

Baptist

Mississippi

Journal

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

AUGUST 1, 2011

VOL. 65 No. 15

Builders work at El Camino Church

by Nelda Malone
Classic Builders Reporter

On July 11, the Mississippi Classic Builders and a few couples from The Master's Builder's, gathered to help remodel The El Camino Baptist Mission church building in Laurel, Mississippi. El Camino had been worshipping there for about three years and were now needing more space. The Builders began to take down walls, put up new ones, ceiling beams were placed, sheet rock was put up, a stage was built and the sanctuary and Sunday school rooms began to take shape.

The Mississippi Missions Office generously allowed us to park our RVs in their parking lot and to use their building facilities whenever we needed them. Bro. Lavell Lee, Lori, and Kim in the mission's office, were always there to help us in whatever we needed. They also helped to see that we were well fed! A big 'thank you' from all the Builders.

Also, thank you to Pastor Estuardo Marroquin, his wife Jasmin, and the members of El Camino Church. Bro. Estuardo and several of the men of the



church worked along side the Builders every day. Jasmin supplied several great meals for the the Builders.

Lebanon Baptist Church of Laurel also had several men who worked with our men on the building and one day their ladies provided the noon meal for us. A love offering for the Builders was also taken up and given to the Mississippi Classic Builders Auxiliary. Thank

you so much for all your support and giving!

Bro. Xavier Joshua and several members of Fifth Avenue Baptist in Laurel, also worked with our men. What a blessing they were to all of us! Thank you so much for giving of your time and energy.

While we were in Laurel, we had the opportunity and privilege to attend

the first meeting of New Heart Baptist Mission in their new building in Hattiesburg. The Builders had worked on the building a little over two months ago, and now they were meeting in it! What a beautiful building it is! New Heart members have really done a wonderful job finishing the building. Our love and prayers go out to Bro. Ray Boone, his wife Joann, and all the dear members of New Heart as they grow. Maybe the Builders will get the call to come back because they need more space!

As you can see, working with the Builders is such a blessing. The work is hard for our men, but as I heard one man say during the job, "It's Happy work"! If you are looking for a way to serve the Lord, and this sounds like something you would enjoy, we would love to have you join us. Contact John Mangum, office coordinator for The Master's Builders, at 318-205-5155 or Jack Mitchell, office coordinator for the Mississippi Classic Builders, at 228-627-1316.

We have these prayer requests: A director for the Mississippi Missions office as Bro. Lavell Lee is Acting Director at this time. Jack Taylor and Donnie Cockrell for health problems and Anita Dees and family in the loss of Bill.

Invest In Your Pastor...And Your Church!

Pastors Oasis - October 11-13, 2011

Few people have any idea of the pressures and issues facing pastors today. And while this stress is not new to those in ministry, the disastrous results and fallout are becoming epidemic in our land. Statistical studies and articles dealing with this problem all arrive at the same hard truth about pastoral ministry:

The average tenure in ministry has declined from 21 years in 1990 to less than 12 years today.

94% of pastors say they feel pressure to have a perfect family.

90% feel inadequately trained to cope with the demands of ministry.

80% of pastors say ministry has had a negative impact on their own families.

70% say their self-esteem was higher before they began ministry.

40% consider quitting every Monday morning.

25% of clergy marriages end in divorce.

Statistics go on to show that pressures like these drive 1,600 shepherds out of the ministry every month - 19,000

pastors each year. Kirk Shelton, Pastoral Ministries and Church Growth Consultant for DiscipleGuide Church Resources, says that the problems do not end there. "It's one thing to have men becoming discouraged and disillusioned and leaving the ministry; that's tragic enough. But you have to add to that number of casualties the 'walking wounded' who step into pulpits every Sunday attempting to preach and lead their churches while dealing with issues of anger, bitterness, pornography, and some even in illicit re-

lationships. I hear from pastors almost every week with these and other struggles."

How can your church help to nurture and minister to your minister? One thing you can do is send your pastor and his wife to Pastors Oasis in Branson, Missouri. Pastors Oasis is designed to minister to those who lead the Lord's churches. "We do everything we can to minister to the pastor

continued on page 2

Eyeglasses for BMMI Trips

by Shirley Ladd
Missionary To Mexico

Her eyes opened widely as she exclaimed, "Yes! Yes! Now I can see the eye of the needle", and she slipped the thread right through it!

"No, No, the letters are still very blurry." Suddenly, with a big smile on his face, he exclaimed, "That's clear! I can read it!"

