

The Mississippi Baptist

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7 keys to preventing pastoral burnout

by Thom S. Rainer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) -- I have the incredible opportunity to interact with pastors regularly. In recent conversations, I have asked two questions. First, have you ever experienced burnout in your ministry? Second, what do you do to prevent pastoral burnout?

Interestingly, every pastor with whom I spoke had experienced some level of burnout. So they spoke from the voice of experience when they shared with me what they do to prevent burnout. I aggregated their responses to seven keys to preventing pastoral burnout, not in any particular order or priority.

Remember your call. Ministry can be tough and dirty. It can be frustrating and confusing. But if we remember Who called us and Who sustains us, we are able to persevere. We understand we are not doing ministry in our own power.

Pray for your critics. Criticism is one of the most frequently mentioned causes of burnout. Pastors on the other side of burnout told me they have learned to pray for their critics almost every day. It has given the pastors a fresh perspective. A few pastors even noted significant change in

their critics shortly after they started praying for them.

Wait a day before responding to critics. Somewhat related



to number two above, some pastors shared that ministry began to take its toll when they engaged their critics negatively in writing, in person or by phone. Now these pastors wait a full day before responding, and they are amazed at how differently their responses take shape.

Be intentional about downtime. Pastors need it. Their families need it. Every week. Don't skip vacations. Go on occasional retreats. Don't lose your family by trying to save your church.

Find a friend to share your burden. For some pastors, it was another pastor. For others, it was a retired pastor. Some mentioned that key confidants in the church had become their best friends. Pastors need someone they trust to whom they can unload their burdens.

Pentagon honors what used to be a military crime

OneNewsNow - A retired Army chaplain is very disappointed that the Pentagon has hosted its very first ever "gay pride" celebration.

The celebration was held in the Pentagon auditorium on Tuesday. The speakers - which included both President Barack Obama and Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta (via video) - told those in attendance about the "value of gay service."

"As we celebrate LGBT Pride Month," said the president, "we remember the activists and advocates who refused

to be treated like second-class citizens." Panetta added: "And now after repeal [of the military's 'don't ask, don't tell' policy], you can be proud of serving your country and be proud of who you are when in uniform."

Col. Ron Crews (USA-Ret.) served as an Army chaplain for 28 years and now serves as a spokesman for the Chaplain Alliance For Religious Liberty.

"It's extremely disappointing to me that the Pentagon is celebrating today behavior that one year ago was a court-martial offense," he laments. "The Pentagon is setting apart a category of military personnel that's based on their sexual behavior."

The retired chaplain says Tuesday's celebration illustrates the need to elect new leadership this fall. "We hope

that people in this country are going to recognize the direction that this country is going and will say enough is enough," he shares.

"And [we hope] that there will be a change at the ballot box that would provide new leadership; that we would have a Commander-in-Chief who would honor and recognize marriage as a union of one man and one woman; and that Congress would once again recognize the traditional family and moral values that have made our country strong."

Crews says the Chaplain Alliance finds it ironic that while the Pentagon is willing to celebrate deviant behavior, it has never promoted a "heterosexual pride month" to honor the contributions of those who make up at least 97 percent of the military.

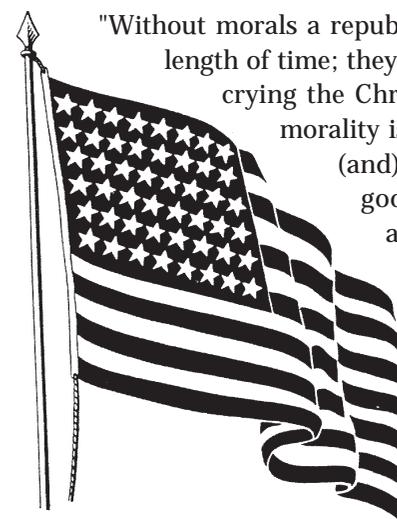
Do not neglect your prayer life. Pastors told me repeatedly that, as their prayer life waned, their burnout increased. For them, prayer was first an ongoing conversation with God, but it was also a time for spiritual refueling.

Do not neglect your time in the Word. We heard similar stories from pastors who began neglecting their time in the Bible. As that time waned, burnout increased. All the pastors noted that time in the Word was time beyond sermon preparation. It was a time of personal devotion and study.

Pastors are burning out every day. Many are leaving the ministry as a result. It is a real and immediate problem with many pastors and many churches.

Pastors and other staff: Do you have stories of burnout and recovery? What lessons can we learn from you? Laypersons: What can you do to help pastors prevent burnout?

Celebrate Freedom



"Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the Christian religion, whose morality is so sublime and pure (and) which insures to the good eternal happiness, are undermining the solid foundation of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments."

*Charles Carroll,
signer of the
Declaration of
Independence*

Independence Day 2012

Not Easily Provoked

Sitting at a red light this morning, I made the mistake of taking the time to take my foot off the brake and transferring it onto the accelerator. I say mistake because the man in the truck behind me felt that delay was excessive. He showed his displeasure by imploding my eardrums via blasting on his air horn. Taking the time to retrieve my glasses from the rearview mirror, where they wound up in my calm and orderly response to the man's impatient attempt to motivate me into action, apparently did nothing to alleviate the frustration and steam emanating from underneath the size eight and a half cowboy hat that sat upon the trucker's now beet red head.

