

The Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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David Watkins to Serve as Public Relations Director

David Watkins will become the Public Relations Director for BMA Missions, Lifeword, DiscipleGuide, and BMA Seminary effective February 1, according to an announcement by Executive Directors Scott Attebery, Steve Crawley, Charley Holmes, and John David Smith.



Watkins

Watkins assumes this part-time role with extensive experience in the BMAA's national work, previously serving as the association's president, chair of the BMA Coordinating Council, and chair of the Missions Advisory Board. He has most recently served as pastor of First Baptist Church of Magnolia, Arkansas, where he ministered for over 23 years. "Bro. David's faithful work in the BMA of America and the BMA of Arkansas provides an excellent grasp of our associational culture, having served as a national officer on multiple occasions. I look forward to working with him and the other directors in casting a unified vision for the BMAA," Holmes said.

In this new position, Watkins will work to build a stronger link between local churches and the association's departments. "The people of the BMA

will be excited to hear about the integration progress, and I can't imagine a better voice to communicate that news than David Watkins," said Attebery. Smith states, "The BMAA Missions Department is excited to join our other major departments in welcoming Bro. David Watkins as our Public Relations Director. Bro. Watkins has set himself apart as a pastor and leader in our association. We know that God has great things for him in this new role."

Additionally, Watkins will work to foster strong relationships with pastors and lay leaders through enhanced communication. "We have talked continuously about the need to operate with a unified vision, and this need is not limited to the association's departments. It is paramount for the unified vision to begin at the local church level. Bro. David's long-time service as a pastor and respected leader within the BMAA makes him the ideal candidate for this position," Crawley said. "Bro. David made it clear when he resigned at First Baptist that he was not retiring but that he would wait on God's next assignment. We are thrilled that God has led him to join our development team, and we are confident that God will use him mightily in this new

From DiscipleGuide

Flexible Bible Study Options

by Bobby L. Hudgens

Adult small group Bible studies from DiscipleGuide offer your church the flexibility it needs to grow disciples. Ample study options are available to you in a variety of forms. For instance, your church may prefer to choose from among the books printed quarterly – Compass, Compass Point, or Christian Living – or you might decide to use some of the many books we have formatted for download.

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position."

"I'm excited about the integration of our departments and honored to have the opportunity to share the vision with our churches. I am also honored to work with our departmental directors as we all strive to advance our associated work," said Watkins.

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Compass Series

Download. Compass Series consists of

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CONSIDER THIS

Conscience is that thing that feels bad when everything else feels good.

Hotel Information for Oklahoma Meeting

The following hotels have agreed to offer group rates to those attending the 2013 BMAA meeting in Norman, Oklahoma, April 22-24. The Embassy Suites has been designated as the primary hotel. When calling, please specify that you are attending the Baptist Missionary Association of America meeting to receive the group rate.

Shown below are the names of the hotels, contact information, room rates and deadlines for group rate reservations:

- **Embassy Suites**, 2501 Conference Dr.; (405) 364-8040; single, \$120; double, \$130; triple, \$140; quad, \$150; March 22.
- **Hilton Garden Inn**, 700 Copperfield Dr.; (405) 579-0100; single, \$119; double, \$119; triple, \$129; quad, \$129; March 31.
- **Courtyard by Marriott**, 770 Copperfield Dr.; (405) 701-8900; \$89; April 7.
- **Holiday Inn**, 1000 N. Interstate Dr.; (405) 364-2882; \$89; March 31.
- **Comfort Inn & Suites**, 840 Copperfield Dr.; (405) 701-5200; \$79; April 1.

Missions Prayer Calendars Available

The 2013 BMAA Missions Prayer Calendar is available now. The goal is to begin praying through the calendar as part of our World Missions Sunday celebration on February 24th. The calendar provides photos, praises, and prayer requests for many of our worldwide missions personnel. You may order your calendars online: www.bmaamissions.org, via email: kboyd@bmaam.com, or by calling 501-455-4977 ext. 29.

Dr. John David Smith
Executive Director
BMAA Dept. of Missions

A Royal Flush

I'm not sure enough prayer has been rendered when it comes to designing the placement of a bathroom in the church building. As generations advanced, it is possible that simply having one inside the building as opposed to outside the building was considered the divine providence of God. However, we see on a regular basis that this line of thought could be a little flawed.

Don't get me wrong! I am wholeheartedly in favor of inside ... um... facilities, especially when the temperature outside drops below a comfortable level, say around 60 degrees. And I do like the inside environment of a nicely lighted and furnished restroom, although the fear of snakes, spiders, and dark spaces does have the reputation of expediting the process. I imagine much time was redeemed in the days of the outhouse.

There was one time that I had the privilege of digging the outside conveniences while attending a small mission in Tennessee. It was just a hole with a box around it, but was more than acceptable if a need arose. Two men visiting the mission from south Mississippi promptly sent funds for more modern commodities as soon as they arrived back at their home church. You would have thought we had won the lottery even though being Christians we didn't play that devil game. We just imagined that it felt like that. It's amazing how something of this nature can increase the call of nature and I am pretty sure our pastor was a little put out at all the attention our new room was getting, especially during the preaching.

