

Coming Events

Senior Adult Conference

North - May 8, 2007
Fulton, Mississippi

Northeast District 2007 Ladies Retreat

Saturday, April 14
Woodland Baptist Church
Columbus, Mississippi

BMA of America Annual Meeting

Fort Smith, Arkansas
April 16-18, 2007

Mississippi State Sunbeam Retreat

May 4 & 5, 2007
Camp Gawaywa
Clinton, Mississippi

APRIL 1, 2007

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Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Missions Department sends first VSM Athletic Team

Volunteer Student Missions, a division of the Baptist Missionary Association of America's Missions Department will send its first Basketball Athletic team on mission in July of 2007. The team will conduct Basketball camps in Beirut, Lebanon reaching out to an expected 100 Muslim boys and girls. Charles Costa, BMAA missionary to Lebanon is coordinating the project.

Students pictured are, from left to right, front row: Chris Vines - a junior at Columbia Christian School and a member of First Baptist Church Buckner, Arkansas; Hunter Bramlett - a senior at Desoto County High School and a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Horn Lake Mississippi, Clinton Silvey - a freshman at the University of Missouri and a member of First Baptist Church in Potosi, Missouri. Second row: Thomas Cheney - a senior at Abundant Life School in Jacksonville, Arkansas and is a member at North Hills Baptist Church in Sherwood, Arkansas; Josh Lewis - a freshman at Central Baptist College and a member at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in Wooster, Arkansas; Tyler Bursleson - a sophomore at Ouachita Baptist University and a member at Immanuel Baptist Church in Camden, Ar-

kansas. Third row: Team Coach Jimmy Walker - high school principal and teacher at Columbia Christian School and a member of First Baptist Church, Magnolia, Arkansas; Team Leader Stan Scroggins - Music and Education Minister at First Baptist Church in Magnolia.

The team recently meet in Magnolia, Arkansas to prepare for their work in Lebanon, were they played an exhibition game with the Columbia Christian High School Basketball team. The team will also play an exhibition game with a semi-pro team while in Lebanon.

The focus of the team's mission will be to build renewed relationships between Christians and Muslims in Lebanon, present the Gospel daily through personal interaction, testimonies, visit churches and help the mis-



Volunteer Summer Missionaries headed to Lebanon

sionaries to open doors of ministry in Muslim communities. The team will also participate in area service projects. The team is musically blessed playing drums, guitar, bass guitar and violin. They will give evening concerts of praise and worship.

VSM director Donny Parish encourages prospective students to enlist for VSM athletic teams this year at SOAR.

Group says 'hate crimes' bill an impending threat to Christians

OneNewsNow.com

The head of a Washington-based pro-family group is urging opposition to federal "hate crimes" legislation she fears will soon be approved by the Democrat-led Congress - and that bill, she believes, threatens the free-speech rights of those who strongly oppose homosexuality.

Representatives John Conyers (D - Michigan) and Mark Kirk (R - Illinois) have reintroduced the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act. The bill would include crimes against homosexuals, bisexuals, and transgenders in federal hate crimes statutes. Andrea Lafferty, executive director of the Traditional Values Coalition (TVC), contends the ultimate goal of the bill is to silence anyone who believes homosexuality is a sin.

"People need to understand that the hour is very, very late," Lafferty urges. "We now have a bill that give special protections to people who are homosexual, bisexual, transgendered, cross-dressers." She describes transgenders as individuals "who have had sex-change operations and are clearly very disturbed."

According to Lafferty the bill would elevate homosexuals to a special protected status. "So if a pastor stands up in the pulpit and says homosexuality is a sin ... it will be considered hate speech," she says; "and if this law passes, the federal government will go after people who say those kinds of things."

The TVC executive director contends there is not an epidemic of hate crimes in the U.S., as the bill's sponsors claim, nor are large numbers of homosexuals fleeing across state lines to buy goods and services they cannot in their home states because of persecution.

The bill is likely to sail easily through the House, says Lafferty. That is why she is urging Christians to begin calling on President Bush to issue a veto threat.

Do you really support our troops ?

As many of my readers know, I frequently write about the downward slide our country is taking in terms of our morality and Christian heritage. However, never take that concern to mean that I don't love America. I love this nation. I think we are the greatest nation on earth. I think we are the most Christian nation on earth. I strongly feel we should do everything we can as citizens of this great nation to support our military.

The single greatest thing we can do is pray for our troops. God can do things we cannot. Petitioning the throne of heaven for our fighting men and women is not in vain. Fervently set aside time to pray for our military, both here and abroad. The current war in Iraq and Afghanistan is a clash between different faiths and different Gods. Our politically correct politicians and media continually bombard us with the assertions that Muslims are good people who love God and we are fighting just a fringe element of this great faith.

I couldn't disagree more. It is true that not all Muslims are terrorists. We can't lump everyone into one basket. However, the Muslim faith is set against the people of God. They do not worship our God. Some misbelieve that they do. But our God said that Jesus is His son and he is well pleased with Him. Muslims do not believe that Jesus is the son of God. Therefore, the god they serve, Allah, is not our God.



www.travisplumlee.com

Our God states that Jesus is his holy begotten son sent to redeem the world. Jesus has stated that he is the only way to heaven in John 14:6. Muslims believe in Jesus as a historical figure. Their faith teaches that Christ was wrong and Mohammed was right. We serve different Gods. Ours is the one true God of all.

They teach their young that Jews and Christians are the enemy. We are infidels.

We are the great Satan. The leader of Iran has stated he wants to wipe Israel from the map. The media in America quickly came to defend Muslims by saying he doesn't represent the Muslim faith. While I agree that he is a madman, he does represent the teachings of their faith. Americans need to stand clearly on the side of Israel. We need to realize that so much of the Bible is about wars against the people of the one true God. Our God.

Family Ark Ministries

We can whitewash it all we want, but they are the enemy. Muslims do want to destroy us and will do so when given

the chance. We must love our enemies. The way we can show love toward our enemy is to pray that they all will convert from their false religion to our one true savior - Jesus Christ. That is a loving act. It does not mean that Christians should ever negotiate at the table of our enemy. Jesus Christ is not up for

continued on page 2

Southeastern Baptist College

4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440, (601) 426-6346



Dr. Medrick Savell
President

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Activities on Campus

All of us at Southeastern seem to be enjoying this semester. Things are busy in classes, and other activities have been helpful to each of us. Special guests in chapel this past week were the Gary Thomas Family, who were in revival in this area, and Bro. Les Garrett, who also was in some churches in the area. Those were good chapel services.

Two other special activities are planned for this month. A demonstration of a Messianic Jewish Passover will be presented by Bro. Joseph Harris on April 2, beginning at 6:30 p.m. A Passover table will be set containing the authentic elements and implements for a Passover service, showing how Christ the Passover lamb is the center of the Passover and also revealing the background of the institution of the Lord's Supper.

If you receive this in time to attend, you are invited. There will be no charge for it and no offering will be received. This demonstration is a part of the class on Manners and

Customs of Bible Lands.

The Spring Festival Day is set for April 10. This is an opportunity for prospective students to see the campus and meet faculty members and other prospective students. They will be able to attend the chapel service at 9:30 a.m. and possibly visit a class or two. Lunch and entertainment will be provided, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Anyone interested in learning more about the college is invited.

A Great Encouragement

I received two e-mails recently from Daryl Rhoden and Latheal Parish, students who graduated from Southeastern Baptist College in 1971 and 1972 when it was still a two-year college. This was a special blessing to me personally to hear from them and an encouragement to receive their comments about receiving a good education from Southeastern and that it served them well. Both are laymen who have done well in life and offered suggestions to the college, which shows they still have

an interest.

Daryl wrote, "I think non-ministerial folks are missing something by going elsewhere for their junior/community college education. By attending Southeastern, you not only get a quality education, but you also indirectly support God's work and form networks, friends, and bonds with folks that last a life time. During that time I had some of the best times of my life, and after looking back I would go to Southeastern again."

Latheal wrote, "I would not take anything for my years at small Christian colleges. It has been to my benefit in the corporate world. I still hang on to my conservative Christian views of the world and what God is doing. I have strong ties to the school and would like to see it grow and become a leader in Christian education in the south. Let's see if something can be done to get the word out about the opportunities available at SBC."

What testimonies about Southeastern and what an encouragement to a president! I know these men personally and both of their families. Thanks

Update

Thanks to those who have contributed to the expense of moving the house onto the college property; \$4,750.00 has already been given on the \$8,500.00 needed to move it and set it up. Pray that others will join them in sending funds to complete this project.

Brotherhood exceeds goal

by Matt Hudson, President
BMA of America Brotherhood

Greetings from the National Brotherhood. It gives me great pleasure to announce the National Brotherhood has exceeded our goal of \$10,000 for the M.S. and Katherine Arrington boat for Bolivia Medical Missions. A total of \$10,850 has been given for the project. You might ask what is so significant about the \$10,000 goal. For the past four or five years our National Brotherhood has always fell short of the goal we set therefore not giving much help to our project.

