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Baptist

Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

How to have a Merry Christmas

by Travis Plumlee

First of all, relax. I don't think Jesus takes any delight in us being totally exhausted and stressed out because we are trying to celebrate His birthday. Usually, most of the things that exhaust us are society created pressures we put on ourselves which in fact have very little to do with celebrating a Savior being born.

Don't stress out over buying gifts for loved ones. Your single motivation to give a gift this time of the year is an expression of

love to someone. It is a token reminder of the greatest gift of love that we have all been given - A Savior, which is Christ the Lord. It is not a competition with other parents or other family members to see who spends the most. Don't play that flesh-driven game.

If a person is unhappy with a Christmas present, you cannot control the responses of other people. Show me a person who is unhappy with a Christmas gift given to them out of love, and I will show you one selfish, self-centered person. Your response to a

Christmas gift should be one of joy and appreciation that this person has thought of you and loves you, and has chosen to express that to you. I am afraid we have increasingly numbers of young Americans who are so over-indulged that they don't appreciate the gesture.

They actually want expensive, lavish gifts given to them or they are unthankful. I would pray for these ingrates, but I wouldn't worry about their response. I also would keep getting them a gift if I felt led to do so out of love, but don't do it out of a sense of obligation. If you buy gifts out of duty, with no dignity, then you remove the purpose of the gifts in the first place.

Finally, you give gifts because it is more blessed to give than to receive. If you are upset because you give a gift to someone and they don't respond in kind, then again your motivation was wrong in the first place.

Be sure and be spiritual at this time. After all, it is the meaning of Christmas. We are



Travis Plumlee

BMAA Coordinating Council continues to work

The BMAA Coordinating Council met November 2, 2006 at the BMAA Department of Missions in Little Rock, Arkansas. Members present were Richard Smith, David Watkins, Philip Attebery, Vernon Lee, Ronald Morgan and Larry Silvey. Department directors present were Ronnie Green, Grady Higgs, George Reddin and James Speer.

To ensure the purpose and duties of the council are performed as outlined in the Principles of Cooperation Article VIII, the council worked to create clear processes for evaluation of departments and agencies and for advising the development of budgets and fund-raising activities.

A proposed time-line for annual council meetings and primary agenda items was also determined. At the present, plans include the scheduling of an annual retreat for directors and the council each May to work on vision, cooperation and planning. A meeting scheduled for September will focus upon advising in the development of budgets and fund-raising activities. A January meeting will focus on the annual review of each ministry's specific mission.

The directors presented verbal and written reports of their ministries. Each also provided the council with up-to-date financial reports. Lifeword's Million Dollar Club campaign has raised financial commitments of more than \$502,000.

continued on page 5

Short Message Series by Rev. Grover Laird

THERE IS POWER IN HIS NAME

"And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you." (John 16:23)

It could be that the most important thing to remember in seeking help from our Heavenly Father is to ask in Jesus' Name. One of the strongest promises that Jesus made to those who pray, was made to those who pray in the Name of Jesus- *"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."* (John 14:13,14)

But what does it mean to pray in Jesus' Name? It means to come by His authority. It means that since we have so little to our credit that would help us to get through to the Father, we come in the Name of Him Who is worthy. It means that since we have received Jesus as our Saviour and taken our stand with Him, we have the right to ask for help in the merits of Jesus. It means to ask in His interest and for His glory. It means that we believe Jesus will have a part in the answer, and the Father will be glorified in the Son. (John 14:13,14)

When Peter healed a lame man in Jesus' Name, he said it worked because he had faith in the Power of that Name - *"And his*

name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all." (Acts 3:16) I think the results

we will get from praying in Jesus' Name will depend on the faith we have in the power of that Name when we use it, as well as the sincerity of our hearts when we use it.

The Bible teaches that if we will live a righteous life it will add power to our praying - *"And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."* (1 John 3:22)

When Hezekiah was seeking God's help, after Isaiah had told him he would die, he sought help on the basis of his obedient life and it helped. (Isaiah 38:1-5) If asking help of the Lord on the basis that we are trying to live for the Lord would help, what could we expect if we ask on the basis of every wonderful thing about Jesus?

When we therefore come to the Lord in prayer, we should come in the Name of Jesus. But more than that, we should come with an understanding of what we are saying, and with faith in the power of that Name.



Grover Laird

Important Dates

BMA of Mississippi
2007 Pastor's Retreat
February 26 & 27, 2007

National Missions Symposium
Temple Baptist Church
Little Rock, Arkansas
January 8-9, 2007

BMA of Mississippi
Missions & Evangelistic Conference
North - March 20, 2007
South - March 22, 2007

Senior Adult Conferences
South - March 29, 2007
Picayune, Mississippi
North - May 8, 2007
Fulton, Mississippi

Special Missions Department Open House

The BMA of Mississippi Missions Office will host an "open house" on Monday, December 11, from 10:00 a.m. until Noon. This will be a time of special prayer and thanksgiving. You are invited to join us for worship, praise and refreshments.

Commission on Senior Adults

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



Greetings

Here we are at Thanksgiving 2006. God's people have a lot to be thankful for. This writer has much for which to be thankful. God is good, and He is good to my family. We still have a lot of freedom to enjoy in our great country. I like the song that speaks of all the things we have. Most of which is our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. In Him we have Hope. In Christ we have heaven to look for. In Him we have a day by day companion.

Church Visits

Dot and I had the privilege of going back to Bethel, Seminary. I preached in the absence of pastor Rickey Mitchell who was away in revival services. We did enjoy the day with our friends there. I served Bethel nearly five years as Interim a few years ago. We enjoyed a day at Big Creek, Soso. We have many good friends at Big Creek. They are without a pastor at this time. It is good to go back to churches that we

have worked with through the years. Many of the older brothers and sisters in the Lord are in heaven now. We love to make new friends.

Association Visits

We attended the November meeting of the Big Creek Association which met with Parkview, Laurel. We enjoyed a time of music and singing. It was a good meeting. Big Creek Association continues their monthly support to the Commission.

Financial Support Growing

The financial support to the Commission is growing slowly but surely. God continues to lay this good work on the hearts of our people. As He places this work on your heart, please respond as He leads. This is a good work. It focuses on the older people of our churches. These have given and are continuing to give of themselves to the Lord and to His cause. Please help us help you help your Seniors.

New Brochure Being Printed

A new Brochure will be in the hands of the printer in a few days. This Brochure explains the purpose and goals of the Commission. I have been surprised to see the number of our own BMA people here in Mississippi that don't know that we have such a ministry to our Seniors. This Brochure explains the work.

People ask me very often if we have materials to help them establish a ministry for their Seniors. We don't have anything to offer them. We need some material that would explain the 'what, the how, and the why' for a Senior Adult Ministry in the local church. This costs money that we do not have. Hopefully one day we will have such helps.

Conferences

The South Conference is scheduled for March 29, 2007. The Place is Mill Creek Church, Picayune. The program is just about finalized. It will be a great program. Mark your calendars and be ready to travel to Picayune.

The North Conference will be at Hopewell Baptist Church, Fulton. The date is Tuesday, May 8, 2007. We will have more on the Conferences as the time nears.

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.

Leakesville Baptist Church announces new pastor

The members and congregation at Leakesville Missionary Baptist Church in Leakesville, is happy to announce that we have a new pastor. Bro. David Clark answered our call Sunday November 19, 2006, He and his wife Libbie are members at Parkview Baptist in Laurel.

Please keep us in your prayers as we labor together to do God's will. If you are new to the area or are just visiting you are invited to come worship with us. Sunday services are 10:00 am & 11:00 am and 6:00 pm with midweek services at 7:00 pm..

New Year's Eve Watch Night Service

Red Creek Baptist Church, Wiggins will have a New Year's Eve service on Sunday, December 31st starting at 6:00 p.m. There will be good singing, preaching and food.

