

Baptist

Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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Merry Christmas

*May God Grant You Peace,
Safety and His Love
During This Season &
in the New Year*



Editor Don Brown
and the Trustees of
The Publicaton's Department

Clayton Resigns as Director of DiscipleGuide

Dr. Kevin Clayton has submitted his resignation as executive director of DiscipleGuide Church Resources effective December 31, 2011. Clayton has accepted the pastorate of Bethel Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi. Below is a statement from Dr. Clayton.

"It has been my honor and privilege to serve my Lord and the BMAA as Executive Director of DCR for the last five years. These have been years wrought with many changes in this organization brought

on by the merger, as well as by external forces in the publishing industry. Even in changing times, we all

know assuredly that our God changes not and His Word is eternally established. The methods utilized in taking "all the Word to all the world" may

continued on page 3



Dr. Clayton

A BMMI Trip To Haiti

by Don Brown, editor

Ever since I became familiar with the Medical Ministry of the BMA of America (Baptist Medical Missions International) I have looked forward to the possibility of making one of these trips. Not possessing any 'medical skills', I often wondered, "What could I do on such a trip?"

Service is service, no matter the form or qualifications. I learned to count in the early grades of my elementary school education. This was basically the skill I carried to Haiti and was able to put it to good use. Counting pills to fill prescriptions proved that the ability to count was beneficial. I even improved my skills of visually recognizing groups of 5. This is very beneficial when you are pressed for time in reaching the desired number of 10, 30 or 60. I even developed the ability to almost read a doctor's writing.

Our trip was December 2 - 7 to the nation of Haiti. All of our work was in the capitol city of Port-au-Prince. I was aware of the damage from the 2010 earthquake and was told of the poor living conditions.

We can read about such



BMMI Team members left to right - Don Brown, Jim Brewer, Dr. Ralph Izard, Pastor Gervil Octave, Jesse Hails, Jean Lavoie, Jim Earl, Dr. John Ladd and Mike Poirier.

things and actually know that they are real, but when you see (and smell) them first hand, that is when reality sets in and you understand the extremely poor conditions these people live in.

When we landed in Haiti and were going through customs, all of the medicines we brought for the people of Haiti were confiscated by customs officials. Even with extreme efforts by some on

our team, we were unable to get the medicines returned to us.

Our team consisted of 8 individuals. BMMI Director Dr. Ralph Izard and team members,

Dr. John Ladd, North American Church Planter Mike Poirier, Registered Nurse Jean



Dr. Ralph Izard makes plans for Tuesday's visit of the medical team to Bethel Baptist Church.

Lavoie of Canada and a friend of Bro. Poirier, Registered Nurse Jim Earl of Aledo Illinois, Jesse Hails (a member of FBC Galena, Kansas), Jim Brewer (BMA Missions warehouse manager) and this writer.

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Children from the Children's Home visited by the BMMI team in Haiti.

Ohio GOP Senate leader suspends 'heartbeat' hearings

COLUMBUS, Ohio - A bill imposing the most stringent abortion limit in the nation has been put on hold in Ohio after backers who had defended its constitutionality for almost a year asked for a pile of last-minute language changes.

The leader of the Ohio Senate said Wednesday he was suspending hearings on the bill, which would ban abortions after the first detectable fetal heartbeat, because more than 20 proposed amendments by supporters were creating confusion.

"These eleventh hour revisions only serve to create more uncertainty about a very contentious issue," Republican Senate President Tom Niehaus of New Richmond said in a statement.

Kellie Copeland, executive director of NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio, called the decision a victory for abortion rights supporters. Though there is another year in the two-year legislative session for the attention-grabbing bill to re-emerge, Copeland said the suspension gives opponents more time to talk about the dangers in the bill.

The so-called heartbeat bill passed the GOP-led Ohio House in June. It had been stalled in the Republican-controlled Senate for months, until initial hearings began last week.

Niehaus did not specify how much time would be needed to weigh the supporter's revisions. But he said he could not move forward on a bill that "has so far created more confusion than consensus."

Faith2Action President Janet Folger Porter said she will hold Niehaus to his word to get a vote on the bill before the end of the year. Legislative activity for the year was expected to wrap up this week, but she said that could change.

"He suspended it today, but he's president of the Senate and when you're president of the Senate you can have a hearing tomorrow, you can have a hearing next week, you can call a session any time you want," she said. "That's the beauty of having the gavel."

"We are supportive of the bill as it came out of the House, but we're also supportive of the Senate's suggestions," she said. "That's how the legislative process works, isn't it?" She said the proposed changes were submitted last week.

The measure would outlaw abortions at the first detectable fetal heartbeat - sometimes as early as six weeks into pregnancy.

