

# Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

FEBRUARY 15, 2011

Vol. 65 No. 4

## DiscipleGuide Renames Boardroom

DiscipleGuide Church Resources recently honored the memory of Bobby Joe Wright by naming the DiscipleGuide boardroom "The Bobby Joe Wright Memorial Boardroom". Brother Wright passed away on Saturday, January 1, at the age of 76. He faithfully served as adult editor of Christian Publications for forty-two years (1957-1999), and served as pastor of eleven different churches in the southwest Arkansas area over the years. A plaque was placed in the boardroom in his memory.



DiscipleGuide Director Kevin Clayton and Publications Editor Jerome Cooper display the plaque identifying the name of the boardroom.

## Walk Tops \$10 Million, Breaks Yearly Record

Receipts from the 2010 Lifeword Walk/Run for the World have pushed the 31-year cumulative total above the ten-million-dollar mark, according to an announcement by Lifeword Executive Director George Reddin on February 8. The actual receipts since the origin of the Walk in 1980 totaled \$10,057,419 as of February 8.

The current 2010 Walk proceeds of \$426,230 are \$10,103 ahead of the same date last year and have exceeded the previous all-time high of \$426,221 set in 2007. Totals include T-shirt sales.

Reddin said he expects some additional offerings to come in for the 2010 Walk.

"We received \$534 in today's mail, and if history repeats itself, we should receive more before June 30, when the fiscal year for the Walk ends," Reddin said. "Churches still have time to send an offering to count on the 2010 Walk. We remain in a receptive mood."

Diane Ward serves as national Walk/Run for the World coordinator, and she says she will not be satisfied until the Walk reaches its goal of \$450,000.

"We are not done yet. We are only \$23,770 away from our goal, and that is within reach. I'm praying that some churches who have not given before will send a special offering for the Walk," Diane said. "Four churches have raised 31% of our receipts this year. Think what would happen if a few more caught the vision."

The top four contributors to the 2010 Walk were Springhill Baptist Church, Greenbrier, AR (\$36,125); Southgate Baptist Church, Moore, OK (\$30,721); Kewanee Baptist Church, Kewanee, MO (\$27,785); and Hall Summit Baptist Church, Hall Summit, LA (\$22,808).

The late Paul L. Bearfield started the Walk in 1980 after attending a development seminar for Christian institutions with Board member C. E. "Doc" Toland. Bearfield was executive director of Harvest Gleaner Hour (now Lifeword) from 1972 until his death on January 23, 1986.

When Reddin called the staff together to announce the milestones reached by the Walk, they reminisced about their experiences through the years at the fundraisers, and they offered up a prayer of thanksgiving for God's blessings upon the event.

"The Walk has enabled us to expand our outreach from five languages in 1980 to the current 33 languages," Reddin said.

## El Camino Mission Now A New Testament Church



Members present at church organization on the steps of El Camino Baptist Church, Laurel

Members of the El Camino Baptist Mission along with State Missions Director Ray Freeman, Mission Committee Trustees and a number of guests gathered in Laurel on February 12 for the purpose of organizing this Hispanic mission into a New Testament Church.

18 ordained men formed the presbytery and carried out the duties. Upon the recommendation of the sponsoring church, Parkview Baptist Church in Laurel, and the Missions Department director and trustees, the mission was organized into an autonomous New Testament Church.

Pastor Esturado Marroquin, who was the founding missionary, has guided this congregation for the past several years.

Special guests were Bro. Esturado's father, Eduardo Marroquin, and brother David Mattoquin. Bro. Buddy Johnson, BMA of America Hispanic coordinator was also present. Bro. Elvis Garcia, pastor of First Hispanic Church of Ripley, Mississippi was also a participant. A large group from the Ripley church was present and brought special music for the day.

Shane Singleton, pastor of Parkview Church, Laurel, presented a letter from the church endorsing the establish-

ment of El Camino Church, along with a list of 120 charter members.

God has blessed the Hispanic mis-



Bro. Eduardo Marroquin (left), father of El Camino's pastor Esturado Marroquin, brought the organizational message and challenge with Bro. Buddy Johnson (right) interpreting for the English speaking guests.

sion efforts of the BMA of Mississippi with more promising fields being worked and considered. Both former missionaries Elvis Garcia and Esturado Marroquin have Bible studies and prospects in cities near their current fields. In North Mississippi the Tupelo area is being worked and considered as well as the Hattiesburg and Petal areas in South Mississippi. Pray for the outreach to Hispanics.

## Commission on Senior Adults

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



It is good to greet the readers of the Mississippi Baptist Paper on this wintry day. I am writing this article on February 8. The sun is shining, but it is still cold. These frosty mornings make the collard greens taste good, sure enough. Not only that, but gardening time is just around the bend.

These winter days are good days to make plans for the outreach of the church. Plans for evangelism should be laid. Plans for making disciples of those we win to Christ should be planned now. Springtime is upon us. Sowing time is near. There is a time to plant and there is a time to water. (Psalms 126: 5, 6) are plain. "They that sow in tears, shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." We plant, we water, and God gives the increase. One of the saddest questions found in then Bible is (Haggai 2: 19 A) "Is the seed yet in the barn?" So often the seed, the gospel never leaves the church house. No planting, means no harvest. No discipling means little real Spiritual growth, and little church growth. It looks like our time to work is drawing to a close in a hurry.

