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Mississippi

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Lifeword Turns Fifty

by Steve Crawley

“Surely, we have only to read the front pages of our newspaper or hear the news-casts to know that our nation is in crisis times, and we feel that the greatest help that we could give our own America is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Until men know Jesus in an intimate way by receiving Him as Personal Saviour and being transformed by His grace, we cannot expect to see civil justice. Truly, America is one of the greatest and most needy mission fields of the hour, and I am persuaded that unless we give our best to make Jesus known to our own

country that the liberty, peace and prosperity we know today will not endure long.”

Although this sounds like a call to action for today’s Christians, it was actually written fifty years ago by Harold Morris, a promotional worker for the association and missionary to Brazil until his health forced him stateside. In September of 1965 Bro. Morris began a Saturday afternoon radio broadcast, “to make Jesus known to the multitudes of our own land.”

The thirty-minute broadcast was over radio station KSTL 630 “on the dial in St.

Louis, Missouri,” and within a month, a Kansas City broadcast had begun. In a letter to the Gleaner, Bro Morris thanked Trinity Baptist Church in Florissant, Missouri, their pastor Ashford Conrad, the Cane Creek Association, and W.H. Newman of Chambers Park Baptist Church in St. Louis “for their liberal support for this program.” In November of 1965 Bro. Morris named his program The Harvest Gleaner Gospel Hour.

From two radio broadcasts in English to forty-eight different formats, thirty-four languages and 110 countries, Lifeword has continued to obey that Great Commission calling. We are celebrating this anniversary by also thanking churches and individuals who have made this unique media ministry possible.

In our new electronic newsletter, we will continue the story of Harvest Gleaner Hour/Lifeword and try to mention some of the other significant supporters throughout fifty years. If you would like to read more of how God has continued to bless us and to be informed about Lifeword Sunday/WalkfortheWorld, current project initiatives, prayer requests, praises, and changed lives, please send an email to holly@lifeword.org and we’ll add you to our list of subscribers.

We would love for you to partner with us as an active social media missionary and support partner. Our free, one-page newsletter also helps you understand more about how you can do just that. Christians do not want to be the “frozen chosen” (Brandon Cox Rewired).

Retiring Camp Director Honored

At the close of the service on January 25, First Baptist Church of Carthage, Texas, and the city of Carthage honored James and Barbara Speer on their retirement after 35 years of service as Director of Daniel Springs Baptist Camp in Gary.

The Speer’s moved to Gary, Texas, on January 1, 1980 with their 2 daughters Kim and Tammy and began a journey of 35 years to impact youth for Christ and they retired on December 31, 2014. The Speer’s are moving a few miles down the road to Carthage, where they have been members of First Baptist since January of 1980. They have bought a house there and will start their next leg of the journey.



James and Barbara Speer with Mayor Lynn Vincent, Carthage, Texas. The mayor presented the Speers with a key to the city and proclaimed January 25th as James and Barbara Speer Day.

During the service on Sunday, Mayor Lynn Vincent of Carthage gave the Speer’s a key to the city and proclaimed January 25, 2015 as James and Barbara Speer Day. The proclamation mentioned the thousands of youth impacted during their ministry and also the housing of hurricane evacuees during 3 different hurricanes.

Pastor Dr. Allen Tilley presented Barbara with a beautiful bouquet of red roses and a beautiful carved wooden plaque to honor the day and a food basket. Many cards, notes and gifts were given to the Speer’s to show their appreciation to the Speer’s for 35 years of ministry in the local church.

The Speer’s were joined by Tammy Ramm, Kim and Paul Turner and Victor Turner, one of their 4 grandchildren.

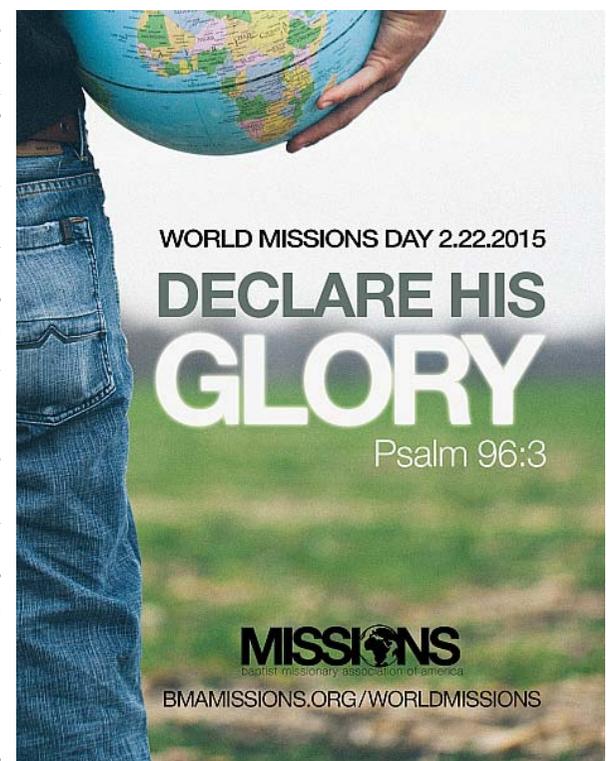
World Missions Sunday

February 22, 2015 is World Missions Sunday! This day is all about Declaring His Glory! The 2015 Prayer Calendars and Missions DVDs are now available. We ask that you order these in preparation for World Missions Sunday at your church. For the past three years we have not utilized a 50 Days of Prayer theme in order to emphasize praying for our missionaries the entire year. We ask that you pray through the calendar from World Missions Sunday until next World Missions Sunday.

We encourage you and your church to participate in the World Missions Sunday special offering for global missions. This offering is vital for ongoing ministry in seventy-six different countries and for church planting efforts here in the United States. We pray that missions is not merely a line item in your church budget. May it be the very heartbeat of your local congregation as you make God’s name known near and far. Declare His Glory!

