

# The Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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## Six Reasons to Love Your Local Church

by **Dr. Scott Attebery**  
**DiscipleGuide**  
**Executive Director**

Imagine what it would be like to attend a major league baseball game on July 4. You arrive early in anticipation of the pre-game activities celebrating Independence Day. Veterans from every branch of the military are honored on the field, and a huge American flag covers most of the outfield. At the end of the National Anthem, two F-16 fighter jets roar over the crowd. It is an amazing display of patriotism!

As you sit down, you notice the man to your left is wearing a hat that says "Vietnam Veteran." He turns to look at you. His face is showing emotion. In a soft but firm voice he exclaims, "You have no idea how much it hurts when younger generations take that flag for

granted. My friends died for that flag!"

You immediately know what he is talking about. Earlier during the national anthem, several teenagers in your section kept their hats on and talked throughout the National Anthem. They treated it as something common or ordinary. They had no love for the flag that this man's friends had lost their lives fighting for.

Do you feel the man's pain? Are you frustrated on his behalf? Does the knowledge that people died for the flag heighten your emotion? If so, ask yourself the following question: Christian, what does it say about our hearts when we take for granted the very institution for which Christ died?

What are we communicating when we no longer honor the church through loyalty and commitment, choosing in-



Scott Attebery

stead to treat it as common or ordinary? What does it say when families spend more money on tournament league sports than they give to their local congregations? What are we to think when corporate worship services are

regarded as optional, take-it-or-leave-it events?

Has disrespect and lack of appreciation for the bride for whom Christ died become all too familiar?

Recently, I was performing a wedding ceremony during which I quoted Ephesians 5:25: "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her..." While Paul's intention is to teach Christian men how to love their wives, I think it is fair to ask a related question: Do Christians love the church the way that Christ loves the church?

The Bible says that Jesus loves the church in the same way a bridegroom joyfully loves his bride (Isaiah 62:5). The church is precious to Christ. He gave his life for the church (Ephesians 5:25).

If we claim to love Christ, and yet we

**continued on page 2**

## CHRISTMAS IN JULY

### First Christmas Shoeboxes Arrive



The Sunbeams and Sunbeam Leaders (Robbie Shepherd, Diann Rankin and April McCright) of Spring Lake Baptist Church in Texarkana, Texas, dropped off 249 shoeboxes June 27 at the BMA Global Ministry Center. Shoebox packing has already begun in the warehouse and the deadline for sending them is September 1. For more information, contact Angela Rice at [angela@bmaam.com](mailto:angela@bmaam.com).

## The Only Hope for America

from a message by  
the late **Dr. Adrian Rogers**

"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

America's only hope is found in this verse. Our nation has a godly founding and a glorious past, but if the Lord tarries, what kind of nation will our children inherit?

Evidently Americans believe the economy is the top issue. But I'd rather leave my children the legacy of a godly nation than great wealth squandered in a godless society.

Righteousness is our greatest need. Alexander Hamilton said, "People get the government they deserve." Something has happened in America. If we want to know what's wrong, we need to look in the mirror.

### Righteousness Exalts A Nation

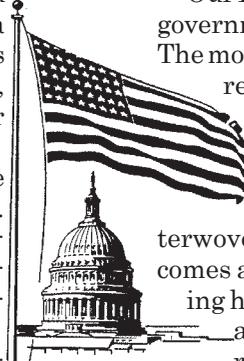
America was born in a revival. The Great Awakening swept the land in a

flame of righteousness. Out of that, schools were built, principles taught, and character became strong. A new-born nation declared her independence from England and upon almighty God.

Our Founding Fathers knew the best government was the least government. The more character you have, the more responsibility you'll assume, and the less government you'll need.

You cannot have true liberty without true righteousness. They are inextricably interwoven. For example, if a man becomes a criminal, he's put in jail. Failing his responsibilities, his liberties are taken away. A baby has no responsibilities. But he also has no liberties: he can't choose when he's going to sleep or what he'll wear. As he grows and assumes responsibilities, he's given more liberties.

We will have more or less liberty in direct proportion to our character. When we lose character - righteousness - we





Larry Geraldson  
Director



# Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Department of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund



## State Missionaries and Wives



Bob & Edie Burch



Kenneth & Carole  
Pollock



Bobby & Lesa  
Elliott



Danny & Brenda  
Bartlett



Sidney & Becky  
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Yasmine Marroquin



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Garcia



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### Pray For More Missionaries

Please join me in praying for two new missionaries to step forward and accept the challenge of planting churches in Mississippi. God is blessing our mission work in Mississippi and there is so much more to be done. We have the ability to start two new mission projects in the upcoming fiscal year. Also, we are praying for some men who would be interested in doing missionary intern work with Bro. Bob Burch and Bro. Sidney Farmer. If you think you might be interested, contact these men for more details.

### New Hispanic Mission Projects

We are excited to report the beginning of missions activity at two new locations which we believe will

result in two new Hispanic mission projects. Regular evangelism is being done in Horn Lake, MS under the leadership of Bro. Daniel Polanco (sent by Way, Truth, and Life in Ripley) and Bro. Lucas Gonez (sent by El Camino in Laurel) at Canton, MS. These efforts have resulted in 9 professions of faith at Horn Lake and one at Canton.

