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And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

-Luke 2:10-11

**January 2015
Special Emphasis
Time
Mississippi Baptist**

The Women in Jesus' Lineage: Tamar and Rahab

by Dr. Tony Cleaver
(prepared for preaching)
Matthew 1:3, 5

Introduction

We are gathered in worship as we observe Advent, the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Matthew notes five women in Jesus' lineage in his opening chapter. Today we will look at Tamar and Rahab.

We will read and/or summarize the stories of these two women from the Old Testament. Tamar is found in Genesis 38. Rahab is found in Joshua 2 and a part in chapter 6. As we complete this summary of these two women, let's



Tony Cleaver

remember they are included in Jesus' lineage. If I were writing the Bible, I would probably "clean it up" a little, and these two stories might not be included. Yet, God through the inspiration of His Word included these stories for they tell us of humanity struggling to be what God intended us to be. These two women were changed through the power of God to become His people, and later they became the ancestors of Jesus.

Yes, there are some life lessons for us in this congregation today from the lives of these two in Jesus' lineage:

1. They are both unlikely candidates to be in the line of Christ!

One deceived her father-in-law and became pregnant by him. The other was a prostitute. Surely "those kinds of people" don't have a place in the plan of God! Oh yes, and oh yes, indeed, they do!

Is your own life a "little rough around the edges" when it comes to past moral performance? God can use you in spite of your past in His Kingdom work. Commit your life to Him right now. God is in the business of cleaning up lives to make them fit for His Kingdom.

2. They were not only unlikely candidates but they were also below the standards of the "religious" people.

Here is an incestuous relationship mentioned of all places in the Bible! Here the other a prostitute and her story is told in the Bible!

As a Christian, a religious person, what do I do to assist the life of the person involved in an incestuous relationship? What do I as a religious person, and I hope a Christian, do to assist the life of the prostitutes of our community?

continued on page 3

The Lost Christ of Christmas

from a message by
Adrian Rogers

If you're not careful, you may lose Jesus this Christmas season. Rather than drawing us closer to Christ, our eyes get distracted by parties and gifts. Many times there's a let-down in our prayer life, soul winning, and witnessing. In the very midst of the Christmas celebration, we lose the Lord Jesus.

Now we can never "lose" Him in the sense of our relationship with Him. Once God puts His mighty hands around you through Jesus Christ, no power can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:38-39). But there's a difference between relationship and fellowship.

If you lose fellowship with Him you're going to be sorrowful. That's what happened to Mary and Joseph in Luke chapter 2. After a wonderful Passover trip to Jerusalem, they went a day's journey without realizing Jesus wasn't with them!

"Thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing," they said when they returned and found Him.

Irony of ironies, in the midst of Passover, a religious celebration symbolic of Him, they lost Jesus! If you're not careful, you may do the same - lose the Christ of Christmas in the midst of Christmas.

There's always sorrow when we lose fellowship with Jesus. The most miserable person on earth isn't a lost person, but a saved one out of fellowship with Jesus.

If Mary and Joseph, the two people most intimately associated with Jesus, could lose fellowship, then any of us could! Some of God's best saints - Noah, David, Samson, Peter - did at one time. The closer you are to Jesus, the more fire you're going to take from the devil. He aims his biggest guns at God's best.

You can lose Him in strange places.

You can lose your sense of the Lord Jesus while working on the Christmas music and all the festivities. Jesus had rather have you sit at His feet than sing in the choir. He'd rather you spend quiet time alone with Him on your knees than be in church. I'm not against being in church or singing in the choir. But if you're not careful, the things you do become a substitute for your love for Christ. They can come between you and the Lord.

How They Lost Him

Mary and Joseph, "supposing Him to have been in the company, went a day's journey" (v. 4). Are you "supposing" the Lord Jesus is with you? Have you really checked? Does God's Spirit bear witness with your spirit that Jesus is a right, living reality to you? You can go to church, hear sermons, take notes, sing hymns, give money - and suppose you're in fellowship with Christ, but note! Sometimes even in the middle of religious celebrations you can lose Him, going away one step at a time.

continued on page 3



Larry Geraldson
Director



Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

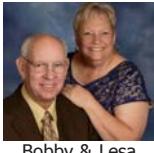
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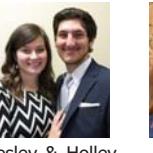
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I love what Simon said when he saw Jesus, as a baby, in the Temple and he, "... took... him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, ... mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel." (Portions of Luke 2:28-32)

All Israel was pregnant with messianic teaching and the arrival of our Lord, for some, was met with a bursting forth of praise and adoration. Just one chapter earlier in Luke 1, Zacharias broke out into praise at the birth of his son John, commonly known as the forerunner of Jesus, and asked the question: "What manner of child shall this be?"

