

The Mississippi Baptist

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LifeWord Walk Results December 31 Is Contest Deadline

Lifeworld will award two free trips abroad for two people each to two churches based on contributions to the Walk for the World received by Lifeworld by December 31.

One all-expense-paid trip for two with a Lifeworld production team will go to the church that has turned in the most money for the Walk for the World campaign by December 31.

Another all-expense-paid trip for two will go to the church that turns in the most money per capita for the Walk by December 31.

The key is to be sure Lifeworld has the funds in hand by December 31, according to Diane Ward, national Walk for the World coordinator.

"It matters not what date your offering is postmarked, only the funds that have arrived at Lifeworld by December 31 will count in determining the contest winner," Mrs. Ward said. "Funds received after December 31 will still be used to fund Lifeworld broadcasts, but they will not count toward the free trips."

Collections for the thirtieth annual Walk were running \$27,133 ahead of last year's receipts on the same day as of December 15, including proceeds from Walk T-shirt sales. As of that date, receipts totaled \$348,843, compared with \$321,710 on the same date last year. The final total for last year's Walk was \$416,000.

Walk for the World receipts are used to underwrite Lifeworld broadcasts currently in 33 languages every week and to develop programs in additional languages as God opens the door.

According to Lifeworld Chief Programming Officer Rick Russell, Lifeworld is working on the preliminary stages of programming in five new languages.

"I do not expect everything to fall in place this year for all five new targeted languages, but we expect to be able to add at least three new languages in 2010, the Lord willing," Russell said.

BMAA Missions Special Offering

Fifty Days of Prayer – January 10 - February 28

Looking for a way to have world-wide influence? If so, God has provided a way, it's called prayer! Most believers fail to realize that through prayer they can accompany any missionary to the remotest regions of the earth. Through prayer they can walk through the crowded streets of India, minister in the thick jungles of the Amazon, and bring the good news of life eternal to the masses in China. Through prayer you can be a part of a new church plant on North American soil, or in Africa, the Philippines, Belize, or any other part of the world. Through prayer you can minister to missionaries in miraculous ways.

Believe it or not, one of the most, if not the most, vital components of missions is prayer. Perhaps someone is asking "What do you mean?" Well, consider the fact that prayer is the biblical means by which the Lord of the harvest calls forth laborers. Prayer is the means by

which they are sent and supported. Prayer helps them acclimate to the new culture, learn the new language, accept the people to whom God has sent them,

and love them with their whole being. Prayer prepares the way for evangelization. Prayer saturates the missionaries' efforts in cultivating the soil, planting the seed and watering. Prayer gives the missionary the patience to watch

God work in the hearts of the people who have never before heard of Jesus, and sees them become children of God, experience a new life in Christ, and develop into genuine disciples of Jesus Christ.

J. O. Fraser, a missionary to China in the early 1900s, credited the conversion of hundreds of Lisu families to the

prayers of his very earnest prayer group back in England. He said, "It will only be known in eternity how much has been accomplished in missionary work

by the prayers of earnest believers back home. His constant plea was "Tell the people back home that we are depending on their prayers. We need God's supernatural help to continue the work."

Fraser's plea for prayer warriors is the same plea of our BMAA Missionaries throughout the world.

This is what FIFTY DAYS OF PRAYER is all about. It is your opportunity to join God's world-wide missions team, helping God's world-wide mis-

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BMAA Missions

Across The Street

Around The World

50 Days of Prayer & Giving

*May The Peace That Christ Brings
Be Yours This Christmas Season*



From The Publication's Department Trustees & Editor Don Brown

Christmas thoughts

Why Waste the Glory of God on the Glorious Nobodies?

Let's get right to the heart of the matter: When I speak, I want the distinguished, the powerful, the wealthy, the in-crowd, and all the other important people at my speech to hear my words of weight. Here the hearers were seemingly the opposite. Anybody can be a shepherd. It requires no college degree. On top of that, what a boring job! Imagine sleeping in the field with common sheep for a lifetime.

Here we have glorious nobodies: the shepherds. The country had many of these kinds of people. Out of the many, God chose these few to hear the words of the birth of the Messiah. I don't know if the angels sang to these glorious nobodies or whether they simply spoke to them. It doesn't matter. The nobodies of the country heard the very joy of God Himself in the angelic statements.

Years ago I heard an older preacher speak on this passage. His take on this passage was the angels accompanied Jesus throughout heaven. He an-

nounced He was coming to earth. The angels told Jesus they would



Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

go with Him. Jesus told them they could not go with Him on this journey. So they accompanied Him as far as they could, up to the very edge of heaven itself as He was born.

Those forbidden to come shouted the message of the One they accompanied all the time, even before this day, with the same voices of hallelujah, glory, praise, and all other words that angels say in His presence as they bend their faces to the ground. These are the words the glorious nobodies heard from on high! These angels, forbidden to come to earth with Jesus in the stable, reverberated the heav-

ens with His praise. The nobodies could not help overhearing this shout of angelic exclamation!

