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Moral Action Prayer Walk at the Capitol

by Bro. Ken Riley, Chairman, Moral Action Committee

Moral Action of Mississippi Director Dr. John Adams scheduled a prayer time and prayer walk for all Trustees of the Moral Action of Mississippi at the State Capitol in Jackson on Tuesday, February 11, 2014. The objective of this mission was to blanket our State Capitol and those who serve in various positions within it with prayer. I love the way that Paul expresses to Timothy how that we should not only pray for all men, but also those whom are in authority. "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour." (I Timothy 2:1-3) As our State Representatives work hard fighting against immorality they face many challenges and need our prayers.

Dr. John Adams (center) and Chairman Ken Riley (2nd from right) with legislative leaders in Jackson

As we arrived at the North entrance of the State Capitol we were welcomed by Rep. Randy P. Boyd. Rep. Boyd is a member at First Baptist Mantachie and also serves on the Deacon Board. He thanked us for coming and informed us of a prayer meeting that was about to take place for anyone who would like to attend. As we entered the room I was amazed at how many people were there. Rep. Boyd said, "The room is usually full with standing room only." Rep. Andy Gipson gave a devotion from John 14 which encouraged us immensely. As I sat there my heart was filled with joy to see so many influential people in a very influential place taking the time to start the day by opening God's Word, letting it speak to their hearts, and then praying. I wish all of you could have been there to experience that moment with us. Let me ensure you that we do still have men and women at our State Capitol that start the day by looking to and leaning on God.

Rep. Boyd graciously led us to meet the Speaker of the House Philip Gunn and Speaker Greg Snowden where Dr. Adams would lead in prayer. They both thanked the Moral Action of Mississippi for coming and walking the halls of the Capitol and praying. Dr. Adams opened the session with prayer and did a wonderful job. This is Dr. Adam's fourth time to open the House of Representative session with prayer. This speaks very well of our Moral Action of Mississippi Director and of the Baptist Missionary Association. Secretary of State Delbert Hoseman recognized Dr. Adams and thanked him for coming and praying.

I wanted to write this article to inform you of how encouraged I was after visiting our State Capitol. I met some good Christian men and women who are working diligently in fighting against immorality. Also I would like recognize what a great job Dr. Adams is doing as he leads out in talking to those who hold influential positions at the State and National level.

Sounding An Alarm!

by Travis Plumlee

Some might say I'm an alarmist on this subject. Good. I am sounding the alarm. And I am not the only one. America needs to wake up, speak up, stand up and realize that our society is going to be destroyed by one thing. No, not terrorist. No, not economic downturn. It is the demise of the American family. This will be accomplished by ripping away the foundation of the family, which is - the covenant of marriage.

I studied sociology for several years, and then was blessed to teach on the subject of sociology at the university level for several years. I state this not to be prideful, but as a credential so that you will know that I do have some knowledge on the subject. The nuclear family composed of a married mom and dad with children, is the chief foundation for all world societies. As long as the family, marriage and procreation are in place the society continues on with what the people collectively share as their common culture. However, historically all great world societies collapsed when the family began to falter. You can study how the traditional family roles were laid aside to follow whatever people wanted to do in their own lust and soon after, these great societies lost their greatness and fell by the wayside. America is now doing the same thing.

Travis Plumlee

God established the marriage and family as the first institution even before the church. He gave very specific guidelines and rules in the Bible for what was His will for marriage. Throughout the Bible, God also gave very specific scripture against anyone or any society that would try and change the guidelines for marriage. Some may feel like that allowing same sex unions is not a big deal. The media and politicians would have you believe it is a civil rights issue. It is only a biblical issue. Either we follow God and His ways or we don't. But scripture teaches us that we will reap what we sow. Galatians 6:7. You may think it is not a big deal. I see many Christians that are kind of 'ho hum' about the whole matter. They don't like it, but seem apathetic about the outcome. This is just the start. Same sex unions are the starting of the unraveling of the American family. It is like rain on a steep hillside. The little eroded crack will eventually grow till the hillside washes away. Matthew 7:27 Once marriage has changed, American society will soon collapse. It won't be here for your children and grandchildren. Marriage is the glue that holds society together. Without biblical marriages our society will be torn asunder.

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Larry Geraldson
Director

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Department of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund

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Sumrall Mission Takes to the Streets

Seventeen people gathered on Saturday, February 8, 2014, at the Bobcat Plaza on N. Rayburn Road in Sumrall, to go out and knock on doors. Ninety seven homes were visited and we spoke to 49 people directly. This is the continuation of a strategic effort to reach the unsaved and unchurched people of Sumrall. As expected, very few of the people claimed to have any church affiliation and many had moved to Sumrall from outside the area. Many of the people we contacted, live in a subdivision less than a half mile from where the mission will meet.

Group Gathers to Knock door for Day Star Baptist Mission

Bro. Phillip Burns led the group in prayer and we divided up and went out. We are grateful to all that helped with this effort. If you know of anyone in the Sumrall area that might be interested in being a part of this new mission, please contact us or missionary Phillip Burns 601-670-6191. Also, you can follow the activity of this mission on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/DayStarBaptist .

Special Emphasis Around the Corner

Our Special Emphasis campaign is just around the corner and I hope you will begin planning for it now. We will be sending all the churches bulletin inserts with information about our missionaries. We hope that each church will use these as a reminder to pray for one of our missionaries, each week during the emphasis time.

