

Baptist

Mississippi

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JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

FEBRUARY 15, 2009

Vol. 63 No. 4

BMMI presents needed nutrition to village

by **Ralph Izard, M.D.**
Director of BMMI

The Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI) was able to provide nutritional help to the children of Rattanakiri Province thanks to the "Children Helping Children" program and also in part to "Making Everlasting Smiles". The BMMI just completed a mission trip to Cambodia from January 18th to January 30th. Working primarily in six villages of the province, the team ministered to 1,175 persons with medication and also distributed vitamins and parasite medicine to several hundred additional children. Most of the men, women, boys and girls in the three new villages visited during this project had never seen a doctor!

The number of baptized believers continues to grow in the Rattanakiri Province and the school, under the direction of Brother Edmund Neil Mamon, continues to increase in the number of students to the point that additional space is badly needed, as well as a project center and living quarters.

The residents of the Province of Rattanakiri in Cambodia express a sincere "thank you" for the help that you have provided to them. It also provides



Dr. Ralph Izard, director of Baptist Medical Missions International, distributing food and other items to BMA Village residents in Cambodia.

a great opportunity to share Jesus Christ with them; most have no knowledge of Him. The Lord is doing great things in

Cambodia and we are honored that He is using the Baptist Missionary Association of America!

BMAA Yearbook Update

By **James Ray Raines, clerk**

Due to the sickness and death 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 done.

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

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, theorizes in a Christian Post column on the reason for the startling disparity between the beliefs of religious Southerners and the more secular Northeasterners.

"New England certainly did not start as a secular experiment, but it entered the twentieth century already showing signs of deep secularization," Mohler writes. "The influence of liberal theology in the region, the aftermath of the Second Great Awakening, and the leading edge of urbanization and industrialization certainly contributed to the pattern."

Regarding the South, Mohler postulates, the region's history and culture also play a role.

"The responses from the Bible Belt surely include those generated by cultural Christianity," Mohler writes. "In the South, being 'raised right' includes knowing how you are supposed to respond to a question like that posed by Gallup."

The Gallup poll comes just one month after the organization also asked a

Mississippi At The Top!

Where does your state rank in religious belief?

Gallup poll reveals 'Bible Belt' for real

from *WorldNetDaily*

A recent poll of more than 350,000 Americans on the importance of religion revealed that the nation is separated into enclaves of widely divergent viewpoints on faith, with some states and regions clearly religious and others significantly secular.

Gallup conducted a telephone poll of 355,334 U.S. adults, asking the question, "Is religion an important part of your daily life?"

As one might suspect, states from the

"Bible Belt" scored the highest, with 85 percent of Mississippians and 79 percent of Tennesseans, for example, answering yes.

The poll also revealed, however, that in addition to the Bible Belt, the U.S. also has a pair of "secular strips."

The New England states of Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Maine scored the lowest in the nation, with only 42 percent of Vermont residents – or less than half the percentage of those in Mississippi – answering yes.

The other "secular strip" can be found in the West, where Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Nevada all scored in the bottom 10 states for affirming religion's importance in daily life.

Across the country's entirety, 65 percent of the respondents affirmed that religion is an important part of their lives.

Gallup's map of the nation, based on a state-by-state breakdown of responses to the poll question, can be seen below:

R. Albert Mohler, Jr., president of the

continued on page 2



BMA Seminary presents annual Brand Lectures

by Dr. Charley Holmes, president

The annual Brand Lectures are scheduled for March 3 and March 5, 2009 in Dorman Memorial Chapel on the BMA Seminary campus. We are nearing the end of our annual BMAA missions emphasis "50 Days of Prayer and Giving." The lectures will feature directors of our BMAA Missions Department.

The speakers and their topics are as follows

March 3 at 9:30 a.m., Grady Higgs, Executive Director BMAA Missions, Topic: The Priority of Missions

March 3 at 3:00 p.m., Larry Barker, Director North American Missions, Topic: The Purpose of Missions

March 5 at 9:30 a.m., Phil Knott, Director Latin American Missions, Topic: The Paradigm of Missions

March 5 at 3:00 p.m., Jerry Kidd, Director European, Asian and African Missions, Topic: The Process of Missions

Don't miss this opportunity to hear, and talk with, YOUR mission directors!

DiscipleGuide Presents

Mission Possible:

Winning Your Community For Christ
Presenter Steve Crawley

Saturday, March 7, 2009

Equipping Center
Magnolia Baptist Church

148 King Road

Hattiesburg, MS 39402

601-2640-7976, 601-264-8987, 601-520-3135

Cost: \$20.00 Per Person

Schedule

- 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. Session 1 - Why Are We Here? - Steve Crawley
Why it's So Hard to Share Our Faith
- 9:30 - 9:50 a.m. Session 2 - Learning Hand Presentation -
Bob Gilmore
- 9:50 - 10:30 a.m. Session 3 - Overcoming the Fear of Witnessing -
Stan Gilmore
- 10:30 - 10:45 a.m. Break
- 10:45 - 11:30 a.m. Session 4 - Finding People Who Are Open -
Stan Gilmore
- 11:30 - 1:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 - 1:20 p.m. Session 5 - Sharing the Gospel with Stories TBD
- 1:20 - 1:40 p.m. Session 6 - Leading in Commitment TBD
- 1:40 - 2:00 p.m. Session 7 - Developing a Love for the Lord TBD
- 2:00 - 2:30 p.m. Session 8 - Developing an Ongoing Ministry
of Evangelism & Discipleship TBD
- 2:30 - 3:00 p.m. Closing - Steve Clawley

After the Top Goes On

I have wanted to build some cabinets for my shop for the past five years. A friend gave me about 25 good drawers that needed to have a cabinet built for them. This past week end I finally got to the point of building the prototype for the first set of cabinets for my good, and very free, drawers. The place for the cabinet is against the wall of my shop. There is a steel support beam three feet off the concrete floor all the way around the inside. Here is the place for the cabinets to stand.

