

The Baptist

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A Word For Your Church's Chairman of Deacons

by Kirk Shelton
Pastoral Ministries Consultant
DiscipleGuide Church Resources

*Noah got drunk and shamed himself...
Lot lost his family and ended up in sexual sin...
Eli lost influence with his sons...
Saul lost his anointing and looked to a witch for counsel...
Solomon, the wisest man on earth,
turned his heart away from God...
Jonah hardened his heart to God and others...
Demas loved the world and left his ministry and God...*

We could continue, but I think the point has been made. And the disturbing trend continues in our day. It has happened so often we are no longer shocked when we hear of another leader stumbling and losing his ministry influence as a result of moral, ethical, or relational lapses.

One of the most troubling realities in Scripture is discovering just how many of God's men did not finish strong. By "finishing strong" I am referring to how they were doing at the finish line

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PASTOR
APPRECIATION
MONTH

What's up with the 'Walk for the World' This Year?

by Diane Ward
National Walk for the World Coordinator

Lifeword has partnered with the technology company, FirstGiving, to make individual, online registrations and donations possible on our safe and secure website at www.firstgiving.com/lifeword. Churches do not have to register with Lifeword now since individual registrations are possible. Individual registrations will automatically link you and your online donations to your church when you select your church on the registration page. If your church (team) is not listed, please give us a call at 1.800.543.1090, and we will add it to the website.

If the technology option does not appeal to you please continue to raise money the way you always have in the past.

By registering online and setting up your personal Walk page you have the opportunity to invite all of your social media contacts to make a donation to the Walk, and raise more money than you ever thought possible. All donors will automatically receive a tax receipt from FirstGiving for their records.

Two churches have the opportunity to win Youth Room Makeovers. We hope this will be an added incentive for youth to register online and raise money. The makeover will be a great outreach tool for youth by giving them a nice place to invite friends and classmates to, and

to get them involved in their church youth group program.



All Walk details and materials are available for download at the above website address; however, if you would like to request colored posters

Pastor, You Need Perspective

by Larry Barker
Director of North American Missions
BMA of America

Perspective is a funny thing because, many times, the way we think a situation is can be very different from how it actually is. I heard of a man on flight who was asked if he would like a meal. He asked, "What are my choices?" The flight attendant said, "Yes or no!"

The right perspective is developed by walking with the Lord and listening closely to the Holy Spirit. "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his

way." (Psa. 37:23) You also need others who can speak into your life. "For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety." (Prov. 24:6)

It is easy to see things from the wrong perspective. Over the years, my perspective has changed because God has revealed some personal fears of mine and some assumptions that I had held on to that were not correct. Things are not always like you think they are and you probably won't perceive things correctly without



help.

A great way to get perspective is to find someone who has been where you are headed and learn from them. I have had to reprogram my thinking in several areas such as: "If you want it done right, do it yourself;" and "When people disagree with you, they are not necessarily against you!"

Pastor, here are some areas where we need perspective.

You're not bulletproof! You're not superhuman! You can't leap a building in a single

bound! And here's the best news, God doesn't expect you to be. Wayne Cordeiro, in *Leading on Empty*, said, "We don't forget that we are Christians. We forget that we are human and that one oversight alone can debilitate the potential of our future." Because your calling is to always give, it is easy to wear out before you realize you've done so. Your self-discipline, unrelenting work ethic and drive for excellence will only cover the pain so long. You can't drive on all cylinders all the time—there is a time to rest!

You can't fix every problem! If you are not very careful, you will be trying to fix everyone's problems except your own.

Pastors have problems, challenges and struggles just like everyone else. Learning the difference between a concern and a responsibility could save your ministry, your family and your sanity. People make their own decisions and are responsible for them. They can be very demanding and have a tendency to expect too much. Living with the feeling that you are always disappointing people or letting them down is a challenge. You will burn out sooner on the inside than you or others will be able to see on the outside.

You must manage your passion! Your passion for God and

see Perspective on page 2

Letter To Deacons

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of life---were they leaning into the tape making every word, deed, and choice count for God, or were they stumbling and falling? The startling truth is that of the 400 or so leaders mentioned in Scripture, no more than 80 (20% or less) finished strong! That means approximately 320 (80%) stumbled to the finish line... commitment wavering, devotion lagging, influence diminished.

But it's not just the moral and ethical failures that are claiming the "ministry lives" of God's leaders. For many, it's the slow fade and steady decline of ministry vitality and love for God, especially as they get into the mid-years of life and ministry and the freshness and fervor of a confident faith has become a thing of the past. Slowly and imperceptibly they slip into the malaise of punching the clock and putting in their time, self-satisfied that at least they haven't stumbled and fallen like so many others.

What can you do to help "hold up the arms" of the God-given pastors and leaders in your life? There are many ways but I want to mention just one. Every October is "Pastor Appreciation Month" across our nation. It is a special month set aside to let our pastors and staffs know how much they are loved and appreciated. In recognition of Pastor Appreciation Month, DiscipleGuide Conference Ministry has scheduled our annual Pastors Oasis for Oct. 3-5, 2012. Pastors Oasis is three days of inspirational teaching, outstanding music, relaxation and wonderful fellowship. They will enjoy wor-

ship lead by Travis Sellers, encouraging messages from Jerry Jolly, David Watkins and Buddy Johnson. Be blessed by artists; No Other Name, Joe Castillo the Sand Artist and Comedian, Anita Renfroe. The location for this year's Oasis is the beautiful Chateau On The Lake. The cost for the conference is \$75 per person when registered by September 1 or \$85 after that date. Additional costs for your church include: hotel (\$125 per night for 2 nights), travel, and a few meals. Hotel accommodations can be secured by calling the resort at 888.333.5253 by September 1.

Because your pastor would never ask the church to send him and his wife to the Oasis, we are asking you, as the Chairman of Deacons, to lead your church in sending them. I encourage you to include your staff and their spouses as well. Would you please use your leadership and influence to lead your church to present this trip as a gift to your pastor? A gift such as this will mean more than anything you can do for your pastor. This year's theme is "Lashed To The Mast" and I guarantee that your pastor/staff will come home encouraged, energized, and grateful to be serving a loving church family who is willing to make such an investment!

