

# Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

FEBRUARY 15, 2008

VOL. 62 No. 4

## Make Everlasting Smiles

by Ralph Izard, M.D.  
Director BMMI

The Children of Cambodia and Laos send their thanks to all who prepared and delivered Christmas shoeboxes to the BMAA Missions office last fall. BMMI has received photos of the distribution in Rattanakiri, Cambodia and a "thank you" from the children in several villages of Cambodia. The BMMI team that will serve in these areas the first week of February will also deliver shoeboxes to the new clinic in the Nakeo village in Laos.

Missionary Edmund Neil Mamon, missionary in Rattanakiri, has related that the children love to hear the story of the birth of Jesus Christ. This is a great way to introduce Jesus Christ to children who have never even heard His name.

The BMA Department of Missions and Baptist Medical Missions International would like to express sincere gratitude to each church and individual who participated in this project which helped to spread the



gospel to men, women, boys, and girls that are still waiting to hear.

This year, the project will be called "MAKE EVERLASTING SMILES" and the shoeboxes will be targeted for Spanish-speaking children. DVD's suitable for presentation in your church will be

available at the national meeting in April. If you should need more information, please contact the BMMI office or the Department of Missions at 501 455 4977.

Thank you for helping to "Make Everlasting Smiles" and spread the love of Christ to children of all ages.

## Judeo-Christian Heritage Series

### The Issue of Abortion - Pro-Life

Psalms 139:13-16  
Job 31:14-15

by Dr. John M. Adams  
Pastor, First Baptist Church,  
Mantachie, Mississippi  
Director, Christian Action  
Commission

Revelation in regard to human origin and birth, and in regard to the inner mysteries of bodily life, is characteristic of our times. It must suffice us to set before our minds the great truth concerning God and life-birth.

According to our scripture text

God designed man, and the complications are beyond us; we can only wonder and adore. Every embryo is a bundle of possibilities. God alone can know the small child in the mother's womb. He knows the child from the beginning. For this reason we, in our Judeo-Christian heritage, are firmly convinced that life begins at the time of conception in the motherly womb. When is human life expendable?



John Adams

And the question is answered - never. Yet on January 22, 1973 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the landmark, Roe versus Wade decision, that unborn human beings are not legal persons according to the U.S. Constitution. An unborn baby is the property of the owner and she can have the child killed at her request. Ours is a peculiar society; we have laws protecting wildlife and dogs, but not defenseless human embryos. The real question today is not when

continued on page 3

Brand Lectures Set for March 4 - 6, 2008

### BMA Seminary Invites Mississippi Evangelist as Speaker

The 2008 "Brand Lectures" will be held March 4 and 6 in Dorman Memorial Chapel at the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas. The times are as follows: Tuesday 9:30 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. & Thursday 9:30 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

The speaker this year will be Evangelist Gary Smith of Tupelo, Mississippi. He is a former pastor and has entered into full time evangelism. The lectures will consist of

four messages designed to exhort and encourage those involved in ministry.

The "Brand Lectures" are named in honor of the late Dr. and Mrs. Ralph A. Brand of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Ralph and Rosalie Brand served the Lord together for over fifty years. Rosalie died unexpectedly in January of 1999. Dr. Brand passed from this life on February 17, 2001.

Rosalie retired as head of the cataloguing department of the library at the University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Brand worked in prison ministries for over 30 years. Approximately two years before his death, he resigned as Director of New Directions Prison Ministries, but continued to be active in that work until his death.

Dr. Brand traveled extensively and authored several articles and books. Some of his best known works include Simplified Techniques of Counseling, Analysis of Revelation and Techniques of Counseling: An Aid to Pastoral Efficiency.

In over 50 years of ministry, he served as local and state missionary; dean of Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel, Mississippi; Missions Director of University Extension Courses at Mississippi State University; and Director of Student Counseling, Jones County Junior College, Ellisville, Mississippi. Dr. Brand pastored churches in Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma and Mississippi. He also served as trustee for the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home, vice president of the BMA of Mississippi Missions Department, and Development Officer and trustee for BMA Theological Seminary.

### Calendar Of Events

#### March 13, 2008 BMA of Mississippi Missions & Evangelistic Conference

Skyway Hills Baptist Church  
Pearl, Mississippi  
8:30 am - 8:30 pm

#### 2008 BMA Senior Adult Conferences

South Conference  
**March 27, 2008**  
Big Creek Baptist Church  
Soso, Mississippi  
9:30 AM

#### Galilean Camp

Lake Tiak-O-Khata  
Louisville, Mississippi  
**April 11-12, 2008**

North Conference  
**May 13, 2008**  
East Amory Baptist Church  
Amory, Mississippi  
9:30 AM

## Commission on Senior Adults

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



## Commission on Senior Adult Ministry Schedules South Mississippi Senior Adult Day

The Commission on Senior Adult Ministry announces a day of worship, Spiritual renewing, and fun for Senior Adults of South Mississippi.

This special day will be held March 27 at the Big Creek Baptist Church, Highway 84 West, Soso, (10 miles west of Laurel).

The Conference will begin at 9:30 AM. Brother Earl Smith will direct the Worship music. The Big Creek Singers will be featured in the Morning service. Brother Grady Higgs, Director of Missions for the Baptist Missionary Association of America, will be our guest speaker. Brother Higgs is known throughout the BMAA. He is a leader among leaders.

His leadership in the Missions Department is outstanding. He has a heart for the souls of people around the world through BMAA Mis-

sions.