### Construction Has Begun

The foundation for the addition at Caledonia Baptist Mission in Caledonia has been poured. Things seem to be on schedule for the completion of this addition by



late September. The new addition will provide much needed education and fellowship space.

### Missionaries Moving

Please keep Bro. Bartlett and Bro. Martin and their families in your prayers. Bro. Bartlett is trying to find a home and relocate into the Clinton area. Bro. Martin and his wife, Holley have already found a home and are in the process of doing their due diligence. They hope to close on the property and relocate into the Diamondhead community sometime in August.

### We Reached Our Goal

Last month, we printed an initial list of those who had given to Special Emphasis for State Missions. Since then a number of offerings came in which resulted in our reaching and exceeding our goal. Also, we accidentally left some off the first list, for which I apologize. So, I am reprinting the list with my deepest gratitude to everyone who gave. Thank you!

Berean, Soso  
Big Creek, Soso  
Broadmoor, Meridian  
Centerville, Mantachie  
Community, Poplarville  
Cypress Creek, Brooklyn  
Dykes Chapel, Richton  
East Fulton, Fulton  
First, Bay Springs

First, Calhoun  
First, Shady Grove  
Grace, Clinton  
Helton Road, Theodore, AL  
Homestretch, Cleveland  
Hopewell, Fulton  
Lebanon, Laurel  
Little Creek, Perkinston  
Movella, Lucedale  
Mt Calvary, Picayune  
Mt. Glory, Tishomingo  
New Bethany, Ellisville  
Old Antioch, Soso  
Paramount, Perkinston  
Parkview, Laurel  
(Crusaders/Fellowship)  
Riverside, Ellisville  
Springhill, Ocean Springs  
Union, Bay Springs  
Washington, Neely

### Visit Our Website and Facebook Page

Our website is [www.bmams.org](http://www.bmams.org). Like our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/bmamsmissions>.

## Six Reasons from page 1

don't love his church, something is desperately wrong! We must restore a sense of honor among our congregations for the local church. It's time for churches to emphasize commitment and loyalty. Let's teach our children to appreciate and cherish the church by setting the example through our own passion and participation.

Maybe you've noticed a lack of love and commitment toward the church in your own heart. If that's the case, allow God's Word to ignite a new passion for his church in your heart. To get you started, here are six biblical reasons to love your local church.

### I. The Local Church Publicly Identifies Us With Christ

Acts 2 begins with the day of Pentecost and ends with a glimpse into early church life. The group of new church members is described as "devoted to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42) and that "day by day [they were] attending the temple together..." (2:46). Notice what the last sentence of the chapter says: "And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved" (2:47). To whose number is the Lord adding the new believers? To the church. By Christ's own design, the local church identifies us with Christ.

When we neglect to join a church or take our membership lightly, we are like the man who tells his girlfriend, "I love you, but I don't see any reason to get married." He enjoys her company on occasion, but doesn't want to make a public commitment. Thankfully, this is not how Christ loves us. Yet is this how we treat his church?

continued on page 8

Reports for June 2016				
	High Attendance	Membership	Total Offerings	Mother Church
<b>Church Planters</b>				
Bob Burch (Caledonia)	77	59	\$3,377.00	East Fulton
Bobby Elliott (Burnsville)	45	43	\$1,878.00	Forked Oak
Sidney Farmer (S. Forrest County)	62	46	\$5,349.00	Paramount
Danny Bartlett (Clinton)	14	11	\$3,660.00	Wilderness
Phillip Burns (Sumrall)	24	9	\$1,636.00	First Bay Springs
Wesley Martin (Diamondhead)	34	27	\$2,469.00	Campground
Anders Lee (Southaven)	147	101	\$14,979.00	Charity
Kenneth Pollock (Batesville)	25	5	\$1,541.00	First Baptist Mantachie
<b>BMA of Mississippi Hispanic Missions (Estuardo Marroquin – Manager)</b> <small>(Estuardo Marroquin is also the Co-Pastor of El Camino, which serves as the mother church for the church plants listed below.)</small>				
El Camino Marciano Montalvo (Laurel)	125	123	\$3,988.00	
<b>Church Planters</b>				
Leo Adan (Hattiesburg)	42	15	\$1,428.00	El Camino
Rodolfo Galicia (Biloxi)	8	3	\$0.00	El Camino
<b>(Elvis Garcia – Coordinator)</b> <small>(Elvis Garcia is also the Co-Pastor of Way, Truth &amp; Life, which serves as the mother church for the church plants listed below.)</small>				
Way, Truth & Life Byron Morales (Ripley)	85	87	\$3,903.00	
<b>Church Planters</b>				
Humberto Regalado (Tupelo)	18	11	\$438.00	Way, Truth & Life
Luis Huchin (Oxford)	41	5	\$1,276.00	Way, Truth & Life
<b>BMA of Mississippi African American Missions (Ed DuVall – Coordinator)</b> <small>(Ed DuVall is also the Sr. Pastor of Homestretch which serves as the mother church for the church plants listed below.)</small>				
Homestretch (Cleveland)	28	50	\$3,511.00	
<b>Church Planters</b>				
James Cook (Olive Branch)	11	13	\$1,250.00	Homestretch
Collectively, our missionaries reported 224 new contacts, 102 opportunities to share the gospel, and witnessed 10 professions of faiths, and 6 baptisms and 3 joined by letter in May.				

