

Lifeword purchases additional property

The Lifeword Board of Directors voted in its quarterly meeting to purchase the property at 616 Oliver Street, which adjoins the Lifeword campus and to negotiate a new lease agreement with the current tenants. Lifeword closed on the property May 18. The negotiated price was \$122,500. The property is located one block from the county courthouse and includes a three-bedroom, two bath house that was completely renovated in 2003.

It had been a part of the Conway Chapel property, but was sold before Lifeword acquired the campus in 2004. The property was rezoned O-3 (quiet office) last year and leased as office space to a law firm. Lifeword Executive Director George Reddin said the property will pay for itself and give Lifeword future expansion room and more control over its immediate environment.

"Because of the Lord's blessings upon this ministry in recent months, we felt the time was right to make a move to purchase this property," Reddin said. "It is also a testimony to the wise financial management of our director of finance and development, Steve Crawley, that we were able to make this purchase without borrowing the money and without putting our current operations in jeopardy."

CBC Launches Bachelor's Degree in Missions

Central Baptist College is beginning a one-of-a-kind degree program in Missions this fall. At least those are the oft spoken words of CBC President Terry Kimbrow. "I don't know of another missions program on the undergraduate level, in the state or even in the region, that will give a student the unique mix of theory and practice that we have planned for this degree," related Kimbrow. "They will have the opportunity to literally work with missionaries around the world."



Dr. Smith

Dr. Gary McAllister, Vice President for Academic Affairs, agreed with Kimbrow and added, "Students in the program will gain an understanding of the biblical, theological, and historical foundations of missions. In addition, they will be trained for cross-cultural ministry and evangelism. The program will take a holistic approach, combining both theory and practice."

CBC's newly hired Director of the Bachelor's Degree in Missions is John David Smith. John David and his wife Kim spent 12 years as missionaries in Cape Verde, West Africa, primarily involved in church planting and leadership development. His intercul-

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Finding A Thrill on Blueberry Hill

by Bro. Glenn Shoemake, Pastor
New Bethany Baptist Church
Ellisville, Mississippi

The telephone rang just as I was beginning to work on an article about Boggy history. It was Friday, June 29, and I expected to spend the rest of the day writing and editing this article and the pictures that would illustrate it. I reached for the phone, expecting a prayer request, a friendly call from a church member, a telemarketer, or, at worst, notification of a death in the community. But instead, it was one of those calls that come unexpected and change your plans and even your life forever.



Glenn Shoemake

The voice on the other end was that of Dean Daughdrill, a blueberry farmer who lived beyond Lake Mike Conner at the western extremity of Covington County. She asked if I would come to her farm and share the Gospel with about forty pickers who would be finishing their work on her place that afternoon. She also asked me to bring an instrument and sing some songs in Spanish with them. She assured me that one of the girls among the pickers understood enough English to interpret for me. I agreed to come.

tural experiences mixed with his educational opportunities have fostered a passion for the preparation of future missionaries. Dr. Smith has devoted the last 6 years as missions coordinator for Portuguese speaking countries for the Baptist Missionary Association of America. He presently serves the BMAA Department of Missions as the Director of Personnel Development.

"When we began our search for someone to lead this program, John David immediately came to mind," said Kimbrow. "His vast knowledge of missions, practical work on the field, educational background combined with his zeal for preparing men and women for missions work was a perfect combination."

John David is a graduate of Southeastern Baptist College and Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary. He received a doctorate in Missiology from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. He and Kim have two sons, Josiah, age 10 and Seth, age 8.

Now I know a few words of Spanish and can manage a few Gospel choruses in that language, and I have preached with interpreters in Mexico and Central America many times. But I know enough to realize that the Gospel is best delivered by one who can speak fluently in the tongue of the hearers; so I offered to bring a Hispanic preacher with me. She was surprised that I thought I could find one on such short notice (it was 11 AM), but gladly agreed that I should try. She also asked that we try to be at the blueberry shed by 3:15 PM. She hung up, and I abandoned my editing and started praying that the Lord would lead and provide in this effort to His own glory. Then I picked up the phone.

Our state missionary in Laurel, Brother Estuardo Marroquin, seemed to me the obvious man to call in a situation like this. He listened to my request for help, then expressed regret that he could not accompany



Brothers Zacarias and José

me that afternoon, due to prior commitments. My heart sank a little, but only a little; because he added that he had some men in the congregation of El Camino Church who could share the Gospel in Spanish with the workers. He would call them, and let me know.



Brothers Zacarias and José presenting the Gospel to the workers.

me that afternoon, due to prior commitments. My heart sank a little, but only a little; because he added that he had some men in the congregation of El Camino Church who could share the Gospel in Spanish with the workers. He would call them, and let me know.

My chorded zither was woefully out of tune, so I tuned its 36 strings while I waited to hear from Brother Estuardo. I had almost finished when the phone rang. I put down my tuning wrench, prayed for a second, then answered in hope. There were two men who would accompany me, they lived next door to

at 2 PM.

It was half past eleven when informed my wife if our new plans for the day. She cancelled her previous ones and prepared to leave Boggy at 1:30. We had lunch, then left for Laurel. We went first to the Marroquin

home at the corner of 10th Street and 10th Avenue, across the street from Parkview Church. Sister Yasmin welcomed me and showed me to the Lorenzo home next door. Brothers Zacarias and José were ready to go, equipped with their Bibles and a supply of Gospel tracts. We got acquainted on the forty mile journey to the Daughdrill farm. The men displayed a warm and

enthusiastic Christian spirit, and gave evidence to good training in personal witness and evangelism. They were eager to share with us how the Lord was blessing the El Camino congregation, and we were thankful to hear their good report.

When we arrived at the blueberry shed, we found Sister Daughdrill already gone to Collins to get the food and drink for the pickers' feast. We fell in with some of the family members and helped set up the tables and chairs under the canopy of the blueberry

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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.

Parkview, Laurel, Vacation Bible School/Family Week

Parkview Baptist Church would like to invite you to join us for Vacation Bible School/Family Week, July 25-29. The theme for the week is "Are You L.O.S.T. (Learning of Salvation Today)?" Classes will be given for children Kindergarten through sixth grade regarding the basics of salvation. Student minister Adam Sloan will lead the class for teens from 7th to 12th grades in a study of I John concerning spiritual growth in salvation. Bro. James Sprayberry of First Baptist Church, Bay Springs, will lead an adult class on the subject of commitment because of salvation.

Each evening will begin with a "family meal" in the Family Life Center at 6:00 p.m. with classes to follow, concluding around 8:00 p.m. Our prayer is that we might be as much a blessing to you as you would be to us in joining us for this occasion. Nursery will be provided for our little ones.

Tombigbee Monthly Meeting

East Fulton Baptist Church welcomed 74 folks on June 7th. Bro. Roger Ranks reported that 13 were saved at church camp with 96 campers.

Our missionaries, Joseph Oyeleye and Elvis Garcia, gave good reports. Special music from two young ladies from East Fulton and an inspiring message from Bro. Danny Pitts were truly a blessing.