So it is today in my church. I want the important in attendance when I speak. I want the pews filled with the highest of society, banking, government, education, and all other measures of humanity at its best represented. Many times these kinds of people fail to act on the message of God, unlike the glorious nobodies did so many years ago. The nobodies went to examine the words of the heavens. They proceeded to change behavior based on their experience. They came to encounter the Savior for themselves, and even more spread the Good News about Him.

Perhaps as I come to this portion of Scripture, I might relearn the message of Jesus is to the glorious nobodies who happened to be willing to hear and act on their hearing. God forgive me of the privilege of hearing this message so much in my life and acting so little

upon it! Make me a glorious nobody who is utterly dumb-founded in awe at the presence of Christ!



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 Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

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.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

- Luke 2:8-20

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.

Midway Church to present Christmas Musical

The Music Ministry of the Midway First Baptist of Sumrall, MS will present a musical entitled "Everything Glorious" on Friday night December 18 at 7:00 PM and Sunday morning December 20 at 10:45 AM. The musical will be under the direction of Minister of Music Brad Stephens. Midway invites each person to attend.

Berean, Soso

Berean Baptist Church of Soso, Mississippi, will celebrate its Anniversary and Homecoming on January 10, 2010. The guest speaker will be Bro. Dennis Knight, pastor of Paramount Baptist Church, Perkinston. Lunch will be served and during the afternoon service "Heart's Desire" will bring special mu-

sic. As part of this special event Berean will have revival services Monday through Wednesday, January 11-13. Services will be held at 7:00 p.m. each evening with Bro. Knight preaching on "End Time Events". Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Bethel, Fulton

Greetings from Bethel, Fulton. We had a men's night out on December 5 with the men gathered in the youth building to watch the SEC championship game. The Children's Christmas Musical will be presented on December 20. We held a Winter Give-Away on the 19th with volunteers distributing food, clothing, furniture and other goods to the needy in our area.

Some of our WMA ladies & others from the church enjoyed a night out to attend Christmas Musical at Harrisburg Baptist Church in Tupelo. We have had 5 additions since last report. If you are in the area, come by for a visit; you are always welcome at Bethel.

Pastor, Dr. Martin Jameson
Reporter, Martha Duncan

Temple, Laurel

Temple Baptist Church, Laurel, is proud to announce the new organization of a brotherhood. Temple Church believes this is an asset to the community and the church as we orga-

50 Days of Prayer

from page 1

sions team. During these special FIFTY DAYS OF PRAYER you can be ministering in China, India, Indonesia, Africa, Mongolia, Romania, Mexico, Honduras, Chile, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar and hundreds of other places where BMAA missionaries serve.

There is an urgent need throughout the BMAA for our people to be reminded how God's power can change lives. God is the great source of power, and

His power is always available to us, but only when we PRAY. Jesus promised His church, "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." And just a few days later the Holy Spirit did come and empowered His church to fulfill the Great Commission. But the power came after ten days of earnest prayer on behalf of His people.

The great question is "Has the church ever, since the days before Pentecost, put aside every other work and prayed that His power?"

Fifty Days of Prayer and Giving is nothing new to our people. For the past twelve years our people have been encouraged to set aside this special time for BMAA Missions, and our churches have responded wonderfully by taking part.

This year, January 10 through February 28, 2010 has been set aside for this prayer campaign. We encourage our pastors and their churches to participate in the Fifty Days of Prayer since it

Christmas Nativity Drive-Through

Broadmoor Baptist Church
5426 Highway 39 North
Meridian, MS 39305
(just north of Hardee's)
Saturday, December 19, 2009
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
All churches are invited to attend - Free hot chocolate will be available

nize our men to fulfill the mission set by our Lord Jesus Christ. The brotherhood would like to invite all men to attend. The meetings are the 1st Tuesdays of every month at 7:00 pm. For more information please call Charles at 601-428-7764.

will lead into World Missions Sunday on February 28.

Free materials are available to BMAA churches which can be used to promote Fifty Days of Prayer and Giving. We encourage each pastor to order enough materials for their congregation. These materials include: a prayer calendar, a copy of the January/February Gleaner, offering envelopes, a map detailing the location of our missionaries, missionary stickers and posters.

By participating in FIFTY DAYS OF PRAYER our churches join together in supporting all of our missionaries, and for the various departments of our association through prayer.

We strongly encourage family prayer time at home where a special edition of the GLEANER will guide families through each days prayer needs. For the children in the family, there is a map and a corresponding sticker that can be applied on the calendar in the GLEANER, so that at the end of the Fifty Days of

"Want to touch a child's life?"
Go to, www.shepherdbags.info

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

We have closed out another good semester at Southeastern Baptist College and are nearing the end of another calendar year. The Lord has been so good to all of us and continues to supply our needs through His people and the students who attend. We pray that much has been done this year to help all of us be better servants of our Lord. He needs us to be available for Him to work through us to be a light in a dark world and to hold forth the word of God to those around us.

We are anxious to see what He has for us in the new year and spring semester. Please pray with us for the college, churches, and all of the Lord's servants that we can be an influence for

Him. He is worthy of our praise and faithfulness.

Gospel Concert

We would like to express our appreciation to all those who supported our recent gospel benefit concert. I appreciate those here at the college who worked hard in getting it arranged, those who performed, and those who attended. Thanks to all for helping to make this endeavor a success.

