

Mississippi Baptist

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BAPTIST MISSIONARY
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Reminder of Upcoming Annual Meeting

by Blake McCain, President

Greetings, fellow Mississippi Baptists! I want to remind you of the 216 Annual Session of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi on Tuesday, October 18th and possibly Wednesday, October 19th. The meeting will be held at South Forrest Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where our Vice-President, Bro. Sydney



Farmer is the pastor. The Program Committee plans to meet on Thursday September 8th to set the agenda for the meeting. Lord willing, the schedule will be published in the October edition of our Mississippi Baptist paper.

Youth Trustees to present Bro. Anders Lee as Youth Director

by Bro. Adam Parker, Chairman, Youth Department Trustees

The trustees of the Mississippi Youth Department would like to announce their nomination of Anders Lee for youth director for the state Youth Department. Bro. Lee's nomination will be presented at the state meeting on October 18, 2022. We thank everyone for their support and prayers through this process.

Introducing Bro. Lee

Most of you know Bro. Anders Lee. For those who may not we share the following information:

Anders was born in Louisiana and grew up in the BMA. He is the son of Lavell & Myria Lee. Bro. Lavell was a BMA pastor in Louisiana, New Mexico & Mississippi and served as the Director of the RLF here in Mississippi.

Anders is married to Carla Lee, daughter of R.D. & Hilda Cline. They live in Southaven, Mississippi (the "Tip of the Sip") & have four children, Zac, Reagan (Makenna), Siera, & Simon Kellar (named after Dr. Gerald Kellar). They have one grandson Zeke and just found out they will have their second grandchild in March 2023.

Anders was saved after attending our BMA camp in Wiggins in 1979 and surrendered to preach at that same camp in 1984 at the age

of 13. He began preaching after High School at the age of 18. He was ordained by Lee's Chapel Baptist Church in Picayune, Mississippi. Lee attended and graduated from Southeastern Baptist College in 1994.

Anders has pastored three churches in our work: Shiloh Baptist in Nacaise, Mississippi (1990-1994), Calvary Baptist in Horn Lake (2003-2011) & currently Central, a church plant of the BMA of Mississippi & the National BMA work (2013-present). He served as the Associate Pastor & Youth Leader at Calvary Baptist in Horn Lake 1994-2003 and was the Student Pastor at First Baptist Jacksonville, TX in 2011.



Anders Lee

Lee has preached at many camps, youth revivals, retreats, DNOWs and has been the director of BMA youth camps in Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas since 1990. He served alongside of Bro. Latrelle Windham in our state camps from 1999 – 2003. He has been the youth writer for the Mississippi Baptist since 2016. He also served in the city of Southaven as chairman of the Planning Commission 2005 - 2021.

Volunteer Student Missions—Just say yes! *It's never too soon to start thinking and praying about next summer*

by Margaret Anderson

Fourteen years ago, I went on my first short-term mission trip to the Philippines. I didn't feel like I was someone God could ever use, but during my junior year of college, I decided to give it a shot. Little did I know, God could and would use a young, inadequate college student to do his work among the nations. This was just the beginning, and it's been a wild ride ever since!

This feeling of inadequacy isn't uncommon among high school and college students. Many, if not the majority, feel as if there's no way God could possibly use them. All it takes is obedience. Is God asking you to step out, get uncomfortable, and go reach the nations for him? What's stopping you? Just say yes and go!

Volunteer Student Missions (VSM) helps students take the message of Jesus Christ to the nations, allows students the opportunity to experience a new culture, and teaches students to have a Great Commission view of Christianity. Many who go on VSM trips end up staying involved by leading trips or even becoming full-time missionaries themselves.

VSM teams will serve alongside missionaries and local pastors in various modes of ministry, doing anything from teaching VBS

to completing service projects to both serve the people and build relationships for the missionaries in the community.

It's never too soon to start thinking and praying about next summer. Our 2022 teams are all back on U.S. soil, and we are starting to put together teams for 2023. Trips for 2023 include Philippines, Puerto Rico, Ghana, Romania, Costa Rica, Colombia, Peru, and California.

Lydia Dunlap, a freshman at Central Baptist College, has served on VSM teams in the past and plans to continue to do so. She says, "VSM widens your perspective of the world and grows your love for people. For me, going on a VSM trip helped me understand missions and the value of outreach. These trips have helped me see people the way that God does—everyone everywhere needs the gospel."

To join a team, a student must simply have a relationship with Christ, a willingness to serve, and be at least fifteen years of age by the time of the trip. If you, or a student you, know is interested in serving through VSM, visit letsgovsm.com or email angelabmaam.com. We look forward to helping you get connected and involved in taking the love of Jesus to the nations! God can use anyone; just say yes!



Photo is from the June 2022 VSM trip to Puerto Rico to work with Pastor Alfredo Didier.

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

Trustees

Adam Sloan - Rayburn Freeman

Danny Bartlett - Clell Allen

Corbey Jones - Anders Lee

E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org

Web site www.msbaptist.org

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Printing, Postage, and Costs

For the past few months we have printed only one issue instead of our normal 2 issues. We have been printing two issues per month for the 44 years I have been editor and for many years prior to that. The cost of operation has increased steadily each year. This is no surprise since consumer costs in every area of life increase regularly. I remember 19 cent gasoline - yes, that is a real number that I paid while living in Beaumont, Texas, in 1972. During my high school years in the Mississippi Delta I remember 29.9 and 32 cent gas. We all know where that cost is today.

The penny postcard no longer exists. A first class stamp is now 60 cents. The cost for newsprint has also skyrocketed. The postage for Bulk Mail, the permit the paper is mailed under, has also increased dramatically in the past few years.

The increase in our cost of operation has forced us to make some operational decisions. As we previously reported, during the 2021 annual meeting the Association approved our request to print only once per month as our financial and cost situation determined. We hope that our readers understand this necessity. We cannot increase our rates enough to cover the additional costs. The monthly subscription has not covered the cost of operation for several year and we have always relied upon monthly donations and our annual Special Emphasis drive.

We can print one full color issue each month for less than the cost of two black and white issues. We have chosen this path for the time being. Color printing is more expensive, but with only one issue we can handle the extra cost per issue and publish a much more attractive and creative publication.

Our job is to share information our readers and churches need and to promote each area of ministry of the BMA of Mississippi and America. We continue to try and fulfill that mission.

Notifications of Change Requests

On this page you will find two letters from two different churches concerning changes to be presented at our annual meeting in October. These issues bring differing opinions. When brethren disagree on issues and/or procedures the result often leads to passionate debate. As God's children we can certainly have disagreements without breaking fellowship. We can debate and state our positions and also guard our hearts, our words, our passions, and approaches without breaking fellowship. May the Lord guide as we deal with these issues and procedures.

Texas Church Seeks Bi-vocational pastor

Pine Brook Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas is seeking a Bi-Vocational Pastor. For those who may be interested please send a resume to Pine Brook Baptist Church, P.O. Box 7121, Tyler, TX 75711 or E-Mail pinebrookpastorsearch@gmail.com. We are requesting resumes by October 14, 2022.

Church Seeking Pastor

Siloam Missionary Baptist Church of Winfield, Alabama, is searching for a pastor. The church is located in Fayette County in northwest Alabama about 30 miles from the Mississippi state line. The position is bi-vocational. Those interested are asked to call Jim Carlo at 205-412-9881 or contact him by email at 1857jc@gmail.com.

Churches Bring Proposals to 2022 Annual Meeting

Church asks for constitutional change

To The Association of churches of The BMA of Mississippi Greetings all sister churches of the BMA of Mississippi

The body of Divine Grace Baptist Church located in Long Beach, Mississippi, prayerfully request for consideration the follow amendment of the Constitution of The Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi - Article IX (election of Heads of Department). We would request that this amendment be presented and voted on at the annual meeting schedule for October 18th in the first session. That a section 5 be added to article IX, and to read to the effect:

Article IX section 5

Any person that is elected, appointed, or hired may be removed from their position for any breach of trust by a majority vote of messengers present and voting during any session of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi (i.e. annual meeting, mid-year meeting or any special called meeting). Upon a vote of removal they will no longer be entitled to any future "financial compensation or benefits".

