

The Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

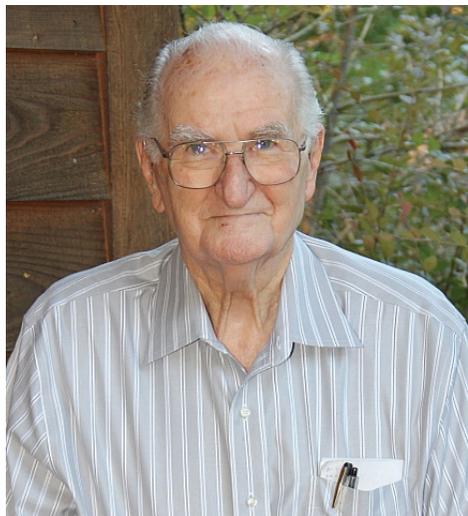
DECEMBER 15, 2012

www.bmaofmississippi.com

VOL. 66 No. 24

Rev. G.H. Gordon Goes Home

Editor's Note: Bro. G.H. Gordon passed away on Saturday, December 15. The information below was provided by his family. Bro. Gordon served the BMA of America and Mississippi with honor and distinction. He was interim editor of the Mississippi Baptist and a trustee of the Publications Department when I was elected in 1978. We extend our sympathies to the entire Gordon family.



Bro. G. H. Gordon

Rev. Granville Hollis (G.H.) Gordon, 90, went to be with his heavenly Father Saturday night, December 15, 2012 at the home of his daughter, Donna Strickland. (Funeral services were incomplete as we went to press). Officiating will be Rev. Dr. Keith Gordon, Dr. Dale Holloway, and Dr. Perry Sanderford and Dr. Don Brown. His grandsons will serve as pallbearers.

G.H. was born October 12, 1922, outside of Picayune to Eugenia and Tom Gordon. He and his mother lived with his sister, Verna Godshaw, and her husband, Walter, on a farm in the Mill Creek community of Pearl River County. After graduating from Carriere High School, G.H. Gordon

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Thoughts About Tragic Mass Shooting

Why the Shock and Awe?

by Franklin Graham
(Column First Published in the Washington Post)

Amid the "most wonderful season of all" comes the tragic news of a deranged young man entering an elementary school in Newtown, Conn., killing 27, including 20 children. Tragically, Christmas for these families will likely be the darkest of many dark hours to come. The days when parents could send their children off to school with confidence that they would be cared for and protected seem long gone.

Just this summer we watched a senseless shooting spree in a Colorado movie theater take the lives of 12 people and injure another 59. The national premiere of "The Dark Knight Rises" had Americans clamoring for tickets to be entertained by violent behavior. When tragedies like these occur, why do we respond with such shock and awe? Psychiatrist Keith Ablow said, "This kind of shock registers with people—because it seems like the unthinkable keeps moving into the sphere of our reality."

In this time of great concern and social confusion, may the God of Creation and the Lord of Salvation shine forth in each heart during this Christmas Season. Let us look to Heaven for answers, guidance and comfort.

May the Joy of Christ surround you and yours as we remember the birth of the Son of God - Jesus our Savior.

- The Editor and Trustees of your Publications Department

2012 Walk for the World Deadline Approaches

by Diane Ward
National Walk Coordinator

We are approaching a very busy season. Many things must be checked off our to-do lists before the end of the year. Please check your list and make sure all your 2012 Walk for the World money has been turned in to Lifeword. You may make donations to Lifeword at anytime; however, for your Walk for the World donations to count toward the two youth room makeover contests, we must receive the funds into our office on or before December 31, 2012. So please get your individual or church offerings mailed in today. Make sure all checks are made to Lifeword and

designated for the Walk for the World; online donations may be made at www.lifeword.org

We are anxious to see who the two youth room makeover winners will be. One makeover will be awarded to the church who raises the most money overall, and the other will be awarded to the church who raises the most money per capita. The names of the winning churches will be announced in January 2013.

We extend our thanks to each of you who faithfully supported Lifeword and the annual Walk event again this year. May you and your family enjoy a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

The "unthinkable" first surfaced in mankind thousands of years ago when Cain killed his brother Abel out of mere jealousy and rivalry. God had warned Cain, "Sin is crouching at your door," but Cain ignored God's word and committed murder. God punished Cain for taking innocent life but the violent shedding of blood has continued for centuries. Why?

The Bible answers this question with certainty, "The heart is deceitful above

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National Meeting Information

It's Time! - To Make Your Reservations for the 2013 BMAA Meeting in Norman

The 2013 session of the BMA of America will meet April 22-24 at the beautiful Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Norman, Oklahoma. The hotel and conference center are under one roof and are conveniently located just off of I-35 with shopping areas nearby. There is plenty of free parking for our attendees and complimentary shuttle service is offered to local area attractions within a five mile radius of the hotel. All suites have separate living and bedroom areas, a complimentary cooked-to order breakfast will be served to hotel guests each morning, and both noon and evening meals can be purchased within the hotel.

When the BMAA Committee on Arrangements contracts with a convention center to host our annual meeting,

Continued on page 2

Church Hit By Lightning

by the editor

The Good Hope Baptist Church, Overt, was struck by lightning during a recent thunderstorm. The church is located on Highway 15, near the Landrum Community south of Laurel.