Memorial Gifts

Contributions have been given to the Southeastern Baptist College Foundation in memory of Mrs. Laura Thompson, wife of Bro. Charles Thompson, Dr. Jentry Bond, and Bro. Harry

Burge. Another contribution to the college is in memory of Mrs. Louise Holifield. We thank the Lord for the faithfulness of these servants of His and pray God's blessings on their families. We are glad they touched our lives.

Special Emphasis

The following have sent contributions for the Special Emphasis since my report in the November 15 issue.

Churches

Grace, Saucier
Spring Hill, Laurel
Westlawn, Picayune

Association

Oak Grove Baptist Association

We appreciate these offerings. The total received at this time is \$20,084.66.

Merry Christmas

We wish everyone who reads this article a Merry Christmas and good New Year. Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift of His Son that we celebrate at this season. May God be good to each of you.



Mississippi Five Bluegrass Group performed at concert



Latrell Windham and Roger Jefcoat helped with concessions

DiscipleGuide

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Return the enrollment form sent to your church or enroll online at DiscipleGuide.org/RewardCircle



TV Family has special connection to BMA of America

Seminary hosts special guests

Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar and 16 of their 18 children visited BMA Seminary during chapel services held October 6, 2009.

The Duggars are the focus of the television program, "18 Kids and Counting," that appears on the TLC network.

The Duggars have several connections with BMA Seminary. Duggar's great-uncle, the late Dr. John W. Duggar, served as president of BMA Seminary from 1973-1983.



Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar and family, TLC Network stars, presented a chapel program at BMA Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas. Jim Bob's great uncle, Dr. John W. Duggar, is a former president of the Seminary and also of Southeastern Baptist College. Duggar pastored Parkview Church in Laurel.



Duggar Family posing for pictures

The seminary's Kellar Library also includes the Duggar Annex that is named after President Duggar. A plaque located in the annex is also dedicated to the memory of his great-grandfather, J.T. Duggar.

Duggar is also related to the current seminary dean, Dr.

Philip Attebery. According to Attebery, "My grandmother and Jim Bob's grandfather were siblings. It has been a blessing to see how the Lord has blessed Jim Bob and Michelle. What you see from them on TV is how they are in real life!"

The October 6 chapel service included singing, quoting of scripture and violin playing by

the children. Their parents shared their testimony with the crowd.

Duggar recalled his salvation experience at Calvary Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and how he met his future wife during church visitation.

Attebery encourages friends of the seminary to pray regularly for the Duggars.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Christmas Preparations

About this time of year everybody gets busier than rats in a corn crib so me being a natural "hint giver" I thought I'd pass these suggestions along so you could get organized for the big Christmas Season.

1. Fatten hen for Christmas dinner.

2. Clean safe shelves and cover with new newspapers to store cakes and pies.

3. Get scalding barrel and wash pot and single tree ready for hog killing. Not too early, or the fresh ham won't keep to boil.

4. Gather plenty of rich pine lighters for quick fire starting to get up to see what Santa put in stockings.

5. Buy one extra lamp chimney and new wicks for all the lamps.

6. Sweep yards and burn all brush piles.

7. Gather whitewash mud and whitewash the hearth.

8. Before pouring out the last wash water in the tubs, wash all straight chairs and then scrub porches.

9. Save foil paper out of tea boxes to cover cardboard stars and sweet-gum balls for Christmas decorations.

10. Get "Big Chief" tablets, color pages all over red and green. Cut in strips to make paper chains for decorations.

11. String pop corn for decorations.

12. Have a Merry Christmas as you remember and focus on the true meaning of the true gift that keeps on giving!!!

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Donald Sims

Bro. Donald Sims is available for pastoral work, pulpit supply and revival services. He resides in Wiggins, Mississippi, and may be contacted at 601-528-3295.

Annual Pastor's Conference Set

The Annual Pastors Conference for the BMA of Mississippi will be held on January 25 and 26 at the Skyway Hills Baptist Church in Pearl, Mississippi. The title of the program will be "Worship In The Local Church". Dr. Charley Holmes from the BMA Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas, will be our guest speaker. Bro. Joey Harris will present "The Lighter Side" and other speakers will be used during the meeting. The fee will be \$25.00 per person.

Pastors and church workers are encouraged to mark this on your calendars and plan to be in attendance. Participants may bring their bedding and sleep in the church facilities or in a nearby motel. A list of available motels will be made available to you.

- Find Program Schedule On Page 8 -

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



Youth Department Seeks Applicants

The BMA of Mississippi Department of Youth is actively seeking to fill the position of Youth Director for our state work. The trustees will begin the interview process in late January. We need your help to get the word out to all our churches, pastors, and youth workers.

We will be taking resumes until the end of December. Resumes may be sent to P.O. Box 4247, Laurel, MS 39441, or electronically to cypresscreekbaptistchurch@yahoo.com.

Chris Freeman, Clerk
BMAM Department of Youth

Mississippi Baptist

USPS 353-960
P.O. Box 8181
Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000

Phone 601-426-3293
Fax 601-763-4430

Don J. Brown, Editor
E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org
Web site www.msbaptist.org

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ONE NEWS NOW.COM

Sometimes we just need to be reminded!

