

Baptist

Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

April 1, 2014

www.bmaofmississippi.com

Vol. 68 No. 7

Little Rock Holiday Inn Extends Special Rate

from BMAA Committee on Arrangements

The Holiday Inn Presidential Hotel in Little Rock has agreed to extend their special room rate of \$105.99 (1-4 people per room) beyond the cut-off date of March 28.

The hotel is located at 600 Interstate 30 just six blocks from the Statehouse Convention Center. Free parking is available to registered guests and shuttle service is available to the convention center if arranged through the front desk.

If you will be attending the BMA of America meeting April 28-30 and have not reserved a room within the block of rooms arranged by the Committee on Arrangements, please consider making a reservation at the Holiday Inn Presidential. Please use the code BMA when making your reservation. You may make your reservation by phone at 501-375-2100.

Meeting space at the Statehouse Convention Center will be rent free if we fill our hotel room block. Please help save our churches money by using the available rooms at the Holiday Inn Presidential Hotel.



Missionary Care - Sarah (Hebert) Hamilton

By Dr. John David Smith

BMAA Executive Director of Missions

Sarah (Hebert) Hamilton served as a BMAA missionary in the Philippines from 2010-2013. Her role on the missionary team there consisted of teaching classes at the BMA Bible College, discipling young ladies, and serving as a counselor to the Bible college students. Sarah returned from the mission field in 2013 and was married to Chris Hamilton. Chris recently completed his undergraduate degree at Central

Baptist College and plans to attend seminary later this year.

When Sarah transitioned back to the U.S., the Missions' leadership felt like this would be a golden opportunity to invite Sarah to be a part of our Missionary Care team and serve alongside Bro. Jerry Kidd



Sarah & Chris Hamilton

in this ministry. Missionary Care is the arm of BMA Missions that invests in the spiritual, emotional, physical, and family lives of our missionaries before they go to the field, while they are there, and as they are readjusting to their home culture when they return. They minister to those who are on the front lines of missions all over the world.

Sarah has adapted well to her new part-time role with BMA Missions. Even though she is part-time, her support structure is "65/35" where she is responsible to raise 65% of her salary. We would like to recommend Sarah to speak at your church concerning Missionary Care and her role in this ministry. She grew up in GMAs and she would make an excellent speaker in those contexts as well.

What a great opportunity to have someone serving with us in this vital ministry who has a missions degree, has served on the field, and has a heart for missionaries and their specific challenges. If you feel led to partner with Sarah or invite her to speak at your church, you may contact her at 662-401-5673 or sarah@bmaam.com.

BMA Missions Offers Short-Term Missions Training

Short-Term Mission Teams from all across the BMA landscape are gearing up for a busy summer. More and more churches are allowing their members to get first-hand missions experience by taking a team on a short-term mission trip. Whether they are traveling to a foreign country or right here in America, Short-Term Missions has gone from being a culture phenomena to a tremendous missions movement across the American Christian landscape, including the BMA. If done well, these trips can be a wonderful tool that God will use to enhance the ministry of the missionary on the field. If done poorly, it can become an albatross that can damage the missionary's long-term success and actually hurt the cause of Christ.

BMA Missions is committed to helping our churches get to the mission field and do a great job of ministry once they arrive. BMA Missions is offering free on-line training for short-term mission teams. At <http://bmamissions.org/shorttermtraining/> you will find great teaching

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Sharing the Rock with Little Rock

Evangelism Effort Set For National Meeting

BMAA Department Directors and Bro. Paul White, BMA of Arkansas Missions Director, have planned Sharing the Rock with Little Rock. Those who will be willing to "do the work of an evangelist" should meet at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, April 28, 2014, near the Northeast corner windows overlooking the river on the Ballroom Level of the Convention Center.

Participants will receive survey forms, tracts, and instructions. Teams will be formed and sent from there to witness in selected neighborhoods where BMA churches are located. Dr. Holmes will lead a team that will reach out to the area around the hotel and convention center. Just bring your New Testament and an expectant, prayed-up heart. There is no admission fee for this event.

MISSIONS ACROSS MISSISSIPPI: APRIL - MAY 2014
SPECIAL EMPHASIS GOAL - \$30,000

Special Emphasis for State Missions



Missions

Our Goal is \$30,000.00

Legend:
 - BMA Church (Purple)
 - Mission Project (Red)
 - Future Mission Project (Green)

Mission Teams and Sponsor Churches:

- Byron and Claudia Morales – Ripley
- Elvis and Wendy Garcia – Way, Truth & Life, Ripley, MS
- Bobby and Lesa Elliott – Burnsville (Sponsor Church – Forked Oak, Burnsville)
- Kenneth & Carole Pollock – Burnsville (Sponsor Church – FB Mantachie)
- Erin Pech – Oxford
- Humberto & Rogelia Navarro – Tupelo
- Kelby and Jessie Johnson – New Albany (Sponsor Church – Bethel Baptist, Fulton)
- James & Deloris Cook – Olive Branch
- Ed & Patricia DuVall – Homestretch, Cleveland, MS
- Bob & Edie Burch – Calendonía (Sponsor Church – East Fulton, Fulton)
- Donnie & Jewel Loggins – Indianola
- Estuardo & Yasmine Marroquin & Abby El Camino, Laurel, MS
- Ed & Patricia DuVall – Homestretch, Cleveland, MS
- Inocencio Rivera – Hattiesburg
- Danny & Brenda Bartlett-Clinton (Sponsor Church – Wilderness, Vicksburg)
- Phillip & Dawn Burns – Sumrall (Sponsor Church – FB Bay Springs)
- Ray & JoAnn Boone – South Hattiesburg (Sponsor Church – Pine Grove, Purvis)
- Sidney & Becky Farmer – South Forest (Sponsor Church – Paramount, Wiggins)
- Marciano & Maria Montalvo – Hattiesburg
- Lorenzo Mendoza – Biloxi