In response to his question the Holy Ghost touched him and filled him with understanding and he began to prophesy saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy

covenant; The oath which he sware to our father Abraham, That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life. And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the day spring from on high hath visited us, To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." Luke 1:68-79

If you read the passage slowly you will hear the Holy Spirit using the mouth of Zacharias to speak praise to

God the Father for fulfilling His promise to send us a Savior. The birth of Jesus marked the fulfillment of prophecy which God had given us by his holy prophets since the world began. In a world that can get lit up and beside itself by the simplicity of a last minute score in the fourth quarter of a football game, it does not hurt us to stop and remember the "...tender mercy of our God..." which sprang forth on us in the visitation of our Lord Jesus Christ. What light has been shed on things! What deliverance is ours! What joy is ahead! Praise God! Halleluiah! And Christ has been and continues to be at the center of it all.

Cherita and I want to wish all of you a very Christ-centered Christmas.

Christmas Greetings From Your State Missions

- See Other Mission Greetings In This Issue -



Grace Baptist Mission, Clinton, MS

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6. May the Christ-Child of Bethlehem fill your heart and home with His peace now and each day in the coming year. Merry Christmas! Grace Baptist Mission in Clinton



Harvest Baptist Mission Olive Branch, MS

Reports for November 2015				
	High Attendance	Membership	Total Offerings	Mother Church
Church Planters				
Bob Burch (Caledonia)	69	41	\$4,720.00	East Fulton
Bobby Elliott (Burnsville)	80	45	\$2,582.00	Forked Oak
Sidney Farmer (S. Forrest County)	90	42	\$5,948.00	Paramount
Danny Bartlett (Clinton)	17	12	\$2,690.00	Wilderness
Phillip Burns (Sumrall)	24	8	\$1,847.00	First Bay Springs
Wesley Martin (Diamondhead)	38	27	\$3,156.00	Campground
Anders Lee (Southaven)	141	79	\$15,338.00	Charity
Hispanic Missions – South (Estuardo Marroquin – Coordinator)				
(Estuardo Marroquin is also the Sr. Pastor of El Camino, which serves as the mother church for the church plants listed below.)				
El Camino (Laurel)	125	121	\$7,150.00	
Church Planters				
Marciano Montalvo (Hattiesburg)	31	14	\$1,455.00	El Camino
Rodolfo Galicia (Biloxi)	8	2	n/a	El Camino
Hispanic Missions – North (Elvis Garcia – Coordinator)				
(Elvis Garcia is also the Sr. Pastor of Way, Truth & Life, which serves as the mother church for the church plants listed below.)				
Way, Truth & Life (Ripley)	88	86	\$4,473.00	
Church Planters				
Humberto Navarro (Tupelo)	21	18	\$1,120.00	Way, Truth & Life
Luis Huchin (Oxford)	29	5	\$1,595.00	Way, Truth & Life
African American Missions – (Ed DuVall – Coordinator)				
(Ed DuVall is also the Sr. Pastor of Homestretch which serves as the mother church for the church plants listed below.)				
Homestretch (Cleveland)	22	50	\$2,823.00	
Church Planters				
James Cook (Olive Branch)	13	13	\$1,700.00	Homestretch
Collectively, our missionaries reported 272 new contacts, shared the gospel 150 times, and witnessed 9 professions of faiths, and 3 baptisms and 3 joined by letter in November.				

The Lost Christ of Christmas

from page 1

That's how people backslide. Mary and Joseph lost Him one step at a time. They walked away, taking for granted He was with them.

It's dangerous to think we're right with God when we're not. Samson rose up to fight the Philistines not knowing "the Spirit of God had departed!" The Laodicean church "knew not." It was "wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked."

Take inventory If God's Spirit is not vibrant in your heart, if there was ever a time you loved Jesus Christ more than you love Him at this moment, to that degree you're backslidden.

