

by Ralph Izard, M.D
BMMI Director

BMMI was recently invited to come to a country that most of us only know about from the travels of Marco Polo. China has more than 4,000 years of recorded history. When the news of an invitation to visit China was provided by our BMMI representative there, everyone became excited.

The Lord composed a 12-member BMMI team involving physicians, nurses, and teachers from the United States and 4 team members from the Philippines. One of the main goals of the project was to build relationships with the Chinese doctors, nurses, teachers, and students while in China.

An earlier trip had revealed a need for hospital equipment at the hospital in Nanshan. Therefore, an ambulance was purchased in China and would be presented to the people of Jiexi County.

The team's first stop was in Heyuan for a visit at the college. There, the team was greeted with such enthusiasm that any anxieties were alleviated. The students were excited to meet English speaking people. They planned a special welcoming ceremony that lasted two hours and then requested that we return after our evening meal for another two hour session. Having traveled for over 24 hours before even reaching the school, everyone was very glad to reach their hotel room after the last session.

The next day, a school with primary, junior high, and senior high students was visited. This was the seventh visit to China for one of our teachers and the very first for another, but the students were so pleased that we now have a permanent BMMI office in the school.

The team then traveled by bus over very high mountains to reach the town of Nanshan in Jiexi County to work with their medical professionals and educate them in ways that better health care could be provided. It was also at this time that the ambulance was presented.



The governor of the county, mayor of Nanshan, and the chief-of-staff of the Nanshan Hospital stated that we were the first foreign visitors they had ever entertained and issued us an invitation to return October 12, 2008.

I invite each of you as individuals, Sunday School classes, Vacation Bible Schools, and

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Midyear meeting results in two special committees

Bible versions and allegations of 'lack of accountability in Missions Department' highlighted the midyear meeting

A good number of messengers from each area of the state assembled at Midway First Baptist Church, Sumrall on May 22, for the midyear meeting of the BMA of Mississippi. The meeting turned out to be the most lengthy this writer has been a part of in my 30 years as editor. The meeting dismissed at 5:45 p.m. - almost three hours longer than usual.

President Neal Murphy moderated his first session of the Association after being elected at the 2006 annual meeting. After declaring the Association in session, one petitionary letter was read and the Harmony Baptist Church of Semmes, Alabama, was welcomed into the state work. Don Hilbun is the pastor.

Reports were heard throughout the day from each of the six state missionaries. Each man gave positive reports and shared bless-

ings and goals of their various fields of service.

The midyear message was brought by Bro. Shane Singleton, pastor of Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel. His message was from I Kings 19:1-18 and titled "What Doest Thou Here?"

National Work

Several National Department workers were visiting and reported on their areas of ministry. These included Dr. Kevin Clayton, Director of DiscipleGuide Church Resources; Dr. Charley Holmes, president of BMA Seminary; and George Reddin, Director of LifeWord Broadcast Ministries.



President Neal Murphy

State Reports

Each department and commission of the BMA of Mississippi reported on its ministry. Bro. Vern Holifield gave an encouraging report concerning the Senior Adult Ministry. Two retreats were held this year and well attended. He stated that support for the commission was growing slowly.

Dr. John Adams reported on his work with the Christian Action Commission. He warned of the ultimate goal of the gaming industry in trying to establish 'land based casinos'. He stressed need to support movements and projects such as the National Day of Prayer and how we can make a difference if we are faithful. He had the honor of representing the BMA at our state capital and leading in opening prayer for the State House of Representatives. He and Mrs. Adams have been invited to Washington, D.C. for the 2008 National Prayer Breakfast.

Children's Home Director Sidney Davis reported on the work of the Home and the blessings they received by individuals supporting the Home with various projects. A recent event that raised over \$4,000.00 and was an enjoyable day was a benefit Car Show. The work of the Home continues with training

and ministering to young people who need a loving, Christian environment.

The Missions and Revolving Loan Fund report was given by Bro. Rayburn Freeman. He noted that the Missions Office had been operating at a deficit with its monthly income verses expenses. This was planned when new missionaries were added and a surplus was held in the Missions Office funds. The income for the year to date beginning August 1, 2006 was \$258,377.06 with expenses being \$336,360.93. He encouraged increased giving by our churches and for good offerings for the annual Missions Special Emphasis that ends May 31.

Dr. Medrick Savell reported on the ministry of Southeastern Baptist College noting that increased recruiting efforts had resulted in the enrollment being up. Another highlight of the college report was the announcement of the acquisition of property next to the college on Highway 15 North in Laurel. This prime property became available and with the help of Bro. Freeman and the Revolving Loan Fund the

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Special Investigative Committee Statement

The following is an initial statement from the Investigative Committee that was appointed at the midyear meeting of the BMA of Mississippi

The appointed Investigative Committee would like to offer an assurance to the BMA of Mississippi of the efforts being put forth in dealing with the matter regarding the Missions Office. A joint meeting of the trustees of the Revolving Loan Fund, Missionary Committee, and the Investigative Committee was held May 29th. Interviews were taken of former bookkeeper, Nicki Prickett, her father, John Prickett, and Missions Director Rayburn Freeman. The Investigative Committee is currently considering several recommendations and there is further work to be done, but efforts so far have been handled with great cooperation and so far there has been no indication of any major problem. All developments will continue to be shared as they come into a clearer understanding.

Gary O'Neal, chairman
Shane Singleton, clerk

Midyear Meeting

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college was able to make this purchase. This will be of great value to the school in the future to be used in a number of ways, including expansion.

Auxiliaries

The Brotherhood and WMA each met on Monday evening and reported on their meetings. One note from the Brotherhood was that they had more in attendance than the WMA for this



Brotherhood President Lavon Haden moderates midyear meeting

meeting and their meeting lasted quite a bit longer than the WMA. The WMA announced that their annual meeting



WMA President Jean Knight

in October will be held entirely in the evening hours on Monday before the State Association convenes on the Tuesday after the Third Sunday in October.

Paul Lee, director of the Prisoner's Bible Crusade reported on his work and Bro. Fulton Lindsey gave a report on New Direction Prison Ministries. He plans trips in the future to minister in prisons in either Central America or possibly the Philippines.

Issues brought to floor

Shortly after the afternoon session began, Bro. Josh Spiers, Youth Pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Carriere, spoke concerning two topics - the use of the King James Only Version of Scripture when gathered together in associational capacity and at special events sponsored by the Association. He stated that we all believe that the King James Version is the word of God so why not agree to use only the KJV when we come together.

(It should be noted here for the reader's information that this is the policy of each department and commission and that this has not been a problem within the ranks of the BMA of Mississippi. A few years ago each department worker signed a letter that was sent to all of our churches assuring our people that this was our practice and personal policy. This is conveyed to those we invite to participate in our activities. It is this writer's observation that this practice has been very successful.)

