

The Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

AUGUST 1, 2012

VOL. 66 No. 15

BMA Seminary holds Evangelism Explosion Class in Mantachie

In Luke 10:2 Jesus said The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore

those individuals allowed the teams to present the Gospel and 22 made professions of



Dr. Philip Attebery conducts a session of the recent EE Class held at First Church, Mantachie.

pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

The week of July 23-27, BMA Theological Seminary and First Baptist Church, of Mantachie partnered together to equip laborers for the harvest. Dr. Charley Holmes, President of BMATS, and Dr. Philip Attebery, Academic Dean of BMATS, led a group of 22 men and women through a week-long intensive study using Evangelism Explosion and other materials. These men and women came from Texas, Arkansas, and Mississippi to learn proven techniques of sharing the Gospel and to put those new skills into practice.

Dr. Holmes reported on Friday that as a direct result of this week's class 247 personal contacts were made. 135 of

faith in Christ's redeeming sacrifice. God has richly blessed our time together and promises to continue to bless those who are willing to go into the fields around us.

Thank you for your prayerful and financial support that makes efforts like these a reality. Photos of the week's participants may be viewed on the Seminary's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/BMASeminary).



'Guilty as charged,' Cathy says of Chick-fil-A's stand on biblical & family values

Editor's Note - Political corrections aside, the vile, pervasive anti-Christian views of our society are more and more making their way to the surface. I met S. Truett Cathy several years ago and he truly is a Christian gentleman. The values he represents are real and personal. How refreshing to see individuals live out their Christian testimony. Chick-fil-A has come under unwarranted attack and criticism recently because of the Christian values of the company executives. Politicians around the nation have publicly branded themselves as moral bigots by the statements and actions they are taking against a legitimate business. The mayor of Chicago stated that "Chick-fil-A's values are not Chicago values." He was obviously speaking for himself personally, but if his statement holds true for the majority of Chicago, God help us! God help us anyway while our nation continues its downhill slide. I personally will eat at Chick-fil-A as often as I can.

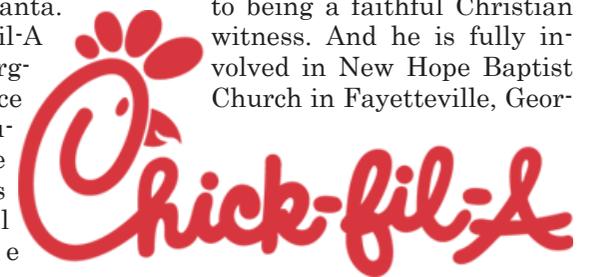
CARY, N.C. (BP) -- Dan Cathy oversees one of the country's most successful businesses. As president and chief operating officer of Chick-fil-A, Cathy leads a business with 1,608 restaurants that had sales of more than \$4 billion dollars last year. They sell chicken and train employees to focus on values rooted in the Bible.

His father, S. Truett Cathy started the business in 1946, when he and his brother, Ben, opened an Atlanta diner known as The Dwarf Grill (later renamed The Dwarf

House). In 1967, his father opened the first Chick-fil-A restaurant in Atlanta. Today, Chick-fil-A is the second largest quick-service chicken restaurant chain in the United States based on annual system-wide sales.

Dan Cathy's success has not erased the biblical values he learned as a child in a Baptist

church. He is a warm, common man who is deeply committed to being a faithful Christian witness. And he is fully involved in New Hope Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Geor-



gia. He drives Chick-fil-A's ef-

continued on page 2

Big Creek Baptist Church to celebrate 150 years of ministry

The Big Creek Baptist Church of Soso, Mississippi, will celebrate 150 years of ministry on August 18 & 19, 2012. On August 18, 1862, in the midst of the American Civil War, a group of dedicated Christians gathered and organized the Big Creek Baptist Church.

The church's history goes back to the 1820's when a 'meeting house' was established near the current location. The group met faithfully and in 1862 the Indian Springs Baptist Church of the Calhoun Community 'extended an arm' to this faithful group of believers.

The church has a rich history and will celebrate that history and God's blessings beginning with a Fish Fry on Saturday, August 18, at 5:00 p.m. A celebration service will be held in the newly renovated sanctuary beginning at 6:30. Sunday, August 19, will include regular services with 'dinner on the grounds' and an afternoon celebration service.

A number of former staff members will be present to remember and to "look forward". The public is invited to join Big Creek for this milestone celebration. For more information contact the church office at 601-763-8100 or Pastor Don Brown at 601-426-3293.





An Open Letter to Pastors

By Charles Attebery
LifeWord Chief Development Officer

Who Will Tell Hasan?

Hasan lives in Nigeria and has never heard about Jesus and His power to save. Who will tell Hasan? Hasan is included among the people Christ was talking about in the commission He gave the church to go into all nations. Hasan is just one of hundreds of thousands of people who need to hear about Christ. While you

may not be able to go tell Hasan about Jesus in person, there is a way for you to tell him - through participation in the annual Lifeworld Walk for the World.

Lifeworld is gearing up to take advantage of new technologies that will deliver the age old gospel message to more people in more ways than ever

before, and we are strategically planning as we integrate our ministry with the national Missions Department.

Even though we are embracing new ways of doing things, one thing remains the same-- the importance of our annual Walk for the World. Proceeds from this event account for approximately one third of Lifeworld's total annual income. Cumulatively, over \$10,000,000 has been raised through the Walk since its inception in 1980, and we are expecting a great response again this year.

