

D Mississippi **Baptist**

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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New Web Site for Daniel Springs Camp

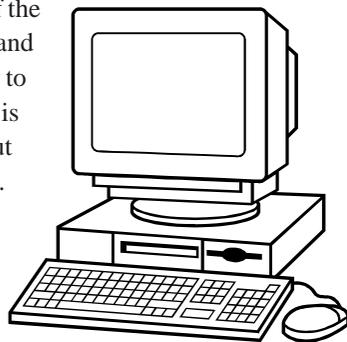
Daniel Springs Baptist Camp now has a new web site that has been developed over the past few months in cooperation with Bobby Hudgens and Larry Thompson. Bobby is the research and development officer for DiscipleGuide and Larry is a consultant for the Department who has been redesigning the entire web site for DiscipleGuide Church Resources.

Our new web site still has a couple of registration pages that are presently being worked on but should be finished by or shortly after the first of the year. We hope this will make camp registration easier and faster for the sponsors. We also plan to have the ability to pay online for your camp and registration fees. This is something new for us and so we may have to work out some of the bugs that usually happen in new ventures.

We also hope to have the sponsor background check process refined so that it will not require as much work by the office staff to enter all the data necessary for the process to start.

There is also a photo gallery that features photos in a slide show format that many of the campers may enjoy looking at after the summer camp season has come to a close to help them relive those memories of a fantastic week at camp.

This web site address is www.discipleguide.org and just click on the "camp" tab. If you have suggestions for the web site that you think may be useful, just email that suggestion and we will take it into consideration as we complete the remodeling process.



A Report From India The Mission Ministry of Prashant Prakash



Dear Praying Friends:

The Apostle Paul writes to Timothy in the book of I Timothy 3:16- "...but without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness God was manifest in the flesh

December 7th was our church Christmas program, celebrating the incarnation our our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. What a wonderful time it was to see over 250 people gather to be a part of this program. The Gospel was preached and was made known that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to this earth for us. There were many non-believers that attended the program this time and they were reached

with God's Word. Let us all pray that these young men and women will come to Christ. AWANA was started recently in our church. This program has attracted more than 75 children who are both believers and non-believers. These kids brought their parents to our church Christmas program where we were able to give them the Gospel. Even though not many responded, it is our responsibility to pray for these lost souls that they will be saved.

My aunt and uncle Dr. Shrestha from Camden, Arkansas, were on their first medical camp [trip]

Report continued on page 4

Christmas Thoughts

Some people think of Christmas
As sleigh rides in the cold
A tree that glistens of tinsel
And decorations of silver and gold.

Some people think of Christmas
As stockings dressed in red
A crackling glowing fireplace
And a warm and cozy bed.

Some people think of Christmas
As faces filled with glee
Sharing stories, fun and laughter
And gathering 'round the tree.

Some people think of Christmas
As gifts wrapped up in blue

Writing letters to their loved ones
And Christmas caroling too.

Some people think of Christmas
As snow falling on the ground
The hustle and bustle of shoppers
And the joy that's spread around.

Some people think of Christmas
As Christ on Christmas day
And families joined together
With heads bowed down to pray.

Some people think of Christmas
As the Lord who dwells above
Who sent His son to die for us
And gave the gift of love.

**Wishing You A Very Blessed
Christmas Season
Editor Don Brown and
Your Publications Department Trustees**

Seven Sticks of Butter

I buy butter at the grocery store. It comes four sticks to the pound. I haven't gone to butter as a weight standard, however it is something ordinary I can understand. The birth of my twin grandchildren brought this thought to me because of their premature birth. She weighed seven sticks of butter. He weighed about eight and one half sticks of butter. That's not a lot of weight for a new born girl - seven sticks of butter, and a few more portions of butter sticks for the brother!

Since their birth, they have been in a neonatal intensive care unit - NICU. To say I feel overwhelmed and intimidated as I visit them would be a complete understatement. I have never washed my hands and forearms so much and for so long in my

life. The completely non Paris runway "gown" I robe in is certainly not featured in any fashion magazine.

Let me stop right here and say the staff is overwhelmingly wonderful! All of them are volunteers who work in this NICU. They tell me there are many babies out of the 70 plus in their care that weigh less than seven sticks of butter and do well. Back to the visits - there are a lot of strange things in the rooms to make me know I am not in a normal environment; at least in my own familiar everyday setting.

The twins are in "pods." That's what I would call them. They are bubble topped little beds that have all sorts of gizmos hooked up to them. One of the nurses told me the pods each cost more than any luxury

car - a lot more. I am overcome with all the sounds of beeping, buzzing, and bleeping I hear. There are red lights flashing, blue lights strobing, and white lights of different intensi-



Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

ties all over the room. Many tubes, lines and, other hook ups run here and there from these children to machines that show lines, dots, and dashes of various shapes and sizes. Unfamiliar smells are also tied to this NICU.

Again, the staff is wonderful to the babies in their care, the parents, and especially us grandparents. One thing I have come to realize again is God grants life and sustains life. Life is a gift from God. In spite of all the technology, training, and ability in the room, life to my grandchildren is in the hands of God. That's what I ask for when I kneel beside the pods - that God would grant life to these little people and they could thrive.

