

# The Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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Vol. 62 No. 13

## Thank God You Are An American

by Travis Plumlee  
Family Ark Ministries  
Conway, Arkansas

As we all prepare to celebrate July 4th, as Christian families we should stop and pray to God. We should not just run to the lake, have a picnic, watch ball games, parades and fireworks. We should first gather as a family of God and thank God that we are Americans. We live in the greatest nation on earth and that is a blessing from heaven.

Here are some things to be thankful to God for in your Independence Day Prayer.

Thank you God for letting me live in America. Thank you that in this country I have the freedom to worship you when I want and where I want. Thank you that we Americans have the freedom to worship you in churches all over this great land. We have never had to worry about being arrested for going to church. We have not been imprisoned for worshipping you on Sunday at church. Many people have been jailed for worshipping Jesus, instead of a ruthless dictator. Thank you God that I am an American.

Thank you God for all the military people throughout our history. Thank you God for those who spilled their blood on the sands of Iwo Jima. Thank you God for those who died horrible deaths in the trenches of France and Germany. Thank you God for those who died in a jungle for a cause greater than themselves. To die, so that others might live in freedom. Thank you God for those brave young men and women who to this day, put on their uniforms, leave their families and go to far away places to protect the freedom of democracy and the freedom from crazed despots. It is important that you talk about this and pray about this in front of the younger generation. If we do not instill these histori-

cal lessons in our children and grandchildren, then why do we celebrate America on July 4th?

You should also include in your prayer, your own family and loved ones who have already sacrificed, or who are currently sacrificing themselves in our military.

Thank you God for my grandfathers who served in World War I in France. Thank you God for my uncles who fought in World War II. Thank you God

for my father who fought in Korea. Thank you God for my brother, nephews and nieces and son-in-law who still serve our country because they believe in all that our flag symbolizes.

Thank you God for allowing me to be an American. You have blessed us exceedingly and abundantly. Thank you that I have never held my child in my arms while they starve to death because there was no food. Thank you God that my children have never known a

famine in our land. Thank you God that even the poorest of the poor here have food to eat. Thank you that my kitchen is full of food. Not only for today, but we have food stored up for days to come. Thank you God that I have been given financial blessings from you that when my food storehouse runs low, I only have to drive down the street to the grocery store and buy more.

Forgive me Father, for the times I have been ungrateful to you for what I have. I complain because I wished I had a bigger, fancier home; yet you have given me a refuge out of the storm. At the flip of a switch, I can have cool air in summer, and warm air in winter. My kids don't know what it means to suffer physically because of cold winter nights, for you have allowed us to have heated homes. Forgive me for griping

about my income. You have blessed me to be able to go into a grocery store. I can push a buggy down broad aisles lined with every type of food on the earth. I simply have to pick it off the shelves. I complain about the chore of going to the store. I complain about having to carry groceries in from the car, and I continue to complain when I have to spend time to load my kitchen cabinets full of mass quantities of food. God, forgive me. We don't just have food that is necessary to sustain life. We are so abundantly blessed that we actually buy food that our family "desires" because it taste so good.

Dear Lord, as I push my grocery cart down the aisle of the store to buy picnic supplies this July 4th, help me to think about how most of the world cannot even picture in their mind going to such a place. To shop where there is no waiting lines and bread for all. To shop in the comfort of an air-conditioned store instead of the stench of a fly-infested roadside. God teach me and my

family to be more thankful for how you have blessed us here in America.

Thank you God that I have never been rounded up because of my religious beliefs, herded and humiliated through the streets of town, and sent to a gas chamber only because I believe in you. Thank you God that we can go and vote for people in this country and not fear being killed by machete-wielding madmen. Forgive me Father when I complain about having to stand in a long line to vote, when some people in the world are blown up by bombs while standing in line to vote.

Yes, thank you God for blessing me and my family to be Americans. Thank you God for blessing America. This July 4th, I will not ask you God to bless America. I will pray that your people here will bless and thank you for your exceeding provisions that you have bestowed upon us out of your unending mercy and grace. Thank you God for allowing me to be an American.



### Mississippi Senator Introduces Marriage Protection Act

**OneNewsNow** - On Wednesday (June 25, 2008) Republican Senator Roger Wicker introduced the Marriage Protection Act, a measure aimed at amending the Constitution to declare that marriage is a union between one man and one woman.

Wicker says the move is necessary because "activist judges are attempting to redefine one of our nation's most sacred institutions." The Mississippi lawmaker notes that "19 states have passed laws and 26 states have amended their constitution to protect traditional marriage."

"Rather than giving unelected judges the opportunity to legislate from the bench, this amendment will reaffirm what most Americans believe ... marriage is between a man and a woman," Wicker says.

The senator's proposed amendment states: "Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution, nor the constitution of any State, shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman."

Wicker's bill is the Senate companion to House legislation introduced by Republican Paul Broun of Georgia.

## DiscipleGuide Church Ministries

# Meeting Your Children's Ministry Needs

DiscipleGuide is committed to offering churches exceptional children's materials. We've invested time and resources to fulfill this commitment through our own Victory Series materials and that of other publishers.

Victory Series is DiscipleGuide's children's Bible-study curriculum. Divided into five levels, Victory Series comprehensively teaches God's Word age-appropriately for children from ages 2 through 6th grade. Each level is a two-year repeating cycle allowing DiscipleGuide to continually upgrade and expand materials as resources allow. On our Web site we provide free PDF downloadable coloring sheets for the first three Victory Series levels. Bible-story pictures are available for early-childhood Explorer and Voyager lessons. Memory verses are featured on the early-elementary Adventurer coloring sheets. Flashcards for teaching books of the

Bible are also available for use with all elementary classes. Changes planned for the Conqueror and Champion levels will provide additional downloads on our Web site beginning in the spring 2009 quarter. Target revisions will keep Victory Series a very effective tool for children's small group Bible study whether it is Sunday morning or other scheduled time.

