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JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

JANUARY 15, 2010

Vol. 64 No. 2

Important Dates

**2010 BMA of America
Missions Symposium**
Waxahatchie, Texas
January 19-20, 2010

2010 Pastor's Retreat
Skyway Hills Baptist Church
Pearl, Mississippi
January 25-26, 2010

2010 GMA Retreat
Camp Garaywa
Clinton, Mississippi
February 5 & 6

2010 Senior Adult Retreats
Big Creek Church, Soso
March 2, 2010

East Fulton, Fulton
May 11, 2010

**2010 BMA of America
Annual Meeting**
Fort Smith, Arkansas
April 19-23, 2010

Haiti relief information from BMAA Missions



by Phil Knott
BMAA Department of Missions
www.bmaamissions.org

Many calls have been coming into our office about Haiti following the recent earthquake. It is a disaster of

immense proportions for a nation already suffering from great economic and political struggles. Our hearts and prayers are certainly going out to those whose lives are now in ruin. The extent of death and suffering in Port-au-Prince is unimaginable.

Our missions department is preparing to help and we anticipate opportunities in the future for BMMI medical teams, work crews, assistance and rebuilding projects. We are affiliated with some churches in Haiti, a couple of them in Port-au-Prince, and there are also Haitian nationals in our churches in the Dominican Republic. Communication is still very difficult at this time. The BMAA Department of Missions is not a relief agency and as such not equipped as first responders, especially in a disaster of this magnitude. Haiti has many international relief and aid organizations on the ground and help is being mobilized from the U.S. and nations around the world. It's difficult to estimate how long this first phase of rescue and recovery will last.

In light of this, we suggest that you consider helping in the following ways:

* If you or your church anticipate contributing for future assistance through our office—medicine, BMMI teams, food, rebuilding, etc.—send your donation to the BMAA Department of Missions and indicate that it is for Haiti Relief. Be assured that all donations sent with a specific designation will be used for that purpose. Please do not send food or clothing at this time.

* If you would like to volunteer or help organize a ministry team in the future, please write us at bmmi@bmaam.com

* If you want to help with immediate needs, you could contribute directly to a relief agency of your choice—The Red Cross; The Salvation Army; etc. They are already there and are equipped to help in this crisis.

Announcements will be made as plans develop. Be sure to check our website www.bmaamissions.org for further information. These will also appear in associational publications. Please contact us and share information concerning the crisis in Haiti.

LifeWay Research: *Pastors long work hours can come at the expense of people, ministry*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Protestant pastors in America are working long hours, sometimes at the expense of relationships with church members, prospects, family and even the Lord.

A telephone survey of more than 1,000 senior pastors indicated a full 65 percent of them work 50 or more hours a week—with 8 percent saying they work 70 or more hours. Meetings and electronic correspondence consume large

amounts of time for many ministers, while counseling, visitation, family time, prayer and personal devotions suffer in too many cases.

The results of the LifeWay Research study “How Protestant Pastors Spend Their Time” show the typical pastor works 50 hours a week. Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research, pointed out, however, that this average actually understates the number of

hours because it takes into account bivocational pastors (11 percent of survey participants), part-time senior pastors (5 percent of survey participants), and volunteer pastors (2 percent of survey participants)—the majority of whom work, by design, less than 40 hours for their church each week.

“Since the phone survey went to church offices, it was pastors who were

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Commission on Senior Adults

Vern D. Holifield, Director
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440



I bring you Christian greetings from the Commission on Senior Adults. Here we are in the dead of winter. Most of us in Mississippi have been in the grip of a serious cold spell. This winter reminds me of winters we use to see in past years.

God is good

With God's help and with the faithfulness of our people the Commission is doing very well. Thanks to all who are faithful to pray for us and to give financial help to this good work. The Unity Baptist Church, McHenry, and pastor Carlos Smith have organized a ministry to their seniors. They have invited me to visit them and discuss the work of the Commission. We encourage every church to organize and maintain an active ministry to their

seniors. Most Senior Adult groups are involved in doing their own thing during these winter months.

The 2010 Conferences

The 2010 Senior Adult Conferences are just around the corner. The theme for the 2010 Conferences is evangelism. I think the work of evangelism is about dead in many of us. A working visitation ministry is difficult to maintain. In most cases, the work of witnessing is left to the pastor. I am afraid that many pastors have lost their soul winning zeal. We allow ourselves to get bogged down in other things, and fail to do the main thing. I pray that the Lord will use the Conferences to stir up the spirit of witnessing in our hearts.

The South Conference is

scheduled for Tuesday, March 2. The place is Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso. The meeting will begin at 9:30 AM and close around 3:00 PM. There will be good music, great preaching, sweet fellowship, and a good meal. The morning service will spotlight the work of evangelism. Bro. Kenneth Bobo will bring the message. The afternoon service will feature the Harper Family, a Gospel Bluegrass group from Missouri. The Big Creek Church and Pastor Don Brown do a wonderful job hosting these Conferences.

