckatunna (K-8) about coming in and doing some ministry work with students, faculty, and sports teams. I feel as though this conversation went well. My request for you all is to flood the throne of heaven with prayers that the Lord would open this door. It would be an amazing opportunity to minister and share the Gospel of Christ with these young people. Thank you all again for the amazing support.

Bro. Wesley Martin, Missionary Coach and Pastor of Redemption in Diamondhead

Greetings from Diamondhead. I hope this article finds you doing well in the Lord. God continues to bless our work even after our organization. We are still excited about the work just as much as when we started. Since our organization, I have settled more into the role of Missionary Coach. We had the opportunity over the summer to go through some evangelism training with Bro. Sidney Farmer and some members of South Forrest. It was a great time for our people to learn to better share the gospel. As they continue to learn and grow in evangelism, my hope is that we can take that training and teach it to other missions in the future. Lord willing, we can do some of that this fall. I am continuing to teach in the area of Church Polity. At the moment, I am working with Bro. Josh Daniels. We are helping lay some of the groundwork that will allow them to continue to grow for years to come at the mission. As a part of my job as Missionary Coach, I am continuing to learn myself. I have started taking online courses at the BMA Seminary this semester. I will be working toward my Masters in Pastoral Theology. I'm looking forward to growing more in the Lord. Thank you for all your prayers and support. It's an honor for me to work with these missionaries and help them along the way.

Bro. Daniel Allen, Associate Missionary

Greetings from Redemption Baptist Church. This has been an amazing summer so far. My wife, Sherri and I have sold our house and settled into a camper for the time being. This has been an adjustment, but we are enjoying this season. I am continuing with my education at Southeastern Baptist College. My plan for now is to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Church Ministries. I am also going through our training that is provided by our missionary coaches. I am currently meeting with Brother Jason Howard for the study of Church Doctrine. So far, we have looked at the origin of the Church, Baptism, The Lord's Supper and the office of the

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re:Charge Leader's Oasis

One definition of an epidemic is a sudden, widespread occurrence of a particular undesirable phenomenon. We have all heard or read similar definitions over the past 18-24 months of Covid 19. The virus has caused millions to die, businesses to close, and families destroyed. With as much devastation that Covid has caused in this world, it doesn't compare to the devastation that the church faces. It breaks my heart to see churches closing, churches losing their pastors, pastors so fatigued they leave the ministry, and the untold millions of people still needing to hear the Good News of Jesus.

I am no missiologist or ecclesiologist, but to view the state of the church from a 30-thousand-foot view, one could easily say the church is facing an epidemic. We have no accurate number of churches without a pastor, or even how many pastors are leaving the ministry,

but if you look through our BMA state papers over the past few years or even months, you can easily see there are too many. God's plan to save the world is through the church; He gave the church a mission: to preach and teach Jesus to the whole world. If churches have no pastor, and pastors are leaving, who will take up the mantle? What if there was a way to encourage, inspire, and love pastors as they serve? What if pastors receive free resources to help them, motivate them, and strengthen them during this epidemic?

re:Charge Leader's Oasis is just one way the BMA tries to serve and help our pastors. A 3-day conference designed to do just that, Inspire, Encourage and Recharge pastors for the hard work of ministry. Shawn Hammontree from Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas, will be speaking Session 1, and if you have heard Shawn speak before, you know you'll be

in for a treat. Yalanda Merrell from Lifeword will interview Larry Barker from Healthy Church Solutions during session 2. As a fairly new ministry of the BMA, Larry will share what Healthy Church Solutions does and how it can assist and help you in ministry. Ronnie Mills from Kingdom Chapel in Saginaw, Texas. Ronnie will share his experience having Covid and how he managed to recover from it. Dr. Steve Crawley and Katy McCown will both lead a breakout session you won't want to miss. To top it all off, Award-winning Contemporary Christian artist Ginny Owens will be performing during a catered dinner.

