

Mark Your Calendar

January 7-8, 2008
BMAA Missions Symposium
Temple Baptist Church
Little Rock, Arkansas

March 13, 2008
BMA of Mississippi
Missions Conference
Skyway Hills Baptist Church
Pearl, Mississippi
8:30 am - 8:30 pm

2008 BMA of Mississippi
Senior Adult Conferences
South Conference
March 27, 2008
Big Creek Baptist Church
Soso, Mississippi

North Conference
May 13, 2008
East Amory Baptist Church
Amory, Mississippi

DECEMBER 1, 2007

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JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Caring For Those In Need

by Ralph IZARD, M.D.
BMMI Director

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:20

The young man in the center of the photo came with his parents and his aunt to the BMMI clinic in the church in Tetchea, Romania. He was the ears and the voice of his parents and his aunt because they were unable to hear or speak. He had a tremendous responsibility for an eleven year old child. In addition, it was raining and the wind was blowing in 37 degree weather. It was a very bad day to be walking with only a pair of "flip-flops" on his feet.

Thanks to the donations received for "Children Helping Children", shoes had been purchased to be given out in Romania. In addition, the BMMI supplied him with socks, gloves, a toboggan, and a scarf. The next Sunday he was sitting on the front row at church with the young boys and he had shoes on like the others. Praise the Lord!!

The BMAA Department of Missions and BMMI extend their appreciation on behalf of the thousands of men, women, boys, and girls around the world who now have shoes, vitamins, medicine, and food. Additionally, many have been given a Bible and have been introduced to Jesus Christ by BMMI team

members. Over 5000 Christmas Shoeboxes are on their way to Rattanakiri Province in Cambodia to be distributed there. The chief of the Nakeo village in Laos has welcomed the distribution of the shoeboxes in his village as well. Pray that the international border crossing will be complete between Cambodia and Vietnam, which will allow the shoeboxes to be distributed to the indigenous people around Pleiku in Vietnam.

The year 2008 is proving to be a year of great expectations as the Lord has, through medical missions, opened many areas of the world that had been closed to the gospel for 50 years or more. The BMMI plans to send teams to five continents in 2008 and would like to invite

you to become part of one of these exciting short term mission trips. Our greatest need is your daily prayers! The second need is for you and your church to encourage and send those the Lord is leading to be a part of a BMMI team. Remember, you do not have to have medical training to be used of God to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ. The third need is your financial support through the "Ambassadors for Christ" which will purchase medicine, supplies, and support of medical outreach by national workers in



several countries.

Our deepest gratitude is expressed to each individual and each church that has supported BMMI in any way this year. We can only anticipate greater blessings in 2008 as the Lord continues to open doors!

Lifeword Deadline Drawing Near

by Diane Ward

National Walk of Faith Coordinator

Who will it be? Excitement continues to build as we anxiously wait to tally the results and announce the winner of our overseas media missions' trip for the church that raises the most money for the 2007 Walk of Faith.

We are encouraged by reports to date which reflect an increase in t-shirt sales and offerings through this same time period last year. In fact we almost sold out of t-shirts this year. Give us a call if you would like to order one of the few remaining shirts. They would make great Christmas gifts. Our number is 1-800-543-1090.

Many of our church coordinators commented that their church was really excited about the Walk of Faith this year and they were trying some "new" techniques for motivation that they felt would be effective with their people. So far it looks like some of those techniques may be paying off. We're receiving some wonderful offerings, and we pray the trend continues.

Remember your church offerings must be received by Lifeword on or before December 31, 2007, in order to qualify for the missions' trip. Competition is running high this year, so make sure all your money has been collected, turned in and received by Lifeword by this important date. Also, don't forget to designate your check for the Walk of Faith before mailing it to Lifeword so it is certain to be counted toward the Walk of Faith. The winning church may select two people to accompany the Lifeword broadcast team on a visit to a Lifeword overseas studio in 2008. We are excited that these two people will see first hand how the Lord is using Lifeword to help bring people around the world to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through radio broadcasts.

Stay tuned... we will return with the rest of the story!

Creation scientist debunks

NOVA documentary on evolution



OneNewsNow.com - A recent documentary aired on public television, claiming that evolution is science and there is no place for creationism, has one prominent scientist saying the opposite is true.

The NOVA documentary "Judgment Day" followed a Dover, Pennsylvania, court battle over the teaching of evolution versus intelligent design in area schools. The judge in the case ultimately ruled in favor of evolution, and in a statement he called intelligent design "the progeny of creationism" and further stated that intelligent design is not science. NOVA's senior executive producer agrees with the statement and states on pbs.org that she decided to produce the documentary be-

cause "evolution is the foundation of biological sciences."

Ken Ham, president and founder of Answers in Genesis, says that when it comes to science, there is more support for the biblical account of creation.

"We'll be most adamant to say that observational science - whether it's in biology or geology, or anthropology, or astronomy or whatever it is - actually confirms the Bible's history. [It] does not confirm evolutionary history," states the Christian apologist.

"And so a creationist doesn't have a blind faith; we have a faith that makes sense of the facts and observational science supports it.

But an evolutionist who's a Darwinian evolutionist actually has a blind faith because they don't have observational science that actually confirms their interpretation of the evidence."

Ham also claims that the fossil record overwhelmingly supports creation. "Again it comes down to two different interpretations of the same [fossil] record," he explains. "So what we've got to do is look at observational science, observations in the present to see which particular view of the past is confirmed by that. And we would say overwhelmingly the biblical view of a young earth, global flood and so on, is confirmed by the present evidence."

Ham is also the president of the Kentucky-based Creation Museum, which gives visitors a first-hand look at the science that supports the biblical account of creation.

Moral Action Committee

Baptist Missionary Association of America
6273 Miller Rd., Swartz Creek, MI 48473
810-635-4845

The Triumph Of Liberalism?

The city known for its "avant garde" culture is an example of decadence run amok. The city which recently openly mocked the Last Supper in a vile advertising campaign. Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who represents San Francisco, refused to condemn the ad mocking the Last Supper.

But most disturbing is the growing hostility toward Christianity in the city named for a saint. According to several press reports, a "performance artist," Paul Addis, was caught the last week in October trying to set fire to a historic cathedral. Deputy Police Chief Morris Tabak said authorities have no known motive for the attempted arson, but Addis reportedly did say "something about it was his religious right." Two weeks prior, an 18 year-old man was arrested for trying to set a convent on fire, while six nuns were sleeping inside.

Now, let's just put our hypothetical hat on. If there were two attempts to burn abortion centers or "gay bars," in say, Dallas, Texas, and if there were constant mockery of liberal iconic causes there, we would be subjected to regular items on the evening news about mean-spirited conservatives in Dallas and how their hatred is fomenting violence. There would be demands for Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity and conservatives everywhere to denounce the attacks.

But when it goes on in San Francisco and the targets are Christians, there is silence. The triumph of the radical left in San Francisco has created an atmosphere of hate against Christians -- and no one in Big Media cares.

ENDA Legislation Would Enshrine Homosexuality in Federal Law

On November 7, 2007, the House passed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), a bill that would give homosexuals and bisexuals special rights in the workplace. The liberals in the Democratic-controlled House have displayed extreme arrogance by apparently believing they have the authority to nullify any constitutional provisions which it finds bothersome. Thirty-five liberal Republicans broke with conservatives to help draw a line through the free exercise clause of the First Amendment, passing it 235-184.