Clayton Resigns

from page 1

be changing, but the mission remains the same. What a privilege and responsibility we have as believers to fulfill the mandate of the Great Commission!

After eight years of service to our association in a director's role (three years in North American missions), I have reached the inescapable conclusion that I still possess "a pastor's heart." After months of prayer regarding God's will for my life, I have accepted the call of the Bethel Baptist Church of Fulton, Mississippi, to serve as their Senior Pastor, effective January 1, 2012. Though my family and I are truly excited by this opportunity, we are grieving over leaving our DiscipleGuide family and the many friends we've made in Texarkana. DiscipleGuide will always be dear to my heart and vital to the work of our association. All the members of our Board of Directors and every employee at DCR will abide in my prayers forever. They are an amazing group of Christian workers!"

Kevin W. Clayton, D.Min.
Executive Director
DiscipleGuide

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Extra, Extra READ ALL ABOUT IT

Strong Effort Needed !!

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 2012**.

Brown stated that the January Emphasis offering each year needs to raise about 10% of the department's annual operating income. "Our goal for this year is to raise at least \$10,000," 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 2012 - Special Emphasis Our Need - \$10,000

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

Pslam 26:7

Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

BMMI Trip To Haiti

continued from page 1

Due to contacts that Jesse Hails had in Haiti, we were able to acquire a good quantity of medicine to help us begin seeing patients. Drs. Izzard and Ladd were able to locate a place to purchase more medicine and supplies. Even though we were not able to have all the items we desired, the team ministered to around 400 individuals.

We saw kids at a children's home and also some adults who brought their children. The



Our mode of travel was in the back of a small Toyota pickup. The trips were generally 2 to 3 hours long just to get around in the city. Traffic was a serious issue.

The team was blessed to get to stay at a Mennonite compound during our trip. This group has a great water well ministry in Haiti. They drill deep water wells to provide healthy, potable water to the people.

The living conditions for the great majority of Haitians are extremely poor. Tent cities are still very much in use and those

who have homes or shelter of a different kind live mostly in abject poverty.

We were able to minister to the medical needs of a large number of the Haitians that the Mennonites are reaching.

On Sunday, December 4, we attending worship services with the Bethel Baptist Church and Pastor Gervil Octave. The services were most similar to the worship services conducted in the majority of our churches back home.

Due to the efforts to obtain more medication and to also get the supplies we brought with us released, Monday was a 'down day' for some of the team. The rest was appreciated. On Tuesday, we went back to the church and saw over 160 patients.

The people's needs, both economic and medical, are great and it was a blessing to be a part of this mission effort. BMMI is a needed ministry that travels to countries all over the globe to help meet the medical needs of various people groups and to share the love of God with them.

I encourage two things for those

share and who can go. I think the term is GIMP. Go In My Place.

For me, this trip was eye-opening. I learned much and the experience gives me a new perspective on the needs of others. We are so blessed as a nation. May God bless us to continually realize that and share our blessings with those not as fortunate.

Our prayers are for safety and blessings to Dr. Izard and each individual who serves on a BMMI team. May the Lord's blessings be theirs as they bless others.

reading these words. First, support this ministry with your prayers and your financial support. The need is great. Sec-



Dr. Izard (center in cap) writes prescription for patients

ond, I encourage those with special medical skills to sign up for and participate in this great ministry.

The trips are not cheap. Team members must pay their own expenses. What a great investment in the lives of others you will be making by using your skills, time and funds to minister to others.

If you **can not go** on one of these trips, then participate by helping to finance the trip of those who have the skills to



North American Church Planter Mike Poirier brought the morning message at Bethel Baptist Church.

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Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"All this protest stuff has gotten out of hand... eve the men's room was occupied!"

BREAKING NEWS

Youth Department Winter Camp Cancelled by Dwight Lindsey, Director

I regret to inform you that the 3rd annual Winter Camp has been cancelled due to a lack of registered campers. We apologize to those who were looking forward to this event. Please pray for your Youth Department and its efforts to serve the Lord.

National Missions Symposium Set

by Dr. John David Smith

Executive Director of Missions

The National Missions Symposium will be held January 17-18 at the Central Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas. The emphasis this year will be placed on the 'White Fields of the United States' as we think toward church multiplication. Keynote speakers will be J.D. Payne from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, and host pastor Don Chandler. The schedule will include numerous missionaries and church planters, as well as time to cast vision and explain systems for church multiplication. We pray all of you will attend. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Tuesday the 17th and conclude with the Wednesday evening service on the 18th.



Mike Poirier (right) translate for Dr. Ladd.



