

# Practical Help for Dealing with the Issues of Everyday Life

By Bobby L. Hudgens

March 4 launches a new Bible study theme for adult Sunday School. The spring theme is Words to the Wise and is a topical analysis of Proverbs. In Proverbs God gives us advice on



practical issues of everyday life. Just a few of the titles are God's Guide to Success, Starting Children Out Right, Everybody Needs a Friend, Keep the Peace, Rage in a Bottle, and Parental Delight.

These studies collect some of the divine wisdom for life found in Proverbs. Most of the book offers tips for daily living in sentence sermons printed in random order. This series pulls together these sentence sermons by theme, with emphasis on the most relevant issues of life. The more we learn these Proverbs and live by them, the more we will experience the goodness of life.

## Tools for Teachers

Teachers will be interested to know that each Bible study after the introductory study focuses on a verse from Proverbs to memorize for life application. The following useful aids are provided for teachers: two handouts containing all twelve memory verses and a calendar for reading a chapter every day that corresponds to the day of the month, and a visual to aid memorization and review. To take advantage of these resources teachers will need The Advancer, Adult Teacher's Resource Kit, and/or the Adult Teacher's E-Kit.

Another tool that will benefit teachers is the BPH Bible Atlas Visuals, which contains several charts that can be used with these studies. These excellent resources can be obtained by calling 1-800-333-1442 or by logging on to [www.bph.org](http://www.bph.org).

## An Idea for Gaining Student Interest

How about doing something special before March 4 to get your class members interested in the new Bible study series! You and other class leaders can make a special telephone call to each class member on roll describing the theme and letting them know you care about their involvement. Better still, before the new quarter begins, make a brief door-step visit to each of your class member's and prospect's

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# Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

## 2007 BMA of America Missions Symposium *His Co-Mission our Go-Mission*

by Editor Don Brown

Temple Baptist Church of Little Rock, Arkansas was the site of the 2007 BMA of America Missions Symposium. Churches from around the nation and the world were represented as the BMA of America Missions Department highlighted the worldwide mission effort of our Association.

A number of America foreign missionaries as well as a good representation of foreign national pastors and missionaries were in attendance.

The Tuesday evening service highlighted the Youth of our Association and their continuing interest and participation in worldwide missions. A crowd of over 500 were in attendance for this special service.

Monday evening and Tuesday's program consisted of reports and messages from a number of mission fields around the world.

The Monday evening service was opened and led by Donny Parrish with music and a praise service. Darlene Carey, long time BMA



A large crowd enjoyed the preaching, singing, reporting and information presented at the 2007 BMA of America Missions Symposium held January 8 & 9 at Temple Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas.



Dr. Fil Tabayoyong

home. This is a great opportunity to show them that you love them and care about their spiritual growth by personally delivering a student book and quickly summarizing the theme of the series.

missionary to the Philippines spoke of her ministry and future plans in Asia. Reports were given by both Jennifer Bullock and Charles Costa, who are currently working in Lebanon. Bro. Costa told of his efforts and plans to soon begin a work in Israel. God has opened the door and the work looks promising.

Dr. Fil Tabayoyong, a Philippine physician who previously worked with relief agencies in Cambodia, was present. He spoke of his meeting BMA Missionary Doyle Moore and their conversation that eventually led to Dr. Fil assisting us in reaching people in Cambodia. Relief supplies were delivered to a remote area where individuals were literally starving. The villagers were helped by BMA relief efforts and have since renamed their village 'BMA Village'.

Dr. Fil eventually was terminated from his job because of his work for Jesus Christ. He was told he could keep the job, if he would stop the Christian work he was involved with. He refused and this refusal has cost him his

livelihood, but he has remained faithful to Christ. He is currently working with the BMA and through the ministry of BMMI he continues to help reach those in remote Cambodia.

Missionaries from Honduras, Panama, Romania, the Czech Republic, India, Mexico, Philippines, North America and others gave reports, brought inspiring stories of their work and the blessings of God on their mission fields.

Special music was brought by a trio from Romania - David, Geta and Daniel Olcean. They were a blessing and helped us see the results and the need for mission outreach in Europe.

## Missionary Committee

The midyear meeting of the BMA of America Missionary Committee was held on Wednesday morning. A budget of over 5 million dollars was approved. Executive Director Grady Higgs stressed the need for giving to

continued on page 2

# I Miss My Bible

I miss my Bible. It had worn out, deteriorated to the point where I was going to have to buy a new one. I did not want to purchase a new Bible. Those of you who are familiar with new Bibles know the difficulties of finding the right passage in the new Bible. It's not in the same place it was in your old Bible. Those of you who buy new Bibles know how difficult it is to turn the pages of a new Bible. They stick together and you can turn one page and it goes from Genesis to Revelation with that one

simple page turn.

My wife's Bible was in much worse shape than mine. That is quite an admission seeing that I am a preacher/minister/Bible teacher/pastor. One might question my use of my Bible less than my wife. In my defense, her Bible had more years on it than mine. Her Bible had lost the cover and it was not "safe" to use it any more for the whole thing, binding and all, was about to deteriorate beyond repair.

We decided for our Christmas present to each other to send them off to have them rebound. The rebounding of our Bibles is quite extensive. The new cover will be real and genuine leather. That's not what we had on our original covers. In fact this rebounding process will cost us more than the original Bible. We could both purchase new Bibles for



## Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

what the recovering will cost us for one. They have been shipped off to the rebounding factory, and we hope to receive them quickly with new covers with our names on the front in larger letters than original since our vision requires such size.

I miss my Bible. I have been trying to read from other Bibles for my devotional time. It's just not the same. I have several Bibles in all versions, forms, shapes, and arrangements. It's not the same as my Bible. In my Bible I know "the passage I am looking for" is on the top left corner of the right hand page. Or the particular verse that refers to "that subject" is on the left hand page at the bottom right. In these Bibles I am using right now, those verses are not readily available to me as they were in my old Bible.

