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Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Special Committee meets and issues report

Editor's Note: At the Midyear meeting of the BMA of Mississippi held in May at Midway First Baptist Church, Sumrall, a committee was established to address the concerns of some regarding the use of Scripture when meeting in Associational capacity and at events sponsored by the Association and its departments and commissions.

A committee consisting of Brethren Arthur Smith (Chairman), Frank Panzrino, Cedric Lumpkin, Tommy Watts, Coy Rice, and Ed Steele met at the Mission's Office to prepare a recommendation concerning the use of the King James Version of the Bible in Associational meetings. Bro. Smith opened the meeting with the reading of scripture from Matthew 5:1-12. Bro. Lumpkin led in the opening prayer.

Ed Steele was elected to serve as Clerk for the committee.

A motion was made by Bro. Panzrino and seconded by Bro. Rice that the following addition be made to the end of the Doctrinal Statement of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Number 3. This is the portion of the statement that is not binding to the local churches.

"Whereas most of our people believe in and use the King James Version as the Word of God, we ask that any speakers at any associational meeting, camp or conference sponsored by any department of the association use the KJV."

The motion passed unanimously. The committee will present this statement to the messengers of the churches at the annual meeting in October as a change to the Doctrinal Statement.

The meeting was closed in prayer led by Bro. Rice.

Arthur Smith, Chairman
Ed Steele, Clerk

The Russians are Coming

Russians are coming to North America and the BMAA is working to evangelize them right here at home.

By Dr. Fiodor Baraniuk
BMAA North American Russian
Missions Coordinator
from *The Gleaner*
BMAA Missions Magazine

God is truly blessing our efforts in reaching the Russian-speaking populations in North America. It has been a blessing to work alongside missionaries such as Boris Lebedev in Florida and Alexander Chepurnoy in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Florida

The work in Florida began just a few years ago when Bro. Boris contacted Bro. Art Johnson, pastor of Westwood Baptist Church. That church, following the Lord's leadership in reaching ethnic minorities, had opened its doors to a Russian congregation. At that time Bro. Boris had already been working and reaching Russians in Pensacola, Florida. From our side, the Department of Missions has helped Boris to train rising leaders of that congregation. After a while the Jackson

Heights Baptist Church, with the agreement of a local Association, made a decision to help Russian work in Pensacola and turned its building over to a Russian congregation. Bro. Boris, after much prayer and consulta-



Baraniuk Family

tion with me, turned this work over to Yuri Lebedev who was elected by the Russians as a new pastor of Jackson Heights Slavic Baptist Church. It was the first church that Bro. Boris organized after he was elected by the BMA of America as a North American mis-

sionary. Today this church is doing its mission work not just in Pensacola, but in Mobile, Alabama, as well.

Bro. Pavel Ostapenko had been one of our trainees in church planting and evangelism. Praise the Lord that Jackson Heights Slavic Baptist Church, from the beginning of its inception, had a vision of reaching beyond its

Sometimes we just need to stop and look around and see how many people there are who don't speak English, but still need to hear the Gospel.

walls and freed Bro. Pavel to do a mission work in Mobile. Pavel had organized a Bible study group in Mobile. He prayed that the Lord would send him a local man who could help him to work among Russian sailors and

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DCM "ONE" Singles Conference

"Being a single adult in America has its unique challenges. Being single in the church is a different animal all together," so says DiscipleGuide Conference Ministry Director, Donny Parrish. "The distinctive challenges facing single adults in our BMA churches have led our staff to produce a conference focusing on their needs."

The ONE Singles Conference is scheduled for September 14-16 at the Hilton DFW Lakes in Grapevine, Texas. DCM has brought together some of the finest speakers that relate to the issues of single adults in America along with wonderful Christian artists that will inspire and encourage singles in their walk with Christ.

The keynote speaker for the event is Allen Corry. Allen has ministered to single adults for almost 20 years. He has served as a Singles Pastor and most recently as Single Adult Specialist for LifeWay. He is founder

of singleadultministry.com and Managing Editor of Living Solo Magazine. He will encourage, equip and inspire singles and their leaders. Patti Foster's life is a testament of the love she feels for others and that is what she will share during Session 2. Patti's desire is to inspire, encourage and motivate.

Neil Dumas will lead in worship for ONE. Neil has served as Minister of Music and Education at First Baptist Church Jacksonville, Texas for the past 13 years. Neil is an accomplished musician, songwriter and minister of the gospel who will bless your heart as you worship.

Featured artists for the ONE Conference will be Clay Cross and Christian Comedian, Thor Ramsey. Clay Cross has had numerous #1 Christian hits such as "I Surrender All" and "I Will Follow Christ." He is a three-time Dove Award recipient. Thor Ramsey has been featured in the family-friendly comedy

*DiscipleGuide Singles
Conference slated for
September 14-16, Hilton DFW*

series, "Bananas" and his own series, "Comedy At Large with Thor Ramsey". He is a very funny man!

The ONE Conference site is the award-winning Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center located in Grapevine, Texas and five minutes from the DFW Airport. To make reservations call the Hilton DFW Lakes at 800-984-1344 or direct at 817-481-8444. Conference registration is \$75 per person by the August 24 deadline. After August 24 the rate increases to \$85.

Register your singles for the ONE conference online at www.bma-dcm.org or you may print a registration form and mail it along with your check to the DCM office. Call the DiscipleGuide Conference Ministry office at 501.513.3726 or email triciak@conwaycorp.net with any questions.

Russian Ministry

from page 1

another ethnic group that spoke Russian: Turkey Aschetins. The Lord did send a man, Yuri Boroniuk, who is now leading a Bible study group. God continued to bless our work in Fort Walton Beach. From its beginning in 2003 more than 500 people



Bro. Boris Lebedev Family

have come through the doors of this Russian congregation that met at Westwood Baptist Church. Russians became members of that church and with their help had many services and prayed together to the Lord to reach Russians for Christ.

Today the Russian congregation calls themselves the Ark of Salvation Church and has more than 40 members who were baptized by Bro. Art Johnson and Bro. Boris Lebedev. Bro. Boris says that it is a strong congregation that ministers to many Russians who come to that area to work, especially during the summer months. Right now they are going through a Bible study with three people who will be baptized soon. They have been praying for leaders to be raised by God who could take care of this emerging Russian congregation which, in a way, would free Bro. Boris to move forward to work in other areas and dedicate more of his time to work in Jacksonville, Panama City, and Tallahassee, Florida.

For the last year I have made several trips with Bro. Boris in Jacksonville where the Lord has sent two Russian men who are considering becoming church planters and helping Bro. Boris to reach Russians in that area. It is said that more than 16,000 Russian speaking people live in that part of Florida. With these men, Pavel and Edward, we have spent time and began to train them with our Church Planting modules. We also want to praise the Lord for the vision of the BMA of Central

Florida and especially Bro. Ronald Beasley, pastor of Rolling Hills Baptist Church, who always opens the doors of his church to help us with training events in that area. Right now there are four groups already doing regular Bible study. Praise the Lord! Another highlight of our work in Florida is that these two Russian churches are ready to ordain two pastors and two deacons, one of them being a former Muslim.

Minnesota

The Lord is also blessing our work in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Bro. Alexander Chepurnoy began his work almost two years ago. It is said that more than 145,000 Russian-speaking people live in the metropolitan area of the twin cities - St. Paul and Minneapolis. Bro. Alexander began his ministry by visiting locations that are known to Russians such as grocery stores and other public places. He distributed flyers and tracts with information about a new Bible study that was to be started in that area. Also, being an active soul-winner, Bro. Alexander met a lot of Russians on the street and witnessed to them. During their first meeting last September more than 60 people came. Since then the mission congregation has grown and now they have regular meetings, renting places in other churches that can



Bro. Alexander Chepurnoy Family

accommodate them. Bro. Roy McLaughlin, pastor of Corner Stone Baptist Church at Swartz Creek, Michigan, is extending a helping hand and support. Bro. Alexander and his family are members of this church. Bro. Alexander's vision is to reach Russians beyond those two cities and go even further. His prayer is that the Lord would send other leaders whom we can train in church planting and who can travel and reach people.

Washington

The Lord also blessed us with new Russian contacts in the Northwest - Seattle and Spokane, Washington. There are two men, Semyon and Alexander, who expressed their desire to be trained in the BMA

CHURCH NEWS

News articles should contain information that will be of interest to the general public who are not members of the church that is reporting.

