

# The Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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VOL. 66 No. 8

## God works through the Franks family

by Shirlene Smith  
WMA Editor

National WMA Missionary Jeff Franks tells of his personal salvation experience, "I came to know Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior in November, 1971. I had just entered



Franks Family

the University of Miami in Florida that fall and was searching for meaning and significance through music, studying the classical guitar. I had not expected to be in the company of so many great guitarists, and this humbled me, causing me to wonder if I had chosen the right path in life after all."

"Some Christian friends recognized my lost state, and began to tell me about Jesus. Though I argued with them, still there was something definably good about them, I thought. Then in November Josh McDowell of Campus Crusade for Christ began a series of lectures on the topic, 'Jesus,



Pastors and missionaries gather for training and a prayer retreat with the topic of starting new churches in new places. Jeff Franks led the group teaching the program from Dynamic Church Planting International.

Myth or Reality?' Listening to his evening lecture on the resurrection, it dawned on me that Jesus was truly who He said He was, and is truly risen from the dead!

"That evening, alone in my dormitory room, I gave my heart to Jesus Christ, repenting of my former apathy and self-reliance. 'No longer my thoughts, Lord, but yours. No longer my ways, but yours. I was wrong to be apathetic about the Bible. All your words

are true and I want them to be my only truth and guide.' I fell asleep praying, and awoke the next morning with a deep knowledge that Christ had come into my life, and had forgiven and cleansed me of all sin and wrong thinking."

In 1972, one year after Bro. Jeff had been saved, he received a draft notice and promptly entered military service. The Army assigned him to study Russian after he passed a language aptitude test. Even then God was preparing him for later missionary work.

Bro. Jeff and Coleen married in 1984, and a few years later joined Putnam City Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. At the time Coleen was working in real estate, and he was in petroleum title examination. They were so busy, not very concerned about mission work. Five years later, in 1989, their family suddenly grew when they adopted their

continued on page 4

## As Titanic sank, he pleaded, 'believe in the Lord Jesus!'

**TAYLORS, S.C. (BP)** -- It has been 100 years since Titanic, the greatest ship of its time, sank on its maiden voyage, killing more than 1,500 passengers. The "unsinkable ship" had done just that, and on the tragedy's centennial we stand captivated by the story. Many movies, documentaries and books have familiarized us with some of the passengers, such as entrepreneur John Jacob Astor IV or the "Unsinkable" Molly Brown. Yet one of the supreme

stories of the Titanic involves a heroic pastor and his passion to save lives and souls.

When pastor and preacher John Harper and six year old

daughter boarded the Titanic it was for the privilege of preaching at one of the greatest churches in America, Moody Church in Chicago, named for its famous founder Dwight L. Moody. The church was anxiously awaiting his arrival not only because

*Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*

continued on page 2

## Parents Must Control Social Media

by Travis Plumlee

My how times have changed. It wasn't too many years ago that parents only concern was whose home everyone was gathering at to play games, or what field was everyone going to for the neighborhood baseball game. When I was growing up, my mom would always tell me to be polite, courteous and act like a Christian young man when I headed out the door for a day to play ball, ride bikes or go to the creek with a fishing pole in hand.



Plumlee

Nowadays, there are so many things that parents have to monitor to insure that their kids are protected and staying on the right path. What are your children looking at on the internet? What pictures are there on their cell phone? What is their Facebook status? Who are they twittering with? And the list goes on.

It is poor judgment shown by parents who are not actively involved with their children and teens in all areas of social media. You are supposed to be involved. It is called parenting. Your kids can get into all kinds

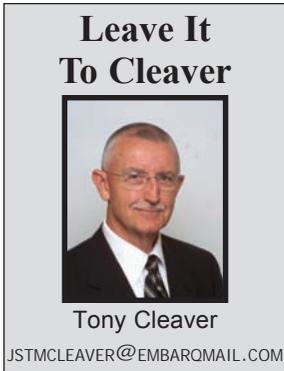
continued on page 8

**NORTH MISSISSIPPI  
SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE  
May 1, 2012  
9:30 AM  
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church  
Fulton, Mississippi  
Presented by  
Commission on Senior Adults**

# Who Was That Guy?

Luke 24.13-32

What a story Luke has told in his Gospel, and what a story he tells now almost at the end. He has stuck to his plan to tell of the things concerning the man Jesus, the Christ-Messiah-of God. Throughout this story we call the book of Luke he has told His story with great accuracy. After all, he has interviewed the eyewitnesses to the events. Where else would he get such detail?



**Leave It To Cleaver**

Tony Cleaver

JSTMCLEAVER@EMBARQMAIL.COM

How else would he get these words concerning those involved in the life of Christ?

Luke names one of those who were vitally involved in the resurrection events-Cleopas. I'm sure Luke talked to Cleopas to get him to provide details of this well-known story. I don't think it took much prodding to get Cleopas to recount what happened. The words flowed out of his mouth as the burning event's details gushed from the depths of his soul. Cleopas probably said, "We asked ourselves, 'Who was that guy?' After it was all over we should have known better."

What magnificent words, but more what a grand experience: "Jesus himself came up and walked along with them." It was not a ghost, it was not an angel, it was not an apparition; it was Jesus himself! Jesus came near to Cleopas and his companion. Wow! How I would want that experience for myself today! In this story, there is even more: Jesus walked along with them! To travel with Jesus is the greatest trip anyone can ever make.

Jesus opened the Scriptures to them as they walked along. The journey involved the lesson from the Old Testament as it related to the death, burial, and resurrection. No higher lesson can be learned today than that learned on this road. Jesus brought the lesson; Jesus preached the sermon; Jesus was in charge of pedagogy of this journey with Cleopas and his friend. What I would give to have been in that class!

One great lesson for me and my Christian culture from an evangelical background is that in the Communion or Lord's Supper service, the Lord is made known. Why is that? Because as on this road with

Cleopas, the service talks of the broken body of Jesus and His blood shed for me. Cleopas was able to see clearly who that guy was when the bread was broken!