This year, we will be allocating our Special Emphasis offering into three areas: Disaster Relief, Church Ministry (to help struggling churches with supplemental pastoral support), and General Missions. The percentages to each of these areas will be announced in an upcoming issue. We need to have a great Special Emphasis this year and I hope you will plan to help us.

Burnsville Mission Nears Completion of Building/Schedules First Public Service

Bro. Bobby Elliott reports that they have set a date of March 16, 2014, to have the first public service in the new building. Freedom Baptist Mission has worked hard to get to this point and we are praying that they will have a great day. The building will not be 100% complete but will be far enough along to start holding services.

Bro. Bobby Elliott at the entrance to the sancuary of Freedom Baptist Mission

Please Mark Your Calendar Now

The 2014 Missions and Evangelism Conference will be held on Saturday, May 3 at Shady Grove Baptist Church in Laurel. Our speakers include: Dr. John Adams, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Mantachie; Bro. Justin Cameron, Pastor of Midway Baptist Church of McClain; Bro. Dewitt Bain, Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church; Bro. Bryan Atwood, Pastor of Campground Baptist Church; Bro. Johnny Williams, Pastor of North Gautier Baptist Church; Bro. Gary Smith, Pastor of East Fulton Baptist Church; and Dr. Charley Holmes, President of the BMA Theological Seminary.

This year's meeting will also include the award of two $2,500.00 Scholarships to Southeastern Baptist College. The Arnold Knight Scholarship (an ongoing scholarship provided by the Revolving Loan Fund) will be awarded to two individuals who are presently pursuing fulltime education at Southeastern Baptist College. In coordination with SBC, we will facilitate this award in recognition of years of service to our Lord's work by Arnold Knight.

Praying for New Mission Projects

I continue to pray for the ongoing development of new mission projects. Our goal is to start 5 new projects this year. Please continue to pray, very specifically, that God will raise up the men to go. We have a number of opportunities that include both the location and a church interested in being a mother church but we are still praying that God will give us the men.

High Attendance, Membership and Total Offerings for January 2014

Church Planters

Bob Burch 75 -24 - $2,055.00
Bobby Elliott 39 -30 - $2,051.00
Danny Bartlett 18 -5 - $1,280.00
Kelby Johnson 20 -14 - $475.00
Ray Boone 41 -43 - $2,547.00
Sidney Farmer 47 -27 - $6,188.00
Phillip Burns 10 -4 - $479.00

Hispanic Missions - South

Hattiesburg 23 -6 - $412.00
Biloxi 13 – n/a
Laurel 134 -95 - $3,589.00
(Pastor Estuardo Marroquin, Coordinator)

Hispanic Missions - North

Tupelo 31 -16 - $349.00
Oxford 32 -6- $363.00
Ripley 95 -74 - $3,748.00 (Pastor Elvis Garcia, Coordinator)

African American Missions

Indianola 45 -40 - $1,325.00
Olive Branch 20 -11 - $1,125.00
Cleveland 29 -50 - $2,017.00 (Pastor Ed DuVall, Coordinator)

Revolving Loan Fund (as of Feb 13, 2014 and since August 1st, 2013)

Gross assets are now at $17,919,888.00, an increase of $452,967.00 since August 1st. Net assets are now at $3,031,040.00, an increase of $81,800.00 since August 1st. We have 7 new loans totaling $831,172.00 since August 1st. Our current loan rate is 4.25%. If your church is in need of a loan to expand or build new facilities, we encourage you to give us a call.

Visit Our Website and Facebook Page

Our website is www.bmams.org. Like our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/bmamsmissions.

Freedom Baptist Mission New Building

DiscipleGuide

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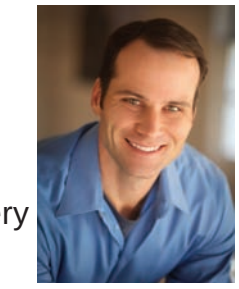
Scott Attebery

"Town Hall" Meetings Recap

Recently, DiscipleGuide conducted a series of town-hall meetings in Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri and Texas. It was a joy to meet with pastors and share the vision for relocating DiscipleGuide's publishing offices from Texarkana, Arkansas, to the BMA Headquarters building in Conway, Arkansas.

Last April, BMA churches overwhelmingly approved a recommendation to physically integrate Missions and Lifeword by relocating the Missions Department offices from Little Rock, Arkansas, to the Headquarters building in Conway. In the same meeting, the association approved the DiscipleGuide Trustees' recommendation to conduct a feasibility study regarding the relocation of our Texarkana offices to Conway.

In June of 2013, after conducting the feasibility study, the DiscipleGuide board of trustees voted to recommend relocation to the association at the April 2014 meeting. Since that time, we have made efforts to communicate our intentions to the association so that church messengers can be properly informed prior to the association meeting.

We believe that relocation of the Texarkana offices is a matter of being good stewards with the resources God has provided for DiscipleGuide. Here are just a few of the factors that led our Trustees to this decision:

Sharing facilities with Missions and Lifeword will save us an estimated $58,000 per year in maintenance and utility costs.

Relocation will make communication easier between our publishing staff, conference staff and production staff. (production and conference staff are already located in Conway).

Close proximity with Mission and Lifeword staff will aid us in working together. If the recommendation is approved, the relocation would take place without interrupting literature production or fulfillment.