I'm glad I live in a country where this NICU is possible. What a great place for my grandchildren right now! God bless those who work there and those who provide the support for this kind of endeavor in our land. May there be more! There are many parents, grandparents, even great-grandparents who live each day on the hope their little sticks of butter will become full and productive little children at home in the arms of loving and caring family.

Permit the little children to come to Jesus - even those little sticks of butter. Who shall bring them? It is I who shall bring my children - as old as they are - and my grandchildren to Him. How shall I bring them? I shall bring them to Jesus by my behavior and the life events of today as we walk this journey called life. We will narrate these days as they unfold from the Lord. We shall put these events in child-like perspective. We shall ask God to guide us with His light in our darkness, with His strength in our weakness, and with His wisdom in our confusion.

And now, may the Lord of all give birth to the child of faith in us that need salvation. Bring forth the healthy and whole in all of us who call ourselves by Your name. Bless all the little children, and us big children as well, who want to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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.

Mooreville, Mississippi church seeks pastor

Boguefala Baptist Church, Mooreville, Mississippi, is currently without a pastor. Please pray that our church and the pulpit committee will find the man which God wants us to have. If you are interested or know someone we might consider, please contact Bro. Jimmy Sheffield, 662-844-1484 or Bro. Kenneth Knight, 662-862-5662. You may also contact us by e-mailing Bro. Kenneth Dillard at kbillard@nexband.com.

Church Clerk, Burma Schumpert

Big Creek District Auxiliary changes

The Big Creek District Brotherhood and WMA will meet with Hopewell Baptist Church on Monday night, January 12, 2009. The date was changed from January 5 because of the BMAA Missions Symposium. Please make plans to attend this meeting.

Lucedale couple celebrate 25th anniversary

David and Phillis (Magers) Morgan will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on Sunday, December 21, 2008. Family and friends are invited to join them at Pineview Baptist Church near Lucedale, Mississippi, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. to celebrate the occasion. The event will be held in the church fellowship hall. The presence of family and friends is gift enough.

Mid Central Association Meeting

Our November Mid-Central Association Meeting was held at New Hope Baptist Church. There were twenty-six in attendance. Bro. Higginbotham read the minutes and Bro. Gene Therrell gave the Treasury Report.

In the way of Old Business the Missionary Committee proposed the following changes; give two percent to the Mississippi Baptist Childrens Home, twelve Percent to the Mississippi State Missions Dept, discontinue Maple Street Church, and give seventy-nine percent to the Mid-Central Association Mission Fund. The Mid-Central Association plans to start a Scholarship Fund with this amount.

In the way of new business it was approved to pay for the printing of Handbooks for the Association. Bro. Smith closed the meeting in prayer. Bro. Billy Higginbotham brought a great message from Isaiah 6:1-13. Following the message, Bro. Kent Grice and Bro. Bill Raines closed the meeting in prayer. The next Mid

Central Association Meeting will be held at Rock Creek Baptist Church in Union, Mississippi, on January 17, 2009 at 7:00 P.M.

Joyce Williamson, Reporter
Billy Higginbotham, Moderator

Ten Mile Committee Meeting

The Ten Mile Committee Meeting met with Unity Baptist Church in McHenry, on December 8, 2008. After the normal preliminaries, the reading of the minutes and the treasury report, mission reports were called for. The next meeting will be held at Vardaman Street Baptist Church on January 5, 2009. We will have an annual Bible Conference beginning with our regular meeting in February. Bro. Sidney Davis from the Children's Home will preach Monday night at Bethel Baptist Church at 7:30pm; Bro. Chris Flynn on Tuesday night at Unity Baptist Church at 7:00 pm; and Bro. Kirk Ladner on Wednesday night at Vardaman Street Baptist Church 7:00pm. Reports from Children's Home, State Mission Department and Southeastern College will be given at this time.

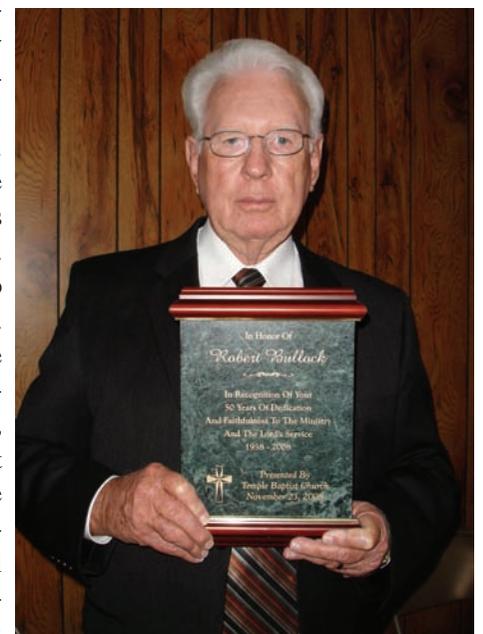
Bro. Wallace Williams gave an excellent reported on Divine Grace Mission. He shared with all that this month will be the last month he will be on mission status. He also said soon after the first of the year the mission will be organized into a church.

Bro. Paul Lee spoke on the prison ministry and Bro. Lavelle Lee spoke concerning the Missions Department and the Revolving Loan

Temple Baptist, Laurel Honors Pastor

Temple Baptist Church, Laurel, honored their pastor and presented him with a plague on November 23, 2008. The plague read, "In honor of Robert Bullock in recognition of your 50 years of dedication and faithfulness to the ministry and the Lord's service, 1958-2008, presented by Temple Baptist Church November 23, 2008."