Submitted and voted on by the body of Divine Grace Baptist Church.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Mike Angus

bromikeangus@yahoo.com

Doctrinal Statement change

We, the congregation of Canaan Missionary Baptist Church of Lucedale, MS, request to add to the doctrinal statement on the Holy Bible to say the following.

We believe in the infallible, verbal inspiration of the Holy Bible, and that the Holy Bible is sufficient and complete for the doctrine and practice of the Christian faith (Psalms 119:160; II Timothy 3:16, 17). The 1769 edition of the 1611 version of the **Authorized King James Bible** is the English version used because it is our conviction, and it

is the complete Word of God preserved in the English language for this age (1769 – today).

It is an accurate and trustworthy translation based on the providentially preserved original language texts of the Hebrew Masoretic Text and the Greek Textus Receptus Text.

We would appreciate the consideration for adoption of this resolution.

Bro. Kelly Byrd, Pastor, Canaan Missionary Baptist Church

Mrs. Sylvia Dunham, Secretary, Canaan Missionary Baptist Church

WE ARE HIRING A YOUTH + ASSOCIATE PASTOR

We are seeking a strong leader who is called to guide youth and their families in their relationship and walk with God. This position is a combined full-time Youth and Associate Pastor position and includes facilitating spiritual growth not only with youth, but the parents of youth and our entire church family. The Associate Pastor will be expected to work with families, develop and teach Youth Sunday School and other educational programs while communicating with church staff. This position would lead and assist with pastoral care, preaching and assisting our Pastor as needed.

Please email a resume and cover letter that includes a statement of faith and why you feel called to this ministry.

Doug Brewer | Pastor
Trisha Marlow | Office | Education & Communications Coordinator

405.794.6646 or
southgatebaptistmoore@gmail.com

SOUTHGATE BAPTIST CHURCH

Mrs. Carol Shine Called Home

Carol Evelyn Porter Shine entered her heavenly rest on August 14, 2022. She was born December 19, 1946, in Harrisonville, MO, to Jesse Clyo and Jettie Luetta Porter.

The Year 1961 was a pivotal year in Carol's life. It was the year she made the choice to accept the free gift of salvation offered by Jesus Christ. She also met a young



Springfield native who would eventually become her husband. Carol graduated from Parkview High School (Springfield, MO) in May of 1964 and married James (Jim) Shine the following July. Jim and Carol spent the next 58 years learning to lean on the Lord and each other as they walked the pathways of life.

Carol served as a faithful pastor's wife, mother,

grandmother, Sunday School teacher, GMA Counselor, Bible Study teacher, and friend in multiple churches and communities in Missouri, Arkansas, and Texas. She was a long time employee of BMA Seminary and more recently worked with the BMA Alumni Association.

She is survived by her husband, Jim, daughters Kelly (Brian) Mullins and Keri (Richard) Southern, grandsons Daniel (Rachel) and Noah Hardin and Darby and Donovan Mullins, and sister Chris (Vance) Duke. She is also survived by sisters-in-love Huba Wells, Dorsey Dalton, Ruth Swearingin, and Donna (Marvin) McMullin, as well as a host of nieces and nephews who have wonderful memories of Aunt Carol.

Services were held in the Dorman Memorial Chapel at BMA Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas on August 20, 2022 led by Dr. Charley Holmes and Bro. Larry Barker. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to BMA Seminary in Carol's memory.

Available For Service

Bro. Dale Wyrick of Lucedale, Mississippi, is available for preaching appointments. He may be reached at 228-249-0558.

Mississippi Missionary Reports

Nominee for Interim Missions & Revolving Loan Fund Manager Chris Yager Shares A Personal Introduction

Since the news was shared about my nomination to the Interim Missions Director position, I have really enjoyed the opportunity to talk with many of you about the position. Your graciousness has been overwhelming, and your encouragement has been much appreciated. Thank you for being so kind to me!

Knowing that I have not had the opportunity to meet many of you yet, I thought I would take a moment to share my heart and vision for our missions and revolving loan department. In the introductory article last month, it was shared with you a little about my family and ministry experience. To better understand my heart and vision, I would like to start by sharing with you a synopsis of who I am doctrinally.

I believe in sufficiency and infallibility of the Word of God, the Trinity, the deity of Jesus Christ, his virgin birth, and His death, burial and resurrection. I believe that the gospel is the good news of salvation. I believe in the sovereignty of God and the free will of man. I believe that God knows all who will be saved, but does **not** appoint some to salvation. I believe that every man can be saved, but the blood of Christ is only effective to those who call upon Him for salvation. I believe in the local,



visible New Testament church. I believe that the Holy Spirit indwells believers at salvation, imparts spiritual gifts, and is active in the local church. I believe that Jesus is the head of the church, and I believe in a literal pretribulation, premillennial, return of Christ. I am Baptist by choice and conviction, and I am honored to affirm our doctrinal statement in the Mississippi handbook. There is so much more that I could say to share with you who I am doctrinally, but space is limited.

Though I am only being considered for an interim role, I want you to know that my heart is for the growth and advancement of our missions and revolving loan fund departments. I love our state association and I am excited to serve our Lord and this association in this role. My vision for this year is to continue our momentum of church planting by praying that the Lord allows us to begin two more churches this year. I would love to begin efforts to emphasize missions and church planting among our youth and teens. I would love to build upon our assistant missionary program, and see more young men trained for ministry. And I would love to come alongside our pastors and churches in ways that will help them grow and strengthen their works. In a nutshell, I want to be a servant to our churches as much as possible. As for the revolving loan fund, my heart and vision is to build upon the momentum that has already been established. God has used and blessed this fund in a mighty way and I want to continue that trend. There are great things in store for this fund and I am excited for what God is going to do through it this year.

I am honored to be considered as your interim missions and revolving loan fund director, and I am praying for you, your church, and this association. May the Lord do great things in and through us this year!

The Work Is Finished!

by Samuel Yager

That's right, the major construction at Living Hope Baptist Mission is finished! While there is still minor work to be done, we were able to invite the community to our open house service on August 14th. God's blessing was evident as we enjoyed an exciting time of celebration and dedication.

After having to push the date back for our open house service because of the slow process of renovations once before, I began to grow nervous that we might have to do so again through the beginning of the month of July. However, the closer we came to the scheduled open house, the more God allowed details to fit perfectly in place. I am beyond thankful for the perfect plan and provision of God and for the many people who have invested into Living Hope. God blessed our labors yet again by enabling us to enjoy a packed out service for our open house. Following our morning service and lunch, we held a special time of dedicating the building back to God through prayer. I have been overwhelmed by the support of our association, the response of our people at Living Hope, the attendance of new families, and the blessing of our God. All glory to Him alone!

With the major construction being com-



plete, the open house service held, and the building dedicated to God's glory, we understand that the true work has only just begun. However, God directs our steps going forward and I am excited to focus on making disciples without the hindrance of an unfinished building. 1 Thessalonians 5:24 "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."

Showers Of Blessing

by Scott Brocious

We have been continuing to strive for as



much community outreach as possible at Cannan Land for the last several months. In the months of April and May we were able to set up our booth at community events and provide Gospel tracts and our church information to many people. In the Month of June, after much planning and prayer the mission hosted its first vacation Bible school. It was very successful, thankfully we had our home church as well as supporting churches assist with this outreach. On our largest night we hosted around 89 people. Last week on August 20th Cannan Land hosted a back-to-school outreach offering a meal, bounce houses, and free haircuts to those in attendance.

God has been so faithful to us! After laboring and sowing the seed of the Gospel message we have seen an increase at the hand of God. Our mission is growing! We had a new family join the mission in the month of April that we met during an outreach event. With that being said, on the first Sunday in June we also had record attendance in our morning services. To top that off, on the last Sunday in July we broke the June record. At the conclusion of our morning services on August 21st another visiting family came before the mission seeking membership.

