

Important Dates

National Missions Symposium

Temple Baptist Church
Little Rock, Arkansas
January 8-9, 2007

BMA of Mississippi
2007 Pastor's Retreat
February 26 & 27, 2007

BMA of Mississippi
**Missions & Evangelistic
Conference**
North - March 20, 2007
South - March 22, 2007

Senior Adult Conferences

South - March 29, 2007
Picayune, Mississippi
North - May 8, 2007
Fulton, Mississippi

Spring Registration at SBC to be held



Southeastern Baptist College of Laurel will hold registration for the Spring semester on Thursday and Friday, January 4 & 5.

Classes will begin on Monday, January 8. All interested students may call 601-426-6346 for additional information.

BMA of Mississippi 2007 Pastor's Retreat

February 26 & 27, 2007

Skyway Hills Baptist Church
Pearl, Mississippi

Theme

*Standing Strong . . .
...Pleasing Him*

II Timothy 2:1-4

Cost \$25.00

Make Plans Now To Attend!

JANUARY 15, 2007

Vol. 61 No. 1

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

February 22-24 The Great Escape 2007

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

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

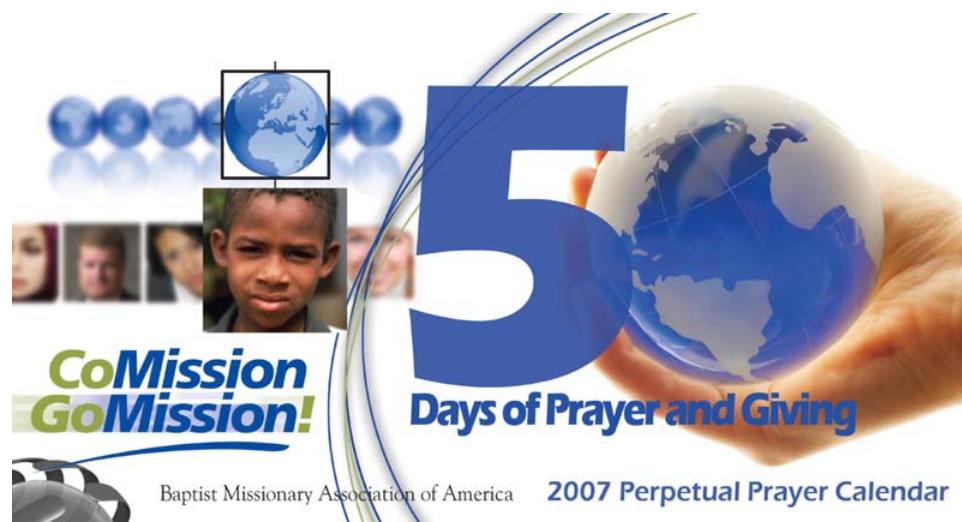
Pastors, invest in your Youth Staff by sending them to Department of Church Ministries Great Escape. DCM looks forward to ministering to them for a change. Call the DCM office with any questions at 501-513-3726.

January 2007 Special Emphasis

Christian Publications Department
and your

Mississippi Baptist

**Our Needs
\$10,000**



Imagine the power to touch lives a half a world away - right from your own living room. Imagine piercing the darkness with the light of the Gospel - with a single, heartfelt expression of compassion spoken directly to the heart of God. That's the power of prayer. Fifty Days of Prayer and Giving can help you harness this power by guiding you through a daily habit of praying for missionaries around the globe.

Fifty Days of Prayer and Giving begins on Sunday, January 7 and ends on World Missions Day, February 25. World Missions Calendars and posters have already been mailed and will be available through your church. This prayer calendar contains 50 days of daily prayer information for BMAA missionaries. It is designed to be used throughout the year. The calendar never runs out - and neither does the power of your prayers.

This is also a time of giving and special emphasis on missions. Our ever expanding missions outreach continues to grow, and so does our budget. God is calling forth more laborers. He is moving on the hearts of His children to become personally involved, and we must do what we can to help them financially. Pray that God's people will give cheerfully and liberally to the spread of the Gospel and the planting of Baptist churches throughout the nations.

On World Missions Sunday, February 25, our people are encouraged to bring a special offering for missions to church with them. Pray that God will move on the hearts of His people to give to the glory and honor of our God.

If your church needs more materials (calendars, posters and offering envelopes - they are available from the Missions Department. Just call or e-mail your request to bmaam@bmaam.com. A series of videos on DVD are available to help share the exciting work of BMAA missions around the world. To review these videos on the internet, go to our website at www.bmaam.net. You'll find a message on the homepage about videos. Click there, enter the site and select the video from the album index. The DVD versions can be ordered free of charge from the Missions Department.

Dedicated to Discipline - Part Five

Final Guiding Principles

I must share with my readers that the previous articles on disciplining young and teen children were very brief. There was not adequate space to discuss the full discipline possibilities. Please consider that the articles were a minute report on the subject. If you and your church are interested in full details on disciplining, you might pray about having me come to your church to do an entire weekend on nothing but parenting. I have about 40 hours of lecture material on parenting. These conferences allow me more in-depth discussion of the parenting modalities described in the bible.

In closing this series of articles out, I want to write about some guiding principles to help you parents out. First, please learn that you parents cannot pass on what you do not possess. You can't hope your kids grow up as strong warriors for the cause of Christ and to be on fire, spirit-filled believers if you are not that way. Kids learn from what they see and hear in the home. You can fool me and everyone at church, but you won't fool your kids. They know the real you.

Be sure that you are an authentic Christian in front of your kids. Before I want any of you to know, I want my own family to know, that I am a father of integrity and morality. I have no moral authority to preach in the pulpit if my own children do not see me live out what I

preach. We parents must be moral beacons for our children. It is hard to hold them accountable when you don't hold yourself accountable.

Bad behavior should never be rewarded. I can't understand parents who allow their kids to throw a temper tantrum in the store and try to resolve it by bribing with a line like, "If you stop it and be nice we will go by McDonalds on the way home." Excuse me! Don't reward bad behavior or you will just get more of it. Leave the store and whip them when you get

home for bad behavior. All discipline that does not hurt, does not teach. It has to cost them something. Implementing soft standards of discipline, whether that be grounding or spanking etc., will not teach your kids much. They have to learn that sinful, wrong choices are going to cost them. God disciplines his children and he will not be mocked. Let your kids know that you discipline them out of a mandate from God.

Discipline must always be couched in the context of unconditional love. People say if you are strict, your kids will go wild when they leave home. Kids rebel if all they received was harsh discipline and no affection, love and encouragement. Discipline must be in tan-

dem with, and saturated with, unconditional love. I may get mad at you, but I will always love you. Nothing you can ever do will make me not love you. It doesn't depend upon your behavior. I love you regardless.

Learn the difference between rebellion and irresponsibility. If your kid forgets to make

their bed or feed the dog, it probably is not rebellion against you, but more that they still need parental supervision. Teach in these instances rather than punish.

