



# Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

JULY 1, 2009

VOL. 63 No. 13

Former pastor & missionary  
*"Kicking Up Gold Dust"*

## Minister passes away while on vacation in Montana

Thomas Carl 'Bud' Dixon, 72, went home to be with the Lord early Tuesday morning, June 23, 2009, at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula, Montana.

Born in Yazoo County, Mississippi on June 11, 1937, to Jim and Hazel (Mize) Dixon, he was raised in the Scotland community and called by God to the ministry in 1966. Over the 43 years of His ministry He



Bud Dixon

witnessed to countless souls. He pastored several churches in Mississippi and Arkansas and served as an interstate missionary in Phoenix, Arizona in the early 1970's. His last pastorate of 13 years was Hillcrest Baptist Church in Yazoo City, Mississippi. After retiring from the full-time pastorate, he filled in as interim pastor at Oakland Baptist Church, Vicksburg, Mississippi. Most recently, he was serving as a chaplain for Magnolia Hospice.

He is survived by his wife Rita Martin Dixon, his three children, Stephen Dixon and Kimberly Dixon of Yazoo City, Jeff Dixon of Stevensville, Montana and eight grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by a brother, James Dixon of the Scotland community and a sister, Marie Trammel of Holly Bluff. He is survived by a brother Philip Dixon of Benton and three sisters, Shirley Netherland of Columbus, Vivian Kramer of Madison and Nona Blakeney of Rolling Fork.

Visitation was held Monday, June 29th at Hillcrest Baptist Church, Yazoo

## Walk for the World Churches Registering for Annual Walk of Faith

by George Reddin  
Executive Director  
LifeWord Broadcast Ministries

Eighty-seven churches had registered for the Lifeword "Walk for the World" by Monday, June 22, and calls are coming in daily to register others for the fund-raiser to be held in most areas on October 10.

Lifeword mailed cards three weeks ago to every pastor in the Baptist Missionary Association of America and to each church coordinator who served last year to encourage churches to register early for the 2009 Walk. Only those churches who register will receive further materials.

Every church that registers for the Walk will receive a free "Walk for the

World" T-Shirt for the church coordinator, and churches registering by July 2 will also receive a free T-Shirt for the pastor.

Early response to the 2009 T-Shirt design has been 100% positive and even enthusiastic in many cases, according to reports from team members who are taking the calls.

Lifeword currently broadcasts the gospel every week in 31 languages, and a strong response to the "Walk for the World" will help add six new languages of outreach this year.

It is time now to take the first steps of preparation for the Walk, if you haven't done so already.

### Step 1

Select a church coordinator for your church. Talk to your pastor. Select

someone who is excited, enthusiastic and a good organizer. The church coordinator is the one to get the ball rolling early in your church.

### Step 2

Register your church. The church coordinator's first job is to call Lifeword at 1.800.543.1090 and say, "I want to register our church for the 'Walk for the World.'" When you call, be ready to supply this basic information: name of church, names of pastor and church coordinator, UPS address of church coordinator (must be a street address, not a P.O. Box number), phone number of church coordinator, T-Shirt sizes of pastor and church coordinator and average worship service attendance.

Walk for the World – It's Good for the Heart!

## 'Gay marriage' squashes parental rights & religious liberty, experts say

**BOSTON (BP)**--Some say the sky hasn't fallen in the nearly five years since "gay marriage" was legalized in Massachusetts, but Kris Mineau, a citizen and conservative activist in that state, begs to differ.

Sure, he says, things may look the

same on the surface, but if you dig a little deeper, you'll see dramatic cultural changes. Teachers are teaching children about homosexual families over the objections of parents. A major adoption agency has chosen to shut down rather than be forced to place children with homosexual couples.

"The sky is falling in Massachusetts in two key areas: parental rights and religious liberty," Mineau, president of the Massachusetts Family Institute, told Baptist Press.

Mineau says citizens in states such as Iowa and Vermont -- two places where "gay marriage" is on the march -- would do well to look at his state and the aftermath of marriage redefinition.

Mineau's Exhibit A is Robb and Robin Wirthlin, a husband and wife at the

center of a Massachusetts public school dispute that has gained nationwide attention. Their son came home in 2006 and told his parents his teacher had read the class a children's story about a prince "marrying" another prince. The book ends with a picture of the two men kissing.

The Wirthlins were shocked, yes, but bewildered when the school told them they would not be given advance notice in the future about any such books. They filed a lawsuit in federal court against the school, but a lower court ruled against them, asserting that "diversity is a hallmark of our nation" and that such diversity "includes differences in sexual orientation." The parents, the judge ruled, could always

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# 'Gay marriage' squashes parental rights & religious liberty, experts say

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homeschool their son or send him to private school if they didn't like the public school options. A federal appeals court upheld the decision.