After much has been said about outreach and attendance, I would like to conclude with one thing that Baptists love to talk about and that is finance. I received a text message from Bro. Geraldson in June stating that the RLF committee met and approved to pay off the balance of our mortgage on the church building. A burden has been lifted! But also, we have had a steady improvement of giving amongst our people that the Lord has entrusted us with. I have

continually been amazed at the goodness of God through this church planting process in Buckatunna, and I am overwhelmed by the fact that I am able to be a small part of God's work.

No Time For Summer Time Blues

by Josh Daniels

Greetings BMA of Mississippi!

We started the summer off by celebrating with four graduating seniors. They have been special to all of us at Refuge and we enjoyed being able to recognize them after a morning service. Next came youth camp for our middle school and high school students. We were blessed to be able to take 19 students to camp with 9 adults as sponsors to Global Youth Ministries in Chatsworth, Georgia. God moved among our group and bonded many of our students and adults in



ways that we are still seeing today. We also had a one day camp for our elementary age youth at a local campsite by a creek. We had an incredible time of fellowship and we discussed God as Creator in Genesis and some of the reasons of our existence as humans. We finished our summer months serving our local schools by giving each one backpacks full of supplies for a total of 135 backpacks.

The most exciting thing to see this summer was souls saved, baptisms get lined up, and church growth both numerically and spiritually. We also celebrate the continued work on the physical building at the permanent location for Refuge. We were able to see the foundation work begin with added dirt work, a main footing, and a chain wall be put in place. Just recently the concrete contractor put up the form boards, dug footings, and the plumber put in the main

plumbing before the concrete gets poured. We have been told that the concrete should be poured by Labor Day week. We pray that the rainy weather takes a break and we can get this part done soon. After the foundation is poured and settled for 2 weeks, we hope to see the beginning of the metal going up. God has incredibly blessed the financial needs of this building process as well. We may have much to still pay for, but many churches have helped decrease the total by giving to our building fund and we are thankful for that.

We are ecstatic about moving forward with planting and organizing a church in Kiln, Mississippi. We thank each one of our supporting churches and associations. Each prayer and every dollar is much appreciated. I pray that our state can continue moving forward with sending out missionaries to make disciples and plant churches.

Evidence Of A Successful Program

by Chris Yager

Our Associate Missionary Program was established to help young men, who have felt God's call upon their lives to church planting, get the training needed to accomplish their calling. In our day, this program is needed, untapped, and extremely valuable to growing church planting.

Because it is so new, we have not yet been able to see the evidence of its success; until now! With my possible transition to the mission's office, Samuel had begun the



next level of training to prepare him to lead this church plant here in Meridian. Over his time, his preaching has grown in maturity and depth. His leadership has strengthened,

Continued on page 6



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

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Romans 10:9

Praise the Lord! Professor Matt Olson spoke at our first chapel program for the Fall Semester and delivered a powerful Gospel message. Six students responded to the invitation to accept Jesus as their Savior. What a great way to kick off this year's classes with students getting saved on YOUR campus!

The staff and faculty have become keenly aware that, although the students who apply to SBC must provide a written testimony and an endorsement from their pastor, many come to us only having been "churched" but not saved. With this in mind, we are intentionally witnessing while diligently expanding existing, and adding additional, discipleship programs for our students. The Lord has transformed your college from a primarily educational platform into a robust ministry that is reaching young people for Christ.

There may be a few Baptist churches in Mississippi that exceed our current count, but there have been 73 public professions of faith in our chapel program over the last five years! The Lord truly is moving in the hearts of our students on this campus. It is an amazing experience for our staff and faculty to personally witness God's hand of spiritual blessing upon this institution. May God bless each of these new believers as they grow in the knowledge and grace of Jesus Christ our Lord.

As inflation sets in, and as other financial challenges arise, I encourage you to consider participating in this ministry through increased financial giving to Southeastern Baptist College. The Lord has recently brought forward several new donors to the school and I know there are others

who are reading this article that the Lord is leading to also participate in this important ministry.

At a time in our nation when biblical truth is being suppressed and even publicly ridiculed, your college is standing as a sentinel for the Word of God. We are instilling spiritual values in every student who attends. Each professor, whether a Bible or an accounting teacher, are encouraged to engage their students with spiritual discussions while challenging them to live for the Lord in an ever-increasing secular society.

Because many folks reading this article are retired, I am asking you to consider changing your estate plans and leave a significant monetary gift to your college as your spiritual legacy. The fiscal need is real as the ministry of Southeastern Baptist College is expanding by the grace of God. If the Lord is motivating you to give to SBC whether through a one-time donation or through an estate gift, please contact our Advancement Officer, Rosemary Davis, to find how you can bless SBC with your support. Rosemary can be reached by calling 601-426-6346 or by sending an email to rdavis@southeasternbaptist.edu

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

Equipping the saints,
Dr. Carson



Dr. Scott Carson
President

Southeastern Partners with MSU

Recently, Dr. Scott Carson, President of Southeastern Baptist College, and Dr. Mark Keenum, President of Mississippi State University, participated in a joint agreement signing ceremony on the campus of Mississippi State University. The signed Memorandum of Understanding facilitates the transfer of students who have completed an Associate of Arts in General Education Degree program from Southeastern Baptist College to Mississippi State University. The memorandum will be in effect for a period of five years and is renewable at that time.



Of note, SBC also possesses Memorandums of Understanding for transfer of credits with the University of Southern Mississippi, William Carey University, and Mississippi Valley State University, and is actively pursuing agreements with numerous other colleges and universities throughout Mississippi and beyond

Special Emphasis

Southeastern Baptist College's Special Emphasis Months are July and August for focused donations from churches and individuals. Although our dates for this year's Special Emphasis are now past, we will continue to accept Special Emphasis gifts as they come in. God bless you as you respond to God's leading as a donor to SBC. As a reminder, Southeastern Baptist College is a 501(c)(3) certified tax deductible charity.

Online Bible Degrees

Did you know you can earn your accredited Bible college degree in the comfort of your own home? You can take one class (3 hours) or up to 18 hours completely online. And you need not be living in Mississippi to take classes at Southeastern! You may want to have a discussion with your children or grandchildren today about taking classes with SBC. We are conservative and Bible centered. Our credits are transferable to many other accredited colleges. Go to our website at <https://southeasternbaptist.edu/future-students/application> to begin your college education journey today! Or call SBC at 601-426-6346.

Washers and Dryers

Students are in need of three of each, heavy duty washers and dryers. Three of our older and used models have stopped working and are beyond repair. Can you or your church provide for this need? Let us know if you are able to help support our student's needs.

Estate Planning

Does your personal estate planning include a donation to Southeastern Baptist College? Contact Rosemary Davis at 601-426-6346 discuss with her how you can bless SBC with your special gift.

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. Chaplain (Colonel) Carson can also provide an update on the BMAA Chaplaincy and deliver a related message. Thank you to Union Baptist Church of Bay Springs, Big Creek Baptist Church of Soso, and First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel, Mississippi, for recently inviting Dr. Carson to preach their Sunday messages. You can reach Dr. Carson at 601-433-4736 or at scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu



Professor Matt Olson delivered a powerful Gospel invitation at our first chapel with six saved!



Alumnus Leander Bridges
spoke at the
Meet the Chargers event

Students enjoy our Back to School Bash



Emma Harrell of the Dean's Council helps students understand important points at orientation





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

Tell Me a Story

I've loved stories all my life including fairy tales, folklore, historical stories, mysteries of all types, and biblical stories. Maybe it started with Daddy's stories that he told us almost every night.

One of my favorite stories was about a Christian runaway slave who removed a thorn from a lion's paw and was later thrown into the arena to face a hungry lion. You probably know that story about Androcles and the Lion, which even became a play by George Bernard Shaw. Grace and mercy showed up!



Daddy also told us stories from old westerns. He could always get Middle Sister sobbing with the story of cowardly Jack McCord's shooting Wild Bill Hickock in the back. He knew all the good stories about Jessie James and Billy the Kid, too. In my mind, Daddy could have won hands down at the National Storytelling Contest; his stories, though, were for his children and grandchildren.