My first response, upon regaining composure, was to yank the uncouth ingrate out of his truck and teach him some manners. Being a minister, I decided that would not be the Christian way of handling the situation. That and I didn't want to take my nutrients in liquid form for the next several weeks. It's amazing how the size of a man can enhance my Christian love for people. My second response was to take a breath. I had suddenly realized that I had forgotten to breathe for about an hour and a half. At least that's how long it seemed.

Apparently I missed the memo that went out about how people are to act in a rude and selfish manner. (I do need to check my e-mail more regularly.) More and more I am encountering

people that view others as either a nuisance or an obstacle in their path. "Please" and "Thank you" have become near obsolete terms. In a nation, more particularly in the Bible Belt, where Christians make up the greater percentage of people, it would seem polite encounters would be a more frequent occurrence.

From The Mind of



Chuck Lee

As conduit spouts for living water, it is necessary for our pipes to be clean. The water may be pure, but nobody wants to drink clean water out of the toilet. Maybe that is where the term "potty mouth" came from. That bares some thinking about. Alright, that's enough thinking on that subject. Anyway, if trucker boy was an ambassador for the local Baptist church, he sure left a bad impression on me, and the ceiling of my vehicle in which my head came in contact when Gabriel blew his horn. (That's what I nicknamed the Charlie Daniels look-alike.)

Maybe I am being preachy, but that is my calling. Our churches need to be filled with people that love one another. Love is not easily provoked. Thinking about that, I prefer to feel that the uncouth, low-down, double-dipping, no-gooder that blew his horn at me a split second after the light turned green was simply honking because he loved Jesus. Next time, I will do my part by anticipating the light change and try and have my car moving before the green light appears. This is a stressful life we live, but it sure invites creativity in a person.

Commission on Senior Adults

Kenneth Flynt, Interim Director
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440

The Apostle Paul is a good example of serving the Lord to the very end, giving his best as long as he was able. Many of our senior adults do the same and others offer their support in many ways. Look to your congregation and thank God for those who continue their devotion to Him and faithfully continue serving.

The Commission on Senior Adults continues making plans to provide for our senior adults. My wife and I have recently attended three local association meetings and have enjoyed the kind reception of God's people. Plans for the two annual conferences are coming together. More will be shared in coming issues of the Mississippi Baptist.

Churches and individuals

continue their financial support and this is deeply appreciated. Send all contributions to Mrs. Dot Holifield, 658 Joe Perrett Rd., Laurel, MS 39443.

We are trying to decide on a theme for the 2012 conferences. "Unto Him Be Glory In The Church" from Ephesians 3:21 is on my heart. I do want Him to receive the glory through the ministry of the Commission on Senior Adults. If we are not careful in the day in which we live, 'Ichabod' will be written over the doors of the church building and man will get all glory and praise.

Pray for this ministry and let's let it be exactly what He would have it to be. May God's blessings rest upon His senior saints as they faithfully worship and praise Him daily.

Mayor to keep God in government

OneNewsNow - Despite legal threats from the Freedom From Religion Foundation, a Georgia mayor says he plans to continue to live out his faith publicly.

Warner Robbins Mayor Chuck Shaheen is taking heat from the Freedom From Religion group for publicly thanking God and for supporting public prayer. He tells OneNewsNow they can try to separate church and state, but they cannot separate church and this mayor.

"Being a mayor is not the pinnacle of my life because I'm going to be a Christian long after I'm a mayor," he explains. "Because of what Jesus did for me, I'm not ashamed of the

Gospel. And I do get attacked a lot for my stand, but I don't push it on anybody, and I just hope I can let my light so shine before men that they can see the good works that God does in our lives and glorify our Father who is in Heaven."

Mayor Shaheen says he agrees with the separation of church and state, just not the way religious skeptics see it.

"The state needs to get out of the church, but the church doesn't need to get out of the state," he contends. "You need to have more godly people in government and keep government out of the church."

He says he has received overwhelming support from Warner Robbins citizens for his convictions.

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.

Harmony Association

The Harmony Association met on June 8 at Central Baptist Church in Corinth. The host church provided a wonderful meal and time of fellowship prior to the meeting. Bro. Frank Wilson, host pastor, brought the evening entitled Lighting the Fire Again.

Six churches were represented with 43 messengers along with 9 visitors. Minutes were read and approved. The financial report was delayed until next month meeting. The July meeting will be a Emmanuel in Tupelo with Bro. Kevin Clayton as the speaker. Reports were given by Dr. John

Adams of Moral Action; by Bro Bobby Elliott on his mission work; Bro. Bob Burch on his mission work; Bro Joseph Harris for Southeastern College, emphasizing the need for the college to end the year in the black. Bro. Sydney Davis gave a report on the Children's Home, including two of the children performing.

Tombigbee/Judson Youth Camp

The Tombigbee Judson held their youth camp the first full week in June. There were a total of 90 campers with one new church participating. Freedom Baptist Mission and



Two saved at ombigbee - Judson Camp

pastor, Bro. Bobby Elliot brought 18 to camp.

Camp was held at Camp Dorah Lake near Calhoun City. Bro. Tim Hudson was our camp evangelist and the praise band from Clarkson Baptist Church, where he pastors, did our music. What a wonderful time we had praising the Lord and hearing from the word of God. Our theme this year was "When I am weak, then I am strong." 2 Cor. 12:10. There were 2 saved with several commitments.

Many volunteers stepped up to the plate and helped make this year's camp a great success. We look forward to next year's camp. Any church wishing to participate with us at camp is welcomed. You don't have to be a member of one of the associations. Everyone is welcomed. Thanks again for all that helped make this camp great.