After three years of planning and preparation, we found it cost prohibitive to provide a new curriculum to replace our current children's Christian Growth Ministry material. With all size churches in mind we sought out and secured biblically sound materials to meet additional ministry needs at affordable prices.

We found an exceptional program in DiscipleLand by Through the Bible Publishers. DiscipleLand uses a balance of biblical knowledge and training to help children carry out the Great Commission. Biographical accounts of well-known missionaries may be taught alongside current BMAA missions information available in *The Gleaner*.

Children's discipleship material may be adapted for a traditional Bible class or used to its full potential for a multi-hour evening program. Preschool and three elementary levels are recommended and are appropriate for use by all size churches. Teacher and student guides as well as teaching pictures are available. DiscipleLand materials are listed on the quarterly literature order beginning this fall.

## 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.



### Ballardville, Tupelo

On June 5, Ballardville hosted the monthly Tombigbee Associational meeting. A good meal was enjoyed by all. Bro. Gary Smith brought special music and a good message. A group of singers from Ballardville also brought special music. Sixty-one people attended.

June was also our summer revival. Services began Sunday evening, on June 8 and concluded Wednesday, June 11. Bro. Eddie Boutwell was the evangelist. Special music was heard each night along with an inspiring message from Bro. Boutwell.

The week of June 16, our latest project of installing a walking track was completed. We look forward to the fellowship while walking together and getting into better physical shape.

Ballardville would like to welcome anyone searching for a church home and wants to continue working for the Lord. Join us if you can and you will surely receive a blessing.

Bro. Thelbert Hill, Pastor  
Teresa Nichols, Reporter

### Springhill, Laurel to hold VBS

Springhill Baptist Church will have Vacation Bible School with Olympic theme, "Good News Games," on July 21-25 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., for ages 2 years through teens. The closing program will be Sunday, July 27, starting at 5:00 p.m., with fellowship to follow. Pastor Steve Clark and Springhill congregation would like to invite everyone for a fun time of music, fellowship, crafts, and studying God's word. Don't forget to bring a friend! For more information, please call 601-729-8019.

### Tombigbee Association meets

The Tombigbee Association met at Ballardville Church, Tupelo on June 5 with 61 present. A report on the recent camp stated that 67 campers were present from 7 churches.

Missionary Joseph Oyeleye reported 3 professions of faith in May with an average attendance of 24 at the Maple Street mission.

After several specials in song, Bro. Gary Smith presented a special and then brought the evening message from Exekial 37 on "Revival of the Dry Bones".

Roger Akers, moderator  
Wanda Parmer, reporter

## Soso Church holds groundbreaking



Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi, held a groundbreaking service on Sunday, June 22. At the end of the morning worship service, members gathered next to the church sanctuary for a ceremony to begin the construction of a new education facility. The new building will replace a building that is nearly 70 years old.

The new facility will connect the church Sanctuary with the Family Life Center. The 8,700 square foot building will include new classroom space, a new children's church, nursery, choir room and a new office complex. The church hopes to be in the new building in December.



DiscipleGuide recognizes the importance of meaningful examples and guidance to help children express worship to God and respond to the presentation of the gospel. Many products were evaluated for children's worship, but only those materials accurate in biblical doctrine were approved. We are pleased these products include a variety of ideas teaching spiritual concepts age appropriately. Our Web site and the quarterly literature order provide full ordering information on early-childhood material by Gospel Light and school-age worship materials by Regular Baptist Press. The Melodee Bell program by Regular Baptist Press provides a much needed worship addition in children's ministry.

DiscipleGuide receives a portion of the sales on the discipleship and children's worship materials. Products are shipped from our warehouse at standard shipping rates. Our sales associate team will be delighted to offer you more information.

See the difference these materials will make in your children's ministry!

### May 2008 Report

## Prisoner's Bible Crusade

Praise the Lord for 14 prisoners accepting the Lord as their Savior in 2008 through the efforts of the Prisoners Bible Crusade's Evangelist's team.

My prayer is that our Lord will continue to bless His Word in the prisons and jails across our land, Isaiah 55:11. For the year 2008 we have given free to prisoners 2,604 English Bibles; 240 Spanish Bibles; 200 New Testaments; 270 John/Romans; All Study Books 3,526; 638 Study helps, all totals to date in 2008 is 7,478.

These were sent into 28 prisons. Chaplains report 929 people saved (15,167 since January 1, 2000). 3 new Chaplain requesting Bibles for the 1st time. I have traveled 7,600 miles, 14 indicated professions of Faith in Jesus Christ, visited 10 churches, 12 associations meeting & 10 prisons, taught 20 bible study classes, taught 1 volunteer worker's class. I have preached 10 sermons in churches, 7 in prisons. PBC's Evangelistic Team has conducted 6 Worship services in prisons in 2008. Since 1973 we have given 178,607 Bibles; Total for all bibles and materials: 521,300.

I would be happy to speak to your Church or Group about this prison ministry or the one day Bible Study Helps Seminar.

Again, our thanks for your prayers and support for this Bible Ministry.

Paul E. Lee, Director PBC

## County clerk reneges on religious accommodation

**OneNewsNow** - The San Diego County clerk is going back on a pledge to accommodate the religious beliefs of deputy clerks who don't want to perform same-sex "marriages."

County Clerk Greg Smith originally agreed not to make deputy clerks who objected on religious grounds perform same-sex "marriages." But when 14 of the 30 deputies normally assigned to that duty wanted to opt out, Smith changed his mind. Glen Lavy, senior counsel with the Alliance Defense Fund, notes that while only 30 employees routinely perform weddings, 112 deputy clerks are authorized to do so.

"That would seem to be a pretty easy accommodation," the attorney observes. "It's interesting, though, the fact that so many of the clerks are unwilling to perform this act shows that there is not the broad-based support for redefining marriage that our opponents claim."

Lavy says Smith's decision to force the clerks to choose between their religious beliefs and their jobs violates Title VII laws against employment discrimination. "The federal Constitution protects religious freedom in the First Amendment -- that is our first liberty," he points out. "[But] when a state employer will not allow its employees to carry into effect their religious liberty, there's something terribly wrong."

