

# Baptist

## Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

JANUARY 15, 2013

www.bmaofmississippi.com

Vol. 67 No. 2

## It's Time! - To Make Your Reservations for the 2013 BMAA Meeting in Norman

The 2013 session of the BMA of America will meet April 22-24 at the beautiful Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Norman, Oklahoma. The hotel and conference center are under one roof and are conveniently located just off of I-35 with shopping areas nearby. There is plenty of free parking for our attendees and complimentary shuttle service is offered to local area attractions within a five mile radius of the hotel. All suites have separate living and bedroom areas, a complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast will be served to hotel guests each morning, and both noon and evening meals can be purchased within the hotel.

When the BMAA Committee on Arrangements contracts with a convention center to host our annual meeting, the rental fee is normally tied to the number of hotel rooms we expect our attendees to use during the meeting. The rental fee in Norman is \$5,000 contingent upon our use of 200 rooms blocked at the Embassy Suites Hotel. The rental fee will increase by the daily cost of each room not used.

Terms have been negotiated in Norman that will allow the conference center space to be rent free if we use the total number of rooms blocked at the Embassy Suites and four overflow hotels. Please help us fill the Embassy Suites rooms first to cap the cost of the rental space and then the overflow rooms will help us get the meeting space rent free. Our association had to pay \$12,000 extra in Jackson, Mississippi last year because so many of the blocked hotel rooms were not used. Please help us avoid a situation like

that this year.

The Embassy Suites is accepting reservations now. Please use the fol-



lowing link to make your reservations online <http://www.visitnorman.com/baptist-missionaries/> or call 405-364-8040. Please specify that you are with the BMA of America group if you make your reservations by phone. Rates at the Embassy Suites are: Single-\$120, Double-\$130, Triple-\$140, and Quad-\$150. Reservations will be accepted at the overflow hotels at a later date.

We appreciate your help.

*Charles Attebery, Leon Carmical,  
James Ray Raines*

*BMAA Committee on Arrangements*

## Hotel Information for Oklahoma Meeting

The following hotels have agreed to offer group rates to those attending the 2013 BMAA meeting in Norman, Oklahoma, April 22-24. The Embassy Suites has been designated as the primary hotel. When calling, please specify that you are attending the Baptist Missionary Association of America meeting to receive the group rate.

Shown below are the names of the hotels, contact information, room rates and deadlines for group rate reservations:

- **Embassy Suites**, 2501 Conference Dr.; (405) 364-8040; single, \$120; double, \$130; triple, \$140; quad, \$150; March 22.
- **Hilton Garden Inn**, 700 Copperfield Dr.; (405) 579-0100; single, \$119; double, \$119; triple, \$129; quad, \$129; March 31.
- **Courtyard by Marriott**, 770 Copperfield Dr.; (405) 701-8900; \$89; April 7.
- **Holiday Inn**, 1000 N. Interstate Dr.; (405) 364-2882; \$89; March 31.
- **Comfort Inn & Suites**, 840 Copperfield Dr.; (405) 701-5200; \$79; April 1.

## Preaching The Word To The Arabic World

by Ashraf Sara

"Life is not safe, but Jesus saves." Have you heard it before? Most of you have not experienced growing up in a country where Muslims make up 99% of the population, but aren't you glad that the Word of God is infallible truth!

What Joel prophesied in the ninth century B.C. is happening today: "And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Joel 2:32)

I was saved at the age of 13 when a Lebanese Baptist preacher came to my

home city of Baghdad. That's when I heard that "Jesus saves." At age 14, I was baptized in a Baptist Church in



Amman, Jordan, and began to see my faith and the faith of others grow during tribulations with the comfort that Jesus has overcome the world.

In 2000, I met my wife, Jenny, at a small group (underground) Bible study in Baghdad. (She and her mother were baptized in a bathtub in their home.)

The home churches and cell groups continued to grow rapidly and in 2003 the Lord visited His people and the First Baptist Church in Baghdad was dedicated in January 2004. Jerry Kidd and another BMA missionary (editor's note: name withheld for security reasons) came to Baghdad preaching the good news, and since then, over 400 people have been saved and baptized.

Several home churches have started in the Northern part of Iraq among the Assyrians, Caledonians and Kurds. Besides being the youth pastor at the First Baptist Church in Baghdad, I also served with the Baptist Publications in Iraq. In four years, we distributed 51,000 Bibles in hospitals, orphanages and to churches that needed Bibles. It was the most basic need, and it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. With this said, the enemy of goodness wasn't happy!

In 2007, Jenny and I came to America. Seven weeks later, Jenny gave birth to our firstborn baby, John. I

continued on page 4

## Church to celebrate 125 years

On Sunday, March 24, 2013, First Baptist Church of Shady Grove will host its 125th Year Homecoming Celebration. All past and present members, family and friends are cordially invited to help celebrate this joyous occasion.

Rev. Grover Laird, a former pastor, will deliver the morning message during the service which begins at 10:30. Lunch will follow and all are encouraged to stay to enjoy the fine food and fellowship.

During the afternoon service we will have the opportunity to hear briefly from other past pastors and music ministry personnel as they have the occasion to share highlights of their ministry at FBC Shady Grove.

There will be over 250 photos on display for enjoyment from years gone by. Also a history booklet briefly describing the past 125 years will be available for all as a keepsake.

Various awards will be given in several areas pertaining to attendance. Come one, come all, bring the whole family.

For more information please contact the church office at 601-426-6098 or by e-mail at fbcshadygrove@yahoo.com.



## Commission on Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North  
Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt  
Director

2012 has come and gone, 2013 has arrived and looms ahead for what we hope will be a blessed year we live in. We need His guidance daily.