## BMA of Mississippi Youth Department

Phone 662-316-6233 [www.facebook.com/bmamasyouth](http://www.facebook.com/bmamasyouth)



Kelby Johnson  
Director

# How Do I Know If My Child Is A Christian?

by Kelby Johnson

I have worked with many kids and teenagers over the last fifteen years. Before that, I was one. And in all of this time, the idea of salvation and assurance is probably the issue that seems to be the most confusing. I especially began to think more about it as my own children grew in age. I had always prayed for them that God would work in their life but things really changed as they began to know biblical truths and ask questions. I've talked with many parents about this topic as well. And while I have total confidence in the sovereignty of God to work through His Holy Word and Holy Spirit to save souls, there are still some things we can think through to help us counsel our children or anyone else through questions about the gospel.



### My Concern

I am convinced that many people hear their child or a child in their church say "I am saved" or "I got saved" and their first response is to pat them on the back and say, "I am so proud of you." Should we be excited? Absolutely! But we must be careful that the child knows it is God who saves them and nothing in themselves. The next step for most parents is to send their child to talk to a pastor about these things. This is a fine idea. Pastors want to talk to people about the gospel so we love this opportunity. But what I've often seen is a rush to get the child to the pastor's office, down a church aisle, and into the baptistry.

I am concerned by this hurried process because I want children to have a

real biblical assurance for their salvation that is not based on tradition, not based on a parent's or a pastor's prodding, and that is not confusing to the child. I don't want the child to have a false confidence because an adult, even



an adult who has good intentions, misled them. I surely don't want to be the person who ever turns a child away from Christ but I also don't want to be the person who gives a child false assurance that leads them to questioning and doubting for years. How do we find the balance? I think there is a way to work through this but it requires much prayer, patience, and thoughtful questioning.

### What Do I Listen For?

When we take our child to the doctor, how does the doctor find out what is wrong? He asks questions. "What hurts?" "How long has it been hurting?" "Is it a sharp pain or a dull pain?" And many other questions like that. This is how we must counsel our children, by asking questions. I'm assuming at this point that the child has heard the basics of the gospel message: The sinless life, substitutionary death, and resurrec-

tion of Jesus Christ. If the child shows a lack of key knowledge of those things, I must go back and talk about those things before proceeding. It is the power of the gospel that saves. The message about Jesus Christ is essential!

As I talk to a child, I begin asking questions and listening very closely. The first thing I want to hear is for the child to express repentance of sin, saving faith (belief) in Jesus Christ, and confession of Jesus as Lord. Those three things are the biblical response to the gospel. The child may not be able to use those words or know exactly what they all mean, but I will ask questions (which I call "Gospel Investigation") to try and see if these three things are understood: repentance, belief, and confession.

### Repent, Believe, Confess

Someone once said that repentance and belief are two sides of the same coin. They are undoubtedly mentioned together in Scripture. Jesus said, "The time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of



God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." (Mark 1:15) Paul echoed, "Testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ." (Acts 20:21)

Here is a simple definition for each of these responses:

Repentance can be defined as a "heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ." (Grudem)

Saving faith (belief) is accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone for salvation. It is a deep inward trust, not just a mental assent. In other words, it is truly with the heart not just with the head.

Confession of Jesus Christ as Lord is usually the first outward sign of someone who has repented and believed.

Paul said it this way, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved." (Romans 10:9-10)

So, in summary, if I'm talking to my child or anyone else about the gospel, I ask basic questions to help them think through the gospel and the gospel responses as explained above. While asking these questions, I use their responses to try and figure out where they are in their spiritual journey. I'm always looking for ways to emphasize Christ in this discussion.

continued on page 7

## Update On LifeWord Outreach Ministries

Lifeworld Sunday 2016 is October 23rd, and as we began this season of emphasis and fund-raising for our unique media ministry, we would like to highlight several new language broadcasts in Africa. The following areas and languages include specific numbers for Lifeworld Community Radio costs:

### East and West African countries.

Lifeworld has broadcasts in ten indigenous languages on the air on very powerful, wide-coverage stations. New broadcasts to the Swahili (Tanzania, Kenya) and Fante (Southeastern Ghana) people groups are in production and now on the air (or soon will be) in 2016. Those twelve, once-per-week broadcasts support BMA church planting in the twelve people groups.

One day: \$150 (\$7,800 per year)

Six additional days: \$900 per week (\$46,800 per year)

### Swahili.

After generations of efforts to reach

the Swahili, less than two percent are Christian believers today, which is the criteria for this language and people group to be officially classified as "unreached." Lifeworld has budgeted for one day per week in 2016, but seven days a week would be more effective.

One day: \$150 (\$7,800 per year)

Six additional days: \$900 per week (\$46,800 per year)

### The Leemeh people group.

This is an entirely unreached Muslim people group located primarily in Togo. A coordinated effort between Lifeworld, Missions and two other strategic partners, this broadcast is in the advanced stages of pre-production and will be on the air in late 2016 and introduced simultaneously with a water well drilling project and a medical services project. Providing those services will give our missionary contact additional credibility with the tribe. A daily presentation would be most effective, but Lifeworld can only budget one

**Lifeworld**

MEDIA MINISTRIES



Don Brown

# Mississippi Baptist

# Opinion Page

www.msbbaptist.org

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Don Brown - Editor

## The Only Hope for America

continued from page 1

lose liberty, for people who cannot live responsibly from within must be controlled from without.