On November 7, 2007, House Republican Leader John Boehner (R-OH) issued the following statement opposing the Employment



Dr. Roy McLaughlin
Director

Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA):

"This legislation drastically weakens religious freedom in the workplace and puts activist judges in the position of imposing same-sex marriage and civil union laws on states. Simply by using ENDA as the basis of their decisions -- just as state Supreme Courts have done with state-level ENDA laws in the past -- liberal judges will be empowered under this legislation to single-handedly undermine state and federal marriage laws across the country. I'm disappointed that the Majority turned back a straightforward proposal offered by House Republicans to protect state and federal marriage laws from being overturned, modified, or restricted by activist judges as a result of this deeply flawed legislation."

According to a White House statement, this legislation threatens to add federal recognition to homosexual "marriages" recognized under state law, as in Massachusetts. "Provisions of this bill purport to give Federal statutory significance to same-sex marriage rights under State law. These provisions conflict with the Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage as the legal union between one man and one woman. The Administration strongly opposes any attempt to

weaken this law, which is vital to defending the sanctity of marriage."

House Republican Whip Roy Blount, R-MO., Wednesday said the legislation "takes dead aim at religious freedom" and creates conflict between one's right to religious freedom and another's right to sue you for exercising it."

"The so-called 'Employment Non-Discrimination Act' creates a legal quagmire for employees who practice, or even acknowledge, their religious beliefs -- depending on where they happen to work and subject to judicial interpretation," Blount said. "In the process, it erodes a basic, fundamental right bestowed upon us by our Creator and a right guaranteed to every American under the U.S. Constitution."

Once more, the liberals in Congress are attempting to join hands with like-minded judges and all others who continue to drive a proverbial knife into everything good and God honoring. Even attempting to destroy Churches and Christian enterprise, the Boy Scouts, and anything that respects or honors biblical truth. It is time that we call on Congress to pass a "Hate Crimes Law" to protect morality.

By the way, here is the vote tally:

	Yea	Nay
Democrats:	200	25
Republicans:	35	159

White House comment line:
202-456-1111
White House switchboard:
202-456-1414
White House fax line:
202-456-2461
White House e-mail:
comments@whitehouse.gov

California pro-family group sues Gov. Schwarzenegger over 'gender bender' bill

OneNewsNow.com - A non-profit legal organization has filed a federal lawsuit challenging what many say is a new definition of gender by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Last month, Governor Schwarzenegger signed SB 777 into law, effectively changing the definition of gender under the state's education code. Under SB 777, gender is defined by individual choice, regardless of a person's God-given biological attributes.

Bob Tyler, general counsel with Advocates for Faith and Freedom, contends the bill violates privacy rights of students throughout California's public schools. He also says the law will leave children vul-

nerable to predators who will use the law just to get a "look-see" at other people.

"It's ridiculous that a young girl would be required to share private facilities such as restrooms, or locker rooms, or other private locations with a male, when society has always separated males and females in certain situations in order to protect the privacy of these kids," argues Tyler. "This bill just defies common sense."

The lawsuit argues the redefinition of gender should be declared unconstitutional because the law is vague and no school administrator would know when the law is actually being violated. SB 777 is set to become law in January.

Federal legislation on hate crimes a concern for pulpits

As a congressional conference committee seeks compromise on the Defense Authorization Act for 2008, hate crimes legislation attached to the bill continues to concern some political and religious leaders.

The Local Law Enforcement Hate

Crimes Prevention Act of 2007 passed both the U.S. House and Senate earlier this year. The bill is currently in conference committee to work out differences between the

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Short Message Series by Rev. Grover Laird

The Joy Of The Lord

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice." (Philippians 4:4)

When we get saved, the Holy Spirit sheds abroad the love of God in our heart. (Romans 5:5) But not the love of God only, it also puts the joy of the Lord in our heart; as all who are saved could testify. (Psalm 40:3; Acts 8:6,8,39; 13:52; 16:34) This is surely the joy that David called "the joy of thy salvation." (Psalm 51:12) This joy of the Lord is part of the fruit that the Spirit continues to produce in us. (Galatians 5:22) It is not just joy; it is joy in the Lord.



Grover Laird

Our text tells us that this joy in the Lord is to be "always." It should always exist in our heart. I Thessalonians 5:16 also tells us that it is to be constant--"Rejoice evermore." But someone may ask "how can a person rejoice always and suffer persecutions, afflictions, and painful testings, as all of the righteous do?" (II Timothy 3:12; Psalm 34:19; I Peter 1:7) Well, most of us never will reach that height. However, one thing this means is, while the outward man may show signs of sorrow at times, deep down the joy of the Lord will still be there.

Yet we should strive to go farther than having this joy deep down inside. It really should show through most of the time. One thing that will help us to do this is, remember that whatever happens to us is God's will for us. (Matthew 10:29) This will help us to live in thanksgiving, even in our afflictions. Notice: "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (I Thessalonians 5:18) While this will be near impossible at times, it can be done. Paul did it - As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing...." (2 Corinthians 6:10)

Doing those things that the Lord has provided to give joy, will also help us to rejoice in the Lord always. Reading the Bible brings joy. (Jeremiah 15:16) Fellowship with Christ will do it. (I Peter 1:8) Winning souls to Christ provides joy. (Psalm 126:5,6) Looking forward to the better day will surely give us joy. (I Peter 1:4-6) Most of us lose our joy in the Lord because we neglect the things that provide it.

If a church seems to be void of the joy of the Lord in their hearts, may I recommend weeks of special prayer for revival, or however long it takes to get one. For when true revival comes, the joy of the Lord will also come-- "Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?" (Psalms 85:6)

I fear that many are trying to adjust to a Christian life that is void of the joy of the Lord. This does not have to be done. This will normally result in unfaithfulness to church and worldly living. There is a way to get this joy restored. One can start by asking the Lord to restore the joy he received when he got saved. This is what David did. (Psalm 51) Next, start doing those things that provides this joy. (we have already mention some of those.) Next, hunger for it. The joy of the Lord is good, and the Lord has promised to give good things to those who are longing and hungering for them-- "For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness." (Psalms 107:9)

Another thing that would help is, pray the prayer David prayed when he sought for his joy in the Lord to be restored. Here is a part of it: "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.... Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me... Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee." (Psalms 51:1-13)

Ministers Resource Services

Retirement Agency of the BMA of America

BMA Retirement

Ministers Resource Services (MRS), the retirement agency of the Baptist Missionary Association of America, continues to have excellent retirement returns. At the end of October, BMA Long Term Growth retirement at MRS was up 8.5% for the first ten months of 2007 which reflects a return of 12.5% each year for the past five years. The BMA Retirement portfolio has doubled over the past four years and is currently at \$8,864,196.93.

Congratulations

Our congratulations is extended to Mr. Bunn Fawcett, our broker, in being appointed to the Advisory Board of Manning and Napier Advisory Advantage Corporation, our investment firm. This is not only a worthy honor for Mr. Fawcett but it also gives MRS more day by day information from the firm that manages our retirement funds.