Yes, the Emmaus conversation with the travellers had been focused on the death of the One in Jerusalem. Now "this guy" opens their eyes to allow them to see that this guy is none other than the Risen Christ. I honestly

believe we all wonder: "Who was that guy?" When we see Him in His sacrifice for us, we know who that guy was. He is Jesus who loved us and gave Himself to redeem us from the horribleness of sin. That guy was the Savior to Cleopas, for he saw Him in resurrection power. I need a clear vision of "that guy" in His resurrection power. I need to know today He is Jesus.

That is the story Luke is telling us! The one you have heard about, He is the Lord. He had been raised from the dead. He is waiting to walk and talk with you and with me today. Open the eyes of my heart, Lord that I may see You as I walk this road You have prepared for me today.



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

### First Oak Grove to hold Revival

First Baptist Oak Grove will be having revival meeting April 29 - May 4. Sunday the 29th we will have our regular morning service, lunch, and an afternoon service. Monday - Friday will be at 7:00 pm nightly. Bro. Ed Steele will be our guest preacher for the services.

### April Tombigbee report

The Tombigbee Association met at Lone Oak Baptist church

# Titanic

from page 1

of the pending services, but to meet their next pastor, as Harper planned to accept their invitation. Harper was known as an engaging preacher and had pastored two churches in Glasgow and London. His preaching style was suited for an evangelist as testified by the words of another local pastor. "He was a great open-air preacher and could always command large and appreciative audiences.... He could deal with all kinds of interrupters, his great and intelligent grasp of Bible truths enabling him to successfully combat all assailants."

When the Titanic hit the iceberg, Harper successfully led his daughter to a lifeboat. Being a widower he may have been allowed to join her but instead forsook his own rescue, choosing to provide the masses with one more chance to know Christ. Harper ran person to person, passionately telling others about Christ. As the water began to submerge the "unsinkable" ship, Harper was heard shouting, "women, children, and the unsaved into the lifeboats." Rebuffed by a certain man at the offer of salvation Harper gave him his own life vest, saying, "you need this more than I do." Up until the last moment on the ship Harper pleaded with people to give their lives to Jesus.

### John Harper

The ship disappeared beneath the deep frigid waters leaving hundreds floundering in its wake with no realistic chance for rescue. Harper struggled through hyperthermia to swim to as many people as he could, still sharing the Gospel. Harper evidentially would lose his battle with hy-

perthermia but not before giving many people one last glorious Gospel witness. Four years after the tragedy at a Titanic survivor's meeting in Ontario, Canada, one survivor recounted his interaction with Harper in the middle of the icy waters of the Atlantic. He testified he was clinging to ship debris when Harper swam up to him, twice challenging him with a biblical invitation to "believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." He rejected the offer once. Yet given the second chance and with miles of water beneath his feet, the man gave his life to Christ. Then as Harper succumbed to his watery grave, this new believer was rescued by a returning lifeboat. As he concluded his remarks at the Ontario meeting of survivors he simply stated, "I am the last convert of John Harper."

Moderator Bro. Gary Smith  
Reporter Debbie Franks

## Letters From Our Readers

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

### Bible Crusade Update

Dear Brother Brown  
Please share our updated contact information with our people. Thank you for your support for this Bible ministry using the print media to inform our people of one area of work in our Lord's Kingdom. For the past 38 years God's people has loved, prayed for & supported this ministry which has enabled us to give 209,663 Bibles to prisoners behind prison walls. As best as I can tell we have given, all total around 621,831 Bibles, books & materials to prisoners. God blesses, His People give and pray! All praise and glory be to our God for His Holy Word! Amen!

Thanks again,  
Bro. Paul Lee  
Prisoners Bible Crusade  
Contact Information  
Note! New Phone # (601) 798-1341

Mailing Address:  
Prisoners Bible Crusade  
P O Box 696  
Picayune, MS 39466

Shipping Address:  
Prisoners Bible Crusade  
24090 Road 269  
Picayune, MS 39466

Email: pbc8paul@datasync.com  
Web: www.prisonersbiblecrusade.org

## Revival Set for Big Creek Association

The Big Creek Association will be sponsoring an associational revival May 6th through May 9th. The revival will begin on Sunday evening with Temple Baptist Church of Laurel. Monday evening, we will meet with Lebanon Baptist Church of the Soso Community, and Tuesday evening we will meet with the First Baptist Church of Calhoun. The revival will conclude Wednesday evening with Spring Hill Baptist Church near Laurel. The services will begin each night at 7:00 p.m.

Our evangelist will be Bro. Kenneth Bobo, a full-time evangelist from Hope, Arkansas. Music will be led by Bro. Bryson Haden, pastor of Berean Baptist Church of Soso.

All of the churches of the Big Creek Association invite others to come and worship with us and pray for a Heaven sent revival to our nation.

Please come if you can and pray for us if you cannot. We also encourage the churches of our association to dismiss their services Sunday and Wednesday night if at all possible and join us in this effort.

In His Service,  
Dewitt Bain, Chairman  
Associational Revival Committee

# Missions and Evangelism Conference May 4, 2012

Presented by the Department of Missions  
(BMA of Mississippi)

Hosted by  
**Skyway Hills Baptist Church**  
Pearl, Mississippi

## *The Journey of Faith*

Mark 4:1-41 & 5:1-20

10:00 am - *"The Parables of Faith"* (Mark 4:1-34) -  
Bro. Dennis Knight

11:00 am - Bro. Estuardo Marroquin

11:15 am - Bro. Elvis Garcia

11:30-1:00 Lunch

1:00 pm - *"The Picture of Faith"* (Mark 4:35-41) - Bro. Dewitt Bain

1:45 pm - Ray Boone

2:00 pm - *"The Power of Faith"* (Mark 4:1-17) - Dr. Kevin Clayton

3:00 pm - Bro. Bob Burch

3:15 pm - Bro. Justin Rhodes

3:30 pm - *"The Person of Faith"* (Mark 4:18-20) - Bro. Jeff Dixon

4:15 pm - New Missionary

4:30 pm - 5:00 pm - Break

5:00 pm - Video - *"Search For Mt. Sinai, Mountain on Fire"*  
Explorers Bob Cornuke and Larry Williams take an incredible expedition into the blistering heat of the deserts of Saudi Arabia to investigate what many scholars believe to be one of the greatest discoveries in history - the real Mt. Sinai, the holy mountain on which Moses received the Ten Commandments.