Bro. Roger Akers, President
Wanda Parmer, Reporter

Harmony at Semmes, Alabama "Ground Breaking" service

After months of prayer and dedication by a faithful few, the Lord's church at Seemes is growing. We would like to express our thanks to the "mission heart" of just a few of our sister churches. The true associational spirit has been extended to our flock at Harmony. From the beginning of our pastor's ministry at Harmony a great interest in the fast growing West Mobile and Semmes areas have been shown in the way that only true associational Baptists can.

We prayerfully thank the following for their support, prayers, hands-on witnessing, maintenance, and teaching: Bro. Joseph Harris and Dr.

Aaron Parker from Southeastern Baptist College; Bro. Junior Strickland and Westhaven, Bro. Coy Rice and Pleasant Hill, Bro. Atwood and Campground, Bro. Watts and Canaan; Bro. Havard and Rhymes. A very special thanks to Pleasant Hill and Campground for all the work they are helping us with on our old and new buildings. We also thank Bro. Burch and Pine Ridge for the van that was donated.

For this growing church and community, we have the need for a new educational facility. Receiving financing from the BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund we were able to proceed with our building program. After months of architects and Mobile Country building codes and permits, we held a groundbreaking service on June 10th following our morning worship. Bro. Don and his wife, Patsy, turned the first shovel and the men, women, and children of the church followed. This facility will be another tool to reach the lost and equip the saints in the growing Semmes community.

Please pray for us as we proceed in the physical and spiritual growth of our church. The building has been here for year with little or no maintenance. It is requiring extensive work. Again we say thanks to all those who have helped in this ministry.

Donald Hilbun, Pastor
Debbie Stewart, Reporter

Wiggins church to host rally

Red Creek Baptist Church will host a BEAMS Rally on Friday, August 10th. We will start serving catfish at 5:00 p.m. (no charge) with special music starting at 6:00 p.m. and preaching at 6:30 p.m. Guest preachers are Bro. Tim Saucier and Bro. Lynn Martin. Our church is located at the corner of Smithtown Rd./Red Creek Church Rd., Wiggins, Mississippi. For more information contact Pastor Scotty Rayburn at 601-928-9886 or BEAMS at 228-832-1096. An offering will be taken for Bible Education and Missionary Service (BEAMS) to pay for Bibles to Thailand.

Lebanon to hold revival

Lebanon Baptist Church, Laurel, will hold revival services beginning Sunday July 29 through Wednesday August 1st. Bro. Kenneth Bobo will be the evangelist. Services will be held each morning at 10:30 a.m. with evening services beginning at 7:00 p.m. For additional information please call 601-729-2436.

Aaron Maxwell, pastor

Shady Grove, Laurel revival set

First Baptist Shady Grove, Laurel, will begin revival service on July 22 with Bro. Grover Laird as the evangelist. Services will be Monday through Wednesday with morning services beginning at 7:00 a.m. and evening services beginning at 7:00 p.m. Bro. Sidney Davis is interim pastor.

Short Message Series by Rev. Grover Laird

Help In Making The Right Choice

When we look around us we see many people who have made the wrong choice for their life and took the wrong road. I find that they are the first ones to say it is not working out. It has been a hard road. Most of these people have spent little or no time with the Bible. For you see, the Bible gives too many warning for a person to continue on the wrong road very long. I want to mention some of those verses to show you what I mean, verses that make it easy to choose the right way.

A person who lives a wicked life will some day see what he is afraid of happen. While a righteous man is promised that what he has a desire for will be given to him—"The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted." (Proverbs 10:24) How could a person choose to live a life in sin in view of this verse?

Parents who fear the Lord and delight in the Lord's commandments are promised the blessings of the Lord upon their children—"Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the

upright shall be blessed." (Psalm 112:1,2) How could parents read these verses, look at their children, and live a wicked life?

People who live for the Lord are remembered and held in high esteem after they die. The name of wicked people will rot after they leave the world—"The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked will rot." (Proverbs 10:7) How can people choose sin rather than God when it would cause their name to be distasteful to people after they are gone?



Grover Laird

God looks upon the righteous with love and favor. He sees the life of a wicked person as something that is abominable—"The way of the wicked is abomination unto the Lord: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness." (Proverbs 15:9) A person who cares what God thinks about him would surely not go down the wrong road.

Even a saved person could not expect to reach God in times of need if he lived a life that was out of line with the Bible—"He that turneth

away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination." (Proverbs 28:9) A person who lives a worldly, sinful life must be forgetting about those times of trouble when he will need the Lord.

Sooner or later everyone will reap just what he sows, whether he lives a good life or a bad life—"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." (Galatians 6:7,8) Corruption can be anything that hurts. Life everlasting can be anything that comes as a blessing now and shows up good after this life. It seems that these verses would make it easy for a person to decide which way to live his life.

The person who chooses the sinner life, rather than repent and turn to Jesus, has a dark future—"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." (Psalm 9:17) Why would any one turn down Jesus and the everlasting life that is in Him?

The Lord charged Joshua to meditate in the Bible day and night "that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein." (Joshua 1:8) Moses taught that when a person read the Bible daily he would learn to fear the Lord and obey it. (Deuteronomy 17:19) It does seem that a person would not choose the road of sin as long as he daily read his Bible.

National Missions Department News

Operation New Generation is Underway!

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

Newly Elected Missionaries on Deputation

Bro. and Mrs. Justin (Crystal) Owens, newly elected BMAA Missionaries to the Ukraine are presently visiting churches during their deputation. Later this summer they will go through missionary orientation and training to help prepare them for the mission field. The Owens will go to the Ukraine in September to begin language school. Pray for

them as they make final visits to churches and as they leave for the place to which God has called them.

VSM Boot Camp a Great Week of Blessings

120 individuals recently attended the 2007 VSM boot camp held at Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment at Gary, Texas. God used each speaker to challenge the hearts of those present to be involved in a personal way in fulfilling the Great Commission. It was a time for serious reflection on what God has purposed for each life. Many life changing and world changing decisions were made in the hearts of the young people. Some of the campers surrendered to the call of God to be preachers, others surrendered to be youth workers, and others surrendered to the call to be missionaries. All who were present committed to think globally, but to live locally. Bro. Donny Parrish and his staff certainly did a terrific job of promoting, planning and leading in this wonderful week of spiritual blessings. The world will be greatly affected by the decisions made during this special week.

Bro. and Mrs. Bill Gibson in Transition

Bro. and Mrs. Bill (Jeannette) Gibson are in transition from serving

in Honduras to relocating in Chile. The Gibsons are in the States for awhile. Later this summer they will go to Chile to find a place to live. They hope to be on the field in Chile by September. Pray for them as they make this transition to a new mission field.

Donations Received for 50 Days of Prayer and Giving

We thank God that Through June 25th we have received \$1,637,735.31 for World Missions Day. We thank God for our faithful BMAA churches and individuals who have given generously to World Missions.

Y-10 Project is Going Strong

Great success is being seen in our attempt to plant ten new churches in Yerevan, Armenia. Several churches, auxiliaries, and classes have committed to give \$300 per month to each of the ten missionary/pastors. There is still a need on our part to continue until we have fulfilled our commitment to our fellow laborers in this country. Should you feel led to help financially you may do so by giving an offering and marking it Y-10 Project in Yerevan, Armenia. Pray for God to bless these ten new missionaries and their leader, Bro. Asatur Nahapetyan.