You may place your order for

the 2015 Missions Prayer Calendar and the Missions DVD by: Phone: 501-455-4977 (speak to Tasha) - Website: bmamissions.org/worldmissions - Mail: 611 Locust Avenue, Conway, AR 72034.



Southeastern Baptist College

Danny Pitts - Interim President

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



Danny Pitts

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Scholarships Awarded

The recipients of the Arnold Knight Scholarship this semester are Josh Daniels, Wesley Martin, Justin Cameron, and Holden Stegall. The Revolving Loan Fund has given this scholarship to students for many years. It has blessed many with the ability to attend our school. We thank them for their faithfulness.

Memorial Offerings

Southeastern Baptist College has received some offerings in memory of Winnie McMahon, including from Robert Blake and two churches which he pastored, Fairhope and Mt. Gilead Baptist Church. Bro. Winnie was a special

Scholarship Recipients with Bro. Dennis Knight, representing the Arnold Knight Family and SBC President Danny Pitts



Knight Scholarship recipient Holden Stegall (center) with Dennis Knight and SBC President Danny Pitts



friend of my dad for many years and became mine as well. Several years before I went to Israel, he brought me a Tallit, which is a Jewish Prayer Shawl. It has been used to illustrate the many places where it is mentioned in the Bible. Bro. Winnie will always be remembered for his passion.

Enrollment

A decline in the enrollment during the Spring Semester is typical. Because our extension classes did not develop, our total numbers are down a little. Since many students took more hours and a full load, our final hours and income will be almost identical to the Fall Semester. As usual, we have some excellent students. Praise the Lord!

Come to class

Dr. Medrick Savell is teaching a class on Ezekiel and Daniel this semester. He taught me Daniel (Seminary Extension) in 1977. Sitting in on a class like that would multiply the impact that a teacher or preacher could make in emphasizing the truth. Be in prayer for our BMA of Mississippi college.



Knight Scholarship recipient Justin Cameron (center) with Dennis Knight and SBC President Danny Pitts

Barna releases numbers on 'churchless' Americans (OneNewsNow.com)

A new study finds that approximately 43 percent of Americans don't attend church. The California-based Barna Group reports that the combined number of unchurched people in America, approximately 156 million, would make the eighth most populous country in the world.

David Kinnaman of Barna contends Christians should be challenged to reach out to those who are searching.

On The Go

"Let's go! Let's go! Let's go!" "Hurry up!" "Move it, move it, move it!" "GO, TEAM, GO!"

We are a people that are on the go. It seems there is a sense of urgency to be somewhere, do something, or act in haste for some reason or other. Some time back I decided to rebel against this demon of rushing to and fro and take life as it comes. Others have come to this conclusion as well. Doctors are telling us to slow down. Law enforcement is telling us to slow down. Marathon runners are pleading with us to pace ourselves. The Eagles are encouraging us to "Take it Easy". I think this was one of the reasons Jimmy Buffet moved to some obscure place he calls Margaritaville. He just got tired of the hectic lifestyle and decided to sit on a beach with a cheeseburger and an apple pie.

It's not that I'm against people that are in a race against time, it's just that I started calculating the amount of time I had lived on this earth, and the amount of time I have left (which as I ran the numbers became quite depressing) I started wondering why I was in such a hurry. It became apparent that I must not be happy with where I am at the

present. There is an elusive carrot of true bliss dangling just ahead of people's noses that they never can seem to reach.

As I rush to beat the deadline on publishing this article, (only one month late, sorry Bro. Don), I realize that there is a need in some matters of our lives to be aware of the need for speed. I'm just wondering if we have our priorities out of whack. Take for instance: We need to be at the buffet for Sunday lunch before the Pentacostal crowd gets there so we glance frequently at our watches as the preacher says, "In closing" for the fifth time, but we shuffle through the church doors midway through the song service. I think I will begin a message one day with the words, "In closing". Or better yet, when I see someone coming in late, say "Amen, thank you all for coming today and we will see you next Sunday". Just to see them with a perplexed look on their face.

If there is a point to this article, I guess it would be that we need to consider where we are rushing off to, and is it because we are not satisfied with where we are now. Sometimes it is just good to sit in the rocking chairs, hold hands with someone you love, and just enjoy the moment.

From The Mind of



Chuck Lee

Christian scouting grows while Boy Scouts declines

OneNewsNow.com - A Christian scouting organization is thriving while Boy Scouts may be declining more

Spring Edition of SOAR:Lit Entitled, "Lost and Found"



SOAR:Lit, DiscipleGuide's literature for Junior High and High School students, will focus on issues and encouragements given to churches throughout the New Testament. Topics such as priorities, leadership, zeal, boldness, and morality will be discussed. Each lesson has been carefully crafted by author Valerie Fish to stimulate meaningful conversation between students and leaders. SOAR:lit is downloadable material and can be ordered from discipleguide.org for only \$11 per student per year.

than reported.

Boy Scouts membership declined another seven percent in the last reporting period, but there was apparently a drop of over 14 percent in Cub Scouts, which grooms future members and leaders of the Boy Scouts. Part of the loss could be due to the group's decision to allow homosexuals as members.

Meanwhile, a Christian-based scouting group is thriving. Trail Life USA was set up after Boy Scouts made the decision to accept homosexuals. Executive director Mark Hancock shares the group's success.

"We finished the year up with 534 troops chartered in 48 states and just under 20,000 members, so I feel like we've seen some tremendous growth there for an organization that's just a year old," he says.

The process of qualifying for a troop is not easy, and Hancock points out more 300 troops are waiting in line to be chartered. Trail Life USA is making sure faith is the focus.

"There's a temptation to say, Wow, we can grow really fast if we want to. But from the board of directors on down, there's such an emphasis on understanding that we are building something for long-term effect on generations of young men," he says. "We feel like we could grow explosively overnight if we lowered our standards - but we have no desire to do that."

