

Baptist Mississippi

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Bro. Eugene Murphy

Dr. Eugene Murphy, 83, of Laurel, died Wednesday, January 5 at the home of his daughter, Judy Thornton.

Funeral services were held Saturday, January 8, at Lebanon Baptist Church near Laurel. Rev. Billy Murphy, Bro. Eugene's brother, officiated.

Bro. Eugene Murphy was born February 4, 1927, in Jones County, Mississippi. He graduated from



Bro. Eugene Murphy

Ellisville High School and attended Jones Junior College and the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) in addition to the BMA Seminary and Jacksonville College. He was saved in 1951 and surrendered to preach in 1954.

Murphy served in the U.S. Army with the occupation force in Japan going in under General MacArthur in the first force to land in Japan after surrender. He later served in the occupation force in Germany. He served from January 1945-1947.

He was one of the first BMA ministers to go to Russia to minister when the Soviet Union was opened up to the west during the Glasnost of the Reagan-Gorbochev years.

During his years in ministry, He served the following places: Evergreen, Seminary, Miss.; Sand Prairie, Normangee, Texas (1955-56); First Baptist, Laneville, Texas (1956-58); Lebanon Baptist Church, Laurel (1959-65); Harding Street, Baker, La. (1965-66); Secretary of Missions State of Mississippi (1966-71); charter pastor of Central Baptist Church, Richton, Miss., and Highland Park Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, Miss. He also served as a fill in pastor for several missions during this time period. Murphy served as President of Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel (1971-

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From the Philippines to a Final Mission Field

by Alicia Ramshur, BMA Missionary

NOTE: Ramshur is a native Mississippian and a registered nurse

It has been a couple of months since I boarded an airplane in Jackson, Mississippi, carrying most of the few belongings that I still owned, headed for the Philippines. Preparing for this adventure was tedious and tiresome, and later noted, virtually impossible. I arrived in the Philippines, with Margaret Bean, on October 13, 2010 to the same city where I had served as a long-term VSM in 2004. Out of all of my travels, the Philippines and her people have always stood out the most. I knew back then that God would someday call me to work among the Asian people.

Our adventure brought us here to Bacolod, Philippines, first, in order, to meet up with our 3rd team member, Joy Vargas. Joy will be working with Margaret and me in Southeast Asia. She is a registered nurse and has also taught English to both Koreans and

Cambodians. The three of us were already acquaintances, but lacked the closeness that a team should share, making it necessary for a transition period including team dynamics. I have been totally and completely amazed by God during this time.

Once we arrived in the Philippines, life got busy. We started finding ways to be involved in the activities and ministries around us, in order, to learn as much as we can for the future and the plans that God has for us to join Him in. We started by visiting with Tangub Christian Academy (TCA) where I spent a great deal of time during my first trip to the Philippines. The students there are such a joy and since our schedule was pretty open, we decided to see if we could be of use to them. The first day, they had us teach action songs to the 4 year olds and spend a class period talking to the seniors about the call that God has placed on our lives.

We have also had the opportunity to



Missionaries enjoy some local Philippine delicacies

get involved with Tangub Missionary Baptist Church (TMBC) which hosts TCA. They have many outreach programs and are a great example for workers to learn from as well as those in the community. Since we have been here, we have been able to be a part of an all-day medical clinic that the church hosts each month along with a feeding out-reach program. We, also, joined their Christmas cantata, in which, Margaret and I were asked to narrate.

Two other areas we have spent time learning about include Lifeword and multimedia with Pastor Pete Etabag, and medicine and its differences in a foreign country. We will be using both of these tools as a way of building relationships among the people of Southeast Asia. Lifeword will play a major role in assisting us in reaching people, including those in indigenous tribes within a 60 mile radius around the city in which we will be working.

We will also be working in the provincial hospital to teach English to

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Reception to be held honoring Freemans

The churches and friends of the BMA of Mississippi are cordially invited to a reception honoring Bro. And Mrs. Rayburn Freeman for their years of service to the BMA of Mississippi Missions Department.

This come-and-go reception will be held at the Missions Office Complex in Laurel on Friday, February 18, 2011, from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Please make plans to attend and share in this special day.

Freeman served as pastor and missionary to the Philippines prior to coming to the Missions Department. Freeman's tenure as Director will come to an end on February 28, 2011.



Rayburn and Faye Freeman

From the Philippines to a Final Mission Field

Continued from page 1

medical professions with the plan of introducing the telehealth program. The telehealth program allows clinical services from a distance using technology and multimedia. This will allow the doctors and nurses of the hospital who have limited knowledge in certain specialized areas to contact specialists, with the patient present. They will then discuss the situation and get the help that is needed. This is beneficial for both the patient receiving the inexpensive treatment and the medical professional who is given the opportunity to expand his or her knowledge in a certain area.

Nursing education and access to the equipment and medical supplies that are needed for successful patient treatment are also part of the visionary plan for Southeast Asia. We will work to educate them in areas in which they feel that more education would be useful. Helping them find ways to access equipment at the most cost effective way will be included in the voluntary services we will provide for the providential hospital.