You might have left Him when you started neglecting the secret place of prayer. You'll find Him when you go

back to that secret place of prayer. You might have started neglecting the house of worship. That's where you'll find Him. You might have left Him when some grudge arose in your heart. You'll find Him when you go back and make that right. You may have left Him when some grievous sin or habit entered.

Where Did They Find Him Again?

Right where they left Him. And so will you. You're going to find Him right back where you lost Him. Jesus is right there. You're the one who moved.

Let these thoughts be a warning to our hearts in the Christmas season. Help us, Lord, not to get so wrapped up in the things of Christmas that we lose You in the midst of the celebration.

Jesus' Lineage

from page 1

The Pharisees, the religious people, made fun of Jesus when he allowed a lady wash his feet with her tears and wipe them dry with the hair of her head (Luke 7). If he were a prophet he would know she is a sinful woman! How are we today doing on this? Most of us judge and judge quickly the lives of those around us and call them "below our standard", and they are to be thrown out. We must be inclusive in our outreach to all. God was inclusive according to Matthew chapter one. He included these two women who were below the "religious" standards.

3. Family traditions and cultural patterns are not impossible to overcome as one commits their life and family to the Lord.

Both of these women "went against" what was the normal for their family practice. Both of these women went against what was the "normal" for their culture. This is one of the most difficult things in the world to accomplish.

Many in life find themselves caught in the tradition of mom, dad, grandma, granddad, or some other family behavior. They are trapped and cannot get loose from what is causing them so much hurt. Many people are caught in cultural traditions and cannot extricate themselves. Our own cultural tradition of American Paganism is one such culture from which people cannot get loose.

The power of God in Christ can change your family ways of doing things and the power of Christ can change the hold your culture has on you. Give Christ that opportunity now in this service.

4. Commitment of your life to the Lord can change the course of history.

It is true of these two women. They are in the lineage of our Lord. What they did lives forever in the life of Christ. They were counted worthy to be a part of the lineage of Jesus. It is recorded of them that God chose them to be a part

Christmas Greetings From Your State Missions



Caledonia Baptist Mission, Caledonia, MS

Merry Christmas from Caledonia Baptist Mission! Remembering to keep Christ in our hearts and keeping the Spirit of Christmas in our communities. God bless each of you!



Ripley
Way, Truth & Life



Tupelo



Oxford

Faith makes all things possible, Hope makes all things work, and Love makes all things beautiful. Our sincere desires are that you may have all three for these this Christmas. From all of us at Way, Truth, and Life in Ripley, Tupelo and Oxford, MERRY CHRISTMAS!

of the history of Jesus the Messiah.

What you bind of earth is bound in heaven and what you loose on earth is loosed in heaven. Jesus told this to Simon Peter after Peter confessed who Christ really was—the Messiah of God, the Son of God! Simon confessed Christ and the course of the world was changed. You can confess Christ and the course of the world can be changed. It will be changed in your own life. It will be changed in your home. It will be changed in your relationships. It will be changed at your job. It will be changed forever in eternity with God.

Conclusion

There are many kinds of people in the world. Not all of them have perfect lives. Some are bent, crooked, perverse, and shady. Those kinds of lives are like my life--imperfect. Matthew tells us that through God's grace my imperfect life can be used enough to be a part of God's work.

A woman who willfully promoted incest—how awful, filthy, nasty, and repugnant! A woman who sold herself for men's sexual pleasures—how dreadful, soiled, wicked, and disgusting! God graced their lives and they were part of the family of Jesus the Messiah, the Anointed One of God.

How is your life? Dear brother, and dear sister, is there past history you would not want anyone to know? Is there some lifestyle in the past that is something you would not want to show in the light of day? These two women were like that. Yet God collected their lives with His grace to change them. No less is promised to you today. Come to the altar with me in our invitation to receive Christ as your Saviour. Come join at the altar this morning. Take my hand, and tell me you want to become a member of this church.

We celebrate his coming and his birth at this season. Joy to the world the Lord is come! The Lord has come through two unusual women.

Christ can come right here, right now, this very minute, and in this very place into your life if you will ask Him to do so.

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Don Brown

**Mississippi
Baptist**

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Don Brown - Editor

Opinion Page

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It Certainly IS The Season!

The last two months of each year present us with opportunities to reflect on our lives, our blessings, and our relationship with our God. The two holidays that present themselves, Thanksgiving and Christmas, should give us pause. They should cause us to reflect on the One who should be the center of each.

