

THE TIDE



The news publication of the Gulf Coast Baptist Association

October 2022 Vol. 58 No. 9

11201 Old Highway 49 Gulfport, Mississippi 39503

(228) 832-4311

Email-receptionist@gulfcoastba.com

www.gulfcoastba.com

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Executive Board Meeting is October 3, 2022

Fall Meeting of the Association Is October 17, 2022

Please see Page 7 for more information

Upcoming Events in Your Association

- Executive Board Meeting GCBA Training Center 7pm - Oct 3
- ACP's Due to Association or Submitted Online - Oct 6
- The Guild Men's Ministry Training GCBA TC 6:30-8pm - Oct 13
Complimentary Dinner 6pm
- Bobby C. Perry Associational Missions Offering - Oct 16
- Hancock Cluster - Mockingbird Café 8:30-9:30am - Oct 17
- Fall Meeting of the Association FBC Wiggins 7pm - Oct 17
- Harrison County Cluster - Cracker Barrel 8-9am - Oct 18
- Stone County Cluster 9-10am - Oct 19
- Gateway Christian Academy 908 W Frontage Drive, Wiggins
- MBCB State Convention FBC Jackson - Oct 25-26
- Ministers and Mates Banquet Crosspoint Church 6:30pm - Nov 17

Staff:

Dr. Steve Mooneyham-
Executive Director/Treasurer

Rev. Grayson Orman-
Interim Assoc. AMS

Robin Knapp - Executive
Ministry/Financial Assistant

Kirsten King - Receptionist/
Administrative Assistant

FROM
THE
DESK OF

STEVE MOONEYHAM

AMD

As I write this article, our friends on Florida's western coast are bracing for the impact of Hurricane Ian. This is going to be a bad one! By the time you read this, reports will be coming out about the extent of damage. Those of us who have been through these events know better than anyone the needs that arise afterward. We will keep a close eye on the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief response and keep you aware of the best ways to respond. If you desire to take an offering, you may

always forward them to the Association, and we will send them to the appropriate area for best use. Our Associational D.R. Coordinator, Rev. Chip Williams, will work to coordinate any team response.

I want to remind you that it is time to elect messengers to the FALL meeting. Most of our churches will qualify for the full complement of 10 messengers which is figured on church membership as follows:

Article I, Section 3. Each church affiliated with this Association shall be entitled to five (5) messengers, including the pastor, for the first fifty (50) members or major fraction thereof; and one additional messenger for each additional fifty (50) members or major fraction thereof; providing, however, that no church be entitled to more than ten (10) messengers.

We will have good music, good preaching and good fellowship (stay afterward for a time of fellowship and learn about some local ministries with which your church may choose to get involved.) This is always a great time. Plan to be there with FBC Wiggins as our host church.

If you have driven by the office, you have seen that Building C has been taken down. All that remains is for some of the steel to be taken away and the site cleaned up. This should be done in the next week. Ministry will continue, however, but in a slightly different manner until a decision is made about how and when to replace that facility.

Continue to pray for the Executive Director/Treasurer Search Team. They are meeting and working hard. Pray that the Father will lead them to the next man to lead this wonderful association soon, but always in His time. Pray for the man the Father has already chosen to be here. Pray that he will be sensitive to the Spirit of God when contacted by the Team. Pray for his family as they will make a transition from a ministry and people they love to come to the coast and that such a transition will be smooth.

It is my delight to serve you.

Dr. Steve



"All I want is to take the first swipe," said Bro. Steve. He got it!

This month has been packed with activity at your Association. Mississippi Baptists put on a training seminar at First Baptist Church in Gulfport called IMPACT. It was an amazing meeting. The keynote speaker was Shawn Parker. There were many breakout sessions, and I was asked to teach on Cultural Christianity. The thought that there are many people sitting in our churches on Sunday morning that think they are saved but are not, is a sobering thought. In short, we know this is an issue because of the statistics we see revealing that only 1/3rd of

Mississippians believe that Jesus is the only way for Salvation and only 1/4 Mississippians are engaged in a church or religious community. The book, *The Unsaved Christian, Reaching Cultural Christianity with the Gospel*, by Dean Inerra addresses this church issue. He asserts, we have a low view of God which fosters the belief that we are ok when really many of us are not ok with God. He also believes that we must refuse to be in denial about this issue and Gospel clarity needs to be a priority, as well, as speaking the Truth in love. We must recognize according to Inerra that, "Cultural Christians are separated from God just like any other group that is openly defiant against God." We must help those struggling in our congregations. We cannot let them continue in sin and apathy and not let them know the cost.