Church Seeks Pastor

South Green Baptist Church, 3185 South Green Street, Tupelo, MS 38801, phone 662-842-8447, is seeking a pastor. Please contact Bro. Bill Collums, chairman of the pulpit search committee, 662-841-9256, 1906 Bobwhite, Tupelo, MS 38801, if you are interested in this position.

Ralph Lacks
Chairman of Deacons
South Green Baptist Church

Church Seeks VBS Material

The Calvary Baptist Church, Leakesville, is seeking VBS material on the "Wild West Witness." Anyone who has this VBS material and would be willing to donate it or sell it, please contact Jeremy or Gwen Walley at 601-525-6764.

Harmony Association Report

The Harmony Association met June 8, 2007 at Thomas Street, Tupelo. Bro. Frank Panzrino was the moderator and Randel Philfer led in song. Bro. Frank Panzrino led the prayer and the Phiifer Trio presented a special in song. Dr. John Adams preached from Psalm 139:13-17 on abortion. Ten churches were present.

Dr. John Adams and Bro. Neil Murphy gave reports.
Frank Panzrino, Moderator
Maxine Phiifer, Reporter

Bethel, Louise

Homecoming And Revival
Bethel Baptist Church, Louise,

Church Planting modules and to start mission work in those areas.

I praise the Lord that He allowed us the BMA of America, to be involved in these ethnic ministries. Sometimes we just need to stop and look around and see how many people there are who don't speak English, but still need to hear the Gospel. Russians are just one of these groups. There are many more out there. God has brought the mission field right to our doors and we need to become more responsible and active in reaching these people for Christ. My prayer is that every BMA church would catch the vision and would really pray to get involved in reaching these people for Christ.

Short Message Series by Rev. Grover Laird

Back To The Bible

"Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst." (Isaiah 5:13)

This little message is another effort to turn us all back to the Bible. I fear that many have permitted their schedule to get overloaded, leaving but little or no time for the Bible. Daily Bible reading is surely God's plan for His children. Therefore, all who fail to spend time with the Bible each day are out of the will of God. Consider some Scriptures that surely teach this.



Grover Laird

God gave several rules for the kings of Israel to live by, one of those rules required him to be a daily Bible reader - "And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life...." (Deuteronomy 17:18,19)

When Joshua took over as Israel's new leader, God commanded him to mediate in the Bible day and night - "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night..." (Joshua 1:8) If leaders of nations had time to read the Bible daily, sure we

can find time also.

Psalm 1 describes the person that God will bless in a special way. Speaking of that man the Bible said, "But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." (Psalms 1:2) The next verse tells us of some special blessings this person could expect.

The writer of the 119th Psalm said that he meditated upon the Bible all the day - "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day." (Psalms 119:97) When the Lord put all of these verses in the Bible, He was surely teaching us that all should spend time with the Bible every day.

God's Word lists many wonderful blessings that come to those who open their heart to the Bible. Among them is peace, (Psalm 119:165) comfort, (Psalm 119:50) help in finding our way, (Psalm 119:105) help in overcoming temptation, (Ephesians 6:11,17) and wisdom. (Psalm 119:98-100. For more see Psalm 1:1-3; 19:7-11; 112:1-9; Proverbs 3:13-18)

Those who do not have time for the Bible have reason to expect worse days ahead. Our text suggest that in the days of the prophet Isaiah, Israel had neglected the Bible. As a result, they had gone into captivity. Maybe for the same reason, many today have gone into captivity to many painful, damaging evils.

Our homes will get along better, our churches will get along better, and our nation will get along better if we will all take time for the Bible. This I verily believe!

will have Homecoming on August 5. Brother Ralph Fuller, Sr. will bring the Homecoming message. Lunch will be served and a day of fellowship will be enjoyed.

Revival services will be held Monday through Wednesday, August 6-8. The revival services will be at 7:00 pm with Bro. Vern D. Holifield as the revival speaker.

Brother Ralph Fuller, Jr. is pastor at Bethel

Bethel, Fulton

A warm Christian hello from Bethel. The month of June has flown by! On the 2nd, the Senior Youth went to LeBonheur Hospital in Memphis to help. The blood drive was held on the 6th. Thanks to all who donated and helped in anyway. National Galilean camp was held on the 5th-8th and J. T. Roberts was name Mr. Galilean Sr. and Noah Shackelford was named Mr. Galilean

continued on page 3

Church Positions Available

Calvary Baptist in Horn Lake, Mississippi, is seeking a full time Associate Pastor with emphasis on Youth Ministry. Resumes may be sent to Gocalvary@aol.com or to 5145 Hwy. 51 N. Horn Lake, MS 38637. For more information visit their web site at www.gocalvary.org or contact Pastor Anders Lee at 901-258-1812.

Calvary Baptist in Horn Lake, Mississippi, is seeking a full time Minister of Music. Resumes may be sent to Gocalvary@aol.com or to 5145 Hwy. 51 N. Horn Lake, MS 38637. For more information visit their web site at www.gocalvary.org or contact Pastor Anders Lee at 901-258-1812.*

Moral Action Committee

Baptist Missionary Association of America
6273 Miller Rd., Swartz Creek, MI 48473
810-635-4845



Dr. Roy McLaughlin
Director

Jimmy Carter Again Blaming America First

It would be nice to see Jimmy Carter once again actively building houses for Habitat for Humanity. Instead, the former president increasingly lends whatever prestige he has left to supporting terror groups, and to undermining Israel and the United States. Speaking in Ireland on June 19, 2007, Carter, surveying the carnage in Gaza, finally found a criminal he was willing to name - the United States! According to Carter, the murder and mayhem is the fault of the United States and Israel because we did not embrace the Hamas killers after they got 42% of the vote in the Palestinian elections. Never mind that Hamas refused to disavow terrorism or recognize Israel's right to exist. Carter says, "That action was criminal," referring to our unwillingness to accept Hamas and give it foreign aid.

Strangely, Carter never calls Hamas criminal - not when they throw rivals off rooftops, not when they indoctrinate seven year-old Palestinian kids to "kill the Jews," not when they fire rockets into Israel cities, not when they send pregnant women to blow up Israeli hospitals. Carter only sees his own country and Israel as deserving of condemnation. Carter has also announced the

formation of a new "moderate" Southern Baptist group that wants, among other things, to move evangelical Christians away from their support of Israel.

President Bush Wrong on Funding Fatah

Carter's love affair with Hamas is moronic, but what can one say about the rush by the Bush Administration and Prime Minister Olmert of Israel to "bet the farm" on the better dressed thugs in Fatah, led by Holocaust denier Mahmoud Abbas? Fatah has the same goal as Hamas - the military and/or demographic destruction of Israel. It just prefers it be done through negotiations for now. Under Fatah's leadership, Palestinian poverty has grown and lawlessness has increased, in spite of the 60,000 uniformed gunmen it employs. Thousands of those gunmen cut and ran in Gaza in the face of the more militant Hamas fighters. Yet the

Bush Administration, the European Union and the Israeli prime minister apparently agree that supporting this Palestinian mafia is the way to peace. They are now going to pour millions more of your tax money into Fatah coffers, where it will predictably disappear. How long will we allow delusions to slap around reality?

Why Gaza Should Scare Us

I suspect many Americans have only a passing concern about the recent events in Gaza. Nobody actually wants to see more pictures of masked gunmen shooting up the streets, forcing men to kneel and executing them in front of their families. But as distasteful as those images are, they have nothing to do with our lives here, right? Wrong! What we have been witnessing is another victory for Islamofascism. The Hamas fighters, as they routed the numerically superior Fatah forces, immediately knelt and praised Allah for their victory. They attacked a Christian center, collected the Bibles and burned them.

Columnist and warrior Ralph Peters hit a grand slam home run in his column in the New York Post with his analysis of the Hamas victory. He points out that from Gaza to Baghdad, from Lebanon to London, we are witnessing men who have given their lives to Allah and who

are willing to die and kill with impunity. Hamas fighters "at the height of the fighting in Gaza" only numbered "one Palestinian in 300," but as Peters notes, today they control Gaza and 1.5 million people.

We are still in denial about the Islamofascist fanatics. Many conflicts can be settled by negotiations, but not wars in which one side believes it is taking orders directly from its god. That is why the Bush Administration should stop pressuring Israel to make more concessions. No amount of land will satisfy Palestinian Muslims' thirst for Jewish blood. That is why the Baker Commission and the diplomatic community are wrong when they say we must get Iran's cooperation through talks. They keep forgetting, or are willfully ignoring, that Iranian "president" Ahmadinejad believes the Muslim messiah is coming soon to kill all the Christians and Jews, and that he has been assigned the holy task of paving the way for his arrival. What possible incentive could we offer for Ahmadinejad to compromise his mission?

