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Baptist

Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Faith and Fashion

by Glenn Shoemake
pastor of

New Bethany Baptist Church
Ellisville, Mississippi

My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and

are become judges of evil thoughts?
James 2:1-4

The common proverb, "Clothes make the man," is not taken from the Bible, and is not perfectly true. If we judge people by their clothing, whether in or out of church, we are liable to error and our poor judgment might bring God's judgment - which is based on perfect knowledge and righteousness - upon our selves. This is not to say that clothes do not carry messages that are read and interpreted by those who see the wearer. But often, as in the case of the Gibeonites (Joshua 9), clothes are used to mask the true character

of the ones who wear them.

There are some religious groups who adopt a form of dress peculiar to them alone, in order to distinguish their adherents from the people who surround them. The Amish, Hassidic Jews, Wahabi Muslims, and Sikhs are representative of these. God's Word does not, however, prescribe a particular fashion or style of apparel for Christians that would distinguish them from the world at large.

Though specific styles are not commanded by the Lord, there are principles laid down in Scripture that would guide the Christian man or woman in the matter of selecting and

wearing appropriate clothing - in his or her daily life, and also when in the assembly of the saints, the church. The Biblical rules for acceptable and appropriate dress include simplicity, modesty, chastity, humility, and spirituality. Though not a dress code per se, the following passages - among others - are clear in meaning, and the honest Christian can have little difficulty in deciding what is acceptable in God's sight in the area of personal dress and adornment:

In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modes apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works. I Timothy 2:9,10

Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the

hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. I Peter 3:3,4

Tertullian, one of the most respected of the early Church Fathers, wrote many centuries ago (c. 197 A.D.),

"It is not enough for Christian modesty merely to be so, but to seem so, too. So great and abundant ought to be your modesty that it may flow out from the mind to the garb, and burst forth from the conscience to the outer appearance, so that even from the outside it may examine, as it were, its own furniture - a furniture that is suited to retain the faith for-

continued on page 3

Camp Season reaches halfway point

As the first week of July draws to a close, we enter the second half of our camp season. The first half of the summer has seen almost 100 professions of faith and at least 3 surrendering to some area of ministry. The weather has been great for the most part with unseasonably mild days and cool nights but July and August can bring that to a screeching halt in a hurry.

The kids have been great with good attitudes and a willingness to please. We have a new staff of workers and they have had to learn on the run without very much expe-

rience in what to expect at summer camp. A lot of hard work and not much sleep is the norm for the workers and so most sleep all weekend. We have worked together, worshiped together and eaten together as we struggle to learn how to deal with people in all situations.

Mechanical breakdowns are a part of the summer and this summer is no exception. Our large walk-in freezer had required almost constant baby sitting day and night. Fortunately we have Christian friends in the refrigeration business who are willing to spend long hours with us as we

baby sit. We are going to have to replace this freezer soon and it will cost around \$10,000.00 for a newer and larger model. We have also had to limp along with a unit at our bookstore that was given to us by Fellowship, Forney several years ago that was taken out of one of their old buildings. It has served well, but is time for it to be replaced. This will cost about \$2,000.00 for the unit and the installation. Churches and families have been so good to the camp ministry over the years by supplying our needs when they arise.

We have rejoiced with others as they arrive at camp and see our new gates that really dress up the grounds and provide a new level of security for the kids while they are here. Thanks to Prairie Valley, Whitey for one of their members making the stone columns a reality and Antioch, Palestine for an offering to help pay for the gate and a member of First, Carthage for putting the finishing touches on this project. When people work together, it makes the burden lighter for everyone and encourages those who have not had a part in it.



New gates at Daniel Springs Baptist Camp

BPH Introduces the Adult Teacher's E-Kit

An entirely new resource from Baptist Publishing House, the Adult Teacher's E-Kit, will be offered starting this fall. Each church will receive one free introductory E-Kit in its fall literature shipment. Please pass it along to your teachers of adults so they can personally examine its contents on a computer.

The E-Kit is a CD containing electronic files of the visuals available in print form in the Adult Teacher's Resource Kit. The reproducible handouts in The Advancer are also repeated in the E-Kit along with a chart on "The Quarter at a Glance" and links to some helpful Web pages for Sunday School teachers.

If you have access to a computer, the necessary software, and a TV or video projector, you can incorporate the visuals into a presentation for your class.

You can order the E-Kit regularly on your literature order form beginning in winter 2006-07 for just \$5.99

each.

Remember:

One free E-Kit per church this fall. Call 1-800-333-1442 to order additional copies at \$5.99 each. Order after August 1, 2006.

Beginning in the winter quarter order the number of E-Kits you need when you order other literature.

1-to-1: Online Launches this September.

1-to-1: Online, a new Web site from Baptist Publishing House for students and teachers is launching September 1. Features for students will include:

- 5X5 Blog (online daily quiet time)
- Online discussions
- Scriptures for spiritual help
- A summary of each book of the Bible
- Interaction with students and youth pastors
- Links to other student ministries
- Links to other BMAA sites

Savorless Salt and Covered Candles

In the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5, 6, and 7, Jesus spoke of many things. Above all, the main theme of this sermon is that God's people are to be different from the world in order to make a difference in the world. Just as salt preserves meat from corruption, so Christians preserve society from moral corruption. Also, Christians "flavor" the world with goodness, love, etc., supplying things not provided by the world. The scripture speaks of salt losing its savor, which is the same as becoming tasteless and losing its preserving power. Can salt really lose its saltiness? Mounds of salt south of the dead sea, exposed to the rain and sun, were found to be tasteless, therefore useless. When

salt reaches this state, it is therefore good for nothing, as Jesus plainly stated. It has no use or any contribution to make to food, for taste or preservation. Tasteless salt is



miniedition

Joseph Harris

thrown out and walked upon like the dirt on the street (trodden under foot of men), since it has no value.

A light that is lifted high or set on a hill, radiates and gives light to all below. What good is that light if it is covered with a bushel? A bushel

measure was a common object found in most houses in Bible times and when turned upside down, could double as a table. Jesus said that no one lights a candle and then covers it with a bushel basket.

In speaking of salt and light, Jesus did not say that Christians should be the salt of the earth or ought to be the light of the world. He said we already are. Are you a preserving power in your group of acquaintances or in your family? Are you providing a flavor within your own circle of people that otherwise might not be provided? Do you add to the morality in your community in a positive way? If your presence effects a better environment, then you are salting your world. I realize that

the first priority of Christians is not to make this world a better place, but to bring people to Christ. However, people who come to Jesus make better citizens and neighbors. And as we win people to Christ, being salty makes us more effective and sets a high standard of righteousness, thereby revealing God to the lost.

Years ago, I refused to perform a marriage ceremony in a church setting for two professing Christians who were currently living together. I gave counsel, advising them to repent, and show proof of their repentance by living in separate quarters, then later I would consider talking with them about a church wedding ceremony. Remember, these were professing Christians and I was not about to allow the bride to march down the church aisle wear-

ing white, straight from a bed of fornication with her live-in lover husband to be. Churches and individual believers have an obligation to hold up a standard of righteousness which is a picture of the righteousness of God. When righteousness is no longer seen, believers and non-believers begin to think everything is relative and there are no absolutes of right or wrong. Churches dropped this ball years ago and relativism then crept into society.