This my friends is a very good read. A well-known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a \$20.00 bill. In the room of 200, he asked, "Who would like this \$20 bill?" Hands started going up.

He said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you but first, let me do this." He proceeded to crumple up the \$20 dollar bill.

He then asked, "Who still wants it?" Still the hands were up in the air.

Well, he replied, "What if I do this?" And he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now crumpled and dirty.

"Now, who still wants it?"

Still the hands went into the air.

"My friends, we have all learned a very valuable lesson..."

"No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20."

He went on to say..."Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way.

We feel as though we are worthless.

But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value. Dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to those who DO LOVE you.

The worth of our lives comes not in what we do or who we know, but by WHO WE ARE and WHOSE WE ARE.

You are special - Don't EVER forget it."

(Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. Heb 13:5)

*Submitted by
Major Vernon Newman
currently serving his
country in Iraq*

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

On The Web at www.msbbaptist.org

Extra, Extra READ ALL ABOUT IT

Your Support Appreciated!

LAUREL, MS - Editor Don Brown urges all of the supporting churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi to make a special effort to help raise additional operating funds for the Publication's Department *Special Emphasis Drive* during January.

Brown stated that the January Emphasis offering each year needs to raise about 15% of the department's annual operating income. "Our goal for this year is to raise funds to continue to operate this ministry in a fiscally sound manner," Brown said. He continued, "We are asking each church to give a generous offering to help us maintain a good fiscal operation."



Don Brown
Editor

January 2010 - Special Emphasis Our Need - \$10,000

That I may publish ... and tell of all thy wondrous works.

Psalm 26:7

*O little town of
Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and
dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets
shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all
the years
Are met in thee tonight*

Mississippi W.M.A.

Mrs. Ruby Bynum, President
43 Bear Pen Creek Rd., Laurel, MS 39440
601-428-1901

Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443
601-729-5638

Northeast Mississippi District WMA Report

The Northeast Mississippi District WMA met at the Providence Baptist Church in Amory on Tuesday, November 10. A bountiful meal was served at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall with all the southern Thanksgiving delicacies. Door prizes were given to several ladies as their lucky number was drawn. I was one of the lucky ones! Thanks for the prize of assorted lotions.

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with the song, "We Have Come Into This House. Mrs. Shirlene Smith led the opening prayer and welcome given by President Teresa Taylor. The response as given by Mary Christian. Mrs. Linda Daugherty read the minutes and roll call. There were forty-five women in attendance. Martha Parker rendered the meaning of the Thanksgiving table which was beautifully decorated.

The Tombigbee Dulcimer Group held us speechless with their rendition of several old songs. It was educational as well as beautiful and inspiring. It made you feel like we were back in time with old Bible stories of the Hebrew children.

President Teresa Taylor led the closing prayer, remembering Bro. Gary Smith and others. Mrs. Shirlene Smith reminded us of the Ladies Retreat to be held April 10, 2001, at East Fulton Baptist Church with Christy Matthews of Laurel at the speaker.

The project for the next quarter will be Bro. Matt and Lisa Hudson. Lisa is taking treatments for breast cancer.

*Betty Moody, Reporter
District WMA Assistant Reporter*

Ten Mile WMA

The Ten Mile WMA held their district meeting at Heritage Baptist Church, in Gulfport. President Louise Crawley called the meeting to order and Mrs. Alana Woods led us in our opening song. "Where Could I go But to the Lord."

Sam from Honduras blessed with his testimony, he is working with Spanish people, gives Bible studies, people are hearing the word of God and are accepting the Lord. Bro Sam lives with Pastor Don Hilborn.

Pastor Don Hilborn from Heritage, brought the evening devotional. Paul Lee, Director of Prisoners Bible Crusade, gave us a briefing on his BMA meeting in New Mexico. He gave us information on his ministry of continuously distributing Bibles in prisons.

Geraldine Necaie presented our theme "Flying High For Christ" from Isaiah 40-31. Megan Brewer requested a group picture of each WMA group in the Ten Mile District.

District Project Promoter Cathy Rhodes presented each WMA group with a Carpenter Apron from Office Depot. She challenged and encouraged each lady to give to District Project.

We voted to honor Cherrie Breland with a plaque, for over thirty years of faithful service as our Secretary/Treasurer. We appreciate her hard work and dedication.

Our District Project for 2009-10 is 75% Missionary Bro. Ed Duvall Work Fund, Mississippi State Project for 2009-10 and Missionary Estuardo Marroquin's Mission Building Fund and 25% to the General Fund

The National Project for 2009-10 is 80% to help raise funds to build a BMMI Clinic in the Country of Laos,

LifeWord Walk & Visit

Linda Faye Dertinger, wife of the late Tommy Dertinger, visited Lifeword with Roy and Beth Caldwell, Mrs. Chris Smith, Mr. Melvin and Mrs. Katherine Howard. Linda Faye talked to Mrs. Diane Ward about Big Creek Baptist Church and the district "Walk for the World." The staff at LifeWord shared the ministry



Linda Faye Dertinger and Diane Ward of Lifeword

plans of Lifeword and how the offerings for the walk will help in these plans. Tommy loved missions and his family, friends and church family should be glad they were blessed to have a part in carrying the gospel to places in the world.