Across Europe there is but a remnant of Judeo-Christian civilization. Here, Americans are more religious, but our elites, from the media to our foreign policy establishment, seem to be incapable of understanding the murderers who kill for Allah. These

elites are more frightened by George Bush praying than they are by the Islamists who cut off heads and send women to blow up hospitals. ABC News recently played a video of a "graduation" ceremony at a terror school in Afghanistan that was sending off its "graduates" to France, England, Canada and the U.S. to wage jihad, while at American universities leftwing educators work nonstop to keep military recruiters off our campuses.

So what can we do?

"We the people" must first come to grips with the reality confronting us. While our Marines are at war, most Americans are at the mall, unfazed by the treat to our civilization. That disconnect is dangerous, and that is what allows some politicians to declare the war "lost" or to denounce it as "George W. Bush's war." We must teach our children what is unique and good about America, and why our values are worth defending. We must inform our policy makers about the "gathering storm" threatening our civilization and warn them against the siren song of appeasement. And we must demand that our government do all that is within its power to defend our homeland and crush the Islamofascists who have declared war on us.

Central Baptist College Receives \$1.9 Million Grant for Science Program

Terry Kimbrow, President of Central Baptist College, received word Thursday that Central Baptist College was one of only twenty institutions nationwide to receive a Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant from the United States Department of Education. According to Kimbrow, the 5-year grant totaling \$1,903,115 is the largest grant in the history of the institution. It will provide funding for two new proposed Bachelor of Science programs: a BS in Biology and a BS in Biochemistry. Currently, CBC only offers associate level degrees in the sciences.

What will this mean in terms of enrollment? The grant itself estimates a conservative jump of 40 students per year over the 5-year life of the grant. "That is more than conservative," said Kimbrow. "One of the points we were able to make in the grant proposal is that we are losing over 60% of our prospective students (those who express an interest in the health-care industry) because we do not have a strong science program. Our enrollment is already in a growth mode. I think it will explode."

To support the new programs, the grant also provides funding for the complete renovation and equipping of the existing labs and the construc-

tion and equipping of an organic chemistry lab and a research lab. "That aspect alone," said Kimbrow, "is unbelievably exciting for our Science department. Our labs are woefully inadequate."

CBC has worked for the past four years with Ramona Munsell and Associates of Bella Vista to write

and submit the Title III Grant, initially a 100-page document. The guidelines have been modified and the grant scaled back each year to the present 50-page format. Kimbrow, now President, was Vice-president for Institutional Advancement and writer of the proposal when the grant process was begun. He praised the

work of Dr. Deb Wade, Associate Professor of Science. "Without her technical expertise and help in this project, especially in revision process these past two years, I feel sure we would not be celebrating this victory."

The first award of \$397,091 will be made in October of this year.

Church News

from page 2

Jr. We are so blessed here at Bethel to have adults who are interested in the souls of our young boys.

On the 8th, the Harmony Association met at Thomas Street in Tupelo, and on the 9th there was a work day at the church. The GMA national camp meeting in Gary Texas was held the 12th-16th. Judi-Beth McMillen was selected Alternate National Jr. Miss GMA and Keely Naden was selected Corresponding Secretary. Thanks to the WMA for making the trip possible and all the hard work the girls have done.

Junior Youth camp was held on the 18th-22nd at Smithville, Arkansas. Everyone reported having a great time of fun and fellowship. Bro. Ray Freeman filled the pulpit on the 24th in the absence of Bro. Jameson who was on vacation. There have been 4 additions since last report. Remember, Smile God loves you and so do we.

Dr. Martin Jameson, pastor
Joyce Cooley, reporter

World Council of Churches denies Israeli claim to God-given land

OneNewsNow.com

AMMAN, Jordan - A Geneva-based church body said Monday it would launch a global initiative to have churches worldwide rally for an end to Israel's occupation of Arab lands seized in the 1967 Mideast war.

The World Council of Churches said in a statement that it designated Jordan as a venue for its initiative, which would enlist support from religious groups worldwide.

"The initiative aims at calling on all churches to work seriously for putting an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab lands," the statement said.

The World Council of Churches, founded in 1948, groups 347 Protes-

tant, Orthodox, Anglican and other churches representing over 560 million Christians in more than 110 countries.

The council also will create an advocacy initiative, the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum, meant to improve cooperation among churches worldwide advocating for Mideast peace.

The council's call came during the opening of a three-day meeting gathering 130 member churches and related organizations from around the world.

Editor's Note: God's Word commends those who bless Israel and is harsh to those who do not. It is a terrible thing to be on the opposite side of an issue.

National Missions Shorts

Bro. and Mrs. Bill Gibson in Transition

Bro. and Mrs. Bill (Jeannette) Gibson are in transition from serving in Honduras to relocating in Chile. The Gibsons are in the States for awhile. Later this summer they will go to Chile to find a place to live. They hope to be on the field in Chile by September. Pray for them as they make this transition to a new mission field.

Baby in Need of Prayer

Bro. and Mrs. Doyle (Linda) Moore requests prayer for their newborn granddaughter, who was born this past week in New Orleans. At the time of birth she weighed 1 pound, 11 ounces. Pray for the entire family during this time of great need.

Mississippi Baptist | Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

To All The World

The article on page one about outreach to Russians in the United States was taken from the most recent issue of our National Missions Department magazine "The Gleaner".

The article highlights the opportunities and obligation that we have as God's people to reach out to all ethnic and language groups. The great commission tells us to go and tell. The interpretation is clear in our minds that this means to go to all people (nations - groups) and preach the Gospel. We are obligated to tell everyone about the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

What a wonderful work Bro. Fiodor and the others are doing in taking advantage of the opportunity to minister to those who may otherwise not hear about the saving power of the Gospel. Our national missions work and some state mission efforts are also reaching out to hispanics, blacks and other ethnics groups.

God tells us to preach to all. We must obey. Our own Mississippi Missions Department is also fulfilling the Great Commission by reaching out to both Hispanics and Blacks in Mississippi. May God be pleased with our efforts and give souls for the harvest.



Don Brown
Editor

tion-rich, interactive, civilized life today, you are either living your dream or living someone else's. And unless you give your own dream the time and space it needs to formulate itself, you will spend the better part of your life simply helping others make their dreams come true.

"All of man's troubles," said Blaise Pascal, "stem from his inability to sit alone, quietly, in a room for any length of time." Notice that he did not say some of man's troubles but all.

Occasionally you hear someone say, "Great ideas often come to me while I am in the shower." Why? Because that is the only time of the day we are completely alone. No television, no movies, no traffic, no radio, no family, no talkative pets—nothing to distract our mind from conversing with itself.

People worry they will die of boredom or fear if they are alone for any length of time. Other people have become so distraction-addicted they would consider sitting alone by themselves like being in a sensory-deprivation tank.

The truth is the only real motivation we ever experience is self-motivation that comes from within. And being alone with ourselves will always give us motivating ideas if we stay with the process long enough. Thus, try this alone experiment for several days and weeks, or even months, before you say it does no good.

Attitude is a choice within. If we allow others to mold our attitude, then it will probably become very negative. However, sitting alone and thinking about our own makeup, strengths and weaknesses, will help us to develop a positive attitude. After those hints and flashes of motivation:

1. Write Specifically What You Desire to Accomplish Each Day.

The story of David's encounter with Goliath is a fine illustration of faith and attitude and how it can overcome insurmountable odds with apparent inadequate resources. But one thing perplexed me when I first began to study David's life, and talking with others they revealed the same misunderstanding. Why did he pick five stones for his sling on his way to fight Goliath? Obviously he would get only one shot.

Some time later I was reading in 2 Samuel 21:15-22, and discovered Goliath had four sons, so there were five giants. In David's thinking there were five giants and one stone per

Don't Just Do SomethingSit There!

Jerry Burnaman
Executive Director
BMA of Texas Missions

When I was growing up on an East Texas farm Dad would often have me help him with various chores: cutting wood, repairing fences, chopping weeds, just to name a few. Sometimes I would sit down and think about the fish biting in the creek or chasing armadillos. Dad would say, "Son, don't just sit there, do something!" We are a people of activity and have little time to sit and think.