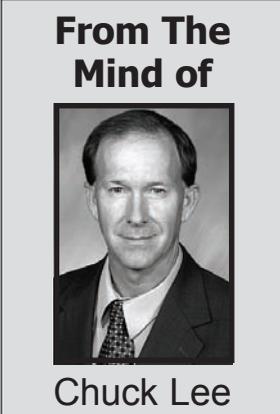
But back to the placement of the bathroom. As all Baptists are prompt to do, the location of the inhouse at once becomes a matter of great concern and litigation. Everyone has their own special idea of where it needs to be and treats it as a matter that has been their own

special project since they were born. The placement of the bathroom in the church house! They are all wrong. Well, only if they disagree with me.

As a minister, there are few things that really distract me while preaching. A baby can cry or roll around down the aisle. A deacon can fall asleep while his wife looks annoyed and embarrassed. The lights can go out during a storm. These are all expected occurrences and are over-

looked by most ministers. Really there are basically only two things that divert us from the task at hand, which is preaching the Gospel, and they are cell phones ringing right before the invitation is given and people having to walk to the front of the building past the preacher to go to the bathroom because there are none in the back.

I vote that a committee be formed to elect a special committee to nominate a board of directors to address this issue. As soon as I can get a second and we discuss this motion, it is advised that the board convene promptly to handle this matter. I'm sure that from now on, it will be advised that anyone attempting to place a bathroom that you have to walk past everyone in the building



From The Mind of

Chuck Lee



A Plea to Scouts: Don't Let The 'Bad Guys' Win

OneNewsNow.com - Leaders of traditional values groups believe if the Boy Scouts changes its policy regarding homosexuals as members and leaders, that organization could be deeply hurt.

The proposal under consideration by the Boy Scouts of America, announced Monday (January 28), would remove sexual orientation from the national membership restriction and permit regional councils to make their own decisions about membership.

"Currently, the BSA is discussing potentially removing the national membership restriction regarding sexual orientation," read a statement released yesterday by the Scouts' leadership. "This would mean there would no longer be any national policy regarding sexual orientation, but that the chartered organizations that oversee and deliver Scouting would accept membership and select leaders consistent with their organization's mission, principles or religious beliefs. BSA members and parents would be able to choose a local unit which best meets the needs of their families.

"The policy change under discussion would allow the religious, civic or educational organizations that oversee and deliver Scouting to determine to get to will be quickly reprimanded and after the second admonition withdrew from.

We have a second, thank you Ray. Now all in favor show by the uplifting of hands.

how to address this issue. The Boy Scouts would not, under any circumstances, dictate a position to units, members or parents. Under this proposed policy, the BSA would not require any chartered organization to act in ways inconsistent with that organization's mission, principles or religious beliefs."

The Scouts' announcement comes after years of controversy surrounding the current policy, including a high-profile Supreme Court case in June 2000, and more recently corporate campaigns to suspend donations to the Boy Scouts.

Perkins

Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, offers his take on the announcement.

"This is what's happening," he said on American Family Radio Monday afternoon. "The homosexual activists - you know they succeeded in taking down the military with Barack Obama's help - now they've been targeting the Boy Scouts using their allies in corporate America, where they get into the HR departments and they've been pressuring them like UPS [and Merck Foundation], even though a Gallup poll just out shows that a majority of Americans agree with the Boy Scouts' position."

Peter LaBarbera of Americans for Truth About Homosexuality reminds OneNewsNow that the Scouts went to the highest court in the nation to win the right to ban homosexuals in leadership positions - but homosexual activists began pounding them, then some businesses stopped financial support.

"If you take all that and you still come out strong, that's a victory," he says. "But if you

allow all of that pressure to then change your values - which is what they're doing here - to accommodate homosexuality, then you've given in. You've let the bad guys win."

"It's very sad to see the Scouts cave on this," he continues. "If you capitulate to the homosexual lobby, you're capitulating to immorality; and you're not being 'morally straight,' as the Boy Scout creed says."

Randy Sharp, director of special projects for the American Family Association, also alludes to the Scouts' oath.

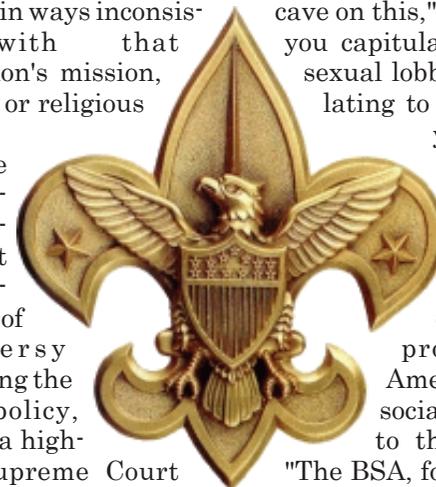
"The BSA, for years, has had character and integrity and has stood firm on moral values," he remarks. "If they reverse this policy, then what they're saying now is that to remain 'morally straight' isn't as important as they've been saying for the past 100 years."

Sharp predicts that, should a policy change come to pass, fewer parents will allow their children to be members. And he points out that the BSA depends on adult volunteers to run the program.

"You're signing a death warrant when you say you're going to allow open homosexuals to participate in a program with young boys," adds the former Scoutmaster.

LaBarbera agrees. Parents, he says, do not want homosexual Scoutmasters going with their boys on campouts. "And you don't want homosexual Boy Scouts either because you don't want to have one homosexual Scout going around telling everybody about his homosexuality and how he's out and proud and everything. You don't want that influence of deviant sexuality among the boys itself."

"... Parents need to contact the Scouts and say Stick to the original policy ... Keep the Scouts morally straight," urges LaBarbera.



