

D Mississippi **Baptist**

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

FEBRUARY 1, 2009

VOL. 63 No. 3

A New Investment Scheme Sure To Have Good Returns

by the BMAA Middle East Missions Coordinator

Somehow, the first exercise we do at the onset of a new year is to take stock of the old one. It is interesting that we rarely do that during the course of the year. We also take stock when we are confronted with a situation that demands a bailout (a buzz word these days).

It was a great disappointment to many as they realized what happened to their investments at the end of 2008. I am sure quite a few of us want to forget that. Many lost everything. Somehow financial investments have this uncertainty attached to it. They tell you, the greater the risk, the

greater the return or in this case, the greater the bust.

Yet the flip side of all of this uncertainty is the certainty of investing in souls. I was reading the other day the story of Saul (turned Paul) and I reflected on the role of Ananias whom God used to seal the deal. We have never heard of him before, nor will we hear of him later. All he did was make a small investment of time, with quite a bit of uncertainty, in the life of a diminutive man named Saul, with a big reputation. I am sure, if asked, Ananias



would have wanted to make that time investment somewhere else without the fear of losing his head, maybe, in the process. Nonetheless, God spoke and

continued on page 2

April in Branson, Missouri 60th Annual Meeting of Baptist Missionary Association of America

by Philip Attebery, President
BMA of America

I would like to invite every church in the Baptist Missionary Association of America to be represented by attendance or official letter at the 60th annual meeting of the BMA of America. The meeting will be held April 20-22, 2009 at the Branson Convention Center in Branson, Missouri.

The theme for the meeting will be "Faith: Raising the Sails!" The theme is based upon Hebrews 10:38 and 11:6: "Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him . . . without faith it is impossible to please him." An additional subtitle to the theme will be "Remembering our Past, Envisioning our Future."

Every action of our association over the past decades has required the exercising of faith to be pleasing in God's sight. My prayer is that this annual meeting will

inspire us to dedicate ourselves to living by faith for the next 60 years.

Monday evening's session will focus upon the meeting's theme. Tuesday will provide meeting opportunities for auxiliaries, departmental and agency boards, and the Pastors' and Laymen's Conference. Business will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons along with Wednesday morning. Tuesday night's service will include a concert by the Central Baptist College Choir and the annual message by Bro. Greg Medenwald. The annual meeting will climax with the Missions report and commissioning service on Wednesday night.

Most sessions will have occasion to remember our past! Please continue your prayers for each ministry and individual supported by the Baptist Missionary Association of America. May we be strong in our resolve to please the Lord by living in faith!

Thornton Announces Retirement

Bobby Thornton retired as the Director of the Armed Forces and Institutional Chaplaincy as of January 31. Thornton has served in this position since his election in April, 1995. His service to our association and our nation has been invaluable, and we thank Him for his service during the past 13 ½ years. He and his wife, Dovie, reside in Tyler, Texas where they are actively involved in Rose City Baptist Church.

Thornton writes: "Time is not limitless. All of us know what it is to manage our time. Only God works out of HIS time. He owns time. Even our end is already determined by God. Everything we are and what we do come to an end. My end has come for the Chaplaincy Department. I

truly would like to continue, but that does not seem to be an option. As of 1 February, 2009, I turned over the responsibilities of the Department to Chaplain David Norvell. He recently retired from the Army Chaplaincy. Chaplain Norvell has the experience to do a great job. He will be an outstanding manager of all our chaplains.

I thank the Association for allowing me to do this work for thirteen years. I owe the churches of the Association and the pastors of those churches all my respect and gratitude for their willingness to support this great out-reach ministry. Thank You!"

Chaplain David Norvell assumed his duties on February 1. He and his wife,

continued on page 2

February 2009 Special Emphasis - Commission on History & Archives

A New Investment Scheme

continued from page 1

Ananias obeyed.

Well, what was the return on the investment? Apart from causing trouble for the brethren in Damascus and forcing them to smuggle him out of the city, Saul, then, was not the return extraordinary that you would risk your life for. Especially when you note that he went into oblivion for nine years after that, three of which he spent in Arabia.

So, to access such investment, we would at best say, "OK" as we realize that Saul was saved. Sometimes we invest time, energy or

money for the sake of one soul. But in God's timing this investment matured and brought forth fruits for eternity.

I am sure you, like me, cannot fathom the results of that investment. Saul became Paul (nothing really impressive yet) but when Paul became "Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God," it changed the whole equation of investment and return.

Enough preaching, I think you agree with me that we are in the business of investing in souls.

That's what we have been doing for many years and starting to realize the return. Here is a glimpse of what you might, or might not read: Baptisms in Syria 40, last baptism in Iraq 29, in Egypt 27, 13 in Lebanon.

The climax was the salvation of close to 300 women through our BMA women's ministry "I AM A Woman." More is already happening in 2009. The problem is that funds are running dry and if they do, we will have to stop. We are looking for people who are willing to invest in souls. The return on the investment is assured. God guarantees that. We are looking for 600 BMAA women willing to invest \$100 in

2009, or any formula for that matter, or even—just maybe—someone who wants to make an investment of \$60,000.

Is it worth it? You bet. When you see women from all backgrounds and religions coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and crying tears of repentance in a region full of hate and uncertainty, you want to invest. The return is too good to ignore.

Offerings should be designated "Middle East Women's Ministry" and sent to BMA of America Missions, P.O. Box 30910, Little Rock, Ark. 72260. (Other gifts to the Middle East ministry should be designated "Middle East Work Fund.")

Thornton Retirement

continued from page 1

Linda, reside in El Paso, Texas. His address is 4328 Loma De Brisas. His phone number is 915-569-2235. Pray for him as he assumes his duties as Director of the Armed Forces and Institutional Chaplaincy.

Chaplain Norvell has served as an Army chaplain at Fort Hood, Texas, Germany; Hawaii, Korea; and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. In his last tour at Fort Bliss, Texas, he was director of Pastoral Care at William Beaumont Army Medical Center.

Please send all BMAA Chaplaincy offerings to 4328 Loma De Brisas, El Paso, Texas 79937. You may contact Chaplain Norvell at dnorvell@elp.rr.com or 915.307.6978. Pray for him as he assumes his duties.

How will we know the antichrist?