## Where Are the Men of God?

Where are the men of God? I'm talking about men who are bound mind, body, and soul to God in prayer. They linger long at the altar listening for His words. They rise early in the morning saturating and immersing themselves in the Holy Scriptures. Their lives stand for Christ and His Kingdom. They support righteousness and encourage people in their day and time to turn to Christ.

Where are the men of God whose lives blaze with the fire of the Spirit of God? These are the men whose prayers reach heaven when they kneel alongside your sick bed, in the crisis of your family, and through the injuries of life. These are men who stay at the altar until empowered to work among the people of God with clean hands and pure hearts. These are the men of God whose prayers reach above the ceilings of the rooms where they stand—they reach to God's presence.

Panty waist preachers follow the cultural agenda set by television personalities who use Bible and Christian language to create a jumble of new age religiosity. Puny pastors encourage their people to have confidence in their own spiritual experiences as being equal with the Word of God and the historic message of the Christian Church. Glitzy gurus

of giant churches cannot confer upon their people Bible understanding let alone any experience with the living God. These are not the men of God.

The miniature, minuscule, and minor minister worries about his image, surveys of population market segments, and the latest fads of pop culture. These ministers feed



### Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

the increasingly irrelevant denominational structures, hoping to be promoted one step beyond their already questionable abilities. These are not the men of God.

Where are the men of God? Standing in the presence of Samuel, I would know I was with God's man. If Moses and I were in a room together, I would not have to guess about his being God's man. If Silas were preaching in a Christian worship service, I would not have to fill out a personal effectiveness survey to comprehend the power of the message. If Barnabas were praying for me, I would not have to wonder if I heard and God heard from the man of God.

Where are the men of God? Our churches need them and need them desperately. People find their own teachers, sociologists, psychologists, and new age philosophers to pose as pastors, impersonate preachers, and substitute for power in the pulpit. These people have ears that itch. Their pseudo men of God scratch that itch.

Where are the men of God? The men of God, like the prophets of the Old Testament and the prophets of the New Testament, are ready to be sent by God when God's people call on Him. When God's people are ready for the fire to fall, God will send His men. When people's hearts are ready to be broken over their behavior and their faces are wet with tears of repentance, God will send his men.

Young preacher, older preacher are you the man of God? Is your heart pure; are your hands clean; is your calling sure? The God of heaven will give you success. Church member, have you sought the man of God as your pastor? Perhaps you have sought the good of the world and ignored the best of God. Where are the men of God? Of, Lord, here at your altar today, we ask you to empower your men of God and send the men of God among us.

## Branhams To Celebrate 60th Anniversary

Former BMA of America Missions Director Craig Branham and his wife, Grace, will celebrate a milestone July 3 — 60 years of marriage. She is the former Grace Williamson of Carthage, Texas, and they were married July 3, 1948 at Tyler State Park in Tyler, Texas, with Richard Walters officiating.

Mrs. Branham attended Central Baptist College and Jacksonville College and is a graduate of the University of Central Arkansas with a Bachelor's degree in education. She taught school for 20 years in Pulaski and Faulkner Counties.

A native of Troup, Texas, he surrendered to the ministry September 1, 1946, was ordained February 8, 1948 at Bell Baptist Church in his hometown. He is a graduate of Jacksonville College and Texas Wesleyan University and also attended Baylor University. He pastored several churches in Arkansas, Missouri and Texas and served as missionary for the Cherokee Baptist Association.

He also served in several other associational positions, including BMAA Missions assistant secretary-treasurer and foreign missions director, as well as director of the

Ministers Benefit Department (now known as Ministers Resource Services), executive director of Baptist Building Bonds and trustee and chairman of the board at Central Baptist College.



Craig & Grace Branham

The Branhams have three children: Elaine Councille, Clint Branham and the late Dwayne Craig Branham; 10 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

They are members of Calvary Baptist Church in Fayetteville. Their address is 5369 Walden, Lowell, Arkansas 72745.

- from Baptist Trumpet

## Puerto Rico churches organize BMAPR



By **Alfredo L. (Freddy) Didier**  
Pastor  
Church Without Walls  
Cayey, PR

After months of preparation and planning, we can now say that Puerto Rico has a local missionary association for the churches of the BMAA in Puerto Rico. On June 14, the Baptist Missionary Association of

Puerto Rico (BMAPR) was formed. The official name is Asociación Bautista Misionera de Puerto Rico.

"It is a small start," said Missionary David Dickson, pastor of Church Without Walls in Guayama, during the ceremonies. "We only have three organized churches to begin with, but we had to start somewhere." Five delegates from each church

were present to vote during the first election of officers: David Dickson, president; Freddy Didier, vice president; Dalia Stella Gonzalez, J.Dr., secretary; Angel L. De Jesús, missionary to Mayaguez, treasurer; and Luis Caraballo, missionary to Humacao, director of Missions.

Pastor Didier preached the organizational message: "Together We

Can Make A Difference," Mark 2:1-12. "Each church is autonomous in government under the lordship of Christ, associated in a fellowship and working together to serve mutual needs, to minister in Christ's name and to reach people for the Lord," said Bro. Didier. "The BMA of Puerto Rico exists to help our family of churches fulfill the Great Commission.

The association will sponsor work in just about any area of church life. Committees and chairpersons will be chosen from the various churches to provide leadership, training, support, fellowship and opportunities for Christian growth, all in a missions frame of mind. "The association will promote unity

and cooperation among the churches of the BMAPR. It will pull together many voices to make one strong voice in matters of public concern and matters concerning sound biblical doctrine. We will develop and implement a missions strategy to motivate other churches to voluntarily come together and be a part of our association. The BMAPR has begun an historic journey to help the churches of Puerto Rico fulfill the Great Commission. May God help us in this most important responsibility."