Thanks in advance for honoring and blessing your pastor, staff and spouses in this special way! We look forward to hearing from you. Get all the conference details at www.DiscipleGuide.org/PastorsOasis. If you have any questions call the DCM office at 501-513-3726

Perspective

from page 1

the ministry is what will get you up in the morning, but it can also sabotage your efforts. This is important because there will be times when you are more passionate about something than your members are and when your members are more passionate about something than you are (good or bad). Here is how you can manage passion:

- Attitude—Make sure everyone is calm and kind when discussing the things they are passionate about. Many times,

the right position is destroyed because of the way it is presented. "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger." (Prov. 15:1)

- Audience—If there is a conflict that must be handled, do it biblically on the lowest level. If someone says, "There are several of us who want to discuss this with you," you should say, "Well, let's discuss it one-on-one first!" Matthew 18:15: "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone..."

Commission on Senior Adults

Kenneth Flynt, Interim Director
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440

Greetings to the readers of the MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST PAPER and supporters of the Commission on Senior Adults. The joy of ministering to senior citizens is the heart beat of the Commission on Senior Adults. What would we do without the services of our senior citizens as many are still ministering in many places in our churches. Once a year in our conferences they come and enjoy a full day of time together. All this is made possible through the sup-

port of churches and individuals.

Plans are progressing for the 2013 conferences that will be hosted once again by Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, for the South Conference and by Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton, for the North Conference. These churches do an excellent job in hosting these conferences and we can never appreciate them too much.

Our thanks to the local associations for their financial sup-

port and to the various churches who faithfully contribute to this ministry. Mrs. Dot Holifield continues to do a splendid job keeping records and running errands for the Commission. Send offerings to her at 658 Joe Perrett Road, Laurel, MS 39443.

Keep the Commission in your prayers and remember that our sole purpose is to honor our Lord and to minister to the spiritual needs of our senior members who have been the backbone of support in our churches for years.

Dates for our 2013 conferences will be announced soon and listed in the paper.

Time Well Spent

by Dr. Grover Laird

"But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." (Psalms 1:2)

Psalm One has six verses in it. The first three verses describe a blessed man and tell some of the good things that come his way. The last three verses describe an ungodly man and tell of the bad things that come his way. Any person who would read this Psalm should have no trouble deciding which way he should live his life.

Among the verses that describe the blessed man, we find the words of our text. This verse tells us that the blessed man loves the Bible and meditates in it day and night. Not only this verse, but many other verses encourage us to spend time with the Bible every day. (Joshua 1:8; 119:97) For many reasons time spent in searching the Scriptures, reading the Bible, and meditating in God's law is time well spent. Consider a few of those reasons.

I. Studying The Bible Teaches

- Alternatives — Make sure one of your core values is that people are not allowed to bring up problems without offering a solution. My friend, Todd West, puts it this way, "Our church is pastor led and member influenced." Just because someone has a different opinion doesn't make them your enemy. Take a look at Acts 15:36-41.

Managing your passion means you value the opinions of others and encourage other people to share their perspective. Recently, I heard Ron Sylvia say, "Feedback is a ladder, not a hammer."

One To Fear God

In Deuteronomy chapter seventeen, Moses spoke of a day when Israel would want a king that they might be like other nations. (Verse 14) Moses then gave some rules by which the king should live. One was, he must get a copy of God's Word and read in it all the days of his life. Then Moses wrote, "... that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:" (Deuteronomy 17:19) Surely nothing will cause a person to "learn to fear the Lord his God" more than daily meditating upon the Bible.

The person who learns to fear the Lord does have the advantage over the person who does not. I will give you only a few of the many Bible verses that says so. Since I will not discuss them, please notice them closely: "O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him." (Psalms 34:9) "Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;" (Psalms 33:18) "The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened." (Proverbs 10:27) "For as the

Temple, Lucedale to hold revival

Temple Baptist Church, Lucedale, Mississippi, will hold revival services August 26-29. Pastor Ken Riley of Lebanon Baptist Church in Laurel will be the Evangelist. Services will begin at 11:00 AM on Sunday followed by lunch and an afternoon service. Services Monday - Wednesday will be at 7:00 PM. Pastor BJ Hudson and the Temple family extend this invitation to all.

heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him." (Psalms 103:11)

II. Studying The Bible Helps In Keeping One Humble

Let us go back to Deuteronomy where Moses was writing concerning how kings were required to be a daily Bible reader. In the list of advantages for doing this we find—"That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren..." (Deuteronomy 17:20) In other words, it would keep him humble.

Since a proud heart is "an abomination to the Lord," (Proverbs 16:5) brings one to shame, (Proverbs 11:2) "goeth before destruction," (Proverbs 16:18) and causes one to miss so many blessings, (Proverbs 11:2; Psalm 25:9; James 4:6, 10) a person should try to find a way to stay humble. Bible study is one of the main ways.

III. Some Of The Other Advantages For Studying The Bible

Daily meditating upon the Bible will help one to live better, (Deuteronomy 17:20; Joshua 1:8) make one prosperous and bring good success, (Psalm 1:1-3; Joshua 1:8) cause one to live longer, (Proverbs 3:1, 2, 16) bring happiness and joy, (Proverbs 3:13, 17; Jeremiah 15:16) give one peace, (Psalm 119:165; Proverbs 3:17) provide Spiritual riches that are better than silver, gold, or rubies, (Proverbs 3:14, 15; Psalm 19:10) make one wise, (Psalm 19:7; 119:98-100) make one Spiritually strong, (Acts 20:32) give one an inheritance, (Acts 20:32) help us to know ourselves better, (Hebrews 4:12) answers troubling questions, (Psalm 73:16, 17) tell one how he can be sure of going to Heaven when he dies, (Psalm 19:17; Romans 1:16; John 3:16) and much more.

I do highly recommend that all be a daily Bible reader. It will be time well spent!