The boat for Bolivian medical teams will aid in the travel up and down the Mamore river to reach indigenous people who could not be reached otherwise. This is the area first reached by BMA missionaries M.S. and Katherine Arrington.

The funds raised will be used to purchase and operate a 40 ft. river boat with inboard diesel engine. It will be a mobile platform for reaching the lost, mobilizing believers, planting new churches, and bringing help to the hopeless in remote jungles accessible only by river.

It is not too late to contribute to

the project. The brethren in Bolivia need our help. Will you help us reach the lost in this part of the world?

You may send your contributions to: Robert Bynum, 43 Bear Pen Creek Rd., Laurel, MS 39443

Brotherhood to meet in Ft. Smith

The National Brotherhood will meet at the Fort Smith Convention Center in Fort Smith, Arkansas, on April 17 at 8:30 a.m. in Exhibit Hall B in the Convention Center. The WMA will be meeting in the attached hotel ballroom. Brother Robert Murphy, missionary to the Philippines, will be our featured speaker.

Recent floods in Bolivia emphasize the need to complete our Brotherhood project to help purchase a boat for the Bolivian brethren. Offerings of any amount will be gratefully accepted toward this project. Please mail offerings to Robert Bynum, 43 Bear Pen Creek Rd., Laurel, MS 39440.

I hope to see you at Fort Smith.
Van Widger,
Brotherhood promoter

Short Message Series by Rev. Grover Laird

The Strange Woman

"Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman: That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words." (Proverbs 7:4,5)

The Book of Proverbs exalts righteous men and righteous women. It also has a warning for wicked men and wicked women. Most of the last chapter of Proverbs is praising a virtuous woman. In many ways it tell us that "her price is far above rubies." (Proverbs 31:10) But most of the seventh chapter of Proverbs is spent in giving us a warning of strange, or immoral women. While most of the messages written and preached are praising the virtuous women rather than condemning the strange women, I think the conditions around us today would warrant at least a short message on the strange women.

Men who are deceived by a strange women are walking into much pain and misery. The Bible

says it is somewhat like "an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life." (Proverbs 7:22,23) These verses should serve as a solemn warning to adulterous men.

Notice still other warnings in this chapter. Being involved in this sin is like being wounded and even slain--"For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her." (Verse 26) Sinners can become so enslaved to this type of life until they will never repent of it in order to be saved. Therefore the last verse in this chapter says, "Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death." Another thing, men

who are deceived by strange women often lose the respect of people, as well as possessions and health. (Read Proverbs 5:3-14) Wise is the man who removes his way far from her, and comes not "nigh the door of her house." (Proverbs 5:8)

Now notice some ways to recognize the strange women. Verses 13-21 of chapter seven tells us that she possesses unusual power to mislead and deceive. This is another reason why men should not come "nigh the door of her house."

Verses 10-12 of chapter seven tells us more ways to recognize the strange woman. Notice carefully: "And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtle of heart. (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house: Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)"

The messages of this seventh chapter of Proverbs should be heard by all ages, both men and women. Not just as a warning, but also to cause us to have more appreciation for those who have decided to follow Jesus and live honorable, exemplary lives.



Grover Laird

Troop Support

from page 1

debate. We cannot negotiate the truth of Christ for the sake of politics. We cannot negotiate at the table of our enemies, nor can we flinch in the face of our adversaries. We need to support America's troops.

There are many Americans who hate the President. They march and shout out hatred towards our President and call him a terrorist. In the next breath, they say they support our military. That is not a true statement. You can say that the President was wrong. You could even say that you don't think we should have gone to war. But we are at war against extremist terrorists who are bent on killing Americans. We must support our troops, and it does discourage them to hear the marches and outrage against what they are doing. I know because I have had so many family members in the military.

My son-in-law just returned from Iraq. My brother and niece just returned from Iraq. It is lonely over there. They struggle over there. Yet when they watch the news and read the papers of Americans spitting out this venom of hatred for the war, it discourages them. That is not supporting what they do. You may say that people in America have the freedom of speech. Yes, we do. But as Thomas Jefferson and many of our great founders made very clear in their writings - freedom of speech and all freedoms in the constitution

can only be rightly carried out as long as there also comes a responsibility. Washington and Jefferson both said our free democracy will only stand as long as there is a strong underpinning of morality and unyielding devotion to God and the Holy Scriptures.

Yes, you can speak out and disagree with our politics, but people have a responsibility to support America once we are at war. It undermines our troops to call them baby killers and terrorist and torturers. Do you know any service men or women? They are some of the best people our nation has to offer. Most have a strong sense of morality and duty to God, home and country. They are serving us and doing what most of us have not done. They put their life on the line for America. They should be respected and revered for that.

We should fund our troops. We should support them for their bravery. We should commend them for their unselfish work. I thank them. I pray for them. Please, join me in this effort. Send a card to them. Send a goody basket. Welcome them home as heroes. Pray for them daily. When you sit in your church this Sunday, you have that freedom to worship God as you choose because of the hallowed graves of our military personnel who gave their life for others.

Thank you God for our military.

BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

SPECIAL MISSIONS EMPHASIS *APRIL - 2007 - MAY*



Bro. & Mrs. Kevin Marr
Lifepointe
Hernando, Mississippi



Bro. & Mrs. Elvis Garcia
First Hispanic
Ripley, Mississippi



Ed Duvall Family
Homestretch
Cleveland, Mississippi



Bro. Joseph Oyeleye
Maple Street
Columbus, Mississippi



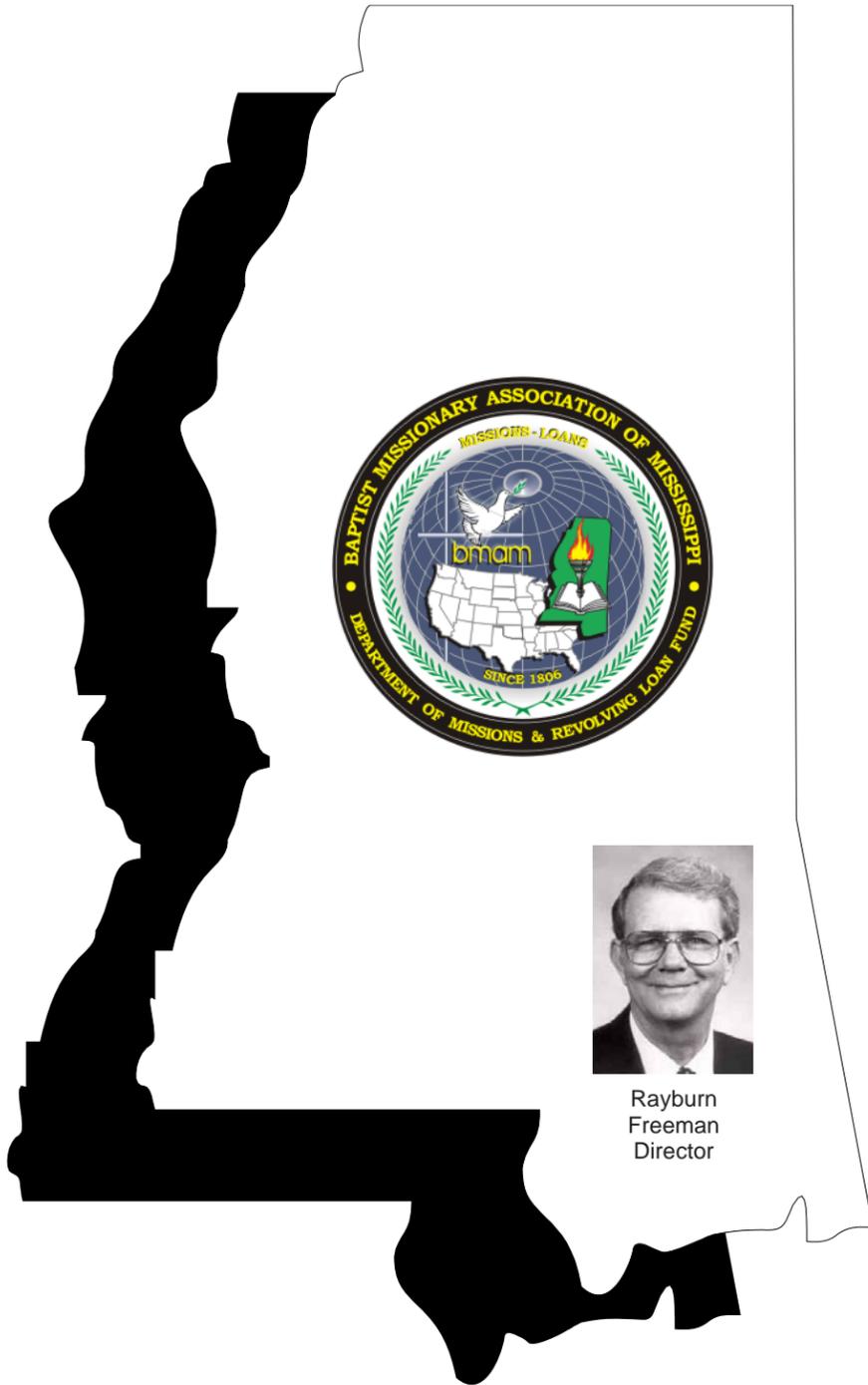
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**YOUR GIFT WILL HELP OUR MISSIONS
REDUCE THEIR DEBT AND COMPLETE THEIR WORK!**

Mississippi Baptist | Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Annual Meeting Fast Approaching

The annual meeting of the BMA of America will take place in Ft. Smith, Arkansas beginning April 16. The meeting site this year is close enough and convenient enough that the state of Mississippi should be well represented. The Recommendation Booklets have been received by our churches and should be read very carefully.