If you have questions regarding the relocation, please feel free to contact me via phone or email. scott@discipleguide.org, 501-329-6891

Hobolochitto Senior Adult Retreat

by Wayne Rice, Pastor
Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

"The Hobolochitto Baptist Association recently conducted their own Senior Adult Conference on Saturday, February 1st with about 90 in attendance. The day was highlighted with Bro. Kenneth Flynt, Director of the Mississippi Commission on Senior Adults, preaching the morning message. There was a talent time during the morning session along with a drawing for various door prizes. After a noon meal of fried catfish and chicken catered by a local deli, we were blessed by the singing groups, "Perseverance" and "Men of Providence" during the afternoon session.

Hobolochitto Senior Adult Conference

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church did a wonderful job in hosting the event. Appreciation also goes to those from Benville Baptist Church in helping in cooking and serving the meal for the day. Desserts were supplied by various members from other local churches. The best part of the day was the sweet fellowship among those attending and the new friends that were made. Plans are already being made for next year's conference."

Commission On *Senior Adults*

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440

Kenneth Flynt
Director

Greetings in the Master's Name

Life is a journey and not a destination. It is a challenge and a blessing to continue day by day moving in the directions God leads in our daily lives. We never want to settle down in whatever achievements we might have. If we do, we waste our gains. Life continues and we never want to become complacent and stop growing.

This could be the first step in a downhill slide and loss of spiritual power. When we stop growing, we stop living and start merely existing.

Our Senior Adult Conferences offer us opportunities to meet the challenges of the day as we meet for fellowship and inspiration in the Lord's work. We all need new challenges to keep us from the perils of plateauing, settling down. We need intellectual challenges to keep us thinking. We need physical challenges to keep us moving, and spiritual challenges to keep us digging into the Word and trusting God more. F. B. Meyer once said, "I don't want my life to end in a swamp." Many lives are stagnant pools because nothing new is coming in, and nothing useful going out.

South Mississippi Senior Conference will be Tuesday, March 25, at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the program will begin at 9:30 and end around 3:00 pm. Registration fee is $15.00 per person. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the day and plaques will be awarded to preachers completing 50 years of ministry in2014. If you know of any preachers who have completed 50 years in the ministry, please call 601-428-8616.

The North Mississippi Senior Adult conference will be held Tuesday, May 13, with East Fulton Baptist Church. More on this conference will be given later.

These conferences refresh and challenge us for life's journey. I hope you are making plans to attend.

The Hobolochitto Baptist Association held a Senior Adult Conference February 1. Close to 100 attend and an excellent spirit of cooperation made for a fantastic senior conference. I'm sure they will do this again.

Sounding An Alarm!

from page 1

It's not just same sex unions either. The federation of evil aligns itself under this banner, but it is just the beginning. Once they can get marriage to break away from the biblical mandate, then it will over the years allow other abominations of marriage to be established. It is imperative for their goal to redefine what a marriage is. Once that has been done (and it has now been done in this country) the barn door is wide open for the total destruction of the nuclear family and the demise of the American society.

The United States Attorney General Eric Holder has announced this week the new national policy of the Obama Administration - to recognize same sex unions as equal to true marriages in federal court. Filing for bankruptcy, not testifying against a spouse etc., are all things that are now afforded to same sex couples. Even in states where same sex unions are not legal, in federal court this law will override the will of the people in each state. This follows on the heels of the United States Supreme Court ruling that same sex unions can be legal status in the states and has now become part of our national law and protection under the constitution. For the past few years the President has stated that he is against the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) passed under the Clinton Administration stating that marriage is between a man and a woman. This is all part of the small erosion of defining marriage so that in a few years the entire hillside of biblical families will wash away and we will be living in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation. Philippians 2:15. A godless nation.

What can you do? Prayer is the first thing. You might have more passion in your prayers if you always think about your children and little grandchildren and what type of society they will have to live in 30 years from now. It is frightening. God can change hearts. He can change our nation. We must passionately and fervently seek Him. We must ask for divine intervention. The fervent prayers of the righteous avail much. James 5:16.

Don't pray in passing once or twice. Make it a part of your daily prayer life to save America and the Biblical family. Stop voting based upon your tradition. Find out where candidates stand, specifically on marriage, and vote according to our biblical laws. Like abortion, this must be a make or break clause on who to vote for. We have to quit voting for people, no matter how much we like them, who vote for things that God says are wrong.

Finally, we have to fight for our own marriages and make sure they are a good example of what God desires in the home. We then must teach the next generation that this is the way of the Lord and this is right in His eyes. Most kids today in our youth groups have no clear understanding of biblical marriages. How often did Israel suffer because they ignored the warnings about leaving God's ways?

Consider yourself warned. Psalm 33:12, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance."

South Mississippi Senior Conference

Tuesday, March 25

Big Creek Baptist Church

Soso, Mississippi

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

www.bmaofmississippi.com

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Don Brown

Mississippi Baptist

Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Don Brown - Editor

Insight into Islam

by Dr. Tony Cleaver

All Christians are the same. This is not a true statement. All Baptists are the same. This also is not a true statement. There are variances in the Christian stripe of activities, beliefs, social behaviors, church practices, and personal outlooks. There are even subtle and not so slight differences in the Baptist persuasion of Christianity. Many of us who are Christian, and also Baptist, are not familiar with the faith and practice of Islam. This article endeavors to be very basic regarding some of the tenets of Islam.