For those of you who have your favorite old Bible, God bless you as you continue to read, study, meditate, and feed on the Scriptures. Continue to nourish your soul; let the Word of God guide your path; allow the Spirit of God

guidance in your behavior as you discover the path of righteous living from the Bible. Read and read with vigorous dedication the words of the Living God from your Bible.

I miss my Bible. I know it will be returned to me soon. My wife's Bible will be returned to her also. We will get a box in the mail to eagerly open to see our Bibles rebound in new covers. We will quickly touch the new cover and turn to the old and familiar pages of our "old" Bible. Once again I will feel at home in the Scriptures. Yes, there it is. There is "that verse" down in the bottom corner where it has been for so many years. I can find it now. I can reread it and better perhaps relearn it and still better yet relive it in my walk with Christ.

Lord, God who breathed all Scripture, let me focus on your Word. I ask that I may take the time to be with You in solitude as I read and study the Bible. I ask for behavior change in accordance with your instructions. May my good works shine as appropriate to one called Christian. Thank you for my Bible. Thank you for providing me and those gathered in countless procession the Words of Life.

## 2007 Missions Symposium

continued from page 1

reach this budget amount and how "50 Days of Prayer and Giving" was vital to the financial health of our international mission work.

Resignations were accepted from three missionaries: Tom Jopling in Honduras, Jamie Haguwood in Peru, and Jamie Thrasher - a recently elected support missionary to Montana.

Two new North American missionaries were elected. They are Jacob Norman who will



Jacob & Hailey Norman

serve in Peyton, Colorado. He is currently the music and youth minister at Calvary Baptist Church, Morrilton, Arkansas, where Rodney Castleberry, his father-in-law is pastor. Bro. Norman and his wife Hailey have three children.

Also elected is Michael McClure and his wife Shannon. They have one son. McClure currently is employed at Baptist Publishing



Michael & Shannon McClure

House and he will be going to the Chicago area to work with Missionary Rob Hager.

## Family groups say Dems are cutting free speech

### Christians call foul on proposal to prevent leaders from discussing issues

James Dobson, founder of the Colorado Springs-based Focus on the Family organization, has been joined by other prominent pro-family leaders in calling on Christians to tell Democrat leaders in Congress they don't like proposed new limits on their freedom of speech.

"Clearly, the objective here is to hide what goes on from the public and punish and silence those of us who would talk about what our representatives are doing," Dobson told his audience of several million listeners in his special program about Senate Bill 1.

That proposal, sponsored by Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., is listed as a proposal "To provide greater transparency in the legislative process," however Dobson was joined by American Family Association Chairman Donald Wildmon, Family Research Council President Tony Perkins and American Values President Gary Bauer in urging listeners to flood Capitol Hill with phone calls demanding those speech limits be removed.

Bauer said the telephone number to call is: 202-224-3121.

The provisions of the plan would require the pro-family groups to provide documentation of their actions to the government any time they try to spark any "grass-roots" action.

Phone calls, personal visits, e-mails, magazines, broadcasts, phone banks, appearances, travel, fund-raising and other items all would be subject to government tabulation, verification and audits, Dobson said during the program.

### "On and on it goes."

"This legislation is on a fast track," Dobson said, with a vote expected within a week. "We need about a million people to oppose it while we can still make a statement like this, because it may not be possible in the future."

Dobson said the bill, made the highest priority in the Senate by Democrats who now control the handling of bills, does contain some good provisions aimed at cleaning up recent lobbying scandals.

But it also has that Section 220, a provision

that would "severely limit the ability of Americans to stay abreast of important issues being discussed."

That also would subject organizations such as Focus to "miles of red tape" that could critically hamper their ability to rally constituents to let Washington know their opinions. Violations could cost those organizations \$100,000, he said.

"I'll tell you I'm just about as irritated as I'm going to get. ..." he said. "The Democrats and a few Republicans are trying now very, very quickly to insulate themselves from the public by muzzling people like us."

The ministries feel their work is needed, because the average American doesn't have time to research each provision of the many legislative proposals made every day. Groups like Focus do that, and then alert their constituents when they believe there is a problem developing.

That's the message the Democrats want stifled, Dobson said.

Dobson noted the American people have had success in the past when advocates for family values such as Focus have alerted them to potential problems, and they've responded by calling their representatives and senators.

One case was when a California Democrat tried to "squash" home schooling in the United States with restrictive legislation.

"We and others let the world know about it. That bill was going to pass handily, but it got only one vote. That one vote was George Miller's. Everybody else ran for the tall grass, because we let people know about it," he said.

He cited a second time, when there was an attempt to lessen the penalties for child pornography, and "the response from the public was overwhelming. The Justice Department phones were shut down for days. That is a function we and other pro-family organizations have provided, letting people know the things that are done in secret in Washington."

"It's called free speech," he said. "The Democrats now are trying to take away that right and keep people in the dark."

Bauer said members of Congress clearly have been upset in the past when "they've been caught red-handed." He said this legislation "is motivated by that, they don't want the

average American to be told ... what is going on in this city."

The Christian organization leaders noted that local pastors, under certain circumstances, would be subject to the reporting and auditing requirements of the plan if they would encourage their congregations to call their senators about marriage, life or other issues.

Wildmon said Washington is telling the American public: "We don't want to hear from you, and this is the way we're going to handle it."

However, political groups such as the MoveOn.org, which is set up under a different legal structure and funded by George Soros to defeat President Bush and other conservatives

continued on page 4



## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

### Super Nanny

There is a TV program on each week by this name. The premise is that a family whose children are completely out of control ask Super Nanny for help in gaining back control of their own kids.

