

# Mississippi Baptist

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## Is the Church Unfair to Women?

By Dr. John M. Adams  
Executive Director, BMAA Moral Action

*I Timothy 2:12-15*

Is the modern day church "behind the times in its attitude toward women?" A growing number answer, "yes." They say that women are restricted. What should the Bible-believing Christian's response be regarding equal rights for women? How should church leaders respond, and what should be the attitude of Christian women?

### I. The World and Women's Rights - A Controversial Issue

The battle and victory for women's rights has influenced every aspect of our national life, including our churches. This brings up a difficult question - are women treated fairly in the New Testament Church?

The role of women in the church has caused conflicts in some denominations and churches. Barriers have

been removed to once-forbidden secular occupations in the ministry. Some liberal leaders are upset because they believe the church is lagging far behind on these issues.

Critics argue that conservative churches are steeped in prejudice and need to be enlightened.



John Adams

On the surface, their arguments may sound convincing. Arguments are made that many women outstrip men in spiritual gifts and abilities. By not allowing women to use these talents, the church is missing out.

Some theologians argue that the requirements for pastors outlined in I Timothy 3:1-7 have been grossly misinterpreted - that they merely reflect cultural prejudices of Paul's day. How should the present day Church respond to such pressure? What should the church say to sincere dedicated women who truly want to serve the Lord?

### II. God's Word and Women's Rights - Clear Answers from the Bible

The Bible answers several basic misunderstandings:

There is a basic error in understanding the scope and nature of the differences between the sexes. The Bible does not teach that men are superior to women, but that they are different. In creating woman, God did not make a carbon copy of what He had already made. He fashioned a personality and spirit that would complement man and supply the qualities that man lacked.

The tendency today is to assume that except for physical differences, men and women are of the same mold. Therefore, they are to be competitive. That is not God's intent. God created male and female to work together, not to compete.

We commit a basic error when we try to sweep differences under the rug. It may appear to be successful for a time, but in the end we violate something elemental to our inner structure. Let's evaluate the Word of God on the subject - I Timothy 2:12. The New Testament makes it clear that administration is a man's calling. Early church leaders were called elders and deacons. Qualifications required these offices to be held by men.

I Timothy 2:13-15, Paul gives two reasons why the woman cannot scripturally usurp authority over the man.

## Wallaces Coordinate DiscipleWay Training

Tommy and Judy Wallace of Bald Knob, Arkansas, have accepted new roles as Ministry Coordinators for DiscipleWay Discipleship Training. They will oversee the promotion, leadership training and the general administration of DiscipleWay activities.

The Baptist Missionary Association of America Coordinating Council and department directors sought them out and commissioned them to take the new DiscipleWay Training Program to BMA churches and others who desire to train their members to become effective disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Council members and department directors are confident that they have made a good selection.

"We are thrilled to see Tommy and Judy assume this new role with DiscipleWay and believe that their extensive educational experience and passion for discipleship will be instrumental in assisting churches desiring to implement a discipleship process," said Steve Crawley, who has served as production coordinator for the DiscipleWay project.

The Wallaces will keep the program before the churches and will facilitate its start-up in as many areas as possible.

"In this role they will be responsible

for coordinating DiscipleWay's training and implementation and will work to integrate resources from all the departments and agencies of the BMA in a joint effort," Crawley said.

The new Ministry Coordinators will organize the training of the initial disciple-makers, maintain the DiscipleWay website, promote DiscipleWay events through BMA media, publish a periodic email newsletter, produce Web TV content and provide general oversight of the program.

The Wallaces are active members of Worden Baptist Church, where Tommy serves as a deacon, member of the Pastoral Advisory Council, teacher and Galilean and Awana worker. His wife is church pianist, teacher, VBS director and has years of experience working with GMA, WMA and Awana.

Tommy and Judy have hosted a Home Builders group for young married couples in their home for seven years, and they counsel couples individually about biblical principles.

Tommy is a member of the Lifeword

Board of Directors, a panel which his father-in-law, the late Doyle Bates, chaired for more than 20 years. He is a farmer and a retired public school teacher with 33 years experience.

Judy is a retired public school teacher/principal and conference speaker. She is the former director of the Women's Outreach Ministry at Lifeword, where she also sang in the Lifeword Trio. She is a former member of the Central Baptist College Board of Trustees and is a former chairman of the CBC Alumni Association.

The Wallaces sense that DiscipleWay and their opportunity to work with it are of God.

"We feel God leading us to do our part in bringing discipleship into our churches. We see this not as a curriculum to go through but a process to help members of our churches grow together in our knowledge of God and His work in and through us," Judy said.

The Wallaces can be reached at 501.278.6063 or 501.282.3886.



Tommy and Judy Wallace

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# Parental Involvement in Student/Teacher Conflicts

When your child has a conflict with a teacher at school, it can sometimes get you bent out of shape in a hurry. After all, this is your child. You love them and it is natural for the fight mode to kick in when you feel they are under attack. Parents confronted with this situation can become like a bear. Wild animals, like bears and hogs, generally won't attack you unless they are defending their young. Then, look out! You perceive a threat to your child's well-being and your gut instinct is probably to over react initially. This is where you will need to pray and ask God for wisdom and maturity.

There are several things to consider right from the start. First and foremost, we must always conduct ourselves as Christians. Secondly, this is not the end of the world. There will be a trumpet blast to announce that time. It only seems like a major catastrophe. Thirdly, as a parent, your goal is to restore and reconcile this relationship, not retaliate and destroy. Your overall goal is to

help your child achieve the maximum potential in their educational process. Here are some things to consider in one of these events.

Don't attack the teacher. The teacher, in most cases, is your best ally in your child's education. Most teachers desire for your child to do well in school, and will help you and them in the process. Many kids misunderstand what a teacher is saying. My daughter had one teacher that would get on to the whole class. This bothered my daughter because she felt she wasn't misbehaving, but was getting in trouble. I told her that the teacher is talking to all the class, but the wrong behavior only applies to those who are doing wrong. Then, she understood. It was that simple to correct.

Still, other times can find major conflicts. These should not be avoided, but communicated openly and honestly with the teacher. Don't let it drag on for a whole semester hoping it might get better. Communication works wonders. Problems



## Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

don't magically disappear. They are solved with clear communication. Find out all the facts from your child and make sure they have a full grasp of the situation.

