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Church Responds to Tornado Destruction

by Don Brown, editor

As most of our readers are aware, a devastating tornado ripped through the Hattiesburg area on Sunday, February 10. Many homes and businesses were destroyed and damaged. I spoke to a number of our pastors on Monday, February 11. We were relieved to find out that all of our churches in the storm's path were spared. I learned that two member families of one church both lost their homes. Others sustained different levels of damage. When I called Bro. Brad Stevens, pastor of Midway First Baptist, Sumrall, it was obvious

he was 'in the middle of something'. That something was working with his church's disaster relief team. He and several members were busy helping clean up after the storm and helping those effected.

Bro. Larry Geraldson also spoke with our pastors and some of those involved with Midway's work. His comments and observations regarding Bro. Stevens and Midway Church's efforts are listed below.

"First Midway at Sumrall, Pastor Brad Stevens, had a vision to help people in need when disaster hit. Last year they began praying and preparing. The church purchased a trailer and dedicated it to disaster response. They filled it with the equipment and tools necessary to provide immediate help. When the tornado hit Hattiesburg recently, the team, led by Bro. Mickey Friend, was ready to go. They found themselves helping people along the path of the tornado's destruction, even before local authorities had time to access the full damage. In addition to their labor, they provided over 80 hot

meals to folks who had lost power and their meal included Christian literature. Their acts of benevolence are to commended and exemplify the true

tact Bro. Ted Quinby at 601-270-9084 or Pastor Brad Stephens at 601-818-7809."

Larry Geraldson, Missions Director
BMA of Mississippi

Partners

Bro. Geraldson was able to obtain some pictures of the work of those involved in this relief effort. We have



when he answered his cell phone that



Christian spirit.

The work continues as they shift their focus to stage 2 and stage 3 response. Stage 3 could involve the building of small storage buildings to help people keep their belongings secure until rebuilding or relocation takes place. Needless to say, the expense of providing this kind of response goes up with each stage. If you know of anyone who would like to donate material, financial support, or labor to help with this disaster relief effort, please con-



printed a few of them along with this article. It is encouraging to see God's people respond to the needs of others. Midway Church could only do this at the level they did because they were prepared. This is a great ministry this church started and serves an encouragement and example for others to be prepared to help with the need arises.

CONSIDER THIS

God loves us just the way we are.

But He loves us too much to leave us that way!

Attorney: Church bylaws should define marriage

NASHVILLE (BP) -- With the U.S. Supreme Court set to take up gay marriage and potentially legalize it this summer, churches that host wedding ceremonies or other events for traditional couples should examine their bylaws and shield themselves from the impact of possible litigation, says an attorney who specializes in religious liberty issues.

The justices are scheduled in March to hear two cases concerning gay marriage, and by June could either uphold the traditional definition of marriage

or legalize gay marriage in all 50 states. Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) - a religious liberty legal organization - is hoping for the former but preparing churches for the latter, just in case.

A number of situations could place churches in legal trouble, such as congregations who would:

- allow a traditional couple but not a same-sex couple to use their facility for a wedding ceremony.

- allow a traditional couple but not a same-sex couple to take part in a marriage class or retreat.

- terminate an employee involved in a same-sex wedding.

Bylaw language defining marriage in the biblical sense doesn't mean a church won't face a suit or a complaint, but it does mean the church would be in a much better situation legally, said Erik Stanley, senior legal counsel for ADF.

"I think we're in a day where every church needs to have a statement in its bylaws of its doctrinal beliefs on mar-

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Church should define marriage

continued from page 1

riage and sexuality," Stanley told Baptist Press. "This is a proactive approach that churches can take to head off any claims of discrimination in the future, should they occur. There's no magic language for such a bylaw statement, but it should be some form of a statement of the church's religious beliefs.

"What that does is it allows for a good defense of a church to any type of discrimination claim that may arise, by saying, 'Look, this is part of our religious beliefs.' When we fight

on the ground of protecting a church's religious belief, then we have a lot of ammunition in our arsenal from a constitutional perspective."

Even without gay marriage legal nationwide, there have been lawsuits against churches.

In 1999 a woman who had worked as a youth minister at a Colorado Episcopal church was terminated after it was learned she was a lesbian living with another woman. She sued in federal court, but the lawsuit was dismissed, with the court ruling her suit was barred by the First Amendment. (The

case was *Bryce v. Episcopal Church in Diocese of Colorado*.)

In 2001, a California church's worship minister, Bob Gunn, was let go when it was discovered he was gay. He sued the church, primarily because the pastor told the congregation why Gunn - who was popular with members - had been fired. The church won in court. (The case was *Gunn v. Mariners Church*.)

"What we tell churches is that the clearer and the more explicit you can make your religious beliefs about those issues, the better off you are going to be in defending yourself against a claim of discrimination," Stanley said. "Because then it becomes: You're not discriminating against an individual based upon their sexual orientation or marital status. You're making a decision to abide by your religious beliefs. And that's protected by the Constitution. The more that we can move this from the ground of a claim of discrimination based on sexual orientation or marital status to the ground of 'We are simply abiding by our deeply and sincerely held religious beliefs,' the better off a

legal defense is going to be."

The legalization of gay marriage, Stanley said, will impact religious freedoms.

"Religious liberty is on the chopping block any time same-sex marriage is legalized or normalized in the culture," he said. "But we're not defenseless and we're not left hopeless. If same-sex marriage is legalized by the Supreme

Court, these types of cases that we see pop up, they're just going to become more commonplace."

In January, Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, urged Southern Baptists and other Christians to pray for the Supreme Court as it takes up the issue of marriage. Read his column here.