### Conferences

The 2011 Senior Adult Conferences will soon be here. The South Day is Tuesday, March 29. Big Creek Baptist Church is the place. The time is 9:15 AM until 3:00 PM. The church is located on Highway 84 west of Laurel. Brother Brown and the church are making plans for a great day. Good music, great preaching, delicious food, and sweet fellowship. A special part of the program will be the testimony of Brother Dale Thrasher, who by the grace of God made it through the tornado at Yazoo City. I am expecting 350-400 people to attend. If you want to be where the action is, be at Big Creek on March 29.

The North Conferences is scheduled for May 3. The First Baptist Church, Mantachie is the place. A great day is planned for the North day. First Baptist and Dr. John Adams are making plans for a

wonderful day. I expect 200 and more to attend the North Conference. Making disciples is the theme for both conferences. I ask our people over the state to pray for these good meetings. Pastors are urged to promote and attend the meetings. I trust the church will pay the fee for the pastor and their seniors. The fee is \$15.00 per person. Load your buses, vans, and cars and head to Big Creek on March 29.

### Special Times

My wife and I were invited to attend a special event honoring Mr. and Mrs. B.C. (Coley) Clark. Most of us called them Mr. Coley and Mrs. Marzie. They were married on Saturday, January 22, 1911. Their one hundredth anniversary fell on Saturday, January 22, 2011. The Clarks were active members of Springhill Baptist Church, my home church. Both were good singers and have children who are good singers as well.

We attended the Delta Association fellowship on the Fifth Sunday. A good spirit prevailed and the fellowship was good. The few churches in that Asso-

ciation are to be commended for desire to stay together and work together. They met with Zion Baptist Church, Anguilla. Zion is the home church of one of our veteran preachers, Brother Vernon Phillips and his wife, Lela Couch Phillips, who went home to be with the Lord recently.

I attended the Preachers Conference at Lake Tiak O'Khata. This was a good meeting. I enjoyed the preaching, singing and good fellowship. You can go to a meeting with bigger crowds, but you won't find better preaching and singing. I've yet to understand why our pastors and other preachers in our BMAM work refuse to take advantage of these good meetings. I am not talking about preachers with unavoidable responsibilities. We all have those at times. These meetings serve to revive us and strengthen us in the Lord, or at least they help me.

Dot and I attended a special day at Big Creek recently. It was "Big Creek Memories Day." The Church is tearing down the old Sanctuary. The old building has stood for many years. Many souls were saved in the old building. One of my sons was one of them. Many memories are attached to that old Sanctuary. My family and I were members of Big Creek many years ago.

## This Is What Jesus Did

May I rephrase a Scripture of what Jesus did? It is not something He did; it is my own thinking of modern life. He would not want us to do anything like my rephrasing of the passage below.

Jesus tossed and turned all night. He was worried about the next day and His ministry. He did not know where the funding was coming from since the government had forecast budget cuts. The sleepless night increased His anxiety to the point He had to take some medications prescribed by His physician. After all His blood pressure was something to study closely.

So, as he lay in bed hours after sunrise, He turned on the morning television news. Nothing but doom and gloom were on the air. Talking heads were giving non reassuring "maybe" or "hopefully tomorrow will be better" politically correct answers. With no reassurance, Jesus then looked on His favorite websites for some hope for the day. He again found none.

He turned on His favorite social networking contacts. Certainly there would be hope with His friends and some reassurance about His ministry with humankind. No, not one contact offered Jesus any hope. All his favorite friends were in

the doldrums with no clue of how to get better or to have the good life.

What was Jesus to do? He had tried all the solutions of the day. Perhaps He would just go along to get along today.