Watch for dishonesty. Some kids have been known to exaggerate the truth so they can get transferred into another class with their friends. We parents have to always operate under the fact that our child is not perfect.

When you walk into the meeting with the teacher, pray for God to give you peace. Pray for God to give you a heaping dose of the fruit of the spirit known as self-control. Even if the teacher is dead wrong, emotional outburst and explod-

ing anger should not be our testimony as Christian parents. Jesus' reputation is on the line to the world every time we open our mouths or interact with others. Negotiate. Communicate. Don't have a chip on your shoulder as you enter the parent/teacher conference. See it as a chance to form a deeper and better relationship with the teacher.

Educate each other. You can tell the teacher how your child best responds. Do they need more attention, more explanations or to sit up front instead of in the back? Honestly share if there are difficulties at home so the teacher is aware that the child is going through some rough times. The teacher can in turn educate the parent on what they are looking for in student behavior. The teacher can explain how they manage the classroom and what is expected. Both of you then need to work out a system for communicating with each other in the future when problems arise. Work out a solution to the current problem that is best for

your child.

If there is a bad apple as a teacher - and these are rare - then you should still maintain poise and peace. You should proceed to the next level of authority. If after repeated attempts are made to rectify the situation to no avail, and you have exhausted all resources, then pray. God's spirit will lead you as to what you should do next. There are many options. However, if your child is being unfairly treated, or locked in a classroom with a teacher who is suffering from bipolar depression or alcoholism etc. and can't function (and this does happen occasionally) then yes, you should protect your child and their education and find an alternative classroom or school. This is a rare event, but it does happen. If your child is being emotionally destroyed by a teacher who has issues, then you may need to move them. Bottom line, you have to be the protector and

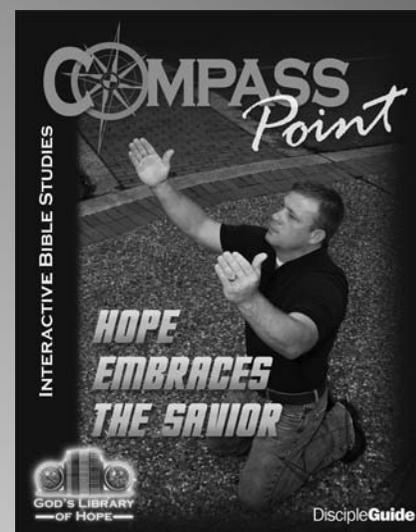
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# God's Plan For Transformation

by Larry Barker  
Director of Operations North America  
BMA of America Missions Department

Human nature always seems to move us toward the negative. The depravity of man contributes much to that tendency. One of our jobs as leaders is celebrating who God is and what He is doing. We are called to point people in the direction of hope which can only be found in Him. Getting our eyes off of ourselves and focusing on the glory and majesty of God can be a continual struggle. Transformation occurs in our lives when we see Him high and lifted up. Just ask Isaiah or John and several others.

In the book of Haggai many of God's children had returned from Babylonian captivity. They had been back for eighteen years and immediately began to work on rebuilding the temple. The construction efforts only lasted the first two years but stopped because of opposition. The people had become too busy with their own houses and their own concerns. God was unhappy because the people had focused on their own needs so much that they were

unconcerned with the condition of His house. The main message of Haggai is not about a building lying in ruins but rather the people's decaying relationship with their heavenly Father.

God's plan for transformation among His people begins with the leaders (Haggai 1:1-2). God was looking for leaders to communicate His message of hope. He spoke to Haggai, the prophet, who carried that message to Zerubbabel, the politician, and Joshua, the priest. If steps toward transformation are going to occur leaders must take the lead in getting the momentum headed in that direction. Leadership must be willing to do whatever is necessary for transformation to take place in our churches. God wants His leaders to communicate hope by taking the first step.

God's plan for transformation requires getting out of your comfort zone (Haggai 1:3-4). Most Americans have been "blessed" with so much more

than they deserve or need. Has our abundance led to spiritual apathy? The people in Haggai were unconcerned about the temple and their relationship with God because they were focused on themselves. There certainly is nothing wrong with taking care of our homes. The problem occurs when we are more concerned about our personal comfort than the work of the Lord. We say we don't have the time or the money but usually find both for the things we desire. God is looking for leaders willing to pay the price.

God's plan for transformation involves taking a close look at ourselves (Haggai 1:5-7). Self-examination is necessary and a very important ingredient in spiritual transformation. They were told twice to think carefully about their ways emphasizing how vital evaluation should be to every believer and especially to leaders. An unwillingness to honestly evaluate your present condition and to make the necessary changes will doom us to remaining the same and preventing transformation in our lives. God wants leaders who are not afraid of some constructive criticism.

God's plan for transformation involves His presence in our lives. Haggai 1:13 says, "I am with you, saith the Lord." It is easy to focus on the negative while living in a sinful world. Salvation delivers us from the penalty and power of sin but we have not been delivered from sin's presence - yet! When Jesus gave us the Great Commission He also gave us this assurance, "I am with you always." God's presence changes everything. There is hope because He has promised to help us in every task He calls us to. God wants leaders who will continually remind His people that revival can still happen in their lives, in their churches, and in their communities.

God's plan for transformation takes place when the Spirit of the Lord moves in the hearts of the people and they take action (Haggai 1:14). Hudson Taylor said, "God uses men who are weak and feeble enough to lean on Him." True transformation is not just being emotional and concerned about our present condition but being bothered enough to something

## Southeastern Baptist College

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



Dr. Medrick Savell  
President

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

### Thanks for Blessings

Would you join with us in thanking the Lord for His blessings on us in every way. He is faithful to supply all needs and uses His people to do much of it. We are thankful for all of you..

### Enrollment

Though we do not have the official count yet, the enrollment for the Spring, 2011, semester is about the same as it was in the Fall semester and the Spring semester of 2010. (Spring is usually less than in the Fall.)

### On-Line Classes

Three on-line courses were offered in the Fall, 2010 semester and 39 hours were taken by

that method. Seven courses were offered in this Spring semester and 85 hours are being taken by that method. These are mostly students who could not come to campus this semester. We expect this trend to continue. These courses provide a good way to take classes at home for personal growth, to apply toward a degree, to complete a degree, for Teacher Recertification, etc.