Changes have been made to allow for individual online

Walk registrations, downloading event materials, and online fundraising by participants. While the date for the National Walk is October 13, churches are free to set a date that works best with their calendar.

Bro. Pastor, will you lead your church to participate in the Walk this year? In addition, will you plan a Lifeworld Sunday in September to promote it? For more information about this important event, please log on to www.firstgiving.com/lifeworld or contact Diane Ward at 501-329-6891 or by e-mail at diane@lifeworld.org.

Skyway Hills calls pastor

Skyway Hills Baptist Church has called Bro. Steven (Steve) Clark as their pastor. Bro. Clark is from Mt. Olive, Mississippi and recently pastored Springhill Church, Laurel.

Emmanuel Church, Tupelo Sets Revival

Emmanuel Baptist Church, 955 Scott Street, Tupelo, Mississippi, will start revival services Sunday night, August 26 through Wednesday night, August 29 at 7:00 pm nightly. Our pastor, Dr. George Rogers, will be conducting the revival. Everyone is invited to come and worship with us.

Midway FBC Revival

Midway First Baptist Church will have revival services August 12-17. Bro. Larry Geraldson will be our evangelist for the week. We will have Sunday services at 10:45 & 1:30 PM. We invite all to come and worship.

Brad Stephens, pastor

Springhill Revival

Springhill Baptist Church of Laurel is hosting a revival August 12-17. Service times will be August 12 at 10:45am and 1:30pm and Monday the 13th through Friday the 17th at 7:00 pm nightly. Our guest preacher will be Bro. Ken Riley of Lebanon Baptist Church. All are invited to join us. For more info contact Associate Pastor Bro. Rick Clark at 601-335-1886.

Broadmoor Revival Set

Broadmoor Baptist Church, located at 5426 Hwy 39 North (just north of Hardee's) in Meridian, will be having revival services beginning Sunday, August 5 through Wednesday, August 8, 2012. Services will begin on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and again on Sunday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. Evangelist Harold Floyd of Laurel, will be our guest speaker in each of the services. Southern Gospel Artist, Ridge Road, will sing at

Chick-fil-A

from page 1

forts to provide genuine hospitality, ensuring that customers have an exceptional dining experience in a Chick-fil-A restaurant. Based on Matthew 5:41, Cathy is on a mission to provide customers with "second-mile" service -- exceeding even the highest expectations of a typical fast-food restaurant.

"We don't claim to be a Christian business," Cathy said in a recent visit to North Carolina. He attended a business leadership conference many years ago where he heard Christian businessman Fred Roach say, "There is no such thing as a Christian business."

"That got my attention," Cathy said. Roach went on to say, "Christ never died for a corporation. He died for you and me."

"In that spirit ... [Christianity] is about a personal relationship. Companies are not lost or saved, but certainly individuals are," Cathy added.

"But as an organization we can operate on biblical principles. So that is what we claim to be. [We are] based on biblical principles, asking God and pleading with God to give us wisdom on decisions we make about people and the programs and partnerships we have. And He has blessed us."

Rather than leading from his corporate office in Atlanta,

the Sunday afternoon service. Monday through Wednesday services will begin each evening at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Stephanie Holifield, Church Clerk

Cathy chooses to spend the majority of his time traveling to the chain's growing family of restaurants and interacting with Chick-fil-A's committed team members. His actions stem from a belief that working in the field provides a clearer understanding of the needs of Chick-fil-A customers. Leading from the front line also enables him personally to convey his servant spirit to the chain's 61,000-plus employees.

Cathy believes strongly that Christians are missionaries in the workplace. "Jesus had a lot of things to say about people who work and live in the business community," he said. His goal in the workplace is "to take biblical truth and put skin on it. ... We're talking about how our performance in the workplace should be the focus of how we build respect, rapport and relationships with others that opens the gateway to interest people in knowing God."

"All throughout the New Testament there is an evangelism strategy related to our performance in the workplace. ... Our work should be an act of worship. Our work should be our mission field. As long as we are stateside, let's don't think we have to go on mission trips by getting a passport. ... If you're obedient to God you are going to be evangelistic in the quality of the work you do, using that as a portal to share [Christ]," he said.

When asked if Chick-fil-A's success is attributed to biblical values, Cathy quickly said, "I think they're inseparable. God wants to give us wisdom to make good decisions and choices." Quoting James 1:5, he spoke of how often he asks God for wisdom.

"Frequently Jesus chal-

continued on page 3

Distracted

I am cursed with the gift of distraction. I say a gift, because it is like the present wrapped in shiny wrapping paper concealing the obligatory preacher tie with the button you press that plays "I'll Have a Blue Christmas". As you unwrap the beautifully wrapped box with a genuinely thankful smile upon your face, it is hard to maintain the same quality of gratitude impressed upon your visage while discovering that you are now obliged to wear this absurd tie at least once in the presence of the beaming gifter. My face once froze up for an entire week upon discovering a green plaid suit concealed neatly in a box that displayed a brand new Winchester .270 rifle on the cover. Pastor Appreciation Day has never meant the same to me since. I wore it when he invited me on a deer hunt the following week. Served him right too. He kept mumbling something about "if I ever hear Blue Christmas again, I'll..."