— Baptist Missionary Association of Puerto Rico, P.O. Box 1348, Guayama, Puerto Rico 00785; (787) 866-7777; 866-7778 (Fax)

## July - August 2008

Special Emphasis

### Southeastern Baptist College

60 Years of Service

To The

*Baptist Missionary Association  
of Mississippi*

# Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

## Happy Birthday Southeastern

You will notice in this issue that Southeastern Baptist College has a four page insert giving information about the college and her ministry. You will find a lot of history presented in those pages.

As the college notes in its presentation, they reach the milestone of 60 years of ministry in 2008. God has blessed SBC over these six decades to teach His Word to a great number of His servants and to have an eternal impact on innumerable

lives world wide.

The teaching ministry of our Association has been faithful to teach "thus saith the Lord" these many years and she deserves our support. We congratulate those currently serving Southeastern College, and those who have labored before them, for their untiring desire to teach to others what has so faithfully been taught to them.

We are proud of those who chose to attend SBC and prepare for a lifetime of ministry. May

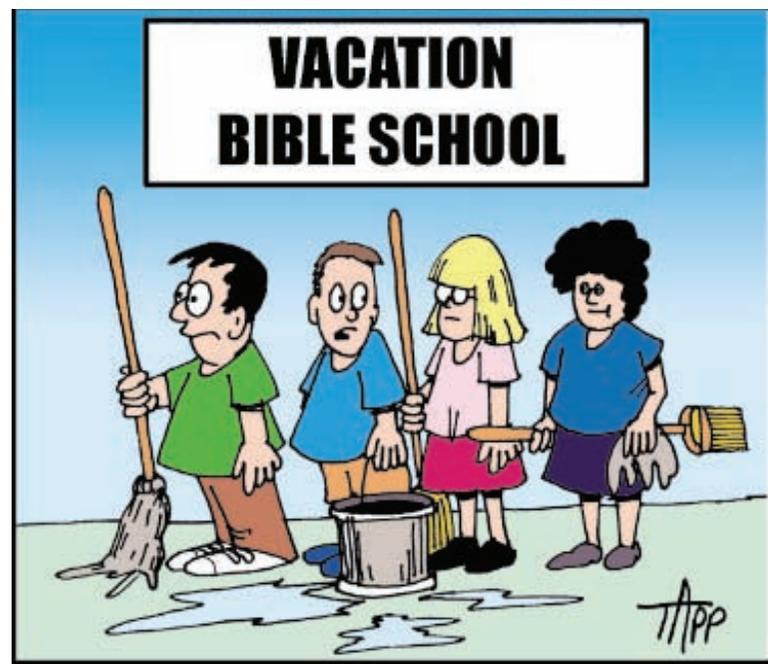
God continue to bless His servants and may they reach many for His sake.

SBC is worthy of your financial support and we urge each one of our churches to support her during their Special Emphasis drive.



Don Brown  
Editor

## Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"I liked our crafts time a lot better last year."

## Using What God Has Given Us

by Bro. Grover Laird

"For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath." (Matthew 25:29)

Jesus spoke the words of our text in His parable of the talents. He is teaching us the importance of using what the Lord gives us.

The servant who did not use his talent lost it. The servant who used his talent to the greatest advantage was given more. Using well what the Lord has given us may put us in line for more and more. Failing to take advantage of what the Lord provides us, could cause us to lose it. Jesus also taught us this same truth in Mark 4:24,25. Many Scriptures prove this to be true. Consider some more of them.

God had great things in mind for Israel after they left Egypt. He wanted to settle them down in a beautiful land that was flowing with "milk and honey." He had in mind a

land where their threshing would reach unto the vintage, and the vintage would reach unto the sowing time. He was going to give them a land where evil beast would be moved out and the sword would not pass through. (Leviticus 26:3-6) He desired to give them peace and prosperity that would be "as the days of heaven upon earth." (Deuteronomy 11:21) Yet when they came to the door of Canaan at Kadesh-Barnea, they despised God's provisions by turning from them in unbelief—"Yea, they despised the pleasant land, they believed not his word:" (Psalms 106:24) We also can miss a rich life of peace, power, and fellowship with our Lord if we turn from open doors in unbelief.

We also read of another day when God desired to do great things for Israel, but they would not give Him room. By unbelief, or in some manner, they expressed that they were not interested—"I am the LORD thy

God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it. But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me." (Psalms 81:10,11)

God then permitted them to have an empty, disappointing life—"So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels." (Psalms 81:12) God was then grieved because the people He loved would miss the good life He had planted for them—"Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways!...He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat: and with honey out of the rock should I have satis-

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## Letters From Our Readers

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

## Dickson To Return To States

Dear Editor:

I will be in the States on furlough from August 1 until December 31 and would welcome invitations to visit our churches to tell them about the work God is doing in Puerto Rico. I can be reached at (787) 557-1748 or Garifuna1@aol.com.

— David Dickson, BMA Missionary to Puerto Rico, Church Without Walls, Guayama, PR

## Seminary Librarian recognized for nursing home ministry

James Blaylock, library director at BMA Seminary, was recognized for his more than 21 years of weekly visitation and ministry of residents of the Twin Oaks Nursing Home in Jacksonville.

Blaylock, who also is pastor of Corinth, Jacksonville has made weekly visits to area nursing homes since 1970. Hundreds of residents have gotten to know Blaylock over the years as he visits church members and their roommates. "They seem to appreciate me doing it," he says. "The visits seem to cheer them up. If I miss, they tell me about it."

He attributes much of his love for the elderly to the sincere relationship he had with his own grandparents. He also says, "When I was in college in Laurel, Mississippi, Bro. Grover Laird was my pastor. He had an active ministry in hospitals visiting the sick (as well as jail ministry). I was involved in that visitation and grew to loved the people I visited."

Blaylock's visits always include a brief prayer for daily strength, joy and protection for residents and their families. He recognizes that many residents have no visitors while others are at the end of life. More than 20 of the residents he ministers to will die each year. As a result, he has been asked to officiate many of their funerals.

Blaylock encourages pastors to visit their church members who are in a nursing home. He believes that such visits are very meaningful to the residents and help them to know they are not forgotten.

