

LifeWord Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

JANUARY 1, 2010

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LifeWord Walk Winners Announced

Churches in Arkansas, Louisiana in Free Lifeworld Trips Abroad

Springhill Baptist Church, Greenbrier, Arkansas, was the top contributor to the Lifeworld Walk for the World at the close of the cut-off date of December 31, announces Diane Ward, national coordinator. Springhill contributed \$31,083 to take the top spot.

Hall Summit Baptist Church, Hall Summit, Louisiana, was the top per capita contributor to the Walk with offerings totaling \$12,300. With an average Sunday morning worship attendance of 50, the church's offering averaged \$246 per person.

Springhill and Hall Summit will each select two people to accompany a Lifeworld production team on an all-expense-paid trip to an overseas destination, where they will witness the production of Lifeworld programming and interviews with listeners, Ward said.

Southgate Baptist Church, Moore, Oklahoma, ran a close second to Springhill, Greenbrier, with a total contribution of \$27,157. Kewanee Baptist

Church, Kewanee, Missouri, was second highest in per capita giving of \$149.41 per person (\$12,700 divided by the average worship attendance of 85). Those four churches were the top four contributors in the Walk, and their gifts equaled 21% of the total raised as of December 31.

Receipts of \$389,133 for the 2009 Walk were \$1,312 ahead of the \$387,821 total as of December 31, 2008, Ward reported.

Historically Walk offerings make a strong showing in January and continue to trickle in for a while before the fiscal year for the Walk closes on June 30, Ward explained. Lifeworld received \$8,585 for the Walk on January 4. Last year a total of \$28,179 came in for the Walk between January 1 and June 30.

Regional Winners

Top contributors in each Walk for the World region receive an award from Lifeworld. This year's regional winners are:

Springhill, Greenbrier (North and Central Arkansas Region), Wyatt, El Dorado (South Arkansas Region), Hall Summit, Hall Summit (Louisiana Region), Skyway Hills, Pearl (North and Central Mississippi Region), Evergreen, Seminary (South Mississippi Region), Kewanee, Kewanee (Missouri Region), Southgate, Moore (Oklahoma Region), Beacon Hill, Waco (Central West Texas Region), South Park, Fort Worth (Texas Metro-Plex Region), Rosewood, Gilmer (Northeast Texas Region), Center of Life, Houston (Southeast Texas Region), Helton Road, Theodore, Alabama (Southeast USA Region), Memorial, Fremont, California (West Coast Region) and New Home, Lansing, Michigan (At-Large Region).

Walk for the World receipts are used to underwrite Lifeworld broadcasts currently in 33 languages every week and to develop programs in additional languages as God opens the door. Lifeworld is targeting five new languages in 2010.

BMA of America Annual meeting information

From Your Committee on Arrangements

The BMAA Committee on Arrangements is happy to furnish you with this information for the 2010 meeting of our association in Fort Smith. The Headquarters hotel will be the Holiday Inn located at 700 Rogers Ave. Hotels and rates to the BMA are:

Holiday Inn, \$74; (479) 783-1000

Courtyard by Marriott, \$87; (479) 783-2100

Howard Johnson, \$69 (Outside), \$74 (Inside); (479) 494-7700

Reservations are to be made by calling the individual hotel/motel. Identify yourself as being with the Baptist Mis-

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Important Dates

2010 BMA of America Missions Symposium
Conway, Arkansas
January 12-13, 2010

Waxahatchie, Texas
January 19-20, 2010

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

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

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

East Fulton, Fulton
May 11, 2010

Attebery Accepts Lifeworld Position

Charles Attebery of El Dorado, Arkansas, has joined the staff of Lifeworld Media Ministries as chief development officer for the international missionary radio organization headquartered at Conway, Arkansas, according to an announcement by Executive Director George Reddin.

Attebery will assist the executive director and other staff members in fund raising and will also serve as executive of the Lifeworld Foundation.

Attebery was president of Central



Charles Attebery

Baptist College at Conway 1990-2004 and was CBC vice president for institutional advancement before assuming the presidency.

He also served as assistant to the director of Ministers Resource Services, Texarkana, Arkansas, and business manager of Jacksonville (Texas) College and was pastor of churches in Arkansas and Texas before his work at CBC.

"Charles Attebery is well-known among BMA Baptists and in the Conway business community as a highly effective development officer and friend-raiser, and we

are pleased to welcome him to Lifeworld to assist us in meeting the challenges of a new era of media missionary outreach," Reddin said.

Steve Crawley, Lifeworld chief financial and operating officer, has served the ministry as development director and Lifeworld Foundation executive for five years and looks forward to the strength Attebery adds to the ministry.

"We are delighted to have someone with Charles's credentials working to advance the ministry of Lifeworld. His administrative and development skills, coupled with his years of experience, provide additional strength to the Lifeworld team," Crawley said.

The Lifeworld Board of Directors approved the creation of the new position, which became effective January 4.

How Old Did You Say You Are?