We are hoping that some of the

Christmas Drive-Through Nativity Broadmoor Baptist Church

5426 Highway 39 North
Meridian, MS 39305
(just north of Hardee's)

Saturday, December 9, 2006
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

All churches are invited
Free hot chocolate will be available

area churches will dismiss their own services that night and join us as we start the New Year praising our Lord.

For more information call Pastor Scotty Rayburn at 601-928-9886.

Silver Haired Friends annual Christmas Program set

The Silver Haired Friends Senior Adult annual Christmas program will be Tuesday December 5, at 7:00 P.M. The program is entitled "Memories" and written by Mrs. Evelyn Reynolds. It will be at First Baptist Church of Calhoun, located 4 miles west of Laurel off Highway 84, behind the Calhoun School.

We welcome everyone to our Christmas program and please note that refreshments will be served. We will honor your presence - come early to get a seat.

Mrs. Evelyn Reynolds, Director
Harold A. Holifield, Pastor

Tombigbee Association Meets

The Tombigbee Association met at Pleasant Hill Church, Tupelo on November 9. They provided a delicious Thanksgiving meal to the 84 who were in attendance. A devotional was brought by Bro. Royce Hawkins and Jonathan Yant, a member at Pleasant Hill, led our singing.

Lavelle Lee gave a report on state missions and Rob Hager, BMA missionary to West Chicago, gave a report on his work. Wexford Parmer encouraged us to support the Christian Action Commission and it new director, Dr. John Adams. Roger Akers reported on Southeastern College.

We took a love offering for Bro. Hager and his mission work. After a special in song by Cheryl Lindsey, State Missionary Kevin Marr brought our evening message.

Roger Akers, president
Wanda Parmer, reproter

Bethel, Fulton calls new pastor

Bro. Martin Jameson has resigned as pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas effective December 3, 2006, to accept the call as pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi.



Martin Jameson

Statute Protecting Pro-Life Medical Professionals Survives Court Challenge

(AgapePress) - A U.S. federal appeals court has upheld the dismissal of a lawsuit brought by a pro-abortion group challenging an amendment that protects pro-life medical professionals from discrimination.

The Weldon Amendment, which was signed into law in December 2005, is a federal statute that bars the U.S. government or state and local government entities receiving certain federal aid from discriminating against doctors and other medical professionals who refuse to perform abortions or who refuse to refer patients for abortions. The amendment faced a legal hurdle just days after it was enacted - a court challenge brought by the pro-abortion National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association (NFPRHA).

When a federal district court upheld the law, the NFPRHA appealed the ruling, arguing that the Weldon Amendment was too vague to be enforced. The group also asserted that its member organizations had a constitutional right to have medical professionals provide abortion referrals.

The Christian Medical Association and the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists intervened in the case to defend the Weldon Amendment on

behalf of members of the two pro-life and pro-family medical associations. The medical professionals groups were represented by the Alliance Defense Fund and the Christian Legal Society's Center for Law & Religious Freedom.

The Christian Legal Society's Casey Mattox, who serves as litigation counsel for the Center, is pleased with the federal appeals court's ruling. "Doctors and nurses should not be forced to participate in abortions against their religious beliefs or conscience," the attorney contends. Yet that is what the NFPRHA, "under the banner of 'choice, ... asserted a supposed right to do," he says.

Fortunately, Mattox notes, "the court didn't buy it." Instead, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled that the NFPRHA lacked standing to challenge the Weldon Amendment. According to Mattox, the appellate court's decision to uphold the dismissal of the pro-abortion group's legal action "turns back the effort to enshrine abortion as a right even above the First Amendment."

FRC Spokesman Applauds Defenders of Pro-Life Docs' and Nurses' Rights

Pro-family leader Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research

Council (FRC), is commending the legal defense that helped secure a pro-life victory in National Family Planning and Reproductive Health v. Gonzales. "While the number of doctors who oppose abortion has increased," he observes, it is thanks to attorneys like those at the Alliance Defense Fund and the Christian Legal Society that these pro-life medical professionals' vulnerability to lawsuits has not increased as well.

"The targets of the abortion movement have grown well beyond the unborn and now include pro-life doctors and nurses," the FRC spokesman points out. "These days, they too need protection - from members of their own profession."

The Weldon Amendment "protects those who, based on personal convictions, refuse to perform or refer for abortions," Perkins notes. He agrees with the legal representatives who defended the statute, he says, "that doctors should not be held hostage to perform procedures that violate their religious beliefs."

The Christian Medical Association and the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, along with the Fellowship of Christian Physician Assistants, are also engaged in defending the Weldon Amendment in another

**BMA of Mississippi
2007
Pastor's Retreat
February 26 & 27, 2007
Skyway Hills
Baptist Church
Pearl, Mississippi**



Theme
*Standing Strong . . .
...Pleasing Him*
II Timothy 2:1-4
Cost \$25.00
Make Plans Now To Attend!

court proceeding, California ex. rel. Bill Lockyer v. United States. That case is now pending in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

Dedicated to Discipline - Part Three

Children ages 1 - 12

In the first two articles we discussed scriptural principles and wise principles to follow through in the arena of disciplining your children. This article will focus on options parents can consider to discipline young children. Remember, for the Christian parent, disciplining is not an option, but a command. It is a major requirement for parents. If we can't get our children to honor and obey us, how will they ever honor and obey God?

We are to implement God's government here on earth. We have to train these little ones up in the ways of the Lord. If you do proper discipline while they are young, it will save you a great deal of trouble when they get older.

In the early years you are teaching the Biblical principles and how to live their life to your children. These guiding foundational principles will guide your children all their life. The majority of all views on moral objectives are set by around age 10. You have the greatest impact on your child's life and future life. For good or bad, you will impact them more than society or anyone else. Yes, parenting is serious. Be sure you take the job seriously. Few parents today recognize the enormity of the job they've been called by God to do. You must raise soldiers in God's army that will rise up and glorify Him.

Remember that each child is different. Other people may suggest things that worked with their child. It may or may not work with yours. Even siblings will differ in response to what works. Find the discipline that works best for your child. I will give you some options. These are not the only forms of discipline, but the most common. You must use spanking as an integral part of your parenting according to scriptures. (See Part One of this Series). However, we don't want to just be spanking all the time. Here are some other options.

Removal of privileges

Find what the kid likes to play with. That is what you remove from them when they misbehave. It can be a toy. It can be a special privilege such as spending the night with a friend. It can be toy or the TV or video games. Every child has something they like and they lose the privilege of using it because they have disobeyed or dishonored you. The time period for removal depends upon the severity of the infraction.

Isolation

This describes it better than timeouts. Isolation can be used sometimes. It is not used as the main

means of discipline or the only means. You take the child and put them in a room or part of the house where they are cut off from contact with others. They cannot play or watch TV. You can send your kid to their room to think and pray about what they have done. You can send them to their room for a cooling



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

www.travisplumlee.com

down period until they regain composure. You cannot send them to their room for punishment. They have too many toys in their room and they just sit there and play. That is not discipline. Take them to the restroom first and tell them they cannot go to the bathroom once they are in time out. They cannot cry. You will not start the time until they have stopped whining. Both restroom requests and whining are forms of manipulation on their part. Throw away the rule that says one minute in time out for every year they are old. A four year old is quite capable of staying in isolation for more than 4 minutes. You might try 10 to 15 minutes. Longer than this may require you to choose another form of discipline.

Grounding

If you give in on grounding, you may not use this as a form of discipline. You can't ground them for a week and then give in mid-point

because they beg you and there is something important to attend. They need to learn that bad behavior will cost them to miss out on fun things in life. It has to cost them. Don't underground. Grounding them for 30 minutes from TV is ineffective. Don't over ground them. Grounding them for the summer is too harsh. Grounding should have a set time period and should be explained how long to the child. Grounding can take on forms from grounding them to their room. Grounding them to stay in the house. Grounding them to their yard and not being able to play with friends. You must fit the crime and punishment. Don't be manipulated. Stick to your guns.