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A Dozen Things to do in 2012

I want to share some things for you to consider doing in 2012. It is a new year and it is time to make some changes for the better and for God's glory. You will not find in this list, praying and Bible study. Those are things we should do every day, all day - just like breathing. It should be a natural part of our every day existence. Of course, if it isn't, then you should definitely have that as a goal for 2012. And all of us can increase our prayer time and our personal study time in the Word. I'm just trying to give you some ideas outside of the usual new year's goals of lose weight and take a class on something.

Here are a dozen ideas that you might consider doing in 2012. You can even post this article somewhere on your desk or in your bedroom and check the things off as you accomplish them. Remember, no matter what your new year's goals are: do all for the glory of the Lord. I Corinthians 10:31

1. Hug more than ever before. Try to increase the amount of affection you give to those around you. We live in an ever increasing cold and uncaring world. We need to not only tell people that we love them, we need to show them. For some of you this will be a real challenge. But everyone can do it. Hug someone each day who means something to you.

2. Witness to someone. They may not accept Jesus as their savior, but you have to try. It is a command from God. We are to tell others who Jesus is, and that they need him. When was the last time you worked at leading someone to Jesus? Make it a goal in 2012.

3. Encourage others. I Thess. 5:11. No matter how much you encourage others, set out in 2012 to encourage all those around you. Start at home and spread outwardly. Smiles, handshakes, hugs, visits, and most importantly some encouraging words. Build others up.

4. Let go of your anger. Set as a goal to not get angry over something at least once a week. It is simply a choice. It is something that you do actually get mad about, but instead of responding how you always have in the past with anger, you

choose to withdraw and walk away. A soft answer turns away



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

wrath. Being slow to anger is the best way to be. Pray for them. Bless them. And walk away. You will find out that you can in fact control your anger. It is a choice. I will choose one thing each week to not go to World War III over. And keep growing from there.

5. Forgive someone this year. You will never have total healing until you practice forgiveness. Forgiveness is for you, not them. You can ask for it, text it, mail it or keep it in your heart privately but still give it to God. It frees you up. And we are required to do this one also. You will be happier and free of torment when you practice forgiveness.

6. Visit an older person. Have as a resolution to visit an elderly person on a regular basis throughout 2012. It doesn't have to be weekly, although that would be amazing. Even just once a month would help end one of the cruelest realities in human existence - loneliness. It can be a relative or a total stranger in an apartment or nursing home. It could be a shut-in from your church. Drop by and say hello to a dear older person.

7. Mentor a young person. On a monthly basis, find one or two young people that you can mentor. Pass on wisdom. Encourage. Do something with them. Older women and men are to teach the younger ones about life. Pray and pick out a kid at your church and just make it a point to go up and speak something nice to them each week. Add a smile.

8. Personal growth spiritually. Many people set goals of growing intellectually by learning something new. Set a goal to do something that causes you to grow spiritually anew. Study something different. Go somewhere. Increase your medita-

tion and devotion time. You can't go wrong when you grow right. Seek God for guidance.

9. Get a ministry. We all are suppose to serve Jesus by serving others. Find somewhere to serve others at least once a month. Be committed and do this. Don't neglect the work.

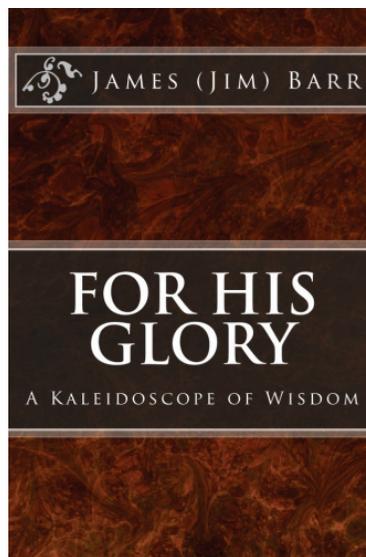
10. Testify. At least once a week, tell someone, somewhere, how God has been good to you. Not just at church, tell a neighbor or co-worker. Make it a weekly habit to share that our God is good all the time. It

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BMAA Pastor Releases New Book

Can real life and the Bible mix? Can real wisdom be found in the common, everyday events when viewed through the scriptures? Retired BMAA Pastor James Barr believes so! The former Senior Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church brings together the wisdom found in the scriptures with real life challenges in his newly released book, *For His Glory: A Kaleidoscope of Wisdom* (www.amazon.com/author/jamesbarr).

Compiling a series of personal memoirs, historical facts, and biblical biographies, Pastor Barr presents the reader with practical and useful views that will enrich his or her life. Short, pointed and positive, *For His Glory: A Kaleidoscope of Wisdom*, which can also be found on his website www.net153.com, is a collection of inspirational thoughts presented in an easy and en-



joyable manner. Like looking through a kaleidoscope, the beauty of God's wisdom and glory come to life for today's reader. Although deep biblical truths are shared, they are shared within an often amusing common sense manner that all ages will benefit from. Currently Pastor Barr's book is only offered online at Amazon.com or through the author's website net153.com.

