

# Baptist

## Mississippi

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## A Time of Blessing

by Ralph Izard, MD.



It is always an exciting time for BMMI when the "Making Everlasting Smiles" boxes begin to arrive. Rebecca Dodd and her family from Mississippi are shown delivering 125 boxes and they are smiling because they can visualize the smiles on the faces of the children who will receive the Christmas boxes.

This year, these gifts will go to the Gypsies in Romania and the descen-

dants of the Inca Indians in the Andes Mountains of Peru.

It is our prayer that many men, women, boys and girls will come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as a result of the doors being opened by these gifts.

We look forward to your participation in this project. If you need more information or have questions, please call Doris at 501-455-4977.

## DiscipleWay Training to be Revamped

You will soon be able to be trained in DiscipleWay in the comfort of your own home. DiscipleWay training is going online and the hope is that more and more people will take advantage of this process of disciple-making.

Scott Attebery, Director of DiscipleGuide, shared that the cost of regional training had become prohibitive and were becoming a drain on churches to cover the training fee as well as travel expenses of those wanting to attend. With online training, there would be no cost involved, no travel involved, and no specific dates to interfere with individual schedules. A person could train at his/her own pace and for those that did not feel technologically savvy enough to do training online, a DVD of the training could be made available.

The training would consist of viewing video of a live training that will be held at Lifeword studios in Conway, Arkansas, and then responding to the materials presented. Plans are being made to offer online encouragement

that monitors progress and also helps to answer questions trainees may have.

The DiscipleWay materials are ready and waiting. In order to get them into the hands of more people in a shorter amount of time online training seems the optimal course of action. Local churches will still be able to have local training if desired, but would need to cover all expenses.

The plans are to do record the video training this fall. If you would like to go through the live training, participants will be needed. More details will be forthcoming, but if you would like to be a trainee for the live taping event, please contact Tommy and Judy Wallace at Wallace@discipleway.com.

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training  
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## DiscipleGuide Trustees Recommend Move to Conway

The DiscipleGuide board of trustees has voted to recommend relocating the Texarkana, Arkansas, publishing offices to Conway, Arkansas. The recommendation will be made to the BMA of America at the national meeting in April of 2014.

In April of 2013, the BMA of America approved a recommendation by the DiscipleGuide board of trustees to conduct a feasibility study regarding the issue of possible relocation. The resulting study investigated the logistical, financial, personnel, and strategic implications of relocation. As a result of the study, the board determined that relocation was in the best interest of DiscipleGuide and the BMA.

Further information regarding the board's recommendation will be made available soon in an effort to foster communication with the association prior to the April meeting. "We want to listen to the churches and answer questions regarding the recommendation," explained DiscipleGuide Executive Director Scott Attebery. "We are planning to host inquiry meetings in various states."



DiscipleGuide Director Scott Attebery

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## CONSIDER THIS

When trials come,  
don't wring  
your hands -  
Bend Your Knees

## News Of Interest

# Atheists in Alaska: Chaplain's essay condemned over World War II reference

**OneNewsNow.com** - A retired U.S. Army chaplain calls it an outrage that the U.S. Air Force once again caved to the demands of an anti-Christian zealot on a mission to crush religious expression in the military.

"No atheists in foxholes" has been a saying around the military for decades," says retired Col. Ron Crews, who served as an Army chaplain for 28 years.

Crews was referring to the backlash directed at Lt. Col. Kenneth Reyes, who made reference to the 60-year-old adage in a commentary posted on the military website for Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska.

Crews, Col. Ron (Chaplain Alliance) Reyes told Todd Starnes at Fox News that the commentary was posted on his "Chaplain's Corner" and was removed by the base commander.

The commentary was entitled, "No Atheists in Foxholes: Chaplains Gave all in World War II." It retold the story of a Catholic priest who coined the phrase at the battle of Corregidor, when non-Catho-

lics were attending his services. The priest later died of starvation after sharing his food with others.

Apparently it was the "atheist" portion of the title that hurt the feelings of atheists who read it, since a base spokesman told Starnes the commentary was removed "out of respect for those who considered its title offensive."

But the atheists weren't finished with Lt. Colonel Reyes.



Michael Weinstein, who heads the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, learned of the commentary and is demanding that the Air Force

punish Reyes for what he called an "anti-secular diatribe" for using the "no atheists in foxholes" reference.

Weinstein's organization is demanding "punitive mea-

sures" and "counseling" against Reyes, and against those who allowed him to publish the essay on the website.

Weinstein says he created the organization to battle the "far-right, militant, radical, evangelical, religious fundamentalists."

Crews, meanwhile, serves as executive director of the Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty, which has been documenting anti-religious movement in the military during the Obama administration.

Crews says Weinstein's Military Religious Freedom Foundation is clearly misnamed.

"The proper name for his organization should be Freedom from Religion Foundation," says the former chaplain, "because that appears to be his understanding of what religious freedom means: that there should not be any mention of religion or faith in the public square, and especially in our military."

Crews says the Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty is asking the chaplain's commander to apologize to Chaplain Reyes and put his posting back on the base website.