Mack's Restaurant of

Hattiesburg will cater the food for the day. The New Wine Quartet will our af-

ternoon guest artist.

The cost for this all day event is only \$15.00 per person which includes the noon meal. Churches are asked to pay this fee for their Seniors. Registration is required. Please register your Senior Adult Group by calling Big Creek Church at 601-763-8100 or 601-729-3198 or 601-433-6742, no later than March 24 to secure your meal.



**New Wine**

## Pascagoula Church seeks help with transportation

After Katrina hit the coast, several of our church families moved and church attendance dropped drastically. The majority of the members that remain are retired individuals on a fixed income.

We are slowly rebuilding our congregation and have a few prospective families attending and God has truly blessed us with 15-20 teenagers that are coming on a regular basis.

God blessed us, through many of you, with donations for the repairs to our church building as well as a new piano and an abundance of supplies for the members for which we are truly grateful. We thank you so much for your generosity and your prayers.

We come to you now with a request for prayer for a church bus. We currently have a 15 passenger van that we have been filling up with teenagers every Sunday and Wednesday. However, the salt water from the gulf has caused steady erosion to the electrical components, brake system, and basically everything underneath the bus. There are several safety is-

sues involved with it and we are trusting God to protect us each time we transport our children.

Our wonderful blessing: We have all these teenagers (and more) that WANT to be in church. God is so good!

Our dilemma: We need another bus to get them to and from church, but we do not have the funds to purchase another van. We really need something larger than the one we have now. We would have no problem filling up a 30-passenger van right now, leaving little room for growth.

God's word says he will supply our every need according to his riches in glory. We are claiming this promise and are praying for this blessing.

Your prayers and any donations toward this cause that you may be led to make will be greatly appreciated!

Yours in the Lord,  
Lynne Jones, Church Clerk  
Spencer Memorial Church  
Pascagoula, MS 39581  
Mailing Address - PO Box 1795,  
Lucedale, MS 39452

# CHURCH NEWS



Articles should contain only information that will be of interest to the general public.

### Harmony Meeting

The Harmony Association met February 9, at 1st Hispanic Ripley. There were 10 churches represented with 61 present. Bro. Ray Freeman gave a report for the State Missions and Bro. Elvis Garcia gave a report for the 1st Hispanic Mission. Their goal this year is to have 100 members. Bro. Elvis and Wendy are doing great work in Ripley as are our other missionaries. One of the men from their church brought the message from Ezekiel 47:1-12 with Bro. Elvis interpreting for him. The Harmony Association will meet in March with 1st Baptist Mantachie. The speaker will be our missionary to Ghana, Bro. Paul Heueman. Lisa Wilemon

### It's All About Him Conference

On February 3, at Shady Grove Baptist Church Tishomingo, The State Missions Department had the program for the day. Bro. Vern D. Holifield spoke on the subject "He is the Same". Bro. John David Smith spoke on "O, the Wonder of His Word." Bro. Estuardo Marroquin from the hispanic mission in Laurel also spoke. Bro. Estuardo interpreted for one

Bro Elvis Garica and several of the men from his church spoke about the work at 1st Hispanic, Ripley.

After lunch, Bro. Ely Semebo, a church planter from Cape Verde, spoke. Bro. Ray Freeman also brought a message in the afternoon. Shady Grove Church would like to thank each of these men and all those that came with them. We enjoy each of them and the fellowship that we had.

Shady Grove Tishomingo

### Pineview, Lucedale

Pineview Baptist Church has been truly blessed. In December two souls came by profession and were baptized and two joined by letter. The church called Bro. John Mills as pastor. In January five souls were saved and were baptized, and Bro. John and Michelle Mills joined by letter. Our van ministry has grown to overflowing, and we are expecting God to bless Pineview with another van. Our revival has been set for March

## Southeastern Baptist College



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

Dr. Medrick Savell  
President

*Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere*

### Spring Semester

It doesn't seem like we have finished five weeks of classes already, but it is so. The enrollment is about the same as last spring. More of the students are full-time than last year. The total number of credit hours is 76 more than last spring. We have eight new students enrolled this semester and a total of 33 ministerial students on campus. We thank the Lord for each of these students who have chosen to receive their education in a Christian college.

### New Church Support

Another church has established a scholarship fund to assist students in attending Southeastern Baptist College. We appreciate the Rock Hill Baptist Church, Meridian, and pastor Dr. Aaron Parker, for their interest in helping young people to attend Southeastern. May the Lord raise up more faithful servants through this good example.

Riverside Baptist Church, Ellisville, has recently increased their regular support and added some each month for the Land fund. We hope others will join in this project.

2-5 with Bro. DeWitt Bain from Thrasher Baptist Church in Booneville as evangelist. On Sunday March 2, we will have dinner in the fellowship hall and an afternoon service. All are invited to attend.

Myrnis Jones, Reporter

### Ten Mile Committee Meeting

The Ten Mile monthly Committee Meeting met with Vardaman Street Baptist Church in Wiggins, on February 4. Bro. Stan Bennett opened the meeting with a good number representing the churches. After the normal preliminaries, the Ten Mile annual Bible Conference was set with the following information (date, location, speaker) April 7, Grace Church, Chris Freeman, pastor of Cypress Creek Church; April 8, Ten Mile Church, A.W. Kirkland, Dennis Knight; April 9, Paramount Church, Stan Bennett, Scott Kirkland.