The Coordinating Council is making some important recommendations, as well as our Department Directors. This annual meeting is always an enjoyable time for fellowship and worship, but let us not forget that the business at hand is the Lord's business and it is up to each Local Church to make sure they are well represented and that they are aware of the direction our work is going.

God has been good to Associational Baptists down through the years. Souls have been saved, churches have been established and the Gospel has been spread throughout the world by the many different ministries of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. Let us rally to the work that lies before us and support the planning and continuous mission we have undertaken.



Don Brown
Editor

Concerned and Burdened

Dear Editor,

About 50 years ago, I remember hearing seniors of mine at the time saying, "We need to establish more churches in America to support our foreign missions". I thought, "I'll work real hard and there will be more BMA churches". Well, others and myself worked hard, planted a few and now 50 years later, the problem still remains. I was wrong then and perhaps now. But, I do believe we could do better without having to cross the "Local church autonomy" line.

To the best of my knowledge our department heads and workers are the best. Even so, I believe we need a "Trouble Shooter", available upon request, to gather a council when needed. Even though there is a pastor shortage, there is no shortage of "vultures" when a struggling church is vulnerable.

"A penny saved is a penny earned". How much does it cost to establish a self-supporting, contributing church? I have never known a Wendy's or a Burger King convert into a McDonalds!

Being the advocate of honesty and accountability that we are, don't you think we should publish our losses as well as our gains.

Surely, we have a "Leroy" who will take the "ball".

Sincerely,
Art Johnson
Pastor or ex pastor
Westwood Baptist Church
Fort Walton Beach FL
(Depending on the outcome of pending lawsuit.)

Investment Opportunity

Dear Editor,

Invest your time in a ministry that counts. We need handymen and women at our national campground. Would you invest your time making improvements on the camp where hundreds of children will be saved this summer and many others will make decisions for special service for Christ. You can be a part of this ministry by volunteering your time. If you can get here, we'll feed you and provide lodging and showers. All skill levels needed.

Call or e-mail Jerry Pommerening - (home) 254-578-1525; (cell) 903-851-3675; e-mail: audioman2@earthlink.net.

Youth pastor shares concerns

Dear Pastors and Churches of the BMA of Mississippi,
I went to the BMAA Youth

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"I don't believe in gossip either, if it weren't for prayer requests I wouldn't know ANYTHING!"

Minister's Conference a few weeks ago. It was held in Irving, Texas. It is called the "Great Escape" Student Ministers Conference. While I was there, I had two concerns. My concerns were that a non-denominational youth minister was selected as the speaker and that the majority of the speakers at the conference did not use the King James Authorized Bible.

Historical Baptists, true to the faith, have always stood against ecumenicalism (fellowship among different, and sometimes all, creeds, faiths, and denominations [Webster says it is a "promoting or tending toward worldwide 'Christian' unity."]). In other words it is the beginning point of the "One-World," or "Universal," Church movement that both our National and State works stand against.

Our national doctrinal statement says we believe in the "perpetuity of the Church." Our state doctrinal statement is clearer on this. It states that we believe in the perpetuity of "missionary Baptist churches." Our national doctrinal statement also leaves open more possibilities of fellowship than our state doctrinal statement does. Our Mississippi statement says, "We believe in the separation of the Lord's Church from all so-called churches or church alliances which advocate, practice, or uphold heresies and other human innovations, which are not in harmony with the Word of God. Open Communion, alien baptism, pulpit affiliation with heretical churches, modernism, modern tongues move-

ment, and all kindred evils arising from these practices are unscriptural."

If one looks at the history of the non-denominational movement, one can see that it is wrapped in these practices. I am proud of the name Baptist. I am proud of our statement of faith, our history, and our forerunners. Our fellowship and cooperation needs to consist of Baptists of like faith and order. I expressed my concern about these matters.

In relation to not using the King James Authorized Bible when we come together, if others are not KJV only, that is between them and the Lord. However, when we come together at national meetings and events, out of respect for those of us who are KJV only, why can't the King James Bible be used for the sake of unity? I asked that question. I was called one-sided for my position. I don't believe that I am. Most people who use other versions believe the KJV is not the only Word of God. However, they do believe that it is the Word of God. So again, I ask, why can't the King James Bible be used for the sake of unity?

Having studied the history of the Authorized Version, and knowing that God has preserved His Word, I KNOW the King James Bible is the Word of God. It is not my intention to cause division, but the inerrant, infallible, inspired Word is not available to us in any English version, other than the Authorized Version, which in time past was trusted and

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Letters From Our Readers

Canadian Mission project in need of help

Dear BMA People,

Brother Mike Poirier, BMAA missionary to Canada, has written to all the churches in the BMA of America about the need to purchase a building in Saint Marie, Quebec. The church in Saint Marie is having to move from its present location by May 15, 2007. They have tried to rent other buildings, but with no success. A law in Quebec forbids any religious group from forming outside an institutional zoning area.

The church has found property and I am now asking for your help. First, I ask that you pray with us that God's will be done in the purchase of a building. Second, I am seeking

individuals and churches in the BMA of America who would be willing to pledge \$1,000.00 over the next six months to help meet this need. \$46,000 has been raised so far and we have four individuals from our church that have personally pledged \$1,000 each. We invite you to join us in helping this faithful missionary in his effort to reach Canada for Christ.

If you will join us in this effort I ask that you contact me at the address or email listed below and let me know of your pledge. This is a project is worthy of our help and support. Your donations should be sent to our National Missions Department in Little Rock, Arkansas, designated to the Poirier work fund.

James Sprayberry, Pastor
First Baptist Church
P.O. Drawer O
Bay Springs, MS 39422
Email: jes51@teleclipse.net



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THE CHALLENGE

News of the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary - Spring 2007

GOLDEN JUBILEE BMA SEMINARY — 50 years of making disciples our first concern

By President Charley Holmes

At BMA Seminary we are glad to see the leaders of our association focused on the great commission. The 2007 associational theme, Our first concern: Making Disciples, as well as last year's theme, This generation . . . for Christ, for Discipleship, for Missions points our association in the right direction.

Matthew 28:19, says, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Some have misinterpreted the command of the commission to be only going (evangelizing). In truth, the grammar of the sentence indicates that "go" is a participle. The fact that believers will be "going" is understood. Only one Greek word is used in this passage as a command. The command is "to teach" which is best translated "to make disciples."

True disciple making is not planning the next big event at church (next Sunday morning service, VBS, the spring or fall revival, a preaching or teaching conference, a city-wide crusade, the Easter cantata, etc.). Special events are sometimes the first step of recruitment for the discipleship process. The process is a long-term proposition of taking the recruits and molding them into the image of Christ by faithful teaching in the Word and modeling of Christian principles.

For the past fifty years, the seminary has been more than an institution of higher learning. It has been a great commission institution, and our role has been the training of disciple makers. The wide dispersal of BMATS alumni and students in our national departments, colleges, mission fields and leading churches is evidence that we have been faithful in carrying out our role in the association. As important as the past fifty years have been, even more important is the fact that we must be proactive in training leaders for the next fifty years.

The past few years at the seminary have experienced unprecedented growth. Seven years ago we had 68 students in the fall semester. In the fall of 2006, we had our all-time record enrollment of 162. As of this writing, it appears that we may have a record spring enrollment, and Dr. Philip Attebery, BMA Seminary Dean, is projecting a record graduating class of more



Dr. Charley Holmes

than 30 in May 2007.

The seminary extension in Conway, Arkansas is graciously hosted by President Terry Kimbrow at Central Baptist College and has grown under the direction of Dr. Thom South. Brother Phil Knott, BMAA Director of Mission Operations for Latin America, is also collaborating with Dean Attebery to provide religious training in this region.

The Lord has blessed—not just our enrollment—but also the financial stewardship of our trustees. Our latest outside independent audit showed that our budget was met for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2006. In-house financial statements through January 2007 show that all regular operating accounts are current and we are operating in the black.