### Memorial Gifts

Since our last report, six memorial gifts have been sent to the College. Contributions have been sent to purchase books for the Library in memory of Mr. James Ishee, Mrs. Lela Phillips, Bro. Eugene Murphy, and Mrs. Marie Christine Rogers Blackwell. Contributions were also sent to the SBC Foundation in memory of Bro. Charles Thompson and Bro. Eugene Murphy. We appreciate these memorial gifts and ask God's best for these families.

Mrs. Lela Phillips, Bro. Eugene Murphy, and Bro. Charles Thompson were personal friends of mine for many years. We will miss them here, but will be with them soon.

### Scholarship Awarded



Kimberly Glenn is the recipient of the Wright Scholarship. Kimberly will graduate this May having earned her Associate of Arts in both Education and Business. Kimberly is the daughter of Eddie and Barbara Glenn of Bay Springs, MS and is a member of First Baptist Church in Bay Springs.

## Is the Church Unfair?

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First, woman was not created to be independent; second, the woman had been the first to give place to sin.

The man's role at the church and home is not just a badge of honor; it is a mantle of responsibility. Men make a mistake when they think that their headship makes them far superior to women. God has set the guidelines for men and women. God loves men and women equally. Each are called to different tasks.

In a "His" magazine interview, Elizabeth Elliott made an interesting point. "Positions of leadership in the church are not rewards of competence alone. They are not earned or assigned purely on the basis of ability. They are assigned sovereignly by God. Those who take positions of authority in the church must be ordained of God." Do not be misled by secular arguments that the Scriptures are influenced by cultural bias—God's Word is inspired and adaptable to all ages and both sexes.

### III. Christian Women and Women's Rights - A Consecrated Attitude

Satisfaction in God's Work comes not from title or position, but from faithfulness in service. Since apostolic times, women have found fulfillment in the church. Examples such as, "Phebe" of Romans 16:1; Mary, Martha and the certain women of Luke 8. These women found honor in faithfulness and effective service. Paul mentions Tryphena, Tryphosa, Persia, Eudias, and Syntyche as "fellow workers in the Lord."

The gifts and insights of women can help and encourage the Christian men in leadership roles. Women are powerful in witnessing and in prayer partnership. They are excellent teachers.

The world has its ideas of who should lead the church. Those who do not understand the Bible will wave banners of "newequality." They minimize and rationalize. The true Christian understands that God's teachings are correct and unbiased.

## Parental Involvement

from page 2

promoter of your child's best interest and education.

Conflicts between teachers and your child are inevitable. But they don't have to be destructive battles. It can be a learning process for all concerned. Remember to always act as a Christian, speak peace and words that are sweet. Help teach your child respect for authority. Teach your child how to interact with people they don't get along with.

We may not love every single person we have to work with, but we can all be polite, respectful and follow the golden rule as Christians. 99% of the time, it will just be partnering in communication to solve it. Begin with prayer.

about it. God wants leaders who are sensitive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit and ready to act upon that leadership!

# Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP

## Secular Christians

by Danny Pitts, pastor  
First Baptist Church of Shady Grove  
Laurel, Mississippi

Many religions are composed of people who come from a variety of perspectives. As a Catholic, Baptist, or Jehovah Witness may proclaim himself to be a Christian, a Jew may identify with the Orthodox, Conservative, Reformed, or Reconstructionist movements. In addition to these, many Jewish leaders are concerned about the growing number of Secular Jews. Extreme versions of these do not believe in God or any theology. Did you know the atheistic Jews exist?

Common Secular Jews, however, do believe in God and identify themselves with some religious beliefs. Many attend synagogue at Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) and maybe do a family Passover out of tradition. During the remainder of the year, these Secular Jews live as though there is no Judaism. Although they proclaim themselves to be "Jews" and believe in God, they live every day as though there is no God. They eat, marry, work, educate with no thought to religious views or God in any way. Not surprisingly, these Secular Jews are leaving Judaism in high percentages. This assimilation alarms most Jewish leaders. They are searching for effective methods to make a vital connection with their people in the synagogue, family, and educational lives of their people.

I suggest to you that we have a growing problem with Secular Christians. They may identify with a particular church, but they rarely attend. They are the proverbial "Easter and Christmas" churchgoers, if nothing hinders, of course. The rest of the year Secular Christians live their lives in society as though there is no God and as though they have no church membership. These Secular Christians have a secular world-view rather than a Biblical view. When decisions are faced concerning business, political, or family issues, the Biblical principles of right and wrong never come into play. That means that "a dime's worth of difference" cannot be found between many heathens and professed Christians in our country.

In the same way that Secular Jews are forsaking their heritage in record numbers, Secular Christians are also dropping out. They view church services as not relevant to their lives. Many older believers attend out of obligation. Thankfully some members are present because they love being with God's people and recognize that essential helps are available at the house of the Lord.

We must find ways to show Secular Christians how the exposure to Scriptural truths in preaching and teaching lays the foundation for a better life.

## Reception Set for Freemans



You are cordially invited to a reception honoring Bro. and Mrs. Rayburn Freeman for years of service to the BMA of Mississippi Missions Department. This 'come-and-go' reception will be held at the Missions Office Complex in Laurel on Friday, February 18, 2011, from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Please make plans to attend and share in this special day.

### AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

#### Jon Williamson surrenders to ministry

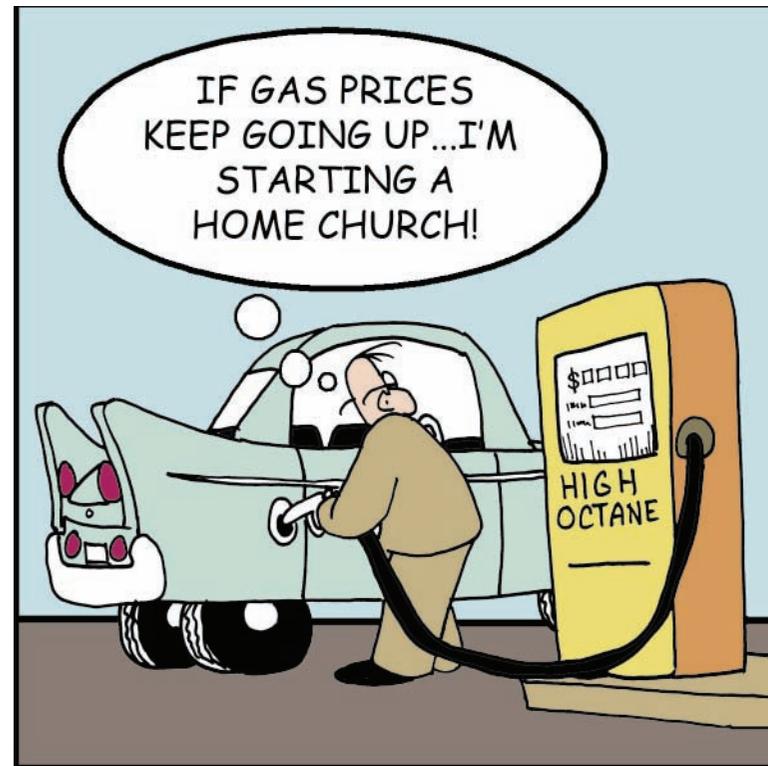
Bro. Jon Williamson surrendered to preach in August 2010 and is available for pulpit supply. He is a member of Sand Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Lucedale, MS. He is 17 years old and the son of Bro. Bryan & Mona Williamson, pastor of Sand Hill Church. He is attending Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS. If you would like to have him come to your church please call him at 601-716-6379.

#### Larry Pierce

Larry M. Pierce is available for pulpit supply or as the LORD leads. He may be contacted at 601-947-3531.

#### Dale Wirick

Bro. Dale Wirick is available for pulpit supply. He can be reached at 228-474-8886 or 228-249-3731.



## National Brotherhood Project

by Arthur Smith  
Editor/Promoter

I would like to call on all the men of BMAA churches to support the national project of the Brotherhood which is 25% Galileans, 10% General Fund, and 65% Moral Action.

I cannot over emphasize the value of the Galilean Program that helps train our young men in the service of our Lord, nor of the Moral Action, which is a moral voice for the BMAA.

Following are the words of Dr. John Adams, Director of Moral Action: "We continue to promote morals for the Baptist Missionary Association of America (BMAA). We are thankful for the support of our Brotherhood and pray for the blessing of God on all the men of the BMAA churches. Pray for Moral Action as we take a stand for God and country."

Please send your offerings to Robert Bynum, 43 Bear Pen Creek Road, Laurel, MS 39440-8104.

Thank you in advance for your support of this worthy project. Churches giving \$100.00 by February 28 will receive a certificate at the National Brotherhood meeting in Wichita Falls, Texas, in April. Funds will be received for this project through the national meeting.

### Attention National Meeting Vendors

If you would like to reserve vendor space at the 2011 National Meeting, please be aware we are going to try something a little different this year. We would appreciate pursuing all vendor arrangements prior to the meeting. If you believe you would like to participate in this, a vendor agreement form can be received by mail or email. Make your request to: Mike Mobly, 740 SW 4th St, Moore, OK 73160 or email mrmobly@aol.com

Forms are available now and should be completed and returned by mid March.

Mississippi Baptist

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**Editor's Note:** The following article can serve as a wake-up call to America and to the church. Spiritual vacuums are present and they will be filled by something.

## Islam filling Britain's 'spiritual vacuum'

**OneNewsNow** - A Protestant renewal organization isn't surprised that a recent study from Great Britain shows that thousands of native-born Brits are converting to Islam, while Anglican Church membership continues to decline.

A blog called The Last Crusade recently reported on a study from the Centre for Migration Policy Research at Swansea University that suggests that even though the media often portrays Islam in a negative light, more people decide to adopt the religion each year. In fact, the study says 56 percent of the converts are white and 62 percent are female.

Alan Wisdom, director of the Presbyterian Action committee and vice president for research and programs at The Institute on Religion & Democracy (IRD), is not surprised by the report.

"When you have a spiritual vacuum, something is going to fill it. And the Church of England, and Christianity in Great Britain in general, has become very weak in its proclamation of the gospel," he explains. "On the other hand, Islam comes in through immigration originally, not afraid to call people to conversion, and the result is that numbers of Britons are converting to Islam. [So] it may be now that the numbers of Muslims who worship every week are greater than the numbers of people worshipping in the Church of England."

So as studies show that 30 Anglican parishes close every year, Wisdom is not surprised that 70 new mosques sprout up throughout Great Britain.

## What the Deaf Man Heard

by Charles Lee, pastor  
Pine Grove Baptist Church  
Purvis, Mississippi

Sometimes I let my mind wander, which is dangerous because it will go off and get into trouble. Often it just winds up going in circles and therefore goes nowhere. People can be holding a conversation with me and my mind will just take off on a little romp of its own. It gets kind of embarrassing, especially when it shows back up about the time the conversing person asks, "So, what do you think?" What do I think? Hmmmm. This should be interesting.

When I think about different things, many different scenarios can happen. Sometimes it can be just a silent film type of thought. Other times I will just simply talk to myself in thought talks. I can even conjure up thoughts about being a super hero where I fly around and I . . . and Well, enough about that.

The point is, when I think I often think with words. And that is where my mind begins to go off on a tangent and think about weird things. Take for instance, the deaf man in the gospel of Mark, chapter seven. If he had never heard a word spoken, did he just think in pictures? Yeah, blows my mind too. But if he had never heard a word spoken, then surely his thoughts were different than other people who have their hearing.

So, when he was taken to Jesus to be healed, I wonder what he was thinking. What did he expect to happen? How can a person even conceive what it would be like to do something that he had never done? There was no past experience that he could draw from or even relate. Yet when Jesus opened his ears, his tongue was loosed and he spoke plain. Isn't that amazing? What a beautiful picture of salvation!

The sinner goes to God expecting to experience something that he has never experienced. Yet, when he humbles himself and lets Jesus perform the miracle of salvation, he will enjoy complete salvation. He will speak plainly! His ears will be opened. His eyes will see. The water will turn to wine. The lame will walk. Hallelujah, a new creature will be born! However you want to describe it, salvation will change your life.