Bro. George Reddin and members of Lifeword saw the T-shirt that Big Creek Pastor Don Brown and church coordinator Norman Hopkins provided for Big Creek Baptist Church walkers.

Tommy's grandson, Reagan; daughter, Melissa; and son-in-law Bandy Grace participated in the walk as did Bandy's sister and niece, Mrs. Pam Stamps and Mrs. Kristen Phillips. Their pastor Bro. Wade Barnes, walked ten miles. Bro. Barnes is pastor of Hathrone Baptist Church, Columbia. Miss Connie Powell of First Baptist Church, Soso, participated in the walk.

Mr. and Mrs. Junior Anderson gave a contribution. Mrs. JoAnn is a nurse at Forrest General Hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Larry Dykes participated in the walk and made a contribution. Mrs. Susan is receptionist for Dr. Hasting.

We appreciate all those who helped in the Tommy Dertinger Memorial Effort for Walk For The World.

D.C. Council 'thumbs its nose' at voters

OneNewsNow - Washington, D.C.'s City Council has voted to legalize homosexual marriage.

As expected, the final vote was 11 to 2, and Matt Barber, director of cultural affairs for Liberty Counsel, says, "It's very unfortunate that they would choose to brazenly circumvent the will of the people in order to push something on Washington, D.C. that the people reject - and that is counterfeit same-sex marriage."

The city's Election Board refused to put the issue on a future ballot to allow the people to decide. Congress now has 30 days to review and take action to override the vote, but Barber feels the liberal tone of Washington precludes that happening. However, he believes that the public could still send a message.

"Liberals seem to have blinders on relative to their political self-preservation, and the D.C. Council is apparently also blinded by their activism, and they are going to have to answer to the people," he warns. "The very people that they thumbed their nose at will have a chance to vote them out of office."

Barber finds it significant that Council members may have put their political futures on the line to satisfy homosexual activists as they have ignored their constituents.

5% WMA General Fund and 15% Youth Fund

We enjoyed the fellowship with Heritage Baptist Church. Our next meeting will be at 7:00 P.M., O'Neal Road Baptist Church on January 11, 2010.

Reporter Maria Ochoa

Commission on Senior Adults

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



Greetings

It is good to be able to greet the readers of the MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST again. I greet you in the lovely name of Jesus Christ. His name is Wonderful and He is the perfect Counselor and He is the Mighty God. He is the Everlasting Father and He is the Prince of Peace. The unregenerate world hates His Name, but they can't change it. Sinners in every age and in this present age would like to erase His Name from the mind of humanity, but His Name is Everlasting. When all God and Christ-haters are in hell, our God will still reign forever and forever. Oh, praise the Wonderful Name of Jesus Christ.

From Our House to Yours

Dot and I wish for all our pastors and churches a safe and Christ-filled Christmas. We pray that family gatherings will be present and filled with love for one another. I pray that we will all dedicate our lives afresh to Jesus Christ who came as He did, and did what He did that we could be saved and live with that blessed hope of eternal life. I believe it is a good time for us to commit our lives to the cause and work of the Lord. May 2010 be the time we faithfully obey the Bible in missions, personal soul winning, true Biblical evangelism, and a life and body given over to the Lord.

November

Dot and I spent most of the month of November visiting relatives. We have folks scattered from Texas to South Carolina to Florida. We also attended the National Senior Adult Conference in Branson, Missouri. While in Texas I talked with my old friend J. D. Hudson. We were in Jacksonville College together in early 1950. He and his wife are ninety-one years old and have been married seventy years. His mind is sharp and his voice strong. What a blessing to have such a long-lasting friendship.

A Friend Goes Home

Bro. Harry Burge went home a few days ago. While I pastored in Pasadena, Texas, Bro. Lawrence Burge and his family moved to Pasadena for work. They joined our church. Westfall Baptist and I baptized Harry and his twin brother Larry. Larry died early in life. It is amazing how God brings good people into our lives. God bless all who are sad today.

2010 Conferences

It is good to report that the 2010 Senior Adult Conferences are now planned. The South Conference is scheduled for March 2, at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso. The North Conference is scheduled for May 11 at East Fulton Baptist Church, Fulton. The morning service will emphasize the work of evangelism, soul winning, and visitation. The music will focus on evangelism. Bro. Kenneth Bobo, a full-time evangelist will preach at Big Creek. Bro. Todd West, a former full-time evangelist will preach at East Fulton. Bro. Gary Smith will be in charge of the music at the north conference. He will have others to help. The Big Creek singers and others will do the morning music and the Harper family from Missouri will do the afternoon music at the south conference. Add to all this a delicious catfish meal.

We are believing and pushing for a full house at Big Creek and at East Fulton. Make plans early next year to attend. Maybe the Lord will use the programs to rekindle the fire of evangelism in all our hearts. Pastors, please make plans to bring your people, old and young.