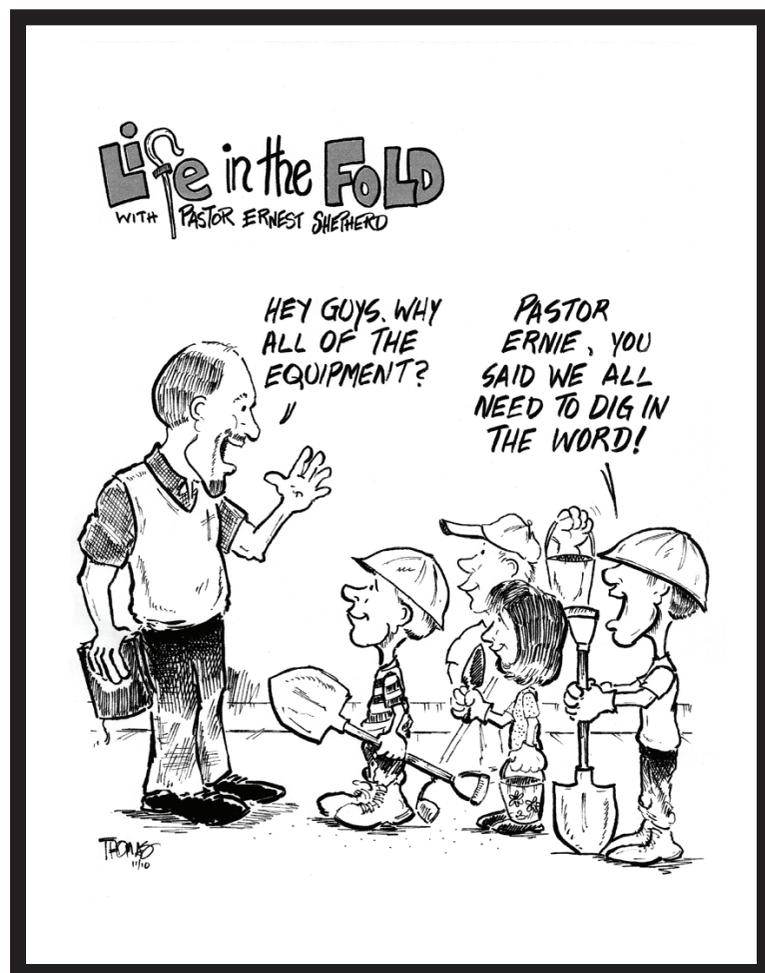


### Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

After all, there was no help or power for His ministry anywhere He searched. So he just stayed in bed, gave up on the day, and resigned His hope of ministry that day, perhaps for good.

No, and again no to this kind of retelling of this Scripture! Jesus sought the presence of His Father, and He sought that presence purposely and with great consistency. What is the point? This is the only power connection Jesus had in His ministry with humankind. Hmm? I wonder what would happen if I, "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." (Mark 1:35)



## Church-based filmmaker says Christian art should be excellent

**ALBANY, GA**—The co-producer and screenwriter of *Fireproof* and *Facing the Giants* says Christians in the arts should strive for excellence as well as ministry through their work.

Stephen Kendrick says God's work in creation is excellent, so Christians shouldn't be satisfied to reach people with the gospel through sub-standard art. If anything, he says Chris-

tian artwork should be better than what others make.

Stephen Kendrick and his brother, Alex Kendrick, are currently in post-production for their latest film, *Courageous*, about police officers striving to be good fathers. It will be released September 30.

*Fireproof* and *Courageous* earned a combined box office of more than \$43 million.

The Kendrick brothers' film ministry is supported by Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia.

## 2011 Missions & Evangelistic Conference

### The Church Triumphant

**North Conference**  
March 17 & 18, 2011  
East Fulton Baptist Church  
Fulton, Mississippi

**South Conference**  
March 25, 2011  
Vardaman Street Baptist Church  
Wiggins, Mississippi

## BMA Theological Seminary 2011 Brand Lectures Set For March 15 and 17

The 2011 “Brand Lectures” will be held March 15 and 17 in the Dorman Memorial Chapel on the campus of BMA Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas. Guest lecturer will be Dr. Deron Biles, Dean of the Southwestern Center for Extension Education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he also serves as Associate Professor of Old Testament.

The theme of the lectures, Israel’s Quest for Rulership, will be presented in four sessions: Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., “Give Us a King,” Tuesday at 3:00 p.m., “Do you See Him Whom the Lord Has Chosen?” Thursday at 10:00 a.m., “The Lord Has Sought for Himself a Man,” Thursday at 3:00 p.m., “Are You the One, or Should We Look for Another?”

Deron and his wife, Jaye have been married 23 years, have four boys (Joshua, Timothy, Jonathan, and David), and currently reside in North

Richland Hills, Texas. He



2011 Guest Lecturer Dr. Deron Biles

graduated from Howard Payne University in Brownwood in 1989 with a B.A. in Bible and History, earned an M.Div. from Southwestern Seminary in 1992, and a Ph.D. in Old Testament from Southwestern Seminary in 1997.

Dr. Biles pastored Texas churches for 15 years and also

taught adjunctly for Southwestern Seminary from 1997 to 2001. He has preached and led conferences at numerous churches, associations, colleges, and seminaries, as well as having preached at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention in 2001. He also served as the Minister/Church Relations Director for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention before coming to Southwestern Seminary in June 2006.

The “Brand Lectures” are named in honor of the late Dr. and Mrs. Ralph A. Brand of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. They served the Lord together for over 50 years.

Mrs. Brand 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, and was Director of New Directions Prison Ministries until his resignation in 1998.

## Piano CDs for Churches to Sing By!

by Bobby Hudgens  
DiscipleGuide

If your church doesn’t have a pianist or needs an option when your pianist isn’t available, Christian piano CDs can be a wonderful solution for your congregational singing or small group gatherings. The challenge is finding accompaniment CDs with instrumentation appropriate for your congregation or small group – AND one that is easy to use. Worship Service Resources provides a solution! At DiscipleGuide we are partnering with them to

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

For more information, please contact BMA Theological Seminary at 903-586-2501.