The Big Creek Sanctuary will seat 300 to 350 people. It will be great to see that building filled to capacity. Surely our pastors will want to attend this meeting and help to revive the work of evangelism in our BMA of Mississippi Churches.

We need you to preregister your people. The food provider needs to know. Call Big Creek Church at 601-763-8100 or 601-426-3293 or me at 601-729-3198. Please call by February 22.

Please pray with me for a great day in the Lord.

Pastors long work hours

from page 1

at the church office and more likely to take the phone call who are included in the survey," McConnell explained. "But, of the bivocational pastors who participated, the median number of hours bivocational and part-time pastors work for their churches each week is 30 hours.

"Bivocational pastors often follow the apostle Paul's example of 'working night and day' in Thessalonica as they hold a job outside the church in addition to their job as pastor."

When factoring out those who are not full time, the median number of hours full-time senior pastors work for their churches each week is 55 hours, with 42 percent working 60 or more hours.

Among ministry activities, pastors spend the most time on sermon preparation. Half of them spend five to 14 hours in sermon preparation. Nine percent say they spend 25 hours or more in sermon preparation each week, and 7 percent report they spend less than five hours preparing to preach.

Ministry-related meetings and electronic correspondence drive the number of hours worked even higher. More than 70 percent of pastors say they spend up to five hours a week in meetings, and 15 percent put their meeting load at 10 hours or more. E-mail and other electronic correspondence eat up between two and six hours a week for half the pastors, while 14 percent indicate they spend at least 10 hours a week in electronic correspondence.

Many pastors, however, find it difficult to make time for two primary ways of relating to church members and prospects: counseling and visitation. While 24 percent say they spend six hours a week or more in counseling ministry, the same percentage reports spending an hour or less. By the same token, while 12 percent of pastors say they spend 11 or more hours a week in hospital, home or witnessing visits, 12 percent also indicate they spend an hour or less. Forty-eight percent say they spend between two and five hours a week in visitation.

Time with family rates as a priority for many pastors, but some find alarmingly little opportunity to be with their spouses and children. While 30 percent of the pastors report spending 20-29 hours with their families each week – and 16

percent indicate spending 40 or more hours with them weekly – almost 10 percent say they spend nine hours a week or less with family members. At the same time, 24 percent say they watch 10-14 hours of television each week, and 13 percent put their TV time at 15 hours or more.

The amount of time spent in prayer and personal devotions raises questions about the vitality of many pastors' spiritual lives. While 52 percent report spending one to six hours in prayer each week, 5 percent say they spend no time at all in prayer. Furthermore, while 52 percent say they spend two to five hours a week in personal devotions unrelated to teaching preparation, 14 percent indicate they spend an hour or less in personal devotions each week.

"In the early church, the apostles recognized the need to focus their time on prayer and studying the Scripture, as evidenced in Acts 6:4, for instance," McConnell said. "They shared other ministry tasks – even pressing issues – with qualified believers. Pastors' top two uses of their ministry time today show this same priority in sermon preparation and prayer."

"While the priorities are right, they may need better protection," McConnell continued. "The total hours pastors work in addition to these biblical priorities shows that more of the other ministry tasks need to be shared. Jesus Christ designed the work of the church to be done by believers together in unity."

The research also turned up some interesting contrasts between evangelical pastors and those who serve churches in mainline denominations:

- 30 percent of evangelical pastors say they spend 20 or more hours a week in sermon preparation, contrasted with 20 percent of mainline pastors.

- 49 percent of evangelical pastors report they spend three hours or less each week in ministry related meetings, while 38 percent of mainline pastors report the same number; 62 percent of mainline pastors report spending five or more hours a week in meetings, contrasted with 52 percent of evangelical pastors.

- 39 percent of evangelical pastors indicate spending less than 4 hours a week in personal devotions unrelated to teaching preparation, contrasted with 47 percent of mainline pastors.

Gospel Sings at Pine Ridge Church

Pine Ridge Church, Laurel, will have two Gospel Sings over the next few weeks. On January 31, "Stubborn Love" will be in concert at 5:00 pm. On February 28 "Broken Vessels" will sing at Pine Ridge. For more information please call 601-3198466.

Harmony Association report

The January meeting of the Harmony Association was held at Shady Grove Baptist Church on Friday January 15. Following special music provided by ladies of the church the message was brought by Bro. Frank Wilson pastor of Central, Corinth.

There were 9 churches present with a total of 59 present. It was reported the encampment and missionary committees would give a detailed report at the next meeting in February at Unity Baptist Church. Bro Nall reported on the Mission Symposium held in Conway, Arkansas. We enjoyed a delicious meal provided by the host church after we dismissed.

Tony Marolt, Promotional Secretary

Tim Nall, Moderator

Ten Mile Association report

The monthly meeting of the Ten Mile Baptist Association met Monday, January 4, 2010 at Ten Mile Baptist Church. There

Braille Bible Available

First Baptist Church of Shady Grove has a complete set of the Braille Bible. If anyone knows of some individual or institution that would utilize the Bible, please contact us at 601-426-6098 or 601-323-6900. We want to place this Bible at no cost in someone's hands who will use it.