II Thessalonians 2:9-11 *"Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceit of unrighteousness in them that perish, because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie."*

Instead of talking with your family and friends about who the antichrist is, maybe we should spend more time talking to them about who the Christ is.

How will so many people believe the lies of the antichrist? It states here that God will send the people who love not the truth of the Bible, a strong delusion so that they will believe his lies. I was recently asked this question by a teen at a teen conference. "Is he the antichrist?" We have to stick to the Word of God. To know the truth, we have to seek the Bible. Everything else is just speculation. The truth is that no one knows the time that this will occur. However, there is scripture that tells us what characteristics he will have, and how people will respond to him. If I was you, I would begin my study of this issue by reading II Thessalonians 2:1-10. Follow this up by reading Revelation and the facts held there.

The antichrist will be a man. He will be a political figure. But the main characteristic of the antichrist is that he will be charismatic. People will believe his lies.

Jesus is the truth. Therefore, the anti-Jesus (antichrist) will be all about lies. Jesus' power is in His truth. The antichrist power is in his lies. People will go "ga ga"



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

over the antichrist. They won't even know all that he stands for politically. They will let others tell them what a great man he is. They will believe his promises and anything he says. They will not put their hope in Christ and nothing less, but will find hope in him. They will see him as having the answer to their problems. He will promise so much, and then he will not deliver. For it will all be a lie. He will claim to love Israel.

He will want to strike a peace accord with Israel only to renege on it, and establish himself as deity in the temple. He will have power and will be perceived to have signs and wonders. Rich and poor, educated and ignorant, all races, all genders of people will love this person and stand in line to see him pass by. He will generate excitement that is rarely seen. Millions of people will pour into the streets to show their affection for him. The media will go nuts over him. The media will be a

huge vehicle whereby he generates and exalts himself and his policies.

We know that the Bible refers to the antichrist as a "he". Therefore, all of you Hillary haters will have to find another reason to speak against her. She is not the antichrist and can't be. Maybe you should just stick to the fact that you strongly disagree with

ate from initially. We know that his real power will come from Satan. The ancient Roman emperors Nero and Domitian were great persecutors of Christians. They both claimed to be deity and demanded that they themselves be worshipped. In more recent times Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin and some Muslim dictators have been eluded to.

My personal opinion is this. No one knows except God when the

Instead of talking with your family and friends about who the antichrist is, maybe we should spend more time talking to them about who the Christ is.

all of her political views. While you may consider someone as evil, that does not mean they are the antichrist.

People throughout history have made attempts to label someone as the antichrist. There has certainly been people who fit the description. He is called in the Bible the "man of lawlessness". He will arise out of the eternal sea of politics which will give him his popularity and his power to oper-

end time will start to happen. Satan doesn't even know. Therefore, Satan himself must always have someone ready on the world stage to take on immediately the role of antichrist. This would explain these horrible people of history.

Yet, all has just been speculation.

Wayne Grudem writes this: "Paul writes to the Thessalonians that Christ will not come unless the man of sin is first revealed, and

then the Lord Jesus will destroy him at his coming. This "man of sin" is sometimes identified with the beast in Revelation 13 and is sometimes called the antichrist, the final and worst of the series of "antichrists" mentioned in I John 2:18. "

I think as Christians, we should not focus so much on who is the antichrist, but do as the Bible states. We should witness fervently to the lost about Christ, because the end is coming soon. We should be vigilant and sober looking for his glorious appearing. We don't have to worry about the antichrist as Christians, because we know that Jesus will destroy him, and we all will live forever in heaven. We should worry about the lost people that don't know this truth. Finally, we know that all of this is coming soon.

All prophecy in the Bible has been fulfilled for the end times to begin. I have personally seen the Jews preparing all the artifacts to be placed in the new Temple during the end of times. They are building things now and putting them in the vault waiting for the soon rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. It is an exciting time for me, as we know that soon, and very soon, we shall see the King!

MORAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Baptist Missionary Association of America
Dr. John M. Adams, Interim Director
P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863
Email - fbcjdmaj@yahoo.com



John Adams

EUTHANASIA - THE RIGHT TO DIE

Exodus 23:7

Our Judeo-Christian Heritage

Euthanasia is morally and biblically wrong. Euthanasia is defined as “the act or practice of ending the life of a person suffering from an incurable illness or injury, or better known as mercy killing.” As believers, we should seek to safeguard the God-given right to life, to which each person is entitled. According to the humanistic philosophy if you’re old, mentally ill, or severely handicapped you should be allowed to die. The listed individuals have a God-given life and spiritual desires that should be treated with compassion, dignity, and encouragement. Proverbs 6:16-10...”The Lord hates...hands that shed innocent blood and a heart that devises wicked plans.” We are urged to “keep far from a false matter...in not slaying the innocent or righteous.” Those who desire to destroy other individuals by injections are classified as “wicked.” Exodus 23:7 states, “Keep thee far from a false matter; and the innocent and righteous slay thou not; for I will not justify the wicked.”

I. Historical Aspects of Euthanasia

When Hitler of Nazi Germany issued his direct order for euthanasia in 1939, all German state institutions were required to report on patients who had been ill

for at least five years or who were not able to work. The decision of which patients should be killed was based entirely on a brief questionnaire. The Nazi authorities who issued the death sentences were professors of psychiatry at major universities in Germany. The professors never saw the individuals personally.

The first to be killed in the Middle Ages and during the holocaust in the 1940's were the aged, the infirmed, the senile, the mentally retarded and defective children. The German Nazi power even went so far as to exterminate children with badly modeled ears, epileptic seizures and bed wetters.

According to a new service publication, “The mass extermination of Germany’s undesirables began with the acceptance of the attitude which is basic to the euthanasia philosophy, there is such a thing as life not worthy to be lived.” This is the same philosophy that is accepted today with abortion, infanticide and euthanasia.

II. Present Day Concept of Euthanasia

Euthanasia is not a mere fear for the future. It has survived and is now present in the American Medical practice. Doctors in the United States face the medical ethical decisions of starving “undesirables to death or administering fatal injections. “Voices in

our governments are looking for ways to reduce health care costs.” Mercy Killing by Denyse Handlen.

Well meaning people are attracted to what may seem to be the beneficial aspects of some type of euthanasia. Americans must not be misled or tranquilized by the assurances that the practice is limited to the terminally ill. Abortion was also once proposed as a last resort in desperate cases. Today it has become a common practice for birth control. “To say that this subject can be carefully controlled

is either naive or deceitful,” The Right to Live, The Right to Die - Dr. C. Everett Koop, former Surgeon General.