Our Senior Adult Conferences are being planned and we look forward to our seniors gathering for a great time together in each of these.

Our schedule is as follows:

**South Senior Adult Conference** - Tuesday, March 26, 2013 - Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso

**North Senior Adult Conference** - Friday, May 17, 2013 - Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton

Mark these dates on your calendar. We are looking forward with great anticipation in attending.

The registration fee for each conference will remain at \$15.00 for each one attending. This fee barely covers the noon meal for the South Conference catered by Mac's Fish Camp of Hattiesburg. There are other expenses involved so we ask that each one at-

tending register and receive a meal ticket to help with the expenses of the day. It would be helpful if churches would pay the registration fee and that one person from each church use a church check to cover the registration fee for each one in the group.

Heaven's Jubilee will be the theme of this year's conference and it promises to be a time of celebration and rejoicing as God's senior saints meet together.

Plaques will be awarded to ministers completing 50 years in the ministry during 2012-2013. Churches will provide the names of those in their membership who are to receive plaques. Names of those receiving plaques are to be called in by February 15 with the date of license and ordination to Mrs. Dot Holifield, 658 Perrett Road, Laurel, MS 39443; 601-729-3198

You do not want to miss this conferences this year so make plans to be in attendance. We will have a great time in the Lord.

## BMA Of Mississippi Pastor's Retreat

January 28 – January 29, 2013  
Lake Tiak O'Khata  
Louisville, Mississippi  
Psalm 51:10

*Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
and renew a right spirit within me.*

Registration Fee: \$60.00 per person if staying in the bunk house. \$40.00 if staying in the hotel.

Both prices includes the conference, supper, breakfast, and lunch. If staying in the bunkhouse you will need to bring your own bed linens (bunk beds), towels, and toiletries.

If staying in the hotel you will be responsible for your own reservations and room. For room rates and reservations, call Lake Tiak O'Khata at (662)773-7853

### Monday, January 28, 2013

1:00 pm Registration Begins  
2:00 pm Worship  
2:05 pm Welcome/Theme Presentation  
2:20 pm Message #1 John Adams  
3:00 pm Break  
3:30 pm Worship  
3:45 pm Message #2 Brad Stephens  
4:25 pm Worship  
4:40 pm Message #3 Justin Cameron  
5:20 pm *Dismiss for Supper*  
7:00 pm Special Music  
7:30 pm Message #4 Jeff Dixon  
8:10 pm Special Music  
8:30 pm Message #5 Gary O'Neal

### Tuesday January 29, 2013

7:00 am Breakfast  
8:00 am Business  
8:30 am Worship  
8:45 am Message #6 Greg Medenwald  
9:25 am Break  
9:45 am Worship  
10:00 am Message #7  
To Be Determined  
10:40 am Worship  
10:55 am Message #8 Billy Ferrell  
*Lunch before heading home*

If you have any questions, please contact Justin Rhodes, Chairman of the Pastor's Retreat Committee @ 601-218-3364 or justin@crosswayclinton.org

## 2012 Walk for the World Winners

by Diane Ward  
National Walk Coordinator

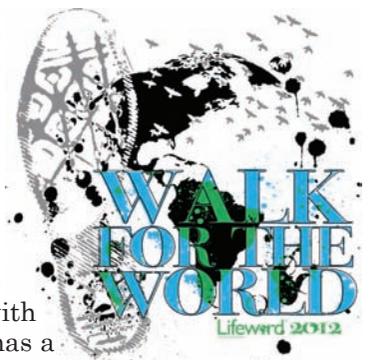
Lifeword is pleased to announce that Kewanee Baptist Church in Kewanee, Missouri, is the top giving church for the 2012 Walk for the World. We commend them for raising \$20,100 for the annual event. Kewanee came in second place as top contributor in 2011, third place in 2010, and as the top regional supporter in 2009. Kewanee has a strong history of support for Lifeword and the Walk for the World. Their winning contribution entitles them to one of the youth room makeover awards; however, they would like to say that, "our emphasis has always been on how much money we can raise for the ministry of Lifeword."

We also want to recognize Hall Summit Baptist Church, Hall Summit, Louisiana, for being the largest per capita supporter for the Walk in 2012 with their offering of \$18,680.63. Hall Summit also has a long history of support of Lifeword and the Walk, and they are also entitled to a free youth room make over. They have ranked as either the top leading per capita winner or regional winner for the Walk in seven of the past eight years. As past per capita winners, some of their members have traveled overseas with the Lifeword team and visited countries where a Lifeword broadcast can be heard. These missions' opportunities have made an important spiritual impact on the church's congregation and have further endeared them to the ministry of Lifeword.

Neither of these churches is considered large by some standards, yet they have a big heart for missions and Lifeword, and that is reflected each year in their proactive efforts to raise money for the Walk.

We appreciate all our churches that make Lifeword an integral part of their fund-raising and support efforts each year. God has placed many exciting opportunities on the horizon at Lifeword, and we humbly look forward to following His lead as we pray to be good stewards of your giving. We value your continued support as we prepare to walk through the doors that God opens in 2013.

As of December 31, 2012, collections for the 2012 Walk are well below where they were this time last year; however, we recognize that this is God's ministry, and we trust Him to supply all our needs in the coming year.



# Southeastern Baptist College

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

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

## Registration

Registration for the new semester has begun and will continue through January 23. Classes on campus begin January 14, but those who may register after classes begin and complete all registration requirements by the 23rd can still get in this semester. Twenty seven online classes are also available for those who are not able to come on campus. The enrollment number is always difficult to predict each semester for different reasons, ranging from completion of program requirements, moving from the area, finances, and various other reasons.