Short-Term Missions Training

continued from page 1

on how to prepare and then carry out a short-term mission trip for your church. There are tremendous video lessons designed for your mission team to watch together and corresponding printed training materials for your team to download. A veteran Short-Term Team Leader with years of mission trip leadership experience teaches each video lesson. All of the videos and materials are offered free of charge.

Your BMA Missions team urges all Short-Term Missionaries going to take the time to watch these videos with their team and to download the corresponding printed materials. Mission Trips are only as effective as the time that is spent in training. Disastrous mistakes can be avoided if teams and team leaders will give themselves time to be trained by others. Tremendous blessings can be realized if teams are truly prepared before they leave for the field.



Donnie Parish

BMA Missions wants your church to experience the fulfillment of taking the Gospel of Christ to the nations. They are committed to providing each Short-Term Missions Team high quality training so each trip can fulfill its ultimate purpose: To make the name of Jesus more famous around the world and to enhance the ministry of the local missionary on the field.

For any questions you might have concerning BMA Short-Term Missions contact Donny Parrish at 972.571.0357 or at donny@bmaamerica.org.

If there is no opposition there is no victory!

Guest Opinion

FIRST-PERSON: Cuteness vs. divine revelation

by Paul Mathenia
MOUNTAINHOME, Ark. (BP)
-- How do you compete with cuteness?

Everybody loves the cuteness, innocence and honesty of children. Now comes the story of Colton Burpo who, at age 4,

told of a three-minute trip to heaven and returned to tell us "Heaven Is For Real," a New York Times Bestseller published by Thomas Nelson in 2010.

Millions have read the gripping story that will soon be

seen by predictably larger numbers when the movie version is released in April just in time for Easter.

Should this amazing testimony be taken at face value? Or as Todd Burpo, Colton's father asked in the book's prologue, "How could he [Colton] have known?" And, "Could this be real?"

Todd concluded that there is only one explanation for his son's knowledge -- it's an eyewitness account in heaven itself. Therefore, what Colton said must be real. Reading various reviews and endorsements of the book, it appears that many, including evangelical leaders, have come to the same conclusion.

But how should a Bible-believing Christian respond?

The cuteness, innocence and honesty of 4-year-olds as well as the testimony of adults must bow before the divine revelation of God's Word.

On the one hand I am happy the movie is coming out. What a great opportunity to get people talking about heaven! Those who view the movie will be open to discussing its views of heaven compared to biblical teachings. A clear and accurate presentation of the Gospel can easily flow from this.

On the other hand I am saddened. Many people will succumb to the real temptation to base their view of heaven on the word of a 4-year-old boy

instead of the Word of God. This type of reaction has already followed the book.

Space will allow just a few areas in the book that cause concern and may be part of the movie version:

-- Colton said that in heaven, "Everybody's got wings" (p. 72), and "Pop [Todd's grandfather] has really big wings" (p. 87). This is not found in the Bible. This description could further a common misunderstanding that humans become angels in heaven; but we do not.

-- Speaking of Pop on another occasion, Colton said, "He's in heaven. He's got a new body. Jesus told me if you don't go to heaven, you don't get a new body" (p. 136). The Bible assures believers they will get a new body, but the new body is not received until the resurrection. During the time between physical death and resurrection we continue to exist, but not in a physical body (1 Corinthians 15:12-58; 2 Corinthians 5:1-8).

-- Then there are odd revelations by Colton that seem to be accepted without question: God's throne is "really, really big, because God is the biggest one there is" (p. 100) and the Holy Spirit is "kind of blue" (p. 103). These descriptions are not supported by Scripture.

-- My greatest concern is seen in the mostly subtle inferences, and sometimes direct statements, that God's Word is somehow confirmed by the testimony of Colton. The Bible stands true on its own merits and is not dependent of one's

2014 Galilean Camp Update

by Mark Jones
Galilean Promoter

The Galileans held their annual state camp March 14-15 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, Mississippi. We had 60 campers this year. Our theme was 'mystery' from Ephesians 6:19-20. We had 7 churches this year with 1 new church attending. There were 4 speakers this year each teaching a different part about telling others about Jesus. A special thanks to Larry Tramel, Josh Awtry, Drew Wheeler, & Glen Walley

Philip Christian was selected Mr. Senior Galilean and Maverick Farris Mr. Junior Galilean. These young men will move onto the national competition June 9-13 in Gary, Texas. Please be on prayer for them as they work towards this goal.

