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No Rules, No Punishment Leads To Anarchy

Dr. John M. Adams
Executive Director – Moral Action

Proverbs 29:2 “when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.” It seems today that the wicked are ruling. So many true Christian believers are disillusioned. So many watch as the streets are filled with violence and corruption. Anarchy is defined as “a state of disorder due to the absence or non-recognition of authority. Synonymous words are revolution, disorder, chaos, mayhem and mobocracy. There seems to be a lack of punishment and a lack of obedience to the laws of the land.

Punishment for wrongdoing is operative in this world although man has not faced his responsibility in performing it. Paul the Apostle has summed up the principle in the words of Galatians 6:7: “For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” This axiom of truth is far-reaching, invading all of creation.

The Basis for Punishment

Historically the basis for punishment in our society has been man’s belief in God—the God Who is Sovereign over the

universe, the God Who has revealed Himself as moral, having a standard of right and wrong with punishment for the wrongdoer. This punishment is not based particularly on its being a deterrent to wrongdoing, but rather as the wage for wrongdoing. Romans 6:23 bears witness in these words, “For the wages of sin is death.”

Today the philosophy of unbelief with its rejection of the living and moral God and the exaltation of man to a supremacy that is subject to no higher



Dr. John M. Adams

power than himself is demanding a hearing in our land. Such a belief is not new, having always been present; but our intellectual climate and our growing freedom of expression have provided man with liberty to accept or reject the declarations of Scripture.

Our concept of right and wrong and the punishment of wrongdoers will be determined on the basis of our belief or unbelief in the living God. Humanism does not believe in God.

Believing that God is and that He alone is the Director of this universe, we must submit to His dictates; and in the realm of punishment we must obey His commands. God rules according to His standard of right and wrong. This includes punishment for wrongdoers!

Manifestations of Punishment

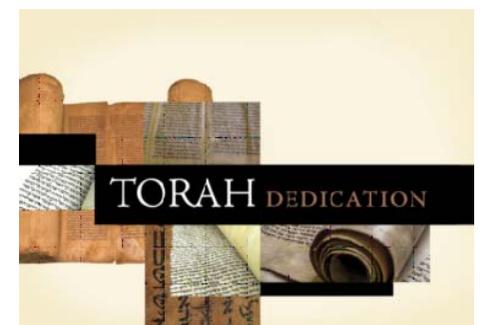
It is Observed in Creation

Punishment is seen in the operation of natural law. Violation of these laws have their results. To jump off a cliff, expecting a reversal of the law of gravity, in no way stays off a broken body. Punishment is also manifest when one

continued on page 8

BMA Theological Seminary To Receive Special Gift

In October 2015, the Arkansas site of the BMA Seminary became the 15th seminary in the United States to receive a Sefer Torah to aid professors and students in biblical studies. The



19th Century Torah’s economic value is enhanced by its story of survival during the Jewish Holocaust in Europe. Ken and Barbara Larson of Minnesota have placed Torahs in selected evangelical seminaries for almost two years and will present a second Torah to the BMA Seminary on February 11, 2016. This Torah will be housed on the seminary’s main campus in Jacksonville, Texas and provide a valuable resource for those involved in biblical studies.

For more information, Contact the seminary at 800-259-LORD (5673) or via email to president@bmat.edu.

MORAL ACTION

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Missionaries Share Music Improvements at Bible College

by Doug and Diane Lee
Missionary’s to the Philippines

Adding the accreditation of a Music Department comes with many challenges. First, there must be facilities for students to practice. We have been using a keyboard lab that has sufficed for a few years, but as the students progress we found this was not adequate enough to help them succeed in music. They needed full size pianos and private rooms for many hours of practice so they may become proficient on the instruments.

The growth of the Music Department is exceeding our expectations and it left us with no rooms for our private instructions. Last year one of our teach-



Student practicing in new facility

ers did their teaching at home. The students had to make that journey each week. With the addition of the four practice rooms, we have places for our teachers to do their private lessons.

Our restrooms were in no condition for our teachers and students to use. We now have an American style restroom.

Our Music Department can now comfortably accommodate our 30 music students in their private piano and vocal training. The problem we have now is the lack of teachers. We are praying and knowing that God will provide. There is a big demand for church musicians, and with the help of the National WMA with this project, we

are moving forward with the work God has called us to do here in the Philippines. We believe that God will supply all of our needs as he continues to bless the work at the Bible College.

We have completed PHASE 1 of the four (4) projects we requested from the National WMA. If any church or organization would like to help with these projects, you can do so through your local, state or national WMA program. Phase 2, 3 and 4 involves the renovation of much needed maintenance and repair of the electrical system, water system, replacement of windows and parking facilities.




Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Department of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund




State Missionaries and Wives



Bob & Edie Burch



Kenneth & Carole Pollock



Bobby & Lesa Elliott



Danny & Brenda Bartlett



Sidney & Becky Farmer



Wesley & Holley Martin



Anders & Carla Lee



Phillip & Dawn Burns



Estuardo & Yasmine Marroquin



Elvis & Wendy Garcia



Ed & Patricia DuVall

601.428.8616 www.bmams.org

First Official Service Held at Midway Baptist Mission - West of Oxford

Cherita and I had the privilege of being with Dr. Kenneth Pollock and his wife Carole at the first official service of Midway Baptist Mission located between Oxford and Batesville on Hwy 6. We were blessed to have visitors in the service who afterwards said they would return and bring some of their friends. Dr. Pollock encouraged the folks present with a sermon from Mark 4, in which Jesus challenged the faith of His disciples after telling them to "...pass over to the other side..." At the end of the service an invitation was given and Ms. Dorothy Shroads, her son, Tommy and his wife, Katie came forward to join the new mission. Midway Baptist Mission's mother church is



Dr. Kenneth Pollock and his wife Carole with Ms Dorothy Shroads and her son Tommy and his wife Katie who came forward to join the mission at the end of the service

First Baptist Mantachie, Dr. John Adams, Pastor.

Great Ordination Service at Way, Truth & Life

On January 23rd Cherita and I drove to Ripley, Mississippi, to attend and participate in the ordination service of Bro. Byron Morales and Bro. Humberto Regalado and the licensing of Bro. Luis Huchin. Way, Truth & Life, under the leadership of Bro. Elvis Garcia,



Bro Luis Huchin was licensed to the gospel ministry

did a great job organizing this service and hosting it. Once the Presbytery was formed, Bro. Matt Hudson was asked to serve as the Moderator and Bro. Wexford Parmer was asked to serve as the Clerk.



Bro. Humberto Regalado and wife Rogelia



Presbytry and ordination candidates



Laying on of hands during the ordination service

The candidates were questioned in private by the Presbytery and the candidates and their wives were questioned publicly by Bro. Estuardo Marroquin. It was agreed upon by the Presbytery that these men are sound doctrinally and meet all the biblical qualifications required for serving



Byron Morales and wife Claudia



Bro. Michael Height
America Hispanic Coordinator, who was also in attendance.

El Camino to Ordain & License 3 Men

On February 13th beginning at 2pm, El Camino Baptist Church in Laurel will hold a special service to ordain Bro. Marciano Montalvo to the gospel ministry. They will also license two other men who are serving as missionaries; Bro. Rodolfo Galicia and Bro. Leo Adan. They wish to invite all to join them, especially ordained men.

Missions and Evangelism Conference Just Around the Corner

The 58th Annual Missions and Evangelism Conference of the BMA of Mississippi will be hosted by South Forrest Baptist Mission, located just a few miles east of Purvis near Paul B. Johnson State Park, on May 6th beginning at 10:00am. We will be sharing the program soon, but we hope you will mark your calendar now. The event will include a number of speakers and we will be introduced to people from our missions who will share how the mission work has blessed them. Please plan to be there.

South Forrest to Host Evangelism Explosion Training

On June 9-11 South Forrest Baptist Mission will host Evangelism Explosion Training taught by Dr. Phillip Attebery, Dean of the BMA of America Theological Seminary. Missionary Sidney Farmer is coordinating this training and encourages all who might be interested, to contact him for early sign up at 601-596-1004. Bro. Farmer is hoping to include EE training for children, as well.

Wonderful Visit With Freedom in Burnsville

Cherita and I recently visited in Sunday Morning services with Missionary Bobby Elliott and the fine folks at Freedom Baptist Mission in Burnsville, Mississippi. We enjoyed a wonderful time of worship and fellowship and came away thrilled at how God continues to grow this mission congregation.

I was so impressed to see how God is growing young men like Andy Elrod since the first time I met him. Our introduction took place sometime back, on top of the building, hammering nails, during the building's construction.



Andy Elrod Teaching at Freedom Baptist Mission



Missionary Bobby Elliott offering an invitation at the end of the service

Andy taught the Adult Sunday School class during our recent visit and did a great job. He also led the youth in the performance of a short skit that emphasized the redeeming power of Jesus.

The entire service was a blessing, from the choir special to the children "signing" a song. It is clear that

Missions continued on next page

Encouraging The Discouraged

EDITOR'S NOTE: As this issue was going to press we received word that Dr. Plumlee has passed away. We will have more information in our next issue. Donations to help with expenses may be sent to P.O. Box 163, Mountain View, AR 72560. This article is from 2013.

In all of my years as a clinical therapist, I never once had someone come to me and say, "I need help. I am so depressed. My family is way too encouraging of me. People over appreciate me at work. I get way too much thanks at church. I can't stand all of this praise and encouragement." It's just the opposite. People say they never, or are rarely, encouraged. Brothers and sisters in Christ; this should not be our legacy!

The Bible tells us in I Thessalonians 5:11 to edify others. In Ephesians 4:29 we are also directed to edify one another. Edify means to build up. Like the brick "edifice" of a building, our words should build others up. I fear we spend too much time tearing others down rather than encouraging. One of our jobs and commands as a Christian is to build others up. Put on your refrigerator at home, or on your desk at work a little sign that reads, "Build Up or Hush Up!"

This is a discouraging world sometimes, isn't it? If you are a discouraged person, you are probably thinking – "sometimes! Most of the time." Regardless of what is going on in your life right now, we all face times of discouragement. As Christians, we must serve Jesus by serving others. We can do that by seeing that all of us have a ministry of encouraging the discouraged. Look for them. They are all around you. You go to church with them. You go to school or work with them. Very often, you live with them. You never have to

look very far to find someone that needs encouraging.