Bro. Sidney Davis from the Children's Home had the program

### Memorial Gift

Another contribution to the college Foundation has been received recently in memory of Bro. Merle D. Bradley and in honor of Mrs. Bobbye Bradley. May the Lord bless this family who is faithful to remember Bro. and Mrs. Bradley in this way.

### Report on Accreditation

All the full-time workers at the college have been very busy for the last few months doing assessment and evaluation of all areas of the college and writing reports for the accrediting agency. It is time for re-certification of our accreditation which will be for another ten years. A team of evaluators will be on our campus on March 31 and April 1-2. Pray that all this will go well. We feel we are in good condition for this evaluation. Once again I have been reminded of the dedication of all the staff in working for the Lord here at the college.

Four of us are planning to attend the annual conference of the Association for Biblical Higher Education in Orlando, Florida, February 21-22. There will be training sessions to help us in various areas of our work.

that night. He shared some facts about the and then shared a message on "Success Factors". Keith Owens gave the right hand of appreciation and Bro. Chris Freeman closed in prayer.

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

## 2008 Pastor's Retreat

February 25-26, 2008

Skyway Hills  
Baptist Church  
Pearl Mississippi

### Theme

*The Local Church in Global Missions*  
**Matthew 28: 19-20**

# Special Emphasis - State Youth Department

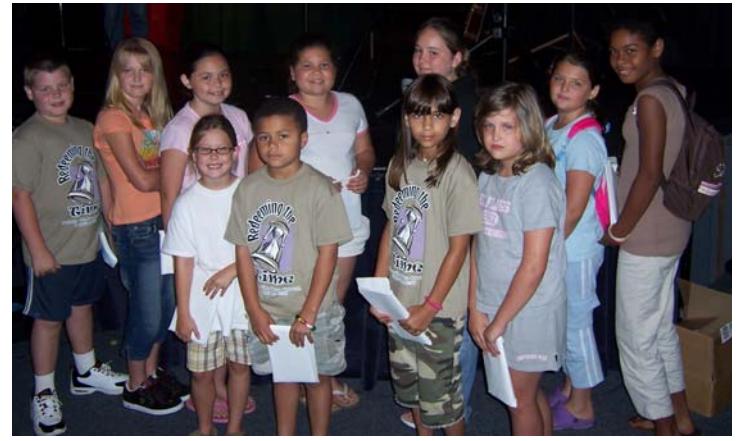
## Churches Ministering to Our Youth



**Our Mission Is A Must!**



LATRELLE WINDHAM  
DIRECTOR



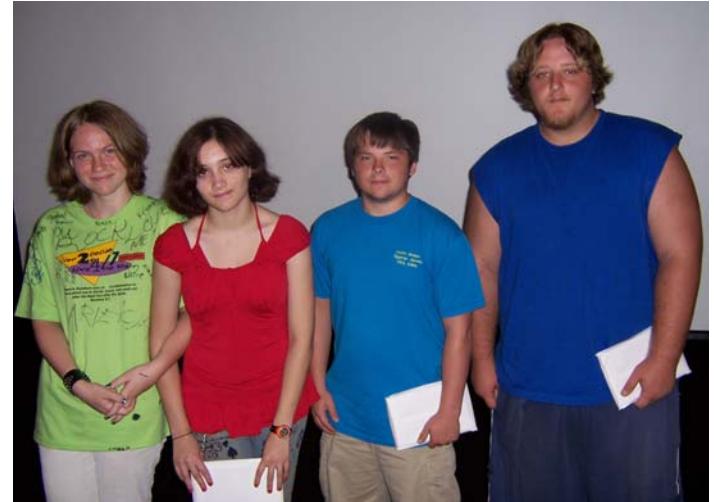
**Your Giving Is A Must!**

*“Joining Together For Mutually Beneficial Purposes”*



**Our Needs Are A Must!**

BMA of  
Mississippi  
Youth  
Department  
P.O. Box 4247  
Laurel, MS 39441



**Reaching Our Kids Is A Must!**

## Abortion

from page 1

human life begins, but what is the value of human life?

### I. Abortion Is Evil

Time Magazine states, "even in the earliest stages of pregnancy, the embryo is amazingly babylike. By the ninth week the fetus is kicking and moving, and even today its sex can be recognized at 9 weeks." Dr. Everett Koop, author of the book, "The Right To Live. The Right To Die" said "Once there is the union of sperm and egg, and the 23 chromosomes of each are brought together, that one cell with its 46 chromosomes has all the DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), the whole genetic code that will, if not interrupted, make a human being just like you with the potential for God-consciousness." He asks a crucial question, "At what point can one consider this life to be worthless and the next minute consider the same life to be pre-

cious?" Ecclesiastes 11 :5; Deuteronomy 30:9.

Every day in the U.S. - 1 every 10 seconds - babies are aborted. It's a horrible, painful death considering that the baby's heart is beating at 3 weeks and the embryo's nervous system is very sensitive to pain.

### II. Abortion Is An Error

There is a wrong attitude toward human life. Every human being reflects to some degree the likeness of Almighty God. When man dares to take another human life, he lifts his hand in rebellion against the image of Almighty God - Genesis 4:10. Abortion on demand laws give one person (the mother) the legal right to kill another (the baby) in order to solve the first person's social problems. It's hard to believe that this is happening in a civilized society.