Spankings and whippings

This is a key to discipline at the young age. If it doesn't hurt, it doesn't teach. Spankings should hurt. It may even leave a momentary redness to the behind. Spankings should always be on the backside. It shouldn't leave marks, cuts, or whelps. That is going too far. You should never jerk a kid by the arm, pinch, bite, shake or slap your child. This can be abusive. God made a spot for spankings. It is the behind.

You can use your hand or an instrument. It doesn't matter. My wife used a wooden kitchen spoon. I used a belt and a switch. Both work wonders. Failure to whip your kid will cause you pain and heartache later on. You will reap what you sow. Spankings should start at about one year - the first time they disobey you. It continues through childhood. It's not the only form, but it is perhaps the best form to alter behavior.

Christian Commentator: Use Bible as Baseline for Media Consumption

WASHINGTON, (AgapePress) - A popular Christian talk-show host says Christians need to be more discerning of what is being reported in the mainstream media by using God's Word as "the plumb line of truth."

Radio talk-show host Janet Parshall says one of the myths permeating Washington, DC, and the nation at large is that faith and intellect are mutually exclusive. According to the conservative commentator, some in "the Church" mistakenly believe that being a "thinking" Christian is antithetical to being a believing Christian.

Parshall hosts Janet Parshall's America, which airs daily on XM Satellite Radio (FamilyTalk Channel 170) and radio stations nationwide. She maintains that evangelicals need to be using what is reported in the electronic media

as a launching pad for the greater dialogue in the culture. She fears, however, that "story-telling often segues into a fairytale."

While taking part in a recent panel discussion ("Evangelicals and the Media") at the annual meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society, the radio personality offered examples of what she says are mainstream media's inaccurate portrayals of evangelicals -- which has led, she believes, to the popularity of Internet and talk radio.

"When the LA Times refers to the evangelical church in America as the new Taliban, we've got some issues," Parshall said. "When Harper's Magazine refers to us as the new Taliban, we've got some issues. When fundamentalist Islam is compared to fundamentalist Christianity, we've got some issues."

Parshall suggests that some me-

Southeastern Baptist College

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



Dr. Medrick Savell
President

Thanksgiving

In the recent time of Thanksgiving, we were reminded of many things for which to thank our Lord. Personally, I have so much to be thankful for. I thank the Lord for my salvation and other spiritual blessings, my ministry in which there is something I can do for him, my church, so many Christian friends, my family, health, and provision of every need. The list could go on and on.

We at Southeastern thank our Lord for His blessings on the college. The scripture that has been on the new sign in front of the college for the last few weeks expresses of our feelings, "O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever." (Psalm 107:1)

Update on Special Projects

Since my last report on the projects on October 15, the following contributions have been made. Music Department by Good Hope Baptist Church, Overt
New total for the choir: \$3,588.00

New Sign

by Gulf Baptist Association

dia consumers have simply had enough of such treatment. "I would venture to say that the reason you're seeing so many people move to the 'alternative media' and you're seeing the rise and the advent of the Internet and talk radio is people are saying 'Enough already,'" she stated.

The radio host blasted secular newsrooms for their liberal bias -- and offered suggestions for those newsrooms that might want to engage in "truth-telling" instead of "story-telling."

"Number one, get somebody on retainer at the networks who knows this stuff [and] let him be your point-man or woman on these issues," she suggested. Such a person could offer insights regarding what the Bible or the Church has to say on certain issues, she said. "And number two: how about hiring more reporters with a biblio-centric worldview? You can talk about inclusion, you can talk about diversity -- how about in the newsroom?"

According to Parshall, 80 percent of reporters in the newsroom today vote Democratic and support abortion and homosexual "marriage." That presupposed worldview, she says, is the filter through which stories go.

New total for the sign:
\$12,075.00
(Total cost for the sign: \$15,224.85)

Special Emphasis

by Pineview Church, Lucedale
New total for
special emphasis: \$12,454.46

May the Lord bless each person, church, and association who gave, and may He provide your every need and use you in His work.

Memorial Gift

A gift has been sent recently in honor of Mr. Bennie Phillips. A memorial book has been placed in the A. R. Reddin Memorial Library at Southeastern in his memory.

*Serving Christ With a Biblical
World View In A Christian
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Departments & Commissions of BMA of Mississippi

Mississippi Baptist Paper
P.O. Box 8181
Laurel, MS 39441-8000

Southeastern Baptist College
4229 Highway 15 North Laurel,
MS 39440

**Mississippi State
Youth Department**
P.O. Box 4247
Laurel, MS 39441

**Mississippi Baptist
Children's Home**
118 Lowe Rd.
Laurel, MS 39443

State Missions & RLF
4226 Highway 15 North Laurel,
MS 39440

**Commission on
Senior Adults**
Vern D. Holifield
658 Joe Perrett Rd.
Laurel, MS 39443

**History & Archives
Commission**
4229 Highway 15 North Laurel,
MS 39440

**Christian Action
Commission**
P.O. Box 88
Mantachie, MS 38855

Mississippi Baptist

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

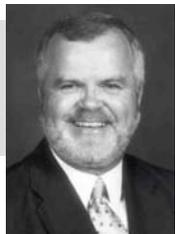
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Editorial



Don Brown
Editor

Web Site Update

In our last issue we mentioned that the Mississippi Baptist Web Site is being changed and updated. Hopefully this will be complete by the time you read this. If not, it will only be a few days.

I encourage you to log on to www.msbaptist.org and take a look at our site. You will notice major changes and we think you find it more informative and easier to navigate. We are committed to provide a useful and informative site for your use. Our desire is to get information to our readers in a more timely manner. We will be adding features regularly. We have a number of new features planned and encourage you to come back regularly to view the changes.

We are sincerely asking for your input and suggestions to make our site more interesting, more usable and profitable for those who use it and to better communicate to our supporters. E-mail your comments and suggestions to us at editor@msbaptist.org.

Merry Christmas

Travis Plumlee from page 1

celebrating the birth of Jesus. Drill this into your kids heads. They have a society drilling into their heads that it is a mid-winter break, Kwanzaa, or the winter solstice (the witch's celebration). This holiday is Christmas, the chosen time to celebrate the King of Kings. You should enjoy the special events at church. You should worship Christ as always at church.

However, be sure you bring Christ into your home for the celebration. Plan Christmas eve candle light services in your home. Have a special Christmas eve family devotion. Read the biblical account of the birth of Christ before opening gifts.

Even though it requires extra work, go ahead and work a little hard to make this a special time of the year honoring a special King. Bake some things. Use your fancy dishes. Set out some kind of Christ-honoring decoration. Even if you are an elderly person and don't feel like going all out with decorations, you can always buy a little nativity scene for a dollar at the dollar store and set it out. A candle is also \$1.00.

It isn't how much you decorate with, but it is acknowledging a great celebration - the birth of THE King.

You should ask older people in your families what they remember growing up, as to the ways the families in the past celebrated Christmas. Then, the husband and wife can pick traditions from both sides of the families and incorporate all of these into a celebration in the home. If you have no family, or come from a messed up family or origin, then go to the Christian bookstore. There are several books out there on Christmas traditions. Remember that it gives young children a sense of security, a sense of belonging to something special, if you maintain family traditions.

It is especially important to have traditions of the faith. Maybe it is a tradition for the whole family to go to church on Christmas eve. Maybe it is a tradition to light candles and sing Christmas hymns together. Take turns reading scripture about Jesus throughout the day. Let the little kids color pictures of scenes from the Christmas story and use those to decorate your home.