Are you a beacon of light, as a lighthouse set on a hill, or a flickering flame that barely lights the way? Light illuminates and reveals God to others. Jesus said the purpose of letting our light shine was to show our good works and reveal the Father in Heaven (Matt. 5:16). Are you a lighthouse, a torch, a match, or an ember? Oh God, give us lighthouses to rescue the perishing from the rocks of sin and hell!

Do You Attend a Cult?

In our society the word "cult" has a pejorative connotation. Most American Christians would never see themselves as attending a cult. Most who go to church with any regularity would with great energy deny membership in anything resembling a cult. Most mainstream American Christians accuse others of being cult-like. Cults are those groups of weirdo people; cults are those people who are on the fringe; cults are those people who have meetings concerning odd issues. The term cult is never placed on their own belief system or worship process. Perhaps some do attend a cult and have never considered themselves to be cult members.

Some simple characteristics of cults are:

Emphasis on limited doctrines to the exclusion of the prominence of the Scriptures

Focus on narrow political issues that are veiled in religious overtones

Veneration of a particular translation of the Scriptures

Near worship or deification of a leader or the leaders

Exclusion of community other than those of the enlightened

Many unsuspecting Evangelical Christian people have been attending a cult instead of a church for years. If your church has one or more of the above characteristics, it might stand you in good stead to examine the purpose and focus of your congregation. Are you attending a church or a cult?

Some definitions of a cult:

The religious definition of a cult by Walter Martin is:

"By cultism we mean the adherence to doctrines which are pointedly contradictory to orthodox Christianity and which yet claim the distinc-

tion of either tracing their origin to orthodox sources or of being in essential harmony with those sources. Cultism, in short, is any major deviation from orthodox Christianity relative to the cardinal doctrines of the Christian faith."

Sociologists define cult as a religious or non-religious group that tends to manipulate, exploit, and control its members.

Why then do people join or attend a cult?



Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

Belonging to a group is a natural human process. Most of humankind is a member of a church, club, lodge, union, or other civic or government association.

Conversion leads to reorganization or reprioritization of life. Some are radical, some are less radical in their end result as it relates to lifestyle and belief system.

The proselyte perceives the cult to hold sole insight, power, and ability to have the solutions for his life problems and future happiness. The cult is the key to happiness.

There are many models of cults. Here are some of the models in general:

Psychological model-this is one in which the convert joins to resolve her/his personal problems within the membership of the group.

Entrepreneurial model-the cult founder tries to get the largest number of recruits/adherents to his own enterprise.

Social model-the new member demonstrates a decrease in contact

with his past associates and intensifies his bonding with the initiated membership.

Revelation model-the founder perceives a supernatural revelation coming to him to order the cult of the perceived deity.

Reasonable care must be taken to examine our own religious beliefs. We have the Scriptures, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the traditions of the Christian centuries. Remember the early church was a cult until later centuries when it became accepted as standard practice.

When we ask, "Am I attending a cult?" we need to consider some points:

Cults tend to be one sided, closed, and regimented as to belief system and behaviour.

Cults control more than your religious system- especially your finances and individual will.

Cults have as a focus someone other than the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Cults have as an intended outcome something other than the good and work of the Kingdom of God.

Cults have a distorted view of God, Scriptures, Christianity, history, politics, and humanity.

More than likely, the church you attend is not a cult. However, there are churches that have slipped off into cultism because of their skewed practices. Look at your church; if it has some of these characteristics, it is a cult. If you find yourself in such a situation, there is only one word for you: "Leave!" Take the first exit and get out now! The group is masquerading as a church; it is not a church; it is a cult. Find a Bible-practising church in your community where Jesus Christ is honoured in worship and service. Join it and have your family involved in worship and service to Jesus.

Minister's Daughter dies in auto crash

Lauren Ashley Hymer, 21, of Conway, Arkansas, was killed in a car accident June 17. She was the daughter of Lori and Donny Hymer of El Dorado, where her father serves as director of church ministries at Wyatt Baptist Church.

She is a 2003 graduate of Westside Christian School in El Dorado and a member of Central Baptist Church of Conway. Lauren attended the Baptist School of Nursing in Little Rock, the University of Central Arkansas and Central Baptist College in Conway, and worked at College Pharmacy in Conway.

Funeral services were held June 20 at Wyatt Baptist Church. Memorials may be sent to Wyatt Baptist Church, 4621 W. Hillsboro St., El Dorado, AR 71730; or Central Baptist Church, 3333 Dave Ward Dr., Conway, AR 72034.

Calling All Former Missionaries

The Missions and Revolving Loan Fund are making preparations to celebrate 200 years of God's blessings. Because some of the preparation involves each of you, we would like to know if you will be able to attend. Our Mission work has come a long way and your dedication to serving God as missionary has proven to be a vital part of where we are today.

Please let me know by August 15th if you will be able to attend and participate. I'm enclosing my address and phone numbers

Chris Smith
212 So. Fox Hall Road
Pearl, MS 39208
601-939-6707
cell- 601-668-6347
Chris Smith

BMA Missions Department Banquet Invitation

In commemoration of God's blessings the Missions and Loan Fund will host a banquet celebrating our 200th year anniversary. Parkview Baptist Church has graciously allowed us to use their Family Life Center located at 920 North 10th Avenue, Laurel, Mississippi. So mark your calendar for October 17 starting at 5:30 p.m. The Missions and Loan Fund report will be given after the banquet.

This association has come a long way. We have a beautiful building that houses our Youth Department, Publications, Senior Adult ministry in addition to our Missions and Revolving Loan Fund. When I pass the missions building I feel joy in my heart that God has given us a building second to none. Bro. Freeman welcomes the BMA people to use this facility to further the Lord's work.

I would like to know if you will be able to attend so we can be prepared. Please call or write me, Chris Smith, 212 South Fox Hall Road, Pearl, MS 39208, 601-939-6707; cell (601) 668-6347. If you cannot get me call the missions office and Nicki will pass the information on to me.

Thanks and may God bless
Chris Smith

Southeastern Baptist College

4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440, (601) 426-6346



Dr. Medrick Savell
President

Special Emphasis

Special Emphasis posters have been sent to the churches. If you did not get yours, or if you would like to have more, please let us know. Please do all you can for the emphasis this year. We are depending on these offerings to help us get through the lean summer months.

Improvements are being made on both dormitories in preparation for the fall semester. Please pray for a good enrollment this year. We are encouraged at the prospects who are coming by.

Memorial Gifts

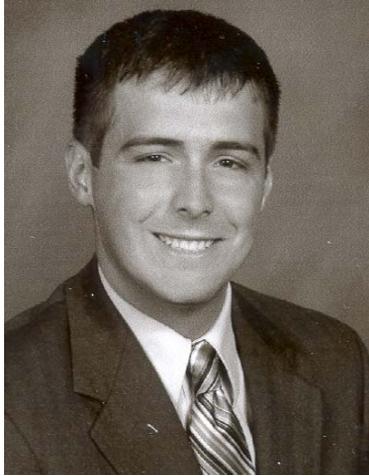
Some more memorial gifts have been sent to the college recently in honor of Dr. Jentry Bond and Mrs. Marie Rarick. Memorial books have been placed in the library in their honor. May the Lord bless these families.