The Lord God has richly blessed us as a nation, as individuals, and as His children. Regardless of our health, wealth, or circumstances, we can all agree that He has blessed us beyond our expectations, our needs, and beyond that which we deserve. A popular radio host's response when asked how he is doing is,

"*Better than I deserve*". That certainly applies to the rest of us also.

When we stop and reflect on the blessings we enjoy, we must admit that we are deeply "thankful" for God's care for us. Christmas gives us opportunity to reflect on the greatest gift ever bestowed upon humanity. He gave His Only Son. He has showered His love upon all mankind by providing a Savior, a Deliverer, an Advocate for the lost souls of mankind. My, what a love God has for us!

We are truly thankful for all the blessings of life that God gives us. Let us be mindful of the greatest gift as stated by the physician



Luke as he wrote the following words, "*And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*" Luke 1:30-33

May you all have a Very Blessed Christmas Celebration. Bonnie and I wish

More Seasonal Information

January of each year is set aside by our Association as a time of Special Emphasis for your Publications Department. We will be sending information to each church in a couple of weeks encouraging your participation.

It is important for our work that we have a good Special Emphasis offering. This department depends on Monthly Financial support from our churches and a good Special Offering each January.

We are asking for each church to participate with an offering in January and for each church to put this ministry in their monthly budget. A small monthly gift from each church will help us to maintain sound financial footing.

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP

WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO SAY MERRY CHRISTMAS ANY MORE. SO I GUESS I'LL JUST SAY "HAPPY JESUS' BIRTHDAY" FROM NOW ON.



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AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Zechariah Rogers

My name is Zechariah Rogers. I am available for preaching opportunities or pastoral work as the Lord leads. I am currently attending Southeastern Baptist College working on a Bachelors in Christian Ministries. My home phone is 769-301-5004 and my cell phone is 662-372-5730.

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John Adams

Images Are A Big No!

Exodus 20:4-6 - "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my com-

mandments."



Two cowboys had spent the weekend in the little West Texas town, and did something on Sunday that they rarely ever did—they went to the community church for the morning worship. The pastor gave a rather stirring interpretation of the Ten Commandments that morning. The two cowboys left the worship with their heads bowed.

As they rode out of town, Peter turned to Tom and said, "Well, at least we haven't made any

graven images!" That may reflect what we feel as we read the Ten Commandments. We feel relatively comfortable with this commandment because we do not have any idols in the house - at least none that we know of. It may be that we have not really understood the real force of this commandment.

It is worth remembering that some groups, including the Catholic people, see this as actually a part of the first Commandment. They recognize that both of these commandments have to do with worship. The first commandment has to do with who or what we worship. The Second has to do with how we worship. The use of images was common in the worship of the gods in that ancient world. Many who would have claimed to be worshippers of the One true and living God used graven representations of God in their worship. This commandment forbids the use of any man-made likeness of God in our worship of Him. The Hebrew word translated "idol" in other text means a graven or carved image. It could be carved with a knife, or chiseled out of stone, or molded out of metal. It is something that the person would then use in the worship rendered unto their deity.

This prohibition sets the worship of the Creator - God who made the cov-

enant with Israel apart from all of the other gods of the ancient and modern world. He will not tolerate the use of graven images in the worship that is performed in His name. Let's apply this to the worship that we attempt to render unto God.

I. THE MORAL MOTIVES OF THE IMAGE-MAKER.

It is not just the presence of an image that offends God, but rather the motive that is behind the act of making graven images. Morality is very important when you are approaching God in worship.

1. The Image-Maker is motivated by a desire to create an aid to worship.

Since the God of Israel and the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is a spiritual being, sinful man feels that he needs some help in worshipping God. He feels that it is difficult to worship a God that you cannot see, touch, or feel. He reasons that it would be easier to worship the true God if he only had something made in the likeness of God. So the image-maker sets out to carve or make of wood/metal something that he feels can be a representation of God when he comes to worship. He never

continued on page 6

Christmas IS ALMOST HERE!

CHOOSE YOUR GIFT:



Zarka Center

THE NEED: 800 PEOPLE EACH DONATING \$500



Syrian Refugees

THE GOAL: \$25,000 FOR RELIEF WORK



Safe Haven

THE GOAL: \$25,000

SEND YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT TO: BMA MISSIONS DEPARTMENT P.O. BOX 878, CONWAY, AR 72033

Images Are A Big No!

from page 5

considers what the consequences of making such an image might be. Some tell of using a picture of Jesus to help them focus on Jesus when they are in worship. It is an aid for him; it makes it easier for him to feel closer to Jesus. Another finds it easier to sense the presence of the unseen God if they are surrounded by quiet organ music and the beauty of stained glass windows. The motivation may be rather worthy - but the end result may be damaging.

