

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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Church? No thanks.

Why Teens Are Leaving In Drove

AFA Journal May 2008

Here is the church. Here is the steeple. Open the doors. Where are all the people?

Seventy percent of the people, 23 to 30 years old, are nowhere to be found in church on a regular basis for at least a year between the ages of 18 and 22. They become church dropouts, according to a 2007 study from LifeWay Research.

These students who attended a Protestant church at least twice a month for at least one year during high school are leaving the church, and most of them are doing so during their first year of college.

Findings from the study, in which 1,023 adults, ages 18 to 30, were surveyed, reveal that 97% of dropouts give specific life-change issues as their reason for leaving. Only 20% of the dropouts predetermined their post high school departure.

"The most frequent reason for leaving church is, in fact, a self-imposed change, 'I simply wanted a break from church' (27%)," according to a LifeWay report summarizing the study. "The path toward college and the workforce are also strong reasons for young people to leave church: 'I moved to college and stopped attending church' (25%) and 'work responsibilities prevented me from attending' (23%)."

Following are some similar findings cited by the Youth Transition Network (YTN), a coalition of some of the nation's largest denominations and ministries that are working together to help reduce the dramatic loss of youth from the church:

"An Assemblies of God study showed a loss of 66% of their students within one year of high school graduation."

"A Southern Baptist transition project estimates an 82% loss of youth within one year of high school graduation." "Fifty to eighty percent of high school students walk away."

"As someone who recognizes the importance of an ever-growing faith, especially during the college years, these are staggering statistics," said Cyndi Forman, campus

minister of the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) of Georgia Tech and Emory University. "The statistics are sad, disappointing and dangerous, all at the same time."

The Gospel misunderstood

While there are a host of reasons - or excuses - for young adults leaving the church, a significant concern is that it happens so frequently when high school seniors become college freshmen. Unfortunately, this falling away is more than just a leave of absence from church; it's a departure from faith prompted by a misunderstanding of the Gospel.

Teacher, apologist and author Voddie Baucham explains it best when he says going to church doesn't make one a follower of

Christ anymore than standing in a garage makes one a car. However, church attendance and communion with the body of Christ are desires that flow from an individual heart that's been changed by the Gospel.

"For many students, when they come to college, they have yet to begin to own their faith, to make it personal," Forman said. "They are still relying on the faith of their parents, their church, even their friends. It's not something they have committed to in such a way that they can stand solidly on it, no matter what comes."

According to the LifeWay report, "How young people use their time and the relation-

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Upcoming Events

**BMA of America
Annual Meeting
April 21-23, 2008
Waco, Texas**

**2008 BMA of Mississippi
Senior Adult Conferences**
North Conference
May 13, 2008
East Amory Baptist Church
Amory, Mississippi
9:30 AM

**BMA of Mississippi
Midyear Meeting
May 19-20, 2008**
Big Creek Baptist Church
Soso, Mississippi

Baptist Music Fellowship to meet in Waco

The Baptist Music Fellowship of America will hold its annual meeting in Waco, Texas, during the Baptist Missionary Association of America's annual meeting. The meeting will take place on Tuesday Afternoon, April 22 at 1:30 PM in the Bosque Theatre. All music ministers and guests are encouraged to attend. The BMF serves as an auxiliary of the national association providing and coordinating music during each session of the association. Dues are \$20.00 per church. Dues currently help to fund a music scholarship at Jacksonville Bible College and Central Baptist College sponsored by the BMF.

For sharing and planning Mississippi Youth Pastors to meet

On April 26, 2008 we are asking all Youth Ministers, Workers, and Volunteers to come to a meeting at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi. Our prayer for this meeting is that we each will get to know one another, as well as plan some events together as sister churches.

Brother Latrelle Windham and the state youth committee will be there to discuss ideas, and also to share their needs and desires with us, the Churches. We believe that if we can all get together and work on the same page that the Youth Ministry of the BMA of Mississippi will be able to accomplish more than ever. Bro. Windham is one of the greatest leaders I know, and I think if we can all get behind him, see his vision, and work together that our state ministry will explode.

The topics for the meeting will be "How we as Churches can better support and HELP our state Youth Work" and also how to bring back our "State Winter Retreat." We will meet at Big Creek Baptist Church at 9:30

a.m. on April 26th ending around 2:00 p.m. Big Creek is asking all those who will attend to call in advance so we can prepare lunch for those attending. You may reach the Church office at 601-763-8100 or Bro. Will Hutchinson at 601-422-7580. Every church is invited and we encourage everyone that can to attend.

If you need a place to stay for the night please let Bro. Will Hutchinson know. Please contact the church by April 24th to let us know if you are coming and how many from your church will attend. We would also like to build a list of the Youth workers, their email, and phone numbers. If you will not be able to attend this meeting please email that information to youth@bigcreeksoso.com and we will print this information out.

For more information contact Will Hutchinson of Big Creek Church at 601-422-7580 or Josh Daniels from Camp Ground Baptist Church 228-216-2765.

Help us grow our collective ministry to the youth of our state!

Moral Action Committee

Baptist Missionary Association of America
6273 Miller Rd., Swartz Creek, MI 48473
810-635-4845

Dr. Roy McLaughlin, Director

The "Religious Wright-Wing"

The good and the bad news is that Senator Hillary Clinton has finally found her "religious right wing conspiracy" which she had blamed for trying to discredit her and Bill's co-presidency. You do remember their time in the White House. Who can forget the days when we heard the sad stories of Whitewater, Travelgate, Monicagate, FBI Filegate, etc? During those days they were even using the Lincoln bedroom as a reward hotel for their big donors.



McLaughlin

The point is Hillary Clinton was always blaming a massive "religious right-wing conspiracy" for stirring up all their

Short Message Series by Grover Laird

What God Has Promised

"That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." (Hebrews 6:12)

God's has made us some "exceeding great and precious promises." Most of these promises are conditional. It is therefore reasonable to believe that many of the things which God has provided and promised, all of us are coming short of at least some of them.