I had the honor to preach at two of our Southern Baptist Association Churches this month. I preached on what it means to be an Ambassador for Christ and on the topic of how to keep our excitement about serving the Lord. These topics are a big part of my life. I want to see people take the Gospel to the ends of the earth and I want to see them do it with excitement for God and in service to the Lord.

Later in the month we had a child safety training with Ministry Safe. We discussed how to keep the children in our churches safe from child predators. Gregory Love was the speaker. He said many profound things. Here are a few:

1. "If it's predictable, it's preventable." He believes that there are ways to predict behavior of predators and by better understanding these dispositions we can safeguard against abuse.
2. "The problem of sexual abuse will not be solved at the SBC level. It will be solved at the church level." Mr. Love believes that the church and those working with children are the first line of defense and if we train our personnel about child predators and how they think and act, we can reduce the number of abuse cases in the church.
3. "We cannot reduce the risk we don't understand." Mr. Love talked much about the "grooming process," and helped us understand that if we are careful to watch we can see patterns of behavior that will give away those who want to hurt our children. And if we design the environment surrounding our children carefully it will help deter predators from being among our group, because offenders want easy access.

Here are the 5 things that are necessary for any good child safety system:

- ◇ Sexual Abuse Awareness training
- ◇ Skillful Screening
- ◇ Appropriate Criminal Background Check
- ◇ Tailored Policies and Procedures
- ◇ Monitoring and Oversight

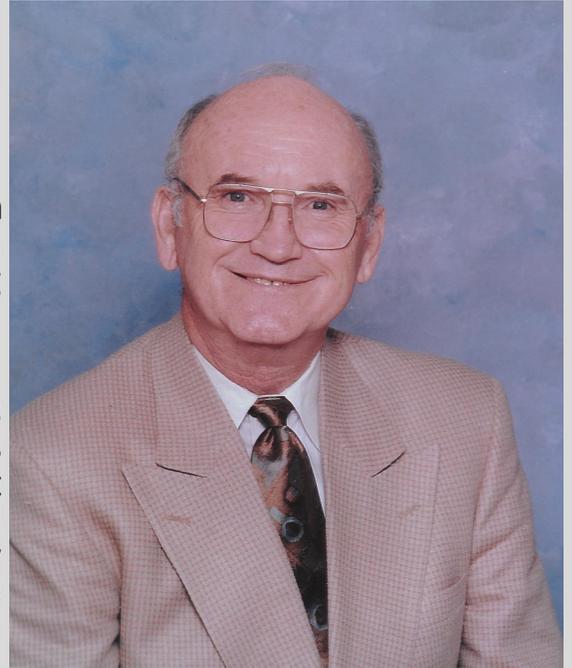
Your association is striving to bring quality education, and ministry opportunities to your church. Please help us continue in this direction by attending upcoming trainings and seminars. Please check out the website for future training and events at www.gulfcoastba.com.

Bobby C. Perry

Associational Missions Offering

It's that time of the year again when Baptists call on churches to help support ministry and mission efforts around the world through Mission Offering Giving.

As we gear up for Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering and later in the year Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, let's not forget about our local ministry and mission efforts supported through your Gulf Coast Baptist Association by means of the Bobby C. Perry Associational Missions Offering during the month of October.



Sometimes this offering goes overlooked because of better marketing plans or size of need, but your Association is the first stop for ministry and missions here at home in Harrison, Hancock and Stone County.