Commission on Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt
Director

Greetings and God's blessings to each of our readers. Our Senior Adult conferences are not far away and we are looking with anticipation to a great gathering for both.

Our purpose in each conference is to encourage God's seniors through the preaching of the Word, God honoring music and worship, and Christian fellowship. Our continual burden and prayer is that God will once again visit our churches and nation with revival.

My wife and I have been blessed to attend several local association meetings in the interest of the Commission. We are thankful for your continued support for this ministry. Recently we have received special offerings and all are appreciated.

Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, will host the South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference on Tuesday, March 26. This church always goes out of their way in hosting this conference.

We need churches to call in the number attending in order for the food caterer to know how many to prepare for. Mac's Fish Camp will once again provide the noon meal. Charges are based upon the number of plates served. Meal tickets will be given when registering. The registration fee continues to be \$15.00. This covers the noon meal and other expenses of the day. Please call Big Creek

Church by March 15 at 601-763-8100 to give us the number from your church who will be attending. Churches are urged to pay the registration fee for her seniors attending the conference.

Plaques will be awarded to our preachers completing 50 years in the ministry during 2013. Cut-off date is February 15, 2013, so call the names and dates in soon.

This year's theme is "Heaven's Jubilee." This will be a time of celebrating and rejoicing all day long.

Bryson Haden is preparing an afternoon of "Gathier style homecoming" music. This will lift you spiritually. He will be asking many of you to participate in this of singspiration.

Our North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference will be held Friday, May 10, at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton. Bro. Jackie Gray is helping plan this program. It promises to be one of the best. This church does an excellent job hosting this meeting. Door prizes will once again be given throughout the day.

Let's get ready for these conferences. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Even if you do not get registered until late, come on anyway! Encourage every senior in your church to load up and head for one or both of these conferences.

See you there.



News articles should contain information that will be of interest to the general public who are not members of the church that is reporting.

East Central Report

The East Central Association met at Parkway Baptist, Petal, February 7, 2013. There were 10 churches represented. After minutes were read and treasurer's report, reports were given by our state missions on missionaries, Bro. Bob Burch, Bro. Bobby Elliott, Bro. Justin Rhodes and Bro. Sidney Farmer.

Bro. Paul Lee reported on the Prisoner's Bible Crusade and Bro. Kenneth Flynt on the Senior Adult commission.

Bro. Greg Hillman brought our message and Bro. Wilkie Parker gave the hand of appreciation. After announcements and prayer requests, a prayer and blessings were offered on a food.

Henry Lott, Reporter

Wording Suggestions

Following is ADF's suggested language on marriage and sexuality for church bylaws:

"We believe that term 'marriage' has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.

"We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

"We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

"We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

"We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

"We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the church."

Good Hope, Stringer Revival set

Good Hope Baptist Church, Stringer, will be holding a revival March 3-6. Bro. Shane Singleton will be our evangelist. We will have an afternoon service on Sunday March 3, at 1:15 p.m. Weekday services will begin at 7:00 p.m. Monday - Wednesday. We invite all our sister churches to join us.

Corby Jones, pastor

Harmony Meeting

After a time of food and fellowship, provided by the local church the February meeting of the Harmony Association met February 8, at Parkview Baptist Church, Baldwin. The meeting opened with a welcome, followed by congregational singing and special music.

The speaker for the night

was Bro. Kelby Johnson. After the message the meeting was called to order. There were 10 churches represented, with 53 in attendance. Our next meeting will be held at Providence Baptist in Amory.

Bro. Bobby Elliott gave a report on state missions, followed by a report on their own local mission project Freedom Hill. Special prayer request made for Bro. Kelby Johnson, on the loss of their daughter, and Dr. John Adams, who recently underwent a heart cath.

Bro. Mike Smith, Moderator

Tony Marolt, Report

Tombigbee Report

The Tombigbee Association met with Hopewell Baptist Church on February 07, 2013.

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Southeastern Baptist College

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

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Final Enrollment

The enrollment for this semester closed with 58 students, which includes those who are auditing courses. This was a headcount increase over the last semester by three students. Though the number of semester hours is less this semester, the drop in hours is not a major issue. The number of new students this semester is 20. We thank God for this increase in new students since the second semester always decreases in enrollment. Most of these new ones will probably be here for the Fall 2013 semester, so this will give us a boost for the upcoming year.



Joseph Harris
Interim
President

Business major originally from Lucedale, and currently living in Laurel.

Higher Education Appreciation Day Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) was established by Mississippi Legislative Resolution #88 in 1987 to annually honor the academically talented students and faculty members of Mississippi's higher education institutions who have made outstanding contributions in promoting aca-



Robyn Strickland

ademic excellence. The Appreciation Day, hosted by the Legislature each February in Jackson is the Legislature's way of saying "thank you" to these students and faculty for their commitment to the future of Mississippi.

ABHE Meeting

The annual meeting of the Association of Biblical Higher Education will be held February 13-15. Southeastern has been accredited by the ABHE since 1988. Last year, because of being on warning status, Dr. Savell and I met with the ABHE Commission about concerns over our total weighted score and finances. I met with them on Monday, February 11 at 8:15 A.M. and addressed the same issues. However, progress has been made in these two areas since last year and so we are hopeful for a good report.

Advertising

Southeastern is one of the

Attebery Assumes New Role

Charles Attebery, who has served as Lifeword's Chief Development Officer on a part-time basis since January 1, 2010, assumed the role of Planned Giving Officer on January 1, 2013, according to an announcement by departmental directors John David Smith, Scott Attebery, and Steve Crawley. In this new position, which is also part time, he will work with a new estate planning program as part of a joint effort between BMA Missions, DiscipleGuide and Lifeword. BMA Seminary President Charley Holmes and the Seminary trustees also began evaluating the program at their recent board meeting and



Charles Attebery

are optimistic about the possibility of participating in the future.