Former Governor Richard Lamb of Colorado shocked the nation when he told a group of health lawyers that “sick people have a duty to die and get out of the way and let the well society build a reasonable life.”

III. The Biblical Perspective of the Right to Life

I Corinthians 3:16-17 reminds us that our bodies are the temple

of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in us. Our life is precious to God and to us. Euthanasia is moving into the spotlights and the movement continues to gather momentum in our land as a great moral issue. Pray for our nation.

Highlighted Contributing Churches and Organizations

Zalma, Zalma, Missouri
Northeast Mississippi District WMA
Magnolia, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
Antioch, Gilmer, Texas
Calvary, Vidalia, Louisiana

Commission on History and Archives

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
Glenn Shoemake, Director & Historian, 2798 Highway 588, Ellisville, MS 39437

SPECIAL EMPHASIS FEBRUARY 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus:

The commission on History And Archives of the BNA of Mississippi exists to promote the knowledge of the history of the Association and its member churches and the preserving of that history in the collections of records maintained in the Archives at Southeastern Baptist College and those stored in microform at other facilities. Since every church and every member of those churches that fellowship in the Association today, along with all those who did so in the past, are a part of a history of over two hundred years, it is obvious that the work of the Commission is ongoing and complex.

The gathering and preservation of the records of this history is essential for research, reference, and restoration of lost records. We encourage every church in the BMA of Mississippi, along with other local, state and national associations and local churches that share a common heritage with us to participate in the program of the Commission and to make use of the Archives when needed.

THE WHOLE STORY

We often hear the remark made among Christians, that “History is His story,” recognizing that God is the Sovereign Lord of the history of mankind, the world, and the universe as a whole. The history of God’s creative and redemptive work is recorded, in part,

in nature, in the Bible, and in the heart of every true believer. The whole story is known only to God Himself. But we can take joy in knowing that we are a part of that story, and we should make serious efforts to preserve our part as far as we can and pass the knowledge of it to the coming generations.

PARTS OF THE STORY

The Commission on History and Archives attempts to preserve as many parts of the History and heritage of the BMA of Mississippi as possible. Beside those people, local churches and local associations directly connected to the state association, there are other records that precede its existence, concerning entities and elements throughout church history that are directly involved in our heritage of faith and practice. There are also records of larger bodies, such as the BMA of America, as well as foreign associations of churches with which our state association and member churches are affiliated or maintain fellowship or correspondence, or with which they have done so in the past.

The records of your own part in the history of the BMA of Mississippi may be found in many places and in different forms. As a member of a local church, you are a vital part of the minutes, reports, and bulletins that are kept and published within that congregation. And you are one among the numbers that make up the statistics and carry on the business of

your local, state, and national association and the organizations and departments of these. If you are a pastor, church officer, or missionary, there are records that deal with your personal work and involvement in the history: reports, letters, articles, etc. If you are a church or associational clerk or recording secretary, you have charge of many such records.

All these materials and other items—pictures, recordings, books and publications, etc.—that have a bearing on the history and heritage of the BMA of Mississippi and the people and organizations affiliated with it, have a place in the Archives. As technology continues to evolve, digital records will replace the print and microform records, and digital recordings will be kept instead of tapes and phonograph records.

What comes next we do not know, but our task is to preserve the historical records in as permanent and accessible form as possible.

MY PART AND YOUR PART

As Director and Historian of the Commission, my part is to oversee the state and development of the collections in the archives, and to encourage the churches and local associations and others



Glenn Shoemake

BMAA Equipping Center Locations and Schedules

Bethel Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi

March 7, 2009 Sunday School Materials That Work!
June 20-21, 2009 It All Rises and Falls on Leadership

Magnolia Baptist, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

March 7, 2009 Mission Possible: Winning Your Community For Christ
June 21, 2009 Sunday School Materials That Work!

continued on page 4

Mississippi Baptist | Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Giving to My Church in Difficult Economic Times

Yes, the economy is on everyone's mind. The economy occupies a large space in the print media and a lot of time in the electronic media. The events are unparalleled in most of our memory. We talk about it a lot: "They need to do something about it! All those bankers made off with a lot of money. My retirement account lost 20% since last year. I lost my job. I owe more on my house than its worth. I tell you what, if they would let me handle this."

It is a tough economic time. It is true many have been laid off, have experienced financial defeat, and have even lost their homes. Life savings, future dreams, and hopes for families have quickly vanished in our current economic jumble. There is no doubt the effects of this time will continue longer than the financial gurus would like to project.

What about me? I'm still working. I have a home. I have not been ploughed under by disappearing savings. I have relative financial security - if that can be said for anyone. What is my role right now in regard to my church? The bottom line up front for me is this: I believe I need to up my giving to my church. Let me say that clearly: I believe I have the privilege of practicing the grace of giving to a greater extent, more now than ever before.

More and more people are in

need of services they cannot find, and some too embarrassed to ask. For these our churches must stand up to meet their needs. I hear many say in congregations: "We have never done this before. Let them go to the government to get what they need." Wow! This is



Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

way off course from the New Testament! I advocate and I am practicing increasing my giving to my local church.

It is not only local needs that are met through the local church - and I expect we must meet more local needs as we come to more financial revelations and their results in our nation - but also the greater world needs of missions, Christian education, and general benevolence that the church has done and done well through the centuries. I need to put more in the offering plate when my brother is out of work simply to pay the normal expenses of the church building being open during the week. The insurance and utilities are no less than when all of the membership was employed. I know these operating costs are more. I know I must give more.

Good congregations and great churches have for years given at least 10% of their own offerings to outside their own church causes like missions, colleges, seminaries, children's homes, and other services with Christ at the center. These kinds of ministries will have more need for church support over the next few years than ever before. I must give more of my financial resources so these great pillars of our culture and nation will not close their doors.

Good congregations and great churches are being asked to do more and more with less and less. I am asking the Lord to make me one of the givers in my church so that we will not be slack in doing good in my day and in my time. A leader of another generation once said repeatedly something like this: "It's not how much you give; it's how much you have left." Another leader said these words: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." (Corinthians 8:9)

Giving to my church in tough economic times is a matter of grace to me. It is a matter of Christian opportunity for me. It is a matter of importance to the point I am doing something about it. I ask you to join me. Will you?

