



THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Summer 2011

## Memorial – “mə-`mōr-ē-al”

adj. 1. Serving to preserve remembrance;  
2. Of or relating to memory.

n. 1. Something that keeps remembrance alive...something that commemorates;  
2. An opportunity to Reflect on the Past, Rejoice in the Present, and Resonate throughout Eternity.

One of my favorite verses of Scripture is Proverbs 22:1 in which the writer of wisdom asserts, “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold” (KJV). In Hebrew thought, a person’s name was much more than a mere appellation. Rather, one’s name represented the entirety of the individual inclusive of reputation and character. In simple terms, a name identified a person while painting a life-sized and lasting portrait of that person.

Another favorite verse of mine offers the important parenting principle “Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6, KJV). This verse encourages parents to be “twig benders” by taking seriously the responsibility and privilege to shape their children toward a Christ-like pattern of life.

Sadly, the time-frame for some parents to “train up a child” is less-than-anticipated due to an accident, illness or other event that shortened their child’s life. Such was the experience of several friends of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation who, in the midst of their sorrow, determined to commemorate the “good name” and “loving favour” of their son or daughter and keep remembrance alive by establishing a memorial endowment with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

This edition of *Foundation News* highlights some of these memorials that provide the opportunity for parents, other family members, and friends to Reflect on the Past and Rejoice in the Present regarding a life that continues to provide encouragement and financial blessings that will Resonate both now and throughout eternity.



Daniel Hall  
Executive Director  
Mississippi Baptist Foundation

# Clay Allen Herrin Memorial Scholarship

Clayton Allen Herrin was a young man who was “molded under God’s direction” as he lived out the meaning of his name on a consistent basis in both private and public settings. Clay’s father, the Rev. Archie Herrin (Associational Missions Director for the Tri-County Baptist Association) commented, “the most precious memory I have of Clay was when I would pass his bedroom door and see him with his Bible on his bed before him.” According to Archie, Clay was consistent in his private devotions and quiet time throughout his life. Through these special moments, Clay was being molded after God’s direction.



CLAY ALLEN HERRIN

witnessed many spiritual victories through the faithful prayers of numerous concerned friends. Although Clay’s physical vitality was waning, he continued serving as God’s hands and feet by touching the lives of his doctors and nurses.

In July 2000, at the age of 26, Clay Herrin was called to “higher service” with his Lord. Clay’s life and service, however, continue through the “Clayton Allen Herrin Memorial Scholarship.” Established through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation by his parents, Barbara and Archie, and his sister Michelle, this memorial fund is designed to offer financial assistance to ministerial students from the Tri-County area attending William Carey University.

At his church, the First Baptist Church of Columbia, MS, Clay enjoyed operating a camera as a member of the church’s television ministry team. Although Clay may have served “behind the scenes” in this particular role, he was responsible for presenting the church at worship to the local community and beyond. The impact that Clay’s ministry had on untold numbers of people as a camera operator will be measurable only in eternity.

After Clay was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy in 1999, he ministered through the television ministry at FBC until he was physically unable to continue. Over the ensuing months, Clay spent many days in the hospital in Hattiesburg. Yet, in the midst of the physical challenges, Clay and his family

In regards to this memorial, Barbara and Archie offered, “We are so pleased that Clay’s ministry will continue until Jesus comes and that the lives of young ministers will be blessed. We look forward to following the ministry of those receiving Clay’s scholarship (and) we thank the Mississippi Baptist Foundation for their assistance in establishing the Clayton Allen Herrin Memorial Scholarship and managing these funds.”



## Monty Moak Memorial Trust

Randall Montgomery (Monty) Moak was a handsome young man who loved life and lived it to the fullest. Monty – whose name means “Prosperous Spirit” – was wealthy in relationships and has been described as a kind and helpful “people person” who loved others and never met a stranger. Monty was identifiable by the green Volkswagen that he drove within and beyond his community to visit folks. Many of those that Monty visited were senior adults for whom he had great respect and fondness.