Also, a memorial gift has been sent to Southeastern Baptist College Foundation in memory of Bro. Carl Seal. Pray for God's blessings on his family.

New Staff member

Brandon Wilson will begin working with students in the fall semester to organize a choir. He is a graduate of Jones County Junior College and is currently a music major at William

Carey University. He also serves as Minister of Music at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church at Saucier, Missis-

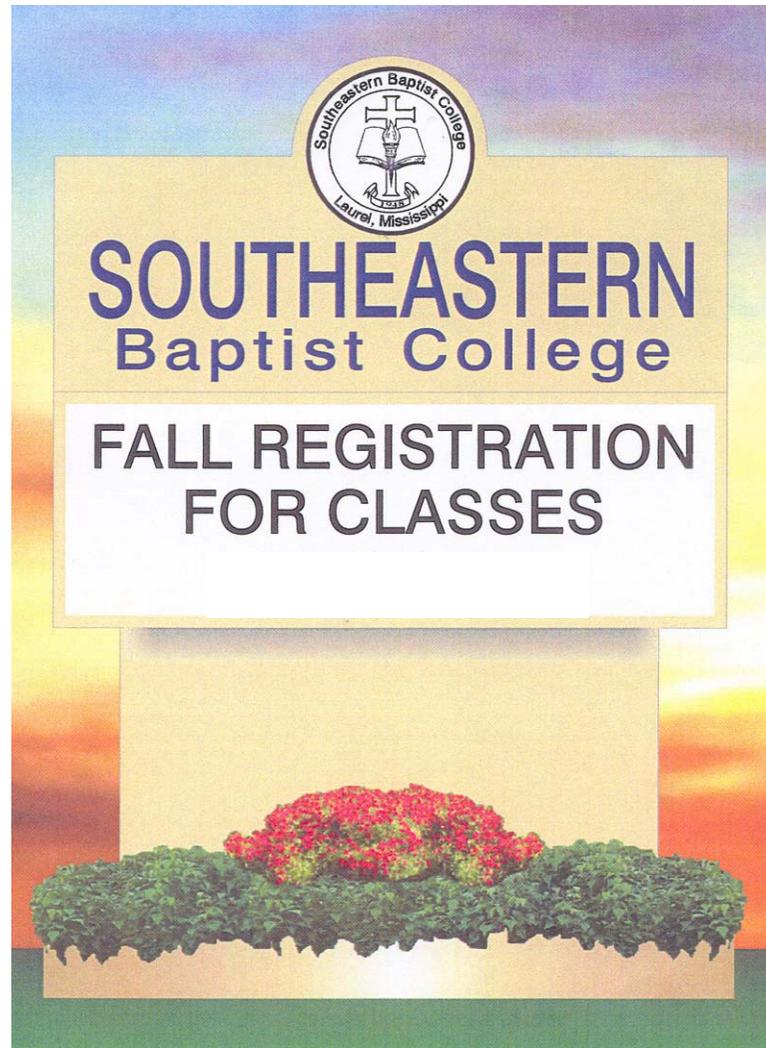


Brandon Wilson

sippi. His home church is First Baptist, Shady Grove, Laurel. He is married and he and his wife have one child. They live near the college, so it will be convenient to work with the choir.

*Serving Christ
With a
Biblical World View
In A
Christian Atmosphere*

College to upgrade sign



Pictured above is a proposed design for a new sign at Southeastern Baptist College. It is twelve feet high, ten feet wide, with internal lighting, and can have three lines of any message we wish to display. We must raise \$14,710.00 to pay for it and would like to have it ready before the October meeting of the association and the 200 year celebration of the association.

A good Special Emphasis offering from the churches and individuals will help to purchase this sign and enhance the front of the campus. Some funds have already been received.

comes into direct conflict with God's clear command. The real issues have to do with the motives of the believer's heart which affect his or her bodily appearance, and how that bodily presentation affects those with whom the believer interacts. It is essential that the sincere child of God consider these matters for some very important reasons:

... for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart. I Samuel 16: 7

Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. Romans 14:13

Items of concern to the Christian, and which should be avoided include elaborate hairstyles, costly clothing and jewelry, and colorful cosmetic applications which effectively capture the attention and excite the lusts and envy of others. It is beneath the dignity of a true believer to indulge in vainglory and seek the lustful admiration of the world; and to do so betrays unholy motives in the heart. Followers of fashion soon find themselves straying from Christ. And worse still, they may cause someone else to fall into sin through their own careless or misdirected use of dress and make-up. Tertullian, whose writings, though ancient, seem very up-to-date to the candid reader, had some strong words on this point:

"We use the word dress when we refer to what they call 'womanly grace,' whereas make-up is more fittingly called 'womanly disgrace.' Articles of dress are considered gold and silver and jewels and clothes, whereas make-up consists in the care of hair and of the skin and of those parts of the body which attract the eye. On one we level the accusation of ambition; on the other that of prostitution. I say that now, O handmaid of God, that you may well know what, out of all these, is proper for your behavior, since you are judged by different principles, namely, those of humility and chastity. (The Apparel of Women, p.5)

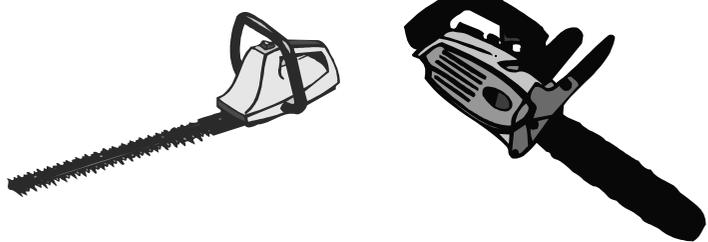
May we all, men and women alike, if we would live as Christians, dress and present our bodies in a godly fashion at all times, remembering the Apostolic admonition:

... that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Romans 12:1,2

Closing his treatise on women's fashion, Tertullian advised Chris-

continued on page 4

It's Time for a
Good Ol' Fashion Work Day
at
Southeastern Baptist College
Friday, August 11th - Saturday, August 12th
7:00 a.m. until



Bring your powersaws, weed eaters, shovels, and rakes, and whatever else you think it might take and come help us clear the remains of Hurricane Katrina's damage and clean up the property.

For more information or to confirm your presence, please contact **Cliff Jenkins** at: 601-422-0713 or 601-498-2748. E-mail: plhuntr@netzero.net.

Need a place to stay Friday Night?

Bring your sleeping bag and stay in the dorm.

What about something to eat??

Southeastern's got that covered too!

What's holding you back??
Nothing!!!

Faith and Fashion

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ever. We must, therefore, get rid of such delicacies as tend by their softness and effeminacy to weaken the strength of our faith." The Apparel of Women, p. 26 (Mollie Rose Press edition, 1996)

Though the three preceding passages from Scripture and ancient Christian literature address women in particular, the principles underlying them apply with equal force to

Baptist Herald editor resigns

Jerry Derfelt, who has served as editor for the BMA of Kansas and Western Missouri since 1988, has announced that he "will not seek reelection as editor of the BAPTIST HERALD or secretary-treasurer of the association" at their upcoming meeting. He is a member of First Baptist Church in Galena, Kansas.

men - "What's good for the goose is good for the gander."