Our preparation for teaching English has included two TESOL modules. TESOL stands for Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. This class was very helpful in teaching: 1) how to be creative and get the students involved and interested, 2) how to focus your teaching topics and make them as specific as needed, and 3) how to progress from very basic beginner English to ad-



vanced conversational English. The certificates that we have received from this training here in the Philippines will be beneficial and important to the government for the future work in SE Asia.

Margaret, Joy, and I have also had the opportunity to teach a class on "research" to the BMA Bible College students. This class, in itself, has been a great learning experience. It has taught us more and more about dealing with people of different cultures, backgrounds, and languages.

The holidays were also educational and enjoyable, given the circumstances and separation from family. Christmas was an exciting event for us and the Bible College students. Many of the students could not return home for the holidays for financial reasons. Because of this, Margaret and I were burdened to do something special for these students. We worked hard to plan an exciting day for the students. On December 24, we rented a pavilion at a resort close by for a

day of fun and games along with gifts and presents. It was such a blessing to see the joy and happiness that this day brought to the 26 students who were away from their families on this special day.

After a long day of fun, food, and fellowship, we returned to the Bible college. Melody White from Picayune, Mississippi, was also present during the holidays and planned some activities for the night. The students stayed up into the early morning hours playing games and watching movies. Many of the students voiced that this was the best Christmas that they had ever experienced. Our prayer is that the love of God has shown through the activities and events that have taken place. I don't know for sure, but I think, I received as much or more of a blessing than the students.

We also had the opportunity to spend New Year's with the students at the Bible college as well. We watched movies, sang along with video karaoke, and watched fireworks from the

neighboring houses. At midnight, we gathered together and prayed a prayer of thanksgiving for the ending year and a prayer of challenge and moving forward for the new year. It was a memorable experience to say the least.

So far, it has been a very exciting and enjoyable journey. I thank God for the time of transition and learning that we have been given. It has been an invaluable experience.

Although, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the Philippines, I am anxiously awaiting my departure for my final destination. I grow more excited each day by the plan and vision

going to do through this ministry. My prayer is that we join Him. He is already at work and we must join Him where He is.

Please pray for our departure. We, JAM (Joy, Alicia, Margaret) left the Philippines on January 11, 2011, for our final destination. We do not have the long-term visa that we have applied for as of this writing, but continue to trust that God will provide in His timing. We are excited to see where God's path will lead. Dr. Izard and a BMMI team of about 15 people will be joining us around the 24th of January. Pray that God will use us and this team to jump start the



that God has for the work in Southeast Asia. I have purposefully left out the name of the country for security reasons. I want all of you to remain updated, but this will involve creativity, I'm sure. I look forward to sharing with you what God is

beginning of this new ministry.

I love you all and thank you more than words can express for the prayers, support, encouragement, etc.

May God receive all the honor and glory.

Bro. Eugene Murphy Dies

from page 1

1982); Palestine Baptist Church, Montrose, Miss. (during his tenure at SBC); Big Creek Baptist, Soso (1982-1987); Midway First Baptist Church, Sumrall, Miss. (1987-1990); Riverside Baptist, Ellisville (1990's); First Baptist, Oak Grove, Miss. (90's); Corinth Baptist, Runnelstown, Miss. (late 90's); Good Hope Baptist, Columbia, Miss. (2003-06); Bethel Baptist, Louise, Miss. (2007); East Petal Baptist, Petal, Miss. (2008). During his years of ministry, he also preached revivals at more than 40 churches in 10 different states.

Dr. Murphy and his wife Faye had been happily married for five and one-half years. He was married to his first wife, Bernice, for 56 years prior to her death. Together they had two children, four grandchildren and one great grandson.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Leland and Nell Murphy; his first wife of 56 years, Bernice Graham Murphy; and a brother, Auburn Murphy.

He is survived by his wife, Faye Murphy; children, Robert E. (Bobby) Murphy (Jana), Mobile, Ala., and Judith "Judy" K. Thornton (Randy), Laurel;

step-children, Michael Zegelien (Chris), McHenry, Miss.; Brenda Myrick (Tony), Stringer, Miss.; Terry Breazeale (Scott), Laurel; brother, Rev. Billy Murphy (Merita), Hattiesburg; grandchildren, Robin Regena Smith, Tracie Lee-Ann Flynt, Susannah Murphy, Sarah Murphy and Stormie Marler; 10 step grandchildren; great-grandson, Dylon Murphy; and one step great-grandchild.

Bro. Eugene Murphy had a long and productive ministry and served in a number of positions with the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi and America. His work will long be remembered.

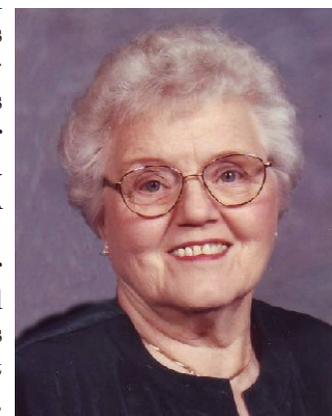
Widow of former pastor

Mary Lee Cottrell passes away

Canton, Texas - Services for Mary Lee Cottrell, 85, Canton, were held on Thursday, January 13, 2011, at New Harmony Baptist Church near Tyler, Texas. Mrs. Cottrell was the widow of Bro. Ralph Cottrell, a former BMA of America minister. Ralph Cottrell was instrumental in beginning the Ministers Resource Service and was its first director. He pastored a number of BMA churches and also served a number of years as clerk for the BMA of America.