It was a very special day. Lunch was served at the church. Special music was provided by "In Faith." Bro. Bullock was licensed to preach on 11-02-1958 by Bro. Ollie Parker at Shady Grove Baptist Church. He was ordained by Bro. Grover Laird, at Shady Grove Baptist Church on 9-20-1959. He served as pastor in the following churches: Goodwill Baptist Church, Laurel; Salem Baptist Church, Stringer; Henleyfield Baptist Church, Pearl River County; State Mission Field as State Missionary in McComb 1963-1969; Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Picayune; and Temple Baptist Church since June 1, 1975 to the present.



Temple Church Pastor Robert Bullock

Fund. Bro. Don Hilburn, pastor of Heritage Baptist Church in Biloxi, spoke of a Hispanic mission endeavor that is starting around his church and is looking for help to possibly place a church there. A total of 22 professions have been recorded in the last week among the Hispanics.

Bro. Dale Broom shared with the Ten Mile Committee meeting that he feels that God is leading him to the mission field in Australia. He desired

some support and the Ten Mile agreed to give him \$800.00. Bro. Scott Kirkland shared a little information about the Seminary in Texas, where he is currently attending.

After two specials from the host church, Bro. Freddie Wagner brought the evening message. He spoke on the Art of War taken from Jeremiah 6:1-17.

Bro. Stan Bennett, Moderator
Dr. Eugene Anderson, Reporter

LOST

...AND FOUND.

The world is lost and sinking in sin. But Jesus commissioned us to undertake a Search+Rescue mission that can save lives now and for all eternity. Discover more about how you can be a part at the 2009 BMAA National Missions Symposiums: Search+Rescue. Two dates and locations:

BMAA MISSIONS SYMPOSIUMS

January 6-7, 2009

Calvary Baptist Church
Horn Lake, Mississippi

January 13-14, 2009

Fellowship Baptist Church
Forney, Texas

Tuesday Evening

7:00 Search + Rescue
Praise and worship
Message by Dr. John David Smith

Wednesday Morning

8:30 Music
8:35 John Lindsey—Ghana
9:15 Andrey and Laura Kanaykina—Ukraine
10:00 Break
10:25 Music
10:35 China (video)
11:00 Pavel Peychev (President of Uzbekistan Baptist Union)

Wednesday Afternoon

1:30 Music
1:35 Estuardo Marroquin—BMA Missionary in Mississippi
Jorge Vasquez—BMA Missionary in Arkansas
2:15 Merritt Youngdeer—New Mexico (video)
2:30 Jacob Norman—Colorado
3:00 Break (in Mississippi—Missionary Committee and WMA will meet at this time)
3:25 Praise and worship
3:35 Bolivia (video)
4:00 Rescue Team Members from BMMI/VSM/Chaplaincy
4:45 Dinner break

Wednesday Evening

7:00 Praise and worship (led by Lindel Black)
Message by Jerry Jolly at Horn Lake, Mississippi Symposium
Message by Brandon Cox at Forney, Texas Symposium

SEARCH + RESCUE

2009 BMAA NATIONAL MISSIONS SYMPOSIUMS

www.BMAAMissions.org

AREA ACCOMMODATIONS

Horn Lake, Mississippi

Comfort Inn and Suites (662-349-0100)
Holiday Inn (662-349-0444) (Mention that you are with the BMAA for special rate of \$79.00.)
Drury Inn (662-349-6622)
Hilton Garden Inn (662-349-0277)
Fairfield Inn and Suites (662-349-6640)
Hampton Inn (662-349-8855)

Further information and directions may be obtained at www.gocalvary.org or by calling 662-393-3239.

Forney, Texas

Holiday Inn Express in Terrell, Texas (972-563-7888) (Mention that you are with the BMAA for a special rate of \$74.99.)
Comfort Suites in Mesquite, Texas—(180 and Beltline Road)
LaQuinta Hotel in Mesquite, Texas—(180 and Beltline Road)
A new Best Western in Forney, Texas, may be ready for occupancy by January 13 (972-552-1412).

Further information and directions may be obtained at www.fellowshipforney.org or by calling 972-564-9553.



Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

The Myth of Separation of Church and State

Judge Roy Moore from Alabama became the most hated and most loved man of the hour a few years back. He is a man of integrity who has stood for a cause with a liberty granted him by this country's guiding document, the Constitution. Some say the issue is about the state endorsing, even promoting religion, while others say the real issue is about the interference of the federal government in a state government affair.



www.miniedition.net

time to be reminded of the truth of the freedom granted us in the first amendment, concerning the exercise of religion

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people

miniedition

Joseph Harris

peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

FACT # 1- The phrase "wall of separation of church and state" appears nowhere in the constitution, and especially not in the first amendment.

FACT # 2- The amendment guarantees the free exercise of religion and freedom of speech.

FACT # 3- The amendment DOES NOT mention government or public property as an exception to the free exercise of religion. NO exceptions are mentioned, period.

FACT # 4- The guarantee of free exercise of religion means religious views CAN be expressed in the political arena.

FACT # 5- Government is to remain absolutely neutral in all matters pertaining to religion, not making laws for the promotion or prohibition of its exercise.