This raises a lot of questions in my mind: 1. How in the Sam Hill do parents allow their kids to get that far out of line? 2. Are they not embarrassed to have this behavior publicized nationwide? 3. What would Fred and Icyrae Walker (my parents) think of this show? ooooooh, buddy! 4. What does God think of this? We know the answer because we have many instructions from His Word, one of which is Prov. 23:13, "Withhold not correction from the child....."

# I Cried at the Funeral of Gerald R. Ford

By Johnny Watts  
Laurel, Mississippi

Did I cry because I knew him as a personal friend? No. But as the guns sounded I began to imagine the great difference in the funeral of Mr. Ford and our Lord, Christ Jesus. Since our Lord really did not have a funeral as we have today, may I include the suffering and death of our Lord. Instead of a twenty-one gun salute the crowd mocked Him and hailed Him as King of the Jews - spoken in mockery.

There was a large military orchestra that played beautiful music fitting for the occasion, but Jesus had no music at the cross, just the rattling of the dice as the soldiers gambled for His garment.

As the eulogy was given for Mr. Ford, I thought of the cursing . . . the ridicule . . . the suffering of Jesus, very similar to Sadaam as he was hung.

In the pomp and ceremony of Mr. Ford's funeral I saw the flag draped casket, so much unlike the picture I imagined of Jesus in His bloody,

shredded clothing.

There were so many kind words spoken of Gerald Ford and the reciting of his military conquest, but no kind words for Jesus - no reciting of the miracles done in His time of ministry. Not one blind man came forward to acclaim that He had caused him to see, not one crippled walked up strong and straight and told the people to look at his legs and to proclaim that he could now walk and Jesus had done that for him. Had I been there in Washington, D.C., I would have wanted to salute such a great Navy man. But as I watched, I wanted rather to salute Jesus who suffered so shamefully as he died, as He died for the sins of the whole world.

Gerald Ford, in his flag draped casket, was placed in the Capital Rotunda so everyone who wished to pay their respect might do so. Jesus hung there on the cross, most of His body exposed as His life blood ran down the old rugged cross.

Why did I cry at the funeral of Gerald R. Ford? He was one of the our past presidents and history records

that he was a good president. I am of the old school and I like to honor all those who gave us such a great country by their hard labor and giving of themselves.

The people loved Jesus Christ and they washed His body, wrapped him in clean linen and placed Him in a borrowed tomb. No doubt He suffered more than most could bear as he died for my sins and for the sins of the whole world. Let us honor Him with the honor He deserves. Let us exalt his Great Name not only in the church, but in our daily lives.

## CHURCH NEWS



News articles should contain information that will be of interest to the general public who are not members of the church that is reporting.

### Missouri churches seek pastor

The *Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church* in Doniphan, Missouri, is looking for a pastor, due to the age and heath of our current pastor. If the Lord is leading you to pastor a small country church and you are bi-vocational, please contact our deacon, Herb Dale at 573-996-2580, or church clerk, Dian Decker at 573-996-5657 or ddecker1954@hotmail.com. You write us at Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, Rt. 3 Box 276, Doniphan, MO 63935, % Dian Decker.

*First Missionary Baptist Church* of Matthews, in Matthews, Missouri is seeking a pastor. If you are interested please contact Eugene Adams at 573-471-0121 or 573-380-5696. You may reach us by Email at eadams2@hotmail.com.

### Church seek music minister

Calvary Baptist Church in Horn Lake, Mississippi, is seeking a full time music minister. Resumes may be sent to Gocalvary@aol.com or mailed to 5145 Hwy 51 N. Horn Lake, MS 38637. Visit us on the web at gocalvary.org and click on the Personnel Committee Link. Contact Pastor Anders Lee at 901-258-1812.

### East Fulton Baptist Church, Fulton

In December our youth had their Christmas Program. We are very proud of our youth and appreciate their hard work. In October our Silver Saints took the annual Fall Foliage Tour. In November we had our annual Thanksgiving Dinner with Bill Brooks. In December we went to Shoney's for breakfast and our final

# Southeastern Baptist College

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



Dr. Medrick Savell  
President

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

### New Year - New Semester

At the time of this writing, we are in the process of registration for the new semester and the beginning of classes. Registration is open for another week. The number of students registered so far is 70, with 19 new, first-time students. Others have said they are going to enroll. It looks as if we will have a few more in this Spring semester than we had in the Fall 2006 semester (which was 70). We are thankful to the Lord for each of these and thank everyone who worked, encouraged students to come, provided financial assistance, or prayed for the enrollment.

### Gifts to the College Foundation

Seven more gifts to the College Foundation have been received recently. One was given by a faithful supporter of Southeastern Baptist College. One was given in memory of Dr. Jentry Bond; one in memory of Neville and Ann Robinson; two in memory of Bro. Edward Holloway, and two in memory of Bro. Norvelle Jefcoat. Giving a contribution to the Foundation is a wonderful way to support the college for years to come. This money is invested, and the college can use the interest that is earned from it. We appreciate the growth in the Foundation and ask others to con-

sider contributing to it, which will continue to bring in revenue for the college from now on.

### College Choir

At this time there are twelve in the choir for the Spring semester. This is four more than in the Fall. Contributions to this effort continue to be received. Please pray for the growth in the choir. I am sure it will be a blessing to the college and to the Lord.

### Honors List for Fall 2006

Listed below is Southeastern Baptist College Honors list for the Fall 2006 semester.

### President's List

- Jason Howard, 4.0
- Timothy Buchanan, 4.0
- Brianna Barnard, 4.0
- Wilfred Bridges, 4.0

### Dean's List

- Kelby Johnson, 3.80
- Tony McKeller, 3.80
- Kimble Allen, 3.75
- Jacob McKenzie, 3.63
- Vivian Stringer-Clark, 3.63
- Hubert Dyess, 3.60
- Gustavo Salazar, 3.60
- Zachary Dant, 3.54
- Janice Smith, 3.54.