Preaching on Blueberry Hill

continued from page 1

packing shed. She returned around 3:30 with the food and a large cake, welcomed us, and shared what she had in mind for the afternoon. Her plans and expectations were modest. She did not want the workers to leave her farm without a clear presentation of the Gospel and a call to receive Jesus Christ as Savior. She had ordered forty Spanish Bibles from a ministry on the Gulf Coast.



Physical food enjoyed prior to the spiritual feast on 'Blueberry Hill'.

These had been shipped overnight by UPS, but the truck had not arrived. She and we prayed that it would come before the workers departed. A little before 4, Dean's brother, Pastor Tony Bagley of Santee Baptist Church, returned from receiving medical treatment to join us in the Gospel service.

The workers came in from the harvest a little after 4 o'clock. They were all in good spirits (it was payday), and were all smiles as they saw the table spread. With Brother Zacarias interpreting, she announced what she had planned for them. Prayer was offered, and the feast of fried chicken and all the trimmings was eaten with gusto. Gallons of iced tea, soft drinks, and water were drunk by these men and women who had been out in the hot sun all day.

As the meal was ending, our hostesses introduced us strangers to the Hispanic workers. We invited everyone to join in the singing of a couple of Spanish choruses, "Alabaré" and "Jesus Esta Pasando por Aqui." Then Brothers Zacarias and José began their presentation.

Zacarias gave his personal testimony of coming to Christ as they all turned their attention to his words. As he passionately described his experience of repentance and faith and read from the Scriptures, they all grew quiet and attentive. Then he called on his brother who stood nearby, and José stepped forward. As he gave his own testimony of the saving grace of Jesus that brought him from a life of sin and degradation to a life of joy and hope, he carried his hearers step-by-step along the

"Roman Road," reading the verses and making the applications as he led the way to faith in Jesus Christ. He made sure that every point was clear and plain as he made his presentation.

Being satisfied that they understood, he pressed them to leave their lives of sin and unbelief and trust in Jesus Christ without further delay. He led in prayer, being joined by

many of us who were listening. Seven of the blueberry pickers responded, professing new-found faith in Jesus Christ

Brother Bagley then gave a brief word of personal testimony, with Brother Zacarias interpreting. We all sang another chorus of "Alabaré," and Brother Zacarias led us in a verse of "Las Mañanitas del Rey David." With the help of the young woman who had been serving as interpreter for the picking crew, Dean made her closing remarks to the workers, bidding them a loving farewell with hopes to see them next year. But the afternoon activity was far from over. Brother José gave each one a tract and encouraged them to faith in Christ. He and his brother followed up with the new converts, and continued talking with the workers until after 6:30. As we left, the workers were being paid.

On our journey back to Laurel, we all agreed that it was a great afternoon, all arranged by the One with Whom is the disposition of all our affairs. The Lord had shown Himself mighty to save the souls of common men and women, and we were thankful that He had let us participate in this good work. The only disappointment was that the Spanish Bibles did not arrive. The next day Sister Daughdrill called to express her joy and thanks for all that God had done among the workers and to tell us some good news. The UPS truck did arrive after we left – just in time to distribute to the pickers. She said they were overjoyed to receive them. This made our own cups overflow, and I passed this informa-

tion on to the Lorenzo brothers by way of Pastor Marroquin.

The respect I already had for Pastor Estuardo Marroquin and the El Camino Baptist Church was confirmed and enhanced by the time spent that day with Zacarias and José Lorenzo. These men are leaders in a strong evangelical church that is reaching souls with the Gospel. The quality of teaching and discipleship in the church is apparent from the witness and conduct of these two members. As Mrs. Daughdrill commented after the event, "I couldn't understand a word they said, but I recognized the Spirit in them, and it was wonderful!" Brother Tony expressed the same impression.

This unexpected and thrilling episode illustrates the great wisdom, power and grace of our Lord. His knowledge is infinite, His timing is precise and perfect, and His plan and purpose will be accomplished in our lives and times. How blessed it is to be in His hands, and to see the salvation of the Lord! *Thanks be unto God!*

Adult Bible School set for Midway First Baptist Church

Bro. Ed Steele, retired pastor of Westover Baptist Church of Hattiesburg and now a member at Midway First Baptist Church of Sumrall, will lead an adult Bible School from Sunday, July 29 through Wednesday, August 1, at Midway. The topic of the study is "A Discourse on the Olivet Discourse" taken primarily from Matthew 24 and 25, and includes the following subjects: "The Signs of the Times," "The Rapture," "The Great Tribulation," "The Millennium," and "The Judgments." Bible study times will be Sunday, July 29, at 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and week nights at 7:00 p.m.

Midway First Baptist Church is located eight miles west of Turtle Creek Mall off Highway 98 on Midway Church Road. More information may be obtained by calling the church office during weekday business hours at 601-264-6647. Bro. Leon Carmical is pastor.

*Trust in the LORD
with all thine heart;
and lean not
unto thine own
understanding.
In all thy ways
acknowledge him,
and he shall direct
thy paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

Southeastern Baptist College

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



Dr. Medrick Savell
President

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

The Lord continues to give us a busy, but good summer. Thanks to Him, some of His churches and some of His people, we were able to complete some projects and end the fiscal year on June 30 in the black with all salaries and bills current.

Much work is being done this summer in such things as planning for the next year, preparing for an accreditation team visit, doing some remodeling, repairs, regular maintenance and upkeep of grounds and buildings, recruiting new students, and advertising for our Special Emphasis.

Work Days

On August 11, Bro. Don Hilbun is bringing a crew to remodel the old music rooms in the gymnasium. The material needed for this project was provided by the South Alabama Association.

Since we have purchased the land, we must get it cleaned up and put it to use. Bro. Cliff Jenkins is again organizing some work days on August 10 and 11 to clean up the new property. We are in need of people who have heavy equipment, chain saws, weed eaters, bush hogs, etc. who could bring them and volunteer their time to work on those days (the college has a tractor and

bush hog). Anyone who is willing and able to help in this project should call Bro. Cliff at 601-498-2748 and let him know how you can help. Also, anyone who can do carpentry work, painting, and any other work is also needed. The college will provide the meals for the workers those days.

Memorial Gifts

Another gift has been sent to the college to purchase a religious book to be placed in the A. R. Reddin Memorial Library in memory of Mrs. Geneva "Boots" Fowler Sherman.

We appreciate this gift and pray that the Lord will bless this family.

Special Emphasis

July and August are months for special emphasis for the college. This year most of the offerings will be used to make a good payment on the new property. I encourage associations, churches, and friends of the college to do their best during this time to provide a good amount for this fund.

Prospective students who are interested in attending college at Southeastern should contact Bro. Ronnie Kitchens at the college. Phone: 601-426-6346 e m a i l : rkitchens@southeasternbaptist.edu

Ken Ham: Poll by opposing group shows need for Creation Museum

OneNewsNow.com - The president of Answers in Genesis says a recent survey by a liberal group claiming that many evangelicals don't support the newly opened Creation Museum in northern Kentucky actually shows the need for such a facility. Ken Ham admits he's not surprised by the results.

The poll was conducted on behalf of "The Campaign to Defend the Constitution," or DEFCON. According to the survey, 48 percent of those who said they attend church weekly said the idea of the museum, which presents dinosaurs alongside Adam and Eve, was "scientifically unsound" or "biblically inaccurate."

