

Baptist

Mississippi

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President's Wife Opens Door to present Gospel to Over One Million Children 1,000,000 Shepherd Bags - Come on, God, you're joking, right?

**A report from EIM Ministries
by Michael Goodwin**

On June 10 I flew down to Honduras to prepare for the Overseas Bible School and construction teams. Groups from West Park Baptist Church, Ozark, Arkansas; Grace Baptist Church, Russellville, Arkansas; Emmaus Baptist Church, Warren, Arkansas and Shady Grove Baptist Church, Monticello, Arkansas made up the teams that would be coming to Honduras to work. I really thought this was going to be one of our typical team trips, but God had something more in store for EIM.

We had just finished our first day of Bible School and construction on Pastor Mario's home, and were all meeting up at Hotel Sula for supper. As we are in line preparing to eat, Bro. Manuel Lepe (EIM Director for Honduras) informed me that he had received a phone call from someone who wanted to have a meeting with me this evening. My first response was, "This needs to wait until tomorrow." After I told Manuel to call them back and tell them we would meet tomorrow he informed me that the person who called is from the First Lady's office. I said, "First Lady, as in the President's wife?" Manuel replied, "Yes the President's wife." Manuel went on to explain that First Lady was over Children's Education and Health for the entire country of Honduras. I then thought it would probably be best to go ahead and meet with the group.

In just a little while five Government Officials showed up at the restaurant, and we set down for our meeting. I have had many meetings over the years with many Government Officials in Honduras, and all of these meetings are generally the same, and this meeting began very similar to past meetings. They complemented EIM for the job we have



done over the last 5 years feeding the children of Honduras, because over the past 5 years we have fed over 100,000 children, pregnant mothers and lactating mothers in the Santa Barbara Region. There is no doubt in my mind, and in the Government of Honduras's mind, that EIM has had a huge impact in the lives of mothers and their children.

In this meeting the officials were very interested in knowing what our future plans were. I shared with them that we had submitted a proposal to USAID for 2010-2011. This program will be very different than the other feeding programs of the past. In this program we are going to target children 6 months to 2 years of age with a new therapeutic food supplement that USAID has just introduced to humanitarian food aid groups. This product is called NutriButter, and it is produced

for children who are suffering from severe malnutrition. They were very interested in this program and asked if EIM would partner with the government in this feeding program. They said they would get a letter of agreement from the First Lady and letter of endorsement as well. I told them that we had no problem with partnering with the government as long as they put no restrictions on us concerning the presentation of the Gospel. I told them we would in no way discriminate or use the food as a proselytizing manner, but would like the freedom to be able to minister where we could. They assured me that it would be no problem and that they would include this in our agreement. I thought then, "I'm sure glad I had this meeting."

I was prepared to leave after our discussion of the feeding program and

was saying my goodbyes when the most shocking request was made. I was told that the First Lady had a request for EIM. I wondered to myself immediately, "What could the First Lady want from me or EIM." I was told then that the First Lady had heard about our Shepherd Bag™ ministry and was wondering if they could have some for their kindergartners. I asked how many were they wanting and was told that they wanted enough for all the kindergartners in the country. I asked then, "How many is that?" The lady looked at me with a very serious face and said, "1.2 million." Needless to say, after I picked myself up off the floor, I tried to explain that we did not have that many. She proceeded to tell me that if we could supply them with Shepherd Bags™ that we would then be given the opportunity to present the gospel to every kindergarten class in the country of Honduras. I was overwhelmed, and I am still in shock. Manuel just began to laugh out loud, and said, "Brother Michael this is what I have been praying for."

As the group departed I began to wonder what God was up to. I know that this meeting didn't happen by chance or accident. There was a reason for us having this meeting. I then began to wonder how the First Lady knew about the Shepherd Bags™. We are such a small group and besides that we are just one of hundreds of groups ministering in the country of Honduras. Over the past several days I have asked myself if this was even possible. Is there any way EIM could supply all the kindergartners with Shepherd Bags™? Only God knows the answer to that. I now know though that I have

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New BMAA Directory Delivered

By Bobby Hudgens

We are happy to announce the completion and mailing of the 2010-11 edition of the BMAA Directory and Handbook. Thanks to the hundreds of churches, groups, and individuals across the BMAA for providing us with the data needed to publish this valuable resource. It can't be done without your cooperation. As you examine your directory, you'll notice a few things.

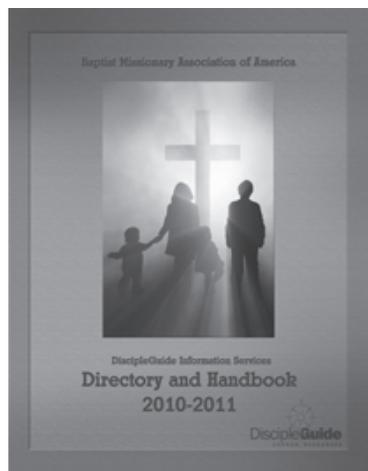
You'll find that this edition was printed on a heavier paper, which allows for better quality printing. This was achieved without increasing the cost.

