

Mid-South Ministry Profile

River Nile Baptist Church by Stuart McCollough

In March, 2002, River Nile Baptist Church began as a mission outreach work toward the growing Sudanese community in the Memphis area. After a short time, the group began meeting at the facilities at Leawood Baptist Church in Midtown. The members of Leawood took them under their wing, and four years ago organized the group as a church plant sponsored by Leawood. River Nile has grown to become one of the most organized Sudanese works in the nation and holds a summer youth camp and yearly worship, revival and teaching conference that is attended by Sudanese Christians from all across the country.

Pastor Abraham Deng became pastor at River Nile on July 12, 2009. Abraham was born in Sudan and grew up in a Catholic home. At the age of seven, he realized he was a sinner and was led to baptism as the answer. After 10 years of struggling with his salvation, he met a Baptist missionary with Ambassadors for Christ who explained the plan of salvation to him for the first time in his life. He accepted Christ that day. Within two years, his entire family had been led to Christ. This might not be unusual except that his family includes his father's twelve wives and his 10 brothers and 15-20 sisters.

Abraham came to the United States in 1999 and helped begin Sudanese Christian Missionary Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA. He served there as assistant to the pastor. In 2006, God reaffirmed his call to Abraham to be in full-time ministry. This was something he had fought against for 14 years. He surrendered to the call and enrolled in Southaven Baptist Bible Institute in Springfield, TN, where he graduated with an Associate Degree of Biblical Studies in 2008. He then returned to the Atlanta area and served there until he was called to River Nile earlier this year. Pastor Abraham hopes to one day be able to reach back home and plant a Baptist Bible-believing church and reach Muslims all over the world by sending missionaries from here or supporting nationals who are already on the ground now.

River Nile Baptist Church is very active in the community. They have a desire to reach young Muslims and the young Sudanese generation with the gospel. They currently run between 45-50 members and offer a ministry to young men on Friday nights, prayer meeting on Saturday mornings, Bible study on Saturday nights and a worship service on Sunday mornings. They also hold services in different homes on Sunday nights each week. They routinely visit the local convenience stores and other areas where there are many Arabic-speaking nationals with Islam backgrounds in an attempt to win them to Christ.

Besides being the mother church for River Nile Baptist Church, Leawood also supports them through prayer, free usage of their facilities and financially. Pastor Abraham meets regularly with Leawood Senior Pastor Marc Byrd and Administrative Pastor Lynn Butler for prayer and to talk through the ministries and challenges facing the church. The two churches recently held a multicultural worship service along with Encuentro, a Hispanic church start that is also sponsored by Leawood. Attendees were praising God in English, Arabic, Spanish and even Swahili and Russian.

Bro. Marc's hope is that River Nile Baptist Church will be able to impact the Muslim-background people of Memphis with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He sees River Nile as a bridgehead for the Gospel into this neglected people group in our city. His desire is to see River Nile multiply disciples, leaders, small groups and even churches as they reach this community that God has brought to their doorstep.

2010 JACKSON-AREA MAXIMUM MAN CONFERENCE

January 22-23, 2010 (starts at 6 p.m. Friday; ends noon Saturday)
Englewood Baptist Church • 2239 N. Highland • Jackson, TN

Speakers include: Dr. Tony Evans; Walt Wiley; Dr. Charles S. Lowery; Dr. Fred Wolfe; Bill Glass; David Barton; Lee Jenkins and Ralph White.

*This is an inter-denominational conference conducted by
Ministry to Men Foundation, Inc.*

*For more information or to register, call 888-604-7723
or visit www.ministrytomen.org.*

Opportunities Within Our Churches

Associate Pastor/Minister of Music
Whitten Memorial Baptist Church (P/T)
Send resume to church attn: Search
Committee, 6773 Macon Rd.,
Memphis, TN 38134.

Minister to Young Families and Singles
Eudora Baptist Church (P/T)
Contact the church office at
901-888-7800.

Music Minister
Community Baptist Church, Rosemark, TN
Contact Pastor Terry Cobb at 901-876-
3055 or 901-606-5404.

Hartland Baptist Church (P/T)
Contact Pastor Maley at 901-870-6834.

New Life Baptist Church
Contact Dr. Kenny Hodnette at 901-452-
0127 or 901-487-0207.