Having been on both ends of the pastoral spectrum as far as age is concerned, I have lately formulated some opinions about the advancing age of a prospective pastor. Few churches call pastors who are above "fiftyish" years old. This is an observation on my part, not scientifically collected, accurate, irrefutable data. I know there are exceptions to what I have observed. There are some older men called to a pulpit who experience great success. The church wonders why they did not call an older man before. The opposite is also true. That older pastor "just did not work out, so we had to let him go. We'll never do this again."

If you plot on the X axis (the up and down of a graph) the age of the pastor and plot on the Y axis (the left to right of a graph) the ability, knowledge, and experience of the pastor it would be a line going up (to the right). As the pastor ages, he gets more experience. As the pastor matures, he gains insight from events with people. As the pastor spends time alone with God, he becomes more spiritually

acute. These things do not happen overnight.

If you were to plot on the X axis the age of the pastor and plot on the Y axis the incidence



Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

of the local church calling, you would see a line going down (to the right). The older the man, the less likely the church is to call him. He has too much experience! He is not malleable for congregation fit. This might be true.

My guess is that if these two lines were plotted on the same graph, they would intersect somewhere about fiftyish something of pastor age. As the pastor experience goes up - somewhere about/above 50 years old - this line intersects with the age going down of the churches in their call of the pastor - about/above 50.

I do not see any age qualifications mentioned in Titus and Timothy. Paul does say to Timothy to be careful regarding his behavior so that his youth does not sully the work of his ministry. He does not prohibit him from his work because of his age. He simply cautions him to take care regarding youthful behavior.

Paul, Simon, and others did not write in the New Testament to the "youngers." Multiple times they mentioned the elders. The word "elder" in the sense of leadership in the New Testament Church means an older person. These were the leaders who had some gravity attached to their ways. Paul and his contemporaries address the elders with use of wisdom involved in spiritual sharpness.

Now that I am on the other side - way past - of the plot line of about/above fiftyish potential call to a church, I would encourage our churches to look at the positive benefits of older preachers. I believe we, in spite of everything associated with being beyond fiftyish, have some value to the ministry of Christ

Mississippi Is the Most Religious State

A majority of Americans consider religion very important in their life, believe in God with absolute certainty, and pray at least once a day, according to a survey that found Mississippi as the most religious state.

The Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life used polling data to rank the states on four measures: the importance of religion in people's lives, frequency of attendance at worship services, frequency of prayer, and absolute certainty of belief in God.

Mississippi was No. 1 in all four categories.

More than 8 in 10 people in the Magnolia State say religion is very important in their life. Alabama and Arkansas follow

and His Church in this our day and time. In my personal view, the first graph (we plotted this one earlier) shows the insight, spiritual acumen, and gifts with people that the older man can offer a church. How old did you say you are? Old enough to recognize God's bountiful hand on my life in the past and young enough to still marvel at what He has in store for the future.

at 74 percent, and Louisiana, Tennessee, and South Carolina are at 70 percent or above.

New Hampshire/Vermont is last with 36 percent (states with sample sizes that are too small to analyze are combined, Pew noted). The national average is 56 percent.

In Mississippi, 60 percent of residents say they attend religious services at least once a week, ahead of Utah (57 percent) and South Carolina (54 percent). Alaska is last with 22 percent, and the national average is 39 percent.

Nearly 6 in 10 Americans nationwide say they pray at least once a day, with Mississippi at No. 1 (77 percent) followed by Louisiana (76 percent) and Alabama (73 percent). Maine is last at 40 percent, while Massachusetts and Alaska are both at 41 percent.

More than 9 in 10 Mississippians say they believe in God with absolute certainty, while 86 percent of residents in South Carolina and Alabama feel that way. New Hampshire/Vermont (54 percent) and Connecticut/Rhode Island (57 percent) are at the bottom in that category.

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61st Annual Meeting Of The BMA of America

by Dr. Philip Attebery, President
BMA of America

I invite every church in the BMA of America to be represented by attendance or official letter at the 61st annual meeting of the BMA of America. The meeting is scheduled for April 19-21, at the Fort Smith Convention Center in Fort Smith.

The theme for the meeting will be "Get In The Way!" The theme is based upon John 17:21 and will emphasize unity: "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou has sent me".

Jesus prayed for future believers to have unity. According to Jesus, proper unity will be essential evidence to the world that Jesus was sent by the Father. My prayer is that this annual meeting will inspire us

to dedicate ourselves to being unified as Jesus envisioned.

Monday evening's session will focus on the meeting's theme. A concert by a combined Central Baptist College, Jackson College and Southeastern Baptist College choirs will precede the president's message. Tuesday will provide meeting opportunities for auxiliaries, departmental and agency boards and the Pastors' and Laymen's Conference. Business will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, along with Wednesday morning. Tuesday night's service will include the annual message by Jason Aultman. The annual meeting will climax with the Missions report and commissioning service on Wednesday night.