Islam was founded by Mohammed in the seventh century. You will find the name also spelled Muhammad, with the word Muslim used as an adjective or a noun to describe a follower of Mohammed. In 622 he established his theocracy in Medina (located in Saudi Arabia just north of Mecca). Like the Christian religion, Islam also has branches. The two main groups are the Sunni and Shiite. At this point we must remember there is a variance in Christian views, practices, and doctrines. There is a difference in being a Methodist and being a Presbyterian. There is a difference in being a charismatic and being a Calvinist. There is an even larger difference in being a Sunni or being a Shiite.

About 85 percent of all Muslims are Sunni. Followers of Mohammed in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Afghanistan, and most of Palestine are Sunni Muslims. The second largest group is the Shiite. Iran is the only nation with a preponderance of Shiite population. Other nations with a large Shiite population are Iraq and Lebanon. Despite the differences in detail and politics, the two main branches agree to the basic tenets laid down in the Koran, which in Islam equates to the Christian Bible.

Tony Cleaver

Disagreement between the two main branches has to do with who was to succeed Mohammed. The Sunni group considers only the first four successors to Mohammed as rightful leaders. These heirs of the first four caliphs ruled until the end of World War I. At this time, this group espouses political election of the successor rather than family succession. One well-known Sunni Muslim, Osama bin Laden, said in a tape broadcast by Al-Jazeera after 9-11: "What America is tasting now is only a copy of what we have tasted. ... Our Islamic nation has been tasting the same for more [than] eighty years, of humiliation and disgrace, its sons killed and their blood spilled, its sanctities desecrated."

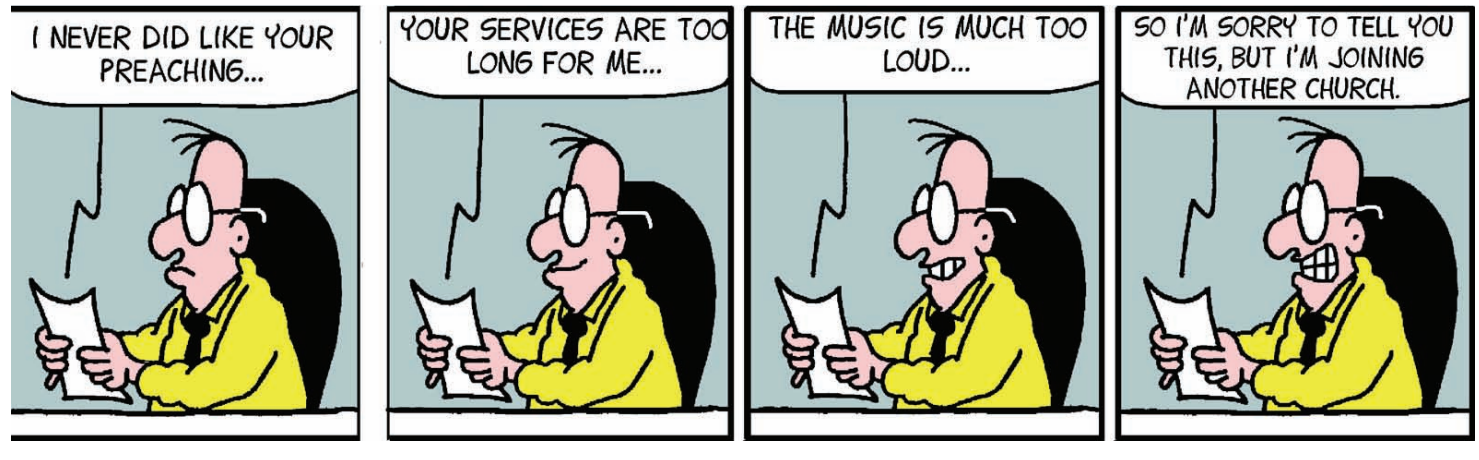
On the other hand, the Shiites insist only the heirs of the fourth caliph, Ali, are the rightful successors to Mohammed. One of these descendants, the Twelfth Imam (an Islamic cleric like a Christian pastor), disappeared in 931. According to R. Scott Appleby, a professor of history at the University of Notre Dame, "Shiite Muslims, who are concentrated in Iran, Iraq, and Lebanon, [believe they] had suffered the loss of divinely guided political leadership" at the time of the Imam's disappearance. Not "until the ascendancy of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1978" did they believe that they had once again begun to live under the authority of a legitimate religious figure.

In general summation, the Sunni accept the oral traditions of the Koran called sunnas. Despite some Sunni extremists like bin Laden, the majority of these people are generally more tolerant to non-believers. They believe the successor to Mohammed should be elected and not passed down by family. The Shiites, which mean "partisans," are the more orthodox and militant. They still hold to the bloodline succession to Mohammed. These are the religious Muslims who are willing to go to the greatest lengths to carry out the tenets of their faith-based agenda-even to the point of extreme militancy and terrorism.

Remember in Christianity there are many constructions of belief. It is not a homogeneous faith. Most Christians believe, and have always believed, in the imminent return of Christ to the earth. The Islamic Shiites also have a doctrine of "second coming" that is well-formed and very prevalent in their focus today. They are looking for the Twelfth Imam to appear to lead them to victory over the satanic forces that oppose Allah. They stand ready to do all possible to assist in this eschatological fervency. Many of the news items we are consumed with today are a direct result of this expectation of imminent return.

