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Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

DiscipleGuide Closes Pathway Store

By Bobby L. Hudgens

Recently leadership at DiscipleGuide Church Resources and the board of trustees were forced to make a difficult decision. For many years the BMAA has owned and operated a Christian store in Little Rock and then Texarkana. In recent years it has become impossible to maintain the store because it has been operating at a considerable financial loss. Pathway Christian Store was closed to local business effective December 1, 2007. The success of the store on Loop 245 was largely dependent upon walk-in traffic. This has grown to be problematic since in recent years larger Christian stores have emerged in Texarkana shopping centers that have easier access and a much higher level of walk-in traffic.

Now, here's the good news. The store continues to be available to BMAA churches and individuals as before, but only by phone and online. With an account or by using a major credit card, you may call 1-800-333-1442 and order any books, materials, or supplies just as you have done before. All DiscipleGuide products and various supplies are currently available online at www.discipleguide.org, and much more will be added when our new DiscipleGuide Web site launches in early spring 2008.

Again, this change affects only local business in the Texarkana area. DiscipleGuide continues to diligently work to increase our effectiveness in providing our churches with quality resources.

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Pending Senate bill would reinstate FCC's authority to regulate airwaves

OneNewsNow.com - An official with the Parents Television Council says the U.S. Senate has a chance to protect children from indecent material on the television airwaves.

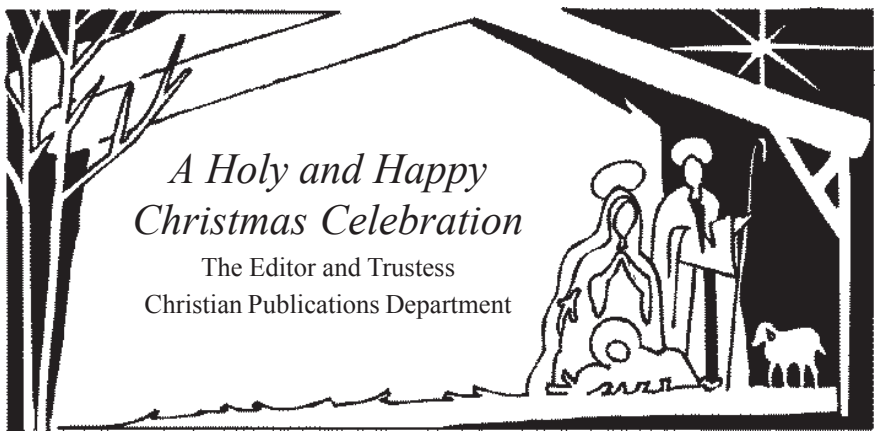
Several senators have co-sponsored a bill called the Protecting Children from Indecent Programming Act (S. 1780). The bill would reinstate the authority of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to uphold the decency law, after the Second U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that certain "fleeting" expletives were appropriate for the public airwaves.

Dan Isett with the Parents Television Council (PTC) says the bill would correct the decision of the Second Circuit. "This legislation would reaffirm the FCC's ability to police, for certain types of content, during those early times of day when we know tens of millions of children are in the audience," he explains.

And the FCC's continued ability to do that, says Isett, is really what is at stake in this particular debate. He points out that Congress last year passed legislation substantially increasing the fines associated with violations of federal broadcast decency law. The president then signed the legislation into law.

"But those fines are meaningless if the entertainment industry, through a couple of different lawsuits, is able to strip the FCC of any meaningful authority to actually enforce the law," he laments.

Isett says the full Senate could pass the bill before Christmas and send it to the House for consideration. The PTC spokesman expects the bill will have no trouble passing in either chamber of Congress.



And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

That Important Time of the Year

Yes, I know that it is Christmas time and what a joyous time it is. May God's blessings be ours as we remember the *gift of life* given by our Heavenly Father.

Don Brown
Editor

This is also the time of the year that we present the needs of your Publications Department. January 2008 is set aside for our annual Special Emphasis Drive. Literature will be sent to each church in a few days to encourage you to give to this effort.

May we encourage each church to participate and help support this ministry. Communicating the ministry and outreach of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi and America is vitally important in the overall success of our work. Your Mississippi Baptist continues its ministry of Information. We need and sincerely ask for your help.

Dates To Remember

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

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.

Johnny Stonecypher to be honored for sixty-five years of ministry

On January 5, 2008, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Temple Baptist Church and Pineview Baptist Church of Lucedale, Mississippi, will honor Bro. and Mrs. J. B. (Johnny) Stonecypher with a reception at Temple Baptist Church. We would like for everyone to join us in this celebration of Bro. Johnny's sixty-five years in the ministry.

Bro. Stonecypher surrendered to the ministry in January 1943 and was licensed in Alabama. He was ordained at Palestine Missionary Baptist Church in August 1944. Bro. Johnny preached his first message at the Washington Baptist Associational meeting at the Howell Missionary Baptist Church. He entered the Navy and stated that his first ministry was on a ship. He was aboard the ship that carried the first atomic bomb to the Pacific. He had the opportunity to win many sailors to the Lord. Bro. Stonecypher has pastored churches in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. He also led in the beginning of three mission churches in Mississippi and two mission churches in Alabama. Bro. Stonecypher and his faithful wife, Ruth, are charter members of Temple Baptist Church in Lucedale.