Did you notice fact # 5? Government should keep its nose out of religion. It can't be for or against religion. All rulings that forbid prayer, Bible clubs and such from government school property are illegal, or to use the big word of the day, unconstitutional, according to the first amendment. Rulings that forbid the expression of anything religious, whether on public or private property, are unconstitutional.

Notice also, the phrase "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion" is one of the most misunderstood phrases in the constitution. Most believe it is speaking of the establishment of a state church. The first amendment is not primarily for preempting government from establishing a state religion, as most think. Look at the amendment again. The word "respecting" means "in regard to" or "pertaining to" an establishment or institution of religion. The first part of the amendment simply means that "congress shall make no law (for or against) pertaining to any religious organization, institution or establishment." The instituting of a state endorsed church or denomination would be automatically prohibited on these grounds alone.

The first amendment is all about freedom OF religion, not freedom FROM religion. The idea that government, politics and society should be free FROM religion is a hatched up notion of God hating liberals via the ACLU, PAW and numerous other freedom destroying institutions. Not only does the amendment PREVENT government from interfering in expression of religion, it calls for protection of the rights of individuals as they practice the free exercise thereof.

The ACLU should be protecting, not prohibiting free exercise. Note also, the word "exercise" means to act upon, not simply give mental ascent to a creed or set of beliefs. We are not only allowed freedom of belief, but the freedom to live out and express those beliefs. This means the Boy Scouts of America have a constitutional right to reject homosexual leaders, thereby exercising or

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



Letters From Our Readers

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

Gary Smith Ministries

Dear Bro. Brown,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

2008 was a great year for Gary Smith ministries. I preached in 35 meetings with 23 souls saved and many others making decisions for Christ. I give all the glory to our great Savior. I am looking forward to a great year in 2009 as well.

practicing their belief. It means parents have a right to home school or send their children to a Christian school if they so desire.

Religion that cannot be practiced in daily life is useless. Don't believe the liberal lie of the left. Religion and free expression of it is not illegal. It is not only legal, but guaranteed by government. Thank God. Let freedom ring.

Thousands of pages of American history would have to be burned to delete all references to God and religion among the documents of the founding fathers of this country.

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

If you are interested in having me in revival this next year, you can contact me at 601-322-6974 or at garysmithministries@yahoo.com. My home address is 9225 Hwy 25 South, Fulton, MS 38843. I would love to hear from you.

Thanks
Bro. Gary Smith

Missionary requests prayer for family

Dear Editor,

Please be in prayer for the Conception family, of Open Door Baptist Church, Talisay, whose father, the first ordained deacon of the BMA of the Philippines, Bro. Jose Conception, went to be with the Lord December 1, 2008. He is survived by his wife, and six of his seven children, the eldest having gone on to be with the Lord several years ago.

Bro. Conception was a most faithful deacon, attending all Church activities and most Associational activities as well. He loved being with other Christians. He was best known for his phenomenal memory of Bible verses. He took every opportunity to memorize his Bible, still working on them as he lay in the hospital before his death. Shortly before his death he was heard singing the three-fold Amen. He was rejoicing to go to be with the Lord. He will be deeply missed by his church, the BMA of the Philippines, and the BMA Bible College, and this missionary.

Linday & Doyle Moore
BMA Missionaries
to Philippines



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India Missions Report

from page 1

as medical missionaries. Medical camps were conducted in three remote villages where there are no medical facilities available to these people. We are all overwhelmed to see the need in these places. The camp was setup in such manner where all our pastors and church planters were involved to organize this event. The primary focus of this camp was to give them medical care and also give them the Gospel. In four days Dr. Shrestha and his wife were



able to examine more than 500 patients. These programs were held in the church building facilities we have in these villages. One of these buildings is still half done without a roof. We were able to cover it with a large

Please continue to pray for us.

We once again thank all churches and friends who have been praying for the ministry in India and have faithfully contributed to this ministry. The school construction has almost come to an end. The furniture

is still getting done. Once all is complete I will send the pictures.

All the children in the children's home are doing very well. They all participated in the church Christmas program. December 12th will be [was]

our school Christmas program. All the kids were joyous to receive their Christmas gifts. They are all doing well, healthy and doing good in academics. Please continue to pray for them that the Lord will guide them,



cloth and use it for now. As I had mentioned in my last newsletter we are still praying for financial support of USD 5,000 to finish this building.

Training of young men in the ministry is of utmost importance for us so that they can go and start Local New Testament churches in the remote villages of India. Moses, who is one of our Bible college students who graduate last



year, is back to serve the Lord. We praise the Lord for this. He will be working with our church planters for now, visiting and assisting local churches that have been planted through Shakainah Biblical Baptist Church. We are planning to conduct our annual meeting in the month of February followed by graduation.

give them the wisdom and protect them for everything.

As we all celebrate the incarnation of our Savior Jesus Christ, may our tongues lift up Christ during this

time and share with all gladness and joy the "Preciousness of the Person of Christ." We thank the Lord for a wonderful year 2008 and pray that he will continue to bless us in the years to come. Please continue pray for harvest of souls.

