

# **D** Mississippi **a**ptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

DECEMBER 15, 2010

VOL. 64 No. 24

## Port au Prince: A Real Eye-opener

By Michel Poirier  
BMAA Church Planter • Quebec,  
Canada

Before I left for Port-au-Prince, Haiti, I asked the Lord to give me wisdom in the use of His money and to help me disperse it according to the needs that were presented to me. Once I was there, I assessed the situation and did what needed to be done. The Lord was in control every moment of this trip, keeping me safe and alert.

The BMAA is blessed to be able to provide for such a needy country. There

are no words to define my concern for the remaining millions waiting with outstretched arms, asking and begging for bread. My eyes touched my heart as I saw the great need those people had and I understood a little bit of what the Lord felt when He looked at the people and had compassion on them.

For example, during a Sunday morning church service, an 8-year-old child fell off his seat unconscious, with a temperature of 107 (or so I was told). They put a wet cloth on his head, and



But there were also bright spots during the trip. The Lord used me to bring two ladies to salvation in Christ — Rosemine and Laurenta. Rosemine did not have a Bible and she needed one so, as much as I loved it, I gave her mine. I can always get another one at home. And I was privileged to lead Laurenta to Christ at the Wednesday night service after the altar call.

by the end of the service he had regained consciousness. This may have been due to Malaria or Cholera.

As a teaching tool, the pastor of this church was given a two-year supply of French, teenage level Sunday School

continued on page 3

## Because of All This

by Paul Bullock  
President of BMA of America

Greetings! I would like to invite every church in our association to be represented by attendance or official letter at the 62nd annual meeting of the BMA of America. The meeting is scheduled for April 11-13, 2011 at the Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall, MPEC Events Center, in Wichita Falls, Texas.



The theme for the meeting, “Because of All This,” is based upon Nehemiah 9:38 and will emphasize the motivation for discipleship. “And because of all this, we make a sure covenant and write it: our leaders, our Levites, and our priests seal it.” Nehemiah challenged the leaders of Israel to reconfirm the covenant with the Lord, and they responded with a “sure” commitment.

I pray that this meeting will challenge our pastors and leaders to reconfirm their own commitment to follow Jesus’ example of discipleship. This year’s meeting has a unique air of excitement as DiscipleWay will offi-

cially be introduced. With such a great tool, we can all be better equipped to reproduce ourselves individually. That should eventually result in churches reproducing themselves by planting other churches.

Monday evening’s session will focus on the meeting’s theme. A concert by the Jacksonville College choir will precede the president’s message. Please plan to give a special offering to help with their travel expenses. Tuesday will provide meeting opportunities for auxiliaries, departmental and agency boards and the Pastors’ and Laymen’s Conference. Tuesday night’s service will include the annual message by Grady Higgs. Business will be held on Tuesday afternoon and also Wednesday morning and afternoon. The annual meeting will climax with the Missions report and commissioning service on Wednesday night.

Remember that proposed constitutional amendments must be submitted in writing to the clerks of the association no later than February 1. Please pray for the meeting, especially that every leader will be motivated “because of all this” to follow Jesus’ example.

## May God's Richest Blessings Be Yours As We Worship Our Lord



On the first day  
of Christmas,  
My True Lord  
gave to me . . .

# It's Never Too Late To Have Happy Holiday Memories

If you have lived in a family with lots of happy, holiday traditions, then thank God. Hopefully this article will give you even some more ideas. If you grew up in a dysfunctional home, then you can start this year to make things right. If you grew up in a non Christian home, then it is never too late to start holiday traditions that bring Jesus into every meal and every occasion.

One of the single greatest gifts you can give your children is to give them special memories surrounding the holidays. When other gifts are long gone, the memories of family holiday get-togethers will keep on giving and giving. It doesn't matter if you have never done anything. It doesn't matter if your family holiday tradition was for everyone to get drunk and fight with one another. Everyone can start this year to make deposits in the memory bank of special holiday traditions. Families that are healthy have traditions. Biblical families had traditions. The Bible is always speaking to families about their

traditions. Traditions offer children a sense of belonging, a sense of family, and a sense of continuity. These are important things to their mental health, especially living in such a stressful, fragmented society.

Always plan things that everyone can participate in. Young and old. Married and



## Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

single. Kids and adults. The traditions should not just revolve around little kids. Do things that get grandma and grandpa involved. Even if your family has a traditional Thanksgiving Day football game, the older folks can divide up and be cheerleaders. We always have had traditional family walks after the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's dinner. For some older

relatives, it was a short walk and then we walked them back home and we continued our walk. One year we had to set a loved one in a chair outside and they watched us walk. You have to make do with what is going on with everyone's health. The only rule here is to be considerate and thoughtful. It doesn't mean you don't do your tradition, it simply means you find ways to be inclusive as much as possible.