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"Well Reverend...the good news is the treasures you have laid up for yourself in Heaven are intact"

History & Archives Emphasis

from page 3

involved to add pertinent materials to the collections. It is also my responsibility to inform those involved of ways and means to best preserve their church records in the archives and to use the collections as a resource for their church and personal needs in the realm of our shared history. Each February the Commission makes a Special Emphasis appeal to the churches for funds to support its ongoing efforts. The financial needs of the Commission are not overwhelming, but they are substantial and ongoing, and every contribution from local churches, local associations, and individuals is vital to our work and greatly appreciated.

As members and officers of

churches and local associations, your participation is of the greatest importance to the work of the Commission, since you must see that your own record and documents are sent to the Archives in a timely fashion and in an accessible form. As ministers and family members and friends of ministers, it is your place and privilege to present biographies and records of lives spent in the service of the Lord among the churches of the BMA of Mississippi. It is also needful that the Commission receives your advice and suggestions concerning the work it has to do. And, of course, it is you that must support the Commission in the fulfillment of its duties with your contributions, which would be most beneficial on a monthly or otherwise regular basis.

Working together, we can help to preserve the historical record of the work that the Lord is doing within and among the churches of the BMA of Mississippi. It is truly His story. But it is our story, too—yours and mine—a story to remember and to tell, for the glory of God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And the story goes on, "for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

Your servant for Christ's sake,
Glenn Shoemaker



USPS 353-960
P.O. Box 8181
Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000

Phone 601-426-3293
Fax 601-763-4430

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

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

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402.
Postmaster: Send address changes to the *Mississippi Baptist Paper*, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441-8000.

BMAA Yearbook Information

By James Ray Raines, Clerk
BMA of America

Due to the sickness and dearth of BMAA Clerk Ken Vanderslice, publication of the 2008 yearbook has been delayed.

Bro. Vanderslice was in the process of layout for the book at the time of his illness and death.

Bro. Don Brown, former clerk, has graciously consented to complete this work. However, his schedule demands are such that it will take several weeks for the work to be completed.

Thanks for your prayers and patience as we work through this situation.

Commission on Senior Adults

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



Greetings

As this article is written we are closing out the month of January. By the time you read this article we will be well into the second month of 2009. Time is swiftly passing, and this means we don't have long to work. Jesus reminded us that "...the night cometh when no man can work." For many of us age is closing in very fast. It looks like the coming of the Lord is so very near. We all must do our best for Christ in the time we have left. Let me remind us all that the coming of Christ is not a dread for the Christian.

New Organization

The Washington Baptist Church, Neely organized a ministry to their Senior Adults. This good news was a blessing to my heart. This should inspire other churches to organize an active ministry for their seniors. All you need is a good leader to serve as the president or coordinator, and a good program chairperson. Brother Frank Panzrino is the pastor at Washington Church. They

are a loyal supporter of the Commission.

Appreciation

The planners and writers of our Literature are to be commended. Since I am directly involved with the Senior Adult Ministry here in Mississippi I appreciate the lesson we had on Sunday evening, January 18. The lesson dealt with the Senior Adult community, especially in our BMA Churches. Seniors are older, but they have wisdom, experience, dedication, faith, and love that every church needs. Senior Adults help carry the financial load as well. We know that all Seniors are not so faithful, but many are. We don't do well to ignore those who have stayed under the load and remained faithful to God and His cause.

Seniors should remain useful as long as possible. Seniors should connect with the younger folks when possible. Seniors can mentor young people. Pastor, very often your best friends are your older folks. I found my best prayer

warriors were my older people.

Preacher's Conference

I was able to attend the Preachers 2009 Conference one day. The Conference was real good. The messages were very helpful to me. The fellowship was something I needed too. What I heard and what I felt would have been a blessing to all our Mississippi Preachers. The program committee is to be commended for their good work.

We all have obligations that hinder us from time to time. Let me encourage my preacher brethren to take advantage of every meeting possible. Isolation is hurtful to any of us. The time will come, if you live long enough, that you will wish you were able to attend a good meeting and hear some good preaching, and enjoy a time of sweet fellowship with fellow preachers. I know this to be true, because I can't go to everything any more.

Another danger is the selfish or the exclusive group syndrome problem. What I mean is this. If I am preaching I will go. If so and

so is preaching I will attend. If so and so is preaching I will not attend. If so and so is not in my circle I won't go. I watched a small band of preachers at our National meetings some years ago and if one of theirs preached they would stay and when the message was finished they all would leave together. If someone else preached they would not show up. I don't see that to be very Spiritual nor Christian. I loved and respected all those men.

Please forgive me for thinking out loud. I love my brethren and I respect the personal convictions that we all have. A brother is not my enemy if he doesn't see everything as I see them. Yes, I love our work. I love the work our BMA Churches are doing. Do I agree with everything? NO! I don't agree with everything my family does, but I don't desert my family. I don't go around the world criticizing and downing them.

We are prone to demand freedoms and liberties for ourselves, but refuse the same to the other person. If I love you I won't say or do things to hurt you.

Conferences

The South Senior Adult Day is scheduled Tuesday, March 31. The place is Big Creek Baptist Church, Brother Don Brown, pastor. The program will begin

promptly at 9:30 AM and will close around 3:00 PM. Brother Earl Smith will direct the worship music. The Big Creek Music Department and Mississippi Five will provide the morning music. Brother James Schoenrock will bring the message. Mack's Restaurant will cater the noon meal. The 'Stubborn Love Trio' will provide the afternoon music. Door prizes and much more will be enjoyed. Watch the Mississippi Baptist and other material for more information. I need you to call in and register your group. The food provider needs to know. Call 601-763-8100 or 601-426-3293 or call me at 601-729-3198. Please call by or before March 23.

The North Senior Adult Day is scheduled for May 12. Hopewell Baptist Church and pastor Matt Hudson will host this meeting. I will say more about this day later.

Pastor, we need your help in promoting these conferences. We need for you to attend and bring your seniors. If you will attend, someone will attend with you.

Fifty Years Ministry

Letters and forms have been mailed to the churches. If you have a preacher that will reach fifty years in the ministry in 2009 please have him complete the form and mail soon. Time is running out for this to be done.