Please take some time when you read the headlines or hear and watch newscasts to remember some basic information about Islam. Especially remember some differences in Sunni and Shiite. All Christians are not the same, nor are all Muslims the same.

Church of the Covered Dish by Thomas Tapp



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John Adams

Action Requested from MAC Director John Adams

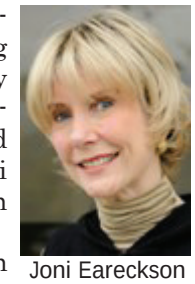
To Our BMA Family and Pastors - Let us urge all our church family to refrain from watching Hollywood's secular entertainment and especially the March 2, 2014, Academy Awards (the Oscars). The decision by the Academy to rescind the song nomination "Alone Yet Not Alone" by Joni Eareckson Tada is an affront to all Christians. This song is on the "not yet released" film "Alone Yet Not Alone" by Bruce Broughton. BMA folks, may we not watch this anti-God, anti-Christian event and go see the movie when it comes out this year.

The following is a report from American Family Association. The website link to view the video is http://www.onenewsnow.com/media/2014/02/03/retraction-of-jonis-oscar-nomination-labeled-prejudicial-not-professional#.UvJSHGIrbh5

We urge our readers to copy this link and view the video.

Retraction of Joni's Oscar nomination labeled prejudicial, not professional

Christian media analyst Ted Baehr believes a double standard is at work in the recent rescission of an Academy Award nomination for a song performed by Christian author and speaker Joni Eareckson Tada.


Joni Eareckson Tada

The decision by Academy Awards officials to rescind the "Original Song" nomination for Alone Yet Not Alone, a film with Christian themes and music by Bruce Broughton, has drawn a lot of media attention because the song was sung by Tada, a quadriplegic who is a prolific author, hosts the radio program "Joni and Friends," and is a member of the National Religious Broadcasters Hall of Fame. (View video by the link listed above)

Cheryl Boone Isaacs, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, claims the unprecedented decision to withdraw the nomination was prompted by the discovery that Broughton, a former member of the Academy's Board of Governors and current Music Branch executive committee member, had emailed members of the branch to make them aware of his submission during the nominations voting period.

But Dr. Ted Baehr, chairman of the Christian Film & Television Commission, explains there was nothing unusual about Broughton's promotional efforts.

"The fact of the matter is that every year I see articles in the LA Times and elsewhere that people like the Weinsteins [owners of an independent film studio] are spending lots of money to manipulate the votes – throwing dinners, throwing parties," he tells OneNewsNow. "I went to a dinner they were at about two weeks ago.

"And then I get [promotional] things all the time [for nominees] like Frozen, which I love," the media monitor continues. "They sent me a beautiful book, they sent me music – they send you everything."

Baehr, who publishes Movieguide – a guide to movies and entertainment – says it's unfortunate the Academy continues to base its decisions on prejudice rather than excellence.

"Clearly they were looking for an excuse, and clearly there was a big backlash to the fact that this little no-name film got nominated over some of the major writers and producers and talent in Hollywood," states Baehr. "So this was, of course, [indicative] that they were looking for a way to exclude it."

Smile, Somebody Loves You

The eighteen and one half years as missionary to the Philippines was a rewarding ministry. The Filipino people appreciated the physical and spiritual interest shown to them. It lifted them, gave hope and brought joy into their lives knowing that someone cared. Frequently through our tract ministry we distributed a tract with a smiling face and the caption, "Smile, Somebody Loves You." From this tract we received the most correspondence. A radiant smile will almost always ignite a spark of joy. Everyone likes to feel loved, cared for and appreciated.

The Bible is a book sharing with us God's heart of love. John 3:16 reads, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." In I Corinthian chapter 13, the love chapter of the Bible, the apostle Paul tells us a life without love is nothing more than a noise. Jesus' coming into this world was God's smiling face saying to the world, "Smile somebody loves you."

As I See It

by Rayburn Freeman
rsfree39@gmail.com

Luke 2:10-11 gives the angelic announcement of Jesus' birth to the shepherds. "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 Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Also, following the annunciation of Jesus' birth, the angel accompanied by a multitude of the heavenly host appeared with joy and rejoicing. Luke 2:13-14, "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men". The shepherds saw His star in the east, "the tidings of great joy." The star was God's smiling face upon lost humanity saying, "Smile, Somebody Loves you!

It doesn't end there. The scripture goes on to tell us in 2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance". Everyone likes to feel the spirit and see the joy and excitement that beams from the smiling faces of others when we are kind and helpful to them.

There were expressions of joy and excitement in heaven and on earth when Jesus came into the world. From the Bible we also learn that when a person is born again there is joy in heaven. What a wonderful feeling to know that when I believed in Jesus and repented of my sins asking Him to save me there was joy in heaven. Think about it, God loves us so much that when someone is saved it causes all heaven to rejoice.

If you have never had an experience of salvation, you too can move heaven to joy and rejoicing by trusting Jesus as your savior at the very moment the Holy Spirit touches your heart. Luke 15:10 says, "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Would you like to trust Jesus as your savior? According to the Bible it is very simple, just believe that Jesus is the son of God, acknowledge that you are a sinner, and ask Him to forgive and save you. Romans 10:9-10, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation".