James (Jim) Barr has a total of almost forty years in the ministry serving as Pastor, and Missionary. Bro. Barr also conducts both short and extensive fun workshops on *Finding God's Wisdom for Your Life* for churches, bookstores, auxiliary church groups, and clubs. He may be contacted through email at pastorbarr@hotmail.com or by phone (812) 325-0158. More information concerning author Barr and his book is available at www.amazon.com/author/jamesbarr.

Hotel Information for 2012 Baptist Missionary Association of America Annual Meeting April 16-18, 2012 Jackson, Mississippi

The following hotels have agreed to offer group rates to those attending the 2012 BMAA meeting in Jackson, Mississippi April 16-18. The Hilton Garden Inn and Marriot have been designated as primary hotels.

Hotel	Room Rate	Deadline for Group Rate
Cabot Lodge 2375 North State Street 601-948-8650	\$89	April 1
Hilton Garden Inn 235 West Capitol Street 601-969-8544 (ask for group sales)	\$109 Triple-\$119 Quad-\$129	March 25
Marriott Downtown 200 East Amite Street 601-969-5100 (ask for reservations)	\$119	March 16
Sleep Inn & Suites Downtown 209 South Gallatin Street 601-896-0390	\$89.99 King \$89.99 King Suite \$99.99	

To ensure the group rates, please be sure to indicate that you are with the Baptist Missionary Association of America when calling to make your hotel reservations.

Recreational vehicles may be parked in a lot behind the convention center (no hookups). Camp sites with hookups are available at the Mississippi Coliseum (601-961-4000) or at Le Fleurs Bluff (601-987-3923)

BMAA Committee on Arrangements
Charles Attebery
Leon Carmical
James Ray Raines

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Bryson Haden

Bryson Hayden is available for pulpit supply or as the Lord may lead. He may be reached in Vicksburg at 662-251-0443.

George Rogers

Dr. George Rogers is available to preach, fill in, pastor, or in any way serve the Lord. He is available at 248 Joe Lee Road, Lumberton, MS 39455; gw.rogers@sbcglobal.net, or by phone at 601-310-5287.

Dale Wirick

Bro. Dale Wirick is available for pulpit supply where ever the Lord leads. He may be reached at 228-623-5466 or 228-249-3731.

Mississippi W.M.A.

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Mrs. Shirlene Smith
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601-729-5638

2011-2012 State WMA Theme

"So Send I You"
John 20:12

Scroll fragments could 'shed light' on O.T. text

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) -- The potential contribution to Dead Sea Scroll scholarship of nine scroll fragments owned by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary was underscored when several SWBTS professors discussed their research to date during the Society of Biblical Literature's 2011 meeting in San Francisco.

39452.

South Green Street prepared a wonderful program. Bro. Jim Martin sang two songs, "The Stone is Rolled Away" and "He is Risen." Mrs. Elizabeth Fairchild sang "How Great Thou Art." Bro. Blake McCain brought a message on Martha and Mary, godly women who worshiped before they worked.

A meal was enjoyed after the meeting. Thanks ladies, you did a swell job and I know God will bless you for it.

The next meeting will be at Bethel Baptist Church February 14, 2012.

Betty Moody, Reporter

"Southwestern's scrolls contain readings of Old Testament passages that are nowhere else attested," Ryan Stokes, assistant professor of Old Testament, noted after the SBL's three-day mid-November meeting. "We are just beginning to comprehend their importance for the field, but we expect them to shed light on how we came to have the Old Testament text that we have today."

Southwestern Seminary currently houses the largest collection of fragments owned by an institution of higher education within the United States. The seminary will host an exclusive exhibit of the scrolls from July 2, 2012, to Jan. 11, 2013. To learn more about Southwestern Seminary's exclusive "Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible" exhibit, visit <http://seethescrolls.com>.

At the SBL meeting, Southwestern professors introduced the scroll fragments to the aca-

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Ten Mile WMA Report

2010-2011 Theme -

All for One Ephesians 4: 4-6

There is one body and one Spirit even as ye are called in one hope of our calling. One Lord one faith one baptism One God and Father of all who is above all and through all and in you all.

The Ten Mile WMA held their meeting, on October 10, 2011, at Paramount Baptist Church, in Perkinston. The meeting was called to order by the President Mrs. Myrtis Mallett.

Devotional was brought by Sister Denise DeVaughn from 1 John 4:7-16 titled "Love of God". GMA member Paige Williams blessed us all, played her Clarinet "Jesus Loves Me" and the GMA's sang "O How I Love Jesus".