Religious liberty also took a hit in 2006 when Boston Catholic Charities decided to shut down its widely praised adoption work rather than be forced to follow a state law requiring that children be placed in the homes of homosexual couples. Catholic Charities had handled more adoptions of foster "The coercive aspect of this cannot be overstated..."

In recent weeks supporters of a "gay marriage" bill in Vermont have said religious freedoms would be protected because ministers would not be forced to perform such ceremonies. The Iowa Supreme Court, in its "gay marriage" opinion, even said churches would still be allowed to define marriage as they wish. But Douglas Napier, an attorney with the conservative Alliance Defense Fund, said such protections are far too narrow and that "gay marriage" by its very nature negatively impacts freedoms.

"Religious liberties and the homosexual agenda are on a collision course," said Napier, who grew up in Iowa and practiced law there for 16 years. "... I don't think anybody should think this doesn't affect them. It will affect them, and it will affect them in a very deep way."

Another ADF attorney, Austin R. Nimocks, has repeatedly said that by legalizing "gay marriage," courts and governments are saying that mothers and fathers are replaceable. "All non-partisan research and plain common sense tells us that children need a mom and dad, so the issue is bigger than a 'personal relationship,'" he said. "In the end, the question is this: Which parent doesn't matter: a mom or a dad?"

The Wirthlins' case is but the tip of the iceberg in what has become a steady load of controversies putting religious freedom on the line in same-sex disputes:

-- In New Mexico, where "gay marriage" is not legal, a lesbian

couple filed a complaint with the state's civil rights commission after a husband-and-wife-owned photography company refused to take pictures of their commitment ceremony. The husband and wife asserted that the ceremony violated their Christian beliefs, but the commission disagreed, ruling in 2008 that the company discriminated and ordering them to pay \$6,600 in attorneys' fees.

-- In New Jersey, a lesbian couple filed a complaint with the state's civil rights office after officials with an ocean-front religious retreat center owned by members of the United Methodist Church refused to allow the two women to use a pavilion for a same-sex civil union ceremony. (Civil unions are legal in the state.) The state in 2007 agreed with the couple and removed the tax-exempt status of the pavilion, located in Ocean Grove.

-- In California, the state high court ruled last year that fertility doctors must provide services to homosexual couples, even if the doctors have religious and moral objections. The case arose when a lesbian couple sought treatment at a fertility clinic where two Christian doctors worked. The doctors referred the couple to another clinic that would provide the services, but the couple nevertheless sued.

"The list goes on and on," Mathew Staver, chairman of Liberty Counsel, a religious liberty legal organization, told BP. "Whenever you have same-sex marriage or same-sex civil unions, you end up having a clash between the same-sex agenda and freedom of religion. The two are not compatible, because the same-sex agenda seeks to force by law acceptance of its view, and that will inevitably collide with Christian values.... People really need to wake up, because this, I think, is the greatest threat to our liberty that we face today -- bar none."

Jordan Lorence, an attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund, agreed.

"This is not a made-up threat," Lorence told BP. "This

is not some sort of concocted Chicken Little cry. These are actual cases, and as those supporters of same-sex marriage get more and more bold, we'll see more action to punish and silence us."

After Massachusetts legalized "gay marriage," National Public Radio interviewed a lesbian teacher in Brookline who teaches eighth-grade sex-ed and tells the students not only about heterosexual, but homosexual sex. She teaches them that lesbians can have intercourse with sex toys. "If somebody wants to challenge me, I say, 'Give me a break. It's legal now,'" she told NPR.

But parents should not just have concern about public schools, Staver and Lorence say. Down the road, the tax-exempt status of churches could be challenged as homosexuality and "sexual orientation" increasingly are placed alongside race in anti-discrimination laws. The goal of liberal and homosexual activists, Staver said, is to transform society so much that it views opponents of "gay marriage" in the same light it views racists. In fact, New York Times columnist Frank Rich -- who backs "gay marriage" -- seemed to confirm those fears April 18 in a column with the headline, "The Bigots' Last Hurrah." "Only those who have spread the poisons of bigotry and fear have any reason to be afraid," of redefining marriage, Rich wrote.

"There is no question that if same-sex marriage becomes legal, that churches eventually will have their tax-exempt status threatened -- no question whatsoever," Staver wrote. "If churches today discriminate against race, they would not be able to have tax-exempt status today. If churches discriminate on the basis of same-sex marriage -- if it became legal -- then same-sex marriage becomes the equivalent of race, and churches would not be able to have tax-exempt status if they oppose same-sex marriage."

If Staver's prediction comes true, it could impact everything from adoption agencies to Christian school accreditation to licensing for professional counselors, Lorence said. It even could impact church plants who wish to use or rent a public facility.

"The coercive aspect of this cannot be overstated, in my opinion," Lorence said.