Help them learn to be responsible.

Discipline should always be related when possible. If your 5 year old goes to a neighbors house to play without asking permission from you, then you can ground them from going to the neighbors for a week. You don't ground them from TV. If your teen does something wrong while driving, they lose the driving privilege. Make it related to whatever they have done. You don't always have to make your kids feel bad to get them to do better. You want to shape your child. You don't want to shame them. Kids quickly develop a toxic shame identity that will hurt them all their life when they move from a mindset of "I did wrong" to one of "I am wrong."



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

www.travisplumlee.com

Short Message Series by Rev. Grover Laird

How We should Feel Toward Evildoers

"Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity." (Psalms 37:1)

The Bible tells us that the Lord loves righteousness and hates iniquity (Hebrews 1:9). The more we become like the Lord, surely the more we will love righteousness and hate iniquity. However, while we are to hate iniquity, we are not to hate those who commit it. The Bible has some help for Christians who are prone to feel the wrong way toward evildoers.

First, the Bible tell us not to fret *"because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass." (Psalm 37:7b)* No one sins against the Holy Creator of heaven and earth and gets by with it. We should therefore not get upset when it seems that they do--*"For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb."* (Psalms 37:2) When the Lord looks upon man in his rebellious living, He sees another day--*"The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming."* (Psalms 37:13) We should therefore

never get upset when the wicked seem to be getting by in their wickedness. They are not getting by.

But there is another side for us who are prone to get upset over the wickedness of the wicked. Paul had these people in mind when he wrote, *"speak evil of no man... shewing all meekness unto all men."* (Titus 3:2) He then said

something that should humble any Christian who looks down on the sinful--*"For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another."* (Titus 3:3) Christians do often get upset with sinners who are living just as they once lived. In the next verse the Bible said, *"But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by*

works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us..." (Titus 3:4,5) It was therefore God's love and kindness that turned our life around when we were sinners. Should we not therefore express the same love and kindness to sinners in an effort to help them turn around?



Grover Laird

If you are whipping your kid all the time, and nothing seems to help; then take them to a specialist. Swallow your stubborn pride. Your child may need help. Most kids diagnosed with ADD-ADHD, etc., don't need the medicine. It is over prescribed. They just need discipline. But there are some kids who really do have a physical problem. It can be tested. Go to someone who knows what they are doing. It is a tragedy for your kid to have a problem and you won't let them get help because you are too proud. Please get them help if help is needed.

Don't humiliate your kids. Don't whip them when you are out of control. You can be angry, but not exploding. You may need to calm down first. Physical or emotional abuse of a child is evil - period. But spanking or disciplining them is completely different in purpose and

practice. You must discipline. It will cause spiritual and social child abuse to let your kids grow wild without discipline. They will not respect the authority of God in their life, the teacher in school, the boss in the workplace, etc., if you don't get them to honor and obey you. Don't let society or other peer parents influence you. Don't let relatives or TV psychologist dictate your standards. The bible is your standard for parenting. God is your authority. The Holy Spirit is your guide. Be a wise parent. Most of all take the responsibility of being a good steward of God's gift to you - your children.

Encourage your kids more than criticize them. Role model more than dictate standards.

Love them more than you love yourself. Never give up. God is on your side!

Liberty Counsel: Doors Now Wide Open for Christian Clubs at Nation's Schools

(AgapePress) - A federal appeals court has ruled that a South Carolina public school district violated the constitutional rights of a student-led Christian club.

The unanimous decision (3-0) by the Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last week ruled that the Anderson School District Five had a discriminatory policy against Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF), which sponsors Good News Clubs in elementary schools. CEF was charged a fee to use school facilities, even though the district waived fees for clubs such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, YMCA, the local Democratic Party, and other groups.

CEF of South Carolina was represented in the three-year legal battle by Orlando-based Liberty Counsel. Mat Staver, founder and chairman of the legal group, says the decision handed down by the appeals court is solid.

"The court clearly had some great words to say that every public school in America ought to heed," says Staver. "It says, for example, that the government may not bar religious perspectives on otherwise permitted subjects, and that communities of faith may not be arbitrarily excluded from the protections of the free-speech clause."

In short, said the court ruling, "speech is not to be selectively permitted or proscribed according to official preference." Overall, the court "hit the bullseye," says the Christian attorney.

"Government cannot treat religious group unfavorably compared to other groups," he states. "Equal

access is the law, and equal access means equal treatment in every respect."

Staver contends that Christians clubs have a positive influence on public school campuses and should not be harassed. In fact, he feels they should be welcomed with open arms.

"I think it's ironic as these schools hassle the Good News Clubs, because they're great organizations," Staver shares. "They teach character, they teach morality, they teach right and wrong, they teach respect, and they do it all from a Christian viewpoint -- and the kids' lives are literally changed."

The Liberty Counsel founder believes the ruling now opens the doors for Good News Clubs and other Christian clubs in public schools nationwide. The case was Child Evangelism Fellowship v. Anderson School District Five.

January 2007 Special Emphasis

Publications Department
and your
**Mississippi
Baptist**

**Our Needs
\$10,000**

Great Things Ahead

I know that not very many folks have had the 'pleasure' of riding anywhere with me as the driver. Let me say upfront that I do realize my driving skills are not the best in the world - it's a fact that I can be easily distracted. But let me also say this - I spent an entire year and a half of my life as a 'professional' driver (I drove delivery trucks for Heafner Tire) without incident (OK maybe one incident but that's another story for another time).



Shane's World

Shane Singleton

I really don't think my driving is ALL that bad, although my brother Joey compares it to being on a ride at the fair. Now all of that to say this - even with this knowledge about my driving, I still believe you would feel relatively safe

riding with me. Unless, of course, I spent all my time focusing on where we've been rather than where we are going? How safe would you feel if you rode with such a driver? How would you feel driving your car surrounded by such drivers?

Looking back carries great dangers, not only to us, but to all of those around us. That's why we need to realize how much our life touches the lives of others and that we have a responsibility to make sure that 'touch' brings them blessing and God glory. That's not possible if all we do is look back to sin that has already been forgiven. Satan's favorite tool is to remind us that we are too wicked and unworthy to be truly loved or truly forgiven. We dwell too long on looking back and we become sorrowful. But let us take heart because God has truly (and completely) removed that sin from us through Jesus Christ!

Scripture says our sin is removed as far from us as far as the east is from the west. Let us let go and not look back to past defeats. Not one person you know has ever gone without suffering a set-back of some sort. But set-backs are positive things if we choose to learn from them. If you wish to never make a mistake, fail, or be defeated, then simply don't ever do anything. If being undefeated is the only goal of life then when it comes it is devastating, but if we realize we learn far more in failure than we do in success then defeat becomes a tool to complete a task. Don't fear failure and don't look back. To old conflicts or old victories.