Consideration of our outward appearance naturally prompts our minds to think about fashion and beauty concerns, including clothing, jewelry, and cosmetics. Occasion, occupation, and opportunity affect our customs and choices relating to dress and make-up; but for the Christian man or woman, these and all other choices are to be tempered, shaped, motivated, and ultimately determined by the will of God as revealed in the Word and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The desired result is that a Christian will (by good works including but certainly not limited to her or his choices of clothes, accessories, and hairstyle) be as easily distinguished from the sinners of the world as a light in a dark place or "a city that is set on a hill."

Styles and customs of dress and make-up differ widely from nation to nation and culture to culture, and they have been in constant change throughout man's history. This is not a real issue for a Christian, except when a particular style or custom

Editorial

On A Personal Note

In our last issue I noted that my father was near death. He passed away on July 1st and was buried on July 4th near Clarksdale, Mississippi. Dad was two months away from reaching his 79th birthday. He had a good, long prosperous life, but was troubled with a number of health issues during the past four or five years.

The Lord blessed me and my family in that we were able to spend many good days together with him and have some good family discussions before he was called home.

Let me express my appreciation and that of my entire family for the many calls, cards, flowers and prayers for us during this difficult time. You have proven again that God's people are a caring and supportive people.

I ask that you continue to pray for my mother as she is alone now for the first time in over 59 years.

God bless you all for caring.



Don Brown
Editor

Bro. Merle Bradley passes away

Bro. Merle D. Bradley, 81, died Sunday, July 9, 2006, at Daniel Healthcare, Inc. He was born April 11, 1925, in Guntown, Mississippi, to Henry Clifton and Bertha Thurston McCarty Bradley. He worked as a Pepsi-Cola salesman before surrendering into the Gospel ministry on Father's Day in 1958. During his ministry, he pastored churches in Mississippi, Texas, and Florida and served as a missionary for the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. He attended Southeastern Bible College in Laurel. He was currently a member and associate pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi. He served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II and Korea where he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major. He was a member of the American Legion Post 51 where he served as Past Command Chaplain and Past Commander. A true servant of God, he loved the souls of men.

Services were held Tuesday, July 11, at Bethel Baptist Church with Bro. Milton Wright and Bro. Tracy McMillen officiating. His son, Major Ricky Bradley (U.S.M.C.) delivered the eulogy. Burial was at Tupelo Memorial Park with military honors. McNeece-Morris Funeral Home of Fulton was in charge of the



Bro. Merle D. Bradley

arrangements.

Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Bobby Sue Bradley of Dorsey; one daughter, Kay Frances Phillips of Anguilla; two sons, Major Ricky Bradley of Conway, Arkansas, and J.C. Bradley of Indianola, Mississippi; seven grandchildren, Lisa Phillips Albert, Dawn Phillips Freeman, Lindsay Phillips Lindsey, Shawna Bradley Bridgeman, Courtney Bradley, Jonathan Bradley and Stephen Bradley; four great-grandchildren; his mother, Bertha Bradley of Fulton; two brothers, Banks T. Bradley of Indianapolis, Indiana, and H.C. Bradley of Marietta, Mississippi; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father; one brother, and three sisters.

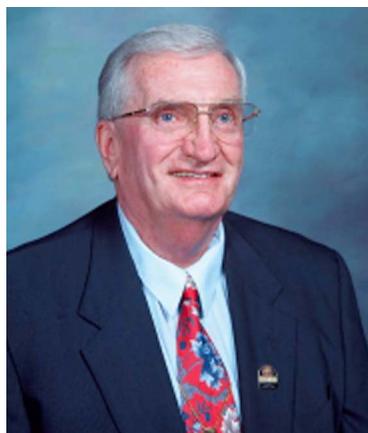
Faith and Fashion

from page 3

tian women to be "adorned with the cosmetics and ornaments of the Apostles and Prophets. Let your whiteness flow from simplicity, let

Bro. Carl Seal passes away

Carl W. Seal, 72, of Seminary, Mississippi, died July 4 following a severe stroke. He had been in the ministry for 53 years, pastoring



Bro. Carl Seal

churches in Arkansas, Michigan, Mississippi, Texas, Alabama, Florida and Oklahoma. He was a member of Riverside Baptist Church in Ellisville, Mississippi, and was in the first graduating class at BMA Seminary at Jacksonville, Texas in 1958, when he received a Th.B. degree. Survivors include his wife, the former Willene Sanford; two sons, James Timothy Seal of San Antonio, Texas, and Samuel Wilton Seal of Seminary, Mississippi; two brothers, John Seal of Franklinton, Louisiana, and Kirby Seal of Sparta, North Carolina; two sisters, Wilkie Miller of New York, and Willie Slaven of Lake Charles, Louisiana; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Friday, July 7, at Evergreen Baptist Church in Seminary. Interment was at Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery in Seminary.

Texas church seeks pastor

The members of Rose Hill Baptist Church of Mineola Texas are currently seeking a Godly man to serve as their pastor. Ministers who feel the leadership of the Holy Spirit are requested to send a resume and letter of introduction to Bill Self, Search Team Chairman, 561 CR 2774, Mineola, Texas 75773 or call the church office 903-569-5746 (Tuesday or Thursday between the hours of 9:00 am & 3:00 pm) for more information.

modesty be the cause of your rosy complexion, paint your eyes with demureness, your mouth with silence, hang on your ears the words of God, bind on your neck the yoke of Christ; bow your heads to your husbands - and that will be ornament enough for you. Keep your hands busy with spinning and stay at home - and you will be more pleasing than if you were adorned in gold. Dress yourselves in the silk of probity, the fine linen of holiness, and the purple of chastity. Decked out in this manner, you will have God Himself for your lover." (The Apparel of Women, p.27)

Okay, okay, but what about women wearing pants to church isn't that wrong? The true answer is: That depends on the heart of the woman and the effect on those who look at her. If her motive for wearing them is simply to have on decent, simple, appropriate clothing, then she should not be judged a sinner. If, however, she is wearing them to catch the eye of the men in the congregation, then certainly she is

out of order, and God will judge her for it, whether the church does or not. If the pants are form-hugging, low-riding, or otherwise designed to make a lewd display of the woman's body, she should not wear them in public for any reason, and should never wear such to the place of congregational worship.

But the fact is that the styles of women's clothes changed drastically during the last century in Western culture and Christendom, and women's pants have taken a place along side other acceptable articles of attire. Modest pants should be as acceptable for Christian women as modest dresses and skirts. Certainly, modest pants are to be preferred by Christians in any public venue to lewd garments, such as skintight or low-cut, skimpy dresses, miniskirts and shorts. (By the way, Christian men should apply the very same standards with regard to their clothing.)

Having said all that, let me add

continued on page 5

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"I now baptize you into this church, fully knowing that you will soon be elected to three committees and burn out within two years if you're lucky."

Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White



What others think

I am sometimes amused just watching people trying to "keep up with the Joneses". What they don't know is that the Joneses are usually in debt up to their eyeballs. And by trying to maintain that standard, pretty soon these folks are also in debt up to their eyeballs. A lot of purchases are justified in the sight of the buyer: "My car has nearly 100,000 miles on it." Praise the Lord and keep driving! Or "I haven't had a new outfit in six months." So what! That doesn't mean you need a new outfit. "Everyone else has one." And so? We try so hard to impress others with our stuff. And that's all it is - just stuff.