MONTY MOAK

investment of the endowment’s corpus is distributed each year through the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Bogue Chitto, MS for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. In 2010, the nearly \$725.00 distribution from this memorial fund exceeded the reported gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering of 818 other Southern Baptist churches in Mississippi. Through this memorial, Tom, Willa, and the entire Moak family can reflect on the past and rejoice in the present knowing that the blessings of Monty’s life and ministry will resonate throughout eternity.

Monty had several interests and hobbies including hunting, fishing, swimming, playing football and other sports. Monty was active in his church and was always eager to share his faith in Jesus Christ with others. His favorite scripture was Isaiah 53:6. Sadly, this young man who had so much to offer and seemingly had so much more life to share, was killed in 1976 at the age of seventeen.

Several years after Monty’s death, his parents Tom and Willa Moak established the “Monty Moak Memorial Trust” through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. The income derived from the



DANIEL HALL, RANDY LEWMAN, DANNY CREEL, WILLA MOAK, TOM MOAK



# Anna Lynn Osborne Memorial Trust

How does one memorialize someone they dearly love? How does one pay tribute to a life well-lived? These questions were posed by John and Nell Osborne following the death of their daughter Anna.



ANNA LYNN  
OSBORNE

Anna Lynn Osborne had a joy that embraced life to the fullest. She sang, she played, she danced, and she cared deeply for friends. Anna, whose name carries the inherent meaning “Graceful One” and conveys the spiritual connotation of “Devotion built through faithfulness,” lived a life that was characterized by a devotion to her Lord, a gracious and humble spirit, a magnetic personality, and special leadership capabilities. Kindness, Goodness and other Christian virtues outlined in Galatians 5 were on display in

“We are not financial planners and we have never understood too well these complicated matters. However, we do understand what this Fund will accomplish. It will keep Anna’s memory alive, it will celebrate her life, and it will continue the giving spirit Anna exemplified in life.”

and through Anna’s life on a daily basis. Rather than promote self or seek personal accolades, Anna had a witness that lifted the spirits of everyone she met. While a lengthy list of fond memories could be compiled by those who knew her, Anna’s laughter likely would appear at the top of every list.



NELL AND JOHN OSBORNE

Tragically, Anna was killed in a head-on collision with a drunk driver on June 26, 1976. She was a young, vivacious college student who was just nineteen and full of life. Today, Anna’s

life and memory symbolize countless numbers of other young people who not only embrace the same ideals that Anna espoused, but whose own lives are full of dreams and possibilities.

In the years following Anna’s death, John and Nell Osborne became excited about the idea of establishing a ministry endowment fund as a memorial to their daughter. Recognizing

that the focus of Anna’s life could continue, while also providing financial blessings for Kingdom causes, John and Nell sought the assistance of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. Reflecting on their visit with Foundation staff, John and Nell noted, “Whereas many banks we investigated charged a considerable management fee, the Mississippi Baptist Foundation did not. We found at the Foundation a supportive atmosphere where our individual situation was handled with care and attention.”

With the goals of remembering Anna’s influence on others and her love for music, the Osborne family established the “Anna Lynn Osborne Memorial Trust” through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. The proceeds from this memorial endowment are distributed annually to the Woodland Hills Baptist Church in Jackson to benefit the overall music ministry of the church.

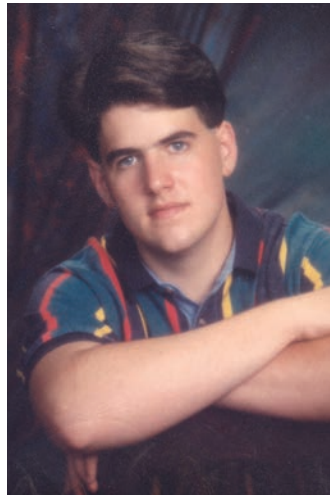
Regarding the decision to create this memorial, John and Nell declared, “We are not financial planners and we have never understood too well these complicated matters. However, we do understand what this Fund will accomplish. It will keep Anna’s memory alive, it will celebrate her life, and it will continue the giving spirit Anna exemplified in life.”