# Mennonite-owned furniture company vows to appeal ObamaCare mandate

**OneNewsNow.com** - The battle for religious freedom under ObamaCare continues for a Mennonite family business in Pennsylvania after a negative court ruling.

Owners of Conestoga Wood Specialties Corporation are Mennonites and have sued the federal government over the mandate to provide free insurance coverage for birth control such as the "morning-after" pill.

The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower court decision against the firm. Alliance Defending Freedom attorney Matt Bowman tells OneNewsNow the ruling is the opposite of those obtained by Hobby Lobby and other companies.

"In fact, of the 32 companies that have sought injunctions to protect them from this ObamaCare mandate for abor-

tion pills, 25 of those have gotten injunctions," he says.

In effect, what the court said is that the owners must leave their faith behind when they walk through the doors of the company.

Conestoga operates five manufacturing facilities across the United States - three in Pennsylvania and one each in North Carolina and Washington, according to the company website.

The website states the company was started in 1964, but there is no mention of its Mennonite background.

The business is owned by the Hahn family, which calls it "sinful and immoral" for the company to provide health insurance coverage for Plan B, the morning-after pill.

Bowman says ADF will pursue legal options, including the

Supreme Court, if necessary.

"If the opinion of this court of appeals stands then, yes, the U.S. Supreme Court has to resolve this issue and we are going to fight to protect the religious freedom of this family," Bowman says.

## One Dropped Out

Once, a certain preacher of Atlanta, Georgia, was invited to preach in a prison camp. The men in their garb were seated on the ground or standing in the shade of the trees, when one of them mounted the back of a truck to introduce the preacher. Said he:

"Several years ago two

# Steeple and Towers

My wife and I had a family trip to a metropolitan area. When we checked into the hotel, the desk clerk apologized for placing us in the "executive level" room. I was quite settled with the apology as I saw the amenities of the room.

We had a panoramic view of the city from our executive perch atop one of the higher floors.

The evening lights of the tall buildings caught our view. The traffic patterns of the streets and freeways shown almost like old fashioned lightning bugs as the headlights glistened through the window. Aircraft going and coming from the busy runways peppered the night sky with blinking lights and shafts of landing lights.

As the dawn came, I was once again held in my gaze at the window. This time I noticed the many church steeples that were in and among the houses, apartments, and buildings of the great city. Here and there, once and again, the steeples were posing their silent witness pointing ever upward to the God of heaven.

About the same time I was gazing at the many steeples of churches, I began to notice the number of electronic towers far outnumbered the steeples. The towers, once unheard of just a few years ago, now are a necessary part of modern lifestyle. We must be able to communicate in order to do many things.

I wonder if we tweet or twitter more than we pray. I wonder if we text more than we meditate. I wonder if we spend

boys lived in the same community in North Georgia, attended the same school, played with the same bunch of fellows and went to the same Sunday school. One of them felt he had outgrown it and that it was sissy stuff! The other boy kept on going because he felt that it really meant something in his life.

"The boy who dropped out is the one making the introduction today. The boy who kept on going to Sunday school is the famous preacher who will preach for us this morning."

-Copied

more time on our social media than we spend in the media of God's Word. I wonder if the tower has become more important to human life than the steeple.

The church steeple points upward to God. The electronic tower courses outward to humankind. No, I am not against the tower and the communication it provides my world. I am simply wondering if the tower has taken the place of the steeple in the scheme of human events. "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves..." (Genesis 11.3)

## Leave It To Cleaver



Tony Cleaver

JSTMCLEAVER@EMBARQMAIL.COM

## 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.

### Biloxi Church Plans Celebration

Pastor Clell Allen and Temple Baptist Church, Biloxi, Mississippi, invite you to join us as we celebrate our 60th Homecoming on August 25, 2013. Our celebration will begin with Sunday School at 10 a.m. with Worship Service at 11:00. The North Louisiana Gospel Hall of Fame nominated group HIS will bring special music for us. Fellowship will follow the service.

Make plans now to come join us for great music and fellowship! If you have any questions, please contact Bro. Clell at 228-388-3077 or 228-861-2465.

### New Bethany Church seeks pastor

Bro. Glen Shoemake has resigned as pastor of New Bethany Baptist Church, Ellisville, Mississippi. The church is seeking a new pastor and asks that anyone interested to call Deacon George Bishop at 601-752-2342 or Deacon Andy Dial at 601-752-2347.

# Southeastern Baptist College

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

*Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere*

by **Matt Hudson**  
**Trustee Chairman**

Southeastern Baptist College is in the middle of its special emphasis. Some churches have already begun sending their emphasis offerings. Thank you for your consideration in supporting the college during this campaign. We have one month left in this emphasis. Your support at this time is critical to the future of the college. My prayer is that you will consider helping us with another great year. I have been working at the college when possible to help get the finances on a firm foundation. There is much work to be done.

The Revolving Loan Trustees and Bro. Geraldson have completed their assessment.

We are grateful for their help and hard work in putting things into perspective for us. Much information was gathered and put into a report for our trustees. We now have the task of taking this information and deciding how best to move forward. We will be sharing a summary of the assessment at the October meeting. Will you commit to pray for us?

The annual audit of the school is underway. Registration for fall classes is August 12-14. School will officially start on the 19th of August. If you haven't considered Southeastern, please do so. You will enjoy your stay with us.