Would you consider coming to re:Charge Leader's Oasis this year. The cost is \$119 per person or \$190 per couple. Getaway and recharge with other pastors and church leaders, be inspired by great teaching, laugh together with friends, and leave with a bag full of resources and connections. Church Leaders, we love you.

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pastor. I am thankful that we are provided with this training, and I am also thankful for the coaches that spend their time with us on these subjects.

My main prayer for this summer was to preach as much as I could. God has continued to bless in this area. I have been preaching all summer and three times a week here lately. I have been filling in at Helton Road Baptist Church on Sunday mornings and evenings. I have been preaching at my home Church, Redemption Baptist, on Wednesday nights. I have been preaching throughout the book of First John and the book of Genesis, as well. God continues to give me opportunity and I am truly thankful for it. To Him be all the Glory! I also want to personally thank you for your continued support and prayers. God Bless.

Bro. Chris Yager, Missionary at Living Hope Baptist Mission in Meridian

It has been an exciting two months for the Yager family and Living Hope Baptist Mission. For the Yager Family, our northern blood is working to adjust to the heat and humidity of south-central Mississippi, but we are loving every minute of it. Earlier this summer, our two oldest children, Charity and Samuel, graduated from college, and Samuel was just married on August 20th. Exciting times! My wife, DeeDee, has been working in our local Shipley Donut Shop, and has been able to use that to connect with many people. Our youngest two children have begun school again



Chris Yager Living Hope VBS

this month: Charissa is beginning her senior year of high school, and Titus is starting 6th grade. Please be in prayer for our family that we will continue to acclimate to Mississippi, and that we will continue to connect with many more people here in Meridian.

As for the mission, August begins our 11th month of ministry in Meridian. Although Covid wants to hold and continue to hinder, the Lord is working and opening doors for the ministry to thrive. July allowed us to hold our first ever VBS type ministry. Four Sunday nights in a row, we rented the Bonita Lakes Pavilion and held a VBS for our community. We had a total of 15 children register. Although we always hope for more, we knew that this year was an establishment year for next year. Also in July, we saw one saved and two baptized. Praise the Lord!! These past two months have seen a few families visit the mission. We are praying earnestly that the Lord will continue to bring new families to Living Hope. God has blessed us tremendously with about 30 people already, and we would love to see Him add many more. Please pray with us, as we

ask the Lord to give us five more families by the end of the year. Though our mission is very young, God continues to knit the hearts of our people together. It is so encouraging to hear our people praying, fellowshiping, and enjoying outside activities. Four of our families enjoyed attending a Mississippi Braves game together! The Lord is laying a mighty foundation.

We are looking forward with anticipation to the fall. Our new Associate Missionary will be coming on full time the first of September. Please pray for Samuel as He trains for the church planting ministry. Also, this fall, we will need to relocate the mission. Our contract with the MSU Riley Center ends the last week of September. We have some very good leads for relocation. Please pray with us that this transition will go smoothly, and that it will aid in reaching many people for Christ. During the "cooler" months of fall, we are planning many outreaches and activities to continue to reach deeper into our community. Again, we ask that you please pray for us to see people saved and added to the mission.

Finally, thank you so much for all your support! Living Hope would not be where it is at without you! Your faithfulness to pray and give is vital to the success of this ministry!!

Dr. Kenneth Pollock, Missionary at Midway Baptist Mission, Batesville/Oxford

Greetings from those who will soon organize as a New Testament church! Five years in mission status has passed quickly but we are ready for autonomy. We have completed and approved our Constitution, By Laws, and Policy Manual for Midway Baptist Church. Only a

re:Charge - For the Church's Pastor

by Larry Barker

Pastoring is indeed a tremendous blessing and privilege. Paul says it well in I Timothy 3:1, "If anyone aspires to be an overseer, he desires a good work." The opportunity to help and assist others on their spiritual journeys is invigorating, inspiring, exciting, and also challenging. To me there is nothing more rewarding than helping people to find and follow Jesus by living on mission with Jesus focused on making disciples who make disciples through our community of believers.