In addition to Daddy's storytelling, we grew up with legends of buried treasure in our area—the Gold Hole. Legend has it that train robbers in the late 1800s buried their loot somewhere around Roxie in Franklin County. Jean Lafitte and Jesse James were two robbers who might have been the perpetrators. While the story doesn't give their names, it does talk about the buried treasure. Now, is that a good story or not?

One thing I know is that our primary entertainment those days was watching men dig with all sorts of heavy equipment for the buried treasure. They could never

quite get their hands on the treasure, but the hole got bigger and bigger. I promise there's a gold hole there; they even named a road for it. According to Walt Grayson, the gold hole is now a pond; I'm sure that the gold, if any, is still there at the bottom of the pond.

If fairy tales and lost gold weren't enough, tales of money due to the Creek Nation for land taken from them added to the stories of my life.

I'm sure my grandfather's children grew up with the story of his mother's life as an Indian. Although his mother died when he was young, the stories were told to the younger generations as the years went by.

We were told stories about our great-grandfather marrying an Indian from Alabama and about the Government paying a huge sum of money for taking away their land. When you consider that the Creek territory was a large part of Alabama and Georgia, you have visions of money coming in by the truckloads.

My mother's brother, Uncle Hugh, was the one who traced our genealogy. We weren't involved, but I remember tales of an Indian Princess and the warrior, Red Eagle, being a part of our heritage. The story that my Uncle Hugh pursued was the payment to the Creeks for land taken in the 1800s with judgments in the millions. Uncle Hugh made many trips to Alabama and Oklahoma, researching our family's genealogy. He died, though, before the funds were distributed.

No. 1 Sister and I became interested in genealogy some years after Uncle Hugh died and the Eastern Creeks were awarded the settlements. None of his research sur-



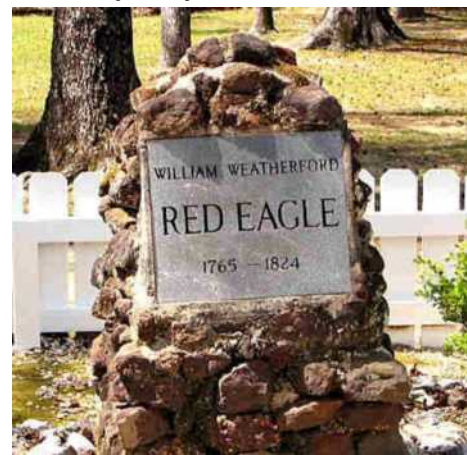
Carolyn Hagler

vived because of his wife, eccentric Aunt Jerry. We began our search with our great-great-grandfather, Arthur Sizemore, and his enrollment number.

It's easier today to do genealogy research because of the internet; but in earlier years, it was difficult, especially about the Indians. Sister and I traveled to Attmore, Alabama, where the Poarch Band of the Creeks is headquartered. Searching through court records and obituaries helped to fill in some of the blanks.

Some of the highlights of our journey through our Creek heritage was learning that our roots came through Caroline, our great-grandmother. Her Sizemore roots traced back to the Weatherfords, one of whom was William Weatherford, also known as Red Eagle by others.

The story of the Creeks is much too long to tell you, but a teaser includes Andrew Jackson, Massacre at Fort Mims, the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, Sehoj, and money from the Government. You now have a mystery to solve if you're interested. Or you'll just have to ask me!



Our research did not tell us the location of Red Eagle's grave; we only learned that he was buried near the Little River in Alabama. That mystery lasted until I made a Christmas trip to Tannehill State Park in Alabama. Imagine my surprise when I was planning my route home (on a paper map) to see Red Eagle's grave as a landmark on the map. On my way home, I found his grave and his mother's grave beside it. Nearby was the Fort Mims' site. I seem to always uncover more questions than answers.

While that mystery was solved, it took more research to learn how an Indian



maiden from Alabama became my great-grandfather's wife.

My great-grandmother's father died when she was ten years old; through legal documents, we learned that she attended the Fayette Female Academy, where my great-grandfather taught. He obtained the "license to intermarry and be joined together in the Bonds of Matrimony with Miss Caroline Sizemore," for the "penal sum of \$200," on December 26, 1864.

Through family letters, we learned that Caroline died young and left behind three children. When our great-grandfather remarried, their stepmother was "so mean" that our grandfather ran away from home, taking his young brother with him. They lived and worked on a riverboat on the Mississippi before coming back to Mississippi. We still have many unanswered questions, but I love the stories.

The stories of my life seem like a meandering stream without direction that led through those childhood fairy tales, folklore about buried treasure, Creek ancestors, and Bible stories until an old, old story changed my life.

I've realized that all my stories led to the greatest story I ever heard: the story of Jesus. That old, old story I heard many years ago connected my past with my present and future.

I'm reminded of the poem that Corrie ten Boom often quoted, comparing life to a tapestry. God sees the finished product, while we see the messy underside. Yet, the threads all connect into a beautiful picture.

I love mysteries, so I've left you with some mysteries to ponder. I'm thankful, though, that the greatest story ever told is not a mystery. I know the end of my story because I'm in His grip today. What's your story?



Getting it Together.....

Estate planning involves determining how to manage and distribute your assets upon incapacitation or death. This all starts with getting together the right information as well as avoiding common missteps.

Name the right executor(s). Choose an executor who has the time, knowledge, patience, and interpersonal skills to handle this lengthy process. If you name one of your children as executor, you need to consider the potential impact on family harmony and dynamics. Also, consider the executor's ability to be impartial. Any disagreement among beneficiaries can lead to

Senior Adult Ministry

difficulties in settling your estate, which can extend the process both time and cost-wise.

Keep your documents and beneficiaries current. Estate planning involves determining how to manage and distribute your assets upon incapacitation or death. If you decide to update a previous will (or trust) or create a new one, it's important to make sure your beneficiaries are updated as well. When you update your estate plan always update your beneficiaries and make sure all assets are titled correctly.

Specify who will receive certain valuable items. Some people assume that their children can easily decide how to divide certain items, but it can be confusing unless specifically noted in your estate planning documents. For personal property,

make it very clear who gets what, especially when it comes to items with sentimental value. Include photos or videos along with descriptions of the items to eliminate confusion. While it's unrealistic to name every single item you own, most estate disagreements arise from the division of personal property. Having a family conference now may help you and your heirs determine the fairest disposition of your items later.

Discuss your plan with your beneficiaries. Whether it's your children, other family members, or friends, thoughtful estate planning strategies can help ensure this process doesn't put a strain on their time, resources, and relationships. If everyone knows what's coming, your plan will be much easier to put into effect.

Interested in learning more? We're here to help.

MRS is your trusted partner that can help bring clarity and understanding to whatever your situation may be. Let us help explain your options. *Our focus is on educating our churches and pastors to help them make well informed decisions about these very important topics.*

**MRS is your trusted resource.
Let us serve you today!**

Contact:

Mark Bradley

Ministers Resource Services

(501)-499-4205

mbradley@bmaamerica.org

Women's Missionary Auxiliary

WMAofMS20@gmail.com

President Theresa Reus

264 Dean Nursery Rd., Lucedale, MS 39452
- 601-508-9697

Treasurer Mrs. Shirlene Smith

730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443 -
601-729-5638

Big Creek District WMA Report

by Shirlene Smith, reporter

On Monday night, August 1, ladies from seven churches in the Big Creek Association met with First Baptist Church, Calhoun, for the quarterly meeting of the Big Creek District WMA. It was a blessing to have several of the local GMAs attending this meeting as well.

President Ginny Singleton presided as business was conducted. Among the items of business was an encouraging report by Mississippi State GMA Promoter, Lakelan

Jenkins. The GMA of Mississippi has just returned from the National GMA Retreat in Gary, Texas. Mississippi State WMA Treasurer, Shirlene Smith, reported that \$2,909.00 has been received for the state project—75% for Living Hope Mission in Meridian--\$2,248.50 and 25% for the General Fund--\$660.50. Funds for this project should be mailed to Shirlene Smith, 730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443. Please mail funds so that they will be received by September 25, 2022.

New officers were elected with Martha McLemore from First Baptist, Calhoun, being elected president. The attendance banner was received by Temple Baptist Church, Laurel.