The Bobby C. Perry Associational Missions Offering touches three distinct areas of the Gulf Coast:

1. Gulf Coast Baptist Church Planting – Your financial support through the Bobby C. Perry Associational Missions Offering provides funds to support new church plants in your Association so that the message of Jesus Christ may be spread more efficiently and effectively across your Association.
2. Partnership Missions – Your contributions to the Bobby C. Perry Associational Missions Offering helps subsidize costs of mission trips for your Associational churches and offsets costs of evangelistic events.
3. Disaster Relief – Giving to the Bobby C. Perry Associational Missions Offering provides quality training in Disaster Relief and creates a source of capital for the purchase of materials and equipment needed during crisis. Your offering helps offset costs related to disaster for churches in our community and ensures your Association can help meet the needs of our pastors when disaster strikes.

Please prayerfully consider giving to the Bobby C. Perry Associational Missions Offering this October. The Associational goal for this year is **\$8,000**.

Thank you for your support of the Bobby C. Perry Association Missions Offering. The Staff at your Gulf Coast Baptist Association is looking forward to serving with you so we can reach the world for Jesus!

Pastor Spotlight

Featuring: Jonathan Anderson

Desperate to Imitate Him
By: Dr. Jonathan Anderson

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation," (2 Corinthians 5:17-18, NKJV).

"Therefore be imitators of God as dear children, and walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma" (Ephesians 5:1, NKJV).



When I was younger, it was a big deal to me to imitate my father. I wanted to wear his suits, his shoes, his shirts, and his ties. When I was probably four or five years old, dad had a pair of light gray low height boots. Oftentimes, when he wasn't home, I would sneak into my parents closet and get those boots. I was so distraught when I looked for those boots one day, and they were not there. I asked where they were, and dad said, "I threw them away! They were old!" My heart was broken because I wore those shoes to imitate my father. There were other times where I would sneak in and put on his clergy shirt and collar. I even mimicked his movements in church, his laying on of hands as he prayed, and his preaching. All of this was because I was desperate to imitate him. I wanted to be just like him not just because I knew him as my father, but rather because **I knew I was his child.**

When we become new creations in God, we are made new. We are more than rehabilitated, re-educated, and reformed. We are re-created to live a new life. In this new life we should be desperate to imitate HIM! We don't imitate Him just because we know Him as our father, but we imitate Him because we realize that we are in a chosen position as His children. How are we to imitate God? We are to imitate Him in how we demonstrate our love to others. God's great love toward us is demonstrated by sending His only begotten Son. God's love was never relegated to just being affectionate. We have reduced the definition of love to encompass affection only. God's love moved beyond affection to self-sacrificing.

Essential Questions (3) For Today

Question: Have you moved your love past how good you feel to how great you give? Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:18 *"And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to Himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to Him"* God NEVER left! Guess what—He's still there. He will never leave. He will never stop being God.

Question: Are you imitating God in your ministry of reconciliation by staying put? This question speaks to our will to remain consistent and faithful. Are you willing to stay put in your convictions, your faithfulness, your service, your home, your marriage, your forgiveness, and your determination to get a "Well Done?" Do you have the compassion to stay when it's easier and requires less effort to leave?

There are times where our fruit seemingly does not reflect the efforts or the seeds we have sown. However, we must be diligent in our service to God by continuing to sow in order to reap a harvest, a hundredfold return.

DEJOURNEY

A 31 DAY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE
with



DESIRED NATION
CHURCH

"Not Just A People But A Movement"

Final Question: How does God give us the reminder that we have the ministry of reconciliation?

God reminds us of our ministry of reconciliation by allowing us to remember our deficiencies, our shortcomings, and our "Oh boy, I have problems!" This timely reminder allows us to know that God is always standing there ready to receive us back, and we are to demonstrate this by leading others back to Him. This morning I prayed and said, "God, thank you for making us look like geniuses when we've lived like fools." We tend to be more patient with others after we realize that it took patience to save us, live with us, deal with us, and smile at us!