Remember that proposed constitutional amendments must be submitted in writing to the clerks of the association no later than February 1. Please continue to pray for each ministry and individual supported by the BMA of America. May we be faithful to seek unity as we trust and obey our Lord!

Iowa fights for public vote

OneNewsNow - Iowa residents are letting lawmakers know how they feel about the legalization of homosexual marriage by the state Supreme Court, and the issue is expected to be a major battleground in 2010.

January 11 and 12, Iowa residents will be at the state capitol lobbying lawmakers to give voters the chance to decide on the issue by amending the state constitution. Bryan English of the Iowa Family Policy Center tells OneNewsNow they plan to send a strong but polite message through the effort titled "Two Days For Marriage."

"We expect to be able to exercise our constitutional right to vote, and we also expect that our elected representatives won't

BMA OF MISSISSIPPI

MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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

New Heart Mission News

Ray Boone, missionary pastor

The Lord has blessed Jo Ann and me, along with the help of others, to get the mission building complete.

We have also finished the apartment that joins the mission, where we are now living. Up until the present we have not had a lot of time for visitation and working in the community. God has given us the opportunity to work closely in the lives of 2 local families. Now that we have completed most all of the physical work, have moved in and have the holidays behind us, we are very excited about having more time to put in visitation and Bible study.

During the past few months God gave us the opportunity to preach in many of our churches and several of our associations. I want to thank each church and pastor for the invitations, for there is nothing I enjoy more than preaching the word of God.

Because of your support financially and with your prayers we began services on December 6th having 85 in attendance. In this first service, including my wife and me, we had five to join in the mission by membership.

During our second service on December 13th, God gave us a very special blessing with our brother, David, being saved and joining with us. On December 20th we had another couple to join with us. They have a four year old son and a one year old daughter. On December 27th, Travis, a young man who we met back in October and have had almost daily contact with, accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior. There is a family of six that has attended every service. Pray for them that God can have His way in their life. This



BMA President
Dr. Philip Attebery



Freeman

is a family we met when we first came to this area. Our attendance for the month of December, excluding the first service, has been between 26 - 31.

Our regular meeting time on Sundays is 10:00 am. We are planning after the first of the year to begin a Sunday school class. We also plan to begin a Sunday evening service. Jo Ann has already started a children's church, having between 4 to 8 every Sunday.

Please pray for us as we continue to work in this area. For it is such a blessing to serve our Lord and Savior. We also count it an honor to work as your state missionary in the south Hattiesburg area. If there is anyone that have friends or family living in this area who do not have a church home, and would like for us to visit them please contact us at 601-934-3661. We will be very happy to reach out to them.

Jo Ann and I desire your prayers for us and New Heart Mission, that God continues to bless and open doors of opportunity.

Thank you and may God richly bless all of his churches.

Annual Meeting Information

from page 1

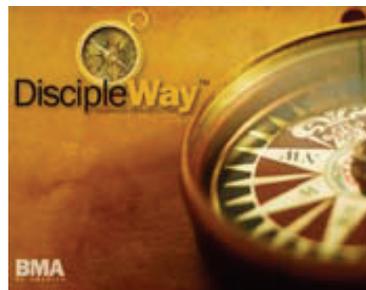
missionary Association of America for these special rates.

The Convention Center is located at 55 South Seventh St. The Convention Center is just a short distance from Rogers Ave. Take the Rogers Ave. exit off 540 exit and follow it to the Holiday Inn. The Holiday Inn is next door to the Convention Center.

Each messenger is responsible for their housing arrangements and you are encouraged to remain in your hotel through Wednesday night. Our good arrangement for the meeting place is dependent on the number of room nights at the local hotels.

Contact for all booths and displays should be with James Ray Raines. The Committee on Arrangements wants to be of service to you. Let us know if we can help. For more information, you may contact any member of the Committee on Arrangements: Charles Attebery, (501) 472-2183; James Ray Raines, (501) 758-4093; or Mike Mobley, (405) 795-0106. A package of information will be sent to each church soon, and a schedule of the meeting is available at our website of www.msabaptist.org.

A New Direction



Discipleway.com

stand in our way," English states, warning that "any elected representative who stands between the people of Iowa and their constitutional right to vote on the definition of marriage is risking their political future."

English is hopeful for a positive outcome. "There's an election coming up next November," he reports. "These folks are standing for election, and the people of Iowa are not impressed with the way [lawmakers] handled this issue last session."

Neither the legislature nor the governor would take action to put the issue on the ballot and overturn the state Supreme Court's decision from the last legislative session.

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Sam McClure

Bro. Sam McClure of Lucedale, Mississippi, is available for pastoral service where ever the Lord may lead. He may be contacted at 601-947-9686 (days), 601-947-9914 (evenings), or by cell phone at 601-508-1053.

Kevin Sanford

Bro. Kevin Sanford is available for pulpit supply or where ever God may lead. Kevin was pastor at Temple Baptist of Columbia for 2 years. He is 30 years old and he and his wife Allison have 2 children - Brandon 7 and Emma 3. Bro. Sanford may be reached at 601-408-1519.