Of course I measured the height from the floor to the support beam more than once! Even more so, each of the four legs for the cabinet passed under the beam to ensure the perfect fit. I had measured accurately for the height. I spent the rest of the day building the cabinet to house my four drawers. I had the job completed with perfect drawer fit. They pulled and pushed in and out smoothly with no hanging. It was a masterpiece of prototype work on my part.

Then I put a top on it. It was a good piece of thick oak supported by a layer of plywood to support the weight of anything I might stack on the cabinet. You are already ahead of me: I had not counted the measure of

the top. Yes, the exactly measured legs did in fact fit under the very precise steel beam above the extremely hard concrete floor. However, there was no room for the top. I had not counted on that in my measuring. I spent some time laughing. Then I got



Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

the old electric saw to cut the legs off my model cabinet. It now fits as I intended under the unalterable steel support onto the unmovable concrete floor in my shop.

I note this in my life process. Sometimes in my best plans, I put a top on it. Plans don't go as intended. Life gets to a place where it doesn't exactly go as planned. Life has a way of moving beyond what was to what is. Many times there is an unexpected illness. Family members surprise me with events of incontestable consequence. In my life there are financial reversals. My automobile goes bazook at the worst possible time. Things get spilled

on my clothes in inverse proportion to the amount of time I have and the importance of the meeting I am to attend. I lose the one file I needed to complete my presentation in 30 minutes. The cap on my front tooth falls off just before I speak to the new boss. My best plans just don't fit even though I have measured, planned, and calculated for them to do so. The top is on there now and it won't fit.

I don't know how to saw the legs off life situations to make them fit with the top being on there. What are my options? I can get angry that it did not work out. I do this well and often. I can blame others. This is silly, but fun, to play the blame game. I can revert to personal irresponsibility such as telling my second grade teacher the dog ate my homework. I can quote science to say my genetic make-up caused this. I can go to psychology to allow for developmental disparities in my formative years as a cause of this bad life event.

All the above options are not as good as the one the Psalmist screamed from his soul: "Against thee and thee only have I sinned...cleanse me...wash me..." I spend a lot of time planning my life. Much of it is in absence from the presence of God. Someway, the top always gets put on to my plans when I leave Him out. I am a dependent creature. I hope to learn this again before I exit this life. God is in control of life events. I need to have Him in first thing in my measuring of my cabinet legs. He will allow for the top to be put on. I just have a sneaking suspicion that I am not the only person whose plans for life go slightly askew "after the top goes on."



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

On Giving

Occasionally, I hear some folks grumbling about the pleas for money. Besides all the worthy causes outside the church it seems every department in the District, State, and National work are all "needy".

No matter what we hear about the economy being bad, I'll never believe it as long as sports figures, entertainers, public officials, CEO's, etc. continue to receive such preposterous amounts.

But back to the "needy". The department heads who plead for funds are not pleading for themselves, but on behalf of the people who are reached through their department.

So, loosen up by remembering that you won't be remembered for what you get, but for what you give!

Don't forget this, "The only way to take it with you is to give it away while you are here."

Go read Psalm 112:9 and quit'cher grumbling and dig in and help those department heads get the work of the Lord on track!

Mississippi At The Top!

from page 1

smaller sample of Americans, "At the present time, do you think religion as a whole is increasing its influence on American life or losing its influence?"

Just over two-thirds of respondents thought it was losing its influence, the third highest percentage in Gallup's 50-year history of asking the question.

As recently as 2002, 71 percent of Americans thought the opposite – that religion was increasing in influence – meaning opinion on the issue has undergone a complete reversal in the last seven years.

Who Will Commit with Me to Pray for President Obama?

I Timothy 2:1-3

The following is a condensed version of a message preached by Rodney Dunlap, missionary pastor of Abundant Life in Christ Missionary Baptist Mission in Charleston, Missouri, on the Sunday prior to Barack Obama's inauguration. Abundant Life in Christ is a multi-racial congregation and mission of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church of Sikeston, Missouri.

Tuesday we inaugurate our 44th president - Barack Obama. His election was historic. For the first time in 232 years of elections a non-white man was elected. The electorate was energized. Obama received more votes than any other candidate in history. Now, however, all that euphoria is history and the weight of the world is getting ready to rest upon the shoulders of this man. God commands us to pray for him.

We need to pray for his protection.

There are people who hate President-elect Obama and it's not because of his policies. Already there have been more death threats against him than any other President I can remember. Even though the election proved it's no longer the majority mindset, there's still a lot of latent racism out there. Most folks don't publicly spew racial slurs anymore, because they know it is frowned upon, but the attitude is still there.