Miss Myra Beard, a former student at Southeastern, tells her story of time spent at SBC getting a great education.

## Myra Beard

I attended Southeastern in the 1982-1983 school year. I was a member of the Cornerstones. Although I only attended for one year I had a blast while I was there. We were allowed to be kids in a typical college, but had a few rules to follow. We had curfews and that is almost unheard of now in college. I learned a lot about the BMA while I was there. I was privileged to sing in many of our churches. I met some great friends there - both the students and the staff. I would say this was a great place to for me to go straight from High School. Many of the people who taught there are gone now like Bro. Marion Wilson (who can forget Just A Swingin), and many others. I am glad I can say I attended Southeastern Baptist College.

Bro. Wilson's speech class was always fun. My only problem was trying to figure out why we had 8:00 a.m. classes, especially if we had just come

late the night before singing at a church. I loved hanging out in the student center. Sometimes we would just all meet and hang out. That was the only place the guys and girls could meet. It was a laid back atmosphere. That's why we liked it so much. You could be yourself and not worry about being preached to about everything you did. The guys even wore shorts to play basketball. Imagine that! Now the cheerleaders had to get permission to wear our skirts a little shorter than our knees, but not too short.



Myra Beard

We went on hay rides at Bro. Wilson's house. I think I was in trouble when that happened for coming in late from a revival, so Bro. Wilson put Danny Cresswell in charge of me on the hay ride. He said you have to be supervised so I pick Danny. Bro. Wilson always wanted us to enjoy school and he made it enjoyable.

I took Bible classes and poor Bro. Bond tried to help me un-

derstand Life of Christ. All I can say is I passed. Bro. Murphy was the president of the college then. He was kinda scary at times (when we got caught doing something wrong) but most of the times always had a smile on his face. State meetings were held at Southeastern and I loved seeing all the people I knew.

I wish everyone could enjoy the Southeastern I grew up with. Our college kids need guidance, but also some freedom to make mistakes and learn from them. We wore blue jeans to class like any other school. We did dress like going to church on a Wednesday night for chapel. We didn't have to be decked out. We knew that clothes don't make the people. You should be known by your actions not what you wear. Even several of our young preachers back then wore Jeans to classes and maybe dress pants to chapel. The only ones in suits were the guest preacher and the teachers sometimes. That's what we need again so kids can enjoy their time there like I did.

# Southeastern Baptist College

## 2013 SPECIAL EMPHASIS



Southeastern Baptist College  
4229 Hwy 15 N Laurel, MS 39440  
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[www.southeasternbaptist.edu](http://www.southeasternbaptist.edu)

# Goal - \$20,000

# CELEBRATING 65 YEARS

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www.bmaofmississippi.com

**DEPARTMENTS & COMMISSIONS**

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**State Youth Department**

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**Missions & Revolving Loan Fund**

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**Moral Action**

P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855

**Mississippi Baptist** | **Opinion Page**

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

**Do You Love God's Word?  
What Do You Know About It?**

The following article speaks volumes about the condition of the church today. The Bible - God's inerrant word - is a love letter and our instruction book from our Creator. It is loved, respected, and owned by most everyone.



Don Brown  
Editor

The lack of scriptural knowledge, even among church going folks, is not only appalling, but frightening. The information from Dr. Albert Mohler given below should shake the church to her core and be a catalyst to preach, teach and learn the truths that God intends for mankind.

**Guest Editorial**

*Biblical illiteracy on parade*

**Love For a Bible Not Read:**

**A Call For Biblical Literacy**

by R. Albert Mohler Jr.

While America's evangelical Christians are rightly concerned about the secular worldview's rejection of biblical Christianity, we ought to give some urgent attention to a problem much closer to home: biblical illiteracy in the church. This scandalous problem is our own, and it's up to us to fix it.

Researchers George Gallup and Jim Castelli put the problem squarely: "Americans revere the Bible — but, by and large, they don't read it. And because they don't read it, they have become a nation of biblical illiterates." Researchers tell us that it is worse than most could imagine.

Fewer than half of all adults can name the four Gospels. Many Christians cannot identify more than two or three of the disciples. According to data from one research group, 60 percent of Americans can't name even five of the Ten Commandments. Americans may demand that the Ten Commandments be posted in the courthouse, but they seem unable to remember what exactly they are.

According to 82 percent of Americans, "God helps those who help themselves," is a Bible verse. Those identified as born-again Christians did better — by one percent. A majority of adults think the Bible teaches that the most important purpose in life is taking care of one's family.

One poll indicates that at least 12 percent of adults believe that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife. Another survey of graduating high school seniors reveals that more than 50 percent thought Sodom and Gomorrah were husband and wife. A considerable number of respondents to one poll indicated that the Sermon on the Mount was preached by Billy Graham. We are in big trouble.

How can a generation be biblically shaped in its understanding of human sexuality when it believes Sodom and Gomorrah to be a married couple? Many who identify themselves as Christians are similarly confused about the gospel itself. An individual who believes that "God helps those who help themselves" will find salvation by grace and justification by faith to be alien concepts.