The best memory that will last longest and serve as the most profound memory for any person, is prayer and Bible reading. Each holiday, have a time period where everyone gathers around and take turns. Each person that can read will take a turn reading a verse.

For Thanksgiving, it might be a story of people being thankful out of the Bible, like the day the Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt. The Christmas story in Luke is a must to be read at Christmas celebrations. To me you are just having a secular winter holiday if you don't read the story of Jesus in the gospel to make it a Christ-

mas celebration. Starting anew on New Years could have a story of some person starting afresh after God gives them another chance. David, woman by the well, Saul to Paul, etc.



The family that prays together stays together. This has now been well documented. Get in a family circle and let each member pray something. Even the little ones. If they don't know what to pray, just tell them to thank God for one thing in their life. Memories of your family gathering around and praying and reading scripture will be the most precious memories of a Christian upbringing.

Don't forget to do things to-

gether as a family. Do the same thing for two years in a row and it becomes a tradition. Have a singing of some songs together. Even old grumpy family members can mumble through this one. Kids love it. Decorate your home together. Don't forget to explain to children the meaning behind all the decorations. If you don't know the true Christian meaning of Christmas decorations, they have these in books at the bookstore or you can read about them on-line.

Remember that it is not the price of gifts, or the number, but the attitude behind the giving. Teach children to give. Teach them to thank others and not take things for granted. Always serve during the holidays as a tradition. This is certainly what we have been told to do in scripture. As much as all of us have been blessed with by God, we need to turn and do it to others. Matthew 25:40. I personally always liked having my kids save up some of

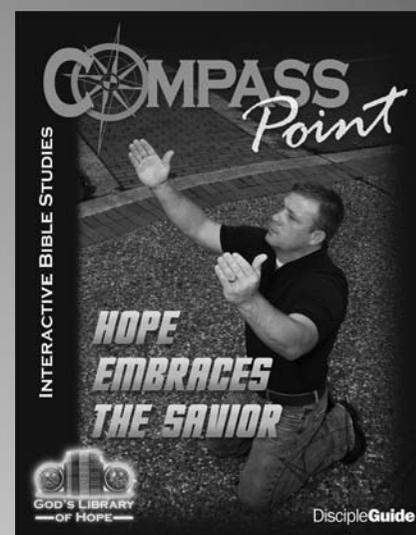
continued on page 3

**LET  
COMPASS  
POINT  
BE YOUR  
GUIDE**



*Compass Point* is a Bible study resource that especially meets the needs of today's young adults, ages 18-45, yet appeals to virtually every age. We call it *Compass Point* because it guides the learner down a path that begins with a clear **Destination**, moves forward with deliberate **Direction**, encourages insightful **Discovery**, and fosters life-changing **Determination** in the heart of the disciple.

*Compass Point* makes the truth of God's Word personal and practical as it facilitates discussion by combining commentary and questions. Beginning winter 2010 *Compass Point* will be based on the New International Version. Order it for your class online at [www.DiscipleGuide.org/CompassPoint](http://www.DiscipleGuide.org/CompassPoint) or by calling 800-333-1442.



**DiscipleGuide**  
CHURCH RESOURCES  
1-800-333-1442, [www.DiscipleGuide.org](http://www.DiscipleGuide.org)

# 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*

## Christmas Greetings

We have just completed another successful semester and look forward to enjoying the Christmas break. I always enjoy this season as we remember the Savior coming into the world that He created.

The more I learn about all the blessings and benefits that has come to humanity because Jesus became a human, blessed so many people, and died for all, the more I appreciate and love to hear about the love of God.

He not only provided salvation for all who will repent and believe, but His sacrifice includes all His provisions for a wonderful future when God makes all things new.

## Special Blessings

I mentioned in my last article that I had just heard that an anonymous donor had provided a large contribution to the college. This was a contribution to help on the financial deficit of the college and to our Foundation. Join with us in the thanking God for all who are interested in Christian education and give to support it. Whether it is large or small, if it is what we can do, God blesses every effort in a special way. Pray that others will join with us in providing the funds needed at Southeastern Baptist College to operate a college to bring honor to Him.

## Contributing Churches

In recent articles I have recognized those who support Southeastern Baptist College in special projects: the Special Emphasis, College Foundation, Special Reserve funds, and the Land Fund.

In this report I want to recognize the churches who send regular contributions to the college. These faithful supporters are those who provide most of the funds needed to operate a college. We especially appreciate them.