In Christ
Prashant, Golda & Joanna Prakash



CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
Dr. John M. Adams, Director
P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863
Email - fbcjdmaj@yahoo.com



John Adams

www.cacbma.net

We are delighted that so many of you have visited online and taken part in our Action alerts in the morality areas of interest. The CAC wishes for you to be updated on these vital and current issues that are before our nation. Mark this website as one of your favorites or as an icon on your personal computer desk top.

Alcohol and the Christmas Season - Proverbs 20:1.

During the Christmas season and holidays, many people will drink alcoholic beverages. There is mounting evidence that Americans are becoming heavy alcoholic beverage consumers. The abuse of beverage alcohol has been a moral issue in all of recorded time. The Bible records Noah's drunkenness in Genesis Chapter 9. His image and testimony was scarred by his deeds. There are both immediate and long-term negative effects associated with the use of alcohol - beer, whiskey, wine, etc. They are:

- 1) the loss of touch with reality,
- 2) the loss of rational judgment, and
- 3) the loss of memory.

Alcoholics frequently cannot remember what happened to themselves or others during the times they are intoxicated. Strong drink destroys relationships, deadens a person's conscience and moral sensitivity, and brings poverty into many homes.

Alcohol is a costly luxury, especially during the holiday and festive seasons. Proverbs 23:32 says, "at the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder."

Some Christians favor the use of alcohol beverages in moderation, where as other believers insist on total abstinence. Some believe it is possible to drink alcoholic beverages without damaging their Christian testimonies, and others that the only safe rule is to completely stay away from strong drink.

As a nation, little of what we say or do, sadly, is based on the Word of God. We have rejected God's counsel in government, business, schools, and in the family. And we are paying the price. Will we fail to recognize that God has the first and last word? As Christians, we

ought to see the alternatives clearly, pray, and then speak out as those who understand and are committed to the will of God.

Although widely scattered, the majority of tragic happenings, too often, had a common cause - drinking alcoholic beverages. These tragedies take place every twenty-four hours of every day across the nation. Forces outside the church are rising to quench the tide of useless deaths by alcohol abuse - such as Mother's Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) and Students Against Drunk Drivers (SADD).

Drinking alcohol is a moral issue

Followers of Christ should live consistent moral lives with the belief and conviction that Jesus Christ is Lord and our supreme example. Christians, like their Lord, are alert to things that degrade human life. We shun things which keep us from reaching our full Christian potential. Biblical morality demands that we not be victimized by a substance that is personally and socially destructive such as alcohol. Read God's Word for clear directions: Proverbs 20:1, Isaiah 5:22-23, Leviticus 10:9, Numbers 6:3, Romans 13:13-14, and I Corinthians 6:9-10.

CAC Trustee of the Month

Rev. Kevin Marr is the Missionary Pastor of Lifepointe Church in Olive Branch, Mississippi. Bro. Marr's hometown is Memphis, Tennessee. He has been in the ministry for 16 years. He is married to Jill and they have two children.

Churches that Support the CAC

First Hispanic, Ripley
Good Hope, Overt
Good Hope, Columbia
Hillcrest, Yazoo City
Hopewell, Laurel

Merry Christmas

Mrs Adams and I wish each reader a very Merry Christmas. Join us in repeating these words as we "Keep Christ in Christmas."

Harmony Association meets

Our December meeting was held at Westview Baptist Church, Oxford, on Friday December 12. Five churches were represented with 15 present. Bro Eddie Boutwell brought the evening message from Matthew 1:18-25.

Bro. Tim Nall related comments from Bro. John Adams regarding work with the CAC.

Our January meeting will be held at Bethel Baptist Church, with Bro. Dale Wirick bringing our message.

Bro. Nall asked that members of the Missionary Committee meet to see if needs in mission work are being met.

Following the meeting fellowship was enjoyed along with refreshments.

Tim Nall, Moderator
Tony Marolt, Reporter

BMAA Equipping Center Locations and Schedules

Bethel Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi

January 24, 2009

Mission Possible: Winning Your Community For Christ

March 7, 2009

Sunday School Materials That Work!

June 20-21, 2009

It All Rises and Falls on Leadership

Magnolia Baptist, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

January 24, 2009

Building A Small Group Ministry/
Becoming An Effective Teacher

March 7, 2009

Mission Possible: Winning Your Community For Christ

June 21, 2009

Sunday School Materials That Work!

Commission on Senior Adults

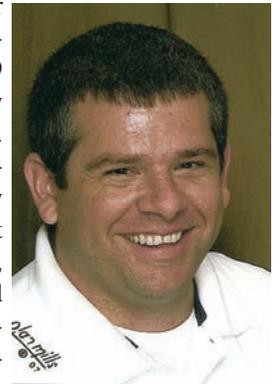
Vern D. Holifield, Director
4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440



AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

Mark Harris

Bro. Mark Harris is available for preaching appointments or pastoral work. He has been married for 19 years to Christine Harris and they have two children, ages 12 and 19. Bro. Mark surrendered to the ministry in May, 2004 and is currently director of student ministry at Hopewell Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi. He can be contacted by calling 662-791-1914 or by calling his pastor, Matt Hudson at 662-862-2510.



Josh Daniels

Bro. Josh Daniels is available for pulpit fill-in and/or to pastor. He is 24 years old, married, and he and his wife have two children. Josh is currently attending Southeastern Baptist College and has been in the ministry for seven years. He has served as associate pastor and youth pastor in both Texas and Mississippi. He may be reached at 228-216-2765.