Have some enjoyable traditions

Letters From Our Readers

BMA Missionary to Peru resigns

Submitted by BMA of America Missions Department

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have submitted my resignation as a BMAA missionary to Peru. My decision came after much prayer and seeking the will of God in this matter. I can assure you that the decision is not based on moral, mental, family or emotional issues, nor have there been any disagreements with the Missions Directors.

After several visits to Peru and thinking and praying about serving as a missionary there I concluded that my ministry in the Tarma area would mostly be five-six hours from my family in Lima. This would mean that I would have to leave them for extended periods of time. I do not feel that this would be best for my family.

I still have a burden to minister to our foreign nationals in Peru, but I cannot move my family into this situation. I am praying that God will allow me to visit and minister to our brothers in Peru, Bolivia and other nations from time to time and to assist them in any way possible.

We are very appreciative of the support the churches of the BMAA have given to us during the past year and half. Thank you for allowing us to go to Costa Rica to complete languages studies. I assure you that this language training will not be in vain. I believe it can be used not only in visits to mission fields, but also here in the United States to minister to the influx of Hispanics God is sending our way.

Please pray that we will know the perfect will of God for future ministry.

Bro. Jamie Haguewood

as well. These might be things like, all of the family going on a Christmas day walk. Taking the kids out to look at Christmas lights. Maybe you want to join thousands of Americans and take the young ones out around your home and participate in the annual national bird count. See how many species of birds you can spot. Then, of course, remember that not one of these shall fall without the Lord knowing it. Remind the little ones we celebrate Jesus' birth because He and His father made all the birds and all of us.

Don't forget to always buy some gifts to give away to hurting people. Give to the jails. Give to the women's shelters or the children's homes. Jesus represents giving. He gave

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"Let's see now ... are we liberal or conservative?"

'Implied Cursing' in TV Ads Concerns Christian Activist

(AgapePress) - Recent television advertising that used "bleeped" profanity as to grab attention and shock viewers is being compared to the Bible's warning concerning seduction and deception getting worse and worse.

Dodge, Comcast, and Volkswagen have all run recent ads utilizing the "bleep" technique to indicate profane words banned by FCC regulations from television and radio between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. In a Dodge commercial for its Caliber model, for example, a Muppet-like character shares that the car "scares the [bleep] out of me." An official with Dodge tells USA Today the marketing ploy for its "Anything But Cute" car is an attempt to "straddle good taste and getting attention." He then adds: "We think we've straddled it quite well."

A Comcast ad promoting high-speed Internet service portrays a man who, after getting a "power boost" from the cable line, blitzes through a kitchen clean-up chore at lightning-fast speed -- to which his wife exclaims: "Holy" A spokeswoman for Comcast says the end of

the ad is not for shock value but merely to support the idea of making fast Internet performance even faster.

How about a Volkswagen ad promoting the built-in safety features in one of its models? Passengers in a new Passat blurt out "Holy ..." after surviving a crash. Instead of hearing a profanity, viewers hear a voice-over saying "safe happens." VW's general manager for creative content tells USA Today that it was critical in the commercial that both the dialogue and scene be "extremely natural." He contends that "... anyone who's been in an accident, one of the first things you do is curse."

It is unlikely that Bill Johnson, president of the American Decency Association (ADA), would agree with these companies' rationale behind the commercials. Besides pushing the legal and ethical limits, Johnson believes the advertising approach is designed to desensitize the general population.

"This degradation, this desensitization leads to an accommodation and causes an erosion of our ability to recognize the difference between what is pleasing to God and what is not pleasing," says Johnson.

That is why, warns the ADA leader, it is important that Christians strengthen themselves daily through spiritual disciplines such as prayer, Bible study, and time with God. "Our nature is being changed and so, therefore, when we are exposed to innuendo and subtleties and deception and seduction, we want to have nothing to do with it," he explains.

With such discipline, he says,

continued on page 5

His life for all. Let us relish the spirit of giving to all. Don't forget to pray. A Christmas family celebration without multiple prayers is like a Christmas tree without any lights. It is missing something incredible.

My final thoughts. This is a day not to go to the movies or shopping. Keep your family at home. Enjoy each other. Pig out. Slow down. Unplug. Laugh. Sing. Dance. Praise. Exalt. Celebrate. Messiah has come!!



CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION

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

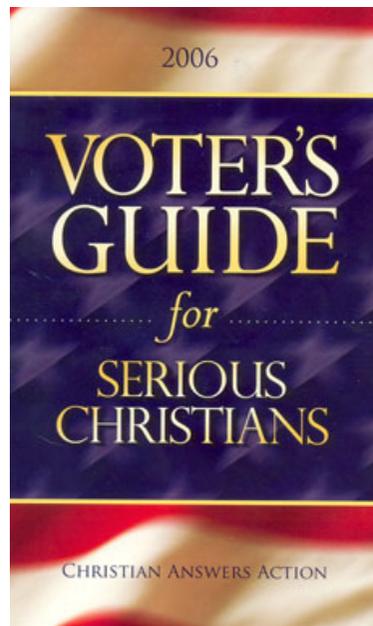


John Adams

Key Moral Issues

I have personally visited with or spoken with several key state representatives recently. My purpose was to inform them of the agenda of the Christian Action Commission. Hopefully, in 2007, as our State Senators and Representatives convene, they will hear the Biblical concerns of our Association. We as the church laity and pastors of the state have a tremendous potential to impact our elected legislators and area judges. I urge all Christians to share convincingly our Biblical views. We must take a Godly stand, and we must do this in a knowledgeable manner. Always remember to be kind and Christian in your approach on any tough issue. Zacharias said of Jesus in Luke 1:79 "to give light unto them that sit in darkness"

Voter's Guide for Serious Christians is an excellent pamphlet that can guide Christians when casting



their votes at the polls. This small book states, "there are five non-negotiables as you vote each time:

- 1) abortion
- 2) euthanasia
- 3) embryonic stem cell research
- 4) human cloning and
- 5) homosexuality.

I encourage you to purchase this pamphlet and become more knowledgeable in these issues. Pamphlet can be ordered:

Christian Answers Action
2020 Gillespie Way
El Cajon, CA 92020
Toll free: 1-888-291-8000
Quantity: 1 pamphlet free
2-100 \$ 0.40 each

Passing Along

As your new Christian Action Commission Director, I wish to pass along to you some excellent websites and journals. As we get ready to battle Satans' evil forces, these will be good study guides along with our prayers.

Journals

American Family Asso. Journal
P.O. Box 2440
Tupelo, MS 38803
www.afajournal.org
1-662-844-5036

National Liberty Journal
1971 University Boulevard
Lynchburg, Virginia 24502
www.nljonline.com
1-434-582-2432

Other Websites:

Mississippi State Legislature Bill Status
<http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/20062E/pdf/mainmenu.htm>

Agape Press with American Family Radio
agapepress.org
editor@agapepress.org

God bless each reader to be proactive and informed in God's work. As our Lord stated in Matthew 5:16; "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven". Email me at fbcjdmaj@yahoo.com with any of your thoughts or concerns.

TRUSTEE HIGHLIGHT FOR THIS MONTH

We wish to highlight Rev. Greg Medenwald of Magnolia Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Bro. Greg and his wife, the former Teri Wimberley of Kenneth, Missouri, have three grown children and two grandchildren. Bro. Greg is originally from Little Rock, Arkansas. He and Teri were married on 7-25-1975. Bro. Greg has been in the ministry since July 25, 1967 and has been the pastor at Magnolia Baptist Church in Hattiesburg for 31 years. We are so proud to have Bro. Greg as a Christian Action Committee Trustee.