The Pain of Addiction in the Family

Pure misery. Heartbreaking. Sad. Grieving. Stressed out to the max. These would be some of the words used to describe how you feel when someone in your family is addicted to drugs. It is sadly, a common occurrence in the family today. Almost every single extended family has at least one person struggling with an addiction. You may not know it because it is kept a secret. You may say, "we don't have any addicts in our family." However, somewhere down the line, you have a cousin, or a niece or aunt that does. It would be rare to find a family that doesn't have an addicted loved one somewhere in the family. I only mention this, so that some of you won't feel like you have failed your family member who is addicted, and somehow; you feel you have the worst family on earth. You don't. You have a typical family.

You will not be able to help this person when you are crippled with guilt. Stop blaming yourself and each other. Stop allowing Satan to fill your daily thought life with what a failure you are because your child or spouse has an addiction. Once they have an addiction, you have to quit looking behind, and start reaching forth to those things which are set before you. The time for preaching, lecturing, passing judgment and all the "I should haves" is over. Now, this is not the life you wanted. It is the life you have. Deal with it. What do you need to do to help this person? How can you show the love of God towards this person? That is the one thing that will help them the most. Show them unconditional love.

That doesn't mean that you allow them to keep on with their addiction. You have to set boundaries. Hard ones. You don't want to do this because you love this person. Then, you need to stop your enabling of the addiction process to continue. Every time you allow this person to steal from you, lie to you, bring it into your home etc... you are part of the problem. Addicts don't get help until people quit rescuing them. When they fall hard, they usually say, "gee, maybe I need some help". That is where you come in. Get them the help that they need.

If this person is not a minor child still living in your home, or your spouse; then you are limited in what you can do. You can suggest people get help. You can look up treatment centers for them and offer to take them. But if it is a grandchild, adult child living away from home, or other extended family, you may

just have to be there for them and pray for them. Prayer is not the last resort. It is the first thing we should seek as Christians. Matthew 6:33.

If you are trying to support someone you love, who is at the



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

same time dealing with someone they love who is addicted, you can help. Don't criticize, judge, blame, or preach. That time is gone. You need to offer unconditional love, unconditional forgiveness. They don't need you to come over and tell them what they need to do. They just need someone who will be a quiet listener. Just be there for them. You don't even have to engage in conversation with them. Just be a warm body for them and give them a hug of reassurance. You can't say it will be okay, because you don't know that it will be. Addictions are very hard for people to get free from, and it may be a life long struggle. Let them know that whatever happens, you will be there for them. That is the reassurance they need. I am going through a valley right now, and I know someone who will walk with me. That is offering comfort. If you criticize or condemn, then you are only adding to the stress level that this family is already feeling. You are not a safe person for me to talk to if you are just going to bash.

Let me leave you all with the fact that there is hope. Luke 1:37 and Jeremiah 32:17 states that there is nothing impossible with God, nor anything too hard for Him. Psalm 46:1 states that God is a constant help in times of trouble, and Hebrews 13:5 tells us the Lord will never leave us or turn his back on us. He won't. Jesus does what he promises. Jeremiah 33:3 says if you will just call out to Him, He will come to you. Try that. And don't ever, ever, ever give up. I know you want to. I know there are days it seems hopeless and you are so exhausted from the battle. Ask God for strength, courage and wisdom. He says He will give you all three. It is hard. It can be a long, grueling path. Take heart. You have a King who loves you. You have a God that loves this person, even if they don't love Him. It is never

too late for anyone.

Pray first. Pray hard. Comfort and encourage them. Set aside the pain you feel, and reach out to this person who is in trouble. Set boundaries. Do not keep letting the addict abuse you financially, emotionally or physically. It is not love to allow them to do this. You may even have to have them arrested. But in the long run, that may be the turning point for them to get help. Never give up on them. Be there for them. Find counseling for them. Repeat 10 times a day Psalm 121:1,2 "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth."

50 Days of Prayer

from page 2

Prayer the entire world map will be covered. During this time each family is encouraged to ask God to guide them in their decision of how much He wants them to give during WORLD MISSIONS SUNDAY on FEBRUARY 28. This would be a wonderful way to teach our families how to let God orchestrate our giving to our local church and to missions. Last year our churches gave over \$1,600,000 on this special day. Pray that God will move on the hearts of His people to give willingly and abundantly. Our budget for 2009 totals \$5,785,952.50.

To further emphasize this special time, a prayer poster for children and youth Sunday school classes is being made available. Teachers are encouraged to place a map in their class room and to call attention to a particular area of the world and to lead the students in a time of prayer for that particular region of the world, and then to place a sticker on that area. Each class, or department, is urged to set a goal for their class to be given on World Missions Sunday.

Will you join us in praying for our missionaries during these special days? You are encouraged to get a copy of our 2009 Missions Prayer Calendar and to use it daily in your quiet time. Pray alone. Pray with your family. Pray with your Sunday school class. Pray with your church! Your prayer can help change our world!

All materials may be obtained by calling 501-455-4977, or by e-mail www.bmaamissions.org, or by fax 501-455-3636.