P.O. Box 4247

Laurel, Mississippi 39441

601-649-0502

601-670-6191

## Resumes sought for State Youth Director position

The Mississippi Department of Youth Trustees will begin receiving resumes immediately for the office of Department Director. The deadline for receipt of these is the last day of July 2009. If you are interested please submit your resume along with a one page essay explaining your philosophy concerning youth ministry.

Resume's should be sent to Phillip Burns, c/o First Baptist Church, P.O. Drawer 0, Bay Springs, MS 39422. We will begin scheduling interviews around the middle of August. Please keep the trustees of this department in your prayers as we seek to follow the direction of the Holy Spirit in this process.

If you have any questions feel free to call Bro. Phillip Burns at 601-670-6191 or Corbey Jones at 601-428-0921.



### Woodlawn VBS report

Another successful VBS! This year everyone enjoyed an archeological dig. For five days we studied God's Word which included the favorite stories of Daniel, Joseph, Jonathan, Zacchaeus and the Rich Young Man. The theme "Truth Trek" paralleled each story with the Ten Commandments. Snacks, crafts and recreation also followed the same thought. Each day the Trekkers searched for coins to use at the VBS store. The center verse for the week Proverbs 7:1 helped to remind every Trekker that we are to follow God's Word. The week concluded with a program of music, a hot dog supper and a movie outside. Vacation Bible School is a fun time for our youth as well as our adults. All the hard work of the teachers and helpers is what makes it a success.

Gail M. Gates  
Church Clerk

### Louisiana Association to hold camp

Trinity Camp welcomes youth from Mississippi, Texas and Louisiana to their annual week long camp in the rolling hills north of Baton Rouge. Dr. Travis Plumlee will be the camp pastor and speaker. Fragile Stone will lead worship each evening. This year's camp will focus on teaching XEE, a ministry of Evangelism Explosion, geared toward a younger audi-

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# *Southeastern Baptist College*

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# Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

## Kicking Up Gold Dust!



Don Brown  
Editor

This issue features a sad note on page 1 - the "home-going" of Bro. Bud Dixon. You may read the details of his sudden departure from this life to his home in Heaven in that article, but it certainly does not tell all that you really need to know about Bro. Thomas Carl "Bud" Dixon.

Everyone who met or came in contact with Bro. Bud were immediately aware of his love for the Lord and for his enthusiasm in serving his Savior.

My first recollection of Bro. Dixon was over 30 years ago at an association meeting in North Mississippi. We had completed the morning session and the church had prepared an old fashioned "dinner on the grounds." Literally - we were at tables out behind the church under the Oak trees. It was a wonderful day and a touch of nostalgia that I will remember forever.

Another thing I will never forget is the impression that I got that day of Bud Dixon. I was sitting next to him on the 'outside' of the table. Others across from us were packed in very tightly and it was difficult for them to get out for coffee or dessert. One of our older pastors had finished his meal and was really wanting a cup of coffee. It would have been hard for him to get out and also it would have disrupted others who were still eating. He looked across the table and asked Bro. Bud, "Bud, would you get me a cup of coffee?" My first thought was, "Why don't you get up and get it yourself." That was not Bro. Dixon's attitude.

With the speed of a young, energetic child, and with a smile on his face, Bro. Dixon jumped up and looked that man in the face and said, "My brother, I would be glad to!" And he did!

After some time of contemplation, I realized that God was in the process of giving me a good example of godly service. Certainly, Bud Dixon had a servant's heart. He dearly loved people - All People! His life reflected his love for his Savior.

The 400 plus who attended his funeral on Monday, June 29, were a living testimony to the life that he lived and to the Savior who we serve.

During the funeral service Bro. John Adams noted that one of Bro. Dixon's favorite sayings about those who had gone to be with the Lord was that "*they are kicking up gold dust*" in Heaven. I am sure that the streets of gold are a little more dusty today.



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Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the *Mississippi Baptist Paper*, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441-8000.

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Web site www.msbaptist.org

**PRICE**  
\$20.00 Per Year by Mail  
\$10.00 Per Year by Email  
**CHURCH PLAN**  
\$ 1.30 Per Month

### Attention Church Treasurers

Due to come errors made in this office, some of the church statements that were mailed in June were incorrect. We believe we have this matter taken care of and appreciate your patience. Some payments that were made did not show up on your account at the time of billing. If you have any questions please let us know.

'Don Brown, editor

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



### Letters From Our Readers

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

### Reader recommends music group

Dear Editor,

I would be very appreciative if you could someone find a way of putting the information below in your paper.

Recently I received a phone call from a relative inquiring if I had heard that his family was going into a full time music ministry. I replied that I had heard that rumor. He then inquired if I would be willing to recommend them to the many people whom I know throughout the BMA of America. My reply was, "not until I hear you myself, I am sure that you and your family are good, but I want to see you in action. Even though you are family, I need to know a little bit more about you. First, I want to hear your personal testimony of salvation and second I want to hear your wife's testimony of salvation. Then I want to come and see you all do a concert."