## Veve Carlisle Celebrates 102nd Birthday

Todd's Cabin in Soso was the setting for the celebration of Veve Carlisle's 102nd birthday. Family and friends enjoyed a steak dinner. Instead of gifts she was showered with money which covered her jacket.

shopping at the Mall. Our church is active in the Tombigbee BMA meetings and our WMA district meetings. We honor our widows and widowers each November with dinner. This year we went to the Country Gentlemen. Our church choir cantata in December was one of the best they have ever performed.

Our watch night service began at 10:00 pm with the Watchmen's Quartet. At 11:00 we had church singing and a message by Bro. Bain. We followed with a 24 hour prayer time. We are looking forward to a great year and welcome your visits at any time.

Pastor Dewitt Bain  
Reporter Linda Daugherty

Mrs. Carlisle has been an active member of Springhill Baptist Church, Laurel, since 1920. She loves her church and her church family. Because of heath conditions she can no longer attend services.



She was the wife of Dan Carlisle and the mother of seven children: Duette Gammage, Burdette Ellzie, Burl Carlisle (deceased), Milton Carlisle, Elinor McKenzie, Lucille Carlisle (infant deceased), and Diane Johnson.

## YOUR MISSION FIELD

## ARE YOU READY?

*"Come learn with us and change a life!"*



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Registration begins January 15th • Classes start January 29th

# Mississippi Baptist

**Don J. Brown, Editor**  
E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org  
Web site www.msbaptist.org

USPS 353-960  
P.O. Box 8181  
Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000  
(601) 426-3293  
for Voice & Fax  
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## The Great Escape 2007

February 22 - 24, 2007

Make plans now to attend this year's conference for Student Pastors and their wives. The Great Escape will be held February 22-24 at the Hilton Garden Inn DFW Airport South in Irving, Texas. The theme for this year is "R & R," which stands for Revive & Restore. The need for personal revival and restoration in our lives personally, as families, and in our ministries is constant. To be able to sit back and take an honest look at things in a peaceful and caring atmosphere is what you will find at Great Escape. The goal is to provide teaching, worship, and free time for Student Pastors/Leaders and their spouses that will 'Revive and Restore!'

A block of rooms have been secured for Great Escape at Hilton Garden Inn through February 8. To make your reservations call the Hilton at 972-313-2800. Reservations after the cutoff will be accepted based on availability. Room rate is \$79 plus tax with two to a room and includes a full breakfast each morning. Registration is \$50 per person by February 8 or \$60 after deadline. Register online at [www.dcmstudents.org](http://www.dcmstudents.org) or print a registration form and mail to DCM.

Pastors, invest in your Youth Staff by sending them to Department of Church Ministries Great Escape. DCM looks forward to ministering to them for a change. Call the DCM office with any questions at 501-513-3726.

### BMA Missionaries to Africa planning furlough

John and Margaret Lindsey will be in America on furlough beginning on March 18 till June 10. If you would like to hear what God is doing through the BMA in Africa, contact John and Margaret at [jlins@africaonline.com.gh](mailto:jlins@africaonline.com.gh) or [rustyjohn3@earthlink.net](mailto:rustyjohn3@earthlink.net). You may also write to John Lindsey, P.O. Box 5553, Kumasi, Ghana. Our home telephone number is 011-00233-20-850-0926. If you telephone please remember that Ghana is 6 hours ahead of Central Standard time. When it is 12:00 noon in Central Standard Time it is 6:00 PM in Ghana.

Margaret and I look forward to sharing God's work in Africa with your entire congregation during Sunday worship, Sunday School, WMA, Galileans, GMA, AWANA, VBS, Local or State association meetings, missions emphasis programs, or other meetings and gatherings. Serving Jesus with you, John Lindsey

### CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



**"George, take my advice, the next time someone asks you to explain what the phrase 'fisher's of men' means, don't say the whale that swallowed Jonah!"**

### A Note From BMA of America President David Watkins

Messengers from the churches of the BMA of America will gather in Fort Smith, Arkansas, April 16-18, 2007. I hope your church will be represented at the meeting. Our meeting is at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center.

We are living in exciting and historic times for the Baptist Missionary Association. Our God continues to open new doors of opportunity for our churches. Our leaders, the directors and staff of the departments and agencies, are working together to reach more and more people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is heartwarming to see the positive accomplishments of all our departments and agencies. God is blessing the ministries of the BMA of America.

In Joshua 3:5, we read: "And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." I believe God will accomplish wonders among the churches of the BMA of America. May God help us to pray, work, give, serve and believe - believe in ourselves and in Him.



David Watkins

On Monday night Allison Durham Speer will sing. The President's Address will focus on our theme for the meeting: "Our First Concern: Making Disciples." Matthew 28:18-20 is the text. Tuesday night the Central Baptist College Choir will sing, and Brother Steve Crawley will preach the annual message. Wednesday night we will close the meeting with the Missionary Commissioning Service. Woven into these times of worship will be our business sessions. The business sessions give us the opportunity to hear from our departments and agencies and to hear of the things that are right and good in the BMA of America. Amen! The best is yet to come!

God bless you. Pray for the meeting. I love our brethren.

Your friend,

David Watkins, President

Baptist Missionary Association of America

### Baptist History Celebration - 2007

An unprecedented meeting on Baptist history will be held on August 1-3, 2007 at the historic First Baptist Church of Charleston, South Carolina.

Five years in preparation, this meeting will feature an interesting array of topics and speakers in commemoration of the founding of the Philadelphia Baptist Association in 1707.

The steering committee, made up of Baptists from over 20 different Baptist groups (including the late Hal McNeill, Thom South, and Philip Bryan from BMA Seminary), would like to invite you to visit the web page below for program information and registration. Seating is limited, so we urge you to register right away.