Danny Pitts, pastor

were eleven churches present. Our February 8 meeting will be our annual rally for the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home. The churches and individuals are encouraged to contribute as the Lord leads. The Youth in Harvest will be meeting Friday, January 22 at Bethel Baptist Church in Wiggins at 7 P.M.

After business and special music, Bro. Dennis Knight brought a stirring message from 1 Chronicles 21:1-8 on the subject Counting on Numbers. After the message the churches enjoyed a meal prepared by the host church.

Wallace Williams, Moderator
Chris Freeman, Reporter

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.

Bethel, Fulton

Greetings from Bethel, Fulton. Several from Bethel attended the Passion Conference in Atlanta January 2-5. Each reported he had an awesome worship experience. Missionary Rob Hager from Chicago will brought the morning message on the 17. A group from Bethel will be going to Ronald McDonald House in Memphis on the 23rd to minister to the families that have children receiving cancer treatment at St. Jude Hospital. Our Sanctuary Choir will present a winter musical presentation on Sunday night, January 31. We have had 6 additions since last report. You are always welcome at Bethel. If, you are in the area, please stop by for a visit.

Dr. Martin Jameson, pastor
Martha Duncan, reporter

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

On The Web at www.msbbaptist.org

Extra, Extra *READ ALL ABOUT IT*

Your Support Appreciated!

LAUREL, MS - Editor Don Brown urges all of the supporting churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi to make a special effort to help raise additional operating funds for the Publication's Department *Special Emphasis Drive* during **January**.

Brown stated that the January Emphasis offering each year needs to raise about 15% of the department's annual operating income. "*Our goal for this year is to raise funds to continue to operate this ministry in a fiscally sound manner,*" Brown said. He continued, "*We are asking each church to give a generous offering to help us maintain a good fiscal operation.*"



Don Brown
Editor

January 2010 - Special Emphasis
Our Need - \$10,000

That I may publish ... and tell of all thy wondrous works.

Psalm 26:7

Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Your Support Is Vital

Funds have already begun to arrive at our office as our readers and supporters respond to our 2010 Special Emphasis drive.

We are constantly made aware of God's blessings through the goodness of His people and His churches. Thank you in advance for all of the support you give this ministry.

If your church has not yet made a decision to support our Emphasis effort, we encourage you to participate. This department, along with the other works of our Association, are dependent on the gifts of our people.



Don Brown
Editor

Heartbreaking

The reports and visual reports we get from the island nation of Haiti are truly heartbreaking. The death and destruction are indeed unbelievable. According to the report you can read on page one of this issue, there are plans in the works to eventually make efforts in Haiti with relief, especially in the area of medical relief via our BMMI ministry.

Your financial support for immediate help through reputable agencies is encouraged and your support and cooperation for future mission and BMMI efforts is vital.

The people of Haiti need our help and they need the Gospel.

Tebow to appear in Focus on the Family Super Bowl ad

GAINESVILLE, FL - Former University of Florida quarterback Tim Tebow and his mother will appear in a 30-second commercial during the Super Bowl next month.

The Christian group Focus on the Family says the Tebows will share a personal story on the theme "Celebrate Family, Celebrate Life."

The group isn't releasing details, but the commercial is likely to be a pro-life message chronicling Pam Tebow's 1987 pregnancy. After getting sick during a mission trip to the Philippines, she ignored a recommendation by doctors to abort her fifth child and gave birth to Tim.

The 2007 Heisman Trophy winner has remained active in his family's Christian ministry.

Thirty-second commercials during the Super Bowl sell for more than \$2.5 million. But Focus on the Family President Jim Daly says all the funds for the ad came from a handful of "very generous and committed friends," and that no money from the group's general fund was used.



Tebow

Paper Lions

by Douglas Laird

The slothful man saith, there is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets (Prov. 26:13)

The lazy man really prefers not to be stirred from his lethargy. The solace is sweet, or the equally effective association with kindred spirits is refreshing in its nothingness. Efforts which demand energy from either mind or body are nixed in favor of the complacency of the status quo which neither demands nor receives anything.

But if some sturdy soul who does the work but gets blamed for all the ills should require a rustling of the limbs of inactivity in either the business or at home, then "The slothful man saith, there is a lion in the way; a lion in the streets" (Prov. 26:13)

It is interesting to observe that when the lazy man fires a gun he ignites a cannon. He never even bothers to describes the situation in the street until stirred to go there. Then he sees the king of the beasts. He really intends to avoid all possibility of having to go outside and work. There is no small offense or

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



One of those "little known" commandments that pastors had better not neglect!

obstruction. There is a lion, no less! He is not only carelessly lazy, he is actively lazy! He will exert real honest effort to avoid doing anything constructive or effective.

What is your paper lion? What keeps you from proceeding to the street in pursuit of your task? Why will you not accept the challenge of your company? Why do you not seek to prepare yourself for that desired appointment or advancement? Is your lion the effectiveness of another

whom you had rather hide behind than to match or exceed in your work? Huh? Where and what is your lion?