Even the deaf man could hear the Lord say, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden." God speaks all languages. Every language that has been spoken, God has been able to communicate. Even those what can't hear when a person talks can hear when God speaks.

## Porn - the 'elephant in the pew'

**OneNewsNow** - Churches throughout the world are being encouraged to observe International Porn Sunday next week.

With the exception of Vermont and Antarctica, roughly 400 churches from every state and every continent will throw "Porn Sunday Pre-Game" parties February 6, 2011, to bring attention to the issue.

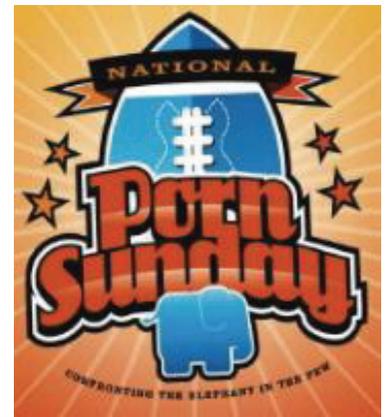
"On Super Bowl Sunday, 100 million people will watch the big game; but every day, 40 million people watch pornography," reports organizer Craig Gross of XXXchurch. "And so we think this is just a big deal, and we want to talk about it. We've got about five [or] six

guys who played professional football who have shared their testimony, their story [and] their struggle."

The official event will be held in Dallas, Texas, but the overall goal is merely to challenge churches to discuss the subject.

"I think often times churches kind of shy away from difficult conversations," Gross laments. "About 75 percent of people view pornography all by themselves. So not only is the church not talking about it, but people in general don't talk about their struggle with this very...private matter."

The International Porn Sunday organizer hopes the dia-



logue on pornography will continue to be pursued. He also hopes churches will follow up by providing guidance and resources for those who struggle with the issue.

## Churches uniting to preserve Christian culture

**OneNewsNow** - One ministry is teaming up with churches nationwide in the fight to defend Christian values in the public square.

The Salt and Light Council, a California-based ministry that equips churches to defend biblical and pro-family values, is urging all Christians to make their voices heard. Dran Reese, the ministry's director, believes that Christians will be able to make an impact on the nation when the church is united.

"As a church-wide body taking action on the same issues

at the same time -- that's how you'll have impact," she suggests. "We are seeing this across the nation, and, in fact, there seems to be quite a movement now more towards the churches getting involved."

The non-profit coalition continues to partner with churches and encourage them to get active in their own Salt and Light Ministries to embolden congregations to stand up for their biblical values and respond to harmful legislation that undermines the Christian faith. Reese adds that the ministry's

purpose is to bring like-minded believers together.

"We provide them the prayers and we provide them the action items -- all legally vetted," she explains. "What we're trying to do is to call them all together as a church-wide body and begin to take action and to pray on the same things at the same time."

The ministry director encourages churches to contact her organization and join hands with other believers in the fight to preserve their God-given liberties.

## Four centuries for KJV

**OneNewsNow** - This year marks the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible -- and the Queen of England is paying tribute to it:

Recently, in a special broadcast on British Broadcasting Corporation, Queen Elizabeth II pointed out that four centuries ago King James VI of Scotland inherited the throne of England at a time when the Christian church was deeply divided.

"Here at Hampton Court in 1604, he convened a conference of churchmen of all shades of opinion to discuss the future of Christianity in this country," stated the queen. "The king agreed to commission a new translation of the Bible that was acceptable to all parties."

That was to become the "King James" or "Authorized" Bible. "Acknowledged as a master-

piece of English prose and the most vivid translation of the scriptures," the queen continued, "the glorious language of this Bible has survived the turbulence of history and given many of us the most widely recognized and beautiful descriptions."

The King James Bible, then,

was a major cooperative endeavor that required the efforts of the day's leading scholars.

The whole enterprise was guided by an interest in reaching agreement for the wider benefit of the Christian church and bringing harmony between the various factions.

### 2011 Missions & Evangelistic Conference The Church Triumphant

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

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

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### A Passion For Ministry

by **Blinda Lee**  
**State WMA President**  
**601-596-3417**

blinda.lee@lamarcountyschools.org

After becoming a Women's Mission Auxiliary member in 2008, I have developed a passion for this ministry. Having other Christian ladies to fellowship with, growing spiritually, being a part of supporting missions, and just having a good time with God's people, have all been advantages of being a part of this auxiliary.

In October 2010, the Mississippi WMA elected me to serve as president. For me to fill this position is very humbling and your prayers are greatly needed as I strive, with God's help, to lead our ladies. Also, your presence and support are vital to the growth of local, district, and state WMA's. Not only would the WMA benefit from your presence, but you would receive a rich blessing from the personal benefits the WMA offers. If you do not belong to a local chapter, I encourage you to attend a meeting. You will be hooked! If your church does not have a chapter, I would love to visit with you and help you get a WMA started and begin a rewarding mission endeavor among your church ladies. I would also like to encourage the churches who have chapters to meet with your district when meetings are scheduled. The fellowship is such a blessing and so needed in this discouraging world!

Please pray for our WMA to grow physically and spiritually. Pray that I will be the leader God wants me to be.

### Get Informed, Get Involved, Get Connected

by **Beth Haden**

February means it is WMA enlistment time with the theme of "Get Informed, Get Involved, Get Connected" for 2011. I hope this theme will create interest and draw a picture of our goals during enlistment month, so that you ladies and churches that do not have an active WMA will find the WMA appealing and worthy of your time once I tell you what the WMA can offer you and your church.

WMA stands for Women's Missionary Auxiliary and is women coming together with the same goals and the same desire to further God's work through missions. It is made up of local, district, state, and national auxiliaries, and filling out a petitionary letter form is your first step toward organizing. Everyone is welcome. Invite your family, friends, and coworkers to join.

You can get involved in retreats, programs, bible studies, and great fellowship with other Christian ladies through the WMA. It also supports very effective children's programs such as Sunbeams and GMA's. The state promoters of these programs are: Beth Caldwell, GMA's, 166 Twin Creek Road, Lucedale, MS 39452, roved@datasync.com and Linda Dertinger, Sunbeams, 132 Howard Hill Road, Soso, MS 39480, 601 932-2776, tldert@yahoo.com. These auxiliaries, which function under the headship of the WMA, offer great programs to biblically educate children and have camps, retreats, and special events for the children to a part of and be associated with other children, all over the United States, learning about God and His church. Contact these ladies if you are interested in starting these in your church. They are willing to come to your church to help you get started.

