

BRIEFS

UPDATE GIVEN ON EXEC. DIR. SEARCH

The search for the successor to retiring Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) executive director-treasurer Jim Futral is moving forward, said search committee chairman Bobby Kirk during an Aug. 27 update he presented to a meeting of the full convention board in the Baptist Building in Jackson. Kirk, who is also chairman of the MBCB executive committee, reported that Futral has agreed to the executive committee's request to extend his service beyond his previously announced Oct. 31 retirement date, if the search is still in progress at that time. Kirk also asked convention board members and Mississippi Baptists across the state to continue to pray for the man God has selected to become the next executive director-treasurer. Futral was honored for his 21 years as executive director-treasurer at a luncheon with board members at First Church, Jackson, prior to the board meeting.

MO. ABORTION BAN BLOCKED FOR NOW

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — A federal judge in Kansas City, Mo., on Aug. 27 temporarily blocked a ban on abortion in that state after eight weeks of pregnancy — days before it was to take effect. Howard Sachs, senior judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri, blocked the so-called "heartbeat law" for the time being, pending a legal challenge from Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Sachs was nominated to the federal bench in 1979 by U.S. President Jimmy Carter, a Democrat. If the eight-week ban is overturned, an 18-week prohibi-

Chitwood visits Mississippi

By Laura Lee Leathers
Correspondent

Paul Chitwood, president of Southern Baptists' International Mission Board (IMB) in Richmond, Va., since November, spoke Aug. 24 to pastors and their wives, along with directors and consultants from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), at a dinner at First Church, Madison.

"When I started, I told the trustees and the IMB personnel, I wanted to do it all. By that, I mean, I want to ask. I want to listen, and I want to learn," he said.

The connections between Mississippi Baptists and IMB run deep. MBCB executive director-treasurer Jim Futral, in his opening remarks, talked of Rick Dunbar's service as chairman of the IMB board of trustees. Dunbar, a physician, is a member of First Church, Madison, and was IMB chairman when Chitwood was called to serve as president.

Dunbar is not the first Mississippi Baptist to serve as chairman of the IMB board of trustees. The late Gene A. Triggs Sr. of Yazoo City served as president in the 1970s.

Futral, who has announced his retirement at the end of October, also spent a few moments sharing information about Chitwood, who was executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention when he was called to IMB, and their work connection over the years as state convention executives.

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WELCOME TO MISSISSIPPI — Ronnie Falvey (left), senior pastor of First Church, Madison, and Rick Dunbar (right), member of First Church, Madison, and immediate past president of Southern Baptists' International Mission Board (IMB), welcome IMB president Paul Chitwood at an Aug. 24 dinner held in his honor at the church. (BR photo)

Miss. Baptists set for hurricane response



JACKSON, Ms. (Special) — The Florida Baptist Convention has requested that the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force prepare to respond to the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian as it moves up the east coast of that state.

The Task Force's large feeding unit, capable of furnishing thousands of meals a

CHITWOOD

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Chitwood, who served previously as an IMB trustee and board chairman, outlined seven key points at the dinner:

■ Financially, IMB is operating in the black.

■ There are opportunities to serve, as listed at imb.org.

■ Communication with local churches is being revitalized and emphasized, to reconnect through sharing current stories, details, and reports from the field.

■ Mobilization of students to be a part of the Journeyman program.

■ Building and rebuilding relationships with state Baptist conventions.

■ A renewed emphasis on prayer for the nations. IMB is in the process of creating a new prayer office, Chitwood said, and he pointed to the daily prayer requests listed at imb.org.

■ Increased opportunities for humanitarian and medical missions, because those teams can be involved in areas where appointed mission-

aries are not usually allowed.

Chitwood shared stories from his childhood, the role the local church played in helping his family, and how he came to know Jesus. He also briefly shared a few stories about what is happening around the globe, especially within Muslims and refugee people groups.

Chitwood reminded attendees of the vision Jesus' disciple John had while on the island of Patmos. Reading from Revelation 7:9-10, he asked the attendees to notice "from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages..."

"The vision is not yet fulfilled," he said. "You come in here. The churches come in here. It is 'every' and 'all.' I'm looking forward to seeing the vision fulfilled."

Dunbar closed the evening with a few remarks and prayer.

On Aug. 25, Chitwood was the guest speaker for the morning services at First Church, Madison. His message can be accessed at tinyurl.com/chitwood0825.

Leathers, a member of First Church, Madison, occupies the greeter's desk at MBCB in Jackson.

DORIAN

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In addition, the Texas Baptist Men disaster relief group has requested assistance with an overnight stopover in Mississippi while en route to Florida.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBD) has entered the initial stages of planning and readying their response for the superstorm's anticipated landfall in Florida, Baptist Press reported. The Florida Baptist Convention will set up a command center at their Jacksonville headquarters and SBD will have a presence in the Florida government's disaster response center.

Volunteers from all over North America will respond, Baptist Press reported.

"Florida Baptists are seasoned veterans at hurricane response," said Sam Porter, national director of SBD for Send Relief, a ministry of Southern Baptists' North American Mission Board (NAMB) in Alpharetta, Ga. "They will be ready, and South-

"Florida
hurricane
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How can I help

For more information on the Mississippi Baptist response, contact the Men's Ministry Department at (601) 292-3335 or dvail@mbcb.org.

ern Baptists from all nations will be involved in response."

Send Relief is preparing to support SBD if needed in the coming days. Supplies such as temporary rolled cleanup kits, and materials, are stored at the Relief Ministry Center in Paducah, Ky., and will be prepared to load those supplies onto a truck and, depending

Submission Guidelines



The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular

PATTERSON

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but did dispute numerous allegations in the suit involving the student's interactions with Patterson and other seminary staff.

futed the plaintiff's claim that the lawsuit falls within the one-year Texas statute of limitations, claiming instead a two-year limitation under the Texas statute.

The case is *Jane Leighton Paige Patterson v. Patterson* in his individual capacity.