## Churches

Antioch, Soso  
Berean, Soso  
Bethel, Fulton

Bethel, Seminary  
Big Creek, Soso  
Big Oak, Fulton  
Bogufala, Mooreville  
Broadmoor, Meridian  
Buffalo, McLain  
Calvary, Leakesville  
Calvary, Vidalia, LA  
Campground, Gulfport  
Canaan, Franklinton, LA  
Canaan, Richton  
Centerville, Mantachie  
Central, Corinth  
Central, Ellisville  
Community, Poplarville  
Corinth, Runnestown  
Creston Hills, Jackson  
Cypress Creek, Brooklyn  
Divine Grace, Long Beach  
Dykes Chapel, Richton  
East Amory, Amory  
East Fulton, Fulton  
El Camino, Laurel  
Evergreen, Seminary  
Fairhope, Beaumont  
Farmington, Corinth  
Mantachie First, Mantachie  
First, Louin  
First, Bay Springs  
First Henleyfield, Carriere  
First Midway, Sumrall  
First Oak Grove, Hattiesburg  
First Orange Grove, Gulfport  
First Shady Grove, Laurel  
First Windsor Park,  
Ocean Springs  
First Calhoun, Laurel  
First Hispanic, Ripley  
Forked Oak, Booneville  
Good Hope, Ovet  
Good Hope, Stringer  
Good Hope, Columbia  
Grace, Saucier  
Greenwood, Fulton  
Harmony, Greenville  
Harmony, Hurley  
Helton Road, Theodore, AL  
Hillcrest, Yazoo City  
Hopewell, Fulton  
Hopewell, Laurel  
Leakesville, Leakesville  
Lebanon, Laurel  
Lee's Chapel #1, Carriere  
Lee's Chapel #2, Picayune  
Liberty, Isola  
Little Creek, Perkinston  
Magnolia, Hattiesburg  
Magnolia Heights, Forest  
Midway, Leakesville  
Mineral Springs, Taylorsville  
Mt. Carmel Carriere  
Mt. Moriah, Ellisville  
Mt. Olive, Union  
Movella, Lucedale  
New Beginnings, Olive Branch

# Ministering In Haiti

continued from front page

material in CD form which had been translated from our DiscipleGuide literature.

## Through Your Generosity

Let's take a look at the help that was given to these people through your generosity:

**Education** — The cost for one child to attend school is \$300, and we were able to register 8 children in school this year.

**Housing** — Haitian houses that are made of wood only last about 4 years, so I decided to furnish permanent housing made of cement blocks for \$2,000 each.

**Orphans** — The orphanage had been purchasing 700 gallons of water each month for \$1,200 each time, delivered by 3 trucks. I offered them a well that would give them an unlimited amount of water and they were all without words to express their gratitude. The well will be finished by the middle of December.

**Food** — We purchased food for so many people that I cannot count them all. One day there were 9 people at the place where I stayed and I fed them dinner and supper. (It is amazing what you can do with cans of meat and bread!)

I asked my driver how often he eats each day and he said, "Once a day, but sometimes I have to wait until the next day."

**Pastoral Needs** — A pastor told me of his desire to start a new church with an orphanage and medical clinic in a neglected part of Port au Prince.

After thinking about all these requests, I realized that the need was real and that we need God's intervention more than anything else. God wants to use His people to care for spiritual needs as well as physical needs. The Red Cross and the other big organizations are not going to do it for God; God's people must do it.

There was a lot more that could have been done in Haiti if we had the funds; but for those we were able to help, gratitude was written on their faces. There were tears of joy and relief from the worry of sleeping in a tent that is often in water, with the horrible smell caused by a lack of sanitary facilities, and located in the midst of sickness, including Malaria and Cholera.

Thank you for sending me to evaluate and provide for urgent needs in Port au Prince. "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:19)

New Bethany, Ellisville  
New Heart Baptist Mission,  
Hattiesburg  
New Hope, Collinsville  
New Hope, Mantachie  
North Gautier, Gautier  
O'Neal Road, Gulfport  
Oak Grove, Lucedale  
Oak Grove, Mantachie  
Oakland, Vicksburg  
Palestine, Montrose  
Paramount, Perkinston  
Parkview, Laurel  
Pine Grove, Purvis  
Pine Ridge, Laurel  
Pineview, Lucedale  
Pleasant Hill, Saucier  
Pleasant Hill, Tupelo  
Providence, Amory  
Ramsey Creek, Saucier  
Riverside, Ellisville  
Rocky Branch, Sumrall  
Salem, Bay Springs  
Scotland, Bentonina  
Shady Grove, Tishomingo  
Sharon, Laurel  
Shiloh, Mt. Olive  
Shiloh, Steens  
Shiloh, Perkinston  
Skyway Hills, Pearl  
South Green, Tupelo  
South Prentiss, Baldwin