James Madison said, "We have staked the whole future of American civilization not upon the power of government - far from it - . . . [but] upon the capacity to govern and sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments." But today the Ten Commandments are called "unconstitutional" and removed from classrooms and many public buildings.

### Sin - A Reproach To Any People

The great American dream is dissolving because of sin: sexual perversion, killing unborn children, break-up of the family, obsession with material things, craving for pleasure. America is self-indulgent, out of control.

With the erosion of character, we relinquish more responsibility to government, and whatever it subsidizes, government says it must control. When we depend on government to feed us, it will control us. Government is here to protect from tyranny and punish evildoers, not meet our needs. Sure as night follows day,

when government provides, it begins to regulate. Then it's free to oppress.

Look at our education system. It has outlawed God. The Bible is out, humanism is in. The Ten Commandments were swapped out for values clarification, one-world government, glories of the welfare state, and a new world order.

We're now living in the shadows of an age. Our liberties are fast receding. You say, "But we still have lots of blessings in America." Yes, we do. But they are residual blessings our forefathers left us.

### Revival - The Restoration of a Nation

"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice. But then the wicked bear rule, the people mourn" (Proverbs 29:2).

We must take America back. We don't have to be a majority, we're salt and light. Salt penetrates, purifies, heals, and preserves. To say "don't mix politics and religion" is like saying put the fish in one barrel and the salt in another. But "if salt loses its savor," Jesus said, "it's good for nothing but to be cast out and trodden under the feet of men."

The church of Jesus Christ is being "trodden underfoot" because we've become salt without savor.

Our Constitution was written for people of character. Godly character must permeate our society. We must set the standard in caring for our own and the widows and orphans. We must train up our children, godly offspring who will take leadership positions and return us to living by godly principles.

I want to leave my children and grandchildren a godly nation. Don't you? God is our only hope, and revival will be the restoration to our nation.

*From July-August 2013 issue of "Ministry Moments". A publication of Love Worth Finding Ministries.*

### STAFF POSITIONS

#### Music Director Needed

Lebanon Baptist Church is in need of a part time music director. This person would be over leading worship service Sunday morning and night, as well as doing cantatas and other special music. We are looking for someone who is able to incorporate both hymnals and contemporary style music. All interest persons who have questions or would like to send their resume may do so by emailing Adam Parker at parkeradam288@gmail.com

### AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

#### Chris Broadhead

Bro. Chris Broadhead is available for revivals, pulpit supply, or in any direction the Lord may lead.

Bro. Broadhead is a member of Magnolia Baptist Church and resides in Hattiesburg. He is married and he and his wife Heather and have three children.

He may be contacted at 601-550-9565 or emailed at chrisbroadhead57@gmail.com.



Chris Broadhead



FW

## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

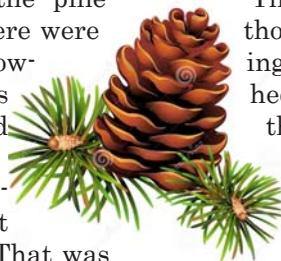
### Pine Tree Pruner

My house sits in a pine thicket. We had another "pine tree pruner" the other evening and when I looked outside the next morning I saw what an excellent job the "pine tree pruner" had done. There were limbs everywhere. Well, knowing my granddaughter was coming to mow that day, I had to get busy.

Being quite ambitious, I began picking up everything that was bigger than a pencil. That was taking up a lot of time, so I began only picking up those bigger than my thumb. I soon decided that was going to take up a large portion of the rest of my life so I upped my specs to anything bigger than

my arm and I finished just before the lawn mower arrived.

Not only did my pine trees get pruned but a whole large tree fell on the fence behind my house.



That afternoon, I heard what I thought was a large lady walking on my front porch in high-heeled shoes. When I went to the front door there was a cow at my door. She and some of her sisters had found the gap in the fence caused by the fallen tree.

I'm just saying that you never know what a day will bring and I am reminded once again that no matter what comes along, God is there for me. ".....being instant in season....." comes to mind.

**Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi**  
www.bmaofmississippi.com

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# A Letter From SBC President Danny Pitts

To the Churches of the BMA of Mississippi, Special Emphasis for Southeastern Baptist College will be during July and August. We ask each church and each class to prayerfully set goals you desire to reach in contributions. Each Sunday School teacher is encouraged to present the emphasis materials to your students. Our BMA of Mississippi people are very generous when given the opportunity to give.



Danny Pitts

The Special Emphasis materials for SBC have been mailed to all of the churches of our work. The packet will include a letter, a 11X17 poster, and a Special Emphasis flyer for each Sunday School class. If you need extra flyers, please call the school at (601)426-

6346, and more will be sent to you. Feel free to make copies.

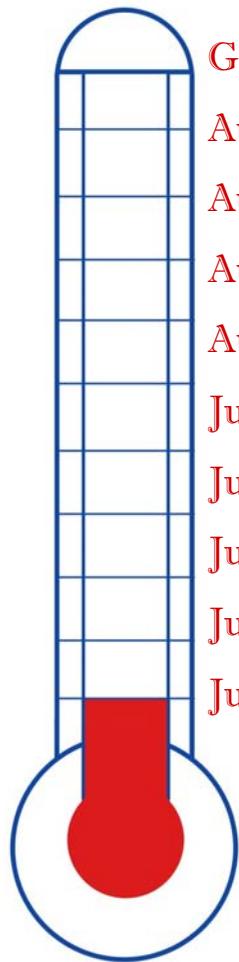
Each poster and flyer has a place for you to set a goal for the emphasis during July and August. Your class or church can list the actual contributions for each week. When the weeks are totaled, you will see if you reached your goals. We hope that you set challenging goals and make sincere efforts to reach them.