Busy Fall

It has been a busy but rewarding fall. As Executive Director it has been my joy to attend seven annual state associational meetings plus the Pastors Oasis. To observe the progress and growth among each state work has been a blessing and then to fellowship with folks both old and new has been a joy to my heart. It does one good to be with God's people

Benevolent Society

Let me encourage our pastors, staff and employees of our churches to enroll in the Ministers Benevolent Society and Auxiliary. You will be helping fellow ministers and their families at the time of death. The death benefit payable to the beneficiary of an enrolled minister is approximately \$4,200.00. Join now, help others and God will use it to minister to your family in the time of death.

New Departments in BMA Retirement

We welcome aboard this year two new departments of the BMA of America to MRS and BMA Retirement. In the spring, DiscipleGuide rolled all of their employee retirement funds to Ministers Resource Services, then this fall, LifeWord did the same bringing all of their employee's retirement to the BMA Retirement fund. We are grateful for the trust that these two departments have placed in Ministers Resource Services. This now makes us complete, in that every department of the BMA of America has their employee retirement funds at MRS.

Beginning Ninth Year

I will begin my ninth year as Executive Director of Ministers Resource Services for the BMA of America on December 16, 2007. These past eight years have been some of the most fulfilling years of my life in the ministry. It is exciting to be in the will of God and see God's hand upon your ministry. My thanks to you as an association for allowing me to serve you the past eight years.

Contact MRS Today

To enroll or for information regarding BMA Retirement at MRS, you may contact us for a retirement packet at 870-774-2654 or email us at RChesser6365@aol.com. As Executive Director I would be happy to schedule a visit with your church to discuss the Ministers Resource Services IRS approved tax deferred retirement plan for BMA pastors, church staff and employees.

BMAA MISSIONS SYMPOSIUM
January 7-8, 2008
Department of Missions
Baptist Missionary Association of
America
Meeting at
Temple Baptist Church, Little Rock

2008 Theme
"Think Globally – Live Locally"
Monday Evening, January 7
7:00 P.M.

Hate Crimes Legislation

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House and Senate versions, and a vote is expected before the end of the year. The hate crimes bill also is referred to as the Matthew Shepard Act, named for a homosexual Wyoming college student murdered in 1998.

In May, President George W. Bush's administration stated its opposition to the bill, calling it "unnecessary and constitutionally questionable." In late September, White House press secretary Dana Perino stated that the administration's position had not changed but did not state whether the president would veto the legislation.

Many state and national Christian leaders, including James Dobson of Focus on the Family, Joe Bob Mizzell of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions and Dan Ireland of Alabama Citizens Action Program (ALCAP), oppose the bill.

"All crimes strictly are hate crimes," said Ireland, executive director of ALCAP. "The problem we have with [this bill] is when you add sexual orientation, you are equating that with race and religion."

The proposed legislation would amend the current federal hate crimes law, which prohibits willfully injuring, intimidating or interfering with any person or attempting to do so by the use or threat of force because of that person's race, color, religion or national origin.

The new bill would add offenses attributed to "gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability" bias to current hate crimes law and "provide federal assistance to [states], local jurisdictions, and Indian tribes to prosecute hate crimes." Under the bill, hate crimes would include offenses motivated by "actual" bias, as well as offenses motivated by "perceived" bias.

Alabama Sen. Richard Shelby voted against the amendment, citing the vague language of the bill and the lack of a clear definition of "perceived." He also echoed the worries of those who question why crimes against individuals in certain groups would be more important than crimes against other individuals.

Classifying crime

"I am concerned that hate crimes legislation would set up different classes of people for special protection under the law," Shelby said. "I believe we must be tough on all criminals, regardless of their motives. Individuals who commit violent crimes should be dealt with surely and effectively."

Southeastern Baptist College

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



Dr. Medrick Savell
 President

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Financial Aid

Southeastern Baptist College is committed to the principle that no student should be denied a Christian education because of financial limitations. Therefore, the college makes every reasonable effort to assist students in obtaining any assistance for which they qualify.

I would like for our people to know that financial aid is available for students who qualify for assistance in expenses involved in attending Southeastern Baptist College

Thirty-nine (48%) of students received Pell Grants for the 2007 Fall semester. Some students receive help from the Veterans Administration, Vocational Rehabilitation, or some other outside source.

The following is a list of students who received other financial aid.

Scholarships

Students Receiving
 BMA Revolving Loan Fund
 Preachers Scholarship
 Wayne McMahan, James Pugh,
 Grant Shields, Jared Stockman

Bond Scholarship
 Ralin Williams

Echols Scholarship
 Jason Howard

Rarick Scholarship
 Kailynn Creel

Smith scholarship
 Barbara Allen, Tyrone Rogers,
 Julian White

Hall-Powell Scholarship
 Nicholas Buchanan, Jenifer

Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions also voted against the legislation and spoke on the Senate floor during debate on the act, expressing concern about expanding federal reach into crimes currently prosecuted by states.

"We have no record to indicate there is a shortage or a lack of willingness to prosecute [hate-type crimes against homosexuals]," he said, citing evidence of "aggressive prosecutions" at the state level for such crimes.

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Parnell

Tombigbee Association
 Scholarship
 Mike Walker

Two Anonymous Scholarships
 Kailynn Creel, Brittany Ecroyd,
 David Edwards, Whitney Hunt,
 Kevin Price, Amantha Shelton,
 Wanda Walker, Trent Warren

The following is a list of scholarships provided by Southeastern Baptist College.

Southeastern Baptist College Pastors Grant

Acy Barber, Dale Broom, Tim Buchanan, Stanley Downs, Matthew Hillman, Jason Howard, Terry Jones, Angela McCord, Wayne McMahan, Donald Miller, Matthew Pittman, Shadd Pittman, Percy Pollard, Mike Powell, Kevin Price, Antonio Sheppard, Dana Williams

ACT Scholarship
 Brianna Barnard, Kimberly
 McBryer, Jacob McKenzie

HANDS
 (members of BMA churches)
 Wesley Chisum, Zach Dant, Chase Elkins, Cera Jones, James Pugh,
 Grant Shields, Jared Stockman

Choir Scholarship
 Brianna Barnard, Kailynn Creel,
 Zach Dant, Cera Jones, John Kelly,
 Kimberly McBryer, David Pigott,
 Tyrone Rogers, Amantha Shelton,
 Jared Stockman

Supplemental Scholarship
 Jerry Bolton, Patrick Brown,
 Kailynn Creel, David Pigott, Tyrone
 Rogers

All full-time students received some kind of financial aid. The total was \$87,391.00.

Any prospective student who wishes to attend college but thinks he or she cannot afford to should at least discuss it with the Financial Aid Director at Southeastern Baptist College.

Christmas Offerings

As churches and individuals consider giving end-of-the-year or Christmas offerings, please consider Southeastern Baptist College.

Mississippi Baptist | Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Thinking Clearly

Several years ago we ran a regular column by Bro. Milton Wright called "Just Thinkin'". Bro.



Don Brown
Editor

Wright did a good job and many times he made us think. God's people need to be thinkers and to make sure that we think clearly and that our thinking is scripturally based. I don't know about you, but there have been many times that I have made decisions or taken actions and the later

had to say, "What was I thinking!"