Bryan Williamson

Bro. Bryan Williamson is available for pulpit supply and pastoral work. He has been in the ministry for 22 years and is a member at Biloxi Creek Baptist Church in Perkinston, Mississippi. He may be reached at 601-528-0642 or 601-928-4176.

CHURCH NEWS

Berean, Soso

Berean Baptist Church of Soso will celebrate its Anniversary and Homecoming on January 10, 2010. The guest speaker will be Bro. Dennis Knight of Perkinston, Mississippi. Lunch will be served and during the afternoon service "Heart's Desire" will bring special music. As part of this event Berean will have revival services Monday through Wednesday, January 11-13, at 7:00 pm each evening with Bro. Knight bringing messages on "End Time Events". Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Tombigbee Report

The December meeting was with East Fulton Baptist Church. Their hospitality, delicious meal, and the beautiful poinsettias made everyone feel very welcome.

Bro. Laird read a devotion message from Matthew 5:1-16. Seventy-five answered roll call with 2 visitors.

Reports were heard from Bro. Joseph Oyeleyee, Bro. Dwight Lindsey, Dr. John Adams, and Bro. Bryan Wilson read a report from Bro. Freeman.

East Fulton rendered some beautiful songs before the sermon by Dr. John Adams. He made us aware of how humanism effects our homes. The text was from Romans 1:21-28.

The next meeting will be with Friendship Baptist on January 7. Wanda Parmer, Reporter

Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

January 2010 - A Time Set Aside

January of each year is set aside by our Association as a time for this ministry to ask for a special "boost" in giving.

Literature has been sent to our churches to remind our people of this special time. So many of you have helped each year and we are very thankful for your faithfulness.

We are asking again that you take the opportunity to pray for this ministry and to give a special offering. Nearly one-third of our annual income is derived

from special offerings and regular monthly support above the subscription fee that is charged for the paper.

Asking you to pray and give we wish you all a very prosperous 2010 in the Lord's work.



Don Brown
Editor

Pastor's Conference Accommodations

Below are listed two local motels who have given us a good price for those coming to the "State Ministers Conference".

Super 8 - 111 Airport Road, Pearl - 601-718-1860 - \$49.95

Ramada Limited - 341 Airport Rd, Pearl - 601-933-1153 - \$60.00

These motels are on Airport Road, and about 1 mile from the church. There are many more motels in the area, all on Pearson Road. If anyone should need additional information please contact Bro. Billy Huffmaster at 601-939-5373.

Skyway Hills Church has shower facilities at the church. Anyone that would like to stay at the church may do so by just bring your sleeping bag and towels. They have plenty of floor space.

Attorneys allied with the Alliance Defense Fund, a Christian legal group, are involved in both cases.

"Christians and other people of faith should not be fined or jailed for expressing their political or religious beliefs," ADF-allied attorney Gerald Chipeur, who defended Boissoin in court, said in a statement. "There is no place for thought control in a free and democratic society."

The New Mexico case has been cited often in the state-by-state political and legal debate over "gay marriage" and even was referenced in Question 1 campaign commercials in Maine as evidence that laws supported by homosexual activists can negatively impact religious liberty. (Question 1 passed, overturning the state's "gay marriage" law.)

The case began innocently enough in 2006, when a lesbian woman e-mailed the photography studio, owned by Jon and Elaine Huguenin, asking about them possibly photographing a "same-gender ceremony." Elaine Huguenin e-mailed back saying they only worked at "traditional weddings" but thanked the woman for her interest.

The lesbian woman e-mailed again for clarification as to whether the company provided services to "same-sex couples," and Elaine Huguenin responded

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Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"I'd really like to join the church, pastor, but that 'tithe' thingy is a little steep... do you have a junior membership program?"

Religious Liberty, Gay Rights Clash in Two Prominent Cases

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP) -- Religious liberty suffered a setback in the U.S. but won a victory in Canada in December in two closely watched cases involving the legal tug-of-war between religious rights and "gay rights."

Both cases are seen by American conservative groups as indicators of what could be in the nation's future if laws protecting homosexuality continue to pass and if "gay marriage" spreads to all 50 states.

In the U.S. case, a New Mexico judge ruled that a husband- and wife-owned photography company violated state anti-discrimination laws when they refused to take pictures of a lesbian commitment ceremony. The ruling -- which is being appealed -- held up an earlier decision by the state's Human Rights Commission. If the rul-

ing is not overturned the husband and wife will owe the lesbian couple more than \$6,600 in attorneys' fees.

In Canada, an Alberta court found that Stephen Boissoin, a Baptist pastor at the time, did not violate the province's so-called hate speech laws when he wrote a 2002 letter to a local newspaper criticizing homosexuality and warning against the "homosexual agenda." The court's ruling reversed a decision by the Alberta Human Rights Commission, which had ordered him to pay \$5,000 in fines and write a letter of apology to University of Calgary professor Darren Lund, who filed the original complaint. The money for Lund would have been for the "pain and suffering" he allegedly endured. Boissoin's case has been watched by free-speech advocates worldwide.