Though registration has just begun, we already have more new students this semester than the last semester. We never really know until the "dust settles", but there is a possibility the number will match the previous Fall 2012 enrollment, or at least come close. If so, this is a great ac-

complishment since the Spring semester is traditionally lower at all institutions. Invariably, a certain number of students do not return and there is hope more new ones will be able to complete registration to replace the ones not returning. This is due to God's blessing the extra recruiting efforts that have been expended over the past three months.

## Attention Pastors, Sunday School Teachers and Christian Workers

The Manners and Customs of Bible Times class is offered this semester and will meet each Tuesday evening from 6:00 – 8:30. Manners and Customs is a course in the Jewish background of the Bible which is a great help in understand-



Joseph Harris  
Interim  
President



Leadership Jones County Tour Group

ing and interpreting the Bible. Seeing the Bible through Jewish eyes enhances the understanding of passages. Churches within driving distance are encouraged to send their teachers. A special group rate is available for our churches. Call today at 601-426-6346 or email cmneil@southeasternbaptist.edu.

## Leadership Jones County

Leadership Jones County is a leadership development program sponsored by the Jones County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Authority of Jones County. Businesses and individuals in LJC become involved in the program in order to learn more about our community, develop

their leadership skills and being a part of a group that wants to make Jones County even better.

Larkin Simpson is the coordinator and this leadership class comprised of attorneys, educators, realtors, pastors, business people and representatives from medical facilities visited our campus on January 9, 2013. I gave them a tour and a 20 minute introduction to SBC. Each member received a packet. It was a beneficial time of education about SBC for leaders in our local community. This is in keeping with one of our goals, which is to increase awareness with more traffic on our campus.

## Dale Blount, Missouri Minister, Dies

Dale C. Blount, 80 of Potosi, Missouri, died January 13. He



had been in the ministry for over 54 years and pastored 15 churches in Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. He

was very active in associational work and was serving as assistant pastor at First Baptist Church in Potosi at the time of his death. He was also "well known for his ability to witness for Jesus anytime, anywhere."

Survivors include his wife of over 57 years, Juanita Blount; two sons, Jeff Blount and Jim Blount; two daughters, Deiatra Gillam and Lanette Bieber; a brother, William Wayne Blount; 10 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Thursday, January 17, at First Baptist Church, Potosi.

*-from Baptist Trumpet*

## BMA minister's widow dies

Frances Elizabeth Coleman Christian, widow of the late O.D. Christian, passed away recently. She was born October 10, 1920 in Freestone County, Texas. She married Odis Dwain Christian on May 18, 1940 in Freestone County, Texas. She was also a faithful pastor's wife throughout the ministry of her husband, Rev. O.D. Christian, serving as teacher, pianist, or organist in various churches where they ministered.

She is survived by her three children, Sarah Frances Christian McGuffey and her husband Ralph Wayne McGuffey of Dallas; Jerry Dwain Christian and his wife Kaye Eason Christian of Irving; and Travis Coleman Christian and his wife LaJuana Jean Petton Christian of Whitehouse, Texas. She is also survived by six grandchildren - four with spouses, twelve great-grandchildren - one with spouse, and one great-great-grandson.

She left a wonderful legacy of service to others and worship and praise to God, especially through music.

Her funeral service was January 18, 2013.

## Photoshop Voodoo

I was admiring an exquisitely framed portrait of my wife's family the other day that had been taken at a family get together in the mountains somewhere around

the middle of June. A pastoral scene with apple trees being gently caressed by the wind provided the background as we all stood smiling at the camera. Everyone was present and accounted for right down to the newest member of the family that was born later in the fall.

All the children were facing the camera (as opposed to the normal family portraits that has one or more digging in their nose or facing the wrong direction or rolling on the ground, etc.) and looking more or less happy at having to waste a moment of their time taking a photograph.

My thoughts were carried back to early summer and the peaceful, carefree break from the normal grind that we call life and.... HOLD ON A MINUTE!!!!

How was our newest member present when he wasn't even born yet!?!?!? I checked again, and sure enough, there he was. WHHHAAAAA???? I quickly googled Alzheimer symptoms and qualified for only eight of the twelve, so it was obviously not my memory that was at fault here.

My wife took the paper bag that I had been using to get my breathing back to normal and handed me a kitten to pet in her feeble attempts to calm me down. It turns out that there is some kind of new invention out there that allows a person to

add stuff to photos that aren't there originally. It has to be one of Satan's inventions in his attempt to deceive our already cluttered minds into believing that we can't believe anything.

My question is, why stop at just adding a child to the photo? It would have been so much cooler if we had photo-shopped a black panther or Big Foot into the picture. We could have added a dinosaur, given me some muscles, or even included Ray in the frame. But that wouldn't have been subtle now would it? Cooler, but not subtle.

This makes me question everything that I see in the gossip magazines. Next thing you know, someone will be telling me that all the movie stars really only look so good because of plastic surgery and lighting and makeup and... well, you get the point.

It might even be possible that the news media makes stuff up every now and then to support a liberal agenda. Nah! At least even a rube like me knows that every thing I see on television is real. But if they ever get a

hold of this photoshop thing, we are in real trouble when it comes to seeing the truth brought into our living rooms each day.

In moments like this, I need a booster shot of reality. I need to watch something that restores my faith in truth. There needs to be a clear and obvious dose of unadulterated evidence to bolster my confidence in humanity.

I'm gonna go watch Forrest Gump. At least I know I won't be seeing any photoshop voodoo in that film!

## Available For Service

### Danny Bartlett

Danny Bartlett, former pastor of Creston Hills Baptist Church, Jackson, is available for pulpit supply and pastoral service. He may be reached at 601-218-0735.