When you come to worship God, what

do you need? Do you need a beautiful church structure with stained glass windows around you? Do you need a certain type of music before you can worship? Careful! God forbids the use of man-made images in the worship of His name! It is so easy for the aids we have made to either stand between us and the true God, or to become in them a substitute for God.

2. A refusal to accept what God has revealed of Himself as sufficient.

Can you not see the folly of the image-

maker? God in His wisdom has not revealed Himself to any human being - at least He has never allowed even the most holy of men to see His likeness. The nearest He has come to this is the revelation of Himself that He made in Jesus Christ. But it is interesting that He did not allow a physical description of Jesus to survive, nor any drawing that preserved anything about his likeness.

If God had wanted us to have a picture of him, or an image of him to be used in worship, would he not have given us one? The image-maker ignores this fact. He attempts to go beyond what God has revealed of Himself. God prohibits this since whatever man comes up with can only be a perversion of what He really is. Whatever you use as a representation of God will surely be less than He is. How can anything man has made ever represent the eternal, infinite Creator-Redeemer?

II. THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE WORK OF THE IMAGEMAKER.

The consequences of image making are serious. Let me just list some of them for our consideration.

1. They dishonor God.

This is what the image-maker does. In his spiritual blindness he attempts to make something that looks like God, but in the process he actually ends up bringing dishonor to the Lord he pretends to love. You can be sure that there is not even one instance in Scripture where God felt honored by something that had been made to represent him.

2. He opens his life to spiritual darkness.

The Apostle Paul helps us appreciate the seriousness of image making. He recounts the path that the Roman world had followed into the darkness of idolatry.

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are

clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and God-head; so that they are without excuse. Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things." (Romans 1:18-23)

The insight of Paul is clear! When you refuse to accept God for who He is, and begin to try to do worship on your own terms, you open your life to all kinds of spiritual deception. Scripture consistently identified the image-makers with the demonic.

Neil Anderson, a gifted pastor from Minnesota and counselor, writes: "At its very root, idolatry is a demonic strategy to give an individual permission to indulge in his strongest natural desires without guilt." Is this not what Israel did at Sinai when they made the golden calf and worshipped it?

3. He brings a curse on his children.

This is a part of the warning that God attached to the commandment. Not all of the commandments have such a warning attached, but this one has one.

"Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me". (Exodus 20:5)

What does it mean when God is called jealous? We almost put jealousy in a bad light, an unacceptable emotion or response. As the word is used in Exodus 20:5 it refers to intensity of God's love for His people. He is intolerant of their giving to another that love and worship that should come to Him alone. He feels so deeply about it that he will allow the outcome of their actions to affect the next four generations. This must not be seen as some harsh act on the part of God.

continued on page 8

Christmas Greetings From Your State Missions



Freedom Baptist Mission, Burnsville, MS

Merry Christmas, from Freedom Baptist Mission! May the Lord give you all the Christmas blessings from above that you so richly deserve. Thanks to all of you for making this a wonderful holiday season for us. God bless you all and MERRY CHRISTMAS. Bro. Bobby and Freedom Church

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Northeast District WMA Report

by Martha Duncan, Reporter/Historian

The Northeast District WMA met November 10, 2015, at Bethel Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi. A delicious meal was prepared by Bro. Steve and Jenny Bennett and served by the GMAs.

The program, presented by Michelle McMillen included a slide presentation of the mission trips that she, Bro. Tracy McMillen, and the youth of Bethel went on. She challenged us with Romans 10:13-15, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." How then shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of Good things? Go, send, or disobey.

Our new project "New Direction Prison Ministry". The next meeting will be February 16 at East Fulton Baptist Church, Amory.

Top Five Churches In Giving To The WMA Project

Editor's Note: In the previous issue some of the following information was inadvertently omitted. We apologize for the error.