2013 Senior Adult Conferences

South Senior Adult Conference
Tuesday, March 26, 2013
Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso

North Senior Adult Conference
Friday, May 17, 2013
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton

2013 Theme - *Heaven's Jubilee*



Southeastern Baptist College

4229 Highway 15 North
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Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Enrollment Looking Good This Semester!

Enrollment was down this past semester and this created concern for the Spring semester enrollment. The Spring semester is traditionally always lower than the Fall semester. We know how crucial a good enrollment is and have been praying and working hard to try and keep the enrollment from dropping drastically. God has blessed and the headcount this Spring semester is looking great! However, the number of hours is down, but at this point, looks to be down only by about 60 hours. The drop in hours is attributed to several students taking fewer classes.

We also had the challenge of replacing students who dropped out, as well as those who did not return. Registration is closing out and so far we

have 52 registered and six completing admissions for registration. If all complete admissions the number registered will be 58. In the Fall semester, registration closed out with 55 students. What's amazing is that of this number, 19 are new students who were not enrolled last semester. At this point, we will have as many as last semester, and maybe even a few more.



Joseph Harris
Interim
President

New SBC Page on Facebook

SBC has a new Facebook page and we invite you to visit and "Like" our page. Pictured are Molly Ranshaw and Samantha Lee. They maintain and update this page on a con-

sistent basis and we are already seeing positive results. These students have a love for SBC and have agreed to help in public relations by using their internet skills to help get the word out to an electronic generation. Molly is in her fourth semester and attends Highland Baptist Church in Laurel. Samantha is in her third semester and attends Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Leakesville. Thanks girls. You are doing a great job!

Matching Gift Program

There are numerous corporations that participate in matching gift programs where the business matches the charitable donation given by an employee. Some of these companies match the donation 1:1 which means they give the same amount donated by the employee. Some companies match in-kind gifts or even gifts of products and equipment including computers. Another matching contribution is where the employee donates time or service to the institution and their company then donates a dollar amount to match the value of the time donated.

Robby Walters is a recent example. He attended SBC in



Molly Ranshaw and Samantha Lee keeping the Facebook page up to date.

the early 70's and played on the basketball team and has been a friend to the college for the past several years. Robby volunteered time on the campus of SBC this past semester and Exxon sent a check for \$1,000 to match his volunteer work. He also has just donated \$1,000 and now Exxon will send another check to match his cash donation. We thank God for Robby and his love for SBC.

There over 900 corporations nationwide that participate in

matching donation programs and some folks in our churches might be employed by some of these companies. We have a list of these companies and will be glad to speak with anyone who might be interested in giving through this program. To have your donation doubled is good stewardship. Also, the program might still apply to retirees depending on the company. Contact me today at 601-426-6346 or 601-498-8418 or jharris@southeasternbaptist.edu.

Great Resource for Church Leaders

Bobby L. Hudgens

Can you believe it's 2013? Some of us are old enough that we're surprised to see 2013! God has blessed us with more time; the question is what will we do with it. The Bible tells us how to approach everything we do. "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." (Eccl. 9:10)

DiscipleGuide Information Services is trying to gather all the information possible for the next edition of the BMAA Directory and Handbook. Submitting your completed DiscipleGuide church letter form and mailing an offering will ensure this resource is an effective tool in the hands of church leaders. We want it to be all it can be and needs to be, but we can't do it without your help.

The deadline for submitting the letter online is February 15 and it can be found at DiscipleGuide.org/ChurchLetter.

Barnabus Touch Opportunities

Barnabus Touch plans to visit four different nations where the BMA of America and Evangelistic International Ministries have personnel this year. Shown below is an updated list of those trips:

- Nepal, March 15-23 — to teach an Old Testament Survey course to pastors.
- Philippines, April 25-May 4 — pastor training/Bible conference.
- Accra, Ghana, Aug. 13-20 — to help teach and train pastors.
- India, Pune, Oct. 25-Nov. 1 — to work with pastors.
- India, Gulbarga, Nov. 2-9 — to work with pastors.

Participants are asked to cover their own expenses and, although the exact costs are unknown until airline tickets are purchased and lodging is arranged, each trip will probably be in the range of \$2,500 to \$3,500.

For more information, contact Danny Bullock at 870-904-5032.

Only Mississippi Abortion Clinic Gets License Warning

Mississippi's only abortion clinic said it received notice Friday (January 25) that the state Health Department intends to revoke its operating license.

However, the clinic, Jackson Women's Health Organization, is not expected to close anytime soon.

Under a state administrative procedures law, the clinic can remain open while it awaits a hearing by the department. That could be more than a month away.

Clinic owner Diane Derzis said this week that she expected the notice about a possible license revocation.

Health Department workers inspected the facility January 16 to see if it had complied with a 2012 state law that requires anyone doing abortions at the clinic to be an OB-GYN with hospital admitting privileges.

Derzis said local hospitals would not issue privileges to out-of-state physicians who do most of the abortions at the clinic.

Admitting privileges can be difficult to obtain. Some hospitals won't issue them to out-of-

state physicians, while hospitals that are affiliated with religious groups might not want to associate with anyone who does elective abortions.

"They were clear that they didn't deal with abortion and they didn't want the internal or the external pressure of dealing with it," Derzis told The Associated Press on Jan. 11.

Republican Gov. Phil Bryant, who signed the 2012 law, has said repeatedly that he wants Mississippi to be abortion-free and that he'd shut the clinic if he had the power to do it.