Isn't it amazing that we sometimes claim we can't remember where we put anything, but we know exactly where the handle of that 'buried hatchet' is - it's usually left sticking out! Why relive old hurts when new ones are coming? That sounds less than promising, but looking to new hurts while forgetting old ones allows us to deal with only one hurt at a time. Old victories are the same way. Conflict drags us back, but victory sometimes holds us back.

We rest on how great we once were and we cease to become as great as we're able. Better days of better ways of better service are always in the days ahead, so why look back to a past that was never as good as we remembered it.

The children of Israel were ready to go back into bondage, into slavery in Egypt, because the food was better, the choices were simpler, and the life was easier. Better, simpler, and easier are the desires that would bring us into bondage to the past. Just think in twenty years (should the Lord not return in that time) these will be somebody's 'good old days'.

Don't drive down life's highway constantly looking behind you, don't ride with those who would drive that way, and don't allow yourself to get surrounded by those who would always look back. The great things of God lie ahead for every heart, for every home, for every church, and for every work that seeks out the benefit of others, the blessings to be claimed, and the glory of God.

Look up...and look ahead.



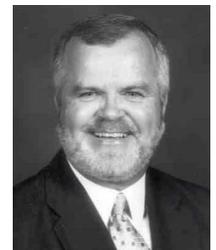
On The Web at www.msbaptist.org

Extra, Extra

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Strong Effort Needed !!

LAUREL, MS - Editor Don Brown urges all of the supporting churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi to make a special effort to help raise additional operating funds for the Publication's Department *Special Emphasis Drive* during **January 2007**.



Don Brown
Editor

Brown stated that the January Emphasis offering each year needs to raise about 10% of the department's annual operating income. "Our goal for this year is to raise at least \$10,000," Brown said. He continued, "We are asking each church to give a generous offering to help us maintain a good fiscal operation."

January 2007 - Special Emphasis

Our Need - \$10,000

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

Pslam 26:7

Mississippi Baptist

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Editorial



Don Brown
Editor

New Opportunities

Each new year brings new challenges and new opportunities. 2007 will be no different. The difference between 2007 and previous years will be determined by how each of us deal with the daily issues God puts before us. How did you do last year? We all would probably admit that we could have done better, but that was last year. Let each of us determine to meet the challenges and opportunities of 2007 head on with the mind of Christ leading and guiding our actions. May God bless the efforts of our churches, members and departments as we work for Him.

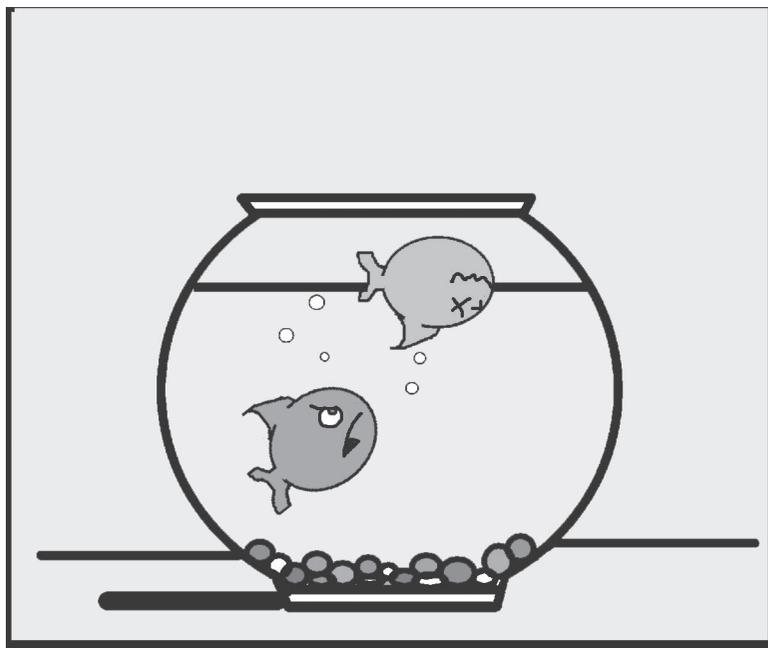
Special Emphasis

January of each year is designated as a time of 'special emphasis' for your Mississippi Baptist paper. Our need this year is \$10,000. This makes up a major portion of our annual operating budget and we need your help.

Literature has been mailed to each of our churches to help publicize our need and to give you ideas on how to help. You may take a special offering each week, a onetime special offering during the month of January, or just designate a special amount to give to help with these needs.

Regardless of your method, we do ask that each church and church member participate in this effort. Our needs are real and we need your help. May God bless your ministry as you help this work.

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"Good grief Edna, his sermon wasn't THAT long!"

'95 percent' premarital sex survey is connected to Planned Parenthood

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--One of the most popular news stories circulating in recent days is a study by the Guttmacher Institute in New York that says 95 percent of Americans have had premarital sex. But there's more to the story than is being reported.

"It would be more forthright for the Guttmacher Institute to mention in its reports that it is the research arm for Planned Parenthood," Richard Ross, founder of the True Love Waits abstinence movement, told Baptist Press. "Corporate profits and staff salaries at Planned Parenthood depend on abortion services.

"Helping Americans abandon any sense that sex belongs in marriage is essential to boosting the demand for those abortion services. Knowing of the tie between Planned Parenthood and Guttmacher could help readers watch for any possible bias creeping into research," Ross said.

Comments from the study's author, Lawrence B. Finer, indicate his motivation may be to suggest that programs promoting abstinence until marriage are not worth American taxpayer dollars.

"This is reality-check research," Finer said in a news release December 19. "Premarital sex is normal behavior for the vast majority of Americans, and has been for decades. The data clearly show that the majority of older teens and adults

have already had sex before marriage, which calls into question the federal government's funding of abstinence-only-until-marriage programs for 12-29-year-olds.

"It would be more effective to provide young people with the skills and information they need to be safe once they become sexually active - which nearly everyone eventually will," Finer added.

The Bush administration has given abstinence programs hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding, and Wade Horn, assistant secretary for children and families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, told the Associated Press the abstinence approach is useful.

"One of its values is to help young people delay the onset of sexual activity," Horn said. "The longer one delays, the fewer lifetime sex partners they have, and the less risk of contracting sexually transmitted disease."

Pat Fagan, a fellow at the Heritage Foundation think tank in Washington, told USA Today the Guttmacher study is "an attack on abstinence" and its release at the end of the year is "part of a major Congressional battle about to start in January and February ... to get rid of abstinence funding."

Though it has already been released online, the study called "Trends in Premarital Sex in the

United States, 1954-2003" will be published in the January/February issue of "Public Health Reports," a journal of the U.S. Public Health Service.

Finer concluded in his study that because people are sexually active before marriage and are waiting longer to get married, young adults have an especially great need for accurate information about how to protect themselves against pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, the news release noted.

But Ross, a professor of student ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, disagrees with Finer's willingness to concede the defeat of abstinence.