God has given the redeemed His Holy Spirit. He is given to us that we might be able to do all that Christians are to do. God has promised that He can teach us, (John 14:26) lead us, (Romans 8:14) strengthen us, (Ephesians 3:16) comfort us, (John 16:7) help us to pray, (Romans 8:26,27) and make our efforts of service effective. (Acts 2:37) Though God has made us so many promises concerning the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, all of us know that we are coming far short of all that has been provided and promised. The same thing is true concerning so many of God's promises. My main point of this message is, How can we obtain all of the wonderful things which God has promised us? Our text gives us two of those things: Faith and Patience. May we consider theses.



Grover Laird

First consider the importance of Faith in our obtaining those things which God has promised us. In James 1:5, the Bible promises wisdom to those who need it--"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." This is a wonderful promise of God, and most of us are anxious to take advantage of it. But there is more to the promise than simply asking. The next two verses give us the importance of faith in obtaining this promise: "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord." (James 1:6,7) Therefore believing that God will do what He has promised, has something to do with obtaining what He has promised.

Not only is Faith important in obtaining what God has promised, Patience may also be needed in obtaining what God has promised. This is so clearly brought out in Hebrews 10:36: "For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." This truth is also seen in Galatians 6:9: "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." If we therefore give up before God sends the blessing we could miss it.

God has promised us some wonderful things. May we have faith and patience enough to obtain them.

problems. Even some who read this article probably bought into the concept that America would have been better off without all the religious leaders who tried to influence voters to retire their co-presidency before their eight year term was complete. Anyone who bought into her rants about the wrongness of the "religious right wing". They blamed Republicans and preachers who pointed out some improper acts of the Bill and Hillary's co-presidency for violating the bogus "separation of church and state" clause in the Constitution.

Well guess what, Hillary has finally found her "religious right-wing conspiracy," but it is actually spelled, "Wright-Wing Conspiracy." She was right, it is a religious leader who is behind this movement and he does have enormous influence on the U.S. government. However, he happens to be a flaming liberal. His name is Rev. Jeremiah Wright and his influence is over a leading Senator of America, by the name of Senator Barack Obama. This "Religious Wright-Wing Conspiracy" may be the biggest treat to her long-time dream to be president.

Who would ever question Hillary's ability to speak the truth? After all, we know she was not named Hillary, as she claimed, after Sir Edmond Hillary, who became famous for being the first person to climb Mt Everest. The truth was that she was already five years old when he accomplished that feat. We also know that she did not fly into Bosnia under gun fire as she claimed on the campaign trail and only told the truth when the press produced video showing her being greeted by children, not bullets. So, who would dare question her about this new discovery of the "Religious Wright-Wing"?

What about this "Religious Wright-Wing Conspiracy"? Somehow the other candidate running for the Democratic nomination had "Rev. Wright" as his pastor for 20 years, but we are being told that Senator Obama never really knew his pastor believed that the U. S. government invented the AIDS virus to kill blacks. Obama also claims he was not aware of the Rev. Wright's claim that the terrorist's 9/11 attack on American was God's judgment for the way blacks have been mistreated. By the way, I wonder why the Senator from Illinois hasn't grown the courage to speak with his pastor and tell him that black people also died in the 9/11 attack. "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light and light for darkness..." [Is. 5:20]

At least we know where Obama stands on abortion. On March 29, 2008, Obama said, "Look, I got two daughters — 9 years old and 6 years old. I am going to teach them first about values and morals, but if they make a mistake, I don't want them punished with a baby." So according to Obama a baby is a "punishment", not a precious life. "My substance was not hid from thee when I was made in secret..." [Ps. 139:15]

Where is the cry for "separation of church and state" from either Senator or from the media. I guess racism and mixing religion is OK if you are a liberal. Being a liberal also means that you are suppose to be in favor of so called "hate crimes" and "hate speech". When the Hate Crimes Bill was voted on in Congress, both Senator Clinton and Senator Obama voted for its passage and spoke of how it was a moral issue.

Just think, if the bill had been passed into law, anyone who heard Rev. Wright's sermons against the wrongness of white people, had later gone out and shot anyone other than a black person, they would hopefully be in jail, but so would Rev. Wright, because some of his sermons contain "hate speech" toward a race of people.

I must be balanced in my article, and I fully intend to be. On the other side of the aisle, as they say in politics, the Republicans do not have high ground to stand on either. Consider the apparent nominee for the Republicans, Senator John McCain. He is no Sunday School teacher. His wife and he continue to make a fortune off the liquor industry, and he has not been consistent in his stand on the Federal Marriage Amendment. Nor has he been strong on the immigration issue or embryonic stem cell research.

Then consider our current President, George W. Bush, who last year made the most unbelievable statement while speaking at the dedication service of a Muslim mosque in Washington D.C. He said, "I believe in an almighty God,

BAPTIST MUSIC FELLOWSHIP

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The Church, God's body of believers, has always struggled with the temptations of the world and the influence of worldly philosophies. One of the areas which this has been most evident is in the area of church music. God has always used music as a primary way of praising and worshipping Him. Likewise, Satan has always tried to use music as a divisive instrument to cause problems within God's people. This has been true from the theologically questionable lyrics of some "southern gospel" songs, all the way to some "contemporary" songs and styles that would be very comfortable in many nightclubs.



J.E. Sims

In 1953, while employed as a musician for Moody radio station, WMBI, John W. Peterson sat at his piano. He began thinking about the glories of heaven, and suddenly found himself singing and playing the chorus for "Over the Sunset Mountains." He completed the song in a short time.

It wasn't long before a large publishing company offered to buy his song at an attractive price if he would simply change the phrase "Jesus, my Savior I'll see." The idea of heaven was fine, but they thought the reference to Jesus as Savior would be offensive to various religious groups. Peterson refused the publisher's offer. Instead, he wrote another song to emphasize his belief in and dedication to Jesus Christ. Its title is "My Song":

I have no song to sing, but that of Christ my King;
To Him my praise I'll bringforevermore!

His love beyond degree, His death that ransomed me;
Now and eternally, I'll sing it 0'er.

My prayer is that God's people will remain faithful to the truths of His Word in the lyrics and styles of the music we use.