Today, I thank God for never leaving me and reconciling me back to Him. And I am determined and "Desperate to Imitate Him!" (Taken from *DeJourney: A 31 Day Devotional Guide with Desired Nation Church*)

Contributions for August 2022

CHURCH	MONTHLY	YR. TO DATE
Back Bay	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bay St Louis	\$1,247.42	\$10,176.88
Bay Vista	\$315.00	\$2,446.93
Bayou Talla	\$25.00	\$200.00
Bayou View	\$166.66	\$1,333.28
Bayside	\$0.00	\$25.00
Bel Aire	\$1,560.00	\$13,611.00
Big Level	\$1,025.25	\$9,308.25
Big Ridge	\$395.44	\$3,518.38
Biloxi FBC	\$457.35	\$3,815.14
Bond	\$1,084.05	\$5,545.85
Bridge Community	\$0.00	\$1,393.00
Brodie Road	\$0.00	\$0.00
Chinese Grace Bible	\$0.00	\$0.00
Christ Church	\$0.00	\$0.00
Connect Community	\$240.00	\$1,872.00
Cornerstone	\$100.00	\$700.00
Crosspoint	\$137.35	1,332.99
Delisle FBC	\$0.00	\$20.00
Desired Nation	\$250.00	\$1035.00
Empowerment Min.	\$0.00	\$1,000
Faithview	\$726.63	\$4,580.91
Family Worship	\$0.00	\$0.00
Faro de Esperanza	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fernwood	\$320.00	\$1,440.00
Grace Chapel	\$249.42	\$2,060.81
Grace Memorial	\$792.57	\$5,697.17
Grace Temple	\$800.00	\$1,200.00
GracePoint Church	\$0.00	\$0.00
Gtr. Mt Rest	\$0.00	\$0.00
Gulf Gardens	\$0.00	\$0.00
Gulfport FBC	\$3,054.58	\$20,363.18
Handsboro	\$677.84	\$4,337.51
Harbor City	\$150.00	\$925.00
Harvest Church	\$1339.20	\$12,682.69
Highland	\$133.00	\$422.00
Iglesia Emanuel	\$90.30	\$412.14
Jacob's Well	\$1,335.00	\$11,668.00
Lakeshore	\$0.00	\$200.00
Lizana FBC	\$402.65	\$845.00
Long Beach FBC	\$1,949.37	\$14,855.32
Lyman FBC	\$260.00	\$1,904.00
McHenry FBC	\$287.30	\$1,387.32
Michael Memorial	\$1,377.40	\$10,486.52
MS Korean	\$620.50	\$4,710.69
Mt. Chapel	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Hope	\$3,751.75	\$11,860.16
North Hills	\$0.00	\$0.00
North Long Beach	\$0.00	\$285.85
Old Spanish Trail	\$0.00	\$250.00
Parkway	\$536.60	\$4,405.25
Pass Christian FBC	\$0.00	\$53.55
Peace	\$50.00	\$400.00
Pearlington FSBC	\$0.00	\$1,010.76
Perkinston	\$170.12	\$1,920.15
Popps Ferry	\$0.00	\$0.00
Riverside	\$70.00	\$750.00
Robinwood	\$551.28	\$4,581.13
Shoreline Park	\$100.00	\$800.00
Success	\$0.00	\$1,111.23
The Church at Windance	\$753.09	\$2,851.51
Tuxechna	\$101.07	\$676.64
Vardaman Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vidalia's Bridge	\$0.00	\$0.00
West Gulfport	\$90.96	\$909.02
Wiggins FBC	\$3,742.00	\$25,392.00
Woolmarket	\$1,404.30	\$13,333.44

CHURCH *News*

Please check our Group Page on **Facebook**
for additional church news:

Mississippi Gulf Coast Baptist Association

BEL AIRE is looking for a Full-time Associate Pastor. Please email office@belairebaptist.org for more information.

FBC LYMAN is looking for a Part time Youth Pastor/ Director. Please contact Pastor Josh Cougle at josh@joshcogle.com.

FBC WIGGINS is in search of a part time Financial Assistant. Please email resumes to fbcwreception@gmail.com.

GRACE MEMORIAL BC is seeking an Administrative Assistant. Please contact the church office for more information: 228-863-5096.

CORNERSTONE is seeking a part-time Youth Director. For more information contact Rev. Don Bearden at 228-324-5982.

NEW HOPE is looking for a Music Director. Please email newhopegulfport@gmail.com for more information.

PERKINSTON is seeking a part-time Minister of Youth. Email resume to Clarice Dedeaux cdedeaux1@yahoo.com or mail to church, P.O. Box 263, Perkinston, 39573.

ROBINWOOD is in search of a part-time Minister of Music. Send resume to: robinwoodbaptist@bellsouth.net.