Sister Geraldine Necaie gave her report on Mississippi

Baptist Gleaner and passed out tracks.

Sister Paula Prickett gave her report on Sunbeams and GMAs. They will be attending the New Heart Mission Church in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Nikki Prickett is coming home from her Indonesia Mission trip in December.

We enjoyed refreshments and a great fellowship with Paramount Baptist Church. Our next meeting will be on January 9, 2012, 7:00 PM at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. Reporter Maria Ochoa

Northeast District WMA

The Northeast District WMA met November 15th at South Green Street Baptist Church, Tupelo, Mississippi. Mrs. Dot Emison welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mrs. Patti Harlow gave the response thanking South Green Street for hosting

the meeting and preparing the meal. There were 39 present with seven visitors, including two from Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. Applause was given Debbie Hopper in appreciation for printing the 2011-2012 handbook. Thanks Debbie, you did a great job! Donna Lawrence gave a report of the yearly state WMA meeting held in Laurel, on October 17. The State project for 2011-2012 will be the Shepherd Bag Ministry. Seventy-five percent of the money will go to the Shepherd Bag Ministry and 25 % will go to the General Fund. Donations may be sent to Mrs. Shirlene Smith, 730 Highway 533, Laurel, MS 39443

Mrs. Donna asks all the WMA ladies to send your favorite recipe to be made into a cookbook. Recipes may be sent to Beth Caldwell, 166 Twin Creek Road, Lucedale, MS

Resources You Can Trust

Adult Sunday School resources from DiscipleGuide offer your church a structured curriculum for every Sunday and coordinated, Bible-intensive, life-oriented studies.

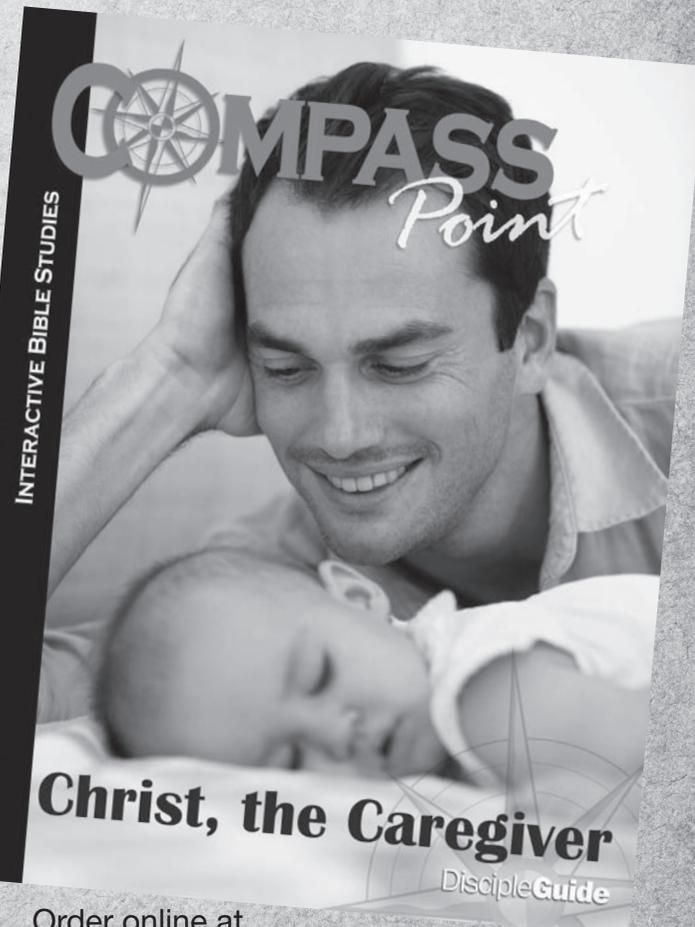
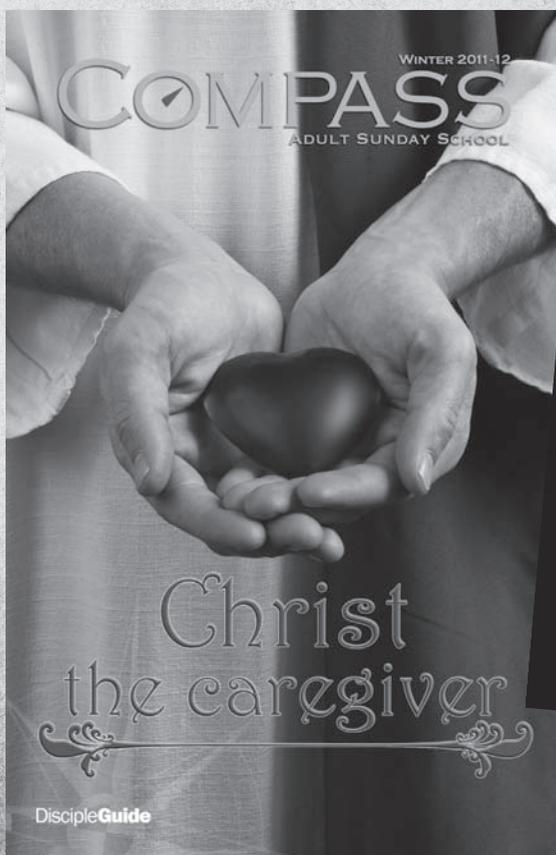
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One Smooth Stone...