I have been a part of the WMA for 8 years and a state officer for 2 years; I cannot begin to tell you what a blessing I have received through this. Being a part of the WMA makes me feel connected and allows me to be in contact with godly women, who have influenced my life in a great way. Being able to fellowship with Christian ladies, who love you and love God and have a desire to further God's purpose by promoting missions, is awesome! That experience cannot be beat, so I urge you and your church to consider being a part of the WMA.

If you are interested in starting a WMA or learning more about it, please contact our state president, Blinda Lee, @ 601-596-3417 or blinda.lee@lamarcountyschools.org, or any other state WMA officer. Blinda is ready and willing to come to your church and offer any possible assistance in getting you started.

If you are looking for spiritual renewal, fellowship with Christian ladies, good Christian fun, or a way to become involved in the great commission, I urge you to please prayerfully consider starting a WMA or reactivating an inactive one at your church. Feel free to contact me for any further information or help in starting a WMA @ 662-251-0455 or blhaden@gmail.com.

## Special Speaker for 2011 National WMA meeting

by **Janet Widger**  
**Second Vice President**  
**WMA of BMAA**

I would love to tell you the name of our planned speaker at the 2011 BMA of America WMA meeting. However we do not want to cause any risk to her, her family or their ministry. After speaking with her husband and consulting with our National WMA President our speaker will only be identified as "Jenny". "Jenny" will speak about women's ministry in areas where Christians are not free to worship openly. We will not print her name and we will not publish any pictures. We also ask in advance that on the day of the meeting, no pictures be taken of her that will be published in any format.

Many of you know "Jenny" and I know that she would appreciate your prayers for her as she prepares to speak to us. We will be her largest audience to date. Her husband will be at our meeting with her to assist her with any interpretations if needed. He has already warned me, that we will need plenty of tissues to wipe our eyes as she speaks from her heart about this ministry. Ladies, you do not want to miss this meeting.

In closing, I do not want to sound too extreme in our caution, but we know that many of our workers are persecuted and killed in other areas of the world. We would not want anything that we do indirectly cause harm to our friends. Thank you for your prayers and cooperation.

## GMA Girls

**GMA Promoter**  
Beth Caldwell  
166 Twin Creek Rd.  
Lucedale, MS 39452  
601-947-6011

**Sunbeam Promoter**  
Linda Dertinger  
132 Howard Hill Road  
Soso, MS 39480  
601-729-2908

### GMA Camp Set for March

by **Teresa Broom**  
**2010-12 Mississippi Miss GMA**  
**ATTENTION GMA GIRLS!!!**

I am so excited to say that GMA camp is fast approaching! The dates for GMA camp 2011 are March 11-12, and the theme is "The Wonder of it All." Our theme this year comes from John 1:3 which says, "All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made."

Our camp pastor is Bro. Chuck Lee, and I ask that you all pray for him as the Lord guides him in preaching at camp. Also we have a few goals for camp this year. Our attendance goal is to have at least 173 girls at camp and we hope to raise \$10,000 for our project - 25% General Fund, 25% Sarah Hebert and 50% Revolving Missions. We are asking that churches and/or individuals help us and bring candy bars and small bags of chips for the snack shoppe. Girls don't forget to save your change for our project, and also save change to send your friends at camp a candygram.

Camp is going to be awesome this year, and I know God is going to do some amazing things! I ask that everyone, not just the girls that are attending camp, start praying for all the girls at camp, and pray that God will do an amazing work in all of their lives. Also pray for all of the counselors and all of us officers as we lead the girls during camp. Hope to see you all there!

## National WMA Meeting Informatoin

by **Alice Smith, Reporter**

### Changes in this year's National Meeting Agenda

The National WMA will be meeting on April 12 with registration at 8 AM. We will begin with worship at 8:30. Our guest speaker will speak first and then after a short break we will reconvene for business. The time slot for the meeting will stay the same but sometimes ladies come later to hear the speaker, but skip the business meeting. Our intention is to give our worship priority.

Due to the sensitivity of our speaker's position in the mission field, she will be introduced at the meeting and no photographs will be allowed at that time.

Also, don't forget the National WMA Renewal Conference, February 25 and 26 in Branson, Missouri. Information on this can be found on Facebook under National WMA. Registration is \$75.00. You may contact Brenda Hornaday on the Registration form for more information.

## Churches, pastors coached in new IRS regs

**OneNewsNow** - A financial group has scheduled seminars for next year to address the IRS changes affecting churches and pastors in the upcoming tax season.

Making correct IRS filings and minimizing taxes are important issues for ministries and pastors, so the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) plans to conduct an hour-long webinar in January and February that will feature leading experts who will discuss IRS requirements for congregations.

ECFA President Dan Busby says the webinars are scheduled to take place just before next year's filing deadlines.

"There are a lot of fine-line issues between what's taxable and what's not taxable, espe-

cially with the fringe benefits," so he says it is important to get "a proper filing for the ministry's W-2 and then [get] the right amounts on the form 1099-MISC for miscellaneous income for payments to those who independent contractor payments are made for."

The webinar scheduled for February 23 will focus on the multiple changes clergy must consider in order to file accurate income tax returns.

"Because of the recession, the IRS has held the rates -- the limits on retirement contributions and so on -- they've held them the same," Busby notes. "So it's a rare time that a lot of these rates are the same, mostly just a refresher on how to minimize taxes and file a correct tax return or file cor-

rect W-2s by the churches."

Both webinars will feature two of America's top church experts, including attorney and certified public accountant Richard Hammar, who serves as legal counsel to the Assemblies of God denomination and is the author of more than 100 books. Busby, who serves as the Zondervan tax and finance author for clergy and churches and is also a certified public accountant, will be speaking as well.

Registration for each webinar is free for ECFA members and \$49 for nonmembers. A recording of each will then be available through the ECFA website at no cost to ECFA members and at \$29 for nonmembers.