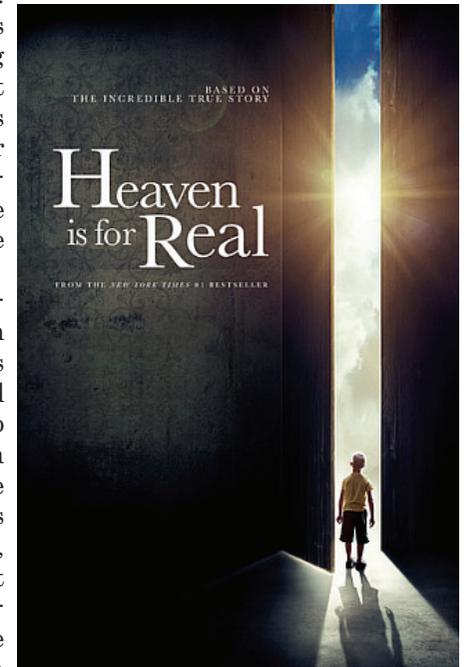
This year's camp was so special; a great time of fellowship with all the boys and young men. You make lifelong friends at Galilean Camp whether it is state camp or national.

We are already planning



Philip Christian (left) is Mr. Senior Galilean and Maverick Farris is Mr. Junior Galilean

next year's camp where our theme will be "Building Barriers" from II Peter 5-9. If any church would like to start a Galilean Program please contact me. You will be blessed by working with these young men.



experiences to confirm it; on the contrary, the Word of God must confirm all experiences.

Remember Todd's first question, "How could he [Colton] have known" some of the things he talked about? How could a person know information about dead loved ones they didn't even know existed?

Anyone with young children knows they are like sponges. By 4 years of age, children's concepts of heaven and God have been heavily colored by television shows they have watched, books that have been read to them, and conversations of countless adults and older children they have overheard. Further, the ability of the enemy to provide deceptive information cannot be ignored. The descriptions of heaven in this book are a common theme in other books that relate near-death experiences.

The Bible commands us, "do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God" (1 John 4:1). Whether through testimonies of near-death experiences, as in this instance, or overt false teaching, the test must always be God's Word (Isaiah 8:20).

Think about this: God has spoken with finality by sending His Son back from the dead to show us the way to heaven. Would the One who has thus

A Bug's Life

What moves like Elvis after six, five minute energy drinks taken consecutively in three minutes while listening to

Buddy Holly's "Ollie V" during a martial arts workout? Me, but only after running head first into the first spider web of three thousand while walking through the woods to go turkey hunting. By the way, a school girl scream can evoke a shock gobble from a tom turkey on the roost.

Granted, the turkey is probably gobbling while on his way to less haunted woods and eerie screams. You would think that after forty or more years

tromping through fields, woods, swamps, mountains, and every other type of landscape, that I would react a little

calmer to this exhilarating experience. But, alas, I continue to create moves that would make Michael Jackson envious. Aheeehee! (That was a Michael Jackson imitation for those of you who were wondering.)

Bugs annoy me. One reason is that they have an uncanny ability to zip up a nostril at the exact moment that I am sucking a copious amount of air into my lungs to expel a sneeze. If a doctor looked in-

side my lungs, he would probably find an enormous amount of bug legs and wings

fossilized on the side walls or resting comfortably on the bottom. It's best one never look in there.

Another reason is that something as small as a wasp or an ant should not have the ability to inflict an enormous amount of pain when stinging or biting. Then, if the initial assault wasn't enough, you have to deal with the itching for days to come. It's unfair.

I would be willing to cohabit peacefully with the creepy crawlers, but every time I sit down to negotiate over dinner, a fly will zip in and go hiking across my mountain of potato salad. I live next

to a field full of beef cows. There is something about knowing where that fly was before he joined our party

that ruins a good potato salad. A dead skunk in the road, a pile of cow, uh, well, a pile of...or a bowl of spaghetti, it is all the same to a fly.

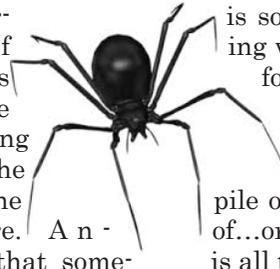
One day we will perhaps understand the mystery of "Why Love Bugs?", but until that day I will continue to drop flaming bombs of plastic coke bottles onto ant-hills, spray generous amounts of insect killer around the house, and complain every year while washing a million love bugs off the grill of my truck.

The spider incident did allow me a few moments of cardio exercise that would rival P90X. So I say, BRING IT!

From The Mind of



Chuck Lee



Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

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Don Brown

Mississippi Baptist

Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Don Brown - Editor

Telling Others That They May Know

The Big Creek Association just completed its third annual Association Wide Revival. Dr. Travis Plumlee was the speaker and the constant theme of his messages was about witnessing and telling others about Jesus.

This local effort has been extremely successful. We have met at different churches each night and the crowds have been overflowing. This is something that I encourage each local association to consider. The cooperation between churches increases good Christian fellowship and strengthens our bonds in Christ.

It is good for brethren to meet together and work together. Big Creek Association member churches have grown closer together due to this effort. Try it. You'll like it!

in Little Rock, Arkansas, later this month. One of the highlights will be on Monday afternoon before the meeting officially begins. The Arkansas State Missions office in cooperation with BMA Seminary and other departments will be "Sharing the Rock with Little Rock". More information about this effort can be found in the article on the front page of this issue.