Thank you to Wilderness Baptist Church, Vicksburg, Mississippi and their pastor, Rev. Bob Conrad for contributing to the Baptist Music Fellowship.

and I believe that all the world, whether they be Muslim, Christian, or any other religion, prays to the same God." Our hope is that the President had not read his speech until he opened it for the first time before his audience. Regardless, a Christian should never make such a heretical statement. Jesus Christ and Allah are not the same! "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." [Ex. 20:3 ; John 14:6]

When you consider McCain, Hillary and Obama, who should a Christian vote for? I cannot answer that question for anyone but myself. I have never endorsed any candidate and will always vote for a candidate based on their values and principles and not their political party. Politicians change, principles do not. This is certainly true when it comes to moral issues and is absolutely true when it comes to moral issues clearly addressed in the Word of God.

I want to close with addressing a very important statement you will hear frequently during any election. People often say: "I will just vote for the lesser of two evils", which means that you are still voting for evil. Here is the way I personally approach an election. I try to vote for the candidate who will demonstrate the best influence on the office they seek. When it comes to the Presidency, the next president will have enormous influence on the Supreme Court, federal judges, the right to life, stem cell research, biblical traditional marriage, private, public and home schooling, as well as national security. So I ask myself, which candidate by their words and actions demonstrates that they will influence our

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Signs You Have Joined the Wrong Church

All of us want to join the "right" church. We want to serve the Lord and do His work on earth. We want to be a part of the community of faith to reach the world for Christ. We can only do this as a member of a local congregation. As we move our church membership, sometimes we know we have made a mistake if some of the following occur just shortly after we have joined:

After being a member for two or three weeks, you notice you have become the "senior member" of the congregation. So many people have left you are now the most senior in membership length.

You asked for teaching supplies for your Sunday School, class and you were handed an old Bible with no cover and the first three and last four of the books split out. "We don't believe in the new-fangled stuff. We don't see any need for expensive gimmicks in our training."

Your first committee meeting comments for new ideas are met with words like: "Good luck with that." Or perhaps as you suggest some simple process, you get a lot of raised eyebrows and knowing looks.

They shook your hand when you joined the church, but it has been

three weeks and no one has spoken to you since. There is one exception: the lady who said to you last Sunday, "You will have to move. That's my pew."

You have noticed several staff members for the last few weeks have come running out of the pastor's office with tears in their eyes. Some have been overheard mumbling to each other things like: "When was he appointed God?"



Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

Church membership is one of our most treasured privileges and responsibilities. We all desire a church where we feel the warmth and welcome of brothers and sisters in Christ. We all want to follow the Holy Spirit to join the church where we can be of service to Christ, His Church, and to our world in our day and time. I hope none of these things have happened to you when you have moved your church membership. I also hope you are confident in being where God wants you to be.

Christian professor's lawsuit against employer going forward

OneNewsNow - A federal court has refused to dismiss a discrimination lawsuit filed by a professor at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington, who claims he was harassed and denied a promotion after he became a Christian.

Dr. Mike Adams was hired to teach at the school in 1993. He was named associate professor in 1998, with a long line of research resulting in ten peer-reviewed publications and accolades from his colleagues. In 2000, Adams became a Christian and, four years later, applied to be named a full professor.

After his conversion, Adams claims he became the target of harassment by his colleagues and supervisors. And when he applied for promotion to full professorship, the then - interim chair of the department, who was an outspoken feminist, raised concerns about Adams' political activity and reprimanded him for his weekly nationally syndicated column.

Last April, attorneys with the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) sued the university, claiming Adams was denied the promotion because of his Christian beliefs. An appeals court ruled the lawsuit had raised legitimate arguments supporting Adams' contentions. ADF senior legal counsel Steven Aden says the federal court, in refusing to dismiss the suit, has now issued a strong signal to universities across the country.

Dr. Adams' harsh treatment at the hands of the administration after his dramatic conversion to Christianity in the 1990s is an illustration of the lack of tolerance that the supposedly tolerant, leftist higher-academics have for Christians and conservative viewpoints," Aden contends.

According to Aden, such cases are common. He says the ADF Center for Academic Freedom will not stop confronting repeated discrimination against Christians and conservative-thinkers in academic circles nationwide.

Adams, who remains a criminology professor at UNC-Wilmington, has written extensively about the lack of ideological diversity on college campuses in his syndicated column.

Teens Leaving Church

from page 1

ships they choose can also lead them away from church. Twenty-two percent 'became too busy, though still wanted to attend,' and 17% 'chose to spend more time with friends outside the church.'"

"Gone are the days in which young adults attend because they are 'supposed to,'" added Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research. "Only 10% of those who continued attending church did so to please others. Young adults whose faith truly became integrated into their lives as teens are much more likely to stay in church. If church did not prove its value during their teen years, young adults won't want to attend - and won't attend."

The wrong motivation

Jeff Schadt, founder and executive director of YTN, believes it all boils down to external versus internal motivation. Living a life of faith must come from an inward desire prompted by the Holy Spirit and compelled by the love of Christ. Too often, parents and ministry leaders become the "walking Holy Spirit" in a young person's life.

For example, Schadt explained how external motivation must be used when children are young to help them make good decisions.

"But as they get older, we need to be like Jesus was with His disciples," Schadt said, meaning parents and ministry leaders need to allow teens to make their own decisions based on what has been taught to and modeled for them.

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Moral Action Committee

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nation with a Judeo-Christian perspective.

So there is a "Religious Wright-Wing Conspiracy" and this one is frightening! Let us watch everyone who has screamed "separation of church and state" to see if they now scream as loudly about the real "Religious Wright-Wing". The point is that there is in this country an Anti-Christian movement and a double standard when it comes to preachers and politics. Both politicians and the media have turned their heads away from the liberal religious activities and have pretended they did not even exist. Wake Up America, before it is too late!

Southeastern Baptist College

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Dr. Medrick Savell
President

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Update on Re-certification of Accreditation

In February I mentioned that we were working hard to write reports to the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE), which is the accrediting agency for Bible colleges, in view of re-certification for our accreditation for another ten years.

On March 31 and April 1-2, a team of five evaluators was on our campus interviewing administrators, faculty, staff, trustees, and students. We are waiting for their written report, which includes their commendations, suggestions, and recommendations. The people on the team were very nice, friendly people. They were friends from other Bible colleges, who were trying to help us. Yet they were professional in their work and review of our college. From their oral report to us before leaving, we feel good about their recommendations. There were no surprises to us, just things that we know that need to be improved. We feel relief that the on-site evaluation is now behind us.