The seminary has no short-term unsecured debt. The only debt we currently have is for income-producing property adjoining the original campus. The properties helped increase our student-housing capacity and preserve the seminary's neighborhood. We have substantial equity positions in these properties, and the rent income approximates our payments.

The seminary's first fifty years had its blessings and the next fifty years will have its challenges. We are currently launching our Golden Jubilee Campaign. This campaign will address several important issues.

The Kellar Library has served well over the last several decades; however, we have exceeded its capacity for library resources by 100%. These items include both printed and technological resources. Wonderful books for our next generation of disciple-making pastors and missionaries are literally overflowing the shelves.

Also, the increased student population has crowded out administrative offices and is causing overflow into the original conference room. To meet these challenges we are proposing the addition of a new facility to the campus. This building would possibly serve as a BMA historical archive area and library annex. In



First faculty of BMA Seminary

addition, the building could house a new combination classroom/conference area.

This campaign also includes new roofs for the Gregson Student Center and the Dorman Memorial Chapel, which are well past schedule for replacement. These roofs must be replaced now to prevent expensive interior damage.

An integral part of this campaign will be the initial E. Harold Henderson Easter offering. Dr. Henderson, a past and faithful trustee of the seminary, was a wonderful leader in the area of discipleship and in associational offices. In cooperation with the Department of Church Resources, Moral Action Committee, Ministers Resource Services and the BMA Coordinating Council, the seminary is glad to be a part of this annual association-wide emphasis. A good initial response to the offering will be a great encouragement to these departments as we hope to model a great commission spirit for all the association and make a big dent in the cost of the seminary's Golden Jubilee Campaign.

Let me encourage each BMA church to participate in the E. Harold Henderson Easter Offering and all auxiliaries to consider the seminary's Golden Jubilee Campaign as a project for the coming year.

President to Host Golf Classic

The Dr. Charley Holmes Golden Jubilee Invitational Golf Classic is scheduled for April 16, 2007 at the Fianna Hills Country Club in Fort Smith, Arkansas. The classic is being held in conjunction with the BMAA annual meeting.

Holmes invites those attending the BMAA annual meeting to arrive early and participate in this celebration of the seminary's 50 years of ministry. "Fianna Hills is the nicest private golf club in Fort Smith and only our tournament guests will be on the course. Several specialties will make the tournament unique along with a first class meal," according to Holmes.

The tournament begins at 9:00 a.m. with registration and breakfast at 7:00 a.m. The tournament will be a two-man scramble format and individual golfers will be partnered with another if needed.

The cost of the tournament is \$95 per player. Please call the seminary at 800-259-5673 or send an email to bmatsem@bmatsem.edu for a registration form. Golfers are encouraged to register before April 12, 2007.

You're Invited!

Dr. Charley Holmes
Golden Jubilee Invitational Golf Classic
April 16, 2007
Fianna Hills Country Club
Fort Smith, Arkansas



Seminary Professors Enjoy Visits to Mission Fields

BMA Seminary President Dr. Charley Holmes and Board of Trustee Chairman David Pickard visited the Evangelical Baptist Seminary in Yervan, Armenia during October 2006 to conduct a pastor's conference. The trip was organized by Larry Barker and the Barnabas Touch ministry of the BMAA Department of Missions.

Pickard, who also pastors the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Blanchard, Oklahoma, shared testimony of the experience during the 2007 BMAA Missions Symposium in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Dr. Philip Attebery, BMA Seminary Dean, traveled to Guayama, Puerto Rico in December 2006 to evaluate ministry opportunities with La Iglesia Sin Paredes (The Church Without Walls). David Dickson serves the church as pastor. Attebery was invited to make the trip as part of a cooperative effort between the seminary and the BMAA Department of Missions.

Dr. Ronnie Johnson, Professor of Christian Education, visited churches in Mexico to provide assistance in introductory lessons for Christian education. He visited mission fields in central and southern Mexico at the invitation of Missionary Ricky Williams. Holmes, who teaches courses in worship leadership, also made



Dr. Ronnie Johnson teaching during a visit with BMAA Missionary Ricky Williams.

a recent trip to Mexico to assist Missionary Grady Johnson.

Further trips have been planned for Dr. Philip Bryan to visit Costa Rica and Dr. Thom South to visit Mexico during the summer.

Attebery said, "Visits to a mission field

allow a seminary professor to expand his awareness of global issues while helping mission works at the same time. The visits also help professors to maintain awareness of current needs and trends in ministry. It allows them to pass this information along to their students."

Brand Lectures Spiritual Emphasis Week

The 2007 "Brand Lectures" were held March 6 and 8 in the BMA Seminary's Dorman Memorial Chapel. Stan Scroggins, Director of Music and Education at First Baptist Church, Magnolia, Arkansas, was invited to present the lectures.

Scroggins lectured on the theme: "Christian Education and the Great Commission." Topics for the four sessions included: Your Reach Goes Beyond Your Grasp, The Great Commission Sunday School, The Dirt on Teaching, and Learner-based or Interest-based Teaching.

Scroggins was saved in 1966 at a BMAA mission church in Warner Robins, Georgia. He surrendered to ministry in 1967. He holds Bachelor of Science degrees in music and in sociology from Jacksonville State University and a Master of Religious Education degree from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Brand Lectures are named in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Ralph A. Brand of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Dr. Brand was both a graduate (M.R.E. '67) and a trustee of BMA Seminary.



Stan Scroggins

Seminary Friends Dinner

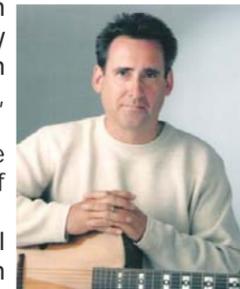
Kellar Award and Dallas Holm

The annual Seminary Friends Dinner will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2007, at 5:30 p.m., at the Holiday Inn City Center (headquarters hotel for the BMAA Annual Meeting), in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Total cost will be \$20 per person, including gratuity.

At this fellowship meal, the 2007 Kellar Award will be presented to Dr. Eugene Murphy who is a current member of the BMA Seminary Board of Trustees.

In addition, Grammy award winner, Dallas Holm, will present a mini-concert to help us celebrate this Golden Jubilee year.

If you would like to attend, please contact the seminary at 800-259-5673 or email cshine@bmats.edu to make a reservation before April 9, 2007. The cost of the meal is \$20. Due to arrangement limitations, we must have your reservations prior to the meeting. Please respond promptly to guarantee your place at this dinner celebrating the Golden Jubilee year of the ministry of BMA Seminary.



Dallas Holm

Dean's List for Fall 2006

Students must have at least a 3.5 grade point average, have no letter grades below "B," and must be enrolled in at least four courses.

Associate of Divinity

Linda Bouwer
James Johnson
Lucy Kamau
Lawrence Okeyo

Bachelor of Arts in Religion

Patrice Anaab
Sharon Ball
Michael Cross
Gary Dollarhide
Michel Loua
Grady McDonald
Justin Owens
Philip Parks
Chris Proctor
Tommy Rose
Jacob Shulenberg
Kevin Simmons

Master of Arts

Jason Adams
Chris George
Doug Inman
Precois Norcilus
Rasha Sara
Gregory Schmidt

Master of Divinity

Harold Fox
Tim Gresham
Jake Vandenberg

E. Harold Henderson Easter Offering

April 8, 2007

- To Benefit -

BMA Seminary

**Department of
Church Resources**

Moral Action Committee

**Ministers Resource
Services**



Administration

Dr. Charley Holmes, President
Dr. Philip W. Attebery, Dean
James Blaylock, Library Director
Janice Bryan, Business Manager
Dr. Thom South, Extension Site
Bertram G. Cooper, Development

Faculty

Dr. Philip R. Bryan, Theological-Historical
Dr. Ronnie Johnson, Christian Education
Dr. Elton B. McCann, Church Ministries
Dr. Greg W. Parsons, Biblical Studies
Dr. James D. Shine, Biblical Studies

1530 East Pine St.
Jacksonville, TX 75766
903-586-2501/800-259-5673
AR Site: 501-328-5776
E-mail: bmatssem@bmats.edu
Web: www.bmats.edu

"Earnestly Contending for the Faith"



Students Prepare for Chaplaincy

Several BMA Seminary students are preparing for ministry as chaplains in the United States Armed Forces. Each military branch of service has specific educational requirements for its chaplains. BMA Seminary's solid accreditation provides the credentials needed to help students fulfill these requirements.

Tim Gresham, a Master of Divinity student from Crandall, Texas, served ten years in the U.S. Marine Corp and began feeling a call to chaplaincy in 2004. He has served as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Crandall during the past six years.

Gresham believes that he will be able to identify with soldiers since he has been on several deployments with the marines. These deployments caused him to be separated from his wife for four years. "The war effort also has a lot to do with it. Watching the news or hearing of casualties causes me to think of families and the destiny of soldiers," he said.