When Jesus visited the home of Mary and Martha, Martha was obsessed with preparing a meal while Mary sat at Jesus' feet. Martha became so upset until she complained to Jesus about Mary's unwillingness

to help her prepare the meal. Very calmly, yet in a firm way, Jesus answered, "Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her" (Luke 12:42).

In other words Jesus said there are times when it is good to "Don't Just Do Something . . . Sit There!" For a period of time sit quietly, absolutely alone, and completely relax. Do not allow the television or music to be on, just be with yourself. Watch for what happens. Feel your sense of belonging to the silence and observe insights starting to appear. Observe your relationship with yourself starting to get better and softer and more comfortable.

Sitting quietly alone allows hints and flashes of motivation into our thought patterns. In this informa-

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"...and jumping up and down when you preach doesn't count as aerobic exercise!"

giant. This is a great illustration of enormous faith and a strong positive attitude.

What are the giants you must slay to make your attitude what it needs to be? What resources will you need? Do not be overcome by frustration by thinking about the problems, instead find a quiet secluded place and from your inner motivation discover how you will deal with each giant.

2. Talk to an Encouraging Friend What You Want to Accomplish Each Day.

Belief is inward conviction; faith and attitude is outward action. We receive encouragement and accountability by talking with an encouraging friend about our intentions. This practice is vital in developing your desired attitudes.

3. Take Action Each Day

James teaches us to "be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was" (James 1:22-24).

For the next 30 days set aside a specific time when you can be alone and think about yourself, you calling and what God wants you to do. Read some Scripture and pray to get in touch with God, and think about how you can become more involved in meaningful tasks and ministry. Treat every person you meet as the

Letters From Our Readers

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

Thanks for Help

Dear Editor,

I want to thank the Ten Mile Association, the pastors, and the good people who gave and sent the love offering to us, the Phelps. Your love and kindness demonstrate the kind of people you really are. Thanks, doesn't express our love and feelings for you all, but I don't know any other words.

So thanks,
Bro. and Sister Henry C. Phelps

Reader clarifies remarks at National Association

Dear Editor,

I would like to address the article in which was published in the June 15th 2007 edition of the Mississippi Baptist. An individual was quoted at the national meeting as calling fel-

continued on page 8

most important person on earth. Do not do something until you sit there for a time and discover your true inner self. Whatever your responsibilities are in life, this practice will help you do them better.

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USPS 353-960
P.O. Box 8181
Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000
(601) 426-3293
for Voice & Fax
601-342-9443 Cell

Don J. Brown, Editor
E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org
Web site www.msbaptist.org

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Southeastern Baptist College

PROCLAIMER

College Administration



Left to Right - Admissions Director Ronnie Kitchens, Academic Dean Dr. Aaron Parker, Vice President Joseph Harris, and President Dr. Medrick Savell.

Welcome From The President

This is an introduction to Southeastern Baptist College to present a variety of aspects of the college, including personnel, purpose (mission statement), degree programs, student life, alumni, financial aid, recent improvements, plans for the future, and needs of the college.

Additions, Renovations, Recent Improvements

In the Fall, 2006, funds were contributed to install a new sign in front of the college, which is proving to be a great benefit to the college.

A home was donated to the college in the Spring, 2007. We appreciate all who helped to provide funds for the expense of moving the house to our property. It was moved on June 12 and will soon be used by the college.

After several years of effort to purchase 5.6 acres of land joining our present campus, this has become a reality. A special project in our special emphasis during July and August, 2007, is to raise some good contributions to pay on this land. This is another good benefit to the college that the Lord has opened up to us.

Plans for Future

The response in 2006-2007 to help to re-establish a choir program at the college was beyond expectations. We are looking to have an increase in students who want to participate in the choir in the new year. To help meet the needs in that area, we are remodeling the choir practice room, as well as individual practice rooms, during this summer. Our plans are to continue to expand the music degree program at the college as the need arises and funds are provided. We want to offer scholarships again this new year to those in the choir. Therefore, funds are needed to continue the music program.



Dr. Medrick Savell
President

2007 GRADUATING CLASS



On May 10, 2007, Southeastern held its annual commencement services with over 200 in attendance. Nineteen students received degrees with five more receiving certificates and diplomas in Bible and Christian Leadership. Former President Bro. Eugene Murphy delivered the commencement address.

Student Commendation

**By Steven Clark, Pastor
Springhill Baptist Church
Laurel, MS
2006 Graduate**

As a graduate of Southeastern Baptist College, I am grateful for what Southeastern has done for me. Southeastern is a college that is sound in her teaching when it comes to God's inerrant Word. Southeastern is a conservative, scripturally sound, Christian college that will help equip you to carry out the mission that God has called you to do.



Steven Clark

I know that God-called ministers are not required to have a college degree in order to preach God's Word. However, God's Word tells us in II Timothy 2:15: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." What better way to study God's word than to come together and

learn from seasoned professors, as well as seasoned ministers. The courses that I took at Southeastern taught me how to study God's Word better. I am thankful that God allowed me to attend Southeastern Baptist College. I believe I am better equipped to lead the church that God has placed me in because

of the learning and experience that I received from Southeastern.

I chose Southeastern because the professors teach the truth concerning God's Word. I chose Southeastern because it offered a schedule that would fit my working schedule. I chose Southeastern because they treated me like family.

Parents, if you want your teenagers to receive a quality education in

a good, safe, Christian environment, then Southeastern is where they need to be. Young people, if you want to be able to receive a good education while you hold down a part-time job, then Southeastern is where you need to be. Ministers, if you want to sharpen your tools for the ministry that God has called you into, then Southeastern is where you need to be.

Our Faculty & Staff



Medrick Savell
President



Joseph Harris
Vice-president



Glenn Padgett
Music



Rosemary Davis
English
Sociology



Emma Bond
Registrar



Patricia Hall
Maintenance



Aaron Parker
Dean



Bonnie Brown
Executive
Secretary



Tom Dawson
Bible



Lisa Walters
Mathematics



Robyn Strickland
Secretary



James Hall
Maintenance

Alumni Needed



Southeastern is in the process of establishing an Alumni Association. If you are a graduate or former student of SBC, please send to us your name, address, phone, email address and the years you attended.



Ronnie Kitchens
Admissions



Sandy Garbee
Bookkeeper



Shirley Harris
Psychology



Linda Windham
History



Amy Hinton
Librarian



Greg Hillman
Bible



Drew Blanton
Instructor
Hospital Ministries



Cellie Scoggin
Biology



A.M. Wilson
Speech



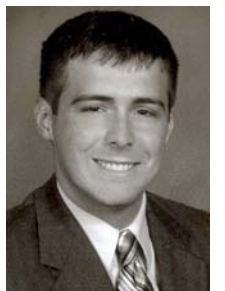
Mollie Blackledge
Business



Hubert Dyess
Computer
Science



Ginny Singleton
Financial Aid
Director



Brandon Wilson
Choir

Student Life . . .



Academics . . .

Mission Statement

The purpose of Southeastern Baptist College is to glorify God by providing quality post-secondary education from a biblical world view in a Christian atmosphere, thereby developing Christian growth in students and preparing them for service in the Kingdom of God.

Southeastern Baptist College seeks to prepare men and women in the Christian community expressing a desire to be involved in a church-related vocation. Training is provided on campus and through extensions to help prepare people for ministry in the pastorate, missionary work, music ministries, Christian education, and youth and adult ministries. Southeastern Baptist College also seeks to train people who wish to receive the foundational courses of college curriculum in a spiritual academic setting as provided by Southeastern Baptist College. All courses are taught in such a manner as to integrate faith and learning, thereby giving due recognition to the God of all truth.

Southeastern Baptist College seeks to serve the Christian community by offering a limited number of credit and non-credit courses to those who do not choose to pursue a structured program toward a specific degree, certificate, or diploma.

Accreditation

Southeastern Baptist College is accredited by the Association for Biblical Higher Education, 5575 S. Semoran Blvd. Suite 26, Orlando, Florida 32822-1781; 407-207-0808.

The college has a Charter of Incorporation by the State of Mississippi. The Mississippi Commission on College Accreditation initially granted Southeastern Baptist College full accreditation based on full accreditation with ABHE. Accreditation by the Mississippi Commission on College Accreditation is renewed annually.