Now I am able to visit the local associations again in behalf of the college.

To Former Students

Please send us your current ad-

dress so we can correspond with you. Thanks to all who have already sent your information. We appreciate it.

College Day

The College Day on April 8 was another success. We had about 75 guests on campus that day, and around 60 of those were prospec-



Bryan Atwood brought a message to our guests during our recent College Day.



Visitors toured the campus and learned about the advantages of attending a Christian College.

tive students. The chapel, food and fellowship with new people were good.

Please pray for the college ministry and help us any way you can. Thanks for everything you do.



Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Guest Editorial

Decide for Yourself

by Travis Plumlee

I have watched the news recently about national political figures agreeing or disagreeing with preachers and pastors. The opinions given by some pastors were full of hate. They should not have been uttered by a man of God in church, or anywhere else for that matter. But just as stunning,

were the main stream media editorializing about how all people question pastors. Most of the national news media have made statements like this, "Everyone in every church disagrees with their pastor on some things. You go to a church where you may hold similar views on many issues, but not all issues." When did God's laws become 'issues'!

This struck me as odd, but then again, we have to consider the state of America's spiritual well-being. This form of philosophy being preached on the air waves is as old as can be. It just is gaining in popularity. The philosophy is this: truth is relative. You need to decide for yourself what is true. Of course I agree that pastors are human and not perfect. But if they are not preaching falsehood, but scripture, then do we have a problem with the preacher or do we have a problem with truth? I hear many people say, "I disagree with him on that issue." However, if the preacher has stated from scripture the point to be made, then our problem is not with him, but with God. It is kind of like a few of the people I see in conferences that I do. They will tell me that they are not going to whip their kids. They don't believe in spanking. I show them Proverbs 23:13,14 and they say, but I still am not going to agree to that. Well then, you don't have a problem with my teaching, you have a problem with scripture.

Some times there have been men that think I am extra hard on the men at marriage conferences. Actually,

God is the one that put that responsibility on men to be the head of the home and the spiritual leader. They ignored the sections where I speak to the ladies about their role. All they hear is what God has told them they should do, and they don't like it. They are not going to do it and so they get huffy. The Bible is so good at pointing out our shortcomings as Christians. We are either going to be obedient or disobedient to the Word. The role of the husband and wife in Ephesians 5 is not a multiple choice exam. You don't pick what you like and don't like. You are either obedient to God in his assignment of tasks and roles in the home, or you are not.

Americans want to question everything. Our children who are now adults, have been taught to be a skeptic. "Truth is what you determine it to be." "Your truth and reality may not be mine". "You can't tell me what truth is for me." "That is a personal decision. Religion is a personal decision." The drum beat gets louder and louder. I remember a time when pastors were about the most highly respected people in the country. Now they are made fun of and questioned. Americans won't question CNN reports, or Oprah, but they question men called of God. Amazing!

I did a youth retreat not long ago. I showed them a scripture. They started arguing with me. I said it

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Letters From Our Readers

Letters reflect the opinion of the writer and not necessarily this publication or the BMA of Mississippi

"People are suffering and dying"

A plea for the people of Ghana

Dear Editor,

In December 2007 I traveled to the Upper East Region of Ghana with Bro. Mike Goodwin. We spent a week there working alongside Bro. Paul Heuermann as we distributed food to some of those affected by widespread flooding which occurred in September. We delivered grain and coordinating the delivery and distribution of relief supplies we anticipated arriving in the coming weeks and months.

This was not my first trip to Ghana. I first visited there in May, 2001, with Evangelistic International Ministries (EIM). Since that time I have been fortunate enough to lead several VSM teams there as well as a team of men from our church. To say that Ghana holds a special place in my heart is a tremendous understatement. Over the past few years I have been blessed to develop deep relationships with many of the men who serve the BMA as national pastors in West Africa. It was difficult to meet with those men in December because several of them had lost their crops, their homes and most of their possessions in the flooding.

As we surveyed the situation four months ago it became evident, mainly due to the timing of the flooding, that the conditions would degrade significantly before there was any opportunity for improvement. Ghana is just north of the equator. The rainy season generally begins in mid-May and lasts until mid-October. Because the people of the north rely on agriculture to sustain them, they plant in early June and harvest in mid-September. The food they harvest sustains them throughout the dry season. During the dry season, or "Harmaton", there is virtually no rain anywhere in the country. This is especially true of the northern areas, which are just south of the Sahara Desert. The flooding occurred at harvest time, before the crops were in. This year's Harmaton began early, and there has been no

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"I really admire your direct preaching style... how long will it be before those people on the front row regain consciousness?"

rain since the flooding in early September. The people there cannot hope to begin planting until late-May or early-June, which means the earliest they will begin to harvest is late August.

Since December the situation has indeed continued to degrade. During late March Bro. Mike Goodwin, Bro. Rocky Goodwin, Dr. Joel Slayton, and Joey Slayton traveled to northern Ghana. What they witnessed was heartbreaking. They looked into the faces of mothers and fathers begging for food. They looked into the eyes of children who were facing starvation. They observed the graves of those who had already succumbed to malnutrition.

The situation is growing more desperate by the day, but God has been at work since last fall meeting needs of people and drawing men, women, and children to Himself. Many of our people have contributed to the relief efforts by designating offerings to the BMA Missions Department or EIM. I am grateful for everything that has been given, but I'm burdened that we are not doing more. Our pastors in the area report tremendous church growth as people witness God providing

food to His churches. Many of those in greatest need are members of local BMA churches in Africa. We must do all that we can to help our brothers and sisters in West Africa survive.

While there are any number of ways individuals can contribute to the relief efforts in West Africa, it is my hope that the people of the BMA of America would give to directly impact the people of the BMA of Africa through either the BMA Missions Department or Evangelistic International Ministries. In my personal experience, both of these groups are committed to relieving the suffering of our Christian brothers and sisters as well as meeting the needs of thousands in the area who have yet to hear the Gospel. My concern is not where or how you give. My concern is THAT you give. People are suffering and dying. OUR people are suffering and dying. I believe that each of us has a spiritual and moral obligation to do more that we already have to help in this particular situation.