Mrs. Cottrell was born November 17, 1925, in Thornton, Arkansas, and died on January 11, 2011. Survivors include Children: Sherry Barton & husband Tommy, of Ben Wheeler, Evelyn Addis of Canton, & David Cottrell & wife, Karen of Horseshoe Bay. Grandchildren: Laurie Barton, Brandon & Crystal Barton, Jennifer & Kevin Laymance, Kimberly & Huntleigh Harris, & Michael Cottrell. Great Grandchildren: Beau Barton, Chloe Barton, Brigg Barton, Noah Laymance, Pearce Laymance, & Hunt Harris.

Burial was at New Harmony Cemetery.



Mary Lee Cottrell

Mississippi Baptist

January 2011 Special Emphasis



Don Brown
Editor

Dear Readers

January of each year is set aside by our association as a time of special offerings for your Christian Publications Department. We have 3 main areas of operating income:

1. Monthly subscription fees
2. Regular monthly offerings from churches
3. Our *Annual Special Emphasis Drive*.

Our financial viability depends on YOUR gifts during January 2011. We encourage each of our churches to make a special effort to give to this ministry during this special drive. Would you lead your church to make a special offering in January? We really need your help!

May God bless you all,
Don Brown, Editor

Our Need \$10,000

Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Another Soldier Goes Home

It was with a mixture of joy and sadness that we attended the funeral of Bro. Eugene Murphy. He had been ill for some time, but now his suffering is over and he is reaping the joys of Heaven. Bro. Murphy was well known all across our state and in our



Don Brown
Editor

national work. His influence was great and will be felt for many years.

Bonnie and I were hired by him in the Summer of 1980. We both came to Laurel to work at Southeastern College. I was a part time employee and continued the work as editor. Bonnie joined the clerical staff with various duties. I left the college after a short time and then returned for a "second go-round".

Bonnie has been there for these 30 plus years and is cur-

rently the President's Secretary.

No matter where life takes us, we bear the influences of those we meet along the way.

Eugene Murphy was loyal to the work of the BMA and this was evident by the attendance at his funeral and the number of ministers present who paid their respects.

Our condolences to the family in this time of loss and grief. Memories of his work and those he touched will abide for a long, long time.

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"GOD IS A BETTER MONEY MANAGER THAN THE GOVERNMENT, 'CAUSE HE ONLY NEEDS TEN PERCENT."

BMA of America Chaplains Ministry

A "New Man" Resolution!

By CH (CPT) Tim Gresham
Afghanistan

"put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." (Eph. 4:24)

This time of year people make a variety of New Year's resolutions. Some resolve to spend more time with family or to lose weight and that ever so belligerent bulge that refused to go away the year before. Others might resolve to get out of debt or to simply do more fun stuff.

I'd like to encourage you to take, what I call, a New Man Resolution - "I resolve to put on the New Man, created after God in righteousness and true holiness. I will strive to be renewed in the knowledge of Him who created me in His image."

"Put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new

man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him." (Col. 3:9-10)

The things we usually resolve to do, often with little success, are to benefit the 'here and now.' While they are not bad things, they are temporal. But to make a New Man Resolution is to resolve to better the inner-person, which will not only affect the 'here and now' but will impact eternity.

I want to be more righteous, that is, I want to strive to be right and be known for integrity. Bob Jones, Sr., said, 'Do right! If the stars fall - do right!' I also want to strive to direct my life in true holiness, which means to be set apart, above the fray of life's challenges, living as I should.

Why focus on the inner-per-

son? Because what we see in the 'here and now' will perish, but what impacts eternity is, well, eternal!

"Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." (II Cor. 4:16-17)

May we strive to put off the old man, and put on the New Man, which is renewed in the knowledge of Him who made us. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..." (Rom. 12:1-2)

Vandy dumps 'abortion' pledge

OneNewsNow - Vanderbilt University has been forced to abandon an abortion pledge for nursing students -- after Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) attorneys challenged the policy.

ADF attorney David French explains that his legal group represented some nurses applying for the "Women's Health" track in the school's nurse residency program.

"Vanderbilt had a policy in place where nursing residents were required to sign a 'women's health

acknowledgement' that was telling them that they would be expected to provide care during a 'termination of a pregnancy' -- during an abortion," says French, adding that "if they didn't sign this women's health acknowledgement . . . their application [to that training track] would not even be considered."

In effect, says the attorney, the students would be signing an abortion pledge. The application told them to consider another program track if they had objections.

According to French, ADF reminded Vanderbilt of the Church Amendment.

"[That's] a 30-year-old law that says that universities or anyone else who's hiring nurse residents or residents in the medical profession, hiring medical professionals for training programs cannot discriminate based on a person's reluctance or unwillingness to perform an abortion or to assist in any way in an abortion."