Christians who lack biblical knowledge are the products of churches that marginalize biblical knowledge. Bible teaching now often accounts for only a diminishing fraction of the local congregation's time and attention. The move to small group ministry has cer-

**Former missionary dies**

Harriet M. Elliot, 85 of Houston, TX, died July 21. Her husband, the late John White Elliot, was a missionary to Brazil when they married



Harriet Elliott

January 23, 1965, and she served with him there until he retired for health reasons in 1993. Mrs. Elliot, who attended Jacksonville College and Stephen F. Austin University, was a gifted pianist and served in several churches. She continued to play for her neighbors in the nursing home as long as she could.

Mrs. Elliot was also preceded in death by her two sons.

A graveside service was held July 26 in Oakwood Cemetery located in Corsicana, Texas.

tainly increased opportunities for fellowship, but many of these groups never get beyond superficial Bible study.

This really is our problem, and recovery starts at home. Parents are to be the first and most important educators of their own children, teaching them the Word of God. Parents cannot franchise out their responsibility to the congregation, no matter how faithful it may be.

Churches must recover the centrality and urgency of biblical teaching and preaching.

We will not believe more than we know, and we will not live higher than our beliefs. The many fronts of Christian compromise in this generation can be directly traced to biblical illiteracy in the pews and the absence of biblical preaching and teaching in our homes and churches.

This generation must get deadly serious about the problem of biblical illiteracy, or a frighteningly large number of Americans — many church members included — will go on thinking that Sodom and Gomorrah lived happily ever after.

**Church of the Covered Dish**

by Thom Tapp



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# Transforming Into Missional Churches

by Larry Barker

Director of Operations for North America BMAA Missions

Many churches rely almost completely on attracting people to their churches through their killer worship, awesome programs, or people's friendliness. All of those are great things to have but it is not enough. We must become "Missional." Living as missionaries in the communities God has placed us. Missionaries work hard at relating Christ in the best way possible to reach the people in the culture where they have been called.

Being missionaries means that we are intentionally and strategically acting as the presence of Christ in the community at large. Are we getting close enough to people who desperately need Christ so that they can see Him in us? When we are close to lost people do they see Christ in us? An attractional church does everything it can to draw non-Christians to us and our ministries. A Missional church sends people out to serve their communities—whether the people they serve come to church or not.

The first step to being missional is being incarnational. We must focus on living, demonstrating, and offering Biblical community to a lost and dying world. We have become very good at doing church but are we being the church every single day? The members of your church are to function as the body of Christ representing Him in your community. What impact is your church having in your community?

The second step to being missional is being indigenous. We do not choose the culture we live in but we can choose whether we withdraw into the comfort of the church cultures we have created or thrive where He has planted us. We must be able to relate to the culture where God has placed us as His missionaries. How can your church be the most effective missionaries in your community?

The third step to being missional is being intentional. There is nothing wrong with being strategic in how we minister to those around us. When you think like a missionary you determine how you can be the most effective witness for Christ, without compromise. You willingly die to personal preferences so that Christ's name may be proclaimed in the most effective way possible in your context. Is God using your church to reach your community? Why not?

In *Breaking the Missional Code*, Ed Stetzer says, "It is the discipline of seeing your context through missional lenses and then exercising faith by taking risks to live the Great Commandment in such a way that you can fulfill the Great Commission." We should not separate being missional from doing evangelism. The emphasis

in the great commission is not "go" but rather on making disciples. As we are going we must be sharing the love of Christ with everyone we can but Jesus first cared about the individual and began a relationship with them.

Relationships is the "currency" that will move people toward Christ. People all around you are looking for someone who cares about them no matter what they do, how they vote, or who their friends are. They want people in their lives that are real and authentic. This is good news because there is no more authentic relationship than the one with Jesus Christ when He becomes your Lord and Savior.

Casting Crowns has a song that asks every local church some very poignant questions:

"But if we are the body,  
Why aren't His arms reaching,  
Why aren't His hands healing,  
Why aren't His words teaching,  
And if we are the body,  
Why aren't His feet going,  
Why is His love not showing there is a way,  
There is a way!"

## AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

### Collin Jones

Bro. Collin Jones is resigning the pastorate of Fairview Baptist Church in Blytheville, Arkansas, and is available for pastoral service as the Lord leads. Collin has been in the ministry for 31 years. He spent 13 years in Central America as a BMA missionary with 12 years in small group development, training, organization and administration. He has about 6 years experience in developing the youth camp ministry in Honduras.

His experience includes development of small group curriculum, training of leaders, and administration of missionary church planting for the country of Honduras and other countries of Central America. He has a variety of administrative experience, while working side by side with other missionaries. Bro. Collin has been trained in Evangelism Explosion and also *The Way of the Master*.



Collin & Ginger Jones

# CHILDREN'S HOME

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

## School Will Be Starting Soon

Can you believe that the summer break is about over? In just a few weeks school will be back in full swing. The girls and boys have enjoyed the summer very much this year. Along with the youth outings, VBS, revival services, etc. Of course, the garden has produced vegetables to keep us busy with picking peas and gathering squash, peppers, tomatoes, okra, and etc. Remember our girls and boys in your prayers as they face another challenging school year that is about to begin!