As a pastor I can tell you that, but it is also a very daunting task. There are seasons of great victories and there are also seasons of discouragement and defeat. The key is making sure we remain healthy during both seasons. We must resist the temptation to be corrupted by the applause during the victories or crushed by criticism during the defeats. The role and responsibilities of a pastor are very complex and were never meant to be carried by the leader alone, but sometimes we do not give ourselves permission to be human.

First, the role is complex because of what is known as "Role Immersion." Being on call 24/7 and the unrealistic expectations can be overwhelming at times. One mental health expert shared that this alone can "over arouse our stress hormones."

Then there is "Role Complexity" that also carries the unrealistic expectation that one man is great at multi-tasking and great at all of those tasks.

A final aspect of ministry, known as "Role Ambiguity", is a mystery and it means there are few who really understand what pastors do and what the role requires.

This is why we all need to follow our own advice to seek out times of rest, Sabbath, and godly rhythms in order to recharge. That is why a conference like Re:Charge can be vitally important to all of us. It allows you to step away in order to be encouraged, mentored, and reenergized by others who are on the same journey you are on.

This is a great opportunity for you to Re:Charge and learn how to thrive and flourish even during the difficult seasons. You are not alone and we would love to come along side of you!

few documents remain to be drafted, signed, and submitted and then we can officially organize. It is scheduled for 2:00 PM Saturday, October 16, 2021, at Midway.

Our regularly scheduled Sunday School, Worship, and Bible Study services have continued even as the Delta strain of Covid19 and other illnesses have swept through the area. Attendance has trended low, but we have maintained contact with those unable to meet with us. All who attend Midway enjoy coming together and worshiping in church capacity. Spiritual growth is evidenced week by week as the group strongly bonds in Christian love. Wednesday evening Bible Study has been especially profitable as attendees have been led through I Peter.

Despite the difficulties of these present days, we remain encouraged because we know that our Lord is in control over all things. He has blessed us and guided us through these past years, and He will continue to be with us as we serve Him in obedience to His commands. God raised us as His Mission; He will establish us as His Church in North Mississippi. Praise, honor, and glory to Him!

Blessings upon all of you who supported us through prayer and offerings. Please continue your prayers.

Dr. Paul Spurlin, Restoration Ministry

Thank you for your continued support of Restoration's work as we

minister to prisoners, currently focusing on men and young men being held in the adult and youth detention facilities in Jones County, Mississippi. First, I would like to share with you some details of trips we made to these jails in July. We visited both the adult and youth jails on July 9 and July 16. During the July 9 trip, I was accompanied by state missionary Bro. Scott Brocius. He and I each shared a biblical teaching with two detainees in the youth facility. As we moved to the adult jail, we were joined by Bro. Gil Odom as Bro. Scott and I each preached a brief sermon to eight men. On July 16, Bro. Chris Myers and I visited the jails where he preached to three juvenile prisoners and eight adult men. On this evening in the youth facility, I also took the opportunity to share Jesus's teaching on the "Golden Rule" in Matthew 7:12 because as we were entering the jail the staff said that one of the boys had his lunch stolen and eaten by a couple of other boys on that day.

Allow me to give you some details about the prisoners ministering to us in the adult jail on July 16. The group of men told us several times about how thankful they were for us coming to be with them, and they were also surprised and overjoyed that they were allowed to come to a worship service two nights in a row. (How many typical church members are excited that they can at-

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Philippine Ministry Update

Missionaries Stan & Donna Scroggins

From Stan

August has certainly been an exciting month: registration at the college, weddings, ordinations, baptisms, church visits, returning missionaries, painting the campus buildings, becoming the Asia Pacific Coordinator, all made for a very good month. The highlight for us has been the addition of 25 new enrollees at the Bible College. When the Philippines added 11th and 12th grade to their education system it meant the colleges would not have new students until students graduated 12th grade. This is the first year for that. For the past two years enrollment has only been 2 or 3 each year. With the addition of our new students this brings our enrollment to over 80. Rejoice, pray and help us meet the needs of all these additional students.