The election has brought some submerged racism to the surface. A lot of folks are fine with equality until it means equality. Sharing a bus seat is fine, sitting beside someone in a classroom is fine, but when a man who identifies as black is elected as President, the attitude of many is that equality has just gone "too far." We need to pray that God would protect him from the bullets of hatred.

We need to pray for his wisdom.

Wisdom is a priceless thing (Prov. 16:16) and President Obama is going to need a boatload of it, as he is going to be called upon to immediately make weighty decisions as President. We're still in Iraq. Things are also interesting in Afghanistan. Osama Bin Laden is still out there. Much of the world sees us as a bully. If President Obama or Congress, or the two of them working in unison, make a wrong move economically the "mess" we have now will be nothing compared to what we'll have in the future.

He needs wisdom to bring about a working coalition. People are angry. The rich are angry at the poor and vice versa. The Republicans and Democrats hate one another (even though

they look so much alike anymore, but that's another message) and again, the racists hate President Obama because he dared to be elected President as a black man. Only the wisdom of God can bring about peace (Prov. 13:10).

We need to pray for his spirituality.

If he's not saved, we need to pray that God would convict him. During the campaign, I heard neither John McCain nor Barack Obama give a profession of faith. I did read where President-elect Obama acknowledged Jesus is the Savior, but he has also stated that his relationship to this Savior is a progressive journey of faith based on his own understanding and terms. That's not God's definition of salvation. The U.S. needs a Spirit-led leader (Prov. 29:2).

If perchance he is saved, he will be under demonic attack like never before. Remember how Satan attacked Jesus personally in Matthew Chapter 4? The job was so critical he couldn't trust it to even his top demon. Not to put him on a par with Christ - perish the thought - but in two days Barack Obama is going to be the most powerful man on earth.

We need to pray for his illumination.

President Obama is wrong on some issues. He's wrong on abortion. When his record is votes against life every time, he's wrong. When he opposes even parental consent laws he's wrong. He's wrong on homosexuality. When he says it's a morally neutral private matter he's wrong (Lev. 18:22). When he wants to confer marriage-equivalent benefits to homosexual couples he's wrong. When he has a lesbian pastor praying at his inauguration he's wrong.

We need to pray that President Obama see the error of these positions. Unless he has a radical change of heart, all indications are that we will have



Rodney Dunlap

deeper immorality embedded in our nation for generations because of his presidency. His election proved that what used to be wrong in America has been righted. Let us not ignore that there are also present evils which must be righted if we expect to stave off the judgment of God (Prov. 14:34).

In two days Barack Obama [will be] my President, and he's yours. It's my duty to pray for him ... when I agree with him and when I don't. In 2000, I voted for President Bush. In 2004 when it became known he had a pro-homosexual running mate I did not vote for him, but cast my vote for a third party. During his first term I prayed for him. During his second term I prayed for him. This is good in the sight of God (v. 3).

Beginning Tuesday, I will be praying for our next President. I ask you today, "Who will commit with me to pray for President Obama?"

Christian broadcasters see threat of censorship

NASHVILLE - Christian broadcasters have vowed to keep preaching the gospel regardless of social, political, or regulatory opposition.

At the first convention of the National Religious Broadcasters since the November election, NRB president Frank Wright said, "The proclamation of the gospel is now opposed at every quarter. In the political arena, in the cultural context, in forces of the regulatory arena and the legislative environment - all these forces today seem to be arrayed against the gospel."

But Dr. Wright said the NRB board has issued a declaration pledging to "obey the command of Christ to preach the gospel, even if human governments and institutions attempt to oppose, constrain, or prohibit it."

Christian broadcasters have expressed concern that a revived "Fairness Doctrine" might force them to air anti-Christian responses to their programs. They also worry that proposed hate crimes laws - such as the Em-

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 Enrollment

We thank the Lord for another good enrollment this semester.

We have not yet fully overcome the setback in enrollment after Hurricane Katrina hit in the fall semester, 2005, but for the last three years we have been gradually increasing in enrollment each year.

In this current semester we have 49 full-time and 17 part-time students, for a total of 66. The enrollment of 49 full-time is the most for any semester in the last three years (three more than in the fall, 2008, semester).

The total hours the students enrolled in were 1468 in 2006-2007; 1621 in 2007-2008; 1658 for 2008-2009. Several graduate and others drop out each

year and must be replaced each time in order to remain the same. Therefore, we thank the Lord and our recruiters for the gradual increase.

Memorial

A contribution was received recently to purchase a religious book to be placed in the A.R. Reddin Memorial Library in memory of Bro. Milton Paul Parker. May the Lord's blessings be on his family.

Alumni - Cards

Former students who would like to be listed in the Alumni Directory should send name, address, phone number, e-mail to the college. To those who have already sent your information, thank you.

SBC Alumni Association

Membership Options:

Single _____ \$20.00

Joint _____ \$35.00

Recent Grad _____ \$15.00 (graduated in the last 3 years)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____



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ployment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) - could be used against stations whose broadcasts say Jesus is the only way to God or that homosexuality is sinful.

Before the November elections, Wright expressed doubt that Congress would revive the Fairness Doctrine. But he warned that it could happen if Democrats won both the White House and solid majorities in both houses of Congress. That is indeed what has happened.