SHORELINE PARK is looking for an Interim Children's Pastor. Contact the church office at 228-467-9461.



Be in prayer as these churches seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit and God's guidance in calling a pastor:

- FBC Bay St. Louis
- FBC Pass Christian
- Faithview
- Gracepoint
- Handsboro
- McHenry FBC
- North Hills
- FSB Pearlington

IMPORTANT TO YOU

Executive Board Meeting

When: October 3, 2022 7pm

Where: GCBA Training Center

Who: Pastors and one elected board representative per church.

All pastors are automatically members of the Executive Board, but please update your elected representatives at:

[sbcworkspace.com](https://www.sbcworkspace.com)

Fall Meeting

of the Association:

Mon., October 17, 2022 7pm

First Baptist Church Wiggins

219 Second St. N.

Wiggins, 39577

(Pre-session music begins @ 6:45pm) Please register messengers at <https://www.sbcworkspace.com>.

GCBA AMD SEARCH UPDATE

The search team is continuing to meet regularly and working on an updated job description for the position. We are now taking resumes, and will begin reviewing them at the end of October. We have reached out to our fellow Mississippi associations, SBC seminaries and neighboring state conventions for potential candidates. All resumes may be sent to resumes@gulfcoastba.com.

The members of this Team are:

MODERATOR: Rev. Ray Duplessie

VICE-MODERATOR: Rev. Paul Crowley

STRATEGY TEAM CHAIR: Rev. Adam Bennett

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM CHAIR: Mrs. Brenda Davis

FINANCE TEAM CHAIR: Mr. Frank Raises

HANCOCK AT-LARGE: Rev. Barry Ginn

STONE AT-LARGE: Mrs. Sandra Parsons

HARRISON AT-LARGE: Rev. Gregg Magee, Sr.

HARRISON AT-LARGE: Mr. Doug Bradford

ACP Deadline

If you are unable to enter the ACP online, please get your hard copy to GCBA by October 6th.

If you are submitting online, click below:

[sbcworkspace.com](https://www.sbcworkspace.com)

and submit by October 10th.

Please take this time to update your messengers to the Association. See page 2 for determining the number of messengers for your church.



Ministers and Mates Banquet

Thursday, November 17, 2022 6:30pm

Crosspoint Church

15046 North Swan Rd. Gulfport

\$25 per couple \$15 Single

RSVP by November 10, 2022

Click here [iDonate](#) to purchase tickets

Entertainment provided by Zak Mirz

★★★★★

"He is the best!"