Roger Dunlap
Associate Pastor
First Baptist Church
Magnolia, AR

Overseas Bible School

Philippines	May 23-31
Romania	July 10-24
Romania	July 18-26
Great Britain	August 1-9



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John Adams

National Day of Prayer

You will note the ad in this edition for the National Day of Prayer in America. The date is

May 1, 2008. We all have many concerns for our nation and I encourage each of you to make plans to honor this day with

special prayer.

Suggestions are as follows:

1) Announce the day via bul-

letins, church signs, etc.,

2) Have a National Day of Prayer Committee or Chairman to lead out in prayer,

3) Open your church building for the day and let your congregation sign for one hour or thirty minute slots to pray,

4) Arrange for prayer at the town or city hall, courthouse or flag pole,

5) Pray specifically for: The

President, Governor, Senators, Representatives, Mayors, Judges, Sheriffs, Police Officers, Soldiers, Pastors, Teachers, Schools, Colleges, Associational workers, etc.,

6) Pray for Peace, for Israel, Jerusalem, etc.,

7) Pray, Pray, Pray - that is the need, not socials, or meetings, just meeting God with our hearts and voices.

Guest Editorial

from page 4

doesn't matter what I think. It doesn't matter what you think. It only matters what God says in His Word. They still argued because it challenged the way they were living. Some Christians give lip service to Jesus because they want heaven. They believe Jesus demands nothing of their life. I will not sacrifice anything in my life for him. Jesus serves me, I don't serve him. When I am sad, need a counselor or comfort, to Him I go. But to give up and die to myself and my desires, and forsake my sin - you can forget about it. These 14, 15, and 16 year olds were so arrogant that they were arguing and saying they didn't believe that scripture and it was just my interpretation. Someone has fed that lie to them over and over again. I asked them to read it and to tell me what they thought it meant. It was so clear, there is no other conclusion. I asked if they had ever read it before. The answer was no. Imagine, being so arrogant, rude and questioning of all authority that you would argue about a verse of scripture that you have never laid eyes on before, from a man whom God has called to preach His Word. I stand amazed.

Few people today I think realize that pastors and preachers have been called out by God to explain the mysteries of the knowledge of God. That actually is their job. They are not telling you how to live your life, they are telling you what God has said about the way we live our lives. But we live in an age where everyone apparently goes to church and decides for themselves what they will believe or not believe. If you don't want to live out of scripture, then deny that truth and simply state, "That is just his opinion or interpretation." "Stewards of the mysteries of God" are our preachers. Certainly, if they get off on their own tangents, then people have the right to reject it. But most of the time people hear the truth and from such they turn away.

If a preacher can't support something with scripture, then he is giving his own opinion and he is entitled to it. And people are entitled to hold a different opinion. But when

the man of God, opens the Word of God, in the house of God, for the people of God; you don't sit out there and decide for yourself what scripture you believe or don't believe. You only believe out of the Bible what you live out of the Bible. I hope parents don't raise their children to go to church and sit out there and question every thing the pastor says and form their own opinion of whether or not they receive it as truth. Truth is truth. You reject it or accept it. When I go to church, I am not sitting out there looking for things to disagree with. I am looking for things that hit my heart so that I can change and grow for God's glory and love him more deeply. Sometimes scripture comforts, and sometimes it convicts. But it is always the truth.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara
White

Pew Potatoes

A whole bunch of old folks recently attended a meetin' just for them. At this meetin' there was some fine entertainment, lots of real good singing, lots of real good food, lots of real good folks to visit with and best of all, there was some real good preachin' by Bro. Grady Higgs.

Bro. Higgs, exhorted, encouraged, emphasized, extolled, etc. But one thing he asked was: Are Senior Adults "couch potatoes" or "pew potatoes"?

Now that got me to thinking. We do seem to have some folks who qualify as a "pew potato".

I'm reminded of what James wrote: "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

Think about it.



The Annual
**NATIONAL
DAY OF
PRAYER**

First Thursday of May

GMA Girls

GMA Promoter - Beth Caldwell
166 Twin Creek Rd, Lucedale, MS 39452
601-947-6011

Sunbeam Promoter - Linda Dertinger
132 Howard Hill Road, Soso, MS 39480
601-729-2908

MISSISSIPPI STATE GMA/SUNBEAM TREASURER'S REPORT

February 9, 2008
By Shirlene Smith

Balance March 1, 2007	\$ 3,634.25
Total Received from	
March 1, 2007 to February 1, 2008	14,780.69
Total to Account for	18,414.94
Paid Out (See List Below)	16,241.36
Balance on Hand, February 1, 2008	2,173.58
General Fund	\$1,744.83
GMA Project - (on hand)	394.50
Sunbeam Project	34.25
Balance on Hand	2,173.58

PAID OUT

Check No.		
854	Chris Smith, GMA Retreat Expenses	\$ 140.00
855	Rose Cone Florist, Roses for Queens	78.11
856	Savannah Smith, Mission Trip to Romania	200.00
857	Bro. Josh Spiers, Camp Pastor	200.00
858	Beth Caldwell, GMA Retreat Expenses	133.00
859	Trace Thurman, Mission Trip CAN	200.00
860	Linda Faye Dertinger, Award Ribbons	42.05
861	Needleworks, GMA Sashes	30.00
862	Wanda's Discount Trophies	88.77
863	Office Depot, Ledger	46.00
864	Camp Garaywa, '07 GMA Camp Fees	4,792.00
865	Rose Cone Florist, Donna Lawrence	42.80
866	Bank of America, Ledger Paper	34.94
867	BMAA Missions, Project: Philippine Publications	2,081.02
868	Daniel Springs Camp, Beth, Linda, Judi-Beth, & Savannah	312.00
869	Jean Knight, Sunbeam Sashes	27.00
870	Bro. Josh Spiers, Sunbeam Camp Pastor	200.00
871	Nancy Brewer, Sunbeam Program Covers	66.77
872	Beth Caldwell, Sunbeam Programs	129.00
873	Estuardo Marroquin, Sunbeam Retreat Missionary	100.00
874	Wanda's Discount Trophies, Sunbeam Trophies	33.44
875	Office Depot, Binder for Sunbeams	320.99
876	Good Hope Baptist, Stringer, Beth Jones' Mission Trip	200.00
877	Camp Garaywa, Sunbeam Retreat	3,001.00
878	BMAA Missions, SB Project: Philippine Publications	939.04
879	Linda Faye Dertinger, Expenses	128.58
880	Beth Caldwell, Planning Meeting	175.00
881	Trace Thurman, GMA Project (GABE)	335.00
882	Chris Smith, Sunbeam and GMA Expenses	81.57
883	Blackhawk Designs, GMA T-shirts	752.21
884	Beth Caldwell, Balance of Planning Meeting Funds	75.00
885	Nancy Brewer, Crafts for 2008 GMA Retreat	45.39
886	Trace Thurman, GMA Project (GABE)	807.03
887	Wal-Mart, Certificate Paper and Candy for Queens	19.13
888	Camp Garaywa, Deposit for 2009 GMA Retreat	100.00
889	Beth Caldwell, Expenses and Toner Cartridge	220.00