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Pastor's Retreat 2010

Monday Jan. 25 - Tuesday Jan. 26
Skyway Hills Baptist Church,
Pearl, Mississippi

THEME:
"Worship In The Local Church"

GUEST SPEAKER
Dr. Charley Holmes



PROGRAM

Monday		
Registration		1:30 PM
Music	Bro. Brad Stephens	2:30 PM
First Part	Dr. Charley Holmes	
Break		
Fellowship		
Meal		
Music		6:00 PM
"The Lighter Side"	Joey Harris	
Music		
Second Part	Dr. Charley Holmes	
Tuesday		
Breakfast		7:30 AM
Music		8:00 AM
Third Part	Dr. Charley Holmes	
Message	Speaker to be selected	
Break		
Business		
Music		
Fourth Part	Dr. Charley Holmes	
Noon Meal		
Dismiss		

Fee for the retreat is \$25.00 per person.
You are welcome to bring your sleeping bags or cots and stay in the church. A Hotel list will be provided.

Mississippi Baptist

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T.O. Tollett Dies

Thomas Oran (T.O.) Tollett, 87 of Bryant, died December 18. From 1952 to 1987, he served as director of publications and manager of the Baptist Bible and Book House for the BMA of America. He had also served for many years on the board of Lifeword



Media Ministries of Conway and, at the time of his death, was serving as board member emeritus and previously served as secretary of the board. He was also a deacon at Temple Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, and a World War II U.S. Navy veteran.

Survivors include a daughter, Orajean Wilson of Little Rock; a son, Thomas Tollett of Memphis; two brothers, Noman Tollett and Leo Tolletter, both of Little Rock; a sister, Sallie Ruth Cornish of Nashville; four granddaughters and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held December 22 at Temple Baptist Church with J.D. Courtney and George Reddin officiating. Interment was at Pinecrest Memorial Park. Memorials may be made to Lifeword Media Ministries, P.O. Box 6, Conway, AR 72032.

-courtesy of Baptist Trumpet

Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White



R-i-d-d-l-e-s

I love riddles and I heard one the other day. Have you heard this one? "Can you name three consecutive days without using the words Wednesday, Friday, or Sunday?"

Hard, huh? Well the answer is yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Clever, huh? And it called a song to my mind that we used to sing years ago.

"Yesterday, He died for me...."

"Today He lives for me....."

"Tomorrow He comes for me....."

Now doesn't that put a ripple of joy in your heart?

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

On The Web at www.msbbaptist.org

Extra, Extra READ ALL ABOUT IT

Your Support Appreciated!

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

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



Don Brown
Editor

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

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

Psalm 26:7

GMA Girls

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

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

State GMA meeting set for February 5 & 6

The Mississippi State GMA camp is coming up very soon. Camp will be held at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, Mississippi, on Friday, February 5 & Saturday February 6. The camp pastor is Bro. Matt Hudson and the theme is "Take ye heed watch & pray for ye know not when the time is."

To go along with our theme we are asking that all GMA girls decorate a box like a clock and save their change in them. The change that the GMA girls save in their boxes will go toward the GMA project. 50% of the project money goes to the general fund, and the other 50% goes to Elizabeth. I Hope to see each and every one of you at camp. Our goal is to have at least 252 girls at camp. See you there!

Love in Christ,
Teresa Broom, GMA songleader

Attention all Mississippi GMAs and Counselors

Because the Mississippi State GMA meeting is scheduled for February 5 and 6, 2010, at Camp Garaywa, all project monies need to be mailed to Shirlene Smith, 730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443, by January 15 so it can reach me no later than January 20. Thank you for your cooperation. Please pray for the project: 50% General Fund; 50% "Elizabeth" serving in China. Please send an offering for this very worthy cause by January 15. Thank you and God bless each one.

Mrs. Shirlene Smith
GMA Treasurer



Pictured above and below are GMA counselors and others at a recent planning session at the Missions Office in Laurel.



Everything Can Change This Year

Did you know that anything can change this year for you? Did you know that everything can change for you this year? It doesn't matter if things have been going bad for you lately, the scripture tells us that God is able to do anything. He is able to do ALL things. (Phil. 4:13). Nothing is too hard for Him. (Jeremiah 32:17) Seeking God's help can cause all kinds of changes for the better to occur in your life. You just have to believe! Not in a fantasy like a Santa, but in a reality like THE God of the universe. Not trusting your future to dumb luck like in a lottery, but trusting your future to an almighty God who holds the future in His hands.



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

one, your bank account etc. You will mentally choose every day what kind of day you will have. If you choose to have a rejoicing attitude,

(Philippians 4:4), it does not mean you won't have problems that day. It means you will go through your problems with a different perspective. You will go through all of life much easier and happy if you have a right attitude and look for the good in all of it. Everybody in this life is going to have troubles. That is the reality of living in a sinful, broken world. Since we are all going to have troubles anyway, we might as well choose to go through them with Jesus. Sure beats

trying to go through struggles on your own. He can give you hope for tomorrow. He can give you peace that passes your understanding. (Philippians 4:7). He can give you strength to go on. (Philippians 4:13).