We have added an Informa-

tion Services calendar on page 242 for your convenience. For instance, if you want to know when the online version of the annual church letter form is available, check the calendar and see that it's online from August 15 to February 15. When is our target date for having the next edition ready to mail? The calendar shows you the target date is late June.

Another change you will notice is that all reports and information associated with the Department of Missions is now grouped together near the front of the book.

You will be happy to know



that with the same number of churches reporting as last year, we had an increase of thirty percent in men surrendering to preach (36 to 51). The total number of BMAA churches and missions is down by twelve, while the number of baptisms is up a little over three percent.

Each church will receive two copies of the directory. If more are needed, we ask that churches purchase additional copies at \$20.00 each. This is the actual cost of producing each copy. You may call 800-333-1442 or log on to DiscipleGuide.org to order. Thank you and please continue to include Information Services in your giving.

As It Turned Out

What do you do when all around you people are doing exactly as they please? And you, yes you, are trying to serve the living God with all your heart, mind, and soul. Lawlessness abounds. Chaos and disorder are tandem in strength. Political and economic disarray overflow in the life of your nation. What do you do when in a supposed religious and Godly nation, the true and living God is pushed aside for the now, popular, convenient, and expedient? Exhausted religion holds no hope for the hopeless nor do exhausted euphemisms encourage ethical existence.

What do you do when there is even more to the narrative than moral decadence, political upheaval, and paganism in national, traditional religion? Add the ravages of famine to your daily existence. To top it off, throw in the death of all the males in your family - husbands as well as sons. Now what do you do? There is no social safety net to rescue the women. There is no relative to help. I guess you go back home to a place near Bethlehem - at least that is what Naomi and Ruth did in the Bible story.

I find irresistible the words in chapter two verse three of Ruth, "...As it turned out, she found herself working in a field belonging to Boaz." What a great and grand rest of the story! Young lady, whose life has been turned upside down by infidelity or divorce, there is hope. Middle aged lady whose life is marred by disease run rampant, there is hope. Older lady who is deprived of a loving mate due to death of spouse, there is hope. Read again those words. as it turned out!

God put Ruth in the field of Boaz where help was on the way. She didn't know it nor did she expect it. But God planned it all along, as it turned out. Ruth could not imagine what the outcome of her life was to be in just a few short days. as it turned out. Circumstances triggered a transformation in Naomi to spin her from bitterness to uninhibited celebration, as it turned out.

Boaz, Ruth's husband and Naomi's son-in-law, became the father of Obed, who was the father of Jesse, who was the father of David, who was the forerunner of the Messiah. as it turned out. Lady, I don't know your circumstances, but God is holding you close in His loving care. and it will turn out!



Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

CHURCH NEWS



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

Bro. and Mrs. Parmer Celebrate 50 years of marriage

Bro. Wexford and Mrs. Wanda Parmer will be honored on their 50th wedding anniversary at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Tupelo, where he serves as pastor. The celebration will be held Saturday, August 14, 2010, from 2-4 p.m. and hosted by their children. No gifts please.

Fulton church seeks music & education director

Bethel Baptist Church in Fulton, MS is looking for a full-time music/education director. Anyone interested in applying for this position should send a resume to: Bethel Baptist Church, Attn.: Dr. Martin

Prisoners Bible Crusade Report

Paul Lee, Director

The books for women in prison "project" is completed. Thank you ladies for choosing the Prisoners Bible Crusade to be the ministry to get the study books into the hands and hearts of women inside prisons and jails in the USA. As a reminder the WMA ladies started this project a little over two years ago to raise \$10,000.00 to buy Christian study books for women in prison. The money was raised, the books bought, and on March 1, 2010, I picked up the 2,410 books at DiscipleGuide in Texarkana, Arkansas. There were three book titles written by our own BMA lady authors - "Is Love Enough," "For Better, For Worse," and "Mama Said."

The 2,410 books were sent into prisons in 16 states. The list: NC, FL, AL, KY, PA, MS, TX, GA, VA, CA (3 different prisons in California), LA, AR, OH, IN, IL. This note about Illinois. I sent some books into the Cook County Jail in Chicago, Illinois, for the women there (as well as the state prison for women). This is the largest prison complex in the USA. The daily count is about 12,000 people.

The books and Bibles and other study books and helps were sent from 3-12-10 to 7-20-10. Why four months to complete? Fourteen of the prisons were new for the PBC. I personally contacted each chaplain in all 16 prisons. Sometimes I had to wait on forms from the prisons to send the books. I sent Bibles and other study helps along with the books. Sometimes I had to wait on Bibles to come in to send along with the books.

Praise the Lord! The books were sent as you ladies had directed. And, along with the books, we sent 744 English Bibles, 340 Spanish Bibles, 400 New Testaments, 3,300 "How to Deal With Sin in Daily Life," 2,000 "Starting My Life With Christ," 484 Spanish, "Starting My Life With Christ," 1,810 other "study helps," 1,524 tracts, 316 CD's of my sermons (46 individual sermons).

Ladies! God has blessed your efforts and in heaven we will know the fullness of each woman's life that the books have touched.

