

BAPTIST MISSIONARY
ASSOCIATION
OF MISSISSIPPI



. . . SINCE 1806

WHAT IS THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY
ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI?

The BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI, formerly known as the MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, is composed of some 200 conservative, fundamental, independent, orthodox, evangelistic and missionary Baptist churches.

The Association's heritage is rooted deeply and firmly in the rich soil of Mississippi's history. Just how long since the first Baptists set foot on the territory now called Mississippi, no one knows for sure. Early in 1780 a band of hardy migrants, from the Great Pee Dee River section of South Carolina, most of whom were Baptists, made their way overland by foot and pack-horse, then by flat boats down the Holston, Tennessee, Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to the Mississippi Territory and settled in the old Natchez District about 20 miles north of Natchez in what is now Jefferson County. From this band of Baptists old Salem Church was organized in the home of "Sister Margaret Stampley" with seven charter members under the leadership of "Elder Richard Curtis, Jr." in October, 1791. By 1806 there were six churches - Salem, organized in 1791; Bayou Pierre, 1798; New Hope and Bethel in 1800; New Providence in 1805; and Ebenezer in 1806.

The old Mississippi Baptist Association, the first cooperating associational fellowship of churches established in Mississippi, was organized at Salem Church on the south fork of Cole's Creek in September, 1806, with "messengers" from the following five churches: Salem, New Hope, Bethel, New Providence and Ebenezer. Bayou Pierre came in two years later.

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In tracing the history of our State Associational work in Mississippi, the trail may at times seem dim, but looking more closely, we find the trail clear and well defined. The historical lineage of our state work was never identified by politico-religious powers, prestige nor popularity, but rather by Biblical principles. Our historical chronology is very clearly defined. The work has been disrupted on a number of occasions in the intervening years. But God has richly blessed our labors together, and the work of the BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI is much alive and in evidence throughout the length and breadth of our beloved state today. The Association is perhaps enjoying its most fruitful years in the work of the Master. There are more Baptists in Mississippi today than all other denominations combined.

OLD AND NEW CHURCHES

While many new churches have been established in more recent years through the mission efforts of individual churches, district associations and the state association, there are many of the older churches over the state working with us who have never been identified with any other than old-line Association Baptists.

Among these are the Farmington Baptist Church near Corinth which was established some time prior to 1812; Antioch Baptist Church near Soso organized about 1817; First Baptist, Bay Springs, 1828; Union near Bay Springs in 1833; Unity, Guntown, 1840; First, Mantachie, 1843; Hopewell, Fulton, 1843; Washington, Neely, 1845; Boguefala, Mooreville, 1849; Mt. Moriah, Ellisville, 1854; First, Louin, 1855; Shiloh, Mt. Olive, 1860; Big Creek, Soso, 1862; Palestine, Montrose, 1864; Bethel, Bassfield, 1869; Ten Mile, Wiggins, 1870; Fairhope, Beaumont, 1870; Sharon, Laurel, about 1870; Oak Grove, near Poplarville, 1871; First, Henleyfield, 1874; Bethel, Fulton, 1875; Oak Grove, Mantachie, 1875; Parkview, Laurel's oldest church, 1876.

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DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS

There are 12 local or district Associations representing every section of Mississippi working within the framework of the State Association. Some of these Associations date back many years. Others are relatively new. Others will doubtlessly come into being as more new churches are established in the future.

These 12 local Associations are the Judson Baptist Association in northeast Mississippi, organized in 1853; the Hobolochitto Association, mostly in Pearl River and Hancock Counties, organized in 1856; Big Creek Association, in the general areas of Jones, Jasper and Smith Counties, organized in 1896; Washington Association in the general areas of George, Greene and Perry Counties, organized in 1912; Ten Mile Association, Stone and Harrison Counties, 1950; Harmony Association, North Central Mississippi, 1954; Oak Grove Association, Forest, Lamar, Marion Counties area, 1958; Capital Association, Hinds, Rankin and adjoining areas, 1958; Gulf Association, Jackson County, 1962; Tombigbee Association, northeast Mississippi, 1964; Delta Association, Delta Counties, 1975; and the State Line Association, along the Mississippi-Alabama line in north Mississippi, 1976.

