

## DR. EUGENE MURPHY TO BE RECIPIENT OF 2007 KELLAR AWARD

The BMA Seminary Board of Trustees recently voted to select one of their own members, Dr. Eugene Murphy, as the recipient of the fourth annual Kellar Award for 2007.



Dr. Murphy is eighty years of age and he and his wife, Faye, have been happily married for almost two years. He was married to his first wife, Bernice, for 56 years prior to her death. Together they had two children, four grandchildren and one great grandson.

Dr. Murphy was saved in Temple Baptist church in Laurel, Mississippi. Pastors Gerald Bridges and V. D. Parnell encouraged him to get into school. Bro. Parnell offered to take him to Jacksonville College.

When he arrived, he was interviewed by Dr. Gerald Kellar, who asked, "What do you feel like God wants you to do?" Bro. Murphy's response was, "Be a pastor." Dr. Kellar outlined his course of study right then.

He and his wife moved from Laurel to Jacksonville in September of 1955 and he enrolled in the seminary division of Jacksonville College. Dr. Murphy was in the first graduating class of the national seminary in 1958.

After graduation he went back to Mississippi and became pastor of Lebanon Baptist Church in Laurel. The church experienced tremendous growth during his stay. He has been pastor of 14 churches in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. He has also been active in evangelism and conference ministry.

He has served in various leadership positions, on committees and trustee boards of state and national associations. He served as Director of Missions for the BMA of Mississippi for seven years and as president of Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, Mississippi for 14 years. In 2004, Dr. Murphy resigned as a BMA Seminary trustee board member, but because of his love for the seminary, he reconsidered and agreed to serve another term.

The Kellar award was created in 2004 to honor BMA Seminary graduates whose ministries reflect the example of Dr. Gerald D. Kellar, founding president of BMA Seminary. Dr. Kellar served as the seminary's first president from 1956-1967. He was instrumental in the organization of the BMA of America and served as president of **each** BMA institution of higher learning. In 1964, the BMA Seminary library was named Kellar Library in his honor. He passed away in May 2001.

Dr. Murphy joins former Kellar Award honorees: Brethren Grady Higgs, Ronald Morgan, and Ronnie Chesser. The fourth annual Kellar Award will be presented at the Seminary Friends Dinner on Tuesday evening, April 17, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn City Center in Fort Smith, Arkansas. All are invited to attend and honor this deserving man of God. For information or reservations, contact Carol Shine at 903-586-2501, Ext. 218 or [cshine@bmats.edu](mailto:cshine@bmats.edu).