Southeastern Baptist College is listed in EDUCATIONAL DIRECTORY, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES of the United States Department of Education. The college is approved by the United States Department of Education for participation in the Pell Grant program. It is also approved for veterans' benefits. The United States Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service has approved Southeastern Baptist College for training of international students. Southeastern is also a member of the Mississippi Association of Colleges.

Financial Aid

Southeastern offers the following non-campus based financial aid programs:

- Federal Financial Aid - Pell Grant
- Military Financial Aid – Veterans' Benefits
- Mississippi State Rehabilitation Assistance
- Endowment Scholarships

Southeastern also offers several campus based financial aid programs such as:

- A.C.T. Scholarships and Institutional Grants
- 1. Service Grants
- 2. Meritorious Grant
- 3. Youth Auxiliary Grants
- 4. H.A.N.D.S.
- 5. Baptist Pastor/Full-time Christian Worker Grant

DEGREE PROGRAMS

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS
(Choice of Emphasis)
BIBLE
BUSINESS
GENERAL EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
CHURCH MINISTRIES

CERTIFICATE AND DIPLOMA PROGRAMS
CONTINUING EDUCATION

CERTIFICATE OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP
(12 semester hours)

DIPLOMA OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP
(24 semester hours)
DIPLOMA IN BIBLE
(42 semester hours)

- 6. Supplemental Grant - Students who do not qualify for other scholarships or grants offered by the college may be eligible for a \$325.00 tuition grant.
- 7. The spouse of a student can audit the same course free (limited to one course per semester).
- 8. Four-year graduates of Southeastern Baptist College can audit one course per semester free.

Student Organizations

Various organizations provide opportunity for students to develop themselves and serve others during their time outside the classroom.

1. Association of Baptist Students

The Association of Baptist Students is one of the most influential groups on campus. The purpose of this organization is to promote individual and group spirituality on campus.

Campus activities include discipleship training and devotional life helps, and fellowship activities.

Contact with students from other campuses is made possible through the state and national organization of the Association of Baptist Students, which sponsors two retreats each year - a fall retreat and a spring retreat.

2. Ministerial Alliance

The Ministerial Alliance is sponsored under the leadership of the

Division of Professional Studies with alternate sponsors as assigned by the administrative committee. This group is composed of first and second year ministerial students who gather weekly for worship and constructive critique in their sermon presentation.

The worship services of the Ministerial Alliance provide opportunities for students and visiting ministers to preach. Non-ministerial students are urged to attend the services.

3. Student Government

The students elect annually a president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, and two members-at-large. These persons plan and organize the student body activities, socials, and programs throughout the year. A faculty sponsor is assigned by the administration.

Other student groups may be formed by the students, such as an Annual staff and Newspaper staff.

The President's Club

The President's Club is comprised of individuals who commit to supporting the college on a monthly or annual basis at different levels of giving. These contributions help in maintaining and upgrading equipment and technology in the offices and classrooms.

Join the President's Club

Bronze members give \$10.00 a month or \$120.00 annually

Silver members give \$25.00 a month or \$300.00 annually

Gold members give \$50.00 a month or \$600.00 annually

Platinum members give \$100.00 a month or \$1200.00 annually

Clip out and mail to SBC with your name and address

The President's Club Newsletter is published monthly by Southeastern Baptist College.

Each student group must be approved by the administration and must have a faculty sponsor.

Dormitories

Southeastern has two dormitories. Hilbun Hall, the men's dorm, is a two story building which also includes four student apartments and one faculty apartment. The down-

stairs offers large semi-private rooms and the upstairs offers private and semi-private suites.

Granberry Hall is the ladies dorm and was recently renovated downstairs, upgrading it to one of the finest dormitories in the state. The upstairs is currently under renovation and will double the potential student occupancy.

July & August 2007



Serving Christ

With A

Biblical World View

In A

Christian Atmosphere



SPECIAL EMPHASIS

Divided We Stand!

By Glenn Shoemake, pastor
New Bethany Baptist Church
Ellisville, Mississippi

And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand. Mark 3:25

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. Ephesians 4:4-6

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. Romans 16:17

Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. I Corinthians 1:10

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. John 10:16

This is a divided universe. That statement is filled with meaning and contradiction. When we think of the universe, we think of everything together as a whole, undivided. But thinking of things in particular requires a division of the universal whole; and when the whole is divided, it is in separate parts. Would that mean that the universe is destroyed by thinking about things? Apparently not! Certainly not!

Look at the word universe. The oneness is expressed in the prefix uni-, which forms the base of the word unity. The suffix -verse carries the idea of turning, as from one to another aspect of a thing. From this we have versatility and diversity. When we sing a hymn we move from one verse to another in turn.

In considering the beginning of all things, we must return in our minds to a time before time, a beginning prior to the beginning. For in beginning (without the definite article, the, as the words are presented in the Hebrew of Genesis 1:1 and in the Greek of John 1:1) there was

God, creating. What was before this beginning – which we usually think of as a point in time, without justification – is a matter of speculation, for we do not know. But in this beginning there was God. And God is the origin and originator of all things in the universe. Light and life; heaven and earth; mineral, vegetable, and animal kingdoms, seemingly endless diversity – all originate and come into being from God, who inhabits eternity and comprehends the universe.

In God there is unity, and from God is diversity. He spoke, and light came into being. One might say that God “turned on the lights,” and the story of Creation supports this very well. But what did God actually say? Was it a shout, a chant, a song? Was it a spell, a command, or just a hum as God thought out loud? The Bible declares that the first light shone in darkness, but was it really dark, as we know darkness? Probably not; at least not to God, for whom light and darkness are irrelevant (Psalm 139:12). But the creation of light brought division into the universe. And we can go back a step and propose that creation itself is a process of division in the mind of God.

Consider life. According to Genesis 1 & 2, life was furnished by God to created matter, and a vast variety of plants and animals resulted. In the case of man it was written, “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul (2:7). In the case of human life and its perpetuation, the beginning was the creation of one man – Adam – in the image of the One God. The man was then divided, and Woman was taken out – arguably the “better half” – Eve. Thereafter, the beginning of life for every new human being is a union of male and female, of sperm and egg. We call this union conception, a great word when you really think about it. But after conception, life is a process of division, as the living cells divide and develop into various kinds of tissue, then organs, then members of the human body. The resulting person is a complex universe in himself or herself, and we refer to each one as an individual, a word that means not divided or not capable of being divided. This is a great irony, since not one individual would exist today without myriad divisions. So it could be said, “Divided we stand, and

Big Creek

Brotherhood Dates

The Big Creek District Brotherhood and WMA will meet on July 9, 2007, at 7:00 P.M. at Parkview Baptist Church. Note the date change because of the July 4 holiday. All are encouraged to attend.

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

Big Creek District WMA Report

The Big Creek District WMA met on April 2 at First Baptist of Calhoun. President Shirlene Smith opened the meeting by reading Matthew 28:1-8 relating to the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. “He is not here but is risen from the Dead.” Cindy Jones led in “Glory to His Name.” Nita Jefcoat led in prayer. Kay Chisholm led in the WMA motto. Sue Loughlin of Calhoun gave the welcome and Mrs. Rouvenia Hunnel gave the response. Devotion was given by Virginia Poor of Parkview and taken from John 15:1-8 about the true vine.

Cindy Jones sang “The Longer I Serve Him the Sweeter He Grows.” Jeanelle Burks read minutes and gave treasurer report. Mrs. Shirlene Smith suggested the WMA purchase study books for the prison ministry. National GMA officer, Bethany Jones (and granddaughter to Mrs. Shirlene Smith) gave a report on the National GMA.

A nominating committee was elected to enlist new officers for the July meeting that consists of Ruby Bynum, Nita Jefcoat, Rosmond Grayson, Sherry Shows, and Cindy Jones.

The program was presented through the Gospel of Jesus. Rosmond Grayson gave hand of ap-

preciation. Ruby Whitaker gave corresponding secretary’s report. There were 9 churches represented with 48 present.

Nita Bartran of Lebanon read the resolution: “We as members of the WMA resolve to be faithful to carry out our duties as Christian women. We resolve to pray, read and study our Bible, and attend church faithfully and serve our Lord by loving and helping others. We resolve to be good citizens by praying for our country, our leaders, the members of the armed forces and their families. We resolve to recognize every new day as an opportunity to be a witness to someone and to always remember to give thanks to God for all the blessings He gives us.”