A second wrong value is the wrong emphasis on self. That is, that the mother has the right to decide what happens to her own body. The question is raised - are not the

rights of the unborn child to be recognized? Former and late President Reagan quoted by L.A. Times "When they put it simply and say 'I believe in the right of someone to have a free choice.' What I came back with was, "that's what a murderer is insisting on, that he's got free choice to decide that he thinks somebody should be dead." Job 31:14,15; Isaiah 49:1.

The main question, R. J. Gardner puts is, "What will we do with a human life that has been given to our keeping?" ... Medical Society Journal.

### III. Abortion and Its Effect.

The effects of this willful death is far greater than we think. Proverbs 24:11,12. Moody Monthly asked - "Have we been sitting - Lot-like, quiet at home, unruffled, even critical of those who are easily alarmed about babies? If the blood of Abel, one innocent adult, cried out to God from the ground, how many more millions of babies since 1973's Legislation.

The problem of throw-away life will not lessen. It presses on the American conscience with great agony. And it should.

To put one's will above God's will is to rebel against the Sovereign of the universe. When we flaunt the will of God we are walking in the footsteps of a doomed and defeated Satan. We cannot expect His help or blessings as individuals or as a nation if we ignore His word and set aside His Bible precepts. Isaiah 59:7,8.

In conclusion, this dramatic statement haunts our nation: "You can kill babies without penalty because according to our U.S. Supreme Court, the word person as used in the 14th Amendment does not include the unborn." We ask God to spare our nation.

*I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. -Psalm 139:14*

# Mississippi Baptist | Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

## What excuse do you use?

by Danny Pitts, pastor  
First Baptist Church of Shady Grove  
Laurel, Mississippi  
(taken from church newsletter)

Proverbs 24:11-12 "If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?"

What excuse do you use for not attempting to lead folks around you to Christ? Do you ever try to justify your failures to reach out by saying

that you do not know their condition? The text for today shows that this reasoning often will not be sufficient.

The context of the passage probably relates to the responsibility to do what you can to save the physical life of anyone who may be moving toward a fatal situation. Of course, any caring person would feel compelled to make any effort possible. The principle surely applies to the duty which a Christian has to bring the lost to a saving knowledge of Christ. Although the original allows for the conditional statement ("If you"), many scholars word it to stress the obligation to rescue or deliver. The old hymn, Rescue the Perishing, expresses the principle that de-

mands our response. Rescue the perishing. Care for the dying. Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave ... Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save. You wonder if Fanny Crosby did not have the verse before her when she wrote the song.

The second verse in our text gives three warnings to those who would plead ignorance. As with our legal system, ignorance of the law is no excuse. Whether the speed limit, the law about what constitutes grand theft, or the spiritual needs of your associates, you have the obligation to know. The first warning is "doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it?" Before you defend your lack of witnessing on ignorance, remember that the Lord knows your thoughts, your abilities to learn, and your motivations. The next warning is "he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it?" Do not forget that the Lord determines whether you continue living or not! The last warning is "shall not he render to every man according to his works?" God is the Judge who will reward or punish you for what you do.

Many have already died and soon others will go into eternity. Instead of attempting to defend our lack of efforts in sharing Christ with friends, relatives, and acquaintances, may we focus on pleasing the Lord who knows all about us!

## Motel Information for the 2008 Pastor's Conference

by Billy Huffmaster, pastor  
Skyway Hills Baptist Church  
Pearl, Mississippi

Here are prices for the four motels that are closest to Skyway Hills Baptist Church in Pearl. All these motels are located just off Interstate 20.

**Super 8 Motel** - single - \$50.00, plus tax - double - \$60.00, including tax

**Ramada Limited** - single or double (group rate) \$60.00, plus tax

**Quality Inn & Suites** - single or Double - \$68.00, plus tax

**Sleep Inn & Suites** - single - \$68.00, plus tax - double - \$70.00, plus tax

If staying at a motel, when checking in, be sure to tell them you are with the State Pastor's

Conference at Skyway Hills Baptist Church.

If anyone would like to bring a sleeping bag or air mattress, we have plenty of floor space, plus shower facilities (all at no cost).

Directions for getting to Skyway Hills Baptist Church. Take Interstate 20 (like going to or coming from Meridian), and take Exit #52 (Jackson International Airport exit). Turn north, go about 1/4 mile to Highway 80, turn left at light. Church is at top of hill, about 1/2 mile on right. We will be meeting in the Family Life Center behind main building.

For additional information you may call me at 601-939-5373 (church) or 601-939-0900 (home).

## BMAA VP has heart procedure

On January 31, 2008, Dr. Roy McLaughlin had a heart cath. The test revealed that one of the two

bypasses performed on him in July 2004 was now 95% blocked. After two angioplasties and one stent surgery, McLaughlin was released from the hospital on February 1,

## Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"While I'm preaching, you keep an eye on that kid with the sling-shot!"

## Letters From Our Readers

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

## Prisoner's Bible Crusade Reaches Around The World

Dear Brother Brown,

Greeting in Jesus' Holy Name! I thought our BMA people would rejoice to read how our God continued to bless His Word and save people even in the day in which we live.

Our Prisoners Bible Crusade report for January 2008 is a letter from Brother Clement Basavei. This letter is part of the results of one of my trips to Ghana, West Africa to teach in the Bible schools there.

Bro. Paul

2008. He is doing well, and gives thanks to the Lord for His healing power. He also wishes to thank all of his friends for their interest and prayers.