We hope your love and interest in our Baptist heritage will lead you to be a part of this historical meeting. BMA Seminary credit may be arranged for students who attend the program events and complete special assignments. Contact Philip Bryan at [philipbryan@bmatsem.edu](mailto:philipbryan@bmatsem.edu) or Philip Attebery at [bmatsem@bmatsem.edu](mailto:bmatsem@bmatsem.edu) for complete information.

Professors Bryan and South will lead "breakout" sessions on Thursday afternoon relating to Baptist Preachers and "Landmark" Writers.

The web page address for the Celebration is: <http://www.baptisthistorycelebration.org>.

### Free Speech

from page 3

and their agendas, would be exempt, Dobson noted. Soros has pledged that "the central focus of my life" is the defeat of Bush and his ideology, and he contributed millions of dollars to that effort in the most recent presidential election.

Dobson did include a warning to Washington in his plea to listeners for help. He reminded listeners about the campaign conducted by former House Speaker Tom Daschle when he was in power, and "was doing everything he could to keep the president from getting judges appointed."

When Focus and other organizations asked listeners to comment, officials in Washington simply turned their telephones off. In the next election voters in South Dakota refused to return Daschle to office.

"We know where he's not, he's not

in the Senate. I think it's because of people who were informed of the kind of shenanigans he was pulling," Dobson said.

Bauer said people need to speak up now, "or we may never have another program like this."

The plan was introduced on January 4 and has been laid before the Senate, where several amendments are pending, by unanimous consent, in its most recent action, officials said.

Reid, in introducing what he called "The Legislative Transparency and Accountability Act of 2007," said people all remember the scandals in Washington involving corruption, gifts and special interest influences.

"These stories have a corrosive effect on the great institution in which we serve. We must make sure they are never repeated, by reassuring the American people that legislation can't be traded..." he said.

## Our Need - \$10,000

### January 2007 Special Emphasis Mississippi Baptist



Don Brown  
Editor

*Your Special Gift in January Is Appreciated*

# Let's Roll Up Our Sleeves and Get Busy!

We have a new year, and a new opportunity to serve the Lord and grow into conformity to the image of Christ. We don't want to be busy just for busy-sake. We don't want to over-commit and fill our days with busy work that serves no purpose for the kingdom. Therefore, we must have an action plan. We must have some goals and a desire to work at them to fulfillment.

Limited goals create limited lives. Dream big for God this year and dare to have visions for His glory. If you have no specific action plan, then you will just be adrift in 2007, and this year will not be much different than any previous year. It is the definition of insanity to keep doing things the way we have always done them and expect different results. Determine that 2007 will be a year of maturity, change, growth and spirit-filled work for the Kingdom of Christ.

First off, we must desire to grow spiritually and increase in wisdom from God. We do this by increasing our study of the Word. I do not want any of you to read your Bible in 2007. I want you to STUDY the Bible to show yourself approved. Study it! Think about the message God is trying to give you. If you are unable to do this, you might go to the Christian bookstore and get a Bible study book that helps explain scripture to you. These books, while useful, can never take the place of being in God's Word. Use them as a resource to help give you insight into scripture.

Which scripture study guide is best for you depends upon where you are on the road of Christian living. We are all at different places on the path

of righteousness. The important thing is not trying to go really fast and pass every one you know. That is fleshly to think of trying to be smarter or more



## Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

[www.travisplumlee.com](http://www.travisplumlee.com)

wise than other Christians. Try to be the best you can be for the glory of the Lord. Try and grow in your Biblical knowledge for the purpose of being better equipped to serve God.

Some people are further down the road of Christian maturity than you are, but that is okay. All that really matters is that we are all still walking toward Christ. It is when we stop walking and growing that it becomes a problem.

Establish a ministry that you do every single month. Do you serve the bride of Christ? That of course is the church. How do you serve your church? There is something you could do. If you see a need in the church, meet that need in 2007. Do you have a growing concern for the spiritual and temporal needs of others? What are you doing to help others? Sometimes, it is our opportunity to serve God by helping someone gain some spiritual growth by something we say or do. However, sometimes, God uses us to further His cause by meeting temporal needs of people.

How do you and your church meet

the needs for food, shelter and clothing in your community? How do you and your church minister to those in jail, in hospitals, in nursing homes, in shelters and half-way houses? Some people erroneously think it is the pastor's job to visit the hospitals and nursing homes. Some think it is the youth workers role to reach out to the hurting, drug and alcohol consuming young people of the community. Some think it is the role of United Way agencies to give food and clothing to the poor. How wrong is this thinking? Jesus commands all of us as Christians to be engaged in this work. Read Matthew 25: 34-46.

Do you have widows and widowers in your church? How do you take care of them as we are commanded in James Chapter 1:27. The opportuni-

ties to serve Jesus and bear fruit are boundless. Set a new year goal of ministering to the local church, and to the needs of the community at large. Start a mentorship group for a select group of people. Start a food bank. Meet both the spiritual and temporal needs of those around you, and you will bless the Lord.

Now after you have resolved to serve the Lord and grow spiritually, then you can attend to some goals that are still important, but not as high a priority. Set goals to grow mentally. I took my mentorship guys to the Kimball Art Museum in Fort Worth, Texas so they could see the master paintings and how they depict mostly religious themes. The baptism of Jesus, Abraham sacrificing Isaac, the Crucifixion etc. Challenge your mind with something that you don't normally do.

Learn a foreign language, or learn

to make something. You are never too old or too dumb to do these things. Stop putting yourself down. That right there would be a good place to start on emotional growth in 2007. Stop beating yourself up. Study a Christian book and learn how to communicate better, break free from grief, grow through divorce or learn to control your anger. There are many areas you could set out to grow through with God's help in these areas.