The ladies were reminded of the state Christian Ladies Retreat in September in Pearl, Mississippi. You will find much information about the retreat in the current issue of the MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST.

Martha McLemore led in the installation of officers. Her subject was THE INFLUENCE OF WMA. The officers came to the front for the prayer of dedication by June Holifield. Cherrie Dearman assisted with the installation of officers by presenting a nice pen and writing pad set to each officer.

A new important address for the churches of the Big Creek District: Mail your quarterly reports to Ginny Singleton, 920 North 10th Ave., Laurel, MS 39440.

The next meeting place will be Big Creek Baptist Church, November 7, 2022. Plan to attend this meeting, ladies. We are so encouraged by the increase in attendance and know you will be blessed by the programs and the Christian fellowship we enjoy.

Mississippi GMAs

Lakelan Jenkins, GMA Promoter
P.O. Box 1694, Collins, MS 39428
lakelanflynt@gmail.com - 601-517-1476

Through The Ages

By Hannah Mitchell
Mississippi GMA President

Hi everyone! I am Hannah Mitchell, the GMA state president. I am so excited about camp this upcoming year! I cannot wait for the many blessings that God will bring and the new faces to meet! Our camp theme this year is going to be "Through the Ages." In order to start camp fun now, I will be interviewing current and former GMA's. To start off, these are my answers to the questions I will be asking.

Hi, I'm Hannah! This will be my last year of GMA's and I am serving as president this year. I love GMA's, it is a great blessing and full of many amazing opportunities. It allows me to grow closer to the Lord with lessons that are fun and easily understandable. It also helps me to grow closer to those I know and meet lots of new Christians. One of my favorite GMA memories is from my first year when I started GMA's. While in class, the Lord started speaking to me. I got saved that night! It was such a memorable night that changed my life forever!



Mississippi
Baptist
Children's
Home



Dwight Lindsey

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

Patience is a virtue...

That is not a direct quote from scripture, but it is very much an overall principle throughout scripture. Ecclesiastes 7:8 says, "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit." What is the virtue of patience? It is not merely waiting on something for a long time. We often wait without patience. We wait because we have no choice. The virtue in waiting patiently is that we know who controls the timing and outcome of our anticipated circumstances. We rest prayerfully in the fact that it is the Lord who is in control of all our uncertainties.

July 2020, was one of the most uncertain times in human history and especially in the lives of this generation. The panic of a global pandemic had begun crushing our economy, our daily lives, and from my observation even some people's faith. In that month we took a young man in who had been through a lot in his short life. Blake came to us from a foster home where things were not working out. On top of the family trauma he had been through he struggled in a home that was doing their best, and now he was going to be separated from his brother by being removed from this foster home. Our family immediately began to pray for Blake's transition into our home and for him and his brother.

Fast forward several months and Blake's brother Tristin is now needing a new home. It did not take Lindsay and I long to make the decision to say, "yes we'll take him," but later that same week we took in some other boys that needed our help and the state decided that would be too much for us in a short period of time. Now it began to be hard to wait patiently. We had waited for months, the opportunity had come, we said yes, but it still didn't happen. Now we know this young man is headed to another home counties away from us.

The first lady that I interviewed was Mrs. Nicole Mitchell! She completed GMA's in 1993, and strongly enjoyed going to the GMA camps each year.

Next, I interviewed Mrs. Melissa Whitfield. She finished GMA's in 1996, and her favorite memory is remembering verses at random times that she learned while completing GMA's.

Finally, I interviewed Mrs. Tabatha Carroll. She completed GMA's in 1995, her favorite memory was going to Dairy Queen with her church every single year on their way home from camp!

GMAs and GMA camp is so much fun and a great opportunity to create long lasting memories with friends and through Jesus Christ. If you are interested in attending camp in March 2023 or are even curious about starting a GMA group you may contact lakelanflynt@gmail.com.

Fast forward again several more months Tristin is once again in need of a home, we say, "YES, again," but again he is placed elsewhere? I won't speak for Lindsay, but at this point for me I was more than impatient, I got a little angry. Twice, over the course of a year we had been asked to take Tristin, twice we had said yes, and twice we had been passed over after being told he was coming. This was taking a toll. While it was frustrating our prayers continued for this young man. In spite of moments of anger the Lord was gracious to help us to return to patiently waiting.

A year into our time of caring for Blake brought some reprieve. A judge granted us permanent custody of Blake. While Tristin's case felt like a yo-yo, we now had certainty with Blake. We were rejoicing and still praying. In the midst of a very emotional spring filled with babies in the house, another call came. We received a request for Tristin to get a weekend visit with his brother, we gladly said yes. By the time Tristin was dropped off on Friday afternoon we noticed some of the language of the social workers was changing. This didn't sound like a visit. Sure enough, a couple of weeks of odd vague conversations and this visit had turned into a stay. Difficult timing and conversations covered the next couple of months, but they were well worth it.

Today, as I sit in our living room writing this report over two years after Blake walked into our door for the first time, Tristin has been placed in our permanent custody. These boys are 12 and 13 years old. They are full of boyish mistakes, just like any other boy, but we are thankful the Lord has given them to us, to help guide them through these days. We are thankful for a God who would make us a part of His household and make us a part of His works. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." - 1 John 3:1-2

Thank you all, for your support both monetarily and with your prayers. Thank you for supporting us through this difficult ministry. Continue to pray for us through our search for house parents. Put feet to those prayers if the Lord is burdening you to serve in this capacity or encourage other couples who may be a good fit with us to email their resumes to info@msbch.com. If you would like for me to come to your church to report on the Home or for pulpit supply give me a call at 662-605-0996. May the Lord continue to bless the preaching of His Gospel and the churches committed to discipling His children.

Missions Report

from page 4

and his pastoral insight has expanded. By the end of his training, he, by God's grace, will be ready to accomplish the call placed on his life.

I am excited, to see this program expanded to disciple and train more young men for the high call of planting churches all over our state, and maybe even the world!! I believe this program will continue to aid in the success of BMAMS missions. It is already working here!!!

Blessings In Summer!

by Estuardo Marroquin

The summer has been very hot; however, it has not been an obstacle to continue to share the gospel of our Lord Jesus. In every Hispanic field the message of good news of salvation continues to be carried, people continue to receive Jesus as their personal Savior, and this is how we can say that God continues to work in our Hispanic churches of Hattiesburg, Tupelo, Ripley, Laurel, Canton, and Oxford.



It has been a summer of many activities, from Hispanic camps, retreats for men, ladies, and kids; we are joyful to see the results of each of these activities. Several people have been baptized and added to churches. A lot of people are engaging with their local churches and making promises to serve God, this is really very exciting.

Our desire is to continue advancing in the Hispanic field, and thus fulfill the mandate of our Lord Jesus to make more disciples and baptize them. In the coming months we are setting trainings for Sunday School teachers and leadership to continue preparing them in their service for the glory of the Kingdom of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Pray for us Please! God bless you!

Helping Those in Need

The editor saw this Facebook post by Rita Ballard, who along with her husband Danny, are serving as missionaries in the Philippines. The Ballards are native Mississippians whose ministry involves many different areas of service. This appears to be a very real need with the ability to reach many for the cause of Christ. Many of our readers may wish to be involved. This also would be a good project for classes or groups in the local church.

From Rita Ballard...

I have several friends who live in very impoverished areas near us who want to send their children to school, but have to come up with money to purchase them a uniform. This is virtually impossible since they are just getting by to be able to purchase food for their family. The children are wanting to go to school, but will eventually have to have a uniform to stay in school. We have given all we have right now. There are just so many needy children in this area who need school uniforms.

I can't even begin to state a total monetary figure because there are so many. But for skirt and shirt for one girl is \$28, which is outrageous for a Filipino uniform. Other uniforms cost \$20 or less.

All I am asking is that anyone who wants to donate and help these poor children get a uniform for school, please contact me on my messenger page under Rita King Ballard. All checks need to be made out to BMA Missions, P.O. Box 878, Conway, AR 72033. Please make a note on the check that it is for school uniforms.