6:00 pm - Banquet Begins

6:30 pm - *"The Journey of Faith"* - Bro. Larry Geraldson -  
Introducing a 5-year strategy for church planting  
and a 5-step plan for execution

7:00 pm - Dismiss

## NORTH MISSISSIPPI SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

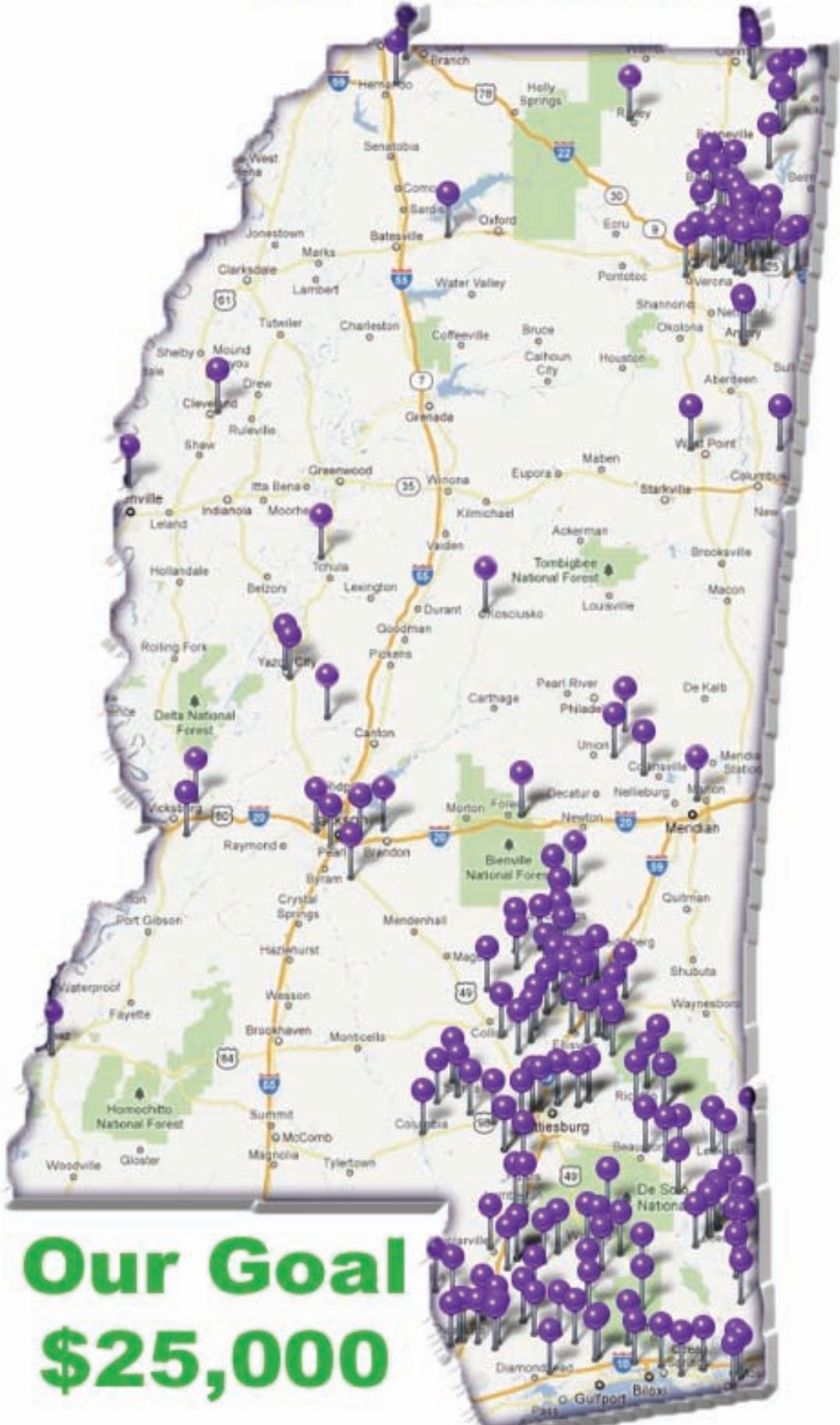
### May 1, 2012

9:30 AM

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church  
Fulton, Mississippi

Presented by  
**Commission on Senior Adults**

# Special Emphasis for Missions



## Our Goal \$25,000

# Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

## Random Notes & Thoughts Franks Family

### National Meeting in Jackson

The Annual BMA of America meeting will be underway by the time most of our readers get this issue. We will have reports in our May 1st issue of this meeting. It is always a great time of fellowship, worship, and optimism for the future work we must do. Pray for a productive meeting and for all of the departments and ministries of the Baptist Missionary Association of America.



Don Brown  
Editor

### Midyear State Meeting

The midyear meeting of the BMA of Mississippi will be held with the First Baptist Church of Mantachie. We will gather on May 21 & 22. The WMA and Brotherhood will meet at 7:00 pm on Monday the 21st and the Association will convene at 9:00 am on Tuesday the 22nd to conduct business. Dr. John Adams and the members of First Baptist Church are to be commended for hosting this meeting.