It doesn't matter what you did, or who you are. It matters who you become. Every choice you make this year will determine who you are. The choices we make, make us. You are actually becoming the person that your choices reflect. You can choose to be bitter, negative, depressed and totally self-absorbed about your troubles. Then, that will determine the type of person you are this year. But you have a choice. You could be determined, strengthened, find courage, find hope and grow through your troubles to be a better person in the long run. Those choices also will determine what kind of person you become. It doesn't matter if you are poor. Your daddy is rich. I mean your heavenly Father owns it all, and He will give generously to you from His riches. Philippians 4:19.

Are you catching on? You can sit around feeling sorry for yourself over your sad circumstances or you can rise above it. You can let other people label you and look down on you or you can look up and realize God will never discourage you. If you are a Christian, you are not dumb, depressed, divorced, etc. You are wonderfully made, (Psalm 139:14), crowned with glory and honor (Psalm 8:5) and a prince or princess of a kingdom that will never end. (II Corinthians 6:18).

This new year can bring about new changes. Any day. Any moment. God is waiting on you to join Him in a glorious journey of faith. So, what are you waiting for. Just believe!

Get up. Praise Him. Thank Him. Seek Him. Lift your head up. Smile. Be confident in who you are because of who is in you. Philippians 1:6. Now- GO FORTH!

January 2010 - Special Emphasis

Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Our Need - \$10,000

Religious Liberty

from page 4

again by writing, "Yes, you are correct in saying we do not photograph same-sex weddings, but again, thanks for checking out our site!" The next day the lesbian woman's partner e-mailed Huguenin but did not disclose who she was and asked if Elaine would be available for what Huguenin presumed would be a traditional wedding. Huguenin said she would.

The couple hired a different photographer and held their ceremony, but Vanessa Willock, the lesbian woman who wrote the first e-mail, filed a complaint against the Huguenins with the New Mexico Human Rights Commission, alleging that the photography company's practice violated the state's Human Rights Act, which prohibits "discriminatory practice" in public accommodations based on, among other classes, "sexual orientation" and "gender identity."

The New Mexico Human Rights Commission ruled against the Huguenins in 2008, and state district court Judge Alan M. Malott held up the decision in his Dec. 11 ruling. He rejected the claims made by the Huguenins that working at a lesbian ceremony would violate their religious beliefs.

"The Court ... finds Plaintiff's policy discriminates, on its face, against gays and lesbians," Malott wrote. "... [A] sincerely held belief does not justify discrimination based upon sexual orientation under [state law]."

He further wrote, "This case is not an example of religious persecution. Plaintiff and its owner-operator is not being forced to participate in any ceremony or ritual; the only requirement is that she photograph the event. This is no different from the caterer or florist attending the ceremony in order to provide its commercial service; they attend it, not participate in it."

Even though New Mexico does not recognize "gay marriage," its laws protecting homosexuals are tougher than those in many states. The case, Christian attorneys say, is instructive to the rest of the country in what happens to religious freedom when homosexuality is protected in law.

"Christians in the marketplace should not be subject to predatory legal attacks for simply abiding by their beliefs," ADF Senior Counsel Jordan Lorence said in a statement. "The Constitution prohibits the state from forcing unwilling artists to pro-

mote a message they disagree with and thereby violate their conscience. Should the government force a videographer who is an animal rights activist to create a video promoting hunting and taxidermy? American small business owners do not surrender their constitutional rights at the marketplace gate, nor can the government make people choose between their faith and their livelihood."

The ruling is being appealed to the New Mexico Court of Appeals.

Boissoin, the Canadian man, wrote his letter to the editor in the local newspaper at a time when the country was embroiled in a debate over "gay marriage." (It is now legal across Canada.)

He wrote, in part, "From kindergarten class on, our children, your grandchildren are being strategically targeted, psychologically abused and brainwashed by homosexual and pro-homosexual educators.... Think about it, children as young as five and six years of age are being subjected to psychologically and physiologically damaging pro-homosexual literature and guidance in the public school system; all under the fraudulent guise of equal rights. Your children are being warped into believing that same-sex families are acceptable; that men kissing men is appropriate."

The letter was too much for the Alberta Human Rights Commission, which called Boissoin's acts "discrimination" and which said by fining him it hoped "to educate and hopefully prevent actions of this nature in [the] future." The commission said Boissoin's letter violated the province's Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Act, which states that "no person shall publish ... or cause to be published" any statement that "is likely to expose a person or a class of persons to hatred or contempt." The law includes "sexual orientation" as a protected class.

But Justice Earl C. Wilson, of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta, ruled Dec. 3 that the commission's ruling violated the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms -- Canada's bill of rights.

"In my view the Panel erred in its finding that the impugned letter was hateful and contemptuous of homosexuals," Wilson wrote.