On the two most recent BMMI trips to Moldova and Dominican Republic, reading glasses were a big part of the ministry. Many Christians were excited about now being able to see well enough to read their Bible. In Dominican Republic over 260 of the 500 pairs of reading glasses taken on the trip, went home with happy people.

The following strengths were most used: 1.00, 1.25, 1.50, 3.00, 3.25, and 3.50. Of course, everything in between is useful also.

Glasses like the ones that are sold at Dollar Tree....yes, only \$1 per pair....are filling the needs of many people. If your church, Sunday School class, WMA, youth group, Brotherhood, or VBS would like to be a part of this ministry, you may either buy the glasses yourself or send a designated offering for "Eyeglasses" to BMMI, P.O. Box 30910, Little Rock, AR 72260.



TAKE TIME TO PRAY

Editor's Note: My friend Dr. Tony Cleaver is a prolific writer and is gracious in his sharing his thoughts with us. For the next four issues we are highlighting excerpts from a project he is working on. As you read these prayers, let them be an inspiration to you to strengthen your own prayer life.

Dear God of all those who are married, want to be married, and have been married:

I thank you for pleasant memories of my mother and dad. I thank you for pleasant memories of my mother and father-in-law. Both of these couples were married for over 60 years. I thank you for the testimony of those years. They had commitment and they had staying power to that commitment of "till death do us part."

The example they set for me and for my wife is magnificent. I would not think of anything less for my own marriage than the example they set. The lives they lived even now live on in their influence in our present day. Help me to honor that kind of example in my own life with my marriage.

Lord, I ask your blessings on all the young men and women who are right now planning their own wedding. Give them courage for life commitment to each other. Exclusiveness of monogamous relationship in marriage is not an inconsistent process with Your plan for humankind.

Lord, I ask Your blessings on all those who are in the doldrums of a marriage relationship that may have turned sour. Renew their vows of commitment to each other through special circumstances of life. Move them into a relationship they sought months, years ago. May they find joy in committing their marriage to You.

Lord, I ask Your blessings on those who have come to the point of ending their marriage commitment. Give them an energy burst of emotional and spiritual will to "give one more" opportunity. Help them to remember their pledge in the "presence of God and these witnesses" that it is solemn and serious. What they do is eternal.

Lord of marriage; be with the couples of our land. Give them Your marriage guidance and marriage counseling. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Tony Cleaver

How and Why Should We Praise God?

Psalm 146
by Joseph Harris

Introduction

Praising God with a description of His attributes is always in order since His actions are based on His attributes. However, more praise is usually given to God declaring His actions, since we see His goodness and relate to it by experience as recipients. Since we are commanded to praise God, and from God can come growth and strength, then the purpose and formula of praising God must be understood and followed in order to present perfect praise to our Lord.

This Psalm focuses on declaring praise based on His ac-

tions, while indirectly mentioning His attributes. He is shown to be our (1) great help and benefactor, (2) based on His unconditional word, (3) who is just and benevolent, (4) who reigns forever.

We should praise God now in this life because He is our great help 1-4.

a. We should praise God now in this life. The first common sense thought in regard to this statement is, "Well of course we should praise God while we live. How can we praise Him if we are dead." But a closer look at the verse reveals that it is not speaking just of

praising Him on this earth, in this life, once, or twice, or three times, or even occasionally. The emphasis is to praise God



Joseph Harris

throughout life on this earth. Praise should be a continual, natural expression of our relationship with God, for a lifetime and as a way of life, hence the phrase, "While I live I will praise the Lord...".

b. We should praise Him in song. Praise can be given in meditation, in exclamation, or in song. Here the writer specifically states that praise should be in song. The Hebrew word for "being", transliterated owd, speaks of repetition or continuance. In true Hebrew

continued on page 5

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.

Temple, Lucedale to hold revival

Temple Baptist Church, Lucedale, Mississippi will hold revival services from August 7 through August 10. Sunday service will be at 11:00 am, lunch at the church and an afternoon service. Monday - Wednesday evening services will begin at 7:00 pm each night.

Bro. Ken Riley, pastor of Lebanon Baptist Church, Laurel, will be our guest speaker. We invite all to come and worship with us. Temple is located at 88 Summer Street in Lucedale.

Harmony Association Report

The Harmony Association met July 11th at New Hope Baptist Church, Mantachie. The message was given by Dr. Jameson from Phillipians 14:6-7, entitled 'How To Win Over Worry'.

There were 11 churches represented with 62 in attendance and 1 visitor. Minutes and financial reports were read and approved. Dr. Jameson tendered his resignation as moderator, stating he had resigned

his pastorate and accepted a teaching position at Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas. The annual meeting will be held at Forked Oak in Booneville on October 8, with Bro. Bobby Johnson serving as moderator.