Bro. & Mrs. Stonecypher

If for some reason you cannot attend, we would appreciate you sending a card or note expressing a memory or comment regarding Bro. and Mrs. Stonecypher to Temple Baptist Church, 88 Summer Street, Lucedale, MS 39452.

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.

Jeff Swart

Jeff Swart has resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church at Red Swart Oak, Tex. He will be returning to Northwest Arkansas.

Jeff Swart

Tupelo Church has new pastor

South Green Baptist Church has again called Bro. Jack Leslie as their pastor. Monument Drive Baptist Church, Tupelo. Mississippi, supported Bro. Jack and other charter members as a mission until 1971 when the mission became South Green Baptist Church under the leadership of Bro. Jack and his wife, Mrs. Claudette Leslie.

Central Baptist Church, Corinth, Mississippi

It is that time of year again when everyone is so wrapped up with the commercialism of the holidays that they sometimes forget the true meaning of the season. Well Central Missionary Baptist Church has certainly not forgotten the reason for the season - we have welcomed 6 new members to our church family.

We have also been blessed to have Bro. Daniel Spencer, Bro. David George, Bro Craig Wilbanks, and Bro. Kevin Cooley fill in for us.

We appreciate all your prayers, because we have definitely felt the presence of the Holy Spirit, but please continue to pray for us as we are patiently in search of a full time pastor.

I pray that you and your family have a very blessed Christmas and please take the time to remember that without Christ there is no reason to celebrate.

Kristi C. Barry, reporter

Bethel, Fulton

Happy Holidays from everyone at Bethel. This report is for the month of November.

On the 3rd the Men's Ministry had a fellowship. Bro. Terry Kimbrow, president of CBC in Conway brought the morning message on the 4th. On the 8th the Golden Agers enjoyed a Fall Foliage trip to Pickwick Landing. On the 9th the Harmony Association met at Central in Corinth.

The 1st & 2nd grade SS class enjoyed a trip to Adventure Land. Thanks to all who made this possible. On the 11th our Veterans were honored in the morning service. The district WMA met at Bethel on the 13th, everyone enjoyed a meal and the meeting that followed. Door prizes were given and Judith Naden gave a fall decoration demonstration. The Souledout group attended a Hillsong concert in Memphis on the 15th.

What a feast we had on the 18th for Thanksgiving in the COC, a great crowd turned out for the occasion.

J.T. Roberts surrendered to the ministry, and he brought his 1st sermon on the 25th. Pray for him as he seeks to serve the Lord in his life. The Sanctuary choir will present a Christmas Cantata, under the direction of Bro. Andy Tatum in December entitled "On This Very Night." The choir has been working very hard.

A Blood Drive was held on the 28th. A special thanks to all who gave. If you are in our area you always have a warm welcome to stop and visit us. There has been one addition since last report.

Dr. Martin Jameson, pastor
Joyce Cooley, reporter

Short Message Series by Rev. Grover Laird

Reservation In Self-Praise

by Douglas Laird

Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips (Proverbs 27:2)

Many have sought to exonerate their pomposity and have thought to justify their not-too-hidden pride by philosophically declaring, "You know how it is, he that tooteth not his own horn, the same shall not be tooted."

Grover Laird

Maybe there is a faint "mustard seed" portion of truth in this, but I'm inclined to think that there is more truth in the sequel: "He that tooteth his own horn shall have people out of the way when he arrives." Accounts of human relations provide adequate support for the latter. The roster of steps to "how to win friends" wisely excludes "tell them how great you are" from the list. However, it may well be included among the ten sure-shot ways to bore your listeners.

If there is reason for you to be lauded, let your companions voluntarily turn your speaker on and even then do it with modesty. If you have had problems, be careful talking about them; it could unleash an avalanche from others who have had as many as you. You never met a person who could not discourse at length on problems in his life if occasion should ever unlock the Pandora' Box of woes.

You have also, no doubt, done some thing worthwhile. But don't forget that the value of the deed may in your mind be grossly inflated and in the minds of your listeners may hardly be accepted for the value you perceive it to have.

Someone may question the place of such a sociological and psychological proverb as this in a theological book. But only slight reflection upon the Bible teachings and one would agree that the most common idol of man is "self." God knows this full well. Here He simply says, "Don't pamper it. It is the biggest enemy you have; don't nourish it." If you really do something worthwhile, the world will know about it. Then you can take the commendation as a Christian, and you will retain the utmost respect in doing so.

Big Creek Association District Meeting

Messengers and guests from fifteen churches in the Big Creek Association met at Big Creek Church, Soso, Mississippi, for the December 7th meeting of the association. After congregational singing, special music by the Senior Adult Choir at Big Creek, the Joy Singers, and beautiful music by the Hand Bell Choir, Pastor Don Brown extended a cordial welcome to each one present. Bro. Virgil Ainsworth responded to the welcome on behalf of the association.

Reports were given by the following: New Direction Prison Ministry by Bro. Arthur Smith; State Youth Department by Bro. Latrelle Windham; and State Missions by Bro. Ray Freeman. Bro. Don Brown gave a report about State Publications and then introduced the speaker for the evening, Chaplain Forrest "Bo" Bankston, one of the four chaplains serving at Camp Shelby National Guard Camp near Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Chaplain Bankston told of his duties at Camp Shelby and then brought a message from Genesis 35:1-15. His subject was "Going Back to Bethel." He asked the question, "Why go back to Bethel?" Bethel represents a place of conversion; a place of consecration; a place of consolation; a place of confrontation; a place of confirmation; and a place of communion. After a time of invitation, Bro. Kelly Tingle gave Bro. Bankston the hand of appreciation for the good message.