### Senior Adult Conference

The North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference will be held on May 1 at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church near Fulton. Bro. Jackie Gray is the pastor of this good church. The South Conference was a great success and we encourage all the churches and their senior adults to make this the best ever North Conference. As Bro. Vern Holifield always said, "The success of these conferences relies on the faithfulness of God's people and the pastors of our churches to encourage the church to send their Senior Adults and to pay the fee for them".

We look forward to a good crowd on May 1. Encourage the Senior Adults of your church to attend this meeting. It will be a blessing to them and to your local church as well.

Pray for the Commission, the Trustees and Bro. Kenneth Flynt as they continue this ministry.

*Prayer is the Holy Spirit finding a desire in the heart of the Father and putting that desire in our hearts to return it in the form of a request to Him.*

-Adrian Rogers

from page 1

two daughters, Sarah, 9 and Leah, 2. They loved their local church and began serving there. Bro. Jeff began to teach an adult Sunday school class and later worked with homeless people at a city rescue mission and with alcoholics. His work was in leading them to a saving faith in Jesus. He commented, "Although I met with some of the hardest souls, I also had true joy in seeing how the Lord saved people there on a regular basis."

Bro. Jeff's love for the Russian language was reawakened in the late 80's when a group of local Christians asked him to help them learn Bible verses so they could witness in the streets of Moscow. The Lord blessed and they returned with amazing stories of how the verses they shared led to tears of repentance and many souls saved. About the same time his Oklahoma petroleum title business ran on hard times. Coleen was a successful realtor with her own business, so she supported Bro. Jeff as he completed his undergraduate studies in the Russian language. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree (B.A.) from the University of Oklahoma in 1990. He then worked part time as a title examiner and part time as a Russian interpreter in the areas of trade and cultural exchange. They continued to work through their local church.

About this time, they began to consider foreign missionary service. He went on his first mission trip to Ukraine in August 1992, and in March 1993 the Mission Directors of the Baptist Missionary Association of America (BMAA) asked him to assist with a mission trip to Moscow. He was delighted to serve the Lord in this capacity.

In the summer of 1993, they moved their church membership to Southgate Baptist Church in Moore, Oklahoma, where Bro. Harold Hodges was pastor. Bro. Hodges recognized that God was leading them to do mission work and recom-

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



mended them to the BMAA Missionary Committee. In April of 1994, they were elected to serve as missionaries to Ukraine and CIS by the churches of the BMAA. With their two adopted daughters, Sarah, then 14 years old, and Leah, 7, they moved to Ukraine in August of 1994.

Today Bro. Jeff and Coleen live near Kiev, Ukraine, a country with a population of forty six million people. (Their two daughters are married and live in Arkansas.) Bro. Jeff also serves the Lord in Russia, Turkey, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia, among other countries. His calling is to train missionaries to start new churches in new places. He loves to preach and share the Gospel with people who need to believe in Jesus. He also teaches Bible conferences to Christians who live in places like Iran, where they are hated for what they believe.

Coleen ministers to children and adults through art journaling and scrapbooking. She leads seminars and craft events that help children, teens, and adults to express their faith in prayer albums, thankfulness and witnessing albums, greeting cards, and so forth. Many people have been saved through her ministry.

Bro. Jeff has this to say about their present work, "We love living in Ukraine where we find it much easier to share Jesus Christ with people than in America. For us it is easier to connect with people and discuss spiritual things. However, it is often more difficult for them to understand their need for Christ. This is because many

have been told that belonging to the church or a religion is what insures their salvation. Others may have been trained in government schools to think as atheists. Such as these have difficulty believing in their need for salvation because they have no concept of God's absolute righteous perfection and holiness. For them there are no absolutes, but all is relative. That is a problem which we can overcome only through prayer and by continually sharing our faith."

We thank God for faithful missionaries like Bro. Jeff and Coleen Franks. Continue to remember them daily in your prayers.

**AVAILABLE  
FOR SERVICE**

### Robert Cole

Bro. Robert Cole has announced his call to the Gospel Ministry. He is available for preaching appointments and can be reached at 601-731-8449 or through his pastor, Greg Bennett, at 601-543-4248.

Bro. Bo Walker is also available for preaching appointments and can be reached at 601-916-1849 or through his pastor, Greg Bennett, at 601-543-4248.

### Mark McRaney

Mark McRaney of Morton, Mississippi, is available for service. He is a member of Faith Baptist Church in Florence, Mississippi, where Mac Pierce is pastor. Mark is 44 years old and desires to be used of the Lord. He may be reached at 601-507-5873.

Mississippi Baptist

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# Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

## A Crabby Old Man

**Editor's Note** - SoFilthy McNasty thought our readers might enjoy this and that it might make a difference in our lives and our views on those who are aging. Some are not allowed to age as gracefully as others. The story below, along with the poem, confronts us all in our relationships with Senior Adults.

When an old man died in the geriatric ward of a nursing home in North Platte, Nebraska, it was believed that he had nothing left of any value.

Later, when the nurses were going through his meager possessions, They found this poem. Its quality and content so impressed the staff that copies were made and distributed to every nurse in the hospital.

One nurse took her copy to Missouri. The old man's sole bequest to posterity has since appeared in the Christmas edition of the News Magazine of the St. Louis Association for Mental Health. A slide presentation has also been made based on his simple, but eloquent, poem.

And this little old man, with nothing left to give to the world, is now the author of this 'anonymous' poem winging across the Internet.

### Crabby Old Man

What do you see nurses? . . . What do you see?  
What are you thinking . . . when you're looking at me?  
A crabby old man, . . . . . not very wise,  
Uncertain of habit . . . . . with faraway eyes?

Who dribbles his food . . . . . and makes no reply .  
When you say in a loud voice . . . "I do wish you'd try!"  
Who seems not to notice . . . the things that you do.  
And forever is losing . . . . . a sock or a shoe?

Who, resisting or not . . . . . lets you do as you will,  
With bathing and feeding. . . . the long day to fill?  
Is that what you're thinking? . . Is that what you see?  
Then open your eyes, nurse . . . you're not looking at me.