"I believe God expects us to be good stewards of the resources with which He blesses us, not only while we are living, but also while planning how our estates will be used after our deaths. We have that opportunity through the estate planning process. Through careful planning, we can avoid unnecessary taxes, which means we can leave more to our families and to the Lord's work than otherwise would be the case. I feel honored to have the opportunity to serve the Lord and our churches in this way," Attebery stated.

best kept secrets in the education community in South Mississippi. Outside of Jones County and our BMA work in Mississippi, the majority of people do not even know Southeastern exists. This is



beginning to change with the organization and structure of a public relations and advertising department at SBC. Two of our young ladies maintain a

combined population of 658,635, according to the 2011 US Census numbers.

Courtney Harvey and Emily Harris have begun to send public



service announcements and other forms of advertisement to local newspapers. We have begun targeting 21 Mississippi counties beginning with Jones and counting outward on the map. These 21 counties contain a

public service announcements about SBC concerning events, chapel speakers, scholarships awarded to students, awards, and anything that may be of interest to the public to sixteen newspapers and the list is growing. The name of Southeastern Baptist College is now going out to thousands of readers on a consistent basis. Out of 658,635 people in these 21 counties, we will be able to recruit enough new students to make a significant difference in the Fall 2013 semester.

"Bro. Charles has distinguished himself in our association as a capable leader and trusted brother. The BMAA Department of Missions is pleased to join our other departments in presenting Bro. Charles to our churches in this new role. We are blessed to have him at the forefront of this vital ministry," said Smith. Scott Attebery added, "The planned giving program introduces new opportunities for supporting The Great Commission work of the BMAA. It's a great way for people to make a kingdom impact beyond their lifetimes." Attebery, who will also serve as the Executive of the BMAA Foundation, is the former president of Central Baptist College, where he served for 14 years. "Bro. Charles' experience and stewardship expertise provide a solid foundation for his new role. Effective development work is a three-pronged effort: unrestricted funding, capital campaigning, and planned giving. While much of our focus has often been on the first two prongs, there is huge potential for long-term financial stability with the third. We are confident that he will be a great asset to the work of the BMAA as we begin sowing seeds for the future," said Crawley.

Church News

from page 2

The Church ladies prepared a great meal and then the Association opened with a song and prayer. Bro. Gary Smith and Sabrina Clayton each sang specials. Bro. Kevin Clayton brought the evening message, "When Preaching becomes a Spectator Sport".

There were 51 present with 10 churches represented. Bro. Roger Akers spoke on the Bible Conference and Bro. Elvis Garcia told about the work in Ripley, New Albany, Oxford and Tupelo. There was the mention of an area Revival of the local Associations from February 17 - 20. We were reminded of World Mission Sunday which will be on February 24.

We next meet at Greenwood Church on March 7, 2013.

Matt Hudson, Moderator
Debbie Franks, Historian



Dawn Burns

Southeastern Baptist College HEADWAE Recipients

Dawn Burns and Robyn Strickland have been selected as the HEADWAE recipients for the 2012-2013 academic year. Dawn Burns teaches in the business program at SBC and lives in Bay Springs. Her husband, Phillip, is on staff at First Baptist and they have two daughters. Dawn is in her second year at SBC. Robyn Strickland is the daughter of Richard and Glenda Strickland of Lucedale, is a fourth year

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

www.bmaofmississippi.com

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Commission on Senior Adults

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39440
601-729-3198

History & Archives Commission

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS
39440
601-729-8098

Moral Action

P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855

Evangelistic Outreach set for National Meeting
“The Norman Invasion”

The directors of the BMAA national departments will be leading in an evangelistic outreach in conjunction with the Annual BMAA Meeting in Norman, Oklahoma in April. Scott Attebery, Steve Crawley, Charley Holmes, and John David Smith invite interested pastors, messengers, and visitors to the association to join them in door-to-door and street witnessing in the neighborhoods near a new BMA church plant. Bro. Steve Puckett is the missionary pastor of New Generation Baptist Church in Norman, which is about a ten-minute drive from the Embassy Suites Convention Center, the headquarters for our 2013 meeting.

Those who will help our directors "do the work of an evangelist" should meet with them for instructions and

supplies near the entrance of the Convention Center at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, April 22, 2013. Teams will be formed and sent from there to witness near the mission until about 4:00 p.m. This timetable will allow messengers time to return to their rooms and freshen up before the first session at 7:00 p.m. Teams will report back to the directors with their blessings after the Monday evening session near the Departments' display area in the Exhibit Hall.

Survey forms and tracts will be supplied to the participants. All you need

to bring is your New Testament and an expectant, prayed-up heart.

For those unable to be a part of the door-to-door effort, but who want to be an important part of the team, sign up to join a prayer group that will be praying for the evangelistic team as they are going.

If you would like to participate in either group, send your name, address, cell phone number, and in which group you want to participate to carol.shine@bmats.edu, ASAP. We need to know quickly so that we can begin preparing supplies for the proper number of teams.

Your Department Directors are looking forward to joining you in invading Norman with the gospel.

Stay Informed on BMA Integration Efforts

Exciting things are happening within the departments of the BMA! The integration of essential services between BMA departments is resulting in a more focused vision for helping BMA churches fulfill the Great Commission and is providing more efficient use of God's resources. We want the churches of the BMA to be informed and to be a part of these exciting changes!