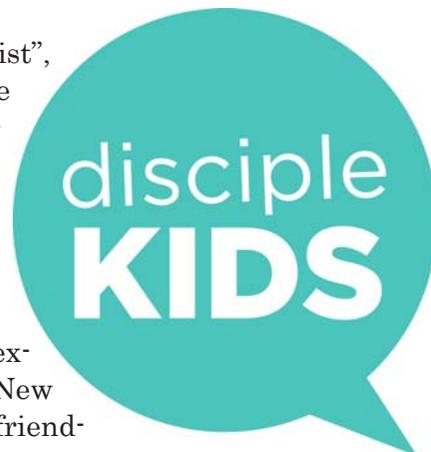
Spring DiscipleKids Topics Announced

The two units of the Spring quarter of DiscipleKids will focus on the life of Christ and our responsibility to be a friend to all people we come in contact with.

In "Like No Other: The Life of Christ", kids will discover Jesus, the name above all names, and hear God's purpose for sending His Son to the world. They will trace Jesus' last days on earth through His triumphal entry, death on the cross, resurrection, and ascension to heaven.

In "Being a Friend", children will examine individuals in the Old and New Testaments who extended love and friendship to those around them, especially in difficult circumstances.

To order DiscipleKids, or to learn more, go to discipleguide.org or call 1-800-333-1442.



COMMISSION ON Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt
Director

A Banner Year Ahead

2015 looms in front of us and it presents a challenge for each of us to finish better than we began, always in the interest of our Lord's work that He has given to us.

The good news, our Senior Adult Conferences, "Heaven's Jubilee", are almost here. Much interest and great anticipation are in the hearts of our senior citizens who are looking to be in attendance.

The registration fee for the conferences is \$15 per person. This helps cover the noon meal, door prizes and other expenses. You will be given a meal ticket upon registering. Each person must have a ticket for the noon meal.

South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference

Tuesday, March 24th at
Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso

Last year the building was filled to capacity. Let's do it again. Make plans to be in attendance. As time gets closer we are asking you once again to call in the number attending from your church. Do this within 10 days of the conference. Mack's Fish Camp needs this information. You may call 601-763-8100 between 8 am - 12 pm, Monday through Friday or 601-428-8616, the Missions Office, and Mrs. Kim Parker, Commission Secretary, will take your call.

North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference

Tuesday, May 12th at
Unity Baptist Church, Guntown

You may call 662-282-4966 or cell 662-891-5510 and give the number attending. The Dorsey Friendship Fire Department will cater the noon meal again. The \$15 registration fee will help with the expenses of the day. Call in the number expected to attend within 10 days of the meeting.

If you fail to call in or you decide at last moment to attend either conference, come on anyway!

Preachers 50 year ministry

For those reaching the 50 year mark in 2015 you will be given special recognition. Call the same numbers listed above and give the names of those reaching this milestone.

Our Theme

"His Glory" will be our theme this year and this should excite us as we worship Him on these special days.

In addition to our morning worship hour we will have the "Gaither Style Homecoming Celebration" in the afternoon at both conferences, led by Bro. Bryson Haden.

Pastors, please make this information available to your people and come with them to these once-a-year meetings for our Seniors. Make copies of this article and see that your Seniors are aware of the content.

Thank you and God bless you! See you at Big Creek Baptist Church and Unity Baptist Church!

Compass Spring Quarter to Focus on Christ

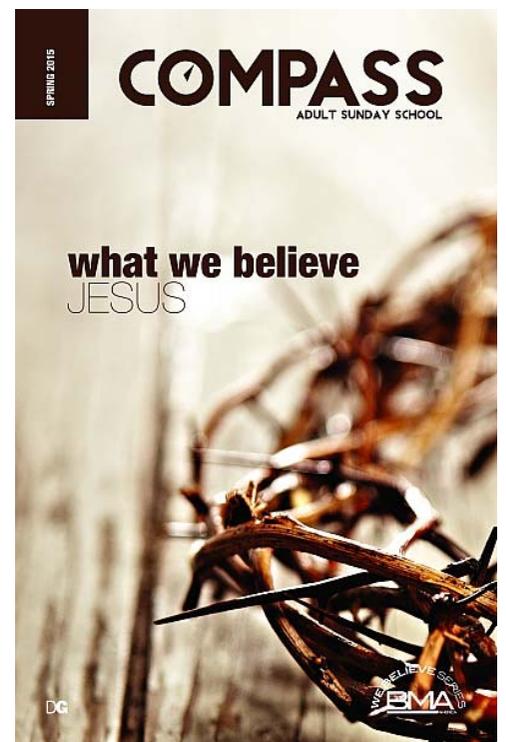
The spring quarter of Compass adult Sunday school literature will be entitled What We Believe: Jesus. Written by the late Dr. E. Harold Henderson, these lessons on the doctrine of Christ will challenge and inspire participants throughout March, April, and May of 2015.

After Christ's resurrection from the dead, two apostles traveled along the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13). As they walked, Jesus drew near and walked alongside them. Interestingly, the two apostles did not recognize Christ (v. 16). In the midst of their conversation, Jesus revealed His identity to the apostles through scriptures. Luke 24:27 states, "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."

All Scripture points to Christ! Jesus is the focal point of the entire Bible from beginning to end. Following Christ's example on the road to Emmaus, this quarter's lessons intend to expound the Scriptures in order to reveal a biblical understanding of Christ.

The lessons begin in Genesis, weave through the Psalms and Prophets, navigate the Gospels, and investigate the writings of the apostles to present a full picture of Christ from the beginning to the end of Scripture.

For more information or to order Compass, visit discipleguide.org or call 1-800-333-1442. Ordering for the spring quarter begins February 1.



Big Creek Church Burns Note

by the editor



Church pastor Justin Rhodes lights the note held by Missions & RLF Director Larry Geraldson while the Big Creek deacons look on.

Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, built a new education building about six years ago. I was their pastor at the time and the need was great for a new facility. The years and the damage from Hurricane Katrina had taken its toll on the old building and more space was needed. The church stepped out on faith and built a modern facility that connected the auditorium with the Family Life Building.

The members of Big Creek are to be commended for their sacrificial giving to eliminate this debt.

Bro. Larry Geraldson was present for this service and held the note as Pastor Justin Rhodes did the honors of sending it up in smoke.

Geraldson commended the church for their efforts to pay off the debt and noted that their use of the Revolving Loan Fund had helped make it possible for a number of mission projects to get off the ground. He shared that the Revolving Loan Fund continues to be a blessing by providing low interest financing for mission projects as well as local churches.

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www.bmaofmississippi.com

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601-426-3928

Missions & Revolving Loan Fund
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Laurel, MS 39440
601-428-8616

Commission on Senior Adults
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440

History & Archives Commission
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Laurel, MS 39440
601-729-8098

Moral Action
P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855



Don Brown

Mississippi Baptist

Opinion Page

www.ms baptist.org

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Don Brown - Editor

Two New Churches Added

In October 2014 we began a drive to enlist more churches in the Family Plan for subscribing to the Mississippi Baptist. We welcomed two new churches recently. Spencer Memorial Church in Pascagoula and Walnut Grove Church in Fulton have both begun providing the paper to their church families. We are pleased to have them on board.

We encourage other churches to join the Family Plan. Each BMA family needs the Mississippi Baptist.

Emphasis Offerings Arriving

We have already received several offerings for our January 2015 Special Emphasis Drive. We appreciate each of them and will use them to sustain this ministry.

We will publish a list of the offerings in future issues. God bless each individual and church who has helped with our needs.

Heavenly Graduates

We offer our sympathies to three families who have lost loved ones recently.

Debra Beasley, wife of Bro. Wallace Beasley, passed away unexpectedly in early January. The Beasley's were friends we first met when we both were members of Parkview Church, Gautier. Bro. Wallace surrendered to the ministry while at Parkview and has pastored a number of churches. The Beasleys were 'sweethearts' as children and have spent most of their lives together. Remember Bro. Wallace and their children.

Mrs. Ruthie Beard, a member of Oakland Church in Vicksburg, passed away recently. She and her husband were faithful members and active in the Lord's work. We knew Mrs. Beard best as the mother of Myra, a former student at Southeastern College.

Bro. Gary Divine recently passed away. He seemed to always have a smile on his face. Some of the most amusing 'pastor and preacher' stories are those told to us about Bro. Divine and his personal humor.

Each of these individuals will be missed. Pray for the comfort and grace of God to be with their families.

Kids letters to God

Editor's Note: *I saw this and thought our readers would enjoy it. The original handwriting of the children make it even more enjoyable, but we could not reproduce it. Young kids are honest and plain spoken - enjoy!*

Dear God,
Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones why don't you just keep the one you got now?
Jane

Dear God,
I am American. What are you?
Robert

Dear God,
I think about you sometimes even when I'm not praying
Elliott

Dear God,
Thank you for the baby brother but what I prayed for was a puppy
Joyce

Dear God
Maybe Cain and Able would not kill each so much if they had their own rooms. It works with my brother.
Larry

Dear God,
I went to this wedding and they kissed right in church. Is that ok?
Neil

Dear God
In bible times did they really talk that fancy?
Jennifer

Dear God,
I bet it is very hard for you to love all of every body in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it.
Nan

God,
I would like to live 900 years like the guy in the Bible.
Love,
Chris

We read Thomas Edison made light. But in Sunday School they said you did it. So I bet he stole your Idea.
Sincerely,
Donna

Dear God,
I think the stapler is one of your greatest inventions.
Ruth M.

Dear God,
If you watch in church on Sunday I will show you my new shoes
Mickey D.

Mississippi Baptist

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Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000

Phone 601-426-3293

PRICE
\$20.00 Per Year by Mail
\$15.00 Per Year by Email
CHURCH PLAN
\$ 1.30 Per Month per Family

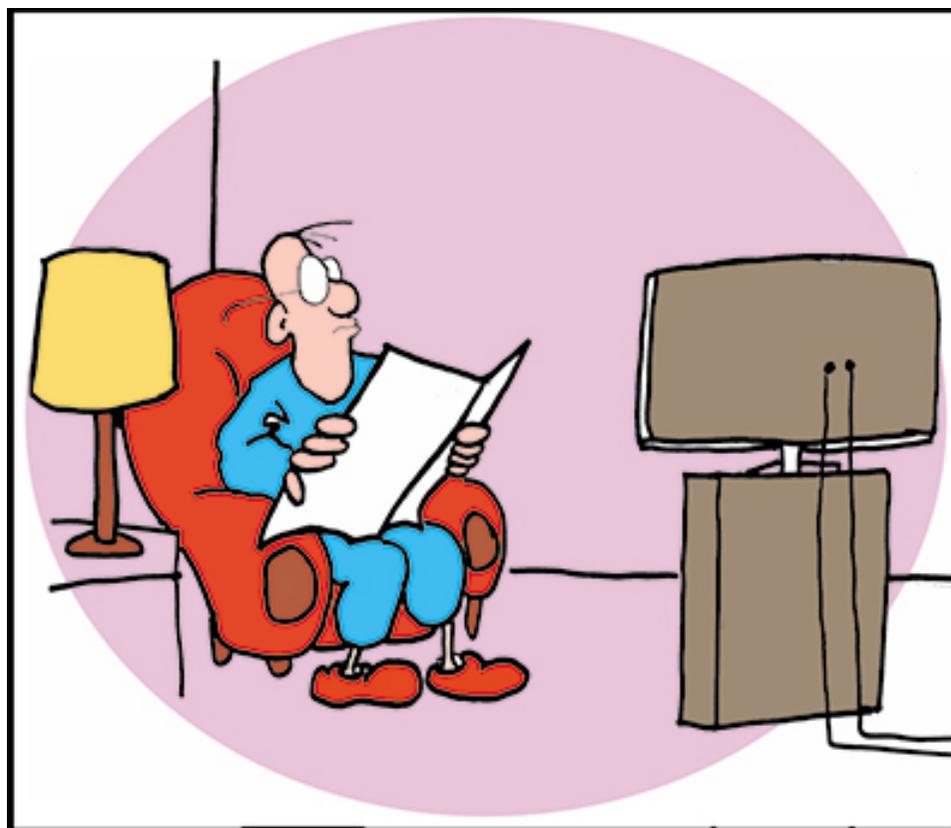
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Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"This just in....Wisconsin group get saved while protesting revival meetings."

MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Director

P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863

On The Web at www.macbma.net/

Email - fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com



John Adams

Gay Marriage –Deviant Selfishness

Homosexuals possess U.S. Constitutional rights identical to those that everyone else in America enjoys. They are free to be gay. Gays mistakenly believe that basic human rights and our U.S. societal norms guarantee them the right to marry as in a traditional marriage of man and woman. Yet centuries of human rights' definitions have never included same-sex marriage.

There is no way to sugar-coat the reality of the core of immoral, selfish homosexuality, especially the male sexual relations, it is as ugly as anything can get. God's relevant Word states in Romans 1:24 "God gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves."

Many of this day attempt cover-ups such as "they are nice people", or "they have loyal commitments", but gays are tearing apart the moral fabric of our American nation, and they are attempting to rid our society of allegiance to God's Word and His marriage precepts. Paul said in Romans 1:28..."they did not like to retain God in their knowledge..." So how do Christian moralists consider the "gay world" selfish?

1. Gay and Abortionists believe in a Zero Population position. Surprisingly, very few have spoken of or written of the selfish intent of these to never increase the population. In Genesis 1:28 God told Adam and Eve "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the

earth..." Gays, lesbians, and avowed abortionists in living their way, would never populate the world as God intended it to be. There would never be another child born! It is truly the highest form of selfishness.

2. Gays' selfishness leads others astray as they assess those who oppose homosexuality. They want all to believe it is just "old-timers" and fanatical Christians who hate their lifestyle. But the people of many states have voted against gay marriage. In spite of the U.S. Justice courts overruling these states and outlawing the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) does not mean that the American people are in favor of perversion in marriage. Of the 313,914,000 Americans that populate our nation, only 1.7% are gay and only 1.8% are bisexual, according to Wikipedia and the 2010 census. In the first large-scale government survey measuring Americans sexual orientation, the N.H.I.S. (National Health Interview Survey) reported in July 2014 that 1.6 percent of Americans identify themselves as gay or lesbian.

3. Gays' selfishness closes their eyes to the overall health of American society. Again in Paul's admonition of Romans 1:27..."men leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust....working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet." Historically, civilizations like Babylon, the Mayans, Greece, and Rome crumbled from within their own culture via sexual perversion. Many in our nation seemingly have no

regard for what gay life will ultimately cost their soul or what corrosion it will inflict upon society around them. Gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender are selling their health and their soul for short moments of deviant physical pleasure.

4. Gays' selfishness continually and viciously disparages any references in the Bible that condemns their open sin. L.B.G.T. shamelessly discounts the concept that the Bible is the moral standard of living, or if they do accept the Bible verses, they misconstrue them to fit their lifestyle of sin. They prefer no moral standards which is so dangerous for any society. They argue that Jesus Christ is all about love and complete acceptance. Romans 1:22 says..."Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools." Jesus does love all people, including gays, but He notes the sin and offers forgiveness and healing if it is desired.

In conclusion, this deviant selfishness springs from an immoral mind and heart that leads to an erroneous conviction that the gay life is OK. Lesbianism produces a gross picture of a woman on woman and two gay males engaging in sex is a quantum leap from anything beautiful or moral in marriage.

Homosexuality has been classified as deviate and criminal by the majority of the world's population for thousands of years, but now in the last 40-50 years, powerful people are attempting to reverse that standard with brainwashing techniques via our children, the media, and by liberal judges and liberal churches.

To love and be loved with the warmth and intimacy of a Godly marriage is a beautiful thing. But to accept the gay concept of marriage is a serious distortion of acceptable conduct. Romans 1:32 "who knowing the judgment of God..." as you read God's Word may it speak clearly: - Leviticus 18:22, Leviticus 20:13, Mark 10:6-9, I Corinthians 6:9-12, and Jude 7-8.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Gallouses

If you know what gallouses are, raise your hand! I don't see too many hands.

I was watching a "Waltons" episode the other day and Grandpa Walton had on a pair of overalls with one of the gallouses unfastened and I got to wondering how to spell gallouses so I went to my trusty dictionary and found it. Mr. Webster knows what gallouses are. He said they are suspenders and it comes from the word gallows. That makes sense. A gallows is a suspension device. If you question that, go read the book of Esther. A man named Haman was suspended on a gallows.

Ministers' tax guide released by GuideStone

DALLAS (BP) -- GuideStone Financial Resources has released its Ministers' Tax Guide for 2014 Returns.

The annual handbook provides step-by-step instructions for both active and retired ministers, sample forms and detailed help in understanding the latest tax laws. Additionally, church treasurers and other church leaders will find a valuable resource in the guide's special section about important federal requirements for churches.

GuideStone participants can receive the free guide by visiting www.GuideStone.org/TaxGuide or can request a free printed copy by calling 1-888-98-GUIDE (1-888-984-8433).

The guide was written again this year by Richard Hammar, a noted CPA, attorney and widely published author who specializes in legal and tax issues for ministers.

Additionally, the material is edited by GuideStone's compliance staff to ensure that it addresses tax issues in detail directly affecting Southern Baptist pastors.