Reports were given by Dr. John Adams of the MAC, and Bro. Elvis Garcia. Bro Bobby Johnson introduced Bro. Bobby Elliott, who spoke regarding his desire to start a mission church in Burnsville, Mississippi. He asked the association for their prayers and support. A time of food and fellowship followed the meeting.

Martin Jameson, moderator
Tony Marolt, reporter

Tombigbee Association Meeting

The Tombigbee Association met July 7, 2011, at Pleasant Hill Church with the host church serving a great meal at 6 p.m. After the meal, there was an opening song and Bro. Milton Wright led in prayer. After a welcome by Bro. Parmer and special music by Kerrie Smith, the evening message was by Bro. Roger Franks, titled "What are Revivals Really For".

Bro. Elvis Garcia spoke on the Ripley work; Ricky Johnson and Bobby Elliott spoke on the possibility of a Mission Work in the Burnsville area. Bro. Roger Akers reported on the church camp and shared that 14 were saved and 1 surrendered to the ministry. Bro. Akers mentioned the Bible Conference for the 3 Local Associations on September 11-12, at East Amory Baptist Church. There was a total of 71 present.

Moderator Gary Smith
Reporter Debbie Franks

Invest In Your Pastor

from page 1

and wife, make them feel special, just let them know how important they are and how much they are loved," said Shelton, who coordinates the event.

This year's Oasis is scheduled for October 11-13 at the Chateau On The Lake in beautiful Branson, Missouri. The month of October is "Pastor Appreciation Month" across the country. Healthy churches have to be led by healthy pastors, it's a fundamental principle. Pastors Oasis is one way a congregation can invest in her pastor, and in the church.

This year's Oasis is going to be one of the best ever. Dr. Voddie Baucham, pastor of the Grace Family Baptist Church in Spring, Texas - and one of the most influential speakers today - is our preacher for the event. Worship will be led by Neil Dumas and guest artists include Larnelle Harris, Dennis Swanberg, and more. The cost is only \$75 per person if registered by September 10th. If you have questions or desire more information, call Tricia at 501.513.3726 or email tricia@DiscipleGuide.org. Visit our web site at www.DiscipleGuide.org for all the conference details.

Texas Discipleway Training Well Received

A combination of pastors, pastors' wives, deacons, deacons' wives, laymen, laymen's wives, seminary students and professors, an ABS director and a missionary participated in the latest DiscipleWay training held at Jacksonville Baptist Seminary July 21-23.

There were almost fifty trainees in what turned out to be our largest group so far that attended the three day, two night event. Although the hours were long, the spirits were high and all left feeling encouraged and excited about this new tool they will use in making disciple makers.

Some of the comments from the attendees included:

"This is excellent training with excellent materials that I am looking forward to taking back to my church."

"This was all very clear and well presented. Thank you for

these wonderful tools!"

"This should become the "lifeblood" of our church."

"I got my spirit restored and my passion stirred to go home and do a better job training my people."

"I am thrilled to have the Inductive Bible Study method of examining God's word."

"I am ready to disciple faithful men. This was what I needed and I am now prepared and have a tool to use."

"I now have the capability to disciple and disciple well."

"My greatest take away from these sessions is that I need to make disciples and I have a greater confidence that I can now accomplish that task."

"This was an excellent experience! The humility and passion of the DiscipleWay team is admirable. The teaching and training was effective and thorough."

"This encouraged me to be a disciple maker and not wait on someone else to do the work."

"I now have a tool in hand to do what I know needs to be done."

"I am so encouraged by the quality and practicality produced by the BMA especially with the emphasis on the Inductive Bible Study as foundation for all of the disciplines."

Among the attendees were thirteen women. Depending on the response in other states we hope to have a ladies only small group for going through the training process.

Upcoming events include:
 MISSISSIPPI: August 11-13
 Magnolia Baptist Church,
 Hattiesburg MS
 ARKANSAS: September 15-17
 Oasis Church Maumelle AR
 OKLAHOMA: October 27-29
 (Venue not yet confirmed)

Please check the website

(www.discipleway.com) for more details that include information sheets and registration forms. The Mississippi deadline is fast approaching so do not delay!

As always, contact Tommy and Judy Wallace for more information at wallace@discipleway.com or 501-724-3193.