The easiest way to encourage others is to use your mouth. Wouldn't it be awesome if we used our mouths more to glorify the Father towards others rather



than being a bullet of despair? Both of the aforementioned scriptural references are regarding our mouth. In the Ephesians 4:29 verse where we are suppose to encourage others, it is followed up in verse 30 with an admonition to not grieve the Holy Spirit of God. I think that we grieve the Holy Spirit by the way we talk to each other. So, we can turn that around just as easy, with speaking words that encourage others. There is no way I could begin to list them. There are thousands upon thousands of things to say to people to lift them up. But what would I say? This is where you begin.

Pray every morning for God to bring someone into your life today to encour-

age. Ask Him to give you the words to say. Ask the Holy Spirit to prompt and lead you to discouraged people and to speak to them with the words that He will teach your tongue to say. You don't have to worry. God will give you the words. He is just using you as a tool of encouragement in His hands. Wow! Isn't that something. God using you as a tool to encourage and lift others up. What an honoring place to live. It doesn't always have to take on the form of compliments. While compliments can be encouraging, there are other statements that lift up.

Encourage a child for their task completion, for playing nicely, for not fighting with a sibling, etc. Do you realize that some kids only get parental attention for their negative behavior. Desperate for their parents to notice them, they will do more negative behavior. The kid thinks, "I don't like you yelling at me, but at least you are noticing me." Don't take your spouse for granted. Try once a day to find something to say or do to lift them up. You know what they like. Tell your spouse this week how proud you are of them for something they tell you that they did. Kids are not the only ones that like to be told, "good job".

Most compliments to older folks are how nice they look today. While that is an okay statement to make, see them as a person and not as an object of "gee isn't that little old lady cute." Surely, you could encourage them with a statement like, "I so appreciate you in my life because you always have such wisdom to share."

You can always send an encouraging

Family Ark Ministries

Dr. Travis Plumlee is a full-time professional speaker and leads Family Ark Ministries. For more information or to contact him, visit www.travisplumlee.com.



text. Just a quick text to say, "I'm praying for you. I am proud of you and hoping you will have a blessed day. Something that takes a little more effort is something I think is really good. Send a hand written note. Yes, it takes time. We should do more such things. You can go to a discount store and buy several cards for almost nothing. Pray first. Get into the habit of asking the Lord to prompt you who you could send a note to. Write a verse in it. Just say you love them and are thanking God for their life. Do one a week. People always

continued on page 5

Missions from page 2

Bro. Elliott has worked hard to assimilate folks into roles of service. I look



Choir singing special at Freedom Baptist forward to what God has in store for this mission...maybe planting another church is in their future.

Specific Prayer Request

Please keep Missionary Bob Burch's wife, Edie in your prayers. Edie battles

many health issues and we need to lift them up. Also, pray for the Mission at Clinton, Mississippi, and Bro. Danny Bartlett. They will return the third time before the city, in February, seeking approval to build a church.

Revolving Loan Fund

The Revolving Loan Fund of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi makes loans to BMA Churches. Our lowest interest rate is currently 4.25%. If your church is in need of a loan to build, remodel or refinance, please call us at 601-428-8616.

Visit Our Website and Facebook Page

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

COMMISSION ON Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt
Director

Greetings in the Master's name and God's blessings upon each of you. The Senior Adult Ministry continues to do well and our desire is to minister to the hearts of our seniors and to spiritually lift up the name of our King who will return for His own one day. It may be soon, I can hardly wait.

We are anxiously looking forward to our conferences to be held in the very near future. The South Mississippi Conference is March 22nd at Big Creek Baptist Church in Soso and the North Mississippi Conference is May 10th at East Fulton Baptist Church in Fulton with their new pastor Bro. John Lewis.

Once again, the registration fee will be \$15 per person. Where else can you get an "all you can eat" buffet for lunch and a full day of blessings for \$15? Thank you for being a part of all this. Mac's Fish of Hattiesburg will cater the noon meal at Big Creek and the Dorsey Friendship Fire Department will cater the noon meal for the North Conference. Both do an outstanding job.

As we come closer to the meeting time we will ask you once again to call the number attending in to the host church, phone numbers will be provided. Calling in early enables the caterers in planning their day, but should there be last minute decisions to attend, that will be fine. If anyone fails to call in, you are welcomed anyway.

The Southern Strings Dulcimers, a group of local musicians from Hattiesburg, will be at Big Creek for the conference and a memorial video honoring the memory of Bro. Gary Smith will be part of the program for the North Conference. He was always very supportive and encouraging for the Senior Adult Ministry.

Save the above dates and plan to be a part of the day's activities as the Senior Adults meet once again in this once a year gathering just for them. Special prizes will be given to the oldest man and woman in attendance and a special prize for the church with the most in attendance, excluding the host church.

Pray for this ministry and let's look forward to a spiritual experience at each of these conferences. If we have a personal encounter with God, our day will be well spent.

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www.bmaofmississippi.com

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Laurel, MS 39440
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Missions & Revolving Loan Fund
4226 Highway 15 North
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Commission on Senior Adults
4226 Highway 15 North
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601-729-2613

History & Archives Commission
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Laurel, MS 39440
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Don Brown

Mississippi Baptist

Opinion Page

www.ms baptist.org

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Don Brown - Editor

Mantachie Church Vandalized

First Baptist Church, Mantachie, Mississippi, was broken into and vandalized Monday night January 25. The Mantachie Police Department and the Itawamba County Sheriff's Department are investigating this as a hate crime and break in. Church pastor Dr. John Adams reports that four individuals have been arrested. He shared that the numbers 666 and Satanic upside down crosses were painted on the front doors. Adams said the church sign and youth amphitheater were also targets. He also shared that there were similar acts committed against the city cemetery.