The apologetics ministry Answers in Genesis built and operates the Creation Museum, which opened in late May. AIG president Ken Ham says DEFCON does not have as much support as it claims.

"This group advertised nationally to try to get support for a massive rally to protest the Creation Museum -- and on opening day, there were a few dozens of protesters that they had there, while 4,000 people poured in to the Creation Museum," he notes. "Now, who was really able to rally the troops for support? It certainly wasn't DEFCON at all."

Ham also says that DEFCON is not interested in defending the Constitution, but wants to advance its liberal agenda. And that liberal agenda is reflected in the teaching of evolution as fact in public schools, says the ministry leader. He asserts that as a result, many Christians do not have a clear grasp of the biblical account of creation.

"We've been saying that all along, that the church is so compromised with [the teaching of] evolution and [its] millions of years -- which just shows you the very need for a Creation Museum like this to challenge the church [and] to equip the church," Ham says.

More than 40,000 people have visited the Creation Museum since it opened. It is located just south of Cincinnati, in Petersburg, Kentucky.

Mississippi Baptist | Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

A Very Happy and Blessed Anniversary

I received a call a few days ago from Sherrell Thornton advising me of the special anniversary celebration planned for the Ray Thorntons.



Don Brown
Editor

What a milestone - 60 years as husband and wife and as servants of our Lord together.

Bro. & Mrs. Thornton are to be commended for their life's work and dedications to the Lord.

Their ministry has taken them around our nation and literally

around the world in the Lord's service.

Bro. Ray has been a faithful worker and contributor to the successful mission work of our Association. He has served as pastor and missionary and also in a number of leadership positions. Bro. Thornton has held the position of Moderator of the BMA of America, served on a number of department committees - both state and national - and was instrumental in the progress and growth of the BMA of Mississippi and America.

He served the BMA of Mississippi as State Youth Director and was instrumental in this department's success and growth.

Seeing the need for God's people to have a positive influence in both our culture and in the various government bodies that make our laws and influence our society, he began the Christian Action Commission of the BMA of Mississippi and became its first director. He used his friendship and influence with government officials to be a voice for our churches and people concerning the moral issues facing our great state.

Health problems brought his active ministry to an end, but did not effect his zeal for the Lord's work or his faithfulness to his church. The Thorntons are faithful members of Parkview Baptist Church in Laurel and continue to be strong supporters of the work of the BMA of Mississippi.

May God bless them with many more years together and with health to continue serving our Lord.

Thornton's to Celebrate 60th Wedding Anniversary

Ray and Shirley Thornton of Soso, Mississippi, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary with a reception on August 11, 2007.

Ray Thornton of Raleigh, Mississippi and Shirley Musgrove of Soso, Mississippi, were married on August 9, 1947 in Raleigh.

The couple has two children and two grandchildren: daughter, Rachel Blanchard, her husband Tony, and their daughter Lindsay; son, Sherrell Thornton, his wife Lea, and their daughter Kristin.

The Thorntons have spent more than 55 years of their marriage in service to the Lord through the Baptist Missionary Association. Bro. Ray served as pastor at churches in Mount Pleasant, Texas; Jackson, Mississippi; Ft. Walton Beach, Florida; Houston, Texas; Laurel, Mississippi and Mineral Springs, Mississippi. Throughout his years of service to these communities, Mrs. Thornton was a partner to him and faithfully served by his side. They



Bro. Ray & Mrs. Shirley Thornton

are a wonderful example of love and commitment and serve as an example to us all.

Their children will host a reception celebrating this milestone on August 11, 2007 from 2 - 4 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel. All friends and family are invited to attend.

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"I don't believe in gossip either. If it weren't for prayer requests, I wouldn't know ANYTHING!"

Letters From Our Readers

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

Pastor comments on committee recommendation

Dear Editor,
With all due respect to the men involved in this committee, I do not think this does enough. I know that the motion made at the mid-annual (sic) meeting limited them greatly. With that being said, this put something in writing that means absolutely nothing. Why can we not state that the KJV will be used at our meetings? If someone could not comply with that, get another speaker. Some may say, well, we can't tell someone what Bible they can use, and that is true. We can not tell anyone what to use at their church, but this is not about what is used in individual churches. It is about what we will use when we come together as an association. I would say we need to either strengthen this recommendation or vote it down and start over. However, it does need to be part of our doctrinal statement.

Bro. Junior Strickland
Pastor, Westhaven Baptist Church
preachingkjv@bellsouth.net

Abstinence Funding Granted Extension

The U.S. House passed legislation (July 11, 2007) that extends funding for Title V abstinence education for three months - until the end of the fiscal year.

The Senate passed the bill last month. It now goes to the president.

Section 510 of Title V of the Social Security Act - established in 1996 - allows money for abstinence-only education to be distributed to states that apply for it. Bush submitted a budget reauthorization proposal in 2002, but Congress failed to act. Title V funding has continued under a series of temporary reauthorizations and was set to expire on June 30. The three-month extension buys lawmakers little time to save the program.

Linda Klepacki, analyst for sexual health at Focus on the Family Action, said people must continue to contact their federal lawmakers and

ask them to support abstinence-until-marriage education funding beyond the three-month extension.

"We applaud the extension for Title V state abstinence-education funding passed today by Congress and thank them for protecting our children, if only temporarily," she said. "But, we look forward to the day that Congress will reauthorize Title V state abstinence-education funding in order to protect our children."

Abstinence education is vital to the health of teens and young adults, Klepacki added.

"If we don't fund abstinence education in our schools," she said, "we will most likely see skyrocketing sexually transmitted infection rates, skyrocketing teen pregnancy and abortion rates, and a return to heavy dependency on welfare tax dollars."

Lifeneews.com

Christian persecution increasing in Iran

OneNewsNow.com - A spokesman with Voice of the Martyrs (VOM) confirms a new wave of persecution against Christians in Iran.

VOM sources say the persecution in Iran is against Christians who meet to worship in house churches. Reports say several believers have been interrogated, and one house was stormed by a police team. VOM spokesman Todd Nettleton says it is not known what prompted the police action.

"One of the places where they raided, they confiscated a computer and some Christian materials, Christian printed materials, and some CDs that were there," he explains. "We

don't know what has brought this on. [But] we do know that our brothers and sisters in Iran need our prayers."

Nettleton believes that the Iranian government is alarmed at the growth of the Christian faith there.

"The exciting thing to know about the story, though, is that the church is growing in Iran," he shares. "And that may be what's gotten the attention of the government, the fact that so many people are coming to Christ, the church is growing at a phenomenal rate -- and that, obviously, is making the government nervous."

Nettleton says believers should pray for Christians in Iran.

Mississippi Baptist

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

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Standing on the Steps

I've often wondered why most houses have a front door. Nobody I know uses that door to come into their home. It's not the door that guests use to come in their home. If it weren't for UPS, there would be no reason to have a front door at all. But this is not exactly what I want to share with you today.

What I want to share is this. As I came home from town the other day to go into our 'usual' door, I found myself with a problem not unique to me. My hands were full and my key ring has more keys on it than my life actually has locks, so getting the door open was going to be a bit of a chore. Especially since our carport door has one of those big iron doors over it (which also needs a key). After a bit of fumbling, I finally got a key separated from the rest of the pack, put it into the lock, and found that it would not turn. So I did what anybody would have done - I just kept twisting that key because it fit the lock, it must open the lock, and to be honest, I didn't want to fool with finding a different key.

