



## Christian Leadership Institute '19

In the real estate business, they say there are three key factors — “Location, Location, Location.” In the Kingdom Work of God, there are, among others, three key factors — “Leadership, Leadership, Leadership.”

Throughout the Bible, God called and equipped leaders to give His people direction and encouragement. Moses was a leader — not perfect, but used of God. Joshua was a leader. These two men “led” Israel out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. A lack of leadership at Kadesh Barnea resulted in forty years of wandering in the wilderness. We must disciple and train LEADERS in every avenue of life.

The CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (CLI) 2019 will enlist and equip high school young men and women from across our state to be a LEADER. This CLI will be conducted at Blue Mountain College on Monday through Friday, July 8-12, 2019. Thirty-six young men and thirty-six young ladies will participate in this second annual CLI.

If your association, church, Brotherhood, WMU, youth group, or family member would like to nominate and sponsor (\$250) a young man or lady, we need that information by April 1, 2019.

We will have eight keynote speakers Monday night through Friday morning, including our elected officials. There will be breakout sessions on practical training for leaders, such as public speaking, mediation, time management, and one-on-one discipleship. These young men and ladies are teenagers — there will be competitions and games. They will check in at 3:00 Monday afternoon and check out after lunch on Friday.

There will be male coaches who mentor and supervise the young

men in all activities Monday through Friday. There will be lady coaches who mentor and supervise the young ladies in all their activities. Discipleship is the key to leadership.

One highlight in the first CLI was Awards Night on Thursday night. Four scholarships totaling \$3,000 were awarded. We hope this total to be \$10,000 in college scholarships in the upcoming CLI. We welcome any scholarships from your church, business, or family.

Our Christian Action Commission has established the Austin Lee Digby Memorial Endowment Fund with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. All interest from this perpetual fund will be used to finance future Christian Leadership Institutes. Any gift or

contribution (such as estate planning) to the Austin Lee Digby Memorial Endowment Fund will add to the principle (\$8,000) and increase the interest that can be invested in the lives of these young men and women till Jesus comes.

These young men and women will be challenged to run for public office — to be a public servant — “he that is greatest among you shall serve,” (Matthew 20:26-27). But not everyone will “run” for public office, but everyone should vote in any upcoming election. Be a LEADER — VOTE.

We welcome any suggestions or questions concerning our CLI. We believe the CLI to be one of the best things we’ve done at the Christian Action Commission. It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness. We need your prayers and help with CLI '19.

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## Golf tournament promotes BMC professorship

**WEST POINT, Ms. (Special)** — Blue Mountain College (BMC) recently hosted the third annual Jim Futral Golf Classic at Old Waverly Golf Club in West Point.

The event, named for Mississippi Baptist Convention Board executive director-treasurer and BMC alum Jim Futral, serves the ultimate purpose of raising funds to fully support the Jim Futral Endowed Professorship in Biblical Studies and Proclamation at BMC, assuring preparation of those who will share God’s word for generations to come.

BMC is one of three institutions of higher learning affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The others are Mississippi College in Clinton and William Carey University in Hattiesburg.

“This, the third golf tournament for the endowment of the chair for Biblical Studies and Proclamation, was the best one yet,” Futral said. “I am so grateful for the Blue Mountain College administration and faculty and friends who have joined us along the way to participate in the golf classic.”

“All the people and workers at Old Waverly Golf Course were super to work with and accommodated us at every turn.”

“The goal of the golf tournament each year is not just to shoot a low score or to raise high dollars, but to provide a strong foundation for the perpetual teaching and preaching of the Word of God at Blue Mountain College.”



**GOLFING WITH PURPOSE** — Joining Jim Futral (center), executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, at Old Waverly Golf Club in West Point were Tim Mims (left), assistant professor of Biblical Studies at Blue Mountain College (BMC), and Ron Meeks, BMC chair of biblical studies. (Uncredited photo)

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**Jim Futral**

**Mississippi Baptist Convention Board executive director-treasurer**

According to the college, the 2018 event hosted 132 players on 33 teams. At last year’s event, 124 players competed.

BMC President Barbara Childers McMillin noted, “As great as the 2017 event was, the 2018 Jim Futral Classic was even better. The support for this event continues to grow each year, which means that we are making steady progress toward our goal of endowing the Futral Professorship of Biblical Studies and Proclamation at Blue Mountain College.”

“We are grateful for all who contributed to the success of this tournament, and we are looking forward to next year.”

Event coordinator Nancy Grisham from the BMC office of community relations was pleased with the turnout. “Each year we have consistently increased in the number of participants and this year was no exception. We also exceeded our previous years in funds raised and are excited as gifts continue to come in,” she said.

“I am truly grateful to all those who participated and for those who helped in making our third annual Jim Futral Golf Classic an event that was anticipated by so many. Next year’s tournament will be September 23, and we are already beginning to receive inquiries.”

Old Waverly Golf Club, founded in 1988, was host to the 1999 U.S. Women’s Open Golf Championship. Old Waverly’s second course, Mossy Oak Golf Club, opened in 2016.