## Tourism in Israel at record high

**OneNewsNow** - In 2010 Israel set a new all-time high tourism record, as Christians continue to flock to the Holy Land more than any other group.

Nearly 3.5 million tourists visited Israel in 2010, shattering the Middle Eastern nation's 2008 record by 14 percent. Sixty-nine percent of incoming tourists were identified as either Protestants or Catholics. Haim Gutim, Israel's commissioner for tourism of North and South America, tells OneNewsNow about another positive change.

"A visit to Israel [changes the life and] the soul of the person who visits Israel...," he says. "And as we use the slogan 'You'll never be the same,' so actually when you are there and [then] you return home, you feel that something changed in your life."

According to the tourism commissioner, the record-breaking travel indicates that

tourists feel safe in a region that has seen its share of violence.

"There is crime in Israel like in every city and every state, but it's not against tourists -- it's not like [in] Rio de Janeiro or [in] other countries," says Gutim. "Here the tourists are very, very safe; they can walk in the streets of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, and other cities in Israel late at night and feel like they're in their own neighborhood in the States."

A new Waldorf Astoria hotel with 223 rooms is currently being constructed within walking distance of the Old City in Jerusalem, and is expected to open in the next several months.

*Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.*

Romans 10:1

## Hollywood star 'elevating' pro-life values

**OneNewsNow** - A Mexican pro-life actor has announced his plans to build the largest women's crisis clinic in the United States.

Actor Eduardo Verástegui, star of the movie *Bella*, told a crowd of 300 guests at a recent gala that he hopes to build a crisis pregnancy center for women. At the January 15 event, which was hosted by his organization, Mantle of Guadalupe, Verástegui told his guests that he will not use his talents "except to elevate [his] Christian, pro-life and Hispanic values."

Cheryl Sullinger of Operation Rescue applauds the star's decision. "A lot of good things can be done with a crisis pregnancy center like this so that women can seek the help that they need instead of resorting to these horrific little abortion clinics that are a danger to women's health," she notes.

Verástegui has been a spokesman for the pro-life movement for many years, and according to LifeSiteNews, his organization provides free medical care, prenatal care, ultrasounds and family planning education.

Sullinger points out that even though Hollywood promotes promiscuity and free sex, it is careful about promoting abortion.

"There has been a great deal of change in Hollywood," she observes. "In fact, [in] most of the movies that...deal with pregnancy issues, the woman doesn't have an abortion...because they know that abortion doesn't sell; it makes people uncomfortable."

## Children following parents' example

**OneNewsNow** - A pro-family leader is calling on Christian parents to set an example for their children, especially when it comes to living according to biblical values.

As young people today are leaving the Church in droves, Janice Shaw Crouse, senior fellow at the Beverly LaHaye Institute of Concerned Women for America (CWA), believes their detachment from Christianity is directly related to the superficial Christianity they see lived out at home.

"It's the fault of the parents because parents are not living authentic Christianity in front of their kids," she contends. "And I think it's a real wakeup call for parents because the data is pretty impressive."

In a nationwide survey that asked teenagers about their faith, Crouse says three out of four say they believe they are Christians, even though they have no idea what it means to be a Christian. Most young people think Christianity merely requires being a kind person and going to church.

"That's the kind of Christianity that a lot of teenagers see. It's very lukewarm, it doesn't have vitality to it, it doesn't challenge young people [and] it doesn't cause them to live a lifestyle and to have a set of beliefs that really govern what they're thinking in their hearts and what they do in their attitudes and behavior," the CWA senior fellow explains.

So she is encouraging parents to authentically pursue God and his purposes so that they will be equipped to teach their children basic foundational truths to their faith.

## Defining The Cross

To some it is wood crudely fashioned to shape

To some it is a crutch for trials they face

To some it's a nuisance that appears everywhere

To some it is a charm on some jewelry they wear

To some it is a prop to make the house  
seem a better place to live

To some it's a tool when fear they feel

To some it is a marker where a loved ones body lies

To some it's a symbol on the car they drive

To some it's sacred; to some it instills fear

To some it's laughter; to others it is tears

To me it's redemption a picture of grace

But to me it's forgiveness; where Jesus took my place

To me it's Holy, bloodstained where life was lost

To me it is the Amazing Ole Rugged Cross

-Bryson Haden

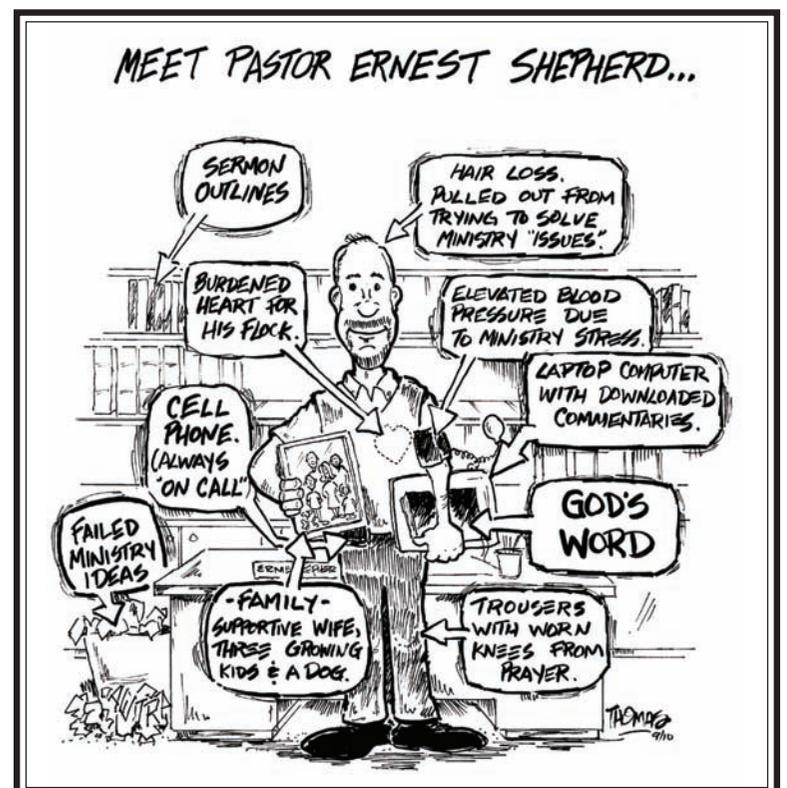
## 2011 Missions & Evangelistic Conference The Church Triumphant