Adams requested prayer for the church and the individuals who committed these acts.



Above: Vandals painted emblems on FBC Door
To Left: Sign painted and satanic message put on sign

Calendar of Events

BMA National Meeting
Gatlinburg, Tennessee
April 25-27, 2016

BMA of Mississippi Midyear Meeting
East Amory Baptist Church, Amory, Mississippi
May 16-17, 2016

Senior Adult Conferences
North Conference
East Fulton Church, Fulton
May 10, 2016
South Conference
Big Creek Church, Soso
March 22, 2016

Missions & Evangelism Conference
South Forrest Baptist Mission
May 6, 2016

State Youth Camp
June 6-8, 2016
Waukaway Springs
Vossburg, Mississippi
Speaker: Blake McCain

Evangelism Explosion Training
by BMA Seminary
June 9-11, 2016
South Forrest Baptist Mission

Mississippi Baptist

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Letter To The Editor

Letters reflect the opinion of the writer and not necessarily this publication or the BMA of Mississippi

A Word of Thanks to Shady Grove Church

I want to thank the Shady Grove Baptist Church of Tishomingo, where I served as pastor a few years ago, for the encouraging words that they gave me in a past edition of the Mississippi Baptist paper.

There are two verses of Scripture that came to my mind after reading the article. One of them is Psalm 39:5 which says in part. "...verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity." We all need to remember that. The second verse is found in Psalm 12:2, and it speaks of God's greatness. It says, "My help cometh from the Lord, which made Heaven and earth."

Please pray for my wife and me as we continue in our effort to serve the Lord.
Grove Laird
Fulton, Mississippi



FW

Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

A POEM

If you can start the day without caffeine;
If you can get going without pep pills;
If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains;

If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles;
If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it;

If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time;
If you can forgive a friend's lack of consideration;

If you can overlook it when those you love take it out on you when, through no fault of your own, something goes wrong;
If you can take criticism and blame without resentment;

If you can ignore a friend's limited education and never correct him;
If you can resist treating a rich friend better than a poor friend;

If you can face the world without lies and deceit;
If you can conquer tension without medical help;

If you can relax without liquor;
If you can sleep without the aid of drugs;

If you can honestly say that deep in your heart you have no prejudice against creed or color, religion or politics;
Then, my friend, you're almost as good as your dog.

Almost, but not quite.

I did a little research about dogs. They're not mentioned very often in the Bible and when they are it indicates that dogs were not treated as well in ancient times as they are today. Just sayin'!

Interesting Information for Churches and Laymen

Study: Lack of support reason pastors leave pastorate

NASHVILLE (BP) -- No sabbatical. No help with counseling. No clear picture of what's expected. In a new study, hundreds of former senior pastors say these were the crucial elements missing from the final churches they led before quitting the pastorate.

The study by LifeWay Research points to ways churches can encourage pastors to stay in the ministry, said Ed Stetzer, executive director of the research organization.

"Almost half of those who left the pastorate said their church wasn't doing any of the kinds of things that would help," Stetzer said. "Having clear documents, offering a sabbatical rest, and having people help with weighty counseling cases are key things experts tell us ought to be in place."

LifeWay Research surveyed 734 former senior pastors who left the pastorate before retirement age in four Protestant denominations.

Trouble begins early, the survey indicates, with 48 percent of the former pastors saying the search team didn't accurately describe the church before their arrival.

Their churches were unlikely to have a list of counselors for referrals (27 percent), clear documentation of the church's expectations of its pastor (22 percent), a sabbatical plan for the pastor (12 percent), a lay counseling ministry (9 percent), or a support group for the pastor's family (8 percent). Forty-eight percent say their church had none of these.

Most expected conflict to arise, and it did -- 56 percent clashed over changes they proposed, and 54 percent say they experienced a significant personal attack. Yet nearly half (48 percent) say their training didn't prepare them to handle the people side of ministry.

"Many seminary programs don't even require courses on the people side -- they're focused on theology, biblical languages and preaching, which are important, but almost half of the pastors felt unprepared for dealing with the

people they were preparing in seminary to lead and serve," Stetzer said.

Though nearly two-thirds (63 percent) spent more than a decade as a senior pastor, they eventually moved on -- most to another ministry role other than senior pastor (52 percent) but 29 percent to non-ministry work.

Forty percent say they left the pastorate because of a change in calling. They also cite such issues as church conflict (25 percent), burnout (19 percent), personal finances (12 percent) and family issues (12 percent).

"These things are interrelated," Stetzer said. "If you're burning out, chances are when conflict arises you're not going to respond well, and that will make the conflict worse."

Those who leave vs. those who stay

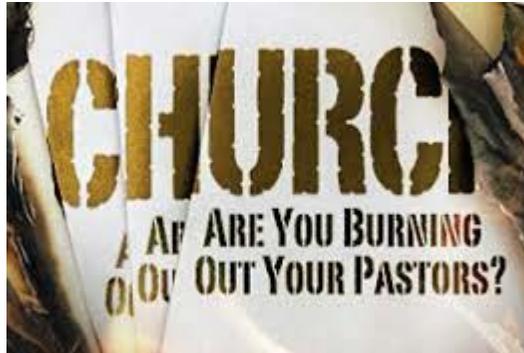
Almost across the board, the former pastors report more negative views than current pastors who answered the same questions several months earlier.