Spencer Memorial, Pascagola  
Springhill, Laurel  
Spring Hill, Ocean Springs  
Temple, Laurel  
Temple, Lucedale  
Temple, Biloxi  
Ten Mile, Perkiinston  
Tiger Creek, Ovet  
Tombigbee, Mantachie  
Trinity, Birmingham, AL  
Trinity, Florence  
Union, Bay springs  
Unity, Guntown  
Unity, Perkinston  
Vardaman Street, Wiggins  
Walnut Grove, Fulton  
Washington, Neely  
Westhaven, Jackson  
Westlawn, Picayune  
Westover, Hattiesburg  
Westview, Oxford  
White Oak, Ellisville  
Wilderness, Vicksburg  
Woodlawn, Pascagoula

It is the time of year when many churches and individuals give to charitable institutions. I invite you to include Southeastern Baptist College in this effort to be a blessing to the Lord.

# 2011 Missions Symposium Information

Lodging Information for National Missions Symposium Locations

Below is information on accommodations for the symposiums. When you call to make reservations, you need to let them know they are with the BMA.

## Conway, Arkansas January 11th & 12th, 2011

*Country Inns & Suites*

750 Amity Rd.

Conway, AR

501-932-0500

Room or suite for \$65.00

This includes hot breakfast

## Lufkin, Texas January 18th & 19th, 2011

*Best Western* \$80.00

Includes hot breakfast

936-634-3481

*LaQuinta* \$67.50

Includes continental breakfast

936-634-3351

# Holiday Memories

from page 2

their personal money and then buying a gift for a needy child. These can be delivered to shelters, hospitals or someone you know. Go visit a children's hospital. Go visit an elderly shut-in. Take cookies to the sick. But don't just spend the holidays self-absorbed and make it all about you. As Christians, we should think of others. We should give to others.

These service things are great memories. Bake things together. We eat a lot at the holidays. Make memories by having family get-togethers in the kitchen and bake some memories. Have special fun things like going as a family on a walk, a bike ride or having an outdoor bonfire. Just do something besides sitting and watching TV, eating and never bringing God into the picture. Pray. God will lead you.

He will put on your mind some things to do. Close families do things together, and not as a television audience. Always make Jesus the centerpiece of every holiday in your home.

# Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

## Odds & Ends

First, let me wish each of our readers a very Merry Christmas. Each year at this time we pause to consider the wonderful gift that God sent to mankind.

Only in eternity will be ever be able to completely understand the love that has been shown to us.

Worship the King this Christmas season and honor Him each day as we serve Him.

### Special Emphasis

January 2011 is a time set aside by the BMA of Mississippi to give a special offering to the Publications Department. We hope you will participate this year and that your

church will give this department a special support offering. More information can be seen on page 5 of this issue.

Literature will be mailed to each church next week.

We will also be sending a copy of each church's mailing list. This will be a good time for our churches to update their list. Be sure to add all those of your church family who are not currently on your Family Plan.



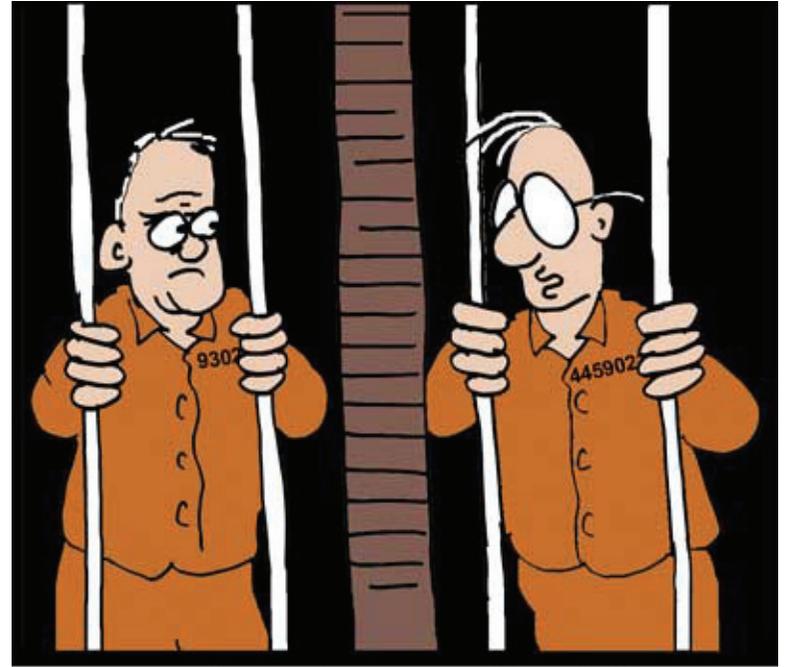
Don Brown  
Editor

### E-Subs

We have a number of individuals who subscribe to the Mississippi Baptist by Email. An email subscription is only \$10.00 per year and is given free to our missionaries around the world. We would like to include each of our pastors who already are a paid mail subscriber, with a copy by email. If you are a pastor of a participating church and would like to receive the paper by Email, please send your request to editor@msbaptist.org. We will be glad to include you in our list.