Chaplain Forrest "Bo" Bankston

After the service, a time of food and fellowship was enjoyed in the beautifully decorated fellowship hall at Big Creek Baptist Church. The January meeting of the Big Creek Association will meet with Calvary Baptist Church, Taylorsville, and Pastor John Riles. The date is January 10, 2008.

Bro. Arthur Smith, Reporter

Positions Available

Laurel church seeks youth pastor

First Baptist Church Shady Grove at Laurel is seeking a youth minister. Resumes may be sent to the Search Committee at 4514 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440; or call 601-422-8710.

Arkansas Church seeks Youth Minister

Immanuel Baptist Church in Nashville, Arkansas, is seeking a full time Youth Minister. Resumes may be sent to Mark Cassady at 121 W. College St., Nashville, AR 71852, or mecassady@sbcglobal.net. For more information, call 870-451-4034.

But Thou Bethlehem, the Least

Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

Micah speaks to his audience with words for the future of God's people. God's ultimate King would be born in Bethlehem which was a relatively minor city. God had planned for this coming King since ancient times (5.2). In fact, Rachel died there during the birth of Benjamin (Genesis 35). Though small, Bethlehem has an important place in Biblical history and prophecy.

Centuries later we see these words referenced with the visit of the Wisemen to Herod's palace. The chief priests and the teachers of the law quoted this passage to tell the maniacal monarch where the Messiah was to be born (Matthew 2).

Even though the religious people knew and quoted the passage, they did not act upon the information in it. Even though the devout clergy had some insight into the birth of the Messiah, it did not affect their behavior. Even though the king was informed by the most reliable sources in his kingdom, he chose to send others rather than go himself to investigate these phenomena.

Today we know the Christmas story. We sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem," but we do not perceive the Savior who is Christ the Lord in His birth. We go to church during the time of Advent and Christmas. We see reminders all about us of the Christmas event. Yet we, like the chief priests and teachers of the law, are unmoved by the words of the Scriptures. We are like the religious of Herod's day. We are simply giving out dull advice and stale religiosity to those around us concerning the events of Bethlehem.

Let us go ourselves, like the Magi, to Bethlehem. Bethlehem is still considered unimportant in our day. Yet let us go to find Him there. Jesus fulfills these words of Micah's prophecy (Mt 2.4-6; Lk 2.1-7). He accomplished salvation and one day he will return as King of King and Lord of Lords.

Focus on Priorities at Christmas

Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

www.travisplumlee.com

One of the main ways you can reduce stress over the next few weeks is to get organized. We feel out of control when there is chaos or confusion. When there is no order, things spin out of control. What you need to do is plan ahead. I think we should PLAN our PRIORITIES around our PASSIONS.

Passion determines priorities. Jesus should be our number one passion. We are celebrating His birth. Our love for our Lord continues to grow every day and every year. Each Christmas should be another chance to express our passion for Christ. Be bold enough in your faith to speak up and speak out about what we celebrate. We celebrate God coming to earth in the flesh so the whole world might be saved. This time period is not shared with any other celebration, although others try to make it so. It is not a celebration of winter or just some time off. It should never be a wild extravaganza of materialism. If all we focus on is gifts and worldliness, we are missing the whole point of why Jesus came to earth in the first place - To set us free - To overcome the world.

Be happy to let everyone at work, school, neighbors and friends know that you are joyously celebrating the birth of the Savior of the world. When you gripe about shopping, and when you complain about crowds and when you fight with your family; you have lost your passion. Never lose your passion for Christ and celebrating who He is.

Now that your passion is in place this will determine your priorities. You will build your holiday time around celebrating everything to do with Christ. After our love for Christ, we should have next on our priority list - our family. We should spend this holiday time showing love to those we love. We have to love them even when they are unlovable. God has given us this family to show the love of Christ. Be aggressive in demonstrating love. Our families should not have to guess we love them. It should be shown.

While Christmas gifts are important, they should not be the focus of the Christmas celebration for families. Christmas gifts are given out of love to those we love as a remembrance of what God did for all of us. He gave us a gift, Jesus Christ, because he so loved the world. In observance of this great gift of love, we give gifts to those we love. However, love should be expressed. Love should be demonstrated. Affection must be given. Support, encouragement, helping, hugging, etc., are ways to express this love. Gifts aren't really very valuable if you don't love the gift-giver. Perhaps the greatest gift you could give your family this holiday is a new attitude of demonstrated affection, kindness and encouragement. These all show love. Live every day as if it is your last, and love deeply those around you.

Obviously, family gatherings will involve church and worshiping our Lord. Helping those less fortunate is also a good thing to do as a family. Participating in church celebrations, and going out as a family to help someone else should be a priority. Time together as a family should be a priority. Spending time with family and friends shows your passion for them. It shows your family that they are your priority. Don't get caught up in so many activities that you forget to take time off with family.

Friends are also important. They are a priority. They should be less of a priority than family. Family first. However, this is a time to show someone you love as a friend what a priority they have been in your life all year long. Plan special meals or special days with just special friends.