I'll tell you who I am. . . . as I sit here so still,  
As I do at your bidding, . . . as I eat at your will.  
I'm a small child of ten . . . with a father and mother,  
Brothers and sisters . . . . . who love one another.

A young boy of sixteen . . . . with wings on his feet  
Dreaming that soon now . . . . a lover he'll meet..  
A groom soon at twenty . . . . my heart gives a leap.  
Remembering, the vows . . . . that I promised to keep.

At twenty-five, now . . . . . I have young of my own.  
Who need me to guide . . . and a secure happy home.  
A man of thirty . . . . . My young now grown fast,  
Bound to each other . . . With ties that should last.

At forty, my young sons . . . have grown and are gone,  
But my woman's beside me . . . to see I don't mourn.  
At fifty, once more, . . babies play 'round my knee,  
Again, we know children . . . My loved one and me.

Dark days are upon me . . . my wife is now dead.  
I look at the future . . . . . shudder with dread..  
For my young are all rearing . . . young of their own.  
And I think of the years, . and the love that I've known.

# New CBC Academic Building Named in Honor of David Watkins

Until recently, the newest addition to the campus of Central Baptist College in Conway has been referred to simply as the "Academic Building." However, students, faculty, staff and the Conway community will know it as the "David T. Watkins Academic Building" when the doors to the new building open this fall. The 38,000 sq. ft., three story structure will bear the name of Bro. Watkins, who recently retired as Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Magnolia, Arkansas, after 23 years of service.

The naming of the building came as a result of a lead contribution to the Vision 2020: A Miracle in the Making campaign made by Max and Debbie Story, long time members of First Baptist and close friends of Bro. Watkins. Vision 2020 is a plan to complete ten major construction projects in ten years to accommodate a student enrolment of 2020. A ten year master plan completed by Sowell Architects of Conway is guiding the projected expansion. The new building is the first major project in the plan.

Max Story said, "He has done so much for the Association (BMAA – Baptist Missionary Association of America) and for First Baptist Church of Magnolia and I want to honor him in this way."

Prior to going to First Baptist in 1988, Bro. David pastored churches in Texarkana, Arkansas, Ruston, Louisiana, and Crossett, Arkansas. Watkins has held numerous denominational offices on the state and national level, including serving as president of the Baptist Missionary Association of America from 2006-2008 and as chairman of the Coordinating Council of the BMA of America from 2009-2010. David served on the CBC Board of Trustees from 2002–2006 and also filled a one-year unexpired term in 2008. He has also been an active member of the Magnolia Rotary Club



David Watkins

for the past 23 years serving on the board. He has been recognized by the club as a Paul Harris Fellow, an award named after the founder of Rotary International.

"It's a fitting tribute to a humble servant and great man of God," said CBC President Terry Kimbrow. "Not only is he a past CBC board member, he is a trusted friend. I have turned to him frequently for encouragement. He almost always ends our phone conversations by praying with me."

David is a native of Waldo. He and his wife of 44 years, Sheryl, are the parents of three adult daughters. Krista Roberts and husband Dale make their home in Cleveland, Mississippi; Katie May and husband Rodney live in Magnolia, Arkansas; and Kara Way and her husband, John, live in Little Rock. The Watkins also have four grandchildren: Maggi, Hallie Kate, Heidi, and Dustin.

Clark Contractors of Little Rock has projected a completion date of mid to late June. Installation of furniture and computer systems will follow allowing the building to be operational when classes begin on August 20. The ground floor will house offices that directly serve the students in addition to administrative office. The Bible and Missions departments will be located on the second floor along with a 100+ seat lecture hall, conference rooms, and classrooms. The third floor dedicated exclusively to classrooms.

A date for the dedication service and open house for the David T. Watkins Academic Building will be announced later this summer.



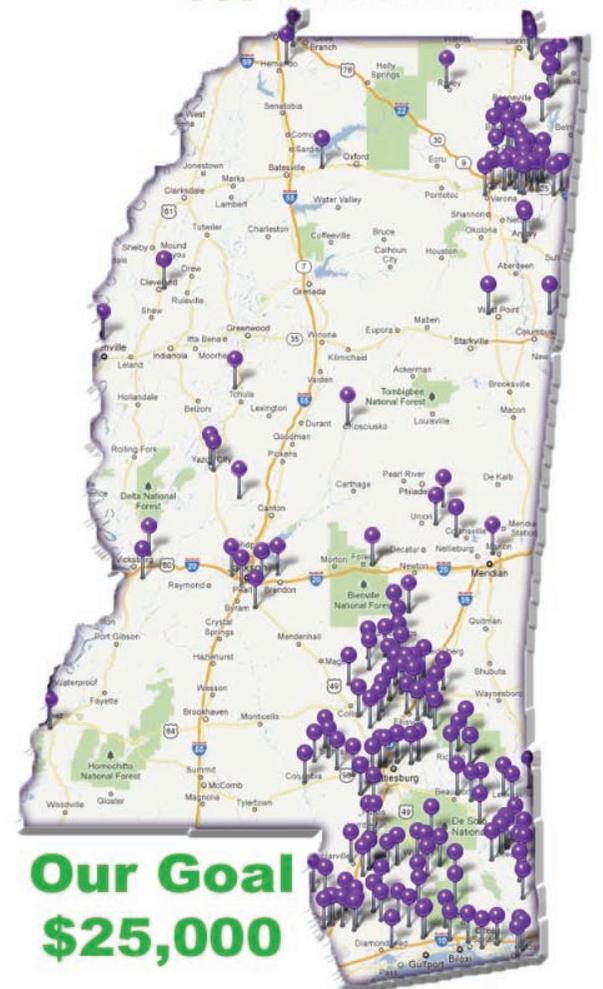
I'm now an old man . . . . . and nature is cruel.  
Tis jest to make old age . . . . look like a fool.  
The body, it crumbles . . . . grace and vigour, depart.  
There is now a stone . . . . where I once had a heart.