A shepherd boy stood before the challenge of the giant. The boy had one shot to make a difference. He selected one smooth stone and with great precision defeated Goliath. Like that one smooth stone, a timeless truth communicated in a timely fashion can slay giants.

Ministry: A 3-Legged Stool

by Kirk Shelton: DiscipleGuide Church Growth Consultant
Adapted from a message delivered by H.B. London at the 2009
Pastors' Conference of the BMAA National Association

Legs — where would we be without them? They are the most basic, God-given mode of transportation. They take us places, sometimes to places we shouldn't go. Birds have skinny legs. Granddaddy spiders have long legs, and penguins have short legs. People have two, most animals have four, and centipedes have, well, a lot of them. A long journey usually has several legs. A chair or table needs at least four, and a reporter just hopes his story has some. When one leg is shorter than the other, a chair will rock, and a person will limp. Legs are important.

Ministry also has legs — three of them. Much like a three-legged stool, ministry requires all three to stand up. They must be in balance and equal length for the ministry to be solid, stable, and fulfill its God-given purpose.

The first leg of ministry is character. It's who we are. The very first thing a disciple is called to is to "be with Him" (Mark 3:13-15). Being with,

comes before going forth! Time at Jesus' feet is the foundation on which a successful ministry is built. Jesus required His men to spend time with Him before He anointed and commissioned them and sent them out to do ministry in His name. It is in this time with Jesus where character is formed. The various experiences, challenges, and crises of ministry do not create character, they only reveal character. If the "right stuff" is not deep down on the inside, then whatever is there will eventually bubble to the surface in the heat of trials. Brothers and sisters, who are you deep down in your core? Is Christ living there, and is He shaping and conforming you to His image daily? We have seen far too many of God's servants, in spite of their tremendous gifts and abilities, fail morally or ethically in ministry. Without character, the three-legged stool of ministry will tip over.

The second leg of ministry is integrity. It's what we do. Though much alike, and often used as synonyms for one another, I view character and integrity as different, but intricately connected. While character is who we are deep on the inside, integrity is how character is lived out in daily life. It's what we do and how we do it. Paul addresses integrity in ministry when he says: "We have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the Word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God." (2 Corinthians 4:2)

To be a person of integrity is to be honest in our communication and exemplary in our lifestyle. It means that my finances are in order, my marriage is healthy, and that I speak the truth in love. When Paul outlines the qualifications for pastors and deacons in his letters to Timothy and Titus, he is describing integrity, the living out of character.

The third leg of ministry is motivation. It's why we do what we do. Why are you in ministry today? I know it's not for the money! One person described our motivation for serving God in a rather interesting way. He said people tend to serve Christ for one of three reasons.

First, some serve Him because they view Him as a "taskmaster." In other words, they view God as a harsh master Who is difficult to please. Service is a burden to bear and people should have pity for the one who must carry that burden.

Second, some serve God because they view Him as a "paymaster." They do it for what they hope to get out of it someday. For these people, almost any burden can be borne because one day they will receive a reward. Admittedly, the Bible does describe ministry for God as servitude, and we know that there will be rewards for faithful service, but are these the only reasons for being in ministry?

The third group serves God not because He is a taskmaster or a paymaster, but because He is "the Master." For these ministry is a blessing and joy because it is an expression of love to the One Who expressed His love so freely! The only pure motivation for ministry is a love for God and love for others. Any other motivation makes ministry a joyless work to endure rather than an overflowing heart to serve.

Ministry needs all three legs to stand upright — character, integrity, and motivation. Who we are, what we do, and why we do it are being communicated in one way or the other every single day. May God's blessings be on us, and may our ministry have legs.



CHILDREN'S HOME

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

Tornado Near Home

A tornado touched down in the early hours of the morning on Wednesday, November 16 in Jones County. The tornado made its track near the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home crossing Hwy 15 North between Lowe Road and Trace Road. The Home is located at 118 Lowe Road, so you can see how close the tornado came. By the time the storm reach the Shady Grove community according to the representatives of the National Weather Service in Jackson, the tornado reached the strength of an EF-2 tornado. We are grateful and thankful to the Lord that we received no damage from this storm.