Music Minister Available

Andrew Jones, son of Corbey and Cindy Jones, has surrendered to the music ministry. Andrew is studying music at William Carey University, Hattiesburg. He is an accomplished musician and director. Andrew may be contacted at 601-428-0921 or at 601-543-9643. He wishes to serve the Lord in music ministry and is available for part-time ministry as he continues his study and as the Lord leads.

Greetings

The Trustees and I are pleased to greet the readers of the Mississippi Baptist Paper in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We wish for our brothers and sisters in the Lord a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous new year. We thank every church, association, and individual for your prayers and for your financial support.

New Support

We welcome Shiloh Baptist Church, Mt. Olive, and East Fulton Baptist Church, Fulton as new financial partners in the work of the Commission. Thanks Shiloh and East Fulton. Brother Grover Laird is the Interim pastor at East Fulton. Shiloh does not have a pastor at this time.

Ordination Service

My wife Dorothy and I attended the ordination service for brother Doyle Wingo. The service was held at the Trinity Baptist Church, Florence. The Bethel Baptist Church, Louise called Brother Wingo to be their pastor. I was honored to be asked to question Brother Wingo and his wife. Brother Eugene Digby brought the message. I was impressed with the answers our brother gave to the questions. I am impressed with this our brother and his good wife.

Association Visits

I enjoyed my visit to the Oak Grove Association which met with Calvary Baptist Church, Purvis and pastor Ralph Hatten. The Oak Grove Association supports the Commission.

Church visits

We enjoyed our visits to Calvary, Purvis; Trinity, Flo-

rence, and Shiloh, My. Olive. I continue assisting Shiloh on Sundays. Their building program is progressing nicely.

National Senior Adult Conference

My wife Dorothy and I joined brother and Mrs. John Leland Riles and attended the National Senior Adult Conference. I believe this was one of the best meetings we have had. The entire program was great. The music, the preaching, and the entertainment were all tops. Bro. onnie Parrish and his staff do a great job.

We visited the Lifeword people and enjoyed a look at the facilities. Lifeword is one of the real bright spots in the BMAA. Thank God for brother George Reddin and his faithful staff.

Encouragement

To all of you who consider yourselves to be Senior Adults let me encourage you to keep looking up. Stay busy in your church and other activities. Be careful to remain positive in your thoughts. If possible, stay in touch with family and friends. Find good fellowship with others. If possible, attend the 2009 Senior Adult Conference in your area. The Conferences are going be great.

2009 NATIONAL WMA LADIES' RETREAT

Keynote speaker – Mrs. Fran Hoover

Share Time – Martha Langley

Theme – “A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance...” Proverbs 15:13

Silent Auction

Everyone is encouraged to bring an item

Dates – February 27 and 28, 2009

Registration 2:00 p.m. on February 27th

Place – Radisson Hotel Branson, Branson, Missouri

Room Rate - \$79.00 plus taxes per night
Hotel Reservations – 1-888-566-5290 or 1-417-335-5767 ext. 476

Mrs. Fran Hoover is a member of Lonesome Dove Missionary Baptist Church at Southlake, Texas. She is a wife, mother, real estate agent and cancer survivor. She is a gifted Bible teacher, and has a moving testimony about the goodness of God in her life, and will show us through God's Word that He is good and loving to each of us.

Bring Someone with you

Retreat Registration

\$75.00 payable to “National W.M.A.”
Mail to: Connie Reifsteck, P.O. Box 190493, St. Louis, MO 63119

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

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Church _____ Address _____ Phone _____

Registered _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____
(Photocopy as needed for additional registrations) Registration deadline: February 13, 2009

Fight for 'Merry Christmas' continues

OneNewsNow - The Pacific Justice Institute has been receiving complaints about Christmas censorship.

The censorship has been coming in from government, schools, and businesses. Pacific Justice Institute (PJI) founder Brad Dacus provides an example.

"One employee working for a retail establishment said 'Merry Christmas' and was formally reprimanded for saying [that] instead of 'Seasons Greetings,'" he points out.

PJI is also investigating an incident at a school. "Some students at a school had chosen some songs for the Christmas program, but they were told they could not sing any songs that mentioned Christmas or Christ or anything with the actual origins of Christmas," the attorney explains.

Dacus says the courts have clearly stated that Christmas can, in fact, be celebrated unapologetically in schools and by the government, adding that supposed separation of church and state does not exist for businesses. PJI reports it is acting quickly on the complaints to "remedy potential First Amendment violations."

An Article for Kids to Read

Does your brother or sister drive you crazy? Do your parents make you mad sometimes? I know it is rough. You have this time off from school and your parents are actually still asking that you do some chores around the house. If that is not bad enough, they are actually insisting that you go visit relatives over the holidays that you really don't want to. Stop griping. So, your parents are making you read this stupid article out of this church newspaper. Things could be worse. Keep reading this article, because I am going to tell you exactly what to do to get your brother or sister to change their attitude towards you.

I just want to address your attitude over the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Your attitude will change for the better, and your life will go smoother when you stop fighting your family, and realize that deep down they are a blessing to you. God has blessed you with a family. No, they are not perfect. Neither are you. So, let's make the best of what we have been given by God to enjoy.