McLaughlin is pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church, Flynt, Michigan, director of the Moral Action Commission of the BMA of America and current Vice-president of the BMAA.

Dear Brother Lee, may God richly bless you and give you wisdom to help the needy. Thank you very much. I hope to hear from you soon. All the brethren with me greet you all.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.

Your Brother,  
Bro. Clement Basavei  
C/O Pastor Bashiru Nasamu P.O.  
Box 6

Tumu - UW/R Ghana West Africa 3Td

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Roy McLaughlin was released from the hospital on February 1,

# When Jesus Prayed

**(Mark 1:35-39)**

When Jesus prayed, things on earth changed. His prayers were different from mine. The apostles realized this (Luke 11:1) and asked Jesus to teach them to pray. We need to emulate the model of Jesus when He prayed. When Jesus prayed:

1. He was early in the day (verse 35). The psalmist tells us this in his words of Psalm 5:3: "In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation." Most of us simply roll out of bed, grab a shower, head off to work, and let the day fall where it may. Jesus asked his Father to order his life for the day by beginning in prayer.
2. He was in solitude (verse 35). Being in solitude is different from

being isolated and lonely. Solitude simply means privacy and seclusion with God. One must be in company with God in order to pray. I cannot pray to God in conjunction with my iPod, internet, television, or any other "and" in my life. I must give exclusive priority to the God of heaven. Jesus singled out the very Person who could save Him from His own way (Hebrews 5:7-8). We need this kind of praying in our lives!



3. He was sought out by others (verse 36-37). The praying woman, man, boy, or girl is sought out by those who want God in their lives. Even with Jeremiah (1:1-3), the wicked people knew Jeremiah was a praying man and they sought him

out to speak to God on their behalf. Do you wonder why no one ever asks you to pray for them? Perhaps they know you don't pray.

4. He went on a mission of work (verse 38). He went to the villages to share the Good News with the residents. He knew where to go

because he had prayed for direction.

**Leave It To Cleaver** Focus in ministry comes from God and God alone. This comes

through time alone with God and nothing else. Is life out of focus? Ask God for your village of work.

5. He was energized for His work (verse 39). He drove out the demons, even in the synagogues. He was able to do the work of the Father through the energy of the Father. If my energy level depends on psychology, methodology, or the latest fadology, I will have the energy level of those things. If I have the energy level of God, I can do the work of God.

6. He saw heaven opened (Luke 3:21). We all want God to be in our lives. We all say we want a better Christian life. Jesus prayed and the very presence of God was His. We say we want heaven open to us. Yet we don't do the very thing to open it. The obvious action is to do what Jesus did-pray.

7. He had the Spirit of God resting on Him (Luke 3:22). There is something winsome about Jesus when he prayed. That engaging, endearing, and appealing quality came from His prayers. He was alone with God to find energy for the day. What spirit is on me? Is it the spirit of society, culture, or even my own philosophy? When Jesus prayed, the Spirit of God rested on him.

Yes, today I must emulate the life of Christ. Yes, today I must do as Jesus did in His own daily routine. I must pray!

## AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

### Freddy Mills

Bro. Freddy Mills, 58, is available for pastoral or pulpit supply. He has been preaching for 23 years and is a member of Bethel Baptist Church, Bassfield. He may be reached at 601-441-4057.

### Chris Myers

Chris Myers is an ordained minister who desires to be used of the Lord and is available for preaching appointments. Bro. Chris and his wife Suzy have one daughter, Anna and one son Andrew. He is a member of First Baptist Church, Bay

Springs and we recommend him to our churches. You may contact him at 601-764-9693 or through his church at 601-764-2492.

### Paul Spurlin

First Baptist Church in Bay Springs, MS announces that Paul Spurlin has made public his call into ministry. He was licensed by the church on October 21, 2007. Paul is available for preaching opportunities that your church may have and can be reached through the pastor's office by calling 601-764-2492.

### Jared Stockman

Bro. Jared Stockman is a licensed minister who is a member of First Baptist Church, Bay Springs. He is attending Southeastern Baptist College. He would love to be used of the Lord in our churches. You may contact him at 601-764-9490 or through his church at 601-764-2492.

## South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference

March 27, 2008

**Big Creek Baptist Church**

Soso, Mississippi

- 10 Miles West of Laurel on Highway 84 -

### Featured Speaker

Bro. Grady Higgs  
Executive Director of Missions  
BMA of America



Bro. Grady Higgs

### Music By

*Big Creek Singers*  
and the group  
*New Wine*



**New Wine**

**Fee - \$15.00 Each**

Please Call & Register In Advance  
601-763-8100 (Big Creek Church)  
601-729-3198 or 601-433-6742

Catfish Lunch With  
All The Trimmings!

## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White



## Stuff

I asked somebody the other day what all these little mini-storage buildings that you see everywhere are for. And their answer was "To store stuff in." My stars, somebody has got a lot of stuff because these storage buildings seem to be multiplying faster than rabbits!

Well, I got out my trusty old Webster's Dictionary to see what is the definition of stuff. Here's what Mr. Webster said, "...belongings, useless matter; worthless things, trash..." So I've concluded that we spend God's good money on useless matter and then spend some more on a place to keep it. Does that make any kind of good sense?

"Stuff" is mentioned several times in the Bible. Saul hid among the "stuff" and in Luke 17:31 I think we see how unimportant our stuff will be when our Master comes back.

We may need to reevaluate the importance of "stuff" in our lives.