So after much grumbling, struggling, twisting and turning . . . the key still didn't work. I decided I would have to lay down the stuff I was carrying (I don't like making two trips so I had quite an armload) and

look for the 'right' key. I fumbled through my keys again after having laid the stuff I was carrying on the steps. I found the 'right' key, it fit the lock, turned the tumblers and



Shane's World

Shane Singleton

opened the door. Then as I went to pick up my stuff, the door slipped out of my hand and latched itself shut again - locked. So I had to go through all of that again. After much continued grumbling, I actually did gain entrance to my own house. And as I stood inside our little kitchen lining up bags of groceries (which had been the load I was carrying), it occurred to me that many of us live our life standing on the doorsteps.

Here's what I mean - I mentioned the doors to our home we never use, they are just for show. Well, in our lives Jesus Christ has said that He is the door - the only door. As for the keys, I had two on my ring that looked just alike and both would fit

the lock, but only one would turn it so that the lock would open. In our lives, we try all manner of things to bring ourselves into fellowship with God. To be honest some of them look really good, some of them may even seem to fit, but Christ Himself said that He (alone) was the way, the truth, and the life. No man can come to God except through Christ. And the only key that will work is faith - the absolute belief in our heart that Jesus is who He says He is and He will do all He says He will do.

The stuff I was carrying had to be laid aside before I could find the right key. We carry with us every day the penalty and guilt of sin that requires repentance in order that we might set them aside and leave them forgiven at the cross of Calvary. Even still as Christians we must 'lay aside every weight and the sin which does so easily beset us'. This world has much with which we choose to burden ourselves, but it hinders our key of faith and holds us at the door of fellowship.

After a long day of work doesn't it feel good to come home? What if after a long day we only made it to the point of standing on the steps? There is abundant life to be lived available to all who use the right door of Jesus Christ, the right key of faith, and take the right action of repentance. Here the voice of Jesus today call to you - 'Come on in'.

Commission on Senior Adults

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



Greetings

Here we are already in the month of July, 2007. We have already past the first half of 2007. Many revival services will be conducted in July. We will pray for a reviving in the church, and many lost people to be saved. As I visit our churches it is evident that revival is needed. I find myself in need of a Spiritual renewing too.

Church visits

My wife and I visited Bethel Baptist Church, Seminary, in the absence of pastor Risky Mitchell. We were with the Sharon Baptist Church, Laurel, and pastor Eddie Lambert in revival services. We enjoyed visiting the Sand Hill Baptist Church, Lucedale, in the absence of pastor Skip Holland. We were able to be in our home church,

that is present there, and Hindu dominates in both of those countries."

And while Barton acknowledges there is not constitutional problem with a Hindu prayer in the Senate, he wonders about the political side of it. "One definitely wonders about the pragmatic side of it," he says. "What is the message, and why is the message needed? And will it actually communicate anything other than engender with folks like me a lot of questions?"

Barton says he knows of at least seven cases where Christians have lost their bid to express their own faith in a public prayer.

Zed is reportedly the first Hindu to deliver opening prayers in an American state legislature, having done so in both the Nevada State Assembly and Nevada State Senate earlier this year. He has stated that Thursday's prayer will be "universal in approach," despite being drawn from Hindu religious texts.

Calvary, Taylorsville, and pastor John Riles.

New Support

We welcome the Westview Baptist Church, Oxford, and Calvary Baptist Church, Taylorsville, as our newest supporting churches. The support is growing slowly, but growing. I wish every BMA Church in Mississippi would join our efforts to minister to the older people in our churches. I would guess that the Senior Adults represent the largest number in our BMA Churches. I don't know that to be true, but it could well be. It may not be true in every church, but on average it could be.

One of the objectives of the Commission is to encourage every church to organize a positive ministry to their Senior Adults. I will be glad to assist your church in doing this if I am needed.

Seniors involved

The Senior Adult community in our BMA Churches is actively involved in the work of the Local, State and National Associations. They attend the regular meetings of the Associations. They give their money to support about all phases of the Associations. What ever their church supports they support. They are involved in the Mission Work of the BMA around the world. They pray for their pastors. They pray for their fellow members. These dear Christians won't give up either. So, help me and the Commission help you and your Seniors.

Many are going home

About every month one or more of the old soldiers go home. Just recently Mrs. Elbert Boutwell and Brother Harry Tapp went home to glory. We are going down the valley one by one. Going home to see our Savior and our love ones is not such a dreaded fact. It is our hope.

Historian Barton says Hindu prayer before Senate raises concerns

OneNewsNow.com - A prominent Christian historian and constitutional expert is expressing concern that the U.S. Senate will be opened up for the first time with a non-monotheistic prayer.

On Thursday (July 12), a Hindu chaplain from Reno, Nevada, by the name of Rajan Zed is scheduled to deliver the opening prayer in the U.S. Senate. Zed tells the Las Vegas Sun that in his prayer he will likely include references to ancient Hindu scriptures, including Rig Veda, Upanishads, and Bhagavad-Gita.

Historians believe it will be the first Hindu prayer ever read at the Senate since it was formed in 1789.

WallBuilders president David Barton is questioning why the U.S. government is seeking the invocation of a non-monotheistic god. Barton points out that since Hindus worship multiple gods, the prayer will be completely outside the American paradigm, flying in the face of the American motto "One Nation Under God."

"In Hindu, you have not one God, but many, many, many, many, many

gods," the Christian historian explains. "And certainly that was never in the minds of those who did the Constitution, did the Declaration [of Independence] when they talked about Creator -- that's not one that fits here because we don't know which creator we're talking about within the Hindu religion."

Barton says given the fact that Hindus are a tiny constituency of the American public, he questions the motivation of Senate leaders. "This is not a religion that has produced great things in the world," he observes. "You look at India, you look at Nepal -- there's persecution going in both of those countries that is engendered by the religious belief

MILITARY SERVICE PRAYER LIST - Please remember the following as they are serving in our military. You may add names to the list by mailing them to: Mississippi Baptist, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441 or by email at editor@msbaptist.org.