Southeastern Baptist College

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

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." I Cor. 15:58

God's Blessings

God is doing a great work at Southeastern. Employee morale is up and overall everyone is anticipating a bright future. Classes begin today at the time of this writing, August 13. Pray for us that we have a good year.

Special Emphasis

Special Emphasis offerings from 25 churches and three individuals have come in so far. Last year, only 31 churches participated in our Special Emphasis. I have asked for 100

churches to give \$200 each. If your church has not given yet, please consider giving this August. These offerings help us make it through the lean month of July and first two weeks of August.

Friends of Southeastern

The Friends of Southeastern organization continues to grow. Here is a sample of some fruit from FOS. I received an email from a former student who attended SBC in the 70's and he bought three virtual rooms in the 10 X 10 Project for \$300. He also committed to begin giving personally to the college monthly. I called him and talked with him for about 20 minutes and he expressed interest in helping the college even more with some fund-rais-

ing ideas. As the Friends of Southeastern continues to connect people with the college and one another through the newsletter and on Facebook, we will see more interest from alumni in helping the college. The website is <http://mysite.verizon.net/drt60718/index.html>

Public Relations and Advertising

I recently spoke with the manager at the Sawmill Square Mall about placing a display at one of the mall booths. This display is now up with brochures and a current schedule available for people to take as they pass by. Plans are in the making for more displays at various venues.

Concerning public relations and advertising, a public relations professional has volunteered to design a two year program of PR and advertising for Southeastern. It will consist of a plan which will suggest a format of outreach to follow.

Internal Changes

Internal restructuring can produce positive results.

Ronnie Kitchens has been moved from the area of recruiting to the office of Financial Aid and Robyn Strickland, who was in FA, is now recruiting. Ronnie is doing a good job in his new area. Robyn is also doing well, but recruiting efforts are cumulative and the work done in one year does not show up until two and three years later. Robyn is building a data base of names and is aggressively contacting prospects. She is available to come and make a presentation at youth gatherings, conferences and Youth-In-Harvest meetings. Please contact her at rstrickland@southeasternbaptist.edu or 601-426-6346.

In the Churches

The importance of going into our churches cannot be emphasized enough. Though I was already convinced of the need, it has been confirmed since I began visiting churches in June. In each church, I speak



Joseph Harris
Interim
President

about the college for about ten minutes, open the floor for questions, and then preach. There has been great response in every church so far. Every Sunday evening in August and September is already booked. For every pastor reading this, if you have an opening on a Sunday or Wednesday evening in your church beginning in October and on into 2013, give me a call. The itinerary on our web site has been helpful. One pastor saw that I was going to be in his area at a church on a Sunday morning and asked me to come to his church that evening.

Dorm Project

I am still praying and seeking some person or a group who will take an interest in helping with some repairs and renovation around campus. A group of men from the Mt. Pisgah Baptist Association has committed to replace the flat roof on the back of the gym over the stage area. They will not only provide the labor, but are working on providing funds for materials. An original estimate I

Copllage Report
Continued On page 7



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Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

More Losses of God's Saints

We extend our sympathies to three families who recently lost loved ones. Mrs. Anita Faye Hill of Big Creek Baptist Church has gone on to her reward. Her obituary is included in this issue. She was a grand lady who loved the Lord, her family and her church. I was privileged to be her pastor for the past 5 years.

Mrs. Hill lost both of her legs to disease over 4 years ago, but did not let that slow her down. She continued to work and care for her business and family until her health prevented it.

One of her bravest efforts and one of my fondest memories of Mrs. Hill was her participation in the annual "Walk of Faith" for LifeWord Ministries. She 'walked' in her electric wheelchair and was a great inspiration to others by her courageous participation.



Don Brown
Editor

Pastor loses wife

Mrs. Georgia Rogers, wife of BMA pastor Howard Rogers passed away recently. A faithful wife and worker will be missed.

Pastor and family lose son

Robert Alan Whitehead, the son of Bro. and Mrs. Bryson Haden, pastor of Berean Baptist Church, Soso, died as the result of a swimming accident.

Prayers

Our prayers go out to these three families in their time of loss and grief. May God's grace sustain them.

Pastor's son dies as result of accident

Robert Alan Whitehead, 20, of Soso, Mississippi, died Monday, August 6, 2012 at the University Of South Alabama Medical Center in Mobile, Alabama. Funeral services were held at Midway First Baptist Church of Sumrall. Rev. Roger Akers, Rev. Bob Conrad, Rev. Lavon Haden, Rev. Charles Lee, and Mr. Tom Parker officiated. Burial was in New Union Baptist Church Cemetery.



Robert is remembered as a young man who loved God and who loved his family and younger siblings. Robert also enjoyed football and track as well as spending time in the

outdoors.

Robert is preceded in death by his mother, Dorothy Forbes Whitehead.

Survivors include his parents, Bryson Lavelle Haden (pastor of Berean Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi) and Jessica LeAnn Haden, Soso, MS; brothers, Eric Whitehead, Columbia, MS, Brandon Whitehead, FL, and Skylar and Jasper Haden, Soso, MS; sisters, Diana Perez, New Mexico and Jaycie Haden, Soso, MS and a host of cousins and other special family members.

Pallbearers were Haden Lee, Trent Haden, Steven Warren, Chris O'Brien, Glen Conrad, and James Beard. Honorary pallbearers were his track and football teammates from Columbia Academy and his football teammates from Amory High School and Hinds Community College.

Pastor's wife passes away

Georgia Faye Rogers, wife of Bro. Howard Rogers, of Laurel, died Wednesday, August 1, 2012 at Wesley Medical Center in Hattiesburg. She was 75 years of age. Funeral services were held August 6, 2012 at Springhill Baptist Church in Laurel. Rev. Harold Floyd and Rev. Rick Clark officiated. Burial was in Springhill Baptist Church Cemetery.

Mrs. Rogers spent many years investing herself in the ones she loved, especially her family, her girls, and her grandchildren. Her family remembers her selfless spirit and her generosity which was evidenced by the way she always put others ahead of herself.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Talmadge and Vera Melinda Allen; daughter, Teresa Mott; 4 sisters and 1 brother.