SIDNEY DAVIS  
DIRECTOR

## Revival Services

It was a joy to attend the revival services the week of July 21-24 at our home church at the First Baptist Church of Shady Grove. Our evangelist was Dr. John Adams, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Mantachie. He also serves as Executive Director of the Moral Action of the BMA of Mississippi and the BMA of America. His messages were enlightening, inspiring, challenging and heaven sent. Thank you Dr. Adams for faithfully delivering the Word of God to us.

## Local Bank Gives Back to Community

The Mississippi Baptist Children's Home recently received volunteer assistance from associates of the Trustmark National Bank from the Laurel area.



Associates of the Trustmark National Bank

Each year they conduct a community involvement campaign called "A Gift of Time." They helped us this year in helping make improvements to the buildings and grounds at the Home. A special thanks to each associate who gave of their valuable time to the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home.

## Remember In Prayer

Continue to remember the ministry of the Home in your prayers.

To contact Bro. Jones please call or email him at 870-838-9035 pastorcollinjones@gmail.com.

### Jimmy Daugherty

Bro. Jimmy Daugherty is available for service in the area of pastorate, interim and fill in as the Lord may lead. He is a member of First Baptist Church (BMA) in Bloominggrove, Texas, under the leadership of Bro. Grady Cashion. For reference Bro. Cashion can be reached at 903-654-1301.

Jimmy and his wife Suzie have been married for 19 years and have four children. Shelbbie 18, who will be attending Central Baptist College in the fall, Brandon 16, Ashleigh 11 and Nate 6. Jimmy has been in the ministry over 15 years. Jimmy has served in the following positions over the past 15

years - Music, Youth, and Pastor. Jimmy and his family are willing to relocate and follow God's direction wherever He may lead. Bro. Daugherty may be reached at 903-519-4281 or via email at jimmysuziedarty4@yahoo.com. A request for resume and preaching/singing CD is available via email or request for hard copy.

### Lavon Haden

Bro. Lavon Haden is available for pulpit supply, interim work, or however the Lord leads. He can be reached at 601-522-6055.

### Dale Wirick

Bro. Dale Wirick is available for pulpit supply. He can be reach at 228-934-6465.

# Know The Home Where They Roam

What would you say to a shepherd who didn't watch his sheep? Let's say the owner of the sheep came up in the evening time and asked where all his sheep were? And the shepherd answered and said, "I think they are over there behind that rock. That is where they told me they were going. That's the last place I knew about anyway." We would all agree that this shepherd was not doing his job.

The Lord is our shepherd. We are the sheep of his pasture. Children are a gift from God. Psalm 127:3 Our children are God's. They are the King's kids. He gives them to us as a gift to be a good steward over.

We are to love them, teach them the ways of the Lord, give them the Word of God, and to provide for them spiritually, physically, mentally and emotionally. We should all desire to be the very best parents not only for our kids, but for the glory of God.

There is so much sickness out there, so much perversion, so much sin; parents should be vigilant about where their kids are. Whose home are they in? What is going on in that home? Even as our kids become teenagers, it is incumbent upon the parents to know where their teens are and have a basic knowledge of what is going on in their life while they are away. Parental supervision is not just while they are in the home. It is 24 hours a day.

It is not necessarily a healthy thing to wall your kids off. They need the social interaction with others. However, every thing you work so hard on to protect them from and every thing you have diligently taught them can be undermined when you allow them to be in the company of people who do not live as you do.



## Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

There are no perfect families. Not even yours. But you should have an understanding of who these people are. Someone once asked, "What are we suppose to do - have home interviews with the families our kids hang out with?" I said, "Yes." It doesn't have to be a formal interrogation. You can go way too far in this. But it is

your kids go any where because they want to.

You are the adult parent. It is your job to protect your kids. I really don't care if other people think I am a little crazy or over protective. It is my job from God to protect the gifts (children) he has given me. And just because some family goes to your church does not mean they are following the precepts of Christian living found in the Bible. And just because the parents are at home, does not mean that there is appropriate adult supervision in the home. Listen to your child talk to you. Are their things that they talk about that are not appropriate for them in this other home?

As kids become teenagers, some parents make a giant mistake. They think that because they are older they do not need the supervision they did as little kids. But they do. The decisions made as teens can have life changing or life ending consequences. You can have a very good, mature Christian teen. However, thrown into making an adult decision, at an adult time, in an adult world, may spell trouble. You have to be their surrogate brain. Sometimes you will have to use the word "no" with your teens. They won't like it. But God put you in authority over them. He will hold you accountable for how you raised them. Your teens may pitch a fit. They may not understand or like what you do. Tough! You simply tell them, "I don't expect you to like all my rules. I don't expect you to understand them. But I do expect you to honor me as I establish codes of conduct for you." No whining or back talking. Obedience and honoring is expected.