The main damage was to the church steeple. Local volunteer fire departments responded along with some good samaritans who were passing by. The fire was put out quickly and reportedly little, if any damage, to the building.

Pastor Ricky Mitchell stated the damage was minimal and limited to the steeple and roof.

Gwen Landrum, who lives in the community, took this photo shortly after the fire started. She pointed out that the flames look like an 'angel' on top of the church.

If the photo prints well you should be able to see the image that looks 'angelic' facing the right. Do you see the hands folded, the wings and the face?



Photo by Gwen Landrum



Harmony Association Report

The December meeting of the Harmony Association met at Forked Oak in Booneville Friday, December 12, 2012. The evening started with a delicious meal provided by the host church. The meeting began with congregational singing and special music, followed by the welcome. The evening message was brought by Bro. Don Thornburg of Westview Baptist Church in Oxord, using Proverbs 14:34-35, entitled America Remember.

There were 5 churches present with 69 in attendance and 2 visitors. The minutes and treasurer's reports were

approved. We voted to give Bro. Kelby Johnson, Bro. Bobby Elliot and Bro. Bob Burch \$1,000.00 each toward their work funds. The January meeting will be in New Hope in Mantachie, with the host church providing the speaker. The alternate speaker will Bro. Tommy Shroad. Bro. Bobby Elliott, Bro. Bob Burch, and Bro. Larry Geraldson gave reports.

Mike Smith, moderator
Tony Marolt, reporter..

Tombigbee Meets

The Tombigbee Association met at East Fulton Baptist Church on December 6. We opened in prayer led by Bro. Gary O'Neal. The message was brought by Bro. Kevin Clayton titled 'The Jesus The Shepherds Didn't See.' A great meal was served by host church. We had 7 churches represented with 59 messengers with 13 visitors present.

Moderator Matt Hudson
Reporter Debbie Franks

2013 BMA of Mississippi Pastor's Retreat

January 28-29, 2013
Lake Tiak O'Khata
Louisville, Mississippi

Registration 1:00 PM
Monday, January 28
Cost \$60.00 (bunkhouse)
\$40.00 if staying in motel

Theme - Psalm 51:10
*"Create in me a clean heart,
O God; and renew a right
spirit within me.*

For more information contact
Justin Rhodes
601-218-3364

Commission on Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt
Director

The amazing announcement many years ago (Luke 2:8-11)

"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 shown round about them . . . and the angel said, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people . . . for unto you is born this day . . . a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Imagine the scene as it unfolded that first Christmas evening. The blackness of night is shattered by the brightness of God's glory. His "good tidings of great joy" are followed immediately by shouts of praise from a host of other angelic beings. Then, as suddenly as it appeared, the celestial host vanished. DARKNESS, SILENCE. A sense of awe and wonderment.

For me, the true message of Christmas was shouted from heaven to these shepherds keeping watch over Israel's sacrificial lambs outside Bethlehem. Christmas is the time to focus on the birth of the One found whom history revolves.

God's heavenly messenger bestowed three titles on this newborn Child. In Luke 2:11, Saviour, Christ, Lord - this

**AVAILABLE
FOR SERVICE**

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

Harold Holifield

Bro. Harold Holifield is available for fill-in service in churches reasonably close to his home in Laurel. Bro. Holifield has pastored a number of churches and still desires to be used of the Lord. He may be reached at 601-729-2666.

Sam Freeman

Bro. Sam Freeman is available for pulpit supply, interim and pastoral work. Bro. Freeman has been pastoring in Mississippi churches since 1999. He is married and has 3 children. He may be reached at 601-795-3990 or by email at sfree71@gmail.com

Church seeks used pews

The North Spoon Baptist Church of Poplarville, Mississippi, is in need of some used church pews. If you have some used church pews, please contact John Miller at 601-795-0330, 601-798-8705 or 601-795-5737.

Baby was the incarnate Son of God.

Tonight, walk outside and find a place where you can look up at the sky and see the stars. Then pause for a few minutes to thank God for the solitude of a field outside Bethlehem where shepherds heard heaven's bold declaration. No tinsel, no tree, no commercialism to crowd out the message - just a clear announcement of God's truth "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Hannith and I wish for all our seniors a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

National Meeting Information

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the rental fee is normally tied to the number of hotel rooms we expect our attendees to use during the meeting. The rental fee in Norman is \$5,000 contingent upon our use of 200 rooms blocked at the Embassy Suites Hotel. The rental fee will increase by the daily cost of each room not used.

Terms have been negotiated in Norman that will allow the conference center space to be rent free if we use the total number of rooms blocked at the Embassy Suites and four overflow hotels. Please help us fill the Embassy Suites rooms first to cap the cost of the rental space and then the overflow rooms will help us get the meeting space rent free. Our association had to pay \$12,000 extra in Jackson, Mississippi last year because so many of the blocked hotel rooms were not used. Please help us avoid a situation like that this year.

The Embassy Suites is accepting reservations now. Please use the following link to make your reservations online <http://www.visitnorman.com/baptist-missionaries/> or call 405-364-8040. Please specify that you are with the BMA of America group if you make your reservations by phone. Rates at the Embassy Suites are: Single-\$120, Double-\$130, Triple-\$140, and Quad-\$150. Reservations will be accepted at the overflow hotels at a later date. We appreciate your help.