There was joy in heaven and on earth when our Savior was born into this world, and there is joy in heaven and on earth when a sinner is born into heaven. Jesus asked the man at the pool of Bethesda, "wilt thou be made hold?" (John 5:6b)

Available For Service

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

Sidney Davis

Bro. Sidney Davis has resigned as pastor of Mineral Springs Baptist Church near Taylorsville, Mississippi, and is available for service. He may be reached at 601-782-9309.

(So as to not cause confusion, this is not the Sidney Davis who is manager of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home)

Mississippi Galileans Set For Camp

by Mark Jones, Galilean Promoter

The Mississippi Galileans will be having their annual camp March 14-15, at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. Our theme this year is "MYSTERY" from Ephesians 6:19. The cost is $60 per camper. Registration starts at 11:00 a.m. on Friday the 14th and our first meeting is at 1:00 p.m. We are asking that everyone bring one 12 pack of drinks to donate to the canteen. All money raised in the canteen will go towards our project. Lunch will be served in the canteen when you arrive at camp.

We are going to spend our time teaching about how to tell others about Jesus. I have mailed registration forms to the churches that came to camp last year. If you have not received yours, please contact me at 662-231-1435 or stonwall@yahoo.com.

I need to know the number you are bringing by March 1, so I can tell the folks at Camp Garaywa. We look forward to having a great camp and learning more about Jesus.

Mississippi WMA

President - Jessica Hayden
3208 Hwy 29 North
Soso, MS 39480
662-251-0455
Email: blhaden@gmail.com

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

The Joy in Serving

by Marilyn Welborn, 2nd Vice President
Mississippi State WMA

The theme selected for the State WMA this year is "The Joy in Serving". The scripture is Psalms 100: 2a "Serve the Lord with gladness". This simple verse with few words speaks volumes. The Christian life is all about ministering - we are saved to serve. We are to serve gladly and with joy.

May we as WMA ladies serve faithfully where God has placed us using our spiritual gifts for His glory. Please pray for your State WMA officers and support our WMA work from the local level on up.

Mississippi GMAs

State Youth Auxiliary Director
Beth Caldwell
166 Twin Creek Rd,
Lucedale, MS 39452
601-947-6011

State GMA Promoter
Becky Farmer
464 Churchwell Road
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
601-596-1005
becky@southforrest.org

North Mississippi GMA News

By Neely Christian

Hello from the Northern District GMA's! We are proud to report that we have elected our Junior Miss and Miss GMA! On Friday, January 17, 2014, the district meeting was held at Bethel Baptist Church in Fulton. Many GMA's, parents, friends, and counselors were in attendance. Our meeting was held and all business was discussed. Next, our former Junior Miss GMA, Neely Christian presented the awards to Kaylee Phillips Junior Miss, and Katie Wright Miss GMA. Those two have work so hard on their GMA steps! We are proud that they will be representing our district at State GMA camp coming up in March 2014. For a great ending to our program, we had a heart-warming presentation from Mrs. Jenny Bennett. We want to give a special HELLO to Mrs. Donna Lawerence (our former Northern District promoter) and say we missed you so much!! The girls then had a wonderful time with a house party featuring food, and fellowship!

Kaylee Phillips Junior Miss, and Katie Wright Miss GMA

We are looking forward to a wonderful state camp in March. If there are any churches that would like to donate items to sell at our camp store it would be greatly appreciated! State camp is March 14-15, 2014.

Faith-based film takes on political correctness in public schools

OneNewsNow.com - Liberty Counsel, in conjunction with JC Films, has produced a new family-friendly, faith-based, full-length film that addresses the issue of religious liberty in public schools.

Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor once stated: "It is difficult to discern a serious threat to religious liberty from a room of silent, thoughtful schoolchildren." With the feature-length film Uncommon, Liberty Counsel is hoping to set the record straight that it's possible – and constitutional – for Christian teens to fight against political correctness to defend their right to worship, meet, and perform. Mat Staver, founder and chairman of Liberty Counsel, explains the gist of the film.

"This film is set in the context of a high school with students who are facing individual tragedy, individual relationship issues; they're having doubts, they're facing adversity," he shares. "They then press through that and they ultimately decide that they're going to make something uncommon of their life. It's a very positive message."

Staver

"We even had non-Christians in the audience who were part of the film as extras, or their businesses were part of the film – and they came to watch it," he says. "They were thinking they might see a hokey or low-grade Christian film, and they were absolutely surprised at how good it was."

Uncommon stars Erik Estrada from the TV series CHiPs, Dove and Grammy award-winning Christian musician Jason Crabb. The lead teenage role is played by Ben Davies, who played the role of police officer David Thomson in the movie Courageous. Davies was recently voted as one of the top ten Christian actors.

Hobby Lobby attorney: Government can't back up its claim

OneNewsNow.com - The owners of Hobby Lobby, who are challenging the ObamaCare mandate before the Supreme Court soon, plan to stand by their faith – and they don't buy the government's arguments.

The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty filed its legal briefs before the court (recently). General counsel Kyle Duncan tells OneNewsNow he believes the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) passed in 1993 protects people of faith who own and operate businesses. In this case, the Green family – devout Christians who own Hobby Lobby – object to being forced under the Affordable Care Act to provide coverage for abortion-causing drugs.

"RFRA specifically recognizes that all sorts of individuals and associations can exercise religion," Duncan explains. "Not only individuals, but associations, corporations, partnerships – all sorts of associations can exercise religion."