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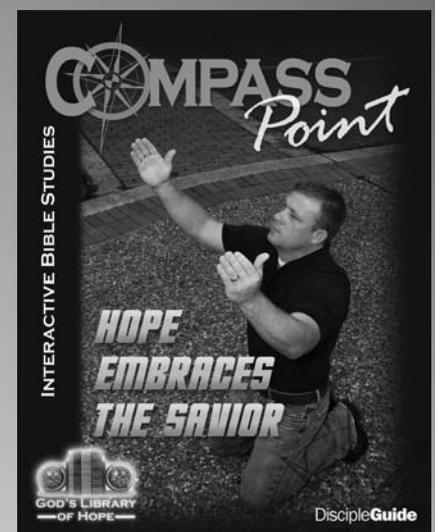
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# Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

## Where's Your Heart?

For the past 35 years I have experienced the blessings of the work, fellowship and joy of our Associated work. Because of that involvement and the influence of a great number of God's faithful workers, I have developed a heart, not only for the Lord's work, but for the work of the BMA of Mississippi and America.

There is so much to do and so much to enjoy! How could we ever become complacent or bored with all the Lord offers us through this work.

The Annual Missions and Evangelistic Conference sponsored by our state missions department will be held in March at two different locations. The North Conference is scheduled for East Fulton Church, Fulton on March 17 & 18. The South Conference is March 25 at Vardaman Street Church, Wiggins.

The Senior Adult Ministry of Mississippi will hold two conferences: March 29 at Big Creek Church, Soso and May 3 at First Baptist, Mantachie. Our National BMA of America annual meeting will be held in April at Wichita Falls, Texas.

Our own Midyear State Meeting will be held at Parkview Church, Laurel the Monday and Tuesday after the Third Sunday in May.

The Summer is packed full of state and national events - mostly for the youth of our churches.

We need to revive the enthusiasm for our work and see that our churches and members are given every opportunity to participate and share in the blessings set out before us.



Don Brown  
Editor

## Islamic flood coming to U.S.?

**OneNewsNow** - An Israeli author and expert on the Middle East is warning Americans that Islamic immigrants could possibly flood the U.S. as a result of the events taking place in Egypt.

Israel National News recently reported that the Obama administration has decided to allow Islamic professor Tariq Ramadan to enter the United States. Ramadan, an Egyptian who currently lives in Switzerland, is a leading member of Europe's Muslim Brotherhood branch and is the grandson of the movement's founder. He was invited to teach at the University of Notre Dame in 2004, but the Bush administration revoked his visa because of donations he made to a blacklisted charity.

However, the Obama administration has now decided to lift the ban and possibly allow Ramadan and Adam Habib, another Muslim professor, onto U.S. soil.

"I'm sure you've heard many times that Washington, D.C. is now flooded with Muslims in very high positions in the U.S. administration, and these Mus-

continued on page 8

## National Project

I am excited about the DiscipleWay Project that is set to be presented at our national meeting in Texas. Many dedicated individuals have worked long and hard to develop this program. The object is discipleship. It is a 7 point or 7 step program to help the individual grow and develop into the faithful disciple that God intends us to be. I look forward to the presentation and to the implementation of this program in our churches.

## World Missions Sunday

February 27 is World Missions Sunday! Let us pray for the individuals on the mission field and for the overall work of our national and international mission outreach. I urge each of our churches to be prepared to give a special offering on this day. The price of a soul cannot be calculated in dollars, but the funds we give allow the work to continue and grow.

## So?

So where is your heart? I pray it is in the Lord's work and all that He has blessed us with and the great opportunities that He gives. Let us enthusiastically participate in, support, and pray for all that He has set before us.

## Kenneth Flynt retires from pastorate

Bro. Kenneth Flynt recently retired from the pastoral ministry after serving 55 years. His last pastorate was Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis, Mississippi. He is available for pulpit supply or any service to our churches. He and Mrs. Flynt are members of Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi. Mrs. Flynt is a former teacher, having taught at Columbia High School and Jacksonville College, Jacksonville, Texas. Bro. Flynt may be reached at 601-729-2613.



Kenneth Flynt

## Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"Now that the Deacons have locked all the doors, my sermon topic today is tithing..."

## Letters From Our Readers

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

## Bible Crusade Report

Dear Editor,

A joyously hello in Jesus' Holy name! Enclosed is our report from the Prisoners Bible Crusade, a ministry of the Lee's Chapel #2 Baptist Church (BMA) Picayune, Mississippi.

## Prisoners Bible Crusade Year 2010 Report

For the year 2010 PBC have given free to prisoners 5,056 English Bibles; 1,160 Spanish Bibles; Bibles totals, 6,210; 1,537 New Testaments; All Study Books 12,098; 8,012 Study helps, totals for all Bibles and materials to date in 2010 is 27,857. These were sent into 66 prisons. Chaplains report 1,389 people saved (20,231 since 1/1/2000). 23 new Chaplain requesting Bibles for the first time in 2010.