Spiers had brought a motion from Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Carriere, Mississippi, to the National BMA meeting in April concerning this same item and after much discussion the motion was tabled, effectively killing any action on this matter at the national level during the 2007 meeting.



Shane Singleton bringing message

Another concern of his was using speakers who are not Baptists and who are members of denominations with which we do not exchange letters. This is concerning the area of "pulpit affiliation," which is covered in the BMA of Mississippi Doctrinal

Statement #20.

The recent discussion of this subject stems from a Youth Director's meeting (The Great Escape) where non-BMA individuals were used to speak and where they used a Bible translation other than the KJV.

Spiers made a motion that the Association (mostly the pastor's) hold a special meeting at Southeastern Baptist College to discuss the issues. After a second and much discussion, the motion was ruled out of order due to constitutional procedures. Only the president of the Association can call a special meeting between sessions and that for a specific emergency purpose.

The discussion continued for several more minutes concerning a direction to take regarding this matter. Coy Rice, pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Saucier, stated that since we cannot have a special meeting that "we need to hear from BMA pastors in Mississippi that are here

today 'where do we stand and can we get something in writing that says it.'" Rice also stated that when we come together in Associational capacity that he wants something in writing that would require that whoever spoke to us would use only the King James Version. He stated that what they do in their pulpit is up to them and cannot be dictated, but what they were looking for was something that says "they (speakers) have to do that".

It was pointed out at this time by President Murphy that "this very issue was dealt with in detail several years ago and that it is my understanding that there has been correspondence sent out to all the churches and signed by all department heads



Director Ray Freeman gives midyear report on Missions work

agreeing with the very thing that you (Rice) are saying."

Rice answered "I understand that, but the department heads are not the only ones preaching to our children." "We understand that department heads in general are going to use the King James. We are speaking of something that says whoever takes the pulpit in a youth conference in the state of Mississippi, whomever takes the pulpit in a conference for our elders in the state of Mississippi, wherever we come together as an association . . . we are asking can something be done where we know for sure that we are preaching King James, the authorized version."

President Neal Murphy stated that we need a motion before any further discussion could take place. Rice then made the following motion - "I make a motion that in any state association meeting that we use the King James Version of the Bible". Rice later amended his motion that "all scripture be King James".

After the motion was seconded there was much discussion. Bro. Eugene Murphy, former president of Southeastern Baptist College and long time BMA preacher stated, "Nobody ought to have the right to tell me, as a God called minister of the Gospel, that I have got to preach a certain way. It seems that we are trying to dictate to local pastors what we can do and what we cannot do and I'm concerned about that." "Murphy continued, "I just want you to know that in the original text, the Greek and the Ara-

Keeping Kids Busy During the Summer

It is necessary for younger kids to have free, unstructured play time to develop emotionally and mentally to their fullest potential. Parents today often times think that kids need to be involved in structured, purposeful play that leads to learning or it serves no useful purpose. Actually, having your child just go outside and play and make up their own activity is very useful in developing creativity, imagination and learning to be content with one's self. Playing Cowboys and Indians, building a fort, being an explorer, a ballerina, a monkey or an eagle or whatever they come up with, is an important ingredient to childhood development. Be sure you allow your kid to do this.

Do not allow them to play video games or watch TV for hours on end this summer. While this may be a great way to get them out of your hair and keep them quiet, it is a poor parenting technique that will do lasting harm to your child. It is okay to do these activities, but they must be limited each day.

Each child must do daily chores this summer. It doesn't matter how old they are. Find work opportunities that they are capable of performing at their age and insist that they do them. You would be surprised what they are capable of doing. Prepare a chore sheet. There is no need to nag. The family rule is that there is no fun until chores are done. If a friend comes over to play, there is no playing until their chores are done. Stick to this rule and they will quickly learn that you mean business. Meaningful work is a critical skill that all people must learn growing up. They may not like chores, but you are the parent. Be a loving authority in your kid's life and help them do what they need to do to be a future, functional adult.

Help your kids grow spiritually during the summer. This is a great opportunity because you don't have

the daily stressors of school, homework and test. If they are too young to do a personal Bible and prayer time on their own, then you must set aside time each day to help them achieve this. Kids 10 and older can journal in a spiral what they are reading in the Bible to help them establish a daily habit of devotion time. Check it each night.

There are wonderful opportunities for kids to grow spiritually in the summer. I have always found that



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

www.travisplumlee.com

getting kids away from the house and TV, afford them great growth potential with the Lord. Try and plug them in to vacation Bible schools and summer camps. I personally think each kid needs to go to church camp each summer. If you get them away from the world and into the Word for a week, it will do wonders for them.

In my article for teens, I suggested a personal ministry of service during the summer. For little kids, you may need to be involved with them in this ministry. However, it is important that they learn to serve others regardless of how young they are. This is such an intrinsic part of Christianity, that they are never too young to start. Kids love doing this once they get started. Let them offer suggestions that they may like to do. Finding ways for kids to help older members of your home church is a great ministry. You can help them bake cookies and take it to some older person. Be sure the kid is involved and don't do it all for them. There are many creative

things to do as a ministry.

Attitudes and honoring must be vigilantly maintained in the summer. Children must show you respect and honor in all that they do and all that they say. If they fail to do so, then there must be consequences. Maybe they don't get to go to a ball game. Perhaps they get grounded from going to the pool. This hurts. But if discipline doesn't hurt, it doesn't teach. They must understand that their behavior and wrong choices cost them.

Be sure that the discipline is reasonable, respectful and related. Don't be too harsh with the discipline and don't be too lenient. Even though your kids did wrong, teach them. You don't always have to make them feel bad to get them to do better. Don't call them names. Respect them as a person. Be sure with little kids that the discipline is related to what they did wrong. If they did something wrong over at a friend's house, then they are grounded for a time period from going over to the friend's house. Grounding them from TV is not related to the infraction in the aforementioned scenario. Grounding from TV, video games, trampoline, etc. can be for talking back to you or having a wrong attitude about chores.

Having the right balance in discipline, free time and work will require a great deal of wisdom on your part. If any of you lack wisdom, the Bible says to ask the Lord for it. He wants your kids to have a successful summer. Just ask Him for guidance. Just keep in mind that a fulfilling summer is not one that is filled with unending sports and activities. If your kids have no time for devotions and church things, then you are not doing what God wants you to do as a parent. Build into your daily routine a chore time, a quiet time, a service time, a devotion time, meal time with family and free time. Have a blessed summer.

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American Christianity - Laodicean church in the making, says Barna

OneNewsNow.com-More than 20 years of research, says The Barna Group, has revealed a disturbing trend among Americans' spiritual beliefs and behavior: their commitment to orthodox biblical perspectives is "slipping." The director of a recent Barna study says the findings reflect a "spiritual profile" among Americans similar to that of the early church at Laodicea - a church which Jesus admonished for being "neither hot nor cold" and called to repentance.