Service Charges for 2007-2008	46.27
Blank Checks for the MS State GMA and Sunbeams	18.25
Total Paid Out	\$ 16,241.36

TOTAL RECEIVED FOR THE GMA PROJECT BY FEBRUARY 1, 2008	
25% General Fund	\$ 445.51
75% Student Missionary to CAN--GABE	1,536.53
Total Received by February 1, 2008	\$1,982.04

TOTAL RECEIVED FOR THE GMA PROJECT BY MARCH 31, 2008	
25% General Fund	\$ 821.31
75% Student Missionary to CAN--GABE	\$ 2,445.38
Total Received by March 1, 2008	\$ 3,266.69

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MISSISSIPPI STATE GMA PROJECT March 1, 2008 (Update after Retreat)

GMAS:	
1. Bethel Baptist Church, Fulton	\$ 500.00
2. Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso	125.00
3. First Baptist Church, Bay Springs	100.00
4. Grace Baptist Church, Saucier	100.00
5. Hopewell Baptist Church, Laurel	134.25
6. Mildred Sumrall, Temple Baptist, Laurel	100.00
7. Skyway Hills Baptist Church, Pearl	175.00
8. Shiloh Baptist WMA, Steens	30.00
9. Temple Baptist, Lucedale	200.00
10. Washington District GMA, Ludedale	125.00
11. Profit from T-shirt sales	392.79
12. Paramount Baptist, Perkinston	121.00
13. Good Hope Baptist, Columbia	60.00
14. Bethel Baptist, Bassfield	30.00
15. General Fund Offering at Retreat	109.01
16. Snack Shop at Retreat	528.93
17. Candy Grams at Retreat	75.00
18. T-Shirt Sales at Retreat	108.45
19. Craft Sales at Retreat	252.26
TOTAL RECEIVED	\$ 3,266.69

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SUNBEAM PROJECT MARCH 1, 2008

SUNBEAMS:	
1. Big Creek Baptist, Soso	\$ 115.00
2. Hopewell Baptist, Laurel	100.00
3. Skyway Hills Baptist, Pearl	30.00
4. Temple Baptist, Lucedale	121.00
5. Refund by Donna Lawrence	10.00
6. Mt. Carmel Baptist, Carriere	120.00
7. East Amory Baptist, Amory	50.00
8. Rovenia Hunnell	19.50
9. Snack Shop at SB Retreat	50.70
10. Craft Sales at SB Retreat	129.26
Total Received	745.46

Mississippi State Sunbeam Project March 31, 2008	
25% GENERAL FUND	\$186.36
75% STUDENT MISSIONARY TO CAN-GABE	559.10
TOTAL RECEIVED	\$745.46

The new project for the Mississippi State GMAs and Sunbeams for '08-'09 is 25% General Fund and 75% Missionary Ed Duvall's Building Fund at Cleveland, Mississippi. Send your offerings to Shirlene Smith, 730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443. God bless you as you serve Him this year.
-Shirlene Smith

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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

Springtime — A Time to Grow

I always look forward to spring. It is a time for growing. God in His power and plan made it that way. As you and I observe everything around us during this springtime, let us be reminded that we belong to a faithful God who loves us.



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

Springtime ought to be a time of growing for all of us who belong to Jesus Christ in a spiritual sense. As summer fast approaches we must keep in mind that we must never take a vacation from spiritual growth. It is with this idea in mind that we ask for your continued prayers for the ministry of the Children's Home that we might experience the freshness that comes from the spiritual blessings that the Lord has to give to us as we respond to His leadership in this ministry.

Pray with us at the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home that this will be the best growing season ever as we use this sowing and growing time to the glory of God. The opportunities are limitless around the world for the Lord's people to reach out and minister to people in need. It is good to know that as 2008 makes its way into the pages of history that our God is still on His throne and is moving in the hearts of men through His Holy Spirit.

Mississippi State WMA

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 WMA Retreat

Providence Church will host the Northeast Ladies Retreat on May 17, 2008. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the meeting beginning at 9:30. Kay Fortenberry will be the featured speaker.

All WMA ladies are invited to attend
Beth Haden, reporter

**3rd Annual
Ladies Conference
Tiger Creek
Missionary Baptist Church**
Ovett, Mississippi
April 19th, 2008
9:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Guest speaker Mrs. Barbara White
(Sofilthy McNasty of Sofilthy's Attic)

We would like to invite all ladies to attend
Lunch will be provided and door prizes given away

RSVP: Pamela Shores 601-344-7735

No Child Care Provided

Commission on Senior Adults

Vern D. Holifield, Director
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Greetings

It is good to greet the readers of this fine paper in the lovely name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The beautiful new flowers and green leaves make us know that Spring time is here. We have been reminded again of the glorious resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. It should cause us to renew our faith and our commitments to the Lord of Glory.

The South Senior Adult Conference

This Conference is history now. However, the day will be long remembered by those attending. I ask for and believed for at least 350 to attend. I should have ask for 400. We registered 350. The Sanctuary at Big Creek Church was about packed out. Brother Earl Smith, our worship leader, the Big Creek Singers, Mississippi Five, and New Wine Quartet all did a great job with the music for the day. Brother Grady Higgs, Executive Director of Missions for the BMA of America, gave us some encouraging information about the Mission work of the BMA around the world. He brought a wonderful message too. The Big Creek Church and Pastor Don Brown did a splendid job hosting the meeting. As usual, Mack's Restaurant provided a fine meal.