Finally, if you want to, you can have a goal to start exercising and losing weight. If the Lord leads you to get healthier by exercise, then go for it. If you are just vain, forget it. We are too obsessed in this country with looks. Dieting and exercise to be healthier is Christian. Doing it because you hate how you look is fleshly. Be healthy, but enjoy eating as well. I give you permission to occasionally eat a big ole steak dinner with a loaded bake potato, bread and a chocolate and caramel covered anything.

Now, let's roll up our sleeves and get busy growing and serving Jesus. 2007 means He is that much closer to returning. We must get busy. It is now or never. Ready, set, grow!

## Navy dismisses chaplain who prayed 'in Jesus' name'

*We are homeless, jobless, and we are in God's hands'*

A U.S. Navy chaplain who prayed "in Jesus' name" as his conscience dictated is being ejected from the military service "in retaliation" for his victorious battle to change Navy policy that required religious rites be "non-sectarian."

"This fight cost me everything. My career is over, my family is now homeless, we've lost a million dollar pension, but Congress agreed with me and rescinded the Navy policy, so chaplains are free again to pray in Jesus' name," Chaplain Gordon Klingenschmitt told WND. "My sacrifice purchased their freedom. My conscience is clear, the fight was worth it, and I'd do it all again."

Klingenschmitt has fought an extended battle with the Navy over its restrictions on religious expression by its chaplains. He appeared and delivered a public prayer "in Jesus' name" at a White House rally last winter and was court-martialed for that. The Navy convicted him of failing to follow a lawful order because his superior didn't want him praying "in Jesus' name."

He's also launched a legal battle that he said he hopes eventually will result in his reinstatement, alleging the Navy assembled a "civic religion" by ordering its chaplains to pray in a certain way.

"There's a Unitarian system of religion that's aimed at Christians," John Whitehead, founder of the The Rutherford Institute, told WND. "It boils down to that. We're seeing it all across the country, with council prayers, kids wanting to mention Jesus. What's going on here is it's generally a move in our government and military to set up a civic religion."

"I think the Supreme Court's going to have to look at the idea of can the government in any of its forms tell people how to pray, set up a basic

religion and say you can only do it this way," he said.

Klingenschmitt said he'd been delivered a formal letter of reprimand for his appearance at a White House function in March 2006 at which he wore his uniform and prayed "in Jesus'



Chaplain Gordon Klingenschmitt

name." For that he was convicted at a special court-martial of violating a lawful order from his commanding officer not to do that.

His appearance was with former Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice and WND columnist Judge Roy Moore, who was removed from his office when he refused to follow a federal court order he considered unlawful: to remove a Ten Commandments monument from public property.

Klingenschmitt's \$3,000 fine was suspended and because of the issues, Congress got involved and ordered the Navy to rescind that particular policy, and allow chaplains to pray as their "conscience dictates."

In a Congressional report on the situation, members of a conference

## Former BMA pastor O.N. Jefcoat passes away

Bro. Olen Norvelle Jefcoat, 65, of Laurel, died Sunday, January 7, 2007, at his residence.

Funeral services were held at Wednesday, January 10, at Memory Chapel Funeral Home in Laurel, with burial in Good Hope Cemetery in Jones County. Rev. Leon Carnical and Harold Floyd conducted the service.

Bro. Jefcoat served 40 years in the ministry and pastored BMA churches throughout Mississippi until his health began to fail. He was a member of Berean Missionary Baptist Church in Soso. He served in the United States Army Reserve and was a Mason and a member of the Ovet Lodge.

He was preceded in death by his parents, the Rev. Olen and Arcola Stringer Jefcoat, and a son, Douglas D. Jefcoat.

He is survived by his wife, Jean Jones Jefcoat of Laurel; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Jason and Ginny Jefcoat of Seminary and Michael Jefcoat of Smyrna, Georgia; a daughter and son-in-law, Melody and Eric Ezell of Soso; four grandchildren, Adam Ezell, Alyssa Ezell, Will Jefcoat and Ella Grace Jefcoat; and a brother and sister-in-law, Gayle and Joan Jefcoat of Mobile, Alabama. Pallbearers will be Larry Jefcoat, Roger Jefcoat, Stanley Jefcoat, Dr. Lance Jefcoat, Ronald Jefcoat and Sonny Jefcoat.

**Editor's note:** Bro. Jefcoat was my pastor briefly while he served at Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel. He was a friend to his church members and loved to preach and pastor. His presence will be missed and our prayers go out to Jean and their entire family.

DCM

The Great Escape 2007

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continued on page 6



ABS \* Camp Ministry



LATRELLE WINDHAM  
DIRECTOR

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## 2007 Theme - "Time - A Time to Read"

Having taught school and having three other teachers in my immediate family, certainly I understand the importance of reading. In fact the best way to motivate children and teenagers to read, is to read to them and with them. Something I noticed about my two sons-in-law is, that they read to their children, not only the Bible but other good books. What better way is there, than reading the Word of God together as a family.

Some blessings of reading the

Word are repentance, it reminds us of our duties, produces reformation in our lives and gives us knowledge of prophecy.

I remember soon after I was saved, the first thing I began to do was read the Bible. I had received a Gideon New Testament given away at school. I would read this New Testament early in the morning while waiting for the school bus. It brought about repentance in my life early and it still brings repentance in my life now.

Reading the Word of God reminds me of my duty in a number of areas. It reminds me of my duty to God, family, my church, and my country. It has brought about reformation in my character that helps me in making good decisions. Reading God's Word daily helps me to understand things that are past, the present and what is to take place in the future.

What are the reactions to reading the Word of God? When a person invites Jesus into his heart by faith, the Holy Spirit, which is God himself, comes into his heart. The Holy Spirit works through the Word in our lives and brings response to His will.