Every year, The Barna Group explores the "state of America's faith," examining such factors as people's spiritual activity, faith identity, commitment, and religious perspective. This year's poll of more than 1,000

adults (conducted in January) indicates that while Americans are remaining spiritually active, the percentage of those who hold orthodox biblical views has fallen to its lowest level in decades.

"They've actually become less orthodox, less traditional," Barna's David Kinnaman tells Associated Press. "[M]any of their core biblical perspectives have changed."

A report released by Barna summarizes this year's findings. Among them - two-thirds (66%) of Americans believe that God is best described as "the all-powerful, all-knowing creator of the universe who rules the world today." That is down five percent from one year ago and represents the lowest percentage in more than 20

years of similar surveys, notes the report.

In addition, says Kinnaman, "they are less likely to reject the notion that Jesus sinned (37%), and they're less likely to believe that Satan is a real spiritual entity (24%)." Both of those percentages are lower than last year and are among the lowest during the two decades Barna has tracked Americans' views in those areas. The research organization observes that such revelations call into question the sincerity of people's commitment to orthodox biblical perspectives.

Kinnaman puts it this way: while millions of Americans feel personally committed to God, they are apparently "renegotiating" the definition of God.

"They lack a consistent and holistic understanding of their faith," he says in the Barna report. "[They] say they are personally committed to Jesus Christ, but they believe he sinned while on Earth. Many believers claim to trust what the Bible teaches, but they reject the notion of a real spiritual adversary"

The survey director says most Americans seem to have one foot in the "biblical camp" and one foot outside it - placing themselves in what Kinnaman refers to as a "squishy middle."

"They say they are committed, but to what?" he asks. "They are spiritually active, but to what end? The spiritual profile of American Chris-

tianity is not unlike a lukewarm church that the Bible warns about." (Revelation 3:14-22)

It is evident, Kinnaman observes, that most Americans - including those who say they have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ - do not hold strong and clear beliefs. He notes that "as they go from year to year, as they watch movies, as they interact with people, as they rethink their lives, religious perspectives sometimes get put on the shelf."

The ultimate result, he fears, is that the shift away from biblical perspectives will cause America's youth to conclude that the Christian faith does not represent "deep, consistent truths about the spiritual and natural world."

Midyear Meeting

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maic - I don't have any problem with that, I will stand on it till I die, but



Dr. Kevin Clayton, newly elected director of DiscipleGuide Church Resources give report on changes.

every other translation is a translation and every one of them have certain mistakes and errors in translation..."

Committee chosen to make recommendation

After lengthy discussion concerning the original motion and the effect it would or would not have, it was pointed out that to accomplish what was trying to be done would take a constitutional change or a change in articles of cooperation. A number of suggestions and avenues of direction were discussed. In order to bring this matter to a point of action, Don Brown, editor of this publication, pointed out that the pastors and churches of the BMA of Mississippi were all in agreement with the use of the KJV and noted that in our Doctrinal Statement there was a note placed at the end that

Goal of Mississippi amendment? Overturn Roe v. Wade

OneNewsNow.com - Many pro-life advocates believe that the only way to truly outlaw abortion in America is to avoid lengthy legislative battles and address the real issue - recognizing that every human life begins at the moment of conception. That is precisely the aim of an initiative that proposes an amendment to the Mississippi constitution.

David Rogers heads the group "The Campaign for the Ultimate Human Life Amendment." The goal of the campaign is simple: change the Mississippi state constitution to recog-

nize that every human life begins at conception - and hopefully, ultimately overturn Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion on demand in America. Rogers explains how that could happen.

"The simplest way to explain it is, for example, if you are a citizen of Mississippi or citizen of a state, then you're automatically a citizen of the United States," he offers. There is a similar legal linkage concerning personhood, Rogers explains. "If we declare, or if any state declares an unborn child [to be] a person through their constitutional process, then they're automatically a person of the United States," he says. In effect, then, it "legally maneuvers the Supreme Court into protecting unborn children," Rogers adds.

addressed two issues that, although they were not tests of fellowship, they were the "preponderance of opinion" in our work. Brown made the following motion (which was a substitute to a substitute) was placed before the body to "put in writing" the opinion and practice of the majority of our member churches and pastors." - "I move that the moderator appoint three individuals and that three individuals be elected from the body and that they form a committee to bring a recommendation to the annual meeting in October to add a note to the addendum to our doctrinal statement (it would be #3) to address this issue." Parliamentary John Adams said this would clarify the situation and that this would be in writing year after year and would permanently state our opinion as Associational Baptists. The motion passed and the following were elected by the messenger body to serve on this committee: Coy Rice, Ed Steele and Arthur Smith (chairman). Frank Panzrino, Cedric Lumpkin and Tommy Watts were appointed by the moderator to complete the committee. This committee is expected to issue a report and recommendation to be published in the Mississippi Baptist prior to the 2007 Annual meeting for review and consideration of the churches.

Supporters of the Ultimate Human Life Amendment are circulating petitions calling for a statewide vote on Initiative 23 in April 2008. According to Initiative23.com, the signatures of 110,000 registered voters are needed for the item to appear on the ballot.

It may not be that easy. Section 1 of the 14th Amendment says: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall

abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Note that the key words here are BORN OR NATURALIZED, neither of which applies to the unborn. A conservative Supreme Court, one that is bound to go by the Constitution as written, would have to rule that there is no Constitutional protection for the unborn. To do otherwise would be "judicial activism."

Only another amendment redefining citizenship and equal protection for the unborn is appropriate.

Protestors turn out for opening of Creation Museum

The president of Answers in Genesis says he's not surprised that protestors turned out for the opening of the Creation Museum. But Ken Ham finds it ironic that one group claiming to be defending constitutional freedom wants to silence the creation story.

Thousands of people visited the Creation Museum in northern Kentucky for its opening weekend. While overflow crowds toured the apologetics museum, a handful of protestors stood outside the gates. At one point, a group called DEFCON ("DEFend the CONstitution") flew a plane overhead, quoting the Ninth Commandment: "Thou shalt not lie."

Ham found DEFCON's protest ironic. "There's an atheist group, a humanist group and a group called

DEFCON, which supposedly are a group to defend the Constitution," Ham noted. "But all they're doing is defending their liberal agenda."

The Creation Museum has its own uniformed security team, to keep protestors at bay.

"Here they are protesting the opening of a creation museum. In fact, they're saying things like we shouldn't be allowed to present the science we're presenting. They're scared of us," Ham charged. "[Do you] know why they're scared? Because for the first time we've built a major facility where we're using real observational science to confirm the Bible's history."