CHILDREN'S HOME

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

Recent Visit At Home

On November 7, we had a visit from some of the youth and adults of the Hickory Grove Baptist Church near Lumberton and Pastor Nathan Seal. We enjoyed this time of fellowship together as they visited with our boys and girls. Everyone had a good time.

Recent Church Visits

We were with the Magnolia Baptist Church in Hattiesburg and Pastor Greg Medenwald on Sunday, December 6th, during their evening worship service. The children at the Home rendered special music and I brought a message from God's Word. Afterwards we had a time of fellowship as we shared a meal together, and the children were presented Christmas gifts.

Then on Sunday, December 13th, we were with the Lee's Chapel #1 Baptist Church near Carriere and Pastor Donnie Boutwell for their morning service. The Home was presented a special offering received by the church. The children at the Home rendered special music

Christmas-friendly? - Consumers decide

OneNewsNow - Focus on the Family's Stand for Christmas campaign is making an impact.

Focus on the Family Action has created an interactive website to allow consumers to rate 29 major retailers on their "Christmas-friendly" stance. Patrons may also post comments describing encounters with those stores and read the comments posted by others. Carrie Gordon Earll, senior director of issue analysis at Focus on the Family, explains the purpose behind the effort.

"Well, we've seen in recent years there has been a tendency of some retailers to move away from mentioning Christmas in their December advertising," she says. "Yet poll after poll shows that American people want an emphasis on Christmas, and they prefer Christmas over the generic 'happy holidays' phrase."

The campaign has really sparked interest among Christmas shoppers as Earll reports that "there have been more than 125,000 people [who] have now come to the website, and about 2,000 or so have posted comments." She encourages shoppers who are interested in knowing how Christmas-friendly retailers are that "StandforChristmas.com is where to go."

and I shared a message from God's Word. Afterwards we enjoyed a meal together and a time of fellowship.

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



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

Expression of Sympathy

We would like to express our sympathy to the family of Bro. Harry Burge. Bro. Burge was a faithful servant in the Lord's work. His presence will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Burge family during this time of loss and sorrow.

It's Christmas Time Ready or Not

Well, Christmas is right around the corner. Hope everyone is ready. If not, better get ready, it's coming whether you're ready or not.

That thought reminds me of another sobering reality. Most people are not ready for the Second Coming of our Savior to this earth! Are you ready? If not, why not get ready? Just as Jesus came the first time He will surely come the second time. Don't allow the Lord to come without making preparations for His coming.

All I Want For Christmas

Our young people were involved in the Christmas program at our home church entitled, "All I Want For Christmas." This program added a special touch to the real meaning of Christmas. The plot of the program revolved around a little girl that was shopping with her mother at Christmas time. She was reminded that Christmas was not about receiving, but giving. Of course the reason for the season is God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ and His gift of eternal life. What gift will we give to Jesus this year? After all, it is His birthday that we are celebrating!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

The children and staff would like to extend to you our love and wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

BMA OF MISSISSIPPI MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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



A very special Brother in the Lord has proceeded us. At about 3:15 P.M. on Sunday November 29, 2009, Bro. Harry Burge went to be with the Lord. Bro. Harry was a special friend of mine and a brother in the Lord. He was a people person having a magnetic personality and his ability to reach people was a special gift from the Lord. I will always remember our last communications. While standing by his bed side holding his hand I said, "Bro. Harry lets pray." Not being able to respond vocally, even though he tried, he squeezed my hand while a pleasant expression came over his face.

Fairview Baptist Church was a church he loved and needed for just such a time. God always works what is best for us and Him. Fairview grew under Bro. Harry's ministry. They saw a considerable increase in church attendance and were able to accomplish several projects that will stand as a memorial in honor of both Bro. Harry and Fairview. During his stay in the hospital, I saw Fairview members come to visit and pray, and most all left wiping tears. They loved Bro. and Mrs. Burge. For me it was a testimony of a wonderful relationship that existed between Fairview and the Burges.

For almost a year, Bro. Harry at times tried to resign, giving the church an opportunity to search for another pastor, but they would not accept his resignation. Several times before he was pronounced with cancer he shared with me what a good church Fairview was. He once said, Bro. Ray, I don't understand it all, it's got to be the Lord moving among us, they are a very loving church to work with. Please remember the Burge family, and especially Mrs. Burge, who faithfully stood by his side, never wavering even while showing signs of fatigue.

The BMA of Mississippi Missions Department is honored to have the opportunity to aid families who are interested in building New Testament Churches. It is always our desire to do more, but as you know, in this economy funds have fallen into the deficit for October and November. However, with the phase out and possible organization date of our older missions that is now taking place, this is helping to bring about signs of financial recovery. To some degree these figures were anticipated for the months of October through February after which the situation should begin to correct itself.

The figures given do not include the start up expense for New Heart Mission. We are aware that a number of our people are facing hard times with loss or threat of losing their jobs. I assure you that this is a note of information, not discouragement. With the phase down of our present missions over the fiscal year and the interest that has been shown in our new mission, I feel this will result in an increase in contributions. We know it is the Lord's will for us to build churches and that He will bring us through.