French says after Vanderbilt received that information, school officials revoked the policy. ADF says it found that response "ironic" because one day earlier the school had denied it required such a pledge.

Letters From Our Readers

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

"PRAYER REVIVAL"

Dear Editor,

Every Christian Will One Day Face Their Prayers in Heaven"

Jesus said in Matthew 21:13 My house shall be called a house of Prayer. Also in Luke 11:1 ...one of his disciples said unto him, Lord teach us to pray. In I Thess. 5:17 it say to " Pray without Ceasing"

We need revival in our churches, but I believe we need a Prayer Revival. 10 sermons on prayer that cover over 200 scriptures. If you are interested in this series of sermons on prayer, Please contact Bro. Bob Burch, Pastor of Pine Ridge Missionary Baptist Church at 601-323-2795.

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Dale Wirick

Dale Wirick is available for pulpit supply wherever the Lord may lead. He can be reach at 228-474-8886.

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Commission on Senior Adults

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



pleted. It will be a great meeting. The Theme for both Conferences is Discipling or Making Disciples.

The North Conference is scheduled for May 3. The place is First Baptist Church, Mantachie. The program for this Conference is almost complete.

I am pushing for 350-400 to be at Big Creek. This number will pack their Sanctuary. I am pushing for 200 to be at FBC Mantachie. There is no reason that our churches in North Mississippi can't pack the house. If the pastors and other church leaders will promote the meeting and plan to attend then others will join them. Pastors holding outside jobs might get off for that day if they would ask permission. I just said you "might" get off. How about trying? A good revival day will help all of us.

Other Important Meetings

The Minister's Retreat is scheduled for January 31 - February 1, 2011. If I can get over this cold or what ever it is, I plan to attend. The Annual Missions and Evangelistic Conference will be held in March. I don't have the exact dates. We all need to support these meetings in prayer and in attendance.

Dr. Eugene Murphy, is now with the Lord. A life long friend, Mrs. Dottie Laird went home recently. Another life long friend, Harvey Wigginton is being buried today. May the God of Comfort be present with these dear families.

Letters Sent

Letters and forms have been mailed to the churches seeking BMA preachers who will reach fifty years in the ministry in 2011. If a qualifying preacher has not been recognized heretofore please respond to this letter. These brethren will be recognized at the one of the 2011 Conferences. A nice plaque will be presented as well. Please help us contact these men. It takes time to have the plaques made.

2011 Conferences

The South Conference is schedule for March 29. The place is Big Creek Baptist, Soso, Mississippi, located on Highway 84 West of Laurel. The program is planned and com-

Information Packets Mailed to Churches

by James Ray Raines
Clerk, BMA of America

The information packets for the 2011 meeting of the BMAA in Wichita Falls, Texas, have been mailed. Each packet includes hotel/motel listings and negotiated room rates. The primary hotels/motels are: Howard Johnson and Holiday Inn at the Falls. Each person is responsible for making reservations directly with the hotels.

Included in the packet is the BMAA letter of representation form. Please use this printed form to register, or take advantage of the option to submit the online version electronically. You will find the online version at www.DiscipleGuide.org/BMAAletter.

Caution: Do not use the universal form (annual church letter form) on the DiscipleGuide Web site! This is not the correct form. We do not use that information.

Please submit your registration before the meeting so that all the information can be accessed.

If you have questions, you can contact me at 501-945-2640 (work) or 501-758-4093 (home). If the letter of representation from the packet is lost or not received, churches can download a PDF copy of the form from www.BaptistTrumpet.com and mail it to the address below.

Completed registration forms and money to defray meeting cost and printing/distribution of minutes should be sent to: Recording Secretary, BMA of America, P.O. Box 17872, North Little Rock, AR 72117-7872



Greetings

This is our first greeting to our readers in the New Year of 2011. I trust you all had a beautiful Christmas and hope you will have a year of good health, good ministry to the Lord, and financial prosperity. I can report that we had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends.

Let all of us be determined to live a positive life for the Lord. Let us be faithful to be good soul winners and disciple makers. I pray that 2011 will be the year when God's believing children will turn back to Him. Every sincere believer admits that a revival is a must if we survive. Let us pray to that end.

Friends Gone Home

Recently my friend of many years, Brother Charles G. Thompson went home. Then the faithful wife of Brother V.L. Phillips. Mrs. Lila Phillips went home. My good friend, Brother Gene Therrell recently went home. My friend and co-worker,

The Harper Family

Bluegrass Gospel At Its Finest



Overtaken by the blessings that the Lord has thrown their way this year, the Harper Family has had an incredible year with the Lord as they shared their music.

Some of those blessings included releasing a new CD, Hannah and Dillon recording with Rhonda Vincent on her latest album, testimonies of those lives that have been touched as they shared their faith and songs, and how the Lord has been stretching them in different areas. These only scratch the surface of events of the year.

Now it's 2011, and the Harper Family is excited to see what the Lord has planned. If you are interested in having them at your church, they will come for a love offering.

Feel free to give them a call at 573-247-4374 or e-mail at theharperfamily@live.com. To read more about the family or catch a sound bite of music, check them out on the web at

www.TheHarperFamilyMusic.com.