When some people read or hear the Word of God, they reject it. Just because people reject it, doesn't make it any less powerful. Some rebell against the teachings of Christ, but many also received the Word.

Some people want us to read it to them. The Holy Spirit again works through it and convicts men of sin and the need of salvation.

We all need to search the Word daily. We need to grow in our knowledge of the Word.

Read the Bible often!

## Navy dismisses chaplain

from page 5

committee noted, "The House bill contained a provision ... to prescribe that military chaplains shall have the prerogative to pray according to the dictates of their conscience, except as must be limited by military necessity, with any such limitation being imposed in the least restrictive manner feasible." That position was adopted with orders that the "Secretary of the Navy rescind Secretary of the Navy Instruction 1730.7C dated February 21, 2006, titled 'Religious Ministry within the Department of the Navy'" and replace it with a policy allowing such freedoms.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld also then promised Congress that no chaplain would be punished under the now-cancelled policy, but the Navy's plans to get rid of Klingenschmitt moved forward anyway.

A federal judge in Klingenschmitt's lawsuit also concluded that his termination from the service and the dam-

age that would result would not be "irreparable," so he would not step in at this point, and Klingenschmitt was delivered a Navy letter this week ordering him to move out of his home in conjunction with his removal from the service.

"Access onto all military installations within Navy Region Mid-Atlantic for Lieutenant Gordon J. Klingenschmitt, CHC, USNR, will terminate on January 31, 2007," said the letter from S.W. Wong, who is with the Judge Advocate General's Corp.

While he's battling for reinstatement, Klingenschmitt said, he'll be accepting speaking invitations and can be contacted through his website, and working with supporters Alan Keyes and Rick Scarborough who have assembled an online petition that calls on new Secretary of Defense Robert Gates to honor Rumsfeld's promise that no chaplain would be punished under the old policy.

"U.S. Navy Chaplain Gordon James Klingenschmitt is being unjustly punished for praying in Jesus' name, for quoting Scripture passages in a military chapel, for voicing evangelical messages about Christ while in uniform," the petition says.

"Chaplain Klingenschmitt courageously stood for what is right, and his stand was completely vindicated by Congress. I am calling on you to immediately exonerate him and allow him to continue his outstanding service as a Navy chaplain. Mr. Secretary, you must act! And fast! Otherwise Chaplain Klingenschmitt will be kicked out of the service by Jan. 31, ending an award-winning 15.5-year career. He will lose his pension, health care benefits and be evicted from military housing - and our sailors will lose this faithful vicar of Christ."

"I think the Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates, should keep the promise of his predecessor," the chaplain told WND. "We are homeless, jobless and we are in God's hands."

"My separation is in direct retaliation for my victory on Capitol Hill. This is how the Navy treats whistleblowers," he added.

In the lawsuit filed by the Rutherford Institute, the authors noted that courts in the District of Columbia already have concluded: "What we have here is the government's attempt to override the Constitution and the laws of the land by a directive that clearly interferes with military chaplains' free exercise and free speech rights, as well as those of their congregants."

The case developed when "one Navy Captain decided that he did not like the content of the Chaplain's religious speech during an optionally attended sermon in the chapel," the lawsuit said. Then a Navy investiga-

continued on page 7

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### Opportunities for ABS

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Cochran Center Room 229  
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Jones County Junior College  
Wednesdays 7:50AM-8:20AM  
Museum Room Library  
1st Meeting, Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Southeastern Baptist College  
Mondays 9:30AM - 10:00AM  
Cafeteria Room  
1st Meeting January 22, 2007

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### Summer Camp Schedule 2007

Tombigbee, Judson, Tombigbee State Park	June 4,5,6, 2007
Harmony, Tishomingo State Park	June 18, 19, 20, 2007
South Central Junior Camp, Gulf Coast Community College	June 27, 28, 29, 2007
State Junior High, Senior, Gulf Coast Community College	July 11,12,13, 2007



## Camp Season 2007



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## Rudeness

by Brother Ritechus N. Dignation  
(The alter ego of Bro. Joseph Harris)

I'm fired up...again. There's some things in life I can do without: a car wreck, the measles, rap music, and rude people. I want to focus on that last one - rude people. Rudeness has almost become a badge of honor in society. Sometimes I wonder if some folks don't try to be as rude as possible. There ain't never no reason for being rude, ugly or condeeesending to others. We are all created in God's image. Why I've been around some people, Christians at that, who treated me like a piano at a Cambellite convention (for you young'uns, a Cambellite is a member of the Church of Christ).

Now let's talk about preachers. Why not, ever'body does every Sunday after church at the dinner table. Let's just make it official. I remember one particular preacher who left a mark on me early in my ministry. I ran into a preacher brother in town who was having lunch with a man I'll call Brother Rude. As I talked with my friend, he introduced me to this other brother. The guy didn't speak to me or acknowledge that I was even standing there. He just gave me a look and kept eating. I spoke directly to him and forced him to look at me again, but he never uttered a syllable. He just kept chowing down. Not only was he rude to me, he could have used some table manners on how to act at the trough. I tried to give him the benefit of the doubt and just figured maybe I wasn't a big enough fish in the 'So sa shun' for him to swim with. I always wondered if he treated his sheep this way.

Then there's the folks who are paid to be nice to you, but treat you like last months buttermilk. Clerks, tellers, cashiers, waiters and waitresses and others, all come under this category. I was once served a sandwich at a café that had a chunk of mold on the bun as big as a three inch flat washer, plus the meat was cold as a two day old tater. I called the waitress over, showed her the excuse for a sandwich and asked for another. She took it back, returned with another and doggone if it didn't have some mold on it. When I called her back, she looked at me, snatched the sandwich, brought me a third one and began to walk away. I stopped her and said, "Hold on. Aren't you even going to say you're sorry?" She never did.

