

Committee Report

Special Investigative Committee Update

After extensive interviews with Bro. Rayburn Freeman, John Prickett, Nicki Prickett, and Melissa Randolph, auditor from Horne CPA, it is the finding of the appointed Investigative Committee that the allegations against Bro. Freeman and the Missions Office did not involve any acts of fraud.

The question regarding the amount of \$9,466.96 was found to include only \$3,597.38 of mishandled funds (\$2,487.93 as reported by the Revolving Loan Fund in letters to our churches; \$1,109.45 in receipts received by the Missions Office after the letters had been mailed, but taken care of before the appointing of this committee). In an effort to repay the Revolving Loan Fund the misappropriated funds, there was no fraudulent activity found on the part of Bro. Freeman, but lax business practices were discovered.

This committee would like to assure the Association that the Revolving Loan Fund is strong and growing. Recommendations regarding the business practice of the Missions Office and Revolving Loan Fund will be forthcoming.

Gary O'Neal, chairman
Shane Singleton, clerk

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The Blessing of Contentment

by Bro. Grover Laird
from *The Revivalist*
January 1999

"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." (Philippians 4:11)

The Philippians had sent an offering to Paul on the mission field that caused him to rejoice "in the Lord greatly." But he explained that his joy was not over the offering; his joy was over the care they had for him and the fruit that would abound to their account. (verses 10,17) This was true, as he explained in our text, because he had learned in whatsoever state he was in to be content. If an offering came in he felt he needed it and was thankful. If no offering came in he felt he didn't need one and was content. (Verse 12)

If we get a feeling that Paul was living on a plane that pleased and honored the Lord, inspired and encouraged others, and put him in line for blessings and peace, we are right. This world does a lot of unnecessary suffering and misses a lot of wonderful blessings because of murmuring, complaining, and living with an ill spirit of discontent.



Grover Laird

When Paul said he had learned in whatsoever state he was in to be content, he was not speaking of his dedication to the Lord. In the proceeding chapter he had said, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14) We should never cease to pray for grace to love the Lord more, to serve the Lord more faithfully, and to live more holy. To live in contentment is to be satisfied

with the Lord's will for our life. Wherever the Lord wants us, whatever the Lord wants us to do, and whatever conditions the Lord wants us to live and serve under; we should be content with it. Now consider three thoughts concerning contentment.

Discontentment Destroys Happiness

Being content with the will of God is more than being willing to live in His will. It involves being happy with it. Therefore, for one to accept God's will for his life will bring peace. But for one to be discontent with God's will for his life will destroy peace.

Being discontent and dissatisfied is common for mankind. Though the Lord "daily loadeth us with benefits," (Psalm 68:19) man seemingly can never get enough - "Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied." (Proverbs 27:20) This is especially true of money. Many who

see Contentment on page 2

DiscipleGuide Introduces Field Consultant Program

By Bobby L. Hudgens

The publishing ministry of DiscipleGuide Church Resources (formerly Baptist Publishing House) is ratcheting up its ability to meet the resource needs of BMAA churches. A DiscipleGuide Field Consultant program will soon be launched. Field consultants are being sought nationally who will consult with churches about their literature needs. Among the major responsibilities of this part-time, commission-only position will be to call on churches (including non-BMAA churches) that are not currently using DiscipleGuide literature and resources.

Commissions will be paid to consultants on all new accounts they generate, and that includes accounts that have been idle for four years or more. Commissions will be twenty percent of total sales for two years and five percent thereafter. The same commissions will apply to active accounts where the amount of materials purchased increases.

Those interested in obtaining more information about this program may call DiscipleGuide Church Resources at 1-800-333-1442. Ask to speak with Customer Service Director Janie Wormington.



DiscipleGuide
CHURCH RESOURCES

Coordinating Council Update

Members hold retreat to review work

The BMA Coordinating Council met at the Lakeview Camp in Waxahachie, Texas, on May 14-16, 2007. Those attending were Richard Smith, David Watkins, Philip Attebery, Roy McLaughlin, and Ronald Morgan. Directors present were: Kevin Clayton, Ron Chesser, Grady Higgs, Charley Holmes, and George Reddin.

Steve Crawley, Director of Development for Lifeword, was invited as a consultant to facilitate sessions on long-range/strategic planning.

Rodney Castleberry, Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Morrilton, Arkansas, was invited as a consultant regarding the training of departmental trustees. The council is seeking to assist departments and agencies in the development of established trustee policies. The purpose is to enhance each board's stewardship and oversight of its department.

Each department director informed the council of his department's upcoming plans and goals. This included fund-raising and project update from the seminary's Golden Jubilee campaign.

Several recommendations will be made to the association as a result of the meeting. These include moving the offering for DiscipleGuide, BMA Seminary, Moral Action Committee and Ministers Resource Services from Easter to August in 2008. This is due primarily to the timing of Easter in 2008.

An amendment to the constitution will be proposed for 2008 that would allow the nominating committee to recommend members of the Missions Advisory Committee and the International and North American Revolving Loan committees (Article XIX 2A).