But inside this old carcass . . . a young guy still dwells,  
And now and again . . . . my battered heart swells.  
I remember the joys . . . . . I remember the pain.  
And I'm loving and living . . . . . life over again.

I think of the years, all too few . . . gone too fast.  
And accept the stark fact . . . that nothing can last.  
So open your eyes, people . . . . . open and see.  
Not a crabby old man. Look closer . . . see ME!!

Remember this poem when you next meet an older person who you might brush aside without looking at the young soul within . . . . we will all, one day, be there, too!

## Special Emphasis for Missions



**Our Goal \$25,000**

# 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

## GMA Retreat 2012

by Beth Caldwell  
GMA Promoter

GMA Retreat was held on March 17 and 18 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. The theme was "Danger Ahead". We had 118 in attendance. Bro. Cedric Lumpkin was retreat pastor. There were two girls saved and have since joined Shiloh Baptist Church in Mt. Olive. Why have a GMA program in your church? This is the reason, young girls saved.

The girls enjoyed making a craft on Friday afternoon and also learning about missions from Margaret Bean. Margaret is a past GMA that learned about missions and later went to the mission field. Livi Erkhart led in the House Party which was enjoyed by everyone. The officers led in the night devotions and Margaret led the adult devotional time. Rebekah Hebert, Sarah's sister, shared with the girls on Saturday morning about

### Shiloh blessed by GMA camp

Shiloh Missionary Baptist GMA's of Mt. Olive had a blast at State GMA retreat. The Lord blessed us at the state retreat. Two girls from our GMA group



Bailie White and April Norris both saved at State GMA retreat

were saved at camp. The message was brought by the camp pastor, Bro. Cedric Lumpkin. All the girls had a great time. We are already working hard for National Retreat. Hope to see your GMA girls and sponsors there. Thanks for the great time, Shiloh GMA sponsors and girls.

Sarah's work in the Philippines. Rebekah also skyped with Sarah and the girls were able to talk to her.

The counselors meet on Saturday morning to discuss ways of increasing the number of churches with GMAs. Mark Jones, Galilean director, also meet with us. First, we know that prayer is the primary answer to growing our auxiliaries, but secondly, we must have the pastor's support. Pastors, if you read this article,



Miss GMA Olivia Fairley

please consider promoting auxiliaries in your church. Mark, Linda, or I will be glad to assist you and your church in organizing the Sunbeams, GMAs and Galileans.

Mrs. Jean Knight led the Queens Coronation and there were 14 Queens to participate.

Lakelan Flynt, 2011 Mississippi and National Junior Miss GMA, introduced the participants for 2012 Junior Miss GMA. Kailee Martin, represented the Northeast District and Jordan Roberts represented the Washington District. Kailee was named 2012 Junior Miss GMA. Miranda Francis, 2011 Miss GMA, introduced the participants for Miss GMA. Mary Cross represented Hobolochitto District,

Caitlin Dalrymple, Ten Mile District and Olivia Fairley, Washington District. Olivia Fairley was named 2012 Miss GMA. Kailee and Olivia will represent Mississippi GMAs in Gary, Texas, in June.

Kiera Robertson, president, led in the Saturday morning



Junior Miss GMA Kailee Martin.

business meeting. The project for next year is 75% Bro. Farmer's mission work in the Paul B. Johnson area and 25% General Fund. Melanie Greenhaw, II Vice President, installed the newly elected officers for 2012-2013. The following officers were elected: President, Olivia Fairley, I Vice President, Caitlin Dalrymple, II Vice President, Miranda Francis, Secretary, Kimberly Mitchell, Adult Secretary, Ginny Kellum, Treasurer, Shirlene Smith, Ass't Treasurer, Sonja James, Corresponding Secretary, Clara Williams, Adult Corresponding Secretary, Delores Compston, Song Leader, Paige Williams, Adult Song Leader, Cera Jones, Pianist, Mary Cross, Adult Pianist, Tammy Bynum, Historian, Tygh Roche, and Adult Historian, Tyanne Roche.

The theme for 2012-2013 is "How Excellent is Thy Name" taken from Psalm 8:1-9. The dates for retreat next year are March 9 and 10, 2013. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us at Camp Garaywa.

*A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold. The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the maker of them all.*

Proverbs 22:1-2

## New GMA Officers



GMA officers: (left to right) Miranda, Tygh, Kimberly, Mary, Paige, Clara, Kailee, Olivia, Caitlyn.

## Contributions for The Mississippi State GMA Project

March 31, 2012  
By Shirlene Smith

1. Bethel Baptist Church, Fulton	\$150.00
2. Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso	100.00
3. Buffalo Baptist Church, McLain	880.00
4. Homestretch Baptist Church, Cleveland	200.00
5. Hopewell Baptist Church, Laurel	167.05
6. Mildred Sumrall, Temple Baptist Church, Laurel	100.00
7. Movella Baptist Church, Lucedale	90.00
8. Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Carriere	120.00
9. Paramount Baptist Church, Perkinston	141.00
10. Shiloh Baptist Church, Mt. Olive	1,000.00
11. Skyway Hills Baptist Church, Pearl	345.00
12. Temple Baptist Church, Lucedale	350.00
13. Ten Mile Baptist Church, Wiggins	150.00

Funds raised at GMA Retreat:

14. Snack Shop	491.30
15. Officers' Competition	276.60
16. Candy Grams	21.50
17. Craft Sales	579.19
18. Silent Auction	213.00
19. T-shirt Profits	377.00
<b>Total received for the GMA project</b>	<b>\$5,751.64</b>
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR THE 2011-2012 GMA PROJECT	
1/3 General Fund	\$1,917.26
1/3 Alicia Ramshur/Margaret Bean	1,917.19
1/3 Nicki Prickett	1,917.19
<b>Total Received for the project</b>	<b>\$5,751.64</b>

Thanks to each church and each individual who contributed to this project. People will be blessed because of your generous spirit. We pray that many will be saved. The State GMA project for 2012-2013 is 25% General Fund and 75% Sidney Farmer Mission near Paul B. Johnson State Park. Pray for our youth work - Galileans, GMAs, and Sunbeams. God bless you as you serve through your local church.

