

Emory Church

Today

Feb 27th Movie @ 6:00
The Chosen — Episode 2

Upcoming Events

March 1 Believers—Lunch at Jimbo's BBQ
April 2 Leon Burton Memorial Fish Fry
To Benefit St. Jude Hospital

Monthly Events

Believers First Tuesday @ 12:00pm
Bunco Second Tuesday @ 6:30pm
Crafty Ladies Third Tuesday @ 7:00pm
GEMS Third Saturday morning

Prayer Request

Jerry Baldwin
Mac Burrow
Frank Burton
Mary Ann Cooper
Carlyon Crook
Rosemary Pennington
Danette Smith
Rita Stewart

Tonight

We will be watching Episode 2 of The Chosen

Leon Burton Memorial Fish Fry for St. Jude

Flyers are available in the foyer

2022 Calendars

Available in Foyer

2021 Contribution Statements

If you have not received your 2021 Contribution Statement
Contact Robin Cox, Treasurer

Hearts & Hands

Needs non-perishable food/canned goods, winter clothing & coats.
Please help if you can.

Contact: hearts.hands2013@gmail.com or (662) 838-8899

Emory Independent Methodist Church

872 Watson Road
Byhalia, MS 38611
(662) 838-7878

Dr. Michael Johnson Sr. Pastor
(901) 606-8113

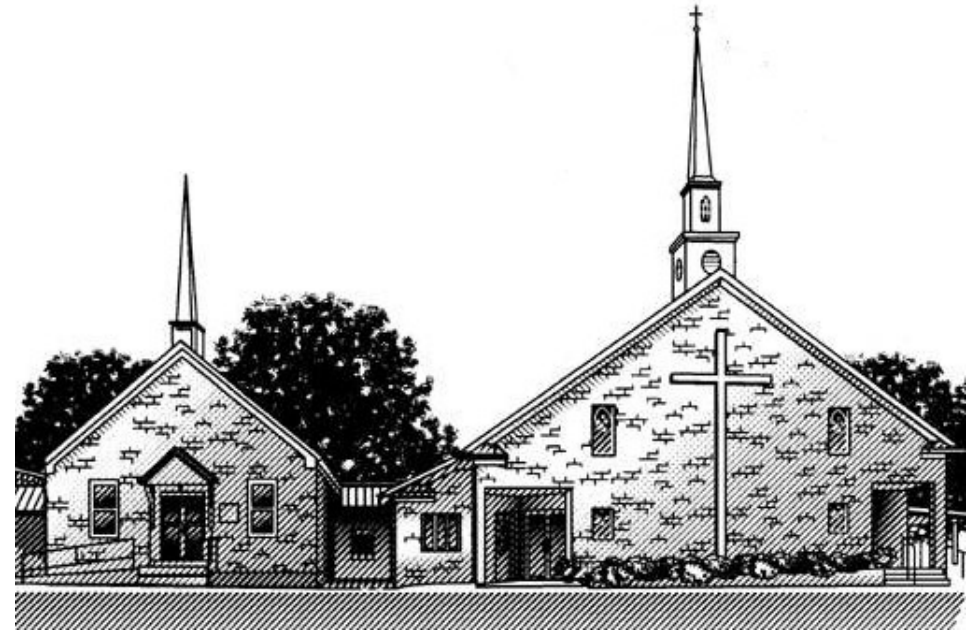
Robin Cox Home Ministry
(901) 351-7269

Sunday Service

Sunday School 10:00am
Worship Service 11:00am

Margie Thompson Believers
(901) 262-6747

www.emorychurchbyhalia.org



February 27, 2022

Laos

What does persecution look like in Laos?

Christian freedom in Laos is severely curtailed by the intense monitoring of the Communist authorities.

House churches that do not have administrative approval are considered "illegal gatherings" and must operate underground. Even the majority of registered churches do not have permanent church structures and must conduct worship services in homes.

The brunt of persecution is reserved for converts to Christianity, who are deemed guilty of betraying the Buddhist-animist traditions of their community. They frequently face pressure and violence from their families and the local authorities, both of whom will stir up opposition from the local community or religious leaders. This can lead to converts being expelled from the village.

Meet "Soy"

Soy was imprisoned at age 14, along with other believers. They refused to deny Jesus when pressured by the authorities. After being released, Soy encountered further challenges; she was bullied at school and her teachers ignored her.

"After I accepted Jesus Christ, I felt like a normal person. My heart and soul were completely healed! However, my happiness was crushed because of harsh persecution. My friends and my non-believing cousins hate me and say mean things to me."

What has changed this year?

Despite Laos dropping four places on the World Watch List, the situation for Christians remains largely unchanged. While fewer Christians were arrested compared to last year, an increasing number of converts are being displaced from their homes as they face rejection by their villages. The pandemic also made gathering information more difficult, so the reality may be more severe than reported.

Who is most vulnerable to persecution?

Provinces such as Luang Namtha, Phongsaly and Houphan in the north, and Khammuane and Savannakhet in the south, have traditionally been difficult places for Christians to live. The local authorities in these areas still seem determined to silence Christian witness.

Source: <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/>



Order of Worship

Prelude	Please be seated to prepare yourself for worship	
*Hymn	#25 Immortal, Invisible	Congregation
Scripture Reading	Romans 1:8-15	
Prayer of Praise		
*Hymn	#46 God Leads Us Along	Congregation
*Affirmation of Faith		
Prayer for the Nations	Laos	
*Hymn	Congregation	
Sermon	Michael Johnson	
Benediction		
Announcements		
Closing Prayer		

(*) indicates times when you are invited to stand as you are able

Emory Calendar for the Week of February 27

	Sunday School	10:00am
	Worship Service	11:00am
	Evening Service	6:00pm
Sunday 2/27	The Chosen Episode 2 (approx. length 1 hour)	
	Explorers Bible Study - Women	9:30am
Tuesday 3/1	Believers Jimbo's Brickhouse BBQ	12:00pm
	The Brethren	6:00pm
Wednesday 3/2	Explorers Bible Study - Men & Women	7:00pm
Thursday 3/4	TOPS	7:00pm