To watch the progress of departmental integration and to see a detailed account of how BMA Missions, Lifeword, BMA Seminary and DiscipleGuide are working to enhance their service to churches of the BMA, we invite you join our email list.

There are three ways you can do this.

1. Go to www.bmaamissions.org/visionupdate.
2. Text the word "VISIONUPDATE" to 22828.
3. Send us your email address to visionupdate@lifeword.org.

“HAPPY CHILDREN – HAPPY FACES”



This is what "Making Everlasting Smiles" is all about!

These excited children in Micronesia have just received their Christmas shoeboxes and are showing their excitement and gratitude by the smiles on their faces and the sign they are holding. We really have no idea how much joy these crayons, coloring books, pencils, note pads, small cars, stuffed animals, a Bible, and other similar small items bring to the hearts of these children.

Begin now to plan to be a part of this exciting project this year. Your church should receive information in May about "Making Everlasting Smiles". The children in Micronesia thank you and Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI) appreciates every effort made to ensure that the children in underdeveloped countries have something to smile about!

If you have questions or need more information about the Shoebox Project, please contact Doris Dickey at 501 455 4977 or by e-mail: ddickey@bmaam.com.

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Don J. Brown, Editor

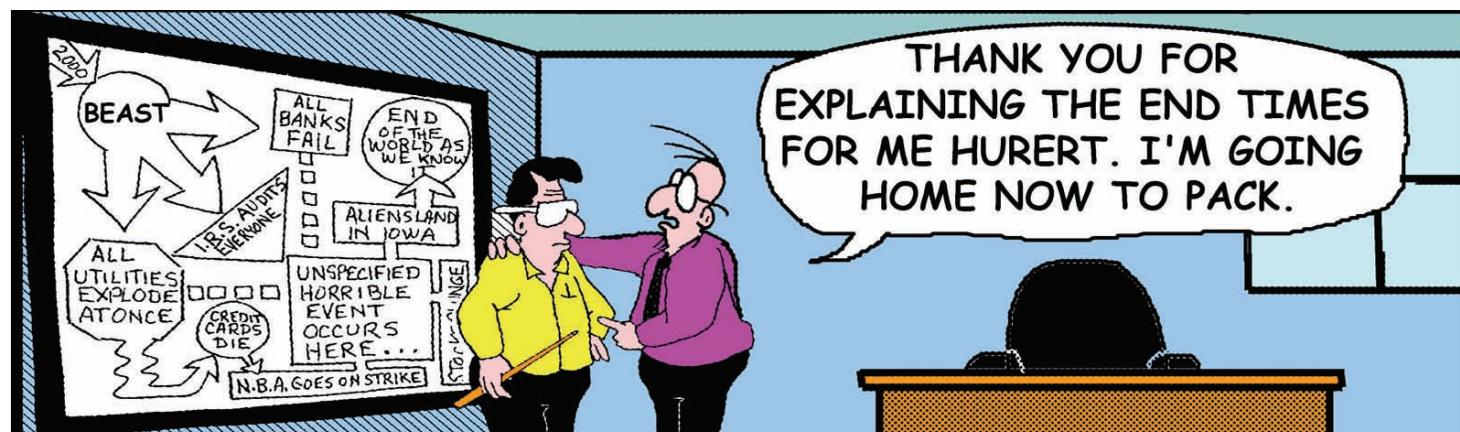
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Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP





Kelby Johnson
Director

SUMMER 2013 CAMPS

I am very excited to invite you to Junior Camp and Senior Camp for 2013. We have decided to go back to Waukaway Springs this year for both camps. Many of our churches have enjoyed this retreat center in the past and the current director, Bryan Linkins, is a member of Temple Baptist Church in Laurel. Waukaway offers a great camp environment including solid facilities, amazing food, exciting fun in the water, and helpful counselors. It is located near Vossburg, which is off I-59 between Laurel and

Meridian. For more, see www.waukaway Springs.com.

JUNIOR CAMP May 27-29 (Mon-Wed)

Junior Camp is for children from grades 1 through 6. We have had younger children attend in the past and this is acceptable as long as there is a parent present. The speaker for Junior Camp 13 will be Bro. Rick Clark. Bro. Rick is the Pastor at Lone Oak Baptist Church in West Point. Bro. Kelby Johnson will be the worship leader.

S-H-A-R-P-E-N 2013

Theme: The Importance of the Word of God

March 23rd, 2013 @Big Creek Baptist Church (Laurel)

- 9:00 am Registration (Worship led by Justin Bynum)
10:00 am Session 1 "Know The Word"
(the importance of Bible study) Brad Stephens
- 11:10 am Session 2 "Share the Word"
(the importance of Bible teaching) Larry Geraldson
- 12:10 pm Lunch
- 1:30 pm Group Discussion
- 2:45 pm Session 3 "Live The Word"
(the importance of Bible living) Kelby Johnson
- 3:30 Final Thoughts
(All worship led by Justin Bynum)

March 30th, 2013 @Bethel Baptist Church (Fulton)

- 9:00 am Registration
10:00 am Session 1 "Know The Word"
(the importance of Bible study) Gary O'Neal
- 11:10 am Session 2 "Share the Word"
(the importance of Bible teaching) Kevin Clayton
- 12:10 pm Lunch
- 1:30 pm Group Discussion
- 2:45 pm Session 3 "Live The Word"
(the importance of Bible living) Tracy McMillen
- 3:30 Final Thoughts
(All worship led by Dwight Lindsey)

*Choose the time and location that fits your schedule!