CHURCHES THAT SUPPORT

We have 67 churches of the 190+ that are giving monthly contributions, as well as 13 local associations. Please consider becoming an advocate for Biblical morality by pledging your support also. We promise to present the Lord's message to our judges, legislators, governor and local officials.

Dr. Adrian Rogers stated before his death, "it is getting gloriously dark" We must present God's word

Coordinating Council

from page 1

The council was also made aware that the Baptist News Service division of the Department of Church Resources is in need of increased financial support. Church offerings for this division have decreased by \$20,000 a year since it transferred to the department.

It was announced that the Internet Services Committee of the BMA of Texas has recommended the transfer of the BMAWeb to the BMA of America with anticipation of doing so by January 31, 2007. It is recommended that the Department of Church Resources be given the responsibility of maintaining the BMAWeb should the transfer be made.

The council also discussed a recommendation that is to be made at the 2007 BMAA National Meeting regarding the Principles of Cooperation Article IX (Department of Missions). The recommendation seeks to make the article more consistent with those of other departments by abbreviating its content. Section 2 would be changed to read as the following: "The Missionary Committee shall consist of one committeeman from each church. The committee shall have authority to act between sessions as an executive for the association in matters pertaining to missions." Section 3.4 (Organization) would be removed. Information removed from the current article would be placed into the Department of Missions policy manual.

The council's next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2007.

'Implied Cursing'

from page 4

comes an ability to fend off advertising deception. "It doesn't serve as entertainment to us any longer," Johnson shares. "It's disgusting, and we see it for what it is -- and we do not play with it, and we don't let it play with us."

Citing a Bible passage in the third chapter of 2 Timothy, Johnson says he is reminded that deception will grow worse during the last days. He thinks Christians should therefore make choices in media consumption that keep them on "God's side" -- by remaining pure in spirit and being much more discerning than in times past.

and Christian directions to a dying world.

Merry Christmas to each of you and Happy New Year.

Group urges ultrasound of baby

A women's advocacy group says all abortion clinics should be forced to show women seeking abortions an ultrasound image of their baby. The State of Oklahoma is the latest to require that abortion providers offer women an opportunity to view an ultrasound picture of their child before an abortion is performed.

Wendy Wright of Concerned Women for America says women need to be reminded that there is another person involved in the situation -- the child. "And that is equally important," says Wright, "that the woman see what she is paying for and see the human being that would be affected by her decision. The pro-family leader says it was a "smart move" on the part of the Sooner State to require that an ultrasound be done whenever a woman is seeking an abortion so a woman is given all the facts before an abortion is performed.

With such information, the woman can then make up her own mind, says Wright -- "and ... she knows there is a second human being who's involved in this decision."

MILITARY SERVICE PRAYER LIST - Please remember the following as they are serving in our military. You may add names to the list by mailing them to: Mississippi Baptist, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441 or by email at editor@msbaptist.org.

CPT Lawson "Sonny" Brannan, *Stringer, MS*
George Rogers, *Wiggins, MS*
Scott Clanton, *Pineview, Lucedale*
Miles Farragut, *FBC of Shady Grove, Laurel*
Kenneth Smith, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Wayne Mack, *Seminary, MS*
Anthony Hodge, *Purvis, MS*
Thomas Temple, *Laurel, MS*
David Cunningham, *Forked Oak, Booneville*
Jacob Blakeney, *Mineral Springs, Taylorsville*
Lance Holifield, *Mineral Springs, Taylorsville*
Phillip Holifield, *Mineral Springs, Taylorsville*
Robert Shavers, *Pleasant Hill Baptist Church*
Jeff Necaise, *Pleasant Hill Baptist Church*
Michael Wright, *Pleasant Hill Baptist Church*
Harold (Scooter) Bond, Jr., *Laurel*

Harold (Tink) Compton, *Faithview Church*
Jeff Schonewitz, *Saucier*
Michael Casey, *Gulfport*
Larry "Dean" Welborn Jr., *Carnes, MS*
James Reeves, *Westlawn, Picayune*
Ronnie Spiers, *Westlawn, Picayune*
Patrick Garrett, *Poplarville, MS*
Darryl Gipson, *Poplarville, MS*
Ken Bullock, *Skyway Hills, Pearl, MS*
Lemuel Kendrick, *Lee's Chapel #2, Picayune*
Albert C. White, *Mclaurin, MS*
Craig Landry, *Benville Church, Picayune*
Janet Hilbun, *Sand Hill, Lucedale, MS*
Barron Horn, *First Baptist, Bay Springs, MS*
Jessie David Loague, *Bethel, Fulton, MS*
Dustin Wills, *First Windsor Park, Ocean Springs,*

CPT. William "Lee" Henry, *Richton, MS*
Justin Johnston, *Summerland Baptist*
Dusty Gray
James Riley
Randol Harlow, *Nettleton, MS*
Joshua S. Pierce, *Corinth Church, Lucedale*
Alan Fiscarcly, *South Green Church, Tupelo*
Russell S. Taylor, *Paramount Church, Perkinston*
Craig Fillingane, *Cypress Creek Baptist Church*
Michael Patrick Boyd, *First Baptist, Bay Springs*
Johnny R. Hunt
Jason Rivers, *Ellisville*
Tommy Mitchell, *Purvis*
Jake Driskell, *Lebanon, Laurel*
Will Norris, *First, Henleyfield*

Russell Robertson, *Temple, Lucedale*
Tim Cooper, *Ozark, Mantachie*
Wesley Grissom, *Hopewell, Fulton*
Derick Mallette, *Ramsey Creek, Saucier*
Mary Muffler, *Ramsey Creek, Saucier*
Jonathan Morgan, *Ramsey Creek, Saucier*
Neal Garrett, *First Baptist, Tremont, MS*
David Palmer, *First Baptist, Tremont, MS*
Bradly Sharp, *Bethel, Lucedale's 150th*
Johnny Ray Hunt, *Unity, Unity, MS*
Chuck Williams, *Sharon Baptist, Laurel*
Cory Williams, *Sharon Baptist, Laurel*
Jason Cotton Hillman, *Washington, Neely*
Richard Rylee, *Richton, MS*
Jennifer Norris, *Pleasant Hill Church, Mooreville*
Thomas James Reich, *Bethel, Fulton, MS*
Adam Martin, *Clearview, Mendenhall*

YOUTH DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 4247, Laurel, Mississippi 39441 • (601) 649-0502
Email - youthdept@bmaofmsyouth.org

Time - "Offering others what you have to give"

"Redeeming the time because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:16).

Earlier I introduced our theme for the coming year, "Time". Our National theme is, "Reaching This Generation". How can we as individuals, churches and association of churches continue to reach our young people and do a better job.

It will take a combined effort of Christian homes, churches, parachurch organizations (ABS, etc.), as well as Christian higher education.

I was saved when I was in the eleventh grade in high school. I really had a desire after I was saved to grow in the Lord. My dad and mother were not real faithful to our church at first, but when two of my brother were saved, that changed. We started going Sunday morning, Sunday night and Wednesday nights. Then, I was saved and wanted to grow in the Lord.

One of the first things I started to do was read the Word of God. The will of God for everyone is to be saved and when this happen to me I wanted to continue in the will of

God for my life.

Paul in his letter to the Ephesians said "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:17). I had some help along the way in understanding, what God's will was for my life. Most of this came from reading the Bible, good books and a parachurch organization in college.

In the twenty-three years I have served as your Associational Director of Youth many young people have come through our camps and activities. I have heard many of those kids say, even though I defected from serving God, the most important thing causing me to return to Christ, "was my mom and dad's faithfulness - their faithfulness in never giving up on me, and in never giving up on Christ."

It is God's will for our kids to be saved. It is God's will for our kids to be in church and to be faithful. Above all, parents should not panic. Teens will notice how well their parents model strength and security in Christ.