There are a number of churches cooperating with the State Association which do not cooperate with any of the local or district associations.

MISSIONS OUR MISSION

We sincerely believe that every true New Testament Church is Divinely commissioned to carry the Gospel into all the world - to every race, color and tongue - Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; John 17:18; 20:21. We believe in and support local missions (Jerusalem), state missions (Judea), interstate missions (Samaria), and foreign missions (uttermost part of the earth), Acts 1:8.

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GOD'S MESSAGE TO ALL THE WORLD

The Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi voluntarily cooperate in a positive New Testament program of world-wide missions, evangelism, benevolence and Christian education.

The churches cooperate in national and world-wide work of the Baptist Missionary Association of America with missions offices at 721 Main St., Little Rock, Arkansas 72201. The literature publications offices are at 712 Main St., Little Rock, Arkansas and Texarkana, Ark-Tex. We DO NOT use the International Outlines of the National Council of Churches in our Sunday School quarterlies. We use the complete Bible series outlines prepared by Baptists. The Radio and Television missions department offices are at Conway, Arkansas.

Our churches share in the support and operation of the Baptist Missionary Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas, along with Seminaries in Brazil, Portugal, Mexico and other countries. Instructors in these schools are dedicated men who believe all the Bible as it is for men as they are.

Baptist Missionary Association Churches enthusiastically support and participate in the fine seasonal programs of the National Baptist Encampment at Gary, Texas; the National Oasis for Christian workers held annually at Central Baptist College, Conway, Ark.; and annual nation-wide Missions Symposium at Little Rock. There are many other splendid opportunities for Christian enrichment, service and missions outreach.

SEVEN DEPARTMENTS OF STATE WORK

The cooperative associational work of the churches of the B.M.A. of Mississippi is implemented through the following seven departments;

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STATE MISSIONS

The State Missions work is coordinated and directed through this department. Offices are located at 4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Miss. 39440. All the state missionaries can be contacted through this office.

The State Revolving Loan Fund established to assist state missionaries and mission churches in acquiring property and building construction is also under the direction of this department. The annual State Missions and Evangelistic Conference is also under the direction of the State Missions Department.

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE

Southeastern Baptist College was established by the churches of ~~of~~ the State Association in its annual session in October, 1948, to render educational service on the college level and also a Bible training center. The college is located on a thirty-acre campus at 4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Miss. 39440.

It is the philosophy of Southeastern College that Christian Education is education in all forms based on Christian Principles; therefore, Christian Principles are the basis of all her educational endeavors. As a matter of policy the college strives to maintain a Christian environment at all times both on the campus and in the classroom.

BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

The Mississippi Baptist Children's Home was established and is maintained by the churches of the B. M. A. of Mississippi for Christian care and training of homeless children. The spacious grounds and home is located on Rt. 3, just off Highway 15 North, Laurel, Miss. 39440.

PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT

THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST, official journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi, is published twice monthly. Plans are to begin publication of an enlarged weekly paper in the near future.

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The Editor and Publications office address is P. O. Box 6591, Jackson, Miss. 39212.

This department publishes and distributes tracts, pamphlets, books and such other literature as the churches may direct.

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH

The Mississippi Baptist Youth Department was authorized by the messengers of the churches to offer assistance in leadership training in Christian service and to promote fellowship and Bible study for the young people of our churches.

There are five state encampments for adults and young people each summer under the supervision of this department. The state director also works with the several local Association encampments. This department also works with the National A.B.S. (Association of Baptist Students) on college campuses in Mississippi; and with the Youth-in-the-Harvest work of the various local Associations.