Jameson, 445 Bethel Church Road, Fulton, MS 38843.

Lucedale church seeks pastor

Oak Grove Baptist, Lucedale, Mississippi, is searching for a new pastor. For information please contact the Pastor Search committee at 251-648-8223 or by email at pat.reid@ymail.com or pat.reid@mandmbank.com.

Laurel church to hold Gospel sing

Pine Ridge Baptist Church of 220 Service Road, Laurel, will be hosting a Gospel sing on Sunday evening, August 28 featuring Mark Lanier. We will have fellowship and refreshments following the sing. For more info phone 601-319-8466.

Temple, Biloxi Homecoming

Temple Baptist Church of Biloxi will be holding it's Homecoming on August 22, 2010. We will begin service at 10:00 a.m. with special singing from "His". We will have dinner on the ground after the singing with worship to follow. We invite all to join us.

Springhill, Laurel to hold revival

Springhill Baptist Church of

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EIM Ministries

from page 1

thought way to small. God has some big things that He wants to do, and this just might be one of those BIG things that He wants to see happen.

There is no doubt the Shepherd Bag™ Ministry has had a great impact on lives. Whether it is sending bags to Romania, Ghana, Honduras, the Philippines, Pakistan, or Cape Verde it has opened the door for EIM to preach the uncompromised Gospel of Jesus Christ around the world. This year we were planning on making this our biggest year in the number of Shepherd Bags™ that we wanted to distribute, we were praying for 50,000. But I now know we were aiming way to low. God wants us to aim higher. Churches, Ladies groups, VBS's, Civic groups would you help EIM make it possible to ship 1,200,000 Shepherd Bags™ to Honduras?

You may say, like me, "Mike that's ridiculous!" But there is one thing that I know for certain, "Nothing is impossible with God." How can we do this together? If you have any ideas we would love to hear from you.

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Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP

Thou Shalt Not Covet *Not a suggestion, but a way of life*



Don Brown
Editor

Casino gambling is the law of the land in Mississippi, but no doubt goes against the law of God in the very nature of the business.

The winners are the owners of the casinos. One recently advertised that players were "winners 25% of the time". Wow, what an opportunity we have presented to us to go and knowingly lose our hard earned money **75% of the time!** Don't you just love those odds?

The Choctaw nation, which has two large casinos near Philadelphia, Mississippi, have already started construction of a 27,000 square foot facility in Jones County on tribal land. This facility is said to be the future home of 500 to 700 slot machines.

If there is anything that the good people of Jones County and Mississippi do not need it is a place to lay down hard earned money just for "the excitement of the game" and the "low percentage chance" of gain.

Gambling is a direct act of rebellion against the direction of God that we are to work for our living. Some may consider gambling work, but certainly not in the sense that the Lord meant.

There are always losers and even those who may leave with more money than they came with are the real losers.

While the Choctaw nation has every legal right to pursue this 'business' venture, I must



Aerial view of casino construction in Jones County

agree with a recent letter in our local Jones County paper. The writer pointed out that all businesses, casinos included, are dependent on their customers for success.

Let us be firm in our convictions as God's people that we will uphold His will and not be the customer.

As my grandmother used to say, "Business is business..." While we are in favor of the Choctaw people being successful and support their right to self-determination, it seems that many other legitimate business pursuits could be followed.

Letters From Our Readers

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

The Best Defense is a Good Offense

Dear Editor:

Have we as church congregations become too tolerant? The church is to be out in the world in Search and Rescue, but the world must not be in the church sanctuary. The sanctuary is the sanctified, set apart place for prayer, praise, worship and teaching of God's Word. O how wonderful it is when through these activities the Holy Spirit draws lost souls in to Salvation! That is what happened to me!

Pastors please, before you see immodest apparel being worn in the sanctuary of the church, where you have been made steward, address this growing problem on a regular basis from the pulpit. When I was growing up, it was addressed by good godly pastors and evangelists frequently. We were taught from the pulpit that immodest dress was sinful and especially not encouraged in the sanctuary. God's values never change! Ours may, but His stay the same.

Yes the best defense is a good offense, so as good Christian soldiers we should aggressively put down this attack of Satan as he uses people to defile the sanctuary of the Almighty, Holy God.

Jesus Himself drove the money changers off the porch of the Temple with the admonition: My Father's house is to be the House of Prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves. He was filled with righteous indignation, and so should we be.

Pastors, the first time you see a church member or a visitor dressed immodestly, make it a teachable opportunity and address it then and there. I believe this would be the will of God concerning this. This will probably head off offense and division, because every congregation has conservative and liberal members, there should never be compromise.

In the late 60s when I was a GMA Counselor at my church,



several of the girls came to me and asked if it would be alright if they wore jeans on Wednesday nights. At first I did not know what to say, but the still small voice responded, "Tell them if it would offend others in the church, then we shouldn't do it." This has never come up again to my knowledge. However, I am aware that now days the youth do wear jeans and shorts out in the F.L.C., but that is not part of the sanctuary. In a day and age when anything goes, God is God, and He deserves our best. The sanctuary of our Holy God is not the time or place for such dress. When this Pandora's Box is opened wide, who know where our worship services will go, and what they will look like. Let's love Jesus and the church He died for and do our best to keep it without spot or blemish. Let's love lost souls He died for and go out in the world in Search and Rescue, bring them in, and teach them the will of God in their lives. I think this would be the proper order. Paul admonishes us to do all things decently and in order..