Any amount will be deeply appreciated. Thank you for your concern for these children. Contact me on messenger, please.

Grandma's Country Front Porch

A pastor of a small church would occasionally call on one gentleman to pray, and every time this one particular guy would pray, he would end with the strangest statement, "And, oh Lord, prop us up on our leaning side."

Finally, the pastor pulled him aside, and he said, "I love the way you pray, but I don't understand your little closing phrase. What are you talking about - prop us up on our leaning side?" He responded, "Well, Pastor, I'm a farmer. I live out on the farm and, you know, I live in the country. I've got an old barn, and it's been there a long time. It's been through a lot of weather, and a lot of storms, and a lot of bugs have eaten at it."



He said, "I got to looking at it one day when I was riding on my tractor, and I noticed that it was leaning to one side. So I thought to myself, oh my goodness! The barn is leaning, and it's a matter of time before the whole thing falls."

He continued, "So, you know what I did? I went and got some pine beams, and I propped it up on its leaning side." He said, "It still leans, and probably always will. But I propped it up on its leaning side. And it's not going to fall down because I propped it up on its leaning side. And I got to thinking about it."

When I was on the tractor, Pastor, and I was riding in the field, I thought about the kind of year I've had, and some of the storms I've been through, and some of the people that are bugging me, and eating away at my joy and eating away at my spirit. And I just got to thinking, you know, I'm still here! I'm still standing after all that stuff I've been through. The storms, and the howling winds - they couldn't topple me. I'm still standing by the grace of God."

He concluded, "From time to time, I find myself leaning. Leaning toward my old desires, leaning toward anger, leaning toward becoming bitter or hateful at the people who are bugging me, or leaning toward going back to the old habits and the old life I used to have."

And when I feel myself start to lean toward that tendency, I just remember that old barn, and I pray out loud - "Lord, thank you for propping me up on the leaning side."

Missionary available for church visits

Prashant Prakash Reports on India Missions

It has been a long time since the last update on the work in India. Our sincere apologies regarding this. Due to the nature of our work and keeping in mind the security reasons, not much can be shared online or on social media, but I must tell you wonderful things have been happening. Post covid, all restrictions have been removed and things are back to normal and we praise God for this. The last two years had been difficult, but God was on our side.

I assure you that your prayers and partnership through the years have been instrumental in reaching out and sharing the truth with the people. New small groups have been started, new believers are being rooted in God's word, disciples are being made, many lives being touched by the gospel. God has been good and has protected us from all modern persecutions.

We will be in the U.S. the whole month of September on furlough. We will be visiting many, giving reports to supporting partners, and will be based out of Conway, Arkansas. If any of you would like to meet with us and seek any updates I will be glad to meet with you and if possible to come and present a report if time permits. Please do keep us in your prayers as we plan to travel for the next few weeks in the United States

Thank you once again for your continued prayers. We are humbled by your support and prayers standing by us through the years. For contact information call the Missions Office in Conway at

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

\$125 PER PERSON
UNTIL OCTOBER 1, 2022

\$145 PER PERSON
AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2022

CHATEAU ON THE LAKE

\$132 PER NIGHT *PLUS TAXES AND FEES
UNTIL OCTOBER 1, 2022

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Mexico Mission Trip A Blessed Learning Experience

by Lane Flynt

The week I spent in Mexico with the Eric Johnson Family was such a blessing. God has used the Johnson family to grow His Kingdom. I loved seeing and hearing stories of Buddy and Martha Johnson and the way God used them in Mexico. Then that legacy continued in the lives of their children. I am very thankful for Grady Johnson who helped us with accommodations for our trip. I am also so very grateful to have had the opportunity to spend this much time with Kelly, Eric, Audrey, Maddy, and Abram.



Kelly and Eric asked me in June if I would be interested in joining them on their trip to Mexico in July. The National SAM (GMA of Mexico) and National youth camp would be going on during this time at the Bible Institute. Audrey and I were given time to speak at the girl's camp. Eric served as the camp pastor for the youth camp. To see God working in the hearts and lives of young people is always an overwhelming experience. Eight young men surrendered to

the ministry. I pray God sends men and workers to prepare the Bible Institute to train these men for God's work.

I saw several young people come to know the Lord at this camp as well. I appre-



ciated the very bold words of the ladies at the SAM camp and the pastors at the youth camp. Not only did I have these great experiences with youth I was also given the opportunity to see the work of the BMA churches in Mexico. The love they have for the Association of Mexico and the BMA cannot be expressed in words. It was a heartfelt reminder of the importance of unity in our work as followers of Christ. We, as brothers and sisters, are moving toward the same goal to spread the gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ. We should never lose sight of that truth.

The country of Mexico will always have a special place in my heart. The people are very loving, kind, giving and hard working. I would encourage all readers to pray about supporting the Bible Institute in Mexico as they grow and renovate the facilities to accommodate more teachers and students.

Healthy Church Solutions.org Sponsors Re:Charge Leader's Conference in September

Re:Charge, a pastor and church leaders conference, is coming up September 27-29 in Hot Springs, Arkansas. The Healthy Church Solutions.org team is excited about this opportunity for ministry leaders to break away and get re-energized. Sometimes, to get refocused we need to draw apart alone. Other times we need to be with co-laborers and be reminded of the strengthening power of God's Word, the effectiveness of prayer, the encouraging element of iron sharpening iron, and the joy of fellowship and laughter.

We aren't designed to do ministry alone, and Re:Charge aims to be a retreat where leaders can plug in anew, fix our gaze afresh on Jesus, and be reminded there are others who have been where we are and can cheer us on in the race. It's no surprise that pastors and ministry leaders need encouragement, especially over the last two years as we have continued to navigate COVID, decision fatigue, polarized viewpoints of all sorts, grief over many not returning to in-person church, and even the loss of loved ones.

David Kinnaman of Barna Group says, "We started seeing early warning signs of burnout among pastors before COVID. Now . . . pastors are experiencing significant burnout, driving them to seriously consider leaving ministry." Recent Barna polls state that nearly two in five pastors have considered quitting full-time ministry in the past year, and nearly half of that number are leaders under age 45. Equally alarming is to note that stat is up nine full points from the beginning of 2021.

Another issue facing the church is the loneliness epidemic, which has only exacerbated over the last two years. Barna states that one in five practicing Christians admits to feeling lonely each day. Comparing Christians to non-Christians doesn't show much of a difference in this saddening trend. In fact, there is also research to show that few men actually have a close best friend.

An awareness of these stats and having conversations with leaders in our work that backs these reports is part of the vision behind hosting Re:Charge Conference. We want to pour into leaders who are wearing many hats and are weary or getting weary. We want to come alongside these leaders and their spouses and help them have a reset. David Kinnaman also says, "More than ever, the church needs resilient leaders who are humble, agile, rooted in prayer and who are committed to being healthy as an essential aspect of effective leadership." We couldn't agree more. Healthy churches require healthy leaders!

This year at Re:Charge we'll worship together with Travis Sellers, hear from seasoned pastor and author Bill Elliff on recharging through prayer, learn through breakouts for guys and ladies, enjoy a buffet meal and entertainment by comedian Brad Stine, have opportunities to explore Hot Springs, attend game nights onsite (sponsored by *Baptist Trumpet*), and soak up some precious fellowship. For more info and to register today go to <https://bmaamerica.org/recharge/>. We can't wait to see you there!

RE:CHARGE

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 \$190 PER COUPLE
*UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

HOTEL RESERVATIONS:
 HOTEL HOT SPRINGS, HOT SPRINGS ARKANSAS
 \$129-\$139 PER NIGHT
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FEATURING:



BILL ELLIFF
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



TRAVIS SELLERS
WORSHIP



BRAD STINE
COMEDIAN

SEPTEMBER 27 - 29, 2022

FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER GO TO WWW.BMAAMERICA.ORG/RECHARGE

mission:world

NEWS

BY: Dr. John David Smith
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

LOCAL-CHURCH DRIVEN

We believe that God's mission is all about his glory to the nations in and through his church. If you have been listening very long to BMA Global Missions you have heard the following two statements:

"The local church is both the source and the goal of New Testament missions."