Dr. Charley Holmes, president at BMA Seminary, says, "Bro. Blaylock is a highly regarded minister in the Jacksonville community. He typifies the faithfulness of a good steward as both a pastor and in his work with the seminary library for more than 40 years. We are privileged to have him at the seminary."

— Reprinted from The Challenge via Baptist Progress



James Blaylock

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# Using What God Has Given Us

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fied thee." (Psalms 81:13,16)

Another example of losing what God had provided is seen in the life of Uzziah, king of Judah. Starting out pleasing the Lord, "... he was marvellously helped, till he was strong. But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction:...." (II Chronicles 26:15,16)

Feeling his importance, King Uzziah overstepped his rights and went into the Temple of the Lord to burn incense. He became angry when the Priest forbid him, and God smote him with leprosy. This caused him to lose the blessed privilege of ever returning to the House of the Lord. (II Chronicles 26: 15-21) What a loss!

The affliction of Nebuchadnezzar is another example where pride caused one to lose what God had provided for him. God made Babylon great and placed Nebuchadnezzar head over this mighty kingdom. Yet when he beheld the majesty of his glorious kingdom and took the credit for all of its splendor, God moved him. Seven years he lived in insanity with the beast of the field. Instead of being looked up to as the greatest man in

Babylon, he was looked down upon as one of the most pitiful men in Babylon. (Daniel 5) Many have been the men who have lost their position of wealth, honor, or power when they became too selfish and proud.

God may also withdraw His offer of grace from a sinner who seems determined to go the other way. Paul wrote of God turning some over to a reprobate mind who did not want to ever have any thought of God—"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;" (Romans 1:28)

Job also spoke of some who lost eternal peace because they did not want anyone to talk to them about the Lord—"They spend their days in wealth, and in a moment go down to the grave. Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways. What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?" (Job 21:13-15) It seems that God permit-

ted these to prosper in this world without any thought of their need of Christ, and in a moment went to their eternal destiny. Sinners should take seriously God's invitation to come to Jesus for everlasting life.

I trust that by now we have reached this solemn conclusion: it is a serious thing to deal carelessly with God's provisions and God's invitations.

## Mailing Addresses for Departments & Commissions of BMA of Mississippi

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Laurel, MS 39441-8000

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Laurel, MS 39440

### Mississippi State Youth Department

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Laurel, MS 39441

### Mississippi Baptist Children's Home

118 Lowe Rd.  
Laurel, MS 39443

### State Missions & RLF

4226 Highway 15 North  
Laurel, MS 39440

### Commission on Senior Adults

Vern D. Holifield  
658 Joe Perrett Rd.  
Laurel, MS 39443

### History & Archives Commission

4229 Highway 15 North  
Laurel, MS 39440

### Christian Action Commission

P.O. Box 88  
Mantachie, MS 38855

## Commission on Senior Adults

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



### Greetings

Well here we are at mid June. The year 2008 is half gone. We are reminded that time is swiftly passing. The old adage "Time and tide wait for no man" is a fact. Jesus tells us that we are to work while it is day, for the night cometh when no can work. (John 9:4).

As we look seriously at our world, and even at our own communities we know that the work of getting the Gospel out is a great work and an urgent task. Moreover, when we look in on many of our churches we are reminded that we have a big job to do. We thank God for the churches that are growing and seem to be in good health.

### New Support

We welcome the Fairhope Baptist Church, Beaumont and Pastor Jerry Overstreet to the growing list of budget givers to the Commission. We added three churches to this last in the month of May. I look for your church to join us in the near future.

### A Word of Thanks

Brother Eddie Boutwell, one of our trustees did a good job taking pictures at the recent Senior Adult Conference in Amory. Several of the pictures were featured at the last issue of the Mississippi Baptist. Thanks Brother Eddie.

### Association Visits

I enjoyed my visits to the Ten

Mile Association and the Washington Association. With the gasoline prices as they are I will be forced to limit my visits somewhat. I will go when I can. I know our people will understand this problem because we all face it.

### Churches Visited

I had the privilege to visit the O'Neal Road Baptist Church, Gulfport. It had been several years since I was at this church. Dot and I enjoyed visiting Washington Baptist Church recently. I would ask you to pray for this good church as they are without a pastor. Dot and I were invited to be with the Shiloh Baptist Church, Mount Olive. I spent about ten years with this good church. Brother Charles Herrin is the Interim pastor at Shiloh. They are launching a big remodeling, and refurbishing, project which will enlarge their sanctuary. I was honored to be on the platform with brethren G.H Gordon, Steven Clark, and Larry Dennis, Jr. These are dear preacher friends and I love them.

### Be Encouraged

I encourage the Senior Adults in our BMA Churches here in Mississippi to keep the faith; to remain faithful to God, to be faithful in the activities of your church, to be a witness wherever you are and to encourage the young people and children in your church. Also, promote the ministry of the Commission along the way.

## AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

### Trinity Church, Florence recommends young minister

We are pleased to announce that Bro. Daryl Wingo has surrendered to the Gospel ministry. Bro. Daryl and his wife Myra are dedicated to their Lord and we highly recommend this young couple to our churches. Daryl may be reached at 601-845-8410 or through Pastor James Brown at 601-209-1502.

### Larry Trammel

Larry Trammel, a member of Bethel Church, Fulton and recently licensed to preach by them, announces his surrender to evangelism. He is available for service and may be reached at 662-862-6779 or 662-357-8452. He may also be reached through his pastor, Dr. Martin Jameson at 662-862-7275.

### Larry Pierce

Bro. Larry Pierce, of Lucedale, Mississippi, is available for pulpit service. He may be reached by calling 601-947-3531.

## A.D. Livingston BMA Evangelist Dies

A.D. Livingston, 89 of Fordyce, Arkansas, died June 15. He was saved in 1943, surrendered to the ministry in October 1949 and led in the organization of three Arkansas churches: Chapel Hill at New Edinburg, Kingsland at Kingsland and Temple at Fordyce, where he was a member at the time of his death. Other pastorates include: Bethel #1 at Rison (twice); Immanuel at Camden; Garrett Memorial at Hope; Mt. Calvary at Chickasaw, Alabama; Hazel Street in Pine Bluff; West Race at Searcy; and Pine Crest in Pine Bluff.