I want to commend the pastors who attended with their people. The pastor is the way and the door to his church family. I never try to go around the pastor and promote the Commission. In most cases, if the pastor promotes and supports something, his people will join him. In most cases, if the pastor doesn't promote and support something, his people will join him also. I do appreciate the pastors and the churches that attended the meeting. I believe most churches paid the small fee for their Seniors to attend. This is also good. It all went good. We just thank the Lord for His goodness in it all.

The North Conference

The North Senior Adult Conference is scheduled for May 13. East Amory Baptist Church and Pastor Akers are getting ready for a great day. A good program has been put together. Brother Bryson Haden, our worship leader, the Phifer Trio,

and the Saving Grace Trio will furnish wonderful music through the day. Dr. Charlie Holmes, President of the BMA Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas will bring the message. A good meal will be catered for our enjoyment. All this for the small fee of \$15.00 per person. I do hope the church will pay this for the Seniors who attend.

The churches will receive a letter in a few days concerning the Conference. Please note the phone numbers and call in the number from your church no later May 9 to secure your meals. Make checks payable to the Commission on Senior Adults. I am asking for and believing for 200 to attend this great Conference. I ask every pastor and every church to pray for the Conference, and to attend if at all possible. Pastor, please help us help you and your Seniors. All ages are welcome to attend.

Preachers with fifty years in ministry

We added a new and a good ministry to the 2008 Conferences. We are recognizing and honoring our preachers that have been in the ministry fifty years and longer. We had eighteen to respond here in South Mississippi. Seven have responded in North Mississippi. We will recognize these and present them with a nice plaque when we meet in Amory. I hope all will be there.

BMA Softball Tournament

The National Galilean Ministry is bringing back the BMA Softball Tournament on Saturday, May 10, at the Don Owen Sports Complex in Conway, Arkansas. The tournament is open to all BMA men's and women's softball teams. The entry fee is \$125 with all proceeds benefitting the BMA National Galilean Ministry. You may register and find more information online at www.galileans.com, or contact Tournament Director Wayne Burgess at 501-215-7043.



LATRELLE WINDHAM
DIRECTOR

P.O. Box 4247, Laurel, Mississippi 39441 • 601-649-0502
Email - bmayouth@comcast.net

Summer Camps 2008

Tombigbee, Judson Camp

June 2, 3, 4, 2008

Place: Tombigbee State Park, Tupelo

Harmony Camp

June 16, 17, 18, 2008

Place: Tishomingo State Park, Tishomingo

South Central Junior Camp

June 25, 26, 27, 2008

Place: Laurel Area

Assemblies at Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel
Guest: Thomas Family, A Heart For Home Ministry

Motels:

Ramada Inn of Laurel

Rooms \$79.00 per night, Single (1 bed) Double (2 beds)

Cut-off-Date this rate: Sunday, June 15, 2008

Each church responsible for your reservation

Comfort Suites: Suites (1 bed) Double (2 beds)

Rooms: Single \$83.00 per night: Double - \$83.00

Cut-Off-Date this rate: Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Each church responsible for your reservations

State Junior High Senior Camp

July 9, 10, 11, 2008

Place: Laurel Area

Assemblies at Southeastern Baptist College

Guest Speaker: Travis Plumlee

Music: Brandon Wilson

Motels:

Ramada Inn of Laurel

Rooms \$79.99 per night, Single (1 bed), Double (2 beds)

Cut-Off-Date this rate: Sunday, June 15, 2008

Each church responsible for your reservations

Comfort Suites: Suites (1 bed), Double (2 beds)

Rooms: Single \$80.00 per night, Double \$90.00

Cut-Off-Date this rate: Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Each church responsible for your reservations

Camp fee of \$25.00 per person will be charged for the South Central Junior Camp and the state Junior High, Senior Camp. This will be taken at Southeastern Baptist College before the first evening assembly of each camp. (More information concerning camp will mailed)

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

Listing of names does not indicate endorsement.
This column is for information purposes only.

Larry Pierce

Bro. Larry M. Pierce is available to fill the pulpit or used as the Lord leads. He may be reached at 601-947-3531.



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Raising Visionary Sons and Daughters for God

-Part Three-

Why are we here? Why does our family exist? Does our family exist to prepare our children for the pro sports career? If so, then our family life will center everything on how to develop our children in athletics. Our time, attention, talk at the dinner table and our finances will be spent on sports. Does our family exist so that we can produce children that are socially popular and acceptable in the world? Is popularity at school and in the community our goal? Then our family life will have a full social calendar and we will chase one extracurricular event after another.

We must make sure our children are doing everything that every one else is doing. Only we need to make sure they are excelling above the others, so we will even go into debt to prove to our friends and neighbors how successful our children are. Even as parents, our self-esteem will be directly tied in to how well our children perform at music, school, sports and being popular. The greatest bragging we can do will be our children's performance in the social arena. However, if our family exist to glorify God and live for Jesus, and we died to ourselves and no longer live, but Christ lives in us, then the life we now live will be by faith. Galatians 2:20.

If this is the case, then our family life will bring honor to the Father in all that we do. We will not allow anything to interfere with our commitment to family home worship,

family meetings, family devotions, prayer and Bible study with our family. Where is your time spent? Do you run yourself ragged trying to do all the things that American families think they must do in order to have healthy, happy children? If this is the case, you will be fortunate to have family devotions once a month, let alone once a day.

Are you giving your children a foundation in life that can't be shaken or collapsed? Is your home life built around Jesus, or is He just squeezed in here and there? Are you teaching your children how to live out their faith on a daily basis, or are you teaching them how to play around with the kingdom? Jesus may capture some of your Sunday and Wednesday time slots, but does Jesus own your home time?