I have traveled 14,784 miles, I have personally seen 19 confessions of Faith in Jesus Christ 2010 (328 since 1/12000), visited 23 churches, 27 associations meeting & 66 prisons vis-

its, taught 68 bible study classes, taught 3 volunteer workerclasses. I have preached 14 sermons in churches, 22 in prisons. PBC's Evangelistic Team has conducted 23 Worship services in prisons in 2010.

Since 1973 we have given 197,589 Bibles; Total for all Bibles and materials is 583,640.

I have a CD "Resource & Information" disk about this Bible ministry. I would be happy to send one to you. Please provide a mailing address if you would like one?

Again, our thanks for your prayers and support for this Bible Ministry to people in prisons.

Paul E. Lee,  
Director PBC  
601.798.6431

paul@prisonersbiblecrusade.org  
www.prisonersbiblecrusade.org  
Isaiah 55:11 inside prisons!

## AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

## Dale Wirick

Dale Wirick is available for pulpit supply. He may be reached at 228-474-8886 or 228-249-3741.

Mississippi Baptist

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# MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi  
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John Adams

Moral Action of Mississippi  
 February, 2011  
 Dr John M. Adams

## "Personhood" Amendment 2011

Thank you BMA of Mississippi and voters of Mississippi for helping with over 90,000 signatures to place the **"Personhood"** initiative on the ballot in November, 2011. Our great state will decide in November on an initiative to insert a state constitutional amendment purporting to define human life as beginning with conception.

Newspaper columnist, Bill Minor, wrote a lengthy column regarding this initiative. He goes to great lengths to compare this initiative to others such as "the state's disastrous attempt for 68 years to prohibit citizens to purchase or consume strong drink." He also points out that "the proposed amendment is a politically divisive fig-leaf concocted by Republican lawmakers to distract public attention away from such failures as funding care and housing for mentally disturbed juveniles and stemming the rate of teenage pregnancies, which are the nation's highest.

Also mentioned is the fact that the "symbolic gesture will be a costly, symbolic gesture."

Whatever reason Mr. Minor has presented, he sums up by suggesting that this amendment conflicts with Federal Law (Roe vs. Wade) and if passed it is certain to be enjoined in courts, setting off a long and "costly" legal challenge at state taxpayers expense.

Minor states, "In effect, Mississippi voters would substitute their own version of human creation for that of the highest court of the land."

Mr. Minor, we differ with you on your opinions and thoughts:

- 1) Born again Christians see abortion as a terrible crime against humanity.**
- 2) Most Christians mourn over the death of the millions of unborn babies that have been and will be aborted.**
- 3) Most Christians do not see the Personhood Amendment as a "money issue" but a "right to life" issue in any type of litigation.**
- 4) Most Christians believe that God's Word is the supreme authority over life and not the highest courts of the land.**

You may contact Mr. Minor through Ed Inman at [edinman@earthlink.net](mailto:edinman@earthlink.net)

Dr. John M. Adams  
 Executive Director Moral Action of Mississippi

## 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 president urges attendance at camp

by Carli Reeder

Hi Everyone! My name is Carli Reeder! I am serving as the State President for the Girls Missionary Auxiliary. As many of you know, State Camp is approaching quickly. The officers have been working hard to make this the best camp yet. Camp will be March 11-12, at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, Mississippi. Registration will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Friday.

The theme for this year is "The Wonder of it All" and the theme verse is found in John 1:3. Our camp pastor is Bro. Chuck Lee. We will have a snack shop, door prizes, auction table, candy grams, and many other activities going on! We are very excited for what God is already doing and what He is going to do. I ask that you would please keep the officers, camp pastor, and all the girls and ladies that will be attending in your prayers!

## GMA Camp Approaching

by Donna Lawrence

Once again it is almost time for our Mississippi State GMA Camp. The camp is set for March 11-12. Sure hope that your plans are made and ready to receive a great blessing. Camp is a great time for these girls to make new friends and catch up with friends that they have made over the years. This is



## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

# B-U-T

People who are a lot smarter than I am say that if you are correcting a person you should always lay out the positive before launching the negative.

Have you ever had a conversation with a superior (parent, teacher, boss, friend) in which they said "You are doing a good job, BUT...." then they lambasted you for something you had not done right.

God certainly has a handle on this positive and negative business. A prime example is Leviticus 26 and the kicker is verse 14.

Go read this chapter and see if it doesn't make you want to "shape up and fly right".

time they can share memories and make new ones in a Christ centered atmosphere.

We have a great group of officers that have plans for some different things to do this year. They have worked hard on plans to make this a very successful camp. I am sure that they will live up to the high standards they set to make it one of the best camps possible. Way to go officers, great job.

Our project for this year is 25% to the General Fund, 25% Sarah Hebert, and 50% to the Revolving Loan Mission Fund. Sarah Hebert is one of the five former GMA young ladies from the state of Mississippi that have surrendered to the call to the mission field. Please remember these young ladies and their families in daily prayer as they go about doing the great mission that they are called to do.

The theme for camp this year is "The Wonder of It All" taken from John 1:3, "All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made." Bring your posters and scrapbooks for the judging contest. It is always good to see such great work done on each of the posters and scrapbooks. The girls have put lots of time and effort into these scrapbooks that enable them to remember their time spent in the GMA program. If your church doesn't have a Sunbeam or GMA program and you think you would be interested, please call Mrs. Beth Caldwell or Mrs. Linda Faye Dertinger - they will be glad to assist you in starting one.