I have to remind myself of my Christian duty to these folks. It's called forbearance. As I said at the beginning, there's never a call to be rude to anyone, even when they've been ugly to you. If that person is lost, then we need to be an example. If they claim to be saved, well, one of us ought to act like a Christian.

## CHILDREN'S HOME

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

### Expressions of Sympathy

We would like to express our sympathy to the families of Bro. Edward Holloway and Bro. Norvelle Jefcoat.

Both of these men were faithful servants in the Lord's work. Their presence will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Holloway family and the Jefcoat family during this time of loss and sorrow.



SIDNEY DAVIS  
DIRECTOR

the ministry of the Home. We want to say "thank you" to each church and individual who helped make this rally a good success.

### Special Offerings

Special offerings received are as follow: Huey & Joann Wise, Carriere, \$500; George & Glenda Auvil, Lucedale, \$200; Anonymous Giver, \$1,000; Good Hope, Columbia, \$593; East Fulton Fellowship S. S. Class, Fulton, \$75; Pilgrim Rest, Leakesville, \$695; Salem, Bay Springs, \$458; Alfred & Maria Pugh, Stringer, \$100; Ned & Jamie Hinton, Laurel, \$200; Anonymous Giver, \$3,650; Corinth, Lucedale, \$875; Harmony, Hurley, \$100; Jason & Tina Anders, Lucedale, \$50; Canaan, Lucedale, \$300; Cecil & Ada Ruth Harris, Lucedale, \$20; Buffalo, McLain, \$140; Washington, Neely, \$421; Leakesville, Leakesville, \$200; Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Pugh, Louin, \$120; Oak Grove, Mantachie, \$100; Lee's Chapel #2, Picayune, \$99.30; Sand Hill, Lucedale, \$250; Patricia Ramshur, Columbia, \$100; Sycamore, Carriere, \$20.75; Wilderness, Vicksburg, \$122.27; F. B. Shady Grove, Laurel, \$800; Temple, Biloxi, \$500; Biloxi Creek, Perkinston, \$693; Mt. Calvary Auditorium S. S. Class, Picayune, \$50; New Bethany, Ellisville, \$200; New Bethany Brotherhood, Ellisville, \$30; Paramount, Perkinston, \$284.68. We appreciate each of these special gifts.

### Jesus Could Come in 2007

What a tremendous thought! Can you imagine what that would be like? May we use the time God has given us wisely. 1 Thessalonians 5:6 says, "Therefore let us not sleep as do others; but let us watch and be sober."

If you really want to make wise use of your life, then live it in the knowledge that the return of Jesus is imminent. You know, He may come in 2007 for His own.

### Food and Miscellaneous Rally

It was good to be with the Washington Baptist Association which met with the Corinth Baptist Church near Lucedale and Pastor Jeff Bass on December 15 for their annual rally for the Children's Home. I had the opportunity to preach a message from God's Word after giving a report on

## Chaplain

from page 6

tion showed Klingenschmitt had prayed "in Jesus' name" and had even prayed in public in uniform. For that, the court-martial was held, "ignoring Naval Uniform Regulations that permit chaplains to wear the uniform during public worship."

The lawsuit notes that the Navy is using the chaplain's resignation from one "ecclesiastical endorsement" and acceptance of another from a different church group as its reason for terminating him. However, the lawsuit notes that the Navy's own regulations state that a chaplain "shall" be recertified on request.

In apparent conflict, a letter from J.C. Harvey Jr., a vice-admiral, ordering Klingenschmitt's removal from the Navy, opined that "presentation of a new ecclesiastical endorsement from a qualified Religious Organization does not automatically mandate recertification."

The district court judge also found, in ruling against the chaplain, that in the military "public worship" is different from "worshipping in public," so that the Navy's punishment could move forward.

-from WorldNetDaily

## Annual Meeting Hotels

from page 8

### Residence Inn/Marriott

3005 S. 74th St.  
Standard, Studio Suite \$89  
1-479-478-8300  
Two Bedroom Suite \$129

### Courtyard by Marriott

900 Rogers Avenue  
\$119.00

Registering for the above hotes you need to identify that you are with the BMAA.

### Other Hotels

(No rates supplied)

Baymont Inn I-540

Days Inn

Close to Convention Center

Guesthouse Inn

Off I-540 South

Motel 6

Off I-540 at Rogers Ave.

Kings Row Inn

Off I-540 at Rogers Ave.

Ramada Inn South

## Mississippi Galileans

Pete Taggard, State Galilean Promoter  
5565 Hwy 43 North  
Carriere, MS 39426

## Galilean camp nears

Happy New Year! I find it a great honor and privilege to serve as the new Galilean State Promoter. This has been a desire that God has placed on my heart. I would like to thank the State Brotherhood for this position in this ministry. So now that the formalities are over with let's get to work.

The dates for State Galilean Camp are March 16-17 and the camp will be held at Lake Tiak O'Khata in Louisville. We will be having Andy Pittman leading us in worship and Scott Pittman bringing us God's unchangeable Word. I know that camp is less than 3 months away, but I ask if you would start praying that God will move at this camp and that souls would be saved and hearts changed to advance the kingdom of God. If you have any young men who are going to be running for Senior or Junior Galilean please call me or email me their information.

I would really like a big turn out at camp this year. If you have a Galilean ministry at your church please makes contact with me for camp information and so I can put your church in our reach out list.

Our theme for 2007 is this "Galileans - It's not what you think". Most churches and people view the Galilean ministry as just memorizing and book reports and we need to change that view. I would like to share with other churches and other Galilean leaders across the state where I think God is leading this ministry. I have watched God at our own church grow this ministry from 3 young men and 1 leader to 25 young men to 3 leaders. Please call me or email me at 601-740-3836 or 601-916-2013 with email to taggard@bellsouth.net.