SENIOR CAMP July 29-31 (Mon-Wed)

Senior Camp is for students from 7th grade through college. The speaker for Senior Camp 13 will be Bro. Dwight Lindsey. Bro. Dwight is the former BMA of Mississippi State Youth Director and currently the Interim Music Minister at Bethel Baptist Church in Fulton. Bro. Kelby Johnson will be the worship leader.

THEME

Our theme this summer is "What is our only hope in life and death?" We will look at various Scriptures including Romans 14:7-8 and respond to that question by saying, "That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ." We will focus on four truths during camp: God made us. God owns us. God saves us. God keeps us.

COST

The total cost for camp is \$100 per person. The \$100 will cover 3 days, 2 nights of camp, 5 meals, 2 days of swimming, and help offset other costs. A \$50 per person Junior Camp deposit is due by April 1 and \$50 per person Senior Camp deposit is due by June 1.

Registration

To register, contact Bro. Kelby Johnson at kelby@gracechurchna.com or 662-316-6233 or visit the BMA of Mississippi Youth Facebook page.

Pastor's wife, Mrs. Claudette Leslie, dies

Claudette Carol Leslie, 76, died January 30, 2013, at Tupelo Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. She was born July 2, 1936, in Gulfport to Gordon W. Mouring and Henretta Ladnier Mouring. After graduating high school, she married Andrew J. Leslie on September 25, 1953, and served alongside him in the ministry for many years. She lived in the Auburn (Mississippi) community for the past 19 years and worked in insurance sales before becoming disabled. She enjoyed crafts, gardening, quilting, cooking, and spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church and was active in Women's Missionary Auxiliary.

A graveside service celebrating her life was held at Auburn Cemetery with the Rev. Roger Dale Franks and the Rev. Wexford Palmer officiating.

Survivors include her husband of 59 years, Andrew Leslie of Auburn; son, Stephen Leslie (Debbie) of Plant City, Florida.; daughter, Patricia Livingston of Tupelo; brother, Keith Young of Gulfport; sister, Carolyn Gonzales (Teddy) of Holyoake, Massachusetts; five grandchildren, Wendy Randolph, Jon Terry, Michael Terry, Tabitha Galindo and Jeremy



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Wore Out Parts

I've often said that growing old wouldn't be so bad if your parts didn't wear out. But they do wear out and sometimes we are able to replace those parts.

But be forewarned that replacement isn't the end of the story. "Breaking in" the new part is the next chapter and some parts just don't "break-in" as quickly and easily as we are led to believe.

Recently a doctor took my old wore-out knee and put in a new one. So now I'm involved in "breaking-in" this new one. It's a full-time job!

Between exercising, icing down, propping up, therapy sessions, daily chores, etc., there simply isn't a lot of extra time. Someone asked me if I got bored. Never! There isn't time to be bored.

But it's just like a new pair of Sunday shoes - they've gotta be broke in before you can enjoy them! So bring it on!!!

Leslie; great-grandchildren, Aleigha Gutierrez, Mary-Kamiren Randolph, Isabella Galindo, Miguel Galindo, Brayden Terry, Cayson Terry, Andy Leslie, Clay Leslie and Casey Leslie.

Editor Notes: The Leslie's served as foreign missionaries to France for a number of years. I first met them when they came to Parkview Baptist Church, Gautier, Mississippi, and presented their work. They were the first foreign missionaries I had met and had the privilege to hear first hand of mission work. Our prayers go out to Bro. Leslie and family.

Ella Dean Loden

Editor's Note: This editor apologizes for not having this announcement in the paper in a more timely manner. The Loden's have faithfully served the Lord and the churches of the BMA.

Ella Dean Wallace Loden died Thursday, September 20, 2012, at NMMC after a long illness. She was born on June 18, 1930, to Farris G. Wallace and Lillian Williams Wallace. She grew up in the Mount Pleasant Community of Itawamba County.

She married Noah Timothy Loden on September 18, 1945. She ministered alongside her husband as he

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A Novel Idea

The idea of writing a great novel has always appealed to me. I envision myself with a sports jacket on that has the padding on the elbows, the smell of pipe tobacco wafting across the air of my writing den, and perhaps a dog lying placidly on a rug in front of the fireplace as I type effortlessly one masterpiece after another. The fact that I am wearing a jacket inside while a fire is roaring in the fireplace should not enter the reader's mind, nor should the fact that the last pipe I smoked was when I was about eight years old or that it was made out of a corncob. It was a neat little job my older brother had constructed and our pipe tobacco was actually cigarette stubs stolen from a neighbor that had been carelessly left lying around in ashtrays placed conveniently within reach of our innocent hands. It had the result of damaging our eyes for about

an hour because after we smoked it, everyone turned a pale green color. It is the essence of the idea that really matters.

Sure, I know that the life of a famous writer is not all glamour and glitz, but it might score me backstage passes to the Grand Ole Opry. I would have to travel the world doing interviews and hobnobbing with all the other famous people. A major college would offer me an honorary degree and the Queen of England would probably want to knight me. She would call me Sir Charles, which I am perfectly fine with, although there are some who scoff at that idea. Still, in spite of all the stuff I would have to put up with, it would be gratifying to know that I had impacted someone's life for the good simply by jotting a few words on paper.

There are a few other issues that I would have to deal with

From The Mind of



Chuck Lee

in order to be a great writer. It took me six months to read *To Kill a Mockingbird*. How long would it take me to write it? An editor would probably make me use words that actually mean something and would also probably make me spell them correctly. Editors take the fun out of everything. And then there are the critics. I am of a sensitive nature and quite positive that the first negative review would send me into reclusiveness, which is fine since writers are known to be eccentric anyway. My wife says that I already display that characteristic, but then again she married me so what does that say about her taste in husband material. HA!