Bro. Matt Hudson, Director

"They who would give up an essential liberty for temporary security, deserve neither liberty or security."

Benjamin Franklin

Shiloh Revival Set

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Mt. Olive, Mississippi, will be hosting Dr. Travis Plumlee for our Summer Revival. The revival dates are July 22-25. Services on July 22 will be at 11:50 and 6:00. Services on Monday thru Wednesday will begin at 7:00. There will be a luncheon on Tuesday. Everyone who wants to attend the luncheon is asked to bring a covered dish. Monday night services will have a youth focus. All other services will emphasize Family and Parenting. All are welcome to attend.

**WMA Women's Retreat
August 31 - Sept. 1
Tabletop Booths
Available**

Anyone with Christian appropriate items (books, jewelry, etc.) wanting display space at the retreat can rent a tabletop booth for \$20.00.

To inquire about space, contact
Sharon Lindsey
at 228-588-2494.

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July - August
2012

Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP

When All Else Fails

Guest Editorial by Jerry Fulton, Editor
Baptist Progress, BMA of Texas

Have you ever spent a sleepless night worrying about something that was totally out of your control? Perhaps you have been physically sick because you allowed yourself to become drained over a matter in life. Maybe there have been times when you were so frustrated that you threw in the towel -- quitting a job, leaving a church or ending a marriage.

Well, insomnia is proven to increase one's risk of stroke, physical sickness renders one ineffective and quitting seldom ever resolves what is really at the heart of any issue one faces. So, when worrying, emotional drainage and quitting fail to

solve one's problems, what does he or she do? When all else fails, where does one go? As Christians, it is common, after failing to fix our own situations in life, to finally turn to the Lord for help. Actually, choosing to worry and quit before we seek the Lord only adds to our troubles instead of ridding us of whatever issues we might be facing.

In Philippians 4:6, we are commanded, "Do not be anxious [do not worry] about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." In this Scripture, we learn that no matter what, we are to bring all of our needs and concerns to God in prayer. Worry is never the answer.

In his book, *Freedom from Fear Overcoming Worry & Anxiety*, Neil Anderson asks, "Since worrying should not be a part of a believer's life, how does one overcome worry?" According to Anderson, the answer is found in 1 Peter 5:7. There, we are instructed to "cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."

Although the devil would

have us to believe otherwise, God really is concerned about everything that happens to us. No worry is too big or too small for His attention. Anderson writes, "When we give God our problems, He promises to give us the peace which transcends all understanding" (Philippians 4:7).

Of course, for those who do not know the Savior, worry and anxiety will be part of life. But to those who have given their lives to Him, Jesus promised, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

Bill Gaither summed it up this way in a song he wrote:

Is your burden heavy as you bear it all alone?

Does the road you travel harbor dangers yet unknown?

Are you growing weary in the struggle of it all?

Jesus will help you, when on His name you call.



Jerry Fulton



Well son... if you're going to be a preacher, your benefits will be out of this world! So don't expect any down here!

Attacks have Nigerian Christians in fear

OneNewsNow - Fear is in the hearts of many Christians in northern Nigeria, and most are not even attending church services.

The terrorist group Boko Haram has threatened violence against churches in that part of Nigeria, and has carried out some of those threats in attacks on Christians. Over 800 people have been killed in the bombings and shootings.

Jerry Dykstra of Open Doors USA tells OneNewsNow that Christians in the area mostly stayed at home last Sunday.

"In fact, in one church that had usually 2,000 people, there were only 500 that showed up, so there is definitely a fear among Christians," he explains. "Even moderate Muslims did not show up in the streets."

Boko Haram has issued a notice that attacks will occur in an effort to drive Christians out of the north. Dykstra points to one incident in which several men were carrying a coffin.

"After examination, it was discovered at a checkpoint where they wanted to see what was inside the coffin and they found explosives, and the men were arrested on the spot," he says. "After this incident the police restricted the movement of vehicles."

At another church, a would-be suicide bomber was detected and arrested without the bomb going off. Also on Sunday, Boko Haram attacked a prison and freed 40 inmates who are members of the terrorist group. Dykstra is calling on Christians worldwide to pray for an end to the violence in northern Nigeria.

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Virgil Ainsworth

Virgil T. Ainsworth is available for preaching appointments as the Lord leads. He may be contacted at the following phone numbers. Home 601-729-8059 or cell 601-577-0924.

Letters From Our Readers

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

Wilson Family shares heartfelt 'Thanks'

Dear Churches,

At the beginning of the year you were made aware of a need of Bro. Marion Wilson and his family. After being diagnosed with terminal lung cancer in November 2011, Bro. Wilson began working to get his house in order financially for when the Lord called him home. His greatest concern was the remaining mortgage on his home. He was very concerned that the home would have to be

given to the bank in the event of his lack of income and eventual death.

The BMA churches of Mississippi and the network of Southeastern Baptist College alumni from all over the world were notified and responded overwhelmingly. This was done behind the scenes, with Bro. Wilson unaware of the giving. As the total grew to the point that it was apparent he was going to be able to pay off the home through those gifts, Bro. Wilson was made aware, and he was so amazed at the generosity of God's people.

On Thursday, May 24th we were able to go and make the final payment on his home while he was in the hospital. Although he was hospitalized with pneumonia, he was very

much aware of that trip to the bank. He was so grateful. The Lord called him home two days later on Saturday, May 26th.