The government claims Hobby Lobby is jeopardizing the health of women by refusing to include four potentially life-terminating drugs and devices in its insurance coverage. But Duncan points out the Greens already have a generous employee insurance plan "covering all of the mandated services for women, going well beyond contraceptives."

"They include 16 of 20 FDA-approved contraceptives in their health plan," he states. "So to say that simply excluding a subset, a handful of contraceptive drugs and devices somehow imperils women's health, it's very difficult to believe.

"You would expect the government to back up a claim like that with some kind of proof – and there is none," the attorney concludes.

Consider This

If you were sinking in quicksand the devil would pat you on the head!

2014 Senior Adult Conferences

South Conference - Tuesday, March 26
Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso
Registration fee - $15.00 per person - Registration 9:00 a.m.
Program - 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Personalities on Program: Cameron Trio
Travis Plumlee
Bryson Haden
Earl Smith
Plaques for Preachers - 50 years/2014
Mack's Fish will cater the noon meal
Big Creek Ladies will provide desserts

North Conference - Tuesday, May 13
East Fulton Baptist Church, Fulton
Program - 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Personalities on program - Roger Akers
Bryson Haden
Dr. Gary O'Neal
Plaques: Preachers 50 years/2014

New Heart Mission to Organize

New Heart Baptist Mission of Hattiesburg will hold an organization service on Saturday, March 8, 2014, beginning at 5:00 p.m. The mission is a project of the statewide BMA of Mississippi missions effort.

Ray & JoAnn Boone led in the establishment of this mission project that began meeting in January 2010. Growth of this effort led to the purchasing of land and the building of our facility. With the help of the Revolving Loan Fund, much hard work from our members and help from the Masters Builders and the Classic Builders, they were able to complete the building and held our first service in it on July 15, 2011. The Lord has blessed and the building is very closed to being debt free. The Lord has blessed with growth and the salvation of souls and we praise Him for it.

Pastor Ray Boone and the congregation of New Heart Mission invite all to come and share in this celebration and worship service. Refreshments will be served.

2014 BMAA Meeting

Hotel Reservations Can Now be Made Online

Individuals can now find hotel reservation information for the 2014 Baptist Missionary Association of America meeting in Little Rock at bmalife.com. Online reservations can be made at two of the hotels within the room block by clicking on 2014 National Meeting under the Latest News heading and then clicking on the appropriate hotel link. Phone numbers are also listed for those who prefer that method of making reservations.

The Little Rock Marriott has been designated as the primary hotel and is attached to the State House Convention Center where all meetings will be held. The deadline for taking advantage of the BMA discounted rate at all three hotels is March 28.

Sharpen 2014

Theme: The Importance of Family

March 28, 2014 @Springhill Baptist Church (Laurel, MS)

5:30 pm	Dinner
6:30 pm	Session 1 "The Bible & Family" by Bro. Larry Geraldson (Director of Missions & RLF)
7:30 pm	Session 2 "The Church & Family" by Bro. Cliff Jenkins (Pastor, Temple Baptist, Laurel)
8:15 pm	Discussion led by Bro. Kelby Johnson
9:00 pm	Dismiss

April 4, 2014 @South Green Baptist Church (Tupelo, MS)

5:30 pm	Dinner
6:30 pm	Session 1 "The Bible & Family" by Bro. Gary O'Neal (Pastor, Greenwood Baptist, Laurel)
7:30 pm	Session 2 "The Church & Family" by Bro. Blake McCain (Pastor, South Green, Tupelo)
8:15 pm	Discussion led by Bro. Kelby Johnson
59:00 pm	Dismiss

For more information or to register
Email: kelby@gracechurchna.com or
visit www.facebook.com/bmamsyouth

Mississippi Baptist Children's Home

118 Lowe Road, Laurel, Mississippi 39443 - (601) 426-3928
Sidney Davis - Director

Sidney Davis

Snow Days at the Home

School was out and the boys and girls did not go to school for three of the days of the week of January 27-31. The roads were icy and slippery in our area and pretty much over the entire region of South Mississippi. Even though we did not get a lot of snow, there was enough to manage a good throwing of snowballs and sliding on the icy surface that the inclement weather had produced. Well, with all that said and done, we survived the three days of snow days in pretty good fashion!

We all enjoyed the rare South Mississippi snow!

Home Receives Four Children

The Home recently received four children (a four year old boy, a five year old boy, a seven year old girl, and a nine year old girl). Remember the Home in your prayers as we minister to these young lives.

Association Rallies

On January 16, the Oak Grove Baptist Association held their annual rally for the Home. The meeting was with the Calvary Baptist Church of Purvis and Pastor David Parker. On February 3, the Ten Mile Baptist Association had their annual rally for the Home and the meeting was with the Campground Baptist Church near Gulfport and Pastor Bryan Atwood. 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.

Church Visit and Association Meeting

We were with the Plainview Baptist Church near Poplarville on Sunday, January 26, for their services that day. Bro. Sam Freeman is the pastor of this good church.

On February 6, we attended the Big Creek Baptist Association which was with the First Baptist Church of Shady Grove near Laurel and Pastor Danny Pitts.

We certainly enjoyed the worship, friendship, and fellowship at each of these meetings and services. It was good to report on the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home.