Supporters of the law say it's intended to protect women's safety. Opponents say admitting privileges are unnecessary because the clinic has an agreement to transfer patients to a local hospital if an emergency arises; the patients would be tended by physicians on duty at the hospital.

The clinic filed a federal lawsuit last summer as the law was about to take effect, arguing that the law is unconstitutional because it would effectively block women's access to abortion in Mississippi by clos-

ing the facility where most of the 2,000-plus abortions a year are performed in the state. A 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Roe vs. Wade* established the nationwide right to abortion.

U.S. District Judge Daniel P. Jordan III gave the facility time to try to comply with the law, blocking any criminal or civil penalties during that period. Clinic attorneys are asking Jordan to extend his injunction on the law.

The clinic filed a plan with the state Health Department showing that it intended to seek admitting privileges for its physicians, and the department allowed six months for that process, until January 11. The January 16 inspection was triggered by the clinic's missing the January 11 deadline.

The Health Department wrote a letter Thursday that was delivered to the clinic Friday, showing the findings of the inspection. The department noted that none of the three physicians affiliated with the clinic have local hospital ad-

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Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

www.bmaofmississippi.com

DEPARTMENTS & COMMISSIONS

Mississippi Baptist Paper

P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441
601-426-3293

Southeastern Baptist College

4229 Highway 15 North Laurel, MS
39440 - 601-426-6346

State Youth Department

P.O. Box 4247, Laurel, MS 39441
662-397-6832

Baptist Children's Home

118 Lowe Rd., Laurel, MS 39443
601-426-3928

Missions & Revolving Loan Fund

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS
39440 - 601-428-8616

Commission on Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS
39440
601-729-3198

History & Archives Commission

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

Moral Action

P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855

Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Bible Study Options

from page 1

A Refreshing Couple of Days

Each year the BMA of Mississippi Pastor's Retreat is held towards the end of January. This year's retreat was held at Lake Tiak O'Khata near Louisville on January 28 & 29. These meeting have been going on for years. There have been years of good attendance and years of lean participation.



Don Brown
Editor

The 2013 Retreat was one of the best this writer can remember concerning content and spiritual impact. The attendance was better than some years, but still was a little disappointing. If I counted correctly 34 of us gathered for this year's meeting.

The theme was directed at the pastor and his heart and holiness. The messages were no doubt from the Lord and they were right on target - encouraging and warning the minister of his calling and his responsibility. We were encouraged and challenged to do the Lord's work in a manner that is pleasing to Him and that will magnify His Name.

Most of the readers of this column will be laymen. I encourage you to encourage your pastor to take some time to himself. Encourage your church to send him to Pastor conferences, retreats and seminars that will uplift him and encourage him. See that the pastor and his family take "time off". The pastorate can be demanding and many times is pressure packed.

I know a pastor who could not come to this year's Pastor's Retreat. The reason? He had been sent on a cruise by his church! This church was not only showing their appreciation to their pastor, but they were ministering to him and his family in a way that was encouraging and refreshing.

Do you have to send your pastor on a cruise? No. Should the church do something encouraging for their pastor? I think they should. It will show him and his family that you are concerned about them.

These types of supporting efforts on the part of the church will make your pastor a better pastor and it will encourage him in the ministry. He will benefit, the Lord's work will benefit and your church will have a better pastor.



Group photo of those attending the 2013 Pastor's Retreat

the quarters of Compass produced between spring 2000 and spring 2011. They can be found at DiscipleGuide.org/CompassSeries.

DiscipleGuide Classics

Download. The Classics are downloadable lessons from the Adult Sunday School books (now Compass) of the 1980s and 1990s. They are indexed by Bible text and topic and can be found at DiscipleGuide.org/classics.

Compass Point Collection

Printed books. Can be found and ordered at DiscipleGuide.org/CPCollection or by calling 800-333-1442. Compass Point is designed to appeal to young adults, and provides a contemporary interactive format of Bible study.

Compass Point Downloads

Download. Compass Point is designed to appeal to young adults, and provides a contemporary interactive format of Bible study. A preview option is provided. Find them at DiscipleGuide.org/CPDownloads.

Connect Small Group Resources

Download. Connect lessons are grouped in four to six related topics, and include a participant's guide and leader notes that can be photocopied for small group use. A preview option is provided. Find them at DiscipleGuide.org/connect.

Christian Living Series

Printed books. Can be ordered at DiscipleGuide.org/ChristianLiving or by calling 800-333-1442. Each Christian Living book contains thirteen lessons developed around a central biblical theme.

The current quarters of Compass, Compass Point, and Christian Living are available at DiscipleGuide.org/QuickOrder or by calling 800-333-1442.

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Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



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John Adams

Christians and the Media Elite

Hebrews 3:7-13 enlightens the Christian on the "evil heart of unbelief." The American news media typically depicts the Christian and Christianity as "having no rights in the political process." The so called progressive news media, its announcers and analysts, appear to possibly have a "heart of unbelief."

These analysts are compensated to write, talk and politicize American politics and as one writer states "it is ad nauseum." "The media has been complaining once again about religious folks, for injecting religion into political races," states Dr. Alan Sears of Alliance Defending Freedom. We could gather from this statement that the liberal and bias media have an elitist philosophy to talk down Christians in America.