### Dale Wirick

Dale Wirick is available for pulpit supply. He may be reached at 228-623-5466 or 228-249-3731.

### From The Mind of



Chuck Lee

**Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi**

www.bmaofmississippi.com

**DEPARTMENTS & COMMISSIONS**

**Mississippi Baptist Paper**

P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441  
601-426-3293

**Southeastern Baptist College**

4229 Highway 15 North Laurel, MS  
39440 - 601-426-6346

**State Youth Department**

P.O. Box 4247, Laurel, MS 39441  
662-397-6832

**Baptist Children's Home**

118 Lowe Rd., Laurel, MS 39443  
601-426-3928

**Missions & Revolving Loan Fund**

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS  
39440 - 601-428-8616

**Commission on Senior Adults**

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS  
39440  
601-729-3198

**History & Archives Commission**

4229 Highway 15 North, Laurel, MS  
39440  
601-729-8098

**Moral Action**

P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855

**Mississippi Baptist** | **Opinion Page**

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

**Arab Ministries**

from page 1

**Some Information Requests**



Don Brown  
Editor

As Director of Public Information for the BMA of Mississippi, we have established a web site for general news and contact information. We urge you view the site and take advantage of the

information listed there. The address is [bmaofmississippi.com](http://bmaofmississippi.com) and you will find information such as officers, departments & commissions, auxiliaries, etc.

We are also trying to keep a BMA of Mississippi **activity calendar** up to date. This can only be done with the input of our churches and local associations. If you have an important date that you would like posted on this calendar we ask that you use the link which allows you to submit your event for posting.

**Updates**

We have an email list that we use to send out alerts and notices to our readers. This is to share information that would need to be shared immediately rather than waiting for the next issue of the Mississippi Baptist.

If you would like to be included on this list then just send us a request at [editor@msbaptist.org](mailto:editor@msbaptist.org).

**Deadlines**

In order to meet publishing dates with our printer on a more timely basis, we are asking all who submit information for printing to have

their articles to us by the following deadlines. Articles to be printed in the 1st issue of each month should be in our possession by the 25th of the previous month. Articles for the 15th of the month issue need to be submitted by the 10th of the month. This allows us time to edit and layout the respective issues and get them to our printer and in the mail in a timely manner.

Another issue that we need to stress is the issue date that would best serve your particular need. When making announcements about events it would be advantageous to make sure the announcement appears in the issue that will best serve you. For example, if you have an event on the 3rd of the month, that announcement needs to be in the 15th issue of the previous month. Make sure that your events are announced at least 2 to 3 weeks prior to the actual date. This will ensure that our readers have the information in their possession in time.

**Photos**

Most everyone has a digital camera or a 'smart phone' that takes really good photos. Please use this technology when reporting. Make sure that your photographs are well lit. The subject of the photo, whether a group, single individual or something else, should be bright and clear. With a little planning this is easy for you to do. Use the flash, get up close, put the sun at the back of the photographer. It makes for a much better printed photo.

attended the BMA Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas. As a foreign student studying the original Bible languages (in a foreign language), I was concerned that I would not make it, but I wasn't aware that God had a bigger plan for our lives.

I knew that Christianity was not the fastest growing religion in America



anymore, and I found out later there are several million Arabic-speaking people in America. How could they hear the good news without a preacher?

For the next two years, while I was still a student, Jenny and I made monthly trips to another state, taking the gospel to a small population of Arabic-speaking people. We saw Arabs come to know Jesus and become disciples.

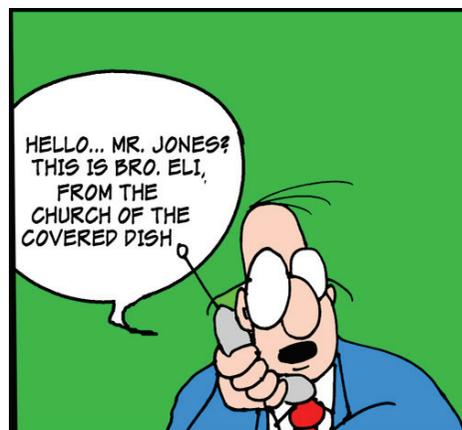
Those two years served as a period of preparation for a bigger task and bigger harvest in Dallas, Texas — one of the largest ethnic cities in America and the fastest growing metroplex (population-wise) in America.

The ministry among the Arabic-speaking people in Dallas started as a "parachute drop" — we began the ministry without a team of workers to help us. We just obeyed the call, began making contacts and moved to plant the seed for an Arabic congregation. We had a vision to plant an Arabic-speaking church called Living Word Arabic Church, where the Word comes alive. We knew "it is not by might nor by power, but by the Spirit of the Lord of hosts."

Living Word became the first fruit of an Arabic church planting movement in America. Our burden is that the Arabic-speaking people come to know Jesus and be disciples who also make disciples. God granted us our

continued on page 6

**Church of the Covered Dish** BY THOMAS TAPP



Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402. Postmaster: Send address changes to the *Mississippi Baptist Paper*, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441-8000.

## MORAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Baptist Missionary Association of America  
Dr. John M. Adams, Director  
P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863  
Email - fbcjdmaj@yahoo.com



John Adams

church laity to visit the Moral Action Booth at the National Associational Meeting, April 22-24, 2013 in Norman, OK. There will be plenty of materials for you. Included will be pens, note pads, videos, and promotional literature. Please stop by and visit. Remember, we represent each of you in this ministry.