So you can see that it is really not a true gift, but rather a donation to a thrift store where all the associates walk around with frozen smiles on their faces. But I digress. Distraction has caused me to take many a short cut while driving that took only slightly longer than reading War and Peace. On one such trip through the great state of Tennessee, I began to wonder if I had strayed too far off the beaten path when we reached a sign that said

"Desert: Next Gas Station, 400 miles". Desert? That's unusual for Tennessee, but being the type of person that is never wrong, I was sure that I was still on the right road in spite of the fact that my wife's hands were around my throat and the kids were all crying in the backseat.

It's hard to accomplish much when you are easily distracted. I decided to build a lean-to for the lawnmower the other day. When I went to the shed to gather the tools for undertaking this project, I noticed the goat had wrapped himself around the tree he was tied to and was crying incessantly. He needed a better place to roam, so I figured I would just throw up a quick fence around the backyard for him wander. I didn't have any fence.

A quick trip to town to pick up some fence material was what I needed. So I hopped in my truck, drove to town and ate lunch. Several hours later, I noticed the landscape changing. Climate change has really done a work on south Mississippi. The sign I just passed said, "Desert: Next Gas Station, 400 miles". Well, without the distraction of my wife and kids hollering about my sense of direction, I was able to find my way home in just a few short days. Luckily, I had my Christmas tie with me to keep me company.

I think I will go build my lean-to. Now what is that goat crying about now?

From The Mind of



Chuck Lee

Southeastern Baptist College

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

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

On the Road

God has blessed with appointments and safety on the road over the past two months. This summer has zoomed by and it is now almost time for the new semester to begin. In July, I represented the college at five local associations and preached at two of them. Also, I received invitations to visit with three of our churches and speak on behalf of SBC and preach in the service attended. These churches and pastors were very hospitable and I so appreciate the opportunity to inform folks about what is going on at SBC.



Joseph Harris
Interim
President

The total number of associations attended in June and July was ten and the total number of churches visited during a Sunday or Wednesday service was six. These visits are valuable because our people have the opportunity to ask questions and learn about SBC, plus names of potential students are

obtained and turned in to our recruiter. So far, one church has increased their monthly support by \$250.00, and another church has begun monthly support. All monthly increases add up and make a difference annually. I ask our churches to prayerfully consider adding SBC to their monthly support budget if at all possible. Your college is a vital part of the BMA of Mississippi. Also, I thank those pastors and churches for the past invitations and once again remind all of our churches that I am available to come and be with you in a service. My itinerary is on www.southeasternbaptist.edu and is as follows:

August
1 Pine Grove Baptist, Purvis - Present SBC, Preach 5 Bethel Baptist, Wiggins - Present SBC, Preach Evening Service 6 Ten Mile Baptist Association, Ten Mile Baptist Church, Wiggins, Preach 9 East Central Association, Fairhope, Beaumont 19 Helton Road Baptist, Theodore, AL - Present SBC,

Preach Morning and Evening Services

September
2 Kamp Kiwani Club (Kiwanis), Itta Kana, Brooklyn, MS 9-14 Revival, Buffalo Baptist Church, Mclain, MS 23 Central Baptist, Richton - Present SBC, Preach, Early Afternoon Service

Up In Lights

Our name is now up in lights.....well, almost. SBC is now on three billboards in our area. This is a major accomplishment and blessing, since the cost for us is zero. A billboard is up on Hwy 15 North right down from the college. Another one is located on Hwy 11 S in Ellisville, and the third one is on Hwy 49 right outside Collins headed toward Jackson. Thanks again Richard and Gina Headrick for this blessing.

We also will have a display

**Making a difference now
and for eternity!**

**SOUTHEASTERN
BAPTIST COLLEGE**

www.southeasternbaptist.edu

Southeastern College Billboard

at the Laurel Sawmill Square Mall in the next week or two. This display will be unmanned but stocked with brochures for people to take as they pass by. Too often I hear people say, "Southeastern? Where is that college?" This is a reminder that we have to focus on becoming more visible.

Dorm Renovation

I am still praying for someone to answer the call to help lead in a work crew for renovating Hilbun Hall, our men's dormitory. I am praying for a man or some men in one or more of our churches to volunteer their organizational and work skills to help. Their contribution in this area would be just as valuable as a financial contribution, maybe even more.

Fall Semester

Registration will be held from August 6-9 and classes begin August 13. Online

courses are available for those who cannot attend on campus. Remember, SBC offers A.A. degrees in General Education, Bible and Business and B.S. degrees in Business Administration and Bible.

Teacher Recertification

Southeastern is a four year institution accredited by the Mississippi Commission on College Accreditation. Teachers in public and private schools have to be recertified by the state of Mississippi every five years. Recertification can be completed through courses at Southeastern. Six hours in Bible or business can be taken, then the teacher can go to the Mississippi Department of Education web site, download the form and check Bible or business as their supplemental endorsement area. This form can then be sent to Jackson along with the SBC transcripts of the courses taken.

Chick-fil-A

from page 1

lenged us to just ask ... we're simply not asking as often as we should. We need to be more faithful to depend on a God who does love us and wants to have a relationship with us, and wants to give us the desires of our hearts."

There is another success story attributed to Cathy's organization. They have a positive influence in the world of Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) and Southeastern Conference (SEC) football.

There was a time when the Atlanta college football bowl game, which is now named after Chick-fil-A, was called the Peach Bowl. The annual bowl features teams from the ACC and the SEC. It struggled for a long time. Then 15 years ago the Chick-fil-A organization got involved. It was rebranded as

the Chick-fil-A Bowl and has been incredibly successful with 15 consecutive sellouts.