May God's blessings be yours and may you have a wonderful Christmas and a very productive New Year in His service.

## Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



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

## Wicker: What's the emergency on repealing the ban?

**OneNewsNow** - The House plans to vote today on a stand-alone bill to repeal the military's ban on homosexuals. A former member of the House, now a U.S. senator, admits he's worried House Democrats may be successful this time around.

The repeal has twice been included in a Defense Authorization Bill that Senate Republicans managed to keep from coming up for a floor vote. But House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-California) vows there will be a vote today (Wednesday, December 15) on a new bill to repeal the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Senator Roger Wicker (R-Mississippi), who served in the House for almost 13 years, says he is "very much opposed" to the concept of homosexuals serving openly in the military. But he says House Democrats figure they have a much better chance of getting a bill passed now with Pelosi in the speaker's chair than they will next year with Republican John Boehner.

"This may actually work for them. I have to be frank with you, it worries me," says Wicker, who serves on the Senate Armed Services Committee. "And as opposed as I am to repealing 'don't ask, don't tell,' it seems that they may be able to push it through with a big vote led by Nancy Pelosi in the House and two or three Republicans joining most Democrats in the Senate."

The senator senses that to some in Congress, repealing the policy is a done deal. "There seems to be a resignation in the hearings that this is going to happen some time - that homosexuals will be able to serve openly in the military," he tells OneNewsNow. "I don't like to hear that; I don't agree with that. But there seems to be some resignation that we'll see this at some point."

"Surely though, we ought to be able to agree that when we've got Marines and combat personnel in the trenches and [in]



Wicker

## My Pastor Needs a Bodyguard

(Suggestion from 1st Chronicles 11)

My pastor needs a bodyguard. No, he doesn't need protecting from organized crime, drug gangs, or international terrorists right now. He needs constant protecting from the grandsons of Diotrefes (3rd John 9), and he needs constant protecting from the granddaughters of Euodia and Syntyche (Philippians 4.2). I am looking for about thirty mighty men and women who will guard my pastor with me. The supervisory bodyguard would be named Benaiah, rather he would have the characteristics of that man whom King David put in charge of his and his family's protection.

When David was anointed

King over the entire land, the people rejoiced, the City of David was built up, and David became more powerful. Basically the story tells us God's



Leave It  
To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

work was easily done through David because the mighty men - his heroes, his bodyguards - gave his kingship strong support to extend it over the whole land.

When my pastor was anointed pastor of my church, his leadership could barely be extended over the congregation, much less over the whole community because of the gnats who believed they were giants. If my pastor had a bodyguard, a Benaiah-like leader of a concerted group of church members, my pastor could do the work of God in my church, my town, my state!

I would suspect gnats did not disrespect King David but once in Benaiah's presence. His sword was so sharp the gnats did not know their throat was cut until they tried to stick their tongue out! I can see my pastor's executive bodyguard Benaiah-like person snatching the spear from the pastor's seeming giant menace and killing the gnat giant with his own spear. (By the way the world's largest gnat, is still just a gnat!)

Brothers and sisters, join with me to be our pastor's bodyguard with all Benaiah-like dedication for our pastor. The work of Christ and His Church will be done because his bodyguards - his heroes, his mighty men and women - gave our pastor strong support to extend His work over the whole land.

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

PRICE  
\$20.00 Per Year by Mail  
\$10.00 Per Year by Email  
CHURCH PLAN  
\$ 1.30 Per Month

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Mississippi Baptist Paper, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441-8000.

ONE NEWS NOW.COM

continued on page 7

# The Mississippi Baptist

## January 2011 Special Emphasis



Don Brown  
Editor

Dear Readers

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

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

Our financial viability depends on YOUR gifts during January 2011. We encourage each of our churches to make a special effort to give to this ministry during this special drive. Would you lead your church to make a special offering in January? We really need your help!