## Overseas Bible School

Philippines	May 23-31
Romania	July 10-24
Romania	July 18-26
Great Britain	August 1-9



where will you spend your next vacation?

This is not your normal vacation. This is an opportunity to pour yourself into the lives of children around the world.

For information contact EIM at 870.226.3626 or visit us at [www.eimworldwide.org](http://www.eimworldwide.org).

## California activist: Court hearing has grave implications for marriage

**OneNewsNow** - A pro-family activist and talk-show host in the Golden State says he hopes people across the country realize what's at stake when California's Supreme Court justices hear arguments next month in a case which may open the door for homosexual "marriage."

The court announced a March 4 date, and attorney Mat Staver of Liberty Counsel will argue the case on behalf of traditional marriage advocates who are fighting homo-

sexual couples who have sued for the right of marriage. James Lambert, a San Diego-based pro-family activist, says the potential decision will impact marriage across the country.

"If, in fact, gay marriage does happen in this state, it will be a bellwether change to the culture as it pertains to this issue," argues Lambert. "... What will happen is lawsuits of discrimination will follow, and the church will be at risk." Such legal actions, he notes, have

already occurred in other countries and other states where conservative pastors have refused to marry a homosexual couple.

Lambert argues that in particular, apathetic churches in California will be at risk if homosexual marriages are allowed. The pro-family advocate is pleading for the prayers of Christians who care about the outcome, and he encourages pastors across America to speak about this issue in their pulpits.

# What To Do With Aging Parents

The majority of people will have to, at some point, deal with the fact that their parents are getting older and unable to care for themselves. There may be other issues along this same line. Perhaps it is just not safe for the aging widow to live by herself now that her husband has died. Or perhaps the

## Mississippi State WMA

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

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

## Important information requested

by Janet Widger

### Ladies, Editors and Pastors

I am asking for your assistance. In recent years the National WMA has inserted a Memorial Page in our program booklet for the annual meeting. I would like to continue this. It was very moving to me last year when I typed up that page for the program book and I thanked the Lord for each of those ladies and their service through the WMA.

Here is what I need. These would be ladies who have passed away since April 1, 2007. I need their names, their date of death if you have it, and their church name and city. Please send it to me through email at [jawidger@yahoo.com](mailto:jawidger@yahoo.com) or U.S. mail to 7409 Rupert Ave., St. Louis, MO 63117. The dead line for the printing of our program booklet is April 1, 2008 so if you could respond with this information as soon as possible, I would appreciate it very much.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

## Big Creek, Soso, WMA Report

My how time goes by. Hard to believe that five months of 2007-2008 have come and gone. It is my prayer that our ladies over the state are staying busy serving the Lord through WMA. What a great place of service for our ladies. We thank the Lord for "Women's Missionary Auxiliary."

We are so thankful that we are getting new members almost every week. How great! Mrs. Bonnie Brown is leading a very enjoyable study of the book, "Twelve Extraordinary Women" by John MacArthur. The women thus far have been Rachel, Anna, Mary, and Sarah.

In December Barbara Hollingsworth was host to a salad supper for our WMA. Also in December we lost a very loyal WMA member, Earnstine (Tina) Valentine. She went to be with the Lord on December 4th. She certainly is being missed. In memory of this dear lady our WMA placed the book "Twelve Extraordinary Women" in our church library.

Serving as 2007-2008 officers are: Bible Teacher, Bonnie Brown; President, June Holifield; Vice-president, Peggy Jefcoat; Secretary/Treasurer, Lorene Dykes; Sunshine Chairman, Bettye Jefcoat; Project Promoter, Charlene Dykes; Reporter, Rovenia Hunnell; Food Committee, Peggy Jefcoat, Mary Parker, and Marsha Yarborough; Flower Committee, Ann Kathrine Hastings, Lorrie Thompson, and Barbara Hollingsworth; Hospitality Committee, June Holifield, Jean Dykes, Peggy Jefcoat, and Barbara Hollingsworth.

Lately I (Rovenia) have had to miss attending WMA a lot due to health problems. Ladies, I covet your prayers.

Let us pray daily for one another as we serve the Lord through WMA.

Rovenia Hunnell, Reporter  
Bro. Don Brown, Pastor

parent can live by themselves, but they just can't seem to take their medication correctly. The ultimate fight with older parents is the right to drive. If you think you had worries when your teenager started driving, wait until you have to tell your older parent that they can't drive anymore!

Prayerful and careful consideration needs to be made when dealing with family members you love, but who are not making the best decisions for themselves now. Tough love does not only apply to our children. Sometimes, tough love is having to step in and be a surrogate, rational thinker for your parents.

Having worked in geriatric health care for years, I have seen first hand how many families are too selfish and don't want to spend the time it takes to help an aging parent. The quick fix answer to these people is to warehouse the senior adult in a nursing home. There are certain times and certain situations that do require nursing homes. It can be the most loving alternative for someone who needs skilled nursing care.

However, there are many younger adults who don't want to put up with mom or dad because it messes with their lifestyle. They find some

place to just stick them away. This is sad to me. I also think that it is morally wrong. Families should care for one another whenever possible. You don't just ship people off because they mess up your social calendar and demand too much of your time.

On the other hand, bringing an aging parent into your home is a huge sacrifice in many cases, that has the potential to completely drain your present life away. At the very least, bringing an aging parent into your home will greatly alter your family's lifestyle. Everything, from quiet time, to sleep patterns, entertainment, and limited free time, to name a few; can and will be greatly altered by having an aging parent living with you.