Charles Attebery, Leon Carmical,
James Ray Raines
BMAA Committee on Arrangements

Southeastern Baptist College

4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440, (601) 426-6346

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Christmas at SBC

That time of year is here: food, fun, presents, food, caroling, Christmas plays, food, lights, shopping, reindeer, and lest I forget, food. The celebration of Christmas for most of us has a spiritual emphasis, with good old American culture mixed in. To not emphasize Christ and family is to miss the boat. Our semester has ended here at SBC and everyone seemed ready for the Christmas break. Our sign out front displays the message: MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL FROM SBC. We believe this time of year is still CHRISTmas and not just some generic winter festival holiday.



Joseph Harris
Interim
President

End of the Year Giving

2012 is almost over and some donors wait until the end of December to make a donation. Southeastern Baptist College is registered as a 501 (c) (3) organization and all gifts are considered tax deductible contributions in accordance with Internal Revenue Code 170. Now is a good time for indi-

viduals to give and now is certainly a good time for SBC to receive. We are doing our part to end in the black in June 2013 with recent budget cuts implemented in November that affected all employees.

The cuts had to be made in order to not spend more than we are taking in. This was especially difficult to announce to employees, coupled with the fact no Christmas bonuses were available for this year. The loyalty and dedication of the staff here is exceptional and I appreciate the staff for their understanding in these times. I deeply appreciate them for their work and loyalty to the Lord and SBC and I especially appreciate our supporting churches, associations and donors for their contributions and prayers in 2012. Continue to pray for the Board of Trustees in their search for the right man to lead Southeastern Baptist College. Merry Christmas from SBC.

Campus Meal

The students and staff recently celebrated with a Thanksgiving/Christmas dinner celebration. Everyone par-



Students brought food

ticipated by bringing their favorite dish. The students did an outstanding job in setting up tables and chairs and deco-



A good meal enjoyed by all

rating for the season. The fellowship was great and the food was exceptional. Chalk it up to one more fond SBC memory that will be cherished in the hearts of all forever.

Christmas Parade

Southeastern has experienced many "firsts" over the past six months and participation in the local Christmas parade was just one more. This student led project was fun for all as students and staff prepared a float to match the Bayou Christmas theme. The SERTOMA club of Laurel sponsors this event each year and it is billed as the largest Christmas parade in Mississippi. The route is over two miles long and thousands of people lined the streets of Laurel on Saturday, December 1. It was great advertising for the college and a lot of fun for all involved.

Southeastern Students and Staff at Laurel Christmas Parade



Letters From Our Readers

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

Report on Go Forth Baptist Worship Center, a mission point in Lucedale

Dear Editor,
The mission started with a burden for missions by missionary Donald Hilbun in 2011. After several weeks of Bible studies, prayer, and much deliberation, it became clear that the Lord was moving on me to begin a work in this area. After being convinced this was the work to which I was to proceed in, I shared this vision with Pastor John Mills of Pineview

Baptist in Lucedale. Brother Mills in turn shared this with Pineview. In February of 2012 Pineview, after much prayer, unanimously identified me as their missionary for this work.

Since February we have had consistent growth. We are averaging in attendance 25. This average includes Sunday and Wednesday services. Members are being won in door to door outreach. We do not solicit for members from other churches. Some have united with us that



Donald & Patsy Hilbun

were not involved in other churches.

Our support comes mainly from our tithes and offerings. These tithes and offerings average about Four Hundred and Fifty dollars per week. Other support comes from Pineview who gives about \$200 per month; Pleasant Hill \$25 per month, and Biloxi River \$100. Sanctuary chairs were purchased by Westhaven, Rock Hill, Campground, Pleasant Hill and Pineview. Rock Hill is faithful in many areas of the ministry. Campground and Pleasant Hill have given us two personal love offerings in 2012.

We have been seeking property in North Lucedale and North George County. Every bid and investigation we made resulted in closed doors. We didn't know why, but God did.

During the praying and seeking we didn't know the Lord was working on a saint in a sister church to make an offer to us. In North Lucedale city limits we were offered a sixteen acre campus for \$40,000.00. We did not bid on this property. God spoke to her and this was her offer. We are in the process of acquiring these funds at present from our state missions office. Once the property is paid for we will begin

construction. If you would help with this purchase you may do so through our mother church, Pineview Missionary Baptist in Lucedale.

A very special thanks to my lovely wife, Sister Patsy, for all her work with me here and abroad.

In His Service,
Missionary Donald Hilbun
601-508-5784
Pastor John Mills
601-408-0537

**Baptist Missionary Association
of Mississippi**

www.bmaofmississippi.com

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History & Archives Commission

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Moral Action

P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855

Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Things That Need Our Attention

With all that is going on in the world we still must continue to work and operate on a daily basis. We are not called to quit nor are we to be timid in these difficult and dangerous days in which we live.



Don Brown
Editor

January 2013

Contrary to what a great number of people fear and what some do not understand, I do not think the 'world will end' on December 21, 2012 as some credit the ancient Mayan civilization as pre-

dicting. This world will not end for quite some time, for first Jesus must come for His church. I do hope that He comes soon.

Barring His return for another 30 days or so, we must ask that you again support this ministry with a good Special Emphasis Offering in January 2013.