"We are the only bowl that has an invocation. It's in our agreement that if Chick-fil-A is associated in this, there's going to be an invocation. Also, we don't have our bowl on Sunday, either," Cathy said.

In 2008 Chick-fil-A began sponsoring a Chick-fil-A Kick-off game matching two of the nation's top teams and hosted on the first weekend of the season in the same stadium (Georgia Dome) as the Chick-fil-A Bowl. This year Chick-fil-A will host two kickoff games, one on Friday and one on Saturday.

"That's never been done before," he said.

The pair of Chick-fil-A Kick-off games is expected to generate more than \$60 million in economic impact. The bowl website describes the event as "a college football celebration of epic proportions."

When questioned about Chick-Fil-A's "Closed on Sunday" policy Cathy responded, "It was not an issue in 1946 when we opened up our first restaurant. But as living standards changed and lifestyles changed, people came to be more active on Sundays."

The policy has not changed over the years as malls began changing their policies by opening on Sundays.

"We've always put in our lease that we will be closed on Sundays," Cathy said. "We've had a track record that we were generating more business in six days than the other tenants were generating in seven [days]."

"While developers had no identity whatsoever with our corporate purpose to 'glorify God and be a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us and have a positive influence on all that come in contact with Chick-fil-A,' they did identify

with the rent checks that we wrote to the mall, that were based on our sales.

"So, they would make an exception for Chick-fil-A when they wouldn't make an exception for anybody else, simply because they knew we would pay them more in rent than any other tenant would that was open even seven days a week."

The company invests in Christian growth and ministry through its WinShape Foundation (WinShape.com). The name comes from the idea of shaping people to be winners.

It began as a college scholarship and expanded to a foster care program, an international ministry, and a conference and retreat center modeled after the Billy Graham Training Center at the Cove.

"That morphed into a marriage program in conjunction with national marriage ministries," Cathy added.

Some have opposed the company's support of the traditional family. "Well, guilty as charged," said Cathy when asked about the company's position.

"We are very much supportive of the family -- the biblical definition of the family unit. We are a family-owned business, a family-led business, and we are married to our first wives. We give God thanks for that.

"We operate as a family business... our restaurants are typically led by families; some are single. We want to do anything we possibly can to strengthen families. We are very much committed to that," Cathy emphasized.

"We intend to stay the course," he said. "We know that it might not be popular with everyone, but thank the Lord, we live in a country where we can share our values and operate on biblical principles."

Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP

Where Do We Go From Here?

On page one of this issue is an article about the uproar over the Christian principles of the owners of Chick-Fil-A restaurants.

In an interview with Baptist Press, Dan Cathy, president and CEO of the business simply espoused basic Christian beliefs (and common sense) concerning the issue of marriage. A faithful Baptist, Cathy stated that his personal belief is the biblical mandate that marriage is simply the union of one man and one woman under God's direction.



Don Brown
Editor

What a firestorm has erupted! Our society is slowly becoming numb to the creeping change concerning morality and standards. We are literally the frog in the water that is slowly being heated up until it is too late to save ourselves.

We must not be caught sleeping and continue to espouse

and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus, the love of God and the standards for mankind that our Lord has laid out for us.

Satan is still active and doing all he can to undermine God's people and His work and will.

Daily we are challenged by the "wiles of the devil" and we must ever be vigilant and active.

Marriage Defined?

We read now of the Democratic National Committee placing public support for same-sex marriage into their political platform. This means that Democrats will now actively run on this issue as they try to elect a president, senators and representatives.

God judges those who turn their backs upon Him, his righteousness and His ways.

May God have mercy on America and may we see national repentance!

Breaking News Item

Domestic shooting touches family

A tragedy occurred in Jones County on Sunday, July 29. A man shot and killed his daughter and also shot and wounded his former wife and his son-in-law. The son-in-law, is the son of Timothy Savell and grandson of Dr. Medrick Savell, former president of Southeastern Baptist College and pastor of Riverside Baptist Church, Ellisville.

The two surviving family members are in critical condition as is a Jones County Deputy Sheriff who was wounded during this confrontation. Let us be in prayer for all concerned and for the Savell family during this time.

Biblical marriage supporters seek Supreme Court review

SAN FRANCISCO - Backers of California's voter-approved ban on same-sex marriages are asking the U.S. Supreme Court to overrule a federal appeals court that struck down the measure as unconstitutional.

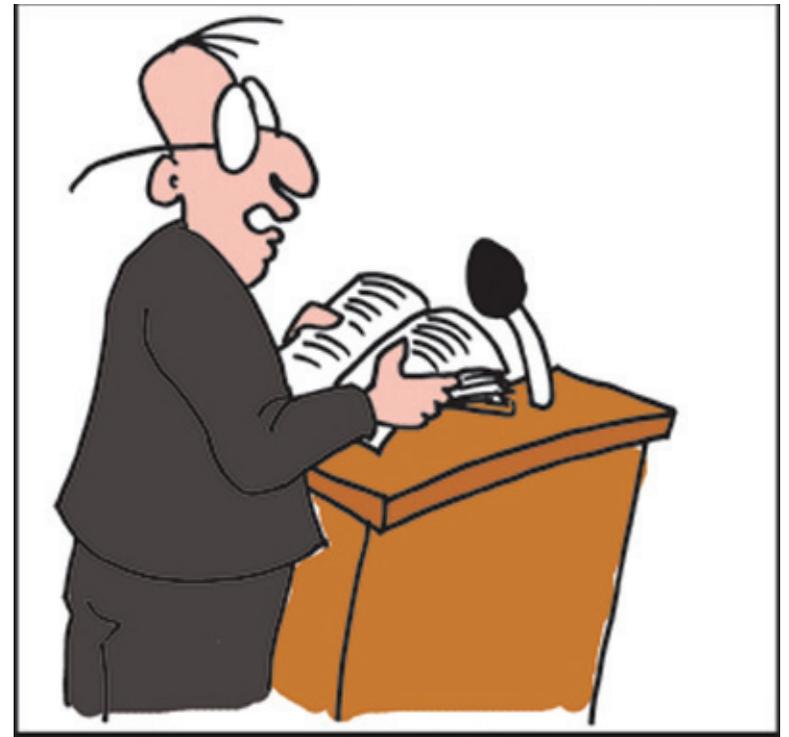
Lawyers for the coalition of religious conservative groups that sponsored the ban, known as Proposition 8, petitioned the Supreme Court Tuesday to review the lower court's finding that the 2008 amendment to the state constitution violated the civil rights of homosexual Californians.