- Mike Huckabee

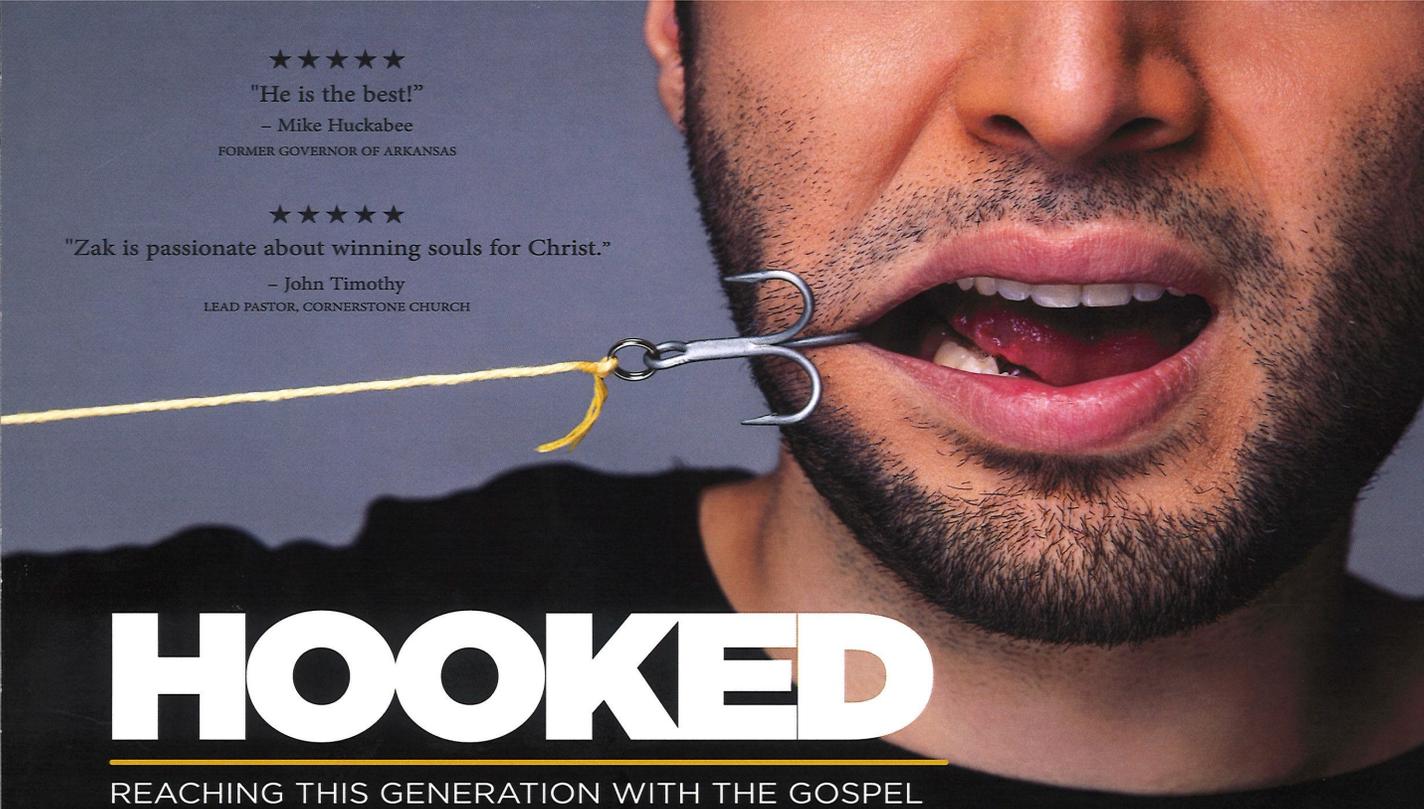
FORMER GOVERNOR OF ARKANSAS

★★★★★

"Zak is passionate about winning souls for Christ."

- John Timothy

LEAD PASTOR, CORNERSTONE CHURCH



HOOKED

REACHING THIS GENERATION WITH THE GOSPEL

THE GUILD

The Guild is for pastors, discipleship pastors, and lay leaders to share ideas and strategies that have worked in their contexts to reach, disciple, and mobilize men to be on mission.



10.13.22
Gulfport,
Gulf Coast
Association

TIME:

6:30-8:00 PM with a complimentary dinner
at 6 PM.