Thank you for your support of Southeastern Baptist College,

*BestColleges.com* has ranked Southeastern Baptist College #1 of the 25 Best Online Bible Colleges for 2016!

*Affordableschools.net* has ranked Southeastern Baptist College #6 of 15 of the Most Affordable Bachelor's Degrees in Religious Studies for 2016!

Statewide Goal: \$ 15,000



**GOAL REACHED!**

- August 28th—\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- August 21st—\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- August 14th—\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- August 7th—\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- July 31st—\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- July 24th—\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- July 17th—\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- July 10th—\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- July 3rd—\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Our Church Goal: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



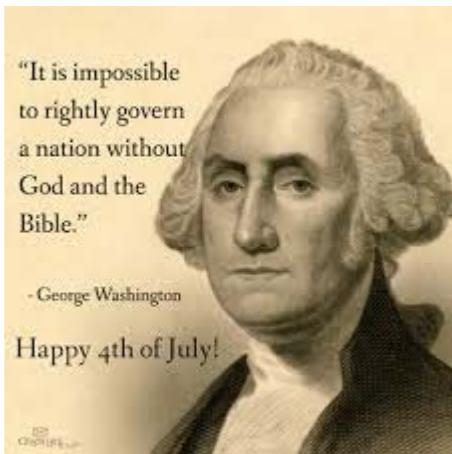
## Southeastern Baptist College

- # 1 Online Bible College in the U.S.
- # 6 Most Affordable Bachelor Degree in Religious Studies



**Special Emphasis:**  
**July/August**

# God Bless America



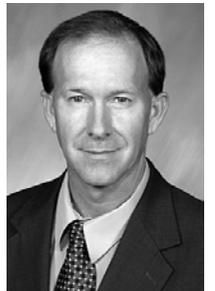
God bless America,  
Land that I love,  
Stand beside her and guide her  
Thru the night with a light from above;  
From the mountains, to the prairies,  
To the oceans white with foam,  
God bless America,  
My home, sweet home.  
God bless America,  
My home, sweet home.

From The Mind of Chuck Lee

# "PLINK"

I hesitate to even approach the subject that is tethered at the backside region of what is left of my mind. It has been leashed there for many years now, and I fear if I approach too close, it will break free and unleash itself on an unsuspecting world. Well, here goes nothing.

Modern technology has greatly enhanced the quality of life of most people I know. Vehicles are equipped with, so I'm told, GPS, Satellite radio, back up warnings and video, heated seats, non-touch door openers, and keyless ignitions, to name a few. The only back up warning my 364,000 mile vehicle has is when someone begins yelling at me, or the dog yelps. I do have heated seats, however, they are only activated during the summer months. My air-conditioning is wonderful, but only during the winter months. They are backwards, kind of like most of my life.



Chuck Lee



Dishwashers, microwaves, bedets, robot vacuum cleaners, Wi-fi, solar pan....SCREEEEEECHHHHHH! BEDETS? Moving on. All of these conveniences have rendered many a healthy teenage boy to while away his summer break piled up on the couch staring at his cell phone. Perhaps life has become too easy? Not according to most people I know. Life has just become more complicated and busy for your average person.

That is why I enjoy gardening. It gets me back to a simpler time, even with the modern technology that has even invaded the outer world known simply as "the country". There is almost nothing more satisfying than getting together with family and friends to have a good corn shuckin'. Maybe spending time on the front porch shelling peas comes close. In my opinion, there is one thing that tops all others in quality satisfaction, and that is the "plink". The "plink" is simply the sound a jar lid makes when it seals. It was once an all familiar sound that most people knew and loved. As time rushes on, the "plink" may eventually fade away as have land lines and standard transmissions.

For me, I'll just sit here and smile as I listen to the "plink".

Bro. Chuck Lee serves as pastor of Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis. He and his family sing BlueGrass Gospel Music. He may be reached by email at [leecharles47@yahoo.com](mailto:leecharles47@yahoo.com)

## Change in Ordering Galilean Materials and Supplies

by Kenneth Colvert  
National Galilean Director

Disciple Guide is no longer handling Galilean materials and supplies and has turned all their Galilean inventory over to National Galileans. All the materials that were handled by DiscipleGuide are still available to you through National Galileans. These materials include "The Galilean Manual"; "The Galilean Leader's Book," "How to Build a Galilean Ministry,"; "The Galilean Binder," "The Galilean Sash,"; The Fish pin, Tyro Pin, Fellow Pin, Follower Pin, Disciple Pin, Herald Pin, and Ambassador Pin; and other materials and supplies.