LifeWay Research surveyed 1,500 senior pastors at evangelical and historically black churches in March 2015 and found about 1 percent leave the pastorate each year for reasons other than death or retirement.

Stetzer noted the two studies are not directly comparable. The initial study involved all evangelical and black Protestant churches, but only four denominations provided lists of former pastors for the follow-up survey. In addition, the earlier survey was conducted by phone, while the former pastors were surveyed online.

"Though the populations aren't identical, we do notice the responses from people who have left the pastorate are worse," Stetzer said. "Either current pastors are painting a rosy picture that

doesn't fully describe reality, or those leaving the pastorate are in a less healthy position. Probably there's truth to both of those."



Current and former pastors agree the job is demanding: 84 percent of current pastors and 83 percent of former pastors say they feel on call 24 hours a day, while 48 percent of each group say the demands of ministry often feel like more than they can handle.

On other measures, however, the differences can be stark:

-- 21 percent of current pastors vs. 49 percent of former pastors believe their church has unrealistic expectations.

-- 35 percent of current pastors vs. 62 percent of former pastors report feeling

isolated.

-- 89 percent of current pastors vs. 68 percent of former pastors feel free to say no to unrealistic expectations.

-- 92 percent of current pastors vs. 61 percent of former pastors believe their congregation provides genuine encouragement to their family.

-- 94 percent of current pastors vs. 74 percent of former pastors say they consistently protect family time.

Former pastors are also less likely than current pastors to report an enthusiastic spouse, to take a weekly day of rest, and to work at preventing conflict. They are more likely to worry about their family's financial security and to frequently get irritated with people at church.

The churches in which they serve look markedly different, according to the surveys. Current pastors report their churches are more than twice as likely as those of former pastors to offer

continued on page 7

Southeastern Baptist College

Danny Pitts - President

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Danny Pitts

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Library Needs Met By "Memorials"

Over the years, Skyway Hills Baptist Church has been so generous and faithful to donate money to the SBC library to purchase books "In Memory Of" their church members who have passed away - as a way of honoring them. Just within the last year-and-a-half, the library has been able to purchase 44 new books from their donations! Each book purchased this way receives a "Donated By/In Memory Of" plaque on its inside cover. Our librarian is usually (through library discounts and careful shopping) able to purchase more than one book per donation given; that way, the "in memory of" individual's name can appear in more than one book.

During times of a tight College budget, this is almost exclusively the way the library is able to purchase new books, so we are thankful to Skyway Hills for their choice to honor their church members in this way. We want to encourage other churches within our Association to participate in this memorial book program as well. Think of how many new books our SBC students could utilize while honoring the lives of our deceased BMAM church family members!

Enrollment Numbers

Our final enrollment for the Spring will be between 45 and 50. This shows a substantial improvement over the Fall Semester. This number is not where we need it to be but was a great accomplishment. Our major recruiter and Financial Aid Officer, Ronnie Kitchens, had major surgery and was out several weeks. By the way, Bro. Ronnie is doing great.

Property Sold

For a number of years Southeastern had been purchasing nearly four and a half acres by the school. The note required that we raise almost \$22,000 extra each year for land payments. After Bro. Larry Geraldson indicated that El Camino was outgrowing their facilities and might have interest in the property, the College Board of Trustees voted to sell. We pray that all of this will be a blessing to them and to us.

Plumlee - From page 3

thank you. Often times it was perfect timing for them because they were going through a bad day. God always is amazing in His timing of these things.

Finally, you can always take an encouraging action. Do something once a week to encourage someone through an action taken. These also are numerous. Spending time doing a chore. Maybe you could do a "why don't you come over here and prop your feet up. I have fixed you a drink and your favorite snack. Every once in a while, if you have a little extra cash; go buy a little gift that this person would appreciate and give it to

them. No occasion is what is so encouraging. No reason except that I love you. Maybe if we would not buy ourselves one hamburger a month, we could take that money and put it in our encouragement jar for a future encouragement gift to someone else. God will lead you.

There are hundreds of ways to encourage others. We just have to start making it a mental priority to encourage those around us. We have to get into the habit of edifying others. See it as a critical display of the love of Jesus to build others up. It is desperately needed in this world by everyone.

The Shepherd Bags Are On Their Way!

by **Fonda Norris**
EIM Shepherd Bags Coordinator

In Ghana you will frequently hear a believer say, "God is good all the time. All the time, God is good" and He certainly was good to Evangelistic International Ministries once again. God opened the doors for not only one Shepherd Bags shipment to go out, but two shipments all in a span of six weeks! They have been ready for a while but I'm learning that ultimately God decides when all the avenues are open for them to actually leave the USA.

A shipment left in December for Honduras with 23,032 Shepherd Bags! We've received confirmation from our EIM Director in Honduras that they have arrived in country and have been trucked to our storage facility and un-

loaded. A few weeks later we received confirmation of everything in place for the Philippines shipment, so 15,750 bags were loaded and the shipment is currently "on the water" headed there.