He was featured in the October 1958 issue of Look Magazine. He served as full time evangelist for the last 14 years and preached in over 700 revival meetings in 14 different states. He also conducted over 200 weddings and over 400 funerals. Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Mary K. Livingston of Fordyce; a daughter, Lois Ann Hart of Bryant; and four sisters — Irene Lindsey of Wills Point, Tex.; Theda Childress of Fordyce; and Anita Livingston and Jan Brown, both of Little Rock.

Funeral services were held June 18 at Temple Baptist Church in Fordyce, Arkansas, with Mike McEuen, James Ray Raines and Arlis East officiating.

## BMA Equipping Center Locations and Schedules

### Bethel Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi

August 23, 2008	Turning Your Church Inside, Out!
November 15, 2008	Building A Small Group Ministry/ Becoming An Effective Teacher
January 24, 2009	Mission Possible: Winning Your Community For Christ
March 7, 2009	Sunday School Materials That Work!
June 20-21, 2009	It All Rises and Falls on Leadership

### Magnolia Baptist, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

August 23, 2008	The ABC's of Student Ministry
November 15, 2008	Turning Your Church Inside, Out!
January 24, 2009	Building A Small Group Ministry/ Becoming An Effective Teacher
March 7, 2009	Mission Possible: Winning Your Community For Christ
June 21, 2009	Sunday School Materials That Work!



LATRELLE WINDHAM  
DIRECTOR

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## Harmony Association holds 2008 camp

Another great blessing! The Harmony camp was a great success in many ways. We had eight professions of faith with a lot of good seed being planted in each of our groups.

The committee of Brethren John Adams, Eddie Boutwell and Tim Nall did a good job planning our program. Brother Gary Smith was camp pastor and brought a number of good evangelist messages. Dr. J.E. Sims lead us in worship and celebration through music. Brother Mavous Phifer, a camper for many years was our registrar.

Thanks to our leaders, sponsors and churches for bringing your teenagers, juniors and smaller kids to camp. This was a mixed camp of all ages with 107 registered full-time campers.

Thanks again to a younger generation of young men and women for taking part in camp ministry. Brother Josh Allred and wife are a young couple serving with Farmington, Corinth. The churches represented were: Farmington, Corinth; First Mantachie; Forked Oak, Booneville; Shady Grove, Tishomingo; and Unity, Guntown.



Pictured above are our campers with the giant water slide that was enjoyed by all.

Below are the eight youngsters who came to know Christ at the recent Harmony Camp.



## From The Campus of Southeastern Baptist College *Scenes From Junior Camp 2008*

The Thomas Family were the guests for the 2008 Junior Camp. The camp was held on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College with over 225 registered campers. A number of visitors were present at each service.



**Missions.**  
Assignment. My task. To the World. My  
therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of  
of the Son; and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe al  
ever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, eve  
end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28:19-20

## Court to reconsider free-speech rights of evangelist

**OneNewsNow** - A federal district court has been ordered to reconsider a Christian evangelist's free-speech lawsuit against Ohio's Miami University.

Jim Gilles was handing out gospel tracts and witnessing to students on the public sidewalks on the campus of taxpayer-funded Miami University. But school security officials told Gilles to leave the campus. Gilles sued, but a federal district court dismissed the case, saying he had no legitimate free-speech argument.

Nate Kellum with the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) says thankfully, that was not the end. "... [T]he Sixth Circuit disagreed with that assessment and has remanded the case back to the district court ...," he reports.

The court has been ordered to reconsider the case "in light of the proper constitutional standards." According to those standards, Gilles has the constitutional right to share his belief - "... [e]ven if those beliefs happen to be Chris-

tian."

Kellum says the public university proposed a novel argument to the court. The school stated that although the property is state-funded property, Gilles had to obtain their permission in order to have a conversation with another person.

"... [N]ow, there's no question that Mr. Gilles was free to be there. There is accessibility to him and any other citizen; there's no demarcation. [But] when he started to share his Christian beliefs, that's when Mr. Gilles ran into some problems," notes Kellum.

The ADF attorney says Gilles is not trying to cause problems for the university, but only desires the same rights as any other citizen sharing a non-religious message. Kellum argues that if an individual has the right to walk in a public place, one should have the right to talk there -- and that, he explains, is what Gilles is seeking from this action.

## Sure Road To Trouble

by Douglas L. Laird

*"Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised wisdom (Proverbs 13:10).*

Notwithstanding the absence of objective statistics, I submit to you that lawlessness and destruction increase in proportion to the comparative decrease in spiritual commitment.

The proper perspective for the Christian is the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and with the reign of Christ in one's heart, some inevitable results occur.

1. One is willing to confess before God and find forgiveness for all those things that are contrary to His will. Jesus becomes Lord, and no other lord can take His place. Egotism, selfish ambition, and personal gratification are all laid down before Him who is Lord in their stead.

2. One begins to see things as Jesus saw them. The poor cease to be areas of personal exploitation; they become people of merit worthy of one's help. Other races cease to be things and become, instead, beings of dignity and worth. The world about us ceases to be our private septic tank and becomes the present abode of the creations of God which depend upon it for life and breath, and it becomes for us a stewardship of concern for

others. One sees his assets as blessings from the living God to whom he desires to dedicate it all in devoted service. He sees the human body as the choicest piece of God's creative work which he desires to protect from any promiscuity and prodigality which would dishonor it.