Too many teens are being let out like a pack of wild animals to go wherever they want, when they want, and with whomever they want. All because the parents are weak willed and want their kids to be happy. The long term end results for the family is often times unhappiness, sorrow or tragedy. If you love your kids, you should ask who, where, when and why. If you love your kids, then you will be a good shepherd if you know where your sheep are at all times. There are too many wolves out there for you to just let them graze with no supervision.

very appropriate to go to the home where your child will be going to play or spend the night. Just visit with the family. Invite them over and say something like, "Our children want to be friends, so we thought it would be great for all of us to get to know each other." Invite them over for burgers. You may want to step inside the home the first time you take your child over. You can learn a great deal about people by asking very non-invasive questions. If you get a gut feeling (Holy Spirit prompting) that something is not right, then you may need to reassess whether or not your kids can be friends with these kids. There is too much sexual abuse, exposure to vulgar language, family fighting, drinking, inappropriate movies etc... to just let



## Southeastern Baptist College

Special Emphasis 2013

The Need - \$20,000

## GMA Girls

### GMA Promoter

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

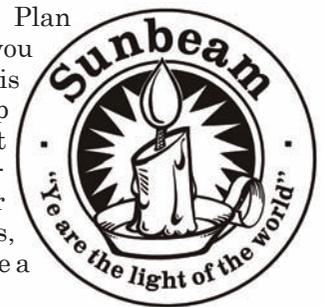
### Sunbeam Promoter

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

# Round Up The Sunbeams

by Sherry Laminack  
National Sunbeam Promoter

September 22-28, 2013, is SEP week, Sunbeam Enlistment and Promotion Week. The theme for the week is **ROUND UP THE SUNBEAMS**. Plan special activities for this time. If you already have Sunbeams, make this week a special time for your group and make a special effort to enlist children in your church and community who are not members of your group. If you do not have Sunbeams, now would be a good time to organize a group.



Sunbeams are children from birth through third grade. The lessons taught in Sunbeams are designed to help the children develop a firm foundation in the Christian principles and doctrines upon which the Baptist Missionary Association of America is founded. The goal of the program is to train the child to live in his/her world - home, community, and church - and to challenge the children to know more of God and how to live for Him. If you would like more information or help in organizing a new group, please contact me @ [jaslaminack@cox.net](mailto:jaslaminack@cox.net) or at 870-543-9640.

Listed below are suggestions for activities for this week. Do whatever works for your group.

- (1) Have a special awards program for the Sunbeams who have completed Star Award Requirements
- (2) If your group is just getting started, have a special program and present each student with their sash.
- (3) In conjunction with the theme, Round Up The Sunbeams, have a cookout and let the children dress in western attire.
- (4) Invite the parents to your meeting and explain the Sunbeam program to them.
- (5) Let the Sunbeams sing in a church service.
- (6) Have a party at one meeting, serve refreshments and invite children in your church and community who do not attend Sunbeams.
- (7) Take your group to a nursing home or retirement center to sing.
- (8) Select a method to raise money for the Shepherd's Bag Ministry, the national Sunbeam project.

Sunbeam counselors have been blessed with great treasures, the lives of children. Let's "Round Up The Sunbeams" during SEP week, September 22-28.

We should be thankful for the opportunity God has given us to serve Him through teaching Sunbeams.

Colossians 3:23-24 - "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord."





*"And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested." 1 Chronicles 4:10*



Larry Geraldson  
Director

I have prayed the prayer of Jabez many times over the years of my ministry and God has always been faithful to bless.

#### New Missionaries Approved

The Missionary Committee met to interview two new missionary candidates on July 22 and after prayerful deliberation and discussion, they approved Bro. Phillip Burns as a church planting missionary and Dr. Kenneth Pollock as a support missionary.



Phillip & Dawn Burns

Bro. Burns comes to us sponsored by First Baptist Church of Bay Springs, who will also serve as the mother church. Bro. Burns has served on staff at First Baptist Bay Springs with Bro. James Sprayberry for the past 11 years. Bro. Burns has a BA in Christian Education from New Orleans Theological

Seminary. He and his wife, Dawn and their two girls, Makayla and Hope will be relocating to Sumrall, Mississippi, to begin missionary activity soon. Sumrall is home to new schools and new growth, largely influenced by the growth of Hattiesburg. After visiting Sumrall with Bro. Burns, and gathering information on the area, I estimate around 8,000 people living in and around the Sumrall area do not attend an area church. If you know of anyone living in the Sumrall area that might have an interest in helping with this endeavor, please contact us.

Dr. Kenneth Pollock comes to us by recommendation of Dr. John Adams and is sponsored by First Baptist Church of Mantachie. Dr. Pollock joins our team in response to a request by Missionary Bob Burch who has asked for temporary additional support. In his formal request he stated, "My wife is going back on chemotherapy and this keeps her very sick and makes my time limited to do what I need to do." In response to Bro.



Kenneth & Carole  
Pollock

Burch's request, the missionary committee has approved Dr. Pollock to serve as a support missionary and to reevaluate the need in one year. Dr. Pollock has over 21 years of pastoral experience and holds a Doctorate in Christian Counseling from Andersonville Theological Seminary,

a Doctorate in Ministry from Andersonville Theological Seminary, a Masters in Christian Education from Andersonville Theological Seminary, and a BA in Biblical Studies from Luther Rice Seminary. Dr. Pollock and his wife Carole will begin helping Bro. Burch on August 1st.