Arkansas church seeks pastor

Pocahontas Missionary Baptist Church in Pocahontas, Arkansas is seeking a pastor. Please prayerfully consider this position. Send all resumes to Pulpit Committee Chairman Mike Tyler at 2426 Hillcrest Drive, Pocahontas, Arkansas, 72455. You can also email them to mikemphbrk@hotmail.com.

Mississippi Baptist | Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP

Life Is Short and Precious

Daily we are reminded that our life is like a vapor, it is here but a short time and then it vanishes.

Mrs. Miriam Gordon

Word has come to us of the passing of Mrs. Miriam (G.H.) Gordon. Mrs. Gordon had been in ill health for some time. Bro. G.H. Gordon and his wife have ministered to a number of our churches and in several denominational areas during their ministry.

Bro. Gordon was editor of this paper when this editor was elected in 1978. Our sympathies and prayers go out to the Gordon family. May God's grace be sufficient for the entire family in this time of loss. Below is the information we had at press time.

Miriam C. Gordon

Miriam Culpepper Gordon, 84, died Monday, February 16, 2009 at her home in Jackson surrounded by her family. A funeral service celebrating her life will be 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Creston Hills Baptist Church, Jackson. Interment will follow at Natchez Trace Memorial Park Cemetery.

Mrs. Gordon was born in Picayune, Mississippi and was the daughter of the late Burie J. Culpepper and late Maude Gilkey. She resided in Jackson, along with her husband of 66 years, Rev. Granville H. Gordon. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Tessa Eileen Darst and a sister, Oneita Whitfield.

Mrs. Gordon is survived by her husband, Rev. Granville H. Gordon of Jackson; daughters, Cathy Annette Johnson (Jessie) of Ashville, N.C., Connie Jean Lowe of Laurel, and Donna Lynn Strickland (Nick) of Brandon; son, Gerald Keith Gordon (Judy) of Pearl; sister, Winnifred Davis of Picayune; 11 grandchildren, 2 step grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Judy Brunson passes away

Although I did not know Mrs. Judy (Hal) Brunson, she was known by many in our work. Information concerning her is listed on page 8 of this issue.



Don Brown
Editor

Letters From Our Readers

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

Friend asks for correspondence for God's servant

Dear Editor,

The name Bobby Joe Wright is a name that has stood long, if not loud, within the BMA work. I say 'long,' because for over 4 decades he worked with Baptist Publishing House (now DiscipleGuide), plus his ministry as a pastor and preacher exceeds even that length of time. I say 'not loud' because Bro. Bobby Joe has ministered to thousands upon thousands of people around the world who at most have only seen his name as editor in the adult quarterlies that they have used year after year after year. Bro. Bobby Joe has truly been servant to God's people within our work and beyond.

Bro. Bobby Joe's health has been declining in recent month, and within the past few weeks he has entered a nursing facility where he has joined his wife (Ann Wright) who was already a resident. I think this would be an excellent time for all of us who have been touched by this quite servant to send a card or a letter to let him know how much we appreciate him and his work, and to tell him that we're praying for the two of them. Bro. Bobby Joe has served us for years and years, and this seems an excellent time for the served to now serve the server.

You can write the Wrights at this address: Bro. Bobby Joe and Ann Wright, Bailey Creek Nursing & Rehab Center, Room 302, 1621 East 42nd Street, Texarkana, AR 71854

Sincerely,
Don Burke

Michael Moore moves to Texas church

Dear Editor,

Bro. Don, Could you please announce in the next issue of the Mississippi Baptist that I have resigned as pastor of Oakland, Vicksburg, effective February 22, to accept the pastorate of Suburban Wood, Humble, Texas.

Thanks,
Michael Moore



"The Church Council has developed a new stimulus plan to combat moral bankruptcy. We call it "Bible Study."

Talking To Your Spouse Is Hard To Do

Before I begin this article on marriage, I wanted to let my readers know of my upcoming marriage retreat cruise. I have done this every year for the past several years. It is always fun and a very spiritual experience. It will be from June 27th through July 2nd. It is on Carnival Cruise Lines and will be going to the Mexican Caribbean. It will depart out of New Orleans. The host couple this year is a wonderful young couple from Missouri named Matt and Jennifer Douglas. You can contact them at 417-256-6683 or 417-274 1658. This information can also be obtained off of my web page at www.travisplumlee.com. I hope you can join us this year as we work to better our marriages.



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

You would think that it would be easy to talk to our spouse. The most important person in our life. Our soul mate. Our life mate. The two shall be as one - right? Yet, most marital conflict comes as a result of not communicating with our spouse. Whatever the issues are in our marriage, these can be solved with good, honest, open dialogue. So, why do we hesitate to speak to our spouse about things that we wished were different in the relationship? There can be several reasons.

One is that one spouse is afraid of the reaction of the other spouse. There is a history of you not respecting me in decisions

and conversations. I am afraid of your anger outburst. I am afraid of hurting your feelings. I am afraid you will think I am dumb or stupid. I am afraid you will laugh at me. I am afraid you will put me down or ridicule me. These are just some of the reasons why spouses are not honest.