1. Vardaman Street, Wiggins	\$ 1,242.35
2. Skyway Hills Baptist Church, Pearl	1,128.00
3. Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel	800.00
4. Temple Baptist Church, Lucedale	770.00
5. Lebanon Baptist Church, Laurel	680.00

Christmas Greetings From Your State Missions



Homestretch Baptist in Cleveland, MS

We give God thanks for Christ "Salvation" and for the wonderful church family he has blessed us with. All of us, here at Homestretch Baptist Church, wish all of you a Merry Christmas.

2016 Pastor's Retreat

January 18-19, 2016

Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville, Mississippi

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint... Luke 18:1

Monday, January 18

1:00 pm Registration
2:00 pm Music
2:15 pm Todd West –
The Power of Prayer
3:00 pm Break
3:15 pm Music
3:25 pm Anders Lee –
The Pattern of Prayer
4:00 pm Break
4:15 pm Music
4:25 pm Greg Medenwald –
The Preaching of Prayer
5:15 pm Supper
7:00 pm Music
7:25 pm Todd West –
The Point of Prayer

For more information, contact
Justin Rhodes at 601-498-6692 or
pastorjustinrhodes@yahoo.com

Tuesday, January 19

7:00 am Breakfast
8:15 am Music
8:25 am Jeff Dixon –
The Practice of Prayer
9:00 am Break
9:15 am Music
9:25 am John Adams –
The Persistence of Prayer
10:00 am Break
10:15 am Music
10:25 am Todd West –
The People of Prayer
11:30 am Lunch

REGISTRATION: \$65 if staying in bunkhouse (conference, 3 meals, & 1 night stay in bunkhouse – must bring own bedding, towels, & such) \$45 if staying in the hotel (conference & 3 meals – you are responsible for your hotel room. Contact Lake Tiak O'Khata at 662-773-7853 for hotel reservation.)

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"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11 This is a beautiful time of the year but more special is when we can share the word with others. People need a Savior! People need Christ! From all of the folks at El Camino in Laurel, Hattiesburg and Biloxi, we wish you a blessed and Merry Christmas.

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South Forrest Baptist Mission, Hattiesburg, MS

From all the folks at South Forrest Baptist Mission, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men."

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

18 LOWE ROAD, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39443 - (601) 426-3928
SIDNEY DAVIS - DIRECTOR



SIDNEY DAVIS

It Is Good To Give Thanks To God

During the Thanksgiving Holiday it was good to be with family and have an opportunity to acknowledge the Lord and give Him thanks. He has given to us so much to be thankful and grateful for. "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O Most High." Psalm 92:1.

Recent Church Visits

I mentioned in my previous article that we were with the Calvary Baptist Church and Pastor Ron Ledford in Vidalia, Louisiana, for services back in September. We are grateful for the



Our recent visit with Calvary Baptist Church and Pastor Ron Ledford in Vidalia, Louisiana.



support from this church. They were gracious hosts during our stay with them. Note the photo with this article as Pastor Ron Ledford helps out as the children swing.

Also, we were with the New Bethany Baptist Church near Ellisville and Pastor Ricky Owens on November 15th. We enjoyed worshiping together during the morning service and afterwards sharing a Thanksgiving meal. We appreciate the emphasis offering that was received.

Special Emphasis

We would like to express our grati-

tude and thanks to the good response thus far to the 2015 Special Emphasis for the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home for the months of October and November. As this emphasis time comes to a close we would like to thank each church, Sunday School class, auxiliary, and individual for your participation in meeting the needs of the Home through your generous giving. May the Lord richly bless you all according to His riches in glory by His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ!

Homecoming Escort

The first grade boy at the Home was selected to be an escort for his class at the Homecoming activities for North Jones Elementary. Charlie was the perfect gentleman for the occasion and enjoyed the day very much.



The Joy of the Christmas Season

To the readers of the Mississippi Baptist Paper. It is a joy once again to have reached that time of the year when we as Christians celebrate the birth of the Christ-child, our Lord, Savior, and coming King.

Even though we are not certain when exactly our Savior was born, whether or not it was on December 25th, this we know for certain, He was born. And so, we as God's people choose this particular time of the year to celebrate that first Christmas which took place and happened approximately two thousand years ago. We rejoice with the shepherds in hearing what the angel told them on that glorious night, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10, 11.

As we have the opportunity this Christmas to spend time with our families, may each one have a joyous time and may the Christ of Christmas be in our thoughts.