Recent Church Visits

We were with the Magnolia Baptist Church in Hattiesburg and Pastor Greg Medenwald on Sunday, December 4, for their annual Christmas with the Children's Home service. Then on Sunday, December 11, we were with the Lee's Chapel #1 Baptist Church and Pastor Randall Childs for their morning service and afternoon service with the Children's Home. We enjoyed being with each of these churches and worshiping with them during this special time of the Christmas season.

Christmas Sharing

At this time of the year many

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

The Good News of Christmas

Luke Chapter 2 gives us the story of the shepherds out in the field. Many times we have heard this story that is so familiar that we tend to take it for granted. You see, this story is all about the grace of God. God's grace in sending His Son. God's grace in sending the angels to announce the birth of His Son. God's grace in opening up the way that we might be saved. Yes, the good news of Christmas is that the great message of the cross is the message of Christmas.



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

Merry Christmas

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

Things To Do In 2012

from page 5

increases our joy and encourages others to seek Him.

11. Laugh more. This will be hard. But enjoy life more with your family. Spend more time with them. Don't be so serious all the time. Look for things to laugh about. It is good medicine according to scripture. Focus on people and love and laughter this year.

12. PTO. Personal Time Off. It is not selfish. It is self preservation. Once a day come apart, or you will fall apart. Build in a daily habit of relaxing, restoring and being quiet.

If you do these 12 things, you will have a great 2012. Now go make a great year for the glory of the Lord for He is worthy to be praised.

Scroll fragments

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demic community, demonstrating the seminary's commitment to contribute to the field of biblical scholarship.

Steven Ortiz, associate professor of archaeology and biblical backgrounds and director of Southwestern's Tandy Institute for Archaeology, introduced the session focusing on the scroll fragments.

In addition to Stokes, Southwestern faculty members who presented research were George Klein, professor of Old Testament; Eric Mitchell, associate professor of Old Testament and archaeology; Ishwaran Mudliar and Joshua Williams, assistant professors

of Old Testament.

Ortiz said scholars at SBL noted the potential contribution that Southwestern's scroll fragments have for Dead Sea Scroll scholarship.

"The accumulation of data and how it was presented showed that these were some important fragments," Ortiz said. Southwestern's professors displayed an in-depth knowledge of the particular fragments they researched, Ortiz said, as well as setting forth the implications the fragments have for a broader field of research.

"With the initial announcement of Southwestern's acquisition [in January 2010], all the emphasis was placed on the purchase of the scrolls," Ortiz said. "So that is the only thing that people knew about

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MISSISSIPPI MISSIONS

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All Across The State

I want to thank you for the warm reception that I have been given and the opportunities to share my heart. I have enjoyed traveling across the state, visiting in our churches and association meetings, and meeting people. There is an excitement, all across the state that continues to grow. I look forward to visiting with many more of our churches in the days to come. Since my last article, my list has grown to nine names of individuals that could be church planters. I am also praying that God will raise up churches that will embrace the vision to reproduce themselves. I have had one initial interview but I am talking with others. The prospects truly are amazing.



Larry Geraldson
Director

El Camino (The Way)

Bro. Estuardo reported 37 homes visited and 28 soul talks, 2 professions of faith and an average attendance of 94. His offerings are averaging \$1,209.00 weekly. El Camino's mission project in Petal is averaging 13 and they had 1 profession of faith.

First Hispanic

Bro. Elvis reports 44 homes visited and 73 soul talks, 2 professions of faith and 2 baptisms. Their average attendance is 89. His offerings are averag-

ing \$768.00 weekly. Bro. Elvis continues to work with groups in New Albany and Tupelo. The group in Tupelo is meeting in the fellowship hall of South Green Baptist Church.

New Heart Mission

Bro. Ray Boone reports 120 homes visited, 56 soul talks, and 55 average in AM attendance and 30 in the PM service. New Heart's offerings have averaged \$350.00 weekly.

Special Offering Received

Below is a list of the offerings we have received in response to my request made at the Annual State Association Meeting.

Salem, Bay Springs	300.00
Temple, Columbia	35.00
Zions Rest, Richton	430.00
Paramount, Perkinston	1,000.00
Petal Mission,	32.00
Oak Grove, Mantachie	300.00
Lebanon, Soso	100.00
Berean, Soso	500.00
Lebanon, Soso	300.00
Pleasant Hill, Tupelo	450.00
First of Shady Grove	300.00
Helton Road, Theodore	100.00
Greenwood, Fulton	1,772.00
Big Creek, Soso	300.00
Harmony, Hurley	100.00
Lebanon, Soso	1,438.00
Tombigbee Association	411.04

As we close out this year, I want to thank all of you for your support and wish all of you the very best and Christ-filled holiday season.