"They don't like that at all," Ham concluded. "They don't want people to hear this information."



Creation Museum

Barnabas Touch trip set for Cape Verde

The dates are September 13 - 22 and will be led by Bro John David Smith. The cost will be approximately \$2,500 and will include airfare, lodging, food and transportation. If interested please call Bro. Larry Barker at 501-455-4977 or on his cell at 501-766-2606.

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Nicholas Buchanan

Nicholas Buchanan is available for pulpit service in our churches. He and his wife Sarah, are members of Central Baptist Church in Ellisville, Mississippi, where they have been attending for over one year. Brother Nicolas is also a student at Southeastern Baptist College. He has been licensed for several years. You may contact him at 601-319-9699 or his pastor, Joseph Harris at 601-498-8418.

Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

With whom do we disagree?

The discussion concerning the use of the King James Version of the Bible and speakers not of 'like faith and order' at our recent mid-year meeting had its genesis at our national meeting in Fort Smith,



Don Brown
Editor

Arkansas. As stated in the report on this meeting that begins on the front page of this issue, the intent of those voicing concern over this issue is to have in writing the policy and

practice of the BMA of Mississippi when we are gathered together in "associational capacity". This issue, as far as our state work is concerned, is a settled one. The practice of our leaders has always been to honor the traditions and beliefs of the majority of our people concerning the use of Bible translations. The department leaders addressed this issue in recent years by declaring their personal and departmental policy in a letter to each of our churches. When there has been a deviation from this policy by an invited guest who was possibly not made aware of our preferences, it has been handled by those responsible.

The men in charge of these events and involved in the planning are men of integrity and trust. If they were not, they would not have been entrusted with these responsibilities.

A number of individuals stated they were unaware of this letter and its content. This is probably due to their length of time in the

ministry and/or being associated with the BMA of Mississippi. Nevertheless, our beliefs and practices are beyond question.

By demanding that some things that are not now, nor have ever been a test of fellowship among our brethren, to be put in writing is not necessarily a bad thing, but has the potential to cause a breach of fellowship where there is no disagreement.

Let us be very careful as we approach issues of this manner. Such attempts to clarify positions that are agreed upon by an overwhelming majority could be misinterpreted as questioning the beliefs and integrity of others.

Our mission is too important and we should be careful to not create divisions where none exist. Let us hold to our basic beliefs concerning cooperation, the Word

of God, and continue the work that has been given to us and do it without any compromise.

Mission Department Issues

The committee that was elected at the midyear meeting to look into matters concerning the Missions Office has begun their work. (See their statement on page 1)

We have received letters to the editor concerning this matter. Our policy will be to wait for this committee's final report before we entertain the publishing of opinion letters on this subject. Our reason is simple - this is too important an issue to be hashed out in letters without more information. The purpose of this committee is to provide this to our people. Let us pray for them and their work before judging or giving uninformed comment.

Letters From Our Readers

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

Dear Brother Brown,

Greeting in Jesus' Holy Name!

Our thanks for your help towards this ministry in getting our reports to our people. Our Lord continues to bless His Word going into the prisons and jails across our land.

Bro. Paul Lee

Report of Prisoners Bible Crusade for year ending 5-31-2007

Spotlight on the Harrison Co Jail (Mississippi). Since 1995 Prisoners Bible Crusade has given 5,534 Bibles

plus other study materials to the Harrison Co. jail system. I am in my third year of teaching a Bible Study Helps class, both in the big jail and the work center. PBC's Evangelist Team conducts a worship service every 4th Tuesday of each month at the work center.

Chaplain Joe Collins came to the jail as full time Chaplain 6 years ago on May 1, 2001. Chaplain Collins' statistics for those 6 years follows: 1,902 Decisions for Christ; 7,469 Church services; 100,785 Inmates attending; 18,622 Individuals counseled; 27,867 Volunteer hours; 119,827 Bible lessons completed; 165 Life Learning Program (9 classes altogether); 7,917 Bibles given. Along with the Volunteers there are 5 Volunteer Chaplains who together minister for a total of 53 hours each week.

A letter to Chaplain Collins from an Inmate that was in one of my classes: "I want to thank you and mostly thank God for giving me life back and the desire to live and the want to do God's will. For 21 years I was a devout atheist and denied God's existence and creation and all aspects of it. I had no conscience and more so no remorse. You and my brother visited me that day when I had more than 60 stitches and dozens of staples in my neck and arms from attempted suicide. If you remember, I accepted God's existence that day but nothing else. That was a monumental step for me and thank God not my last. Exactly one month after my next two suicide attempts Brother Paul and

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"I told Bro. Eli I went fishing last Sunday. He said I shouldn't give in to 'PIER' pressure".

Brother Joe led me back to the warm grace of my Savior.

Back to God, back to eternal life, to a conscience and to Heaven in the end. Four days after I was saved I went to court and received ten years. I came back here not sad nor depressed, but joyous and smiling. God is Great! Two weeks in the program and I gained a life time. If I could get that from two weeks, it boggles the mind to imagine what 16 weeks is going to do" (Inmate S.)

On May 4, 2007 the Prisoners Bible Crusade was 34 years and has given free of any charges to Prisoners: 163,568 English Bibles, 7,360 Spanish Bibles; 54,053 New Testaments, 68,016 Scripture Portions, 90,395 Study books, 105,189 study helps. Prison Information? State DOC's web sites are linked at: www.prisonersbiblecrusade.org.

Our grateful thanks to God's Children who pray, give, & support giving God's Holy Word to Prisoners
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Free Book Available

Dear Editor,
Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Bro. Ron Beardsley from Canalou, Missouri, has recently written a book entitled, "How To Heal a Hurting Church." The book is 100 pages and printed in large print. It is also written in study format for class use if wanted. I am 40 years old, married for 17

years to Cathy Beardsley (Head) and we have three children, Chelsea (16), Blake (13), and Aaron (8). I have been in the BMA my whole life, and in the ministry for 20 years this August. In that time I have served as pastor, teacher, and also spent some time traveling and evangelizing. God has given me a love for His local church, and laid a burden on my heart for churches who struggle and hurt. God began dealing with me on this subject in particular and I began praying and studying with plans on preaching several series of sermons on the topic. However, the more I prayed and sought God's guidance, the more I became convinced that I was to write these things down in book form. I have never written anything like this before and didn't know how to accomplish it other than by faith. I began this task last year and God began opening doors for me. By the grace of God, I finished and recently had the book published. My desire is to give as many copies to as many churches as I can that God would bless and He be gloried.