#### Missionary Resigns/Interim Steps In

Bro. Justin Rhodes has resigned as the church planting missionary at Clinton, Mississippi. After wrestling with his decision, Bro. Rhodes presented his formal resignation to the Missionary Committee which stated, "...I have had doubts and questions, and concerns about what we were doing..." "After much prayer and consideration, I now know without any doubts whatsoever that the Lord has given me a pastor's heart and His will for me is to serve in a pastorate somewhere." Bro. Rhodes' resignation was accepted.



Danny Bartlett

After coordinating with the mother church pastor, Bro. Bob Conrad at Wilderness in Vicksburg and the Chairman of the Missionary Committee of the Capitol Association, Bro. Jeff Dixon, I recommended to the committee that we continue the mission effort in Clinton and find a person to serve in an interim capacity for the time being. The Missionary Committee approved this approach and Bro. Danny Bartlett has agreed to serve in an interim capacity. I am confident that we can build on the good efforts made by Bro. Rhodes and the mission can prosper. Please pray for the Clinton mission.

#### New Budget Approved

Our fiscal year ends at the end of July. We will close the year in the black again. Our new budget reflects additional efforts to make our operation more efficient. At the mid-year meeting I reported that we had improved efficiency so that 77 cents on

the dollar would go directly to the missionaries. This new budget improves that position to 82 cents on the dollar. God is blessing and we are working hard to be good stewards of the money you send us to support our missionaries.

#### We Need Additional Resources

As I write this article I know of three families in three different areas of the state that are waiting to have a BMA of Mississippi mission begun in their area. I know of three men who have asked about becoming church planters. I know of more than three churches that are excited about the possibilities of being a mother church. But I do not have the resources to develop these opportunities beyond serious prayer... (Jabez's prayer). Our churches have given much more in support over the past two years, and I am grateful, thankful, and appreciative. Please don't think that I'm not. But this has been done primarily in the area of projects, debt reduction, work funds, etc. However, the regular giving or average church contributions (from which we pay missionary salaries and benefits) has remained constant over the past 13 years. Therefore, while opportunity lies at our door, I continue to plead with our churches to do more. Please revisit what you are giving on a regular basis and increase it if possible. If you know of a church that has stopped giving to State Missions, please become an ambassador for us to encourage them to get involved again. We need your help.

#### BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund

(as of July 30th and since August 1, 2012)

Gross assets are now at \$17,614,135.00, an increase of \$2,184,734.00. Net assets are now at \$3,106,250.00, an increase of \$385,753.00. We have opened 41 new investment accounts totaling \$1,599,796.00. We have 12 new loans totaling \$3,055,948.00. We presently have loans that have been approved and are pending totaling \$789,000.00.

## The Tile Layer

by J. A. Gilmartin

People are often impatient to see their new ceramic tile laid, but they're reluctant to endure the required prep work.

It is true you may lay ceramic tile over the top of almost anything (plywood, old tile, hardboard, drywall, etc.), but it's just as true that professionals lay tile over a concrete type board ... sort of a "super" board.

The reason is simple: many materials are unstable when it comes to such things as mois-

ture, heat, and age; whereas concrete-impregnated fiberboard is stable under even the harshest of conditions. Those grout lines in your tile are just like fault lines in the earth's crust; under the right conditions, stress will cause those lines to fracture ... some stresses will even cause the tiles themselves to crack.

A good tile job will be laid on a solid foundation; a inferior tile job will reveal itself soon enough.

God is never finished with

His disciples (at least this side of eternity future); we often require a great deal of prep work before any final material is laid on.

Many times old materials must be removed, other times the old material just needs repair or resecuring. This not only protects the finished product, but ensures a good testimony for the Tile Layer.

Since we're to be the very reflection of Christ in us, this is an important part of the job. Good discipling gives evidence of a solid foundation; impatient discipling reveals itself soon enough.

## From A Child's Mind

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex was staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and small American flags were mounted on either side of it.

The seven-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the boy, and said quietly, "Good morning Alex."

"Good morning pastor," replied the young man, still focused on the plaque.

"Pastor McGhee, what is this?" Alex asked.

"Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which service, the 8:30 or the 11:00?"

## Where sexual liberalism is welcome, Bible believers are not

**OneNewsNow.com** - Conservatives do not have high hopes for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), which has been leaning liberal for decades and is now officially leaning further to the left.

Meeting in Orlando July 13-17, delegates at the General Assembly passed a significant resolution that Mark Tooley, president of The Institute on Religion & Democracy (IRD), tells OneNewsNow opens the denomination's doors to people of all sexual orientations or gender identities.

"Implied in that resolution that that should include the ordained clergy," he notes. "So this is perhaps the first or one of the first specific affirmations by this particular denomination of so-called sexual orientation and sexual or gender self-identity."

The denomination's leadership has been on that trajectory for a long time, and it has had a damaging impact. Once counting about two million members in the 1960s, the Disciples of Christ now has about 639,000, making it perhaps the fastest declining denomination in the nation.

"That's always the irony for the liberal church -- that they embrace sexual liberalism with the idea that that will make them more welcoming and throw open the doors, but, of course, the consequence is always just the opposite," Tooley observes.

People either leave the church entirely, or find a church where the Bible is taught and still held sacred.