From Donna

With school starting back we have a great new bunch of students. I've got big numbers in my

classes and with all the additional students on campus we are working hard to stay socially distanced, masked and healthy. The first day of Chapel 2021 fell



First night of College Choir Practice. 54 students, all wearing mask. I'm trying to think of a cool graphic to put on a coordinating mask for the choir

on Stan's 65th birthday. I got all the students to surprise him with cupcakes and sodas. They also gave him a certificate for being the first Chapel Speaker of 2021/22. One of our faithful Filipino missionaries, Junmar, is building a roof over their nepa hut church. To mix the cement they needed lots of sand. So, to save money, they borrowed our truck,

drove to the river, filled 70 bags with sand, carried each bag to the church (about half a mile). I just love the work ethic of these people.

Our work is completely focused on making sure the Gospel is taught in our weekly home

Bible study, the sending of the Gospel to Southeast Asian countries, the training of pastors and missionaries at the Bible College and church planting in the Philippines and all over Southeast Asia. Would you help us? \$1,000.00 a year goes a long way here, helping us train church planters, send missionaries and train students.

History & Archives Commission

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440

jasonowenshoward@gmail.com - 601-689-1491

In a previous article I made the statement that the work known as Faithway, BMA and ABA was once in the same. The churches, before the various splits, once by and large cooperated and worked together. I'm 1950 the BMA (then NABA) split from the ABA. A couple years prior to that, there was a split that took place in our state that led to the development of Faithway Associations. Many of our readers know personally many of our Faithway brothers and sisters. They have a great zeal for missions. However, the split that took place was said to be over the issue of the scripturalness of paying missionaries a salary. The following article, first printed in the Mississippi Baptist in 1948, was written by Eld. Davis. The subject is in regard to the split in our work.

Jason Howard

Has the Mississippi State Association become Unscriptural?

Concerning the Split which resulted in the Faithway work.

By. J.A. Davis – Wiggins, MS
First Printed February 1948 in the

Mississippi Baptist

"Charges have been made that the State Association of Mississippi has become unscriptural. I admit that the State Association of Mississippi is made up of local churches, and local churches are made up of individual human beings who are all imperfect, and these imperfect churches are represented at the State Association by imperfect messengers who are subject to make mistakes. Therefore, imperfect churches associating together in a State Assembly make that Assembly imperfect, and subject to mistakes.

Charges have been made that some have crept into the State Association from other denominations unawares, and therefore have so conventionalized and unscripturalized the State Association of Mississippi by paying the missionaries a stipulation, that can no longer work with the said State Association, and did on January 7th, 1948, at Purvis Mississippi organize a NEW Association, naming it the 'Original Mississippi State Association.' One thing about this new association is that I would like to know how can anything, organic or human 39 years younger become the original of its 39 years senior?

But just let the records of the Mississippi State Association speak, as well as the statements of some preachers as to paying the missionaries a stipulation, either per day or per month. To begin with, the late Eld. J. P. Johnson did mission work all over Southeast Mississippi for the General Association at \$3.00 per day. (Somebody deny it?) Note, I do not have records for the first 7 years of the State Association, but in 1915 we find them paying Elders M. Walters and A. T. Burns as missionaries \$2.00 per day. (I will not call the missionaries' names in order to save space.) In 1921 State Missionaries were paid \$4.00 per day and on through 1922, 1923 and 1924. In 1925 they were paid \$135.00 per month for actual time put in, and on through 1926, 1927, 1928 and 1929. (Note, at Bay Springs in 1928 was the first time that Eld. L. T. Simmons came to us.) No minutes printed for 1930. In 1931, 1932 and 1933, missionaries were paid \$4.00 per day. At Station Creek Church in 1933 seven missionaries were endorsed with nothing said about their pay, neither anything said about their pay for 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937 and 1938. At Union Church, Smith County, the missionaries were to be paid not to exceed \$4.00 per day. Nothing said about pay in 1940. In 1941 and 1942 the missionaries were paid \$4.00 per



Jason Howard
Director

Missions

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tend multiple worship services within a week?) Further, one of the men shared a testimony about the fact that he has previously been in state prison and is about to be transferred for a new sentence in state prison. He credits his grandfather with planting the seed of God's Word in him many years ago but admits his behavior causing him to serve prison time is due to his not allowing that seed to change him. He now realizes the importance of studying the Bible to allow God to change him and knows that he needs to avoid going back to prison after his upcoming sentence so that he can invest God's Word in his three children.