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

2Timothy 2:2

Mississippi 2011 Shoebox Drop Station

**BMA of Mississippi
 Missions Office**

4226 Hwy 15 North
 Laurel, MS 39440

Phone: 601-428-8616

Contact Person: Lavell Lee or
 Kimberly Glenn



Southeastern Baptist College



Serving Christ
With A
Biblical Worldview
In A
Christian Atmosphere



**Special Emphasis
 Offering
 July - August 2011**



Southeastern Baptist College
 4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440
 601-426-6346 www.southeasternbaptist.edu



Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

When Something Needs To Be Done

There is the story of the pastor who had a deacon who, in spite of being a good man, had the bad habit of cursing. The pastor decided that he must speak to the deacon, but was afraid he would get mad and just walk away. Thinking he had the solution, the pastor took the deacon fishing. He reasoned that if he got the deacon out on the lake where he could not leave, he could talk to him about his constant use of bad language.



Don Brown
Editor

They had been fishing for some time when the pastor hooked a huge bass. He fought the fish to the surface and could not believe the size of this monster. After being careful to reel this prize in, the pastor eased him up to the boat and tried to slip the net under him. Just as he approached the fish with the net, this large mouth denison of the deep shook his head and out popped the hook and this once-in-a-lifetime trophy was free.

The pastor was beside himself! Never had he had such a prized catch so close! In his frustration the pastor turned to the deacon and said, "Deacon, something ought to be said!"

The pastor had a problem and thought he had the solution, but things did not work out the way he had planned. When our efforts and plans seem to take alternate routes and we are not accomplishing our goals; when it seems there is no solution; when all we try fails, we need to be creative and ask God what He would have us to do.

Many times the answer is before us. Sometimes God sends solutions that we had not considered. If there is an area of your life or ministry that is not prospering or not going in the direction you think it should, then take that situation directly to the One who has all the answers and seek His direction. His ways are not our ways and who knows, He probably has a direction for us to go that we have not yet considered.

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"IT WAS A PREACHING ACCIDENT. I PREACHED THE TRUTH AS I SAW IT, AND THEY THREW ME OUT ON MY EAR!"

VSM Basketball Ministry

The 2011 VSM Basketball team returned to Ukraine for a second year working with Missionary Laura Kanyakina and her husband Andrey. The continuity of returning with a basketball team has yielded very positive results, allowing for the reestablishing and building of relationships. Several three man tournaments were conducted across Ukraine, as well as several exhibition games. Many contacts were made, evangelistic messages given and local church promotion accomplished. Highlights from this year's mission include speaking and witnessing to over 1,000 people, participating in an area-wide tournament and concert with a skateboarding exhibition, and invitations to appear on two television talk shows. This allowed us to explain what the VSM mission is all about as well as promote the local Baptist church. This year's service project was working with two Gypsy camps. These people are Romanian speaking Gypsy refugees who are considered outcasts by the local population. We played games with the children, performed Bible skits, lessons and songs and provided tee shirts and Shepherd bags for over 500 kids.



Pictured back to front: Oleg Stemakov, Russia; Martez Wells, Mississippi; Jimmy Walker, Arkansas; Turner Harper, Texas; Zac Whitiker, Texas; Mikie Harwell, Arkansas; Kevin Lybrand, Texas; Trevor Rogers, Arkansas; Illya Marmykov, Russia; Wes Kizer, Texas.

Plans are underway to once again return to Ukraine in the Summer of 2012. All interested students who love basketball, and love God more, are encouraged to apply to be on the team. Applications can be accessed on the Baptist Missionary Association of America's web site <http://www.bmaamissions.org>. You can also contact team leader Stan Scroggins at First Baptist Church in Magnolia, Arkansas or by calling 870-234-3595.

National Senior Adult Conference November 17-19, 2011

Hiltons of Branson, Missouri

Registration \$125 Per Person by October 17, 2011
Late Registration - \$135 & Staying Off-site - \$145
Paid registration is non-refundable
after the cut-off date

All in attendance are expected to pay registration.

*This event is designed for senior adults
so we ask that children not attend*

Log on to discipleguide.org for more information.

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Larry Pierce

Bro. Larry Pierce is available in view of call, pulpit supply, interim pastor, revivals, or wherever the Lord leads. He may be contacted at 601-947-3531.

Wilkie Parker

Bro. Wilkie Parker is available for pastoral service. He is a member of Canaan Baptist Church, Lucedale, Mississippi and is 52 years old. He has pastoral experience and he and his wife Kathy have one grown daughter. He may be reached at 601-508-8433.

Scott Downes

Bro. Scott Downes is available for pastoring, pulpit supply and revivals. He may be reached at 601-749-0951 or 601-916-0486.