The book deals with church division, struggles, hurt and where these problems come from, then how to let God minister and heal those problems. The books are not for sale, but they are free upon request. So far I have handed out roughly 200 of them and have over 1,000 copies left. They are available in two ways:

1. If I am in your area preaching, I will have books with me to give away. (This is the method I would prefer for two reasons. First, I would have an

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Lifeword to Award Overseas Trip for Two To Winning Church in 2007 Walk of Faith

The church that raises the most money for the 2007 Paul L. Bearfield Memorial Walk of Faith will be invited to select two members to accompany the Lifeword production team on a visit to a Lifeword recording studio overseas in 2008, according to Diane Ward, national Walk of Faith coordinator.

The destination for the all-expense-paid trip will be the Philippines, Lebanon, Ghana or Romania. The two, preferably an adult and a young person, from the winning church will meet the Lifeword Regional Director in that country and assist the production team in taping interviews of people who have come to Christ as a result of listening to Lifeword broadcasts.

Lifeword Executive Director George Reddin encourages churches to put the Walk of Faith on their calendars and select a church coordinator immediately.

"Diane Ward is working hard to make this the best year ever for the Walk of Faith. She will soon be mailing pastor postcards to every BMA church and to last year's church coordinators to help remind the pastor of the urgency of early registration," Reddin said. "We are offering

an exciting award this year that should encourage every church to try hard to win it."

Registration Necessary to Qualify

To be eligible for the overseas trip a church must select a church coordinator and register for the Walk, raise the most money and be sure Lifeword receives your money on or before December 31.

To register, call 1-800-543-1090 and say, "I want to register for the Walk of Faith." Be prepared to answer these questions:

Name of church and local association?

Name of pastor and church coordinator?

UPS address of church coordinator (must be a street address and not a PO Box)?

Phone number of church coordinator?

T-shirt sizes of pastor and church coordinator?

Average worship service attendance?

Church coordinators always receive a free Walk of Faith T-shirt. We're encouraging pastors or church coordinators to respond immediately when they receive the reminder card

so that pastors do not miss the July 2 deadline and miss out on a free T-shirt also, Reddin said.

Packets Go To Registered Churches Only

Churches must register to receive Walk of Faith packets with forms and promotional materials and a Walk of Faith video. In the past the packets have been mailed to all BMA churches, but to reduce costs the packets this year will be sent only to the churches who request them by registering.

The Walk is scheduled this year for October 20 except in areas where local situations require a different time. A special "Sign-up Sunday" should be planned in each church about a month before the Walk to enlist walkers and order T-shirts for the participants and others who desire them.

Funds collected from the Walk are used to pay for Lifeword broadcast production and air time and development of new programs in additional targeted languages. The goal this year is \$430,000. Proceeds from T-shirt sales pay the overhead costs so that the money raised from the Walk will all go to broadcasting the gospel to a lost world, Mrs. Ward said.

Short Message Series by Rev. Grover Laird

Have You Become Unfaithful?

"Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men." (Psalms 12:1)

This prayer of David expresses grief because some who once served the Lord faithfully, were not faithful any more. Jesus spoke of this problem existing in these last days, and warned that trouble would come to those who drift away. (Matthew 24:48-51)

In Psalm 119:136, we have another expression of grief because people were not living by the Bible. These could have once been referred to as the godly- "Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law." (Psalms 119:136)

The child of God who drifts away from the Lord will bring more trouble his way than he is prepared to endure. While the righteous will be enjoying his Christian life, the backslider will have about all of the trouble he can stand--"The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways; and a good man shall be satisfied from himself." (Proverbs 14:14)

Because of the grace of God, the faithful have it better now, and also later. Because David had made the Lord His Shepard, the rest of his life in this world, as well as all eternity, looked good. And this can be true with all of the faithful-- "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever." (Psalms 23:6) While some will be ashamed before the Lord at His coming, (I John 2:28) those who have been faithful will be glad "with exceeding joy." (I Peter 4:13) The days ahead are surely bright for the faithful.



Grover Laird

Church Resource Centers Let DiscipleGuide help you set up a resource center in your church

By Bobby L. Hudgens

Pastor, have you ever thought about making the finest books and resources available to your members for purchase right in your own church? DiscipleGuide Church Resources can help you do just that. We'll provide your church with a few books, CDs, and DVDs selected by you to sell to your members. This opportunity will enable you to put resources before your people that will meet needs in your church and support your ministry goals and vision. Some youth pastors are already setting up resource

centers in their churches for students.

Churches can order resources at twenty percent off the retail price with no shipping charges and sell them at the retail price or pass along the discount.

They can return unsold resources for full credit within six months, forty percent back between seven and nine months, and no credit for returns after nine months. The church pays shipping on returns.

If you're interested in learning more about setting up a Church Resource Center, call 870-772-4550 and ask for Janie Wormington.

Scriptures for FATHERS

Directions for Leading the Next Generation

Impact your fathers this Father's Day with the power of God's Word.

This hand-sized booklet compiles all of the major scriptures about fathering, attractively layed out under five key areas--Leading your family, Teaching your children, Praying for your children, Disciplining your children, and Protecting your children. As fathers meditate upon these scriptures they will be powerfully impacted and inspired in leading their own families. 30 pp. KJV

Suggested Donation: \$1.50 each
Order by June 7

For a free sample or to order write:
Hearts of the Fathers
234 Western Ave. Parker, KS 66072
Call: 913-898-6681

Letters

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opportunity to meet you and second, it will allow me the opportunity to distribute more copies.)

2. By mail. I regret to say, but even though the books are free, I cannot afford to pay the postage and shipping charges. Upon written request and \$2.50 per copy, I will be glad to send you one.

You can send your request to:
Ron Beardsley
P.O. Box 942
Sikeston, MO 63801
or call 573-667-0952 (H),
or 573-471-6210 (W).

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

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

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

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

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

Mississippi State W.M.A.

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

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

Name change for National WMA committee

The National WMA Promotion Committee name has been changed to the "Growth and Development Committee". The duties of this committee are explained in the following paragraphs. The WMA is a fantastic organization that needs to continue in every church. While the mission and goals of the WMA remain the same, our membership has evolved into the era of the modern woman who must wear many hats and serve many roles in family, career, church ministries, and community.

The purpose of this committee will be to identify the auxiliaries of the WMA and their needs in order to adapt to changes in today's society.

Members of this committee will consist of the First Vice-president of the National WMA and the President of each State WMA. To keep accurate record of meetings and for the continuity of information, one of the two Recording Secretaries will also

attend any meeting of this committee. It is understood that with term limits, the persons on this committee will change automatically.

The committee should solicit all auxiliaries to submit suggestions and ideas of how to gain new members and retain current members. The Committee should solicit ideas from the membership on realistic methods of gaining and keeping members.