Please do not misunderstand me. I don't mean to imply that we should, in a snobbish way, forbid them from coming in to hear the Gospel, but when they come in with the seductive parts of their bodies exposed, let's teach

them from the pulpit that this is improper dress in the sanctuary. That would be one way to love them. People attending church should not be left ignorant about this, nor about the message of salvation.

To God be the glory!
His in CHRIST
Tiny Dyess
Columbia, Mississippi

In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

1 Timothy 2:9

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Jerry Rice

Bro. Jerry Rice is available for pulpit supply, pastoral service or interim pastoral work as the Lord leads. He may be contacted at 601 508-0703 in Lucedale, MS.

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MORAL ACTION

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John Adams

See You at the Pole

Your Moral Action agency highly encourages all our pastors, youth ministers, and youth/children leaders to begin preparation for Wednesday, September 22. See You at the Pole is held at your local Mississippi schools. This is a global day of prayer as young students, children and their leaders gather around the flag pole to pray.

SYATP is a student-initiated, student-organized, and student-led event. It began in 1990, as a grass roots movement. Twenty years later, millions of Lord believing kids pray on their school campus. This event is designated for the fourth Wednesday in September yearly.

In Mantachie, the adults meet at the same hour at the Town

Hall flag pole. We pray for our children and those that lead them. The daycare centers in Mantachie also schedules events for the SYATP.

I urge all our churches to join in and seek God's face. We have the greatest kids in our own BMA of Mississippi congregations. Let's go Mississippi.

Help with Dropout Prevention

Continuing our discussion regarding Mississippi schools and their campuses, let me urge our churches, pastors, and youth leaders to promote our students to stay in school. Twenty six (26%) percent of students in Mississippi dropout annually. This ratio spans every race and socio-economic group. Especially

hard hit are the 9th - 12th grades. Moral Action of Mississippi is a proponent of all students acquiring a better life for themselves. We need strong Christian high school and college educated leaders for the future.

Slow to Recognize the Porn Dangers

Online pornography continues to grow at alarming rates. It threatens our children, teens, and young adults. The spread of porn has changed America and affects many lives and homes. Many Christian adults have been slow to recognize the ease at which pornography is presented to your children. Images are on the pop-up screens of the computers. Sexual predators

lure your children, via the internet, in their bedrooms, at their desks, and in their own homes..

Search the Google engine on the internet for the site of "National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families (N C P C F)". www.nationalcoalition.org. This is an evangelical non-profit organization whose purpose is to protect children and families from porn. Check out links on the site for many pointers and advice regarding sexual purity. Christians must continue to fight the evils of these days.

Recommended Readings and websites:

Book: Bringing Up Girls: Practical Advice by Dr. James Dobson, Tyndale House, cost approximately \$16

Video: The Nazis, A Warning From History by Laurence Rees, BBC, 290 minutes, cost approximately \$20

Moral Action of Mississippi Trustees:

I am so thankful for these

Godly leaders and their love for our state and nation.

Rev. Greg Medenwald, Hattiesburg, MS

Rev. Matt Hudson, Fulton, MS

Rev. Ed Duvall, Cleveland, MS

Dr. Eugene Anderson, Perkinston, MS

Rev. Harold Holifield, Laurel, MS

Rev. Ken Riley, Laurel, MS, Clerk

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Rev. Shane Singleton, Laurel, MS, Chairman

Rev. Danny Cresswell, Fairhope, AL

Highlighted Churches and Associations that Support the Moral Action of Mississippi

Big Creek, Soso, MS
 Benville, Picayune, MS
 Berean, Soso, MS
 Big Oak, Fulton, MS
 Big Creek Association

Join us on-line at www.moralactionofms.net

Excessive Heat Advisory

Every day we hear on the TV warning us of excessive heat this summer. My wife gets a text on her cell phone from the National Weather Service anytime there is a weather warning for Arkansas. She received a text the last 3 days stating: The National Weather Service has issued an excessive heat advisory for Arkansas.

Temperatures, combined with high humidity will make for dangerous conditions. Be sure you check on the elderly, the sick and the children. Exposure to the sun for extended periods of time can cause death. Be sure and drink plenty of water. Avoid the sun as much as possible. Take necessary precautions immediately.

It got me thinking about God. Everything makes me think of God. Did you know God has issued an Excessive Heat Advisory? It goes like this: Heaven has issued an excessive heat advisory for all of earth. Temptations, combined with high immorality will make for dangerous conditions. Be sure and check on the elderly, the sick, and all the children of earth. Exposure to the sin of this world for extended periods of time can

and will cause death. Be sure and drink plenty of living water to avoid death. Avoid sin as much as possible. Take necessary precautions immediately.