WOODLAND HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

# Brad Boatner Memorial Scholarship

During the seventeen-year span of his earthly sojourn, Bradley Paul Boatner lived the very meaning of his name as he exhibited a “merry heart” as a “joyful one” on a daily basis. Not only did Brad’s approach to life stem from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, but his actions and attitude toward others revealed a young man who was completely “sold out” to his Savior and Lord.



BRAD BOATNER

Shortly after his death, a spiral notebook was discovered in Brad’s locker at Brandon High School where he was a senior. In that notebook, Brad had recorded these words: “Keep God first in your life. Remember God’s will is perfect.” These words highlight Brad’s *modus operandi*, and explain the attitude and motivation that compelled him to volunteer for a mission trip in Honduras where he hoped to share the gospel.

Brad Boatner was a member of a medical mission team that traveled to Honduras in January, 1994. Brad had prayed about and prepared for the opportunity to volunteer for a mission trip to Honduras in order to witness and minister in a remote mountain area. He could not disguise his excitement concerning the mission experience. Rev. Michael Brister - one of Brad’s youth pastors at the Park Place Baptist Church in Brandon – confirmed Brad’s desire to serve in Honduras. Brister shared, “One of the last things he said to me was he wasn’t coming back. He said he was going to stay in Honduras. He loved the area and loved helping the people.”

Following a day of ministering to residents in a remote countryside, the team – a group of thirty-seven that included several Mississippians - began the trek back to their accommodations in Tela via a flatbed truck which traveled along an unpaved, single-lane road on the Honduran north coast between Tela and La Ceiba. According to numerous reports, the Honduran driver moved toward the road’s shoulder to allow an oncoming vehicle to pass. When the rain-soaked shoulder couldn’t bear the weight of the truck, the flatbed and passengers began tumbling down the embankment. Following a search in the darkness of the early evening, Brad Boatner was found pinned and lifeless underneath the truck.

Reflecting on this special young man, Rev. Bobby Williamson encouraged family and friends during Brad’s funeral by reminding them of the attitude with which Brad lived his life. Williamson declared, “Brad would want you to have a burden for lost souls; he’d say ‘Be a witness.’ He would want you to get the biggest group you can and go to Honduras (again).” Williamson stated further, “Brad has found victory in death, and he will change more lives than if he had lived 100 years.”

Knowing that Brad had a tremendous impact on people of all ages and backgrounds during his life, and believing that their son’s influence will continue until the Lord returns, Gary and Paula established the “Bradley Paul Boatner Memorial Scholarship” through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. Proceeds from this fund will perpetuate the memory and ministry of the “joyful one” by providing scholarships for students attending any of the Southern Baptist Convention-supported seminaries or Mississippi Baptist Convention-supported colleges.

On the stone that marks Brad’s grave are words that capture the essence of a properly focused life. These words, from a mother’s heart, proclaim that Brad Boatner “died in loving service of his awesome God while in Honduras.”

Though most of us have experienced the loss of a parent or grandparent, fewer are those who have experienced the death of a child. Yet, in the midst of their heartache, emotional strain, and ongoing sense of loss, Archie and Barbara, John and Nell, Tom and Willa, and Gary and Paula have received a measure of comfort and assurance by the establishment of a memorial endowment. Although several years have passed, these

memorials administered by the Mississippi Baptist Foundation continue offering the opportunity for reflection and rejoicing because the blessing of a life well-lived will continue to resonate throughout eternity. Tom and Willa Moak confirmed this truth in a recent comment, “It has meant so much in our lives to participate in this worthy endeavor. We are assured that this (memorial) will last as long as the world stands.”