I received a call from recently from one of four readers, Mrs. Amy McClure of Lucedale, Mississippi. She is a member of one of our churches and by the conversation we had it is apparent that she is thinking clearly.

She had read an article in a recent issue concerning a movie that is being released nationwide on December 7. "The Golden Compass" is a movie that God's people should be aware of and should avoid. It is important that parents be particularly aware of the content and the target audience of this movie and that they keep their kids away from

it.

Mrs. McClure was thinking so clearly that she made an effort to get her hometown paper to reprint the article warning people about the content of the movie. The movie is apparently in the style of C.S. Lewis's "Narnia" movie.

The difference is that while C.S. Lewis was promoting morality and Christianity, the Golden Compass and its author are promoting "atheism". I encourage our readers to read the article beginning below and be ever aware that Satan is that "roaring lion" that Peter tells us about and that he will devour our children if we give him the opportunity. Let us not come to a time in the future when we have to say, "What was I thinking!"

Does The Golden Compass point to a new atheism?

by Rebecca Grace

OneNewsNow.com - It all started with a phone call I received several months ago. A concerned mother called to tell me about The Golden Compass, an upcoming film from New Line Cinema. Several more phone calls followed the first one as did a plethora of emails expressing disgust over this movie - and rightly so.

I plan to review the movie, but I haven't had the opportunity to see it yet. So, in the meantime, here is some information that will help you understand why the film has the potential to be extremely dark and dangerous.

According to CNSNews.com, leading atheist writers and intellectuals are engaged in a "scientific" quest to ultimately destroy organized religion, particularly Christianity. Oxford professor Richard Dawkins, author Sam Harris and journalist Christopher Hitchens are some of the big names leading this "new atheism" initiative. Evidence of their agenda is seen in efforts such as the Out Campaign and the Blasphemy Challenge.

CNSNews.com defines the Out Campaign as "a movement started by Dawkins to encourage Americans to proudly display their atheism." ABC News describes the Blasphemy Challenge as a way "to challenge people to make videos of themselves denying, denouncing or blaspheming the Holy Spirit, and then

post them on YouTube." ABC News also calls it "the cutting edge of a new and emboldened wave of atheism."

The Blasphemy Challenge targets teens while an upcoming movie that may have a similar agenda is likely to appeal to families, especially children.

The Golden Compass is a film from New Line Cinema based on the first book of a series, His Dark Materials, written by English atheist Philip Pullman. It is set to release December 7 in theaters nationwide. From watching the trailer, it's easy to see that the film has a C. S. Lewis/Narnia feel to it, but don't be deceived.

Pullman's book trilogy is the story of "a battle against the church and a fight to overthrow God," BBC News reported. The Guardian, a British newspaper, goes even further to describe the books as "metaphysical fantasies encompassing parallel worlds, the death of God and the fall of man"

"I don't know whether there's a God or not. Nobody does, no matter what they say," Pullman said in an interview posted on his website.

Therefore, without yet seeing the film, at least one pro-family group - the American Family Association - is alerting Christians to the potential dangers of The Golden Compass. Because of Pullman's clearly articulated anti-Christian motives, AFA is warning all viewers to run from the film.

The Golden Compass is set in an

alternative world with a sinister Magisterium. It is about a girl named Lyra who sets out to rescue her friend Roger who has been kidnapped by an organization known as the Gobblers. Roger's rescue turns into an epic quest to save two different worlds - one in which people's souls manifest themselves as animals. These manifestations are known as "daemons," and Pullman says they help a person grow toward wisdom.

In addition, the movie website allows visitors to answer a set of questions and create their own daemons that journey alongside them in life.

"One of the [book] series' main themes - the rejection of organized religion and in particular the abuse of power within the Catholic Church - is to be watered down," according to the Telegraph, a newspaper in the U.K. "But when the film is released in December the Magisterium will be shown as a critique of all dogmatic organizations, thereby avoiding a religious backlash."

Although the film has supposedly been stripped of the books' key denunciation of religion to prevent offending Catholic audiences, that doesn't appease the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights. The Catholic League still views The Golden Compass as bait for Pullman's books, which the group says are representative of the author's two-fold agenda "to promote atheism and denigrate Christianity to kids."

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



Hate Crimes Legislation

from page 3

"[It] would be a tragic thing indeed if this [defense] bill would be vetoed as a result of this extraneous piece of controversial legislation," Sessions said.

Ireland and other Christian leaders worry about the impact of the legislation on preachers, primarily regarding free speech issues.

"If a preacher cites Scripture about homosexuality and somebody in that crowd gets excited about it and commits a crime against a homosexual, then blames the preacher for saying something, is the preacher guilty?" Ireland said. "There's the possibility that [as a law, this] could impair what you would say based on

your convictions concerning the Bible, which would jeopardize what a church can teach and promote."

Dobson, founder and chairman of the board of Focus on the Family, also believes the legislation may lead to restrictions on the expression of convictions. "The [hate crimes act] will be the first step to criminalize our rights as Christians to believe that some behaviors are sinful," he said.

A group of interfaith clergy calling itself Clergy Against Hate, however, disagrees about the legislation's potential effect on religious speech. It has spoken out in support of the bill with an open letter to the president and members of Congress signed by numerous clergy members, including 10 from Alabama.

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Mississippi Baptist

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John Adams

Battle for America's Soul.

We live in a wonderful country. Christian people must fight the enemy, Satan, for there is a fierce war going on for the souls of the people of our nation. Hollywood continues to promote the sin trash-bin. I know that I am writing to the choir, but we must get in the battle and fight for the cause of Christian morality. The name "Jesus" is being stripped from the American vocabulary, led specifically by the ACLU. Of course, we as believers know that the name of Jesus rescues all men's souls.

President George W. Bush declares himself to be a born-again Christian. He lives his faith and is not ashamed to declare it. He has added two very conservative Supreme Court Justices this past year, much to the dismay of some legislators. Because of these new appoint-

ments, it may be possible in the future to overturn the Roe vs Wade decision regarding abortion. We may perhaps see prayer in public schools again. We as Christians must voice our support to these two measures. Pray for a revival, while we fight the "battle for America's soul."

How They Voted

I am attaching a copy of the results of how the State Senators and House Representatives voted on (HB) House Bill #45. This bill would allow casinos to move onto land 800 feet from the waters of the Gulf. HB #45 also has a real sweetheart deal for all public easements and right-of-ways and will allow the "casinos" to come even more onto land. There is an outright audacious campaign by casino developers underway to circumvent state law. Check the roll and see how your legislators voted.

Mississippi House: voted 60 to 53 for inland casino gambling

Those voting for inland casino gambling include: Akins, Bailey, M. Baker, Banks, Bentz, Blackmon, Broomfield, Brown, Burnett, Calhoun, Carlton, Clark, Clarke, L. Coleman, M. Coleman, Compretta, Davis, Dedeaux, Denny, Espy, Evans, Flaggs, Fredericks, Guice, F. Hamilton, Harrison, Hines, Holland, Holloway, Ishee, Janus, Johnson, Malone, Martinson, Mayhall, Mayo, Moak, Moore, Morris, Myers, Norquist, Patterson, Peranich, Read, Reeves, W. Robinson, Simpson, C. Smith, F. Smith, Snowden, Staples, Stevens, Straughter, Thomas, Upshaw,

Watson, Whittington, Woods, Young, Zuber.