While we know that he is enjoying that wonderful place prepared for him by his Savior, we are also thankful for your generous gifts to allow his wife the blessing of being able to keep her home and not have that concern. You rarely get the opportunity to see firsthand the lives that you have touched on this side of heaven, but Bro. Wilson was able to get a glimpse of the lives he had touched before he died. Thank you so much for your generosity towards this wonderful man and our family.

Sincerely,
The Family of
Bro. Marion Wilson

Mississippi Baptist

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P.O. Box 8181
Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000

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Fax 601-763-4430

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Against Jesus

"He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." Matthew 12:30

These words of Jesus should shock us to some sober thinking. Jesus is simply saying that all who do not count for Him, count against Him. All who do not help, hinder. all who are not bringing people to Christ, are driving them away. Jesus is saying that it is impossible for me to live in this world without influencing someone for good or bad.

The lives we live do say something to those around us. One who puts forth special efforts to attend all of the services of his church (Hebrew 10:25), puts church attendance before earthly organizations (Matthew 6:33), liberally supports its ministry with his means (I Corinthians 16:2), and faithfully performs services that honor Christ (I Corinthians 15:58), is saying something loud and clear. He is saying that the Bible, worshiping God, helping others, and obeying Jesus are all important.

At the same time, those who seldom attend a church service where God is worshiped and Christ is magnified, are also saying something loud and clear. They are saying that going to church is not worth our time and that our country would be just as well off without churches. (Those who believe this need to try living in a community where everybody believes this).

Parents who stay out of the reach of the gospel, that is "the power of God unto salvation", might be influencing their dear children to do the same. This could be serious. If people want to be saved from Hell, they must first hear the Word (John 5:24). Hindering one's family from hearing the Word by neglecting Christ and His Word, could easily bring one sleepless nights and heart-break.

Jesus was truly giving us some heart-searching truths to think on when He said, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (Matthew 12:30)

How can we stand the thought of being against Jesus? How can we stand the thought of tearing down what He gave His life on the cross to build up? (Galatians 6:7-8).

*from Sermons, Devotional Thoughts
by Grover Laird*

Study: Youngsters of 'gay households' negatively affected

OneNewsNow - What is being hailed as the most scientifically credible study so far on the issue demonstrates that children are harmed by growing up in homosexual and lesbian households.

The study analyzed data from nearly 3,000 American adults, ages 18 to 39, who were raised in "different types of family arrangements." The results, according to principal investigator Mark Regnerus of the University of Texas at Austin, reveal "numerous, consistent differences, especially between the children of women who have had a lesbian relationship and those with still-married (heterosexual) biological parents" - effectively dispelling the "no differences" paradigm.

Peter LaBarbera of Americans for Truth About Homosexuality points out prior research extolling that paradigm and painting a positive picture of growing up in a homosexual home was biased.

"A lot of the previous studies were done, for example, by [University of Virginia professor] Charlotte Patterson [who is] a lesbian," he points out. "These [studies] were junk science done by homosexual researchers or pro-gay academics."

LaBarbera says the University of Texas research is accurate and very thorough -- adding that states that encourage homosexual adoption are wrong. The study provides "very tragic data," he says.

"For example, you're more likely basically to get molested in a household led by two lesbians. You're more likely to have sexually transmitted diseases. You're more likely to identify as homosexual. You're more likely to be on public assistance," he lists.

"[And] you're more likely to have been forced to have sex unwillingly," he concludes. "Big difference [there] - 8 percent in a normal household versus 31 percent in a household led by lesbians." In addition, one raised in a homosexual or lesbian household is more likely to have thoughts of suicide.

LaBarbera concludes that, simply put, the study proves that having a mother and a father really matters.

The findings of The New Family Structures Study will be published in the July issue of Social Science Research.

MORAL ACTION COMMITTEE

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



John Adams

What IS Before America In Congress and Courts?

PRENDA ACT

It is with sadness that I report to you that the United States House of Representatives ailed to pass THE PRENDA ACT (Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act). This House bill would have prevented abortions based solely on the sex of the child. Selective abortions are, and should be, condemned by Christians.

Research indicates that sex selective abortions are, by nature, performed on late term pregnancy. Fetal sex gender cannot be determined until approximately 18-20 weeks of gestation. Therefore, healthy children are being aborted because of selfishness.

Dr. Richard Land stated, "it is staggering that in a nation where Gallup tells us that a majority of Americans described themselves as pro-life, the Congress elected by that same population could contain 168 members who are willing to go on record as refusing to outlaw killing an unborn baby because it is the wrong sex."

D.O.M.A.

On another serious note, the 1st Circuit court of Appeals in Boston, MA, ruled the efense of Marriage Act (D.O.M.A.) unconstitutional. The three judge panel stated that the D.O.M.A. law defining marriage "as a union between a man and a woman" deprives gay couples of rights and privileges granted to heterosexual couples.

The vow of President Obama was to dismantle and destroy D.O.M.A. He pledged this even before he was elected. Be in prayer, as D.O.M.A. will now head to the United States Supreme Court over its "constitutionality." Christians need to PRAY, PRAY, PRAY that D.O.M.A. will be upheld.

Pray for the judges, Senators, and Representatives who are faithful to stand and support marriage in it's true Biblical form. Be sure and thank your elected officials who vote to pre-

serve the life of the unborn.