Go Forth Ministries Honduras Mission Report

by Director Bro. Don Hilbun
16294 Mayhaw Drive, Biloxi, MS 39532
601-508-5784

*Go Forth Ministry is a ministry of
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Saucier.*

GO FORTH MINISTRIES prays that all the saints have a blessed and productive New Year should the Lord further delay His calling home and then His return. Go Forth Ministries and Bro Dennis Lopez reports two very successful mission trips, in cooperation with our National Missions Director Bro. John D. Smith and Director Bro. Phil Knotts.

The first trip was in August 2010 and led by Go Forth Director Bro. Don Hilbun to Great Commission Baptist Mission in Santa Barbara. We saw 75 professions of faith. While there we presented a marriage seminar and were blessed to witness a great revival. We were also blessed to be able to help with their land situation. The Ten Mile Association



helped with needs of the church as did our supporting churches. Many souls were also saved after we left. Bibles were supplied by BEAMS Bible ministry.

The second trip was in December 2010 and also to Santa Barbara. Assisting on this trip was Bro. John Mills from Pine view Church. We called it 'Go Hon-

duras Christmas'. Again with the supporting churches we were a blessed to do a lot of much needed work. First and most importantly there were 230 professions of faith and one young man, Bro. Alberto, surrendered to the ministry. Bro. David Ruffin of Pleasant Grove, Bro. Michael Rhodes of Pleasant Hill, Patsy Hilbun of Heritage, Melissa Mills of Pineview, The Walls, and the Johnsons delivered a great seminar on purity to the teens. Also were a great help in all other areas of the mission.

The Ten Mile Association donated \$8,000.00 to buy property to do the work to save the slab on the church. Thanks to Pleasant Hill Saucier, Westhaven Jackson, Heritage Biloxi, Campground Gulfport, Divine Grace Gulfport, Pine Ridge Laurel, Pineview Lucedale, and Rock Hill Meridian that helped us give the whole church a Christmas dinner of beans and rice. We gave the children a small amount of toys. We were also able to give all the adults and children a gift bag full of toiletry items. One of the ladies from the church picked out about 12 or 14 of the poorest of the poor and we were blessed to carry them shopping for clothes. What a blessing. There were also clothing items for several of the adult members furnished by our ladies. There is a different blessing and testimony for each.

Other work included the pastor Bro. Lenin from the mission, New Life Mission, in Quimistan coming with his youth to the seminar and going out evangelizing with us. Bro. Lenin's car was in need of major repair and through your support we were able to give Bro. Lenin the \$1,000.00 needed to overhaul the motor and brakes. The mission there is thriving. Souls are being saved and he is starting small groups in other villages getting them ready to start a church as soon as he is chartered. He has a great vision for the Quimistan area. He needs a fence around his property and other building needs.

We are able to send to the BMAA \$1,400 needed to build a block wall in La Fortaleza so that he can transfer it to pastor Eliberto Aguirre. The property



for this project was acquired by Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. They are building the wall and we will assist in installing the roof in June.

There is a mission in Tegucigapa running 80 that have no building. Right now they are renting an overcrowded building. However, they already understand that they are the church and the building can come later.

If the Lord wills I should go in March as funds are available for me. I must say that the ongoing work and visions of the national missionary pastors are a testament to the many years of toil and labor of our missionary Bro. Collin Jones and his family working as a church planter in Honduras. It is truly a blessing to find conservative missions with solid foundations. We are encouraging them to charter and become self-supporting. We believe the one in Santa Barbara will be able to do this within a year.

Bro. Coy Rice, Go Forth liaison to Haiti, has led a mission team there. They had a water well installed, have gotten financial support for our BMAA pastor and many souls were saved. Over 1,000 patients were seen by our medical team. Other work and plans are in progress. Bro. Coy is working in cooperation with Bro. Mike Poirier and with our national missions office and we are working also with the BMA of Honduras.

Your Financial Consideration for this ministry is greatly appreciated.

Text Your Way To A Better Marriage?

Did you really think this might be possible! No, we all understand that the centerpiece and cornerstone to all healthy, holy relationships is communication. Communication in marriage is best done face to face. The only time texting helps a marriage is when you text your spouse to tell them that you will be late, or perhaps when you text something romantic and sweet to them. But even on the last example, it is best done face to face because someone can say something and not mean it. A good way to know the sincerity of a statement is to see eye and facial expressions. Body language tells the truth.

A marriage will be successful where both husband and wife have the freedom to express themselves, and take the opportunity to do so. When

you look at the root causes of problem marriages, there are two main problems. Selfishness is at the heart of all marital problems. (James 4:1-3) Communication problems are also evident in every marriage that is not flourishing. It isn't money. It isn't the kids. It isn't the in-laws. The problem lies with you two not openly and honestly communicating your feelings. You have to learn to listen to the other person. Many spouses just want to express their side of a situation and have no intention of considering their spouse's point of view. This creates problems that become unsolved.

There are no perfect marriages. The two of you are not exactly alike, which is a good thing. It is a God thing. God brought you two together precisely because you two are not

exactly alike. The husband has gifts the wife doesn't have. The wife has gifts the husband doesn't have. God brings you



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

together so there is a potential of fulfillment for His glory that did not exist outside the union. But these differences can become the source of conflict.