USPS 353-960
P.O. Box 8181
Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000

Phone 601-426-3293
Fax 601-763-4430

Don J. Brown, Editor
E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org
Web site www.msbaptist.org

PRICE
\$20.00 Per Year by Mail
\$10.00 Per Year by Email
CHURCH PLAN
\$ 1.30 Per Month

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the *Mississippi Baptist Paper*, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441-8000.

The great need in Haiti My trip to Port-au-Prince

by Michel Poirier
BMA Missionary to Canada

Entering in the plane I asked the Lord to protect and guide me for the trip and the visit I was about to be making with the Haitians. The flight was good and I landed safely, the temperature was around 95 degrees F. My driver (Patrick) was waiting for me at the airport, and drove me to the place where I stayed. As we are driving down the road I saw the same picture of devastation caused by the earthquake one and a half years ago. Very little has changed - tents, shacks made of tin tide down with wire and people begging for bread. "Give me a dollar", little kids say to me. I looked around and there were no parents to provide for them, so they have to fend for themselves trying to survive another day.



Saturday I invited Patrick's relatives to my place for Sunday church service. Sunday morning we had 12 in attendance. We had one song book and Patrick led us in singing, I saw the joy in each heart revealed through the songs we sung. I preached Sunday school, and during the question time going through the story of Nicodemus. Four people asked if they could receive Christ as their personal saviour. We stopped and they asked Christ into their heart.

We started the main service followed by a meal that I prepared my-

self. Bread and ham with cold beans. It took all that I had in my fridge. It was a good thing I got 4 pounds of ham the day before. But don't worry I had a lot of Lipton noodle soup left. They stayed until 3:00 that afternoon and we had another service. We followed that with a piece of cake and then Patrick took them home.

The following day, on Monday I begin training Patrick to teach the new cell group that we just started in P.A.P. Later during the day I received a surprise visit from a Haitian preacher (Gervil Octave). They were celebrating the blessings that the Lord has bestowed upon them in the newly rebuilt church building. He shared with me his heart for his people and how he started a new cell group a little ways from his church, putting up tents and having bible studies with adults and

children. But after investing an important sum of money in the rent of this property, the owner tore up the contract keeping the money and all the tents on the property were stolen. This was a dark week for this preacher. He invited me to preach for him the following Sunday, we concluded our visit by singing and praising God.

Coming back from taking this preacher to his house we stopped by the home (orphanage) of the children that some of you helped in the past, with supplying clothes, books, food, bicycles, etc. Just two weeks before this trip I received news that a flash flood hit them and they lost everything. When I got there my eyes could not take in what "Mother Nature" had done to that place. Water came through the property sweeping up a little boy with it. The lady was awakened by the screaming, she ran and before she knew what happened she had water up to her neck. In hearing the child that was taken by the water she let herself go with the stream until she managed to grab onto a tree where the little boy was holding on with all his might, and was able to save herself and the young boy, praise the Lord.

The water reached as high as five feet, the water pump was under water, clothes in the mud, school books, shoes everywhere stuck in the drying mud. What a terrible sight. The kitchen was gone and the fridge and stove were full of mud and debris. I could go on and on but I think you get the picture. By the grace of God no one died but they will

remember that awful night for the rest of their lives.

Even through this trial and the testing of their faith, they remain strong. We sang with the children telling of the blessings of the Lord. The lady in charge of the children said with tears in her eyes, "The Lord gave, and The Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord". Before I left this place I felt it was OK with the Lord to give her money for food and clothing. I reassured her that the Lord is in control in every situation of our lives. Jeremiah 33: 3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Even though the place is a disaster the children and those brave souls in charge glorified the Lord for who HE is. Lord forgive us when we complain because things don't go our way.

The following Thursday two more came to Christ, and the following Saturday at 11 am we baptized 6 people. We have two more that need to be baptized, but were not able to at this time so we are praying that the next time I return they will be ready.

On our way home from the baptism a TapTap (small pick up truck, taxi) passed us and 5 min later we seen a young woman laying in the ditch with some people around her, apparently she fell off the truck (taptap) and rolled into the ditch, they said she was dead, because she hit her head on the pave-

continued on page 7

GMA Girls

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

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

Big Creek District GMA Lock-In GMA Girls Forever

You are cordially invited to a GMA District Lock-In at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church. The Lock-In will start at 7pm on August 12th in the Fellowship Hall of the church.

Don't have a GMA program at this time. Come learn about GMA's.

- How to get started
- How to grow your group
- The importance of the GMA program

Plus it will be lots of fun for the girls (grades 4th-12th). Sunbeam girls that will be moving up this fall are welcome also.