Pastor/Church Assistant
Brunswick Baptist Church
Contact Pastor Ronnie Hughes at 901-
388-3690 or ronehughes@gmail.com.

Administrative Assistant
Leawood Baptist Church (24 hrs./wk.)
Pick up an application at the church
office from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., M-F,
or send resume attn: Lynn Butler,
Leawood Baptist Church, 3638 Macon
Rd., Memphis, TN 38122, or
info@leawoodbaptist.org.

Pianist
Community Baptist Church, Rosemark, TN
(P/T) Contact Pastor Terry Cobb at
901-876-3055 or 901-606-5404.

Providence Baptist Church (P/T)
Send resumes to the church attn: Music
Committee, 4351 N. Germantown Rd.,
Arlington, TN 38002, or contact Sarah
Petty at 901-734-6330.

*If your church has filled a position, please
call 901-373-6161 to remove it from the list.*

In Sympathy

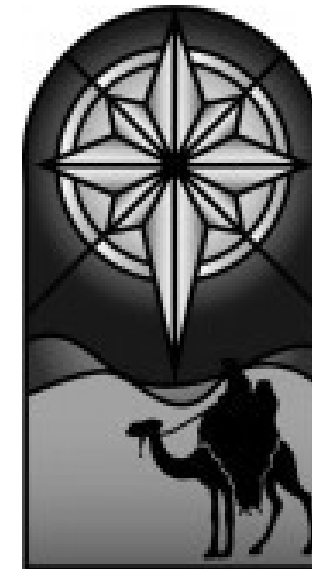
Sympathy is extended to the family of Rev. Joe D. Littlefield who passed away on July 22, 2009. He was pastor emeritus at White Station Baptist Church where he served from 1963-1997. He was a graduate of Southwestern Theological Seminary and Union University. He is survived by one son and two daughters, nine grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Periodical Postage Paid at Memphis,
Tennessee and additional entries.

Dated material. Useless if Delayed!



The Mid-South
Baptist
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Wise Men Still Seek Him!

For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.

- Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV

The staff of the Mid-South Baptist Association and *The Mid-South Baptist* wishes each of you the "Merriest of Christmases" and the "Happiest of New Years." We are grateful for your support, encouragement, and prayers in 2009. We pray that the churches of the Mid-South will be abundantly blessed in 2010 by the presence and power of the "Savior, who is Christ the Lord!"

Grace Atchley
Sharon Hewitt

Julie Binford
Mitch Martin
Stuart McCollough

Michael Day
Greg Spears



On Monday night, October 12, Dr. Chuck Herring, First Baptist Collierville, called *Engage 2009* into a time of prayer for revival and awakening in our city.

See inside front cover for
Engage 2009 Reflections
and more photos.





Engage 2009 Reflections

Dr. Michael Day, Executive Director of Missions

More than 400 Mid-South Baptists participated in ENGAGE 2009, the 106th-annual gathering of the Mid-South Baptist Association. This year's gathering was unlike any other ... with a Ministry Resource Fair, abbreviated business session and inspiring worship that offered participants much opportunity for fellowship, worship and celebration of what God is doing in the churches of the Mid-South. We express many, many thanks to Mid-America Seminary for their tireless effort in hosting this inaugural event. We offer much gratitude to our planning team (Grace Atchley, Les Collier, John Finley, Sherry Hall, Chuck Herring, Rick Isbell and David Lawrence) for their excellent and diligent work. We say "To God Be the Glory!" for all that HE has done and is doing in the churches of the Mid-South Baptist Association!



Engage 2009 participants visited more than 50 exhibits displaying ministry opportunities and resources for churches in the Mid-South Baptist Association.



Rev. Terry Easley and the Celebration Choir and Orchestra of Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett, led Engage 2009 participants in a joyful time of praise and worship.



Artist Richard Murley of Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett, draws the attention of worshippers to the suffering and sacrifice of our Lord as the Celebration Choir sang of the "Wondrous Cross."



(Left) Dr. Richard Harris, Interim President of the North American Mission Board, challenged us to "engage" our mission field in Memphis, North America and around the world.



(Center) Representatives to the Annual Business Session at Engage 2009 elected new MSBA officers including John Enoch (L), Pastor, Fellowship Baptist Church, as Vice-Moderator, and John Allen (R), Pastor, Gracepoint Baptist Church, as Moderator for 2009-2010.