LATRELLE WINDHAM
DIRECTOR

Finding the "Funny"

Having some very good friends who serve in some very hard jobs, I always like to find out how they train and prepare to face stressful situations daily by asking them personally or reading about their particular field. That's especially true with the friends I have who have gone into law enforcement as a career. It seems absolutely harsh the physical, mental, and emotional training they have to undergo, but then they have one of the most demanding jobs I can imagine. But some of the training that some in law enforcement take is amazingly simple - and interesting.

Did you know those who serve in the U.S. Treasury Department are trained to spot immediately counterfeit money? To my mind you would become very familiar with the fakes - looking at funny money all day long til you could pick it out of a stack of twenties. But that's not how it's done. No, these agents look at real money, the kind in your pocket, wallet, or purse right now (or at least hope was in your pocket, wallet, or purse). They look at it over and over and over and over and...well, you get the idea...until they have the pattern of the money memorized.

So what do you suppose happens when these now eagle-eyed agents see a fake twenty in with real twenties (which they've studied repeatedly)? What would be like looking for a needle in a haystack to us (or at least to me) is child's play to them. They have learned to measure the fake, the false, and forfeit against the standard of the real. If it doesn't fit the pattern, then the agents have their counterfeiter.

Now, not all of us serve in law enforcement. Not all of us have undergone such intense training. Not all of us would compare that job

Weekend television watching did not appear to have a harmful affect on schoolwork.

Parents should also monitor the content of programs their children view when they do watch TV because the study found that adult programming and R-rated movies also cause students to suffer academically. Dr. Iman Sharif of Albert Einstein College of Medicine suggested that such adult content engaged the study's participants in "higher levels of sensation seeking and rebelliousness, [that led] to poor school performance."

Sharif concluded: "Our data support the recommendation that parents limit weekday television and video game time to less than one hour and restrict access to adult media by limiting exposure to cable movie channels and R-rated movies and videos."

training to spiritual training. However, when you listen for the voice of the Lord to whisper to your heart, do you know it when you hear it? If we 'train' ourselves to listen closely and often to the unmistakable voice of Jesus Christ, when we hear a stranger's voice it is recognizable



Shane's World

Shane Singleton

because it doesn't fit the pattern of God's Word, God's Son, or God's will. It is a lot more advisable then to listen for the true voice of Christ. What does the Bible say about Him? What does He say in the Bible? There are a lot of 'other' books that teach a lot of 'other' things that are not so.

The pattern to follow is in the Holy Bible, God's Word. Let us spend time getting acquainted with the real thing to know what we believe and why. What does Jesus' life

and teaching in history reveal about Him? What does His life and teaching show you today - for Christ is alive? There are many today who proclaim 'new' things and show 'new' teachings that are not so. The pattern is the life of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let us spend time getting acquainted with the real Jesus (as He proclaimed Himself and as His people proclaim Him) to know His voice more clearly and follow His example more strongly.

What does God's will mean to your life? Do we even know what it is? Sure, we can and do. Many today have their own plan and call it God's, but if we will spend time to get acquainted with God, His will becomes easier to know. Why should we spend our time studying after the fakes and the false and the forfeit, when it is more beneficial to know the real God's Word, God's Son, and God's will? Spending time learning to listen to that One true voice is difficult and requires effort, but it is so much easier and wiser to do this than settle for the counterfeit.

None of us would want counterfeit money because it holds no use for us. None of us should settle for anything less than a relationship with the Savior - a counterfeit holds no use for us.

Sofilthy's Attic
by Barbara White

World's Thinnest Books

I received an email a few weeks ago (thanks Donald Ray) entitled "World's Thinnest Books". There were some doozy titles. Some of them were: "Things I Cannot Afford" by Bill Gates, "My Wild Years" by Al Gore, "Spotted Owl Recipes" by E.P.A., "Amish Telephone Directory".

While these are funny, albeit a mite sarcastic, it set me to thinking about other possible titles of books that I might write. A few of them were: "Good Things I Have Received Because I Deserved Them", "Things I Have Done for Christ for His Honor Only", "Reasons for Omitting Bible Study", etc.

You get the picture!

'Screen Time' Harms School Time

(AgapePress) - A recently released study from New York's Albert Einstein College confirmed that students need to turn off the TV and other media devices and focus on their schoolwork.

The study involved 4,058 middle school students ages 9 to 15, and the findings are based on self-perceptions of school performance rather than actual grades or test scores. The results of the study revealed that the greater the weekday media exposure the poorer the academic performance.

Among students who abstained from watching television during the week, 50 percent had an excellent school performance in contrast to the 24 percent who had watched a weekly total of four to seven hours of TV.

"It is clearly known within the scientific and medical communities that screen time has a reverse impact on the way a student will do in school," said Robert Kesten, executive director of the Center for Screen-Time Awareness. The minds of students who engage in an inordinately high amount of media "screen time" are elsewhere, Kesten explained.

Mississippi State W.M.A.

Mrs. Jean Knight, President
27 Paramount Church Rd.
Perkinston, MS 39573
601-928-3764

Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533
Laurel, MS 39443

Big Creek District WMA

The Big Creek WMA met at Lebanon Baptist on October 2nd. Mrs. Shirlene Smith, President, called meeting to order. Barbara White led in two songs and Janelle Hammond from Hopewell led in prayer. The WMA motto was led by Kay Chisholm of First Baptist, Louin. Betty Lofton of Lebanon welcomed us to their church.

Bro. James Brown was a special guest at the meeting. Kay Chisholm gave a delightful devotion entitled "Going Back to School for a Christian" that instructed us to rest in the Lord, have daily prayer and Bible study, follow the rules, develop good study and work habits, do your best, get along with fellow Christians, and get to know your teacher - Christ. A great big thanks to Regina Chisholm for making the very nice WMA booklets for 2006-2007.

Jenelle Burks read minutes and gave treasurer report. Nita Jefcoat encouraged everyone to keep studying the WMA study book "A Work In Progress." Linda Dertinger gave the Sunbeam/GMA report. Barbara White promoted the National WMA project "Fund Creative Access to Nations Work", stressing the need

is urgent and the time is now! Do Missions! Shirlene Smith gave report on our State WMA. Lebanon presented the program "Gods Faithfulness. He is an Extraordinary God for Ordinary Days.

There were 12 churches represented and a total of 49 present. Sherry Shows gave right hand of appreciation for program and devotion. The following resolution was given by Hopewell Church: "Be it resolved that we be in prayer for our WMA, GMA, and Sunbeams, and their counselors and sponsors. That we pledge our prayerful and financial support for our mission projects on the local, state, and national levels. That we dedicate a part of each day to Bible study and prayer. That we pray daily for our churches, pastors, and missionaries. That we pray for revival in our country, for Godly wisdom for our President, and protection and salvation for our military. That we give a rising vote of thanks to Lebanon Baptist Church for their Christian fellowship and hospitality."

The next Big Creek District WMA meeting will be held January 8, 2007, at Hopewell at Soso.

Sherry Shows, reporter

CHILDREN'S HOME

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

The Good News of Christmas

In Luke 2:8-20 we read about the story of the shepherds out in the field. They had no idea about what was about to take place. They were given the announcement that the Savior had been born. What good news! 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. The great message of the cross is the message of Christmas!



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

for the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home during the months of October and November. To every church, Sunday School class, auxiliary, and individual we want to say from the bottom of our heart "thank you" for your participation in meeting the needs of the Home through your generous giving.