My sentiments are expressed by this little quote: "It matters less what people think about you, when you realize how seldom they do."

Think about it!

Mississippi Baptist

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Southeastern Baptist College



Serving Christ
With A
 Biblical World View
In A
 Christian Atmosphere

SPECIAL EMPHASIS



Faith and Fashion

from page 4

that the tradition of the congregation - and the denomination in some cases - should be respected by all the members of the local congregation. As traditions and styles change, it is unavoidable that questions will arise and disagreements may be aired, for folks tend to resist change of any kind. I must confess that, though I have fully accepted that women in general society now "wear the pants" as well as men, yet in the church I am reluctant to accept the practice.

Matthew Henry, commenting on the eleventh chapter of I Corinthians, which concerns the question of women praying in church unveiled, makes two good points:

We should, even in our dress and habit, avoid every thing that may dishonour Christ... The Christian religion sanctions national customs wherever these are not against the great principles of truth and holiness; affected singularities receive no countenance from any thing in the Bible.

A Christian is well-advised to refrain from being too contentious about things that are accepted in society and not forbidden in the Word of God.

It will not do to bring the prohibition of transvestitism into the argument over women in pants, for that would be using the word of God deceitfully. Deuteronomy 22:5 - The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LoRD thy God - has absolutely nothing to say about a woman wearing women's pants, to church or anywhere else; but it speaks rather to the abominable pagan practice of transvestitism, cross-dressing, which perverts the Divine order of male and female roles established in creation by God.

Beloved brothers and sisters, let us apply our hearts and minds to loving care and admonition of one another, rather than harsh judgment and evil thoughts. If we will learn to "love one another with a pure heart fervently" and "be at peace" among ourselves, our worship will be enriched, and the witness of the church in the community will be enhanced.

-from "Out of My Mind - Selected Articles and Essays" by Glenn Shoemaker

Commission on Senior Adults

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



I greet you in the name that is above every name, His Name is Jesus. His name is far above every name (Phil. 2: 9-11). We pray in His name. We go in His name. We preach in His name. We witness in His name. We worship in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On July 9, 2006 I resigned as interim pastor of the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church in Laurel. I plan, the Lord willing, to devote my time in promoting the Commission on Senior Adults. I will do pulpit supply as the Lord leads. I have enjoyed my ministry since the Lord called me in 1949. I surrendered to preach, and I have tried to surrender to the ministry also ever since. Our Missionary Baptist (BMA) people have been good to me. If I can help our pastors and churches just call me at 601-729-3198. I would like to visit our

churches that do not have an active Senior Adult Ministry and help them to organize one. I will be able to visit most any time now.

We are enjoying our visits to the different Local Associations. I am glad to report that more of our churches and associations are joining us financially. The Divine Grace Baptist Mission, Long Beach and Missionary Wallace Williams are now giving regular support. Thomas Street Baptist Church, Tupelo and pastor Frank Panzrino are now on board with budget giving. The Washington Association has voted to give monthly support. I do appreciate the financial support of all you who have seen need of the many Senior Adults in our BMA Churches here in Mississippi. The Commission can't do it all. In fact we can't do that much. We can help the local

church and pastor to help their Seniors. The conferences are just a small way to help our people. Every church should work to have an active and meaningful ministry with their seniors. Every BMA church in Mississippi should place the Commission in their budget. I don't know why your church refuses to help us help your older members.

I am burdened, I am concerned about how our churches are aging while we are winning so few younger men and women and families. I am concerned when I see young pastors turn away from our associational work. However, they seem to be interested in pastoring BMA churches. Often these brethren succeed in turning their church away from the Association. We all know that our associational work is not perfect, but neither are those men perfect. It is easy to find fault. It is hard to look at self in the mirror. I am saying that we must win young families or in a few (very few) years many of our churches will be in deep trouble. If you remove the people fifty years old and older from many churches, you wouldn't have a church. Think about it.

"One verse in every six in the first three Gospels relates either directly or indirectly to money. Sixteen of our Lord's forty-four parables deal with the use of misuse of money. A loving, joyful, liberal giving to the Lord's work is an acid test of a spiritual heart, pleasing to God." - William Allen

GMA Girls

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

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

National GMA retreat news

The National GMA Retreat was held at Daniel Springs Baptist Camp on June 13-16. The theme this year was "Go Fish." The theme verses were Matthew 4:19-20. Our project was 10% National GMA Fund, 45% GMA Camp Sound Equipment, and 45% La Mision Baptista in Carthage, Texas. With the help of all the GMA churches we rose over \$15,000! There were 410 people in attendance this year. Ten professions of faith were made as well as at least three called to missions.

Bro. John David Smith was our camp pastor and missionary. He and his wife Kim gave inspiration to all the girls in his preaching and classes. Darlene Carey also attended the camp and challenged the girls to be the best for Jesus.

New officers were elected Thursday evening of camp. They are as follows: Danielle Clark - President; Lauren Fagala - I Vice President; Tiffany Head - II Vice President; Bethany Jones - Recording Secretary; Allena Burns - Corresponding Secretary; Cera Jones - Song Leader Savannah Smith - Historian.

The Miss and Jr. Miss Presentation was held on Thursday night with the theme of "Go Fish" to go along with the overall theme. Carli Reeder of Mississippi was chosen to be the Alternate Jr. Miss GMA and Chelsea Wallace of Texas was chosen as Jr. Miss GMA. Keely Naden of Mississippi was selected to be the Alternate Miss GMA and Danielle Clark was chosen for Miss GMA.

The new project is 90% Bolivian Houseboat, 10% General Fund. Our theme is "My Special Place" and the theme verses are John 14:2,3. Our goal is this year is \$25,000. The dates for camp next year are June 12-15. Each church is encouraged to decorate a treasure chest and fill it up with money for the project. Our challenge is to get 550 people at camp next year and to raise \$500 for each church.

We had such a great time at camp this year! The services were so worshipful and dedicated to the Lord. Please continue to pray for the new officers as well as the GMA work.

Allena Burns reporting

State Sunbeam Officer reports

Hello! My name is Allison Humphrey. I am so excited to be serving as 1st vice-president for the State for the upcoming year. We had a wonderful time at Sunbeam Camp this year at Camp Garaywa. While at camp I was honored to have placed as 1st Alternate in Miss Sunbeam 2006.



Allison Humphrey

I am 9 years old and attend Evergreen Baptist Church, Seminary, where I am very active in Sunbeams, Youth choir, Sunday School and Church. In my spare time I enjoy being with friends and family. I am looking forward to becoming a GMA this fall.

Mississippi's Little Mr. Sunbeam 2006

Joseph Kyle Lott, the 7 year old son of Jimmy and Lisa Lott of Evergreen Baptist Church, Seminary, Mississippi, is the Little Mr. Sunbeam for Mississippi. Joseph scored the highest at his level on Bible memory work. He was questioned by a panel of judges at Sunbeam Youth Camp held at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. Joseph is very active in the youth choir, Sunday School and the Sunbeam program.