Your passion is Jesus. That determines your priorities for the Christmas celebration. Your priorities are worshiping the birth of the King of Kings, loving your family, loving your friends and serving others. That is what Jesus would do. But now for this to be successful, you must PLAN ahead. Your priorities are not to attend every function you can possibly cram into four weeks. You must plan weekly or daily rest periods.

You must find time for the family to just relax and do nothing. You must as a parent, try and maintain some regular sleep patterns and some tenets of healthy eating for your kids. Since we are celebrating, sugar and staying up late laughing with cousins is okay. However, we still have to do all things in moderation with some limits, so that our kids don't have meltdowns and constant battles ruin the holidays. Be wise.

Plan to limit your involvement in all the festivities of school/work/family/friends. Go to as much as you desire. Don't go where you just feel obligated. That isn't a spiritual act. Even if everything is a worthy event, all humans have a limit of endurance. Plan meals. Plan traditions for family. Decorating the house together. Serving others together. Singing and Bible readings together. Going to look at lights, baking together, praying together, talking around the table and laughing together. Plan things that empower this to happen. A planned-out holiday can't ever be perfect. Things don't' always go as planned, but it helps insure a more peaceful time of peace on earth.

Celebrate Jesus = PASSION

Celebrate family and friends = PRIORITIES

Celebrate planning = PEACE

Merry Christmas!

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*

End of year

As we come to the end of the semester and the year 2007, we realize so much for which we are thankful. God has, through His people and churches, provided our needs through another year. We thank everyone for what you have done to help us at Southeastern Baptist College.

The students, faculty, and staff are glad to have this time between semesters to enjoy family and friends and to sincerely consider what blessings have come to us by the coming of our Lord into this world He created.

I am so thankful for the dedicated workers here at the college and the good students God sent this semester.

Memorial Gifts

Two more offerings have been sent recently to the Southeastern Baptist College Foundation. One was sent in memory of Dr. Jentry W. Bond. The other is in memory of Bro. Merle D. Bradley and in honor of Mrs. Bobbye Bradley. May God's blessings continue to uphold these two families. We appreciate the offerings.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:8-11)

The Faculty and Staff of Southeastern Baptist College wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Pro-family activist warns of rise in 'mobile porn'

OneNewsNow.com - A pro-family activist says concerned Christians can play a key role in making it tough for mobile phone companies to offer pornography.

According to Juniper Research, revenues from mobile adult services are poised to approach $3.5 billion by 2010. It was also concluded in the report that as cell phone technology advances, porn will become easier to obtain. But Pat Trueman, special counsel with the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF), says concerned consumers can still limit the reach of mobile porn.

"People have some say-so with their members of Congress. If these phone companies agitate to offer pornography on phones, people have to go to their congressman and say no, because Congress can pass a law prohibiting this," explains Trueman.

Mississippi Baptist

Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Perspectives: Hey ESPN! Gambling and poker are not sports!

by James L. Lambert
Guest Columnist

OneNewsNow.com - It's everywhere ! Just turn on your television -- it's on channels you wouldn't expect. What am I talking about? I'm talking about the outrageous amount of television programming devoted to gambling and poker games.

What is going on here anyway? I may very well get complaints from readers on this one, but really ... ESPN: Gambling and poker are not sports!

Gambling has left a legacy of hurt and destruction on individuals, families, and society as a whole. I remember a number of years ago contacting a local sports commentator, Chet Forte. I expressed my concern about some questionable gambling sponsors of the radio network he worked for. Chet understood first-hand about the damaging effects the gambling industry can have on an individual.

At one time Forte was a heavy gambler. He was also a high-powered television executive with ABC's Monday Night Football (when that broadcast ruled the television world on Monday nights). Yet, Chet agreed with me. He expressed his wish that the radio station he worked for didn't promote or advertise for casinos and the gambling industry.

Now ESPN1, ESPN2, the Travel Channel, the Bravo network, and even NBC television (Poker After Dark) are, in my opinion, promoting gambling by treating poker like it's a sport. It's not! There's no athleticism in poker. There's no physical coordination or physical training needed to play poker. There is no athletic talent required in poker. It's not a sport! It's gambling! Still, these TV networks seem to be committed to this sort of programming. By repeatedly giving air time to these poker matches, whether they involve celebrities or not, these television networks are essentially promoting an expensive habit.

The "habit" of gambling costs Americans an estimated $80+ billion dollars a year. Yet we rarely ever hear of the downside of this industry. Would casino operator Donald Trump honestly tell us about the millions of dollars that gambling addicts have lost in casinos like his across the country? Have we ever heard of the financial ruin that has occurred from this so-called "sport"? Do they dare tell us the truth?

Consider some hard facts about the gambling industry provided by Focus on the Family ministries and other noted sources:

* The National Gambling impact study (June 1999) concluded there are 15 to 20 million problem and pathological gamblers in America (approximately 5 to 6 percent of the population).

* 73 million Americans patronized casinos, card parlors, or bingo halls in 2005 (AFA Journal)

* The 2005 National Annenberg Risk Survey and the Annenburg Public Policy Center say there are 2.9 million young people between the age of 14 and 22 who gamble weekly.