You see, all the world has received a text message advising and warning us of the excessive heat to come in a place called hell. The text message is found in Revelation 20:10,12,15. "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Do you know how hot that lake of fire will be? It will be extreme. Nothing like a southern heat wave. It states that they are tormented forever. It is so miserable it is just pure torment. And this heat doesn't end in the Fall. It doesn't ever get

quenched by rain. It is endless. Billions upon billions of years in eternal flames of torment. And God isn't making this stuff up. It is the truth. So there is your text message advising you of the upcoming heat that will cause death eternally. The excessive heat warning will soon be coming and then it will be too late.



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

I know. Americans don't want to hear about hell. They don't want to hear preaching on hell's fire and brimstone. Most American churches have completely done away with preaching about hell because it scares people away. It ought to scare people towards - Towards Christ. I know it messes with our neat little world we live in. If we don't have to hear about hell, then we can live like hell. If we don't hear sermons on hell, or people witness about the dangers of

sin, and the need for Jesus; then we can be comfortable in our calamity. Life is hard.

Most Americans want to hear about how good they are, instead of how sinful they are. It makes us feel better. And in a hedonistic society, it is all about feeling good and what offers me the most comfort. But avoiding the subject doesn't change the reality. The reality is that God is real. Jesus Christ is the only way to have a relationship with a perfect holy God. All people have sinned. Therefore, there is no way to have a relationship with God unless our sin is paid for. Jesus Christ paid for our sin, and therefore He becomes the only way to a relationship with God and eternal life in heaven. Romans 10:9, John 14:6

If you don't believe in hell, then you don't believe in heaven. However, the truth is it doesn't matter whether you believe it or not. It is a reality for all humanity and you need to decide today what side you are on. You can't be both. Choose this day whom you will serve. Many people say you shouldn't scare people into salvation. No you shouldn't. People can't get saved except

under the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Faith comes from hearing, and hearing from the Word. It is not I who condemn you, but the words that Jesus spoke. It is so easy, even a child can understand the Gospel.

So you have a choice. Believe in Jesus as the Son of God. Accept the free gift of eternal life by God's grace and spend forever by a crystal sea and in perfect peace. No more tears. No more sun. No more problems. Eternal peace and joy. Or make fun of religion, Christianity, tell yourself you can do whatever you want, and you don't want to hear about hell. But hell is hot. Hell is coming for all who are not written in the book of life having accepted salvation through Christ. You will burn forever in hell. Why do you desire that? You think August is hot in the South. Wait till you get to hell! Finally, listen to the saddest words in the bible found in Jeremiah 8:20: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."

This has been your excessive heat advisory. Take heed to the advice. The truth will set you free. Right now, believe and ask Jesus to save you.

A changing church in a changing world

Texas Church 'regenerates' self

The Journey to reGenesis

"Did you hear what happened at Such-n-Such Church?" "Well, I heard So-n-So did this-n-that and that's how it came about." You and I hear (and sadly, sometimes take part in) such discussions from time to time about events involving another church. The "grapevine" gets burned up with the latest tidbit of information.

I suspect that recent events at Webb Chapel Baptist Church have sparked some discussion in various settings. At the same time I am aware of the adage that if you're worried how much people think of you, the truth is they seldom do. Nevertheless, I felt compelled to share what has happened with our church over the course of the last year for a couple reasons: 1) to share our story, because it is definitely a God-thing, and 2) to clear up any possible miscommunications or misinformation.

After coming to Webb Chapel in 2003, I began to see year by year a decline. We did the things we knew to do and even had special renewal conferences, spiritual emphasis campaigns, and did some tweaking with our programs and schedule. We saw bursts of life from time to time, but nothing that was significant and lasting. The numbers were telling us the story that none of us wanted to hear: we were caught in a spiral of decline.

What God ultimately used to awaken me to our true plight was our stewardship of our financial resources. I studied our budget and saw that about 38% of total income for 2008 went toward overhead, maintenance, and upkeep of building and property. God challenged me with this question: Would we not be able to redirect those resources into actual ministry if we did not have to pour them into a building and property? It was a

simple, yet revolutionary concept to me at that time. I posed the question to our Finance Committee as we met to discuss the next year's budget. The committee members were intrigued.

God began to expand this challenge to the idea of starting over. What if we just started over with a clean slate as a new church? What if we transitioned from operating as an established church to becoming a new church entirely? "God, You can't be talking to me. I'm not one of those firebrand, cutting edge kind of guys. It sounds good, but that just can't really happen with a church like this one...can it?" Oh, you should have heard some of the conversations I had with the Heavenly Father over this! But the more I prayed over it and God moved on me, it became clear this was the path God wanted to take us down, and He wanted me involved.

It was not an easy thing to bring up, but the more we discussed it, people realized if we simply continued on the path we were on, the church would eventually be forced to make really tough decisions or just close the doors. I knew the cost would be high. Some would not fully understand why we couldn't just try harder at what we were already doing; others would agree this was the move the church needed to make, but they could not personally commit to making the transition, and a few others would just simply leave no matter what. But I have to say that God gave amazing grace to our bedrock members to be supportive of their pastor. I received nothing but encouragement and kind words even from those who were not sold on the replanting idea.