"The logic that accompanies this new report seems to be this: When behavior becomes normative, it becomes morally acceptable," Ross told BP. "I wonder if the folks at Guttmacher would apply that logic to other behaviors among the young. For example, most research indicates that almost all children and youth tell lies from time to time. Should schools and families just accept that as a fact of life and stop calling the young to truthfulness?"

"Similarly, most research indicates that almost all children and youth sometimes cheat at school. Should we instruct schools to stop trying to 'legislate morality' by punishing cheaters?" Ross said. "Of course there is much about the human condition that is far less than perfect. The question is, Do we just accept every new level of human coarsening as normative and even moral or do we do strive to lead people toward the very best?"

Ross said that since the year True Love Waits became a national movement in 1993, teenage sexual behavior, sexually transmitted diseases, abortions and live births before marriage have declined for 12 consecutive years.

"The fact that many Americans have been immoral during that period does not negate the fact that there are many among the young who are responding beautifully to a clear, positive call to morality and purity," he said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in 2003 that 47 percent of teenagers had had sex, compared to 54 percent in 1991. And the Heritage Foundation said in 2004 that young women who take a virginity pledge are at least 40 percent less likely to have a child out of wedlock and 12 times more likely to be virgins when they marry, compared to young women who do not make such a pledge.

"It Is No Sacrifice"

By David Livingstone

People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa. Can that be called a sacrifice which is simply paid back as a small part of a great debt owing to our God, which we can never repay? Is that a sacrifice which brings its own best reward in healthful activity, the consciousness of doing good, peace of mind, and a bright hope of a glorious destiny hereafter?

Away with the word in such a view, and with such a thought! It is emphatically no sacrifice. Say rather it is a privilege. Anxiety, sickness, suffering or danger now and then, with a forgoing of the common convenience and charities of this life, may make us pause, and cause the spirit to waver; but let this only be for a moment. All these are nothing when compared with the glory which shall hereafter be revealed in and for us.

I never made a sacrifice. Of this we ought not to talk, when we remember the great sacrifice which He made who left His Father's throne on high to give Himself for us. "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high."



CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION

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John Adams

We cannot ignore this

The Gay Rights agenda is on the move month after month. This agenda is dividing families, churches and our nation. The champions for the "Gay Agenda" can and do try to twist the Scriptures to their evil advantage and cause people to doubt the teachings of God's word on this subject.

What does God's Holy Word

have to say about the practice of homosexuality? In Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13, God calls this perverted sex life an abomination. We define abomination as an outrage, a disgrace and detestable. In Romans 1:26-28, the Bible twice says of practicing gays and lesbians that our Holy God "gave them over" to their perverted sex sins. He let their sin lead them on a destructive course.

As Director, I wish to highly recommend to our churches and pastors, the book "The Gay Agenda" by Dr. Ronnie W. Floyd from New Leaf Press. It will teach us how to respond in love and firmness when dealing with this subject.

New Churches

We have three new churches who have pledged their support of the Christian Action Commission. Every month, I wish to highlight five of our supporting churches. These five are:

- First Baptist Church, Mantachie
- Ten Mile Church, Perkinston
- Pine Ridge Church, Laurel
- Pear Orchard Church, Jackson
- Canaan Church, Purvis

Trustee of the Month

Bro. Joshua Spiers is 23 years old. He has lived in Carriere, Mississippi, all his life except for nine months when he was the Youth Pastor of Central Baptist Church in Richton, Mississippi. Bro. Josh was called into the ministry at seventeen years of age and has served in his present position as Youth Minister of Mount Carmel Baptist Church for two years. We are so glad to have Josh serving on this Board of Godly Trustees.

Have You Heard?

According to AgapePress, the findings from a new study by the Barna Group reveals a frightening disengagement from Christianity and church life during young adulthood. The study shows that despite strong levels of spiritual activity during the teen years, most twenty-somethings disengage from active church life. Sixty-one (61) % of

University employees fired for praying

A public university in Texas is being sued for religious discrimination. Linda Shifflett and Mickey Shatkin both worked for the University of Texas at Arlington until they were recently fired, allegedly for praying after work for an absent colleague. The two women had worked in the Development Department of UTA, which is part of the University of Texas system.

According to the lawsuit filed by Liberty Legal Institute, UTA officials

today's young adults are now spiritually disengaged and do not faithfully attend any church.

David Kinnaman, director of research for the study, believes these findings lend significant insight into the current state of youth ministry and young adult ministry. "There are certainly effective youth ministries across the country, but the levels of disengagement among twenty-somethings suggest that youth ministry fails too often at discipleship and faith formation," Kinnaman explained.

Our churches must be alert and assertively striving to stop this mass exit of young adults. Our youth ministries and youth directors are encouraged to teach the importance of faithfulness to church worship, participation, and discipleship. God bless you as you meet these challenges. The Christian Action Commission salutes you and we encourage all seasoned Christian to become aware of this great need in our congregations.

2007

I plan to direct this Commissions' thoughts and energies toward one central theme in 2007. The youth of America and our public schools are heavily on my mind and heart. So, we will focus this year on "Our Schools and Youth Needs." Pray for effective and Biblical legislation that will return our schools back to Godly principles.

said the women were fired because their prayer near an absent co-worker's cubicle was harassment. Liberty Legal president Kelly Shackelford says the law is clear when it comes to religious discrimination. "This [rationale for firing the women] is against the federal law," he explains. "We have federal law specifically that says employers, and certainly the government, cannot discriminate against employees because of their praying on their own time - and that's what happened here."

Shackelford points out that other employees were not even there at the time of the prayer. "The only reason anybody knew about it is that it was mentioned to one of the superiors, and when the superior found out, the women were fired, because this was after work when all the employees had gone home," he says.

The Liberty Legal attorney points out that both women had excellent employment records during their time at UTA. The lawsuit seeks monetary damages and asks the school to change its policies regarding employees' religious practices after work.

Member turns 101



Mrs. Zuma Johnston, member of Westhaven Baptist Church, Jackson, Mississippi, turned 101 years old on December 21, 2006. She says she doesn't feel any older and gives the Lord the praise for everything. We are blessed to still have her with us.

MILITARY SERVICE PRAYER LIST - Please remember the following as they are serving in our military. You may add names to the list by mailing them to: Mississippi Baptist, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441 or by email at editor@msbaptist.org.