So, from the children and staff of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home we send to you our heartfelt thanks and love.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Images Are A Big No!

from page 6

Whatever is important in your life will be even more important in the life of your children. So by your actions you are bringing your children under the judgment of the Lord that falls on the image-maker. Did you notice that the Lord accuses the image-maker with actually hating Him?

III. THE MORAL ALTERNATIVE TO THE IMAGE-MAKER.

"And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments." (Exodus 20:6) Love is the key! Love accepts God as He is and worships Him in the manner that pleases Him.

1. Approach God as the Person He is – an eternal, spiritual Person.

This is how you approach God. Since He is a Person without a body, without any need to manifest Himself physically or materially, you acknowledge Him to be such a God. You do not try to make Him something like something else. There is nothing else in the universe like God – He is Holy! While we are created in the image of God, this does not mean that He is like us. There is a great difference between God and man. This must be acknowledged in our worship of Him.

2. Refuse to allow any physical or material thing to come between you and God.

Nothing is to be more important to you than God. Nothing physical is to be essential in your worship of God. You are to be dependent only on the Holy Spirit who lives within you and is able to energize and guide you in your worship of God.

Paul laid this truth down to the Philippian Christians when he declared: "For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh." (Philippians 3:3) Worship of God is to be consistent with His spiritual nature. No place, building, tools, aids or anything else is necessary. All that is needed is the truth of God and the Holy Spirit who dwells in your heart.

3. Learn to listen to the spoken Word of God.

The image that we need to see, the reality that we need to encounter, in our worship of God can be found as we listen to the proclaimed Word of God. The Holy Spirit can do with the spoken Word what man will never be able to do with an image or likeness or painting of God. We must continue to give proper place to the spoken Word in the worship of the Lord. Moments of personal revelation and encounter take place as the Word is preached.

4. Cultivate an awareness of the unseen presence of God.

This is an essential. He is revealing His glory in the world all around you. Our Lord was able to see the heavenly Father in the lilies of the field, the birds of the air, in the falling of a hair from a head, in the way a friend responded to a friend. There is "more so much more" for us to know of Him. We still see through a glass darkly - but someday we will see Him face to face.

Christmas Greetings From Your State Missions



Central Baptist Mission, Southaven, MS

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord!" Luke 2:11 Merry Christmas from everyone here at Central Baptist Mission in Southaven, MS!

The Great Escape Youth & Children's Leader Cruise

DiscipleGuide and Central Baptist College invite youth and children's leaders to come aboard the Carnival Freedom and be part of a unique opportunity to fellowship and build supportive relationships with others in leadership roles, whether paid staff or volunteer. This is a unique opportunity to refresh, learn new ministry skills, and enjoy free time. The cruise is open to anyone working with youth and children. Because of their vital role in ministry, spouses are encouraged to attend as well. (Due to the nature of the cruise, it is not recommended that children attend.)

The cruise will depart from Galveston, Texas, Saturday afternoon, January 16 at 4:00 and return to the same port on Thursday, January 21 at 8:30 a.m. Ports of call will be Yucatan, Progresso, and Cozumel, Mexico, along with two days at sea which will include entertainment and great food aboard ship.

Terry Kimbrow, President of Central Baptist College, will again be cruise host. Mark Dance, Lifeway's Pastor Advocate, will be the guest speaker and his topic will be how to build a healthy life in and away from ministry.

For more information, contact Thomas Mobly at 501-358-3530 or thomas@discipleguide.org. You can also visit discipleguide.org/thegreatescape



THE GREAT ESCAPE

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S LEADERS CONFERENCE CRUISE

JANUARY 16-21, 2016

5 DAY WESTERN CARIBBEAN FROM GALVESTON, TEXAS
PORTS OF CALL IN YUCATAN & COZUMEL, MEXICO
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
[WWW.DISCIPLEGUIDE.ORG/THEGREATCAPE](http://www.discipleguide.org/thegreatescape)



FEATURING

MARK DANCE

"HOMEWORK"

BUILDING A HEALTHY LIFE IN AND AWAY FROM MINISTRY

DiscipleGuide
CHURCH RESOURCES

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Redemption Baptist Mission, Diamondhead, MS

We at Redemption Baptist Mission want to thank you for your continued prayer and support. We hope you have a Merry Christmas. It's not about presents; it's about his presence.

Christmas Greetings From Your State Missions



Day Star Baptist Mission, Sunnall, MS

We are so thankful for the churches' and Association's support through this past year. Day Star Baptist Mission wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!