### MAC Freedom Offering

Please make plans to pray and give financial gifts to this department for the July 4th Freedom Celebration. Since July 4, 2013 will be on a Thursday this year, we are suggesting that you consider giving your offerings on June 30 or July 7. We need your gift, whether large or small.

### Moral Action on the Web

Visit our site at [www.macbma.net](http://www.macbma.net). You will find much information related to this ministry. Some of the topics included are our purpose, current trustees, and

morality action alerts. You may visit the Moral Action archives for past and present articles of interest. There are available links to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and U.S. Supreme Court. You will find access to Focus on the Family, American Family Association and the Family Research Council. Contacts are also listed for myself and this ministry whether by email, telephone or written communication. We would be honored to hear from each of you.

### "God and Country Rallies"

I had the honor recently to participate in "God and Country" rallies in Laurel, MS and Waxahachie, TX. Feel free to contact me if you are interested in scheduling an area

wide or association wide event. These are one-night patriotic events. Plans are being made at this time for 2013 rallies in Florida, Arkansas, and Mississippi.

### Moral Action Van

You did it! During the 2011-2012 year, God used many of our BMA Churches, Associations, Auxiliaries, Brotherhoods and individuals to help purchase a new 2013 fifteen passenger Ford van for this ministry. Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Max and Debbie Story of Magnolia, Arkansas, in this purchase. We are humbled by your graciousness. You may view the van at the BMA National meeting in Norman, Oklahoma. Praise be to our God!

### Moral Action Video

Great news! Be on the lookout for the new Moral Action five minute promotional video. We are making plans to have it distributed per US mail to our 1300 BMA churches on March 1, 2013.

We would like to encourage you to share this video with your congregations, auxiliaries and organizations. It is a great introduction to the Moral Action Ministry.

### National Day of Prayer

The National Day of prayer is fast approaching. The date is May 2, 2013. It is time for your church to select a leader/

director to lead out in the prayer efforts. We desperately need intercessory prayer for our nation and its leaders.

Suggested places of prayers are church auditoriums, flag poles, local courthouses, or town/City Hall. It is vital that our BMA Baptist family actively participate in this yearly national event. Need more info, go to [www.NDP.org](http://www.NDP.org) or use a computer search engine for National Day of Prayer. You may also telephone: 719-559-9560 for information.

### Moral Action Booth

I would like to encourage all pastors, messengers and

## CHURCH NEWS

### Oak Grove Association

The Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Association will meet with New Heart Mission near Hattiesburg on Thursday night, January 17, at 7:00. New Heart is one of our State Mission projects and they are enjoying their new facility located on Highway 11 south of Interstate 59 at the exit to the Sullivan-Kilrain truck stop.

The January meeting has been the annual time to bring offerings to the Children's Home. All churches are encouraged to attend this meeting. It will be a blessing to you and an encouragement to Missionary Ray Boone and the members of New Heart.

Ed Steele, Reporter

### Tombigbee report

Tombigbee Association met on January 10, 2013, at Friendship Baptist Church. A gracious meal was served by host church. We were opened in prayer by Bro. Roger Akers. Special music was brought by Mrs. Cathy Johnson and the evening message was brought by Bro. Bobby Johnson from Acts 28: 1-6. Reports were given by Bro. Bob Burch, Bro. Bobby Elliott, & Bro. Rick Clark. Total messengers were 37 with 2 visitors. We had 9 churches represented.



## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

### Best Poem In The World

**Someone handed me this poem a few days ago and I thought it good enough to share. So here 'tis.**

I was shocked, confused, bewildered  
As I entered Heaven's door,  
Not by the beauty of it all,  
Nor the lights, or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven  
Who made me sputter and gasp-  
The thieves, the liars, the sinners,  
The alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade  
Who swiped my lunch money twice.  
Next to him was my old neighbor  
Who never said anything nice.

Bob, who I always thought  
Was rotting away in hell,  
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,  
Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal?  
I would love to hear your take.  
How'd all these sinners get up here?  
God must've made a mistake.

'And why is everyone so quiet,  
So somber - give me a clue.'  
'Hush, child,' He said,  
'they're all in shock.  
No one thought they'd be seeing you.'  
- JUDGE NOT



Kelby Johnson  
Director

## S-H-A-R-P-E-N 2013

Theme: The Importance of the Word of God

### March 23rd, 2013 @Big Creek Baptist Church (Laurel)

9:00 am Registration (Worship led by Justin Bynum)  
10:00 am Session 1 "Know The Word"  
(the importance of Bible study) Brad Stephens

11:10 am Session 2 "Share the Word"  
(the importance of Bible teaching) Larry Geraldson

12:10 pm Lunch

1:30 pm Group Discussion

2:45 pm Session 3 "Live The Word"  
(the importance of Bible living) Kelby Johnson

3:30 Final Thoughts  
(All worship led by Justin Bynum)

### March 30th, 2013 @Bethel Baptist Church (Fulton)

9:00 am Registration  
10:00 am Session 1 "Know The Word"  
(the importance of Bible study) Gary O'Neal

11:10 am Session 2 "Share the Word"  
(the importance of Bible teaching) Kevin Clayton

12:10 pm Lunch

1:30 pm Group Discussion

2:45 pm Session 3 "Live The Word"  
(the importance of Bible living) Tracy McMillen

3:30 Final Thoughts  
(All worship led by Dwight Lindsey)

\*Choose the time and location that fits your schedule!

# GALILEAN News

## Greetings Galileans of Mississippi.

What another wonderful year in the Lord we are looking forward too. I recently attended the GMA, Galilean meeting in Laurel at the Missions Office for final preparations for camp. For those of you who do not know, we have combined GMA and Galilean camp this year at Camp Garaywa in Clinton.