The move had been expected since a panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issued its 2-1 decision earlier this year.

If the high court declines to take the case, it would clear the way for same-sex marriages to resume in California. Same-sex couples could get married in the state for several months before Proposition 8 passed.

Gruesome discovery alerts world to Russian abortion policy

OneNewsNow - Authorities in



"Just to clarify...last Sunday when I preached on the 'widow's mite' I was not suggesting it as your tithe..."

Russia continue to probe the discovery of 248 aborted babies in a forest in the Ural Mountains -- and one authority on the subject believes the mainstream media is missing the point.

According to a CNN report, the remains of the unborn babies were encased in plastic barrels in a remote wooded area about 1,100 miles east of Moscow. The barrels were discovered by the residents of a nearby community that is home to several clinics that had hired a company to destroy their "medical waste."

Dr. Brian Clowes of Human Life International suggests the mainstream media is reporting the case only as a violation of sanitation laws related to the disposal of medical waste.

"What I see is 250 dead bodies, aborted late in pregnancy, probably pillaged for their organs, according to the Russians

there," says Clowes. "It just shows the horrible underbelly and the anything-goes mentality of the culture of death."

Clowes points out that Russia was the first to legalize abortion in 1917. Now there is a population problem in the country.

"I talked to some of the demographers over there and the head of the Moscow Demographic Institute and he says it is just killing their country," the spokesman says. "He also believes -- and I believe along with him -- that once you've had abortion in a country for a long period of time, it kind of kills the soul of the country and there's no comeback from that."

Russia now finds itself in a similar position as countries in Europe where insufficient numbers of children are being born to satisfy the labor demand and support the aging population.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

The Calf

Attending the Big Creek District Revival recently, a friend of mine was reminded of a story about an incident that happened during another revival.

It seems that a man who was not a very regular attender at his church decided to attend the revival.

When he went in the people were making pledges to help the church's financial situation. When they looked to him, he told them that he had a calf that was nearly ready to sell and he would give the price of the calf.

Well, since he was not in the habit of going regularly, it was a while before he again entered the church. As he went in the congregation was singing, "The Half Has Never Yet Been Told".

To his ears it sounded like, "The Calf Has Never Yet Been Sold." And as so often happens with people who rarely attend, he left in a huff.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Heb. 10:25



Mississippi Baptist

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.

A Series on The Self

Part One: The Self-Centered Person

What would make a person pepper spray other shoppers (including children) in a store at Christmas time just to clear the aisle so they could get the gifts they wanted for themselves? What causes people to stay up half the night yelling, partying, drinking and cursing in a campground with no regard for all the other campers around them who are trying to sleep? And has it ever irritated you to see large flashing signs on an interstate telling you that the right lane is closed ahead and to merge into one lane; yet there are those who won't get in line, but fly past everyone and squeeze in at the last minute because that sign was for everyone else, but not them? It is disrespectful of others. No one respects other people. They only think of themselves and feel like they are entitled to what they want, when they want it. This pervasive attitude in this country can all be wrapped up into a core causality emanating from the heart. It is deeper than disrespect. It goes deeper than just trying to get ahead. In one word it is 'self-centeredness'. At the heart of what is wrong with our society is a simple truth - we are

becoming a nation of self-centered, self-focused and self-serving people.

My wife and I watched the news in horror as a woman was beaten and robbed and lay injured on a city sidewalk. The camera showed other pedestrians walking around her and almost walking over her without helping her at all. I truly don't believe that would happen in the south. However, give it more time and it will be coming to a city near you.

People are losing their capacity to care. They are shutting down compassion and caring for others. It is reflective of the sinful nature of man. If we don't keep Jesus in our hearts as the dominant guiding force of our hearts, then we will turn self-centered. If we take our eyes off of God and put it on the things of this world that are around us, then we will seek only our self, and not the will of God. Just ask Adam and Eve if this is true.

There are many biblical examples of selfish people in the

Bible. David acted very selfish when he saw Bathsheba and wanted her for himself. Then, he just took her. He didn't care

who he hurt or what it cost. David was only thinking about what he wanted. Selfish. So, David was not a man after God's own heart at this

point. David was after his own heart. We must as Christians, keep a constant vigil of following the ways of our leader, King Jesus. This is why he tells us in scripture to take up our cross and follow Him.