CPT Lawson "Sonny" Brannan, *Stringer, MS*
 George Rogers, *Wiggins, MS*
 Scott Clanton, *Pineview, Lucedale*
 Miles Farragut, *FBC of Shady Grove, Laurel*
 Kenneth Smith, *Hattiesburg, MS*
 Wayne Mack, *Seminary, MS*
 Anthony Hodge, *Purvis, MS*
 Thomas Temple, *Laurel, MS*
 David Cunningham, *Forked Oak, Booneville*
 Jacob Blakeney, *Mineral Springs, Taylorsville*
 Lance Holifield, *Mineral Springs, Taylorsville*
 Phillip Holifield, *Mineral Springs, Taylorsville*
 Robert Shavers, *Pleasant Hill Baptist Church*
 Jeff Necaise, *Pleasant Hill Baptist Church*
 Michael Wright, *Pleasant Hill Baptist Church*
 Harold (Scooter) Bond, Jr., *Laurel*

Harold (Tink) Compton, *Faithview Church*
 Jeff Schonewitz, *Saucier*
 Michael Casey, *Gulfport*
 Larry "Dean" Welborn Jr., *Carnes, MS*
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 Ken Bullock, *Skyway Hills, Pearl, MS*
 Lemuel Kendrick, *Lee's Chapel #2, Picayune*
 Albert C. White, *Mclaurin, MS*
 Craig Landry, *Benville Church, Picayune*
 Janet Hilbun, *Sand Hill, Lucedale, MS*
 Barron Horn, *First Baptist, Bay Springs, MS*
 Jessie David Loague, *Bethel, Fulton, MS*
 Dustin Wills, *First Windsor Park, Ocean Springs,*

CPT. William "Lee" Henry, *Richton, MS*
 Justin Johnston, *Summerland Baptist*
 Dusty Gray
 James Riley
 Joshua S. Pierce, *Corinth Church, Lucedale*
 Russell S. Taylor, *Paramount, Perkinston*
 Craig Fillingane, *Cypress Creek Baptist Church*
 Michael Patrick Boyd, *First Baptist, Bay Springs*
 Johnny R. Hunt
 Jason Rivers, *Ellisville*
 Tommy Mitchell, *Purvis*
 Jake Driskell, *Lebanon, Laurel*
 Will Norris, *First, Henleyfield*
 Russell Robertson, *Temple, Lucedale*
 Tim Cooper, *Ozark, Mantachie*
 Wesley Grissom, *Hopewell, Fulton*

Derick Mallette, *Ramsey Creek, Saucier*
 Mary Muffler, *Ramsey Creek, Saucier*
 Jonathan Morgan, *Ramsey Creek, Saucier*
 Neal Garrett, *First Baptist, Tremont, MS*
 David Palmer, *First Baptist, Tremont, MS*
 Bradley Sharp, *Bethel, Lucedale's 150th*
 Johnny Ray Hunt, *Unity, Unity, MS*
 Chuck Williams, *Sharon Baptist, Laurel*
 Cory Williams, *Sharon Baptist, Laurel*
 Jason Cotton Hillman, *Washington, Neely*
 Richard Rylee, *Richton, MS*
 Jennifer Norris, *Pleasant Hill Church, Mooreville*
 Thomas James Reich, *Bethel, Fulton, MS*
 Adam Martin, *Clearview, Mendenhall*

Judge Dismisses Charges Against Late-Term Abortionist

(AgapePress) - The latest step in Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline's investigation of abortion doctor George Tiller and his clinic records has been thwarted by what some pro-lifers see as a political favor to the late-term abortionist from a county district attorney.

This past Friday, Kline suffered a setback in his efforts to bring Tiller and his operation to justice when some 30 charges filed late Thursday involving illegal late-term abortions -- and failure to report them -- were dismissed less than 24 hours later. The charges were thrown out at the local district attorney's request. She claims Attorney General Kline had no authority to file charges against the abortion provider.

As an Associated Press report notes, the outgoing Kansas attorney general has waged a two-year legal battle to obtain the records of 90 patients from Tiller's Wichita clinic and a clinic operated in Overland Park by Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri. The state attorney general's investigation focused on the question of whether Tiller and other abortion providers performed abortions on teenage girls who were victims of sexual abuse and whether or not they did illegal

late-term abortions on women for reasons of "depression" rather than legitimate emergency medical reasons allowed under Kansas law.

Late last week, Tiller's attorneys appeared at a news conference and announced the charges filed against him while they were still sealed. They told the press that their client was scheduled to appear Wednesday in Sedgwick County District Court to answer the misdemeanor counts leveled against him. But pro-life leader Troy Newman of Operation Rescue, who attended the news conference, says some shocking news came in the midst of his group's elation over the announcement.

The pro-lifers' joy was cut short, Newman notes, when they learned that Nola Foulston, the local district attorney, had "double-crossed our attorney general by going into court and having these charges removed." According to a LifeNews.com report, Judge Paul Clark dismissed the charges against Tiller on Friday

at Foulston's request. The judge issued the order without notifying Kline or his office, throwing out the charges only hours after they were unsealed.

Kline had met with Foulston only the day before, Newman points out, "and the D.A. said she would not interfere with the prosecution of this case." However, "after what we

believe to be a phone call from George Tiller to the district attorney," the pro-lifer says, "the D.A. walked in and had these charges taken off the docket," a development Newman believes took Kline and many other supporters

by surprise.

Operation Rescue's president says he and his organization believe Foulston's intervention in this matter was "nothing more than a political favor being called in by George Tiller -- a kind of a hail Mary pass, really -- to prevent prosecution of him at this time before Phill Kline leaves office." But the charges were dismissed without prejudice, which means they can be returned to the docket at the district attorney's request, so Newman is urging Christians to pray over the situation, in the hopes that Foulston will change her mind.

Meanwhile, Operation Rescue is calling for the Kansas Board of Healing Arts to suspend Tiller's license and close his clinic. Kline

also told LifeNews.com that he will seek to overturn Judge Clark's decision and reinstate the charges, which he says are "the result of a multiyear investigation involving the review of thousands of pages of documents, numerous sworn statements and testimony by witnesses and expert review of records and documents."

The counts Kline had filed against Tiller included charges involving 15 abortion procedures the abortionist performed from July through November 2003, and also involving abortions performed on young women under the age of 22, including a 10-year-old. In a recent statement, the Kansas attorney general said Foulston's argument that he has no authority to file charges against Tiller is false.

Believing Without Seeing

John 20:24-29

After Jesus rose from the dead, a man named Thomas said he wouldn't believe Jesus was alive unless he saw Jesus in person. Later, when he was personally confronted by Jesus, Thomas believed and acknowledged that Jesus was God.

Jesus can be just as believable to us as He was to Thomas, even though we can't physically see Him. In fact, Jesus expects that we will believe without seeing.

The world has all the information about Jesus that is required. From the Bible and the people who believe in Him, there is sufficient proof for anyone who is sincerely seeking to know Him. Seeing is not required for believing.

Your opinion about Jesus won't change who He is, but it will have eternal significance for you.

*Pro-Life Leader
Suspects County
Official of Doing
Notorious
Abortion Doc
a 'Political Favor'*

Mississippi State W.M.A.