Why do you not go to college? Why do you not go ahead with your own business? Why do you not actively seek to restore the friendship that was so carelessly lost? Why? What lions have you fabricated and found in the street? Remember, they are not really there. But if you think they are, you will go on fearing them anyhow.

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

John Grimes

Trinity Baptist Church in Florence, is pleased to announce Bro. John Grimes is available for pulpit supply and other preaching appointments as the Lord leads. Bro. John is 41 years old and he and his wife, Stephanie have 4 children; Dylan (15), Morgan (13), Josie (9) and Colby (4).

Bro. John may be reached at 601-936-6937 or 601-717-3743. For references, you may call Bro. James Brown, Pastor at 601-209-1502. We are rejoicing and praise God for Bro. John and his family. We know and believe that God will use them for His service in a mighty way. Please keep them in your prayers.

2010 Pastor's Retreat

Skyway Hills Baptist Church
Pearl, Mississippi
January 25-26, 2010

Equip One-Day Conference

Presented by DiscipleGuide

Saturday, February 06, 2010

Parkview Baptist Church
930 N 10th Ave
Laurel, MS

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John Adams

Capital Punishment - Our Judeo-Christian Heritage

Leviticus 24:17

According to Scripture, the Bible favors the death penalty. Capital punishment not only deters crime; it is the ultimate and greatest deterrent because the murdering criminal realizes that the imposition of sentencing will mean no probation and no parole. Society, according to God's law, has a right to defend itself and take the life of those who commit murder with premeditation.

I. Capital Punishment is taught in the Scriptures

Genesis 9:4-6 teaches that life is precious made in God's divine image. Murder is a strike at God, who created man. God requires, according to Genesis 9:6, the life of the murderer.

The laws and ordinances of Exodus again remind us in Exodus 21:12-15, of the sacredness of life. James 1:14-15 describes the corruptibility of sin that bringeth forth eventual death. It is the right of the people to impose capital punishment for murder offenses.

Other scripture references declare God's intentions toward life. These Scriptures are: Exodus 20:13, Exodus 21:23-25, Romans 13:3-5, and Acts 25:10-12.

II. Many Governmental Laws Seek To Banish Capital Punishment.

In 1972, in the case of Furman verses Georgia, the US Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that capital punishment was unconstitutional. This nullified the existing death penalty statutes in forty states and the sentences of six hundred and twenty nine death-row inmates.

On July 2, 1976, the Supreme Court ruled 7-2 in the Gregg verses Georgia case that the death penalty, at least for the crime of murder, is not a cruel or unusual punishment. Presently, state legislatures have passed death penalty statutes, yet there is not a federal death penalty legislation on the books.

After World War II, the death penalty became less popular. Newsweek stated, "there were

82 executions in 1950; 49 in 1959; and finally two executions in 1967." Much of the decline resulted as a result of legal battles that were waged by the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union).

III. Our American Society is Concerned

According to a recent Gallup poll, sixty-five percent of Americans now favor capital punishment. This percentage is up from forty-two percent in 1986. Most people believe that capital punishment is an effective public deterrent to murder and a permanent deterrent in preventing the murderer from committing additional crimes inside or outside of prison.

At least one study by Dr. David Phillips, a sociologist at the University of California at San Diego, confirms that capital punishment acts as a "deterrent to murder for at least two weeks after a highly publicized execution. On the average, homicides decrease by 35.7%," explained Dr. Phillips.

Death penalty executions are such a slow process now due to the ability of criminals to appeal and appeal. Many people are beginning to complain. "I feel the same way the majority of people in the United States feel about the death penalty," stated former Texas Judge Michael McSpadden. "Enough is enough of these appeals. It's time to enforce the laws."

Former Governor, George Deukmejian, probably brought the "delay" issue more into focus when he complained that of all the men on the California Death Row, the state Supreme Court had reviewed the cases of twenty three and of that number only thirteen convictions had been upheld.

Senator Dennis DeConcini (D. Arizona) writing in the American Legion magazine, presented the use of capital punishment into correct perspective:

"If we in this country are to administer a successful criminal justice system, we must first consider what qualifies as justice. Obviously, the most simple and direct form of justice is restitution-compensative to one who has been wronged. But in real-

Believing Without Seeing

Hebrews 11:1-6
by Joseph Harris

Do you believe that John Quincy Adams was a real person? Do you believe that he served as a United States President? How would you answer these questions, since he lived so long ago and no one alive today has ever seen him? There are no eye witnesses. Yet, no one today seriously doubts he ever lived.

Do you believe that someone named Jesus actually lived almost 2000 years ago? Why? No one has ever seen Him. There are no eye witnesses available. Jesus pronounced a blessing upon those who would believe in Him without ever actually seeing Him. "...blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" (John 20:29). Notice the following three reasons to believe in the existence of Jesus.