Those voting against inland casino gambling include: Aldridge, Arinder, L. Baker, Barnett, Beckett, Bondurant, Bounds, Buck, Chism, Cummings, Dickson, Eaton, Ellington, Fillingane, Fleming, Formby, Franks, Frierson, Gadd, Gibbs, Gregory, Gunn, E. F. Hamilton, Horne, Howell, Hudson, Jennings, Lott, Markham, McBride, Miles, Mims, Montgomery, Moss, Nicholson, Parker, Reed, Reynolds, E. Robinson, M. Rogers, R. Rogers, Rotenberry, J. Smith, Stringer, Sullivan, Turner, Vince, Walley, Ward, Warren, Weathersby, Wells-Smith, Mr. Speaker.

Mississippi Senate: voted 29 to 21 for inland casino gambling

Those voting for inland casino gambling include: Albritton, Brown, Burton, Chaney, Clarke, Cuevas, Davis, Dawkins, Dearing, Doxey, Harden, Hewes, Horhn, Huggins, R. Jackson, S. Jackson, Jordan, Kirby, E. Lee, Michel,

Moffatt, Morgan, Posey, Robertson, Ross, Simmons, Thames, Walls, Williamson.

Those voting against inland casino gambling include: Browning, Bryan, Butler, Carmichael, Flowers, Frazier, Gordon, Hyde-Smith, G. Jackson, King, P. Lee, Little, Mettetal, Nunnelee, Pickering, Thomas, Tollison, Turner, Walley, White, Wileman.

Merry Christmas

Mrs. Adams and I send out a very Merry Christmas greeting to all our churches, pastors, friends and Mississippi Baptist subscribers. I pray that this "holy" season is good to you and yours.

Churches Supporting the C.A.C.

South Green, Tupelo
 Shady Grove, Tishomingo
 Skyway Hills, Pearl
 Tombigbee Association
 Thomas Street, Tupelo

Mailing Addresses for Departments & Commissions of BMA of Mississippi

Mississippi Baptist Paper
 P.O. Box 8181
 Laurel, MS 39441-8000

Southeastern Baptist College
 4229 Highway 15 North
 Laurel, MS 39440

Mississippi State Youth Department
 P.O. Box 4247
 Laurel, MS 39441

Mississippi Baptist Children's Home
 118 Lowe Rd.
 Laurel, MS 39443

State Missions & RLF
 4226 Highway 15 North
 Laurel, MS 39440

Commission on Senior Adults
 Vern D. Holifield
 658 Joe Perrett Rd.
 Laurel, MS 39443

History & Archives Commission
 4229 Highway 15 North
 Laurel, MS 39440

Christian Action Commission
 P.O. Box 88
 Mantachie, MS 38855

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.

Tombigbee Association meets

Our monthly association meeting was hosted by Lone Oak Baptist Church, West Point. We enjoyed a delicious meal provided by the host church.

52 members and 5 visitors were present for the meeting. Roger Akers brought a devotion from and Carolyn Trull led in our singing.

The association elected Roger Franks and Milton Wright to serve on the Southeastern Baptist College Scholarship Committee. Bro. Elvis Garcia gave a good report on his work and he interpreted for a young man from Mexico who had recently surrendered to preach.

Bro. Akers encouraged our church members to pray each evening for our churches and for our nation. Bro. Frank Panzrino brought the evening message from Luke 16. Carolyn Trull sang a special and we were all blessed by attending.

Roger Akers, moderator
 Wanda Parmer, reporter

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Virgil Ainsworth

Bro. Virgil T. Ainsworth is available for pastoral ministry or pulpit supply as the Lord leads. He recently resigned as pastor of Spencer Memorial Baptist Church, Pascagoula, Mississippi. He may be reached by calling 601-729-8059 or 228-218-2263.

Larry Pierce

Bro. Larry M. Pierce is available to fill in the pulpit or wherever the Lord Leads. He may be reached at 601-947-3531.

John Mills

Bro. John is available for pulpit supply or anywhere the Lord may lead. He has been married for eight years and has a six year-old son and a four year-old daughter. He is a member of Bethel Baptist Church in Bassfield where he surrendered to the ministry July 26, 2007. He may be contacted by cell at 601-408-0537 or home at 601-731-9810.

Freddy Mills

Bro. Freddy Mills is available for pastoral or pulpit supply. He is 57 years old and has been preaching for 22 years. He is a member of Bethel Baptist Church, Bassfield and may be reached at 601-441-4057.

The Trinket Talisman

Many pastors serve no more than the function of icon. They are good men. Their behavior is impeccable. They serve the living Christ with all their hearts. However, they are ignored. The words they bring from the Scriptures are disregarded by most congregants.

It is not that the congregants don't admire the pastor nor do they have any fault in mind when they think of his moral character. They simply

don't want to hear the words of the Lord; it would interrupt their life, plans, and social processes.

Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

At the same time, the same families who turn their back on the message of the Scriptures, want the pastor to "pray for them" in a crisis. They call on the pastor to meditate with "the higher power" when things are out of balance and life happens on an unexpected plane. "Pastor, pray for us!" This request is made thousands of times a week in our land by the same people who have turned away from the message of living a Godly regarding a holy life.

A king once turned his back on the message of God delivered by one of God's stalwart men (Jer. 37). The king however wanted the prophet to "pray to the Lord our God for us." This is so normal in our churches. The word of God is ignored. A crisis or calamity comes our way. We want the pastor to pray for us. The crunch time passes. We are back to normal in our activities.

"Is there any word from the Lord?" Yes, and the word is: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." Follow the Lord in living a holy life.

Hate Crimes Legislation

from page 4

"As people of faith we also know that free speech is a precious right. We would not support a bill that did not contain ample protections for free speech, including preaching and statements of religious belief," the letter said. "This law does not criminalize or impede religious expression in any way. Rather, the bill specifically addresses violent acts by those who act on their hate to terrorize entire communities."

In 2005, the last year for which statistics are available, law enforcement agencies reported 7,160 single-bias hate crime incidents. Of the crimes reported, more than half, 55 percent, were motivated by racial bias, while 17 percent was motivated by religious bias. Bias against sexual orientation accounted for 14 percent of those reported.

Mississippi State W.M.A.

Mrs. Jean Knight, President
27 Paramount Church Rd.
Perkinston, MS 39573
601-928-3764

Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533
Laurel, MS 39443

Ten Mile WMA report

The Ten Mile WMA held their meeting on October 15, at Orange Grove Baptist Church in Gulfport. Our President Mrs. Myrtis Mallett called the meeting to order. Mrs. Lana Woods and Mrs. Myrtis Mallett led us in "I Am Thine Lord".

Mrs. Louis Crawley, Second Vice President, gave a devotion on "Seasons of Love" from Isaiah 54:10 - God is Steadfast, he never changes, always the same.

Mrs. Karen Shaw brought a devotion from Philippians 4:13 on "Prayer." She expressed that we need to communicate with the Lord on a daily basis.