The Media Desires to Frighten Christians

In the 2012 Presidential election, the mass-media accused Christians of everything from racism, disrespect for the laws of the land, hate for the U.S. Constitution, and ignorance. Christians are depicted as being locked in the "stone age." The media conjures up frightful visions of Christians as Bible thumpers and mindless "Jesus followers." We know this to be false

and not the true picture of Christianity. Christians are from every walk of life, every state of the union, on the factory floor, behind the college podium, in the armed services, farming the fields, delivering the mail, in the halls of Congress, and, yes, even in the public media. God stated in Hebrews 3: "exhort one another daily....for we are made partakers of Christ..." Hebrews 4..."he (the Christian) also hath ceased from his own works (occupation) as God did from His." So, therefore, Christians, **DO NOT EVER BE FRIGHTENED BY THE ELITIST.** We belong to the Savior, Jesus Christ!

The Media Desires to intimidate Christians

Christian men and women involving themselves in the political realm appears to "unnerve" the news media. They do not understand Christianity, so therefore, they resort to negative and bias information, most of which are lies and falsifications.

Christians, **DO NOT BE INTIMIDATED.** We have the right to actively participate in politics. We can and should take a major role in promoting and helping to elect Godly leaders in our government. We have a place in the process. We simply must be Christ-like.

As Christians, we must engage in

Christ-like attitudes and actions. Never use unsavory secular means in order to succeed in politics. "Character assassination" is unacceptable.

The Media Desires to Dismiss Us

The media attempts to dismiss Christians because of their ignorance of our dedication to our Savior, mankind and to biblical principles. We, however, give them a strong impression by our conduct. We must be kind; vocal but not obnoxious. They can observe our daily lives, our relationships, our convictions for morality. Stand tall for Morals. Joshua declares, "only be thou strong and very courageous..." **DO NOT LET THEM DISMISS US!**

The Media Wishes For You Not to Participate

Here is a great and spiritual battle plan: Put on the whole armor of God, pray as II Chronicles 7:14 declares and let the Holy Spirit lead you in moral and political decisions.

Christians should offer themselves as candidates for elected public offices, local, state, and national. Christian voters should cast votes for born-again, moral candidates. We should pray for Christian men and women in the public arena that they will have a Godly influence.

Christians can be a powerful force for the good of America. Get involved! **PARTICIPATE!**

Reading Recommendations:

- 1) Romans 13:1-14
- 2) Personal Faith, Public Policy
Harry Jackson, Tony Perkins
Front Line Publishers \$21.00
- 3) Saving Freedom
U.S. Senator Jim DeMint
Fidelis Books \$26.00



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

JUDGE NOT

Someone handed me this poem a few days ago and I thought it good enough to share. So here 'tis.

I was shocked, confused, bewildered
As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
Nor the lights, or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven
Who made me sputter and gasp-
The thieves, the liars, the sinners,
The alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade
Who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbor
Who never said anything nice.

Bob, who I always thought
Was rotting away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal?
I would love to hear your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake.

'And why is everyone so quiet,
So somber - give me a clue.'
'Hush, child,' He said,
'they're all in shock.
No one thought they'd be seeing you.'

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Anders Lee

Bro. Anders Lee is available as the Lord leads to the churches of the BMA. He can fill the pulpit as needed and he is scheduling revivals, camps, D-Now & retreats for 2013. One may contact him at 901-343-3293 or by email at Anders.Lee571@gmail.com.

Lavon Haden

Lavon Haden is available for service as the Lord leads. He may be reached by phone at 517-3003-1510 or by email at haden.epastor.lavon2@gmail.com.

Zach Dant

Bro. Zach Dant is available for service. He lives in Petal, Mississippi, is a student at Southeastern Baptist Col-

lege and will graduate in May 2013. He may be reached at 601-714-8505.

Scot Downs

Scott Downes is available for pastoral work and pulpit supply. He may be reached at 601-749-0951 or 601-916-0486.

Positions Available

Song Leader Needed

A part time song leader is needed at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Ellisville, Mississippi. If interested, please contact Pastor Ray Matthews at 601-428-8004.

Skyway Hills Baptist Church Seeks Music and Youth Director

Skyway Hills Baptist Church in Pearl, Mississippi, is seeking God's leadership in the selection of a Music and Youth Director. Any Individual who feels God's direction to apply for this position should send a resume to Brother Steven Clark, Pastor, Skyway Hills Baptist Church, 3790 Highway 80 E., Pearl, MS 39208.

CHURCH NEWS

Harmony meeting

The January 2012 meeting of the Harmony Association was held at New Hope in Mantachie. After a meal provided by the host church, Bro. Cody Tucker brought the evening message using Mark 14: 1-9. 53 people were present with 10 churches represented, and 3 visitors.

Our next meeting will be at Parkview in Baldwin with Bro. Kelby Johnson speaker, alternate Bro. Paul Reynolds. Bro. Eddie Boutwell gave a report on church camp. Bro. Bobby Elliott and Kelby Johnson gave reports on their work. Bro. Kelby informed the association of a training and encouragement conference for youth pastors, workers, and any other church leaders, on March 30, 2013, at Bethel Baptist Church near Fulton. He encouraged each church to partici-

pate in this vital ministry. Bro. Scott Johnson was introduced as the new pastor of Providence in Amory. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Washington Report

The Washington Baptist Association met January 18th at Oak Grove Baptist Church. There were 12 churches represented at the meeting with 54 members and 1 visitor. Reports were given by Bro. Nathan Brown, Bro. Paul Lee, Bro. Fulton Lindsey and Bro. Milford Magers.

There was no old business and only one item of new business.