Expression of Sympathy

We would like to express our sympathy to the family of Bro. Vernon Phillips. Bro. Phillips was a faithful servant in the Lord's work for many years. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Phillips family during their time of loss and bereavement.

Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

'm getting so old that all my friends in heaven will think I didn't make it.

Kids playing in the snow

Missions In Ghana West Africa!

by BMA Missionaries Dale and Celia Broom

This year has started off being very busy. We have had a visit from Bro. Jason Daughtrey from The Dove Church in Dallas, TX to teach a class at the Bible Institute. We really enjoyed his visit and the students learned so much about Christian History. We also had a visit from Bro. Phil Knott and Bro. Rick Russell, which conducted a seminar on Leadership. We enjoyed their visit also. We are now in the beginning of the second classes for the certificate and degree programs. During the latter two weeks of this month, we will be traveling to the Northern region, Upper East region, and Burkina Faso to conduct evangelistic and discipleship training. Please be in prayer for us as we travel and conduct the training.

Clean water ministry is a great need

Checking out a fresh, clean water well

The Bible Institute has undergone some physical changes as well. We have had a balcony closed in with windows in order to move a classroom and computers there. We will post pictures at the end of the newsletter.

The Aquaponics project is underway and we now have about 150 fish that are rapidly growing and we will be receiving another 200 next week. The ground is also being prepared for the crops that will be grown and watered from the waste water of the fish. We would like to say a BIG, "Thank You" to the churches that have sponsored this project. We plan to build five of these projects in various areas in order to help villages with food and funds to support their families. This first one has been built at the Bible Institute in order to train the students how to build them in their own villages. We have funds to complete this one and to build two more. If you are interested in helping fund one of these projects, you can send donations to the Mission Office with Dale Broom Aquaponics project written in the memo.

Next month the Water for Christ team will be coming to visit and we are planning to dig four new wells while they are here. Bro. Rodney Castleberry will be coming with the team to conduct a crusade each night in the village where the wells are being dug. Please be in prayer for this team as they travel and while they are here working on the field.

We appreciate all the prayers and support from all of you and ask that you continue to pray for us that God will receive all the glory and honor in all that we do. We are looking forward to all the blessings that this year holds! We love you all and we are also praying for all of you that God will bless you richly this year!

Windows at the Bible Institute

The Brooms are native Mississippians and serving the BMA of America in Ghana.

February 23rd...

A Day to Pray and Give To World Missions!

It's All About Partnership

The entire concept of the Baptist Missionary Association of America is based on the idea of partnership. Christ's Great Commission to take His message of redemption to the entire world is a daunting task for one church to accomplish. But, by partnering together we can obey His command!

You, your church, BMA Missions and God… that's the partnership that your BMA Missions Team desires to see strengthened. By participating in the 2014 World Missions Day Offering on February 23rd, you'll be helping BMA Missions identify, prepare and launch new missionaries to share the message of Jesus. Presently, BMA churches support over 1,000 missionary families across the globe, along with the largest number of North American missionaries in the history of our association. The BMA World Missions Day Offering plays a vital role in making sure that all those missionary families have the tools they need to get the job done.

Partnership! God never intended for the Great Commission to be a solo act! We all have a role to play. Visit www.bmamissions.org/worldmissions to see how you and your church can participate in the February 23rd World Missions Sunday.

* Make Sunday, February 23, a special day of prayer for BMA World Missions.
* Take a special World Missions Offering on World Missions Day.
* Make a special individual offering above your regular tithe for BMA World Missions at www.bmamissions.org/worldmissions
*Order your free prayer calendars. (Available February 1st) Pray for BMA World Missions every day.
*Order your free BMA World Missions video to play in your worship service in anticipation of World Missions Day. (Available February 1st)

Local Association Reports

Harmony

Our February meeting of the Harmony Association was held at First Hispanic in Ripley.

The evening message was brought by National Missions Director Dr. John David. 8 churches were represented with 91 present. Our March meeting will be at Forked Oak in Booneville.

Reports were given by Bobby Elliott, Elvis Garcia and John David Smith. Mark Johnson and Mark Trammel reported on the Galileans and the upcoming camp. Bro. John Adams gave a report on his work with Moral Action and Bro. Ricky Johnson reported the Children's Home had taking in 4 additional children. Bro. Matt Hudson gave a update on Southeastern College.The meeting was followed by a delicious meal provided by the church with a Hispanic flavor.

Bro. Mike Smith, Moderator
Tony Marolt, Reporter

Tombigbee

The Tombigbee Association met on February 6, 2014 at Lone Oak Baptist Church. Bro. Fulton Lindsey, host pastor, and his congregation provided a delicious meal for all.

Bro. Mark Jones and Bro. Larry Trammel, representatives of the Galileans and the State Brotherhood organizations, shared about this year's project "Act Like Men". Any money that a church would like to donate to this project will go to supporting Bro. Elvis Garcia in support of missionaries in Oxford and Olive Branch, where work is steadily growing.

National BMA Director of Missions Dr. John David Smith was our guest speaker. We were reminded that February 23, 2014, is World Mission Sunday and that 18 missionary families are totally supported from the general funds.

Bro. Bobby Elliott, pastor of Freedom Baptist Mission in Burnsville, reported that they will celebrate open house on March 16, 2014 and invited all to come and visit their new church building in praise to what the Lord is doing in their community.

Our next meeting will be at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church on March 6, 2014.

Matt Hudson, moderator
Cathy Johnson, reporter