Headed to Branson Hotel Information for 2009 Annual Meeting

The Committee on Arrangements is providing the following information concerning the housing arrangements for the annual BMAA annual meeting April 20-22, 2009 in Branson, Missouri. The headquarters hotel will be the Radisson Hotel Branson. The meeting will be held at the new Branson Convention Center in downtown Branson.

Accommodations for the meeting are:

Radisson Hotel	\$99.00
Ramada Resort & Conf. Center	\$76.00
Great Western Branson Towers	\$81.95 single/double
	\$86.95 triple
	\$91.95 Quad

The Hilton Hotel is completely booked.

The Branson Convention Bureau is providing us with a Web site so that reservations can be made on-line. The Web site is www.MeetInBranson.net/BaptMissionaryHousing. It must be typed as given. The Web site will give you information about the hotels and their distance from the Convention Center. Maps are also available at the Web site.

For those who do not want to make their reservations on-line they can call Monday - Friday from 8 AM - 5 PM at 800-263-6056.

All reservations are to be made through these numbers and not at the hotels. For more information you may contact the Committee on Arrangements.

Leon Carmical, James Ray Raines, Charles Atteberry

Report from BMAA Coordinating Council *Special Offering Months Adjusted*

The BMAA Coordinating Council met January 5-6, 2009 at the Calvary Baptist Church in Horn Lake, Mississippi. Members present were David Watkins, Philip Atteberry, Paul Bullock, Vernon Lee, Doug Brewer, and Paul White. The meeting was held in conjunction with the BMAA Missions Symposium.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to interview BMAA department and agency directors as a means of reviewing "the specific mission of each department or agency in light of the purpose and policy of the association, in order to assure comprehensiveness and avoid duplications in ministry" (Statement of Principles of Cooperation of the BMAA, Article VIII 3A).

Executive directors received customized self-evaluation forms in early November and provided responses for the council during

the meeting. The self-evaluations and interviews focused upon two primary concerns. First, was each department effective in complimenting the overall purpose of the BMAA according to Article II of the Statement of Principles of Cooperation of the BMAA? Second, was each department effective in accomplishing the specific policy statements assigned to them in Articles IX-XIV?

Grady Higgs represented the Department of Missions. Ron Chesser and Norman Crass represented Ministers Resource Services. Dr. John Adams and Bobby Hudgens represented the Moral Action Committee. Dr. Kevin Clayton and Clinton Everett represented DiscipleGuide Church Resources. George Reddin, Rick Russell and Sonny Foster represented Lifeword. Dr. Charley Holmes and Danny Pitts repre-

sented BMA Seminary.

The council's 2009 report for the association will include the final results of the evaluations and interviews.

The council and directors (Clayton, Holmes, Chesser and Adams) also discussed alternative scheduling for the annual offering of their departments. A proposal was made to amend the offering by allowing the seminary to receive an offering at Easter, Moral Action Committee near the Fourth of July, DiscipleGuide Church Resources in September and that Ministers Resource Services be allowed an offering on the last Sunday in October to coincide with Pastor's Appreciation Month.

The next council meeting is scheduled for May 18-20, 2009.

Individuals with questions regarding the council should contact Chairman David Watkins or a member of the council.

Mississippi W.M.A.

Mrs. Ruby Bynum, President
43 Bear Pen Creek Rd., Laurel, MS 39440
601-428-1901

Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443
601-729-5638

February is WMA Enlistment Month

February is Enlistment Month for the Women's Missionary Auxiliary. My prayer is that each local WMA group will catch the vision (Proverbs 29:18) of ladies reaching out in service, through benevolence, in witnessing, in teaching, and in missions. Once your WMA has caught the vision, you need to share the vision (Acts 26:19) by seeking to enlist other ladies in WMA.

During the month of February, the following ideas can be used to focus attention on the WMA.

1. Have WMA ladies sit together for a worship service.
 2. Ask the pastor to let a WMA lady speak briefly on "What WMA Means to Me" and share this year's district, state, and national WMA projects.
 3. Ask the pastor for space in the bulletin to announce WMA activities.
 4. Sponsor a breakfast, brunch, luncheon, tea, or dinner to promote WMA awareness.
- Once you have decided what type of event to sponsor, the following ideas might be helpful:
1. Select a decorating theme for the event (decorate the tables with teapots and teacups, fresh flowers, silk flowers, glass containers, valentines, candles, or just use your imagination).
 2. The event can be potluck or prepared by current WMA members, GMA girls might be enlisted to serve as waitresses.
 3. Prepare a short program to present on what your WMA does (your Bible study, missions study, benevolence activities, youth auxiliaries and other special events or activities).
 4. Appoint a telephone committee to invite prospective ladies.
 5. Send special invitations by mail or e-mail.
 6. Make posters advertising the events.
- Once you have your enlistment activities planned, above all be enthusiastic about sharing the vision you have for WMA.

Brenda Hornaday,
National WMA First Vice President

WMA Reports Due

Ladies,

It's time to send in our Standard of Excellence reports to Brenda before the National WMA meeting in April. She would love to have these as soon as possible.

The requirements are:

1. That a local WMA hold at least 75% of the total meetings for each quarter.
2. That the average attendance be at least 75% of the enrollment each quarter.
3. That at least 75% of the enrollment be Daily Bible Readers each quarter.
4. That the auxiliary be represented in at least four Associational meetings each year.
5. Financial support be given to district, state and national WMAs.
6. That the WMA sponsor Youth Auxiliaries in the local church (if available), district, state, and national.
7. That the WMA follow the WMA plan of work as closely as possible.

Send church names to:
Brenda Hornaday
P.O. Box 626
Magnolia, AR 71754
Phone (870)-696-3541

Sumrall Church to Hold Ladies Retreat

The ladies of Midway First Baptist Church, Sumrall, Mississippi, is sponsoring a Ladies conference. It will be held on February 28, from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Former missionary to the Middle East, Jennifer Bullock will be the featured speaker. Jennifer worked with ladies groups all over the Middle East. Special music and a concert is planned and a chalk drawing of Jesus' face will be part of the program.

The Midway ladies would like to invite any of the ladies in the area to come and be a part of this conference. A nursery will be provided, door prizes given, and a complimentary lunch will be served.

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.