We are so looking forward to camp this year! Also attending the meeting was Keaton Walley (Galilean secretary), Drew Wheeler (Galilean President), and Mark Jones (State Galilean Promoter). Representing the GMA's were all of their officers and promoters. I was so impressed with the GMA officers and ladies involved and the hard work that they put into making every camp better than

the one before.

Camp this year will be March the 8th & 9th at Camp Garaywa and camp fees will be \$60.00 per camper. All Galilean leaders will need to contact Bro. Mark before the end of February and let him know how many campers they will have coming so that we can pre-register and have medical release forms for all campers.

We are also asking that all Galileans attending bring (1) 12 pack of drinks for the snack bar. We are hoping for a record attendance this year for boys due to the fact that our numbers have fallen off over the last few years. I challenge all Galilean leaders to have their boy's attend camp this year and contact any church in your area to spread the word.

If you do not have a Galilean

## Attention Galileans Mississippi State Camp March 8-9, 2013

Camp Garaway  
Clinton, Mississippi.

### Theme

"How Excellent Is Thy Name" from Psalm 8:9.

program at your church and would like to have one started please contact me or Bro. Mark. We would love to come and help you get one started. I may be reached at glnw@chevron.com. Once again we look forward to seeing you at camp and may God Bless You in the upcoming year.

Glenn Walley  
Temple Baptist Church  
Lucedale, Mississippi  
601-508-1701

# Arab Ministries

from page 4

desire as we saw over 80 Arabic-speaking people confess Jesus as Lord and Savior in 2012. We have an average attendance of 50 every Sunday night and they are mostly from Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt

population of over 6 million and over 100,000 of those are Arabic-speaking people. Many of the people we serve are refugees. According to the humanitarian and charity organizations, new Arab refugees will



## They Have A Good Home Life

### Part Five - communication

*This is a series of articles written to help us focus our passions and priorities on what makes a good home life. I hear people talking in church about other people's kids or their marriages' and they all agree that these people have a "good home life". What characteristics make up a good home life? What are the common threads in the family fabric of Christian homes that are healthy, holy and work well? Hopefully through this series of articles, it will help you learn, focus and increase your efforts on these traits that are found consistently in homes that are a nice place to grow up in or grow old in.*

#### Communication

If love is the foundation of a good home, forgiveness is the roof we live under, encouragement is the framework, trust and honesty are the floors we stand on; then communication becomes the doors and windows of this home. Good communication opens doors in relationships. Communication allows us to have intimate relationships with each other in

our homes by being able to see the real person through the windows of their soul. We may pull the drapes on our total personality to the outside world, but in a healthy home we openly share about who we are, what our fears and hopes and dreams are, and communicate our love for one another.

Every marriage retreat I do, I spend at least 2 hours on communication. I also do a

great deal of teaching on how to communicate between parents and children. Then, we must learn to communicate between the generations and amongst our extended family. Communication improves all relationships. Healthy, holy



#### Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

communication is the cornerstone to a good family life. Good communication helps us in every dimension of our lives. At home, at work, at school, at church. Everywhere.

Poor communication is always evident in a dysfunctional home. If there are problems in the workplace, or maybe with a teacher at school, or even in our church family, you can trace a lot of the problem back to poor communication. In messed up homes we don't trust, we don't feel and we don't express ourselves. Communication is always thwarted. Open communication is frowned upon. You are judged. You are laughed at. You are not listened to. People go behind closed doors and gossip. There is murmuring and backbiting. Constant criticism or complaining. In other words, I don't express how I truly feel

and Syria.

We meet at Northside Baptist Church in Garland, Texas. Because the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Metroplex is so big, we also have cell groups that meet in homes during the week. Small groups and disciple-making are the heart of our church, and these home groups develop new leaders.

The DFW Metroplex has a

because I am afraid of your reaction. I'll just keep quiet. In these homes, love is never expressed. There is pouting, shouting, walking away, or you're gonna pay.

In a healthy home environment, love is constantly expressed. People are saturated with sentences of, "I love you, You are special to me, I care about you, You are awesome, I am so proud of you". In other words, you don't go a day without someone in your family telling you that you are loved and accepted. All people need this whether they admit it or not. A healthy home has freedom. It is safe. You might disagree with me. But I feel like I have the freedom to express myself without fear of retaliation. We can have arguments, but we don't hurt each other by name-calling, screaming, belittling, put-downs etc. Read Matthew 12:34-37.

Words come from your heart. They will help, or they will destroy your family relationships. Prayer is the most important form of communication.

be coming soon from Syria, Egypt and Libya. That fact maximizes the need and produces more opportunity!

Arabic is the mother tongue for 22 countries around the globe and is the sixth most commonly spoken language in the world today. With a city like Dallas, where there are many American mega-churches, you may be surprised at how lost and unreached the Arabic speaking people are. Therefore, we have been praying and investigating the possibility of Arabic Christian broadcasting in the DFW area.

We believe the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few and the time is short. Please pray for these major points as we seek God's guidance and vision for 2013:

- Pray for more salvations and spiritual growth at Living Word Arabic Church in Dallas and for our small groups.

- Pray for the training of Christian leaders and for disciple-making among the Arabs (multiplication).

- Pray for the Arabic church plant in North America (movement). And for American churches to host Arabic congregations.

- Pray for Arabic video broadcast beside the weekly broadcast [www.AshrafSara.com](http://www.AshrafSara.com) at [sermonaudio.com](http://sermonaudio.com).

- Pray for laborers among Arabs and the process and methodology of coaching them.