3. One finds a love and respect for self and others which we are a pattern of harmonious fabric in social conduct.

On the other side are those of whom the proverb speaks. "Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised wisdom" (Proverbs 13:10) Contrasted to those who allow the Lordship of Jesus to brush away the arrogance of self are those who are bent on gratification of self. And the proverb reminds us that only by this comes contention. Nations pursue international relations with selfish ends only to stir up war and contentions. Ranking members of government agencies who pursue a policy of selfish motives and who know no Christian restraint find that positions gained are only retained tenuously, or other parts of the organization are wrecked. Hus-

Breakpoint by Chuck Colson

## Sweet Land of Tolerance

*Religion in America*

"Survey Shows U.S. Religious Tolerance" was the headline of a New York Times article about the Pew Forum's survey of America's religious landscape. It found that Americans have a "non-dogmatic approach to faith." In fact, 70 percent of Americans who claim affiliation to a religious body - including Christians - agreed that "many religions can lead to eternal life." Nearly the same percentage said that "there's more than one true way to interpret the teachings of my religion."

What's true of faith is also true of morals. Seventy-eight percent say that there are "absolute standards of right and wrong." But only 29 percent say that they "rely on their religion to delineate these standards." Instead, more than half of the respondents said that they rely on "practical experience and common sense." As the Book of Judges put it, "every man did what was right in his own eyes."

Not surprisingly, the media repeatedly used the word tolerant to characterize America's religious beliefs.

But to be regarded as "tolerant" today no longer means extending

"full rights of free speech and free expression" to those of all faiths. Instead, it appears that "tolerance" now requires what journalist Terry Mattingly calls a "certain doctrine of salvation," that regards all "religious paths" as leading "to the top of the same eternal mountain."

So, it is not possible anymore to debate religious truth claims respectfully. Instead, the new "tolerance," which has become our ultimate civic virtue, requires abandoning all truth claims lest we "offend" somebody.

This applies everywhere: over the water cooler at work or even in presidential politics. When asked recently in a private meeting with religious leaders whether Jesus was the only way to salvation, Barack Obama reportedly said, "Jesus is the only way for me. I'm not in a position to judge other people." Was he merely trying not to offend non-Christians? Or could his answer reflect this growing relativism, even among Christians?

The problem is that all religions make mutually exclusive truth claims. Either Jesus is, as He Himself said, "the only way to the Father," or He is not. What Christians, Muslims, Jews, and Hindus

say about the person and work of Jesus Christ cannot be reconciled. They may all be false, but they cannot all be true.

It's called the law of non-contradiction - it goes back to Aristotle: If proposition A is true - that is, if it conforms to reality - then proposition B, making a contrary claim, cannot be true as well.

We can trace our debased definition of "tolerance" back to French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau who rejected any distinction between "civil" and "theological intolerance." Rousseau did not believe that people can "live at peace with those [they] regard as damned." He saw Christian truth claims as being intolerant and a prelude to civil strife. Specifically, he wrote, anyone who dared to say "no salvation outside the church" should be driven out of society - precisely what is happening.

Have we been so taken in by our own culture that we have abandoned truth? The antidote to this is what I have written about in my new book, *The Faith*. Christians need to be grounded in our basic beliefs, or we will, indeed, be swept up in the tides of surging relativism.

## Beatitudes of a Christian Home

BLESSED are the husband and wife who continue to be affectionate, considerate, and loving after the wedding bells have ceased ringing.

BLESSED are the husband and wife who are as polite and courteous to one another as they are to their friends.

bands and wives who determine to have their way even at any cost often find that the price was rather high. But the wise man is said to be one who will take advice.

A vacuum cleaner pulls in everything it can take up in its hose until it accumulates so much dirt that it must disgorge it. However, the pattern can be reversed by blowing out instead of pulling in. Maybe the proverb needs to reverse our lives before we are so full of dirt that we are destroyed. Instead of pulling from people all that would fatten our ego, maybe we should do for people and find their loyalty and our greatest strength in the unselfish pursuit of it. Peace, not contention, comes from love and love gives if it is genuine love.

BLESSED are they who have a sense of humor, for this attribute will be a handy shock absorber.

BLESSED are the married couples who abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages.

BLESSED are they who love their mates more than any other person in the world and who joyfully fulfill their marriage vow of a lifetime of fidelity and mutual helpfulness to one another.

BLESSED are they who attain parenthood, for children are a heritage of the Lord.

BLESSED are they who remember to thank God for their food before they partake of it, and who set apart some time each day for the reading of the Bible and for prayer.

BLESSED are those mates, who never speak loudly to one another and who make their home a place "where seldom is heard a discouraging word."

BLESSED are the husband and wife who faithfully attend the worship services of the church and who work together in the church for the advancement of Christ's

Kingdom.

BLESSED are the husband and wife who humbly dedicate their lives and their home to Christ, and who practice the teachings of Christ in the home by being unselfish, loyal and loving.

- selected

## No Bargain

A public utilities company representative was seeking a franchise for his company in a large city. He tried to bribe one of the city's officials whose vote was needed. "Think of the money, man!" he said. "It's a bargain of a life time. You'll never have a chance to make so much money so easily again."

"So easily?" replied the official. "Listen, friend, no one ever got a bargain in sin. It's the highest priced thing in the market. You tell me that all I have to do is vote right. Well, it isn't."

"That's only the beginning of what I'll have to do. I'll have to carry the consciousness of my dishonesty to the grave. . . I'll have to pass before my wife and children as something which I know I am not. Don't tell me it's a bargain."

-selected

## BAPTIST MUSIC FELLOWSHIP

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### Help for churches needing musicians

A few weeks ago, while on vacation, my wife and I visited a small Baptist church in another state. The church pianist played by ear and was adequate for the songs that she knew. She left the sanctuary about half way through the music portion of the worship service. The music director told the small congregation that she was feeling ill. So, we continued without any piano accompaniment.

Situations like this, or churches that have no one at all to play the piano, are becoming more common. It seems that fewer people have a desire to learn how to play, and those who want to learn are having trouble finding a teacher.

I told the messengers to the mid-year meeting that I would give some information that could be of great interest to churches, organizations and departments that have trouble securing accompanists for services or meetings.