Each year it becomes harder to accept the new number that we have to deal with - I thought the year 2000 was hard to accept, but each subsequent year just adds another level of "wow".

We continue to plan and work for the future. That being the case, we are looking for a good Special Emphasis offering from our supporters.

Would you plan now to give a good offering to your Publications Department in January? This annual offering is a vital part of our operating budget and is a real need.

G.H. Gordon

In March of 1978 at a special called meeting of the BMA of Mississippi and at the request of the Publications Trustees, I was selected as the editor of the Mississippi Baptist. The driving force behind that selection was Bro. G.H. Gordon. He was a trustee and Interim Editor. He had a vision for this work to expand and become a full-time ministry.

Many things have changed over the past 35 years. Budgetary concerns caused this ministry to become part-time a few years ago, but the vision of Bro. Gordon continues. I know the Mississippi Baptist is better today due to his vision for this department and the work of our churches as a whole.

Pray for the family in their loss, but celebrate and honor the Lord for the homegoing of Granville H. Gordon.

G.H. Gordon

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married Miriam Culpepper. Soon afterward, he enlisted in the Army Air Corp and was stationed in Liverpool, England during WWII.

Following the war, he returned home to meet his eighteen month old daughter, Tessa. He and Miriam built a home and he worked with International Harvester in Picayune. Feeling the call into the ministry, he was ordained April 2, 1950. He then moved his family to Jacksonville, TX, where he attended Jacksonville Baptist Theological Seminary.

During his 58 years of ministry, he pastored: Friendship Baptist Church and Little Flock, Jewett, TX (1950-51); Rural Shade, Kerens, TX (1951-52); Ogden Avenue, Mobile, AL (1952-54); Stanton Way, Mobile, AL (1954-

58); Creston Hills, Jackson (1958-65); Shady Grove, Laurel (1965-74); Creston Hills, Jackson (1974-84); Rolling Hills, Jacksonville, FL (1984-86); Temple, Lucedale (1986-89); Highland Park, Hattiesburg (1990-96); Shiloh, Mt. Olive (1996-98); and Pear Orchard, Jackson (1998-2008).

For eight years, he served as editor of the Mississippi Baptist, the weekly paper of the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA). He also served as Director of the BMA Publication Department and as Recording Secretary of both the state and national Missionary Baptist organizations.

Throughout his life, he was an avid wood craftsman. His porch swings, tables, and Christmas decorations were often gifted to family and friends. He and Miriam especially enjoyed time spent at their getaway place in Jasper County.

He was admired and respected for

his devotion to being a Christian witness. G.H. loved the Lord, the church and his family.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Miriam; his eldest daughter, Tessa Gordon Darst; and his great grandson, Nathan Key. He is survived by his wife, Ruby Kennedy; son, Keith (Judy) Gordon, Pearl; Cathy (Jay) Johnson, Ashville, NC; Connie Lowe, Laurel; and Donna (Nick) Strickland, Brandon; grandchildren Gordon Darst, Gerald Gordon II, Dr. Jessica Gordon, Rodney Johnson, Jeannie Johnson, Deidra Johnson, Lori Lowe Key, Lou Lowe, Sally Slater Easterling, Tom Slater, and Steven Slater; and 14 great grandchildren.

The family would like to give special thanks for the care given by Pam Horton, Lolita Jackson, Flora Bilbrew, Sandral Mack, John Anderson, Jackie Coates, Lyquita Anderson and Mary Nason.

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January 2013 - Special Emphasis

Our Need - \$10,000



Don Brown
Editor

Mississippi Baptist

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On The Web at www.msbbaptist.org

Your Support & Gifts Are Appreciated!

That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works. Psalm 26:7

Why the Shock and Awe?

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all things, and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). In fact, the Bible gives clear testimony to just how evil the human race became. "The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord "was grieved in His heart" (Genesis 6:5-6).

Where do we go from here? We might start by looking at what we watch and listen to. For example, South Korean rapper sensation, Psy, who has gained worldwide acclaim by singing that Americans should be killed "slowly and painfully," including, "daughters, mothers, daughters-in-law and fathers" was featured last weekend at "Christmas in Washington," a charity concert attended by President Obama. Parents and children are feeding on entertainment that portrays violence whether through lewd television programs, violent movies, offensive mu-

sic, vulgar video games and anything-goes Internet gaming sites.

Society craves violence as long as it comes in the form of entertainment. Our outlook changes when we become its victims. This is precisely why God did not stand by unconcerned. His love for mankind is so overwhelmingly powerful that His wrath against evil is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and the unrighteousness of men (Romans 1:18). The Bible says that people suppress the truth through unrighteous behavior that begins in the mind.

During this Christmas season, we should turn our minds and hearts from wickedness and remember what God has done for the world He loves. He sent His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as the Christmas Child to point us to the way of truth. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him

National Brotherhood Project

For a number of years our Brotherhood promoter was Bro. Arthur Smith. When it came to promoting a worthy cause, no one could do it better than Bro. Smith. Even when he was sick this past April, he willingly spoke of promoting our worthy project. Since his death in May, there has been no

should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). His innocent blood was shed to cover our sinful hearts, and to those who will seek Him, He offers His abiding peace. He is the peace that surpasses all understanding.