Hosted by: Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
785 Highway 532
Mt. Olive, MS 39119

RSVP: Lane Flynt (601-641-1475), Angie Lee (601-641-0551) or Linda Dertinger (601-729-2450) by August 8th.

We will serve supper. Bring extra snacks if you would like.

Don't forget to bring a game idea or skit, sleeping bag, and pillow.

Mississippi W.M.A.

Blinda Lee, President
77 Morrow Rd., Purvis, MS 39475
601-596-3417
blinda.lee@lamarcountyschools.org

Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443
601-729-5638

Hobolochitto WMA

On July 23 the Hobolochitto WMA met at Westlawn Church, Picayune. It was raining outside, but inside the church, God's love and His spirit were manifested.

After a song and prayer oru devotional was give by Mrs. Jackie Lee. Mrs. Beverly led in singing Blessed Be The Name.

Reports were given and our project will be relief for those churches hurt by recent tornados. Bro. Wayne Rice will be our speaker at our meeting on October 29 at FBC Henleyfield.

Mary Fowler installed our officers and Bro. James Reeves spoke words of encouragement to all. Bro. Watts closed our meeting with prayer and we enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by the ladies of Westlawn.

Jean Overton, reporter

Capitol WMA

The Capital Association WMA met at recently Westhaven Chruch in Jackson. Chris Smith presided and Jean

Huffmaster brought our devotional from Genesis 3:8 on "Walking With God". After a song and opening prayer we were welcomed by the church. Minutes and treasurer's reports were given and approved.

The election of officers is as follows: President Chris Smith, 1st VP Tracy Strickland, 2nd VP Marilyn Welborn, 3rd VP Lynn McCoy, Secretary Diane Kinnebrew, Asst. Sec. Misty Willard, Treasurer Sharon Lee, Asst. Tres. Janice Bullock, Reporter Mary Cannon, Song Director Dorothy Rowell, Pianist Janice Bullock, Youth Promoter Diane Rainey, Asst. Youth Prom. Lynn McCoy.

Marilyn Welborn brought the program on "Sweet Spirit" and gave something sweet to each officer. Dorothy gave a prayer of dedication and led us in the song "Sweet, Sweet Spirit". Tracy gave a thank you hug to Marilyn Welborn and Jean Huffmaster. Dawn Gibbons closed in prayer.

Mary Cannon, reporter

Raising A Wild Monkey Child

If you have one of these kind of kids, you don't even have to wonder what I mean by this title. You are raising a little wild monkey. They will push to the edge of their boundaries and beyond. They will push every button you have to see how far they can go before you explode. They will push you to the brink of insanity, and leave you dangling there. The words "strong-willed" are not strong enough to describe them. Nuclear-willed is more like it. And watch out when these kids have a "nuclear meltdown". That is how I refer to one of their angry fits. A meltdown. Here are some things you need to know immediately.

1. People who have not had one of these kids, will never understand your family life. Don't even attempt to explain it.

2. You are not a bad parent. Stop feeling guilty. Guilt will not serve you well in this jungle. If you are doing what the Bible says, and following general accepted rules of parenting, as done by other parents, or even that you have done with some

of your other children in the same home, then chalk it up to the fact that you have a special kid.

3. General rules of parenting don't always work with these kids. It takes specialized parenting. It takes extreme measures of disciplining sometimes. It takes great intelligence on your part to stay a step ahead of these critters.



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

4. Your child is not brain damaged. Quiet the contrary. Usually, these kids are very smart. They are very intelligent. If they get proper help, they can do well in school because they are so intelligent. Left on their own, they often times fail in academics in later life for various reasons. Be sure you get them the help they need.

weak and without strength". I asked her, "If you were standing before God now and if He were to ask you this question: 'why should I let you into my kingdom', what would you say? I don't know she said. I told her that she needs the Lord Jesus Christ as her personnel Saviour, and she did just that. She came with a broken heart and went home with peace, joy and her name written in the book of life.

The need is great in Port-au-Prince just like any other part of the world. This is why I try to bring you some bits and pieces of the work done these past two weeks. I would say that prayer is most important for this unstable country and for Christians to take the gospel to their people. I observed that there is a great lack in sharing Christ on the street and from house to house, there is a lot of denomination and abomination in that country and we need to pray that God will raise a generation of Soul winners that will go and fulfill the great commission.

For the cause of Christ
Psalm 126:6

5. You have to shape their will, but not crush it. These kids are strong willed because God has planned for them to be leaders. These are future leaders in their chosen fields. If you shame them and crush them, they will give up before they ever get started into the adult world. They will drop out. They have no one who believes in them, and since they get into so much trouble, they develop a shame based identity. Once this is established, they will turn to drugs, alcohol or crime as adolescents. Why bother to succeed when no one believes in you!