Tony and Rhonda Pangle have a ministry called Worship Service Resources. This ministry exists to help smaller churches with music and worship service planning. Tony and Rhonda have served in music and worship ministries for over twenty years in churches ranging from small to large. They both hold degrees in music and understand the challenges unique to churches of various sizes. They formed Worship Service Resources and produced a collection of piano accompaniment CDs to help smaller church congregations who find themselves in need of accompaniment for their worship ser-

vices.

I have purchased the set of CDs and plan to use them when an accompanist is not available. These are not band or complicated orchestrations, just beautiful, easy to follow piano accompaniments that are always available and ready to use.



J.E. Sims

These CDs can be ordered through the American Family Association. Here are three ways to order:

- 1) Online at <http://store.afa.net>
- 2) By Phone: 662-844-5036, Option 3
- 3) By Mail: American Family Online Store P.O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803

You can hear samples of some of the piano accompaniments on the website.

I believe these CDs can be a great help to many of our churches and associational departments as we strive to continually lift our voices in praise to our Lord. PRAISE THE LORD FOR HE IS WORTHY!

### Mississippi State WMA

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### National WMA President

## A Heritage of Leadership

You could say that the newly elected National WMA President has BMA DNA. Lisa Smith Hudson says she is "honored and humbled" to be able to serve in the auxiliary's highest office and anticipates another record-breaking year.

Lisa is married to Matt Hudson, pastor of Antioch East Baptist Church in Magnolia, Arkansas, and newly elected president of the National Brotherhood. They have lived in Magnolia for four years and have been married for 22 years. They have two children - Kala is a sophomore at Southern Arkansas University and Jonathan is in the 7th grade at Magnolia Junior High.

Lisa succeeded Janet Widger as president, who took office after Mrs. Arthur (Shirlene) Smith, Lisa's mother. Of following so soon after her mother, Lisa says "As far as I know this is a first in WMA history. My mom was a good president and I learned

## The Right Foundation

A good foundation is always important. A solid foundation is essential in the construction of a building. A strong academic background is important for success in higher education. The parable Jesus told about the wise man and the foolish man is more than just a children's Bible story. Rock is always preferable to sand for a foundation.

America's "multi-cultural diverse" society is built upon the sand of man's wisdom and not the rock of God. Our public government education system is built on the sinking sand of humanism and relativism and not the solid rock of absolute truth. American politics is built on the sand of public opinion instead of principles based upon God's wisdom. Many modern churches are built upon marketing to the consumer's needs with no regard for what pleases God. I could go on with examples, but you get the picture.

Though it sounds too simple, the basic "why" of man's problems is traced directly back to the exclusion of God. Now don't go to the illogical conclusion that the presence of God means the absence of all problems, or you might get initiated into the "name it and claim it" club and begin your own program on TBN. "Man . . . is born unto trouble," according to a wise man who well knew by experience.

Notice, the Bible does not begin with a plea for salvation or how to live a holy life or how to be victorious over sin. It begins with the foundation of the existence of GOD. Genesis 1:1 does not even try to prove the existence of God. It assumes His existence. The scripture simply says, "In the beginning, GOD . . ." Belief in God as Creator is

foundational because if you do not accept the existence of the Creator, nothing else matters. Acceptance of God as Creator precedes acceptance of God as Savior. The foundation must precede the building. This fact explains why Satan tries to supplant the Creator and creation with evolution. If there

is no Creator, there is nothing. Zero. No beginning, no ending and nothing in between, hence we are all animals with no purpose for existence and no destination but the grave. Wow, what hope and comfort evolution gives!

### miniedition

Joseph Harris



[www.miniedition.net](http://www.miniedition.net)

Christianity supplies something no other religion, philosophy or world view can completely give: (1) beginning; (2) purpose, and (3) destination. Christianity provides a perfect trinity of explanation of: (1) origin of everything (God), (2) the meaning of life (glorify God), and (3) the conclusion of it all (eternity with or without God). Notice, God is the center of the threefold explanation.

God is essential. Man is not capable of ultimate success apart from God because of depravity, and real success is more than having money or things. Man, left to himself, apart from God, will always degenerate. Since Adam, every person has entered this world with a predisposition to turn away from God and commit sin. Every society in human history that ignored God eventually crumbled.

When it comes to your life, don't just include God. Build your life around Him. Place God at the center. Put Him first in your life, first in your marriage, first in your finances, and first in your work. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." I Corinthians 3:11.



## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

### ADAM AND HIS HELP MEET

Th'other day (isn't that the way you say it?) the preacher was talking about the order in which God created man, animals, woman, etc.

He casually mentioned the fact that Adam named the animals before God made the woman.

Well, this is obvious! If he had had a woman helping him, there would never have been an animal saddled with the name "aardvark"! And you can probably think of other animals that a woman might have named differently.

It is an interesting story. Go read it in Genesis.

a lot from watching her."

Arthur and Shirlene Smith live in Laurel, Mississippi, where Bro. Smith pastors Hopewell Baptist Church. Lisa also has 2 sisters - Cindy Jones and Rhonda Smith and one brother, John David Smith.

When not working on auxiliary related matters, Lisa enjoys playing the piano and watching sports.

Of her goals for her term Lisa says, "We had a really great year last year in terms of project money raised, theme and sweet fellowship and I would love for us to keep the momentum. As an auxiliary we have so much to offer. I want to see us reach out to women's ministries in our churches and provide encouragement and resources to help them make an impact in their respective communities. The project we have selected this year may not be as visible as the goals we had for last year, but the ministry of Missions Literature Ministry is such a vital need in so many different mission fields. I know that God will provide the \$60,000 that we have committed to help MLM produce literature and resources for our missionaries all over the world."

## It All Depends Where It Is Hidden

In Armenia a whole village of sixty families embraced Islam under threats of torture and death. There was only one exception, a woman aged 110, who refused, saying, "I am too old to deny my LORD." The fierce Turks snatched her Bible from her hands, tore it up, and burned it. She said very calmly, "You can do that, BUT YOU CANNOT TEAR THE PROMISES OUT OF MY HEART."

- *Light and Life*