Doug Inman, a Master of Arts student from Palestine, Texas, spent more than six years in the U.S. Army. "Military life presents a completely different world. My time in the military gave me a great picture of it. I have been in some of the pits that I hope to minister soldiers out

of. Spouses and families are looking for solid marriages, love for kids and the best means to come through hardships," he said.

Inman, who pastors the Walston Springs Baptist Church in Palestine, says the BMA Seminary has helped make his calling a reality. He says there has been strength in having other seminary students preparing for the chaplaincy ministry with him.

Lamont Risner, a Master of Divinity student from Canton, Texas, served in the U.S. Army as a Russian linguist from 1998-2004. He says the military is like a second family to him.

"I have seen first hand the part that a healthy chapel can make in the lives of soldiers and their families. Chapel helps soldiers to stay focused spiritually and to accomplish their mission," he said.

Risner, who recognized the call to chaplaincy in August 2001, says that the terrorist attacks of September 2001 seemed to awaken the spiritual awareness of soldiers. His desire changed from an interest in weaponry to a concern for the hearts of the people in those weapons.

Risner believes the BMA Seminary has helped him most by strengthening



his foundation to use the Word of God and by training in counseling and organizational skills.

Jeremy Miller, a Master of Arts student from Arkansas, is currently a special projects officer and chaplain candidate in the Arkansas National Guard. He attends the seminary's extension site in Conway, Arkansas.

Miller has been active in serving soldiers who have recently returned from

deployments in Iraq. He says that he has been able to use the seminary's counseling classes immediately to help returning soldiers with grief and post-traumatic stress disorders.

Each student stresses the need for more theologically conservative and Bible-believing chaplains. The BMA Seminary is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of such an important and far-reaching ministry with these students.

Murphy to Receive Kellar Award

Dr. Eugene Murphy of Laurel, Mississippi has been chosen as the recipient of the BMA Seminary's 2007 Gerald D. Kellar Award for recognition of outstanding contribution, service and participation in Christian ministry. The award is to be presented in April.



Eugene Murphy

Murphy is a member of the seminary's first graduating class (1958) and currently serves on the seminary's Board of Trustees. He has served churches as pastor in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. He served for seven years as Director of Missions for the BMA of Mississippi and fourteen years as President of Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, Mississippi.

The Kellar Award was created to honor seminary graduates whose ministries typified that of Dr. Gerald D. Kellar, founding president of BMA Seminary. Kellar served in this position from 1956-1967. He was also instrumental in the organization of the BMA of America and served as president of each BMA institution of higher learning.

Shulenberger Receives Asher Scholarship

Jacob Shulenberger of Jacksonville, Texas is the recipient of the 2007 Louis F. and Jean Asher Scholarship for 2007.

Shulenberger was recently married to Colleen and is a life-long member of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville.

He is a 2006 graduate of Jacksonville College and made the seminary Dean's List in Fall 2006.

The award was announced during a seminary chapel service on February 22, 2007. Members of the Asher family and Glenfawn Baptist Church of Cushing, Texas were present for the announcement.

The Louis F. Asher Scholarship was established by the Glenfawn Church as a memorial to her former pastor and to promote and to reward good scholarship. The church decided to add the name of Mrs. Jean Asher to the scholarship in 2006.

Bro. Asher served the BMA Seminary for 25 years as a professor. He authored the book John Clarke (1609-1676): Pioneer in American Medicine, Democratic Ideals, and Champion of Religious Liberty and was best known for his expertise in the area of church history.



Seminary to Offer Share Your Faith Workshops with EE

BMA Seminary has been involved for several years in equipping students with training in Evangelism Explosion (EE) as a means of helping students and church leaders further their knowledge and skills in evangelism.

Share Your Faith Workshops are designed to provide a single day of effective training in which participants are led in an "easy to learn and hard to forget" Gospel presentation.

The workshops are intended to be a starter for more complete training provided during the seminary's weeklong evangelism training held each summer or during regular semesters on the seminary campus.

Churches interested in hosting a workshop should contact President Charley Holmes or Dean Philip Attebery at BMA Seminary.



When the BMA Theological Seminary opened fifty years ago, students came with trusting, searching hearts. In 1958 the first graduates (shown above) departed with God's wisdom and understanding.

They laid the foundation that others could tread upon with confidence. Still they come in obedience to God's command to "*incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding*" (Proverbs 2:2).



Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary
1530 East Pine Street • Jacksonville, TX 75766
1-800-259-LORD (5673) • www.bmats.edu

Summer 2007 Motion Schedule

**Biblical Evangelism
and Discipleship**
(Evangelism Explosion)
(EV 311, 411, 521)
June 4-8
Central Baptist College
Drs. Elton McCann, Philip Attebery,
Charley Holmes

**Preparation and Delivery
of Sermons/Homiletics**
(Pr 311/611)
June 18-22
Dr. Joe Pendleton

**Administrative
Christian Leadership**
(RE 512)
June 25-29
Dr. Mike Smith/Bill Stewart

**Old Testament Introduction
and Survey I**
(OT 511)
July 9-12
Dr. Matthew McKellar

Advanced Christian Psychology
(RE 535)
July 23-27
Dr. Ronnie Johnson
Central Baptist College

Intermediate Greek
(Grk 415)
July 30 - August 3
Dr. Jim Shine

Survey of Baptist Heritage
(CH 621)
August 1-3
Baptist History Celebration
Charleston, South Carolina

Interested individuals may contact
the seminary Dean's Office for more
information at 903-586-2501.
Deadline for application and
registration is May 3, 2007.

Help Us Keep In Touch!

We would really like to know
how to keep in touch with you!
Please help us by letting us know
if your address has changed or if
you think we do not have a correct
address for you! Thanks for think-
ing about BMA Seminary!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

The Antithesis of Offensiveness

Sometimes it is difficult to write on certain subjects without offending people. In today's culture, a premium is placed on not being offensive, even to the point of changing or denying the truth. And speaking of truth, let's be truthful. Sometimes a speaker or writer can be offensive in his or her attitude and presentation of subject matter. I do not believe there is ever just cause for any individual to be obnoxious and arrogant in their stand on any truth, but sometimes this is the case. In my own quest for "sensitivity," I changed the title of this article from one of plain truth to a title that sounds more scholarly and befitting such a pundit as myself, hence the title, "The Antithesis of Offensiveness" as opposed to "Thin Skinned Cry Babies," though I prefer the latter.

In using the phrase, antithesis of offensiveness, I am referring to the flip side. I grow weary of hearing how offended someone gets over a statement or belief by someone else, yet think they have exclusive rights to freedom of speech, and could care less when they offend others. I am sick and tired of hearing how the same group of whiners are always offended at certain things. This is America, remember, and of all the rights people cry about, there is one right that seems to have been forgotten: the right to be offended. The very existence of the potential to be offended is a declaration that someone else has a right to exercise his or her liberty of freedom of expression. And there is a major difference between expressing an opinion and forcing others to accept that opinion. If we all kept an offense list, everyone would stay three years behind on apologies. Consider the flip side of the following offenses:

Jews, Muslims and other non-Christians are offended when the name Jesus is used to end a public Christian prayer offered by a Christian. Well, here's the flip side. It is extremely offensive to Christians when it is demanded they exclude the name of the very One who is responsible for the existence of Christianity. Their brand of tolerance demands acceptance of everything except Christ. The argument goes something like this - they say no one religion should be promoted over another. Well here's the shocking truth. Neither Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, or atheists were responsible for the founding of this country, distinguished with undeniable Christian characteristics. The majority of the founding fathers were God-fearing Christians and most of those who weren't, professed some belief in divine deity. It is offensive to me when some denigrate Christianity, the mother religion that birthed this country and continues to promote freedom to express "offensive" opinions.

The song "Dixie" is "offensive" to some because it conjures up pictures of slavery and degradation in the old South. The Battle Hymn of the Republic is just as offensive to me because it presents the North as the arm of God on a divine mission to punish the horrible South for her sin of slavery. The "Land of Dixie" was not lily white on the issue of slavery, but was no more guilty than the north in her lucrative slave trade dealings. The sheer hypocrisy of the "innocence" of the

North is offensive, yet I have not demanded the eradication of the Battle Hymn of the Republic. I am an adult. I can live with it without endorsing it or singing it.

Atheists are offended when the nativity or some religious scene is erected for Christmas on "sacred government" property (now there's an oxymoron for you). Though the celebration of Christmas as we know it today, has connections with the paganism of early Rome, the central purpose of it's celebration in this country originally was to emphasize the incarnation of Christ.

I'm offended when some God-rejecters misuse the first amendment to prove the "separation of church and state", when the First Amendment actually states that government should remain neutral in matters of religion, which means in plain English, government shall not make any law for or against religion, but allow free expression of religion.

I get offended about a lot of things, but unlike some individuals, such as Barry Lynn and Jesse Jackson, I haven't made a career of being offended. To these career offendees and others, I offer a tired but true, though slightly offensive statement, America - love it or leave it. You won't go very far from our borders before you are offended to the point of wanting to come back to this "offensive, oppressive" country.