The GMA program does a great job preparing young ladies to be future leaders in our churches. After finishing their steps some are now teaching younger girls. There are some that are finishing their last steps and also teaching younger girls. This takes a lot of dedication to the program on their behalf.

The SILENT AUCTION, the SNACK SHOPPE, and the CRAFT SHOPPE were a great success last year. The profits will go toward the project. If you have items for either of these, they will be greatly appreciated. The Craft Shoppe needs items that young girls would be interested in purchasing for themselves such as jewelry, hair items, things for their rooms or decorated picture frames.

The Snack Shoppe still needs Sprite and Diet Mountain Dew. Please ice down all drinks in a cooler before camp as we need them cold and ready to serve. We need candy bars and homemade goodies bagged ready to sale for 25 cents a bag. If you are unable to have the items that you donated to camp ready to serve for lunch, please check with someone in your district to bring them. Our biggest sales time is lunch and early afternoon snacks. THANKS, THANKS, THANKS goes out to all the churches that have made donations. This helps us to keep our expenses down and enables us to have more profit for our projects.

Please pray for our camp on March 11-12. Pray for Bro. Chuck Lee as camp pastor and for the salvation of any that doesn't know the Lord as Savior. We could all shout praises to the Lord for such a successful camp if only one lost sheep was brought into the fold.



An overflow crowd was present for the organization of El Camino Hispanic Church in Laurel.

## Mississippi W.M.A.

**Blinda Lee, President**

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**Corresponding Secretary**

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## Correction Note

by Editor Don Brown

The WMA article on page 6 of the February 1 issue of the Mississippi Baptist, "Get Informed, Get Involved, Get Connected," was written by the Mississippi State WMA 1st Vice President, Jessica Haden. We credited another individual and regret our error.

## "Our Best for the Lord"

by Ginger Jones,

National 1st Vice President

1016 N. Franklin St., Blytheville, Arkansas 72315

*"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might"* Ecclesiastes 9:10

We are told in the Bible that God expects us to do our best, no matter what we endeavor to do in life. It is honoring to Him for His children to be known as diligent or industrious. How much more does this apply to our service to Him.

In view of this command, several years ago, the National WMA voted to challenge local WMA circles to strive for that excellence in service. We call it the Standard of Excellence. It is not a "made-up" list of rules. Each and every item listed on the standard of Excellence is found in God's Word.

## Daily Bible Reading

Daily Bible reading is essential to the individual Christian's spiritual health, growth and ability to "stand against the wiles of the Devil". Attendance and support of our local and district WMAs help us to lock arms and work together in Christian fellowship to make an strong impact in spreading the Gospel and spiritual growth and discipleship of people all over the world. As we spend time together and strive together, we build Christian Fellowship and encourage each other to remain diligent in our efforts as we seek God's direction and obey His guidance.

Keeping a report of the efforts of your auxiliary members to be obedient in these areas not only encourages your auxiliary members, but also inspires and motivates others to do the same. To set a high standard in seeking to know our Father and His work better and to be apart of His work. These things are the back-bone of our auxiliaries. If we do not spend time in His Word and in Prayer we cannot hear His voice and leadership, and we will not be driven to give of our time, effort and money to His work.

I have said these things to motivate your to strive to meet our Standard of Excellence, and to ask you to take the time to fill out your reports and send them to me. As of yet, I have not received anyone report for this year. I would love to report that many, many of our auxiliaries nationwide have achieved this standard. Please take the time to get those reports done and send them to me. The National WMA meeting will be here before we know it!

May God bless each of you richly.

# Fear Not Over America

Our nation is in a real difficult time. There are many uncertainties. It looks very bleak at times. There are things happening that make you sick. There are politicians that can absolutely summon a wave of anger upon your soul. Sometimes I hear things on the news that would almost make a Christian cuss!

When I sit down at the whittlin' bench on the courthouse square, you can hear alarm in people's conversation. As I listen, I wonder how many of these men know the Lord. It seems like their conversations are so full of despair and hopelessness. Personally, I get upset with our politicians. I actually will go so far to say that I think we have now progressed to a point that America will not return to the place she once was. There have been too many cataclysmic changes for our children or grandchildren to grow up in a country that I grew up in and learned to love.

I am not saying things can't change. But I think we have chosen pathways that have closed down the opportunity to go back and play like it never



## Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

happened. Once things are in place, you can tweek them a little, but to do away with them is not probably going to happen. However, with God, all things are possible.

This gets me to my point. As Christians, we don't have to wring our hands in these discussions around the dinner table at home, the break room at work, the lunch table at school or the whittlin' bench on the courthouse square in Moun-

tain View, Arkansas. My goodness, I have set in Sunday School classrooms and have heard the most discouraging discourse amongst the brethren. In reality, it doesn't matter what I think or what I say. It doesn't matter what you think or what you say. All that really matters is what the word of God says. The Word of God is the voice of God. When our Creator speaks, we need to listen!