You may want to start here. If you have a communication problem, you both need to sit down and talk about why you are not totally honest in communication. You need to be honest. These are dysfunctional tactics that people employ in a rela-

continued on page 5



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PRICE
\$20.00 Per Year by Mail
\$10.00 Per Year by Email
CHURCHPLAN
\$ 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.



Talking To Your Spouse

from page 4

tionship. However, you can learn new ways of communicating. You can mutually agree not to explode or intimidate, etc., when you are discussing an issue. If it starts to happen, then you take a time out until you have calmed down and then restart the process.

Ephesians 4:15,29-32 tells us to speak the truth in love. Often times, we complain about our spouse and their behavior. Yet, when I ask you if you have ever told them that, the answer is usually "no". You don't have permission as a Christian to disrespect someone, explode on someone or hurt them. However, calmly speaking in love is a good thing. The scripture tells us to also put away bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor and evil-speaking (that would be things like name-calling) and be kind to each other. Forgive each other.

Ask God to put the words in your mouth. Ask God to take away the bitterness and anger

so you don't say things you don't want to. Ask God to teach your tongue what to say so that you can solve the problem rather than just trying to prove your right to boost your sagging ego. Power struggles are all about two people who have low self-esteem. Each of you must win an argument, and you can't stand any suggestion of change on your part. The problem is not that you are not perfect. The problem is that you need to have a major heart change to fully understand who you are in Christ and improve your self-image.

If you two can't talk things out in a civil, respectful manner, then you need to go talk to your pastor or a biblical counselor. If one of the two says, "we don't need to talk to anyone" that is almost a sure sign you do.

What if they won't change. Pray. I mean really pray. God can do miracles. Maybe you should get help for yourself even if your spouse refuses. Never give up. There is always hope.

Maybe you can change yourself, which will cause a change in them. When beginning a healthy way of communicating, learn to look at your environment. Pick a place that is quiet and private. Wait until the kids are in bed. Don't argue in your bedroom. Have a drink you can sip to calm you down if you start to get heated. Always sit down. Don't stand to discuss difficult issues. Be sure you aren't both tired, exhausted or hungry. This causes irritability and does not lend itself to good communication.

It doesn't matter how long something has gone on, any day is a new day and things can change. It may not be instant. Don't give up. You may move two steps forward and then fall one step backwards. That's okay. Satan says you might as well quit: it will never work. But keep on.

First you have gradual improvement, then steady improvement, then on-going improvement. It takes time. Be totally honest. However, be sensitive to what words you are saying. Put yourself in the other person's shoes. That is why it is necessary to pray first and pick a time to talk about things when you are not in the heat of the moment.

Emotions always cloud good communication. God is on your side. He can pour out from the riches of heaven to help your marriage. Come on. Marriage is

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 Staff Positions Available

Arkansas church seeks senior pastor

Calvary Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas, a congregation averaging 250-300 on Sundays, is seeking a Senior Pastor. Those interested in more information may send a resume to: Calvary Baptist Church, % Pastor Search Committee, 1410 Porter Road, Fayetteville, AR 72703.

Minister of Music / Pastoral Assistant needed

Midway First Baptist Church, under the Lord's leadership, is seeking a full-time Minister of Music / Pastoral Assistant. Resumes may be sent to the church at 77 Midway Church Road, Sumrall, MS 39482, by March 31st 2009. The church will contact those whom it may consider. No phone calls please.

worth fighting for. Just take one step at a time. Sit down at the table tonight and have an honest heart to heart, look me in the eyes conversation.

All marital issues are solved with good communication. Your life together is worth this effort.

This good church is a loyal supporter of the Commission.

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 their's 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 or 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, Bro. Don Brown, pastor. The program will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. and will close around 3:00 p.m. Bro. Earl Smith will direct the worship music. The Big Creek Music Department and Mississippi Five will provide the morning music. Bro. 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 call me at 601-729-3198. Please call by or before March 23.

The North Senior Adult Day is schedule 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.

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!

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Chase Elkins

Brother Chase Elkins is available for pulpit supply. He is a conservative, licensed minister from Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Saucier, Mississippi. He is 20 years old and engaged to be married in October. He is currently a second year student at Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel. He would be honored to come and fill-in, speak to youth, or help your church in any way. He may be contacted at 228-219-0403 or through his Pastor, Brother Coy Rice at 228-860-0643.

Tray Lampkin

Bro. Tray Lampkin is available for pulpit fill-in services. He is 29 years old, and he and his wife have four children. Bro. Tray surrendered to the ministry in August of 2004. They are currently members at Sharon Missionary Baptist Church, Laurel. He is currently attending Southeastern Baptist College and will graduate in May with his associates degree. He is an eager young preacher that love the Lord. For his services, he may be reached at 228-327-5420 (cell) or 601-342-2745 (home).

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

GMA Camp

GIRLS, GIRLS, GIRLS! Lots of girls are needed for GMA Camp March 6 and 7, 2009. Fun, food, games and a great time spent with the LORD are experiences each young lady will treasure for a lifetime. This will also be a time to make new friends and see ones that you haven't seen for a while. Pack up early on Friday, March 6th and head out for Camp Garaywa at Clinton, Mississippi, for the time of your life.

Remember, don't stop at one of those hamburger places on your way because the famous "Snack Shoppe" will be open and waiting for you to purchase lunch. We need craft items to be sold at the Craft Shoppe. All proceeds from the Snack Shoppe and the Craft Shoppe will be divided 75% for the Homestretch Mission at Cleveland and 25% for the GMA General Fund.