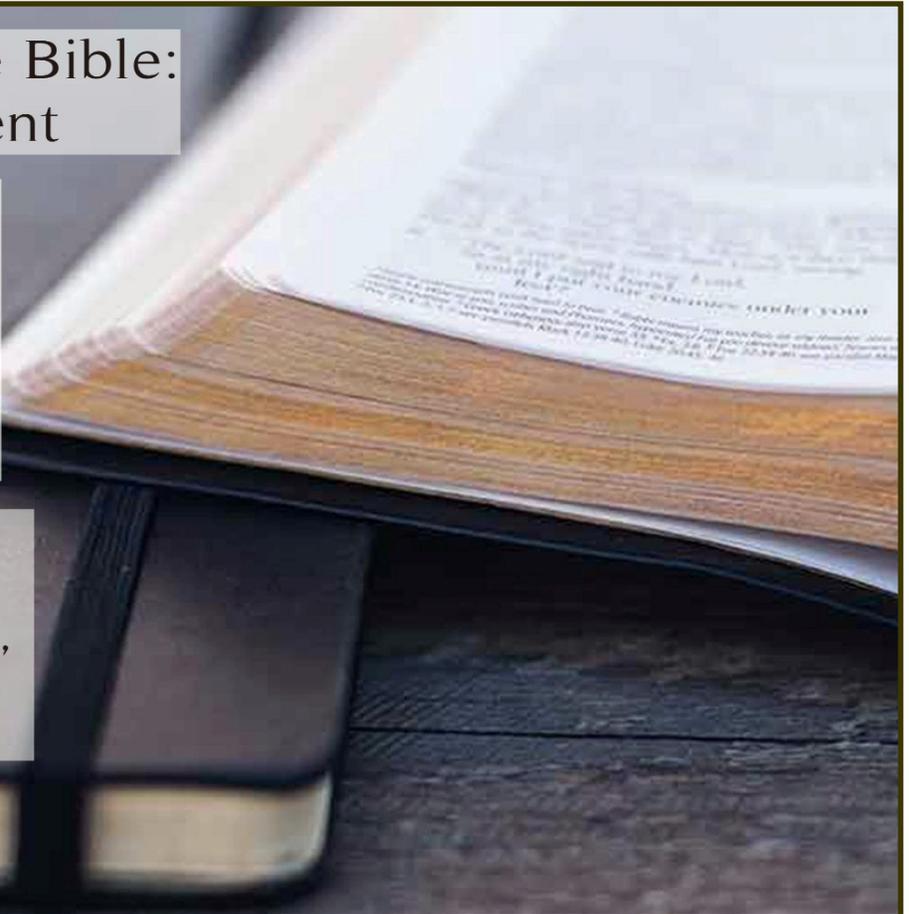


To register, use the QR code above or contact us
at bbridges@mbcb.org or call **601-292-3231**.

Walk through the Bible: New Testament

Participants learn all the important people, places, and events of the New Testament in a few hours, and they have fun along the way.

FBC Long Beach
300 N. Cleveland Ave.
March 4, 2023 9am -12,
Registration at 8:30
Pre Reg \$10 Door: \$15





BIBLE DRILL SUMMIT

November 1 @ FBC Philadelphia

November 15 @ FBC Ellisville

November 17 @ Emmanuel BC, Grenada

November 29 @ Calvary BC, Tupelo

December 1 @ Star BC, Star

*All events will be from 7:00-8:00pm

Topics to Expect

- Award updates/changes
- State Drill Standards
- Panel Discussions
- and more...



Scan to Register
or www.tinyurl.com/bdsummit

*Each attending church will have the option to receive **five drill bibles** or a copy of Lifeway's curriculum/companion piece ***Bible Drills Skills & Thrills***



Missionary in Residence

Dr. Michael Lee, CSO

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

February 19-22, 2023

Call Dr. Steve Mooneyham
for more information, or to
schedule as a guest speaker
at your church.



Magdalene  House

Women's Community Support Center!
Free Employment Skill Classes – October 17th to December 13th

Women's Community Support Center, located off Hwy 603 in Bay St. Louis, is a non-profit Christian organization committed to helping women, from all walks of life, obtain job and life skills needed to find meaningful employment and break the cycle of poverty. Our upcoming 2022 Class Session starts **10/17/22** and runs through **12/13/22** and will include classes in: Work Force Development, Microsoft Office, Communications, Money Management, Life Skills and more. You may sign up at any time during the session for most classes. Classes meet every week on Monday and Tuesday from 9am to 3pm at the Center, off Hwy 603 in Bay St. Louis.

Call Today to Register for this 2022 Class Session (228) 586-3510.

For more information go to: www.womenscommunitysupport.org



Fall Yard Sale



OCTOBER 14 & 15

Women's Resource Center

Your unwanted items will make a difference in the lives of others.

Donations needed.

Call 228-897-8958 for details.



DECEMBER 6

**Great Southern Club
Downtown Gulfport**

Help us give women,
children & families
HOPE.

More information coming soon.
Like our Facebook page for updates on sponsorships and ticket sales.

Warrior Night

Warrior Night is a weekly gathering of Seabees and other service members from 4:30-6:30pm at the Chapel on NCBC. They are looking for churches, church organizations (Baptist men/women), or churches partnering with other churches to be involved at this time. Your church is asked to commit to a Sunday, hopefully on a recurring basis.



A typical Warrior Night looks something like this:

(Times are approximate!)

- 4:30pm** Meal provided by church
(at this point, there are approx. 20-25 attending)
- 4:45pm** Spiritual emphasis presented by the chaplain
(with prearranged consent, others may speak)
- 5– 6:30pm** Free time to play games, visit with Seabees, sing, karaoke, etc.