"Missions offices and agencies do not reproduce, churches do."

If indeed the local church is the recipient and executor of the Great Commission, we must look deeper into what is a church and exactly how does it fulfill the mission.

A church is a group of regenerate, baptized followers of Christ who meet to worship God, obey the commands of Christ, and scatter to make his name known to the nations. Typically we are fairly adept at the gathering part for worship and gaining Bible information. But it is the scattering part - the missionary part - that challenges us many times. This must be overcome since the church is the normal and primary means of accomplishing the mission.

The New Testament prominence of the local church in fulfilling the mission is indisputable. Jesus' love for the church is noteworthy. In John 13 he "loved them to the end." In Matthew 16 and 18 we see clear instructions on authority given to the church that Christ initiated and loved. In Acts 20, Jesus declares that he purchased the church with his own blood. In the letters to the churches of Revelation (2-3), it is evident that Christ loves his churches.

This center stage for the church in the mission is evidenced all through the New Testament; as the gospel advanced, churches were started. In Acts 2, over 3,000 were added to the church as they proclaimed the gospel. Another church was started in Antioch of Syria that became the very epicenter of the missionary movement. Churches were started in Galatia on the first missionary journey then throughout Asia Minor, Greece, and all the way to Rome in the 33-year period that the book of Acts covers.

Churches as the source and goal of New Testament missions continued as those original churches multiplied more churches. The church at Colossae helped to plant new churches at Hierapolis and Laodicea. Churches were started in "all the cities" on the island of Crete as told in the book of Titus. In all of these situations where churches were the result of fulfilling the mission, they then became the source of new churches. "In the New Testament the

Christian life is the church life" (Jonathan Leeman).

We have defined a church, now what is the mission? There are five major commissions in the New Testament. We commonly call Matthew 28:19-20 the Great Commission. We will return to that passage in a moment. Mark 16:15 says to preach the gospel to all creatures. Luke 24 says to announce the message of repentance and forgiveness to the nations. John 20:21 tells us that just as Jesus was sent, so are we. Acts 1:8 says to simultaneously, like concentric circles, reach from our Jerusalem to the ends of the earth as Spirit-empowered witnesses. The Great Commission gives us one imperative - "Go make disciples of all nations" - as carried out through three participles: going, baptizing, and teaching. The three participles also become imperative since they are connected to the one main command. This verse delineates our mission this way: "Go win disciples of Christ in all nations, baptize them in obedience to Christ and as a new identity in Christ, and teach them God's Word to the point where they internalize it in their understanding and externalize it through obedience." In other words, these are people in all nations who are won to Christ, baptized, taught God's Word, and now repeat all the above.

Another saying you have no doubt heard from us many times is, "The church is a disciple factory, not a believer warehouse." If our church is not spending most of its time, money, and energy in fulfilling this mission, we need to remember what a church is and what our mission is!

BMA Global Missions helps your church in the missionary process by providing the following:

- a credible recommendation system for other churches to help your missionary candidate get to the field
- detailed accounting and financial services
- pre-field and on-field training,
- a unified missionary effort under a unifying vision carried out with sound missions principles
- a structure of accountability to our churches
- very specified missionary care
- a security network
- basic requirements such as visas, insurance, and other daily needs

There are many who can support the church in the mission, but there is nothing that can supplant the church in mission. We pray that your church will be evangelizing, baptizing, discipling, and planting other churches. Our mission is local-church driven.



mission:world

NEWS



A HEART FOR YOUR COMMUNITY = A HEART FOR THE NATIONS

BY: Dr. Jason Aultman
 Antioch Conway
antiochconway.com

If you went to the streets of any town and asked folks to tell you about Antioch, many would respond, “What’s an Antioch?” Maybe for those who would read a publication about missions we would be aware that the name is found in the Bible. But for many, it would be an unfamiliar name.

I pastored a church called “Antioch.” This Antioch, located in Conway, Arkansas, was organized in 1925. That was before my time, so I can’t say I got this information from the organizing members, but when that small group of folks considered what they would call their new church, I wonder if someone found their way to Acts 11 or Acts 13. Acts 11:26 says, “The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.” Scholars suggest that was not a term of endearment but of ridicule. But what likely began as mockery became an identification of honor. Christian . . . Christ-one . . . one belonging to Christ! There undoubtedly were certain characteristics, behaviors, and beliefs that clearly marked those who belonged to Christ. Shouldn’t it be the same today?

“What does that have to do with church planting?” you might ask. I believe it’s foundational to it. It doesn’t matter if your church is called Antioch Baptist, Timbuktu Baptist, or any other name that might be on the sign and website. If a church is being what a church is called to be, it should show evidence of those belonging to Christ. It should imprint Christ-like fingerprints on the community around it.

I wonder if anyone else would admit that when thinking about “missions” it’s often easier to think in terms of “out there” rather than “right here.” Maybe it’s easier to toss some money to people and delegate them to go be our missionaries than it is to look at the community around us and strive to reach that field too. I was asked to share about churches planting churches. So why am I talking about reaching our own community? Quite simply because if my heart doesn’t burn with a desire to reach my community, it’s unlikely that it will burn with a fire hot enough to do what it will take to be part of reaching another community. Are we making a difference in our community that would be missed if our church ceased to exist tomorrow? If not, perhaps we should reexamine our mission.

That church at Antioch . . . in Acts 13 we retold that they sent out a missionary team - couple of guys named Saul (a.k.a. Paul) and Barnabas. (You can read the rest of Acts to see the ripple effect of that decision!) I want to be a part of something like that. A church making an impact on the field where God has placed us and as an overflow of that, seeking to reach others beyond our own geographic bounds.

That was some of the heart behind our planting a church in Georgetown, Texas— “Antioch Georgetown.” Georgetown is an area not dramatically different from Conway, so we felt this would offer some common ground. It is positioned in an area that is one of the fastest growing in the nation, just outside of Austin, so, strategically, it felt like a sky-is-the-limit field. As we searched it out, God continued to give green lights, and wheels were put in motion toward the planting of a church.

A key piece of the puzzle in our story was the selection of a pastor to lead the plant effort. We determined that a potential pastor would be asked to join our staff for an extended time (up to two years). This would allow the potential pastor to feel the heartbeat of the sending church as well as for us to observe his heart and skills. So the prospective pastor was identified, and Andy Comer joined our staff team. This time served to confirm things such as calling, passion, work ethic, and vision. It also served to deepen the church’s commitment and support of the planting effort.

It was determined from the outset that we would seek to plant with a team of people. We felt that there was merit (and biblical precedent!) to the adage “We is better than me,” so we established a goal of having a core team that would commit to be part of the launch effort. The time Andy spent on our staff provided the perfect opportunity to invite others to consider being part of the launch team, and as that team came into focus, to spend time in training and preparation. When all was said and done, a team of over thirty people (twenty adults plus children) formed the core of what would become Antioch Georgetown.

What a blessing it was to see a sending church standing in the gap with its church plant, doing anything possible to help it launch well. We provided prayer and financial support and sent teams to help canvas neighborhoods and staff launch services, for example.

What a blessing to see a church planting team accept the charge and go into a new community with a holy passion to reach people.

What a blessing to see God take those efforts and do things that give us no choice but to step back and say— Wow! God did (and is doing) that!

“So what now?” some have asked. And the answer is this: Let’s do it again. I hope that I . . . I hope that you . . . I hope that WE will dare to pray, ask, seek, dream, send and see what God will dare to do if we answer the call to be a church on a mission to reach the community where he has placed us and plant churches where he leads us.

mission:world

NEWS



Holding the Rope

BY: Larry Wood
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

The third of five value statements of BMA Missions says, “While multiplication is the process that fulfills the Mission of God in the New Testament, local congregations are both the source (sending) and the goal (planting) of that multiplication. Missions offices do not reproduce, churches do.” This value stands on Jesus’ command to the church to “go ye into all the world . . .” We have been eyewitnesses to the soundness of this value and its absolute necessity in planting churches at home and around the world.