Well, let me introduce you to The Harper Family. Gaylon, Katrina, Dalton, Dillon and Hannah Harper will bless your hearts with their talent. They are traditional Bluegrass Gospel. They sing and play bluegrass style music because they love it, however they play and sing bluegrass gospel because they love the Lord and want to serve Him.

Gaylon is from Bunker, Missouri and grew up in church -

his father and both grandfathers were preachers. Gaylon started playing and singing bluegrass gospel music with his older brothers at a very young age, pretty much cutting his teeth on the banjo. Katrina came from a musically talented Christian family as well. Her family traveled throughout the United States performing bluegrass music when she was young. The musical talent continues on through their three children. It was very refreshing to observe these three young people use their talents to honor the Lord. They are genuine and work equally hard together as they set up their equipment and take down the equipment after performing a concert.

As I watched them perform, I could only imagine how proud Grandpa Harper would be of them. You see, Gaylon is my cousin which is why I would be more critical of him. He and Katrina would be the first to tell you that, yes they have made mistakes in their lives.

However, they also know Christ as their Savior and are now trying to serve Him with the talent that God gave them.

They are members of Ohlman Missionary Baptist Church, Bunker, Missouri, and are highly recommended by their church family. They are stepping out on faith that God will supply their needs and take care of them as they travel.

I too, highly recommend this family to you if you want to enjoy traditional gospel bluegrass music. Log on to their web site [Theharperfamiliymusic.com](http://Theharperfamiliymusic.com) and learn more about them. You can also hear a sample of what their music sounds like and contact them if you wish for them to come to your church and perform. I know that you will not be disappointed if you invite them to come to your church or church related functions.

Thank you for allowing me to recommend this family to you.

Janet Widger



The Harper Family - Bluegrass Gospel group

## MORAL ACTION COMMITTEE

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



John Adams

**Attention:** Brotherhoods of the Baptist Missionary Association of America

I am so pleased that the National Brotherhood Organization has selected the Moral Action as their 2009-2010 national project. The men of our congregations did an outstanding job last year for the Cape Verde National Missionary work project. I encourage you as you help rebuild and fund our Moral Action agency. The funds will be used to buy promotional materials, books, posters, packets, and other necessary materials to keep our churches up to date on moral issues. I will continue to send our churches, our state and national Senators and Representatives letters informing them of our Christian stand on morality issues. I pray that each of your brotherhood men will be a part of this much needed ministry.

I am making plans to visit

Washington, D.C., again this year. These are critical times as we are daily challenged on issues such as abortion, homosexuality, pornography and the liberal agenda.

### State Moral Action Agencies

The Moral Action Trustees and myself, the director, will be asking for the name of the "Moral Action Committee" to be changed to "Moral Action." The BMA Executive Directors and BMA Coordinating Council, along with myself, have discussed this name change and it will be presented at the Annual BMA meeting in Fort Smith, Arkansas, in April, 2010. This change, dropping the wording "Committee" will align our department with other departments such as Disciple Guide, LifeWord, etc.

We will also be asking each state or regional association to

elect a Moral Action Director or trustees to help coordinate our moral agency efforts. We desire for each state or regional Association to name or rename their moral agency such as: the Moral Action of California, the Moral Action of Texas, etc. This would enhance unification and cohesiveness among our agencies. Please prayerfully consider these proposals.

Hebrews 10:24-25 encourages "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works; Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

### Visit our website

Our Moral Action web page [www.mabma.net](http://www.mabma.net) will keep you updated on timely articles and information. This is a valuable tool in our spiritual warfare for morality.

### Highlighted Supporting Churches of Moral Action

Letona, Letona, AR  
Paramount, Wiggins, MS  
Calvary, Warren, AR  
First of Calhoun, Laurel, MS  
Zion, St. Louis, MO

## Midway adds new staff member

Bro. Brad Stephens, a native of Sumrall, joins the ministerial staff of Midway First Baptist Church of Sumrall, Mississippi this month as minister of music/pastoral assistant. He is married to the former Charlie Jackson, and they have a 21-month old daughter, Amelia, and another on the way.

Bro. Stephens joins Midway as former minister of music and youth from Bunker Hill Baptist Church near Columbia. He surrendered to ministry in 2001 and was licensed to

the Gospel Ministry in 2002 at First Baptist Church of Sumrall.

Currently, Bro. Stephens is working on a Master of Divinity De-

gree with Specialization in Expository Preaching from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He earned a Bachelor of Music Degree from William Carey College in Church Music and Vocal Performance in 2005. Bro. Stephens graduated from Sumrall High School with special honors in 1999 and attended Pearl River Community College before enrolling at William Carey College.

Bro. Stephens' wife, Charlie, is a gifted singer and devoted wife and mother. Their newest arrival is due in late November.

The Stephens began serving with Midway on July 1. Bro. Leon Carmical is pastor of Midway.