The Deacons and Trustees recommended we put our property up for sale and begin in earnest the process toward replanting. God brought a buyer to us within two weeks. A rental location was secured, and plans were made for phasing down Webb Chapel Baptist Church and ramping up a new church: reGenesis. Our final service as Webb Chapel was April 11, 2010, our launch service for reGenesis Church was June 13, 2010, and we closed on the Webb Chapel property in June as well.

ReGenesis Church has been enjoying the powerful presence of God. He is leading us in a direction we could never have taken as an established church. We are able to start from the ground up on becoming the church God intends us to be. Our vision is fresh, our focus is once again sharp, and our members are excited about how God is using them in daily life to have impact and influence for the kingdom. We are continually looking for what God is up to around us so we can join Him in the transformation of communities.

We are still involved with the BMA on all levels—local, state, and national. We did not become some unaffiliated non-denominational group. For all practical purposes as far as our associational involvement is concerned, the only thing that changes is our name and contact information. ReGenesis Church is a replant of Webb Chapel; it is not a replacement of Webb Chapel. We wanted to build on the legacy of this great church, which began as Lemmon Avenue Baptist Church. Throughout her history, Webb Chapel leaders and members had the vision to reach the unreached. ReGenesis is a continuation of that legacy. We at reGenesis Church are grateful for those who have gone

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Church News

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Laurel will be hosting her annual revival on August 8-13, 2010. The order of services will be as follows: Sunday services will begin at 9:45 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon services. We will be having evening services, Monday through Friday at 7:00 p.m.

Bro. Dewitt Bain will be leading us as we worship our heavenly Father. We would like for you to come and be with us during this time of worship.

Steven Clark, Pastor

Tombigbee Association Meeting Report

Friendship Baptist Church of Baldwyn was the gracious host on July 8. A delicious meal was enjoyed before the meeting. There were 70 present.

Bro. Lewis from Shiloh Baptist Church read a devotion and had encouraging words and prayers.

Dr. Medrick Savell, president of Southeastern Baptist College gave a report. The college is doing well and deserves our support and prayers.

Bro. Bryan Wilson preached from John 16:7, 14-16 about how "The Holy Spirit Indwells."

Bro. Blake McCain and South Green Baptist Church will host the August 5th meeting.

Moderator, Bro. Bryan Wilson

Reporter, Wanda Parmer

Movella, Lucedale to Hold Revival

Movella Missionary Baptist Church, Lucedale, Mississippi, will hold revival services August 15-20. Services will begin with Sunday School at 9:45 am, preaching at 10:45, lunch at noon followed by afternoon services. Weekday services will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Bro. Coy Rice of Saucier, Mississippi, will be bringing the messages. Pastor Donald Brown and congregation invite you to come and worship with us.

Amanda Jones, Reporter



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Family Togetherness

There's a lot of talk these days about the importance of families doing things together. Some folks seem to think they're the first one to think of that idea!

Well, I've got a little revelation for them. My Mama had that happy idea a long time ago! Her idea of family togetherness was sitting around shelling peas or butter beans, or snapping beans or peeling peaches by the washtub full.

If you are industrious enough to have a garden and children to help shell, then that puts you way ahead in this business of raising younguns.

Children who are taught to work and respect their parents are way ahead in their lessons about spiritual life.

Go read Psalm 103.

Mrs. Bobbie Thompson Dies

Services for Mrs. Bobbie Jean Thompson (Aunt Bobbie) were held on Monday, July 5, 2010 at Tiger Creek Baptist Church in Overt, Mississippi. She was 80 years old and went to be with the Lord on July 1st at Comfort Care Nursing Home. She was a member of Tiger Creek where she served as pastor's wife for 19 years. Aunt Bobbie was a teacher, friend, mentor, sister, shoulder to cry on, and mother to all of us here at Tiger Creek. Most of all, she was a dear Christian lady who taught us to love God and to put Him first in our lives. She will be sadly missed by all.

Betty Holifield, reporter
Dana Williams, pastor



Mrs. Bobbie Thompson

Med school abortion scheme under way

OneNewsNow - A journalist for the New York Times recently reported that billionaire Warren Buffett is taking steps to make sure that medical schools are producing more abortionists so that the practice will ultimately be integrated as a "seamless part of healthcare for women - embraced rather than shunned."

Most doctors do not want to be abortionists, not only because it is a dirty business, but also because their professional purpose is to preserve the quality of life - not death.

"These procedures are out of the mainstream of medicine," notes Dr. Donald Thompson, director of global health outreach for the Christian Medical Association (CMA). "There are no standards of care. It's a shame, but a veterinarian's office has more oversight than an abortion clinic."

Buffett is trying to work with his money behind the scenes to stop the decrease in doctors who are willing to do abortions while also attempting to bring abortion into mainstream medicine.

Central to his strategy are two training programs: Family Planning Fellowship, a two-year post-residency program designed to further equip doctors for providing abortions and contracep-

tion, and the Kenneth J. Ryan Residency Training Program, which supplies medical schools with funds to train OB-GYN residents in providing abortions.