Survivors include her husband of 58 years, Rev. Howard Rogers, Laurel, MS; daughters, Sharon Coats (Doug), Soso, MS, Karen Davis (Tim), Laurel, MS and Ramona Walley (Ted), Taylorsville, MS; 6 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Anita Faye (Howard) Hill passes away

Anita Faye Hill, 79, of Soso passed away August 1, 2012 at home surrounded by family.

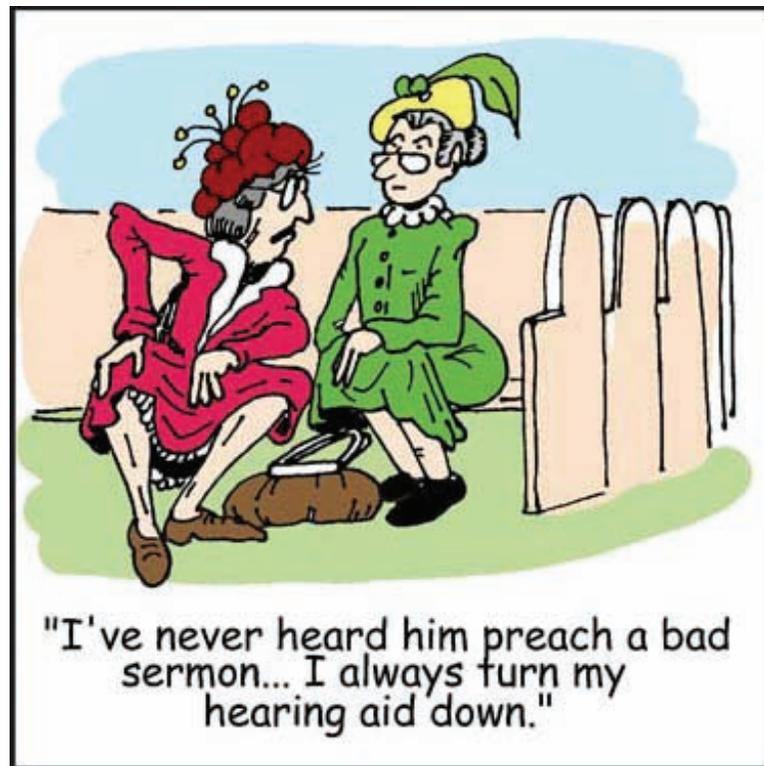
Funeral services were held August 4, 2012 at Big Creek Baptist Church with in Big Creek Cemetery. Rev. Don Brown, Rev. Harold Floyd and Rev. Danny Cresswell officiated.

Mrs. Hill was a former nurse and long-time owner/operator of H & D Pillow in Soso. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother, as well as, a devout member of Big Creek Baptist Church.

Survivors include husband, Howard Hill; daughters, Linda Dertinger of Soso; Lecia Johnson (Bill Watson) of Braxton; and Sonya James of Soso; three grandchildren, Melissa (Bandy) Grace of Prentiss, Kelby (Jessie)

continued on page 5

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"I've never heard him preach a bad sermon... I always turn my hearing aid down."

Letters From Our Readers

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

Family is thankful for support

Dear Editor,

Concerning the announcement in the August 1 issue of the Mississippi Baptist about a tragedy that happened in my family, I want to thank everyone who has prayed for us, called, asked, and showed concern in so many ways. There is much evidence that the Lord heard and is answering those prayers.

My grandson, Delayne, is making good progress in his recovery in the University Hospital in Jackson. He has a long way to go, but will likely make a full recovery. We lost a precious granddaughter in the tragedy whom we loved very much - a precious person who

loved her children who she was protecting.

Please keep praying for us. That is about all we can do. The Lord always does what is right and best. We know much good will come from this event.

We are thankful to the Lord for so many faithful friends.

Thanks again,
Medrick Savell

Oregon Church Needs Help To "Reach Out"

Dear Editor:

A little over two months ago, I became the pastor of Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Sweet Home, Oregon - a little country church in what used to be a thriving logging town. However, the community went from having seven mills down to only one, and it is barely running.

Now most of the town has two or three generations living in one house and the majority are living on welfare. Schools

see Help Needed on page 5



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John Adams

Paul Harvey's America

Paul Harvey (1918-2009) transformed radio by inspiring a nation to listen to common sense. This man was unique not only in radio voice but in timely sayings.

The brutal murder of his father shaped Paul Harvey's life and career, howbeit, through many tears. He had a wonderful high school teacher who helped launch his career into radio. He became a champion for God, His church, those serving in uniform, and our American nation. Paul Harvey wrote and quoted a prayer that he wrote in 1952. It was a plea for God to raise up a certain type of President for our country. The following is that excerpt:

"Almighty God, send us a leader.

A man with his feet planted firmly in American tradition.

A tall man...with his head above the fog of selfish interests.

Not a common man. This time, God, send us an "Uncommon man"...a statesman.

We don't deserve him, but send him anyway.

And hurry, please. The hour is late.

The candle of freedom burns low."

In the foreword of the book by Stephen Mansfield and David Holland, Paul Harvey's America, is presented the fact that Paul Harvey understood that America is unique in human history, a nation founded in a vision of freedom that was new in the world at that time.

Harvey wanted Americans to never forget the price our forefathers had to pay for freedom. He would give us the "Rest of the Story" series to teach us what little we knew of our Founding Fathers and Mothers. They were stalwart souls who paved a great path for each of us.

So, that is the reason that at the peak of his radio talk it was estimated that 24,000,000 people a week listened to his inspirational presentations of hope and love.

One of his greatest speeches was given on April 3, 1965. It is as follows:



"If I were the Devil...I mean, if I were the Prince of Darkness, I would of course, want to engulf the whole earth in darkness. I would have a third of its real estate and four-fifths of its population, but I would not be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree, so I should set about however necessary to take over the United States. I would begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve; "do as you please." "Do as you please." To the young, I would whisper, "The Bible is a myth." I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what is bad is good, and what is good is "square." In the ears of the young marrieds, I would whisper that work is debasing, that cocktail parties are good for you. I would caution them not to be extreme in religion, in patriotism, in moral conduct. And the old, I would teach to pray. I would teach them to say after me: "Our Father, which art in Washington"...