CPT Lawson "Sonny" Brannan, *Stringer, MS*
George Rogers, *Wiggins, MS*
Scott Clanton, *Pineview, Lucedale*
Miles Farragut, *FBC of Shady Grove, Laurel*
Kenneth Smith, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Wayne Mack, *Seminary, MS*
Anthony Hodge, *Purvis, MS*
Thomas Temple, *Laurel, MS*
David Cunningham, *Forked Oak, Booneville*
Jacob Blakeney, *Mineral Springs, Taylorsville*
Lance Holifield, *Mineral Springs, Taylorsville*
Phillip Holifield, *Mineral Springs, Taylorsville*
Robert Shavers, *Pleasant Hill Baptist Church*
Jeff Necaize, *Pleasant Hill Baptist Church*
Michael Wright, *Pleasant Hill Baptist Church*
Harold (Scooter) Bond, Jr., *Laurel*

Harold (Tink) Compton, *Faithview Church*
Jeff Schonowitz, *Saucier*
Michael Casey, *Gulfport*
Larry "Dean" Welborn Jr., *Carnes, MS*
Ronnie Spiers, *Westlawn, Picayune*
Patrick Garrett, *Poplarville, MS*
Ken Bullock, *Skyway Hills, Pearl, MS*
Albert C. White, *Mclaurin, MS*
Craig Landry, *Benville Church, Picayune*
Janet Hilbun, *Sand Hill, Lucedale, MS*
Barron Horn, *First Baptist, Bay Springs, MS*
Jessie David Loague, *Bethel, Fulton, MS*
Dustin Wills, *First Windsor Park, Ocean Springs, MS*
CPT. William "Lee" Henry, *Richton, MS*
Justin Johnston, *Summerland Baptist*
Dusty Gray

James Riley
Joshua S. Pierce, *Corinth Church, Lucedale*
Russell S. Taylor, *Paramount, Perkinston*
Michael Patrick Boyd, *First Baptist, Bay Springs*
Johnny R. Hunt
Jason Rivers, *Ellisville*
Tommy Mitchell, *Purvis*
Jake Driskell, *Lebanon, Laurel*
Will Norris, *First, Henleyfield*
Russell Robertson, *Temple, Lucedale*
Tim Cooper, *Ozark, Mantachie*
Wesley Grissom, *Hopewell, Fulton*
Derick Mallette, *Ramsey Creek, Saucier*
Mary Muffler, *Ramsey Creek, Saucier*
Jonathan Morgan, *Ramsey Creek, Saucier*
Neal Garrett, *First Baptist, Tremont, MS*

David Palmer, *First Baptist, Tremont, MS*
Bradly Sharp, *Bethel, Lucedale's 150th*
Johnny Ray Hunt, *Unity, Unity, MS*
Chuck Williams, *Sharon Baptist, Laurel*
Cory Williams, *Sharon Baptist, Laurel*
Jason Cotton Hillman, *Washington, Neely*
Richard Rylee, *Richton, MS*
Jennifer Norris, *Pleasant Hill, Mooreville*
Thomas James Reich, *Bethel, Fulton, MS*
Adam Martin, *Clearview, Mendenhall*
Robert S. Burch, *Pine Ridge, Laurel*
Adam Spiers, *Westlawn, Picayune*
Paul Tyler, *Westlawn, Picayune*
Jory Babin, *Westlawn, Picayune*

Effective Teaching WORKSHOP

You can be a better teacher! The "Effective Teaching Workshop" includes three intensive breakout sessions that will give you practical tools you can implement the very next time you step in the classroom.



Your Trainers for the ETW



Lori Cole: Lori has been active in the children's ministry of Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, AR. She has a B.A.E. in Elementary Education and a Masters in Reading. Lori will lead breakout sessions for children's teachers.



Jason Aultman: Associate Pastor and Director of Music Ministries at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, AR. Jason served in Youth Ministry for many years in churches in Texas before moving to Arkansas. Jason will lead breakout sessions for teachers of teenagers.



Terry Kimbrow: DCM Christian Education & Small Group Consultant. Terry has served on staff at Antioch, Conway and Temple, Little Rock, AR. He is currently the President at Central Baptist College in Conway. Terry will conduct breakout sessions for Adult leaders.

**Saturday – August 4, 2007
9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Oakland Baptist Church
Vicksburg, MS**

**To Register: 601-638-6724
Cost: \$10 per person**

Shepherd Bags Needed

Big Creek District GMA & Sunbeam Report

Bro. Mike Goodwin will pick up Shepherd Bags July 25, at Big Creek Baptist Church. If you have bags please contact Mrs. Linda Dertinger at 601-422-5552 or Bro. Don Brown. Thousands of children have been touched with the Shepherd's Bag Ministry. To take part in this exciting program, you simply take a gallon Ziplock bag and fill it with some of these suggested items: English New Testaments, small toys such as a car, ball, doll, stuffed animals, jacks, harmonica, jump rope, or slinky; School Supplies: pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons or markers, coloring books or small Christian story books; Hygiene Items: toothpaste, soap, comb, etc. (Smarties are a good item as they do not melt.)

Thank you for your help and offerings for this project. Jesus said, "Suffer little children and forbid them not to come unto me. . . ." It is a desire to touch lives of children in such a way that they will come to know the lord Jesus as their personal Savior.

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

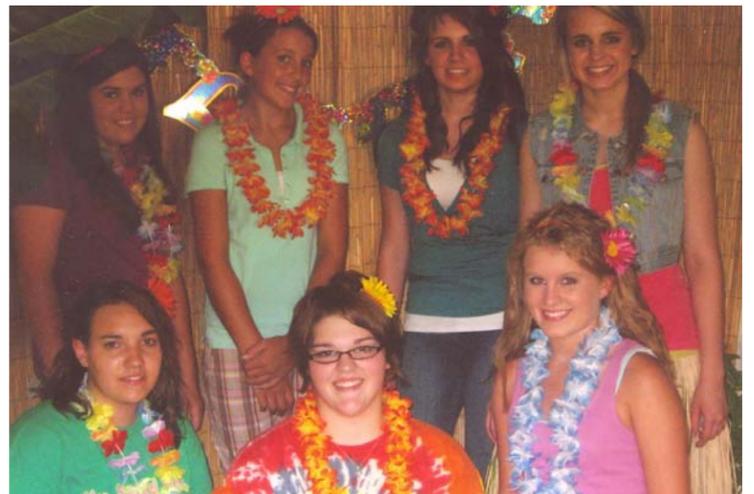
GMA Officers enjoy planning meeting

By Beth Caldwell, GMA Promoter

The Mississippi State GMA officers met on June 28th and 29th in the home of Mrs. Beth Caldwell. Mrs. Connie Fairley and Temple Baptist GMAs (Lucedale) were hostesses. A luau was the setting for the meeting. Everyone was dressed in bright colors for the occasion. Each one participated in the limbo and scavenger hunt, with Savannah Smith taking first place. Mrs. Nancy Brewer, Mrs. Linda Dertinger, Mrs. Shirlene Smith, Mrs. Barbara White, Mrs. Cindy Clark, Mrs. Mona Martin, Mrs. Tyane Roche and Mrs. Chris Smith were also present.

Plans were made for the February 8th and 9th meeting. The officers have great things planned for the 2008 Retreat and hope that each of you are already making plans to attend. Bro. Corbey Jones will be the pastor and Bro. Matt and Mrs. Lisa Hudson will host the houseparty with a concert along with games for everyone to enjoy.

Do not forget to give to the project: 75% Student Missionary for Creative Access Nations and 25% General Fund. If you have girls in your church, please consider organizing a Girls Missionary Auxiliary if you do not have one already. I will be glad to assist you in any way that I can. Please pray for our officers as they serve you this year.



Pictured above (top row left to right) are Keely Naden, Secretary; Judi-Beth McMillen, Junior Miss GMA; Shelby Roche, Historian; Savannah Smith, President; (bottom left to right) Megan Brewer, I Vice President; Lindsey Begley, II Vice President; Carli Reeder, Song Leader; not pictured is Savannah Lott, Corresponding Secretary.

Mississippi State W.M.A.