## NORTH MISSISSIPPI SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

May 1, 2012

9:30 AM

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

Fulton, Mississippi

Presented by

Commission on Senior Adults

# Dozer Work

Having spent a little over eighteen years in the ministry, there is one question that I have been asked the most during this time. "Are you bi-vocational?" Not wanting people to think that I am some sort of a snob, or Greek scholar, I always answered this inquiry with an emphatic "NO". I had intended to look up what "bi-vocational" meant, in case that was one of the qualifications of being a pastor, but, alas, time and laziness prevented me from doing so. As it turned out, it simply means "Do you have a real job to go along with preaching?" I definitely discount my brother-in-law's notion that it means "I have heard you preach and you better have something to fall back on".

Somewhere along the line, possibly with the resurgence of television evangelism, popular opinion has been swayed to look

with suspicion upon a preacher that doesn't have another job outside of preaching. It seems that all a preacher does, in some people's eyes, is play golf and go fishing. In all fairness, I do know a preacher that named his boat "Visitation". He was always going on "visitation". To me it is unconscionable for a man to be deceitful in this manner and not invite me to go with him when he visits, as I have never been much of a golfer.

Upon learning the definition of "bi-vocational" and hearing people snore throughout my sermons, I thought it might be a good idea to keep my eyes open for a second job - the word "calling" becoming an antiquated term. Last Sunday, I noticed some of the members picking up stones and testing them for size and throwing capacity while others just left mumbling with glazed eyes. One even men-

tioned that I should "Go and sin no more"!

My prayers were answered as I drove down Highway 49 this past weekend. There was, as if it was a sign from God, a ...well, a sign. It said "H e l p Wanted: Dozer Work. Experience required". If there was ever a job that I was qualified at doing, it was dozer work. Why, many times I barely get through announcing my scripture passage and many are already dozing. Sometimes when I get through, I sneak out and quietly turn the lights off so as not to disturb anyone's nap. That is going above and beyond in my pastoral duties if you ask me!

I myself, am pretty good at dozing. In fact, I feel qualified to teach courses on dozing, but nobody would stay awake during my lectures. I couldn't fail the students for sleeping during a class on dozing. It is a conundrum.

Anyway, I found out that people that do hard labor aren't that much on talking to preach-

ers who waste their time by asking them for a job doing dozer work. The man doing the hiring kept wanting me to get up on some kind of big machine. I told him nobody could hear me preach with all the noise from the engine and he

said that was probably for the best.

All this stress had my nerves honed to a razor sharp edge, and I knew that sooner or later I would have to learn how to play golf. Upon learning that this game requires the use of "clubs" and hard, round projectiles, I decided it best not to go with any of my members. In fact, I may just stick to going on visitation.



## From The Mind of



Chuck Lee

## Worshiping Our Lord

*Scripture views the glorifying of God as a sixfold activity: praising God for all that he is and all his achievements; thanking him for his gifts and his goodness to us; asking him to meet our own and others' needs; offering him our gifts, our service, and ourselves; learning of him from his word, read and preached, and obeying his voice; telling others of his worth, both by public confession and testimony to what he has done for us.*

*Thus we might say that the basic formulas of worship are these: "Lord, you are wonderful"; "Thank you, Lord"; "Please Lord"; "Take this, Lord"; "Yes, Lord"; "Listen everybody!"*

## Piano CDs for Churches to Sing By!

*If your church doesn't have a pianist or needs an option for when your pianist isn't available, Christian piano CDs can be a wonderful solution for your congregational singing or small group gatherings. The challenge is finding accompaniment CDs with instrumentation appropriate for your congregation or small group – and one that is easy to use. Worship Service Resources provides a solution! At DiscipleGuide we are partnering with them to make these worship resources available to you. Log onto [www.DiscipleGuide.org/PianoCDs](http://www.DiscipleGuide.org/PianoCDs) or call 1-800-333-1442.*



**DiscipleGuide**  
CHURCH RESOURCES  
1-800-333-1442, [www.DiscipleGuide.org](http://www.DiscipleGuide.org)



# MISSISSIPPI MISSIONS

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

The months of April and May are set aside for special emphasis on missions. Your prayer and financial support, above your normal giving, will greatly enhance our ability to send missionaries and support those who are on the field. Romans



Larry Geraldson  
Director

10:15 asks the question... "how shall they preach, except they be sent?" Preaching is a biblical method ordained by God and set forth as a principle in the New Testament. According to I Corinthians 1:21, "...after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." Each church was mailed a packet of promotional material which displays our goals. If you did not receive this, please call us immediately.

## Special Thanks

After five months of living in my small trailer, with Cherita visiting from Conway, Cherita and I are finally in the Director's home. Since its purchase, I become the fifth Director to live here, spanning a period of 46 years. Together, we want to express our deep appreciation to all those that worked to make things ready. We want to express our special thanks to the RLF Trustees for being proactive in reaching beyond our modest request for improvements, to address a number of necessary and needed upgrades.

Our gratitude has been expressed to our Heavenly Father. Cherita and I stopped on our first night in the home and prayed together, offering thanks to God for His goodness and kindness expressed, through you, by the Trustees, in giving us a place to live. Your investment will serve as a constant reminder to me of Luke 12:48 "...unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required..." and I shall do my best to serve you and the Lord faithfully. To all of you, we say, "Thanks for your patience." We realize the job could have been done faster, but we determined to move slowly so as not to detract our attention from Missions. Incidentally, no

Missions money was spent on this project. The cost was covered under the building and improvement fund, paid for by the RLF.