The meeting was adjourned in prayer, led by Evelyn Reynolds. The next Big Creek District WMA meeting will be held on July 9 at Parkview in Laurel so let’s all plan to attend and see who our new officers will be for the coming year! If your church is in the Big Creek District, please try to attend this meeting. It would be great to have every church in the district represented, so talk to your ladies and encourage them to attend. Hope to see you at Parkview!

Sherry Shows, Reporter
Big Creek District WMA

GMA Girls

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

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



The 2006-2007 National GMA officers did a remarkable job planning and carrying out the National GMA meeting. Back row (l-r): Savannah Smith, historian; Allena Burns, corresponding secretary. Middle row: Chelsea Wallace, Jr. Miss GMA; Carli Reeder, Alternate Jr. Miss GMA; Keely Naden, Alternate Miss GMA; Cera Jones, song leader. Front row: Tiffany Head, second vice president; Danielle Clark, president; and Lauren Fagala, Miss GMA and first vice president; and Bethany Jones, secretary.

united we multiply.” Biologically speaking, of course. And that’s the way God made it.

So it is with Christ Jesus. He existed in eternity, and did all things, in the unity of God. In the Divine scheme of things, Christ Jesus was ordained to restore the original unity of God and man that was lost through sin and disobedience. This he accomplished through division, as He said, “Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: for from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three” (Luke 12:51,52). So the total population of humans is divided according to their relation to God by His grace through faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This division results in the formation of a great congregation of believers, referred to in Hebrews 12:23 as “the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven.” Viewed as one, this is the true Church, the mystical Body of Christ. The “manifestation of the sons of God” in real unity is only realized in eternity (Romans 8:19-25); and every true believer has a longing for this unity that is part of his or her spiritual nature, resulting from the regeneration of the Spirit, the new birth.

As we live out our faith and our lives on earth, we experience divisions. The body of Christ is divided by space and time, and considered

individually, there are millions of local churches and billions of Christians. But there is only one Lord and one saving faith. There is only one family of God, which has been divided out of the human family by Jesus Christ. But Christ is not divided. And all the divisions that people have made through sectarianism, heresy, denominationalism – none of which are valid Christian activities, have not succeeded in dividing the body of Christ. Such efforts, as well meaning as they might seem, run counter to the Gospel mandate and the instruction of apostolic doctrine, which teach believers to preserve “the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3) and to avoid “schism in the body” of Christ (I Corinthians 12:25). So we can say without reservation that we as members of Christ’s body, the Church, are “divided by One, and united in One.” And that One is Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

It is true that there are churches and divisions in all local churches and denominations. And there are some 30,000 separate denominations of Christianity in this world today. But the true believers in Christ in all of them are part of Christ’s body, they are all the children of God, and they all have the eternal Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. Together we can boldly declare, “United we stand: divided we stand!” And if that is a boast, it is made in Christ, and He will back it up – forever.

I Wish I'd Said That

By Maggie Chandler



3515 Bay Berry Road, Conway, Ark. 72032 • mchan15@conwaycorp.net

If you're like me, you're apt to get a lump in your throat and a tear in your eye on the Fourth of July.

Some people brag about being born on the Fourth of July, but there's something even grander. It is to be born (again) on the Fourth of July and to experience spiritual freedom as well.

Our national flag — the Red, White and Blue — proclaims to the whole world that we are a free people. If you don't mind your Bible resembling a VBS workbook, you might want to put three pieces of material

inside — one red, one white and one blue. You can tape them in the margin so they don't cover any words.

• The first one is red to remind me of the blood of Jesus Christ, and it's taped at Josh. 2:18: "Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee."

This, of course, is the scarlet thread in the window of Rahab. I

used about three inches of red yarn and taped it loosely so it hangs down the page. Whenever I open my Bible, it reminds me that without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin.

• The second piece of material is white to remind me of the certainty of death, and it's taped in the margin of Eccl. 12:6-7: "Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." These words follow the admonition to remember our Creator while we are young, before the silver cord of death be loosed. For this, I used silvery-white cord. Whenever I open my Bible, it reminds me of the certainty of death — that if I'm going to serve the Lord, I'd better do it now.

• The third piece of material is

blue to remind me to be holy, and it's taped in the margin of Num. 15: 28, 40: "Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue... That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God." The ribband of blue — the heavenly color — was a reminder to Israel of a separated walk. I used light blue ribbon, about one-half inch wide. Whenever I open my Bible, it reminds me to be holy — that I have been created in Christ Jesus unto good works.

It may not sound very grown up or theological (some could certainly argue that it's "adding to" the Bible,) but it works for me.

The red reminds me of the blood of Christ.

The white reminds of the certainty of death.

The blue reminds me to take time to be holy.

And when I see all three of them together — the red, white and blue — it reminds me how wonderful it is to know that I am born (again) on the Fourth of July!

-from the *Baptist Trumpet*

Late Breaking News From BMA of America Missions Department

Operation New Generation is Underway!

Wednesday, June 13, marked a new era in the Baptist Missionary Association of America. Nine people from BMAA churches left on a year long assignment to go to China as representatives of Kingdom of our Lord. These volunteers have answered God's call to go, and their lives will never be the same! Their first stop is in the Philippines, where they will be trained and better equipped before moving on to China. Pray for these students, those who will be teaching, and for the young children who accompanied their parents. Ask God for a special hedge of protection upon them as they go in His name to share the love of God and the precious Gospel. Pray for God to be glorified in each one as they seek to do His will.

Newly Elected Missionaries of Deputation

Bro. and Mrs. Justin (Crystal) Owens, newly elected BMAA Missionaries to the Ukraine are pres-

continued on page 8



CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
Dr. John M. Adams, Director
P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863
Email - fbcjdmaj@yahoo.com



John Adams

Highlighted Trustee of the Month

Our Trustee for the month is Rev. Johnny Williams. Bro. Williams is 37 years old and was born at Keesler Air Force Base in Gulfport, Mississippi. His hometown is Long Beach, Mississippi. He is married to Neta of Saucier, Mississippi, and they have

three children: Ashley (18), Jonathan (16) and Cortney (13). He has been in the ministry since May 1993 and has served as Pastor of Rocky Branch Baptist Church for the past three years. We are honored to have Bro. Williams on the C.A.C. Board.

Supporting Churches and Associations of the C.A.C.

Big Creek Association
Judson Association
Lebanon, Laurel
Lifepointe, Hernando
Little Creek, Perkinston

OUR GREAT CONCERNS

Please share your thoughts and opinions with the Christian Action Commission (CAC) Director and Trustees. We are asking for you to identify areas of concern that you have regarding our nation's morals and issues.

Check below the area of concern that faces you, your family, church and community the most. Spaces are provided for additional comments or ideas. Cut out and mail back to us at: CAC, P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855

(Cut here and mail)

- Abortion _____
- Pornography and Internet _____
- Gambling and Casinos _____
- Youth High School Drop Out _____
- Drug/Alcohol Abuse _____
- Other _____

Merciful Discipline

Here's a 'grand-parenting' tip that I have always found a little amusing - "You should spank a child once a day; if you don't know why, they do". I have to be honest, as a child I received very few spankings (I haven't really received that many as an adult either). This is not to say that I was necessarily a good kid, but even if I did know why I should have gotten one, I rarely did.

That brings to mind an interesting experiment - how many spankings did you get when you were a child? How often did you receive a punishment of any kind when you were little? Was there ever a time you were on the receiving end that you truly didn't deserve? Very rarely do any of us feel we are getting fairly punished, but there are times that we receive 'justice' that we didn't truly 'earn'.

What do we do in such situations? If we are following after usual patterns and our own nature, we usually begin to scream about the fairness of it all. Children, "I got a spanking I didn't deserve, that's not fair! I had to stand in a corner for something I didn't do, that's not fair!" Teenagers, "I was grounded for two weeks I lost my phone privileges (or car or whatever...) And I didn't do anything wrong!" Adults - Usually we don't receive punishments, we just live life, but things come our way and we get mistreated and our cry out is 'That's just not fair'. This

bill isn't mine, I got cut off in traffic, this, that, the other thing... And it's just not fair.

Nine times out of ten when you



Shane's World

Shane Singleton

hear somebody cry out 'Well, that's just not fair' what we are really saying is 'I'm not getting my way. I'm having to answer for something that's truly not my fault.' Life gives us a spanking we don't really deserve.

Now I share all of that to share this with you - how often do we think back to those times when we did deserve a spanking, a grounding, an 'unfairness' and didn't get one. Do we cry unfair then? No, because we expect mercy when what we deserve is justice. How good to know we have a merciful Father who not only guides us through moments of justice with His grace, but has made a blessed life possible in mercy through Jesus Christ.