You may be saying, "Yow, but he doesn't know the family I live in." No, I don't. But I do know God. None of us have a perfect family. None of us get everything we want in life. But our life is not about us. It is about God. You will grow up and be a mature person when you realize that life does not revolve around you. Our lives should revolve around Jesus, and sharing the love that was given to us on Christmas morning when Jesus was born in a manger.

See, God is love. And God so loved all of us in this world that He sent His only son into the world so that we would be able to live in heaven forever. Jesus died for us on the cross because He was perfect and none of us are. That is what we celebrate at Easter. The greatest gift you will ever receive is the gift of love from God given to us at Christmas in the birth of His son in Bethlehem. Now, the rest of your life you are suppose to share the love God gives us, with those people that God has given you to love. Your family.

Problem #1

My parents are making me go to my grandparents house and I don't want to go. You may be saying, "These people don't understand me. They don't know how to play video games. They kind of look funny and smell funny. But the worst thing of all is that there isn't anything to do. It is boring!"

I know you want to be in your own bedroom and have all your toys or games to play.

But isn't that selfish?

Can't you think about others sometimes? I

know you can. I

know deep down

you really do love

these people.

Think about others

rather than

your self.. You

are going to

have such a wonderful family in the future of your own; if you think about others rather than always thinking about yourself. You can find something to do. Go outside. Walk. Just listen to them talk. You might learn something.

Problem #2

You might have to go to an aunt or uncle's house. You might have to go to a home where there are lots of people. Did you know that family should always come first? Do you realize that these are the people that love you the most and will help you more than any of your friends ever will. Friends are great. But your family will be there for you if you are sick or something bad happens. If you get sick someday and wind up in the hospital, it will be your family that is there for you. Your family will give you money and food if you run into a bad time when you get out on your own someday.

These people are the ones who love you the most and will miss you the most when you aren't around. And someday when you grow older, you will learn how much you really love your grandparents. You will miss them terribly someday when they go home to heaven. You will have all these memories of the food, the laughter, the little crazy things that happened at their house.

Right now you think it is lame. But someday you will cling to these memories. Your grandparents love you so much. Love them back, and



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

cherish your time with them. Life is short. They won't always be around.

Problem #3

Now about those brothers and sisters. Yes, they were put on earth to drive you crazy. But they also are your family. When you are an adult, it is your brothers and sisters who will come to the hospital to see you. They will pray for you when one of your kids is sick. Your brother or sister will come over late at night to cry with you when you have some big problem some day. Try to not fight so much. If you would be kind to them, they might change. But even if they don't - you change!

Being nice to someone always gets people to treat you differently. Work on understanding that your brother or sister is the person God put you close to. God in His wisdom, blessed you with this person. When my kids were little, they used to fuss and argue. But I always reminded them to love each other. Now, that they are young adults, they can't wait to see each other. They want to spend every holiday together. See - that is what family is about. It is about love.

Other people will come and go in your life. But your family is your family forever. Ask Jesus to give you the love he has, so that you can share it with your family. If you learn that these are the most important people you will ever have in your life, you won't fight with them so much. And if your parents tell you that you are going as a family somewhere for the holidays- deal with it. You may not get to lay around and goof off playing games all the time. That's okay. Just say to yourself, "thank you God that I have a family." Help me, O Lord, see all that I have been given by you." Either way, you are going to have to deal with this. You might as well have a good attitude about it, and it will go better for you.

And look at the bright side. If you don't like spending holidays with family - then get excited. School will soon be back in session!

CHILDREN'S HOME

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

Jesus Is The Reason For The Season

Once again we come to that time of year when we celebrate the birth of Christ, who is our Lord, Saviour, and coming King.

Even though we are not sure that He was born on December 25, there is one thing that is certain, He was born. It is at this time every year that we as Christians choose to celebrate that first Christmas which took place over two thousand years ago. We rejoice with the shepherds in hearing what the angel told them on that glorious night, "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 Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10,11.

As we have the opportunities this Christmas to spend time with our families, may each one have a wonderful time and may Christ be in our thoughts.

From all of us at the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home we extend to you a very merry Christmas!



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

Recent Church Visit

We were with the Magnolia Baptist Church in Hattiesburg and Pastor Greg Medenwald on Sunday, December 7, during their evening service. After the worship service we shared a meal together and the children were presented gifts by sponsoring families.

Christmas Sharing

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 sincerely appreciated.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Teenagers

The number of teenagers who admit to reading this little piece in the paper has been surprising. I came across this little piece the other day and thought some teenagers might be encouraged by it. It was adopted by a Convention of High School Students a few years ago.

Ten Commandments for Teenagers

1. Stop and think before you drink.
2. Don't let your parents down; they brought you up.
3. Be humble enough to obey. You will be giving orders yourself some day.
4. At the first temptation, turn away from unclean thinking.
5. Don't show off when driving. If you want to race, go to the track.
6. Date those who would make a good mate.
7. Go to church faithfully, the Creator gave us the week; We can give him back at least the church time.
8. Choose your companions carefully. You are what they are.
9. Avoid following the crowd. Be an engine, not a caboose.
10. Best of all, keep the original Ten Commandments.



ABS * Camp Ministry

P.O. Box 4247, Laurel, Mississippi 39441
601-649-0502

God Our Savior

"To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. (Jude 25).