Church in Amory. After a time of food and fellowship provided by the host church, we gathered for the meeting. The evening message was brought by Bro Chris McCord from Hebrews 4:12 entitled THE WORD OF GOD. The business meeting was called to order by Bro Ricky Johnson, Assistant Moderator. Eight churches were represented with 61 present and 3 visitors. The January meeting will be held at Shady Grove with the church providing the speaker. Bro Elvis Garcia gave a report on his endeavors at Ripley, Tupelo and possibly Amory and Mooreville, in reaching the Hispanic Community. Bro Elvis introduced his father-in-law Eduardo Morroquin who gave a report on his work in Guatemala. Reports were provided by Bro. Elliott and his work at Freedom Baptist Mission in Burnsville. New mission director Bro. Larry Geraldson made his initial visit to the Harmony meeting, giving his vision for Missions.

Ricky Johnson - Asst. Moderator
Tony Marolt - Promotional Secretary

Scroll fragments

from page 7

Southwestern's Dead Sea Scroll fragments.

"After this presentation, the perception has shifted, and now they're seeing that Southwestern is serious about becoming a center for biblical research, as the Dead Sea Scrolls affect biblical scholarship."

Ortiz said Southwestern professors will continue this contribution to biblical scholarship by placing the seminary's fragments within the larger corpus of the scrolls. They also have contacted scholars outside the seminary who are researching other unpublished scroll fragments. In time, the seminary will publish its scroll fragments in a major peer-reviewed journal on Dead Sea Scroll research.

During the SBL meeting, Southwestern also invited scholars from outside the seminary to present research related to the Dead Sea Scrolls. Ortiz noted that Southwestern was "very fortunate to have top scholars on the panel," including Bruce Zuckerman, director of the West Semitic Research Project and associate professor of Hebrew Bible at the University of Southern California. Zuckerman led a team that photographed Southwestern's Dead Sea Scroll fragments last September. During SBL, Zuckerman discussed the imaging technology that allows scholars to publish ancient texts in high-definition as well as to read otherwise illegible texts.

Peter Flint, professor at Trinity Western University and co-director of the Dead Sea Scrolls Institute, and Sydnie White Crawford, professor of classics and religious studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, also participated, discussing the significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls and their relevance to biblical studies.

Tombigbee Association Report

The Tombigbee Association met with East Amory Baptist Church on December 08, 2011. The church served a great meal and the East Amory Choir brought a blessed program with singing.

After the program the association had regular business. Bro. Gary O'neal read the minutes from November and Bro. Roger Franks gave the treasurer's report. Bro. Mark Jones and Bro. Larry Tramel spoke on the State Brotherhood and the State Galileans and encouraged all churches to support these ministries. Bro. Gary Smith also gave a report on the College and said that the College could use some help this month with their finances.

Moderator Gary Smith
Reporter Debbie Franks

In particular, Flint argued that Southwestern's scroll fragments, alongside others, have revealed which biblical texts were most widely read by the Jewish community that preserved the Dead Sea Scrolls and hid them in the caves near Qumran. As such, the scrolls not only illuminate the biblical text, but they also inform scholars about those who copied and read the scrolls 2,000 years ago, during Jesus' lifetime.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:6-7



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Hoarders

There's a program that comes on TV about hoarders. There are some EXTREME HOARDERS on that program. When a person can't walk through the house because of the stuff, it's time to take action.

But I know where they're coming from. Back in my day we HAD to save stuff. We saved the string that was unraveled from the flour sacks, sugar sacks, feed sacks, etc. We saved wrappers from bread. That was wax paper then and we used it to rub our flat iron across so it would make the iron slick. If we got a newspaper, we saved it to wrap our lunch in to take to school. When we got a gift we saved the wrapping paper AND the ribbon.

We had plans to use all the stuff we saved and we eventually did use some of it.

I have advice for everybody: "Get rid of anything that isn't useful. Clutter weighs you down in many ways."

Solomon said it better in Ecclesiastes 3:6 "...a time to keep, and a time to cast away."

Peter also had a comment along this line in I Peter 2:1 "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,"

Maybe we all need to declutter our houses AND our minds. What do you think?

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.

Tupelo Church Seeks Pastor

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Tupelo, Mississippi is searching for a pastor. Anyone feeling led should contact one of the individuals listed below.

Ricky Sandford at 662-213-1442, Eilliam Lucius at 662-842-0552, or DAvid Langford at 662-687-1610.

Harmony Meeting

The December meeting of the Harmony Association was held on Friday, December 9 at Providence Baptist