Bro. John Grimes introduced the speaker, Bro. Jacob Bogard, the new pastor at Calvary Baptist Church.

Bro. Hoyt Moore announced that there will be a pastor's fellowship at Canaan on February 22.

Thank you Oak Grove for hosting the meeting and for the wonderful meal prepared for us.

The next meeting will be at Movella Baptist on February 15th at 7:00 PM. Praying for more of our churches to attend the monthly meetings.

Moderator B.J. Hudson

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

State GMA Officers Encourage 2013 GMA Retreat Attendance

Hey girls!

This is Caitlin Dalrymple, the State GMA 1st Vice President. I hope everyone is planning on coming to our state camp this year, it is going to be a great time of fun and fellowship!

A few things to know before coming to camp. If your church did not receive a T-shirt order form in the mail please contact me ASAP! Our shirts are going to be bright pink this year so I know everyone is going to want one. Something new this year is that the Galileans and GMAs are going to be at camp together! We are all very excited and I cannot wait to see everybody there. Even if your church does not have GMAs or Galileans, you are all welcome to come and have fun serving Christ!

We have a great camp planned with lots of fun activities. I hope everyone is excited for the house party, We will be hunting for the names of Jesus! If you need to contact me for T-shirt order forms my phone number is 601-716-6198, or you can email me at caitlinjeandalrymple@yahoo.com

Second VP Note

GMA State Camp is approaching very soon, March 8-9, 2013, to be exact. Our theme is "How Excellent Is Thy Name." Our theme verse is Psalm 8:9, "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" Bro. Sidney Farmer is going to be our camp pastor. This year Galileans and GMA's will be coming together for one camp so it will be twice as much fun. Please make plans to attend because it is going to be great! I ask that you continue to keep camp in your prayers, and the things that God is going to do that weekend.

Miranda Francis
GMA, Second Vice President

Camp is Coming!

Hello, my name is Paige Williams. I am the State GMA Song Leader. Camp is right around the corner, and I am extremely excited to tell you what we have planned. This year's camp will be a little bit different from previous years. The biggest difference is that GMAs and Galileans will have camp together this year. I encourage all churches that have GMAs and Galileans to come out. Even if your church does not have a program, I still encourage you to come and see what GMAs and Galileans is all about.



The State GMA project this year is Bro. Sidney Farmer at the South Forrest Mission and he will be our camp pastor this year. The State Galilean project this year is Moral Action Commission. To raise money for our projects, we will have a snack shop, silent auction, and take up an offering during the service on Friday night. The snack shop will be open Friday for lunch, Friday night after service, and Saturday morning.

We will have missions and crafts that everyone can participate in. Also, dinner with the Queens will allow GMAs, Galileans, young and old to meet new people and get to know one another. The service Friday night will include the Queens Coronation, Jr. Miss/Miss GMA presentation, and a message brought by Bro. Farmer. I am not going to give anything away, but Caitlin Dalrymple, our GMA Vice President, has an exciting house party planned. I am looking forward to this year's camp,

Attention Galileans

**Mississippi State Camp
March 8-9, 2013**

Camp Garaway
Clinton, Mississippi.

Theme

"How Excellent Is Thy Name" from Psalm 8:9.

Attention GMAs

**Mississippi State Camp
March 8-9, 2013**

Camp Garaway
Clinton, Mississippi.

Theme

"How Excellent Is Thy Name" from Psalm 8:9.

and I hope to see you there!
Sincerely,
Paige Williams

State Historian

Hey girls, this is your State Historian Tygh Roche! I know me and the other officers are all ready to see the Lord's work be done. We have all kinds of great things planned for camp. We're so sure you all will love and enjoy camp this year. The theme this year is "How excellent is Thy Name." His name is so worthy to be praised. So come to camp this year, the days of March 8th and 9th, and help us praise His name! I hope to see each and every one of you there! For more information call our president, Olivia Farley at 601-508-3080.

God Bless,
Tygh Roche.

Attention GMAs

**Mississippi State Camp
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Clinton, Mississippi.

Theme

"How Excellent Is Thy Name" from Psalm 8:9.

2013 Pastor's Retreat Photos



Coping With Addictions

Every few months, I feel compelled to write an article on this issue. You may ask why I keep doing that. It is because I do not ever extend an invitation in church on Sunday morning, that someone doesn't come forward asking for prayer for a loved one who is addicted to drugs and alcohol. I am not preaching on the subject that morning, but they come forward because it is such a burden for family. This prayer request is not frequent - it is every single Sunday service. Drug and alcohol abuse is so rampant that it permeates the fabric of the church family to-

day in an enormous way.

It is so sad. When you love someone that has a drug prob-



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

lem, you feel so helpless. You feel so hurt. If it is a spouse or child of yours, you often times will add guilt into your emotional baggage. You spend time

beating yourself up wondering what you did wrong. You always want to know what you could do differently. It hurts to watch someone you love self-destruct. Let me share with you some things you should take to heart.

It isn't your fault.

Even if you made mistakes, it isn't your fault. The person to hold responsible for the addiction is the addict. You can play that game, "if only this had happened", or "if only I had done this". People choose to cope with problems in life through drugs and alcohol by their own choice. No one is a forced addict. Many people have gone through horrific problems and struggled, but still did not choose chemicals as their coping mechanism. Don't blame a hard life or a tragedy as an excuse for their addictions. You also will not be able to be used by God to help this person if you keep blaming yourself. You didn't cause it. They chose it. Now, you must move ahead in a productive way of helping them through this. There is nothing gained by beating yourself up, or feeling sorry and pitiful for yourself. This is not the life you wanted, but it is the one you got. So we have to put on our big boy britches and grow on.