* 37 percent of males in high school, and 50 percent in college, gamble on cards at least once a month. (AFA Journal)

* Crime rates in casino communities are 84 percent higher than the national average. (U.S. News & World Report)

* The total number of crimes within a 30-mile radius of Atlantic City, New Jersey. increased by 107 percent in the nine years following the introduction of casinos in that city.

It's bad enough going to Las Vegas, Reno, or Atlantic City to be inundated and overwhelmed by the gambling culture. Just walk into one of these no-stop casinos and you see gaming machines everywhere, in operation day and night. Young and old are throwing their money away by working the slot machines.

But people also do the same when they buy state-sponsored lottery tickets. The fact that these very same patrons have the odds heavily stacked against them doesn't seem to bother anyone, especially the owners or the state bureaucracies. Yet 48 out of 50 state governments continue to push gambling on us. They liberalize the gambling laws in their state. In their lust for more revenue, they encourage thousands to be infected with the "gambling bug" ... and now ESPN has joined the frenzy! How sad.

Letters From Our Readers

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

DiscipleGuide Director responds to criticism

Dear Editor:

Greetings from DiscipleGuide Church Resources in the precious name of Jesus, our Savior. Some individuals have expressed disappointment in the cover design of the winter issue of the Compass material. We offer our sincere apology to them. Charles Reddin, our adult editor, and Ken Adams, our graphic artist, have worked together for twenty years to produce cover designs that capture the student's interest in the theme of the current study. These are men of highest Christian integrity.

I want to assure our people that the picture on the cover with the wording "Divine Light in the Darkness" was a sincere attempt to convey the fact that the truth of God's Word and the gospel of Christ must invade Satan's kingdom of darkness and bondage (1 Thess. 5: 1-10). Additionally, when we as believers follow Jesus Christ Who is the Light of the world (John 8: 12), we will not only dwell in the light, but will also be agents who dispel the darkness of a sinful culture (Phil. 2:15). Thank you for your Christian attitude in your correspondence with us. We request that you continue to pray for us faithfully!

Kevin W. Clayton, Executive Director

The employees of Disciple Guide Church Resources

Church Of The Covered Dish by Thom Tapp

"I said Merry Christmas in public... what are you in for?"

Needed

A few good men and their wives to work with Mississippi Classic Builders

The requirements are as follows:
1. Be willing to work
2. Travel from job to job at your own expense
3. Spend approximately two weeks on each job then home for a rest
4. Work from March to November (except July and August)
5. You do not have to make every job
6. If you do NOT want a blessing Do Not Apply!

The Classic Builders have worked on several projects in Mississippi. Our goal is to help missions and smaller churches that could not build without volunteer labor.

For More Information Contact

Lois Mitchell	Jack Mitchell	Wallace Ray
Office coordinator	Filed Coordinator	Field Coordinator
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Mississippi Baptist

January 2008 Special Emphasis

Don Brown
Editor

Dear Readers

January of each year is set aside by our association as a time of special offerings for your Christian Publications Department. We have 3 main areas of operating income:

1. Monthly subscription fees
2. Regular monthly offerings from churches
3. Our *Annual Special Emphasis Drive.*

Our financial viability depends on YOUR gifts during January 2008. We encourage each of our churches to make a special effort to give to this ministry during this special drive. Would you lead your church to make a special offering in January? We really need your help!

May God bless you all,
Don Brown, Editor

Our Need $10,000

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

WMA ladies to meet at Missions Symposium

Missionary wife to be special guest

by Janet Widger
National WMA President

Would you like an excellent way to begin a new calender year? You can start 2008 out in wonderful way that will bless you though out the year. How? Attend the Missions Symposium hosted by our National Missions Department on January 7 and 8 at Temple Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas. However, the blessings will not end there. You can complete the trip by attending the Executive meeting of the National WMA on Wednesday morning, January 9. Registration will begin at 8:30 am and the program will start at 9:00 am.

We normally end the meeting by noon. Any lady can attend this meeting. Each church that has an organized WMA is allowed three messengers to vote on any business. Will there be business? Yes. We will accept any WMA that wishes to petition in to our organization and we will also attend to any necessary business. I promise you, the business will be short, sweet, and simple.

Our January meeting always focuses on a Missionary and a time of worship. This year our guest speaker will be Laura Crocker from Mongolia. I know that you will want to hear how God has worked with this missionary family during their time of service. I am really looking forward to this meeting and I am praying that many of you will be there as well.

Mississippi State WMA Audit Report for 2007

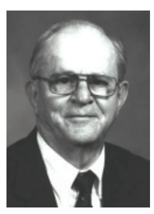
Report to the
Mississippi State WMA
October 31, 2007

The checkbook register, bank statement, and the ledger journal for the State WMA reflects the same figures that was given in the Corresponding Secretary's Report at the State
Meeting.

Sincerely,
Della N. Priest
698 Rock Hill Road
Brandon, MS 39042
601-591-0110

Commission on Senior Adults

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



Greetings

As I write this article for the Mississippi Baptist Paper it is December 12. The weather doesn't seem like mid-December. The year 2007 is almost history. We don't know what the new year will hold for us. And then, we may not see 2008. Jesus could come and take us home. But if He doesn't come, we should make plans to be better and do better than we did in 2007.

I am excited about the new year and the Commission On Senior Adults. I believe God will bless this ministry in unusual ways. I believe God will bless the Seniors in our churches in a great way. Churches will organize a ministry to their older members. Pastors and churches will place the Commission in their budget.