His Descendants. We know John Quincy Adams lived because he has descendants verifiable by records. His family tree bears record to his existence. If for no other reason than this, anyone who doubted the existence of John Quincy Adams could check the records.

Jesus also has descendants. He never had any earthly children, but the number of his spiritual descendants has grown into the multiplied millions since His death. This fact alone is one of the greatest proofs of His existence.

His Deeds. Consider the works and deeds of John Quincy Adams. He was responsible for developing a policy known as The American System and his appointees in cabinet and judi-

ity, restitution often is not possible. When an innocent human life has been lost, restitution is not among the options from which blind justice can choose. Punishment becomes the alternative. It logically follows that the more severe the crime, the more severe the punishment applied. We have, in this nation, admirably adhered to the protection of individual rights; yet we should not in that process forsake our responsibility to protect the rights of society as a whole. And, in these cases (murder cases where the murderer was sane and represented a threat to society)...capital punishment emerges as the only vehicle for ensuring those rights."

cial positions exerted influence that lived on.

Jesus has left a more powerful legacy of works, deeds, and miracles. Not even the greatest Old Testament prophet can claim to have performed all the miracles performed by Jesus. He also demonstrated the greatest example of forgiveness to the world when He died on the cross with a forgiving spirit toward those who killed Him.

His Documentation. History books are available for those who desire written proof for the

existence of John Quincy Adams. Personal documents are available in museums proving the historicity of John Quincy Adams.

The Holy Bible is documentation of the life of Jesus. The Scriptures not only give an account of some of the life and ministry of Jesus, they also produce faith for man to believe in Christ. Proof is available for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear and you can believe in Jesus without ever having seen Him.

A "Jabez" Kind of Year for the Shepherd Bags™ Ministry in 2009!

Since becoming popular several years ago, it is common to associate the phrase "enlarging your territory" from the popular Bible study, The Prayer of Jabez with God opening up more doors than you thought possible or giving you more than you ever thought He would. That's the way EIM has to describe the year we've had in the Shepherd Bags™ Ministry as God has certainly done that and more in

distributed, multitudes will hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ preached. It's possible that 100,000 or more will hear the blessed Gospel, many of those never having heard before.

Also, this year was the first time that EIM took a team of ladies into the bush of Africa! Those instrumental in raising the funds for a well in Bolga from Conway Christian School went to view the well and see



Team Conway

2009. To say that it has been a banner year would be an understatement in so many ways.

First, we've had a record number of reports from overseas and seen for ourselves while on the mission field; children and adults come to Christ because of receiving a bag. Second, we sent out the largest number of bags since the beginning of the ministry. Our 2009 Breakdown for each country was: 11,238 bags shipped to Ghana, 13,174 bags shipped to the Philippines & 2,126 bags ready for Honduras.

That makes a total of 26,538 Bags! When you consider that for each time several hundred bags are taken into an area to be

first-hand what God had done with their dream of providing fresh water for that area. While there, the team went to numerous villages sharing the Gospel and handing out over 3,500 Shepherd Bags™. They proved to be a "hearty" bunch of gals who fell in love with a bunch of beautiful children.

Last but certainly not least, we've had a group in Atlanta, Texas, and a couple in El Dorado, Arkansas, who have opened their hearts and started Shepherd Bags™ assembly stations. This means they purchase the contents for the bags, set up an area

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GMA Girls

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

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

State GMA Camp Information

GMA President Talks Camp!

Hey girls! I hope you all are getting ready for State GMA Camp 2010. It will be here before we know it (February 5th & 6th). The officers just had our last planning meeting before camp, and we are all SO excited. We have a lot of fun activities planned.

Our theme this year is "Watch, Jesus is Coming". For our house party we have several different games planned that every girl and church can get involved with. We will have the snack shop open, candy-grams to sell, a silent auction, officer competition, and the craft shop will be open for you to buy different things for your family and friends. All the money will go to our project; 50% Elizabeth/50% General

Fund.

We want to encourage every girl to decorate a box to look like a clock to save your spare change in to donate to the project, as well. Also, don't forget to get a T-shirt! They are super cute this year. Bro. Matt Hudson will be our camp pastor so remember to keep him and his family in your prayers.

I am so excited to see each and every one of you at camp! Be praying for God to show up and show out. Let's all open our hearts up to Him and allow Him to work in and through us as we come together to worship our Savior!

Love,
Keely Naden
President

Almost Time For GMA Camp

Girls and counselors take notice it is almost time for GMA camp once again. Remember February 5-6, 2010, come to Camp Garaywa at Clinton, Mississippi, for a great time to reunite with old friends and make new friends for a lifetime. Don't stop and eat before you get to Camp Garaywa as we will have the famous Snack Shop open for business by lunch. We are looking forward to seeing you there

We have a great group of GMA officers this year. They have worked so hard to make this year's camp a success. Pray for camp, come expecting a blessing and I am sure you will receive one.

Girls, remember that you need to bring your scrapbooks and make a poster with the theme "Watch, Jesus is Coming." Judging of the scrapbooks and posters will take place after the famous Camp Garaywa House Party. There will be lots of blue ribbons awarded so work hard on your posters and get your scrapbooks up to date.