Reaching Others

April and May 2014 are Special Emphasis months for the Mississippi State Missions Department. Bro. Geraldson has sent informa-

tion to our churches to encourage giving to this effort. Without sufficient funds, spreading the Gospel and planting churches on a state wide basis would be impossible. Yes, it takes money to do the Lord's work!

Around The World

There are other articles in this issue that stress worldwide missions. May we never lose the vision that Jesus loves the world and as believers, it is our duty

to tell all that they may know there is a God in Heaven who loves them and a Savior who will save them.

That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else. Isaiah 45:6

Sharing The Rock

Our national association meets

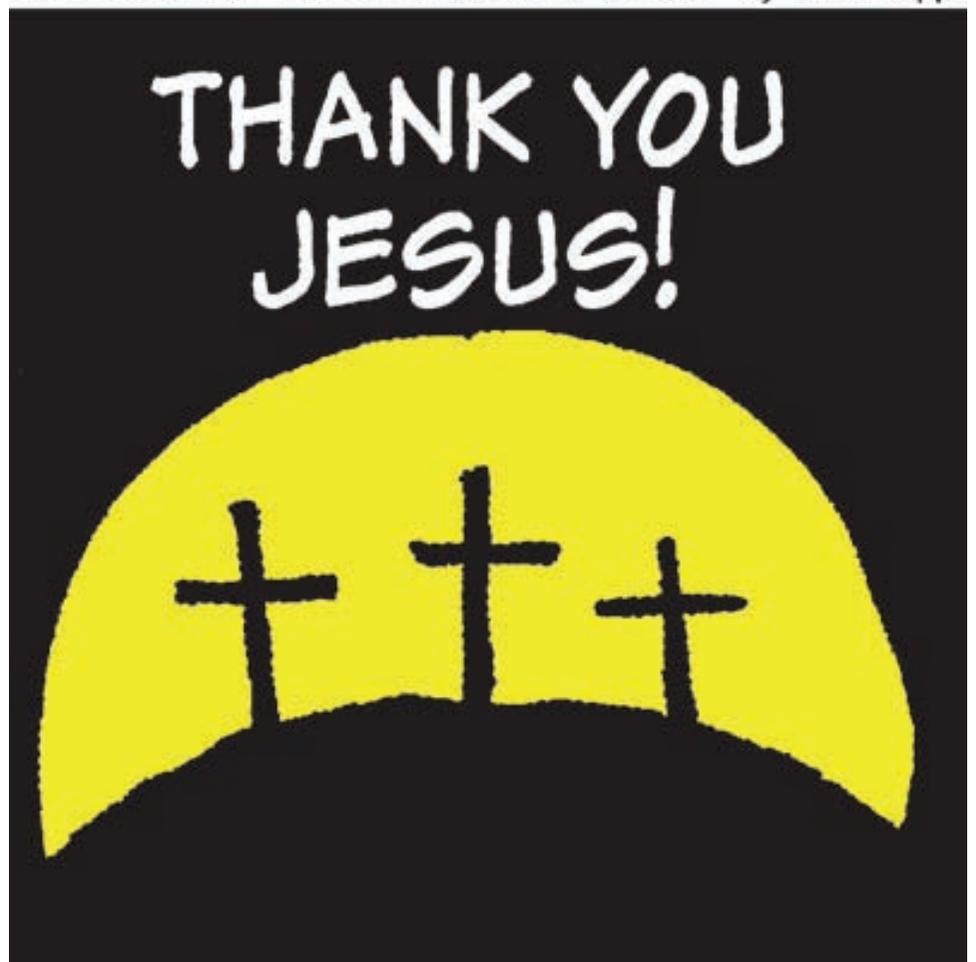
CONSIDER THIS

All it takes for evil to prevail is for God's people to be satisfied where they are, happy with the condition of their local church, always look inwardly and to do nothing to increase the kingdom.

Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth

Math 28:18

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Progress in the fight against abortion
Appeals court upholds Texas abortion restrictions

AUSTIN, Texas - Dr. Lester Minto knows he won't be able to reopen his clinic after a federal appeals court upheld tough new abortion restrictions in Texas.

Minto has been providing abortions for three decades, but he closed his clinic near the Mexico border earlier this month because of a law that imposes some of the nation's strictest limitations on the procedure. The law, which was overwhelmingly approved last summer by the Republican controlled Texas Legislature, has helped force numerous clinics to close.

A lower court judge initially ruled that parts of the law were unconstitutional and served no medical purpose, but the 5th Circuit allowed some regulations to remain in effect while it mulled the appeal. On Thursday, the appeals court ruled that the law "on its face does

not impose an undue burden on the life and health of a woman."

The case however, will likely end up at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Restrictions already in effect require abortion doctors to have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital and place strict limits on physicians prescribing abortion inducing pills. But other facets of the omnibus law won't take effect this fall, meaning some of the 24 abortion clinics still open in Texas — a state of 26 million people — also could close.

So far, the regulations have helped force at least 19 clinics to close statewide, including Minto's in Harlingen.