The next time you hear people lamenting about the current elected officials, you can gripe also. But we need to also never get totally defeated. We need to always at least end the conversation with scriptures. We are, after all, His people, right! Scripture gives truth. Scripture puts things into proper perspective. Scripture can't be argued. It is THE standard of truth whether people believe it or not. Scripture gives hope. Psalm 119:147, "I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word." I hoped in thy word. Very wonderful news if we embrace it and live it out.

So the next time you hear people talking about how the economy is going to collapse; how the debt is too much, and we are passing it on to our children and grandchildren, you can shake your head in agreement. When folks get riled up about nationalized health care, and universal child care (formerly known as public schools), go ahead and put your two cents worth in. However, before you all split up and drag your heavy laden hearts away to the task at hand, throw in one more thing: John 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Before you quote it though, be sure you understand it and believe it. I have peace and joy down in my heart. I can even be cheerful on a gloomy day. Because Jesus has overcome all of this. He is over all of this. Nothing is going to defeat him. Heaven will never need a bailout. Be of good cheer. The economy may collapse, Wall Street may crumble, but God is still on His throne. Jesus is definitely coming to save us from all of this.

When you hear people griping and getting angry about our society, interject some

# CHILDREN'S HOME

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

## God's Love

God, in His love, has extended to us His "loving kindness." Jeremiah 31:3. With this loving kindness, we as Christians are to allow one of the fruit of the spirit, which is love, to be evident in our lives. Galatians 5:22.

Jesus said, "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:34,35. May we truly practice this important part of the Word of God. On February 14, Valentine's Day, love was emphasized all across the United States. Let us as God's people allow God's love to be a way of life for us in our relationship to others and God at all times.

## Annual Rallies

On February 7 the Ten Mile Association had their annual rally for the Home. This meeting was held with the Paramount Baptist Church near Wiggins and Pastor Dennis Knight.

Then on February 10 the Gulf Baptist Association had their rally for the Home. The meeting was held with the Spring Hill Baptist Church in Ocean Springs and Pastor Duane Ledlow.

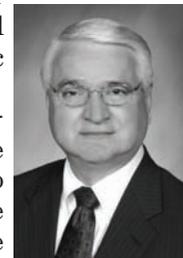
words of hope from scripture. We sit around griping with them as if we had no hope. Jesus Christ is my hope. He is the hope of glory. And He reigns inside of me. I am not saying we can't get mad at Washington. I am not saying we can't gripe about the state of our nation. Some of us need to get upset enough to do something about it. Yes, we should vote, fight and work hard to change the direction our nation is headed. I am all for that. I get just as upset as the rest of you and can't believe what I am hearing and reading. But as Christians, we have to keep it all under proper

perspective. We have to let the light of Jesus shine on the current world events. I don't look unto Washington for my help. In Psalm 121:1,2 "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord,

The Oak Grove Association had their annual rally for the Home on January 13 with the Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg and Pastor Sam Oglesby.

On January 14 the Capitol Association had their rally for the Home. This meeting was held with the Faith Baptist Church near Florence and Pastor Mac Pierce.

It was a delight to have the opportunity to report on the ministry of the Home and also share a message from God's Word to those in attendance at these meetings. Our appreciation is extended to each church and individual who gave toward these rallies.



SIDNEY DAVIS  
DIRECTOR

## Awards Day

Recently at Awards Day, three of our elementary students were recognized for being on the honor roll. One student received the Character First Self-Control Award for his class. All of the children at the Home are doing well in their school work for which we thank the Lord.

Continue to remember the Home in your prayers.

which made heaven and earth." Not Washington!

Next time you find yourself screaming at the TV (they can't hear you), do what I do. Shut it off. It is toxic to your soul. Go outside and look at God's creation. Pray. Get some peace in you. Get the news and world events out of your mind and get the scripture in your heart. The next time you get upset, or the next time you are sitting around with your family or friends complaining and worrying about the country, interject this one verse. This one verse will change every heart. It will put everything into the proper light.

Luke 2:10,11 "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a savior, which is Christ the Lord!"

## MINISTERS RESOURCE SERVICES

RETIREMENT AGENCY OF THE BMA OF AMERICA  
RON CHESSER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### BMA RETIREMENT RETURNS

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
LT GROWTH	20.48%	12.03%	5.55%	15.74%	5.23%	25.39%	11.37%
FIXED INCOME	2.89%	2.18%	2.75%	2.34%	2.54%	2.78%	2.84%

The Long Term Growth accounts have averaged a growth of 8.35% each year for the past eight years. In the past eight years we have posted a total of 66.76% to each LT Growth account.

The Fixed Income accounts have averaged a growth of 2.62% each year for the past eight years.

The BMA Retirement portfolio assets totaled \$10,910,789.93 on December 31, 2010. In 2010 the BMA Retirement portfolio grew by 1.8 million with 1.7 million of the growth being new retirement money deposited by participants. The BMA Retirement portfolio over the past eight years has had a growth in assets of \$7,028,723.06.