Shepherd's Bags Making Big Impact

That's 38,782 total Shepherd Bags that will be used to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to thousands of children as well as adults! Never will a bag be given that it's not first used as a tool to open the door for the Gospel. Statistically, for every three bags given one person will receive Christ. If only one person ever was saved, it'd be worth it all!

Occasionally someone at EIM will get asked, "What is a Shepherd Bag?" Briefly, let me tell you this ministry's history.

At the beginning of EIM's ministry, Bro. Rocky Goodwin began to travel around the world preaching the good news of Jesus Christ to those who had never heard the Gospel. The countless faces of the children in those countries began to tug at his heart, and a desire was born to touch their lives in some meaningful way. The concept of a "Gallon Bag" filled with useful items was derived from Scripture where David slew Goliath with a few small stones. David, then a "Shepherd" boy, kept them in a "Bag", and so the Shepherds Bag™ Ministry got its name. With each trip that is taken overseas, these "Shepherd Bags" are used as a means to share the Gospel with those who have never heard. Since 1999, the lives of thousands of children in multiple countries have been changed by hearing the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

EIM's Shepherd Bags Ministry oper-



Shepherd Bags To Honduras

ates throughout the entire year assembling cost-efficient bags that contain the same items for all the children to allow them to each receive the same gift.

We currently have over 5,000 bags ready for Ghana and our goal is to assemble at least 15,000 more for shipment in late spring. Thank you to all who have given so faithfully over the years and continue to do so. You are our partners in sharing the Gospel overseas. If you are ever in Warren, stop by and visit with us and see our Shepherd Bags warehouse. Give us a call or go to our website at www.eimworldwide.org and check out our Shepherd Bags link and see how you can be involved in changing lives. If you are interested in going on a Shepherd Bags Distribution team to Honduras we'd love to give you information so that you too can go and personally reach down and come face to face with a precious little one and hand them a bag and say, "Jesus loves you."

Continue to pray for us at EIM!

National Brotherhood News

"Time Is Running Out!"

by Pat Spriggs, National Brotherhood Editor/Promoter

The following update on the BMA National Brotherhood Project and Scholarship Fund donations was recently received from Secretary/Treasurer Robert M. Bynum:

- Galilean Scholarship Fund, \$2,309.11
- Galileans, \$540.00
- Project 2016 (Sam Freeman, Philippines Printing Ministry), \$550.00
- General Fund (over a three-year period), \$1,023.35

"We will close books Feb. 29 to get a report for the Gatlinburg 2016 meeting," said Bro. Bynum. "Offerings received after Feb. 29 will be sent at a later date."

Time is running out, Men! Let's get behind our project — 50% Philippines Printing Ministry, 40% National Galileans and 10% General Fund. Offerings may be sent to Robert Bynum, 43 Bear Pen Creek Rd., Laurel, Miss. 39440.



MISSIONS
 baptist missionary association of america

**LIGHT
 INTO
 DARK**

WORLD MISSIONS DAY
 FEBRUARY 28, 2016
BMAMISSIONS.ORG/WORLDMISSIONS

Lack of support

from page 5

a sabbatical plan and a list of counselors for referrals, more than three times as likely to have a lay counseling ministry and a document listing expectations of the pastor, and more than four times as likely to have a pastor support group.

"When we see a number of items all looking a little less healthy, they can add up," Stetzer said. "But many of the gaps are preventable. It's going to take a combination of the seminaries, academia, denominational folks and even outside ministries putting their heads together and seeking God on how

best to support pastors."

Methodology: The online survey of former senior pastors was conducted Aug. 11-Oct. 2, 2015. The sample lists were provided by four denominations: Assemblies of God, Church of the Nazarene, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and Southern Baptist Convention. Each survey was completed by an individual who has served as a senior (or sole) pastor but stopped serving as senior pastor prior to age 65. The completed sample is 734 former pastors.

Lipstick

Many years ago, I worked with my Uncle out of Houston, Texas. We remodeled kitchens and bathrooms mainly, but quite often we were called on to perform other tasks as well. I probably learned more about fine workmanship from him, than anywhere else I was able to find work.

Uncle D was a stickler for perfection. I would finish a task, stand back, admire my handiwork, exclaim "VOILA", and declare that it was a work of art. Uncle D would laugh and begin trying to figure out how to fix "the mess I'd made". It hurt my feelings. But then again, he wasn't paying me to have unhurt feelings. He was hired to do a job, and anything I would do, reflected on him as well. It's tough working for a perfectionist. Especially when you were born with ten thumbs.

One day we were called to install some custom countertops in an exercise facility in the mall. Being a young fellow at the time, and unmarried, I relished this opportunity because of the aerobic's class that was taking place. The countertop was of a bright red variety, and for some reason, Uncle D had me installing it all by myself. I'm not sure what he was up to, but then again, there was an aerobic's class going on. Apparently, my attention wasn't completely on my work, because all of a

sudden, the boss appeared from nowhere and, with a worried tremble to his voice, said "We can't have that"! I looked down, and the seam I was joining didn't seem to meet.

I was devastated, though not quite as much as Uncle D. He whispered we would fix it tomorrow, but in the meantime, he gave me a couple of bucks and told me to run to one of the stores in the mall and match a tube of lipstick to a piece of scrap formica. The really nice smelling lady behind the counter took a little convincing to assist me in my endeavor, but eventually she gave in, if nothing else but to get rid of me. The lipstick worked like a charm. However, the owner of the establishment caught us as we were applying the lipstick to the seam.