The District Project for the Year 2007-2008 is 75% Divine Grace Baptist Mission Building Program and 25% General Fund. We enjoyed a great fellowship after services with Orange Grove Church. Our next meeting will be at Grace Baptist Church on January 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Maria Ochoa, reporter

Big Creek District WMA report

The Big Creek District WMA met on Monday, October 1, 2007, at Berean Baptist Church in Soso. Cindy Jones led the ladies in "Blessed Be The Name of the Lord." President Ruby Bynum called the meeting to order. June Holifield opened in prayer. Welcome was given by Berean and Rosamond Grayson gave the response.

Mrs. Bynum read an article stating that being a Christian is like being a pumpkin. You are picked from the patch, washed up, yucky stuff taken out, a smile put on your face, and a light put inside you to shine. Devotion was given by Hopewell and taken from Proverbs 22. Shirlene Smith led in prayer. Nina Bartran read minutes. Linda Dertinger asked us to remember the missionaries in China - the GMA project. Barbara White reminded everyone to fill out the quarter collection cards and send in by the last of February or whenever done. Kay Chisholm gave corresponding secretary's report. There were 11 churches represented with 46 ladies present. Shirlene Smith gave update on the state project. Cindy Jones led in song "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus." Mrs. Freeman led in prayer.

Berean Church presented a delightful program entitled "First Annual Shoe Show." Each shoe represents different personalities: Penny

loafer (more interested in money than Christ); slides (sliding right out of back or "back sliders"); no slip sole (soul is secure with Christ); house shoes (lay around house and do little else); running shoes (running everywhere to tell others about Christ); bare foot (shoes are lost, the person who doesn't know Christ as Savior); flip flop (don't know if you will flip or flop); heels (always wants to look best); cowboy boots (bull-headed Christians who say "we've never done it that way before"); crocs (full of holes - "Holy"); work shoes (worn or torn, can handle any job that comes along). All the shoe girls sang "We'll Work Til Jesus Comes."

Sherry Shows gave hand of appreciation to all who had part in the meeting. Parkview gave the Resolution: "We resolve to be more faithful and committed to God and to serve Him every day." After special prayer requests, Mrs. Charlene Dykes dismissed us in prayer. The next Big Creek District WMA meeting will be held at Parkview Baptist Church in Laurel on Monday, January 7, 2008. Please ask all the ladies in your WMA class to try to attend. What a great way to start out the new year!

Sherry Shows, reporter

Northeast District WMA report

Bethel Baptist Church, Fulton, gave a warm welcome to 56 Northeast District WMA members and visitors on November 13, 2007 with tasty soups, salads, and desserts. Fall decor was on the tables and Fall table setting demonstrations were provided by Judith Naden while we ate enhanced the meal.

President Patti Harlow opened the meeting at 7:00. We selected the El Camino Mission Land Fund for our quarterly project. Martha Parker encouraged us to buy worship and Christmas CD's prepared by Anita Akers to benefit our National WMA projects - a video room at the Jacksonville Seminary and an ambulance for the BMMI work in China.

The National Ladies Retreat on February 22-23, 2008 will be much more accessible for us. It will be held at the Radisson in Memphis. More information can be gotten with a call to Connie Riefstack at 314-832-6245.

The Northeast District Ladies Retreat will be held at Providence Baptist Church, Amory, on May 3. Registration will be 8:30-9:00. Mark your calendars for this event.

Service Ideas for You and Your Family

Matthew 25:34-40. I am really on a mission to exhort people to serve others. We are suppose to serve others as Christians. I speak in churches and encourage families to have a family ministry and each one have a personal ministry. Each church member should in some way serve their local church. This is also a ministry. However, I encourage you all to have a ministry outside of church where you serve the world. The world needs to see Christian love. The world needs to see us letting our light shine before others. That way they can see our good works and glorify the Father. Matthew 5:16. It doesn't require a great deal of imagination. It only requires the desire in your heart to serve as our precious savior did while he was on earth.

There are so many people in need of service. It doesn't matter if you live in a small town or a rural area. It doesn't matter if you live in the city, are poor, rich, young or old. All people can serve and God needs you in His army. As you grow older you may not feel like doing some of the things you could when you were younger, but you can do something. God will open the door for you when you seek Him in this matter. Some Christians act as though their ministry to the Lord is to come to church on Sunday. That is not a ministry. That is a blessed responsibility for every believer.

The pastor is not suppose to do everything. I know he is paid so well that many church members think he should be on call for everyone, in every situation, every moment of every day. After all, the typical pastor is paid like an emergency room physician who is also on call all the time. The reality is that the pastor is to equip the saints to do a job for God. He is to teach you the Word of God, empower, equip and inform you. Then, all members of the church should go out and serve. Members are the ministers of the church. Members should visit the sick. Mem-

We enjoyed special singing by Bobby Sue Bradley, Andrea Hughes, and Sheila McDowell and devotionals by Northeast District WMA President, Lindsey Begley (I Corinthians 13:3) and Patsy Carnathan (I Thessalonians 5:18) were spiritually uplifting.

Our next meeting will be the annual missions banquet hosted by Boguefala, Mooreville beginning at 6:00 P.M. Block off this time NOW! You will not regret being a part of our WMA meetings.

Patti Harlow, president
662-256-8237
Beth Haden, reporter
662-251-0441

bers should go to the elderly person's home and visit with them. Members should go to the jails, feed the hungry, give clothes to the poor and visit those in hospitals and nursing homes. That is your job.



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

www.travisplumlee.com

Here are some ideas for you to sit down and seek the Lord for the ministry He desires for you to have. These are only ideas. There are multitudes of ministry opportunities available.

1) Help the sick.

When you are in the hospital, you go home still sick. Your church should have a ministry that follows up with everyone that has been in the hospital. There should be food taken, lawns mowed, errands to stores done, groceries bought and delivered etc.. And it doesn't have to be just senior adults. There are many women who have babies, or any age person can fall and break a leg. These people are laid up for weeks and can't drive.

2) Visit the lonely.

What a difference you could make by spending 10 minutes a week and stop in and visit an older person or someone who lives by themselves and doesn't get out. You could pick one day a week and drive by after work and only spend 15 minutes. It would change that person's whole outlook on life. Billy Graham called loneliness the greatest need of humanity in the last century. There are so many people who sit by themselves day after day. Have your kids drop off some cookies and a note card after school some day. What a difference it would make!

3) Mentor someone.

Every one should be involved in a mentoring or accountability group. Try to mentor someone who is younger than you. Teach them something you know. The kids of single moms need mentoring.

4) Give a day off.

Go sit with a single mom's kids while she gets a few hours off to just be by herself and regain her sanity. Go sit with an Alzheimer's patient so the care-giver can go to the store. Sit with anyone who is ill and give the care-giver a day off.

5) Go to the nursing home once a month.

Not once a year. Do it all the time. Ask the nursing home administrator who doesn't have any visitors and go see them regularly.

Other ideas

Go to the children's hospital and volunteer where needed. Rock babies in a neonatal intensive care unit. Give to the shelters for kids or women. Make goody baskets and deliver to the hospitals. Do yard work and house work on a regular basis for all elderly in your church. Start a food or clothes bank at your church.