You cannot force them to stop.

Addicts don't get clean and sober until they want to. You can pour it all down the drain, you can throw out all the dope; but they will find a way to use again because they are addicted, until they make a personal decision to stop. I don't

mean that you can't set boundaries in your own home. You can. But deceit and lies are the cornerstone of addictions, and they will find a way to use until they hurt bad enough to stop.

You cannot rescue them. I know it hurts. You love them. You don't want them to lose a job, get arrested, lose a marriage etc... But if you step in there and always bail them out, you are hurting them in the long run. Very often, people will not seek help until they

love never ends. I Corinthians 13:7 and 8. Cling to that verse. You can tell the person, "I want you to stop. I insist you stop. I will set boundaries. But loving you does not depend on how you act or behave. Love is unconditional. And even though you hurt me and are destroying your life and my peace; I still love you. I still want to be reconciled to you and want you to be reconciled to the Lord."

When They Hurt You

When they hurt you, always remember that you are not hearing that from the person you love. You are hearing that from an addict. Get the junk out of their system, and then you will be dealing with the person. You are hearing an addict talk. Not your loved one. Their mind is messed up and clouded over. They can't think straight or talk right. They need to get clean and sober before we can even begin to deal with depression or spiritual growth. Until they get the chemicals out of their system, they can't cognitively deal with the spiritual issues that are the heart of addictions.

All addictions are caused by a hole in the heart.

Don't look at the alcohol or drug. That is simply the tool they have chosen to deal with the pain, the feelings of inadequacy etc... Pray for God to show them the way. Pray for Him to reveal to their heart His love for them. Ask God to change their heart. To send the Holy Spirit of conviction so they realize their present condition. Pray for God to show them there is always hope for deliverance through Jesus Christ. It is never too late. Don't ever give up. Jesus is the hope of all - even the addict.



f a l l .

When family cuts them off, or they lose their job or family; it serves as the wake up call to them that they may indeed need help. Don't circumvent God who is trying to get them to stop by sending them through a Jonah experience. Every time God gets close to allowing them to see their wretched condition and what it is costing them; you step in to rescue them. This must stop. It is called tough love. People must experience the pain of wrong or sinful choices. You can be there for them.

Be there to listen to them. Preach less and listen more! They need to know that there is one person in this world who still loves and accepts them unconditionally. There is someone who in spite of my wicked ways, still will not reject me. That has to be you. Everyone else may give up on them, but



Kelby Johnson
Director

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

Theme: The Importance of the Word of God

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

9:00 am Registration (Worship led by Justin Bynum)

10:00 am Session 1 "Know The Word"

(the importance of Bible study) Brad Stephens

11:10 am Session 2 "Share the Word"

(the importance of Bible teaching)

Larry Geraldson

12:10 pm Lunch

1:30 pm Group Discussion

2:45 pm Session 3 "Live The Word"

(the importance of Bible living)

Kelby Johnson

3:30 Final Thoughts

(All worship led by Justin Bynum)

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

9:00 am Registration

10:00 am Session 1 "Know The Word"

(the importance of Bible study)

Gary O'Neal

11:10 am Session 2 "Share the Word"

(the importance of Bible teaching)

Kevin Clayton

12:10 pm Lunch

1:30 pm Group Discussion

2:45 pm Session 3 "Live The Word"

(the importance of Bible living)

Tracy McMillen

3:30 Final Thoughts

(All worship led by Dwight Lindsey)

*Choose the time and location that fits your schedule!

Evangelical Shoppers Unwelcome

OneNewsNow.com - A California legal group is filing suit against a shopping mall for threatening a Christian who shared his faith with other shoppers.

The lawsuit, filed by the Pacific Justice Institute (PJI), alleges that management and officers at the Visalia Mall threatened and harassed John Vadnais, a church elder, for sharing his faith. It also claims that they called the police out to intimidate him.

PJI president Brad Dacus tells OneNewsNow Vadnais was told he could not talk to strangers about religion.

"No one should be threatened with arrest for peacefully communicating their beliefs to willing listeners," he asserts. "In California, large shopping malls are deemed the equivalent of public forums. It is both intolerant and illegal for the Visalia Mall to suppress speech just because it's religious."

Vadnais often visited the mall to shop and eat, and he shared his faith with other shoppers.

PJI won a similar suit in 2010 involving a youth pastor who was arrested for sharing his faith with Roseville Galleria shoppers who were willing to listen.



"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."

Proverbs 25:11

As inadequate as I feel these words are, I want to extend our deepest sympathy to Kelby and Jessie Johnson (Kelby is our missionary to New Albany) and their boy's Adin and Andrew on the loss of baby Adley.

As I sat on their couch and looked into the grief-filled but also question-filled eyes of their oldest son, Adin, I searched to find those few words that would be like apples of gold.



Larry Geraldson
Director

All I could say as I hugged him close was, "I love you." You may want to drop a note or a card or give them a call. Their address is: 503 Lake View Cove, New Albany, MS 38653. Their phone number is 662 316-6233 and Kelby's email address is kelbyjohnson@yahoo.com. Our understanding is that Adley will be buried at

Big Creek after visitation and funeral services on Saturday, January 2.