As the National First Vice-president, I am asking for your help in this matter. We as a committee cannot function without your help. Please send suggestions and ideas to your State, District, or Local WMA President. You may also send them directly to me by e-mail - hudsonmatt@sbcglobal.net, or to 364 Columbia 25, Magnolia, AR 71753. We look forward to hearing from you.

Lisa Hudson
National WMA 1st Vice-president

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.

Bethel, Fulton

Greetings from Bethel and all members!

God is good all the time. We are so blessed to serve a true and living Saviour. The Senior Youth made a trip to Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis on the 5th. They took the day to help other children. On the 6th was "Family Day," Dr. Jameson spoke to the teens at 9 a.m. and at 10 a.m. Bro. Tracy McMillen brought a message to the parents. Dr. Martin Jameson brought the morning message at the North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference held at Hopewell Baptist Church on the 8th. The Harmony meeting was held on the 11th at Shady Grove.

On the 13 during the p.m. service the Awana Awards program was presented. Every child was given an award for their participation and for work they had completed. Also on Mother's Day all mother's present were given a booklet, "Blessings of the Cross." Bro. Robert Murphy, a missionary to the Philippines, spoke on the 20th in the morning service. Our GMA's held a Coronation Service also in the 6 p.m. service on the 20th. There have been 4 additions since last report.

Come see us when you can.
Dr. Martin Jameson, pastor
Joyce Cooley, reporter

Rocky Branch, Sumrall

Rocky Branch Baptist Church, Sumrall, will hold dedication services for their recently remodeled sanctuary on June 10. Hosanna will be in concert at 9:00 a.m. and worship services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Sharon, Laurel to hold revival services

Sharon Missionary Baptist Church, Laurel, will have revival services June 4-8, at 7:00 p.m. Bro. Vern Holifield will be the visiting speaker.

Everyone is cordially invited.
Willowese Clark

Lebanon, Laurel, to hold Gospel sing

Lebanon Baptist Church, Highway 28 West, Laurel, will be hosting a Gospel sing on June 2 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. featuring the group, "Calm Assurance" and "In Faith." An offering will be taken to help with support

continued on page 7

The Seed

A successful Christian business man was growing old and knew it was time to choose a successor to take over the business. Instead of choosing one of his directors or his children, he decided to do something different. He called all the young executives in his company together. He said, "It is time for me to step down and choose the next CEO. I have decided to choose one of you. "The young executives were shocked, but the boss continued. "I am going to give each one of you a SEED today - one very special SEED. I want you to plant the seed, water it, and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from the seed I have given you. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next CEO".

One man named Jim was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly told his wife the story. She helped him get a pot, soil and compost and he planted the seed. Everyday he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about three weeks some of the other executives began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow. Jim kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. Three weeks, four weeks, five weeks went by, still nothing. By now, others were talking about their plants, but Jim didn't have a plant and he felt like a failure. Six months went by - still nothing in Jim's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Jim didn't say anything to his colleagues however. He just kept watering and fertilizing the soil - He so wanted the seed to grow.

A year finally went by and all the young executives of the company brought their plants to the CEO for inspection. Jim told his wife that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But she asked him to be honest about

what happened. Jim felt sick at his stomach, it was going to be the most embarrassing moment of his life, but he knew his wife was right. He took his empty pot to the board room. When Jim arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other executives. They were beautiful - in all shapes and sizes. Jim put his empty pot on the floor and his colleagues laughed - a few felt sorry for him!

When the CEO arrived he surveyed the room and greeted his young executives. Jim just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants, trees, and flowers you have grown," said the CEO. "Today one of you will be appointed the next CEO!" All of a sudden, the CEO spotted Jim at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered the financial director to bring him to the front. Jim was terrified. He thought, "The CEO knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me fired!"

When Jim got to the front, the CEO asked him what had happened to his seed - Jim told him the story. The CEO asked everyone to sit down except Jim. He looked at Jim, and then announced to the young executives, "Behold your next Chief Executive! His name is Jim!" Jim couldn't believe it. Jim couldn't even grow his seed. How could he be the new CEO the others said?

Then the CEO said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone in this room a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds. They were dead - it was not possible for them to grow. All of you, except Jim, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Jim was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new Chief Executive!"

-submitted by Dr. Tony Cleaver

GMA Girls

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

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

National GMA Camp nears

National GMA camp is coming up soon! The camp date this year is June 12-15 at Daniel Springs Encampment in Gary, Texas. "My Special Place" is the theme and the theme verses are John 14:2,3. The project goal this year is \$25,000 and this money would go toward 90% Bolivia Houseboat and 10% General Fund.

Each church is reminded to decorate a box to look like a treasure chest and fill it up with money for the project. These treasure chests will be displayed at camp and a competition will be held for the chests. Camp t-shirts are being sold for \$12, so be sure to get your order into Mrs. Carol Taylor as soon as possible. Also, any project sheets can be sent to Lauren Fagala.

With candy grams, grab bags, and buttons, as well as the silent auction, campers will have the opportunity to get really cool stuff while supporting the project.

Camp this year is going to be a blast! Please continue to pray for God to work in girls' hearts and lives.

Allena Burns, Corresponding Secretary

WMA NEWS FLASH

Have you heard the good news? We are hearing that WMA's all over the country are getting busy to double their contributions this year to the National WMA Project. That project is a double header. 40% for BMAA Theological Seminary Missions Video Classroom, 40% to buy an ambulance for use in the Guandong Province of China, 15% Youth Fund and 5% WMA General Fund.

It seems that more ladies are intent on being known as Women's Missionary Auxiliary instead of Women Messing Around.

Send funds designated for Project to: National WMA, c/o Glenda Tipton, P.O. Box 95274, North Little Rock, AR 72190

Attention WMA Ladies

Don't forget our state WMA project for this year is 25% General Fund and 75% Bro. Ed Duvall Building Fund.

We encourage every lady to pray and give what the Lord has laid upon your heart to give. Let's give to missions like the Lord told us.

Lynn McCoy
State WMA Project Promoter

Big Creek WMA, Soso

My, how times goes by. Hard to believe that we have only about four months left in the 2006-2007 church year.

We are blessed to have Mrs. Bonnie Brown as a member of our WMA. What a blessing she is to us. We are

enjoying her bringing our Bible studies. So far she has shared a very touching study on "The Crucifixion of Christ." Oh, what a great love Christ had for us to give His life for our sins that we may have assurance of eternal life in Heaven with Him. Just think what great and glorious things we have to look forward to. She has also shared a very interesting study on "The Life of Job;" the meaning of different names of God." She is now bringing a series of studies on "Ruth."

We support quarterly the District, State, and National WMA projects. We also support Medical Missions quarterly. The Lord has blessed and allowed us to give two extra offerings to our National WMA project. He also allowed us to give a special offering to our State Publications Department. We give the Lord all praise and glory! I think I can speak for each lady of our WMA in saying, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

On Wednesday night, April 11, the GMAs and their counselors honored our WMA to show their appreciation for our support in their service for Christ through GMA. They presented a very tidily program, "The Price Tag of Character," II Peter 1:52. We enjoyed the delicious refreshments and a time of Christian fellowship.