As a result of both long-range planning sessions and review of questionnaires evaluating the 2007 annual meeting, the council will seek to address the needs of young pastors by hosting a luncheon at the 2008 national meeting and by preparing for leadership training.

Evaluation forms for Annual Review of Budgets and Fund-Raising were provided for each department/agency head. The council's annual advising of these issues is scheduled for August 23, 2007.

Moral Action Committee

Baptist Missionary Association of America
6273 Miller Rd., Swartz Creek, MI 48473
810-635-4845



Dr. Roy McLaughlin
Director

Editor's Note: Listed below are the four resolutions presented and passed by the messengers at the 2007 annual meeting of the BMA of America meeting in Fort Smith, Arkansas this past April.

Resolution I On The Sanctity Of Life

Whereas, the Bible affirms that the unborn baby is a person bearing the image of God from the moment of conception (Psa. 139:13-16; Luke 1:44); and

Whereas, Scripture further commands the people of God to plead for protection for the innocent and justice for the fatherless (Psa. 72:12-14; Psa. 82:3; James 1:27); and

Whereas, the Baptist Missionary Association of America has maintained a robust commitment to the sanctity of all human life, including that of the unborn, beginning with pro-life resolutions in 1990; and

Whereas, in a previous associational meeting we have adopted a positional paper which affirms that children "from the moment of conception, are a blessing and a heritage from the Lord;" and further affirms that Missionary Baptists are mandated by Scripture to "speak on behalf of the unborn and contend

for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death;" and

Whereas, the legacy of Roe v. Wade has grown to include ongoing assaults on human life such as euthanasia, the harvesting of human embryos for the purposes of medical experimentation, and an accelerating move toward human cloning; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the messengers to the Baptist Missionary Association of America meeting in Fort Smith, Arkansas, April 16-18, 2007, reaffirm our belief that the Roe v. Wade decision was an act of injustice against innocent unborn children as well as against vulnerable women in crisis pregnancy situations, both of which have been victimized by a "sexual revolution" that empowers predatory and irresponsible men and by a lucrative abortion industry that has fought against even the most minimal restrictions on abortion; and be it further

Resolved, that we offer our

prayers, our love, and our advocacy for women and men who have been abused by abortion and the emotional, spiritual and physical aftermath of this horrific practice; affirming that the gospel of Jesus Christ grants complete forgiveness for any sin, including that of abortion; and be it finally

Resolved, that we pray and work for the repeal of the Roe v. Wade decision and for the day when the act of abortion will be not only illegal, but also unthinkable.

Resolution II On Prayer And Christian Citizenship

Whereas, God holds all societies accountable to His standards of righteousness (Gen. 6:1-13; 18:20-21; 19:12-13; Jonah 1:1-2); and Whereas, Jesus taught that Christians are the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matt. 5:13-16); and

Whereas, Approximately 75% of

Christians who are eligible to vote do not vote regularly; and

Whereas, The upcoming national elections will provide keys to our future and many Americans are beginning to realize that God is the One who hold the keys, and

Whereas, It is recognized historically that spiritual awakening has come in similar periods as the result of unified, explicit, extraordinary prayer on the part of all God's people and acknowledging that prayer is indeed our greatest need and most powerful resource; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Missionary Baptist Churches be encouraged to dedicate one Sunday this year as a time of prayer for our Nation, and to covenant to pray consistently for a worldwide spiritual awakening in our time; and be it further

Resolved, That we enjoin all Christians to learn about the platforms of all candidates in any election; and

see Resolutions on page 3

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.

Calvary, Taylorsville

Bro. John Riles and the congregation at Calvary Baptist Church, Taylorsville announce their summer revival for July 8-11. Bro. Vern Holifield will be the speaker and services will begin each evening at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to come and participate in this series of services.

Leakesville Baptist Church to hold revival

We will be in revival from June 24-29. We will have different speakers each evening at 7:00 p.m. They are Chirs Wells, Milford Magers, Malcolm Clark, David Clark, Scott Steele and Sidney Farmer.

We invite all to come and worship with us.

David Clark, pastor

Oakland, Vicksburg

Greetings from OBC! June is a busy month for us here at Oakland. Our VBS-Galilee by the Sea-will be the 11th-15th from 6-8 p.m. We will be honoring our fathers in the morning service on the 17th. On the 24th, we will be privileged to have John and Margaret Lindsey (missionaries to Africa) during the evening service. We would love to have you visit us during this special service!

And we will be taking our junior youth to Junior Camp the end of the month.

Rebecca Busby, clerk
Michael Moore, pastor

Springhill, Laurel to hold revival

Springhill Baptist Church of Laurel will be hosting her annual summer revival on June 24-27, 2007. Sunday services will begin at 9:45 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon services. We will be having morning and evening services, Monday through Wednesday. The morning services will begin at 10:30 a.m., and the evening services will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Brother Ed Steele will be leading us as we worship our heavenly Father. We would like for you to come and be with us during this time of worship. In the meanwhile pray that lost sinners would be redeemed, and that saints would be revived unto the Lord. Also be in prayer for Brother Steele as he prepares to bring God's Word unto us.