This is a list of things that are needed for camp. If your church will supply some of this list, please let me know before the first of February.

Canned drinks and bottled water (iced down and ready to serve)

Six gallons of tea, 16 oz. cups to serve tea (we will have access to ice)

Four bags of Fritos, 2 cases of chips for Nacho Cheese (such as from Sam's)

Paper towels, napkins, zip lock sandwich bags to put dill pickles in

Nacho trays, crackers to serve with soups and chicken salad

If we can get these things donated, we will be able to clear more money for the project.

There will also be a silent auction. If you have any items that you would donate for this, please bring them to camp. The auction was a great success last year. Remember that we also have a craft shop where you can purchase or supply items for this and spend time with Mrs. Chris Smith and Mrs. Barbara White - they are both a hoot and fun to be around.

Thank you in advance for anything that you can do to make this year's camp a success. Please remember to pray for the salvation of lost souls that may attend and safety in travel to and from camp. Pray for all the officers as they continue to work to make all the plans needed to make this one of the best camps ever. Mississippi has a large group of very dedicated young ladies that are our future leaders of tomorrow. We need to praise them more often.

If you can provide any of the above things for camp, please let me know as soon as possible.

Donna Lawrence
1621 Hildreth Road, Columbus, MS
39702 - 662-328-4645 or 662-251-6949

Mississippi W.M.A.

Mrs. Ruby Bynum, President
43 Bear Pen Creek Rd.
Laurel, MS 39440
601-428-1901

Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443
601-729-5638

February is WMA Enlistment Month

February is Enlistment Month for the Women's Missionary Auxiliary. My prayer is that each local WMA group will catch the vision (Proverbs 29:18) of ladies reaching out in service, through benevolence, in witnessing, in teaching, and in missions. Once your WMA has caught the vision, you need to share the vision (Acts 26:19) by seeking to enlist other ladies in WMA.

During the month of February, the following ideas can be used to focus attention on the WMA:

Have WMA ladies sit together for a worship service.

Ask the pastor to let a WMA lady speak briefly on "What WMA Means to Me" and share this year's district, state, and national WMA projects.

Sponsor a breakfast, brunch, luncheon, tea, or dinner to promote WMA awareness.

Once you have decided what type of event to sponsor, the following ideas might be helpful:

Select a decorating theme for the event (decorate the tables with teapots and teacups, fresh flowers, a specific type of silk flower, cut glass containers, Valentines, candles, or just use your imagination).

The event can be potluck or prepared by current WMA members. GMA girls might be enlisted to serve as waitresses.

Prepare a short program to present on what your WMA does (your Bible study, missions study, benevolence activities, youth auxiliaries, and any other special events or activities).

Appoint a telephone committee to invite prospective ladies.

Send special invitations by mail or e-mail.

Make posters advertising the event to be placed in prominent positions in the church plant.

Once you have your enlistment activities planned, above all be enthusiastic about sharing the vision of WMA.

- Brenda Hornaday, National 1st VP

GMA Camp 2010

Hey Everybody,

This year's GMA camp is going to be a blast! We have lots of different activities planned for everybody. Like last year we will have a house party with several different games for you to play. We are going to have a silent auction for anyone interested and we're still having the scrapbook and poster contest. Door prizes are still going to be handed out.

We have an awesome speaker lined up to talk to everybody, and don't forget our project this year, ("Elizabeth"). We would like for each of you girls to make a box that looks like a clock for you to put your loose change in and bring to camp. If you can't make the box you can bring any random container with change in it. This is not mandatory, but part of it will be going toward our project and supporting GMA. We are really excited about this year's camp and can't wait to see everybody. We love each and every one of you.

Charity Lee,
GMA Secretary of State.

Baltimore passes unbalanced ordinance

OneNewsNow - Pregnancy clinics in Baltimore are now required to post signs in windows stating they don't provide abortions. The bill creating this requirement was signed into law by then-Mayor Sheila Dixon, who had just been convicted of embezzling \$600 worth of gift cards intended for the poor. She later resigned.

Kristin Hansen of Care Net believes the new ordinance is unfair because it singles out pro-life centers.

"Think about the long list of services that pregnancy centers offer that abortion clinics do not: parenting classes, child birth support, referrals to healthcare, mentoring, job skills programs, material resources, [and] cribs," she lists.

Abortion clinics, on the other hand, provide none of those services, so Hansen suggests that they should be required to do so. The remaining choice pro-life centers have in accomplishing this is to rely on the public.

"We need help communicating about the good work that they do, and we want to remind the community that from Care Net's perspective, at the national level...pregnancy centers serve women with integrity," she points out, further stating that "the messages that they're hearing from some of these abortion groups are simply not true."

There have been efforts to impose similar regulations on pregnancy clinics in different parts of the country. Meanwhile, abortion clinics remain the most unregulated element in the medical profession.