Brad Stephens

## AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

### Donald Sims

Bro. Donald Sims is available for pastoral or pulpit supply. He may be contacted at 601-528-3295.

### Johnny Williams

Bro. Johnny Williams is available for service as the Lord leads. He has 16 years pastoral experience and has recently been serving as Associate Pastor of Divine Grace Baptist Church, Long Beach. He and his wife Neta have 3 children. He may be reached at 228-234-3121.

### Lester Davis

Brother Lester Davis is available for preaching appointments and pulpit supply as the Lord may direct. He is 39 years old, married with 2 children and a member of East Main Baptist Church of Lumberton, Mississippi, where he serves as youth and associate Pastor. Bro. Davis may be contacted by calling 601-

## Church News

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ence. Outdoor activities include paddle boats, canoes, rock-wall climbing, zip line, mud volleyball, climbing an artificial iceberg and lake swimming.

The camp will be held at the Feliciana Retreat Center at Norwood, Louisiana on Monday, July 13 through Friday, July 17. For more information contact Bro. Buck Hughes at 225-454-8138.

## Tuition Assistance Available for Military Spouses

Dear Editor,

I work in a community college that has been inundated with calls regarding the program listed below. I believe there are tons of BMAA folks who have military members. Bottom line up front is there is \$6,000 for each military spouse (male or female) to go to college, technical school, online universities, or complete some certificate for work related training. I urge you to make this known to our BMAA people with military members. Even here in my military town, not many know of this program. The contact points are listed in the article below. If you have questions about MyCAA, my cell is 903-258-1523.

Christ's peace,  
Tony Cleaver

### Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (MyCAA)

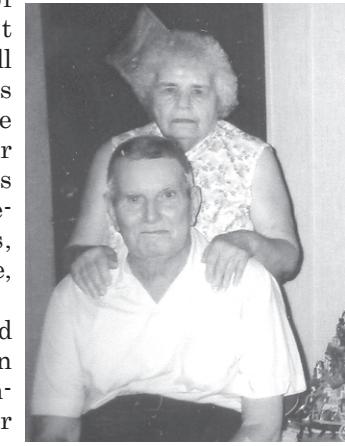
Bottom line is \$6,000 is available right now for military spouse education. Many of our Baptist Missionary Association of America Churches have active duty military members. It is to spouse benefit they know about this new program. The highlights are below.

**Program Description:** The Department of Defense's expanded Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (MyCAA) program is now offering up to \$6,000 to military spouses who are interested in pursuing degree programs, licenses or credentials leading to careers in high growth, high demand portable career fields. Who Is Eligible? Spouses of

**continued on page 8**

## Bro. & Mrs. James Brown Celebrate 60 Years of Marriage

Rev. James and Mrs. Agnes Brown of Taylorsville, Mississippi, will celebrate 60 years of marriage this month. A reception will be held in their honor on Saturday, July 18, 2009, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Antioch Baptist Church in Soso. All family and friends are invited to come and share in their celebration of this very special milestone. No gifts, just your presence, is requested.



Bro. James and Mrs. Agnes met in the Arlington community near Brookhaven, Mississippi, and were married on July 2, 1949. During their years of marriage, the couple served on BMAA mission fields in Sicily, Italy, and in Round Lake, New York. Bro. James also pastored several churches in Mississippi. They have three children: Rev. James Brown and wife Kay of Brandon; Diane Hinton of Taylorsville; and Rev.

Donald Brown and wife Lynn of the Movella community near Lucedale. They have eight grandchildren: Mike Hinton and wife Amy of Laurel; Jason and Patrick Hinton of Taylorsville; Janna Brown of Brandon; Sabrina Seals and husband Chad Seals of Hattiesburg; Nathan Brown of Lucedale; Steven Brown and wife Tiffany of Lucedale; and Jennifer Brown of Lucedale. They have three great-grandchildren: Jonah and Isaac Hinton of Laurel and Emily Seals of Hattiesburg.

794-7532 or by calling his Pastor, Bro. Buddy Cameron at 601-543-3021.



## Sound The Trumpet National Brotherhood Project

Ezekiel records the following words in 33:6, "But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hands."

Brethren, we can see by the Word of God the judgment that is coming to our great country of America because she is ignoring the commandments of God, is destroying the lives of unborn babies, is promoting the alternative lifestyle, is hating Christians, and will not allow prayer in our schools just to name a few things. We pray that our leaders will turn back to God and lead our country according to the principles dictated in His Word, the Bible.

It is our responsibility to "Sound the Trumpet" or warning. To be able to do this effectively, we must be informed. The Moral Action Commission under the direction of Dr. John Adams is working diligently to keep our people updated on the very latest actions of our Congress. We, the men of the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America, have a wonderful opportunity to support this cause. The M.A.C. is 75% of the National Brotherhood Project for 2009-2010. The Galileans will receive 25% of our project money for this year.