Let us remember one another in prayer as well as we all reach out in service for Christ through WMAs.

Interim Pastor, Don Brown
WMA Reporter, Rovenia Hunnell

National Missions Department News

Missionaries on Furlough

Bro. and Mrs. Robert (Connie) Murphy - will be in the States April - July, 2007

Bro. and Mrs. John (Margaret) Lindsey - April - June, 2007

Barnabas Touch Trips Planned for 2007

You are invited to join one of our

teams this year as we go to encourage and help equip our national missionaries. The following trips are planned for 2007: Ghana (July 30-August 10), Cape Verde/Portugal (September); Guatemala (November 26 - December 3). Your brothers in Christ really need you to touch their lives. For further information and costs involved contact Bro. Larry Barker at

918-869-7966 (or through the Missions Office at 501-455-4977, or e-mail him at barnabastouch@suddenlink.net.

BMMI Schedule for 2007

Looking for a place to plug into the Great Commission? If so, we suggest that you go on a BMMI Trip this year. You can touch many lives through this outreach ministry, where hundreds of people come to know Christ each year. The following trips are

planned for 2007: Thailand (June); Ukraine (July 6-13); Jordan (August 3-13); Bolivia (October 10-20); Romania (October 31 - November 8); Nigeria (November 30 - December 8); (All trips are subject to change). Contact Mrs. Doris Dickey or Dr. Ralph Izard at 501-455-4977 for further details.

Our Directors are Anxious to Visit Your Church to Preach and Present BMAA Missions. Should you desire

us to visit your church please contact us at 501-455-4977 or at bmaam@bmaam.com.

Join the Great Commission Prayer Force

You may enroll by calling 501-455-4977. You will receive a monthly prayer bulletin, and join over 4,000 other BMAA members who intercede for our missionaries on a daily basis.

How to Get to Heaven
from **LAMAR COUNTY**
Vacation Bible School

Midway First Baptist Church
77 Midway Church Road
(Midway Community)
Sumrall, Mississippi
Phone 601-264-6647

June 4 - 8
6:30 - 8:30 PM

Bible teaching, Music, Missionary Stories, Puppets, Games and more !!!!

A program for children that will be enjoyed by all ages. Call if transportation is needed.

Directed by the Gary Thomas Family
"A Heart For Home Ministries"
Clarksville, Arkansas

Check Out Our New Standing Order Policy

By Bobby L. Hudgens

For your convenience DiscipleGuide Church Resources now offers standing orders for your literature purchases. With a standing order your church will automatically receive the same quantities each quarter without someone from your church having to place an order. However, when it is necessary to change a quantity or order new items, someone will need to call 1-800-333-1442 to inform us about those changes.

When placing your order, please state that you want this to be a standing order. Provide the following information for standing orders:

- Name of church
- Billing address
- Ship to name
- Ship to address
- Church account number
- Phone number and/or e-mail address for person who places orders
- Phone number of church

Please note the following deadlines for making changes to a standing order during the year.

- Spring January 1
- Summer April 1
- Fall July 1
- Winter October 1

Summer Camp Schedule 2007

Harmony

Tishomingo State Park
June 18, 19, 20, 2007



Greg Medenwald
Speaker

Tombigbee, Judson

June 4,5,6, 2007
Tombigbee State Park
Speaker -Travis Plumlee



Travis Plumlee

South Central Junior Camp

Gulf Coast Community College
June 27, 28, 29, 2007
Cost" \$75.00
Program - Thomas Family



Thomas Family

State Junior High, Senior

Gulf Coast Community College
July 11,12,13, 2007
Cost" \$75.00



Greg Medenwald
Speaker



Brandon Wilson
Music

Church News

from page 6

of the singing ministry.

The Pastor, T. Aaron Maxwell and the church membership, invite the public to come and enjoy the evening of gospel music.

T. Aaron Maxwell, Pastor

Harmony Baptist Association Report

On May 11, 2007 the Harmony Association met at Shady Grove Baptist Church, Tishomingo. Bro. Frank Panzrino is our Moderator. Doyle Phifer led singing and Bro. John Adams led the prayer. Shady Grove presented a special. Bro. Rayburn Freeman preached from Joshua 4:1-7.

Reports given: Bro. Lee on Revolving Loan Fund; Bro. John Adams on Christian Action Commission; Bro. Jacob Normal, missionary to

Colorado; Bro. Elvis Garcia, missionary at Ripley.

There were 12 churches in attendance with 76 present.

Frank Panzrino, Moderator
Maxine Phifer, Reporter

Church to hold 2 day VBS

First Baptist Church of Shady Grove in Laurel will hold its summer Vacation Bible School on June 8 & 9. Friday night activities will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. On Saturday morning we will meet from 9:00 am to Noon with lunch to be served. Our theme is "Take The Plunge" and is for ages 2 to sixth grade. All area children are invited for a time of lessons, crafts, games, snacks and more. For more information contact Children's Director Amy Hinton at 601-426-6098 or 601-422-8710.

Unity Baptist Church, McHenry, Mississippi

2007 has been a great year for us at

Unity. We have had two additions to our church

so far this year; Bro. Justin Fregoe and Mrs. Marie Riley (who will be baptized Sunday). We have been having First Wednesday Night Fellowship Meals as families together at the Church. The Tackett Family from Gulfport, came and sang for us on April 29th. We have been busy passing out care packages in the community. The youth are busy having fund raisers, as they are planning a trip to Gulf Shores, Alabama, on June 30th. We are planning our VBS for July 25th-27th. We are very close to finishing our new fellowship hall; we are very excited and hope to get into it soon. If you are in the McHenry area come and worship with us.

Unity Baptist Church has unanimously voted and under strong conviction believes that the KJV Bible is the only true word of God.

Micki Smith, Reporter
Carlos Smith, Pastor

Keep an Eye on the Gauge

What is the greatest adventure you've ever been on? One of the greatest adventures I ever had the pleasure of being on was when I was a truck driver for Heafner Tire in Jackson. Since I have (on occasion) shared with you my great driving skill and lack of attention span, imagine that combination behind the wheel of a two ton delivery truck. Yeah, it would scare me too! But there were a lot of interesting things to learn in that job.



Shane's World

Shane Singleton

I learned that there are some stretches of highway in our great state (and the state of Louisiana) that are so empty you wonder where the people in the area go to work, school, or church. There are no signs of civilization - the Golden Arches, the Colonel's Bucket, or the Taco's Bell. There also aren't any signs that say BP, Amoco, Shell, or so on and believe it or not that's even more scary - nothing like running out of gas in the middle of nowhere with a load of eighteen wheeler tires. So you learned to watch the gauge. It was a bad thing for it to be nearing the "E". Our lives are much like that to.