Said Chipeur, who represented Boissoin, "The court found that Stephen Boissoin's letter to the editor did not amount to 'hate speech' and did not cause discriminatory behavior.

CHILDREN'S HOME

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

The Year 2010 Is Before Us

The year 2010 is just ahead of us. The year 2009 passed quickly. There were moments of heartaches and sorrows, births and deaths, ups and downs, but they are in the past. For God's many blessings we give our heartfelt thanks.

Another new year and decade is before us. With the Apostle Paul we should say, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13,14.

During the next year you will be called upon to climb steep mountains. At other times you will travel through deep valleys. The year 2010 will bring sadness and joy, reunion and separation. As with Paul we should press forward to do greater works for our Savior.

May you have a victorious journey during the year 2010, look to God for direction for every day, comfort for every sorrow, and a solution for every problem.

Food and Miscellaneous Rally

It was good to be with the Washington Baptist Association

which met with the Leakesville Missionary Baptist Church in Leakesville and Pastor A. W. Kirkland on December 18 for their annual rally for the Home. I had the opportunity to give a report on the ministry of the Home and bring a message from God's Word. Afterward we enjoyed a meal by the host church and a time of fellowship. We want to say thank you to each church and individual who helped make this rally a good success.



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

Elementary Students Progress Reports

The academic school year has gotten off to a good start for our elementary students. Our 2nd grade girl, 3rd grade girl, and 6th grade boy all made the honor roll, B's or better. Our 4th grade boy was on the Principal's List for making all A's. He also was recognized as being student of the month for his class. We thank the Lord for the good report for the first nine weeks our students are having this school year and anticipate the same for the rest of the year.

Continue to remember the Home and its ministry in your daily prayers.

Taste and See

By Brandon Wilson

Why are so many Christians unhappy?

Many pastors stand behind a pulpit and face a crowd of frowns each week. Some of us look like we have lemons and sauerkraut for breakfast on Sundays. It is understandable that each of us face times in our lives when we don't feel like smiling, however God did not intend for us to live our lives with a defeated spirit.

The reason many professing Christians are continuously unhappy is because they have never had a real taste of Jesus. Many people who profess Christ as their Savior choose to serve the world everyday. This attitude makes for an unhappy person. The saddest person in the world isn't necessarily a lost person - it is a Christian living outside of God's will. If you know you are born again, you should not be living in defeat. If you have had a real taste of Jesus, you are not going to find happiness in the things of the world. You will only find happiness when you are in the center of God's perfect will.

I want to be in his will. So many of us want to be serious Christians, yet we set out to serve ourselves. We want more money. We want a better education. We want a better job. God wants us to strive for excellence in all aspects of our lives (Colossians 3:23), but what is our chief desire? The only way for a person's desire to change is for the person to change. If you want to find out His will for your life then get to know Him better! The best way to get to know God is through his word (I Peter 2:1-3). I've messed up in the past. I've made mistakes. But after I got a taste of Jesus, I was never the same.

"O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him" (Psalms 34:8)



Children's Home residents excell in school

ONE NEWS NOW.COM

Adult stem cells continue advances

by Tom Strode

WASHINGTON (BP)--Non-embryonic, or adult, stem cells continue to show remarkable results in treating injuries and diseases.

In recently reported therapies:

-- Doctors in Great Britain used a man's own stem cells and a new gel to heal his badly broken leg and prevent amputation.

-- Treatment with a young Australian man's own stem cells appears to have healed him of multiple sclerosis (MS).

Andrew Kent broke his right leg in five places earlier in the year in Britain, and three operations failed to bring healing, according to a December 16 report by Sky News. Doctors told Kent he likely would lose his leg to amputation if they did not try the stem cell procedure.

Stem cells were taken from the bone marrow in Kent's hip, mixed with a collagen gel named Cartifill and applied in the fractures, Sky News reported. A metal cage was attached to his leg to squeeze the bones together carefully. The cage was removed in early Decem-

ber, six months after the method was attempted.

"This is an amazing technique," said orthopedic surgeon Anan Shetty, who removed stem cells from the bone marrow in Kent's hip for the procedure.

"He won't be able to run for about a year, but after 18 months his bones will have healed completely. I'm sure he'll be able to go back and rock climb again."

In Australia, Ben Leahy, 20, is walking after being in a wheelchair and having vision problems from MS earlier in 2009. At one point, he was in an intensive care unit with respiratory

failure, according to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).

Leahy underwent a procedure involving stem cells extracted from his bone marrow. Doctors destroyed the immune cells in Leahy's body before injecting the stem cells.

"At the moment there's a good chance we may have arrested the disease," neurologist Colin Andrews said, ABC reported.

"He walks pretty well, there's only some mild weakness in his right leg and some visual loss in one eye and apart from that he's very intact," Andrews said.

Leahy's mother, Prue, said of his recovery, "What I got was more than I could have every imagined or hoped for."