The Galilean organization sponsored by the churches of the BMAA is the best training program we have for our boys and young men. Many of the leaders in our work have been trained through this program--to name a few: Dr. Philip Attebery, Dean of the BMA Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas, and President of the BMA of America; Dr. John Adams, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Mantachie, Mississippi, and Director of the Moral Action Commission; Richard Smith, Pastor of Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas; Corbey Jones, Pastor of Good Hope Baptist Church, Stringer, Mississippi; Collin Jones, Pastor of Fairview Baptist Church, Blytheville, Arkansas, and former missionary to Honduras; Paul Gothard, full-time evangelist and song leader for the National Brotherhood; and Dr. John David Smith, Assistant to the Executive Director of Missions for the BMA of America.

Men, help train more young men for the Master's Work! "Sound the Trumpet" that people may be warned about sin and its judgment and be prepared for the coming of Jesus Christ.

Following is a letter of encouragement from Dr. John Adams:

### Moral Action Committee

Dr. John Adams, Executive Director

*Dear Bro. Matt and the National Brotherhood,  
Greetings! I am making a personal request from the  
Moral Action Committee Director for our National  
Brotherhood project.*

*"It is with great joy that I encourage the Brotherhood of the BMA of America as you support your major project for this year, "the Moral Action Committee." There is a great need in our society today to hear a strong moral voice. As you support this department, I pledge to share our Biblical views in Washington, D.C. and to Congress and Courts. We are constantly providing our churches with promotional materials. This is costly to our department. Please send your Brotherhood offerings to our treasurer: Mr. Robert Bynum, 43 Bear Pen Creek Road, Laurel, MS 39440.*

*Our desire is to grow the Moral Action Committee into a stronger visible voice within the Baptist Missionary Association.*

*Respectfully,  
Dr. John Adams*

*Joshua 24:14 - "I Have Chosen"*

**Pray and support this most worthy project!!**

*Bro. Matt Hudson, National Brotherhood President  
Bro. Arthur Smith, Editor and Project Promoter*

## 2009 GMA Camp Held - Winners of Miss GMA and Junior Miss GMA



Courtney Jordan Junior Miss from Arkansas and Crystal Brewer Alt. Junior Miss from Mississippi.



Miss GMA Molly Bowman from Arkansas and Alternate Carli Reeder from Mississippi

## Tennessee Planned Parenthood loses government funding

**OneNewsNow** - The Tennessee legislature has dispatched a strong message to Planned Parenthood.

About \$1.1 million set aside for family planning in the state will now be distributed mostly to local health organizations and not the taxpayer-supported abortion provider. Susan Allen of Tennessee Right to Life was there for the vote. "In the House, the vote was 69-to-22," she notes, "and in the Senate, 25-to-7."

Allen is thankful that Planned Parenthood will no longer receive the annual automatic nod from the state. "For approximately 40 years, Planned Parenthood was given preferential treatment in the Tennessee state law for getting family planning funds that are under Title X from the federal government," she explains.

Earlier this year, Lila Rose of Live Action conducted an undercover video probe at Memphis Planned Parenthood, during which she posed as a 14-year-old girl impregnated by an older man. A staff member advised her how to obtain the abortion without identifying the molester. Allen believes Rose's revelation had an effect on lawmakers.

"I think it gave it a tremendous boost," she contends. "It wasn't a surprise to us in the movement that this occurred, but in covering it, it really brought the public into an awareness of what goes on at Planned Parenthood."

Live Action video investigations in California also prompted Orange County Commissioners to halt funding of Planned Parenthood.



New National GMA Officers for 2009-2010

**Front Row L to R:** 2nd Vice President, Keely Naden from Mississippi; President, Courtney Luck from Arkansas, and 1st Vice President, Kelsey Fagala from Arkansas.

**Back Row L to R:** Historian, Jessica Glasscock from Texas; Recording Secretary, Meagan Pike from Texas; Song Leader, Carli Reeder from Mississippi; Corresponding Secretary Jones from Arkansas.

# You Tracked Mud All Over My Floor!

One day after an action-packed afternoon of playing outside, our son tracked mud in from the back door all the way across the den to his bedroom. My wife was upset to say the least. She let him know how she felt by exclaiming, "You tracked mud in all over my floor!" Then, she summoned the entire family to come and look at the evidence. As I arrived at the scene of the disaster, sure enough. There it was. Little mud prints all the way across the house. We wouldn't need any forensic specialist to determine 'who done it.' There was only one person in our home with those tiny feet. And the crime scene trail led straight to his bedroom.

Many parents know the next words that came out of my wife's mouth. "How many times have I told you to wipe your feet off outside on the porch before you come into the house? How many times have I told you to check your shoes before running across the floor? I just mopped and vacuumed these floors!!" And then out of nowhere it appeared on my son's face. Those giant tears filling those eyes. The turned down lip almost hit the muddy floor. He only replied, "I'm sorry."