The same God who gave the world His greatest gift, will also comfort the hearts of the grieving—in Newtown, Conn., or anywhere else—for He understands grief. He became a curse for us so that His promise would be fulfilled through faith in Him (Galatians 3:13). This is the shocking awe, that God would send so great a message in the form of a child. Indeed, this is the message of Christmas.

promotion of the project. In his place, I want to keep you informed about our project.

Moral Action of America is our project. Dr. John Adams and the staff of this department deserve our support. Our country is in a great moral decline. So far this year there has been over 600 instances where our freedom has had to be defended in the courts. In a country where we are suppose to have religious freedom, it is fast becoming put down.

Without your support this department cannot promote morality among our churches. Dr. and Mrs. Adams visit our legislatures in Washington to let them know we are holding them accountable for the leadership of our country.

Please support Moral Action of America with your prayers and monetary gifts.

Please send offerings to
Robert Bynum
43 Bear Pen Creek Road
Laurel, MS 39440

Mississippi W.M.A.

Blinda Lee, President

77 Morrow Rd., Purvis, MS 39475
601-596-3417
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730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443
601-729-5638

Ten Mile District WMA Meeting

2011-2012 Theme - Committed to God - *“Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass”* Psalms 37:5.

The Ten Mile WMA held its meeting on October 8, 2012, at Vardaman Street Baptist Church, Wiggins. The meeting was called to order by the First Vice President Louise Crawley. President Myrtis Mallett was absent due to family illness.

Sister Louise Crawley blessed us with a devotional from Psalms 103. “Visualizing Yourself as a Pumpkin,” She used a real pumpkin to remind us that all Pumpkins are different and all come in different sizes. We are the same way, all different made by our maker The Lord Jesus Christ. Pumpkins are distributed to all areas in the United States. We need to continue to pray for the Lord to send his spirit inside us on a daily basis. God open the top of us and look inside me. What do we see on the outside of the pumpkin? Lord help us to remove what is inside of us, forgive us of our sins. Pumpkin’s

eyes are different sizes. Psalms 1-19 we can see our Lord, we can open our eyes to faith and see ourselves in the mirror. Daily rededicate our lives to the Lord. The Pumpkin’s Nose was a cross showing us Faith in the cross. The Cross symbolizes Forgiveness. The Ears give us the sign to Listen to the Lord’s word (we all need to work in this area - John 47). The Pumpkin’s mouth reminds us to spread the word of Jesus Christ, win souls and daily be missionaries.

The ladies of the Ten Mile WMA acknowledged the presence of Sister Virgene Bell. Her grandson brought her so she could attend the meeting.

A Video, “The Great Physician,” was shown and encouraged us to have Faith, Joy, Believe, Trust, and Know that God is in control.

We enjoyed refreshments and a great fellowship with Ten Mile Baptist Church. Our next meeting will be at Ten Mile Baptist Church on January 14, 2013.

Reporter Maria Ochoa

Northeast District WMA Report

The Northeast District WMA met at East Fulton Church November 13, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. for a delicious meal of sandwiches and good hot soup. Pastor Gary Smith led the prayer and blessing on the food. Thank you East Fulton for such a lovely meal and your hospitality!

After the meal President Stacy Smith called the meeting to order. There were 38 members present with 6 churches represented. Mrs. Elaine Smith gave a report on the State meeting. The State project for 2012-2013 will be financial assistance to the two WMA ladies and three GMA girl’s mission trip to Ukraine. Any funds left over will go to Bro. Ed Duvall’s work fund.

The Northeast District next project will be Moral Action, Dr. John Adams director. The WMA National Project for 2012-2013 will be Camp Colorado. We were delighted to have Bro. Bob Burch and his wife

Edie. They showed slides of the progress of the Caledonia church building in the Columbus area. They had their first meeting there November 18, 2012. Our prayers are with you. The program was very impressive. Mollie Bean sang “Mighty to Save.” Good job Mollie! The theme of the meeting was “Falling Before Jesus.” Several ladies read different scripture of people who fell at the feet of Jesus and were healed, cleansed, and forgiven. A very good program for our day when so many people are too proud to fall before Jesus!

The following announcements were made: Rita Sweat will speak at Bethel Baptist Church on January 16, 2013 at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to hear her. Mrs. Donna Lawrence is home, but very much in need of our prayers. May God bless you, Donna and Bro. David. A love offering of \$170.00 was taken for them. Anita Akers asked us to remember her

Thank You To The Mississippi WMA Ladies!

by Bro. Rocky Goodwin, EIM Director
& Fonda Norris, Shepherd Bags Coordinator

We want to say a big “THANK YOU!” to the Mississippi State WMA ladies. Wow, what a blessing when we received the offering for the Shepherd Bags Ministry. It could not have come at a better time. Funds had gotten so low that we could not order supplies but now we will be able to start back after Christmas making bags. The offering came just as we had returned from Honduras delivering over 2,000 bags.

In addition to the children, the Gospel was preached to school administrators, principals, teachers and village officials at eight schools. Many heard the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the very first time and accepted Him as Savior. At one village we preached and handed out bags in the cool mountain rain. But it was worth it!

Many think only of school children when thinking of the Shepherd Bags and who it is reaching. But take a moment to read below just a few of the highlights we’ve experienced this year while handing out bags.