The resolution passed by the church's governing body lists sexual

orientation and gender identity alongside race, age and other categories to which the denomination is "striving to become a people of grace and welcome.

Doug Harvey, executive director of Disciples Heritage Fellowship, a non-denominational ministry mostly comprised of former Disciples of Christ churches or congregations still officially connected with the denomination, agrees that the liberal view of sexuality and transgenderism is difficult for many church members to embrace.

"A lot of the older folks in the Disciples of Christ denomination remember what it once was and simply don't have a category in their brains to put a church that would actually ordain ultimately gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people," Harvey states. "So even when it's there on paper, it just kind of goes over the top of their head; they just can't comprehend it. And I say, 'God bless their innocence,' but that's not the world we live in."

Once a renewal group within the Disciples of Christ, Harvey says Disciples Heritage Fellowship lost hope years ago of facilitating change that embraced an evangelical worldview. He suspects this recent affirmation will cause more to lose hope, too.

"Those churches will go through a painful process of studying their history and their own faith and then make a decision," he predicts. "Some will leave, some will choose to stay, but those that choose to stay often lose their best members -- the solid Bible-believing young adults."

## Religious literature distribution stands on court rulings

**OneNewsNow.com** - Alliance Defending Freedom is telling scores of public schools in Kentucky that they don't have to be afraid of threats from the ACLU concerning Bible distribution.

One hundred seventy-four schools in Kentucky received a letter from the ACLU threatening them with lawsuits if they did not ban distribution of the Gideon Bible. ADF attorney Jeremy Tedesco says the letter was based on a complete misperception of the law.

"We sent a letter of response telling schools there is a constitutionally sound way to allow Gideons to distribute Bibles at school, and not to allow the ACLU to scare them into restricting the free speech rights of the Gideons or other religious groups," he tells OneNewsNow.

He further points out that a U.S. Court of Appeals affirms the right of private citizens to share religious lit-

erature at public schools.

"In a case directly on point, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals talked about distribution of Gideon Bibles and said that it's entirely constitutional under these kind of neutral access programs," Tedesco says. "And interestingly enough, the ACLU didn't even mention that case in its whole letter. Yet, the sixth circuit has jurisdiction over Kentucky and all school districts in Kentucky."

Tedesco also notes that the Kentucky School Board Association states that schools cannot ban the distribution of religious literature.

*Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.*

*Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. Psalm 119:1-2*

Online Class Available

## Seminary Offers 'Introduction to Christian Ministry'

by **Dr. Tony Cleaver**

I am teaching a new course this fall at BMA Seminary — PM111c Introduction to Christian Ministry. This is a distance education course that is online.

The course provides an orientation to Christian ministry in the contemporary culture. Special attention is given to the theology, nature, mission and ministry of the church. Different aspects of pastoral care, administration and ministry are covered. Images of the ministry in varied contexts are also considered.

Ministry for Christ and His church is too important not to be treated with priority. You may be young in the Christian faith or your journey may have taken several years. Whatever the passage, this course of introductory materials regarding your calling will be valuable to your walk with Christ.

The following videos (closed captions provided) will give you an overview of the course and outline particular topics to be taught and discussed during the study:



Dr. Tony Cleaver

- **Overall Introduction To Course** —  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJYQaTas6rY&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJYQaTas6rY&feature=youtu.be)
- **Overview Section 1** —  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=cB1c-0cMt8M&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cB1c-0cMt8M&feature=youtu.be)
- **Overview Section 2** —  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eo4meABm2s&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eo4meABm2s&feature=youtu.be)
- **Overview Section 3** —  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=w\\_TCJeELXWY&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_TCJeELXWY&feature=youtu.be)
- **Overview Section 4** —  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=DiHBtvHcCZQ&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DiHBtvHcCZQ&feature=youtu.be)

For more information on enrollment, etc., contact BMA Seminary at 903-586-2501 or visit [www.bmats.edu](http://www.bmats.edu).

### - From DiscipleGuide - Fill Out Your Church Letter Form at BMALIFE.com

As a service to church clerks, DiscipleGuide's 2013-14 Annual Church Letter form will once again be available online from August 15 until February 15, 2014. The completed online form is submitted to DiscipleGuide Information Services only for use in producing the 2013-14 BMAA Directory and Handbook. This year the form can be found on the new BMAA web site, [www.BMALife.com](http://www.BMALife.com).

The online form can be saved to the user's computer, accessed and printed until all data is entered. After the form is completed, the user will receive a PDF file attached to an e-mail. This printed form also can be copied and submitted to those local and state associations that have opted to use it. Check with your local and state association clerks to ask if they are using the form. If they are, church clerks will have to complete only one form, one time.

The Annual Church Letter form is the principal source of information for the Directory and Handbook, which contains vital information for churches, departments, associations, agencies, and related ministries of the BMAA. Regardless of whether your association is using this form, we ask that church clerks complete it to be sure your church information is correct and accurate in next year's directory. For those church clerks who prefer using a paper form, local association clerks will have these forms to distribute to their member churches within six weeks before the annual meeting. The church letter form also can be found in the back of the 2013-14 BMAA Directory and Handbook. Thank you for your participation in this valuable support ministry of the BMAA.