We have yet to visit the jails in August. Our ministry is currently suspended in the Jones

County detention system because they have closed visitation due to the recent increased activity of Covid-19. Please continue supporting us in prayer that God will provide a church or churches in the Jones County area to take up our ministry there and that He will open the door to begin a work in another county's jail. May God bless each of you.

Bro. Josh Daniels, Missionary at Refuge Baptist Mission in Kiln, Mississippi

To the churches and associations of the BMA of MS: We would like to

thank you for the support and prayers we receive as one of your state missions. We had a great summer and saw lots of activities in and around the mission. Professions of faith, baptism, church camp, fellowships, & a pavilion being built were a part of great moments and memories built for Refuge. A school was starting back, we began our youth and children's ministries on Sunday nights. The first one on August 1st was greatly attended and gave great promise of potential for the youth and children's classes. We were met immediately the next day with some positive cases of Covid and they grew throughout the week. We chose to dismiss in-person services for two weeks and then go to drive-in or outdoor type



Refuge Youth Night

services on the mission's property. We plan to continue meeting in this manner, as we monitor the covid situation in the mission's families and in our area. In total, the month of August brought around 23 positive cases of Covid to people in or connected to the mission with my wife and son being two of them. Thanks to the Lord, supporting churches and associations, and to the Midway FBC missions team, we have land and the pavilion to be able to utilize during this time, as last year we did not have the land to even have this as an option.

Continue to pray for us and con-

sider supporting us this year if God leads. Some of the needs you would be contributing to are a future church building, resources for discipleship, and help for outreach. Great things have happened, and we believe they will continue.

Bro. Johnny Williams, Missionary at Salt Light Baptist Mission in Waveland, Mississippi

Greetings from Salt Light Baptist Mission. Once again, we find ourselves in the middle of another Covid outbreak in the Bay/Waveland area. We've had three of our folks who tested positive and some who have been exposed to the virus in the past few weeks. As a result of this, we have gone back to just preaching live on Facebook until the end of August. At this time, we will reassess the situation and decide about meeting for worship and Bible study on Wednesday nights. Please keep us in your prayers. Thank you so much for your support and may God bless each of you.

Bro. Jason Howard, Missionary and Missionary Coach

Thank you for your continued support. It has been a real blessing to work alongside Bro. Sidney Farmer and Bro. Wesley Martin as a Missionary Coach. I am currently working with Bro. Chris Yager and Bro. Daniel Allen. We meet every Monday at the church in which I am blessed to serve, Canaan Missionary Baptist Church. We generally meet for around two hours (6pm - 8pm). During this time, we are looking deep into the subject of church doctrine. I can tell you that we all grow together in knowledge

and in fellowship. This endeavor has truly strengthened the bond the missionaries share with each other. I look forward to continuing this work with other current and possibly new missionaries in the future.

I am also looking forward in the near future to coming back alongside Bro. Brocious and helping him more directly at Canaan Land Baptist Mission.

Additionally, I am praying, and ask you to pray with me, concerning some evangelistic meetings throughout our state. I am praying about areas I may be able to go into and hold a week of evangelistic services. I am also looking for a tent if anyone could help with this. If you know of an area unchurched, or a place that needs the gospel, please let me know.

Bro. Sidney Farmer, Sr. Missionary Coach

We are thankful for the continued work of our missionary coaches and their dedication to help train and equip our state missionaries in the work of church planting. Discipleship training with Bro. Scott Brocious is going very well and we are seeing tremendous progress with him, as well as other missionaries. We continue to develop our Church Doctrine training and have recently added the Doctrine of Church Discipline to the program. Currently, we have several missionaries involved in this training. It is a tremendous blessing to work with the whole mission team and to see the progress being made in State Missions and the growth in the individual missionaries. Please continue to pray for each one of our missionaries and their families.