Some youth groups and church groups do something once or twice a year. That is nice. But you as an individual need to be doing some ministry on a regular basis. Every fraternity and sorority on campus has to do service projects each month. My son is in a service club at the University and they serve weekly. Shouldn't the Christian community be more visible than this? We need to mobilize our masses and get out there and let people see the love of Jesus. Don't just sit there and nod with me. Get up off you blessed assurance and plan a weekly ministry to help others. Get going. Do it only for the Lord, and not your own glory. But God will bless you. What is your ministry?

BMAA MISSIONS SYMPOSIUM
January 7-8, 2008
Department of Missions
Baptist Missionary Association of
America
Meeting at
Temple Baptist Church, Little Rock

2008 Theme
"Think Globally – Live Locally"
Monday Evening, January 7
7:00 P.M.

Parents Television Council blasts FCC ...wants CBS held accountable

OneNewsNow.com - The Parents Television Council says the Federal Communications Commission has allowed CBS to ignore an agreement not to broadcast indecent material. In doing so, says an official with the PTC, the FCC has failed to represent the public interest.

In November 2004, the FCC negotiated what is known as a "Consent Decree" with CBS after the network broadcast indecent material. The agreement essentially dismissed thousands of public complaints about the network, and called for CBS to take steps to ensure that indecent material was not broadcast again. However, the FCC issued a "Notice of Apparent Liability" against a Utah-based CBS station in March 2006 when the network re-broadcast a teen orgy scene on the program *Without a Trace*.

Now a new consent decree has been negotiated. Under that new agreement (FCC File No. EB-07-IH-9319), on November 23 (the day after Thanksgiving), CBS agreed to "make a voluntary contribution to the United States Treasury in the amount of \$300,000." It also extends application of a "company-wide compliance plan" - agreed to and adopted by the network following the 2004 decree - for another

three years.

But Dan Isett of the Parents Television Council (PTC) doubts the new agreement will have a major impact.

"Why should the American people, the owners of the broadcast airwaves, have any more confidence in this consent decree being signed by the FCC and it being enforced, than they did in the last one that the FCC signed with CBS?" he asks. "Clearly CBS is not acting in the public interest. They only get to use broadcast airwaves as a matter of public convenience, as a temporary licensee of the public airwaves."

Isett says the FCC has placed the corporate interest of CBS over the public interest. He feels the matter should have been handled differently.

"What we really needed here was for the FCC to be very public in holding CBS accountable for what it's done - or more accurately, not done in this case," he states. "And instead we get a backdoor deal cut and released the Friday after Thanksgiving." Isett calls the entire incident "deeply disappointing" for the FCC and for the agency's chairman, Kevin Martin, in particular.

In a press release responding to the latest Consent Decree, PTC

president Tim Winter takes issue with both CBS and the FCC, urging the agency to call the network to account for

"wanton and repeatedly violating contemporary community standards for decency" and for "openly and defiantly breach[ing] both the spirit and the letter" of the earlier decree.

"We ... call on the FCC to review each and every broadcast license held by CBS, beginning with its owned-and-operated television station in Salt Lake City, KUTV," says Winter. "Either a broadcast license means something or it means nothing. We believe that a license means something, and as prescribed by Congress, we believe a licensee must serve the public interest."

In return for the 2004 dismissal of public complaints and termination of "several pending indecency investigations," Viacom (owner of CBS Broadcasting at the time) made a "voluntary contribution" of \$3.5 million to the U.S. Treasury and was obligated to adopt and maintain for three years a company-wide compliance plan to prevent the broadcast of material in violation of the indecency laws.

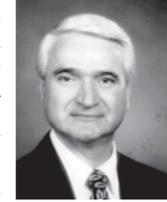


CHILDREN'S HOME

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

Food and Miscellaneous Rally

The Big Creek Association had their annual rally for the Home on November 8. The meeting was held with the Bethel Baptist Church near Seminary and Pastor Ricky Mitchell. After giving a report on the ministry of the Home the children rendered special music and I delivered a message from God's Word. Our appreciation is extended to each church and individual who gave to this rally.



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

Glenn Shoemake for their morning service. Then on Sunday evening we were with the Shiloh Baptist Church near Mt. Olive.

We are grateful for the opportunity to visit with these churches during the Special Emphasis time for the Home and to give a report on its ministry. It was a privilege to worship together and give God thanks. We enjoyed fellowship together as we shared a fine Thanksgiving meal with these churches.

Special Emphasis

We would like to convey our gratitude and thanks to the good response to the Special Emphasis for the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home during the months of October and November. To every church, Sunday School class, auxiliary and individual we want to thank you for your participation in meeting the needs of the Home through your generous giving.

Recent Church Visits

On Sunday, November 4, we were with the Spring Hill Baptist Church near Laurel and Pastor Steve Clark for their evening service.

On Sunday, November 11, we were with the New Bethany Baptist Church near Ellisville and Pastor

Pro-life leader outraged over illegal arrest, destruction of property

OneNewsNow.com - The head of a Kansas-based pro-life group is demanding an apology and monetary damages after the driver of a pro-life truck was illegally arrested and his truck impounded in Atlanta.

Bob Roethlisberger was arrested and jailed over Thanksgiving weekend in a northern suburb of Atlanta, Georgia, on the charge of "disorderly conduct" for driving Operation Rescue's "Truth Truck" bearing signs with photos of aborted babies. The truck subsequently was impounded, and was released late Monday.

Gwinnett County Police Department officers arrested Roethlisberger Saturday after telling him that signage on the Truth Truck was "vulgar and obscene." According to the pro-life group, officers "ransacked" the back of the Truth Truck without a warrant and ordered Roethlisberger to change or remove the signs. When he refused, he was arrested and incarcerated for three days before being released on \$1,000 bond.

Operation Rescue president Troy Newman says the officers' action were a violation of constitutional rights and illegal.

"These officers actually took a utility knife and cut these signs off of our completely legal, registered, and insured vehicle, and incarcerated our driver," the pro-life leader explains. "I would think this is an abuse of power, and we're going to use all civil remedies to rectify the situation."

Newman alleges that the officers punished Roethlisberger, who otherwise cooperated with authorities, for expressing a viewpoint with which they disagreed. "[Bob] refused to compromise on his message," notes Newman, "which is unequivocally protected by the First Amendment." In addition, he points out the legal right to display the images on the trucks has been upheld in courts across the nation.

But the illegal arrest and destruction of property by the police does prove one thing, Newman asserts. "If these pictures are so graphic and



horrible that we don't want to see them, perhaps we shouldn't be tolerating the act of abortion," he shares.

March 13, 2008
BMA of Mississippi
Missions Conference
Skyway Hills
Baptist Church
Pearl, Mississippi

8:30 am - 8:30 pm

2008 Pastor's Retreat

February 25-26, 2008
Skyway Hill Baptist Church
Pearl Mississippi

Theme

The Local Church in Global Missions

Matthew 28: 19-20

The four assigned parts for this study will be presented as follows:

- I. Discipleship and Leadership Development
Dr. John Adams
- II. How to be a Missionary-Sending Church
Dr. Medrick Savell
- III. How to Lead a Missions-Minded Church
Bro. Don Brown
- IV. Local Church Cooperation in Global Missions
Bro. Leon Carmical

Three speakers will be selected from the attendees.

The fee for the retreat will be \$25.00.

Registration will begin at 1:00 P.M. on Monday, February 25.