Christmas Challenge

Faye and I challenge our readers to join with us to celebrate this season by giving a gift to the celebrant Jesus Christ. Our plan is to make a special offering above our tithes to missions as our Christmas gift to the general missions fund. Just a way of saying "thank you Lord" for Jesus Christ our Saviour. Will you join us?

First Hispanic Baptist mission of Ripley

The BMA of Mississippi is now in the process of negotiating for property for First Hispanic consisting of 4.47 acres and a building of near 2200 square feet. We are trusting that by the time you read this, the negotiations will be favorable and the deal closed.

Remember them in your prayers.

Homestretch Baptist Mission of Cleveland

The Homestretch building project of Cleveland is yet on hold due to the rain which prohibits us from being able to do the dirt work on the lot site. According to Bro. Ed, the congregation waits patiently and remains encouraged as they continue to work toward mission growth spiritually, numerically, and financially.

New Heart Baptist Mission of Hattiesburg

The Lord is good to missions. Sunday afternoon December 6, our new missionary Bro. Ray Boone conducted the first service for New Heart Mission with about 85 in attendance. There were five who joined by transfer of letter and they received an offering of \$656.35. There were people present from Gulfport, Wiggins, McLain, Tupelo, Picayune, and the local area. This great turnout of the Lord's people was an encouragement for this new mission.

On December 13 they had an attendance of 27 with one profession of faith. We are grateful to Pine Grove Baptist Church for serving as the mother Church and to their pastor Bro. Kenneth Flynt for his mission minded leadership. The Mission is off to a good start, and I believe it will become a strong New Testament Church in the near future.

For the month of December, worship services will be conducted each Sunday a 10:00 A.M., Sunday school and evening services will begin after the Christmas and New Year season. Anyone who has relatives or know unchurched people in south Hattiesburg area is encouraged to inform them of New Heart and encourage them to visit. Remember to pray for New Heart. (Many have donated time, finances, song books, air conditioning, furniture, and etc.)

It's always good to know the Lord and have the privilege of sharing His WORD in His marvelous world.

I thank you personally for remembering Missions, the heart beat of our Lord's churches. I am sure the Lord has blessings untold just for you and yours while serving Him together with others.

Missionary Report: November Statistics

Homestretch: During the month of November Bro. Ed made 19 home visits, made 26 soul talks and had 3 professions of faith. Homestretch had an average weekly Sunday school attendance of 21 and morning worship of 17. Their weekly average offering was \$186.73.

Maple Street: November was a blessed month for Bro. Joseph. He visited 46 homes, made 95 soul talks, and had 5 profession of faith. Their weekly average Sunday school attendance was 22. For morning worship they averaged 31, and had a weekly average offering of \$403.00.

First Hispanic: Bro. Elvis did a faithful job during the month of November. First Hispanic made 44 home visits and had 18 professions of faith. They had an average weekly worship service attendance of 82. The church's weekly average offering was \$1,075.20.

El Camino: For the month of November Bro. Estuardo reached out and visited 17 homes, made 27 soul talks and had 3 professions of faith. They had an average of 57 in Sunday school, 67 in their weekly worship service. The Lord blessed El Camino with an average weekly offering of \$778.95.

In closing we wish each of you a "Merry Christmas and a Wonderful New Year."

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Pastor's Retreat 2010

Monday Jan. 25 - Tuesday Jan. 26
Skyway Hills Baptist Church,
Pearl, Mississippi

THEME:
"Worship In The Local Church"

GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Charley Holmes

PROGRAM

Monday

Registration	1:30 PM
Music	Bro. Brad Stephens 2:30 PM
First Part	Dr. Charley Holmes
Break	
Fellowship	
Meal	
Music	6:00 PM
"The Lighter Side"	Joey Harris
Music	
Second Part	Dr. Charley Holmes

Tuesday

Breakfast	7:30 AM
Music	8:00 AM
Third Part	Dr. Charley Holmes
Message	Speaker to be selected
Break	
Business	
Music	
Fourth Part	Dr. Charley Holmes
Noon Meal	

Dismiss

Fee for the retreat is \$25.00 per person.

You are welcome to bring your sleeping bags or cots and stay in the church. A Hotel list will be provided.

Graham speaks truth about Islam

OneNewsNow - A messianic Jewish leader is pleased that evangelist Franklin Graham continues to tell the truth about Islam and won't buckle to the demands of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR).

Recently Graham was interviewed by CNN's Campbell Brown who asked the evangelist about comments he made in 2001 when he referred to Islam as "a very evil and wicked religion."

Graham did not back down from that assessment. Instead he replied that "true Islam cannot be practiced in this country. You can't beat your wife. You cannot murder your children if you think they've committed adultery or something like that, which they do practice in these other countries," he explained. "I don't agree with the teachings of Islam, and I find it to be a very violent religion."

The Council on American Islamic Relations was incensed by Graham's latest comments and sent him a letter asking for a meeting to "clear up misconceptions" and offer "accurate and balanced information about Islam." The self-proclaimed "Muslim civil rights group" said Graham did not respond to a similar letter in 2001.

Jan Markell, founder and director of Olive Tree Ministries, argues that Franklin simply spoke the truth as "there are very few people who are willing to speak the truth about the Islamic issue."