Stem cells provide hope for producing cures for a variety of diseases because of their ability to develop into other cells and tissues. Most of the spotlight has been on embryonic stem cells - mostly because of the controversy surrounding them - although they have yet to produce any cures or therapies and apparently are years away, if not decades, from doing so. Critics of embryonic research argue that money would be better spent on adult stem cell research, which does not involve embryos. Another ethical alternative is induced pluripotent stem cell (iPS) research, a growing field whereby skin cells are reprogrammed into an embryonic-like state. "Dr. Oz" of Oprah fame told a nationwide TV audience he believes the "stem cell debate is dead" because of the promise of iPS research.

Christians in the Workplace

Ephesians 6:5-8 says, "Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free."

The Bible says you are to serve your boss as if he or she were Jesus Christ. When you walk through the door, you are to enter with the same enthusiasm for your boss as you have for your church. You say, I can't do it. Why he is not a Christian. She is not right with God. How can I serve her as if she were Jesus Christ?

If Christians would begin to live like that on Monday, people would start believing what preachers say on Sunday. When a man goes to the employment agency and he needs somebody to work for him, he ought to say, "By the way do you have any Christians? If so, send them over. Those are the kind of people I want."

Well, that is not human nature to do that. Instead, human nature dictates that we are to get all we can, can all we can get, sit on the lid, and poison the rest. So, how are you going to serve your boss? "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).

by Adrian Rogers

61st Annual

BMA of America National Meeting

April 19-21, 2010

Fort Smith Convention Center • Fort Smith, Arkansas

Program

Monday Morning, April 19

Display/Exhibit Set-up (Mon.-Wed.) Exhibit Hall C
Registration Set-up (Enrollment and Finance Committee)

Monday Evening, April 19

7:00 **First General Session** Exhibit Hall B
Music
Opening Prayer
Welcome by President
Introduction of Officers
Introduction of Host Pastors
Central Baptist College, Jacksonville College
& Southeastern Baptist College Choirs
President's Message and Introduction of Theme

Tuesday Morning, April 20

8:00 WMA Registration Exhibit Hall A1
8:30 WMA Exhibit Hall A1
Brotherhood Exhibit Hall B
10:00 Pastors' and Laymen's Conference Exhibit Hall B

Tuesday Afternoon, April 20 (Called Meetings)

1:30 Committee Meetings
Missions Department Convention Center Rm. A1
Baptist Music Fellowship Convention Center Rm. A2
Lifeword Convention Center Rm. 2
DiscipleGuide Convention Center Rm. 3
BMA Seminary Convention Center Rm. 1
Nominating Committee Holiday Inn
Ministers Resource Services Holiday Inn
Moral Action Committee Holiday Inn
Coordinating Council Holiday Inn

Tuesday Afternoon, April 20

3:00 **Second General Session** Exhibit Hall B
Music and Prayer
3:10 Enrollment Committee (Initial Report)
Welcome Petitioning Churches & Seat Their Messengers
3:20 Proposed Changes to the Constitution
3:45 Nominees for Nominating Committee
3:50 Clerk's Report
4:00 Master's Builders Report
4:10 Coordinating Council Report
4:30 Miscellaneous Business
5:00 Prayer/Adjourn
5:30 Seminary Dinner TBA

Tuesday Evening, April 20

7:00 **Third General Session** Exhibit Hall B
Music and Prayer
Annual Message Jason Aultman
Alternate Gary Smith
Prayer/Adjourn

Wednesday Morning, April 21

8:30 **Fourth General Session** Exhibit Hall B
Music and Prayer
8:45 Nominating Committee Report
9:05 Lifeword Media Ministries
9:35 Baptist Music Fellowship
9:45 Ministers Resource Services
10:15 BMA Seminary
10:45 Brotherhood Report
10:55 WMA Report
11:05 Vote on Constitutional Changes
Miscellaneous Business
Prayer/Adjourn

Wednesday Afternoon, April 21

2:00 **Fifth General Session** Exhibit Hall B
Music and Prayer
2:15 Final Nominating Committee Report
2:25 Minute and Clerk Hire
2:35 Election of Officers
Election of Annual Speaker
3:00 Committee on Arrangements
3:15 DiscipleGuide Church Resources
3:45 Moral Action Committee
4:15 Revolving Loan Fund Report
4:20 Election of Missions Advisory Committee Members
4:30 Final Enrollment Committee Report
4:40 Prayer/Adjourn

Wednesday Evening, April 21

7:00 **Sixth General Session** Exhibit Hall B
Music and Prayer
7:15 Missions Department
8:45 61st Annual Session Closed
Missionary Commissioning Service
9:00 Closing Prayer

Enrollment Committee Schedule

Monday 2:00-4:00 p.m.
6:00-7:00 p.m. and 30 minutes after session
Tuesday 8:30-9:00 a.m.
2:00-3:00 p.m.
6:30-7:00 p.m. and 30 minutes after session
Wednesday 8:00-8:30 a.m.

Nursery provided for in Exhibit Hall A3