Joseph Harris is the Vice President of Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS.

miniedition

Joseph Harris



www.miniedition.net

Mrs. Marie (Thomas) Welborn passes away

Marie Wells Welborn, 81, of the Sharon community, died Tuesday, February 20, 2007, at Wesley Medical Center in Hattiesburg. Funeral services were held at Memory Chapel Funeral Home in Laurel, with burial in Sharon Cemetery in Jones County. Bro. Johnny Watts and Bro. Howard Rogers officiated.

Mrs. Welborn was a nurse's aid at South Mississippi State Hospital and an employee at White-Way Cleaners. She was a member of Sharon Missionary Baptist Church in Jones County.

She was proceeded in death by a daughter, Teresa Welborn; her parents, Wilson and Lela Craft Wells; a sister, Edna Flynt; a brother, James Wells; and a grandson, Jeremy Welborn.

She is survived by her husband, Rev. Thomas Welborn of the Sharon community, a son and daughter-in-law, Tommy and Tina Welborn of Pearl; a daughter, Rita Welborn Walker, of the Sharon community; a brother, T. Wilber Wells of Gonzales, Louisiana; seven grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

The Welborns served the Lord faithfully in our churches and our associational work.

Pallbearers were Jeffery Walker, Michael Walker, Daniel Walker, Shane Welborn, Tracy Pryor and Loretta Simpson.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis.

Editor's Note: We are sorry for the delay in printing this notice. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Welborn and the entire family.



CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
Dr. John M. Adams, Director
P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863
Email - fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com



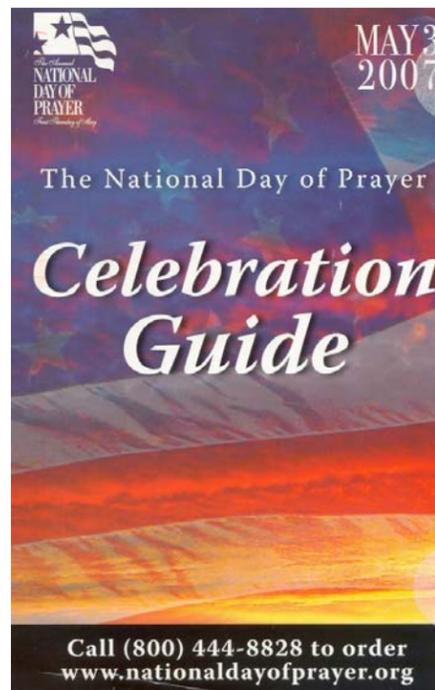
John Adams

Thank You for the Prayers

Around March 1, your CAC Director underwent a hospital stay which involved a heart catheterization and placements of stents on two blockages of 95% and 75%. I am taking medication for another 50% blockage. Thanks to you who prayed, telephoned, sent cards, emailed and encouraged us during this time. We are up, going and praising the Lord

National Day of Prayer

This Commission encourages all our BMA of Mississippi churches to observe our Na-



tional Day of Prayer on Thursday May 3, 2007. We must join our hearts and hands in prayer for our nation, our state, our government, our leaders, our churches, pastors and workers, and our children. I ask our pastors, youth ministers, and music directors, deacons and WMA to lead out in this. Let's open the doors of our churches and call our people to prayer.

Christian fired for sharing God

University, agency that sacked woman on trial in federal court

A Christian woman is battling a California university and state social agency for terminating her internship because she shared her faith with co-workers during off-hours.

Jacqueline Escobar was completing a master's degree in social work at California State University Long Beach when she interned with the Department of Children and Family Services, or DCFS.

A straight-A student, Escobar was complimented regularly by the DCFS for her work. But she came under scrutiny for sharing her faith with co-workers during lunch breaks and after-hours, and for changing into a shirt with a religious message - "Found" - after signing out for the day, according to the Pacific Justice Institute, which is representing her.

A trial is scheduled to begin April 3.

As Ms. Shirley Dobson, chairperson of the National Day of Prayer, states "America is in desperate need of prayer."

We, Associational Baptist Churches, can unite together as Godly Americans before God's throne. As noted, we are not without hope.

HOW? Begin to promote this important day of prayer in April and especially the Sunday of April 29. Have someone in your congregation be the Prayer Leader. Coordinate times for deacons, Sunday School and Awana teachers, Youth, W.M.A., Brotherhood and Laity to come to His House to pray on Thursday, May 3 all day long. Have a sign up sheet prepared. Announce this event in your church, your mail out bulletin and call to worship.

WHO? Compose a visible list of spiritual concerns. Include the lost, sick, unspoken, our soldiers, our nation, visitors, youth, school, cultural needs, your President, your pastor, etc.

WHY? As our National and State BMA people pray, along with our fellow Christians across the land, its strengthens our lives, our faith, our home and our churches. Chuck Swindoll says that "prayer should be our first response not our last resort"

WHERE? Where can you get information, pamphlets, and posters for the National Day of Prayer? www.nationaldayofprayer.org 1-800-444-8828

CAC Trustee of the Month

Bro. Shane Singleton serves as pastor of Parkview Baptist Church in Laurel, He has been in the ministry for seven years. His wife is named Ginny. He is the chairman of the CAC Board of Trustees. We are proud of Bro. Singleton as our Chairman of the CAC Board of Trustees. We thank him for his love of this ministry.

Innovative Solutions for the Dropout Prevention

Your CAC Director represented our BMA churches at this school dropout prevention summit on February 13 at the Ole Miss/ICC Advanced Education Center. This call is for our churches to very aware of the need to keep our students in school, especially the 9th-12th grades. We must sound this out from our pulpits and teaching lecterns. I personally had opportunity to speak to Dr. Hank Bounds, State Superintendent of Education... "that our churches across Mississippi want to help in this dilemma of America." Twenty-six percent (26%) of Mississippi students are dropouts annually, of every race and socioeconomic group, one of many reasons listed is because kids are "bored." We believe Christ can help our teens

Highlighted CAC supporting Churches for April

Divine Grace, Long Beach
East Fulton, Fulton
East Main, Lumberton
First Calhoun, Laurel
First Windsor Park, Ocean Springs



CHURCH NEWS

News articles should contain information that will be of interest to the general public who are not members of the church that is reporting.

Tombigbee Monthly Report

Ballardsville Baptist Church was host church for March meeting. A delicious meal was served and 89 answered roll call afterwards. A welcome was given by Pastor Isaac. Bro. Milton Wright brought devotional from Hebrews 11:5-6 and Mark 9:23.

The following reports were given: camp report from Bro. Roger Franks, missions reports from Elvis Garcia, and a written report from Bro. Joseph; also Bro. Hayden reported that his daughter-in-law's (Jessica) uncle got saved while he was in Florida.

Bro. Isaac preached from Proverbs 6:16 entitled, "These Six Things the Lord Hates."

Wanda Parmer, Reporter

Bethel, Fulton

We serve such an awesome God, and we at Bethel feel so blessed. The Awana's still are serving dinner every Wednesday night, and it is really going well. Our GMA's went to State Camp on the 9th-10th. Judi-Beth McMillen was crowned Jr. Miss GMA and Lindsey Begley received alternate Miss GMA. We are very proud to have these young ladies from Bethel recognized.

Bro. Jameson brought the message at the association meeting held at Parkview, Baldwyn on the 9th. A big group of young adults attended "How Great Is Our God" in Memphis on the 13th. On the 14th the Student Ministries had an 80's Skate night in Fulton and it was well attended.

The Golden Agers met on the 15th for a time of fellowship and food. The Galilean State Camp was held on the 16th-17th. We had two young men chosen as Mr. Galilean and Junior Mr. Galilean, they were J.T. Roberts and Noah Shackelford. We are very proud of them and I know they will represent Bethel well.

The Brotherhood Breakfast was held on the 25th. Bobby Bennett spoke to those in attendance. Also, the 25th was our annual "Friend Day." Bro. Jameson's message was entitled "You've Got a Friend." Bro. Tracy McMillen was ordained as Assistant Pastor. Bro. John Adams, his former pastor, at First Baptist, Mantachie brought the message. We are all proud of Bro. Tracy and his

family.

Our Junior Youth had a Banquet on the 30th. Thanks to all who made this possible. When you are in the area feel free to stop and say "Howdy Ya'll." There have been four additions since last report.

Dr. Martin Jameson, pastor
Joyce Cooley, reporter

Corinth Baptist Church

Corinth will host a gospel singing on Sunday, April 15th, 2007 beginning at 2:00 P.M. We are located at the corner of Hwy. 42 and Corinth Church Road, near Runnelstown. We invite you to come and be a guest singer or just enjoy listening. Bring your CDs, tapes, or hum a few notes and our piano player will accompany you. Come expecting to have a good time worshipping the Lord and you will. May God bless us all.

For more information, call (601) 297-5844.

Bro. Marion Greene, Pastor
Mrs. Marion Greene, Church Reporter

Mississippi State W.M.A.