May God bless you all,  
Don Brown, Editor

# Our Need \$10,000

## Mississippi 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 WMA report

The Northeast District WMA meeting was hosted by First Baptist Church of Mantachie on November 9, 2010. The theme for the program was "We Shall Behold Him." The Family Life Center was beautifully decorated by Janice Yielding and her daughter, Erin Carter with help from several of the WMA ladies. Betty Moody welcomed the guests and Mrs. Donna Lawrence gave the response. Dr. John Adams led the opening prayer and blessing on the food. The ladies took a tour of the office of the Moral Action Commission. Dr. Adams is the director.

At 6:00 a beautiful meal of soup, sandwiches, salad, and dessert were served by the Mantachie WMA ladies. Door prizes were given to those whose names were drawn.

At 7:00, Bro. J. E. Sims sang "We Shall Behold Him." Mrs. Betty Barnes did sign language for the song. Betty Moody read "I Believe, A Few Small Things That Mean Much." Sarah Tolleson sang "We are Standing on Holy Ground." Becky Burch read "Ten Things God Will Not Ask in the End Time." Sara Tolleson sang "Take Time to be Holy." Betty Moody led in prayer.

In the absence of our president, Mrs. Dot Emison, Mrs. Elaine Smith called the meeting to order. Mrs. Martha Duncan read the minutes of the previous meeting. We approved a motion to support Margaret Bean and Sarah Hebert as our project for this quarter. We voted to give Margaret and Sarah \$500.00 each in addition to the quarterly offering. This money is to be used for the mission work.

Prayer was requested for the following: Bro. Joseph Oyeleye, Betty Beasley, Cathy McFerrin, Jo Nell Wood, Mrs. Bobby Sue Bradley, Betty Moody, Mrs. Elaine Smith, Daniel Turner (child), Lindsey Paige Jenkins (child). Bro. Akers led the closing prayer.

Betty Moody, Reporter

### Ten Mile WMA Meets

The Ten Mile WMA held its meeting, on October 11, 2010, at Pleasant Baptist Church, in Saucier. The meeting was called to order by the President Ms. Louise Crawley. Mrs. Alana Woods open sang "Glory To His Name". The 2010-11 Theme: All for One is from Ephesians 4-6. There is one body and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling: One Lord one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all and in you all.

Our BMA Missionary from Haiti, Brother Octave Gervil, brought us an inspiring and encouraging message. His reminded us that we are all missionaries, be ready to witness any time, pray for each missionary, be a team, share the word of God and give an offering. His vision is to build a Church Building, a school and medical clinic. Brother Gervil lives by faith, he asked for our prayers, monthly support for his wife and family.

We had an offertory song and then Mrs. Julia Lee read the minutes and had roll call of churches.

Brother Gervil, Missionary from Haiti, was presented with a donation of \$150.00. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless his work.

## PASTOR'S RETREAT FOR THE BMA OF MISSISSIPPI

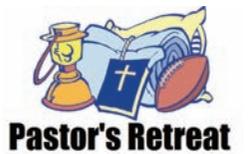
January 31 – February 1, 2010

Lake Tiak O'Khata

Louisville, MS



## SHOW ME THY GLORY



### Exodus 33:18

**Come and experience a time of refreshment and revival with us as we experience the glory of God together in preaching, singing, praying, and fellowship.**

**Cost: \$60.00 per person**

which includes night stay, supper,

breakfast, & lunch. Each one will be responsible

to bring their own bed linens (bunks), towels, and toiletries.

#### MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2011

1:00pm Registration Begins  
2:00pm Welcome  
2:05pm Worship  
2:20pm Message #1 Ken Riley  
3:00pm Break  
3:30pm Worship  
3:45pm Message #2 Danny Cresswell  
4:25pm Worship  
4:40pm Message #3 Dennis Knight  
5:20pm Dismiss for Supper  
7:00pm Worship  
7:15pm Message #4 Blake McCain

7:55pm Worship  
8:05pm Message #5 Larry Geraldson

#### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2011

7:30am Breakfast  
8:30am Worship  
8:45am Message #6 Grover Laird  
9:25am Break  
9:45am Worship  
10:00am Message #7 Roger Akers  
10:40am Worship  
10:55am Message #8 Larry Geraldson  
DISMISS AND LUNCH

*Music will be led by Bro. Bryson Haden & Bro. Mark McCann*

If you have any questions, please contact Bro. Justin Rhodes, Chairman of the Pastor's Retreat Committee (601)218-3364.

## Special Emphasis

# Baptist

## January 2011

Our WMA group reported on the BMA of Mississippi Christian Ladies Retreat, at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. The ladies gave thanks for this special time for all to come closer together and enjoy the presence of God.

We enjoyed refreshments and a great fellowship with Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. Our next meeting will be on January 10, 2011, at Ten Mile Baptist Church, Perkinston.