PARENTAL RIGHTS ACT

Be observant regarding House Joint Resolution 107 presented by U.S. Representative Trent Franks of Arizona. Basically this constitutional amendment states that the liberty of parents to direct the education of their children is a fundamental right. The United States nor any state shall infringe upon this right without demonstrating that its governmental interest as applied to a person is of the highest order.

This Parental Rights Act re-establishes proper and biblical directions by the parent for the child. It protects the Christian parents, their children, and Christian colleges and schools. The A.C.L.U. and other liberal organizations are opposed to this Act. Keep this in mind as your are praying.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

The Wall

In an attempt to check up on the effectiveness of the Sunday School Teachers in his church, the Sunday School Superintendent visited one of the classes. He asked one boy: "Who knocked down the walls of Jericho?" The boy replied rather sheepishly, "I don't know, mister, but it wasn't me."

Turning to the teacher, the Superintendent asked, "Is that the standard here? Is that all he knows?" The teacher replied, "I don't know about that, but I do know that Johnny is honest and truthful, and if he had knocked the wall down, I am sure he would have said so."

When the Superintendent went to the Pastor to tell him the story, the pastor responded, somewhat annoyed, "Now see here, that happens to be one of our best teachers, and I fee sure that if she had known who knocked the wall down, she would have told you."

At his wits end, the Superintendent finally went to the Chairman of the Deacons and told him the whole story. "Now, Superintendent," said the chairman, "don't you think you are making a mountain out of a molehill? Why don't you just go ahead and have the wall fixed and enter the cost under 'repairs'?"

"I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth--that God Governs the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"

Benjamin Franklin

Southeastern Baptist College

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

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Speaking Engagements

Over the past two Sundays, I spoke for the college and preached at Parkway Baptist in Petal on Sunday June 17 and then again at Woodlawn Baptist in Pascagoula on June 24, with good reception from both churches. At the end of the college presentation, I answered a few questions asked by some of the members. My plan is to speak in as many churches as I possibly can for the next several months. I am looking for invitations to come and speak about SBC. There are many people in our churches who would be surprised at some of the facts they can learn about our college (see trivia below). Pastor, please call me today for an appointment to come to your church. The college number is 601-426-6346, my cell number is 601-498-8418 and my email jharris@southeasternbaptist.edu.



Joseph Harris
Interim
President

We have been receiving our regular expected income throughout June, which includes the annual interest check from the SBC Foundation, but offerings from the special appeal to help us end in the black by June 30 have also been arriving and the response from God's people has been great.

Below is a listing of special offerings that have been received into the office since the report in the last Mississippi Baptist.

East Central Baptist Association	\$10,000
Central Baptist, Ellisville	\$1,000
Parkway Baptist, Petal	\$500
Gospel Sing (On campus at SBC)	\$276
Faith Sunday School Class, Parkview Baptist, Laurel	\$200
Warren and Ruth Bond	\$400
Washington Baptist Association	\$300
Gerald and Ruth Givens	\$30.00
Paramount Baptist Church, Perkinston	\$2,000
Brent and Wyvena Hatten (in memory of Jentry Bond)	\$5,000
Temple Baptist, Laurel	\$1,000
John and Jewel Riles	\$200
Cypress Creek Baptist, Janice	\$200
(Early Special Emphasis)	

Riverside Baptist, Ellisville \$525 (Early Special Emphasis)
First Baptist Calhoun, Laurel \$500 (Early Special Emphasis)

As of this writing, we have received \$30,855 extra from the special appeal for June 30. There is no other explanation except the hand of God for this amount to have come in over a period of only three weeks.

Special Emphasis (Southeastern Sunday)

Last year, our Special Emphasis goal was set at \$30,000. We received a little over \$11,000 from 31 churches. In order to get more line with what we have actually received last year, I am setting the goal with a suggested plan. Each church is different concerning finances, and how much they give, and even when they give. This is as it should be. As BMA Baptists, this decision belongs to each local church. I do not know the financial situation of each church, but I do know that each church can only give so much. I feel that most churches could give \$200, therefore I am asking for 100 churches to give \$200 each, which would amount to a reachable goal of \$20,000. A suggested time of the offering could be either on July 15 or August 12, since our Special Emphasis falls on these two months. Posters have been mailed and are on the way. Please consider participating in a Southeastern Sunday at your church.

Thanks to Brother Elvis Garcia for designing this poster and giving it a professional look. Elvis is also re-designing our recruiting brochures. He is one of our students and drives down to Laurel from Ripley each week. Just think, we can now tell people that Elvis went to Southeastern, and this one (almost) lives in Tupelo.

Prayer Meeting

Our last prayer meeting was held this Monday, June 25. God is moving in answer to prayer. Last Wednesday, I received prayer notes from five people who are members at Mt. Calvary in Picayune, informing me