As I consider other great writers, (yes, I said other), such as Louis L'Amour, Pat McMannus, and Ray, it occurs to me that the greatest writers I know were inspired writers. Men such as David, John, Peter, and Paul have impacted

the world as no other. I'm not sure they even had a sports jacket. Or a dog. Or a pipe. The fact remains, the reason they affected a world with their writing is because of who they wrote about. And the book they helped compile has not been rivaled by all the world's literature since the dawn of time put together.

In fact, the more I consider it, it seems a shame that the greatest book ever written often lies on a shelf gathering

dust, while our children are forced to read some guy named Shakespeare. It kind of makes me want to reconsider being a writer and contributing to the downfall of American youth.

Still, a cabin in the hills of Tennessee with a wrap-around porch, a dog named Atticus Finch, my wife cooking biscuits on a cool spring morning, and the sound of the keyboard typing out one masterpiece after another does have a nice ring to it.

Ella Dean Loden

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pastored several Baptist churches in the South. She enjoyed her role as a pastor's wife and was a faithful helper. She was a member of South Green Baptist Church.

Services were held, September 23, 2012, at the Tupelo Chapel of Holland Funeral Directors with Rev. Bo Bankston and Rev. Blake McCain officiating. Burial was in Houghton Cemetery in Amory.

She is survived by her husband of 67 years, Noah Timothy Loden; one son, Jerry Tim Loden (Judy Sheffield Loden) of Tupelo; one granddaughter, Tiffany Ann Loden Moffett of Smithville; two grandsons, Jason Patrick Loden (Mary Beth Burroughs Loden) of Dallas, Texas, and Justin Samuel Loden (Stacey Ann Hoelscher Loden) of Tupelo; one step-grandson, Brent Robert

Teneyck (Megan Teneyck) of Laurel; five great-grandsons, Tyler Moffett, Drake Moffett, Connor Patrick Loden, Ethan Thomas Loden, and Charles Michael Loden; two step-great-granddaughters, Katelyn Ann Teneyck and Kylie Marie Teneyck; two daughters-in-law, Patricia Ann Loden of Laurel and Purney Loden Lee of Amory; a special "adopted" daughter, Patsy Ruth Grimes of Jacksonville, Texas; two sisters-in-law, Jeane Robinson of Tupelo and Janie Breeding of Houston, Texas; two dear friends, Joe and Peggy Arick of West Point; and a host of beloved friends and relatives.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two sons, Larry David Loden of Amory and Danny Keith Loden of Laurel; four sisters, Pauline Hennessee, Elois Hennessee, Annie Mae Morton and Mickey Lavelle Johnson; and one brother, Caston Wallace.

Galilean Retreat Fast Approaching

by Mark Jones

State Galilean Director

stowall@yahoo.com • 662-231-1435

The Mississippi Galileans state retreat will be held March 9-10, at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, Mississippi. The cost this year is \$60 per camper and covers camp fees and 3 meals on Friday and Saturday.

We are asking churches to bring a 12 pack of drinks for each camper to be used in the snack bar. All money raised in the snack bar will be for our project which is the Moral Action Committee. You can eat lunch on Friday when you arrive at the snack bar. It will open at 11.

Registration starts at 11:00 on Friday morning with our first meeting at noon. If you can not be here at this time and can come later that is OK. You are encouraged to come even if you arrive later. Campers will need to bring bedding items, towels and other bath items. Showers are available. If you have the Galilean attire, it will be worn on Friday night. If you don't have Galilean attire just wearing blue jeans is OK.

We need to know the number of campers in order to let Camp Garaywa be prepared, so please let me as soon as you can by March 4 the number of young men and adults. Please email these figures to me at stowall@yahoo.com or call me at 662-231-1435. If you have a candidate for Mr. Galilean Junior or Senior, I need for you to let me know by email or phone.

If you are a church that does not have a Galilean program and would like to start one please contact me and I will do anything I can to help. One of the mistakes I have seen and heard about over the years is that you do not teach Galileans, you are the leader. You do not have to have a lesson to do every week, you are there to help the boys and keep them moving forward.

We must disciple our young men and train them because they are our future and because JESUS told us to make disciples.

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

Junior Miss GMA notes

Hi, my name is Kailee Martin and I am Mississippi's Junior Miss GMA and National Alternate Junior Miss GMA for 2012. I have had tons of fun and an awesome time getting to know new people. I have also enjoyed planning for camps.

This year for state camp in Mississippi the Mississippi Galileans will be joining the GMAs. The theme for state camp is "How Excellent Is Thy Name". Our theme verse is "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the Earth!" Psalm 8:9.

I encourage the GMAs to keep working hard and I hope you have a great time at camp. Don't forget to bring some extra money to camp for the silent auction, candy grams, snack store, and officer boxes. No pajamas for the house party this year, just regular clothing. Thanks for supporting us.

Kailee Martin

Mississippi W.M.A.

Blinda Lee, President
77 Morrow Rd., Purvis, MS 39475
601-596-3417
blinda.lee@lamarcountyschools.org

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

HobolochittoWMA Report

The Hobolochitto District WMA met at Benville Baptist Church on January 26. The meeting was called to order by President Jean Dunn. Opening prayer was given by Dorothy Dillard. Missionary Sidney Farmer was our guest speaker along with his wife Mrs. Becky Farmer, the State GMA Promoter.

Bro. Farmer spoke about the progress of the building project work at South Forrest Mission church at Hattiesburg, They are also working with the DiscipleWay program. Mrs. Farmer gave a report on the GMA work.