Mrs. Jean Knight, President
27 Paramount Church Rd.
Perkinston, MS 39573
601-928-3764

Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533
Laurel, MS 39443

- WMA News Flash -

from the National WMA Project Promotion Committee

News continues to come from WMA's who are determined to double their last year's contributions to the 2007-2008 National WMA Project: 40% BMAA Theological Seminary Missions Video Conference Classroom, 40% to purchase an ambulance for use in China, 15% Youth Fund and 5% WMA General Fund.

Some of the methods that are being used are: Taking orders for baked goods (rolls, bread, cookies, cakes, pies, casseroles, etc.) rummage sales, selling candles, saving extra pocket change to fill a water bottle, forgoing a restaurant meal for a home-cooked meal and giving the difference in the cost to the project.

If there is a willing heart, God will give you a plan. It's all for His Honor and Glory!

Send all funds to National WMA of BMAA, c/o Glenda Tipton, P. O. Box 95274, North Little Rock, AR 72190.

Slidell painting draws ACLU legal fight

OneNewsNow.com - The ACLU says a Louisiana courthouse lobby portrait which includes an image of Jesus is a violation of the supposed separation of church and state, but city and regional government leaders disagree. That's the crux of the lawsuit filed by the civil liberties group, which will be opposed by a Bible-based First Amendment law firm on the defendants' behalf.

The portrait hanging in the lobby of Slidell City Court depicts an image of Jesus presenting the New Testament. Below the picture is a message that reads: "To Know Peace, Obey

These Laws." According to Associated Press, an unidentified person complained to the American Civil Liberties Union about the portrait - resulting in a lawsuit against the city of Slidell, St. Tammany Parish, and City Judge James Lamz.

"We did not file this lawsuit because the ACLU is anti-religion," says the Louisiana ACLU chapter's Vincent Booth in an AP story. "We did file this lawsuit because we believe this display is clearly in violation of the law." Reports indicate the painting has been on display at the courthouse for nearly a decade. And

Judge Lamz -- who does not believe the painting violates the U.S. Constitution -- says it will stay where it is unless a federal judge orders it to be removed.

Mike Johnson with the Alliance Defense Fund explains the situation. "The whole thing is centered around this portrait that's been hanging there as long as anyone can remember in the courthouse, in the lobby, that by some accounts depicts Jesus Christ holding a tablet [bearing a message] written in a foreign language," says the attorney.

According to The Times-Picayune, local clergy have identified the portrait as "Christ the Savior," a 16th century Russian Orthodox icon. The passages displayed in the portrait are written in Russian, says the report.

"We've had the tablet translated now, and it's a very innocuous message," Johnson continues. "It says 'Judge not according to the appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.' And on the other [side of the]

tablet it says, 'For with what judgment you judge, you shall be judged.'"

That message, says Johnson, is clearly secular and gives an inclusive message of equal justice under the law. "And just because the ACLU may be offended by the messenger, they don't have a right to have it removed and to make a federal case out of it," the ADF senior counsel adds.

Johnson points out the city of Slidell, located northeast of New Orleans along the banks of Lake Pontchartrain, is still trying to recover from Hurricane Katrina -- and the community, he says, does not need legal attacks from the ACLU.

Pro-life leader says Planned Parenthood promotes promiscuity

OneNewsNow.com - A Texas pro-life leader is calling attention to a conference put on by Planned Parenthood in which young children are taught about sexual promiscuity.

This is the 18th year of the Planned Parenthood "Nobody's Fool" conference, which the group promotes as "comprehensive sex education." But John Pisciotta of Pro-Life Waco has another name for it -- he calls it a "promiscuity promotion conference."

Pisciotta says Planned Parent-

hood has one objective: to teach children about sex so that they will have sex and, when they are panicked into thinking they must end the child's life for their convenience, come to Planned Parenthood for an abortion. "It's a marketing ploy to try to get the youngsters to kind of link two concepts -- sex and Planned Parenthood," says the pro-life leader.

He contends that the abortion-provider is telling youngsters that while they may not be sexually active or sexually promiscuous now, Planned Parenthood is "there for you" when they do make that move. And they are essentially told that when they do go to Planned Parenthood, says Pisciotta, they might even get the services free -- "because [others] will pay for them with their tax dollars."

Planned Parenthood receives millions of dollars each year from the U.S. government. According to the agency's own annual reports, it received \$2.7 billion in federal grants and contracts from 1987 through 2003 -- roughly one-third of its total income. During that same period, slightly more than one-third (\$2.95 billion) of Planned Parenthood's total income came from abortion clinics. Total profit during that time span exceeded half a billion dollars.

Pisciotta says he desperately wants to get the word out about the true nature of the "Nobody's Fool" conference and the true agenda of Planned Parenthood.

CHILDREN'S HOME

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

Expressions of Sympathy

We would like to express our sympathy to the family of Bro. Harry Tapp. Bro. Tapp was a faithful servant in the Lord's work and his love for the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home was evident, having served on the board of trustees for 26 years. His presence will be missed and our thoughts and prayers are with Barbara and the Tapp family during this time of loss and sorrow.



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

VBS Offerings

We would like to say "thank you" to each VBS that selected the Children's Home as your project this year. Your efforts and support of this ministry is appreciated.

Wilderness Baptist Church VBS, Vicksburg, Bob Conrad, Pastor

The Wilderness Baptist Church VBS took the Children's Home as a project this summer. We appreciate their support and concern for the Home. Their theme this year was "Christmas in Bethlehem."



Above - Wilderness Baptist Church VBS kids dress like children from all around the world. **Below** - This year's VBS featured a craft shop.



Mailing Addresses for Departments & Commissions of BMA of Mississippi

Mississippi Baptist Paper
P.O. Box 8181
Laurel, MS 39441-8000

Southeastern Baptist College
4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440

Mississippi State Youth Department
P.O. Box 4247
Laurel, MS 39441

Mississippi Baptist Children's Home
118 Lowe Rd.
Laurel, MS 39443

State Missions & RLF
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440

Commission on Senior Adults
Vern D. Holifield
658 Joe Perrett Rd.
Laurel, MS 39443

History & Archives Commission
4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440

Christian Action Commission
P.O. Box 88
Mantachie, MS 38855

Arkansas pastor takes stand against town's decision on 'domestic partnerships'

OneNewsNow.com - An Arkansas pastor is standing against a recent decision by officials in Eureka Springs that allowed that city to become the first in the state to allow homosexual couples to register as domestic partners.

Eureka Springs is the site for the nation's best attended outdoor drama, "The Great Passion Play." In May, that community's city council unanimously approved an ordinance that allows homosexual couples to register as domestic partners, making Eureka Springs the first city in Arkansas to have such a registry.

Philip Wilson, pastor of First Christian Church in Eureka Springs, says the city will now be marketed as a tourist attraction for homosexuals. "The problem is that Eureka Springs is a tourist destination," he explains. "And our three greatest sources of income are religious groups, families, and weddings. And not only is this a moral issue and a marriage issue, it's an economic issue."

Pastor Wilson, who has failed in two attempts to bring the issue to voters, is now considering legal action to have the council's action overturned. He says a drive for a ballot initiative is also being considered. He shares that the entire situation has shown him that Christians must stand for righteousness.

"What I've learned out of this is the importance of the prophetic voice of the church," says the pastor. "God calls us as a prophet occasionally, and our job is to speak the words and the message of God -- even, if necessary, in a hostile environment."