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Daniel Springs Camp BMAA Report

by Jason Prewitt, Director

Daniel Springs Baptist Camp celebrates a year of being a National Department of the BMA of America. It is an honor to celebrate the GMA, WMA, Brotherhood and so many that have allowed Daniel Springs Camp to be an extension and partner with their ministries and groups. Summer Camps and Retreats have become so essential for all of us to get away from the busyness of our days and relax. We are so thankful for the 100 plus financial supporters that give monthly to the ministry of the camp and allow us the opportunity to open the gates for groups

by hosting or leading their groups in camps or retreats. We could not do this without their financial support and also the amazing groups and individuals that come and volunteer their time, energy and knowledge by investing in the Revitalizing the Dream that started in 1965 when the gates opened at Daniel Springs Camp. We continue to be overwhelmed at the financial and physical support.

This summer we had planned



Prewitt

on hosting 10 camps but due to Covid we had to close camp early and only were able to host 8 of those 10 camps. It was not the finish line that we wanted but a huge celebration comes from 28 students making public decisions to follow Christ over those 8 camps. All the work was worth the opportunity to share to just one but we were able to witness the harvest.

As always we are in need of help with some big and small projects at the camp. The pool and lake are some major projects that we are focusing on to help improve the activities on campus. These are big ticket items and more details than I can share

in this short report. If you would like other details please feel free to contact the camp office and we would like to talk to you about how we can partner together.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as the Executive Director of your National Department of Camp Ministries and Retreats.

BMA of Mississippi Annual Meeting
October 18-19, 2021
First Baptist Church of Shady Grove
Laurel, Mississippi

Missionaries get special approval to travel Our 11 month, 12,000 mile journey!

by Doug & Diane Lee

Our journey home began with a thousand steps but concluded with more like twelve thousand miles! After two flight cancellations and a trip to the Houston Philippine Embassy, we received a 9A visa, which is a travel ban exemption. We almost didn't get out of Gulfport, Mississippi, because of the tropical storms headed for the Gulf. On top of that, we were distressed because our family had Covid. They were all quarantined. Nothing has ever been as difficult as leaving our children and grandchildren and not being able to hug and kiss them goodbye.



Doug & Diane Lee

With mixed emotions, we flew to San Francisco, still not sure if we would be denied boarding the plane bound for Manila. God went before us. As we stood in line at the Philippine Airlines check-in desk, we prayed that God would prepare the way ahead of us. The desk clerk looked at all of our paperwork and told us we were good. He told us he had turned down many people because they did not have all of their documents in order, but we had done our homework. He issued our boarding passes and checked our bags and we were tempted to do a holy dance there in the San Francisco airport! God is so good!

We are now in Manila in quarantine for 10 days, and after we are tested and test results are negative, we will be released to

fly to the island where we live. We face many unknowns sometimes, but we have God's promise that he goes before us and will remain with us! Missionary life can be hard at times and is definitely not glamorous, but the blessings outweigh the sacrifices.

We wouldn't trade this amazing journey for anything else, because we have seen God work in astonishing ways. We are rejoicing that our family is better, and excited to return to our work and to our incredible friends and Filipino family in Talisay City. Thank you for all of your prayers.

2021-22 School Year

As of today, August 24, we have 18 new students with prospects of more arriving. God is still calling young men and women into His service.

Our visits to the churches while we were home were amazing and a tremendous blessing. We wondered why God would not open the door for us to return, but now, we look back and realize God knew we needed the extra time to raise scholarship funds for our deserving students. God blessed us with commitments for our existing students and four new ones. That leaves us with at least 14 students without scholarships. We are challenging you to help! You can do it individually, or collectively as a church or organization. \$100 a month pays for food, room, board, tuition, and essentials.