GMA Girls

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

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

National GMA Camp 2012

On June 12th-15th at Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment in Gary, Texas, the National GMAs (Girls Missionary Auxiliary) held their annual retreat. This year's theme was BRB (or Be Right Back) from Revelation 22:12. The theme song was "Glorious Day" by Casting Crowns. There were 325 girls in attendance from 5 different states and over 40 different churches! The GMAs were blessed to have seven girls accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior! The girls raised over \$14,000 for the national project which was: 50% Daniel Springs, 45% Joplin Tornado Relief, and 5% Gen-



eral Fund. Tuesday Night after everyone arrived, we had a wonderful message, preached by our camp pastor Donny Parrish. Wednesday the Queens enjoyed a fabulous Queens' Day at Iglesia Bautista in Carthage. They had pedicures, a crazy photo booth, and some great food. The Queens also learned about modesty and "What Not to Wear". Thank you to Mrs. Carol Taylor, Queens' Day Coordinator, for putting this together. Back at camp, the girls from maiden to the princess step had forward step classes. They also made salvation bracelets and assembled Shepherd's Bag for EIM. Wednesday night was Queens Coronation by Mrs. Teel Witt. The theme was "LOL: Live Out Loud" from James 1:19-27. Thursday was a fun filled day of "Minute to Win It", GMAs Got Talent, swimming, and much more! The day concluded with the Miss and Jr. Miss presentation by Miss Jayna Williams and Mrs. Beth Caldwell. The theme was TBC (To Be Continued) from 1 Peter 2:1-2. The program thoughts were given by Mrs. Charlotte Johnson. The results were as follows:

Events and Plans

The Gospel sing was held Friday night and the crowd was small with about 60-65 in attendance. However, the evening went well and we profited \$276. I was not discouraged with the turn out, since

they had prayer for SBC last week at their church. Their pastor, Brother Wayne Rice, a distinguished SBC graduate, mentioned the need to them after hearing about the special prayer meetings at the Hobolochitto meeting. People are listening and they are responding. I begin each day with an expectation of what God will do that day.

Trivia fact

Did you know that J.B. Coats, a Missionary Baptist preacher and famous songwriter, was one of the first instructors at Southeastern

Alternate Jr. Miss GMA: Kailee Martin of Mississippi
Jr. Miss GMA: Megan Gunnels of Arkansas
Alternate Miss GMA: Olivia Fairly of Mississippi
Miss GMA: Katy Hicks of Arkansas

Friday Morning was the Installation of 2012-13 officers by Mrs. Carolyn Colvert, National WMA President. Mrs. Colvert challenged everyone to pray for the officers this coming year. The new officers are as follows: President: Addie Bender, Arkansas; 1st Vice: Emily Luck, Arkansas; 2nd Vice: Katy Hicks, Arkansas; Recording Secretary: Makaye Key, Texas; Corresponding Secretary: Amanda Hall, Arkansas; Pianist: Kaylen Fagala, Arkansas; Song Leader: Olivia Fairly, Mississippi; Historian: Hayley Maynard, Texas

Newly elected 2nd Vice President Katy Hicks announced the National GMA camp theme for next year: "We are the Light of the World", from Matthew 5:14-16. First Vice President Emily Luck announced the goals for next year's GMA camp, which are: 400 people in attendance and \$25,000 for the project, 90% Laura Kanaykina, Ukraine and 10% General fund. The tentative dates for next year's GMA camp are June 18-21. Thank you to the 2011-12 officer team for this amazing week at camp!

For more information on the GMA program, GMA camp or how you can be a part of this organization go to www.nationalgmaofbmaa.net or contact Amanda Hall, Corresponding Secretary, at Worthyisthelamb4.11@gmail.com or Mrs. Robin Clark, Director of Youth Auxiliaries for National WMA, at robinclark@windstream.net.

Baptist College? He wrote many songs. Three of the most well known are: "Where Could I Go", "I'm Winging My Way Back Home", and "I Love My Savior Too". These songs have been recorded or performed by just about every major gospel group over the past 50 years. Brother Coats and Brother Ollie Parker were elected by the Association as the first instructors at SBC in 1948.

WMA Women's Retreat August 31 - Sept. 1 Generational Fun

There will be a prize for the largest generational group (daughters - 18 years old and over - , mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, etc.)

I'm Not As Close To God As I Want To Be

That is not a true statement. You are being intellectually dishonest with yourself. You may want to believe that. But it simply isn't true. Here is a truth for all people: You are as close to God as you want to be!

You say, "I am not as close to God as I want to be." But if you really wanted to be closer you could be. You don't want to be. If you did, all you would have to do is bow your head and start praying. If a person really wants to be closer to God, then it is as simple as spending more time with Him. It is as simple as opening up your Bible. It is as simple and easy as bowing your head and praying whatever is on your heart. The closer you want to be, the more you do this.

God doesn't make it hard to spend time with Him. God doesn't make it hard to get close to Him. He is actually searching for people who will pray and study the Bible and worship Him. John 4:23 "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him." Spirit and truth. When we pray we are in the spirit. When we study the Bible we are in the truth. It is an act of worship to pray to God and to be into His Word. God is looking for you right now! He is looking for those who want to be closer to Him and are in fact growing closer to Him, by worshipping Him in spirit and in truth.

For some, a more accurate statement would be, "I know I should be closer to God." Now that is a true statement. You recognize you are spending too much time in the world, and the things of this world. You know you should be growing in your faith, and you are choosing not to. Time and time again I hear people repeat this sad lament. They have usually just told me of what is going on in their life. When I suggest to them that in order to change their life, they might want to study the Word more, spend more time in prayer and be active in their church; that is when they say, "I know. I want to be closer to God." I would say, as the old Nike shoe commercials used to say, "Just Do it!" If you really want to be closer to God, then just do it.

But here's the problem. It is our "want to". It is hard for



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

many people to carve out times throughout the day to pray privately in their prayer closet. It is hard for many young families with hectic schedules to find the time to sit down at the dining room table and have a family devotion time. Yet, it is still a choice we make. If you really want a change in your life, or that of your family, then accept responsibility for your own life. Accept responsibility for your own spiritual growth. You can't live off of other people's spiritual commitment.