It would help communication in your marriage if you just realized that you two will see many things in life differently. Then, you communicate with each other about what

would be the best decision for your family. There can be more than one right answer. There can be multiple ideas that are valid. No one should think they have THE right answer. Always include your spouse in a decision-making process. You don't make decisions apart from your spouse once you are married. You always have a covenant partner the rest of your life to consider.

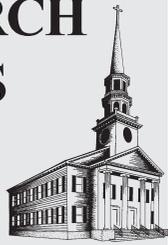
Good communication requires accommodation. It requires negotiation. It means that as equal partners, we work on what will work best. It is not about ego. If you get into many arguments that are driven by a need to prove you are right; then the two of you need to work through a devotion book on Biblical Self-esteem. Obviously, your communication is all about making you feel bet-

ter, and that you are the one in control or on top.

I might add, that while a man is to be the head of his home, it never gives him permission to ignore his wife's thoughts and feelings. He is not loving her like he should (Ephesians 5:25) when he discounts her opinions or never even seeks them. A wise leader seeks input all the time from his wife so that he makes sure he is making the best decisions for the family that he will be held accountable for. He also does not sit in silence when a decision has to be made, shirking his responsibility as a man. Wives need to learn to allow their husbands to lead. You will never be able to improve your marriage, or communication, when you try and ma-

continued on page 7

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.

Pine Ridge Fifth Sunday Night Sing

Pine Ridge Baptist Church, Laurel will have a Gospel sing on Sunday evening, January 30. The group 'Chronicle' will be their guests. Pine Ridge Baptist Church is located at 220 Service Road, Laurel. For more information call 601-319-8466.

Bethel, Fulton

Several from Bethel attended the Passion Conference in Atlanta on January 1-4. "The Secret to the Marriage You Want," a six week DVD Biblical study on marriage with Dr. Les Parrott, began on Sunday night January 9. Bethel's Men's Ministry, R.E.A.L. Men, are going to begin a study of the DVD series, "The Quest for Authentic Manhood" on Sunday night, January 16. Bethel is hosting a Marriage Retreat cruise to Mexico from January 20-24. Several Bethel members will be going to the Ronald McDonald House in Memphis to cook a meal and minister to the families of the children who take cancer treatment at St. Jude Hospital on Saturday, January 22. We have had three additions since our last report. You are always welcome at Bethel. If you are ever in the area, please stop by for a visit.

Pastor Dr. Martin Jameson
Reporter Martha Duncan

Harmony meeting

The first quarterly meeting of the Harmony Association was held Monday, January 3, at First Hispanic in Ripley.

North Mississippi local associations to hold "open forum" to discuss possible merger

There will be an open forum to discuss the feasibility of a merger of the Harmony, Tombigbee and Judson Associations at Bethel Baptist Church near Fulton on Tuesday evening, February 8 at 7 p.m. Any member of a church in one of these associations is welcome to attend and share his opinion on this matter. For more information, please call Dr. Martin Jameson at 662-862-7375.

Church pews for sale

Canaan Missionary Baptist Church, located on Hwy 26 in Lucedale, Mississippi, has church pews for sale. They are solid wood, recently refurbished, purple cloth covered padded seats with song book holders on the back. They are in good shape. Twenty-two - 15', Three - 10', Three - 8'. We also have a solid wood pulpit and communion table. If you are interested please call Justin Havard, 601-947-2795 or 601-770-9058.

Following special music from the host church, Bro Freeman brought the message entitled 'Beauty of Heaven', from I Cor 2: 9-10. The business part of the meeting was called to order by Bro. Jameson. A roll call of the churches showed 11 churches in attendance, a total of 53 present with 2 visitors. Reading of minutes was waived due to being reported in the new minute book.

The financial report was read and approved. Bro Frank Wilson, reported that missionary committee recommendations would be postponed until the next quarter, due to the resignation of Bro. Neil Murphy from the committee. Bro. Ricky Johnson was elected to serve as the replacement. Bro Bob O'Neal reported no final action taken as yet on the mergers of associations, and an open meeting would be held on February 8, 2011, at Bethel Baptist for further input on combining associations. Reports were given by Bro. John Adams, Bro. Ray Freeman, Bro. Joseph Oyelele, and Bro. Lavelle Lee. Bro Lee reported a state wide reception would be held for Bro. Ray Freeman and his wife, honoring his service as Missions Director. The dates and invitations would be announced later in the Mississippi Baptist.

The next meeting will be held April 4th, at Grace Baptist in Baldwin, with Bro. Bob O'Neal as speaker. The meeting was adjourned, followed by a time of food and fellowship provided

CHILDREN'S HOME

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

Back In School

Now that the Christmas holidays are now history and we have entered into the new year of 2011 the boys and girls are now back into the routine of school and its activities.

It is good to be able to report that after receiving first semester grades everyone at the Home is doing well in their studies academically. We thank the Lord for the good report for this first semester for our students and anticipate the same for the remainder of the school year.