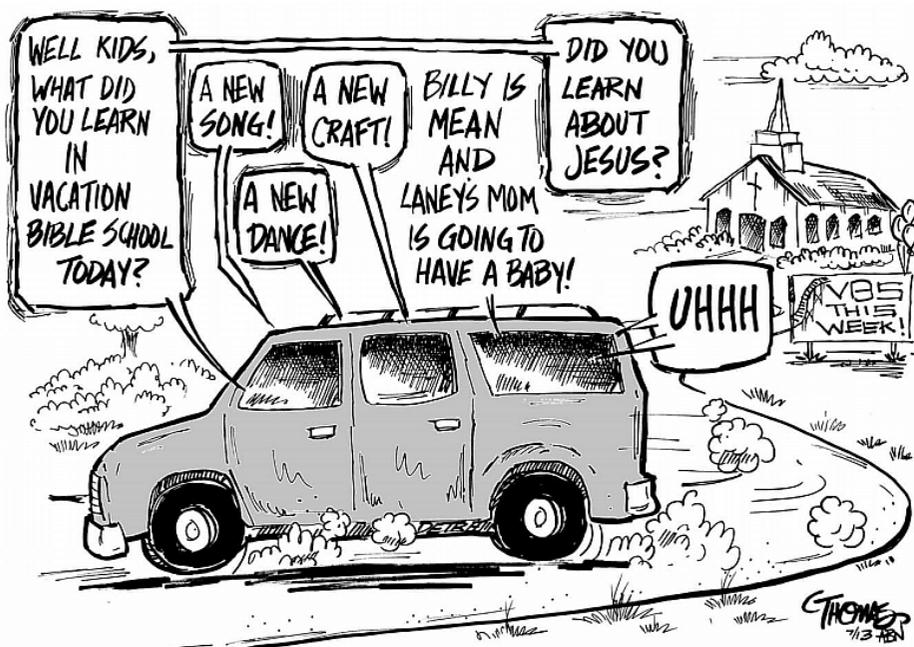
A complete price list of materials available are posted on our National Galilean Website [www.galileans.com](http://www.galileans.com). The Galilean Workbook, "My Royal Service," is no longer available in hard copy, but can be downloaded for free on our Galilean Website. All Galilean materials and supplies may be ordered by e-mailing [krcolvert@cox.net](mailto:krcolvert@cox.net). If you have questions about Galilean materials and supplies, feel free to e-mail Kenneth Colvert or call 479-629-3258. We are a non-profit group. All Galilean items will be sold to you for the exact amount that we paid for them.

Regarding the Galilean inventory turned over to us for free from DiscipleGuide, we are charging the same price you were paying per item to be used for restocking items that are sold out in the future. Please note that the price for the Galilean sash has gone up because National Galileans had to have more made and our price per sash went up.

Please help us get the word out to our local churches about this change in ordering materials. We will see to it that every church receives needed Galilean materials promptly.

## WHAT DID YOU LEARN IN BIBLE SCHOOL?

by Gary Thomas



# Study: Unchurched will talk about faith

by **Bob Smietana**

**NASHVILLE (BP)** -- Americans who don't go to church are happy to talk about religion and often think about the meaning of life, according to a new study released today (June 28).

They're also open to taking part in community service events hosted at a church or going to a church concert, the research revealed. But only about a third say they'd be interested in going to a worship service, and few think about what happens after they die.

Those are among the findings of a new online survey of 2,000 unchurched Americans from LifeWay Research. The survey, conducted in partnership with the Billy Graham Center for Evangelism at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill., found more than half of Americans who don't go to church identify as Christians.

But they are mostly indifferent to

organized religion, said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research.

"Unchurched Americans aren't hostile to faith," he said. "They just don't think church is for them."

## Talking about faith isn't taboo

For this survey, "unchurched" means those who have not attended a worship service in the last six months, outside of a holiday or special occasion like a wedding.

Among their characteristics:

- Two-thirds (67 percent) are white
- Just over half (53 percent) are male
- About half (47 percent) have a high school diploma or less
- Nearly two-thirds (62 percent) went to church regularly as a child
- About a third (32 percent) consider themselves nonreligious
- One in 5 identifies as Protestant, 1 in 4 as Catholic
- Few are turned off by conversations

about faith, McConnell said.

Nearly half (47 percent) say they discuss religion freely if the topic comes up. A third (31 percent) say they listen without responding, while 11 percent change the subject.

Only about a third (35 percent) say someone has ever explained the benefits of being a Christian to them.

Christians may be reluctant to talk about their faith out of fear of offending their friends, McConnell noted. But the survey found that fear is unfounded.

"Unchurched folks are not being overwhelmed by Christians talking about their faith," McConnell said. "If faith is important to you, then your friends will be interested in hearing about it."

## A personal touch still matters

Researchers looked at the kinds of activities unchurched Americans might be interested in as well as methods for inviting them to church.

About two-thirds (62 percent) would attend a church meeting about neighborhood safety. Half would take part in a community service event (51 percent), concert (45 percent), sports or exercise program (46 percent), or neighborhood get-together (45 percent) at a church.

"Concerns for neighborhood safety and desire to express compassion to the under-resourced seem to be the biggest potential draws for the unchurched to get connected to a church," said Rick Richardson, professor of evangelism and leadership at Wheaton College and research fellow for the Billy Graham Center for Evangelism. "Invite unchurched people to those kinds of events, and many say they will attend."