The 2008 Conferences are planned already. We need for to pray for the speakers, singers, and all parts of the programs. Make plans now to attend the Conference in your area. More and more of our good pastors are attending the Conferences with their people.

Something New

Brother Randy Clark, one of my trustees, suggested that we give some special recognition to our preachers when they reach fifty years in the ministry. I will prepare a form that will be used for receiving proper information. We will begin by recognizing those who have already reached fifty years or more in the ministry. Please help

Church Visits

We were blessed by our visits to Broadmoor Church, Meridian and the Sharon Church in Laurel. Sharon is without a pastor. Please pray for several churches without pastors at this time.

Health Update

The cancer on my lower lip was removed on Monday, December 10. The doctor was able to remove all the cancer. Treatments will not be required. Thanks for all the prayers and the many calls since the operation. I will be unable to preach for a few days.

New Support

We welcome Oakland Baptist Church, Vicksburg and Berean Baptist Church Soso, as they are on board with us financially. Brother Michael Moore is the pastor at Oakland and brother Harold Floyd is the pastor at Berean. Thanks folks your support.

Best Wishes

The trustees, along with Dot and I, wish for all our dear people a blessed Christmas and a successful New Year. May the Christ of Christmas be honored, worshiped and served during this special time and all the New Year long.

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

2008 NATIONAL WMA LADIES' RETREAT

Keynote speaker – Ms. Patsy Campbell

Theme – *"Be Still, and Know That I Am God."* Psalm 46:10

Dates – February 22 and 23, 2008
Registration 2:00 p.m. on February 22nd

Place – Radisson Inn Memphis Airport, Memphis, Tennessee
Room Rate - $89.00 plus taxes per night
Hotel Reservations – 1-800-RADISSON or 1-901-332-2370

Retreat Registration $75.00 payable to "National W.M.A."
Mail to: Connie Reifsteck
P.O. Box 190493, St. Louis, MO 63119

Share Time – Martha Langley

Silent Auction
Everyone is encouraged to bring an item

Ms. Patsy Campbell – a life-long resident of Little Rock, Arkansas, she had always loved working with other people. She was a teacher and a guidance counselor for forty years in the Little Rock, Arkansas, public school system. Ms. Campbell thoroughly enjoys working in the WMA, and is active at all levels of the auxiliary. Ms. Campbell is the author of Pray, Work, Win!, a book designed to lead you into a deeper relationship with our heavenly Father, a place of personal service, and the reward of victorious Christian living.

Bring Someone with you

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Make your check for $75.00 payable to National W.M.A. and mail to:
Mrs. Connie Reifsteck
P.O. Box 190493
St. Louis, MO 63119

Church ____________________ Address ____________________ Phone ____________________

Name ____________________ Address ____________________ Phone ____________________

Name ____________________ Address ____________________ Phone ____________________

Name ____________________ Address ____________________ Phone ____________________

Name ____________________ Address ____________________ Phone ____________________

Registered ____________ Amount Enclosed $ ____________

(Photocopy as needed for additional registrations)

Messianic believer concerned God may judge America with 2008 election

OneNewsNow.com -The head of a pro-Israel ministry is concerned that God may allow the United States to suffer the same fate as ancient Israel for continuing to ignore God's covenant with Jewish people.

While nothing substantive resulted from the recent Mideast summit held in Annapolis, the Bush administration has said it is pleased that the two sides agreed to restart long-stalled negotiations for a peace deal. Jan Markell is a Messianic Jewish believer who directs Olive Tree Ministries in Minnesota. She shares that she is deeply disturbed about that summit, believing that the U.S. could pay a serious price for Bush's continued push for a Palestinian state to be carved out of God's covenant land.

"When Israel as a nation disobeyed, she got some pretty rotten kings. If she was in obedience, she got better kings -- and we are entering an election year. I would hate to see America get judged because of what we've done, and the playing out of that judgment come through the election of 2008," warns Markell.

She says that the U.S. cannot continue to spit in the "apple of God's eye." Markell believes that right now America is at an economic, moral, and spiritual crossroads, and therefore needs the blessing of God more than any other time in its history.

BMA of Mississippi Youth Department

ABS * Camp Ministry

Latrelle Windham
Director

P.O. Box 4247, Laurel, Mississippi 39441 • (601) 649-0502
Email - bmayouth@comcast.net

2008 Camp Season

Theme: "Missions" - Matthew 28:18-20
Children's Aim: A Heart For God
Scripture: II Timothy 3:14, 15
Youth Aim: Define Your Mission
Scripture: II Peter 3:9

List Of Activities

Tombigbee, Judson Camp
Date: June 2,3, 4, 2008
Place: Tombigbee State Park, Tupelo

Harmony Camp
Date: June 16,17,18, 2008
Place: Tishomingo State Park, Tishomingo

South Central Junior Camp
June 25,26,27, 2008
Place: Laurel Area (Local Motels, Ramada Inn, Comfort Suites)
Assembly & Recreation Southeastern Baptist College
Guest: Heart for Home Ministries (Thomas Family)
More information to come on prices

State Junior High Senior Camp
July 9, 10, 11, 2008
Place: Laurel Area (Local Motels, Ramada Inn, Confort Suites)
Guest: Travis Plumlee
Music: Not Chosen Yet!
More information to come on prices

Camp season 2008 is looking good and things are falling into place. We will not meet at Gulf Coast Community again this year. Our plans are to meet for two of our camps in the Laurel area. We have blocked off about 80 rooms in two motels in Laurel for our camps. You will receive information concerning prices and places to eat.