New Mission Projects Developing

As I write this article I am preparing to meet with another church to discuss church planting. More and more of our churches are taking this responsibility very serious. I am presently working on three prospective missions projects. Please pray with me that these projects will come together. I hope to share more information with you in the near future.

Special Thanks

We really appreciate the special Christmas offering we received from Good Hope in Columbia, Pastor Denny Patterson. We hope more churches will consider State Missions as they receive special offerings through the year.

Missionary Professional Development Open To All

In coordination with our effort to provide professional development opportunities for our missionaries, the

BMAA Seminary (BMATS) is offering an online course entitled, "Sermon Preparation" which can be taken for either undergraduate or graduate credit. This class is open to anyone who would like to sign up. The class will conclude with a three day seminar hosted by Midway First Baptist in Sumrall (Hattiesburg) and taught by Dr. Holmes on 19-21 March. Everyone is invited to attend the seminar whether you signed up for the class or not.

Matching Funds (extended)

Missionary Bob Burch has raised \$6,371.00 of the \$50,000.00 needed to receive full matching funds. Missionary Sidney Farmer has raised \$17,791.00 of the \$35,000.00 needed to receive full matching funds. These matching funds have been made available to help reduce the cost of the building loans at Caledonia and South Forrest. For every dollar raised, up to these amounts, it will be matched and will directly reduce the costs associated with the purchase and construction of their new facilities. So, if you would like to make a special donation to these funds, please send it to the BMA of Mississippi Missions Department designated for Burch or Farmer matching building fund.

Upcoming Events

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

2012 Regional Walk for the World Winners

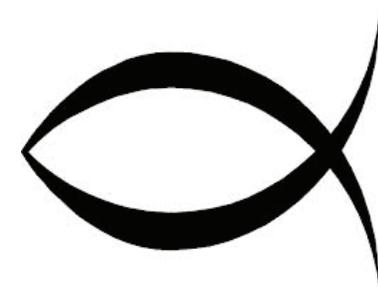
by Diane Ward
National Walk Coordinator

In addition to the 2012 Overall and Per Capita Walk winners, we would like to recognize the leading churches in each particular region. A special thanks to each of these churches as well as all other churches who contributed to the annual event.

LIFEWORD 2012
WALK FOR THE WORLD
REGIONAL WINNERS

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| South Mississippi | |
| Evergreen, Seminary | \$4,870.00 |
| North Mississippi | |
| Skyway Hills, Pearl | \$3,096.00 |

Attention Galileans



**Mississippi State Camp
March 8-9, 2013**

Camp Garaway
Clinton, Mississippi.

Theme

"How Excellent Is Thy Name" from Psalm 8:9.

Bible-Minded Cities

from Barna Research Group

From its place in schools, to the public square, to people's individual lives, the current and future role of the Bible in U.S. society is an often-debated topic. A new release from Barna Group shows how this debate plays out regionally and takes a look at how 96 of the largest cities in the nation view the Bible.

The report ranks the most and least "Bible-minded" cities by looking at how people in those cities view the Bible. The study is based on 42,855 interviews conducted nationwide and the analysis of Bible trends was commissioned by American Bible Society. Individuals who report reading the Bible in a typical week and who strongly

assert the Bible is accurate in the principles it teaches are considered to be Bible-minded. This definition captures action and attitude—those who both engage and esteem the Christian scriptures. The rankings thus reflect an overall openness or resistance to the Bible in the country's largest markets.

Top Cities

Regionally, the South still qualifies as the most Bible-minded. The top ranking cities, where at least half of the population qualifies as Bible-minded, are all Southern cities. This includes the media markets for Knoxville, TN (52% of the population are

Bible-minded), Shreveport, LA (52%), Chattanooga, TN (52%), Birmingham, AL (50%), and Jackson, MS (50%). Other markets in the top 10 include Springfield, MO (49%), Charlotte, NC (48%), Lynchburg, VA (48%), Huntsville-Decatur, AL (48%), and Charleston, WV (47%).

Least Bible-Minded Cities

The least Bible-oriented markets include a mix of regions, but tend to be from the New England area. Easily the lowest Bible-minded scores came from Providence, RI (9%) and Albany, NY (10%). To put this in perspective, the most Bible-minded markets are five times more likely to have residents who qualify as Bible-minded than is true in these two Northeastern cities.

Though these two cities are the most extreme, none of the cities in the bottom 10 break 20%, where even one in five people could be considered Bible-minded. The New England area is home to most of the markets in the bottom 10 Bible-minded cities, including Burlington, VT (16%), Portland, ME (16%), Hartford, CT (16%), Boston, MA (16%), Buffalo, NY (18%) and New York, NY (18%).

The remaining markets in the bot-

Abortion Clinic

from page 3

mitting privileges. It said one of the physicians previously had the privileges, but those had expired July 27.

The department also noted that the clinic had too few parking spaces available. State regulations require the clinic to be "located in an attractive setting with sufficient parking space provided." The department told the clinic to submit a plan within 10 days showing how it would correct the parking situation. The clinic's parking lot holds fewer than 20 cars.

tom 10 are primarily in the West and include San Francisco, CA (16%), Phoenix, AZ (17%), and Las Vegas, NV (18%). Cedar Rapids, IA (18%) being something of an outlier.

2013 Senior Adult Conferences

South Senior Adult Conference
Tuesday, March 26, 2013
Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso

North Senior Adult Conference
Friday, May 17, 2013
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton

2013 Theme - *Heaven's Jubilee*