When we are selfish, we are not taking up our cross to follow Jesus, but we are going any and every direction seeking what brings us the most comfort and pleasure as the pleasure seeking creatures we are. Left unchecked, you will have this behavior passed on from generation to generation resulting in a society that is self focused, and as a result, crumbling. Selfishness not only hurts our society, it is destroying our homes.

When you have a few indi-

viduals all living under one roof, but each one living for what they want, the end result is chaos and confrontations. Marital problems, parent/child problems, money problems, etc., have at their core a seed of selfishness. Couples fighting over money is because you are both selfish with how you think the money should be used. Adultery is selfish. Teens drinking alcohol or having intimacy outside of marriage are selfish acts. Everyone fighting over where to spend their free time, or even as simple as arguing over who gets to pick a restaurant for the family to go eat in, is selfish. Forget praising and thanking God for our money, our free time, or that He has blessed us with enough money and living in a society of overabundance that we can even go out and eat in a restaurant - we take it all for granted. We don't praise God for it. We turn in on ourselves and seek only what WE want for our self. When we look at today's American family, I think 90% of the problems in the home are selfishness related.

Aren't you glad there are not self-focused people in the church? (Yes, I'm making a

point.) Wouldn't it be so sad for Heaven to look down on a group of believers who are suppose to be kingdom building and see them fighting over things they want in the church! They sow discord amongst the brethren just so they can have church go the way they want it and to look the way they think it should look. Wow, I am glad we don't see that kind of petty self-centeredness in the local New Testament church today. There are too many people going to Hell without Jesus, for us to waste our time fighting over unimportant things rather than telling the world about Jesus and reaching the world for His glory.

I think all of us should set aside some prayer time alone. We should repent of our own self-centeredness. We should ask God to give us victory over this. We should help our kids not display it. And the best way to kill selfishness is to act like Jesus. Get out there and start loving, serving and helping others.

Part Two on other-focused is coming next.



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

Democrats to make it official on 'gay marriage'

OneNewsNow - Reaction has been strong following (the recent) announcement that the Democratic Party plans to adopt support for "gay marriage" at its nominating convention in early September.

During a weekend meeting in Minneapolis, the party's platform drafting committee voted to include language backing homosexual marriage -- that according to an official within the Democratic Party. Delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, NC, will formally approve the platform at the same gathering where President Barack Obama will be nominated to run for re-election. In early May, the president publicly endorsed same-sex marriage -- one day after North Carolina voters approved a constitutional amendment protecting traditional marriage.

Thirty-two states have defined marriage as between one

man and one woman, prohibiting recognition of marriage in any other form. Thomas Peters of the National Organization for Marriage (NOM) tells OneNewsNow that President Obama and his party are apparently forgetting that.

"He's reopening a can of worms that the voters in these states all kind of conclusively settled for themselves," he says. "And one of our big points is that obviously if the Democrats have their way, all of the marriage amendments passed in [those states and] certainly Florida and other swing states are in jeopardy."

NOM president Brian Brown believes the Democratic Party "has been captured by extremists ... like Barney Frank and Nancy Pelosi who are determined to redefine marriage" in America. Peters says that being the case, the question for rank-and-file Democrats is what place they have at the

table.

"It seems that the person who sort of leaked this news is [Massachusetts Congressman] Barney Frank," says Peters. "It's coastal liberals in states like California, New York, and Massachusetts that are more and more shaping the direction of the Democrat Party [sic], leaving behind Democrats with social conservative values."

He adds: "I think it's particularly ironic that the Democrats are choosing to introduce for the first time the idea that they are corporately behind redefining marriage in a state where all the evidence suggests a majority of Democrats just voted in May to define marriage as a union between a husband and a wife." The North Carolina marriage amendment passed with 61-percent approval.

The National Organization for Marriage says the party's leaders are "leading Democrats

off the cliff" -- and that the outcome of the election in November "is a proxy for the survival of traditional marriage in our nation."

Huckabee: This could 'sink the ship' for Democrats

Former GOP presidential candidate Mike Huckabee says the Democratic Party's new platform supporting same-gender marriage is the best thing that has ever happened to the Republican Party. Huckabee says he sees the biggest political impact in the South and Midwest.

"If there is any vestige of a Democratic Party in some of these areas, this may sink the ship," he says.

The former Arkansas governor acknowledges that many people recognize that individuals have different points of views and choose to live lifestyles that they do not agree with or approve of.

Judge to let Arizona's abortion ban take effect
PHOENIX - A federal judge is allowing Arizona's new ban on abortions starting at 20 weeks of pregnancy to take effect.

U.S. District Judge James Teilborg ruled Monday that the law doesn't impose substantial limits on abortions and that the state showed a legitimate interest in imposing the limits.

The ban is to take effect Thursday (August 2). It prohibits abortions starting at 20 weeks of pregnancy except in medical emergencies. That's a change from the current ban at viability, which is the ability to survive outside the womb and which is about 24 weeks.

Teilborg held a hearing Wednesday on a request from abortion-rights groups that he temporarily block enforcement.

Arizona is among ten states that have enacted types of 20-week bans. Republican Gov. Jan Brewer signed the measure into law in April.

2012 State WMA Sponsored Women's Retreat

Camp Garaywa – Clinton, MS
August 31 – September 1, 2012

Activities

Contests:

"Pack a Cabin" - There will be special recognition for the church who has the highest attendance. Bring all your ladies and have them bring their friends. Just a tip: Skyway Hills had the most last retreat.