GMA CAMP
February 5-6, 2010

Things that cause me to shake my head

Do you ever think the world has gone crazy? Do you ever watch the news, and think that you would have never seen such a thing happen as is being shown on the news? Do you ever think that many of our political leaders bend over backwards for political correctness so that the fringe element and minority beliefs are now dominant and exalted in society?

I seem to be shaking my head in disbelief one moment, and shaking it again in shock the next moment over the moral decay of society. I now can no longer watch the news for very long because it saddens my heart, and gives me a neck ache with all the shaking in disgust. Things that cause me to shake my head make an enormous list that keeps growing. Here are a few just from the past month.

Pre-nuptial agreements.

I have never understood this concept. It completely destroys the sanctity of marriage as God intended. Marriage is a holy covenant between two people and God. God is the one who is the very purpose for marriage. A couple enter into a covenant with God through Christ to glorify Him in a mysterious way. Mysterious because God makes the two as one. But people devoid of faith in God put money over marriage. They sign legal contracts over the individual's rights.

Recently Tiger Woods, the famous golfer, had to renegotiate his prenuptial agreement. Because of an alleged commission of adultery, it was reported that he renegotiated the deal with Mrs. Woods. She now gets a bonus of several million dollars if she stays with him. What? Is the holy state of matrimony digressed to a game show called, "Let's Make a Deal"?

I don't know any of the particulars of

this case and don't really care, The head shaking part is how the news people talk about pre-nuptials. The spouse with power agrees to give money to the other spouse for marriage. Bonuses are paid for each child conceived. Adultery will also get you more money. This just makes a mockery out of the blessed institution of marriage that God designed, created and established. Ephesians 5: 22-33.



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

Prisoners of War.

Can you imagine what the American public would think in 1945 watching a movie about what is going on with terrorists today in our country? There is a man coming to trial who killed Americans in Iraq, burned them, drug them through the streets to cheering crowds and then hung them from a bridge for all to see. Three Navy Seals are charged with punching him in the lip. They are now being brought up for a court martial!

The Al Qaeda terrorists are taught to complain about abuse because it can get them off and get the military in trouble. The masterminds behind September 11th are being tried in a civilian court in New York! I wonder if Americans had to read the Miranda rights to Japanese taken as prisoners during World War II? I think these terrorist should be tried in a military tribunal. If found guilty, they should receive capital punishment. I guess we can't do that because radical Muslims might be offended. I found September 11th as offensive. But the feelings of some people don't count anymore.

Christmas is out and everything else is

in.

Yes, in America people have the right to express themselves. But America is majority rule. Not minority rule. While we can't infringe upon the rights, or abuse the minority, the majority sets the common held beliefs in a democracy. Our founding fathers stated that without a strong moral underpinning in God, the democracy cannot stand.

America was founded as a Christian majority nation. Other people have the right to worship any false god they want. They have the right to be atheist, also. But that doesn't mean that they have the right to shun the majority belief into secrecy.

Atheists now are exalted. City bus ads, and all other types of ads, promote that there is no god. Yet, if Christians try to show any recognition to Christ, they are told to stop. A cross in the desert in California was erected by World War I Veterans to pay respect to their fallen comrades. They chose the cross as their remembrance. It has been there for decades, but now was ordered to be covered up in a box because some atheist drove down the highway and was offended. I shake my head.

Every religion can have a holiday in the winter. But only one religion has a holiday on December 25th. Christians celebrate the birth of Christ at that time. Others can celebrate their days. But December 25th is not all of these other's day. It never was. Why can't Christians have their day and let the other religions have their day?

If Purple People Eaters celebrate December 28th, fine. Let the stores greet customers on December 28th with "Happy Purple People Eaters Birth".

If any church, group or individual would like to help us reach our "Jabez" goal in 2010, we welcome you to help us carry the Great Commission through a small zip loc bag to children around the world. If you'd like more information, just email: fnorris@eimworldwide.org.

*Lo, children are an heritage
of the LORD: and the fruit
of the womb is his reward.
As arrows are in the hand
of a mighty man; so are
children of the youth.*

- Psalm 127:3-4

But all of this celebration and shopping and singing is because Christians are choosing to celebrate December 25th as the birth of Christ. Leave us alone. We are the majority. We are the founders of this nation. We are a majority Christian nation. I just shake my head.

Do you know why I don't give up, or go crazy or get depressed over all of this? Because I have Jesus and He is the hope of glory. He will make all things right. He is in control of it all. And this crazy world is not my home. While it disgusts me, it also fills me with thanksgiving, that I have a Savior and He is a wonderful Savior to me.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Bible Poem

Several years ago an older friend of mine gave me this poem and he said there were other verses. If you know any of the rest of it, I'd sure like to hear from you.

"Adam was the first man every invented,
He lived all alone but he never was
contented.
hey made him out of mud in the days gone
by
Hung him on the fence to see how he'd
dry.

Along came Eve and they both had a
battle,
He shoved her up a tree to get himself
an apple,
She got two and they both ate one,
Ever since then all the trouble's
begun!