### MARKET PERFORMANCE

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
DOW	21.1%	3.15%	(0.6%)	16.29%	6.4%	18.8%	11.0%
NASDAQ	42.1%	8.58%	1.4%	9.52%	9.8%	43.9%	16.9%
S & P 500	0.2%	9.0%	3.0%	13.62%	3.5%	23.5%	12.8%

The Dow has averaged 5.16% each year for the past eight years.

The Nasdaq has averaged 11.46% each year for the past eight years.

The S & P 500 has averaged 3.35% each year for the past eight years.

You may contact Ministers Resource Services, the retirement agency of the BMA of America, at P. O. Box 2866, Texarkana, AR 75504, by phone at 870-774-2654 or email Executive Director, Ron Chesser, at RChesser6365@aol.com to request a retirement packet or to open an account.

BMA OF MISSISSIPPI  
**MISSIONS DEPARTMENT**

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

Rayburn Freeman, Director

**A Good Day At El Camino**



Missions Director Rayburn Freeman addresses the new congregation while Pastor Marroguin interprets.



Bro. Buddy Johnson read the Church Covenant to the congregation during the organizational service. The new church voted to adopt the covenant, the BMAA Doctrinal Statement and to affiliate with the Big Creek Association, the BMA of Mississippi and the BMA of America.

Below are members of the First Hispanic Church from Ripley, Mississippi. They presented special music during the service and came to support the new church.



**'Chrislam' in Protestant churches**

**OneNewsNow** - A Protestant renewal organization is concerned about the recent efforts of some mainline Protestant churches to produce an ecumenical reconciliation between Christianity and Islam.

According to a recent blog post from The Last Crusade, congregations in several metropolitan areas -- Houston, Atlanta, Seattle, and Detroit -- preached sermons and held Sunday school lessons recently on the founder of Islam, Mohammad, whom Muslims consider a prophet. Qurans were also placed in the pews next to Bibles.

Proponents of the movement, which has been dubbed "Chrislam," claim that Christians cannot love their neighbors without having a relationship with them.

Alan Wisdom, director of the Presbyterian Action committee and vice president for research and programs at The Institute on Religion & Democracy (IRD), contends that Islam should never be viewed as an equal to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Moreover, Qurans should never be placed next to God's Holy Word.

"I think that that implies some kind of equal authority

there, and I don't think that's the case," Wisdom explains. "The Bible is God's unique revelation to us. The pulpit of a church is for preaching the Word of God, and we believe that is the scriptures of the Old and New Testament. When we go to worship God, we worship Jesus Christ, and we can't mix that worship with any other allegiance."

The IRD committee director adds that while he believes it is important for Christians to study and understand religions like Islam, he does not think believers should ever cross the line and blend Christianity together with a religion that is antithetical to Christian teachings.

**Editor's Note:** *It is obvious that Satan is alive and well and blinding the eyes of those who claim to belong to God through Jesus Christ. It is a dangerous and wicked practice to try to combine anything with Christ and to attempt compromise with any group or belief structure that is antiChrist and anti His Word. Let us not let political correctness or any other device influence or change the*

*Gospel as delivered to the saints. While we wish all to be saved and trust in Christ, compromise with false doctrine is not the path to take.*

**You Are Too Late!**

Evangelist Billy Sunday was the Billy Graham of his day. One day while he was helping take down the crusade tent a young man came running up to him, "Are you Billy Sunday?" He said, "Yes I am." The young man told him, "I wanted to come to the crusade, but I missed the meeting. Please tell me, what must I do to be saved?"

Sunday said, "You're too late" and proceeded with his work on the tent. The boy replied, "Just because I missed the meeting you're not going to tell me how to be saved?" Sunday replied, "No, you're too late to do anything to be saved because Jesus did it all over 2000 years ago. Now you receive the finished work of Jesus Christ."

**Islamic Flood**

from page 4

lims already control the gates," notes Avi Lipkin, an Israeli scholar and author who has traveled throughout the U.S. to warn Americans about the threat of Islam. "The floodgates are open. The Muslims are entering in tremendous numbers into the U.S."

But he warns that the floodgates will only get worse when illegal aliens gain their amnesty.

"What we will be seeing, I'm afraid, will be an amnesty for the illegal immigrants in America," Lipkin laments. "Once the amnesty takes place for the Latin Americans, then they will get ready for the next wave of illegals, which will be the tens of millions of Muslims who are going to be flooding into the U.S., especially Egyptians and Palestinians."

Meanwhile, the State Department has declared that it no longer considers Ramadan or Habib to be a threat to the United States.

**Dual Versions Give You Options**



DiscipleGuide is happy to announce that the *Victory Series* children's Bible study curriculum is now available in dual versions – the King James Version and the New International Version! You, as most people, like to have options and DiscipleGuide has given them to you. If your church prefers, it can continue to use the *Victory Series* based on the KJV, or it can take advantage of the option to order the same material based on the NIV. For a closer look at the *Victory Series* go to [www.DiscipleGuide.org/VictorySeries](http://www.DiscipleGuide.org/VictorySeries).