Snow Day—Nearly

You will remember last year about this time of the year we had about four inches of snow in the Laurel area. Well, things did not materialize for a repeat

of the white fluffy stuff in south Mississippi on this occasion. Instead we got the icy mixture and north Mississippi received the big snow! The boys and girls were out of school on Monday, January 10, for a bad weather day which will be made up at a later date.



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

Congratulations Huffmasters

Pat and I would like to express our congratulations to Bro. Billy Huffmaster and his wife Jean on their recent retirement. We were honored to be able to be at the reception hosted by Skyway Hills Bap-

tist Church in Pearl in their honor on Saturday, January 8.

Our prayers are with you and may God richly bless you in the days ahead.

Expression of Sympathy

We would like to express our sympathy to the families of Bro. Charles Thompson and Dr. Eugene Murphy. I cherish the friendship of both of these men of God. Their love, concern, support, and faithfulness to the ministry that God called them to do was evident to all who knew them.

We would also like to express our sympathy to the family of Mrs. Lela Phillips. Mrs. Phillips was a special person and a blessing to all who knew her. The Vernon Phillips family is known and cherished by many.

Our prayers and thoughts are with each of these families during their time of loss.

A Better Marriage?

continued from page 6

nipulate or dominate him.

Work hard at practicing forgiveness. A good marriage is based upon two good forgivers. Practice kindness towards each other. Enter into arguments

by the host Church.

Bro. Martin Jameson - Moderator

Tony Marolt - Promotional Secretary

Tombigbee Association

The Tombigbee Association met at East Fulton Baptist Church on January 6, 2011. A great meal was served by the host church. There were 10 churches represented with a total of 60 people.

Sheryl Oswalt blessed us with a beautiful message in song "Going Home". Dr. Martin Jameson brought a wonderful message "Make this year your best year" James 4:13-17.

Bro. Fulton Lindsey gave a report on New Direction Prison Ministries stating the Lord was truly blessing with 78 saved in the month of December. Bro. Joseph Oyelele reported things were doing OK at Maple Street but to pray for the work there. Bro. Dwight Lindsey gave a report on our state Youth work. They had 4 profession of faith during their December Retreat.

Moderator Bro. Gary Smith
Reporter Debbie Franks

with a desire to understand and hear what your partner is saying. It isn't about being right. It is about resolving the problem and restoring peace. Here are some scriptures to study on communication.

James 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.

Ephesians 4:15 Speak the truth in love.

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Proverbs 17:28 Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.

Proverbs 16:23,24 The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips. Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

Proverbs 18:7 A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips

Proverbs 19:9 A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish.

Matthew 12:34,36 ... for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. But I say unto you that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

The Bible is full of scriptures on how to speak and warnings against using the mouth for no good. Your marriage would greatly improve if both of you would use words to edify and build up. The alternative is to use words as a weapon. Words are like bullets. When you shoot your mouth off they go straight to the heart. Communication is heart to heart. Start with the most important form of communication - prayer. The couple that prays together, stays together. Let every married person work on their communication.

CHRISTIAN PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT

BMA OF MISSISSIPPI

Special Emphasis 2011

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Support Publications In January

BMA OF MISSISSIPPI MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

4226 HIGHWAY 15 NORTH, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39440 - (601) 428-8616
Rayburn Freeman, Director



In the annual meeting of the Harmony Association a decision was made to change the monthly meetings to quarterly beginning in January. The association will meet on the Monday night after the first Sunday of each quarter. In January, they met with First Hispanic Baptist of Ripley, and even with the extreme cold weather, the attendance was good. I commend Dr. Martin Jameson, their new moderator, for the professional way the meeting was conducted. After the service, First Hispanic served a very delicious meal, and we all returned home filled spiritually and physically.

Around the state, other missions are going well. Bro. Ed is enjoying church growth at Cleveland, and Bro. Joseph gave an encouraging report for Maple Street. Bro. Estuardo and Bro. Elvis are in the attendance range of 80-100 and have realized additional growth attendance-wise and through baptism. Bro. Donnie, who is self supporting, is doing a wonderful work while utilizing our property in Indianola. Bro. Boone is making good progress at New Heart. He is now in the process of site preparation which probably will be completed by the end of January.

We remind each one to mark their calendar and attend the Church Missions Conference at Shady Grove, Tishomingo on February 5, 2011. The program will be the "Seven Sayings of

the Cross", and our missionaries will be the speakers. Also, remember the Annual Missions and Evangelistic Conference in March. The North Conference will be on March 17th at East Fulton Baptist Church, Fulton, and the South Conference will be at Vardaman Street Baptist Church, Wiggins on March 24th. We encourage and do appreciate your attendance.

Faye and I have been very busy making final preparations to transfer our residence to Greene County. In the April tornado in Yazoo City, Hillcrest Baptist Church (our former mission project under Bro. Bud Dixon) was destroyed. Upon arriving there, I was asked to serve as their interim pastor. I agreed since I did not have enough on my plate. The ministry there is an enjoyable one and the people are exceptionally nice with a heart for the Lord's work.