Special Offerings

Special offerings received are as follow: F. B. Bay Springs, \$553.88; Sharon, Laurel, \$50; Movella, Lucedale, \$65; Temple, Biloxi, \$57; Buffalo Children, McLain, \$68.23; Forked Oak, Booneville, \$329; F. B. Shady Grove, Laurel, \$120; Lee's Chapel #2, Picayune, \$30; Derby Place, Poplarville, \$100; Hopewell, Fulton, \$75; Spring Hill, Laurel, \$125; George W. Harper, Laurel, \$100; Bro. Glenn Shoemake, Collins, \$50; Boguefala, Mooreville, \$500; New Bethany, Ellisville, \$602; New Bethany Brotherhood, Ellisville, \$30; Bethel, Petal, \$200; Riverside, Ellisville, \$150; Sycamore, Carriere, \$18.35; Cypress Creek, Brooklyn, \$350; Ballardville, Tupelo, \$250; East Amory, Amory, \$200; Mt. Carmel, Carriere, \$1,000; O'Neal Road, Gulfport, \$132; Mr. & Mrs. Claiborne Bounds, Picayune, \$200; Community, Poplarville, \$707.09; Dykes Chapel, Richton, \$200. We deeply appreciate each of these special gifts.

Recent Church Visits

On Sunday, November 12, we were with the New Bethany Baptist Church near Ellisville and Pastor Glenn Shoemake for their morning service. Then on Sunday evening we were with the Shiloh Baptist Church near Mt. Olive and Pastor David Rice. We enjoyed a fine Thanksgiving meal with both of these good churches. We are thankful to have had the opportunity to be a part of their worship services and the hospitality shown to us.

Special Emphasis

We would like to convey our gratitude and thanks to the good response to the Special Emphasis

Hospitality Chain Owner Stands by Decision to Ban CNN at His Hotels

(AgapePress) - The owner and president of a hospitality corporation that has banned CNN from news media aired in its hotels says the action was not taken for political or publicity reasons but for the sake of principles.

Stony Creek Hospitality Corporation CEO James Thompson says he has been trying to make it clear that his decision in reaction to seeing terrorists killing U.S. soldiers in a CNN video was a personal decision. He says his respect for the families of military service members and his own sense of patriotism were offended by the CNN report.

"This decision was based solely on my conscience," Thompson insists. He says he was sickened by the graphic visuals aired on the CNN show "Anderson Cooper's 360 Degrees," and troubled by the news network's explanation that the report was an attempt to show the "unvarnished truth" about the war

in Iraq.

"When I heard CNN's defense of that tape, that just put me over the top," the Stony Creek spokesman notes. "The network's explanation," he says, "for me personally, was the driving consideration for saying, 'enough is enough.'"

Thompson says in running his family business, which includes ten hotels in four Midwestern states, he operates strictly by the principles of doing what is right and respecting the public's comfort. "And when I witness a news network going to the terrorists, soliciting propaganda tape for either their own salacious desire for ratings or some agenda-driven motive, I'm personally offended," he asserts.

The hospitality corporation owner says he was shocked and repulsed by the CNN videotape showing terrorists attacking U.S. soldiers. Upon viewing it, he says he decided then and there that he did

THE PARADOX OF FREEDOM

Freedom is not free. Liberty is one of the most misunderstood and least appreciated privileges enjoyed today. The desire for liberty is built into every man by God, the Creator of all men. Men desire to be free from oppression and exercise volition for self-determination, and pursuit of this desire has led to the death of many men, women, and children who chose to take risks and seek liberty rather than remain in bondage.

Freedom is what America represents and is the main reason she is hated and despised by those who seek to enslave others religiously and politically. Freedom may appear to be "free" to its recipients, but rest assured, when freedom is obtained, someone, somewhere paid a price.

Freedom is often the result of bondage. In order to have the freedom to purchase services and products, one must first be in bondage to employment, to have money to be able to purchase. The bondage of a 9-5 job (or any other hours) secures money which gives the ability to purchase. Even if someone purchases merchandise with money received as a gift or a grant, someone, somewhere provided that money through their bondage or commitment to produce through their labor.

Even the freedom of a violinist to

perform comes only after the bondage of lessons and practice, which requires work. It is only after the price of study and practice has been paid that the freedom to perform



miniedition

Joseph Harris

becomes a reality. Try playing the violin with no lessons or practice and you will get the point. Men and women are free to have sexual intimacy with one another, but only after the commitment (some would say bondage) of marriage has been made. Marriage is a type of bondage, however, because husband and wife promise to be bound exclusively to one another, hence this bondage produces the freedom for intimacy with one another. "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge," Hebrews 13:4.

Not only must a price be paid to secure freedom, but there is also a maintenance fee. Freedom costs. The recipients of freedom must ever be aware of those who would steal liberty under the guise of promising "more freedom for all" by playing on emotions and using "discrimina-

tion and inequality" as a battle cry. The erroneously named American Civil Liberties Union and other groups, promote an unlimited, one sided freedom for abortionists, pornographers, pedophiles, homosexuals and other trans-sexual deviants, while trampling on the freedom of normal Americans, especially conservative Christians. Believers in God must walk the tightrope of being active yet never becoming activists to the point of promoting morality above the Gospel of Jesus Christ. However, if ungodliness is free to reign, eventually all freedoms will be destroyed, and bondage to sin, Satan, and ungodly government will result.

The greatest freedom in the world is liberty from sin and freedom from eternal punishment in the lake of fire, through eternal salvation, but notice the paradox of price this FREEDOM required. It was secured by the payment of the Son of God on Calvary with the highest price ever paid for any purchase. We only have freedom through Christ by first surrendering totally to Christ. And we do not have freedom to "come boldly unto the throne" as God's children until we first submit at the throne. Absolute freedom in the sense of no price being required does not exist. Where freedom is a reality, someone, somewhere has paid and is paying the price and carrying the burden of liberty so freedom can exist. Let freedom ring.

Joseph Harris is the Vice-president of Southeastern College.

Bush HHS Nomination Irks Abortion Advocates

WASHINGTON (AgapePress) - Traditional values groups are applauding President Bush's decision to nominate an abstinence-until-marriage advocate to run the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Population Affairs.

The president has tapped Dr. Eric Keroack to oversee the Title X Program, the government's "family planning" funding. Pro-abortion groups have criticized the move because of the doctor's past work with "A Woman's Concern," a Christian crisis pregnancy center in Massachusetts that discourages contra-

not want to be party to supporting a news policy that he feels amounts to "supporting terrorism."

Thompson says patriotic feelings are part of what drives his conscience, and it was neither nor political nor publicity concerns that led him to make what he views as a private decision based on "doing the right thing." But even though his decision was a personal one, the president of Stony Creek Hospitality Corporation says in making it he feels he is also doing the right thing for his business's patrons.

David Christensen, director of congressional affairs at the Family Research Council, explains why the nomination is a blow to radical pro-abortion groups.

"Much of the Title X funding, about \$283 million a year, does go to groups like Planned Parenthood because they can apply for grants under the auspices of 'family planning,'" says Christensen. And Planned Parenthood Federation of America has reacted to the nomination, requesting that Keroack's nomination be pulled from consideration.

The nominees "professional history," says PP president Cecile Richards, "makes clear he should be stamped with a warning label against women's health and safety." Describing Keroack as "anti-birth control" and an "anti-sex education hardliner," Richards says the nomination "makes a mockery of women's health." Nancy Keenan, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America, chimes in, saying the nomination demonstrates the lengths President Bush will go to in order to "pacify his anti-birth-control right-wing base."

But Janice Crouse of Concerned Women for America says Keroack is well qualified. "Unfortunately it's a day late and a dollar short, but we'll take it anyway," she says. "We're very happy to have someone who is from a Christian pregnancy counseling center to be nominated for a position such as this."

"I think it's about time we had someone in that position who will be more fair in distributing the money for programs in high schools and in service agencies that work with women who have reproductive health problems," Crouse continues. "It's long past due that Planned Parenthood not get the kind of funding that they have had."