— Contributed by National WMA Editor Shirlene Smith

## Mississippi W.M.A.

<p><b>Blinda Lee, President</b> 77 Morrow Rd., Purvis, MS 39475 601-596-3417 blinda.lee@lamarcountyschools.org</p>	<p><b>Corresponding Secretary</b> Mrs. Shirlene Smith 730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443 601-729-5638</p>
--	--

## State WMA Project 2012-2013

**Ladies, Ladies, Ladies** – Lets start our New Year off right by praying that the Lord will lead us to give to our project. This is 25% general fund and \$500 a piece for 2 ladies and 3 girls to go on a mission trip to the Ukraine. The remainder of the money will go to Brother Ed Duvall's church.

May God continue to bless us in our WMA work.

State Project Promoters - Dianne Rainey & Lynn Mcoy

## “Pistol Packing” Jesus

Please stop before you tell me Jesus is on your side in the gun debate issue now before the American public. Jesus is already used way too much to justify one political opinion or the other. One partisan group holds up our Lord as a poster child for their opinion. The opposing faction holds up the same Jesus picture on a poster to endorse their position.

Already multiple political groups tell us and tell us repeatedly that Jesus is a part of this or that political position, rather than the political policy of the opposition. Jesus is used as a talisman, good luck charm,

or rabbit's foot to declare a certain position is Christian. The position of the other group - no matter what the topic, subject, or issue - is demonized because it is not the Christian position.

So, please, before you declare Jesus for or against more or less gun control, step back. Stop to think about how you might be using Jesus for political purposes and not for the purposes of the Kingdom's work in our day and in our time. One side will say, “Of course Jesus is for much more stringent gun control.” The other side will say, “Obviously Jesus wants to protect my rights to

### Leave It To Cleaver



Tony Cleaver

JSTMCLEAVER@EMBARQMAIL.COM

bear arms.”

It might well be that Jesus would not want His Name besmirched in political bickering. It might well be that Jesus would rather say to both sides: “Neither! Before you start, remember Who I am. Do not use My Name in vain for your partisan purposes. Do not take lightly what governmental ruling you attribute to Me.”

So as we go on in our country with this gun control - more or less - debate, whatever you or I think, let's not say to our opponents: “Jesus is on my side, Obviously He is not on yours.” What a terrible image of Jesus carrying an assault rifle! Equally as disgusting is the image of Jesus only meek and mild without any feeling or action on His part for the salvation of my soul. Jesus has not taken your position or mine in this gun control debate. Let's honor His position.

## CHILDREN'S HOME

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

### Washington Baptist Association Rally

It was good to be with the Washington Baptist Association which met with the Leakesville Missionary Baptist Church in Leakesville on December 14 and Pastor Nathan Brown for their annual rally for the Home. The Lord's business was conducted, the Home presented the program for the evening, and afterwards a time of fellowship with God's people was enjoyed by all as the host church provided refreshments for those in attendance.

We want to say thank you to each church and individual who gave to this rally,

### Galileans Make Trip To Bellingrath Gardens

The Galileans of our church took a trip on December 15 to Mobile, Alabama to take a look at the Christmas lights and decorations at Bellingrath Gardens. The boys at the Home enjoyed the trip as well as everyone else who made the journey. Bro. Roger Jefcoat is the Galilean leader and we want to thank him for his dedication to the Galilean program.

### Christmas Giving

At this time of the year many of you share with the children that they may have a joyous and Merry Christmas. We are grateful for the gifts and monetary offerings that are given. They are appreciated and we thank you.

### Canaan Baptist Church Celebrating 200 Years of Service to the Lord

We were with the Canaan

Baptist Church near Franklinton, Louisiana, on January 6 for one of their special services of each month until the big homecoming on September 29, 2013. I was privileged to pastor these good people in the early eighties. Canaan Church is the oldest active Baptist Church in Louisiana, starting in 1813. We thank the Lord for the ministry and influence of this church for these 200 years. It was good to be with Pastor Stan Adams and Canaan Church for this special service leading up to their homecoming service in September.



SIDNEY DAVIS  
DIRECTOR

### Expression of Sympathy

We would like to express our sympathy to the family of Bro. G. H. Gordon. His love, concern, support, and faithfulness to the ministry that God called him to do was evident to all who knew him.

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

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

### Remember in Prayer

Continue to remember our girls and boys and the ministry of the Home in your prayers each day.

## Missions Simulcast Set - 100 Churches in 3 Years

BMAA Missions has scheduled a simulcast for Wednesday, February 27, 2013. The first simulcast gave the "Next Steps" for the P5 Multiplication Process (check out the article in the Jan/Feb Gleaner, pages 4-7), this simulcast will cover how to build a multiplication process in your church and give you more information on how to involve your church and churches in your area in church multiplication.

Make plans to attend this live simulcast from Lifeword Studios! February 27, 2013. 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Limited host sights

available

The 14 host sights from the last simulcast will hopefully be available again.

### Learn about Multiplication Centers

If you're interested in being a host sight please contact me at larry@bmaam.com Invite your friends to watch with you

### Churches Planting Churches Training

Also, if you desire more training on how to plant a church, plan on attending our Churches Planting Churches training

February 5-7, 2013 at the Missions Office in Little Rock. The cost is only \$99 and you can sign up online! If you cannot attend this training we would love to schedule one in your area if you would be willing to host it!