### North Conference

March 17 & 18, 2011  
East Fulton Baptist Church  
Fulton, Mississippi

### South Conference

March 25, 2011  
Vardaman Street Baptist Church  
Wiggins, Mississippi



# Walk/Run for the World Outcome Reflects "Do-Over"

The December 31, 2010, deadline results for the 2010 Walk/Run for the World indicate that many churches worked hard to gain this year's top positions, but our previous winners weren't ready to relinquish their 2009 titles. Springhill Baptist Church, Greenbrier, Arkansas, is the top Walk/Run contributor again. They broke their own previous record with an offering of \$36,125, which is \$5,042 more than they raised in 2009. Hall Summit Baptist Church, Hall Summit, Louisiana, was again the top per capita contributor to the Walk/Run with offerings totaling \$22,808. With an average morning worship attendance of 45, the church's offerings averaged \$506.84 per person. They increased their total offerings from 2009 by \$10,508.

Springhill and Hall Summit will each select two people to accompany a Lifeworld production team on an all expense paid overseas trip where they will see firsthand the production of Lifeworld broadcasts and meet Lifeworld program speakers and listeners.

For the second year, Southgate Baptist Church, Moore, Oklahoma, came

in second to Springhill, Greenbrier, with a contribution of \$30,721, and Kewanee Baptist Church, Kewanee, Missouri, was second highest again per capita, giving \$308.62 per person (\$27,785 divided by the average worship attendance of 80). Those four churches have given \$117,439, which is 31.5% of the total \$411,862 Walk total Lifeworld received as of December 31, 2010.

The Walk/Run officially closes on June 30, 2011, so that still gives your church plenty of time to make a contribution.

Walk/Run for the World offerings are used to fund Lifeworld broadcasts, currently in 33 languages and 47 formats, and to develop programs in additional languages as God opens the door. One new broadcast to a Creative Access Nation went on the air January 2, and Lifeworld is targeting seven additional languages in 2011. The people who hear a gospel broadcast in their native language are the real winners! Thank you to all who help make that possible.

Top contributors in each Walk/Run region receive an award from Lifeworld.

This year's regional winners are

Church & Location	Region	Contribution Amount
Springhill, Greenbrier, AR	North /Central Arkansas	\$36,125.00
Southgate, Moore, OK	Oklahoma	\$30,721.00
Kewanee, Kewanee, MO	Missouri	\$27,785.00
Hall Summit, Hall Summit, LA	Louisiana	\$22,808.00
Grace Temple, San Angelo, TX	Texas Metro-Plex	\$10,200.00
Rosewood, Gilmer, TX	Northeast Texas	\$ 6,000.00
Wyatt, El Dorado, AR	South Arkansas	\$ 5,136.00
Evergreen, Seminary, MS	South Mississippi	\$ 5,000.00
Beacon Hill, Waco, TX	Central West Texas	\$ 3,829.00
Helton Road, Theodore, AL	Alabama	\$ 3,040.00
Mahl, Nacogdoches, TX	Southeast Texas	\$ 2,979.00
Skyway Hills, Pearl, MS	North Mississippi	\$ 2,871.00
Memorial, Fremont, CA	West Coast	\$ 1,450.00
New Home, Lansing, MI	At-Large	\$ 495.00

## An Everlasting Covenant

by Bro. Grover Laird  
Fulton, Mississippi

*"Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac: And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant: Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance." (Psalms 105:9,10,11)*

When Abraham by faith moved to the land of Canaan, God made him some wonderful promises. Notice one: "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing." (Genesis 12:2) Though Abraham became a father of "many nations," these promises did not pertain to all of those nations. Notice that the promise was, "a great nation."

When the Lord promised Abraham that He would make him "a blessing," He was surely speaking of Jesus - the seed of Abraham that came through the tribe of Judah. (Galatians 3:8) Other promises of Genesis 12:2 did not seem to find a fulfillment in nations such as the Ishmaelites, Edomites, and Midianites, though they were also descendance of Abraham.

In our text verses, the Psalmist speaks of God making a promise to Abraham concerning the land of Canaan and passing it on to Israel as an everlasting covenant. Though Israel did not keep the covenant they made with the Lord at Sinai, (Exodus 19:20) a mistake that cost them dearly, God still keeps His promise and preserves this people in a miraculous way. (Amos 9:7-10) Paul even speaks of God doing a short work among these people in the end-time, (Romans 11:25-28) a work to which many of Israel will respond. (Zechariah 12:10; 13:1)

Ezekiel had much to say about a day when Israel would be gathered from the nations where they had been scattered and would "dwell in their land." He repeatedly mentioned how that in that day "they shall know that I am the Lord their God." (Ezekiel 28:25,26) He also promised that in the day when He brought them back "unto their own land," He would not hide His face "any more from them." (Ezekiel 39:29) All of this sounds like the end-time.

The promise that the descendants of Jacob would once again dwell in Canaan does seem to be an end-time prophecy. Notice: "And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever." (Ezekiel 37:25)

Though there has been much sin and painful judgments seem in Israel, my understanding is, the everlasting covenant make to Jacob concerning the land of Canaan still holds good.

2011 Missions & Evangelistic Conference

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## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

### The Psalms - My Comfort and Joy

I recently attended a Fifth Sunday Night Singing and Praise Service and one of the participants read a poem that she had composed during a night when she was very ill and could not sleep. It was a blessing to me and I'm passing it on so that you can feel the same blessing.

The Psalms were written long ago,  
To tell of praise, needs, and woe.  
To thank the dear Father up above  
For His tender care and abiding love,  
To seek His help in the battles to fight  
Supporting and shielding in glory and might.  
King David was but a weak mortal man  
But strengthened by God to lead his land.

A writer of verse often set to a song  
Offering praise and worship, asking forgiveness for wrong;  
Deliverance from his enemies, his temptations and cares.  
Seeking wisdom, courage, and protection from snares.  
As he walked through the valley of death and despair,  
To rest by still waters in pastures of green  
With God's own rod and staff upon which to lean.

by Betty Jo Sharp  
Antioch Baptist Church,  
Soso, Mississippi