Are you a spiritual hitchhiker? Is your only time that you are exposed to the Word when you hear your pastor proclaim it in church? Do you read Christian author's books, or Sunday School literature, and that is the extent of your study in the Word? Then you are hitching a ride off of someone else's study. You need to get personal with God. You need to let Him speak to you. To lead you. To show and reveal things to you in prayer and His Word. Teenagers often times tell me they have Godly grandparents or are from a good Christian home. I tell them, "What a blessing. But you will start growing when you stop making this your mom and dad's religion and make it your personal relationship with Jesus Christ." We all have a personal walk of faith.

We can't blame others for our lack of spiritual growth. We can't blame society. We can't blame our kids. There are many adults who say they want to be closer to God, but it is followed up with a statement about how long they have to work every day. They tell me how much time is spent when they get home with the kids and chores, and meals, homework, etc. Well, let's don't forget that many of these young families may not have time to do a family devotion at night, but they will always find time to go to ball games and practice for their sports. I John 2:15 "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in

him." We choose to make time for what we think is valuable. We make time to do the things we WANT to do.

Moses had royalty, but chose slavery. God's purpose in his life was more important than popularity, riches or even the pleasures of sin. He gave it all up for God's glory. Hebrews 11:24,25 "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."

If you want to be closer to God, then go. He's waiting for you. He is seeking you.

WMA Women's Retreat August 31 – Sept. 1 Accepting donations for the White Elephant Auction

One of the main attractions of the retreat is the White Elephant Auction. If you have a white elephant that you would like to donate, please bring it to the retreat.

Mississippi W.M.A.

Blinda Lee, President

77 Morrow Rd., Purvis, MS 39475
601-596-3417
blinda.lee@lamarcountyschools.org

Corresponding Secretary

Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443
601-729-5638

Mississippi State Corresponding Secretary's Report

July 2, 2012

By Shirlene Smith

TOTAL FUNDS TO ACCOUNT FOR	\$8,940.93
General Fund	\$2,389.80
Cookbook Sales and Donations	3,483.00
Total General Fund	5,872.80
Project (Shepherd Bags) 75%	1,474.43
Ladies' Retreat Fund	1,593.70
TOTAL FUNDS TO ACCOUNT FOR	\$8,940.93
PROJECT TO DATE:	
25% General Fund plus designated offerings	\$ 649.96
(Already added to the General Fund balance)	
75% Shepherd Bags Ministry	1,474.43
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR THE PROJECT	\$2,124.39

Please mail all funds for the Mississippi State Project to Shirlene Smith, 730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443. God bless each of you as you continue to serve Him through your local WMA this year.

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Youth Department

Kelby Johnson, Interim Director

An Introduction

I give God all the glory for the privilege of serving as your Interim State Youth Director. I am also thankful for the trustees who have entrusted me with this responsibility.

My name is Kelby Johnson, I am 31 years old and I am originally from Laurel, Mississippi. God's grace conquered my heart at age 11 and I was later baptized at Big Creek Baptist Church. It was there that I was mentored by my youth pastor and then surrendered to ministry. I was licensed by Big Creek Baptist Church in 2001 and then later ordained. I have since served several churches in Mississippi in the areas of associate, youth, and music. I graduated from Southeastern Baptist College in 2007 with a Bachelor's Degree in Church Ministries and completed a Master's of Divinity Degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 2011. My passion is making disciples by teaching the Bible and mentoring. I am married to the former Jessie Sellas of Lucedale and we have two sons, Adin (8)

and Andrew (5). We currently reside in New Albany, Mississippi.

"My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you." – Galatians 4:19

It is my desire to help strengthen churches by helping train and support church leaders as they lead students to follow Christ. As Paul said to the church at Galatia, I



Johnson

want to see "Christ formed in" the students of the churches of the BMA of Mississippi. The truth is that the State Youth Director is not around the children and teenagers of the churches very often. I will hopefully have times at Summer camps and other events to have some influence on your students, but I am completely aware that God has placed the parents, pastors, youth pastors, and other youth workers of the church in the students' lives for the majority of their spiritual good. Since that is the case, I desire to help train and support the local churches so that they can more effectively lead students to follow Christ. I hope we can do this by offering youth leader retreats and workshops, providing resources, and networking leaders. My prayer is that as we periodically help strengthen and encourage church leaders, they will be even more efficient in their daily and weekly time spent with their students.

Please continue to pray for and give to your Youth Department. Continue supporting the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Paper where you can find department updates and much more. For more information about the Youth Department, "like" our BMA of Mississippi Youth Facebook page. May we look to Christ in all things and as we lead our families and churches, may he be "formed in" us all.

Upcoming Events

State Junior Camp- July 6-7 (Campground Baptist Church)
State Senior Camp- July 19-21 (Campground Baptist Church)



I am reminded of James' admonition, "...ye have not, because ye ask not"; therefore, I am asking for the support of every church in the BMA of Mississippi. As churches begin to plan for the next fiscal year, now is the time to consider what can be done to help enlarge our State Missions effort. If State Missions is in your budget, would you please consider an increase? If State Missions is not in your budget, would you please consider a budgeted monthly offering? If your church has previously suspended all giving to State Missions, would you please take another look at what God is doing and prayerfully decide to renew your giving to State Missions?

God is blessing our State Missions efforts. We now have 8 missionary families serving on the field in Mississippi, another missionary candidate scheduled for interview in July and two others who are praying about church planting. These efforts could lead to 10 new church starts by August 1.