Merry Christmas!

The factor that makes Jude appropriate for Christmas lies in the way he extolls Jesus, God our Savior, and decries the error of those who deny Him. "Jesus" means "Savior". From an unknown pen comes this beautiful description of - "One Solitary Life";



LATRELLE WINDHAM
DIRECTOR

"Here is a man who was born of Jewish parents in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village. He worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty, and then, for three years, he was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book, he never held an office, he never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put his foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He never did one of these things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself....

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today he is the centerpiece of the human race, and the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon each as powerfully as has that solitary life." Christmas is Christ!

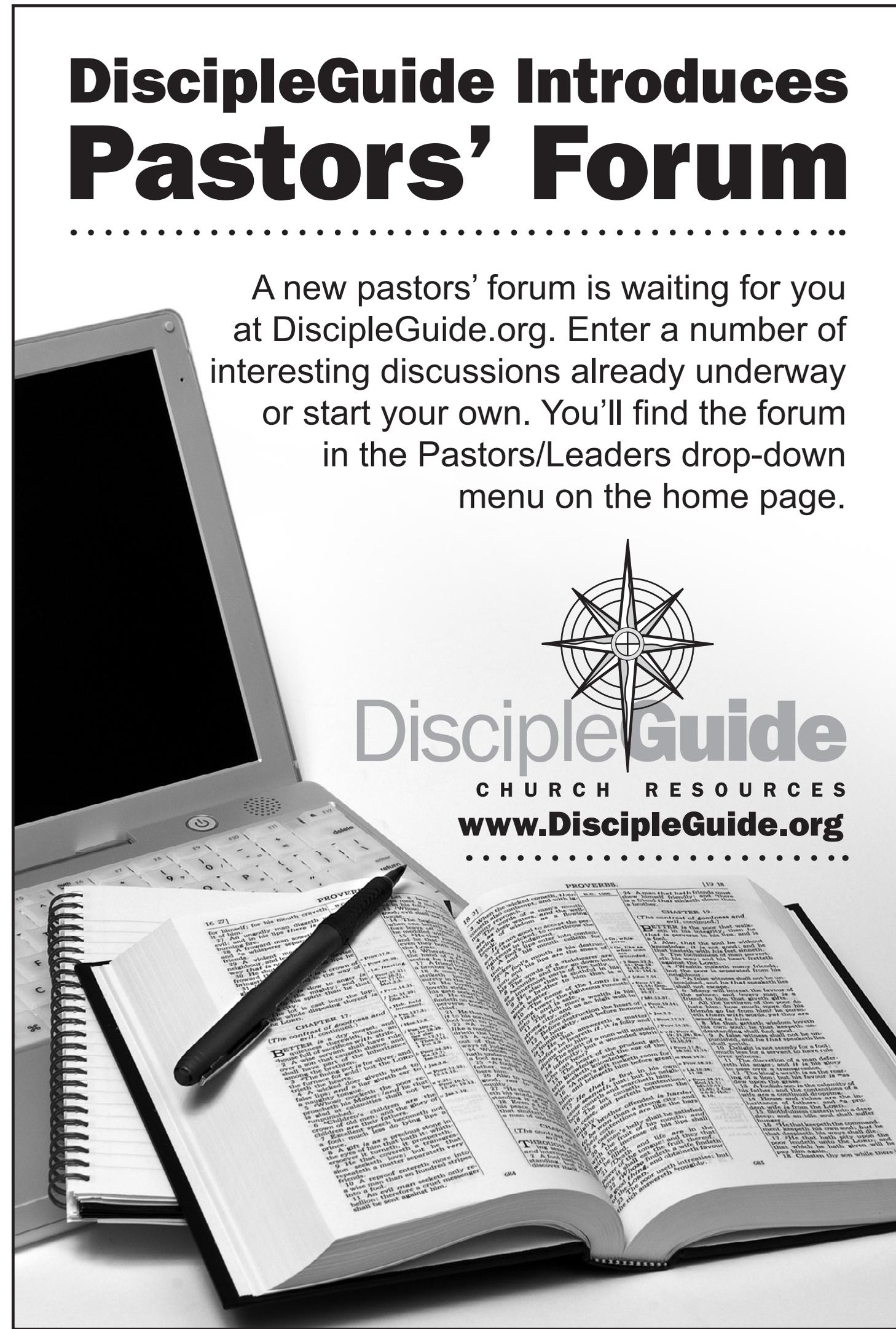
Our thanks for your support through the years!

Approaching the New Year

What will be the quality of your struggle as you approach the New Year for Christ?

I've listened to much of the negative discussion of our political process in the election for the past two years. I've had fear and a sense of failure in my thinking to a certain extent. I've struggled at times to understand what would be the right approach in my life as a Christian.

Two of the greatest enemies of a well-lived life are fear and failure. Through the years in



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my personal life many people in different walks of life have helped me cope with these enemies of a well-lived life. We never drive the worst of ourselves away for good.

The thing that helps me to overcome the

struggles in my life of destructive fear and failure is Godly fear. "Godly fear is the continued awareness that I am in the presence of a holy, just, and almighty God, and that every thought, word, action, and deed is open

before Him and is being judged by Him."

I don't always win the battles, but because these people have helped me to see now, how the quality of our struggles will help us to be a better servant of Christ.