Fewer are interested in attending a worship service (35 percent), recovery group (25 percent) or seminar on a spiritual topic (24 percent) if invited.

continued on page 8

## CHURCH NEWS IN BRIEF

### Oak Grove Association To Meet

by Ed Steele, Reporter

The Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Association will convene with Corinth Baptist Church in Runnelstown on July 14. The time of food and fellowship will begin a little after 6:00 with the service starting at 7:00.

### Vacation Bible School Announcements

#### Derby Place Sets VBS

Derby Place Missionary Baptist Church in Poplarville will be holding their VBS on July 13-15 with the closing program on Sunday Night July 17th. We invite everyone to join us for this exciting time. For more info call Pastor Nick Freeman at 601-394-7202.

#### LEBANON BAPTIST CHURCH

WHEN: JULY 11-15

WHAT TIME: 5:54-8:30 NIGHTLY

AGES: 3-15 YEARS OLD

NIGHTLY BIBLE LESSON, MUSIC, FOOD, GAMES, CRAFTS, AND SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS ARE OFFERED.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL NICOLE HILL @ (601)498-0306

LEBANON BAPTIST CHURCH IS LOCATED @ 460 LEBANON RD. IN LAUREL.

## How Do I Know If My Child Is A Christian?

continued from page 3

### Gospel Investigation

Here are 21 questions to help you investigate your own or your child's understanding and acceptance of repentance, belief, and confession. I think it is helpful for all of us to think through these questions biblically, honestly, and personally to examine ourselves as Paul instructs in 2 Corinthians 13:5. I have listed multiple questions that correspond with each of the three gospel responses.

### Repentance

1. What is sin?
2. What is an example of a sin?
3. Are you a sinner?
4. How do you know you are a sinner?
5. Why is sin wrong?
6. How does it make you feel when you sin?
7. How does God feel about your sin?
8. Must God punish you for your sin?
9. Why must God punish your sin?
10. How does God punish your sin?
11. Are you ready to abandon your sin?
12. Why are you ready to abandon your sin?
13. Will you abandon all your sin and obey Jesus Christ with your life?

### Belief

1. Since God hates sin, how can God accept you as a sinner?
2. What did Jesus Christ do for your sin?
3. Do you believe Jesus Christ died and rose again?

4. Do you believe Jesus Christ died in your place and rose again for you?

5. Do you believe with all your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Lord?

### Confession

1. Who is your Savior and Lord?
2. Do you surrender your life to Jesus Christ?
3. Will you follow Jesus Christ and His

Word forever?

If I don't feel good about an answer, I will ask the question in a different way. I'm not trying to tell them the correct answer, though I do explain what Scripture says as we go along. I'm trying to get them to discover the truth and see if they realize the necessity of repentance, belief, and confession.

If all these questions are answered in what seems to be a heartfelt manner, I feel like the child has expressed an understanding and commitment to the gospel. (We'll see in a moment that this profession alone is not the ultimate assurance for salvation.)

The next thing is to tell the child that since they have repented of their sin,

believed in Christ, and confessed Jesus as Lord, He is their King and they are to follow Him for the rest of their lives. I say things like...

-You are to learn God's Word so you know what God expects of you.

-You are to learn to pray so you can communicate with God.

-You are to be active in a church family so you can learn and grow and serve.

-You are to try your best to be like Jesus in your attitudes, words, and actions.

As a parent, it is my calling to not only tell my child those things but to train them in how to do those things and to model how to do those things in my own life. This is key in helping our children become followers of Jesus Christ.

### What's Next?

Some will not agree with my next step, but it's what I feel is right based on what I've read and seen. I do NOT rush the kid down the church aisle and into the baptistry. I do discuss what baptism is with the child but my primary mindset is more about the child's understanding and response to the gospel and not so much on simply getting them baptized. (As a pastor, I will honor the parent's wishes at this point though. I'm just talking about my own children and my recommendation for others.)

continued on page 8



## Unchurched

from page 7

When it comes to church invitations, a personal touch works better than a sales pitch.

More than half (55 percent) of unchurched Americans say a personal invitation from a family member would be effective in getting them to visit a church. Other methods, such as a church member knocking on the door (21 percent), a TV commercial (23 percent), postcard (23 percent) or Facebook ad (18 percent), are less effective.

### Little interest in life after death

Researchers also asked unchurched Americans about the big questions of life.

About 7 in 10 agree there's an ultimate plan and purpose for every person. One in 5 (19 percent) disagrees. One in 9 (11 percent) isn't sure.

Nearly 6 in 10 (57 percent) say it's important for them to find their deeper purpose in life. A third disagree (31 percent), while 1 in 9 (12 percent) isn't sure.

Few wonder, at least on a regular basis, if they'll go to heaven when they die. Just under half (43 percent) say they never ponder that question. One in

5 (20 percent) isn't sure the last time that question came to mind. Three in 10 (29 percent) say they ask themselves that question on at least a monthly basis.

This lack of interest in the afterlife can pose a problem for Christians who want to share their faith, McConnell said. Many have been trained to ask questions like, "If you died tonight, would you go to heaven?"

That tactic might not be as effective today, McConnell said.

"If the only benefit of being a Christian is that you get to go to heaven, most unchurched people don't care," McConnell said. "It can't be the only way of talking about faith."

Instead, McConnell suggested those who want to share their faith talk about how their relationship with Jesus affects them in day-to-day life and discuss the benefits of being part of a church. And be proactive, he said.