Take a deep breath. You need to take care of yourself. You don't have time for yourself? You must find time. You are going to have to take turns with your spouse. If you don't have a spouse, you are going to have to find a friend or loved one who can see this as their ministry so that you can have a breather at least once a week. You must maintain your own sanity. In this case you are not being selfish, you are trying to find some time to refill your bucket each week. If you don't learn to come apart, you will fall apart. Then who is left to parent this child? Self-preservation for a successful outcome in parenting is a healthy choice you need to make.

They must be disciplined. You can't just excuse their wild

behavior and state, "Oh well. They must be hyper active." You need to have them assessed properly by a pediatrician, preferably one who specializes in childhood disorders. Follow their advice and not the advice of someone who has never had one of these children. If they



are hyperactive, or have some other childhood physical process, then you deal with that. But either way, all wild monkeys must be disciplined. You can't give up, neither can you excuse the behavior. They must learn how to live a cooperative social life with others. There can be no aggressive acts like hitting, biting, spitting etc. They must not be allowed to dismantle the house or their siblings. They may not call you names and talk ugly.

They are visual. Set up a reward system that they can see. Maybe a star chart on the refrigerator as an example. 5 stars in one week without a meltdown means a reward on Saturday that they will like. Whippings work, but surprisingly not as effective as others think. Some people in their ignorance, tell you that you just

need to spank them more. Often many parents have done that till they are exhausted. Try additional options like removal of privileges, isolation time outs, grounding, creative discipline, writing, etc.

Don't give up. God gave you this child because he knew you could do it. He couldn't give this child to just any ole parent, so he chose you. He has found you worthy to parent a difficult child. Show mercy and compassion and love to this child. Pray with them. They do very well with the spiritual things of life. God will never give up on you or this child because you are

both His children. He will give both of you everything you need to be successful in life for His glory. Just ask and seek Him all the time. Maybe you need to pray more. Look on the bright side. You do pray more than parents who have calm kids. More praying is always a good thing. Stop today, worrying about what other people think. Focus on the task before you. Don't label this child or call them names. You will have to give them individual attention and unconditional love and a lot of both. I have seen many of these kids go on to do great things in life. There is hope forever.

Ask God for strength, courage and wisdom. Okay. Get up. In the time it has taken to read this article, they are already into something. Smile and let's get growing.

Inviting people back to church

OneNewsNow - Organizers of a national effort to get people back to church are hoping to draw entire communities to the pews.

National Back to Church Sunday is coming up on September 18. Spokesman Philip Nation tells OneNewsNow 3,800 churches were involved in last year's effort, and he expects that number to increase to more than 10,000 churches this year.

"The whole impetus behind it is just to simply get members of local congregations re-engaged with inviting their friends, their neighbors [and] their co-workers to come back to church on this one day in the

hope that they will get recon-

nected with their own spiritual journey toward understanding the gospel and what Christ wants to do in their life," Nation explains.

And he says the success of this effort boils down to the individual Christian.

"What we're finding is that the more personal the invitation, the more effective it is,"

the effort spokesman notes. "Mass-mailers and billboards and commercials are still effective to a degree, but nothing is as effective as a friend inviting a friend to attend worship with them."

So he hopes local churches will work together to see entire communities back in houses of worship.

*I was glad when they said
unto me, Let us go into the
house of the LORD.*

Christians Transform

by **Larry Barker**

Director of North American Missions

BMA of America

II Cor. 3:18

It is kind of funny that the Bible says we are supposed to be "changing" all the time but it seems that many Christians do not like to even hear the word change. Like it or not, things change, people change, styles change, and the culture changes. Yes, followers of Christ must use great discernment in what areas they should or should not change. Some say we should never strive to contextualize the gospel, but is that not what Paul did in Acts 17 at Mars Hill?

It is strange how we decide what is acceptable and what is not acceptable in the area of culture and contextualization when the Bible does not address it. For example many believe that not wearing a suit when you preach would be a sin, but quite honestly the suit is a contextual manifestation of a particular culture, like it or not. Would it not be ok to wisely and prayerfully choose to change in some areas if it would advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom?

Sometimes the only alternative to change is to pick a rut and make it deeper. The truth is that many churches need to change and if they do not they will suffer a slow, but sure death of their ministry. Rather than being on mission with Jesus Christ, some have opted to just fellowship with those they are comfortable with

and seem content to go around in circles. We are bound to the Great Commission and must move beyond only being concerned for those already in God's family.