We went back and fixed the mistake, though nobody could have told the difference. I never did get the opportunity to work in an environment where spandex was the attire of the crowd anymore. It's just as well, though. I felt a little awkward buying lipstick.

From The Mind of Chuck Lee

Lee pastor's Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis. He may be reached by email at leecharles47@yahoo.com



Girls Missionary Auxilliary

State Youth Auxiliary Director
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Big Creek GMA News

by Lane Flynt

Big Creek Junior Miss GMA and Miss Sunbeam participant recognition ceremony will be held at Hopewell Baptist Church on Saturday February 20 at 10:00 am. A reception and district GMA will be held following the ceremony. All are invited to attend to show support of these girls as they work to glorify God through their work in the GMA program.

Master's Builds Hold Retreat

by Nelda Malone, reporter

The Master's Builders met for their annual retreat in January at Spring Lake Encampment in Lonsdale, Arkansas. This time of fun, food, and fellowship was enjoyed by all. All of our Master's Builders would like to express our gratitude to all the people who sent in support for our new truck! It has been wonderful and has done what we needed it to do. We are so very thankful to every person and every church



that sends in regular support for our ministry,

We ask you to continue to pray for our men as they work and to pray especially for John and Barbara May. John was seriously injured on our last job of the year and continues in rehab in Humble, Texas. Also several of our group have had surgery recently or will have surgery in the next week or so, so we ask prayer for each of these.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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



SIDNEY DAVIS

Thank God for His Love

A lot will be said about the subject of love over the next few days leading up to Valentine's Day. Many will do their best to express their love for someone in various ways. In their attempt to do so countless dollars will be spent on cards, candy, flowers, and gifts. Yet far too often these expressions will be substitutes for genuine love.

God wants His children to love Him. I wonder today how many times people substitute church attendance, giving, or other acts that they do out of a heart of genuine love? These actions can only honor God when they come from a heart that loves Him first. God looks beyond the deeds we do. He looks into the heart. When He searches there, does He find that you truly love Him? May we express our love to the Lord for the great love He has shown us through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ! 1 John 4:10, 19.

Students Continue to do Well in School

Our girls and boys continue to do well in their studies at school. Grades for the first semester indicate that all the students have a B average or better. We are thankful for the academic progress each one is making. It is good to see them doing well in their studies and we anticipate that they will continue to do so throughout the remainder of this school year.

Senior Recognition

Recently at West Jones High School the senior soccer players and their parents were recognized. We are thankful and grateful for Alden's participation and role he played in West Jones Soccer over these many years.

Remember in Prayer and Focus Verses

Continue to remember the ministry of the Home in your daily prayers. "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." 1 John 4:10. "We love him, because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19.



No Rules, No Punishment

continued from page 1

tampers with the animal kingdom. To antagonize the “king of the jungle” would be to receive a recompense of reward.

It is Observed in the Societies of the World

As societies develop, they include regulations and punishments. Even those which fall under the caption of being freedom fighters, a term which implies deep concern for the common man, have punishment – severe punishment – for all who do not conform to the rules. It is difficult to conceive of a society continuing which does not incorporate into its life a system of punishment for offenders.

It is interesting to note that before the Pilgrims landed on the shores of the new world, they covenanted to be ruled by a document which would control each member of the company.

It is Observed in the Scriptures

Believing that God has spoken and that the Bible is that message, we shouldn't be surprised to find many passages dealing with the subject of punishment.

Punishment Inflicted Directly by God.

Consider the following as examples: Cain (Gen. 4:11-16). When God made His pronouncement, Cain responded, “My punishment is greater than I can bear.”

The Flood (Gen. 6:1-8:22). Rejection of God's warning resulted in the removal of that society. When the door of the ark was shut, there was no change in the announced punishment.

Sarai (Gen. 12:17). In protecting His “chosen”, God inflicted punishment on Pharaoh's house although his offense was in ignorance!

Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11). As a definite and shocking example of God's righteous indignation toward lying – and that to God – these two met immediate physical death.

Punishment Administered by Man.

(Genesis 9:1-7) Disrespect and destruction of human life were the first offenses to be placed under man's jurisdiction. Capital punishment was to be the consequence of murder. This principle continues throughout Scripture, being affirmed in the New Testament by Christ and the Apostle Paul (Matt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1-14).

Exodus-Deuteronomy. “If we knew, we would do,” sums up Israel's appeal to Moses (Deut. 5:27). This prompted God to give the Law, coupled with specific punishments for those who failed to comply. A careful analysis of Scripture will reveal the severity of punishment accompanying the Law.

Responsibility in Punishment

Man's responsibility in punishment is divided between the family, the church and the state. When each is diligent in the task, the entire society functions with a measure of peace and prosperity.

The Family

Being ordained of God, the family stands as a very important part of God's plan for mankind. Although some sociologists don't accept the family as an absolute, God does. He calls for a man to leave his parents, cleave to his wife and, living together, rear their children according to God's rules (Gen:24; Matt. 19:6)

Children Need To Be Trained.