"Generations" – There will be special recognition for the largest generational group. Last retreat we had several mother, daughter, grandmother groups. So we want to expand on these this year. Bring daughters (18 years old and older), mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, aunts, sisters, etc. and make it a women of the family affair. It will be a great way to have family time and enjoy an inspiring retreat.

White Elephant Auction – There will be the ever popular White Elephant Auction. This event is a fun way to clear out your white elephants and find new ones. The money made at the auction will go toward the State WMA Project which is EIM's Shepherd Bag Ministry. If you have a white elephant sitting around your house, bring it to the auction. Someone there may have been wanting that very thing. And you may find a new treasure to take home.

Tee Shirts - Our Tee Shirts this year are sponsored by Pine Grove Baptist WMA and will be \$15:00 each. They are bright blue and have great design of *My Heart's Desire* on the back with a retreat logo on the front pocket area. All proceeds of the sale of tee shirts will go to the State WMA project. *If you have any questions please call Blinda Lee at 601-596-3417 or Jessica Haden at 662-251-0455.*

Door Prizes - Door Prizes - Door Prizes

Our door prize committee always does an outstanding job.

Vendor Booths – Anyone who would like a vendor booth to display items that appeal to Christian women (books, jewelry, cosmetics, etc.) may rent a tabletop display area for \$15.00. *To inquire about space, contact Sharon Lindsey at 228-588-2494. Please reserve your booth by August 20th. Thank you.*

Women's Retreat Tee Shirt

Order Form
Sponsored by Pine Grove Baptist WMA
Price \$15:00

Sizes:

Sml ____ Med ____ Lg e ____ XL ____ XXL ____

Total number of shirts _____ (Price per shirt \$15)

Total Price _____

Make checks payable to Pine Grove Baptist WMA. Add \$3.00 (per shirt) if you would like your shirt(s) mailed to you prior to retreat.

Mail shirt orders to:

Blinda Lee
77 Morrow Lane, Purvis, MS 39475.

Deadline for orders is Aug.10th.

All proceeds will go to the State WMA project.

Thank you!!

If you have any questions please call Blinda Lee at

601-596-3417 or Jessica Haden at 662-251-0455.

Expert: Officials ignorant on sharia

OneNewsNow - An expert on Islam is concerned that some California politicians and city officials are ignoring the facts about sharia law.

A town hall meeting at the Islamic Society of Orange County earlier this year declared there is no conflict between sharia law, the U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Several lawmakers and officials in The Golden State -- including Democratic U.S. Congresswomen Maxine Waters and Loretta Sanchez; Los Angeles Police Department Deputy Chief Michael Downing; and Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca -- urged support for sharia law. In several recently released videos from the event, officials said that sharia is not a threat to the United States.

Joe Carey, founder of Radical Truth, says that the statements made by the officials showed a lack of understanding the true nature of Sharia law.

"Michael Downing made this particular statement -- he said, 'The influence of natural laws described by Cicero are the foundational building blocks of Jewish law, Christian law, and sharia law or Islamic law,'" Carey tells OneNewsNow. "That is just outlandish. Sharia law does not recognize natural law and does not recognize human rights. These statements by our officials are just reprehensible, and they ought to be held to account for them."

Carey contends it is clear that officials have no knowledge of sharia or Islam, and he is concerned that national security officials hold a "blissful" approach towards sharia law.

6th Circuit panel sees no harm in funding sharia

OneNewsNow - A Judeo-Christian law firm that fights for faith and freedom plans to appeal a federal judge's decision to dismiss its constitutional challenge to the U.S. government's bailout of the American International Group (AIG).

A Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals panel has ruled that an ordinary federal taxpayer lacks "standing" to challenge the government's use of taxpayer funds to support sharia-based activities. The suit, filed on

continued on page 8

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

2012 Christian Women's Retreat

Sponsored by BMA of Mississippi WMA

Camp Garaywa Conference Center Clinton, Mississippi

August 31 – September 1, 2012

Speaker: **Valarie Fish**

My Heart's Desire

We are excited about the upcoming retreat.

This will be one you will not want to miss.

(Retreat: a perfect time to get away f or spiritual renewal and relaxation.)

Program:

Registration is from 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. Friday, August 31.

Special time of prayer: – 4:00 p.m.

My Heart's Prayer, Leader: Christy Matthews

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

General session begins at 7:00 p.m.

Retreat will continue through lunch Saturday, September 1.

The conference fee is \$45.00 per person and includes three (3) meals. Room accommodations vary on type room desired. Rooms at Patterson Place have two queen beds and are \$120.00 per night up to four (4) people per room. Accommodations in other parts of conference center are single beds with shared bathrooms at \$25.00 per night. For the adventurous, there are cabins with bunk beds at \$15.00 per person (must furnish own linens). These cabins have outside bath houses. All sleeping areas are air-conditioned.

Rooms are assigned on 'first come first served' basis. Registration form, conference fee, and room charge must be received together to get room of choice. Do Not delay, send registration in NOW!

Name _____

Phone # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

Church _____

ROOMS (Please check)

(1) Patterson Place: 1 per rm \$120 ____ 2 per rm \$60.ea. ____

3 per rm \$40 ea. ____ 4 per rm \$30 ea. ____

(2) Single beds (25 ea) ____ (3) Outside cabins (\$15) ea. ____

List roommates _____

Camp Garaway is a SMOKE FREE campus.

REGISTRATION FEE (\$45) _____

ROOM COST _____

Total Enclosed _____

Please fill out (completely) registration form below, clip and mail with registration fee and room rent to: **Beth Caldwell, 166 Twin Creek Rd., Lucedale, MS 39452.** Ph: 601-947-6011. (Feel free to make copies of this form. One person registered per form.) Cut off date for registration is Friday, August 17, 2012.