Mrs. Jean Knight, President
27 Paramount Church Rd.
Perkinston, MS 39573
601-928-3764

Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533
Laurel, MS 39443

Northeast Ladies' Retreat set

Woodland Baptist Church will be hosting this year's Northeast District Ladies' Retreat on Saturday, April 14, from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Allegra Brigham is the featured

Leakesville Missionary Baptist Church, Leakesville

We will have Easter Sunrise Services on April 8, with breakfast to follow. Sunday School and morning worship services will be held at their regular time. Our Evening services will be omitted. We invite everyone who can to join us.

Wanda Holland
Church Clerk

speaker and her theme is "Your Parachute in a Kaleidoscope World." Allegra is CEO of Four County Electric Power Association and an active member of First Baptist Church in Columbus. She is a gifted speaker and motivator and the Lord has given her many speaking opportunities. We are very pleased to have her for the Ladies' Retreat.

Registration forms and fliers are being sent to the churches of the Harmony, Judson and Tombigbee Associations. If anyone has questions or needs directions to the church, please call 662-327-6689 or 662-328-0766.

Bloom for Christ

by Wanda Parmer

Spring is here - a new and a very welcomed season. What a busy time for Mother Nature. Birds are flying back home to the South to make their nest. Flowers are popping up gracing our yards once again with beautiful yellow, purple and other rainbow colors. Many bushes and fruit trees are displaying their blossoms.

The Lord wakes us up from a long, cold winter for us to bring sunshine to others. Let us bloom for the Master and make a beautiful bouquet in the service of the Lord. Be a Christian that radiates and spreads out from the center of our community to other communities and gives a sweet fragrance and blooming or dying?

Are you blooming or dying? Philippians 4:18b, "an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God." Matthew 13:8, "But other (seeds) fell into good ground and brought forth fruit, some an hundred fold, some sixty fold, some thirty fold."

Discipling believers ... training leaders

THE E. HAROLD HENDERSON EASTER OFFERING

A P R I L 8 , 2 0 0 7



Dr. E. Harold Henderson
1927 - 1996

Dr. E. Harold Henderson was one of our most treasured leaders in the Baptist Missionary Association of America. He served as a pastor, evangelist, conference speaker, educator, radio speaker, and writer. He ministered personally in 30 nations and reached countless others through radio broadcasts and his extensive writing ministry.

Now, together, we have the opportunity to continue Dr. Henderson's legacy of ministry with this special offering.

STRENGTHENING OUR MINISTRY TOGETHER!

On Easter Sunday morning, April 8, BMAA churches across the nation will receive a special memorial offering in Dr. Henderson's name. The funds from the offering will be divided as directed by the vote of the messengers at the 2006 national association meeting.

- 49% to the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary
 - 49% to the Department of Church Resources (publishing, conferences, camps)
 - 1% to Ministers Resource Services, and
 - 1% to Moral Action Committee.
- (You can also specify how your contribution will be used.)

This is an exciting time of opportunity for our association and we hope you and your congregation will be a part of it!



"Dr. Henderson poured his talent and skills into helping this association carry out the Great Commission and disciple believers. ... Together, we can give critical funding to education, resources for our pastors and churches, and much more."

David Watkins
DAVID WATKINS, BMAA PRESIDENT

SEND OFFERINGS TO: RONNIE GREEN, DEPT. OF CHURCH RESOURCES, P.O. BOX 7270, TEXARKANA, TX 75505-7270

CHILDREN'S HOME

118 LOWE ROAD, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39443 - (601) 426-3928

Children's Home Rally

The Gulf Baptist Association had their annual rally for the Home on February 15. The meeting was held with the Woodlawn Baptist Church in Pascagoula and Pastor Wayne McMahon. It was a delight to have an opportunity to report on the ministry of the Home and also share a message from God's Word to those in attendance. Our appreciation is



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

extended to each church and individual who gave towards this rally.

Expression of Sympathy

We would like to express our sympathy to the family of Mrs. Marie Welborn. Mrs. Welborn was a faithful companion to the ministry of Bro. Thomas Welborn. Our prayers and thoughts are with the Welborn family during their time of loss.

Playground Equipment Installed

Recently playground equipment was purchased by the Parkview Baptist Church in Laurel where Bro.

Shane Singleton is pastor. The Brotherhood of the church took on the project of assembling the equipment. Thanks Parkview Church for the gift and a big thank you to the Brotherhood for putting it together.

Special Offerings

Special offerings received are as follows: Parkview, Laurel, \$1,200; Mr. & Mrs. Claiborne Bounds, Picayune, \$100; Bible, Ovett, \$200; Faith, Escatawpa, \$40; Gulf Association, \$200; North Gautier, Gautier, \$400; Woodlawn, Pascagoula, \$300; O'Neal Road, Gulfport, \$111; Lee's Chapel #2, Picayune, \$25.00. We appreciate each of these special gifts as well as regular monthly offerings.

Below - Parkview Brotherhood assembles playground equipment donated to the Children's Home by the church.



Above - The children at the Home appreciate the addition of the new playground equipment.

Church Organization

from page 8

of each mission member that will be going into the organization of the new church.

The Mother Church and Missions Department will respond with a letter of approval.

An invitational letter with all information will be sent by the mission to all state BMA churches informing them of the organization. Everyone is encouraged to attend, but only ordained ministers and deacons of like faith and order are invited to participate in the organizational presbytery. The invitation is also printed a number of times in the Associational paper.

II. The Assembly

Upon arrival of everyone at the Mission and at the agreed upon time the service will begin.

To initiate the service, the missionary will welcome everyone and have the song director open the service with a song to be followed with an opening prayer. After the prayer the missionary will invite all ordained deacons and ministers of like faith and order to assemble in a prepared area for the organization of the presbytery. (Those remaining in the sanctuary will continue to sing until the presbytery is organized and returns into the sanctuary).

III. Organization of the Presbytery

In the called assembly of the ordained brethren the missionary pastor will call for the ordained brethren to elect a chairman for the presbytery, the missionary will then surrender the chair to the elected chairman.

The Chairman will call for the election of a presbytery clerk. The clerk will record all business. He will also pass a paper around with a column each for ordained preachers and ordained deacons to sign.

The Chairman will then ask the Missionary for the letter of authority from the mother church and Missions Office (Missionary Committee) to organize, together with the names of those going into the organization of the New Testament Church.

At this point (in order for them to be considered) the Chairman will ask if there are any requests from the Mission congregation. (Occasionally the mission will request someone to preach the organizational message or perform some other task, any such request should be presented for approval to the presbytery before the election of other positions.)

Someone is elected to read the Church Covenant. Back in the sanctuary when the Church Covenant is read the mission members will vote to adopt the covenant.

Someone is elected to read the Doctrinal Statements of the BMA of Mississippi. Back in the sanctuary when the doctrinal statements are read the mission members will vote to adopt them.

Someone is elected to pray the organizational prayer.

Someone is elected to preach the organizational message.

Someone is elected to pray the organizational benediction.

The presbytery will dismiss with prayer and return to the sanctuary

IV. Back Inside the Sanctuary

Upon returning to the sanctuary, the organized presbytery will be seated together in a designated place. (This make it easier for the moderator.)

After the presbytery is seated, the missionary will approach the pulpit and announce to the congregation that the presbytery has organized. He will then call for the elected Chairman of the presbytery to take charge.

The Chairman will then call for the presbytery clerk to read the organizational minutes of the presbytery.

The Chairman will call for the approval by mother church and mission (both voting together) of the organization of the presbytery. The vote will be taken by the Missionary or pastor of the mother church. Upon

the approval, the presbytery will vote to proceed with the organization.

The Chairman will then call for the presbytery clerk to read the letters from the mother Church and Missionary Committee authorizing the mission to organize.

The Chairman will ask that all who have been approved by the mother church to go into the organization to stand as their names are read. Each should remain standing until all names have been called, then be seated together.

The Chairman will call for the reading of the Church Covenant. The mission will vote to adopt it.

The Chairman will call for the reading of the Doctrinal Statements of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. The mission will vote to adopt them.

The Chairman will call for the mission members to stand and form a circle holding hands for the organizational prayer. He will then call for the organizational prayer to be prayed. After the organizational prayer members may return to their seats.

The Chairman will announce to the Mission that they are now a New Testament Church.

The Chairman will then call for the organizational message to be preached.

After the message the Chairman will ask the New Church to ...

a. state their name

b. to officially elect their pastor and officers. This can be done one by one, or by a package vote to re-instate the previous mission pastor and officers. Note: This action can be deferred until later, but not recommended.

After being elected the new church pastor will call for a vote by the new church to petition the Baptist Missionary Association of America, Mississippi, and Local associations for fellowship.

The Chairman will then call for the benediction to be prayed.