If I were the devil, I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten T.V. with dirtier movies and vice versa. And then if I were the devil, I'd get organized. I'd infiltrate unions and urge more loafing and less work, because idle hands usually work for me. I'd peddle narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. And I'd tran-

quilize the rest with pills. If I were the devil, I would encourage schools to refine young intellects but neglect to discipline emotions...let those run wild. I would designate an atheist to front for me before the highest courts in the land and I would get preachers to say "she's right." With flattery and promises of power, I could get the courts to rule what I construe as against God and in favor of pornography, and thus, I would evict God from the courthouse, and then from the school house, and then from the houses of Congress and then, in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and I would deify science because that way men would become smart enough to create super weapons, but not wise enough to control them."

If I were Satan, I'd make the symbol of Easter an egg, and the symbol of Christmas, a bottle. If I were the devil, I would take from those who have and I would give to those who wanted, until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. And then, my police state would force everybody back to work. Then, I could separate families, putting children in uniform, women in coal mines, and objectors in slave camps. In other words, if I were Satan, I'd just keep on doing what he's doing."

Paul Harvey, Good Day.

I recommend for enjoyable reading the patriotic common sense book, Paul Harvey's America, written by Stephen Mansfield and David Holland, Tyndale House, \$19.99.

Church Needs Help

from page 4

are open in the summer just so the children can get a hot meal; and for many, that is the only hot meal they'll have each day.

Although the church has been through a lot, everyone is working together to reach out to this community.

Oregon is a mission field that is wide open. They are ranked second highest in the number of citizens who are unchurched.

Our biggest need right now is a bus we can use to pick up kids and bring them to church. The one we have isn't usable - it has been sitting for several years and isn't safe to transport anyone in, especially not children.

Any help your readers can give us on this project would be greatly appreciated.

Pete Taraski. 541-818-0086

yahwehministries@gmail.com

Gospel Sing set For September 16

Pine Ridge Baptist Church, Laurel, will hold a Gospel sing with Spoken 4 Quartet from Branson, Missouri, on September 16. The program will start at 5:00 p.m. with a fellowship following the sing. Pine Ridge Baptist Church is located at 220 Service Road Laurel. For more information call 601-319-8466.

Obituaries - from page 4

Johnson of New Albany, Ashley (Keith) Bryant of Soso; five great-grandchildren, Adin Johnson, Reagan Grace, Annalea Bryant, Andrew Johnson and Hayden Bryant.

Editor's Note: The following poem was written and read by Mrs. Hill's grandson at the service. Many have requested copies. As you read this precious piece, many of you will be able to apply the feelings and words to your own family.

Our Mother

By Kelby R. Johnson

Our Mother has completed her journey through this life

She was a special woman, grandmother, mother, and wife

*Her moments were not wasted nor was her time lost
 Though she did not speak the loudest, she often said the most*

*Her legacy you must not look too hard to find
 It is in those loved ones that she leaves behind
 Her great grandchildren are a very special group
 Annalea, Reagan, Adin, Hayden, and Andrew
 They will always be reminded of her wisdom and grace*

In stories that are told and pictures of her face

She loved her grandchildren and prayed for them too

*Melissa and Ashley remember, she loved us true
 Hold tight to the memories, for many were made
 Our Mamaw would have it no other way*

*She loved her daughters, She loved you three
 Linda Faye, Lecia and Sonya, For you she will always be*

*A source of comfort, strength, and hope
 Through heartaches of life she supported you most
 You have each other and all that she taught you
 Her lessons will guide you and help you to stay true*

*She loved her husband for more than 60 years I know
 The picture of a godly woman she did gracefully show*

*Papaw, you will miss her dearly and we won't know all your pain
 But it was from the Heavenly Father and for you that she came*

*To travel down many roads with you in this life
 To be to you, a God-given wife*

*Her life was founded on Christ the Lord
 She loved Him always and knew His Word
 Her Bible was worn and she read it along
 "The Lord is My Shepherd" was the theme of her song*

*How do we to the one we love say goodbye?
 We come together to rejoice, to remember, to cry
 It is not death to die, to leave this weary land
 In Christ we have eternal life, We will be with Our Mother again.*

A Series on the Self - Part Two

The Other-Centered Person

In the first article in this series, I addressed the problems of living in a society where people are increasingly becoming selfish and self-centered. I relayed that many of the problems I see facing society and even destroying our homes and our churches can be traced back to a root causality of self-centeredness. This article will focus on a better way to live. Christians should live like Jesus. Christians should be other-centered, other-focused, and other-serving people just like our King Jesus.

How do I move from being a self-ISH person to a self-LESS person? It's easy. Die to your self every single day. The first step to overcoming self-centeredness is to pray frequently to God for deliverance from this, and victory over it. Ask God to cause it to come to your mind when you are acting selfish. Ask the Holy Spirit to prompt you when you need to reach out and help, or do something for someone else. Make a mental note when you first get out of bed that you will serve

God today and not your self. You will choose one or the other. Choose you this day whom you will serve. Christianity is not a self-serve buffet line. And it will take more than just the first prayer of the morning to maintain this act of being like Christ.

For many of us, including myself, we must go through our day and night repeatedly dying to our selfish desires so that we might live for others. Why? Because this is what Jesus did. This is what Jesus wants us to do. He wants us to serve others. Matthew 25:34-46. He wants us to bear other people's burdens. Galatians 6:2. He wants us to love others.

I John 4:11. We are to be followers of Christ. Just study the Bible and see if Jesus was always thinking of others. He was. Even when he was preaching once, he was thoughtful of the people needing food, so he

gathered up some food to feed them. He healed hurting people. He cried with his friends at the death of their brother. He reached out and showed mercy and compassion to a woman by a well, when every one else in town shunned

her because of her sinful ways. If you call yourself a Christian, then you must be "other" focused. It is the antithesis of our faith in Christ to just think of ourselves.