## Introducing Our Newest Missionary

Bro. Sidney Farmer was approved by the Missionary Committee to serve as a church planting missionary to the South Forrest County area. Bro. Sidney officially began his work on April 1, 2012. Paramount Baptist Church, Pastor Dennis Knight, is the sponsoring church. Bro. Sidney has already completed the missionary training. More information about this mission project can be found at <http://southforrest.org>.



Sidney Farmer

## Partnering Together

We are honored to partner together with the Capital Association in support of Bro. Justin Rhodes. The Capital Association recently committed an initial support of \$2000.00 per month to help with the work in Clinton.

## Missionary Reports for March

### El Camino (The Way)

Bro. Estuardo reported 29 homes visited and 41 soul talks, 6 professions of faith and 4 baptisms. Their average attendance is 108. His offerings averaged \$909.00 weekly. El Camino's mission project in Petal is averaging 7 and they had 0 professions of faith. Find out more at <http://elcaminoiglesia.org>.



Estuardo  
Marriquin

### First Hispanic

Bro. Elvis reports 44 homes visited, 73 soul talks, and 0 professions of faith and 0 baptisms. Their average attendance is 93. His offerings averaged \$1,055.00 weekly. Bro. Elvis continues to work with a new mission group in Tupelo

which meets in the fellowship hall of South Green Baptist Church. The Tupelo mission is averaging 17 each week. Find out more at <http://caminoverdadvida.net>.



Elvis Garcia

### New Heart Mission

Bro. Ray Boone reports 133 homes visited, 33 soul talks, and 0 professions of faith and 0 baptisms. Their average attendance is 38 in AM attendance and 28 in the PM Service. New Heart's offerings averaged \$414.00 weekly. Find out more at <http://newheartbaptist.org>.



Ray Boone

### Caledonia Mission

Bro. Bob Burch reports 6 homes visited and 14 soul talks. Bro. Burch continues to connect with people in the area including, but not limited to, the mayor and the local high school principal. He has visited with a number of pastors in the area and attended a Wednesday service at Shiloh MBC, located at Steens. Bro. Burch returned to Steens the following Saturday to assist with a workday at Shiloh. Caledonia is one of the fastest growing communities in the state. Find out more at <http://caledoniabaptist.org>.



Bob Burch

### Clinton Mission

Bro. Justin Rhodes reports 7 homes visited and 3 soul talks as he begins the initial start up of his work in Clinton. Plans have been made for an interest meeting with 3 families in the area on the 19th. Please continue to pray for the work in Clinton. Find out more at <http://crosswayclinton.org>.



Justin Rhodes

### South Forrest

Bro. Sidney Farmer reports 9 attending an initial start up meeting. Visiting and follow up is now being done. Please continue to pray for this work.

# Controlling Social Media

from page 1

of trouble if they are left to their own in this area. They can also go behind your back and get involved with the wrong crowd in this area. They can sin by seeing ungodly things, talking about unholy things, or by getting involved in sinful endeavors all through social media. They can also be hurt by people who prey upon young people in this arena of electronic media.

Your testimony as a Christian is very clear for all to know through your personal electronic media devices. When your cell phone goes off, everyone for 20 feet around you hears a few seconds of what you fill your mind with in music. I like my ring tones to be testimonials. When my phone goes off, everyone around me in the store will hear a song entitled, "Jesus- Messiah - the Name above all names."

What songs have your kids downloaded on their iPod? Are they Christian? Most secular music today, regardless of music style, is vulgar and totally inappropriate for Christians to listen to. The messages in songs today follow this decadent society and their addiction to sinful sexuality. Many of the songs use curse words and sing about all kinds of things that shouldn't even be spoken of, let alone sung about.

You should know every person listed on your child's cell phone. A parent has the right to know who their kids are hanging with. Who a child hangs with, is a large determining factor of who they become. In the old days, parents wanted to know what crowd you were hanging out with. Now parents need to know what crowd they are texting? You need to go through your child's phone list and ask who the people are. You need to look at the text and the photos. 75% of all teenagers have sent or received pictures of friends naked on the cell phone. This is not snooping. This is called

Find out more at <http://southforrest.org>.

## Don't Forget

The Missions and Evangelism Conference is May 4th at Skyway Hills in Pearl. Find a complete program and map with directions at [www.bmams.org](http://www.bmams.org).

supervising your children - adult supervision. They need you to parent them in these areas. We want our children to be Christians no matter what area of life we are speaking of.

One of the main ways good Christian kids get messed up is when they start hanging out with the wrong crowd. The wrong crowd is family enemy number one. With today's technology, your kids can start down the wrong path without every actually having to directly interact with the wrong crowd. Dishonoring attitudes and immoral behavior can be displayed through these modern day conveniences.

Your child's facebook page is their testimony to the world. They may list themselves as a "Christian" on their status. So what. Anyone can do that. Look at the comments. Look at the pictures they post or their friend's post. We are known by the company we keep. You should have access numbers and be able to follow your teens on facebook. If they are not doing anything wrong, then they have nothing to hide. I can tell exactly where you are in your spiritual walk by looking at your facebook page. If your child protests, then perhaps they are responding out of guilt. If your teen doesn't want you to look at all their things - why? What are they hiding? You don't have to constantly snoop, but you are making a big mistake to let all of this go freely, with no checking from time to time, on your part.

You know, most people would agree that kids and teens need to have their testimony checked in the area of social media. What are they saying to the world? Sadly, the wrong example is often times set by the parents. I have been appalled at some people who go to church and claim to be Christian, and yet have very unbecoming photos or comments on Facebook, Twitter or their texting.

Come on adults! Let's be moral role leaders to our younger people. Let's clean up our act on social media, and set a good example. Then we can monitor our children to help them make wise choices in this area so the Lord would find favor with one of His children who call themselves by His name. I Thess. 5:22, "Abstain from all appearances of evil."