Funds may be sent to Mill Creek Baptist Church, 11 Old Kiln Road, Picayune MS 39466 or BMA Missions Office, PO Box 878, Conway, AR 72033. Please label your donation Doug and Diane Lee, BMABC Scholarship.

Angela Rice, Short Term
 Missions Coordinator

At SOAR conference 2021, students were challenged to help send student missionaries to serve in the summer of 2022. The result of that challenge? SOAR attendees gave almost \$7,000 for Volunteer Student Missions through the Darlene Carey VSM Scholarship Fund!

I am so excited about students sending students to the mission field through this offering, which provides \$500 scholarships to 13 students. I am thankful for those who felt led to give to this fund.

I am also thankful to carry out the legacy of Darlene Carey, who encouraged and mentored many students to serve on the mission field. Darlene was a faithful servant who gave her life to missions as a student. She spoke at SOAR many times and inspired attendees to be missionaries. Why is short term missions so important? For several reasons: God calls both leaders and stu-



Students receiving the Darlene Carey VSM Scholarship for 2022: Tori Menzies, Edwin Sierra, Lainey Scruggs, Catie Cox, Camden Clark, Gabriel Ancarrow, Abby Faulk, Katie Mencll, Madison Mouro, Marie Akard, Loren Reynolds, Bobbie Stallings, Danae Jones

dents to full time missions.

God gives others a heart for local missions.

God changes your heart for people and cultures both locally around the world.

Throughout three decades of SOAR conferences, countless BMA young people have responded to the challenge and accepted the call to serve. Our

prayer is that through short term missions, God will also call students to be lifetime supporters of missions.

If you would like to help send students to the mission field by donating to the VSM Darlene Carey Scholarship Fund, send your offering to BMA Missions/VSM Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 878, Conway, AR 72033.

History

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day. In 1943, \$5.00 per day. IN 1944, no fixed amount for the missionaries, but on its merits. In 1946, \$6.00 per day, in 1947, \$9.00 per day. The records show that the missionaries were paid more on the per day basis than on the merit system.

At Bay Springs in 1936, Elder M. E. Childers came to us first time. Dr. D. N. Jackson and Eld. C. D. Barton have been with us (The State Association of Mississippi) only a few years.

In presenting cold facts, certainly no one could be ashamed of truth as to names. So let us see the names of some who have received a stipulation as missionaries for the Miss. State Association: Elders M. Walters, S. A. Shoemaker, M. H. Broadus, G. S. Raburn, M. M. Grav, A. T. Burns, J. M. Stuart, Ven B.

Hill, M. W. Matthews, S. M. Crocker, Ray W. Hamilton, L. T. Simmons, T. C. King, L. G. Varnado, and many others.

Sorry, but the time has come that we must call a hoe a hoe and a spade a spade. Bro. L. G. Varnado said on the floor at Ten Mile Church, on Wednesday October 24th, 1945, that he had read the bible through 43 times, and he had not found one passage against paying the missionaries a stipulation. He also said on the floor of Tabernacle Church, Purvis, Wednesday, January 7th, 1948, that he left the Convention and was not ashamed of it, and that he was not ashamed to leave the Mississippi State Association because of its unscripturalness. Bro. J. E. Roberson, while missionary for the Red Creek Association, in the 1935 session at Mars Hill Church, in making his report claimed a balance due him of \$22.05 at \$4.00 per day.

Eld. J. E. Roberson said that all that was not of faith was sin (Rom. 14:23). We will just suppose that the words 'wages' and 'hire' are not in the Bible, and that it is a sin to pay missionaries so much per day. I ask the question is the doing of one thing without scriptural authority any worse than another? Show me one passage for a church calling a pastor who has membership in another church? Or for calling a pastor at all? Show me one passage for a preacher to pastor more than one Church? Behold, some of us strain at a gnat and swallow a camel. Why can't we quit like men all this petty difference and come together and work as the Lord prayed in John 17 that we all be one? Is the Lord pleased with all this discord that is being sown? I crave peace and fellowship with all my brethren, but we cannot have it as long as we split hairs over petty differences. May the Lord help us."