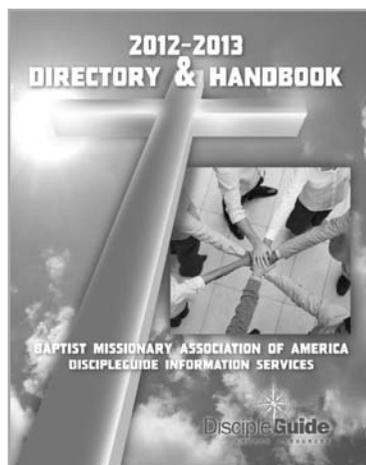
After you renew your mind with the Word and prayer, then it requires an action. The second step in overcoming selfishness is to do something for others. Marriages could be changed dramatically if both husband and wife went through each day trying to think of ways to serve the other. What if the husband and wife tried to out honor each other all the time? What if parents sacrificed their desires so that they could spend time teaching their children the ways of the Lord? Parents might forego some television or computer time. They might give up some overtime at work. While it would mean less money, they would be thinking of what is best for their children, and not what is best for their personal bottom line of finances. Imagine if teenagers put their parents ahead of themselves. They would put



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

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Tombigbee Association report

The Tombigbee Association met at South Green Baptist church on August 9. A gracious meal was served by the host church. We were opened in prayer by Bro. Edd Duvall. Our special music was brought by Bro. Gary Smith. Bro. Gary O'Neal brought a great message taken from Hebrews 12:1&2 "The Security of the believer".

We had 37 messengers and 10 visitors with 6 churches represented. We had reports brought by Bro. Edd Duvall, Bro. Donnie Loggin, Bro. Bob Burch, Bro. Bobby Elliott, Bro. Elvis Garcia and Bro. Kelby Johnson.

Moderator Bro. Gary Smith
Reporter Debbie Franks

family time and worship time ahead of their own personal desires of how they wanted to spend the weekend. I can only imagine. Ha!

Have we become so selfish that it does seem like a joke to expect our teenagers to think of others first, rather than always thinking of themselves and what they want to do? Are our children only focused on what they will GET for Christmas presents, rather than focused on how they might GIVE to others? It requires action folks. You need to have your kids feed others. Do a ministry. Don't just give money to them, to give away. Make them use their money. Don't just have them sing carols and then have a party. No party. Just go to the nursing home and talk and serve the elderly. Go clean an elderly person's home for Christmas. Perhaps a great Christmas present to their grandparents would be to come in and sweep, mop, vacuum, clean the oven, change light bulbs etc. A full top to bottom house cleaning might be a better Christmas gift to older folks than giving them the 350th picture of your little darlings to set around in the house building a shrine of child worship in

the home. Imagine a home where kids served the elderly!

By our sinful nature, we humans are not other focused. We are totally self-absorbed. But Jesus calls us to a different life. This life style must be studied in the Bible. It must be asked for in prayer. It absolutely requires actions. Faith without works is dead. Your children and grandchildren will automatically be self-centered if you don't teach them a different way to live. If you ever scratch your head wondering, "how did we get such self-seeking, self-serving kids who only care about themselves?" - wonder no more. We taught them to be this way. We required nothing of them. We simply overindulged them in the pursuit of happiness to require nothing of them, and to give them everything their little worldly hearts desire. This is why so many marriages are failing. If you are raised where everything in the home revolves around your wishes, then it is hard for you to give to someone else. Other-centered people sacrifice what they want for a greater good - to be like Jesus. He thought of others, he thought of you, when He hung on that cross.

DiscipleWay: Training Trainers

Who: Those who want to be DiscipleWay representatives authorized to conduct DiscipleWay trainings in churches and associations.

What: Qualifications of a trainer
Expectations of a trainer
Orientation to training materials
Communicating with the churches
Organizing a training event

When: August 24, 3 - 9 p.m. &
August 25, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Where: DiscipleGuide headquarters,
Texarkana, AR



DiscipleWay
7 Disciplines for Maturing in Christ

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They Come Because There is No Hope Anywhere Else

I heard the "splock, splock, splock" sound coming closer and closer to me - the Doppler Effect. Finally I was able to see what it was; it was the sound of tiny crutches with the suction cup ends hitting the floor one by one, left then right. The diminutive boy with great effort walked right in front of me; splock, splock, and more splock. Each teeny step was with great effort, and the sound of his crutches echoed down the hall as he was well past me.

Others paraded by me as I sat in the waiting room of the medical center waiting for my

wife to complete her appointment. Some were pushed in wheel chairs by faithful spouses or loving parents. Some came by me in electric carts alone; some accompanied by a hospital attendant. My wife had walked in unaided by crutch, chair or other ambulatory assistance. Nevertheless she, like the hundreds of others that day, came to the medical center because there was no hope anywhere else.

Jesus set His Church in the world because there is no hope anywhere else. Politicians have

never solved the human problem—even in an election year. Economists do not have enough charts, graphs, or models to get us of humankind to where we want to be. Philosophers have failed to discover that sense of life, being, existence, or essence that we all desire. Educators cannot fill the world with enough doctoral degrees to assist one smidgen with the human dilemma that so plagues our lives.

People need the Church because there is no hope anywhere else. I am a member of this Church. How am I taking the Word to those who desperately want and need that Hope? They walk by me: wounded, hurting, helpless. How am I attending them? May I get into the ambulance - go out to the highways to compel them to come to the Christ. His Church is a must for there is no hope anywhere else.

Leave It To Cleaver



Tony Cleaver

JUSTMCLEAVER@EMBAROMAIL.COM

CHILDREN'S HOME

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

Back To School

Once again it's that time of the year when the schedule of school and all the activities that go along with it have begun at the Home and I'm sure they have at your house if you have children that are school age. Of course, this means we start each day with God's watchful eye observing the events that take place. As we go through life we realize how important to be aware of God's protective care each day on our lives. God is so good. Psalm 107:1.

Well, getting back into the routine of school days can be quite challenging. Besides dealing with homework that comes at the close of a school day, there are also other after school activities that our boys and girls are involved in that keep the agenda on our calendar full. Needless to say we stay busy and keep a steady pace around the Home. Keep the boys and girls in your prayers during this school year.