A Note of Thanks

To the Churches of the Big Creek Association

On January 24, 2009, the Big Creek Association hosted our first Mission's Banquet and it was a great success. The banquet was held at the First Baptist Church of Shady Grove Fellowship Hall which was almost full. Bro. Grady Higgs and the mission's staff did a wonderful job presenting the work of mission around the world.

Thank you First Baptist Church of Shady Grove for an outstanding job hosting the event and all the churches that assisted for making this such a successful event.

I hope we can do it again next year.

Whatever It Takes,
Harold Floyd

News from Tiger Creek Baptist Church - Ovett

Tiger Creek Baptist Church is very proud and thankful for our new pastor, Bro. Dana Williams. He and his family moved onto the field on November 9, 2008. We look forward to working with them to further the work of our Lord.

On February 28, 2009 we will have a gospel singing featuring the Proclaimers Quartet. Please come join us for a night of singing, praise, and prayer.

Betty Holifield, Church reporter
Brother Dana Williams, pastor

Ten Mile Monthly Committee Meeting

The Ten Mile Committee Meeting met with Bethel Baptist Church in Wiggins, on February 2, 2008. The welcome from the host church was given by Bro. Freddie Wagner and the response was given by Bro. Wallace Williams. After the normal preliminaries, the reading of the minutes and the treasury report, mission reports were called for. The next meeting will be held at Cypress Creek Baptist Church on March 2, 2009.

Bro. Wallace Williams gave an excellent reported on Divine Grace Mission. March 14, 2009 has been set for the organization of the church in Long Beach beginning at 10:00 am. All are invited.

The Youth-in-Harvest report was given by Bro. Stan Bennett which was held at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. Well over 100 young people attended. Bro. Dale Broome reported on his mission trip to Australia and is waiting on a decision from the mission department if there needs to be a church started in Australia. Bro. Vern Holifield reported on the Commission on Senior Adults. Bro. Don Hilburn, pastor of Heritage Baptist Church in Biloxi, report was read by Bro. Chris Freeman on the Hispanic work where 32 professions of faith was received. Dr. Medrick Savell gave an inspiring report from Southeastern Bible College. Bro. Glen Shoemaker reported on the History and Archives of the BMA.

After a special from the host church, Bro. Sidney Davis was

continued on page 7

GMA Girls

GMA Promoter - Beth Caldwell
166 Twin Creek Rd, Lucedale, MS 39452
601-947-6011

Sunbeam Promoter - Linda Dertinger
132 Howard Hill Road, Soso, MS 39480
601-729-2908

Mississippi State GMA/Sunbeam Treasurer's Report

January 26, 2009
(Update after planning meeting)

TOTAL TO ACCOUNT FOR	\$3,038.34
General Fund Balance	\$1,425.87
GMA Project (Missionary Duvall)	1,447.47
Sunbeam Project (100%)	165.00
Total	\$3,038.34

Total received to date for the GMA Project:	
25% plus designated offerings	\$ 588.76
for the General Fund (reflected in the General Fund Balance)	
75% Missionary Ed Duvall, Cleveland	1,447.47
Total	\$2,036.23

NOTE: This balance includes \$379.96 profit from the T-shirt and canvas bag sales.

Please continue to support the GMA/Sunbeam Project by sending your offerings to Shirlene Smith, 730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443 by February 25, 2009. Thank you for all that has been given to the Girls MISSIONARY Auxiliary project.
Mrs. Shirlene Smith

GMA Coronation Held

The Ten Mile District GMA Coronation was January 12, 2009 at Temple Baptist Church in Biloxi. The coronation program was hosted by the Ten Mile District WMA. The Theme was "In His Image", Genesis 1:27.

There were three churches representing; Grace Church, Saucier; Paramount Church, Perkinston; and Ten Mile Church, Perkinston. A total of 18 GMA girls participated in the coronation. Each girl shared scriptures or gave her testimony. The girls sang the GMA Song and America. Paige Williams, District and State Reigning Jr. Miss GMA, sang, "I'll Fly Away" and Megan Brewer, District, State, and Miss GMA of America and her sister, Crystal Brewer sang, "He Knows My Name". Both Paige and Megan presented Crystal Brewer as the 2009 Ten Mile District Jr. Miss GMA. Crystal will be representing the Ten Mile District at the State Retreat, March 6th and 7th at Camp Garaway.

Our next meeting will be April 7, 2009 at Paramount Church at 7:00 p.m. I want to encourage our churches in the Ten Mile District who are interested in GMA's to contact me (Nancy Brewer) at 228-234-3785. I will be honored to share with you about our Girls Missionary Auxiliary. Currently we have three churches who are participating. We need more of our churches to participate. Through our Sunbeam, GMA and Galilean Auxiliary's we teach our children about the Baptist Missionary Association doctrines and how to support our missionaries and to be missionary's themselves.

The State GMA Camp will be held March 6th and 7th at Camp Garaway, in Clinton, Mississippi. Our National GMA Retreat will be held June 16th through 19th. If you need more information please let me know, I will be happy to assist you with any information needed.

May God Bless You.

Nancy Brewer

Ten Mile District GMA Promoter

Broadcast decency an issue for incoming FCC head

OneNewsNow - The Parents Television Council is calling on the nominee to head the Federal Communications Commission to focus more attention to broadcast decency and cable choice.

President Barack Obama has reportedly nominated Julius Genachowski to head the FCC. Genachowski was behind the Obama campaign's decision to use the Internet to raise funds for the primary and the general election campaigns.

Dan Isett with the PTC says Senate confirmation hearings will provide an opportunity for Genachowski to be questioned about his stance on broadcast decency.

Church News

from page 6

asked to report on the Children's Home in Laurel and to bring the message. He spoke on "How to Find Peace and Rest" which he read from Matthew 11:28-30. The right hand of appreciation was given by Bro. Dennis Knight.

Bro. Stan Bennett - Moderator
Dr. Eugene Anderson - Reporter

Tombigbee Report

The Tombigbee Association met on January 8, 2009, at Hopewell Baptist Church. There were 73 in attendance with 10 churches represented. We enjoyed a wonderful meal that warmed the body on this cold winter day.

Bro. Wexford Parmer opened the meeting with a brief report on the Mission Symposium and a devotion thought "How long has it been since you rejoiced because someone you know got saved?" Bro. Matt Hudson led the opening song "Standing On the Promises". The Association welcomed Boguefala's new pastor Bro. David Perry and his wife Cindy.