Planned Parenthood had filed the lawsuit seeking to block part of the law. On Thursday, the organization said the appeals ruling meant that "safe and legal abortion will continue to be virtually impossible for thousands of Texas women to access."

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, a Republican running for governor who defended the law in court, cheered Thursday's ruling from the panel of 5th Circuit judges.

"This unanimous decision is a vindication of the careful deliberation by the Texas Legislature to craft a law to protect the health and safety of Texas women," Abbott said.

Other aspects of the new rules, including a requirement that all procedures take place in a surgical facility, are set to begin in September. Those elements also may be challenged in court.

Parkview Welcomes Dr. John Adams for Spring Revival

We would like to invite you to join us in our revival services being held April 6-9 at Parkview Baptist Church. Dr. John Adams, pastor of First Baptist Mantachie, and director of Moral Action on both the state and national level, will be our speaker.



Bro. John Adams Latrelle Windham, minister of music at Parkview, will be leading in the song service.

Services begin Sunday morning at 10:45 A.M. with lunch, and then the afternoon service, to follow. Service time through the week is 7 P.M. each evening. We would love for you to be part of this revival effort, but if you cannot share with us in presence, we ask that you please support us with your prayers.

Ministry Opportunity

Church Seeks Pastor

Midway First Baptist Church of Sumrall, Mississippi is seeking a pastor. Those interested may send a resume to the church at 77 Midway Church Rd, Sumrall, MS 39482 or email to midwayfirstbaptist@hotmail.com.

Available For Service

Christopher Flynn

Christopher Flynn has resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church of Orange Grove in Gulfport, Mississippi, after 3 years of service and is available for service! He may be reached at 228-297-3562.

COMMISSION ON Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt
Director

A Great **Senior Jubilee** at Big Creek. Over 400 Senior Adults and friends gathered at Big Creek Baptist Church for the 2014 **South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference**. A great time of singing, preaching, worshipping, fellowship and eating was enjoyed by all! It was a great day in the Lord!



North Mississippi Conference
May 13, 2014
East Fulton Baptist Church
Fulton, Mississippi

Jumbled Nerves and Knotted Stomach

Almost everyone has experienced anxiety. It actually happens from time to time throughout our life. Some folks get a little anxious before taking off in an airplane. Some are even more anxious and won't even fly. You might not sleep well the night before you leave on a big trip. You might feel anxious before surgery, a major exam in school, a job interview etc... The list is endless. It is part of us being human and not knowing the future. Sometimes it is a double whammy. We don't know the future, but we have had some past experiences with the same thing that didn't end well. You couple those things together and we have liftoff to the old anxiety rocket.

This winter has produced some anxious moments for me while driving to churches or back home. I have had to go through horrible road conditions in the Ozarks from winter weather. Here it is in March and back home they are having their 3rd winter storm with snow! I guess that means another anxious trip home down those ice and snow covered mountains with their steep drop offs and curves. We all have anxiety. But some people

have it all the time. It is unending.

When I have gripped the wheel hard and my neck is strained and my stomach is in a knot from winter driving, it takes time to sit at home and



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

unwind. But what if my body had that experience all the time? People who suffer with anxiety disorders and panic attacks feel this way every day. Some people have so much anxiety that their bodies are feeling like they are coming apart on the inside every day as long as they are awake. Of course people with anxiety don't sleep well either. Whether it is a little anxiety from some situation that we find ourselves in, or you suffer from an anxiety disorder, the good news is that it is something that we can conquer through the power of Christ. Romans 8:37 means we can

conquer our anxiety.

There are two huge components to dealing with anxiety. One is learning to control your thinking. While the devil may want you to think that you have no control over your thoughts – in fact we do. An Olympic athlete has to train their body to perform. Professional athletes even say it is necessary to get your head straight because the mental aspect of performing is crucial. Maybe you have heard the old saying, “get your head in the game”. To deal with anxiety you must control your thinking. Stop allowing your mind to dwell on things that “might happen”. The “what if this happens” mind set produces anxiety. You are already defeated if you say I can't control my thoughts. Yes, you can. Train your brain!

When you start with all the negative projections of what might happen, tell yourself in your own mind that you will give these thoughts to God because He is in control. He is all powerful and mighty and nothing can happen to you without His knowledge. Even if something bad happens, He is still there for you to help you and comfort you. Bottom line – no matter what happens to me, I

face an eternity with no problems and no worries when I go to heaven because I am saved by Jesus. Jesus loves me. He is here for me. I have the victory.

Look at the problem or situation from a position of victory. You are the victor because Christ is in you. Colossians 1:27. He tells you to be happy because he has overcome everything that can come into your life. Everything! John 16:33. The Lord also tells you to take every thought captured for Him. II Corinthians 10:5. You are not training yourself in your brain when you let your thoughts run unabated with worry. Capture them. Give them to God. Let God have them and know he loves you.

When you give these worrisome thoughts to God get busy. I am not saying to repress or mask emotions. I am saying when it comes to anxiety stop your train of thoughts. Derail them and give them to God. Quote scripture or read your Bible. Reading the Bible always has a calming and healing component to it because it is coming from the mouth of God. Then do something. Get your mind occupied with something. Anything. If the thoughts come back, give them

to God again and change your activity again. Keep doing this until you learn to control your thinking. Finally, learn to pray for the fruit of the spirit of self-control and peace found in Galatians 5:22, 23. You have not because you ask not. Ask Jesus to guard your heart and mind. Philippians 4:6, 7. Keep praying for Him to guard your mind and heart until it happens.