Mrs. Jean Knight, President
27 Paramount Church Rd.
Perkinston, MS 39573
601-928-3764

Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533
Laurel, MS 39443

Northeast District WMA meets

Woodland Baptist Church graciously allowed Shiloh Baptist Church to host the Northeast District WMA in their on November 14, 2006. Woodland ladies provided delicious desserts and Thanksgiving decorations and Shiloh ladies served tasty soups and salads. At 7:00 P.M. the meeting was opened President Elaine Smith introduced the necessary business. A new first vice-president (Linda Daughtery) and president (Dot Emison) were elected. Brethren Dewitt Bain, Lavon Haden, and Gary Smith were elected to the advisory council.

The 2007 Ladies Retreat was discussed. Bro. Lavon Haden spoke of beginning a district brotherhood. We chose Jennifer Bullock, support missionary to Lebanon, as our project for the next quarter.

Following a beautiful song by Judy Smith, "Win the Lost at Any Cost", our speaker, Missionary Jen-

nifer Bullock was introduced. She reported on her activities in Lebanon since 2004 and her necessary evacuation during the recent war between Hezbollah and Israel. She plans to return to Lebanon in January, 2007 and continue her ministry with women while staying open to walking through any door God opens for her service. A short video on Arab Women's Ministries followed by a question and answer session gave us a better understanding of the scope and difficulty of the work in a society so different from that of the United States. Jennifer and all BMA missionaries need our dedicated prayers and financial support.

Mark your calendars for our missions banquet, which will be held at South Green Baptist Church, Tupelo, on February 13 at 6:00 P.M. Come and enjoy the fellowship, encouragement, and opportunity to learn first-hand of our dedicated missionaries.

Elaine Smith, president
Beth Haden, reporter

National Women's Retreat Planned

Plans have been finalized for the 3rd Annual National WMA Retreat to be held on Friday and Saturday, February 23-24, 2007 at the Radisson Hotel in Branson, Missouri.

Sabrina Clayton, wife of newly chosen Department of Church Resources head, Kevin Clayton, will be the keynote speaker. The theme comes from Isaiah 38:1 "Set Thine House in Order". A share time scheduled during the retreat will focus on "Events of our Lives". Registration begins at 2:00 p.m. on Friday and the program is scheduled to continue through noon on Saturday. Registration fee of \$75.00 includes dinner Friday and breakfast on Saturday.

Everyone is encouraged to bring an item for the silent auction and proceeds from the auction will go to the retreat fund.

Special room rates of \$74.00 (plus tax) at the Radisson will apply 3 days prior and 3 days following the event. These rooms will accommodate 4 people. Please make reservations by February 9th to insure this rate and mention that you are with the National Women's Retreat. The reservation number for the Radisson is 1-888-566-5290.

Watch for registration information or send your retreat registration to: National WMA c/o Connie Reifsteck, P.O. Box 190493, St. Louis, MO 63119.

The retreat committee is made up of the following members: Mrs. Connie Reifsteck, Chairman, Mrs. Gladys Boatright, Mrs. Lisa Hudson, Mrs. Peggy Thomaston, and Mrs. Martha Langley.

Mailing Addresses for Departments & Commissions of BMA of Mississippi

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Laurel, MS 39441-8000

**Southeastern Baptist
College**
4229 Highway 15 North
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**Mississippi State
Youth Department**
P.O. Box 4247
Laurel, MS 39441

**Mississippi Baptist
Children's Home**
118 Lowe Rd.
Laurel, MS 39443

State Missions & RLF
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440

**Commission on
Senior Adults**
Vern D. Holifield
658 Joe Perrett Rd.
Laurel, MS 39443

**History & Archives
Commission**
4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440

**Christian Action
Commission**
P.O. Box 88
Mantachie, MS 38855

Pastor retires



Bro. & Mrs. Thelbert Hill

Bro. Thelbert Hill has resigned as pastor of Central Baptist Church of Corinth, Mississippi. He served there as state missionary in 1970-1971 and returned as the church's pastor 30 years later where he and Mrs. Hill have ministered for the past 5 years.

As of January 1, 2007, he will be available for part-time ministry work among our churches as the Lord leads. He may be contacted at 662-862-5817 or 662-415-0714. The Hills new address is 235 West Lake Dr., Fulton, Mississippi 38843.

What's Wrong With Being Old-Fashioned?

In the America of yesterday you paid your debts as quickly as possible, and went without things, to do it.

You disciplined your children--but disciplined yourself, first.

You spent less than you earned and demanded your government do the same.

You went to church, your children to Sunday school: you held daily prayer--and no court would have dared to interpose any law into your private religion.

You would have been horrified at (and quick to change) men in high places who made "deals."

You obeyed the law--but took active enough part in government to see that the laws were just. You "walked softly but carried a big stick."

And that was the character which brought this country victory in two world wars in your lifetime, built it back from a shattering depression and fed and saved the civilized world.

If all this is "old hat," so be it. It needs resurrection

-selected

January 2007 Mississippi Baptist Special Emphasis

Signature makes N.J. 3rd state with civil unions

TRENTON, N.J. (BP)--New Jersey became the third state to legalize civil unions when Gov. Jon Corzine signed Dec. 21 into law a bill that grants homosexual couples all the legal benefits of marriage under state law.

Vermont and Connecticut also have civil unions. California has something similar but calls them domestic partnerships. Massachusetts remains the lone state with full-fledged "gay marriage."

Corzine, a Democrat, signed the bill into law approximately two months after the New Jersey Supreme Court ordered the legislature to pass a law granting same-sex couples, "on equal terms, the rights

and benefits" of marriage. The justices, in their 4-3 decision, gave legislators the option of legalizing either "gay marriage" or civil unions. Legislators chose the latter, and set out to pass the law by year's end.

"We must recognize that many gay and lesbian couples in New Jersey are in committed relationships, and deserve the same benefits and rights as every other family in the state," Corzine said in a statement.

The bill passed the Assembly 56-19 and the Senate 23-12. Both are controlled by Democrats.

The new law, though, has made few people happy. Homosexual activists had wanted the court to go ahead and legalize "gay marriage" - something the three dissenting justices supported.

"It's a step forward, but it's not true equality," Veronica Hoff, 52, a lesbian who attended the bill-signing, said, according to the Associated Press.

Lambda Legal, one of the organizations that brought the lawsuit, has pledged to continue fighting for "gay marriage" within the state.

"The court's decision in *Lewis v. Harris* gave the New Jersey legislature an historic opportunity to deliver equality, dignity and fairness to families," David Buckel, an attorney with the homosexual group Lambda Legal, said in a statement. "There is no reason to enact civil unions other than to send the mes-

sage that our families are not worthy of equality."

Conservatives, meanwhile, say the new law is another step toward the decline of the family. Five states now grant homosexual couples virtually all the legal benefits of marriage. Four of those states adopted their laws following a court order.

"Children will be taught from as early as kindergarten that same-sex unions are an equivalent alternative to heterosexual marriage," Toni Meyer Sr., research analyst for the New Jersey Family Policy Council, said in an online analysis. "Right now in Massachusetts kids are being taught how to have homosexual sex and impressionable teens are taught to be open to the idea that they may in fact turn out to be homosexual."