"Each year, federal tax law can change, and ministers have come to trust in the Ministers' Tax Guide as they prepare their taxes or work with their preparer," GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins said. "It is a joy to hear from so many pastors who tell us how thankful they are for this guide and how much it helps them navigate the unique ministerial tax laws. We are blessed to be able to help them with the important task of ensuring that their income tax returns are correct."

Hobolochitto Senior Adult Conference

Saturday, February 28, 2015

At Benville Baptist Church

12011 Lott McCarty Road, Picayune, MS 39466

At the south end of South Benville Road
Turn south beside Seals Marketplace on Highway 43

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Cost for Conference and Meal

\$10.00

Fish and Chicken with all the Fixins

Door Prizes Available

Must pre-register by Sunday, February 22.

Call Wayne Rice at 601-916-9020 before Sunday, February 22 with the total number registered.

Featuring Justin Cameron, Pastor at Midway Baptist Church at McLain, MS, as the morning speaker and "The Camerons" for the concert that afternoon.



AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Wayne Rice

Bro. Wayne Rice has recently resigned his position as Pastor of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Picayune after 13 years of service. He is available to preach for fill in, interim or in view of a call. You may contact him at 601-916-9020.



Women's Missionary Auxiliary

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2015 Project A Worthy Ministry

by Linda Smith
Mississippi State WMA President

We are well on our way into the year 2015! I hope so far it has proven to be a healthy and prosperous one for each of you and your families.

I would like to encourage you to begin thinking of ways we can have a very successful project this year. As you know, our project for the year is Moral Action. I do believe there has never been a greater need for the work this commission does than today. In light of the many changes affecting our lives, our government, our churches, and our freedoms, if there is any hope for America THE TIME IS NOW FOR ACTION!

I recently spoke with Bro. John Adams to see what is on his agenda for this year and what some of the issues and needs are. He asks that we especially pray for the new Congress to be more open to Christianity and more aggressive in supporting and protecting our values and freedoms. We should issue a challenge to them to maintain our Christian heritage as a nation.

Bro. and Mrs. Adams will be making

a trip to Washington, D.C. in May. Bro. Adams hopes to have the opportunity to lead the opening prayer in a Senate session, and to speak with many of our legislators and legislative leaders. Please pray for them during this time.

On the state level: During the first week of March there will be a Prayer Walk at the Mississippi State Capitol to pray for the Mississippi House and Senate.

All of this action takes funds...especially in Washington (\$75 per night to park a car!). Printing costs are high as well. Dr. Adams was very encouraged that the State WMA chose Moral Action as the State WMA project. He is very willing and able to serve us in this capacity. Let's do all we can to have an impact: think of creative ideas to raise money for the project. I encourage you to go to the Moral Action Commission website at www.macbma.net to keep informed and find a lot of good resources.

Please feel free to share any ideas!

WMA Project Promotion Information

by Chris Smith
Project Promotion Committee

I feel that a chain would be a good symbol for us to use to promote our project. I realize that one link to a chain would not pull very much, but many links would pull a large load.

Ladies, would your group like to be a link in this chain. Maybe you as an individual would like to be a link. The Lord used many different things to help us understand what he was telling the writers of the Bible to express. I feel that if the Lord referred to chains in six different scriptures, Genesis 41:42 being one of them, that this would help us

want to pull together to accomplish a great goal for our Master.

The Mississippi WMA chose Moral Action to receive 75% with 25% going to the State WMA General Fund. If you would be willing to pray and give whatever the Lord blesses you with, then send the funds to Mrs. Shirlene Smith, 730 Hwy. 533, Laurel, MS 39443.

As the names of your WMAs and individuals come in they will be placed on a link of the chain. My prayer is that we will have many names to put on the chain by our midyear meeting in May.

National WMA News and Information

by WMA President Janet Widger
jawidger@sbcglobal.net
National WMA Meeting - April 21, 2015

1. National WMA Project - get your funds sent in to Pat Duncan by February 28, 2015, to be reported accurately in the books. Money for project will be collected up to the meeting but after February 28th, it will not be in the printed program book. Here is Pat's Address: Pat Duncan, P.O. Box 30, Hardy, AR 72542.

2. Inquire in your area as to how many ladies we can anticipate at the Minister Wives and Widows lunch. I need some kind of number to give to the hotel in order to be adequately prepared. Also, talk up this luncheon to all of the minister wives and widows in your area. We want to honor the ladies who stand beside their husbands in the ministry,

Do You Live A Life of Integrity?

I think most Christians would immediately answer that they are people of integrity. Yet, when we take a closer look at a lifestyle of integrity, how many would fall away? Recently, there was a couple with 4 kids. They went out to eat with another couple. The restaurant gave a free meal for one child for each parent. That would mean that this couple could have 2 of their 4 kids get a free meal. However, this couple asked their friends to say that the other 2 kids were theirs so that all 4 kids could get a free meal. Is this not deceit upon the part of the parents towards the restaurant? Are they teaching their children that integrity, honesty and uprightness is



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

only in the bigger things of life? After all, it would help the family with 4 kids save money. That justifies it doesn't it? The restaurant makes big money. They won't care, right?

A few years ago I went out to eat with a youth group. They wanted to buy my dinner and fellowship with me. Everything was fine until the waiter brought me a dessert. He said Happy Birthday. The teens had told them it was my birthday (and it was not) so I could get a free dessert and get sung to. Well, we all had a big laugh. Then, I took a ball cap and passed it around the table and told the

continued on next page

Mississippi GMAs

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Beth Caldwell
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Lucedale, MS 39452
601-947-6011



State GMA Promoter
Becky Farmer
464 Churchwell Road
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
601-596-1005
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GMA Camp Near

by Becky Farmer, GMA Promoter
Counselors and Girls, it is time to be getting ready for GMA camp! Counselors if you have a girl running for Miss Junior GMA or Miss GMA, please have their packets turned in to me by March 1, 2015. I'm looking forward to seeing each of you at camp.