Then Noah came a-long and he stumbled
in the dark.
Found himself a hammer and build
himself an ark.
Then came the animals two by two, the
hip-hippopotamus
And the key kangaroo.

Then come the lions and then come the
bears
Then come the elephants without any
hairs.
Forty days and nights the rain began to
drop
It made the old ark go flippity flop!

Note: I know this is not grammatically, theologically, doctrinally, or any other kind of correct, but it's fun to do as a rap. Try it!

Shepherd Bags™ Ministry

from page 5

to work and assemble bags throughout the year. They then bring them to Magnolia to be boxed for shipping. This coming year we hope to have them boxed at each station. With our main assembly station here in Warren, the Honduras assembly station in Creola, Alabama, and one at Brister Baptist in Emerson, Arkansas, that brings our total to five stations that assemble bags. We prayed for more bags this year because the need was so great. God not only gave us more bags but He gave us more workers with a heart for children to see them saved. I'd say that's a getting your "territory enlarged" kind of thing for sure!

As always, none of this could be done without churches and individuals who

made this possible. It could not work without you. For instance, we had a GMA district that adopted the Shepherd Bags™ Ministry for a mission's project for an entire year. A pastor and his dear wife drove several hours to deliver them and when they arrived it was entire truckload; almost a 1,000 bags! A precious lady makes bags on her own and sends down a couple of boxes several times a year. So whether one bag, a dozen or several thousand, God can take them and do amazing things. Only Heaven knows the impact you've had this year.

Our goal for 2010 is 50,000 bags! It's possible if God's people get on board. We plan to send bags into Pakistan, Ghana, the Philippines, and Honduras this year.



MORAL ACTION

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 email: Www.house.gov/writerep/

Staff Positions Available

Church seeks staff member

Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Guy, Arkansas, is seeking a Pastor of Family Ministries to oversee children and student ministries. A job description may be seen at our website, mtolivebcguy.org/StaffOpening.dsp. Resumes may be sent to Mt. Olive Baptist Church, P.O. Box 128, Guy, AR 72061.

Texas church seeks pastor

The members of Rose Hill Baptist Church of Mineola, Texas, are currently seeking a Godly man to serve as their pastor. Ministers who feel the leadership of the Holy Spirit send a resume and letter of introduction to Rose Hill Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Team, 1420 CR 2460, Mineola TX 75773.

One of the most effective means for Christians to shape legislative actions regarding the church, Christian morals, and Godly concerns is through personal contact. Taking the time to either write, e-mail, call or visit lawmakers will impact decisions that need to be made. Lawmakers are servants of the people who elect them.

A recent study by American University officials implied that letters from constituents was the most effective means of communication. Telephoning the lawmaker was a close second.

What are guidelines for Christians when writing a letter to an elected official?

1. Be timely. Write your concerns near voting time.

2. Be clear and legible.
3. Stay with one issue or request.
4. Be courteous
5. Include your name, address, email address, etc.

What are the guidelines when you meet personally with your elected officials?

1. Set up an appointment and be prompt.
2. Plan ahead of time the idea that you want promoted.
3. Prepare a brief, one page, sheet with your request including the need, the problem, and your idea for the solution. Leave the info sheet with the official.
4. Ask your legislator for help.
5. Be kind and considerate.

Our state and national leaders im-

pact our lives in many ways by the decisions they make. Your individual involvement and commitments can make a monumental difference. Pray for Godly courage and wisdom. Be active.

The following information will help you with your communication to your elected officials.

President of the United States
The President
 The White House
 Washington, DC 20500
 Dear Mr. President (Salutation)

U.S. Senator
The Honorable (full name)
 United States Senate
 Washington, DC 20510
 Dear Senator (last name)

U.S. Representative
The Honorable (full name)
 United States House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515
 Dear Representative (last name)

Governor
The Honorable (full name)
 State Capitol
 P.O. Box 139
 Jackson, MS 39205
 Dear Governor (last name)

State Senator
The Honorable (full name)
 Mississippi Senate
 State Capitol
 P.O. Box 1018
 Jackson, MS 39215
 Dear Senator (last name)

State Representative
The Honorable (full name)
 Mississippi House of Representatives
 State Capitol
 P.O. Box 1018
 Jackson, MS 39215
 Dear Representative (last name)

When writing to the chair of a committee or the Speaker of the House it is proper to address them as:
 Dear Mr. Chairman or Madame Chairwoman
 Dear Mr. Speaker

United States
 Congressional Information:
The Honorable Thad Cochran
 United States Senate
 113 Dirksen Building
 Washington, DC 20510
 phone: 202-224-5054

Drop the mask and Get Real

Get Real by Valarie Fish is a full year of daily devotionals or group study material to guide you to a deeper relationship with God. Call 800-333-1442 to order or log on to Disciple-Guide.org to purchase online for \$9.99. Get Real! is the national WMA study book for 2010.

DiscipleGuide
 CHURCH RESOURCES
 1-800-333-1442, www.DiscipleGuide.org