But Thompson does not think Buffett will ever reach his goal.

"I don't feel abortion will ever become an accepted part of standard medical care," he suggests. "It's well-known and available because of a lot of money and a lot of political pressure that's coming from those who have an extremist social agenda."

As for whether or not Buffett's money will make a significant difference, the CMA global health outreach director believes the billionaire would have "to dangle a huge financial carrot because of the stench that many people associate with abortions."

Panel's landmark denial frees NYC mosque site

NEW YORK - A New York City panel has denied landmark status to a building near ground zero, freeing organizers to build an Islamic center and mosque there.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission's decision allows organizers to transform the 152-year-old building into an Islamic community center blocks from the site of the September 11 attacks.

National and New York politicians and the Anti-Defamation League have come out in recent weeks against plans for the mosque, saying it disrespects the memory of September 11 victims. Mayor Michael Bloomberg has supported the mosque.

The commission voted 9-0 against granting landmark status to the building.

Commissioners said the building didn't meet historic criteria to qualify as a landmark.

*For there is
one God,
and one mediator
between God and
men, the man
Christ Jesus;*

1 Timothy 2:5

Commission on Senior Adults

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



Greetings,

It is a joy to report on your Commissions on Senior Adults. With God's help, the faithful financial support of our people, and a little hard work, your Commission is doing quite well. After the two successful conferences there is not a lot going on. The seniors over the state are doing their own summer things. They do their trips and other activities as they choose. I do hear of some great activities our seniors are doing. Thank all of you who pray for us and those who support this good work financially.

Church Visits

My wife and I have enjoyed our visits to Unity, McHenry; Bearean, Soso; Broadmoor, Meridian; Big Creek, Soso; and Shiloh, Mt. Olive. Our membership is at Calvary, Taylorsville, Bro. John Leland Riles is our good pastor. Bro. Riles and Calvary Church are a kind and friendly people.

Association Visits

I enjoyed my visits to the Big Creek, Hobolochitto, Oak Grove, and Capitol associations. To visit and fellowship with my brothers and sisters in Christ in the different areas of the state is a blessing as well as a great strength to me. It would be a

dull and lonely world if we didn't have fellow Christians to love and talk to. Yet, I notice that fewer and fewer of our pastors along with their members attend the associations. I wonder what these folks think they will do in heaven. I don't think it will be my little group over here and your little group over in another corner. If I understand it, heaven will be one big, happy family. All three of the associations mentioned above give regular financial support to the Commission.

Available

I thank the Lord for every opportunity He affords me to preach His Word, and to assist our churches when needed. I surrendered to the Gospel ministry on September 4, 1949. Springhill Baptist Church, Laurel, helped me grow up, baptized me, licensed and then ordained me on January 22, 1950. I count it a blessing to have a place to work and serve in the Kingdom of Christ. If I can assist our churches by filling the pulpit, I will be thankful for the opportunity (601) 729-3198.

Something New

The trustees and I are thinking about adding a new attraction to the conferences. We have not decided just what we will do, but it will be fun. One idea is to

ask the ladies to display a quilt they quilted or some needlework they did. One idea is to ask all seniors who will to bring a picture of themselves no later than their first grade in school and have others to identify them. Men who have special talents could display their work. We thought it would be fun to have several to reveal a funny thing that happened to them or an embarrassing experience. We will have more on this later when plans are finalized. Please be thinking about some of these ideas.

These Days

Paul wrote that in the last days perilous times would come. In II Timothy 3:1 Paul said we should KNOW that perilous times would come. We are now deep into the times Paul said would come. He goes on to tell us what to look for in these days. One of the saddest things about these perilous times is the "apostasy" and falling away from the truth. The falling away is not only found in liberal circles, or liberal religion circles, it is much closer home. The falling away, the spiritual coldness, the deadness, and laziness have reach Baptist churches. I am afraid these sins have reached many BMA churches as well. We need revival. We need a turning back to God. We need to go back to our roots and to the Doctrines and principles found in the New Testament. I am glad to stand with our BMA people as we continue to stand on the doctrines of God's Word.

Texas Church

from previous page

before us and that have made this incredible opportunity available to us.

The truth of John 12:24 describes the sacrifice of Webb Chapel for the greater vision of kingdom harvest: "Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." Out of the seed of Webb Chapel we envision a movement of church plants across the Metroplex springing out of reGenesis Church. The journey of reGenesis to this point has been stressful, yet stimulating; exhausting, yet exhilarating. We are excited to see how God uses us over the next several years and what He will do with a church that is willing to "begin again."

reGenesis Church
Carey Crawford, pastor
972-754-1792 mobile
972-418-0177

homewww.YouCanBeginAgain.com

BMA of Mississippi Christian Ladies Retreat

Camp Garaywa - Clinton, Mississippi
September 10-11, 2010

Big Girls Growing Up In Christ

Retreat Speaker Anita Akers

For more information contact:

Sharon Lindsey, Retreat Coordinator
662-862-5889 Email slindsey157@yahoo.com

Cut off date for registration is Friday, August 10, 2010

BMA OF MISSISSIPPI MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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



It is a blessing to report to you again of the progress of our missionaries and missions.