Recently a good friend of mine shared this convicting definition with me: "Failure is succeeding at doing the wrong thing!" Have churches "succeeded" at becoming gathering centers more than being sending centers on mission for God? Unfortunately, it is far too easy to fall into old and ineffective behavior patterns that are completely unproductive. We are continually drawn to be inwardly focused on ourselves instead of remaining outwardly focused on others.

Albert Einstein defined insanity as, "doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." Another way to say this is, "If you always do what you have always done, you will always get what you have always gotten." Jethro told Moses to change the way he was overseeing the Hebrew children. Samuel was told to change the way he was looking for a King. Jonah was told to change the way he looked at his enemies. The Pharisees were told to change the way they worshipped and six of the seven churches of Asia were told to change or else.

There are some things that defi-

nately need to be changed (maybe I should have said transformed, because that seems a little easier for some to swallow) in our lives and in our churches. While my list certainly is not exhaustive, nor is it necessarily prioritized, allow me to suggest a few things.

First, we need to change the focus from bringing people to church to taking the church to them.

Second, we need to change our focus from developing more programs to discipling and developing more people.

Third, we need to change from how many we can gather around us to how many we can send out from us.

Fourth, we need to change from institutional maintenance to

incarnational influence.

Fifth, we need to change from talking about making a difference and start making a difference.

Sixth, we need to change from talking about Jesus to acting more like Him.

Seventh, we need to change from knowing what's wrong with our communities and start doing something to transform them.

There should always be room for change in a follower of Christ. That change needs to happen in our hearts, in our actions, and in our focus. We have spent a lot of time and effort trying to do church better when what really needs to change is all of us to start acting like the body of Christ.

Terror threat U.S. churches in danger

OneNewsNow - With the recent airing of an al-Qaeda video that encourages Muslims to attack religious institutions, Christian churches are being warned.

In a video released by al-Qaeda spokesman Adam Gadahn, the American-born Muslim asks jihadists to quickly obtain guns and carry out terrorist attacks against the West. He states that Muslims are placed in the region to "do major damage to the enemies of Islam, waging war on their religion, sacred places, and things and brethren."

"That's very troubling," admits Steve Amundson of the Florida Security Council. "Adam Gadhan lived here in Southern California for a number of years. He studied under Dr. Muzammil Siddiqi at the Islamic Center of Orange County, which is in Garden Grove."

Gadahn's statements to U.S. Muslims follow the death of Osama bin Laden. In response, the Christian Emergency Network has issued a warning for churches in the United States, and Amundson advises Christians to stay alert.

"Churches, just like everybody, I tell them to be vigilant; be aware of your surroundings," he urges. "Don't walk around like everything's okay, because we're in different times now, and it's time for Americans to be vigilant, be aware, [and] be alert because something could happen."

Churches are also advised to have an emergency team ready and to regularly conduct emergency drills.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Everything I need to Know About Life, I Learned from Noah's Ark

I received a communication in the mail the other day and it contained this little ditty. I've seen it before, and it's still true:

One: Don't miss the boat.

Two: Remember that we are all in the same boat.

Three: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

Four: Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

Five: Don't listen to critics, just get on with the job that needs to be done.

Six: Build your future on high ground.

Seven: For safety sake, travel in pairs.

Eight: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

Nine: When you're stressed, float a while.

Ten: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

Eleven: No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Missouri -- a national model for pro-life legislation?

OneNewsNow - Missouri's ban on late-term abortions has gone into effect despite the views of the state's governor. Governor Jay Nixon, who supports abortion, did not veto the measure but let it instead go into law without his signature.

Pam Fichter of Missouri Right to Life applauds her state legislators. "We have a very solid, bipartisan pro-life majority in both houses in the Missouri legislature," she explains, "and they were all on board on this vote -- and we have a very comfortable number that we would be able to override any veto...."

The pro-life activist has no doubt where Nixon stands on the issue. "...We don't have any delusion that the governor's changed his position," she shares. "He's still pro-abortion, but he was dealing with the political reality that he was just outnumbered."

Fichter believes the Missouri legislation would be a good model for other states to consider.

"We've seen tremendous successes across the country on protecting human life at a time when we have the most anti-life administration in the history of our country," says the activist. "We're seeing the states become even more motivated and more energized to enact pro-life legislation."

The bill limits late-term abortions with exceptions for the life or significant health danger to the mother.

Mississippi 2011 Shoebox Drop Station

BMA of Mississippi Missions Office

4226 Hwy 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440

Phone: 601-428-8616