Our message was brought by Bro. Scott Downes with scripture taken from Luke 18:1 and Philippians 4:6,7. Men ought to always pray and not lose heart.

Our next meeting place will be at First Baptist Henleyfield on April 27. The hand of appreciation was given to Bro. And Mrs. Farmer and Bro. Downes by Cassie Miller and attendance banner was awarded to Westlawn Baptist, Picayune. The closing prayer and blessings on the food was given by Bro. Willie Tebo. A wonderful meal was enjoyed by all.

Debbie Lott, Report

10 Commandments of Communication

Healthy communication is like water for relationships. It doesn't matter what problems face a couple in marriage, or the issues that surround a parent-child relationship. Even conflicts between extended family, or within the church family, can all be resolved with open, loving, honest communication. Of course, for any lasting change, for any good to come of the communication, folks have to bring God into the conversation. He can do anything. Jesus can provide healing to the home. Therefore, prayer is the foundation to build upon all communication between people. If you don't continue on in prayer, it is vain and futile to try and solve your relationship problems.

Words are so powerful. They can be like a healing ointment applied to a wounded heart. Encouraging words to someone can be as wonderful as a rain in the midst of a drought. Refreshing! Words can also be like an ice pick that chips away at your loved one's self-esteem. You can have the actions of a saint, but you also, at times, have the mouth of a jackal.

Missions Report

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matching funds have been made available to help reduce the cost of the building loans at Caledonia and South Forrest. For every dollar raised, up to these amounts, it will be matched and will directly reduce the costs associated with the purchase and construction of their new facilities. So, if you would like to make a special donation to these funds, please send it to the BMA of Mississippi Missions Department designated for Burch or Farmer matching building fund.

Upcoming Events

55th Annual Missions and Evangelism Conference – May 3rd at First Baptist Bay Springs (For more information visit our website at www.bmams.org or visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bmamsmissions>)

Coming Soon -

Missions Special Emphasis
Missions Special Emphasis is April – May (Promotional material will be mail out in March.)

You act nice, but your words devour entire relationships in a destructive way.

We must repent of our sinful ways of communicating with



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

others. Here is a quick Bible study you can do on communication. Matthew 12:34-37. James 3:5-10. Ephesians 4:29-32. How we talk to others is a serious thing to God. Ask God to help you have self-control, and discipline of your conversation.

The 10 Commandments of Communication are:

1. Speak to others with Affirmation and Respect. Affirmation is encouragement. These are words you say to someone that lets them know you love them, and appreciate them. It lifts people up rather than tear them down. We must always respect others as a child of God. Even our own little children, while being corrected by a par-

ent, must be respected as a person of worth and value.

2. Take a "time out" when you reach the boiling point. Out of control anger is sinful. You will say the wrong things when you are too emotional. Say, "I need a minute to think. Let me get back with you." Or implement a "time out" routine in your home when anyone gets out of control. Take a break for just a few minutes, and then return and sit down and discuss the issue. Problems are not solved by yelling and run-away emotions.

3. Avoid blaming and shaming. These two attributes focus on attacking the person rather than attacking the problem. It may be someone's fault, but going on about it doesn't solve a thing. Shaming others never achieves the change desired in behavior. Shame only makes the person feel bad. Long-term it destroys the heart of a person.

4. Eliminate gasoline words. These are words that only ignite an argument. It puts people on the defensive attack mode. Avoid them as much as possible. These are words like: always - never - must - should

- and overuse of the word "you". You this - you that.

5. Never name-call, label or belittle. These are egregious acts of communication. It drives me crazy when parents come up to me at a parenting conference with their kid standing right beside them, and they pat the kid on the head and say, "This is my difficult child." Wow. That is labeling. That child will now do everything they can to live up to that label. Calling someone a name in an argument serves no purpose but to wound and destroy. Belittling is putting someone down.

6. Be specific. Tell the other person in specific words or terms what the problem is. Avoid saying things like, "You make me so angry." Be specific and state, "You make me angry when you...". That is connecting behavior to your response. I can't deal with "mad" "angry" "hurt" etc... Give me something I can work on. Example: It makes me angry when you leave your clothes strung all over the room when I have asked you to put them in the

hamper. Or, "It hurts me when you ignore me all night while you are on facebook or your cell phone. I need some time with you."

7. Demands and threats. These are used out of hurt and pain. You want to hurt back with words. "If you don't stop it, I am going to..." What? What are you going to do? Your threat is useless if you aren't going to back it up and follow through with an action. And if you are going to take that drastic action, then you have an anger problem. Avoid all demands. Sit down and explain how you feel, and ask for something to change. If the other person doesn't stop, then it is probably time to seek outside help.

8. Don't withdraw, isolate or pout.

9. Don't interrupt anyone ever, or be abrupt and dismissive with them.

10. Listen completely to the other person. Listening is hard. Remember this rule: Don't Shout! Don't Pout! Talk it Out!

CHILDREN'S HOME

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

Expression of Love

During the past few days leading up to February 14, many spouses, relatives and even friends have offered expressions of love. But, no card, flower, or gift can ever compare to the love shown to us by our Heavenly Father who gave His Son for us on Calvary's cross. This gift provided a way for us to experience genuine love. God invites lost souls today to receive this marvelous love. Those that accept His invitation truly know what it really means to be loved. Romans 5:8.

Association Rallies for Home

On January 17, we were with the Oak Grove Baptist Association for their meeting. The meeting was held with the New Heart Mission in Hattiesburg and Missionary Pastor Ray Boone.

Then on February 4, we were with the Ten Mile Association which met with the First Baptist Church of Orange Grove in Gulfport and Pastor Chris Flynn.