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

Expression of Sympathy

Since my last article there are a number of families that have been touched by the taking of a loved one to be in the presence of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:8. We would like to express our sympathy to the families of Bro. Larry Smith, Mrs. Howard Hill, Mrs. Howard Rogers, and Robert Alan Whitehead. Our prayers continue to be with each of these families during their time of bereavement.

Another 'witch hunt' re: Chick-fil-A

OneNewsNow - A California attorney is condemning a city's move to slow down the opening of a Chick-fil-A restaurant.

The Santa Barbara Architectural Board of Review has refused to approve a landscaping plan for Chick-fil-A's new location in the city. Brad Dacus of the Pacific Justice Institute (PJI) explains that five members of the board voted to halt the project from moving forward, yet they deny slowing down the development because of restaurant CEO Dan Cathy's support for traditional marriage.

"Governments, including local governments like Santa Barbara, have absolutely no right or authority under the Constitution to blatantly discriminate and show hostility against a business owner simply because that business owner is a Christian and believes in what the Bible teaches," Dacus asserts. "This action by Santa Barbara is nothing less than another witch hunt, except this time the target happens to be Christians who believe in what the Bible says about the definition of marriage."

Several members of the Santa Barbara City Council say the architectural board's decision is unacceptable. City council member Frank Hotchkiss, for example, believes the board is intentionally trying to delay the project from moving forward.

San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee (D) recently joined other leaders from Chicago and Boston in announcing that the Christian-owned restaurant is not welcome in their cities.

Court dismisses suit vs Arizona's Day of Prayer

PHOENIX - A Maricopa County Superior Court judge has dismissed a lawsuit challenging Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer's proclamations declaring a state "day of prayer."

Judge Eileen Willett granted a motion to dismiss with prejudice, meaning the court cannot be asked to rule on the same issue again.

A U.S. District judge in Arizona dismissed the same challenge in December by the Wisconsin-based Freedom From Religion Foundation.

The foundation claimed the proclamations violate a constitutional prohibition against government establishment of religion and filed suit in Arizona's federal court in March 2010.

Brewer issued a statement Monday applauding the Supreme

Court for rejecting the lawsuit. Her office says every president since 1952 has signed a National Day of Prayer proclamation and governors of all 50 states issued similar proclamations last year.

College Report

from page 3

received on this last year was for \$10,000. What a blessing that God is providing.

Personally Speaking

I also am beginning the last class in my doctoral program, thank the Lord. After completing all classroom requirements this semester, I will begin writing on the doctoral project, which should take about a year. I am anxiously awaiting to finish, since I have taken classes non-stop three semesters a year since January 2010.

It is amazing how God works everything according to His plan and timetable. Since 1995, I have traveled at nights and on weekends, speaking, preaching revivals and in Bible conferences and performing with a unique entertainment ministry God had given to me. I have presented over 1,100 of these programs in hundreds of churches and other venues in over nine states, averaging 60-70 programs each year. Now calls for these bookings have suddenly stopped, as if turning off a faucet, which is good, because now I need to go into our churches for the college on Sundays and Wednesdays. This is confirmation God is in control as He "switches gears" for me in my life.

A Word About Witnessing

Feeling a concern for witnessing can mean that you will have to stand up and be counted, and this can bring some degree of abuse. Years ago I was praying with one of my children at bedtime, and I asked him if he had any problems we should pray about. He couldn't think of any, even though I could think of a number! Rather unwisely, I pressed the point and asked, "Don't you have any problems at school?" "No," he replied quite firmly. "Don't the kids give you a hard time because you're a Christian?" Again the answer was "No." Thinking back to my own traumatic school days, I said, "But kids always give you a hard time if you let them know you're a Christian." His reply was frank beyond belief: "All the more reason you don't let them know!" And quite happily he turned over to sleep.

With the refreshing candor of the very young, he had put into words the practical reasons why many Christians don't witness. They don't want to take the consequences.



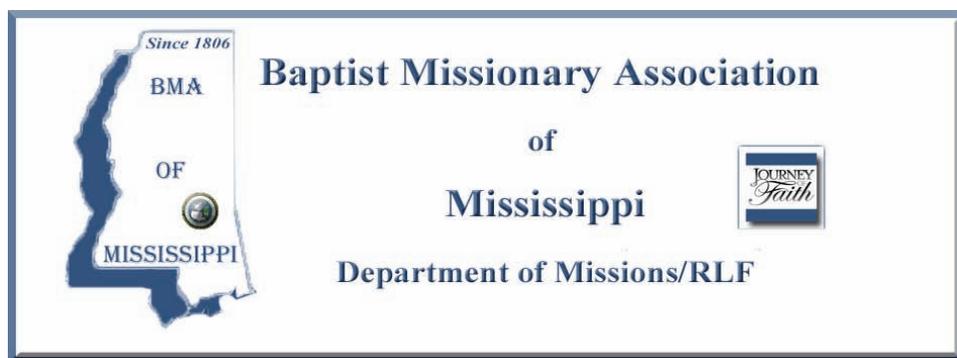
Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Adam's Animals

I was attending a fun meeting the other day where the meeting place was decorated with all kinds of animals. Then as the preacher gave a devotional, he mentioned that Adam had to have been a very intelligent man because he named all the animals. He certainly didn't fit the common perception of prehistoric man.

That reminded me of a conversation with a preacher in which he reminded me that Adam named the animals BEFORE he had a wife. To which I responded, "and that's why there's an animal with the awful name of AARDVARK!"



Thank You

Many of you have expressed words of encouragement to Cherita and me, as we have been dealing with the challenge of her dad's open heart surgery. His doctor confirmed for us that he has had every complication in the book. He seems to be making some progress toward rehab, now, after almost a month from the time he was admitted. We apologize to those of you who stopped by to visit him, only to find that visitors were not allowed. However, your graciousness and concern and prayers, have not gone unnoticed.