And herein lays the second key to controlling anxiety. You have to grow spiritually and start trusting God more. Worry and anxiety comes from not trusting Him fully with the outcome of our daily lives. I'm not knocking you. We all have to work on trusting God more. We humans think we have to control our life and that of our loved ones. Trust the one who has the whole world in His hand. He loves you and your family more than you do. His will is the best for you.

The only way to trust him more is to spend more time in his presence: the Bible, prayer and church. Quiet times with the Lord increase your trust. Also, remember how he has been there for you in the past. Now all I have to do is practice what I preach later this week when I drive down that 11% grade road that is covered in snow with not even a guardrail at the bottom and a 100 foot drop off. These winter days are some of my best revivals in my truck. Ha.

Mississippi WMA

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Ten Mile District WMA

2013-2014 Theme: It Is Well
“Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, Is it well with thee? Is it well with thy husband? Is it well with the child? And she answered, It is well.” 2 Kings 4:26

The Ten Mile District WMA met in January at Vardaman Street Church in Wiggins. Our Ten Mile District GMA and Sunbeam Coronations were held and led by Dianna Williams and Angela Givens.

The GMA Theme is from Psalm: 26 10-11 “In whose hands is a sinister scheme. And whose right hand is full of bribes. But as for me I will walk in my integrity; Redeem me and be merciful to me.” The District GMA Promoters are Jerrica Kirkland and Assistant

Adrienne Compston.

Our Projects for 2013-2014 are as follows:

75% Bro. Bobby & Lesa Elliot,
25% General Fund
State Project 2013-2014,
National Project 2013-2014
40% I Am Woman in Beirut, Lebanon
15% Youth Fund, 5% General Fund
40% New Missionary Bobby Elliot next Quarter

Historian Louise Crawley requested for all the ladies to write a brief testimony of their Salvation.

We enjoyed refreshments and a great fellowship with Vardaman Street Baptist Church. Our next meeting will be on April 14, 2014, 7:00 PM at Ten Mile Baptist Church.

Reporter Maria Ochoa



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

The Split Gown

(A Whole New Meaning to ICU)

Not many of us are able to spend our entire life without at least one visit to a hospital for treatment of something. So if you've ever had that experience, you will understand this little poem:

"I was sitting here minding my business,
Kind of letting my mind go slack,
When in comes a nurse with a bright sunny smile
And a gown with a split down the back.
"Take a shower," she said,
"And get ready. And then jump into this sack."
What she's really talking about
Was the gown with the split down the back.
"They're coming to do some tests," she said.
They're going to stretch me out on a rack
With nothing twixt me and the cold, cruel world
But a gown that's split down the back!
It comes only to the knees in front.
In the sides there is no lack.

But by far the greatest shortcoming
Is that blooming split down the back.
Whoever designed this garment
For humor had a great knack,
But I fail to see anything funny
About a gown that is split down the back.
I hear them coming to get me,
The wheels going clickety clack.
I'll ride through the halls on a table
In a gown with a split down the back.
When I get to heaven, I'll make me no odds
If my robe is white, red, or black,
The only thing I ask is please!
Give me one with no split down the back.

An apology is not enough - World Vision needs to clean house

by Bryan Fischer

Sure, we'll forgive World Vision for its temporary policy blunder. But this is just the beginning of testing for the humanitarian aid group. They had better make sure they have leaders who are up to the task. And right now, they don't.

World Vision, in one of the most abrupt turnarounds in modern history, has done a complete about-face on its embrace of sodomy-based marriage.

Less than 48 hours after saying the organization was just fine hiring couples who were in same-sex "marriages," the organization has repudiated that stance, acknowledging that the board "made a mistake," and admitting they had failed "to be consistent with World Vision U.S.'s commitment to the traditional understanding of Biblical marriage."

Says its president and board chairman, "We ... humbly ask your forgiveness."

Forgiveness is hereby granted, as Jesus instructed us to do.

One very encouraging part of this debacle is that the evangelical church and other pro-family organizations stood firmly, directly, and unanimously against this apostasy. World Vision's decision was opposed by thousands upon thousands of donors who called World Vision to complain. Perhaps the sleeping giant that is the evangelical church has finally been awakened.

WV's heretical decision was also publicly opposed by Franklin Graham, the American Family Association, the Family Research Council, the Assemblies of God, and the Southern Baptist Convention. This united stand for truth and against sexual debauchery got World Vision's attention and got their minds right.

However, there is a pronounced difference between forgiveness and trust. Trust, once shattered, cannot be rebuilt with just a letter of apol-

ogy. Rebuilding trust and confidence requires change and action.

One key question that must be answered is whether this repentance represents what Paul, in II Corinthians 7, calls "godly grief" or "worldly grief." The sorrow that is according to the world is a sorrow that I got caught, a sorrow that my twisted plans blew up in my face. The sorrow that is according to God, on the other hand, is deep-seated and produces "what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what

fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment!" (II Cor. 7:11).

Luke 3:1-14 contains a thorough account of the ministry of John the Baptist.