So what is a person to do? First things first. Pray until you hear from heaven. You truly must desire for the Lord to lead you to the best answer regarding this situation. I would also let love be your guide. Always come down on the side of what is the most loving option for my parent. Sometimes, the most loving option is to not completely destroy your home life and become a martyr where you ignore your own children for the sake of an aging parent.

A loving option might be to help your parent find assisted living. It might be to arrange for home health care. It might be to help them re-build their home to be more safe. There are many options to consider. You may want to get out a sheet of paper and list some pros and cons. While this can serve as a guide, I would never make a final decision based solely on pros and cons. A list like this leaves out the main ingredient. It leaves out love and strictly looks at the situation as a problem to be solved. Aging parents are not problems to be solved. They are our parents whom we love so much.

Be sure you always communicate well with your aging parent. Respect them even when their mind is perhaps growing weaker. They should not be talked to like a little child. You should not talk down to them. Don't patronize your parent. They deserve respect even if they are driving you crazy right now. The best option would be for all the siblings to get together and prayerfully consider the best option for the parent ahead of time. Then as a united front, and not as an unruly mob, you should sit down with your parent and discuss options. Try and help them see that this is the best answer. Pray ahead of time to not feel guilty if and when your parent lashes out at you.

They are not lashing out at you. It just seems that way.

They are really lashing out at their loss of independence. This would be hard for any of us. To be told that you have to give up driving because you can't do it anymore is terrible. As much as all teenagers can't wait to get that independence that comes through driving' it is a major blow to a person to lose

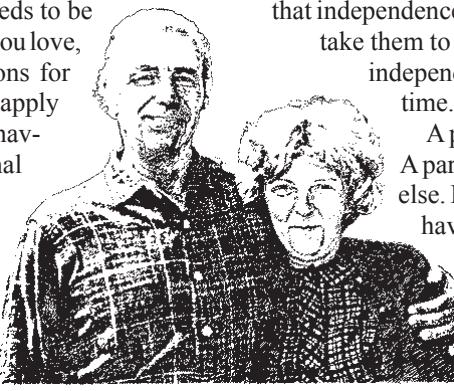
that independence. Sure you can pick up your parent and take them to church, but it still is taking away their independence to drive themselves at their own time.

A parent can be very cruel at this moment. A parent can lay guilt trips on you like no one else. But you have to stick to your guns. You have to do the most loving option. Keep yourself open however. After listening to your parent, they may come up with a better solution. You don't have THE right answer. There may be more than one right answer. Always be

willing to listen, negotiate and compromise. This can only be done however, when there is no physical danger to the older person. Your parent may plead with you for a certain option, but you may have to bite the bullet and say no if it still offers too many opportunities for you parent to get hurt. A parent may want to drive, but what will you do if they kill themselves or back over a little child in the neighborhood? Sometimes, you have to put your emotions to bed to make the best decision.

Finally, what is best for your parent may not be best for someone else. Take all advice from others with a huge grain of salt. Those of you who have been through this in the past need to take a deep breath before you offer advice that may not be right for another person's situation. Every situation is unique. Every older person is unique.

Be prepared for the event that you may be the chief caregiver and your other siblings shock you at their lack of help. This is a very common occurrence. Don't be shocked. Just count it as your ministry. Pray. Love. Serve. Look into your parents eyes like they looked into your eyes the day you were born. May God bless you in this area.



## Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee



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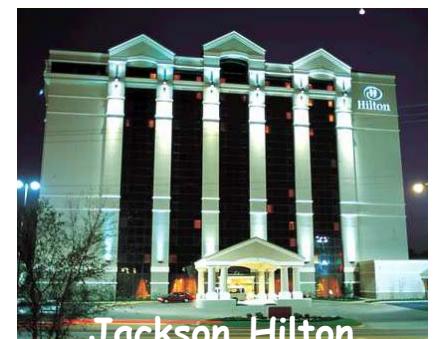
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## Christian Photographer Hauled before Commission for Refusing Same-Sex Job

**New Mexico (LifeSiteNews.com)** - The case of a Christian photographer who refused to photograph a same-sex "commitment ceremony", was heard before the New Mexico Human Rights Division on Monday.

A same-sex couple asked Elaine Huguenin, co-owner with her husband of Elane Photography, to photograph a "commitment ceremony" that the two women wanted to hold. Huguenin declined because her Christian beliefs are in conflict with the message communicated by the ceremony.

The same-sex couple filed a complaint with the New Mexico Human Rights Division, which is now trying Elane Photography under state antidiscrimination laws for sexual orientation discrimination.

The Alliance Defense fund (ADF), a legal alliance that is dedicated to defending and protecting religious freedom, sanctity of life, marriage, and family, is currently defending Elane Photography.

"On Monday we defended Elane Photography in court, saying basically that no person should be required to help others advance a message that they disagree with," ADF Senior Counsel and Senior Vice-President of the Office of Strategic Initiatives, Jordan Lorence, told LifeSiteNews in an interview today. "That's a basic First Amendment principle. The government is punishing Elane photography for refusing to take photos which obviously advance the messages sent by the same-sex ceremony - that marriage can be defined as two women or two men."

In their complaint the homosexual couple has sought for an injunction against Elane Photography that will forbid them from ever again refusing to photograph a same-sex ceremony. They have also requested attorney's fees.