Please keep this in mind as our GMA fund has been low, and we need your help to get it back up so that we will be able to support these young ladies.

These are some of the things that we need for the Snack Shoppe if you will supply some of these, please let me know no later than March 2nd:

Bottle water and canned drinks (iced down and ready to sell)

Gallon containers of Tea (artificial and sugar free)

Large Bags of Fritos (for Frito Chili Pie)

Four gallons of Chili

Home-made goodies in a zip lock bag (25 cents per bag)

We also need large crock pots for soups and chili

Large microwave bowls for heating cheese

I look forward to seeing all of you at camp. I challenge the adults of our churches to encourage all of our GMA young ladies in the commitment they have made to the LORD and all the hard work they have done to accomplish their forward steps. Remember, we are training them today for our mothers, teachers and leaders of tomorrow. No investment is ever too much for this challenge. You can never spend your time more wisely than to invest it in a child's life.

Donna Lawrence
1621 Hildreth Road
Columbus, MS 39701
1-662-328-4645

Mississippi State Galilean Camp March 13 and 14

Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville Mississippi

Camp Pastor - Brother Coy Rice

Theme: Revival...

Check in time - 10:00 a.m. till Noon

Events begin at 1:00 p.m.

Cost - \$75.00 per person.

For more information please call
Josh Spiers at 601-337-0236
or Mark Jones at 662-322-9155.

Josh Spiers
Mississippi State Galilean Promoter.



ABS * Camp Ministry



LATRELLE WINDHAM
DIRECTOR

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

Theme, 2009: "A Quality Struggle"
Aim: "Power To Generate Change" (
Luke 24:49)

Instrument of Change and a Quality of Struggle

1. Prayer (Luke 21:37; John 18:1-12)
2. Bible Study (Study an intensive intellectual effort - I Timothy 2:15)
3. A Support Group (Accountability - I Samuel 12:1-5)

Quality Praying

Prayer can change our lives. Prayer requires discipline in our lives. Just as our kids and young people need our discipline, we need to lead and teach them about praying with discipline.

We need to exercise courage in praying, that God will give us strength to live our lives as we should.

We need to teach our kids to work at praying. We all have moments that we slip in disciplining our lives. Quality praying will help us greatly.

Parents, you need to pray with your kids and allow them to pray aloud with you. We need to pray and teach our kids rules dealing with no smoking, no drinking, no drugs, no staying out late past our disciplined time, no immoral behavior of any kind.

We as adults need to live and lead life and then expect our kids to live and lead it, even with overcoming the struggles of life.

We have so many privileges that we need to teach our kids about, that can help them in the development of convictions. We are to teach our kids that life is a struggle and we have to suffer sometimes as Christians.

If our prayer life is a quality struggle, I believe God will fill our lives and the lives of our kids with a sense of God's purpose and His plan. It will give us and our young people new zeal in life.

My prayer is that our kids grow in their prayer life and as we reflect back, it will encourage them in a meaningful relationship with Christ.

Camp Season 2009

Tombigbee - Judson Camp 2009

Date: June 8, 9, 10

Place: Tombigbee State Park, Tupelo, MS

Harmony Camp 2009

Date: June 22, 23, 24, 2009

Place: Tishomingo State Park, Tishomingo, MS

South Central June Camp 2009

Date: June 24, 25, 26, 2009

Place: Gulf Coast Community, Perkinston

State Junior High Senior Camp 2009

Date: Jul 6, 8, 9, 10, 2009

Place: Gulf Coast Community College, Perkinston

MISSISSIPPI STATE GMA RETREAT



March 6-7, 2009
Camp Garaywa, Clinton, MS
(Exit 35 off Interstate 20)

Theme - In His Image

Genesis 1:27

Camp Pastor

Bro. Tracey McMillen

Activities: Missions, Missionaries, Crafts, Craft Classes, Snack Shop, Queens' Activities, Coronation, and Houseparty.

Project: 25% General Fund; 75% Missionary Ed Duvall, Cleveland, MS

Send your project money to Shirlene Smith, 730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443 by February 25--Mrs. Shirlene needs to receive your money by February 25.

Send your REGISTRATION FEE (\$50 per camper) to Beth Caldwell, 166 Twin Creek Rd., Lucedale, MS 39452 no later than February 28.

Get your registration fee in today. Come join in the worship and the great fun activities planned just for YOU!

*Serving Christ in GMA,
Beth Jones, Mississippi State GMA President*

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

Big Creek, Soso, WMA Report

Can you believe that five months of our 2008-2009 church year has come and gone?

The Lord is still with us as we reach out in our service for Him through our WMA. We are so thankful that the Lord has given us the opportunity to serve Him through WMA.

Our attendance has dropped off due to some service illnesses among our ladies. I am a firm believer in prayer. Therefore, I ask that you remember to pray for Big Creek WMA.

Since we finished our study on the book, "Precious Jewels," Mrs. Bonnie has led us in a series of studies on "The Prayer Mantel." We are now in a series of study on "The Prayer Shawl."