(Note: A permanent record of any organization should always be kept for church history)

Stepping Through the Door of Opportunity

National WMA schedule of events, April 17, 2007
Holiday Inn - City Center, Fort Smith, Arkansas

- 7:15 a.m. Appreciation Breakfast for Minister's Wives and Widows, Judge Parker Room.
- 8:00 a.m. Registration, Hot Springs/St. Louis/Dallas Room
Please have one representative from your church register all of your group.
- 8:20 a.m. Prelude, Pianist Ladonna Baker
- 8:30 a.m. Call to order, President Janet Widger
Welcome, Patsy Campbell,
President Arkansas WMA
Preliminary Business
Program, Anita Akers, 2nd vice President
Continuation of Business
Installation of Officers
- 12:00 Closing Prayer

Nursery will be available in the Razorback Room.
This meeting is open to all women even if your church does not have a WMA group.

Valarie Fish, WMA Reporter

Mississippi State Sunbeam Retreat

May 4 & 5, 2007
Camp Garaywa

Registration Fee \$40.00

Theme
"Fly High With Christ"
Isaiah 40:31

Camp Pastor
Josh Spiers, Youth Pastor
Mt. Carmel Baptist Church
Carriere, MS

Send Project Sheets and Registration To
Mrs. Linda Faye Dertinger
132 Howard Hill Road
Soso, MS 39480
601-422-5552

Bring a decorated kite to retreat!



BMA of Mississippi MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

4226 HIGHWAY 15 NORTH, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39440 - (601) 428-8616
Rayburn Freeman, Director



Missionary Kevin Marr Report

Jesus' promise was to build His church! He never promised to build it quickly or even in the manner that a church planter might envision it, He simply promised to build His church and I admit that I am enjoying watching Him do just that. Last month, I shared with you that we had fourteen adults attend our Encountering God retreat. In February, we offered a new retreat that we called "Encountering God again." This retreat focused on the Bible, prayer, spiritual gifts and church membership. We had eleven

adults attend this retreat. It was awesome to see God work through the simple truths of His Word dealing with the basics of the Christian life. We now have several new couples who are anxiously awaiting our next Membership Class so that they can join our mission. We also have a young man and a young lady awaiting baptism, so yes; God is building His church in His perfect time!



Bro. & Mrs. Kevin Marr

While we know that a building is not "the church," it is an important factor in all that we do for HI.. We are still waiting on the carpet to be ordered and then installed in our Worship Center. This has been trying to say the least, but we are striving to be good stewards of the

money that God has given us which means we are waiting patiently for a "friend" of our mission to get everything set and ready to go. Please pray with us that we will be able to finish the renovation of our building by the end of March!

I have also asked our church family to pray specifically for God to provide a part-time staff member who can focus completely on our children and teen ministries. God has already provided the money for this person's salary, so we just have to find the person God has for the position. Will you please join us in praying for God's man to be found and called very soon? I believe we need him as much as he needs us!

Thanks again for all that you do to make LifePointe a success. I am looking forward to seeing you at the Missions Conferences coming up in March! May God continue to bless all of the mission work that we have the privilege to do across the state of Mississippi.

Missionary Edward Duvall Report

How are you and your families doing? My family and I are doing great. We are gearing up for the most busiest part of the year for us. I am excited about these upcoming months. We will have a one day evangelistic church rally on April the 28th. We have believing that God is going to do a marvelous work through us on that day. Our sister church in Wiggins, Paramount Baptist, will be coming here to assist us in this one day event. The following week Bro. Don Hilbun with a group of brothers will come assist me in following up the rally with home

visitations. Movello Baptist will be coming here in June to conduct VBS for us.

Please be in prayer for us as we attempt to reach my community through various ministries. The enemy has become bolder in his attempt to sabotage the work of God.

Thank you very much for your prayers and financial support.



Ed Duvall Family

Statistics for March

Ed Duvall : 8 visitations, 10 soul talks averaged 20 in Sunday School, 62 in morning

worship, 33 for youth on Wednesday , with total offerings of \$1490.60.

Elvis Garcia: Average Sunday morning worship of 22, Home Bible studies 26, and a total in offerings of \$1,312.22.

Kevin Marr: Averaged 58 in Morning worship, and 53 in Life group, with total offerings of \$6,504.16.

Estuardo Marroquin: 24 home visits, 73 soul talks with 43 professions of faith. They averaged 66 in Morning worship, and 66 in cell groups, with a total offering of \$3,651.25.

Joseph Oyeleye: 42 home visits with 3 professions of faith, averaging 9 for Sunday school and 25 for Morning Worship and 10 for Wednesday night with total offerings of \$1,237.00.

Wallace Williams: 6 home visits, averaged 36 for Morning Worship one new member by letter, 42 for Wednesday night services and total offerings of \$5760.00

Be in pray for all our missionaries, their families and each mission group as they seek to do God's will.

Letters

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accepted then to be without error. It is impossible that God has not preserved His Word as He promised He would (Psalms 12:7). I'm sorry we cannot agree on that.

Honestly, how can I, as a Youth Pastor, teach teens, that God has allowed me to under shepherd what I know in my heart to be the truth and turn around and take them to event after event where the KJV is not used, and allow them to be filled with confusion, just for the sake of support? I would be hypocritical to do so. But many youth ministers and pastors do because they are torn between the truth and support. I want to support our work. With all my heart I love the BMA. I would love to take our teens to SOAR and other national youth events. But how can I and other Pastors around the nation be asked to abandon our convictions in order to fellowship and show our support. I can't. WE CAN'T.

When I expressed my concerns about these departures, I was told that BMAA Churches had not been asked, and there had been no input from our churches received as to whether or not we should have speakers from other denominations preach at our events. One pastor friend of mine suggested that we and others of common concern request a meeting with our national directors at the national meeting, and convey our feelings on April 16-18. I feel this is worthy of our consideration. This may be the only way to get our point across.

We are looking for unity in following God's will, not in compromising. If you, who are reading this agree, you need to be at the meeting, or at least express your concerns. I believe our work is, and can still be, great if we work together. However, our unity is being challenged. My church plans to address this in a letter to all national department heads saying that we disagree with having people who are not Baptist(s) of like faith speak at our events and that we disagree with anything other than the Authorized Version of the Bible being used when we come together.

In His service,
Joshua Spiers, Youth Pastor
Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church
326 Mount Carmel Rd., Carriere, MS 39426
bro.josh@yahoo.com

Church Organization

By Rayburn Freeman

Recently there has been inquiry concerning the general procedures of beginning and organizing a mission into a New Testament church. I am sure that most every launching of a mission and the formal organization service of that mission into a New Testament church varies from one to the other in procedure. However, the following is the basic procedure followed in the thirty plus missions of my ministry that were organized into a New Testament church. Procedures can differ where such things as authorization of a mother church, adoption of doctrinal statements, and the church covenant are static.

Through the years mentors have taught and I have gained through personal study of the Scripture that the church is a living organism, it receives life and gives life. We agree that there cannot be a daughter without a mother. Therefore of the conservative persuasion it is a Baptist belief that for a mission (the daughter of a mother) to be scriptural (to have life) she must have a mother (church) to birth her. The responsibility of the mother church is to assure that the daughter mission is raised up, trained in the way she should go. The doctrinal direction and purity of a mission is the ultimate responsibility of her mother church. At the time a mission is formally organized into a New Testament Church, she become autonomous. As serious as the doctrinal purity of the New Testa-

ment church is, and as important as the missionary is, the mission and missionary is under the ultimate discretion of the Mother Church. This way there is the safeguard against a group or an individual beginning a congregation that differs from scripture and calling themselves a New Testament church. We cannot find a better method of birthing a church than the New Testament method.

GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR CHURCH ORGANIZATION

The Following is the general procedures followed in organizing a state mission into a New Testament Church.

I. Preparations for Organizations

The Missionary will lead the mission to reasonable growth in doctrine, numbers, and finances. At that time the missionary will communicate with the Mother Church and her Pastor, the State Mission's Director and Missionary Committee concerning the READINESS OF THE MISSION TO ORGANIZE. If all agree then a date will be suggested for the formal organization and approved by the mission and mother church.

The Mission will then write the mother church and state missions office asking for approval in writing to organize into a New Testament Church. The letter of request should include the date, time, place and name

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Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Ever had a 'break-in'?

I suppose that the longer you live the more likely you are to have a break-in or have your home burglarized. Well, it happened to me a few weeks ago. Well, on this side of it, I can tell you there are a lot of emotions that wash over you as a result of this.

The first one is Surprise. To find stuff misplaced and know that someone has been in the privacy of your home is a real surprise!

The second is Shock. When you find that every drawer in the house has been stirred.

This results in Anger.

The next is Pride! I looked around and saw some pretty nice stuff that they didn't take and I'm wondering why they didn't think that it was worth taking! I think it's pretty good stuff!

Then comes Joy as you realize there are some very sentimental things that they didn't find.

At last comes Peace. Knowing that they can steal your possessions, but they can't steal your peace of mind. Only you can allow them to do that.

Philippians 4:7 "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."