To say that we could not have gotten to the mission field in Ukraine and accomplished the work of church planting without our sending church would be a gross understatement. Farley Street Waxahachie is not only our home church but our sending church. They helped to prepare us and supported us, and continue to do so, in many ways. Their decision to be an integral part of missions and church planting in Ukraine was necessary for the work to be effective.

Why is the church’s role necessary? Because it is God’s plan. God never intended the missionary to go alone. While some go, God intends for the church at home to be an active participant in the spreading of the gospel and church planting. In 1793, the Particular Baptist Society for Propagating the Gospel among the Heathen held a farewell service for William Carey as he prepared to leave for India as a missionary. Carey had a meeting with the four leaders of the society who promised him “as he went forth in the society’s name and their Master’s, they should never cease till death to stand by him.” One of the men, Andrew Fuller, described the meeting with this analogy. He said that the mission to India seemed like a few men who considered going into a deep, unexplored mine. It was as if Carey said, “Well, I will go down, if you will hold the rope.” The meeting, in Fuller’s mind, was as if he and the other brethren gave their word that “whilst we lived, we should never let go of the rope.” This rope analogy expresses a biblical truth: New Testament missions was designed by God to be a team effort. For every missionary that goes on the field there must be churches at home holding the rope.

How do churches “hold the rope?” Financial support is an obvious and essential means, but it is not the only thing missionaries need to be effective church planters. We need the church to remain faithful to the Word of God. We need the church to be a place where those called to missions are disciplined and trained. We need the church to be prayer warriors and encouragers. We need the church to take mission trips, to come and see what God is doing. We need the church to hold the rope because without you the work will not be accomplished.

As we moved to Ukraine and settled in the city of Lutsk, a local Ukrainian church partnered with us for the purpose of planting

churches. Fimiam Baptist Church extended an invitation to us to come to Lutsk and help them plant churches in their city and region. While Fimiam did not have the ability to provide financial support for a church plant, they did have a staff member who would become the Ukrainian pastor, and they sent some of their members to start the new church. The church, Fimiam, desired to start a new church plant because they realized this new church would reach people they would never reach. Fimiam realized a strong, evangelical church in another part of town would result in more people hearing the gospel and becoming followers of Christ. A church that would minister to local people, share the gospel, and disciple those people who would then reach more people for Christ.

Because churches in the United States and a church in Lutsk, Ukraine, were obedient to Jesus’ command, a new church was born. Water of Life Baptist Church had her launch service in November 2019 with over one hundred people in attendance, many of those members of Fimiam, who came to support the new congregation on her first day. Water of Life averaged fifty to sixty people each week in the beginning. God has continued to bless the church under the leadership of Pastor Sasha Grebenyuk and now has over two hundred people in worship every Sunday. One result of planting Water of Life has been the reestablishment of a sister church in Volodymyr. This church was ready to close her doors but is now a thriving congregation because other churches came alongside her. Now there are other church plants beginning throughout Ukraine, all because churches followed the command of Jesus to “go ye into all the world . . .”

This is only one example of churches and missionaries working together as a team. There are many churches around the world that have been planted because churches sent and missionaries went. Missions doesn’t work without the church being involved. The church is a vital part of God’s plan. Is your church “holding the rope?” If so, does it have a good grip?



Lifeworld[®]

NEWS



Making Media Disciples Around the World

BY: Holly Meriweather
Lifeworld
lifeworld.org

Lifeworld's global partners are also pastors, ministry leaders, and church planters, so the media they produce is an important part of their ministries. Planting churches is their primary mission no matter where they are throughout the world. Each of these men and women has a burden for their people group and unique challenges to sharing the gospel with non-believers and planting churches. Whether they meet in homes on a rotating basis or sponsor events for hundreds of children at a time, their purpose is to establish churches that further God's kingdom.

With five new churches being planted in the area, Brother Joseph Eniowo in Nigeria is now conducting discipleship with the help of smart phones that share the gospel with children and families. Nigerian parents want their children to learn about the Bible and Jesus even though they may never attend church. Hundreds of children come to kids events, which is the first step to meeting parents and eventually reaching them. Three new missions are also in the planning stages, and Brother Joseph and his leaders are praying about a BMA church in the future. He says God's Word is bearing fruit in the lives of their church members and disciples.

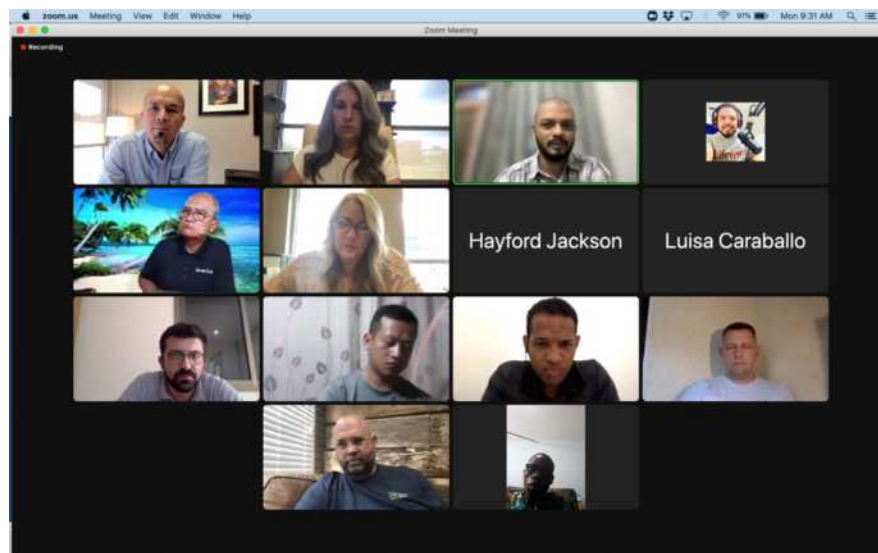
Eudo Rodrigues, who serves in Cape Verde, plants churches on other islands with the help of Lifeworld programs he produces for both believers and non-believers. People on his small island often recognize him from his videos, which allow him to help people find the churches he has planted or point people to those on other islands. European beliefs like "gnosticism" create cultural and spiritual challenges. But "spiritism", which eighty percent of Cape Verdeans claim as their belief system, makes it difficult to begin an evangelical work. However, Brother Eudo has recently baptized fourteen people and is planting a church on another island, which gives him the strength to continue.

With the help of Lifeworld, Oscar and Tamy Gaitan have planted eight churches in eight years in Nicaragua and Cuba. In an effort to strengthen families within those churches, they have partnered with Lifeworld to produce Spanish-speaking videos that teach biblical

principles of marriage to Hispanic couples who may never have seen them modeled. It's rare that couples living together are actually married, and men often leave the mothers of their children and start new families, only to leave them and father more children. So the Gaitans teach couples how to repair broken relationships, parent their children, and faithfully love each other. New churches are important in their efforts to serve families.

Valmori Zelaya has been serving in ministry for twelve years and now leads the Central American Online Radio Station, which feeds online

radio stations and other Lifeworld Community Radio stations in El Salvador. Although he lives in the larger city of Chinameca, he was born in the countryside of San Miguel, where there is no mission or church . . . until now. He has a burden for both areas, but San Miguel has around fifty families who have not heard the gospel. Valmori has answered the call to plant a church there, beginning with a small group of fourteen people who are thirsty for God's Word and have been meeting despite the many government restrictions in El Salvador.



Making media disciples is Pete Etabag's main work, so he conducts seminars with Filipino broadcasters and technicians, many of whom are pastors and church planters. He teaches them to make short cell phone videos to reach people online with the gospel. Pastor Pete continues to add languages to Lifeworld's list so more tribes can know who Jesus is in their heart languages. Mindanao is the largest island in the Philippines and where many Filipinos remain unreached, so he installs transmitters that reach both the mountain and low land tribes where there is little to no WiFi. Churches have been planted in both areas, and Pastor Pete says radio ministry is still the most effective way to evangelize remote tribes.

Lifeworld Director of Operations Luis Ortega says, "The Great Commission of making disciples of all nations was given to the local church, and what an honor it is for the local church to invite Lifeworld to come alongside and partner with resources and tools as she obeys her Lord and Master."