

Pastor's Perspective: Mountain top experiences



By Guest Columnist John Vaughn, Pastor, Cross Roads Baptist Church

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Congratulations to the Ole Miss Rebels, who recently won the College World Series in Omaha. That comes after the Mississippi State Bulldogs brought the Championship trophy home to Mississippi in 2021.

I am a graduate of Mississippi State and a Bulldog fan, but after Ole Miss made it to Omaha, I hoped that they would win the National Championship. Some Bulldog fans just could not bring themselves to wish well for Ole Miss. But while I am a fan of Mississippi State, I am a greater fan of the State of Mississippi! And I am proud that for two years in a row, the National Champions of College Baseball are Mississippi schools.

Southern Mississippi also has a great baseball program and played in the tournament this year. Wouldn't it be something if the Golden Eagles do well next year and give Mississippi a National Championship three years in a row!

This year, Ole Miss had a veteran team with good pitching and heavy hitters.



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Before the season, the team set some lofty goals. They wanted to win the SEC, be a Regional Host in the NCAA Tournament, make it to Omaha, and come home with the National Championship. They started the season strong, and by week 4, on March 14, they were ranked number one in the nation. Ole Miss Folks were really excited about the prospects for the season. But they only held the number one spot for one week. They lost several series of games, and by week 8, on April 11, they dropped out of the top 25 in the nation. So, in just four weeks, they went from number

one in the nation, to not even making the rankings.

Ole Miss made it into the SEC Baseball Tournament, but just barely. The talking heads on the radio said they needed to win several games at the SEC Tournament to even stand a chance of being invited to the NCAA Tournament. But they lost their first game and were out of the SEC Tournament.

Things weren't looking good for Ole Miss!

But when the NCAA Tournament selections were announced, to the surprise of many, Ole Miss was invited! It is said

that they were the "last team in." In other words, they just barely made it! And a lot of baseball commentators didn't think they should have even been invited.

But they won their Regional Tournament in Miami without losing a game, then beat Southern Mississippi in two games in Hattiesburg, sending them to the College World Series in Omaha. And they won the College World Series and are the National Champions in College Baseball. So, congratulations to Ole Miss!

I think the experience of Ole Miss this year teaches us some valuable lessons for life.

Remember that, early in the season, Ole Miss was ranked number one in the nation. They were on the "mountain top." Then things went sideways for them and they barely made it into the NCAA baseball tournament. But when things got bad, they kept playing and working and believing that they could make it to Omaha and win, and they did!

In life, we all have those "Mountain Top" experiences. But we have all been in the "Valley" also, where it seems that nothing is going right. It is in the Valley that we demonstrate our faith.

Pelahatchie Library to briefly close while new flooring is installed

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The Pelahatchie Public Library will be closed for approximately two weeks, starting on July 18, while new flooring is installed in the main part of the building.

Tina Mauney, branch manager, stated, "While we are sorry that the library will be unavailable

to our patrons during this time, we are very excited about the new flooring. The carpet in the library is worn out in several areas, and the new flooring will update the interior of our building."



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All branches of the Central Mississippi Regional Library System (CMRLS), except for Pelahatchie and Richland, will be open during this time. There are CMRLS branches in every direction out of Pelahatchie: Brandon to the west, Morton to the east, Puckett to the south, and Sandhill to the north.

Other branches of the system will

welcome patrons during this time, as well.

Follow the CMRLS library system on Facebook and visit CMRLS. Libraries for directions and updates.

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