As I begin planning for the new

fiscal year (which begins August 1st), I am going to do all that I can to make sure that the Missions Department budget reflects the ultimate priority of church planting. I pray we can continue with the same passion, enthusiasm, momentum and vision. To realize this, we need every church in the BMA of Mississippi to join in and help.

The BMA of Mississippi is made up of 185 churches. This budget year, 143 of the churches gave to State Missions, while 42 of the churches did not. Missions' giving, by BMA of Mississippi churches, to both National and State Missions Departments, has remained mostly constant over the past few years. Of the total given by BMA of Mississippi churches to missions, both to State and National, 72% went to the National Missions Department and 28% went to the State Missions Department.

Our churches are to be commended for their record of giving to Missions. I believe, with only 59% of Mississippians attending church¹, and the BMA of Mississippi having the smallest num-

ber of churches in our National work, 185 (Texas-393, AR-3372) God has given us good reason to increase the amount given to State Missions. We need 100% of our churches giving/participating in State Missions.

In addition to the work of our church planters and coordinators, 10 churches have accepted the challenge to take the first step in our 5 Step Plan to reproduce. You can see who these churches are and the locations they have chosen, and read more about the first step, on our website at www.bmams.org. Step 1: Choose a location (see a list of locations at <http://bmams.org/target-locations-for-church-planting/>), then, choose two people who can travel to the location, once a quarter, to gather information about the location. Return that information to the church and collectively/corporately pray for that location. The key to success is simplicity. "For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward." 2 Corinthians 1:12 "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." 2 Corinthians 11:3 "The LORD preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me." Psalms 116:6. Missions activity is extremely important, and mandated by scripture, but it does not have to be complicated. Visit our website at <http://bmams.org/church-planting-churches/> to see a list of the churches that have already signed up to take this first step. If your church would like to sign up, please call me at 601-428-8616.

I would not want to close this letter without expressing my deep gratitude to all who have given so generously during our recent Special Emphasis campaign. You did wonderfully!

Isn't it exciting to see what God is doing? The realization that He has allowed us to be a small part of what He is doing is awe inspiring and mostly overwhelming. He is a good and gracious God, and we praise Him and give glory to His holy name. Thank you for all that you do.

Read more about your missionaries by visiting our websites:

www.bmams.org
www.caledoniabaptist.org
www.crosswayclinton.org
www.elcaminoiglesia.org
www.newheartbaptist.org
www.southforrest.org
www.caminoverdadvida.net
 Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bmamsmissions

God bless,
 Larry Geraldson
 Director of Missions and RLF
 BMA of Mississippi

¹ Frank Newport, "Mississippi Is Most Religious U.S. State," State of the States March 27, 2012 <<http://www.gallup.com/poll/153479/Mississippi-Religious-State.aspx>>.

² Directory and Handbook, ed Bobby L. Hudgens (Texarkana, AR: Disciple Guide Church Resources, 2011-2012), 87.

Abortion is the Ultimate Child Abuse

by Joseph Harris

Outrage is expected from both liberals and conservatives on the issue of child abuse, but what about the ultimate child abuse of abortion? Liberals are usually strangely silent. As horrible as neglect, molestation, beatings, and desertion may be, murder of the helpless and innocent through abortion is worse. Though abandoned and

abused children suffer, at least they still have life and, hopefully can be taken by someone who will really love them. No such chance for the murdered unborn innocents.

Selfishness is the main motivation for abortion. Under the guise of "concern" for the unborn, the mother may use excuses such as, "Inability to support a child" or "I can't give it the quality time needed" or any number of other inexcusable excuses. The paramount excuse for abortion is the one disguised in the cloak of the so-called freedom of a woman's "right" to do with her body as she chooses. But a living, breathing human baby is not a part of the mother's body; it is distinct from the moment of conception. The mother's body gives life, support and nourishment to the separate, living human baby inside. If the embryo (another word for a DEVELOPING, MATURING baby) was only a blob, or mass of protein, then it could possibly be considered a part of her body, but common sense says otherwise. The dictionary definition of embryo is "The first rudiments of an animal (or human) in the womb or of a plant in the seed; the first state (underlining mine)

of anything." Webster's Expanded Dictionary, 1992.

Being a parent means more than just bringing life into the world. It means giving up time, sleep, money, and possibly a career, just to mention a few basics. And parents only bring life into this world. They do not give it. God is the giver of life, not the father or mother. God uses the father and mother to begin a new life in the womb. In a sense, every new life is an extension of God, for all life comes from God. Try as he may, through cloning or the test tube, man will never create life. If life is an extension of God, who made man in His image, then all murder is an attack on the creator of life. The state may sanction, even fund murder, but God will hold murderers accountable. Pro-choice (which is really pro-death as opposed to pro-life) is nothing more than allowing people the choice to legally kill. Murder is murder, regardless of the reason.

Children are a blessing from God. We should thank God for the little blessings He has given and treat them with love, respect and a reverent awe, for each one is a little unique image of God, testifying to the greatness of the Creator, reminding us that only God can give life.

New Heart Mission growing



God has richly blessed us with Josh Youngblood to come to know Jesus Christ. Please pray for him and us here at New Heart.



WMA Women's Retreat August 31 – Sept. 1 Cabin Packing Contest

*The Church bringing
 the most women will win
 special recognition.
 You can count anyone who
 comes as
 your guest as well
 as your members.
 Load 'em up
 and bring 'em in!*