Up in the rural mountains, (I mean way up, it took us four hours by four wheel drive truck to reach it!) we went to these very small schools that was miles away from any town and gave simple presentations of the Gospel and at each place we had people get saved. At one school there was a very tall boy and he was dressed very poorly. When asked who had invited Jesus into their hearts to raise their hands. His hands shot up. He told us he raised both hands because he wanted to make sure we knew that he had asked Christ to save him!

On that same trip, we had to hire a policeman to go with us because it was coffee harvest—daughter-in-law Julie Akers in prayer.

A retreat planning meeting will be held at East Fulton Church sometime in January. The next district meeting will be at First Baptist, Mantachie on February 12. We want to thank Debbie Hopper for printing our yearbook for 2012-2013. Beverly Bean led the closing prayer.

Betty Moody, Reporter

ing season. He was in his starched blue uniform & with a rifle slung over his shoulders. At the very first school that we were able to present the Gospel he stood outside the school windows and during the invitation he bowed his head. While



he didn’t say anything then, at the second school he just seemed different. He jumped down from the truck and starting helping unload boxes. When it was time to pray at the next school, he took off his hat and put it over his heart. When we drove back down the mountain and dropped him off at his road to walk home, he told Bro. Manuel Lepe, our EIM director in Honduras that he wanted a Bible and he had asked Christ into his heart at the first school!!!!

This summer we did a Bible school in Honduras. Each morning we would go out and take Shepherd Bags to different village schools. At one of the schools, as soon as we drove up this woman walks over and asks can Bro. Rocky and Manuel come and pray with a lady in the house (it was across from the school). Right inside the door was a bed and a lady was on it that was dying of cancer. She looked like a concentration camp survivor she was so thin. Bro. Rocky shared Christ with her and she prayed. She raised her skinny arm and said, “I am so at peace now and not afraid to die.” “I am so glad you came to my house today.” We wouldn’t have ever been there at that village if we were not there delivering Shepherd Bags. So I always tell people that not only are children being saved but adults are as well. We’ve had a Catholic school principal saved and some teachers too.

We were heading to a school to deliver bags this summer and the river had flooded the road and we couldn’t get there. We wondered what to do since we had a truck load full of Shepherd Bags. So we just start stopping at every house back

on the way home that we see kids at and start sharing Christ and give them bags. At one house that we had passed every day going to Bible school there was a lady with children that we would see. We stopped and her children ran behind the back and she wouldn’t come to the door. She finally did and we shared Christ and she received Him. After that, each day when we would pass her house going to Bible school she would stand out there and smile and wave really

big. One lady on the team made a neat spiritual observation. She said, “all week long we drove by and she would shrink into the “darkness” of her house. After she was saved she came out into the “light” to wave. Her whole facial expression was different.

On that same day that the river was flooded we stopped at a house and gave two ladies and three children some bags. The children were really young but we shared Christ and the grandmother was saved!!!

When we make our unisex bags here in Warren, we put our 7” EIM Spanish John 3:16 frisbees that we’ve had designed for us. While giving them out in Honduras, the children turned them over and said, “dish”. They thought they were something they ate out of. When we demonstrated and showed them how to throw them, their faces lit up. We said, “Look the Word of God is flying all around this school yard!” They have been a huge hit in Honduras and we feel blessed that we’re leaving the Word with them and those will be played with in all the schools and neighborhoods.

When we go into the schools and villages YOU are there with us because you have loved the souls of children and partnered with us to see that the Gospel is preached in countries around the world. We can’t say it enough but we really couldn’t do it without you!

Please join us in praying for our last Shepherd Bags Distribution Team. They will be in Honduras passing out bags December 14-19. Please pray that many will be saved.

Have a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

They Have A Good Home Life

Part Three - Encouragement

This is a series of articles written to help us focus our passions and priorities on what makes a good home life. I hear people talking in church about other people's kids or their marriages; and they all agree that these people have a "good home life". What characteristics make up a good home life? What are the common threads in the family fabric of Christian homes that are healthy, holy and work well? Hopefully through this series of articles, it will help you learn, focus, and increase your efforts on these traits that are found consistently in homes that are a nice place to grow up in or grow old in.

ENCOURAGEMENT

If love is the foundation of the good home and forgiveness is the roof we live under, then encouragement becomes the framework for all the rooms of the good home. In my conferences, sometimes I get the crowd to laugh when I ask them to raise their hands up if this is a true statement for them. "How many of you are depressed and need counseling because you are over encouraged? How many of you will say that you can't stand it anymore if you get any more thanks from your family, your co-workers and your fellow church members? You need help at home because you are simply over appreciated?" Laughter ensues. But in reality, it is kind of sad isn't it!

Very few people are appreciated for the beautiful person they are in Jesus Christ. We are Sons and Daughters of the Most High God. II Corinthians 6:18. We are princes and princesses of the King. Romans 8:17. He has made us wonderful. Psalm 139:14. He has crowned us with glory and honor. Psalm 8:5. He has made us in his beautiful image, Genesis 1:27, yet others around us fail to see it or acknowledge it.

Therefore, most Christians drag through life with discouragement. It often times leads to depression. It can lead to feelings of being unworthy, worthless, hopeless, and unloved.