That was just one of many times this scene, and others like it, were to play out in our home. My daughter would come into the house from playing outside. My wife had fixed her hair, cleaned her up and told her she could go outside for just a few minutes and then we were leaving. Well, a kid can get into a lot of running, hopping and skipping in 5 minutes time. She would come in and her hair would be a wind-blown mess. Sweat would be pouring down her brow. My wife would get a hair brush out and start ripping through that hair like it was a chain saw. My daughter would yell. My wife would say, "I have to get these rats out of your hair. How did you do this in such a short time?"

The list goes on and on. Dirty hand prints on the refrigerator. Kitchen counter tops left with food on them. More toothpaste on the bathroom mirror and sink than probably had gone in the mouth. My kids were always playing. Always in a hurry to play some more.

At one of these occasions, my mom was present. I had just verbally accosted my son for more muddy feet across the floor. My mom gave me some sound advice. "Don't get too



## Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

upset with him. Some day you won't have any muddy prints to clean up. The floors will always be clean. The beds will always be made. Enjoy them while you have them." How true.

Now, let me pass on the advice my mom gave to all of you parents out there of very young children. As a reader of this column, you know I am a strong disciplinarian. I believe in having kids honor and obey their parents. I believe in spanking your children. I believe in teaching them lessons and letting them receive consequences for their choices.

As I have matured, I realize that it is not necessary to go to World War III over everything. There is absolutely nothing wrong with getting on to your kids for tracking mud in on the floor. (Children are different than spouses. You can't discipline

a spouse. You just have to pray hard for them.) However, it is not a major disaster. Kids are learning. You must teach them these things. When they track mud in on the floors, forget to feed the dog, etc., they are letting you know they are still a child that needs adult supervision. Teach them. Correct them. But go easy on the little things. I too, like my mom, have learned that all this fuss over a dirty house will some day come to an end.

Enjoy cleaning up mud on the floor. Sing "zippity-do-dah" when cleaning hand prints off the refrigerator. Because in no time at all, there will be no more. The floor will always be clean. There will be no tiny smudges on glass. And you will be in a very quiet house. Let your kids be kids. Teach them, but love them and hug them. Embrace their stages in life.

Our son is actually leaving Conway where we live, to move to Little Rock. My wife and I are enjoying just the two of us. Sure we miss that stage in our life, but we don't have an empty nest. We are just re-feathering it! Keep your marriage growing, and it won't be terrible

when your kids leave home. It will just be an adjustment to another stage in your life. We are really enjoying our time together; just the two of us. But I got to tell you. The beds in the bedrooms now are always made. There is no pile of clothes in the floor. There are no shoes slung across the den. There are no little critters being found in a jar under the bed. Everything stays clean. Everything has grown strangely quiet. There are times I wouldn't mind seeing my little blonde haired princess run in from the back, and her brown-eyed brother tagging along behind. But that's over. It's okay. We are absolutely thrilled that our son is leaving for Little Rock to attend med school at the University of Arkansas. We are very proud of him, and excited about his new life.

And we always look forward to our little one year old granddaughter coming to visit with her mom. I will never get upset with my precious granddaughter, Hudson, when she tracks mud in on the floor. It will be an honor to clean that up. The bottom line is this, parents. Discipline firmly and consistently. Teach them to not track mud in on the floor. But go easy on the little things. It's not worth crushing their little spirit over something as insignificant as a dirty house. Enjoy and embrace your kids being home with you. Someday soon, there will be no little prints on the floor and your house will grow strangely quiet and clean.

## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White



## Sleepin' in

Do you know any young adults who'd rather sleep than get up and face responsibilities? I hear some parents tell of going and doing chores for their adult children because the "kids" just don't have time. Then I hear the "kids" saying they slept 'til dinner time. Is there anything wrong with this picture? The wise writer of the book of Proverbs has a lot to say to both parties.

The most poignant verse is Proverbs 29:17. A grown young'un who habitually sleeps 'til dinner time needs correcting!

## Oklahoma pastor dies



Bro. Jack Hobbs

Jack Hobbs went to be with his Lord and Savior on Monday, June 22, 2009. Brother Jack surrendered to the ministry at the age of 16. He served as an associate pastor at Bethel Baptist for 2 yrs. At age 20 he became a full time pastor at Mt. Grove for 3 yrs. In 1969 brother Jack was called to Ash Street Baptist where he served for 32 yrs. Jack's major goal in life was to be a soul winner for Jesus.

Jack was a life-long resident of Muskogee, Oklahoma. He is survived by his loving wife Dessie, children Teresa Scott and husband Russ of Muskogee; Darla Milligan and husband Nick of Muskogee; and a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Bro. Hobbs was a devoted Christian, husband, dad and grandfather. He especially loved being "Papa Jack." During his illness at home Jack's fondest moments were seeing his grandchildren and watching his great grandchildren at play. In his last days he was surrounded by

family and close friends whom he cherished. Jack especially enjoyed his evangelistic work as he joyfully taught his seniors Sunday school class. Jack was so very fortunate to have so many great Christian brethren from Timothy Baptist Church and Ash Street Baptist Church and the Baptist Missionary Association with whom he shared the love of our Lord.