"Depending on how far up the ladder this goes of appeal that could be a lot of money," said Lorence. "Hundreds of thousands of dollars."

Lorence said that the ADF is framing its case in a similar fashion to the 1995 Supreme Court "Hurley" Case. "In the

Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade case the US Supreme Court said that the State of Massachusetts could not punish a privately run parade because it refused to allow a homosexual advocacy group in to carry banners and signs in the parade. They said that would be compelled speech, ordering the parade organizers to help promote a message they do not want to promote. To apply the discrimination law that way violates freedom of speech. We are making a similar kind of argument in this case."

Lorence said that this current case is demonstrative of a "tremendous threat" facing those with traditional views on marriage and family.

"I think that this is a tremendous threat to First Amendment rights. Those who are advocating for same-sex marriage and for rights based upon sexual orientation keep arguing, 'We are not going to apply these against churches. We are going to protect people's right of conscience. We are all about diversity and pluralism.'"

But, in practice, says Lorence, "Business owners with traditional views or church owners with traditional definitions of marriage are now vulnerable for lawsuits under these nondiscrimination laws. There are 20 states that have these laws where they ban sexual orientation discrimination. Most of the major cities in the United States also have these kinds of ordinances. So these are a big threat, as the federal government debates whether to make this a blanket nationwide law."

"We see that these [non-discrimination laws] are not rectifying some unjust discrimination, but being used to punish those who speak out in favor of traditional marriage and sexual restraint," he concluded.

Lorence said that the ADF is "cautiously optimistic that the commission will do the right thing." If the New Mexico Commission, however, decides against Elane Photography, Lorence said that the ADF would appeal the decision all the way up to the US Supreme Court if necessary.

## CHILDREN'S HOME

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

### Food and Miscellaneous Rallies

The Oak Grove Baptist Association had their annual rally for the Home on January 17. The meeting was held with the Pine Grove Baptist Church near Purvis and Pastor Kenneth Flynt. It was a joy to have an opportunity to report on the ministry of the Home and also bring a message from God's Word.

On January 18 the Capitol Baptist Association had their annual rally for the Home. This meeting was held with the Creston Hills Baptist Church in Jackson and Pastor Danny Bartlett. I was delighted to be able to report on the ministry of the Home and also share a message from the Word of God to those present.



SIDNEY DAVIS  
DIRECTOR

Then on February 4 the Ten Mile Association had their annual rally for the Home. The meeting was held with the Vardaman Street Baptist Church in Wiggins and Interim Pastor Eugene Anderson. It was good to report on the ministry of the Home and to preach a message from God's Word.

We would like to express our appreciation to each association, church and individual who gave food and miscellaneous items as well as monetary gifts to the Home at these rallies.

### Let It Snow! Let It Snow!

Not too often in South Mississippi does it come a good snow. But on Saturday morning, January 19, we awoke to a



All the kids at the home enjoyed the recent snow, along with Mrs. Pat Davis (second from right).

beautiful scene of huge snowflakes that were falling to the ground.

It wasn't very long until the snow was sticking and accumulating. We usually sleep a little bit later on Saturdays, but not on this Saturday. As I began to pass the word that it was snowing, everyone began to go to the window or step out the door to see this unusual phenomenon.

Well, the rest is history. A morning in the snow. This is the first time some of the boys and girls had seen a good snow. It did not take long for them to catch on. Snowballs were thrown. A big snowman was erected. And, of course, snow cream was eaten. As you can tell, we enjoyed the snow!

### 2008 Pastor's Retreat

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Theme

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Matthew 28: 19-20

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## CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION

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



John Adams

January 16, 2008

Mr. Larry Gregory  
Director Mississippi Gaming Commission  
P. O. Box 23577  
Jackson, MS 39225-3577

Dear Mr. Larry Gregory,

Greetings! Thank you for taking the time to read this open letter to you and the area newspapers. I wish to share the sentiments of thousands in Mississippi in their lack of confidence and mistrust that they have in the Mississippi Gaming Commission. Many feel (1) that the gambling industry is a selfish, self-promoting entity, (2) that the gaming areas of Mississippi continue to promote a blight of crime on our fair state, (3) that many families are destitute because of ill-advised use of their earned monies going into the gambling ventures, and (4) that the state-wide schools and educational institutions of Mississippi are not getting the so-called tremendous benefits as an aforementioned promise when the state of Mississippi legalized gaming.

Our Christian Action Commission also wishes to state a truism that cannot be ignored by the three Mississippi Gaming Commissioners, the executive director, and the Mississippi Gaming Commission's senior staff and workers that "casinos are the crack cocaine of gambling". A true and terse statement that settles on the gaming leaders' shoulders as family after family is hooked, then hurt, demoralized, and often destroyed in finances and divorce.

I understand the disdain that your organization has for Christians and Christian groups, but I hope your disdain does not extend to heaven and the maker of Life as His Word says "Every one of us shall give account of himself to God" ... Romans chapter 14 verse 12 from the Bible. As the gambling industry, that you give leadership to, is causing great harm to innocent children and teens throughout Mississippi and even America, the Word of the Lord states in the Gospel of Matthew 18:6 ... "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him (you) that a millstone were hanged about his (your) neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

Our continued thought is that our Eternal God will have mercy on you and that this gaming industry will be dissolved.

In Christ's Name,

Dr. John M. Adams, director  
Christian Action Commission  
Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Joshua 24:15  
"I have chosen..."

JMA/lrs