Corzine's signature means homosexual activists went 0-for-3 in 2006 in three major "gay marriage" lawsuits. Supreme courts in New Jersey, New York and Washington state all ruled there was no constitutional right to "gay marriage." But identical lawsuits in four states -- California, Connecticut, Iowa and Maryland -- are still pending.

Former Mississippi resident

Mrs. Ollie Dean Brunson dies

Ollie Dean Brunson, 77, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Friday, December 15, 2006. She has gone ahead to wait for her beloved husband of 60 years, Dr. Harold Brunson.

Born on September 20, 1929, in Soso, Mississippi, to Ollie F. and Norma Parker, Ollie Dean was one of three children. Ollie Dean loved music, graduating from Jacksonville Baptist College and doing graduate work in music at the University of Southern Mississippi. She was a church organist for over 55 years, a homemaker and a member of Hill Creek Baptist Church in Whitehouse, Texas.

Services were held Monday, December 18, 2006, at Tabernacle Baptist Church, Jacksonville, with Dr. Hal Brunson, Dr. Tony Cleaver and Dr. James Blaylock officiating.

She is survived by her husband Dr. Harold Brunson; son and daughter-in-law Dr. Hal and Judy Brunson of Carrollton, Texas; daughter and son-in-law, Sonia and Mike Peterson of Tyler, Texas; grandchildren Trey Brunson, Matthew Brunson, Shane and wife Tish McGuire, Chelsea Peterson, Charlie Peterson and a step-grandchild Kristen Condra of Marietta, Georgia and two brothers Bill Parker and Larry Parker of Laurel, Mississippi.

BMA minister Edward Holloway passes away

The Rev. Henry Edward Holloway, 75, of Soso, died Sunday, December 17, 2006, at South Central Regional Medical Center in Laurel.

Funeral services were held at Berean Baptist Church in Soso, with burial in Union Line Cemetery. The Revs. Harold Floyd, Dennis Knight, Donnell Rounsaville and Randall Knight officiated.

Bro. Holloway was saved at Spring Hill Baptist Church in 1948, and surrendered to the ministry in October 1961. In his 45 years of ministry, he pastored nine churches: Hollis Creek, Mt. Nebo, Trinity in Centerville, Mulberry, Dykes Chapel, Central in Richton, Midway in Leakesville, Bible Baptist and Berean Baptist. He was owner of H&H Grocery in Soso for 26 years. He was preceded in death by his parents, Grady and Erma Knight Holloway, and an infant daughter.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Helen Hill Holloway of Soso; a son and daughter-in-law, Steven and Lynelle Holloway; two daughters and sons-in-law, Rachel and Jackie Walters of Laurel and Teresa and David McLaurin of Ellisville; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Dale and Kenneth Green of Ocean Springs, Marilyn and Douglas McDonnieal of Taylorsville and Frances and Pat Ware of Ellisville; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Thomas and Naomi Hill of Taylorsville and Hilton and Jeanette Hill of Soso; seven grandchildren, Joseph Walters and his wife Ginger Walters, Jacob Walters and his wife Jeannie Walters, Chad McLaurin and his wife Lacey McLaurin, Bull Holloway, Jim Holloway and his wife Jami Holloway, Stacy McLaurin and Josh Walters; two great-grandchildren, Charlie Walters and Caleb Walters; and numerous other relatives and friends.

Sabrina Clayton's father passes away

Hubert S. Taylor, 87 went to be with his Lord, Wednesday, December 20, 2006. Funeral services were held Friday, December 22, at Calvary Baptist Church of Horn Lake, Mississippi. Mr. Taylor was a WWII Army Veteran and he retired after 35 years with the Memphis Defense Depot. He leaves his wife of 59 years Sylvia Taylor, two daughters; Charlisa Windham and Sabrina (Mrs. Kevin) Clayton, 5 grandchildren; Celeta Millirons, Chandra Barnett, Taylor, Abigail and Alexis Clayton, 4 great grandchildren, Caiden Barnett, Chelsea, Eryn and Braden Jones.

Big Creek District Brotherhood & WMA dates changed

The Big Creek District Brotherhood and WMA was scheduled to meet on January 8, 2007, at Hopewell Baptist Church, 95 Jasper Hwy 533, Laurel, Mississippi. Due to the Missions Symposium meeting at that time, the District Brotherhood and WMA meeting has been changed to January 15, 2007. We encourage each one to attend.

Things That Just Rip My Gizzard

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

I have a list of things that really get next to me. I mean these things just chap my hide, rip my gizzard and generally hack me off. Everyone probably has a list like this. Ever' once in a while, it's good to blow off a little steam, so here are some things that are on my hit list.

(1) Church Fundraisers - The Lord's got a plan for financing His church and her ministries. That plan don't include selling donuts, having spaghetti suppers, holding car washes and rafflin' off the family dog. God's plan is called the "open your wallet and give cheerfully" plan. Church members ought to tithe and give above the tithe for special things. If the young'uns want to go on a trip, the church ought to be able to take care of it, instead of sendin' them traipsin' up and down the streets sellin' junk that nobody wants to buy anyway. Why, if ever'body in every church just tithed, the church would have to hold spe-

cial meetin's just to figure out how to use all the extra money for the Lord's work.

(2) Unfaithful Church Workers - The sorry way in which elected workers treat the Lord's work is a shame. I've seen Sunday School teachers not show up and never tell 'nary a soul they weren't coming. I've seen committees elected to take care of important business (any business for the Lord is important) and never hold the first meetin'. If they performed on their money payin' job the way they work for the church, they would be fired before noon on Monday. The Lord's work is not second rate.

(3) Stingy Church Treasurers - Let me explainify. I'm talkin' about treasurers who treat the church's money as their own private stash. In one church I pastored, the treasurer had a conipation every time the church voted to spend a penny. The church once voted to spend \$50.00 on needed supplies. When I went to the money man for a check, he balked, turned red in the face, wrote

the check and threw it at me. I considererd givin' him a holy slap, but declined. The church voted to spend that money. Well, he later resigned and we commenced with spendin'.

(4) Dead Preachin' - Nothing is harder to endure than dead preachin'. Old Brother E. M. Bounds used to say, "Dead men preach dead sermons, and dead sermons kill." I know a preacher who literally puts the congregation to sleep. His people say church is where they get their best nap. Late one night, one of his members couldn't get to sleep, so she called up this preacher and asked him to give her a little devotion on the phone. She was snoozin' in no time. Now, I know what your thinkin', and No, the preacher don't have to rant, rave, yell, stomp, snort and foam at the mouth to give some good preachin'. Ever'body's different. But every preacher ought to be excited and enthusiastic about his message. And folks can tell if you ain't.

Now send me a list of your gripes.