2006 Winners



Jr. Miss GMA Chelsea Wallace of Texas and Alt. Jr. Miss Carli Reeder of Mississippi



Miss GMA is Danielle Clark of Arkansas and Alt. Miss is Keely Naden of Mississippi

2006 National GMA Officers



Back Row L to R Bethany Jones of MI (Recording Secretary), Lauren Fagala of AR (1st Vice President), Front Row L to R: Cera Jones of MI (Song Leader), Allena Burns of LA (Corresponding Secretary), Tiffany Head of TX (2nd Vice President), Danielle Clark of AR (President) and Savannah Smith of MS (Historian)

New record at GMA camp



On Wednesday evening a wonderful record was set when Mrs. Shirlene Smith had the honor of presenting awards to her three granddaughters during the Queen's Coronation. Never before has a grandmother had that honor.

Pictured here are L to R: Cera Jones daughter of Corbey and Cindy (Smith) Jones of Michigan, Kala Hudson daughter of Matt and Lisa (Smith) Hudson of Arkansas, Mrs. Shirlene (Mrs. Arthur W.) Smith of Mississippi, and Bethany Jones daughter of Corbey and Cindy (Smith) Jones of Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith's son John David Smith missionary to Cape Verde was the Camp Pastor. He and his wife Kim were a real blessing to girls and their Counselors.

Bro. and Mrs. Smith are to be commended for the contribution their family is making to the Lord's work in the BMA. What a heritage these children have.

Claudia Thompson reporting

Reasons Not To Wash

If you took the same excuses that people use for not going to church and apply them to other important areas of life you'd realize how inconsistent we can be in our logic. For example: Reasons Not To Wash

1. I was forced to as a child.
2. People who make soap are only after your money.
3. I wash on special occasions like Christmas and Easter.
4. People who wash are hypocrites- they think they are cleaner than everyone else.
5. There are so many different kinds of soap, I can't decide which one is best.
6. I used to wash, but it got boring so I stopped.
7. None of my friends wash.
8. The bathroom is never warm enough in the winter or cool enough in the summer.
9. I'll start washing when I get older and dirtier.
10. I can't spare the time

Spoiled Young'uns

By Brother Ritechus N Dignation

I ain't never seen the beat for spoiled young'uns as found today. "Give Up and Give In" is the philosophy of most parents...and grandparents. Such foolishness has spawned a generation of criminals. By the way, you don't have to be behind bars to be a criminal. Spoiled means ruined or rotten and I've seen some kids who are more rotten than three day old warm buttermilk.

There's a lot to be said for the good ole days when parents knew how to be parents and deal with kids properly. Remember that old school days poem? "School days, school days, good old golden rule days. Readin' and writin' and 'rithmetic, taught to the tune of a hickory stick" used to be well known. Now days, you'd be singing to the tune of a lawsuit, teacher or parent, if hickory was still the motivator.

There are tons of books on parenting, and ever once in a while, a decent one based on the Bible

pops up, but one out of a hundred can't undo the wreckage done by 99 sorry ones. Even at that, no book can replace THE BOOK on child rearing, the Bible. Back in the 1960's, Dr. Spock was the rage, and since then, his descendants have multiplied.

Vance Havner used to quote a little poem in his sermons that went something like this:

Junior hit the meter man, Junior bit the cook

Aggressive behavior thus displayed is found in the book.

Junior then pushed sister down and made her skin her knee

The section on sibling rivalry is found in chapter three.

Then Junior got in Grampa's room and fouled up his fishing line

Inquisitive behavior is found in chapter nine.

So Grampa took his leather belt and laid Junior across his knee Cause Grampa hadn't read a book since 1963.

Physical enforcement on children is not only not wrong, it's downright effective. Time after time, I've seen little knee biters kick, scream and cry to get their way, with nary a wet eye, yet their crying sounded real. Time after time, I've heard mothers count to three 10 times only to watch the child dare Mom to do something (By the time Mom gets to three, my wife could have done put 10 stripes on those legs). Oh well, Junior may not mind but, at least he will learn to count, which should come in handy counting the loot when he later robs a bank.

The meanest look you'll ever get from other parents and grandparents is when you take a switch or paddle to your young'un, but you just tell 'um like I once did, "You raise your heathen your way, I'll train mine God's way." Train up child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6. Nuff said.

Prisoners Bible Crusade

Box 696, Picayune, MS 39466
Paul E. Lee, Director

Report for year ending 6-30-2006

For the year 2006 we have given free to prisoners 2,960 Bibles; 200 New Testaments; 2,700 John/Romans; 5,265 Study Books, 1,110 Study helps, all totals 12,235. Sent into 21 prisons. Chaplains report 641 people saved (12,828 since 1/1/2000). 3 new Chaplain requesting Bibles for 1st time. I have traveled 23,543 miles, visited 20 churches, 9 associations meeting & 14 prisons, one foreign county, taught 33 bible study classes. I have preached 13 sermons in churches, 12 in prisons with 18 people getting saved. PBC's Evangelistic Team has conducted 7 revival efforts in prisons in 2006. Since May 4, 1973 we have given 455,428 pieces of Christian materials, of which 163,695 were whole bibles.

Again, my thanks to each one for your prayers and support of this Bible Ministry! For the Churches and Individuals who give so I can travel and teach God's Holy Word to Prisoners, Thank you!!

Here is information about a collection of Classic Baptist Books that will be a great help to our BMA preachers and people. These books can be purchased on CD. This collection retails for \$99.95. Group discounts are available. For more information contact Dr. Larry R. Oats (1-920-206-2398 or rwhambbc.edu). Also from this web site, http://rejoicesoftware.com/classic_baptist.htm. (they show a discount) This collection includes over 100 titles, nearly 500 pictures and portraits, plus 215 biographies! I have them on my computer with the Logos software and they are well worth the price! Bro. Paul

Church News

from page 8

First Shady Grove, Laurel Begins Revival

First Baptist Church Shady Grove, Laurel will begin revival services July 23 - 26, 2006. Bro. Grover Laird will be the evangelist.

Pastor Billy Higginbotham and church members invite everyone to attend.

Lebanon, Laurel Revival Services

Our annual summer revival will take place August 6 - 11, 2006, and our new pastor, Bro. T. Aaron Maxwell, will be preaching the messages.

The public is cordially invited to attend and all of the services to hear our new pastor. We will have morning services at 10:30 am. And evening services at 7:00 p.m.

July 24-28 Lebanon Baptist Church will be having Vacation Bible School. The hours will be 8:30 a.m. 'til 11:30 a.m. We will be going on a treasure hunt to "Find Your Treasure!"

A cordial invitation is extended to all from 2 years old through high school. The closing program will be Sunday, July 30th at 6:30 pm.

Chris Freeman, Youth Director

Good Hope, Columbia

Greetings from Good Hope. We had a friend and family day at church the end of April. We enjoyed the day with many friends and family members present. We held a recognition service and reception for our graduates. We also had a fish fry and sing, featuring "Hozanna." It was sponsored by the youth to help them raise money for their camps this summer.

If you happen to see Bro. Denny and it seems as if he is floating, it isn't

because of weight he is losing or all the exercise, but it has to do with the following praise report. The KFC kids took four unsaved children to camp and came back with four saved children. We have also had a young couple, two young men, and the aunt of one of our church members saved during the past month (all three men are brothers which has made it very special for them and our church). We thank God for these precious souls and look forward to helping them as they begin their Christian walk.