Pastors, mark your calendars now and plan to attend this retreat.

BMA of Mississippi MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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



Christmas

Each day we are reminded of various appointments, anniversaries, tasks, birthdays, and holiday seasons, but the Christmas season is more than a holiday. It is a time when America and others celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In our celebration it would be commendable for us to remember that it is Christ Jesus who is the celebrant and not us. The act of giving was expressed in that God gave not a son but, His only Son as our Savior. Therefore in this special season of celebrating Christmas let us not forget the reason of the season. We are asking the Lord to give each of you a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

On November 22, Faye and I arrived from a wonderful two week visit in the Philippines. We were able to attend the wedding of Estela Vingson who lived and worked with us for several years. Estela's father and mother are deceased and she asked Faye and me to be the ones to give her away, what an honor. During our visit we were able to spend a great deal of time with old friends as well as meet new ones.

We were blessed to see the progress of Tangub Missionary Baptist Church, our home church while living there. The church has grown numerically; we also noticed that many essential improvements have been made to the church plant. Tangub Christian Academy is a ministry of TMBC that was begun in 1985 and has now grown to a student body of 350. I am told they are turning away potential students each year due to a lack of space. In order to expand the academy ministry TMBC has purchased a lot and house directly across the street from the church which will enable them to increase enrollment to around 500 for the next school year. The price of the lot in round figures was \$47,000; they were able to arrange payment for all but \$16,000 that is to be paid within six months. On Sunday November the 18th, four candidates were baptized as a result of the academy ministry. Pastor Pete Etabag was gracious to give me plenty of opportunities to preach, I appreciate his hospitality.

The work of the Baptist Missionary Association of the Philippines has grown exceptionally well. Together with the BMA of America and under the leadership of Bro. Doyle Moore Miss Darlene Carey and others, the BMA of the Philippines has branched out into several foreign countries.

March 13, 2008
BMA of Mississippi
Missions Conference
Skyway Hills
Baptist Church
Pearl, Mississippi
8:30 am - 8:30 pm

Our state work is also blessed to have missionaries that are working hard to build churches that will be strong doctrinally, financially, and associationally. If all goes well within the next month we will be purchasing property for the El Camino Baptist Mission here in Laurel. Missionary Estuardo is leading the mission



Bro. & Mrs. Estuardo Marraquin

to be a giving group of people. Together with several churches and associations they have been able to save near \$50,000 to pay on the property. They plan to have the balance of \$130,000 within one to two years.

Bro. Ed Duvall and Homestretch will also be purchasing property along Highway 8 east of Cleveland. Their property fund is now well over \$30,000 and continues to grow. They also would like to pay the balance of \$80,000 off within the next two years. Our missionaries are eager to retire the property indebtedness before construction. Pray for them.



Ed Duvall Family

Bro. Williams and Divine Grace are making progress toward complete occupancy of their facilities. Divine Grace has a beautiful building and well laid out enabling them to utilize it to the fullest. Considering all that has happened it has been a long and enduring project for them but they are almost there and remain excited.



Bro. & Mrs. Wallace Williams

Missions and Evangelistic Conference

The 50th Missions and Evangelistic Conference will be hosted in the central part of the state by the Skyway Hills Baptist Church located on Highway 80 in Pearl, Mississippi on March 13. This will be a one day event only, therefore all are encouraged to mark this date and be present. The central location and one day has been chosen to help cut cost and also to encourage attendance. The schedule with speakers will be published in the Mississippi Baptist.

Church Mission Conference

On Sunday February 3, Shady Grove of Tishomingo will be hosting a state mission conference. This will be the third year they have sponsored this event and according to Pastor Mavous Phifer the church would like for it to become an annual happening. On behalf of Shady Grove an invitation is extended to everyone. More about this event will be published in a future issue of the Mississippi Baptist.

Available Pews

Bro. Kenneth Cromeans, now pastoring in the Irvin, Texas area, informed us that they have good used pews at a very reasonable price. For more details he can be reached at 214-869-8178.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Old Folks' Meetin'

Every year a lot of old folks head for Branson to the Senior Adult Conference. It's a joy to see all the different folks who show up for this meeting. Some of them obviously have AIDS. I saw one man with one in each ear! People come in wheelchairs, on walkers and canes. But they come!

There's singing and laughing and preaching and eating and visiting and reminiscing and it's all fun! And it's all done in the fellowship of other Christians. God made us so that we need that fellowship.

He gave us a heart that rejoices in fellowship with other Christians. I John 1:7 "If we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another,....." God is good!

A Good Vow

The book of Nehemiah gives us a history of the Jews shortly after returning from the Babylonian captivity. In Nehemiah chapter nine, during a Spiritual service, the Jews recounted God's many blessings and their many failures. In view of these two truths, they bound themselves by certain promises concerning their service to God. A list of these is found in the latter part of chapter ten.

They promised the Lord in this covenant that they would not intermarry with unbelievers, (vs. 30) They promised that if anyone sold any wares or victuals on the Sabbath day that they would not buy them. (vs. 31) They also promised to bring their offerings regularly as the law required (vs. 35-37) While each of these is very important, I am especially impressed with the last promise that they made. It was: "WE WILL NOT FORSAKE THE HOUSE OF OUR GOD" (vs 39)

-Grover Laird

The Singing Stones

Have you ever stopped to truly consider stones? In this less formal part of the country and certainly less formal time in history, we might say rocks. So have you ever stopped to truly consider rocks? Why would one do such a thing you might ask and it would be a fair question. Why would anybody want to study a rock? After all - it's a rock.

Can you think of anything that is stronger or more stable than a rock? It stands up to vast amounts of heat (we build our fireplaces out of rock). It weathers the elements pretty good (we build our homes out of rock). And on a good day, a lively rock can even sing. OK, that last one sounds like a bit much, but remember I said a 'lively' rock. That's what the Bible says that we are to be (actually it says 'lively stones'). And from those stones we build up a 'spiritual house' where all of us believers work together for the glory of the Lord.

We are to be 'an holy priesthood' showing

the world the law of God's grace. We also are to offer up 'spiritual sacrifices', the very service we give to the Lord as we live for Him day by day. Such a rock would have great purpose - a material not only for the building, but one doing the building as well. What a heart such a rock must have! That must be why Jesus said that if His people would not praise Him, the rocks would cry out.

Shane's World

Shane Singleton Knowing such high purpose in life as God's creation, servant, and friend should cause praise to burst forth. But a singing rock? How often do those living in the mountains here the whistle of the wind - actually it is the rock the wind is blowing around doing the 'whistling'. How about the creek bubbling in little waterfalls as it flows over the tops of the rock? The song would be missing were it not for the rock. Such examples in Creation are numerous. And so are the rocks that sing!

A sturdy, stable material used to firm up

and found the 'building' of our hearts and lives - that would be a rock. An object that gives forth 'music' even as those things such as wind, water, and worldly elements wear it down - that would be a rock. Stones that are lively - rocks that cry out - these are the things that bring pleasure to the Lord. Are we that sturdy, are we that strong, are we singing in the face of adversity? Can we be the lively stones that the Bible calls us to be? In Christ, for Christ, we can! What a thought for the next time we stop and take a really good look at nothing more simple, more ordinary than a rock!