Larry Geraldson
Director

I also want to thank the East Central Association for voting to consider 4 more state missionaries for salary support at \$500.00 each. The recommendation goes back to the churches for approval and a final decision will be rendered at their annual meeting. Your consideration and words of encouragement were so uplifting to me, and I am deeply grateful.

We are so close to reaching a position of sustained reoccurring growth. We need to add 3 more mission projects to bring the present number to 14. We also need 5 more churches to adopt a location (<http://bmams.org/target-locations-for-church-planting/>) and take

the first step in reproduction, bringing this number to 14.

Your Financial Support Is Important

Missions has no other source of income than what we receive from the churches and local associations; Direct missions offerings received from the churches (Aug 2011-July 2012), were 85% of our income. Salary support received from churches and primarily from local associations (Aug 2011-July 2012), was 15% of our income.

Adding 3 more new missionaries can be achieved with your help. Therefore, I am requesting that our churches increase general missions giving a minimum of 10%. I also request that our local associations, in addition to continuing present levels of support, help with salary support. This challenge is achievable, sustainable and reasonable. Our churches and local associations have the means and the ability to do this. We are almost there. Taking these steps could set us on track to achieving our long term goal of planting 7 churches a year and doubling our association in 20 years. I want to thank all of you, again, for letting me serve you as State Missions Director. We have some fine churches and wonderful pastors, and I count it a great privilege to serve you. You have given me a great group of missionaries to work with, and I love them and you deeply.

Missionary Reports for July

New Heart Mission
www.newheartbaptist.org

Bro. Ray Boone, who serves as a church planting missionary, reports 149 homes visited, 42 soul talks, 1 profession of faith and 0 baptisms. Their average attendance was 26 in Sunday school, 45 in AM Worship and 28 in the PM Service. New Heart's offerings averaged \$530.00 weekly.



Ray Boone

Caledonia Mission
(Caledonia Baptist)
www.caledoniabaptist.org

Bro. Bob Burch, who serves as a church planting missionary, reports 33 homes visited and 27 soul talks, 3 professions of faith, and 0 baptisms. Their average weekly attendance was 5 with average weekly offerings of \$63.00.



Bob Burch

Clinton Mission
(C r o s s w a y)
www.crosswayclinton.org

Bro. Justin Rhodes, who serves as a church planting missionary, reports 24 homes visited, and 36 soul talks. Their average weekly attendance was 11. Their average weekly offerings were \$571.00. The mission has relocated to the Hampton Inn at Exit 36 off I-20 and meets at 10:30 AM on Sundays.



Justin Rhodes

South Forrest

Bro. Sidney Farmer, who serves as a church planting missionary, reports 8 homes visited, 25 soul talks, and an average weekly attendance of 12. Their average weekly offerings were \$447.20.



Sidney Farmer

**Burnsville Mission
(Freedom Baptist)**

Bro. Bobby Elliott, who serves as a church planting missionary, reports 23 homes visited, 12 soul talks, and 3 professions of faith. Their average weekly attendance in Sunday school was 11, with 23 in AM Worship and 10 in PM Service. Their average weekly offerings were \$374.00. Read more about Bobby at <http://bmams.org/bobby-elliott/>



Bobby Elliot

New Albany

Bro. Kelby Johnson is our new church planting missionary to New Albany, MS. He is sponsored by Bethel Baptist Church of Fulton, Pastor Kevin Clayton. Kelby and his family are in the process of moving closer into town and will begin working the field soon. Read more about Kelby at <http://bmams.org/kelby-johnson/>



Kelby Johnson

**El Camino (The Way)
www.elcaminoiglesia.org**

Bro. Estuardo Marroquin, who serves as our Hispanic coordinator for South Mississippi, reported 3 professions of faith at El Camino. Their average attendance was 89 with average offerings of \$926.00 weekly. El Camino's mission project, which has now moved to Hattiesburg, 31, 2012 and since August 1, 2011)



Estuardo Marriquin

Revolving Loan Fund (as of July 31, 2012 and since August 1, 2011)

Gross assets are now at \$15,401,820.63, an increase of \$1,119,683.52. Net assets are now at \$2,698,484.90, an increase of \$186,084.21. We have opened 30 new investment accounts totaling \$801,393.41. We have 18 new loans totaling \$1,889,377.37. Our interest paid to investors remains at 2.67%.

Visit Our Websites

The Missions and RLF website is www.bmams.org. You can find links to most all of our departments and to our missionaries at this site. You can also find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bmamsmissions. Please take a moment to visit our site and put it in your Favorites. Also, visit our Facebook page and click on "Like."

Plans are to return to Ukraine, but this time to a new field. Christian basketball players, 16 years old to 22 years old can apply on the BMAA website or contact Stan Scroggins (stan@fbcagnolia.com) for more information.

**Opportunities available for 2013
VSM Basketball Ministry trip bears fruit**

The 2012 Volunteer Student Mission Basketball Team traveled to Ukraine for the third time to work with BMAA missionaries Laura and Andrey Kanykina. The team was made up of 8 members: Jimmy Walker, Garrett Memorial Baptist Church, Hope, Arkansas; Martez Wells, Bethel Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi; Garrett Russell, First Baptist Church, Magnolia, Arkansas; Turner Harper, Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahatchie, Texas; Stan Scroggins, First Baptist Church, Magnolia, Arkansas; Ty Gebauer, Oak Grove Baptist Church, Palmer, Texas; Brandon Watson, First Baptist Church, Magnolia, Arkansas; and Dillon Harper, Olman Baptist Church, Buckner, Missouri.



The continuity of returning to the same field and the dedicated work of

the past two teams resulted in four coming to Christ and enormous exposure for our new church in Uzhgorod, Ukraine. The team hosted several 3

man street ball tournaments, played in numerous exhibition games, was interview on a local television talk show and ministered in 6 Gypsy camps where they distributed 500 Shepherd bags to children. This year the team hosted a picnic for players where they were able to have one-on-one time to share the Gospel with over 30 students.

This unique sports team is able to reach large numbers of youth and adults for Christ. Each student shares their personal testimony, Bible character study and Bible object lesson several times. Using the evangelism bracelet was especially helpful to the team this year.

Recruitment for 2013 is underway.