No child comes into this world pro-

grammed to do that which is right (Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:23). Right actions are the result of right training, beginning the first day and including God's plan of salvation. Life must be directed if it is to develop the kind of character acceptable to God and one that will function in society. In order to accomplish this task there must be a penalty for disobedience (Prov. 22:15; Eph. 6:1-4).

Children Need to Understand Punishment.

Abraham must have been an example of this kind of parent (Gen. 18:19). Having made clear to the child the difference between right and wrong, the rewards and penalties must also be clearly presented (Prov. 22:6).

Parents Must Carry Through in Punishment.

Consider Proverbs 13:24 and 23:13, 14. When rules are established and broken, it is the parents' responsibility to administer the punishment. If children don't learn this lesson at home, will they learn it in society? If we neglect our responsibility as parents, can we rightfully criticize state officials who have become soft in administering punishment?

The Church

It is an established principle in Scripture that all who are born-again believers are to be identified with a local church. In this communion there are certain rules laid down by God, including the discipline of the offenders.

The Guiding Principle (Matt. 18:15-17; I Tim. 3:1-16). A church congregation is responsible to maintain a good testimony in the community. This is possible only when each individual member keeps the rules. If sin is allowed to reign and situations are overlooked which scream for correction, the church is failing in its responsibility.

The State

The state with its rule is ordained of God. It has been authorized to administer punishment on wrongdoers to protect society (Matt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1-14). This is a basic principle in the structure of our government.

According to Scripture, governmental officers are just as responsible to God as are gospel ministers. They are commissioned by God to “carry the sword.” They are guardians of human life and are to use all means available to maintain decency and order including capital punishment of those committing deliberately planned murder.

Growing Softness in Punishment

Today's softness in punishment reigns from the home to the church to the state. It appears that all too frequently the offender received greater protection than does the offended! The older generation, observing the moral breakdown, blames the younger generation; and the younger generation, beholding the hypocrisy of the day, blames the older generation. Yet all the while there is a philosophy which is sapping the very heart of our great nation.

Why Such Softness Against Crime

God and His Word are excluded. Once God's Word controlled the decisions of our government and our courts. Punishment was meted out as the just penalty for crimes committed.

Walter Lippmann saw this change coming in his day. In his book, *The Preface to Morals* (1929), he showed that a switch from the living and true God to the created god of the liberal mind would change the moral standards and stamina of America. His conclusion is apparent today!

To teach that man is the product of evolution without responsibility to the supreme God and that there is no destiny beyond the few days of this life which is destined to annihilation, is to foster an attitude of “eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die.”

Once again to the Scriptures we find that when “the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn” (Prov. 29:2). The designation “wicked” in this text is used in the Old Testament of those who walk apart from God's Word and His authority! Without question the answer to our plight in regard to honest punishment for crimes committed will be realized only through a spiritual revival which enthrones God and His moral standard of right and wrong!

CHURCH NEWS IN BRIEF

Harmony Association Meets

by Tony Marolt, Reporter

The first quarterly meeting of the Harmony Association was held January 8 at Bethel Baptist Church, Fulton. The evening message was brought by Bro. Larry Trammel from Proverbs 29:18 entitled “We Must Have a Vision”. We had 8 churches present with 47 in attendance. Mark Jones reported on the state Brotherhood and Galileans. Bro. Larry Geraldson gave a report on state missions with Missionaries Elvis Garcia and Bobby Elliott giving reports on their work.

Our next quarterly meeting will be held on April 8 at Big Oak, Fulton, with Bro. John Adams as speaker.

Laurel Church In Search of Music Director

Lebanon Baptist Church is in need of a part time music director. This person would be over leading worship service Sunday morning and night, as well as

doing cantatas and other special music. We are looking for someone who is able to incorporate both hymnals and contemporary style music. All interest persons who have questions or would like to send their resume may do so by emailing Adam Parker at parkeradam288@gmail.com.

Oak Grove Association

by Ed Steele, Reporter

The Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Association met with Rocky Branch Baptist Church near Sumrall on January 14.

A number of guests were present to report on their various ministries. Bro. Danny Pitts reported on Southeastern Baptist College. Bro. Dale Broom is on furlough from his work in Ghana, West Africa, and it was a blessing to hear his report on how the Lord is blessing there. Bro. Larry Geraldson spoke on behalf of the State Missions office and introduced Bro. Philip Burns from Day Star Mission in Sumrall and Bro. Estuardo Maroquin with

the Hispanic ministry to report on their work. Bro. Denny Patterson spoke on behalf of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home due to Bro. Sidney Davis being unable to attend.

Bro. Ted Quinby read a letter from Bro. Mike Jenkins, Pastor of New Heart Baptist Church, thanking the Association for the financial help given them in the past. An inspirational message was brought by Bro. Greg Medenwald, Pastor of Magnolia Baptist Church in Hattiesburg.

The next meeting will be with Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg on March 17. The decision was made to start having the food and fellowship prior to the meeting rather than at the end of the service. Each church needs to remember that serving will usually begin shortly after 6:00 and messengers can enter and eat on their arrival. This announcement will also be included in the March 1st issue of the Mississippi Baptist to remind the churches of this change.

CBC Homecoming Activities Set for February 19 & 20

Central Baptist College will host its annual Homecoming activities on Friday, February 19 and Saturday, February 20.

For more information, go to www.cbc.edu/homecoming or contact Meagan Lowry at mloewry@cbc.edu or 501-205-8870.