For more information or questions, contact

Sharon Lindsey, Retreat Coordinator

Ph. 228-588-2494

Email: slindsey157@yahoo.com

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST COLLEGE



“Making a Difference Now
and For Eternity”



4229 Hwy 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440
601-426-3293

southeasternbaptist.edu

Special Emphasis

100 churches giving \$200 each = **\$20,000**

July - August
2012



Meet Our Newest Missionary

Kelby Johnson has been approved by the Missionary committee to serve as a church planting missionary to the city of New Albany. He is originally from Laurel, where he was licensed to the ministry by Big Creek Baptist Church in 2001. He was later ordained and has served in multiple churches in the areas of associate, youth, and music. Kelby graduated from Southeastern Baptist College in 2007 with a Bachelor's Degree in Church Ministries and received his Masters of Divinity Degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 2011. He and his wife, Jessie are members of Bethel in Fulton, their sponsoring church. They have two sons, Adin (8) and Andrew (5). Kelby also serves as the Interim State Youth Director. The State Youth Department trustees and the Missionary committee members voted unanimously to approve Bro. Kelby to serve in this dual role. Bethel Baptist Church of Fulton (Dr. Kevin Clayton, pastor) has committed to provide \$13,000.00 annually in salary supplement.



Larry Geraldson
Director

Mantachie, recently. Already, reports are coming in of souls saved as they returned to the field. I want to thank Dr. Holmes and Dr. Attebery for giving us a week of

their time to teach the classes and conduct this training. The total group of participants was approximately 31 with 237 people contacted. Dr. Attebery said that the gospel was shared 135 times resulting in 22 professions of faith. Many of our missionaries will receive academic credit from the seminary. Special thanks to First Baptist Church of Mantachie for hosting the training and to Bro. Gary O'Neil for coordinating this effort. Bro. O'Neil, pastor of Greenwood Baptist Church in Fulton, who is nearing completion of his PHD from Mid-America Seminary, is a graduate of our seminary and maintains the highest respect and relationship of the staff at Jacksonville. He is a great planner and promoter and has a deep passion for the biblical education of God's people. I look forward to working with Bro. Gary in the future to secure addi-



Mississippi Missionaries

August 1st begins the new budget year and we are praying that our churches will bless us with an increase in



Mantachie Evangelism Explosion Class

monthly operation funds. God is blessing our State Missions efforts. We now have 9 missionary families serving on the field in Mississippi, working with 11 mission projects. I pray we can continue with the same passion, enthusiasm, momentum and vision. To realize this, we need every church in the BMA of Mississippi to join in and help. As your church begins to plan for

tional opportunities to capitalize on the valuable resource of our seminary.

Financial Report New Budget Year Begins

Our offerings are holding steady at historic numbers. We received in July about what we received in July in the previous three years. Our budget year ends at the end of July, and we will close the budget year in the black.

the next fiscal year, would you please consider what you can do to help enlarge your State Missions effort? If State Missions is in your budget, would you please consider an increase? If State Missions is not in your budget, would you please consider a budgeted monthly offering? If your church has previously suspended all giving to State Missions, would you please take another look at what God is doing and prayerfully decide to renew your giving to State Missions.

The Future

Please continue to pray for the 10 churches that accepted the challenge to take the first step in our 5 Step Plan to reproduce. You can see who these churches are, the locations they have chosen, and read more about the first step, on our website at www.bmams.org. These churches and their church planting effort are key to keeping the momentum alive. In a few years, as present missionaries begin to rotate off mission status, these churches will have prepared new fields and will be ready for a church planter.

Updated List of Churches and Pastors

We have updated the information about BMA of Mississippi churches and pastors on our website at www.bmams.org. You can find the information under the resource tab on the home page.

Visit Our Websites

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

Thank you for all that you do.
God bless,
Larry Geraldson

Funding Sharia Law

from page 6

behalf of Kevin Murray, argued that the government bailout of American International Group (AIG) went to fund Islamic religious activities in violation of the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Robert Muise, co-founder and senior counsel of the American Freedom Law Center (AFLC), says Murray is a former Marine and an Iraq veteran who objects to being forced to support the propagation of the Islamic jihad, which he fought against as a Marine.

"Certainly we know that if the fed-

eral government even gave a fraction of that amount of money to a Christian or a Jewish religious activity, there's no doubt in my mind the courts would strike that down and find it a violation of the Establishment Clause," Muise offers. "But yet here we've got billions of dollars going to support activities that are promoting sharia law, Islamic law, and yet we have the Sixth Circuit, at least one panel, saying that there isn't any constitutional harm here sufficient to have standing."

But beyond the legal issues, the attorney contends this case presents national security issues.

"The funding to support sharia-compliant finances, part of that is siphoned off as religious tax that goes to fund qualified Islamic -- quote, unquote -- 'charities,'" he reports. "And many of

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. Psalm 23:4-6

those are engaged in terrorist activities that are contrary to the United States' interests."

AFLC intends to file a petition for a re-hearing before the full Sixth Circuit of Appeals. Muise's group is also prepared to take this case to the Supreme Court, if necessary.

*When the child of God
loves the Word of God
and sees the Son of
God, He is changed by
the Spirit of God into
the image of God for
the glory of God
because he has found
the truth of God.*

-Adrian Rogers