Fiscal Year Ends

Saturday July 31, 2010 closed another fiscal year of operation for the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Missions and Revolving Loan Fund Departments. Our office records show that the Missions Department will close out this year in the black, and the Revolving Loan Fund Department is showing a large increase in net assets. PRAISE THE LORD, HE IS GOOD! Horne(s Auditing Group has already begun the process of our annual audit and hopes to be finished in plenty of time for us to schedule our annual State Missions Missionary Committee and Revolving Loan Fund Trustee meetings without being rushed.

Hillcrest Baptist Church, Yazoo City



Hillcrest Church set to build new building "on the hill"

After being destroyed by a tornado Hillcrest Baptist Church asked me to help steer them through their regathering and building process. I agreed to do



Hillcrest members lay out new building

so and our first step was to elect a building committee. From that point a decision to relocate on the hill above the original location has been agreed upon. I do not have a total figure at this time of writing, but with the insurance and donations that have come in from various churches, groups, and individuals Hillcrest should be able to rebuild without incurring a heavy indebtedness. It is my honor to assist Hillcrest which is one of our former state mission projects. Hillcrest is a very loving and caring church.

Ray Boone and New Heart Mission, Hattiesburg

The progress of New Heart is an assurance that the Lord was definitely in Bro. Boone's selection of South Hattiesburg as his field of labor. It is very rare that people contact the missionary asking him to visit their home, but not for Bro. Boone. This mission was begun with good attendance which

has continued. Mrs. Boone has undergone foot surgery to correct a problem relating to a previous head on accident that occurred in Missouri. Her surgery went well but she will not be able to use her foot for some time.

Estuardo Marroquin and El Camino Mis- sion, Laurel

El Camino continues to grow and is encouraged with the beginning of the new Hispanic Mission in Petal. As a means of encouragement to the Petal Mission, several of El Camino's members from Laurel have been visiting with those of Petal helping with visitation and attending worship.

Joseph Oyeleye and Maple Street Mission, Columbus

Maple Street is blessed to see improvement in attendance and finances. Bro. Joseph has worked hard for the progress of Maple Street and now the Lord is rewarding his labor. Maple Street is blessed to have a very nice parsonage and church plant.

Elvis Garcia and First Hispanic Mis- sion, Ripley

Bro. Elvis Garcia has just returned from Guatemala after visiting with his family due to the death of his grandmother. Some weeks ago Bro. Elvis called on a Monday morning excited over an attendance of 105 for Sunday worship. He also stated that First Hispanic was anxious to get the baptistry connected since several are awaiting baptism. Needless to say, first Hispanic is excited to be in their new facilities.

Ed Duvall and Homestretch Mission, Cleveland

Bro. Ed's health appears to be about the same as he awaits an available kidney transplant. He has been helping with the construction of the Home-



Homestretch building progress

stretch building in several ways. After the foundation and floor was poured the Master's Builders came and helped stand up the exterior and inside walls, did a large portion of the electrical work, installed the metal siding, exterior windows and doors, set the roof trusses, and nailed on the roof lathing. The following week the Classic Builders of Mississippi with the help of a few others installed the metal roof. We are now in the process of hanging and finishing the sheetrock which we hope to have completed by August 6. After that we will be busy painting and installing the interior doors and trim work. Bro. Ed's goal is to host the Delta fellowship on Sunday afternoon of August 29, 2010. It is also his plan to organize Homestretch into a New Testament Baptist Church on Satur-

day afternoon of September 25, 2010 at 2:P.M. You are invited by Homestretch to attend this very special occasion.

June Missionary Reports

El Camino

For the month of June, in Laurel, Bro. Estuardo reached out and visited 15 homes, made 18 soul talks and had 6 professions of faith. They had an average of 52 in their Sunday School and 66 in their Evening service. The Lord blessed El Camino with an average weekly offering of \$763.33. Bro. Estuardo was blessed to baptize 9 souls.

Petal Mission

Bro. Estuardo's New Mission was very successful in June. In Petal there were 9 home visited with 9 soul talks. He had 2 professions of faith with 1 to be baptized. They had a average Sunday school attendance of 7. They were blessed with an average offering of \$16.75.

Maple Street

June was a blessed month for Bro. Joseph. He visited 18 homes and made 44 soul talks. Their weekly average Sunday school attendance was 21. For morning worship they averaged 32, and had a weekly average offering of \$397.00.

New Heart

Bro. Boone has had a blessed month of 133 home visits and 59 soul talks. New Heart saw 2 professions of faith. Their weekly average Sunday Morning service was 32 and evening worship 36. The Lord blessed with an average offering of \$357.20. They also received a designated offering of \$100.00.

Homestretch

During the month of June Bro. Ed made 15 home visits, made 16 soul talks. Homestretch had an average weekly Sunday school attendance of 12 and morning worship of 33. Their weekly average offering was \$815.81 and a special designated offering of \$140.79.



Hilcrest provides camper for overnight visits