When individuals, tax collectors and soldiers came to John to receive baptism at his hands, a baptism of "repentance for the forgiveness of sins," there was one question on everyone's lips. This question is the hallmark of genuine, biblical repentance.

The people all said, "What then shall we do?" The tax collectors all said, "Teacher, what shall we do?" The soldiers, to the last man, said, "And we, what shall we do?"

John's answer was simple and direct: "Bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance."

What does this mean for World Vision, if its leaders also ask the question, "What then shall we do?"

The minimum change that is in keeping with professed repentance is a sweeping change in leadership.

The larger issue here is that an environment has been fostered in the upper echelons of World Vision that made it possible for its leaders even to entertain an option that should have been absolutely unthinkable for anyone committed to God's design for marriage. There is something diseased in the boardroom of World Vision, and that diseased tissue must be cut out if this organization is once again to fulfill an evan-

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What Manner of Child

Many times when we look at a child we ask ourselves, "What is this child going to become?" They said the same thing about John the Baptist, "What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him." Luke 1:66. Oh, how we ought to give thanks to the Lord for the life of John the Baptist for he is the one who pointed to Jesus and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29.

One never knows what God is going to do with the life of a child. When the nation of Israel needed to be delivered from Egypt, what did God do? He sent a crying little baby boy and that little baby's tears broke the heart of a princess. And God used Moses to deliver the people of Israel. Later when the nation of Israel had backslidden and turned from the Lord, God sent a child, Samuel, and he brought them back to the Lord. When God wanted to save sinners in this world He sent a child, the Lord Jesus Christ. "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall

geical mission.

President Richard Stearns must step down immediately. He is the leader of this organization, and he led it straight into a ditch. He must be replaced.

But that's not enough. Every board member who voted for the original apostasy from the Word of God must likewise resign. Stearns made it clear in his original communication, announcing the embrace of homosexual marriage, that the WV board's decision was not a unanimous one. Although the vote for embracing sin was overwhelming, there were board members who objected and voted to uphold biblical standards. They get to stay, the rest need to go. ASAP.

I anticipate that World Vision's mettle will soon be tested. I predict that the Obama administration will now pull some or all of the \$330 million it sends to World Vision, in order to punish them for being hate mongering homophobes.

Also, the state of Washington will likely sue them for violating its anti-Christian employment discrimination laws. If the attorney general will sue a florist in the Evergreen State for not embracing same-sex "marriage," you can bet it won't be long before he sets his sights on one of the largest Christian

save his people for their sins." Matthew 1:21.

When you look at a child and wonder, "What shall become of this child in life?" Ask yourself, "What can I do to help fulfill God's purposes in the life of this child?" You never know what God may be planning for his or her life in His service!

Progress Reports for Students

Can you believe there is just one more nine week period before this school year will come to a close? Progress reports were recently given out as the third nine week period came to a close and the fourth nine week period began. We are thankful for our girls and boys as they continue to do well in their studies at school. The girls and boys that we recently received into the Home are improving in their school work as well as they continue to adjust to their new school.

Remember in Prayer

Thank you for your prayerful and financial support of the Home. Continue to remember our girls and boys as you pray in your prayers.

Minority taking over UMC

OneNewsNow.com - According to one expert, supporters of "homosexual marriage" in the United Methodist denomination have made their strategy very clear, perhaps without realizing it.

One example is a Pennsylvania pastor who was defrocked after conducting a wedding ceremony for his homosexual son. Another faces trial in the denomination for doing the same thing. Meanwhile, 30 churches in northern California and other Western states have adopted a declaration saying they will violate church doctrine and theology.

"What we have is a very socially liberal, theologically secularized minority in the church that is very vocal about their opposition to biblical stan-

organizations in the world.

In other words, this is not the end of testing for World Vision, but the beginning. They had better make sure they have leaders who are up to the task. Right now, they don't.

dards for sexual self-control," observes John Lomperis of The Institute on Religion and Democracy (IRD).

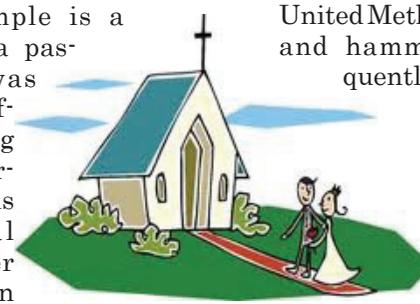
He says their strategy is to make a lot of noise about their beliefs, which are contrary to United Methodist theology, and hammer on it frequently.

"Really it seems clear: What they're hoping is that members of the faithful majority of the

church will just get discouraged and fed up and will feel driven out of the United Methodist Church and hand over all the property and all the resources in the name of the church to the current minority of the church that doesn't even believe in historic Methodist doctrine," Lomperis suggests.

The majority of United Methodists, he says, stand on biblical doctrine.

The IRD spokesman goes on to add that the pastors and leaders who have gone against doctrine actually swore when they became pastors to uphold the biblical standards of the church.



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PASTORS, WHAT IS YOUR VALUE?

First chore. That's monumental in every child's life, right? For my son, Bryce, the moment came recently when I told him I would pay him a nickel for every time he made his bed.

A few weeks with his new chore, things have been going well (and Bryce is getting rich).