"Let Us Go Up At Once"

by Ralph Izard, M.D.

"And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once..." Numbers 13:30

Dr. Fil Tabayoyong and I have recently returned from Pakse, Laos with exciting news. We had requested permission from Dr. Pormek Dalalay, Minister of Public Health of



the Lao-People's Democratic Republic, to assess the possibility of sharing resources and assistance to improve the health situation in villages along the Mekong River. Permission was granted, so upon our arrival in Pakse, we were met at the airport by Dr. Bounthan Phaytanavanh. Dr. Phaytanavanh, Medical Officer of Champasak Hospital, had been designated to be our contact person and guide during the two day visit. After a tour of the hospital and a meeting with the Hospital Director, Dr. Keo Sosouphanh, we were given a briefing on the health profile of the Champasak Prov-

ince. It was interesting to learn that Drs. Phaytanavanh and Sosouphanh had already read about the work of the BMMI in the province of Rattanakiri in Cambodia.

Later in the day, along with Dr. Bounthan, we were invited to visit with the village chief and the volunteer health workers of the Nakeo village on the Mekong River. They have a health system similar to the "barefoot doctors of China", who are village men and women with minimal health care training. After assessing the health needs of the Nakeo village, the village chief extended an invitation to us with the blessing of Dr. Dalalay, Laos Minister of Public Health, to return with a BMMI team to minister to the people of the village.

Expressed to us was the urgent need to have a public health facility (Health Center) in the village and to provide training for the volunteer health workers. The chief would also like for us to bring educators to teach English.

The total cost to construct and help equip a health center in the village of Nakeo is approximately \$10,000. This health center will also be accessible to other villages along the Mekong River and will open doors for ministry on both sides of the river, extending to the Cambodia border.

This is a great open door for us to share the Word of God to people in a Communist country who have never heard of Jesus Christ and His love for them.

I invite you and other members of your church to say "Let us go up at once" by calling the BMAA Missions office (501 455 4977) and committing to help Baptist Medical Missions International walk through the open door in Laos in May 2008.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren

One of the joys of life are children. Then if you live long enough, usually grandchildren come along. They are some of life's special blessings! Then if you continue living, great-grandchildren enter your life and there is pride, joy, thankfulness, etc. until the realization hits you that you are the parent of a grandparent! That seems to take some of the joy out of it!

"Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers". Proverbs 17:6

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Kevin Sanford

Kevin Sanford, 27, is a member of Magnolia Baptist Church of Hattiesburg. He surrendered to preach on August 24, 2004, and he is available for preaching and evangelism ministries. He is a graduate of South Jones High School and Jones County Junior College. Kevin and his wife, Allison, have two children ages 5 and 1. He can be contacted by calling 601-297-3350, or through his pastor Greg Medenwald (601-264-8087, 601-264-8987, 601-520-3135).



Kevin Sanford

When weekends go wrong

For most families, the weekend is the biggest time spent every week together as a family. The kids are not in school. Mom and dad are home from work and other weekly obligations. It is a time to relax together as a family and a time to enjoy each other's company. It also can be a battleground, as opposing armies come together to battle over unclaimed territory and time.

See if you can identify triggers that set off the war. Is it when your weekend is too busy with activities and no down time? Is it because you are so busy you are not on a regular eating schedule and blood sugars drop? It may be that every one is exhausted from work and school all week.

When you are exhausted, it is easy to become irritated and angry. It may mean just trying to eat healthy, catch up on your sleep and have built in rest times during the weekend. Remember, a fulfilled life is not one that every moment is crammed full of activity. A fulfilled life is one that is lived out for the glory of the Lord, no matter what the endeavor - I Corinthians 10:31. Being too busy creates a great deal of stress which leads to many a family argument.

Sarcasm can be hostile humor disguised to make a point. You can't say "I was just teasing" when it is hurtful. That is not funny. Yelling is also unhealthy. De-escalate rather than escalate the situation. No problem is solved by yelling. Take a time out before emotions get out of control. It is a healthy thing for everyone in the family to take a time out that is announced. It is not walking off and pouting. It is an acknowledgment that we need to calm down. During this time, you can think and pray about what the Lord would have you do and say. Not what YOU want to say, but what would God have you say to restore peace or resolve the problem.

I would suggest that you might take a two-hour sabbatical from each other. You can't spend all day or night mad at each other, not talking and steering clear of one another. This is not good. Take a couple of hours and go work in the yard. Read a book. Clean the house or wash the car. These activities actually allow you to think things through while being distracted with the chore at hand. Go on a walk. What you do not want to do is to get angry with each other and continue lobbing verbal Tomahawk missile attacks at one another all weekend.

After the time out, you should all come back with an enjoyable time together like eating, or watching a movie together. Enjoy fellowship time together. If an issue needs to be discussed, don't bury it and act like it

William Nicolas Ulmer

William Ulmer is available for pastoral work. He is seeking a church related position as senior pastor. He is a graduate of Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia with a degree in Biblical Studies and Pastoral Training and is currently working toward a Masters Degree through Liberty. He has experience at Improve Baptist Church, Columbia, Mississippi, and Ephesus Baptist Church. Bro. Ulmer grew up at Sharon Missionary Baptist Church near Laurel. He may be reached at 601-498-0760 or at 26 Crawley Rd., Columbia, MS 39429.

didn't happen. Talk it out after the time out.

Each person needs to not be selfish and try and consider what is the best decision for all the family members.

In the first three verse of James 4 we see that many family wars occur because we are selfish. I think selfishness causes our sin, our fights and our family break-ups. You not only have to teach children to not be selfish, you have to train them. The family needs to be involved in exercises where people work together cooperatively, not selfishly. You need to spend time in family devotions so that you can learn the spiritual and emotional ways to grow according to God. Then, you always

have to practice what you learn. Be in church every Sunday. It will help you all learn to be less selfish, which in turn, reduces arguments.

Every family will have arguments. We don't need to get all upset because we don't have a perfect family. No one does - I said no one does. It is a normal part of the human condition for people to have disagreements. What we want to do as Christians is to always have these intense fellowships within the context of a healthy, holy argument.

A healthy, holy way of arguing means that no one is put down or made fun of. Each person has the right to express themselves. Parents are always in authority over children, so even though children have the right to express themselves, they do not have the right to usurp parental authority, use dishonoring tones or language, or argue on equal status with the parent. Parents are over the children. Children should not see parents as equals.

Arguments are safe. This means that people do not attack each other personally with name calling. They do not attack the person's self-worth with put-downs and hurtful remarks. You are not trying to solve the problem when you do this, you are into a personal attack to make yourself feel better at someone else's expense. It is not healthy to make demands, threats or ultimatums. Harsh, judgmental and critical verbal assaults should be avoided. It is never a holy thing for someone to physically hurt someone in an argument. Family violence, both physical and emotional, are unholy and unhealthy.

Put this scripture up on your refrigerator before next weekend. Ephesians 4:32, "Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." If we all lived this out we would have great family.

Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

www.travisplumlee.com



Church seeks pastor

East Fulton Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi, is currently seeking a full-time pastor. If you are interested, please send your resume to Pulpit Committee, Attention Danny Oswald, East Fulton Baptist Church, 1200 E Main St., Fulton, MS 38843.