GMA Pianist Notes

Hey y'all. My name is Tori Clark and I am your State GMA pianist this year. I just wanted to remind everyone about State GMA Camp coming up soon. The theme this year is "As We Go" and our theme verses are Matthew 28:19-20 and II Corinthians 5:20. The dates for camp are March 20th-21st.

When we hear the words As We Go, we want to think that we actually have to go out of state or out of the country to be a "missionary." Think about it this way for a minute: We GO to school, don't we? And we GO to the grocery store, right? And to a football game or a sporting activity? So, I guess my ques-

tion is what's so wrong with witnessing to people in these places? Absolutely nothing.

I am excited about camp this year and about the opportunity to share the love of Christ with everyone who attends. We hope to see you there!

GMA Historian Notes

Hey girls this is your state historian Addy Roche. I hope ya'll are all just as excited as I am about the camp coming up! Our theme this year is "As We Go." Our theme verses for this year are Matthew 28:19-20 "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world, Amen." and 2 Corinthians 5:20 "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ..."

We have so much planned for this year's retreat and I hope to see all of you there this year!!!

as well as the ones who are still faithfully serving after their minister husbands have passed on.

3. We will be placing a Memorial Page in the report booklet this year. I am asking for you to provide the names, date of death and church of ladies who have gone on to Heaven in the last 5 years. Send this information to Mrs.

Shirlene Smith, 730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443 or email her at arthursmith@bayspringstel.net or you can send it to me and I will forward it on to her.

Our Missouri ladies are preparing to make this one of the best meetings ever.

Thank you EACH ONE for everything that you do for the Lord.

Plumlee

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teens to put money in the cap because they had to pay for that dessert. They needed to tell the waiter it was not my birthday and they needed to pay for the dessert. I said I have been teaching you all this weekend about living the Christian life and I am still teaching you. Deceit is deceit, and is not living above reproach as men and women of integrity.

I know there will be criticism of me because the teens were just pulling a practical joke and it was no big deal. You shouldn't make a big deal out of little thing. This is precisely the point of this article. Where do we draw the line on being people of integrity? In days gone by, a man's word was his word and it meant something. When people shook hands on some deal it meant something. Not too long ago in this country the attributes of honor, valor, honesty and integrity were what people taught their children to. These characteristics were more important when selecting someone to date than "Hey, they got a great sense of humor."

May I challenge all of us to live a life of Probity. The definition of probity is "complete and confirmed integrity". You not only live a life of integrity but it is unquestioned. It is total even in the little things of life. It is confirmed by all who know you. People do not question your integrity because they know your manner of life. As Paul tells Timothy in the Bible that "you know my manner of life". It was known and confirmed.

Probity also means: Morally and ethically above reproach. When parents go up to buy movie tickets, and they have a short child that is 13, the parent with integrity will still say we need 3 adult tickets. The slider will tell his child,

"You are short for your age. You still look 12." Then he says we need 2 adult tickets and 1 child ticket. You may think it is no big deal. Please don't be surprised when you find your son lying to you about who he was with last night and what he was doing as a teenager, because you taught him very well. Lying is okay if you can justify it.

Integrity and probity is not only in little things. It should be in everything. Even our finances and dealings with our money. We should have probity of finances. We should have probity with our giving to the work of the Lord. Every Christian in the workplace should be held as the best example of integrity for the company they work for and their boss should know it as a fact. That is probity in the workplace. What kind of example are we showing about Jesus when we who are Christ-like are lazy or cheating or stealing, etc., from our place of employment?

Proverbs 20:7, "The just man walketh in his integrity and his children are blessed after him." You can bless your kids by living in integrity. Psalm 97:11, "Light is sown for the righteous and gladness for the upright in heart." Philippians 2:15, "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, of whom ye shine as lights in the world."

Look at that verse carefully. Blameless. Upright. Without rebuke. That is someone who is living in integrity as a lifestyle. It is complete and confirmed. A person of probity to give glory to God by the way we live. Is it all just too much? Ridiculous in our day and age? Should Christians be a people of probity and moral and ethical living that is above reproach? Do we cast any doubt to the lost world about our beautiful Savior by the way we live or do we give him glory by letting our light shine in the middle of a perverted nation?

Churches Support HomeStretch Mission Efforts During Christmas

by Bro. Ed Duvall, pastor
HomeStretch Baptist Church

On December 19, Bro. Donald Brown and members of Movella Baptist Church of Lucedale, came to our town (Cleveland) to give some under privileged kids gifts for Christmas. The following morning Movella and HomeStretch members went to the dialysis center and gave 120 gift bags to the patients and staff. We then sang

Christmas songs to the patients. The patients expressed their thanks for us coming there and being a blessing to them. In addition, the WMA of Skyway Hill Baptist Church gave money to help us purchase gifts for the center. We at HomeStretch are very grateful for the women at Skyway Hills and our brothers and sisters at Movella for helping us have a blessed Christmas.



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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



SIDNEY DAVIS

For God...So Loved

In the next few days there will be many expressions of love that will be delivered to a spouse, relative, or friend in a variety of ways. There is one thing, however, we need to keep in mind. There is no card, flower, or gift that will come close to the love that the Heavenly Father demonstrated when He gave the gift of His Son for the sins of the world.

The gift that God gave has made it possible for us as believers to experience His love on a personal basis. His gift of love is a sincere, genuine love. God is still inviting lost souls to receive His love. Those that accept His invitation of love will then know what it really means to be loved. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

Special Emphasis

We have received \$17,736.88 towards our 2014 Special Emphasis, which were the months of October and November. This was short of our goal of \$25,000, but was up from last year's emphasis.

Ruthie Mae Beard Passes Away

Ruthie Mae Beard, a member of Oakland Baptist Church, Vicksburg, passed away on January 26, 2015. She was 80 years old.