Reporter Maria Ochoa

## Merry Christmas

From Your



## Mississippi State Sunbeams

Linda Fay Dertinger, Promoter

# If There Was No Christmas

Dr. Joel Slayton, interim pastor, Temple, Little Rock, Arkansas

Christmas was such a pivotal point in the history of the world. Christmas was such an important part of God's plan. I think even believers sometimes cannot appreciate how important Christmas is to us, and how important and vital it is that we really celebrate what Christmas means.

In Luke 2:10, as the angel comes to announce the first Christmas. "The angel said unto them, 'Fear not. For behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you. You 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.'"

Imagine, if you will, a group of young people gathering around a piano about to celebrate Christmas. One of them takes a hymnal and begins to go through it to pick out some Christmas carols. He looks, and then he looks more diligently. As he searches and can't find a single Christmas carol, a look of amazement crosses his face. Then he says to the group, "Well, there are no Christmas carols to sing. At least we can read the Christmas story. Does



somebody have a Bible?"

Another of the young people says, "I have one. Let's read the Christmas story." So they open the Bible and find that it only contains Genesis to Malachi, so they have no Christmas story to read. The pages are turned, Haggai, Zachariah, Malachi, but no New Testament. Because if Christ had not come, if there were no Christmas, there would be no New Testament.

There would be no verse that said, "Now the birth of Jesus

Christ was on this wise." There would be no story of the angelic annunciation. There would be no account of the shepherd's visit. There would be no account of the wise men's coming to give gifts.

If Christ had not come, there would be no Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. No sermon on the mount, no story of Jesus walking on the water, no story of Jesus healing the sick or raising the dead. In the hour of trouble we would not be able to turn to Romans 8:28: "All things work together for good to those who love God." When the icy hand of death plucks a family member from our midst, there would be no John 14 to tell us that our hearts should not be troubled, for "in the Father's house are many mansions."

Instead of 66 books, our Bible would only contain 39. We would speak of a Bible encompassing not Genesis to Revelation, but Genesis to Malachi. Taking the New Testament out of the Bible would be like taking carbon out of diamonds, matter out of physics or numbers out of mathematics. It would be unthinkable.

Yet, if there were no Christmas, if Christ had not come there would be no New Testament. If we didn't have Christmas to celebrate, a lot of things we take for granted would not be possible.

*-from Baptist Trumpet*

## Homosexuals In Military

from page 4

close quarters being shot at in Afghanistan and Iraq, this is not the time to do it."

Wicker says he is not sure if Democrats will have time to get the measure through both chambers. "If we voted tomorrow morning to bring the Defense Authorization Bill to the floor, we would need to be debating that for a full week because it's got so much in it, including a proposal to perform abortions in military clinics - not to mention the weapons systems and the actual policy

considerations of defending the country."

"We've completely run out of time for that," he continues. "And yet, we would take time away from the waning days of this session - and probably go on over until a day or two before Christmas - to continue to talk about something that really is not an emergency. And that's the perception by some, that we have a pressing need to have more homosexuals serving in the military."

Regardless, the Mississippi lawmaker says the nation's military leaders should not be having to appear before lawmakers for days at a time when they should be focused on the war effort and other situations around the globe.

"I think we can look at the

survey of those people and see how doubtful they are about it," says Wicker. "It is dangerous. It would negatively affect moral and unit cohesion. [Those are] things that are vital to the people who are in the middle of the fight and in harm's way around the globe."

"[If we are telling] our top military leadership [to] get prepared to talk about homosexuality in the military, it seems to me that the American people have a right to ask 'Why is Congress taking time away from the central issue?'"

Wicker adds that Congress will not have passed the Defense Authorization Bill this year because House and Senate leadership added this repeal and other measures to the bill.

## CHILDREN'S HOME

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

### Glory To God

On that first Christmas, the glory of the Lord appeared in the heavens as the angelic host gave the good news about the coming of the Lord! This glory was truly "in the highest"! But, at that very time, the glory of the Lord appeared more dramatically and more effectively when, "the Savior, Christ the Lord" was born in Bethlehem!

The heavenly host explained that His coming brought "glory to God" because God's greatest gift was given to produce peace and demonstrate his "good will toward men!" God loved mankind so much that He sent His son to die for them!

During this Christmas season, may we as Christians enjoy giving "glory to God" in work, in song, and in deeds! May God's glory, peace, and grace be very real in your life this Christmas season!