BAPTIST MUSIC FELLOWSHIP

The purpose of this department is to encourage and promote good music in our churches; to promote music clinics for our churches and encourage proper training and development of musical talent and leadership in the churches.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST COMMISSION ON HISTORY

The Mississippi Baptist Commission on History is a permanent commission consisting of five members. The purpose of this commission is to secure such documents, publications and other pertinent materials of importance to record and preserve the history of Baptists; to properly catalog, store and make available to all who care to study such historical materials.

The office and library is located at Southeastern Baptist College, 4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Miss. 39440.

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SOME CARDINAL BELIEFS

The churches of the Association heartily subscribe to and agree to defend and promulgate the historic Baptist Faith and Practices, the interpretation of which is tersely stated as follows:

1. The infallible and plenary verbal inspiration of the Scriptures.

2. The Trinity of the Godhead.

3. The Biblical account of creation.

4. The hereditary and total depravity of man in his natural state involving his fall in Adam.

5. The virgin birth and diety of Jesus Christ.

6. Christ's blood atonement for fallen man.

7. Justification before God by faith without any admixture of works.

8. The eternal security of the believer in Christ.

9. Christ's bodily resurrection and ascension back to His Father.

10. The person and work of the Holy Spirit.

11. The Personality of Satan.

12. Water baptism (immersion) to be administered to believers only and by Divine authority as given to scriptural Baptist Churches.

13. The Lord's Supper, a church ordinance to be administered to baptized believers only and in Scriptural church capacity.

14. The establishment of a visible church by Christ Himself during His personal ministry on earth.

15. The perpetuity of Missionary Baptist churches from Christ's day on earth until His second coming.

16. World-wide missions according to the Great Commission which Christ as Founder, Foundation and Head, gave to His Church (Matt. 28:18-20).

17. The right of scriptural churches to be held as equal units in their associational capacities. The Church being the scripturally authorized unit of representation, and not the individual or

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individuals; we believe in the principle of equal messenger representation regardless of size or financial strength in the general associational meetings.

18. The subjection of all scriptural associational assemblies and their committees to the will of the churches; so that they will forever remain as servants of the churches originating them.

19. The separation of the Lord's Church from all so-called churches or church alliances which advocate, practice, or uphold heresies and other human innovations which are not in harmony with the Word of God. We hold that open communion, alien baptism, pulpit affiliation with heretical churches, modernism and all kindred evils arising from these practices are unscriptural.

20. The personal, bodily, and imminent return of Christ to earth.

21. The bodily resurrection of the dead; one of the saved at the appearing of Christ in the air, and one of the unsaved at the close of the millennial reign of Christ on earth (I Thess. 4:13-17; Rev. 20:4-6, 12-15).

22. The reality of heaven, involving Divine assurance of eternal happiness for the redeemed of God.

23. The reality of hell, involving everlasting punishment of the incorrigible wicked.

THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION

Does NOT endorse the modern ecumenical nor charismatic movements.

Does NOT endorse the National or World Council of Churches.

Does NOT subscribe to the modern liberal theology of a social gospel.

WE BELIEVE in the historic Christian principles of the separation of church and state; the dignity of the individual and

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his equality in God's love and concern for all men; the purity and integrity of the races; and racial segregation as opposed to racial mongrelization.

As MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS, we invite you to attend our churches and investigate our work. If there is not a church of our fellowship in your immediate locality, you may call or write to Mississippi Baptist Missions Department, 4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Miss. 39440, or to any other department and address in this brochure.

"WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?" This is the most important question an unsaved person can ever ask. This most important question was asked in Acts 16:30, and the simple answer was, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

The only Biblical prerequisites for salvation are "repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21).

FIVE THINGS EVERY UNSAVED PERSON SHOULD KNOW:

1. You need to be saved: John 3:3; 3:36; Romans 3:23.
2. You cannot save yourself: Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5.
3. Jesus has provided for your salvation: John 3:14-16; I Peter 2:24; II Cor. 5:21.
4. You must accept Jesus Christ for salvation: John 1:12-13; 3:16-18; 5:24; Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 4:12; 16:31.
5. Now is the time to be saved: "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation," II Cor. 6:2.

Prepared by L. S. Walker
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B. M. A. of Mississippi

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