The CWA spokeswoman says Planned Parenthood has been able to provide abortion facilities and abortions without any restrictions because it has had an "unobstructed way to the federal trough." She also points out what she sees as an irony: the liberal left expresses concern over a nominee's personal beliefs only when he or she is a Christian, pro-life, or supports abstinence until marriage.

BMA of Mississippi MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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



Two hundred years of associational operation is history. His story of working through Baptist churches to carry the Good News is our history. We are grateful for those who attended and others that made the BMA bicentennial celebration a success, an event we will always remember. Mrs. Chris Smith, Barbara White, Sherline Smith, Roger Jefcoat, and David and Sam Freeman did an excellent job in planning, putting together, and setting up for the mission banquet. We also appreciate the missionaries who were present to help with the different job throughout the annual session.

The work of our missionaries is rapidly moving toward self support status, some are nearer than others, but all are making considerable progress. Bro. Marr and LifePoint in Hernando are near the completion of renovating the inside of their building. The attendance and financial progress at LifePoint is good. They are giving to missions, making their property and building payment, and already paying back into mission a percentage of Bro. Marr's salary.

Bro. Estuardo and El Camino in Laurel have been seeing souls saved consistently for the past several months. El Camino is now making plans for the construction of a sanctuary and educational building. Property for El Camino was donated by a member of Parkview Baptist Church in Laurel. In addition to the property given, we are pursuing the purchase of an adjoining lot that is greatly needed. The El Camino Mission has

saved around fifteen thousand dollars toward their new construction and the East Central Association has given them fifteen thousand plus toward the construction. It is true, that when people show they have a mind to work, others will help.

Divine Grace of Long Beach is excited to be near occupancy with their building program. They are presently hanging and finishing the wall board in the fellowship hall, rest rooms, and Sunday school department. By finishing the back portion of their building first it will allow them to move inside and out of the weather they have been enduring under the utility shed. After moving inside they will continue to work toward finishing the auditorium and other parts of the building. The Lord has been good to Divine Grace and the Williams from the very beginning, and we are sure He will be glorified through their ministry.

Bro. Ed and Homestretch are working hard to grow a strong congregation while at the same time looking for property upon which to construct a building. Any church or group desiring to help Homestretch mission financially, with a visitation/evangelistic program, or a Seminar please contact Bro. Ed or the mission office.

Bro. Elvis and First Hispanic Mission of Ripley, and Bro. Joseph and Maple Street Mission at Columbus are also experiencing many blessing from the Lord.

Bicentennial Mementos

For those who would like a bicentennial jacket or watch please contact the missions office. We yet have a few of the jackets in stock and can re-order if needed. The jackets are \$65.00 and the watches are \$30.00. Our goal for the Special Emphasis Calendars is to provide at least one for each BMA household in Mississippi. If you have not received yours and would like one please let us know while the supply last. Any other bicentennial item such as place mats, lapel pins, bookmarkers, pencils, or pens that you did not receive and would like one please contact us immediately, they are going fast.

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

John Read

Bro. John Read is available for pulpit supply as the Lord leads. He has pastored BMA churches in Mississippi and Oklahoma and may be contacted 601-947-4370.

Kenneth Lofton

Bro. Kenneth Lofton is available for service wherever the Lord may lead. He is a member of Riverside Baptist Church. Bro. Lofton may be contacted at 601-319-7804.

Special Missions Department Open House

The BMA of Mississippi Missions Office will host an "open house" on Monday, December 11, from 10:00 a.m. until Noon. This will be a time of special prayer and thanksgiving. You are invited to join us for worship, praise and refreshments.

2007 Missions and Evangelistic Conferences

We are now in the planning stage of the Missions and Evangelistic Conferences for the North and the South. The date for these two conferences are, for the North it will be on Tuesday, March 20 from 9:00 A. M. until 8:00 P.M., and for the South it will be on Thursday, March 22 from 9:00 A. M. until 8:00 P.M. Remember, it all happens after the third Sunday in March.

Any church that would like to host a session or all of the North or South conference please let us know by calling 601-428-8616 or email us at director@bmaofmsmissions.org. Help make these conferences the greatest by marking your appointment calendar and attending at least one of them.

Christmas and New Year's Holidays

We wish each one A MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR. The Mission Office will be closed the week of Christmas and New Year's Day.

Individual Missionary Letters

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope my letter finds all of you doing well. My family and I are doing great. The church family is doing well also.

We are delighted to have a family of four join our church this past month. This new family came to us basically homeless and with many needs. There is a temptation for us as humans to pick and choose who we will embrace. There is a tendency to embrace the lovingly, the rich, the popular, the independent, the clean and so on. God put in my heart to embrace this family in spite of their many needs. If the church can't be a place for the hungry, the hurting, broken hearted and lost to go, then what is the purpose of the church?

God blessed our church with a van. Bro. Roger Akers and East Amory Baptist Church donated it to us. We are so grateful for this gift.

We are approaching our goal for purchasing the land for our church. We expect to reach our goal of \$20,000.00 by June of 2007. We would not come close to reaching our goal if it was not for the loving Brothers and Sisters of the BMA (especially the WMA of Mississippi). It is because of the BMA of Mississippi, the BMA of Arkansas, and the BMA of Memphis that this ministry is going forward and is possible.

Continue to pray for us, as we continue to reach this area with the gospel of Christ.

Sincerely,
Edward Duvall

Dear Christian Family,

Greetings from Divine Grace Baptist Mission. We are blessed to have you all as friends in the mission work of Long Beach, Mississippi. God has truly been faithful to us and we stand amazed at the power of God. With yours and our obedience to the Lord and His resources we can see a vision come true. Thank you so much for your help and I pray God will abundantly bless you.

September and October were good months for us. In September we averaged 33 on Sunday mornings and had four join by letter and two saved. In October we averaged 39 on Sunday Mornings and had two join by letter. The last Sunday of October we had 47. This puts us close to where we were before Katrina hit. The storm set us back a year, but it hasn't stopped God from working.

We realize we can't complete the whole building by Christmas, so we decided to try to finish the dining room, kitchen, Sunday school rooms and two restrooms. By doing this we believe we can make it by Christmas and begin to have traditional services again. Sheetrock is being hung and they should be finished with this section by November 10th. Then we will start painting, putting in the ceilings, fixtures and floor coverings, etc. There is a lot to do, so please keep us in your prayers. If you can help in any way, whether physically or financially, we would appreciate it. So many of you have done so much already, but the need is great and our God is big enough to supply our every need. Amen.

Come see us when you can and continue to remember us in prayer. God bless you.

Bro. Wallace Williams

Dear Bro. Ray,

As I drive around DeSoto County, Mississippi, two things dominate the landscape; the beautiful trees whose leaves are changing with the seasons; and the incredible number of homes that are still being built in every direction that one turns. Those new houses mean new people that will eventually move into the area which means new opportunities for us to reach more people for Jesus Christ. The most recent statistics state that at least 7 new families are moving into the county every day, and we, your mission, are right in the center of it all.

As I write, we are close to finishing the remodeling project that we started in July. Considering that we have done everything on this project except for the sheetrock, I would say we have done well. Once again, our numbers are not that "impressive" as far as visits or soul-winning opportunities simply because most of our free time has been occupied with getting this building in shape and ready for all those people that God is going to bring our way. Our goal is to have the building complete and an new staff person that I have mentioned to you on the field and ready to go by the first of the year. This way, we can start 2007 ready to go and focus on building God's church in DeSoto County!

Thanks again for your support of all that we do. I hope that you have an incredible Thanksgiving with family and friends and we continue to see God work throughout our state as we keep our focus on Him. May God bring revival to His people and to this nation one more time before His glorious return!

Kevin Marr

BMA of Mississippi
2007 Pastor's Retreat
February 26 & 27, 2007

**Skyway Hills
Baptist Church**
Pearl, Mississippi



Theme

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...Pleasing Him

II Timothy 2:1-4

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