This is a time for ministry and relationship building and not a time to recruit for your church. You can share about your church and ministries.

For more information, including scheduling a time to visit and observe a Warrior Night, please contact the Chaplain Wint at 404-520-3941, or Chaplain Wint's wife, Debroah Wint at 404-502-1236 or at kkayij05@gmail.com.



Greetings Gulf Coast Baptist Association Family! I've been looking forward to being able to give you an in-depth report of all the Lord has been doing through the Baptist Student Union this past year at our Fall Associational meeting this month. But for this month's newsletter, I wanted to share what happened for the month of September.

In September, thanks to MS Missions Mobilization, I was able to travel up to Knoxville, TN for a Vision Trip to plan for our Spring Break mission trip that we will have in March. I was able to meet with both Association and Church leaders in the area and I heard about what the Lord is doing in Knox County. From this trip, I was able to connect with Washington Pike Church (A church revitalization in the Association) whom we will be serving when we travel to Knoxville again in March.

At the Harrison County (Jeff Davis) BSU, Bradley and I have been seeing much fruit coming from the ministry this semester. Bradley has been working hard at making connections with club leaders, staff, and faculty, and also bringing local churches on board again by helping to start up the Free Lunch program after a two years break. At one Free Lunch this month, I was talking to a new student about some questions he had about the devotion that had been taught. From that, we were able to talk about who Jesus *really* is and he asked for a Bible so that he could study Jesus more himself.

At the Perkinston campus, the Lord has been using our student leaders to reach many students. I have been blown away by the number of students who are coming to Worship Night, Bible Study, and now the Free Lunch (there is a good portion that hasn't been saved) who are desiring to hear the word of the Lord preached. One of my student leaders is on the football team and shared with me a story this week that shows the impact we're making. He was in the locker room, and one of his teammates who had started coming to Bible Study was telling everyone there that they needed to come to BSU so that they could learn about the Bible. It fills me with joy knowing that is the reputation that BSU has, that students know they'll learn from God's word if they come, and they'll desire to bring others along too.

Please continue to keep BSU's ministry in your prayers. Thank you all for your continued support. May the Lord bless you in your ministries.

David MacLellan - Director of the MGCCC BSU
228-327-6240
davidbeckettmac@gmail.com



Thank you so much for your donation last year where The Gulf Coast Area collected over 22,000 shoebox gifts that contributed to the highest total number of shoeboxes ever collected. Last year's International goal was 9.7 million shoeboxes. The total collected was 10.5 million shoeboxes. This year Operation Christmas Child will surpass 200 million shoeboxes distributed in over 100 countries since 1993. Your donations provided Gospel Opportunity (GO) shoeboxes around the world. There were 85,000 planned outreach distribution events this year where the Gospel was shared. The shoeboxes collected last November were distributed this year from February to September. We are starting to receive reports on these distributions that will conclude in a few days.

It is that time of year where we are beginning to prepare for this year's Collection Week, 14-21 November. New shoeboxes are being issued to churches and organizations at Count-Down events where information is provided about Operation Christmas Child. A list of the Area's Drop Off Locations and times of operation will be provided next month.

Why \$10?

The requested donation has increased to \$10 due to the rising cost of transportation and supplies. A donation of \$10 per shoebox gift is critical for Operation Christmas Child. It provides for:



You might think it would be impossible to continue this ministry in the Ukraine war zone, but our dedicated church partners have been unstoppable reaching another **400,000** children through shoebox outreach events since the fighting began. This year, it's more important than ever to reach children who have been traumatized by all the bloodshed, blasts, and sirens. They need to know that God loves them and has not forgotten them.

It is requested that donations not be placed in the shoeboxes. It is highly recommended that donations be mailed separately to Samaritan's Purse in the provided envelope, or the donations be submitted to the church and the church forward the donation. In these uncertain times, it's now more important than ever for children around the world to know that God loves them and has not forgotten them! Together let's build Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts for boys and girls who need to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

If your church would like to have an Operation Christmas Child Presentation, contact Doug Bradford at 504-722-6568 or 228-206-0345.