Our IMPAC youth are attending SOAR and senior camp. The third week in July has been set aside for our summer revival. Bro. Steve Crawley will be conducting the services. We will have morning and afternoon services on the 16th and 7:00 p.m. services each night. Everyone is invited to attend.

Our Bible School will begin Monday night, July 24th at 6:00 each night. We would encourage all those between three years and 6th grade to attend and enjoy this time of learning and fellowship.

We also had a clean-up day at the church in June and enjoyed a patriotic program by the KFC kids and an ice cream supper. It is with a sad heart that we report that Bro. Denny's brother's son-in-law, David Holifield, was killed in a motorcycle accident over the holiday weekend. Please keep this family in your prayers.

If you do not have a church home or are in the area visiting, we invite you to come worship with us. It is our prayer that the Lord will bless and protect you.

Denny Patterson, Pastor
Judy Sylvest, Reporter

Harmony Association Report

The Harmony Association met with Central Baptist Church at Corinth June 9, 2006. Bro. John Adams, moderator. Doyle Phifer led the singing. Welcome by Bro. Theibert Hill, and prayer. There were seven churches represented with

39 present.

Bro. Tim Nall gave a report on camps and Bro. Ray Freeman reported on missions. Bro. James Wilson preached from II Corinthians 6: 14-18, 7:1 - "Perfecting Holiness."

Our next meeting will meet at Big Oak, Fulton. Bro. John Adams will be the speaker.

Movella, Lucedale

Movella Baptist Church would like to send out a big Christian hello to each of you. This church year is passing quickly and we are still praising God. We are thankful for all our auxiliary leaders in the Galileans, GMA's, Sunbeams, Brotherhood, and WMA. We thank God that we still have people to carry these auxiliaries on.

The past few weeks our Wednesday night study has been in the book of Daniel. June 4th we celebrated our 73rd Homecoming. We were honored to have our past pastor, Bro. Carl Seals, as our guest speaker.

In May, our brotherhood honored our mothers. Sister Dorothy Tompkins was recognized as the oldest mother and Candee Crawley was recognized as the youngest mother. Sister Betty Tanner was honored for having the most family present. We recognized seven high school graduates: Sunnie Touchard, Rachel Brewer, Dustin Goff, Michael Touchard, Vincent Cochran, Byron Cooley, and Derick Badeaux. Brother Don Brown preached a message challenging each of the graduates to use the talents God has given them for his honor and glory. We presented each with a Bible and reception on Sunday night. After receiving their honors, the graduates sang Amazing Grace.

Our pastor's wife, Mrs. Lynn Brown, also graduated in May from the University of South Alabama receiving her BS degree. We feel that we are very blessed to have the Brown family with us.

The WMA has had several projects including the Rock-a-Thon, a cake bake, and even a spaghetti dinner. Other projects included working on the kitchen cabinets and now the WMA is saving to replace the carpet in the halls of the church. On father's day, the WMA also honored the fathers much like the Brotherhood honored the mothers. The oldest father was Brother Fred Yates. The youngest father was Robbie Estep, and the father with the most family was

Brother Leon Tanner.

This year our Bible School will be held on July 17-24 from 9:00-11:30 a.m. Mrs. Charlene Patrick, our Bible School director, has been a great blessing to our church.

If you are in our area please visit us for some or all of our services. Pray for us as we continued to grow.

Bro. Donald Brown, Pastor
Amanda Jones, Reporter

It's Time for a Good Ol' Fashion Work Day

at
Southeastern Baptist College
Friday, August 11th - Saturday, August 12th
7:00 a.m. until



Bring your powersaws, weed eaters, shovels, and rakes, and whatever else you think it might take and come help us clear the remains of Hurricane Katrina's damage and clean up the property.

Need a place to stay Friday Night?

Bring your sleeping bag and stay in the dorm.

What about something to eat??

Southeastern's got that covered too!

What's holding you back??

Nothing!!!

For more information or to confirm your presence, please contact **Cliff Jenkins** at: 601-422-0713 or 601-498-2748. E-mail: plhuntr@netzero.net.

BMA of Mississippi

MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

4226 HIGHWAY 15 NORTH, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39440 - (601) 428-8616 - RAYBURN FREEMAN, DIRECTOR



Bro. Carl W. Seal of Seminary, Mississippi

On Tuesday, July the 4th, 2006 Bro. Carl Seal went to be with the Lord. Bro. Seal was a friend and one who loved not only the Lord, his family, and country, but was a great defender of the Baptist Missionary associated work. Bro. Seal pastored several churches throughout the BMA bringing many to know the Lord as their Saviour. On his journey through life he made a multitude of friends while leaving a Christian legacy that will be a landmark of direction for us to follow. We cannot close remarks without acknowledging Mrs. Seal and the family who was always there to help and encourage Bro. Carl in the work of the Lord. Mrs. Seal was always willing to go wherever the Lord called, she was ready to make the necessary sacrifice for the Lord's work. Remember this family in prayer.

Bro. Merle D. Bradley of Tupelo, Mississippi

Bro. Bradley went to be with the Lord on Sunday, July the 9th, 2006. What I remember most about Bro. Bradley is how he loved soul winning and his willingness to get involved in moral issues. He was a man of integrity, he believed souls were worth sacrificing our comfort zone for and that God's people should get involved in guiding our nation morally. He believed in taking a political stand, going, and doing as well as preaching Jesus. Bro. Bradley was also blessed with a wife who stood with him in the work of the Lord, both when

times were hard and when they were good. The two worked together tirelessly while enjoying the entirety of the ministry. Please remember to pray for Mrs. Bradley, her daughter, Kay Phillips, and sons Jay and Rick.

Bro. Seal and Bro. Bradley proceeded many friends by whom they will be remembered while walking in the steps of these great men.

Bicentennial Special Missions Emphasis

Our goal to reach \$30,000 for 2006 special missions emphasis is lagging behind. According to the bookkeeper our receipts are now at \$16,343.76, however offerings usually continue coming in throughout the month July.

Bicentennial Mission Banquet

A Mission banquet is being planned for Tuesday evening of October 17, 2006. We will be celebrating the Lord's blessing upon Mississippi Baptists for two hundred (200) years. Everyone is invited, mark your calendar and attend this special service,

Another work day for Divine Grace has been set for July 29. Individuals or church groups are welcomed. Bro. Williams can be reached at his home 1-228-832-0635, or by calling his cell at 1-228-669-8969.

LifePointe Baptist Mission

Dear Bro. Ray,
It is so exciting to be a part of some-

thing that is totally and completely God's! Our mission shocks me on a regular basis with their willingness to humbly follow their Pastor and Leadership Team. Every time we feel the Lord leading us in a new direction, the membership gets behind it and does all that they can to see that it succeeds. I spend time almost daily praising God for what He has done and for what He is going to do at LifePointe.

June was the month that we had set aside for planning and training. Though we do not plan too many other activities during the month, it is a vital part of the future success of this mission. During the month, I was able to plan sermon series through August 2007 and our Leadership Team had over ten hours of training in preparation for the next wave of growth that God is going to send our way! Over the last several months, God has added a new couple to our Leadership Team, which means we now have fifteen adults completely committed to seeing LifePointe become everything God wants her to be!