As a personal note to yourself, you can find encouragement from the Lord. If you have

very little encouragement, don't look for people to give it to you and then get depressed when they don't. You encourage others. Let your light shine before others. But you can always encourage yourself in the Lord. How? By memorizing those scriptures I just listed earlier in the article. It doesn't matter who people say you are. It only matters who God says you are. He says he absolutely loves and accepts you forever.

Romans 8:38,39. If no one else encourages you, encourage yourself by knowing truly who you are in Jesus Christ. You're royalty. Don't look down. Look up!

Do you know what one of the most powerful tools is to keep all kids off of drugs and alco-



hol? Encouragement. It is frequently discouraged kids that gravitate to the wrong peer group who pull them down into the depths of chemical abuse. Everyone is built by God to need love and acceptance. When we don't find that at home, we as humans tend to go try and find it somewhere else. We shouldn't. But we do.

When people are not accepted or encouraged at home, they go find friends who do accept them and encourage them. However, it is most likely in an ungodly way. People who are stuck in a marriage that is not encouraging will often times resort to looking for a cheap substitute for what they

are needing and missing at home. It can be adultery. It can be overwork at the job. Acceptance through looks by over exercising. Trying to beg for encouragement by changing the way we look. Some even look for acceptance and encouragement at the bottom of a bottle. But encouragement can only truly be given to us from our Creator. And then we must pass it on to those we love.

I Thessalonians 5:11, "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do." Families should comfort each other as they live together. We do this by edifying each other. Edify means to build up. Build each other up. Don't always tear down. Our saying in our home is - Build Up or Hush Up! Edify comes from the root word for building. A store front on Main Street is called the edifice. We are to build up. Build up your mate. Build up your parents. Build up your kids and grandkids. None of us get enough of it. You may think you are encouraging, but all of us can do more of it.

Ephesians 4:29, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of EDIFYING, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

I quote this verse every single day. The way you talked to that person just now, did it build them up? Encouragement can come in many forms. It can be nice actions. It can be showing kindness and appreciation. But the Bible states that the best way to encourage someone is through your words. It is easy to criticize and complain. Ask God to help you see the good in people. Then, take an action. Actually start saying something to others. Each day, make it a point to encourage someone you see. Write a card. Send an e-mail. Give a hug. Say to someone, "I really appreciate you because . . .".

A good home life is where all family members thrive within the walls of encouragement.

Family Ark Ministries



Travis Plumlee

CHILDREN'S HOME

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

Keep Christ in Christmas

Soon it will be Christmas day and we will recognize the birth of our Savior and soon coming King. It is good that we can choose to celebrate with the shepherds the good news that was announced by the angel to them that indeed a Savior had been born. Luke 2:8-11.

From now to Christmas day many shoppers will be crowding the shopping malls and department stores rushing around to purchase gifts. That is just great for the corporations and store owners because it's the time of the year when their business is making a good profit.

To others this time of the year is merely taking a trip to their favorite vacation spot. To many children Christmas means getting that long awaited toy or gift.

The youth at our church presented a Christmas program recently that depicted a family putting out their manger scene, but baby Jesus could not be found. Many members of the family were not too concerned that He couldn't be found.

You know, Christ can get

lost among all the excitement of Christmas time if one is not very careful. Finally, baby Jesus was found and the manger scene was complete. This Christmas will not be complete if Christ is not the centerpiece of our Christmas.

Praying that you will have a Christ filled Christmas from all of us at the Children's Home.



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

Recent Church Visits

We were with the Magnolia Baptist Church in Hattiesburg on Sunday, December 2nd for their evening service and their annual Children's Home Christmas and fellowship. Then on Sunday, December 9th we were with the Lee's Chapel #1 Baptist Church near Carriere for our annual visit with them.

Remember in Prayer

Continue to remember the Home and its ministry in your daily prayers.

Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Goethe's Writings



I was thumbing through a book the other day and came across this writing by Goethe. I dug a little and learned that he was born in the 1700's and lived into the 1800's. Even though this was written centuries ago, it's still applicable to modern day times. Read it and see if you don't agree.

There Are Nine Requisites for Contented Living

- Health enough** to make work a pleasure;
- Wealth enough** to support your needs;
- Strength enough** to battle with difficulties and overcome them;
- Grace enough** to confess your sins and forsake them;
- Patience enough** to toil until some good is accomplished;
- Charity enough** to see some good in your neighbor;
- Love enough** to move you to be useful and helpful to others;
- Faith enough** to make real the things of God;
- Hope enough** to remove all anxious fears concerning the future.

(Just think of the words that were written many centuries before these were written that are still applicable to our lives today. God's Word will never become outdated.)



The Spirit of Christmas

Have you ever been challenged to get in the Christmas spirit? Have you ever wondered exactly what that means? I'm afraid that the Christmas spirit, referred to by the world, is worlds apart from the central truth of the biblical text. In Luke 1:35 the scriptures say, "And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

John MacArthur describes what happened; "Here is really where the story of Jesus Christ starts historically. The angel Gabriel comes to a teen-aged girl, probably 13 or 14, living in a humble home, no doubt, in a non-descript town called Nazareth and tells her that God has chosen her for special grace and special favor which is that she will become the mother of the Son of God and that she will conceive and bear that Son while still a virgin.