### Recent Church Visits

On Sunday, November 14, we were with the New Bethany Baptist Church near Ellisville and Pastor Glenn Shoemake for their morning service. Then on Sunday evening we were with the Shiloh Baptist Church near Mt. Olive and Pastor Dewitt Bain for their evening service. It was a delight to visit with these churches during the

Special Emphasis time for the Home and to report on its ministry. It was good to worship together and give God thanks. We enjoyed Christian fellowship together as we shared a fine Thanksgiving meal with each of these churches.

We were with the Magnolia Baptist Church in Hattiesburg and Pastor Greg Medenwald on Sunday, December 5th, for their evening 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 gifts by the host church.



SIDNEY DAVIS  
DIRECTOR

### Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Thank you so much for your love and concern for the Children's Home. Continue to remember the children and staff of the Home in your prayers.

We would like to extend to you our love and wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Dwight Lindsey, Director  
662-397-6832  
Fax 662-862-2934

Email: [dwightlindsey@live.com](mailto:dwightlindsey@live.com)  
Facebook: BMA of MS Youth

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." I love how II Corinthians 9:15 sums up so much by telling us we can't sum up what God does for us in words. I just wanted to remind everyone this holiday season of our Second Annual Winter Camp which still has room available if you hurry. I realize Christmas and New Year's Holidays can be busy, but what could be a better investment of time in this busy time of year than souls and spiritual growth of young people?

I encourage you and your Youth Group to come worship

the Savior (that has come and is yet to come) with us December 29 - 31, at Campground Baptist Church near Gulfport, Mississippi.

Stay on the look out for registration packets for our College and High School Senior Spring Break retreat scheduled for March 14-16 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. If you have any questions please call, text, email, check us on Facebook, or even send me a smoke signal. I want to always be available to your needs.

May God Bless,  
Director Dwight Lindsey

## BMA OF MISSISSIPPI MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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



There is just no way in words to say how good God is. On September 27, 2010 we were able to personally experience another church born from the seed of a mission. It is estimated by Bro. Garcia, that we had a total of 225 – 250 present for the organization of First Hispanic Baptist Mission Ripley, Mississippi, into a New Testament Church. First Hispanic also did a wonderful job of preparing very delicious food in abundance. We also appreciate nearly 40 from El Camino of Laurel, Mississippi, being present and witnessing the organization of the First Hispanic work/mission of Mississippi. It was another highlight for the Hispanics to have the father and brother of Bro. Estuardo and Wendy for this very special occasion.

First Hispanic and El Camino are congregations that have missions as

their priority. From the enthusiasm of these two congregations, I feel sure the BMA of Mississippi will in the near future see other missions come into existence. We do know that the seed is already being planted in Petal and Yazoo, Mississippi.

Bro Joseph Oyeeye is also planning the organization of Maple Street Baptist Mission in Columbus in May of 2011. Bro. Estuardo is also making plans to organize El Camino Baptist Mission of Laurel, Mississippi, into a New Testament church in the near future.

New Heart Baptist Mission of Hattiesburg, Mississippi has purchased property on Highway 11, south of their present location without any remaining indebtedness. Upon having available funds they will begin site preparation and then the construction

of new facilities up to 6,000 square feet in size.

There is excitement to see all that is happening in missions throughout Mississippi. Also when evaluating the growth and progress of the Revolving Loan Fund Department, it brings one to the point of awe in trying to express joy and thanksgiving. We should always remember that the Revolving Loan Fund, in its effort to bless the Lord, has three objectives: One - to provide a financial resource for missions; Two - to provide a financial resource for BMA Churches; and Three - to provide a financial depository for our senior citizens which gives them premium returns as subsidy to their retirement funds.

I am grateful that God has given me the blessing of leaving the ministry of the RVLFF in the hands of a very confident brother, one that investors can rest assured of his devotion in their financial behalf. Bro. Dossen L. Lee is to be commended for his excellent performance as manager of the RVLFF. For me the 103rd division of the book of Psalms, says it all.



## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

### How Embarrassing

I received a communication the other day entitled, "How Embarrassing". In it the question was asked, "When you meet Habakkuk in heaven, will you be embarrassed to tell him that you never read his book?"

I got a chuckle from that. Then I got to thinking how embarrassing it will be when we meet "The Word" in heaven and have to admit to Him that we never read His Book! Now, that will be embarrassing!

This is a good time of year to make that decision to read His Book all the way through, that's including Habakkuk.

### A Pictorial Look At Organization Service at First Hispanic Church in Ripley



**Above** - Congregation of First Hispanic Church, Ripley, Mississippi

**Below** - Organizational Prayer



Pastor ELVIS Garcia family with Bro. and Mrs. Freeman

## Special Emphasis

# Mississippi Baptist

January 2011

*Your Gift Will Be A Great Blessing*



Organizational Service at First Hispanic Church, Ripley