Discipline is a necessary thing, so let us look passed fair and unfair, and see the love and mercy that comes from the hand of God. If we don't know why He loves us so, He does! And that's enough.

When adult kids move back home

This is a very complex issue. This is a very short article to discuss this issue. This is not a complete guide. Let this article serve as a discussion starter for you and your family. Seek God fervently in prayer and let the Holy Spirit lead you. Some people have said when their kids leave home, they may never move back in. Right or wrong, it is such a common occurrence that it needs to be addressed as a modern day family dilemma.

The only way for such a scenario to work is for their to be agreed upon ground rules from the beginning. There may be a crisis that precipitates someone moving back into the parent's home in the middle of the night. However, as soon as possible, the family needs to get together and set some ground rules so that you all can be healthy, holy and functional. God is for order in the homes, and Satan is for chaos and confusion.

Rule # 1 - The parents have rules for their home.

These rules are not age specific. It doesn't matter whether you are 14 or 40, the parents establish the rules of their home for all to live by. The

morality of the home is non-negotiable regardless of age. Even if you are an adult, if the house rules are no drinking, no dirty movies, no cursing etc., then everyone must follow



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

www.travisplumlee.com

these rules if they desire to stay in the home. However, parents can also recognize that their child is now an adult and should be treated as such. You don't impose curfews and restrictions on how late someone can stay up at night to an adult like you would a 16 year old. Exception to this rule is if the adult child needs to get out and get a job and they stay up all night and sleep all day. This is not functional. Negotiate and communicate on these critical issues. Do not negotiate on issues relating to the morality in the home. Biblical

precepts are non-negotiable. Sin is not winked at or ignored regardless of the age of the individual.

Rule # 2 - Don't enable.

Some parents really do not help their adult children because they are always rescuing them out of trouble. If you pray and decide that your child really needs some help right now and you have the ability to do that, then you should. But it does not mean that if your adult child is lazy, shiftless, or an alcoholic, or has an explosive anger, that they can always run home to you for help and to get bailed out. These adult kids need to learn and experience the pain of their wrong choices. Sometimes the most loving thing to do is say no. Sometimes it is okay to help the kids out financially if you have the discretionary income. Sometimes the most loving and helpful option is to say no.

Rule # 3. Respect each other.

Don't judge, blame, or laugh at an adult child that moves back home. You may be the last door of hope for them. You don't accept

their sin, but you should always accept them as your beloved and be ready to have the door open for hope, help and restoration when needed. People need someone in their life who is a safe person to talk to. I hope that is you as a parent. You are not a safe person to talk to if all you can offer is blaming and criticism. Maybe you need to listen more and preach less.

Adult children should be full of an attitude of gratitude toward their parents. They should also be honoring at all times. They should help out around the house. You don't move back in to your parents home and still expect them to mow the lawn. Show your gratitude. Work above and beyond the call of duty. Parents and children should respect boundaries. Knock before you enter bedrooms. If your child moves back home, you don't have permission to snoop. If they move back home, you are not entitled to know every minute detail of their life so you can point out all of their mistakes. Be a ready listener, but give advice in very guarded measure.

Rule # 4 - Give privacy.

If your child moves back in with a spouse, you need to give your in-law

some space and time of their own. You may want to give them some time where you leave the house so they can be affectionate towards their mate. If the adult child has kids, the grandparents are not built in babysitters for you. And the grandparents do not have permission to tell their adult children how to raise their kids. However, the kids still have to go by the house rules and are not allowed to go like wild Indians through the home. The kids do have to obey the grandparents and see them as an authority figure. Give the parents some time alone as well. Every body needs some space. Work out time schedules so no one is smothered.

Rule # 5- Communicate.

Prayer is the most important form of communication. Everyone during this time period should come together as a family and pray. Don't yell. Don't get too emotional and stress out. Always keep the communication lines open before things get out of control. If you get out of control, take a time out and then come back. Everyone should give a little. We should strive for schedules that work best for all the people living together. Be considerate, thoughtful and kind. Ephesians 4:32.

Harmony Baptist Camp Report



Pictured above are some of the 8 children saved at the 2007 Harmony Association Camp held at Tishomingo State Park.

The theme of the Harmony Baptist Encampment was "Redeeming the Time." There were 122 full-time campers with visitors each service. There were 8 saved during camp.

After we all registered and unpacked we had some fun swimming and playing. Bro. Greg Medenwald brought the message from Ephesians 5:16 on Monday night.

After a good night's rest, we met for class and worship service despite the rain (and thank God for it). Bro. Medenwald brought the message from Genesis 1:26-29; Tuesday night from Luke 16:19-31; and Wednesday morning from Acts 11:19-27. The director for the 2008 and encampment will be Bro. Tim Nall.

We would like to thank the following: Bro. Greg Medenwald for bringing good messages each night and for staying and joining us in the

fun times. Bro. Latrelle Windham, State Youth Director, for coming and doing the sword drill and joining the fun times that we had. Our camp director, Bro. Eddie Boutwell, and thank you to Unity Church for the recreation. To the worship leaders, Bro. And Mrs. Brandon Harvell, for the worship in songs. To all the teachers and sponsors, thank you and thank you to Tishomingo State Park, and to Bro. And Mrs. Mavous Phifer for registering and getting everyone where they needed to be. Bro. Mavous has been doing this job for the past 27 years and doing a great job so on behalf of the Harmony Association and Shady Grove Baptist Church, we would like to say thank you and God bless, we love you! The Harmony Encampment will plan to meet June 16-18, 2008.

Lisa Wilemon, Reporter

Supreme Court decision on faith-based programs solid, says Christian attorney

OneNewsNow.com - The president of the Pacific Justice Institute says a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court which sided with the White House Office of Faith-Based Initiatives will be a major setback for secular humanist groups who want to push their radical agenda on the country.

In the 5-4 decision, the high court rejected a challenge by the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF), which sued to stop federal funding of faith-based programs. The White House conducted conferences that informed charitable groups - both secular and faith-based - about ex-

isting federal grant programs to help the poor and how to apply for such grants. FFRF sued the government as taxpayers, claiming that by conducting those conferences the White House violated the Establishment Clause.

Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito, writing for the majority, did not agree with that claim. He wrote that what FFRF proposed in its lawsuit "would enlist the federal courts to superintend, at the behest of any federal taxpayer, the speeches, statements, and myriad daily activities of the president, his staff, and other

Executive Branch officials."

Pacific Justice Institute president Brad Dacus says the Supreme Court's ruling is solid. "This court inherently acknowledged that there's nothing unconstitutional with the government treating religious-based, non-profit efforts on the same equal level as secular, non-religious, non-profit endeavors," states Dacus. "That's very important that religious organizations have an equal playing field and that's what this court decision has maintained."

The high court said that just because the plaintiffs are taxpayers did not give them grounds to object to the federal government's spending based on alleged violations of the Establishment Clause.

Pending Russian law could threaten Christian outreach

OneNewsNow.com - The Slavic Gospel Association says a new law that will soon take effect in Russia could have a chilling impact on Christian churches and ministries in the former communist country.

A spokesman with the Slavic Gospel Association (SGA) says Christians in Russia face uncertain times because of a new religion law due to take effect this spring that would impose registration and reporting restrictions on churches. The "law on non-governmental organizations" set to take effect in Russia in April reportedly would require non-governmental groups (NGOs), including churches, to register with state

agencies. The groups would also be required to list their funding sources and provide records of all meetings.

In an interview with Mission Network News, David Genn of the Slavic Gospel Association says many evangelicals are concerned about the pending legislation and its anticipated detrimental effect on outreach efforts -- and are praying for God's intervention.

"[Those of us] here in the West who are aware of this [are] praying that God would stay the implementation of this because there's a number of laws on the books over there, if they were enforced, that would be significantly limiting to the church,"

Genn shares.

The SGA official explains that in various regions of the country, laws that may have been implemented are not necessarily enforced because of the relationship that already exists between local church pastors and local government officials.

"And so we would pray first of all that God might stay this [new law] - and if it is implemented, that God would give favor with these brothers with the local government authorities," he says.

Genn recently returned from Russia as part of a Christmas outreach to children.

Bro. Harry Tapp dies

Rev. Harry Lewis Tapp, 77, of Gulfport, died Wednesday, June 20, 2007 in Gulfport. He was born in Somerville, Tennessee on November 13, 1929 to Estell and Louis Tapp. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Herman and Jimmy, and one grandson, James T. Culpepper.