Each group will make your own reservations ahead of time. There is a deadline for each of these two camps to make your reservations. The deadline for rooms will be June 11 for both camps. Reservations after this date will be regular price.

More information will come soon in the mail. Thanks for your cooperation ahead of time.

Motels To Consider During 2008 Missions Symposium

Holiday Inn Express
I-430 Exit 4 (Colonel Glenn Road) 501-244-2600
Comfort Suites and Inn
209 W. Commerce (I-30, Exit 123) 501-653-4000
Vista
210 Office Park Drive - (I-30, Exit 123) 501-847-7120
Hometown Hotel
(Brand New) (I-30, Exit 123) 501-653-0123
Holiday Inn Express
(I-30, Exit 123) 501-847-0900

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

Children's Home

118 Lowe Road, Laurel, Mississippi 39443 - (601) 426-3928

The Excitement of Christmas

The excitement of Christmas is upon us. During this holiday season our thoughts are turned toward the ONE for which the season represents, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Sidney Davis
Director

At this time of the year as Christmas decorations are being displayed with manger scenes of the Christ child, and as the true meaning of Christmas is expressed through the Christmas carols we sing, our hearts are filled with joy. May the glad tidings of the excitement of the Christmas season remind us that Jesus is God's great gift to us.

Recent Church Visits

We were with the Magnolia Baptist Church in Hattiesburg and Pastor Greg Medenwald on Sunday, December 2, during their evening service. After the worship service the Home was presented a special offering from the church. We then shared a meal together and the children were given Christmas gifts.

Then on Sunday, December 9, we were with the Lee's Chapel #1 Baptist Church near Carriere and Pastor Donnie Boutwell. The Home was presented a special offering received by the church. Afterwards we enjoyed a meal together and a time of fellowship.

It was good to be able to worship with these churches and to share with them a message from God's Word.

At this time of the year many of you share with the children that they may have a joyous and Merry Christmas. We want to say thank you for the gifts and the monetary offerings that are given. They are appreciated.

Merry Christmas

The staff and children of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home would like to convey our thoughts and best wishes to you during the holiday season. Thank you for your friendship, prayers, and love. May the joy of Christ fill your hearts. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

BMAA MISSIONS SYMPOSIUM

January 7-8, 2008

Department of Missions
Baptist Missionary Association of America

Temple Baptist Church, Little Rock

2008 Theme
"Think Globally – Live Locally"

Missionaries From Around the World
Will be reporting on their individual fields of service!

Scheduled to Appear
Missionaries From
Puerto Rico - Mongolia - Cape Verde Islands
India - Ukraine - Baghdad, Iraq - Mexico - Africa
Cambodia - Jordan - Russia - Lebanon

Special Singing and Worship Services

Fellowship Meal on Tuesday Evening
January 8, 2008

Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Clean Hands

You know those little hand driers in some public restrooms that have directions: PRESS BUTTON. HOLD HANDS UNDER DRYER. RUB THEM TOGETHER.

I've often wondered why they bother even printing those directions. We all know we usually wind up wiping our hands on our clothing to finish the drying process. So why don't they just cut to the chase and give the directions to: WASH HANDS. DRY HANDS ON YOUR CLOTHES.

BUT, I used a hand dryer lately that is going to change the way we think of hand dryers. I pressed that button and placed my hands under it and I thought it was going to blow the skin slam off my hands. Boy, it had the power! Scared me to death!

All of this caused me to remember what the Psalmist wrote. Psalm 24:4,5 "He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; . . . He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation."

Palestinian peace with Israel not possible, says Israeli author

OneNewsNow.com - An Israeli author and lecturer says it's against the very tenets of Islam for Moslems to tolerate the existence of a Jewish state. Hence, he believes it will be impossible for the United States to broker a deal creating a Palestinian nation peacefully co-existing with Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is promising to "forge a historic path" toward a final peace settlement with the Palestinians, and negotiators from both sides are poised to meet for the first time in nearly seven years. Both sides are reportedly focusing on the ultimate goal of reaching a peace agreement by the end of next year.

But Israeli author Avi Lipkin says peace with the Moslems is just not possible. "The problem with the Palestinians is they've got a religion called Islam that believes that all the Jews and Christians must die -- the Jews on Saturday and the Christians on Sunday. And the idea of a Jewish state existing and being recognized by Islam is impossible," claims Lipkin.

Lipkin believes the Moslems have a much different "peace" agenda than the Israelis. "The Moslems even said before the Annapolis conference that they are ready to make some kind of an accord with Israel as long as it's not the Jewish state," he points out. He says that any deal that Moslems would sign would eventually lead to the destruction of Israel, not a peaceful co-existence. It is the intent of Moslems, says Lipkin, to replace Israel with an Islamic state.

The American-born Israeli author says any peace attempt coming out of the Annapolis conference is doomed to failure.

Educator says school's anti-Christian actions reflect society's attitudes

OneNewsNow - A teacher in North Dakota has been suspended without pay for showing a video to an eighth-grade class that talked about salvation through Jesus Christ.