Bro. Bryan Wilson gave the report for Bro. Freeman on the Missions Department. The offerings have been good and they hope to get a missionary in the Tupelo area. Bro. Matt Hudson blessed us with special singing "He Is All I Need". Bro. Jackie Gray brought the evening message from Acts 2:1, "The Trouble in the Church". He reminded us of our commission, Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

The next meeting will be at Lone Oak Baptist Church with a meal at 6:00 and the meeting at 7:00. The Youth Camp meeting will be at Boguefala Baptist Church February 16th.

Jessica Haden - reporter

"Somewhere around 98 percent of all the complaints that are filed at the FCC by the public have to do with these content-related issues -- the issues of broadcast decency," says Isett. "So clearly it's what's on the minds of the American people...."

And for that reason, say the PTC spokesman, the issue of decency needs to be brought up before Genachowski is confirmed. "It's absolutely critical that we continue to have a chairman of the FCC who takes these issues seriously," he emphasizes.

Genachowski worked as an at-

torney at the FCC during the Clinton administration. The Harvard graduate is also co-founder of LaunchBox Digital, a venture capital firm, and has served on the boards of Expedia, Hotels.com, and Ticketmaster. In addition he is part of the founding group of New Resource Bank, the country's first "green" bank.

The previous FCC chairman, Kevin Martin, stepped down upon the inauguration of President Obama. Commissioner Michael J. Copps is the acting chairman until a new chairman is confirmed by the Senate.

Groundwork for 'global governance'?

OneNewsNow - A United Nations watchdog is concerned about the agenda of the recent World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland.

According to Cliff Kincaid, president of America's Survival, recently confirmed U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner is being urged to lay the foundation for "global governance" by considering "international taxation" measures to loot more money from U.S. taxpayers.

Kincaid says the idea of a global IRS was included in the report The Global Agenda 2009, which was discussed at the recently concluded World Economic Forum in Davos.

"Most Americans have lost thousands and thousands of dollars, perhaps hundreds of thousands of dollars, because of the destruction of their retirement accounts and personal savings," notes Kincaid.

"And yet on top of that we've got these global players in Davos talking about global taxes? A global IRS?" he wonders. "Maybe Geithner is going to run that, too. These things are being discussed out in the open at these global meetings."

Kincaid points out that The Global Agenda 2009 report argues "sovereign states do not adequately address problems reaching across borders" and that "international taxation" may be needed to generate "the additional resources" for global governance.



ABS * Camp Ministry



LATRELLE WINDHAM
DIRECTOR

P.O. Box 4247, Laurel, Mississippi 39441 • (601) 649-0502
Email - bmayouth@comcast.net

"A QUALITY STRUGGLE"-Youth Department Theme 2009

Quality - Any of the features that make something what it is; Characteristic element; Attribute; The degree of excellence which a person possesses.

Struggle - To make great efforts or attempts; strive; labor; conflict; strife; contention.

AIM: "POWER TO GENERATE CHANGE" (Luke 24:49)

INSTRUMENTS OF CHANGE AND A QUALITY STRUGGLE

1. Prayer (Luke 21:37; John 18:1-12)
2. Bible Study (Study an intensive intellectual effort - II Timothy 2: 15)
3. A Support Group (Accountability - I Samuel 12:1-15)

CHILDREN'S HOME

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

Annual Rallies

The Oak Grove Baptist Association had their annual rally for the Home on January 15. The meeting was held with the Corinth Baptist Church near Runnelstown and Pastor Virgil Ainsworth. It was a joy to report on the ministry of the Home as well as sharing a message from God's Word after the children presented special music.

On January 16 the Capitol Baptist Association had their annual rally for the Home. This meeting was held with the Westhaven Baptist Church in Jackson and Pastor Junior Strickland. I was delighted to deliver a message from the Word of God after reporting on the ministry of the Home and the children rendering special music.

We would like to express our appreciation to each association, church, and individual who helped make these rallies a success.

Awards Day

Recently awards day for the second nine weeks was recognized for students at North Jones Elementary School where our elementary students attend. One student was recognized for being Student of the Month and also being on the Principal's List. Three other students were recognized as Honor Roll students and one of these students also received the Character First Enthusiasm Award. All four of these students had perfect attendance at school. Praise the Lord !!! Keep up the good work.

Continue to remember the Home in your prayers.



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

BMAA Directory and Handbook Information

by Bobby L. Hudgens

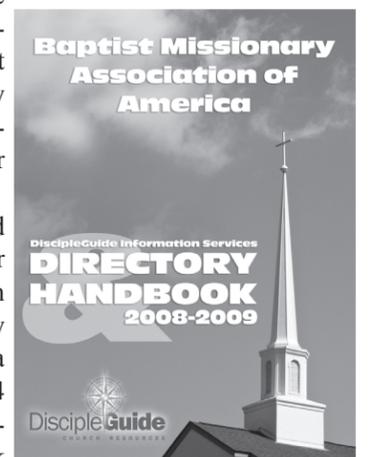
Thank you to BMAA churches for submitting your 2008 Church Letter forms to us at DiscipleGuide Information Services. This information provides us with important data for the next BMAA Directory and Handbook. The ultimate benefit is to your church and all other BMAA churches.

We ask each church to check and verify that you have submitted your copy of the 2008 Church Letter form to us. If not, please have it to us by the end of February. You'll find a copy of the form on pages 241-244 of the 2008-09 Directory and Handbook. You can also print a blank copy of the online form.

If you plan to submit the form online, you have until February 14. At that time the online 2008 Church Letter form will expire and will no longer be available.

Giving to Information Services for the Directory and Handbook in 2008 was significantly down. If your church has not given an offering to help us meet our expenses, please consider doing so. If your church can give an additional offering, that would be a great help to us as well. One thing is sure, we cannot operate at a deficit. We are currently exploring options that will provide you with the service but at much lower cost.

Pastors, please check to see that your listing and current e-mail address in the minister's directory (section VIII) of the Directory and Handbook is accurate. To make corrections log on to DiscipleGuide.org, click on "Information Services," and click on "Contact Information Update" on the brown bar to the left.



California student wins religious speech case

OneNewsNow - An out-of-court settlement involving a California college means the gospel of Christ can be shared under a revised campus speech policy.