On December 5th we enjoyed our annual WMA Salad Supper in the Family Life Center hosted by Mrs. Bonnie. What a great time of Christian fellowship every one enjoyed. Ladies, if you are looking for a good book to study in your WMA, let me recommend "Precious Jewels" by Mrs. Shirlene Smith and Mrs. Chris Smith. These ladies mean a lot to me and our auxiliary. Mrs. Shirlene and Mrs. Chris, I love and appreciate you. May God richly bless you.

Ladies, let us remember to pray for one another as we reach out in our service for the Lord through WMA.
Rovenia Hunnel, Reporter
Bro. Don Brown, Pastor

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.

Bethel, Fulton

A warm Christian greeting from all at Bethel. This report is for December and January. The Discipleship Class held a coat drive which was a great success.

The Sanctuary choir presented a cantata on the 7th, under the direction of Andy Tatum.

A large group of WMA ladies went to Bellevue in Memphis on the 13th. On the 14th a Children's Christmas musical was held, thanks to all who had a part in this. The Young at Heart SS class had a fellowship on the 19th in the COC.

On the 4th of January our 50 Days of Prayer began. Bro. Martin began a series of messages from Genesis. On the 9th the Mom's Bible Study met and we also hosted the Harmony meeting.

We observed the Lord's Supper on the 18th. Our youth had a "Stew Fundraiser." Thanks to everyone who had a part in this. Bethel hosted "Mission Possible: Winning Your Community for Christ" on Saturday January 24th. Brotherhood met on the 25th for their breakfast.

We have had 14 additions since our last report.

Dr. Martin Jameson, pastor
Joyce Cooley, reporter

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Mid Central Association

On January 17, 2009, the regular Mid-Central Association Meeting was held at Rock Creek Baptist Church. After a congregation song, Bro. Higginbotham opened the meeting with prayer. There were twenty-seven in attendance. Bro. Robert Carr read the minutes and Bro. Gene Therrell gave the Treasury Report.

The Missionary Committee proposed the recommendations for the Scholarship Fund and to send guidelines to the Seminary on the Scholarship Fund. A motion was made to let the Mission Fund grow and pray about which direction to use this Fund. The Missionary Committee agreed to meet again at the next meeting.

In the way of New Business a motion was made to send a copy of the Mid-Central Association Handbook to Faithway Baptist Church. Bro. Raines gave a brief discussion on Missions Symposiums and also read a request to sponsor someone on the VSM Student Missionary Trip.

Members of Magnolia Heights Baptist Church Choir presented special music and then Bro. Kent Grice brought the evening message. Our next meeting will be March 14, 2009, at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Meridian.

Joyce Williamson, Reporter
Bro. Billy Higginbotham, Moderator

Pineview, Lucedale

Pineview Baptist Church, Lucedale, rejoices in the first year anniversary with pastor, Bro. John Mills. In the last year, we have had over 29 souls saved, many rededications, and at least three church members receiving scriptural baptism. On January 10 and then February 7, we knocked on doors in the community in our visitation program. We've had many visitors. On January 18 we exceeded our goal of 100 in the worship service with 115.

Our revival services will be March 8-13 with Bro. Scottie Rayburn as evangelist. Services on Sunday will be at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch in the fellowship hall and at 5:00 p.m. and nightly at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Bro. John Mills, pastor
Ann Eubanks, clerk

Ten Mile Association

The Ten Mile Committee 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



CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION

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



John Adams

Recommended Web Page.

I encourage each to log onto www.cacbma.net and take a look at the issues before our churches, our state, and our nation. The web page will keep you better informed on the moral issues of the day.

Recommended Reading.

Mark Atteberry's book, "The Samson Syndrome" is a powerful and corrective writing. It is subtitled, "What You Can Learn from the Baddest Boy in the Bible" from Nelson Books. The cost is \$14.99.

Pray for our Senators and Representatives

I urged our BMA families to pray for our state-elected officials. May God direct them in all

their deliberations. Take time to intercede on their behalf:

Senator Thad Cochran, 1-202-224-5054

Senator Roger Wicker, 1-202-224-6253

Representative 1st District Travis Childers, 1-202-225-4306

Representative 2nd District Bennie Thompson, 1-202-225-5876

Representative 3rd District Gregg Harper, 1-202-225-5031

Representative 4th District Gene Taylor, 1-202-225-5772

Write them a personal note. Email or telephone them with words of encouragement and concerns. Let them know that you are praying for them. They are in these elected offices to serve you and your church.

Big Creek District Brotherhood meets

The quarterly meeting for the Big Creek District Brotherhood was held at Hopewell Baptist Church on January 12, 2009.

The meeting began with singing, prayer and opening devotional. There were 27 brotherhood members present from eight (8) churches.

After the Minutes were read and treasurer's report given, Brother Arthur Smith introduced Brother Corby Jones for the program. He brought an informative message on "Why Galileans". Bro. Jones used I Peter 2:21 and I Timothy 4:12 for his text. He shared with the group that the brotherhood of the local church is responsible for seeing after the work and needs of the Galileans. He also discussed the importance of our churches using the Galilean program to train and disciple boys and young men.

The next meeting will be held on April 6, 2009 at Parkview Baptist Church.

Ellis Ryals, President
Roger Jefcoat, Secretary

He will have pity on the poor and helpless and save the lives of the poor.