"Don't wait for unchurched people to bring up the topic of faith," he said. "It's probably not going to happen."

*LifeWay Research is a Nashville-based, evangelical research firm that specializes in surveys about faith in culture and matters that affect the church.*

*Reprinted from Baptist Press (www.baptistpress.com), news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.*

## Six Reasons

from page 1

### II. The Local Church Provides Godly Leadership and Shepherding.

If we really love Jesus, we will want to follow him as our Great Shepherd and leader. The Bible teaches that Jesus has given certain men in each local church a special stewardship to keep watch over souls on his behalf. We call them pastors. The word pastor means "shepherd."

Without joining and participating in a local church, you miss out on the biblical leadership designed for you. How can you expect a pastor to notice your spiritual need if you are never at church to be noticed? And if you never join a church, whom do you expect will take responsibility for shepherding you or caring for your needs?

### III. The Local Church is the Best Source of Encouraging Community on Earth!

Hebrews 10:25 instructs us not to neglect meeting together, but instead to encourage one another. Meeting together in community as a local church is the primary place where believers encourage one another. Feeling lonely? Suffer-

ing from depression? Facing difficult circumstances or challenges? You're not alone! Just as you need the encouragement of other believers in your life, they need your support in their lives as well! Don't neglect to meet together or you'll neglect God's plan for encouragement in your life!

### IV. The Local Church is Where We Serve Together

Just before the Hebrew writer warns against neglecting to meet together, he calls us to "consider how to stir up one another to love and good works..." (Hebrews 10:24). Every believer is called to "love one another" (John 13:34) and is created to "do good works" (Ephesians 2:11). Simultaneously, every believer is tempted to love self and to perform self-serving works. The church is one of God's tools for stirring up our hearts to honor God rather than exalt ourselves. The mutual edification and opportunities afforded among the congregation help individuals overcome temptation and serve together.

When we serve together, it is less tempting for an individual to exalt himself/herself for the good works performed. Further, working side-by-side promotes unity and fellowship among the congregation.

### V. The Local Church Provides Accountability and Support

In Matthew chapter 8, Jesus prescribes steps for a believer to resolve an offense. After going to a brother and taking witnesses, if the brother still hasn't repented, Jesus says to take it to the church. Of course, this necessitates being an active member of a local church. The church provides accountability for the offender while providing aid and support for the offended.

To whom will the abandoned wife turn for support? Who will go after the wandering father and call him back to faithfulness? Where will the broken family find help in healing?

### VI. The Local Church belongs to Christ

Community organizations, charities, sports leagues, and recreation groups are great, but Jesus didn't give his life for them.

Jesus died for the church, purchasing her with his blood. Even still, he is building his church and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it! All other institutions, governments, properties, and possessions will pass away—but the Church belongs to Christ forever!

*The Church's one foundation  
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is His new creation  
By water and the Word:  
From heav'n He came and sought her  
To be His holy Bride;  
With His own blood He bought her,  
And for her life He died.  
-Samuel John Stone*

## How Do I Know If My Child Is A Christian?

continued from page 7

Why not baptize immediately? Because although repentance, belief, and confession are the biblical responses to the gospel and salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, there are clearly signs or "fruit" that someone who is truly saved will have in his or her life. Biblically speaking, this is not an option. Hebrews 12:14 says there is a "holiness without which no one will see the Lord." In other words, someone who is truly born again will grow in godliness over time.

### Gospel Inspection

So, for example, after my child expresses repentance, belief, and confession, instead of bringing them into the baptism...

1. I continue to pray for clarity of the gospel and fruit in their lives.
2. I continue to teach and explain the gospel to them to make sure they understand.
3. I teach them about the biblical fruit of a believer.
4. I watch their lives to see if they are exhibiting any of these fruits.
5. I don't expect my child (or anyone else) to become a theologian or a spiritually mature person over night but I do think we can reasonably expect to see

some life change over time.

### What Are The Fruits Of Conversion?

Many others have written extensively about this and the best place to find a good summary of the fruits of a Christian is the book of 1 John. I have listed the five that I most often look for in my own children. None of us always exhibit these things as we should but a Christian should show these in their life as a regular habit.

1. Do they show a love for God?
2. Do they show a desire to know and obey God's Word?
3. Do they show a love for others?
4. Do they become convicted over sin?
5. Do they show a desire for God's mission?

### But How Do I KNOW?

We now come back to the original question. How do I know if my child is saved?

"I know my child is saved because they claim to be saved?" No.

"I know my child is saved because they have reached a certain age." No.

"I know my child is saved because they want to be baptized." No.

"I know my child is saved because they are a good person." No.

"I know my child is saved because they know all the answers to Bible questions." No.

None of those things give us any kind of biblical assurance. These two questions do:

1. Has my child expressed heartfelt repentance of sin, belief in Christ as Savior, and confession of Christ as Lord? (The only way to know is to talk about the gospel and do Gospel Investigation.)
2. Does my child show signs of a changed life? (The only way to know is to do Gospel Inspection.)

### My Hope

I'm still working through these things and I know there are more questions to be considered, but I hope some of this may help parents, pastors, and others who deal with children or youth. Please consider taking more time to discuss the gospel and the biblical responses with children in your home or church. Ultimately, my desire is that we as adults will help guide our children toward Christ in such a way that they would know Him, love Him, and obey Him forever!