Obviously from a human perspective, that is not possible. In verse 34 Mary says, "How can this be since I'm a virgin?" In verse 37 the angel reminds her, "Nothing will be impossible with God." What is going to happen is described in verse 35, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you," in place of a man, a husband, "and the power of the Most High will hover around you and because of that you will have a holy child who will be the Son of God."

Now the conception of Jesus Christ in this manner is unique in all the history of humanity. This is the only time this has or ever will occur. This is absolutely critical to the Christian message. This is critical to the gospel. This is critical to Christianity, to biblical theology because it protects the nature of Christ as God and Man. He had to be born of God to be Son of God. He had to be born of a woman to be Son



Larry Geraldson
Director

of Man. And so in this incredible miracle, Mary who is human and God who is divine are brought together and one is born of God and of woman who is God and Man, the God/Man Jesus Christ. And the nature of Jesus Christ as God and Man is at the heart of the Christian faith. If anyone denies the deity of Jesus Christ, they have destroyed Christianity. What you have left is a satanic, deceptive, counterfeit, lying religion invented by men and demons to destroy the truth."

The doctrine of the virgin birth is essential to our gospel. My prayer this Christmas is that the Holy Spirit will overshadow those who are lost, in your family and mine, and that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ will be conceived in their heart bearing fruit unto repentance and that they may receive the gift of grace from the Heavenly Father from whom all blessings flow.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for Kelby and Jessie Johnson. Jessie posted this on Facebook recently: "Kelby and I want to let everyone know what is going on with our pregnancy. We found out today that baby Adley has Trisomy 13. Trisomy 13 is a genetic disorder that involves abnormalities of the brain, heart, face, hands, and feet. It is likely that Adley will not survive the pregnancy. I am fine physically but as you can imagine there are many emotions at this time. We ask for prayers that God's will be done and that we would grieve and suffer in a way that brings glory to God. We are so thankful for the comforting prayers, calls, and texts from so many. We know that God is sovereign over all things and will lead us through this situation." "Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful

Creator while doing good." 1 Peter 4:19

Also, pray for Ms. JoAnn Boone, wife of missionary Ray Boone who is battling a very bad foot injury. Also, remember Edie Burch, wife of missionary Bob Burch, who is returning to the Oncologist for follow-up appointments.

Sadness and Joy

Our office is filled with a mixture of sadness and joy as we say, "Goodbye" to Ms. Lori Garrett and say, "Welcome" to Ms. Brandy Riley.

Ms. Lori has served our churches



Bro. Geraldson presenting Mrs. Lori Garrett with plaque

faithfully for over 15 years. Her skills coupled with her gracious spirit have been a tremendous asset to the entire BMA of Mississippi. Lori is from Soso, MS, a member of Lebanon Baptist Church, and began working for the BMA of MS Missions & Revolving Loan Fund Department in May 1997 after feeling led by the Lord to do so. We so greatly appreciate her service and contribution and she will be missed by all of us.

We welcome Ms. Brandy Riley as the new Office Manager of the BMA of Mississippi Missions and Revolving Loan Fund Department. Ms. Brandy was born on November 18, 1972 and is from Wiggins, MS. She graduated from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and the University of Southern Mississippi where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting and a



Brandy Riley

Master's degree in Business Administration. Brandy has over 15 years of accounting and management experi-



Ken & Brandy Riley

ence and feels blessed to now be able to use her experience for the work of the ministry. Brandy married her husband Ken in 1994 and God has blessed them with 2 children, Brianna and Kris. Brandy serves alongside her husband as he pastors Lebanon Baptist Church in Laurel. We feel fortunate to have Ms. Brandy serve with us and we welcome her to our team.



Lori Garrett displaying plaque recognizing her 15 years of service

High Attendance For The Month of November

<i>Church Planters</i>	
Bobby Elliott	41
Bob Burch	28
Kelby Johnson	25
Justin Rhodes	15
Ray Boone	49
Sidney Farmer	30

<i>Hispanic Missions - South</i>	
Hattiesburg	13
Biloxi	n/a
Laurel	142

<i>Hispanic Missions - North</i>	
Tupelo	25
Oxford	12
Ripley	120

<i>African American Work</i>	
Indianola	60
Olive Branch	12
Cleveland	24

Revolving Loan Fund

Here is where we stood as of the end of November: Gross Assets = \$16,269,812.29, an increase of \$840,412.94 since August 1, 2012. We opened 15 new investment accounts this fiscal year totaling \$491,459.84. We have issued new loans this fiscal year totaling \$239,943.80.

Matching Funds

\$50,000.00 and \$35,000.00 respectively, have been made available to help reduce the cost of the building loans of Bob Burch and Sidney Farmer. For every dollar raised up to these amounts, it will be matched and will directly reduce the costs associated with the purchase and construction of their new facilities. So, if you would like to make a special donation to these funds, please send it to the BMA of Mississippi Missions Department designated for Burch or Farmer matching building fund.

From All of Us

We pray that all of you will have a wonderful Christ centered Christmas. God bless you!

Southeastern Baptist College President Search

The Board of Trustees of Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel, Mississippi, is seeking candidates for the position of President. All those interested in applying for the position should send their resumes to the Board of Trustees Chairman, Richard Welborn, 811 CR 31, Heidelberg, MS 39439 by January 30, 2013.

Carolyn Hagler, Recording Secretary
Southeastern College Board of Trustees