This morning, Bryce told me

that I forgot to pay him for the day before. Oops.

I thought this would be a great learning moment, so I asked him, "What coin could I give you that would equal two nickels?"

His first guess was, "That big silver one." Then, he was certain it must be a penny.

After I pulled out a dime, he

actually laughed and said, "Dad, that one's too small!"

I had forgotten about the mysterious way that the size of our coins doesn't necessarily match the size of their value. It's a good lesson for all of us, isn't it? (Especially for pastors).

Pastors, we all know that the size of our attendance, budget, or facilities doesn't equate with our value as ministers of the gospel. We remind each other of this often (although we rarely act as if we believe it).

But when was the last time someone reminded you of where your value as a pastor does come from?

It doesn't come from your achievements. It's not derived from your reputation. It has nothing to do with your gifts,

talents, or abilities.

Your value as a pastor is 100% in Christ.

While that sounds simple enough, let me elaborate on what that does and doesn't mean.

It doesn't mean:

1) The more you do to please Christ, the more valuable you are.

2) The more you pastor as He would pastor, the more valuable you are.

While pleasing Christ and conforming to His image are both vitally important, your value does not lie in becoming those things. It lies in the fact that 1) because of justification, you are already pleasing to Christ and, therefore, 2) because of sanctification you are becoming more like Christ.

It does mean:

1) Your value as a pastor is based upon Christ's righteousness. You please God because Jesus pleases the Father.

2) Your value as a pastor drives your ministry and is not a result of your ministry.

During the inevitable difficulties of ministry, we are all tempted to get this backwards. But remember, your value is not a product of what you've done, but of what Christ has done for you and is doing in you. And anything that He does through you is all to His glory.

Whether you feel like a "penny pastor," a "quarter pastor," a "nickel pastor," or a "dime pastor," consider changing your perspective. Trust me, it's valuable!

Wise Reading

by Danny Pitts

from *First Baptist Church of Shady Grove Newsletter*

Acts 8:30 "And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? 31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. 32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: 33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. 34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus."

The Greek term read is formed by combining the words "to know" and "again." Someone knew something. They wrote it down. The reader is able to know again what was known earlier. This ability to profit from the knowledge of others who lived in the past is unique to human beings. It allows us to learn from the thoughts of great minds who developed their understanding from the accumulated knowledge of past scholars in a particular field. It allows us to be inspired by the reasoning processes and conclusions of deep thinkers. This progression of knowledge has transformed our lives in the secular world. In fact, many are alive today because God has allowed man to grow in his understanding of the physical body and the world in which we live. Have you thanked the Lord for that mercy?

In our text Philip the Evangelist hears the Ethiopian Eunuch read from the Suffering Servant passage in Isaiah 53. Philip asks the black man if he understands what he has read. As is often the case, the reader could not be sure of the meaning of his text. He needed a teacher to clarify the context. Philip explained how the scripture was all about Jesus. Under the inspiration of God, Isaiah had written this prophecy over 700 years before these two men knew the truths again. The greatest value of written words is that they can lead many to salvation in the Messiah. Have you thanked the Lord for being merciful in preserving the message about salvation?

Having established the value of reading, some balance must be stressed. Solomon wrote, "And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh" (Ecclesiastes 12:12). After warning that reading can be never ending and exhausting, he concludes the book by stating that preparation for God's judgment is most important. The wise man had pointed out that principles learned can be motivate us as the sharp point of ox goads would prick them to move forward (Ecclesiastes 12:11). Read wisely.

Opportunities on the Mission Field

by Jesse Hales

BMA Missionary to the Dominican Republic

Recently I was blessed with the opportunity to spend a few days in Nicaragua with two of the other BMA language students that are here. We stayed in Catalina where Oscar Gaitan pastors and spent that Saturday getting to know him and his family while they allowed us to tag along with them and a group of veterinarians they were hosting from the states. It was a great opportunity to get to know a pastor friend and my fellow missionaries better. That's the main reason I was hoping to go on the trip in the first place.

As you know though, God always seems to have more in store for you than you anticipate. I never expected to find myself in Nicaragua witnessing to a guy from Iowa about the importance of knowing you have placed your faith in Jesus to forgive you of your sins. Thankfully that conversation was held in English and there was no question that the point was received clearly. It's amazing how God sets up divine appointments though and I'm so very thankful for those opportunities.

Thank you for allowing God to use you in our lives through your prayers and support. May God continue to bless you abundantly.



(right to left) Chris Huson, Tommy Rose, Oscar Gaitan, and myself (Jesse Hales) in Nicaragua.

Heaven Is For Real

from page 3

spoken send a dead loved one back to confirm His Word? We must remember that Satan, the great deceiver, can present himself as "an angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14). It should not surprise us if he misleads a young child.

Furthermore, for the rare occurrences in Scripture when God did allow one who had seen heaven to return, He did not

permit any record of what they saw. He gave His reason to the rich man in hell: "... They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.... If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead" (Luke 16:29-31).

How should believers respond to "Heaven Is for Real"? Be cautious. Have a holy skepticism. Judge everything by God's Word. Use the opportunity of this book and movie to talk about heaven. But of first importance, use the moment to share the Gospel of Jesus, the only hope of heaven!