Remarkable Fulfillment Of Prophecy

I once had a conversation with a group of young men on the subject of the inspiration of the Bible. Most of them opposed me. I reminded them of the numerous prophecies in the Old testament concerning the Messiah, which were literally fulfilled in Christ. One of them was sharp enough to see the force of this argument, and he admitted that these prophecies were undoubtedly written hundreds of years before Christ was born, and that He fulfilled them in every detail, but he endeavored to carry its force by advancing the theory that Christ had intentionally planned His actions in accordance with the Messianic program in order to establish His religion, so that there was, after all, nothing very wonderful in the fact that these prophecies were fulfilled.

This sounded very neat and ingenious, but I asked my friend to explain to us how Christ, in accordance with this theory, was able to arrange to be born in the very village—one of the smallest in Judaea—where the prophet Micah foretold that the Eternal One should be born on earth. I asked him what precautions He had taken, if a man as we

are, to ensure being born at the very time and in the very family that the Scriptures had forecast. My friend was not inclined to surrender his position without a struggle, so he contended that Jesus, seeing that He happened to be born in this particular village at this particular time, had been seized with the idea of carrying out the remaining details requisite to establishing His Messianic claims.

My reply, in substance, was as follows: "Well and good." in accordance with this you will now perhaps tells us why Jesus was allowed to make arrangements for two thieves to be crucified with Him in order to fulfill Isaiah's prediction in this fifty-third chapter. You must tell us whether Judas arranged with the chief priests to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver merely in order to fulfill the word of the prophet; and, after Judas had hanged himself, who it was that arranged for a potter's field to be bought with the money which the betrayer flung down in the Temple, and whether it was done in order to fulfill the prophecy to that effect!

"You will also doubtless show us how,

while hanging on the Cross, Jesus persuaded the four Roman soldiers who crucified Him to divide His outer garments into four parts and to cast lots for His inner robe, as the Twenty-second Psalm had accurately described. You will also need to explain whether His enemies gave Him vinegar to drink in His agony of thirst in order to fulfill the Sixty-ninth Psalm. If your theory is to hold good, you must explain how it was that, after Jesus was dead, the soldiers decided not to break His legs, as they did to the thieves by His side. Did they desire to make Him fulfil the type of the Passover lamb in the twelfth chapter of Exodus and the ninth chapter of Numbers. Or the reference in the Thirty-fourth Psalm, not one of Jesus' bones is broken? Did they act as accomplices with Jesus in thrusting a spear into His side in the name of Messiah. "They shall look upon Me whom they have pierced"?

"How did Jesus arrange that all these details should be fulfilled in Himself?"

My friend had nothing more to say.

-Arthur Gook



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

In a devotional at church the other day, we were reminded to use our manners at the grocery store as a way of showing love for those around us. Such as allowing someone to go ahead of us if they only have a few items, and thanking someone for holding the door, etc.

This called to my mind what Bro. Joey Harris wrote in an article one time about investigating a preacher before a church calls him. He said, "Follow him to the grocery store and observe his behavior. Is he friendly, helpful, cheerful? But most importantly, does he return his shopping cart to the designated area after loading his groceries in his car?" This could also apply to "regular folks", not just preachers!

We need to be mindful of our conduct at all times because we may be "entertaining angels unawares." Hebrews 13:2

Ministry Sees Public Schools Stepping Up Censorship of Pro-Life Viewpoint

(AgapePress) - The head of a Christ-centered pro-life ministry that works with youth says public schools are becoming bolder in their efforts to censor pro-life students.

Virginia high school senior Andrew Raker has sued the Frederick County School system in Winchester for barring him from wearing a pro-life T-shirt and passing out pro-life materials on campus. The youth was taking part in a national pro-life event called the "Day of Silent Solidarity," which is sponsored by Stand-True Ministries.

Brian Kemper, president of Stand True, says a growing number of schools are taking aggressive action against students who want to share their pro-life views. "Every year that we do events like the pro-life Day of Silent Solidarity," he notes, "more and more schools try to censor the kids and tell them they can't

do it."

And unfortunately, Kemper adds, "there's so many times where parents just tell their kids, 'Well, go ahead and don't do it, then; don't make any waves,' or 'Don't try to fight the system.'" However, the ministry spokesman disagrees. "When the system is wrong," he asserts, "we need to stand up for our rights."

The more schools take away the rights of pro-life students, the harder it becomes to fight for those rights, Kemper observes. But schools are bound, he says, by the Constitution of the United States to allow students to express their opposition to abortion, so long as they do so in a non-disruptive manner.

Still, the Stand True spokesman says, that is not the reality on many campuses. "It's kind of a sad case," he contends, "when

you've got kids who can wear Marilyn Manson shirts that have all kinds of disgusting messages on them, but when they wear a positive, life message, the school will discriminate against them."

Kemper says what America has is "a backwards situation in our public schools right now." He encourages pro-lifers to speak out and to fight against government or other secularist attempts to censor their message, which is protected by the First Amendment.

The Alliance Defense Fund, a pro-family legal defense organization, filed suit on behalf of Andrew Raker. The ADF attorneys representing the high school senior say they plan to file a series of complaints against public schools that blocked students from expressing their pro-life views on the Day of Silent Solidarity.

Groups commend UGA's drecognition of Christian fraternity

(AgapePress) - The University of Georgia (UGA) has reversed its decision and will now recognize Christian fraternity Beta Upsilon Chi, also known as "Brothers Under Christ," as a registered student group on that campus. The school originally refused recognition to the fraternity because it required members to share Christian beliefs.

David French is a spokesman for the pro-faith and pro-family legal advocacy group Alliance Defense Fund. He says ADF and the Christian Legal Society jointly filed suit in federal court after UGA accused Beta Upsilon Chi of religious discrimination based on the fact that the fraternity included only Christians.

"The university said that that's discrimination on the basis of religion, and they weren't going to allow it, which makes very little sense when you think about it," French

contends. He says religious non-discrimination rules were passed to protect religious people and groups, not to exclude them from campus.

Also, all student groups on campus have the right of free association, the ADF representative adds. That means they have the right to form groups according to common interests or shared values and beliefs, he explains, and to deny that right to religious groups alone is unconstitutional.

UGA officials recognized their mistake within 24 hours of the religious discrimination suit being filed, French notes, and he feels they were expeditious in correcting it. "The university very quickly said that it was not only going to recognize the fraternity," he explains, "but also that they were going to review their policies to see what to do in the future."

ADF and the Christian Legal Society are "pleased that the university has acted quickly to recognize the fraternity" and to acknowledge that the right of association applies to all students and student groups on campus, French says. "But at the same time, the university has not made any definitive policy changes," he notes, "so the case is still pending while we see what the university finally decides to do." In other words, the suit remains pending while the attorneys wait for UGA to permanently adjust its policy.

**January 2007
Mississippi Baptist
Special Emphasis**

BMA of Mississippi

**2007 Pastor's Retreat
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Baptist
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Pearl, Mississippi

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