As we entered the month of July, we had a Celebrate Freedom Festival for the 2nd, planned a summer camp for our kids for July 9th -15th, and a teen back-to-school retreat for July 23rd - 26th. We also look forward to Bro. John David Smith visiting with us on July 9th to preach and share about the ministry God has blessed him with in Cape Verde! We have a meeting with the Revolving Loan Fund Trustees on July 7th to hopefully finalize the loan for the building that we have been meeting in for the

last year! It is going to be a busy and hopefully a spiritually profitable month, as well!

Thanks again for all that you do to make LifePointe a success! I continually stand amazed at all that God is doing! All I can do is praise Him for His incredible work at LifePointe Baptist Mission!

In His Love,
Kevin Marr

Bro. Kevin's Statistical Report of June: LifePointe averaged 54 for Sunday morning worship and 49 for Wednesday night worship; with a total of \$4,129.83 in offerings for the month.

Divine Grace Baptist Mission

Greetings Church Family,
Summer is here on the Gulf Coast and God is still faithful. It is "hot" like He said it would be. We are still meeting outside and out attendance is down some this month of June. We averaged about 22 on Sunday Morning and 11 on Wednesday nights. I don't know if it is the heat, summer slump, vacations or whatever the reason. We must press on, preach the Gospel, teach the Word and leave the results up to the Lord Jesus. Our offerings have been good and we are truly grateful for that. We all know it takes money to operate a business as well as a church.

On July 12th a group of about 34 youth and adults will be coming from Bethel Baptist of Fulton, Mississippi, to spend 5 days with us doing evangelistic work. Bro. Tracy McMillen is the leader of this group. We will have 1500 packets to deliver to homes in our area. Please pray for this week that we might see fruit for the glory of God. Our people are really excited and are looking forward to this week.

The building project is moving along. We still need to finish the framing inside,

rough in the electrical, plumbing and put the insulation in the walls so we can get out first inspection and then we can begin to sheet rock. July 8th is another work day and depending on the amount of help we get, we hope to accomplish this phase on that day. If you can help in anyway please call me at 228-669-8969.

We want to thank all of you who have prayed for us, labored with us, gave offerings, and have called at times, without you all joining in with us it would be very difficult to do what we at trying to do for God and His glory! Please keep out people in your prayers. It is a hot and tiresome job at times. We are committed to the Lord, but we need you continued support. We love you!

Your Missionary,
Bro. Wallace Williams

Divine Grace Baptist Mission, Bro. Wallace's statistical report for June: Divine Grace's average for Sunday morning was 24 and 11 for Wednesday night services, with total offerings of \$4,274.00.

Bro. Joseph Oyeleye's statistical report for June: Maple Street had and average of 8 in Sunday School, 18 in Morning Worship and 8 in Wednesday night services. Their total offerings were \$1,322.00.

HomeStretch Baptist Mission in Cleveland, Bro. Ed Duvall's statistical report for June: Averaged 9 for Sunday worship, 9 for Tot Sunday, 11 for Tuesday Adult Bible study, and 19 for Wednesday night youth Bible study. There were 18 soul talks and a total of \$2009.03 in offerings.

Continue to pray for our missionaries and their mission fields as they seek to do God's will.

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Vern Holifield

Bro. Vern D. Holifield has resigned the pastorate of Fifth Avenue Baptist Church and is available for pulpit supply and other preaching appointments as needed. He may be reached at 601-729-3198.

Sam Freeman

Bro. Sam Freeman has resigned Magnolia Heights Baptist Church where he has pastored since 2001. He is available for preaching appointments and pastoral work. Bro. Freeman may be reached at 601-697-9749 or 601-426-2123.

David Clark

Bro. David Clark is available for pastoral work or pulpit supply. He has pastored churches in Collins, Picayune, Lumberton, Ovett and Laurel, Mississippi. He and his wife are currently members of Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel. He may be reached at 601-426-6896.

Larry Pierce

Bro. Larry Pierce is available for pulpit supply or pastoral work wherever the Lord leads. He is a graduate of Southeastern Bible College in Birmingham, Alabama. Bro. Pierce surrendered to the ministry in 1996. He may be contacted at 601-947-3531.

Freddy Mills

Bro. Freddy Mills is available for service as the Lord leads. He is a member of Bethel Baptist Church, Bassfield, Mississippi. He may be reached at 601-441-4057 or 601-441-4684.

Kenneth Loftin

Bro. Kenneth Loftin is available for pulpit service. His phone is 601-319-7804

Robert Rhodes

Bro. Robert Rhodes is available for pulpit supply or pastoral work. He is a member of Salem Baptist Church, Bay Springs. You may contact him at 601-764-3650.

Roy Porter

On May 28, 2006, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Yazoo City, licensed Bro. Roy Porter to the Gospel ministry. He is 57 years old, married, and he and his wife Jan have one daughter and one granddaughter. He has been involved in both

prison and nursing home ministries, as well as serving as speaker for the Gideon Bible Society.

Our church recommends Bro. Roy as a devoted Christian and preacher of the Gospel to our sister churches. If you would like for him to speak at your church, you may contact him at (662) 571-3302.

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.

First Oak Grove, Hattiesburg

First Baptist Oak Grove will hold a Gospel sing on Friday, July 28th at 7:00 p.m. featuring the Myers Family, Hearts' Desire and the Borne Sisters. We are located at 4931 Old Hwy. 11, just west of Hattiesburg city limits.

Everyone is invited to come worship with us. The sing is sponsored

by the Silver Saints, Adult Seniors. A love offering will be taken.

Ann Mallette, Secretary
Silver Saints

Movella, Lucedale

Movella Missionary Baptist Church will have its fifth Sunday sing. Sunday school will start at 9:45 a.m. Bring a covered dish for lunch, which will be served around noon. Afternoon singing will begin around 1:30 p.m. The special group will be New River Boys with others singing also.

There will be no night service. The church is located in the Movella Community. For more information call Pastor Donald Brown, 601-947-2396.

Movella, Lucedale VBS

Vacation Bible School will be held at Movella Missionary Baptist Church located on 175 Movella Church Road in the Movella community. Children ages 3 years old through the 8th grade are invited to join our Vacation Bible School from July 17 through July 21, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. All participants must be registered by a parent or guardian.

Built around an RV road trip across the USA, the week will be full

of exciting Bible stories, a souvenir shop of crafts, fun music in the Tune-up Station, and RV camp-related refreshments and recreation for everyone, with destinations in Bible study and special activities for each age group!

Call (601) 947-2396 or (601) 766-3944 for more information.

First Calhoun, Laurel Fifth Sunday Sing

First Baptist Calhoun, Highway 84 west, behind Calhoun School will have a Fifth Sunday sing on Sunday, July 30, 2006, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Our guest singers will be Shallow Creek from Picayune, Mississippi. This gospel group features three natural brothers along with two brothers in the Lord who bring their own style of Bluegrass gospel music with beautiful melodies and heartfelt lyrics.

We invite you to join us for a great night of gospel singing. Refreshments will be served after services in the fellowship hall. A love offering will be received.

Cherrie Dearman
Church Clerk

More Church News On Page 7