Michael Nider is facing a three-week suspension after parents complained about a video he showed during a health class. School officials in Bismarck say Nider showed a video that asked, "What if you had a friend who died without knowing Jesus as their personal savior?"

Dr. Ed Gamble, president of the Southern Baptist Association of Christian Schools, says in a politically correct culture where teachers are allowed to promote homosexuality or Islam to young pupils, no one should be surprised at the anti-Christian bias in the government-run school system.

"There's a growing hostility toward Christianity in the culture at large, and you're naturally going to see that reflected in the culture's number-one engine -- the public school. It's inevitable," he says. "Why would we be surprised? It's been coming for 50 years. And now that the fruit's on the tree, we're all deeply concerned about it; but we've been watching the tree grow for 50 years."

In addition to the unpaid leave, Nider will be forced to take a sensitivity training class and write letters of apology to parents and students.

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

BMA of Mississippi

Missions Department

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440 - (601) 428-8616
Rayburn Freeman, Director

Christmas Greetings from the BMA of Mississippi Missions and Loan Departments!

We are enjoying another wonderful Christmas season at the Mission's office. The tree is decorated and the wreaths have been hung. Everything looks festive and bright. Of course, the Christmas season is one of the busiest times of the year.

Upon arriving from a wonderful visit to the Philippines, I hit the ground running. I have spent several hours at the lawyer's office wading through paper work concerning the properties we are closing on for Bro. Ed Duvall and Bro. Estuardo Marroquin. Everyone at the Mission's office is excited for these two Missionaries. We know God will do great things in Cleveland and Laurel.

On December 7 we held our first meetings with the newly elected Trustees and Committeemen. We welcomed our new Missionary Committeemen; James Brown of Brandon, Jimmy Cresswell of Bentonia and John Miller of Petal. For the Revolving Loan Fund Trustees we welcomed; Roger Jefcoat of Laurel, Roger Franks of Mooreville, Doug Lee of Carriere, Mike Lowe of Laurel, and Sam Oglesby of Hattiesburg. We look forward to working with these our brothers.

In the meeting of December 7 the Revolving Loan Fund Trustees approved the following items:

1. That any increase or decrease in variable interest rate change for loans be reflected in the tenure of a loan (such as an increase or decrease in the number of monthly payments) rather than an increase or decrease in the dollar amount of the monthly payment.

2. That all loans other than those of the BMA of Mississippi. Missions, Churches and related ministries shall bare a one percent variable interest rate above the Mississippi variable rate and also include a $500.00 loan origination fee.

3. To authorize the establishment of an automatic bank drafting system. This procedure will make it easier for investors and churches who choose to use it in making their deposits and/or loan payments.

4. To Incorporate the Revolving Loan Fund Department as another step toward the security of the department.

Also in the meeting I shared with the Trustees that the Revolving Loan Fund had reached the liquid fund balance that was recommended by the auditor. This accomplishment enabled the trustees to process a couple of pending loans, while others are yet to be considered.

In a joint meeting of the Revolving Loan Fund Trustees and Missionary Committee we discussed the purchase of properties for the El Camino Mission of Laurel, and the Homestretch Mission of Cleveland.

The El Camino Mission, under the leadership of Missionary Marroquin together with a number of churches and associations, have been able to save a little over $50,000 toward the purchase of the property which they and the Missionary Committee decided would be the best location.

The Homestretch Mission under the leadership of Missionary Edward Duvall, together with several churches and associations, have saved over $35,000 toward the purchase of property for Homestretch which was also approved by the Missionary Committee.

Both El Camino and Homestretch missions would like to purchase their properties and have them completely paid for before beginning the construction of a church plant. For churches, associations, and individuals that would like to help them just mark your offerings in the memo of your check Marroquin or Duvall work fund.

In our meeting the challenge to become more involved personally in missions on the local level was discussed. It is important that we remember that Missions is the heartbeat of the church and when the heart dies the church dies. Also to encourage their churches and others to become more mission minded and involved on the local level. It is essential for survival that we become more conscience of the need and personally involved in soul winning.

Missionary Statistics for October:

El Camino – Total Average Sunday AM Attendance – 61, Total Monthly Offerings - $2,957.91, Total Professions of Faith – 12

First Hispanic Baptist - Total Average Sunday AM Attendance – 35, Total Monthly Offerings $2,375.83, Total Professions of Faith – 3

Maple Street – Total Average Sunday AM Attendance – 22, Total Monthly Offerings - $872.00, Professions of Faith – 1

Homestretch – Total Average Sunday AM Attendance – 22, Total Monthly Offerings - $1439.46

LifePointe – Total Average Sunday AM Attendance – 37, Total Monthly Offerings - $6,187.88, Total Professions of Faith – 1

Divine Grace – Total Average Sunday AM Attendance – 51, Total Monthly Offerings - $6,095.00, Addition by letter – 1

We are praying for a safe and most enjoyable holiday season for you and yours. We would ask you to remember the Mission's office and our devoted State Missionaries during this season. From the Mission Office MERRY CHRISTMAS to all! Bro. Ray and Staff.

The 50th Missions and Evangelistic Conference will be hosted on March 13, 2008 by Skyway Hills Baptist Church in Pearl, Mississippi. This will be a one day conference beginning at 8:30 A.M. and closing at 8:30 P.M. The new program format relative to location and time is designed to encourage attendance. Help to make this 50th conference the best yet.