Bro. Tapp served six years in the U. S. Air Force. After his discharge, he learned to fly light aircraft, which was something he dearly loved to do. He enjoyed hunting and fishing with friends and family.



He surrendered to the ministry in 1960 and served faithfully for 45 years. During that time he pastored Bethany Baptist Church, Gulfport; First Baptist Church of Orange Grove; and was a missionary pastor of Central Baptist of Bay St. Louis. He organized Campground Baptist Church of Gulfport in 1991 and served as pastor there until his retirement in 2005. Brother Tapp dearly loved the Lord and would have continued to preach indefinitely had it not been for poor health. He influenced many lives with his leadership. He baptized and married too many to count, including all of his children and most of his grandchildren. He dearly loved being with people and ministering to their needs.

Tapp served as trustee of Mississippi Baptist Children's Home for 26 years and also served as moderator of Ten Mile and Hoblochitto Associations. He preached revivals all over South Mississippi and West Tennessee.

Brother Tapp is survived by his wife of 55 years, Barbara Walker Tapp; two daughters, Joan Aileen Purchner (Darrell), and Beverly Ann Griffin (Richard); four sons, Richard L. (Ginger), James Carter (Vicky), Raymond Neil (Teresa), and Phillip Eugene (Donna); fifteen grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren; two sisters, Cathleen Siler (John), and Claudine Anderson; five brothers, L. E. Tapp (Daisy), George, William (Dee), Jerry (Tressa) and Wayne (Gaithea); and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Saturday, June 23, 2007 at Campground Baptist Church with burial at Finley Cemetery, Gulfport.

National Missions News

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ently visiting churches during their deputation. Later this summer they will go through missionary orientation and training to help prepare them for the mission field. The Owens will go to the Ukraine in September to begin language school. Pray for them as they make final visits to churches and as they leave for the place to which God has called them.

2007 Volunteer Student Missions Trips

- Armenia - July 10-21
 - Brazil - July 13-24
 - Chicago - June 14-20
 - Czech Republic - June 15-27
 - Ghana - July 13-24
 - Idaho - July 15-25
 - Peru - July 18-30
 - Philippines - July 21 - August 1
 - Romania - July 6-21
 - Russia - July 10-20
 - Ukraine - July 27-August 6
 - Lebanon - To Be Announced
- (You can read a daily account of these teams as they serve at TeamVSM.com)

VSM Teams reports available on line

Hey, Guys...Thought that I would let you and your readers in on an exciting way to follow our VSM teams this summer. At www.teamvsm.org you can log in and follow our students as they minister around the world. Each leader blogs about their daily ministry efforts and posts pictures of our kids in action.

For a real blessing, read Steven Carroll's latest account of Team Czech's effort to reach high school students. I am continually amazed at what God is doing through our kids.

Thanks for all you do!
In Him,
Donny Parrish

Letters to Editor

from page 4

low Brothers in Christ as being the same as the "whore that rode the beast in the book of Revelation," if they continue down a certain path. It is also stated that it was hoped that the words that were spoken by this individual "were from the heat of the moment and not from the true intent of his heart." I was the individual that indeed made that statement and it is my desire to let it be known that those words were not given in the heat of the moment because if I remember I was very calm and not heated at all. The words that I spoke were indeed the intention of my heart, but not the way it was originally received by the brethren. I would like to address the "Certain Path" that was alluded to in the previous article. It is because of this "Certain Path" that those in our work who support the ecumenical movement have adopted the same spirit as the "whore who rode the beast in the book of Revelation." I understand that my statement "pierced the hearts of dedicated, faithful men who have proven themselves through the years by their loyalty to the work of the Gospel of Christ." I would like to say at this moment it was never the intent of my heart to willfully hurt anyone. However I still stand by what I said, I do not apologize for my statements because after reviewing a copy of the meeting that was in Fort Smith I am reaffirmed to the fact that I was right in my statements and was scriptural. The reason that I stand by my statements that were against ecumenicalism is because it is a doctrinal error and for men of God in our work to believe that we can learn from outside our denomination is nothing more than spiritual ignorance at its worst. The Ecumenical Movement is one of the greatest spiritual heresies of our time, and for us true Baptist to allow this movement to advance in the BMAA then we are indeed putting our spiritual endorsement on one of the most doctrinally damnable movements in the history of the church, and we are taking part in the same spirit as the "whore that rode the beast in the book of Revelation." This is why I stand by my original statements and this is why I am including the following facts on why the Ecumenical Movement must be stopped from advancing in our work.

Ecumenical Movement- The prevailing philosophy of the last days which desires that all professing Christians join together in unity regardless of doctrinal integrity. "Ecumenical" means worldwide, universal. Catholic means universal as well and I am not giving any allegiance to the Pope. This is the system that will be in place after the Rapture of the Church, and we are aiding this system by fellowshipping with other denominations. I have heard and listened to the argument that we use people who believe what we do, and in my eyes that's not the truth because if they believed what I believed there would not be any "Community, Non-Denominational, No Allegiance" in these churches name. These "Churches" need to be proud to call themselves BAPTIST. I associate only with Baptist. Jesus started the Baptist Church on the shores of the Sea of Galilee and that is the type of "Church" I want to affiliate with; a church that is sound in doctrine and IS sound in the source of all doctrine the Word of God (KJV). There are several reasons I will not support the "Certain Path" that some of our brothers are moving our work toward.

1) The ecumenical movement downplays doctrinal purity and refuses to practice biblical separation. The Bibles clear teaching of separation forbids God's people from fellowshipping with error. Rom. 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have

learned; and avoid them. Rom. 16:18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

2) True Christian unity is God-made not man-made. (Ephesians 4:1-6) John 17:21 is often used by ecumenist as proof for their objectives, they fail to point out that Jesus was not instructing Christians to form some ecumenical unity, He was praying that the Father would produce spiritual unity. This unity can only come by being in agreement on truth and the Word of God. There is no unity in those areas by being involved with ecumenicalism.

3) The ecumenical movement downplays the local church and exalts inter-denominational relationships. The local church is the outlet that Christ intended for the Gospel to be delivered. Christian unity is a local church matter. (1 Cor 1:10, 12:25-27, 2 Cor 13:11; Phil 1:27; Rom 12:16, 15:5-6)

4) Ecumenical groups do not have a high moral or doctrinal standard. It is a shame that among ecumenist Christians we can find drinking, gambling, homosexuality, etc.. The cry of the hour is "liberty" and "unity".

Those of us who hold to biblical standards are called legalist. If I am labeled a legalist because of standing for truth then I welcome this title. I hope that these facts will shed light on the errors of the "Certain Path" that our work is seemingly going down. But if my argument cannot sway the Brethren that were hurt because of the comments that I have made then, I concede the rest of this response to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (REVELATION 18:4) "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

Bro. Chris Wells
Associate Pastor
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church
Saucier, MS.
Chwells03@aol.com



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Uglyfy!

I've always heard that "Beauty is only skin deep, but ugly goes clean to the bone."

I was reading a dictionary the other day (it's a fun thing to do) and I came across the word "uglify". I'd never heard of that before and it said it is "to make ugly". "As beauty is to the beholder - so is ugly." I do believe some folks work hard at being ugly. I think Satan has blinded their eyes to beauty.

Just go sit in a public place and watch people pass. You can see some ugly folks and you can tell they worked at it. You can also see some beautiful people.

No matter what people look like to us we must remember that we are all created in His likeness and we are to love our fellow man!

BMA of Mississippi

MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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



Bro. Ed Duvall, Homestretch Mission

I hope my letter finds you all doing well. I am recuperating from a week-long revival at Westhaven Baptist Church in Jackson. I enjoyed my time at Westhaven and the wonderful fellowship we had each night.

I will be taking twelve kids to church camp from the 18th - 22nd of June. Several of the kids that I am taking are not saved. I am praying that they will surrender to the call of God at camp.

We are scheduling a baptism for the month of July. We also will have our VBS in July from the 19th - 21st. We are very grateful for Bro. Donald Brown and his church for coming here and helping us.

Bro. Don Hilbun will be here in July to

help out in our door to door ministry. We believe that God is going to touch many hearts this summer here in Cleveland.

This is a very busy summer, but one I hope that will bring many fond memories.

I want to thank all of you for your love, prayers, encouragement and financial support.



Ed Duvall Family