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## Obama criticizes 'old attitudes' about homosexuality, says Americans will change

**WASHINGTON** (BP)--President Obama became the first chief executive to host a White House ceremony celebrating "gay pride" Monday, telling several hundred homosexual guests in the East Room that America still has what he called "old attitudes" about homosexuality but that they have "an ally and a champion" in the Oval Office.

The June 29 ceremony marked the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots -- which launched the modern-day "gay rights" movement -- and also Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Month, which takes place each June and which was recognized by an Obama proclamation at the beginning of the month.

Conservative commentators were quick to note that the White House ceremony came only a month and a half after Obama chose not to host -- as was a custom under the Bush administration -- a White House event commemorating the National Day of Prayer.

Monday's event was historic; even though former President Clinton signed "Gay Pride Month" proclamations, he never hosted a White House ceremony celebrating it.

During a 15-minute speech, Obama reiterated his opposition to the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy

as well as the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which gives states the option of not recognizing another state's "gay marriages." His line on DOMA drew perhaps the loudest applause.

"I know that many in this room don't believe that progress has come fast enough, and I understand that," he said. "... But I say this: We have made progress and we will make more. And I want you to know that I expect and hope to be judged not by words, not by promises I've made, but by the promises that my administration keeps.... We've been in office six months now. I suspect that by the time this administration is over, I think you guys will have pretty good feelings about the Obama administration."

Saying he "deeply appreciate[s]" their support -- exit polls showed he carried 70 percent of the national homosexual vote -- Obama said, "I want you to know that you have our support, as well."

"There are unjust laws to overturn and unfair practices to stop," he said. "And though we've made progress, there are still fellow citizens, perhaps neighbors or even family members and loved ones, who still hold fast to worn arguments and old attitudes, who fail to see your families like their families, and

who would deny you the rights that most Americans take for granted."

Such language about "worn arguments" and "old attitudes" frustrated evangelicals, who say their views about the sinfulness of homosexuality are based on unchangeable biblical teachings. Bob Stith, the Southern Baptist national strategist for gender issues and representative of the denomination's Task Force on Ministry to Homosexuals (SBCTheWayOut.com), said evangelicals haven't "arrived at our conclusions on homosexuality lightly."

"It isn't simply that we believe homosexuality is sin," Stith told Baptist Press. "We have wrestled with the texts, with the new apologetics of many activists and have come to a genuine, heartfelt belief that Scripture is clear on this."

If "God says something is wrong," Stith said, then those who deviate from God's commands are missing "out on God's best" and are "in an adversarial relationship with God." Obama's words, Stith said, marginalizes not only evangelical Christians but also those homosexual persons who desire to change.

"If God says something is wrong, He also provides a way out," Stith said. "If, as seems evident, Mr. Obama is intent on marginalizing or eradicating any who hold to traditional biblical convictions, then he also eliminates the hope of many who struggle with same-sex attractions and want to be free from that struggle. It is tragic to think of the thousands of young men and women who will opt for a moral choice without having the opportunity to hear all the options. This is neither compassionate, tolerant nor an expression of true freedom."

Stith added he is concerned about Obama's desire to "push through laws that will punish viewpoints."

In early June, Obama issued an LGBT Pride Month proclamation that went further than even that of President Clinton's in its pro-homosexuality slant. For instance, it mentioned for the first time "transgender" people -- a category that includes cross-dressers and those undergoing sex changes. It also called for repealing two policies supported by Clinton: Don't Ask, Don't Tell and the Defense of Marriage Act.

"If we're honest with ourselves, we'll acknowledge that there are good and decent people in this country who don't yet fully embrace their gay brothers and sisters -- not yet," Obama said Monday. "... We must continue to do our part to make progress -- step by step, law by law, mind by changing mind. And I want you to know that in this task I will not only be your friend, I will continue to be an ally and a champion and a president who fights with you and for you."

Said Stith, "While Mr. Obama acknowledges that there are good and decent people who do not agree with his views on homosexuality, he makes it clear that ultimately we must change

our minds. And he also makes clear that one way he will do that is by changing laws."

Obama's opposition to the Defense of Marriage Act has frustrated conservative leaders, particularly because he simultaneously claims he opposes "gay marriage." DOMA prevents the federal government from legalizing "gay marriage" and gives states the option of doing the same.

Conservatives say overturning DOMA not only would force the federal government to recognize "gay marriages" from Massachusetts and other states but could force all 50 states to do the same.

## Tuition Assistance

from page 5

active duty members and activated members of the National Guard and Reserve Components.

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