We live day to day and we either seem to have a great days or bad days. We feel stronger or weaker. That comes from the results of the choices that we make. Recently, I enjoyed a good meal with our College/Career Sunday School class at a buffet restaurant. I chose to 'show out' and felt weak all the way home! Seriously, if we would have strength day to day, we need to watch the gauge. But this time it would be a good thing to be on "E".

The Apostle Paul wrote (and I am paraphrasing) that as a Christian all things were lawful to him. That's true of us, too. If we have accepted Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, then every sin past, present, and future has been forgiven. In a sense we are free to do whatever we want to do - but if we are not careful we abuse God's grace. That's when we watch the gauge, because Paul said that even though all things were lawful all things were not expedient, nor were they edifying. And that's how we measure.

Expedient describes the activities that we take part in every day. It means that we do those things which are advisable, appropriate, and useful. Some things, people say, the Bible doesn't deal with specifically and gives us reason to act like we want. Paul says ask yourself if what we wish to do is appropriate or useful. The better questions - Is what I am doing or where I am going, going to help me grow spiritually? Is it beneficial to my Christian life and testimony? Does it bring glory to God?

If the answer is no to any of these questions, it would be expedient to not do that thing. All things can be done does not mean all things should be done - if it does not bless our heart and soul, then we ought not do it. Edifying describes not what we do, but how we go about doing it. It reminds us that whatever we do as Christians we do not do alone, but rather we build together. Just as expedience deals with how we each might live our life, edification describes how the actions of our lives affect the lives of those around us. Your actions, my

actions, the actions of those around us - we affect one another. But do we do so in good ways?

Edification teaches us that we should strive to benefit each other. The questions are the same... Is what I am doing or where I am going helping my brethren to grow spiritually? Is it beneficial to their Christian life to see my example? Does it bring glory to God? All

things can be done and they should be done with the benefit of others in mind. If we go to far in our cars without keeping an eye on the gauge, we soon find ourselves resting on the "E" and with no power to go forward. The same is true of our daily Christian living, except we do want to rest on the "E" - expedience and edification. If we are not doing these things we lose our power to go forward. What's the greatest adventure you've ever been on?

The greatest adventure any of us can go on is the life for Christ day by day. To benefit others, to bless our heart and soul, and to glorify Him - that's strength, that's power, that's living... But remember to keep an eye on the gauge!

On The Other Side

by Donnie Boutwell

Stephen was stoned because he preached the word,
 Paul was run out of town, folks didn't like what they heard.
 Jesus was never popular with the self righteous crew,
 Moses had his hands full with a million backslidden Jews.
 Elijah fled to the mountains because of Queen Jezebell,
 James preached the Word, it landed him in jail.
 John wouldn't compromise, for that he lost his head,
 Daniel kept on praying, with the lions he made his bed.
 Jeremiah recorded God's Word, the King burned the scroll,
 Countless others suffered for standing strong and bold.
 These folks had it bad, that cannot be denied,
 But their reward was waiting on the other side.
 Just remember what Stephen saw, when he looked to the sky,
 Jesus waiting to greet him, when he bid this world good-by.
 Maybe Paul wasn't welcome in everybody's town,
 But on the other side, he'll wear a golden crown.
 So amidst the trials and troubles of this temporary place,
 Remember on the other side, we see the Saviour's face.

BMA of Mississippi MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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 Rayburn Freeman, Director



History reveals that Missions has always been the purpose and objective of Mississippi Baptists. Missions have been demonstrated in the lives of those who have gone before us as they struggled with various issues of our growing pains.

The issues may have been differences of opinion in operational policies, administration, finances, selection of a missionary or mission location, communication, or information issues. Whatever, God's people were able to keep their eyes on the goal of doing missions and building strong churches. Their determination gave them strength to see these issues as growing pains that could be overcome through the Lord's leadership. We shall follow their example.

In the Baptist work every member has a place and voice on the Lord's team to reach the lost, build strong churches and associational fellowships. The State Association and Committees are appreciated for their kind consideration and immediate attention being given to the current issue regarding the Missions Office. I am confident that God's will is being sought and followed to resolve the matter.

Special Missions Emphasis

The BMA of Mississippi 2007 Special Missions Emphasis is now history. The response of the churches is looking good.

Special Missions Emphasis giving through 5/30/07

First Baptist, Bay Springs	138.75
Sharon	100.00
Movella	65.00
Riverside	150.00
Community	139.00
Hopewell, Fulton	100.00
Thomas Street	495.00
Forked Oak	81.00
Paramount	201.00
Fairview	80.24
Shady Grove, Tishomingo	300.00
New Bethany	88.00
Lee's Chapel #2	89.56
Skyway Hills	2,500.00
Movella	65.00
Parkview	200.00
Total	4,792.55
Last Month's Total	2,731.99
May 30 Gross Total	\$ 7,524.54

Americans fail test of religious knowledge

Did you know that Sodom and Gomorrah were cities in the Bible which were destroyed for their sinful ways? If you did, you know more than the majority of high school seniors.

That's according to an article in USA Today, which cited a survey that said - shockingly - that 50% of U.S. high school seniors thought Sodom and Gomorrah were a married couple.

If that's hard to believe, you might need to pick up a copy of Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know - and Doesn't. Written by Stephen Prothero, chairman of the religion department at Boston University, the book highlights what Prothero considers our culture's disastrous ignorance of basic Biblical knowledge - and why that ignorance is bad for our republic.

It's not just the culture's ignorance of Christianity that bothers Prothero, since many Americans are also oblivious to the most basic religious beliefs of Jews, Muslims, Hindus - you name it. This lack of awareness can cripple Americans' understanding of important current events.

"If you think Sunni and Shia are the same because they're both Muslim, and you've been told Islam is about peace, you won't understand what's happening in Iraq. If you get into an argument about gay rights or capital punishment and someone claims to quote the Bible or the Quran, do you know it's so?" Prothero asks.

USA Today, 3/8/07



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

GRADUATIN'

Around this time of year there's a lot of graduatin' going on: kindergarten, middle school, high school, college, university - whatever. The candidates will all wear those little square hats and they're called mortar boards. Now brick layers use mortar boards to mix or apply mortar.

I got to thinking about the boards that these graduates might be exchanging their mortar boards for - like rub board, dough board, key board, out board (motor if you're going to be a fisherman), on the board (of a company or organization), providing board (as in a hotel or restaurant).

All of these different directions are possible and there is a lot of uncertainty for young folks. There is a guide to direct them through this time of decision. He is called the Holy Spirit.