We want to say thank you to each individual and church who

gave to these rallies and for the regular support that is given on a regular basis.

Students Continue to do Well in School

Our girls and boys continue to do well in their studies at school. Progress reports were recently given out

as the second semester has gotten under way. It is good to see them doing well in their studies and we anticipate that they will continue to do so throughout the remainder of this school year.

Expression of Sympathy

We would like to express our sympathy to the family of Mrs. Elaine Shelby. Our prayers continue to be with the Tim Shelby family during their loss and this time of bereavement.

Remember in Prayer

Continue to remember the Home and its ministry in your prayers.



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

2013 Senior Adult Conferences

South Senior Adult Conference

Tuesday, March 26, 2013
Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso

North Senior Adult Conference

Friday, May 10, 2013
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton
(note change in date)
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton

Bluegrass Concert at Pine Grove

The Harper Family of Bunky, Missouri, will be in concert at Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis, on February 23. The Harpers are talented and dedicated family honoring God and spreading His word by way of their music. The concert will begin at 6:00 pm. Please come and enjoy this time of worship and fellowship.

Charles Lee, pastor





We Preach

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;” (1 Cor 15:1). Charles Spurgeon said to his students: “Be masters of your Bibles, brethren. Let the Word of God dwell in you richly.” Our primary method of sharing the gospel is preaching. All of our missionaries are encouraged to establish a strong preaching ministry. During our Missions and Evangelism Conference this year, we hope to emphasize the importance of a strong preaching ministry. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend.



Larry Geraldson
Director

New Mission Projects Developing

I continue to have discussions with a number of men and churches regarding new mission projects. At least three are in the development stage. Please pray with me that these projects will come together. I hope to share more information with you in the near future.

Missionary of the Month

We want to highlight one of our missionaries each month and this month that missionary is Bro. Justin



Rhodes who is our church planter in Clinton, Mississippi. Justin surrendered to ministry in September 1995. Since then he has served in various ministry roles with the past 8 years being in a pastoral role. Justin pastored First Baptist in Galena, Kansas, and Oakland in Vicksburg. Justin is a native of South Mississippi where he attended Southeastern Baptist College. He married Christie in August 2000. They have 2 daughters, Mckenzie &



Mylie, and 1 son, Maddox.

High Attendance For The Month of January

- Church Planters*
Bobby Elliott 31
Bob Burch 27
Kelby Johnson 30
Justin Rhodes 17
Ray Boone 47
Sidney Farmer 34

- Hispanic Missions - South*
Hattiesburg 18
Biloxi 7
Laurel 116

- Hispanic Missions - North*
Tupelo 55
Oxford 17
Ripley 99

- African American Missions*
Indianola 62
Olive Branch 20
Cleveland 32

Collectively, our missionaries reported 319 new contacts made and 23 professions of faith with 3 baptisms and 1 that joined by letter in the month of January.

Revolving Loan Fund

Here is where we stood as of the end of November: Gross Assets = \$16,695,241.92, an increase of \$1,265,842.57 since August 1, 2012. We opened 23 new investment accounts this fiscal year totaling \$975,286.12. We have issued new loans this fiscal year totaling \$249,943.80. If your church has an existing loan with a commercial bank, we would love to have the opportunity to re-finance your loan and payoff your existing loan. Our current rate of inter-

Clinton, Mississippi Mission Work

The Rhodes Family



est on loans made to churches in Mississippi is 4.5% variable.

Matching Funds (extended)

Missionary Bob Burch has raised \$11,821.00 of the \$50,000.00 needed to

receive full matching funds. Missionary Sidney Farmer has raised \$19,890.00 of the \$35,000.00 needed to receive full matching funds. These

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55th Annual
Missions and Evangelism Conference
(May 3, 2013)
Sponsored by
The Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
Missions Department
Hosted by First Baptist Church of Bay Springs

Theme: “Arise, Go... Preach...” Jonah 3:2

- 10:00-10:30am** – Music/ Introduction of the Theme/Opening Prayer – Jonah 3:2 – Harold Floyd
- 10:30-11:00am** – *We preach the gospel ...* Rom 1:15 – Grover Laird
- 11:00-11:15am** – Break/Music
- 11:15-11:45** – *We preach repentance and faith...* Matt 4:17 & Heb 11:6 – Dr. Kevin Clayton
- 11:45-1:00pm** - Lunch -
(During the meal, our Missions Coordinators will give brief reports.)
- 1:00-1:10 pm**– Music
- 1:10-1:50 pm** – *We preach Christ...* 1 Cor 1:23 – Ken Riley
- 1:50-2:00 pm** – Break
- 2:00-2:30 pm** – Music - (The Cameron Trio)
- 2:30-3:00 pm** – *We preach security ...* 1 Pet 1:5 – A.W. Kirkland
- 3:00-3:10 pm** – Break/Music
- 3:10-3:40 pm** – *We preach the Word...* 2 Tim 4:2 – Ed Steele
- 3:40-3:50 pm** – Break/Music
- 3:50pm-4:20 pm** – *We preach sound doctrine...* Titus 2:1 – Dennis Knight
- 4:20-4:45 pm** – *Our journey along the 5 Year Strategy/5 Step Plan* (Selected Scripture) – Danny Pitts
- 4:45-5:00 pm** – Break/Music
- 5:00-5:30 pm** - *We preach to those who are not in church...* Matt 10:1 & Rom 15:20- Larry Geraldson
- 5:30 pm** – Banquet Line Begins
- 5:45 pm** – (During the meal, our Missionaries will give brief reports and new Missionaries will be introduced.)
- 7:00 pm** – Dismiss