(Right) Dr. Michael Spradlin, President, and the faculty, staff and students of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary graciously hosted all of the Engage 2009 events on the Seminary campus. WE ARE GRATEFUL!

Important Dates for December

- Nov. 26-Dec. 2
IMB Week or Prayer
- 7 Pastors' Conference
Bellevue B.C. - 11:30 a.m.
(Rev. Michael Ellis, Speaker)
- 14 Pastors' Conference
Minsters' Wives Fellowship
Bellevue B.C. - 11:30 a.m.
(Mid-South Singers Christmas Music)
- 21 No Pastors' Conference
- 24-Jan. 1
MSBA Offices Closed
- 28 No Pastors' Conference

Upcoming Events

The Retired Ministers and Wives luncheon will be held on Friday, December 11 at 11:30 a.m., at White Station Baptist Church, 621 S. White Station Rd. Mrs. Stephen Olford will speak. Cost of the lunch is \$6. Call your group leader or Ira Singleton at 901-737-5165 for reservations.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention is sponsoring a seminar for financial leadership in churches. This seminar will save your church and minister time, money and hassle! The seminar is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Bellevue Baptist Church. There is no registration fee nor seminar fee.

Church Resources

Ellendale Baptist Church has a Gestener 5390 printer they would like to donate to any church or ministry who has a need. If interested, contact Linda Bentley at 901-386-4676 or linda.bentley@ellendalebaptist.org.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Childhood Education Network Gathering

Thursday, January 21, 2010 • 9:00 a.m.

Crosspointe Baptist Church
Millington, TN

Facilitator: Connie Lawyer

Memphis Metro BCM Calls New Director

Baptist Collegiate Ministry in the Memphis Metro area has a new face. Bryan Gill from Birmingham, Ala. recently began his role as Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) Director for Metro Memphis. Gill's responsibilities will vary as he continues the already established BCM for the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC). In addition, Gill will begin new work on other local campuses in the Metro area including Christian Brothers University, Rhodes College, and the Southwest Tennessee Community College system. Gill will also serve as the President of the Board of Directors for the Baptist Collegiate Ministries of Memphis (BCMM).

Gill grew up in Eufaula, AL, and attended college at Auburn University where he graduated with a B.A. in Communication. While in college, Gill worked with the Alabama Baptist State Board of Mission as the Keynote speaker for Baptist Collegiate Ministry events as well as youth and church revivals. After Auburn, Bryan attended Samford University's Beeson Divinity School where he received his Master of Divinity (M.Div.). Gill continued to travel and preach throughout seminary with organizations such as World Changers, Serve Management Group and Super Summer. He then began his internships at Birmingham-area Baptist churches. He was the Associate Pastor's intern at Shades Mountain Baptist Church in the Birmingham Baptist Association.

Gill also interned with *The Alabama Baptist* newspaper and has written numerous articles for their publications. He has also written for *Student Life*.

Currently Bryan and his wife Sarah (below) live on Mud Island and hold a weekly Bible study in their home for the UTHSC students. Gill can be contacted by phone at (901) 525-8889, or by e-mail at memphisbcm@gmail.com.



MID-SOUTH MEN'S BIBLE CONFERENCE

"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."
II Corinthians 4:5 KJV

February 26 - 27, 2010

Location:
Faith Baptist Church - Bartlett, TN

Registration:
www.myfaithbaptist.org

Herb Reavis Ted Traylor Michael Cloer

Special Musical Guest: Mark Trammell Trio

Rejoice Puppet Ministry presents

A baby changes everything

Puppet Living Christmas Tree
December 11-13
Fri. 7p, Sat. 2 & 7p, Sun. 5p
Free Admission!

Cherokee Baptist Church
5340 Quince @ Estate
901.683.7344 - cherokeebaptist.org

The Mid-South Baptist Association Offices will be closed December 24 - January 1 for the holidays.

We will reopen on Monday, January 3.



Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!

RECONNECT
A Special Conference on
Revival and Evangelism

March 1-2, 2010
MID-AMERICA BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Sponsored by COSBE and MABTS in cooperation with MABTS, the Tennessee, Arkansas & Mississippi Baptist Conventions, the Mid-South Baptist Association and the Standed Missions Network

Ken Weathersby Junior Hill Ron Herrod Forrest Sheffield