Student Ryan Dozier shared the gospel on the campus of Yuba Community College between classes -- and when he attracted a small crowd, a campus police officer told him he was in violation of the Student Code of Conduct and threatened him with arrest and suspension.

"Ryan actually received a certified letter from the president of the college reiterating the fact that he was conducting an assembly without a permit in violation of school policy and that if he did this again, he would be subject to discipline up to and including

expulsion," explains Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) attorney Heather Gebelin Hacker.

The attorney adds that no one else was cited, even though there were other clusters of students discussing different topics. "That's a very normal occurrence on a college campus," Hacker contends, "but simply because Ryan was handing out gospel tracts, apparently that was conducting an 'assembly' and he needed a permit in order to be able to do that."

According to an ADF press release, the school's speech policy before the settlement only allowed "free speech" activity on Tuesdays and Thursdays between noon and 1 p.m. Hacker is thankful the school changed its "unconstitutional speech code."

Pro-lifers lament SCHIP's role in abortions

OneNewsNow - A pro-life group warns that a recent Senate vote expanding government-provided health insurance for children could result in more abortions in the U.S.

Last week the Senate approved a \$32 billion expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) that is designed to provide an additional four-million children with government-subsidized healthcare over the next four years.

Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) offered an amendment to the bill that would have permanently codified the Unborn Child Rule in SCHIP. The amendment, however, failed by a vote of 39-59. The Unborn Child Rule, a regulation that has been in place since 2002, allows states to cover pregnant women through the SCHIP program.

Opponents of the amendment, including Senator Barbara Boxer (D-California), claimed it was an unnecessary change because women are already covered under the program.

Joy Yearout, political director for the Susan B. Anthony List, a pro-life group in Washington, says the defeat of Hatch's amendment could lead to more abortions in the U.S.

"Without having the Unborn Child Rule on the books, the definition for coverage in the SCHIP program says that a mother could be covered, and it does not explicitly identify the unborn child," explains Yearout.

Steadfast Faith in Shaky Times

By Charles Reddin, Adult Editor

The world is in an upheaval. The economy, the tensions in the Holy Land, the war on terror, ethnic cleansing in Africa, changing domestic politics — when have God's people had to cope with so many critical issues at once?

Actually, today's world may seem rather tame to someone like the prophet Daniel. He was probably still in his teens when the Babylonian king took him and selected other young men as hostages. There he stayed for seventy years. (Compare that to the fifteen months American hostages were held in Iran!)

Any hope of rescue took a blow when ten thousand more Jews, including Judah's king, were forced to join Daniel in Babylon during his eighth year there. In his nineteenth year in Babylon, his home country was annihilated.

Daniel's faith never faded despite his isolation from family and spiritual supports. From his teen years to old age the light of triumphant faith beamed intensely in his life and writings. Whatever happened, he testified, "There is a God in heaven" (2:28). "He doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth" (4:35).

"Triumphant Faith," therefore, is the title of adult Sunday School studies from DiscipleGuide Church Resources for March-May 2009. One lesson describes the times. Six lessons observe triumphant faith in Daniel's life. Seven lessons examine the theological foundations of faith expressed in his prophetic visions.

Along the way Daniel will teach God's people the necessity of resisting the world's influence, the value of prayer, the effectiveness of a bold witness, the hope of the end times, and the surety of God's power even in the most trying of times.

To order these studies or obtain samples, call 800-333-1442 or browse www.DiscipleGuide.org.

Who better to help us cope with today's upheaval than Daniel?



It's A Different River From What I Remember

By George Redding, Executive Director
Lifeword Broadcast Ministries
P.O. Box 6, Conway, Arkansas 72033

I Must Have Taken A Wrong Turn Somewhere. I've come to a river I don't recognize. In the mainstream of this river I hear contempt for God and godliness. I see floating carcasses of the victims of the Politics of personal destruction and character assassination. I see the moral wreck and ruin cultivated by government give-away programs.

It's not a pretty picture. A closer look reveals clues to what may be causing all the pollution flowing down this river. Too many people have believed a lie. They have been taught that religion must be separated from public life and that devotion to God somehow renders a public figure incapable of effective service and equal treatment under the law.

They have substituted rhetoric for reality. They talk about budget surpluses while they launch new programs that increase the national debt.

They talk about civil rights and human dignity while they reduce their con-

stituents to dependency on the public dole so they can buy their votes.

They speak of adherence to the Constitution while they disobey the law of the Land.

They call for intellectual honesty while they rewrite history to suit their own agenda.

They champion education while they dumb down our schools, outlaw God and religious activities and dismantle moral instruction.

They glorify a degenerate lifestyle and incriminate all who disagree.

They discredit our national heroes while they idolize certain leaders, actors and athletes who arrogantly flaunt their immorality and lawlessness.

This is not mainstream America as I remember it. The America I remember did not call decent people extremists nor disbar godly people from public service. Back then America realized that those kinds of people were the secret of the

country's strength.

TURNING THE TIDE. It is time to rechannel the river. It will require some deep dredging and reestablishing some old boundaries. The results could be spectacular when the reclaimed mainstream leave the current crowd stuck in the mud on the sidelines. What can you and I do?

PRAY. God is still on the throne, and He still answers prayer. That is a resource that far outweighs all the power of Washington. Those of us who recognize no King but Jesus need to start acting like the royal family we are.

BEHAVE. According to scripture, it is the fervent prayer of a righteous man that avails much. How can we expect a better turn of events when we as God's people act so much like those we would counteract?

ORGANIZE. While we stand around and curse the darkness, the other side is mobilizing its troops to oppose and defeat the forces of righteousness. They whip up

the enthusiasm of many who never realize they are being used to promote causes whose purposes and real leaders and backers are unknown. To mount an effective defense, we must go on the offensive. We will never be the light of the world or the salt of the earth until we become informed, indignant and involved. We should show up at school board meetings, public hearings, city council meetings, and in every arena that effects local, state and national policies.

STAND. It is time for us to develop some spiritual muscle and strengthen our moral backbone. When we quit sacrificing principle for the sake of numbers on the attendance board or blind loyalty to political parties, we can begin to turn the tide and recapture the mainstream once again.

Our prayer is not only a President's Cabinet that looks like America but a America that looks like America.

(From Lifeword - 2002)