A native of Soso, she was a resident of Vicksburg for over 64 years. She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Jim Beard Sr. of Vicksburg; sons, Jim Beard Jr. (Linda) of Edwards, David Beard (Sherry) of Vicksburg, and Timothy Beard (Patti) of Vicksburg; daughters, Carrie Williams of Vicksburg, Patsy Higginbotham (Billy) of Vicksburg, Brenda Weeks (Michael) of Olive Branch, and Myra Beard of Vicksburg, brother, William Moseley (Thellas) of Flowood; sisters-in-laws, Faye Moseley of Laurel and Bonnie Jean Beard of Morton; 11 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Services were held January 29, 2015 at Oakland Baptist Church, Vicksburg. Memorials may be made to the Oakland Baptist Church Building Fund at 2959 Oak Ridge Rd. Vicksburg, MS 39183 and the Alzheimer's Association at 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601.



For those churches who designated November 16 as "Children's Home Emphasis Sunday" thank you for doing so. We would like to express to each church, auxiliary, class, and individual our sincere appreciation for your generosity for your emphasis gifts and prayer during this Special Emphasis period.

The Flu Bug Continues

As I stated in my last article, "we have been battling with various illnesses at the Home" in recent days. Well, the flu bug has made another visit among us once again. No doubt many of you have been dealing with or will deal with this issue, for it seems to be widespread at the present time. As of this writing, there is no illness, for which we are thankful.

Remember in Prayer & Focus Verse

Continue to pray that God's protective care will be with the girls, boys, and staff and the ministry of the Home. "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him." 1 John 4:9.

Bro. Gary Divine Passes Away

Former Mississippi pastor Gary Dale Divine passed away on January 12, 2015 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He was born April 26, 1931 in Logan, Iowa. He is preceded in death by his parents, Herbert and Hattie Divine; granddaughter, Maranda Harris, and son-in-law, Keith Harris.

Bro. Divine is survived by his wife of 61 years, Reva Divine; daughter, Patty Harris; son, David Divine; grandchildren, Marley Harris, Karsten Harris, Anna Divine, Nicholas Divine. Gary was called into full time ministry in 1962 and served as pastor to churches in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas for over 40 years. In that time he served as Vice-president and President of the Baptist Missionary Association. His love for the Lord and people was evident through the life he lived. Even in these last few years when he could hardly speak, he always had a sweet spirit, a wave and a smile to give.

Funeral services were held at Southgate Baptist Church, Moore, Oklahoma.



Franklin Graham: Quran teaches acts of Islamic terrorism

(OneNewsNow.com) - Christian evangelist Rev. Franklin Graham has explained why he blasted Duke University's recent accommodation of Islam and marginalization of Christianity.

Graham was pleased that Duke reversed its decision permitting a Muslim prayer event in the campus' Christian chapel, but said that he is fed up with there being more support in the U.S. for a minority religion whose majority of adherents seek to destroy the very faith upon which America was founded.

Even though Duke ended up deciding to cease its policy that set up an Islamic call to prayer at the Christian chapel located on campus, Graham called out university officials and other government entities for going out of their way to accommodate Islam while pushing Christianity to the wayside.

"I agree with diversity, but what's happening with this country is all these religions are getting front row and Christians are being pushed — and we're the majority — are being pushed back to the back of the room," Billy Graham Evangelistic Association President and CEO Franklin Graham declared in a recent interview on WNCN News.

Just over a week ago, Graham unloaded his sentiments aimed at Duke officials after they announced the university would be holding a Muslim call to prayer inside the school's Christian house of worship. After receiving much heat over the decision, school officials announced that they reversed their decision so that the chapel will no longer be used to host the Islamic event.

U.S. abandoning its Christian roots to embrace Islam?

Graham says he simply doesn't understand how a nation can turn its back on the religious backbone of its society and bend over backwards to honor and make concessions for the very religion that declares it the Great Satan and its mortal enemy.

"This country was built with Christian principles — it was men and women who believed in God and believed in His Son, Jesus Christ, who built this country," Graham articulated. "We're the greatest nation in the history of the world. It wasn't built by Islam, and it wasn't built by any other group; it was those who supported and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ."

Graham, the son of the iconic world evangelist Billy Graham, insists that religions other than Christianity are getting preferential treatment in the name of tolerance or multiculturalism. He went on to express that the previous policy instituted by Duke officials ushering a call for Muslims to pray in a Christian chapel is inconceivable. The reverend insists that America needs to embrace the biblical principles established by God and its Christian forefathers, implying that America's fate as a nation will suffer if it keeps administering its anti-Christian and pro-Muslim policies.

Conceding that not every practice instituted by the founders of the United States was commendable, Graham argues that this is no reason to abandon the underlying Christian tenets upon which the U.S. Constitution and modern legal system was based. He says that America's traditions, history and governing principles must be fought for and protected so that they don't succumb to politically correct policies and pressures from activists of other religions.

"We're the greatest nation in the history of the Earth, and we have people today that want to destroy what we believe and what we stand for," Graham contends. "I think the university needs to understand that the world in which we live today. We've been at war now 10 years against terrorists and the terrorists we've been fighting are people who support and believe in the Islamic faith."

2015 Pastor's Retreat

The BMA of Mississippi Pastor's Retreat was held recently at Lake Tiak O'Khata near Louisville. 35 pastors and preachers gathered for two days of preaching, prayer, worship and fellowship. Bro. Todd West, pastor of Oasis Church, Little Rock, Arkansas was the guest speaker. The Theme "I Am Determined" was stressed in each message preached.

It was a great time of rest and reflection for those attending. The Camerons from Leakesville presented a concert the first evening. God really blessed this meeting.



Church to Host Gospel Sing



The Dixie Melody Boys, a Southern Gospel group, will be in concert at First Baptist Church, Bay Springs, on Friday, February 20, 2015, at 7:00 PM. We invite you to come & enjoy blessings with us from God through music & testimony. A love offering will be taken. For more information call 601-670-5005.

Joyce Poole, Church Reporter