### Remember, 100 Churches in 3 Years!

Larry Barker, North America Director of Operations Baptist Missionary Association of America 9219 Sibley Hole RD, Little Rock, AR 72209 501-455-4977 (Office), 501-766-2606 (Cell)

## January 2013 - Special Emphasis

### Our Need - \$10,000



Don Brown  
Editor

# Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

On The Web at [www.msbbaptist.org](http://www.msbbaptist.org)

## Your Support & Gifts Are Appreciated!

That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works. Psalm 26:7

## 2013 Senior Adult Conferences

**South Senior Adult Conference**  
Tuesday, March 26, 2013  
Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso

**North Senior Adult Conference**  
Friday, May 17, 2013  
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton

2013 Theme - *Heaven's Jubilee*



**Counting the Cost in 2013**

I have surveyed the road ahead and as we continue our "Journey of Faith" into 2013 I am anticipating great and might things from our God. I am not suggesting that our journey will not be met with challenges but I can assure you that the opportunities are limitless. I see no reason why we can't accomplish our goals and achieve our objectives. I recently met with a prospective missionary and am praying about two other men. I also have had conversations with one of our pastors who is challenging his church to become a mother church and I am praying for others. The excitement is growing and I am encouraged. I want to tell you again how much I appreciate the opportunity to serve you as your Missions Director.



Larry Geraldson  
Director

**Our Message is the Gospel**

"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?" Luke 14:28

Often this passage is viewed as an admonition to count the financial cost needed to complete a project. It may have this secondary application and surely that is a good practice, but it is found in a context with supporting parables which seem to suggest that its meaning has something to do with the decision to follow Christ. My prayer is that we will be true to the gospel and tell people that a decision to follow Christ is not to be taken lightly. Instead of suggesting that trusting Christ will lead to a proverbial bed of roses, we need to tell people that the journey of faith includes the "...good fight of faith..." 1 Tim 6:12. Then, we need to bear the responsibility to prepare and equip every believer for this journey as if he were going off to war. "Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and

consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassador, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:31-32 God help us if we become so unwilling to fight that we make peace with the world. Just remember, "...greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." 1 John 4:4

**Special Thanks**

I recently attended a very special service at Hillcrest in Yazoo City. Pastor Jeff Dixon had informed me that the church was taking up a special Christmas offering and that they had prayed and decided to give a portion of that offering to State Missions. I want to thank Hillcrest for their generosity and express my deep appreciation for the offering of over \$12,000.00. It came at a very needed time as we had just experienced a low month in November. God is good and we praise him for always meeting our needs.

**Missions Banquet**

We have been invited to share State Missions at the Temple Baptist Church annual missions banquet on January 19th. Temple holds this missions banquet every year and it is always a wonderful event.

We will have a number of our missionaries who will share information about the progress of their work. We will also have some of the pastors of churches, who have committed to the reproduction process, share their heart and introduce their people who are going out to other towns to bring back information. I look forward to sharing my heart and challenging the people. I hope you will join us. If you need more information you can call the Missions office. My hope is that other churches will do this and we could get a missions rally going in every local

**Missionary of the Month**

We want to highlight one of our missionaries each month and this



Bro. & Mrs. Bobby Elliott

month that missionary is Bro. Bobby Elliott. Bro. Bobby is planting a church in Burnsville, MS. He and his wife Lesa have been meeting in their renovated garage and have built a core group of around 40 people. We re-

cently purchased property just outside of Burnsville and this month the mission congregation has paid off the land. Plans are being made now to build a first unit building on the land and we hope work will begin sometime in the early spring. Bobby Elliott was born in Cairo, Mississippi. He surrendered to the ministry in 1980 at Calvary Baptist Church and was ordained in 1981. He attended Northwest Baptist Institute in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, and received a Masters Degree in Bible languages. He has pastored churches in Mississippi and Tennessee for the past 30 years. He and his wife of 37 years, Lesa, have one daughter, Jodi and two granddaughters, Lauren and Katie. Their mother church is Forked Oak Baptist Church, pastor Ricky Johnson. Bro. Elliott's work is also supported by both the Tombigbee and Harmony associations.



Burnsville Church Planting Group

**Revolving Loan Fund**

Here is where we stood as of the end of November: Gross Assets = \$16,330,075.91, an increase of \$900,676.56 since August 1, 2012. We opened 18 new investment accounts this fiscal year totaling \$596,613.58. We have issued new loans this fiscal year totaling \$249,943.80.

**Matching Funds (extended)**

\$50,000.00 and \$35,000.00 respectively, have been made available to help reduce the cost of the building loans of Bob Burch and Sidney Farmer. For every dollar raised up to these amounts, it will be matched and will directly reduce the costs associated with the purchase and construction of their new facilities. So, if you would like to make a special donation to these funds, please send it to the BMA of Mississippi Missions Department designated for Burch or Farmer matching building fund.

**Upcoming Events**

Pastor's Retreat - Jan 28-29  
55th Annual Missions and Evangelism Conference - May 3rd at First Baptist Bay Springs  
(For more information visit our website at [www.bmams.org](http://www.bmams.org) or visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bmamsmissions>)

association. Bro. Cliff Jenkins is to be commended for leading the organization and promotion of this event.

**High Attendance For The Month of December**

<i>Church Planters</i>	
Bobby Elliott	37
Bob Burch	51
Kelby Johnson	39
Justin Rhodes	18
Ray Boone	45
Sidney Farmer	30
<i>Hispanic Missions - South</i>	
Hattiesburg	19
Biloxi	n/a
Laurel	131
<i>Hispanic Missions - North</i>	
Tupelo	55
Oxford	17
Ripley	150
<i>African American Missions</i>	
Indianola	60
Olive Branch	12
Cleveland	29

Collectively, our missionaries reported 380 new contacts made and 40 professions of faith with 4 that joined by letter in the month of December.

**2013 Senior Adult Conferences**

**South Senior Adult Conference**  
Tuesday, March 26, 2013  
Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso

**North Senior Adult Conference**  
Friday, May 17, 2013  
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton

2013 Theme - *Heaven's Jubilee*