He will redeem them from oppression and violence, for their lives are precious in his sight. Psalm 72:13-14



Director in Jackson

It was my privilege to visit the 2009 legislative sessions of the State House and the State Senate and discuss the moral issues that are before our state - gambling, abortion, and taxation on cigarettes. I encouraged our representatives to cast their votes based on Biblical and moral convictions. As I have led these sessions in opening prayer, it has caused me to recognize what a great moral and financial battle these men and women are facing for our state.

You can find out more information by going online to www.cacbma.net and click on action alerts. Scroll down to the Mississippi Legislative Links and click on the State House or Senate Directory. Feel free to email your Senator or Representative. Your comments and concerns help to shape the opinions of your elected officials. Reminder to always be respectful, courteous, and Christian-like in your comments.

Thoughts to correspond to your elected officials:

1. Put God first in all deliberations,
2. Do not be swayed by humanistic philosophy,
3. Vote for protection of the elderly and unborn,
4. Stand against gambling, sodomy, pornography and the evils they portray,
5. Take a stand to lead our state back to conservative values and principles,
6. Be honest, fair and of high integrity
7. Maintain our religious freedom and,
8. Vote for legislation to restore prayer and religious expressions in our public schools.

Highlighted CAC Trustee of the Month

Rev. Ken Riley of Laurel, is married to Brandy and they have two children. Bro. Riley is pastor of Lebanon Baptist in Laurel. His hometown is Wiggins and he enjoys golfing, hunting and spending time with his family. God bless you.

Highlighted Supporting Churches & Associations

Cherwell, Mantachie
Movella, Lucedale
Mill Creek, Picayune
Mineral Springs, Taylorsville
Mid Central Association

BMA OF MISSISSIPPI MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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



Report from the Revolving Loan Fund

It is always a privilege to correspond to you about the current status of the Revolving Loan Fund.

The gross assets as of January 31, 2009 are \$13,857,879.91. This is down a little as a large loan balance was pre-paid during January. Payments continue to come in toward our debt retirement program. As of February 10, 2009, \$309,990.00 has been paid into this program. We praise God for the success of this program. We do however want to remind everyone that this 0.00% interest program for missions will end March 31, 2009. Below is a chart of the current status of each mission point included in the program.

I want to make you aware of another issue we are facing on just about a daily basis. Since the economy has turned downward, we are receiving a lot of calls from people needing help with food, rent, health items and more. We don't have funds budgeted for these needs, yet it is difficult for us to just say 'no'. We are referring people to local agencies, but we would like to contribute to these agencies since we

are sending referrals to them. If you can contribute to these needs, send us your check designated 'General Benevolence', and we will use it as needed.

Dosson L Lee,
Manager - RLF

Escrow Accruals

El Camino	50,143
First Hispanic	47,314

	Beginning Balance	Paid				Current Balance	
		Mission	Assoc., Indiv., & Churches	RLF Adjustments			Totals
				West Hills	Other		
Divine Grace	254,991	13,988	12,322	40,000	4,991	71,301	183,690
Maple Street	198,512	1,350 6,750	11,037	40,000		59,137	139,375
LifePointe	142,132	18,514	7,967	40,000		66,481	75,651
HomeStretch	69,277	3,267	12,603	40,000		55,870	13,407
New Beginnings	305,725	17,044	6,274			23,318	282,407
Grace	354,598	24,466	9,417			33,883	320,715
Totals	1,325,235	85,379	59,620	160,000	4,991	309,990	1,015,245

Pastor's wife passes away

Judy Marie Brunson, 58, wife of Dr. Hal Brunson, passed away on February 11, 2009, at Baylor Regional Medical Center of Plano after a nine-year battle with ovarian cancer. A resident of Carrollton, Judy is survived by her husband, Dr. Hal Brunson, two sons, Trey Brunson, of Durango, Colorado, and Dr. Matt Brunson of Dallas; sisters Jeannette Wolfe and Nelma Owen, and brothers Marlin, Richard, and Tom.

A retired teacher and administrator, Mrs. Brunson held the Master of Reading, Summa Cum Laude, her doctoral studies abbreviated by sickness. She was a member of Alpha Delta Gamma,

"an international honorary organization of women educators dedicated to educational excellence, altruism and world understanding." She was also a charter member and the original pianist of First Baptist Church, Parker, Texas.

God used Judy's triumphant suffering to touch thousands of lives, and her inspiring testimony, "Living Joyfully with Cancer," may be viewed at www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=53005223619.

Funeral services were held at the First Baptist Church of Parker on February 14 with Edward Cook and Hal Brunson officiating.

The "Judy Brunson Memorial Scholarship" has been established at Trinity Christian Academy, Addison, Texas, to assist single Christian mothers who could not otherwise afford to send their children to a private Christian school. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial gifts be presented to The Judy Brunson Memorial Scholarship, c/o Trinity Christian Academy, 17001 Addison Road, Addison, TX 75001.



Huge Sale at DiscipleGuide!

If you're looking for great Christian resources at a low price, DiscipleGuide is the place to look. Marked down for a limited time are *Christian Living Bible studies, Bible Atlas Visuals, 1-to-1 Bible studies for youth, various other books, and selected church supplies.* Check them out at DiscipleGuide.org (sale prices are in red).

DiscipleGuide
CHURCH RESOURCES
www.DiscipleGuide.org