Before Christmas, I challenged the congregation with giving a gift to Jesus since it is His birthday and not ours. I learned that they had done this before and agreed to do it again. Paper slips were passed for each one to write on the slip the amount they felt we should set and return it. Afterward, the amount on each slip was added, and the average came to \$31,000. Needless to say, as one of little faith, I thought the amount was quite above our ability. On December 19th, the total offering for Jesus was \$32,000. Other funds have come in as well since that date.

The Bible teaches us that little is much when God is in it. Hillcrest attendance ranges somewhere between 50 and 70. Our building program is moving along with the foundation, plumbing is in, and the floor has been poured. We are looking forward to occupying our new facilities by or before October of 2011.

May the Lord bless and keep all of you.

In Christ,
Bro. Freeman

December Statistics

El Camino

For the month of December, in Laurel, Bro. Estuardo reached out and visited 23 homes, made 45 soul talks and had 11 professions of faith. They had an average of 81 in their Worship service. The Lord blessed El Camino with an average weekly offering of \$758.10. They rejoiced with 4 baptisms.

Petal Mission

Bro. Estuardo's Petal Mission was very successful in December. In Petal there were 13 home visited with 11

soul talks. They had an average Sunday school attendance of 14. They were blessed with a very good offering of \$32.25.

New Heart

Bro. Boone has had a blessed month of 100 home visits and 30 soul talks. New Heart had 22 people in Sunday School. Their weekly average Sunday Morning service was 25 and evening worship 20. The Lord blessed with an average offering of \$311.75.

Revolving Loan Fund Report

By **Dosson L Lee**
Manager, RLF

We bring you warm Christian greetings for the new year of 2011 although it is very cold here in Laurel, as well as the rest of the State of Mississippi. God continues to bless the Revolving Loan Fund for which we are very thankful.

At the close of the 2010 calendar year, our financial statements reflect the following figures: Gross assets are \$13,971,282.07, which is a decrease of \$14,956.93 from our July 31, 2010 fiscal closing. Net assets are \$2,691,094.35 which is an increase of

\$93,569.35 over July 31, 2010. Loans receivable, net of allowance for loss, are \$10,081,038.83, a decrease of \$563,934.17 from July 31, 2010. Share accounts payable are \$11,280,187.72, a decrease of \$397,019.60 from July 31. These December 31, 2010 calendar year closing figures are unaudited.

We ask that you continue to pray for our safe travel around the state as we attend and report on the many local associations. These travels always bring us back to Laurel in the late hours of the night and night travel is especially dangerous. Bro. Freeman and I were coming in late Monday night, January 3, 2011, from the Harmony Association which met with First Hispanic Baptist Church in Ripley, and we had a collision with a large buck deer. We are very thankful to our Lord that he and I were not harmed, but we sustained considerable damage to the car. But, by God's protection, we were able to drive the car back to Laurel, arriving after 2:00 AM Tuesday morning. Of course, we have insurance to cover the damage to the car for which we are thankful, so the car is in the body shop at the present time. Pray for us, and we do pray for you.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

On Aging

Somebody told me the other day that the way you could describe to a younger person how it feels to be old was to tell them to:

Put cotton in your ears and pebbles in your shoes.

Pull on rubber gloves,

Smear vaseline on your glasses

And there you have it - 'instant old age'.

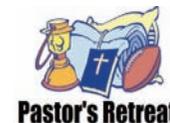
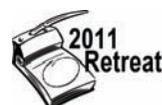
They chose not to mention the aches and pains that seem to accompany old age. I identify with the description of Abraham and Sarah. The Bible says they were "well stricken in age."

I had a birthday not long ago and I told someone that I was 29 again. I added that I had been 29 again 45 times. Can you add that up? But I'm glad to be 29 again!!!

PASTOR'S RETREAT FOR THE BMA OF MISSISSIPPI

January 31 – February 1, 2010

Lake Tiak O'Khata
Louisville, MS



SHOW ME THY GLORY

Exodus 33:18

Come and experience a time of refreshment and revival with us as we experience the glory of God together in preaching, singing, praying, and fellowship.

Cost: \$60.00 per person

which includes night stay, supper, breakfast, & lunch. Each one will be responsible to bring their own bed linens (bunks), towels, and toiletries.

MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2011		TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2011	
7:55pm	Worship	7:30am	Breakfast
1:00pm	Registration Begins	8:30am	Worship
8:05pm	Message #5 Larry Geraldson	8:45am	Message #6 Grover Laird
2:00pm	Welcome	9:25am	Break
2:05pm	Worship	9:45am	Worship
2:20pm	Message #1 Ken Riley	10:00am	Message #7 Roger Akers
3:00pm	Break	10:40am	Worship
3:30pm	Worship	10:55am	Message #8 Larry Geraldson
3:45pm	Message #2 Danny Cresswell		
4:25pm	Worship		DISMISS AND LUNCH
4:40pm	Message #3 Dennis Knight		
5:20pm	Dismiss for Supper		
7:00pm	Worship		
7:15pm	Message #4 Blake McCain		

Music will be led by Bro. Bryson Haden & Bro. Mark McCann

If you have any questions, please contact Bro. Justin Rhodes, Chairman of the Pastor's Retreat Committee (601)218-3364.