Nothing will change your family life more than doing devotions and home worship. I have been teaching this for 14 years now in my family conferences for Christian homes to develop a family altar. Not necessarily a literal altar, but a space and time for the worship of the Lord in your home. Deuteronomy 6:7 "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when

thou liest down, and when thou risest up." We are to do Bible study with our families every day. This scripture actually commands an on-going study and talk of the Lord God. At the very least, it is when you get up in the morning and when you go to bed at night.

Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee



www.travisplumlee.com

It has long been taught that good parents make sure their children have a good breakfast before heading off for school. Yet, how remiss are we if we feed them physically, but fail to feed them spiritually every morning before going out into the world? Should we not pray the blood of the lamb over them, and do spiritual warfare for protection throughout our family's day in the world? Could we not incorporate a devotion of scripture and prayer every morning before we head out for the day? To say the least, we should gather as a family of God, who is living for Jesus, and study the scripture as a family each night.

If you don't see scripture as having value, then you will not embrace it with your family. You would be stunned once you start this to learn how quickly your kids look forward to it. If we ever tried to miss a night with our children, they held my wife and I accountable. If it came to family meeting night, and we hadn't started by 7 p.m., they would ask

why not?

Have a family meeting once a week where every member of the family shares their troubles, trials, praises and prayer request. Have fellowship time after the meeting without TV or any other worldly mechanisms. I, and many other Christian authors have books on how to conduct such meetings. You should have home worship once a week in your home. Sing songs. Your children should be memorizing scripture and learning why we believe these things. Baptist catechism books teach scripture, traditional biblical songs and answers the 'why' we believe this way. Then you incorporate this into your discussion as to how you live it out on a daily basis. Jesus is every day walking with the Shepherd.

Home worship must be born with conviction and devotion. It should not be created by force or dedication. Devotion implies a love for the Lord as the reason for doing it. You need to hang out with other families who are also doing such activities for encouragement. Your church should support and promote these activities. If you want God's blessings on your family, you must do the things God has commanded us to do. Don't coerce your family. But be convicted of the need to have daily fellowship with Jesus in your home. Otherwise, your children will grow up and not see that our lives are separated, consecrated, sanctified and that our life is to be a vessel of honor for the Lord. Do morning and evening prayer and bible verses, home worship and family meetings and your family life will change instantly -- dramatically -- and -- eternally!

Teens Leaving Church

from page 3

Mike Whelan, senior campus minister of the BCM of Georgia Tech, knows how important it is to the growth of a young person's faith for his family to give him responsibilities based on a level of trust. It's good for parents to be involved, but students who have "helicopter parents" hovering over them are at a disadvantage. Helicopter parents are those who still call the dorm rooms to wake their children up for class.

"We're so afraid sometimes as parents ... [that kids are] going to do these bad things [i.e., drinking, drugs, sex, partying], and we don't want them to do those things, so we restrict them by giving them rules with consequences, ..." Schadt explained. He said this legalistic approach teaches teens to do the right things merely to avoid getting in trouble.

Therefore, teens are working together - often with their youth group peers - to get around the rules because they only see Christianity as a list of dos and don'ts. When they don't meet those standards, they view themselves as failures, and their hearts become numb as they walk in sin. It's more about doing right because their parents will ground them if they don't, rather than being right before the Lord.

"Then they hit college, and they haven't learned any of the reasons for making these

decisions on their own, and there is no one there to take away the car keys anymore," Schadt added.

Perhaps, in their hearts, youth start "walking away" from the church much sooner than the end of high school. It's just that when they go to college they are, for the first time, no longer under the authority-control of family influence, explained Whelan.

Tim Keller, pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, refers to this so-called faith as a Pharisaic religion, which is practiced in numerous churches today and leads many people, including young adults, astray.

In his new book titled *The Reason for God* (See Page 18.), Keller wrote: "Recall the 'sickness unto death,' the spiritual deep nausea we experience when we fail to build our identity on God. We struggle for a sense of worth, purpose, and distinctiveness, but it is based on conditions that we can never achieve or maintain, and that are always slipping away from us.

"Millions of people raised in or near these kinds of churches reject Christianity at an early age or in college largely because of their experience, ..." he continued. "Pharisees and their unattractive lives leave many people confused about the real nature of Christianity."

The right way

Therefore, it's imperative for youth ministry to be more than just a "holding tank with pizza," as referred to by Ed Stetzer,

director of LifeWay Research.

In other words, youth want and need church to be more than just a pizza party where they get a five-minute devotional amidst the entertainment. Based on research, Stetzer said youth want to know how to live life. Church involvement that has made a real difference in their lives is a significant reason they keep attending church, even after high school.

"Clearly the reasons young people leave are a reflection both of their past experience in church and the new opportunities they have as young adults," McConnell explained. "To remain in church, a person must have experienced the value of the teaching and relationships at church and see the relevance for the next phase of life."

The LifeWay study identified several tangible ways parents and churches could be influential factors when it comes to keeping youth in church once they leave high school. There must be proven value in church attendance, relevant preaching, time investment in the young people's lives, and family members who live out an authentic Christian faith.

While these influences are certainly significant, at the end of the day the hearts of the youth must be transformed by the Gospel in order for church attendance to make sense. Otherwise, going to church is pointless and meaningless, and the ways of the world become so attractive, especially at the pivotal point of transition from high school to college.

"A college campus is a new, exciting, vibrant place for a freshman. Suddenly everything they ever wanted to do and everything they didn't want to do is available, with limited restrictions and expectations," Forman explained. "For a student who has not wholeheartedly committed to strengthen his faith while at college, the possibilities that college offers can be overwhelming and overpowering. The voice of new friends, new adventures, and a new future is often much louder than the voice of God whispering to the heart and soul."

"Whether teens are bombarded with positive or negative influences about church, they all make their own decisions about whether to continue or stop attending," Stetzer said. "This study shows the benefit of parents and church members faithfully doing their part, but in the final analysis, we must leave it in the hands of God to work in their lives."

"Students who have determined in their hearts and minds to stay committed to their God (not their mother's God or their youth minister's God) no matter the cost, will be able to better handle the dangers of college," Forman added. "But for the students who participated in a shallow faith during high school just because it was 'the thing to do,' college has a great chance of being the breaking point for them, where they leave behind what was 'cool' in high school and do what is 'cool' in college, which probably won't be relentlessly pursuing God with everything they know."