Steven Clark, Pastor

Tombigbee Meets

Fellowship and a delicious meal was enjoyed at East Amory Baptist Church on May 10. We began with a devotional by Wexfor Parmer and special music by the host church. We approved a motion to honor Doyle Umfress in our next minute book for his years of service as treasurer. Roger Franks is our new treasurer.

Reports were give on Southeastern College; by Missionary Norman on his work in Colorado; and about our upcoming Tombigbee Camp. CAC Director John Adams reported on his work and then brought our evening message.

Roger Akers, president
Wanda Parmer, reporter

Contentment

from page 1

have the most are daily under pressure in their quest for more - "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance: with increase: this is also vanity." (Ecclesiastes 5:10)

But this constant greed for more has several painful results that keeps people from being happy. Several of them are found in two verses of Scripture that Paul wrote to Timothy. Notice them carefully: "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lust, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (I Timothy 6:9,10) Therefore those who make money their priority endanger themselves to strong temptations that could drown them in destruction and ruin. It could cause them to backslide from the Bible which would bring many painful experiences that would cut to the heart. Discontent does destroy happiness.

Being discontent brought many painful judgments upon Israel on their way from Egypt to Canaan--judgements that surely destroyed happiness. Shortly after leaving Sinai they became discontent and started complaining. This resulted in the fire of the Lord burning among them that consumed many. (Numbers 11:1) A little later they became discontent again and started complaining. This resulted in many more dying with a new cemetery being started in the wilderness called Kibrothhattaavah (the graves of them that lusted). (Numbers 11:31-

35) Later there arose discontent over God's choice of leadership that brought about the death of several thousand others. (Numbers 16) Discontent also brought fiery serpents which bit the people "and much people of Israel died." (Numbers 21:6)

Paul wrote about those things that happen to Israel in their wilderness journey and said, "Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted." (I Corinthians 10:6) Since we are to learn from what happened to Israel, we should therefore never expect complaining in discontent to help us obtain anything good. It will make things worse.

This does not mean however, that there is no way for a Christian to enjoy material prosperity. The man who was called "The Father of the Faithful" was very rich. But notice how it happened. Abraham was called of God to leave his country and people and go into a strange land. (Genesis 12:1) He obeyed, "and he went out, not knowing whether he went." (Hebrews 11:8b) Though such a move could have brought poverty, Abraham wanted to please God. (Psalm 143:10) In that strange country he gave Lot the best of the land and took what was left over. Though this could have also brought poverty, Abraham wanted to please God. (Philippians 2:4) When Sodom and Gomorrah were overcome by four city kings and the people were carried away captive (including Lot), Abraham armed his trained servants and rescued them. Though he had to jeopardize his own life and possessions, he wanted to please God. (Leviticus 19:18) When he was returning from his victory he met the priest of the most high God and "gave him tithes

of all." Though he was giving away rather than gathering in, Abraham wanted to please God. (Proverbs 3:9) When the king of Sodom insisted that Abraham keep all the goods for himself he refused. He wanted to please God. (Genesis 14:22,23) Though Abraham's whole concern in all of these things was not to get rich but to please God, he found himself "very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold." (Genesis 13:2) He had enough servants that he could pick out 318 of them to be trained for war. (Genesis 14:14)

Abraham did not become rich because he was discontent and gave his life to be rich. If that had been the way he obtained his wealth he would have inherited a lot of trouble with it. (Remember I Timothy 6:9,10) He was rich because he sought FIRST to please God in all things. (Remember Matthew 6:33) When wealth comes because one is doing the will of God, the sorrows are not added - "The blessings of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it." (Proverbs 10:22b) Discontentment therefore does destroy happiness and produces misery. (Numbers 11:1)

Contentment Brings Blessings

To move from being discontent to being content, is a move from suffering loss to obtaining blessings. One thing, we obtain more through our praying when we live in contentment, thanksgiving and praise. If we feel a need to go to the Lord for more and better things, Our prayer should manifest contentment and thanksgiving - "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

see Contentment on page 6

When I Was in Trouble

Psalm 66:14
by Dr. Tony Cleaver, pastor
Tabernacle Baptist Church
Jacksonville, Texas

Introduction

All of us have been in trouble. We have experienced personal illness, family illness, financial trouble, work/job trouble, neighborhood trouble, family trouble, marriage trouble, child trouble, and other assorted troubles that are common to humankind.

When we are in trouble many times we bargain with God. Some in the military say, "If you will get me out of this combat zone I will...for you." Sometimes a parent at the bedside of a sick child the parent says, "God if you will heal my child, I will...for you."

Many are our promises to God. Many are our unfulfilled promises to God. Here the psalmist says he will fulfill his vows he made to God. Some of those vows include but are not limited to:

1. Come to God's house (v 13) Many don't do the very basic-show up! Attend worship! The psalmist said that his feet had almost slipped out from under him until he went to the house of God. Then he understood the very processes of life are controlled by God. (Psalm 73: 2, 17)

2. Give an offering (v15) When the plate is passed put something in. Has God given anything to us? The

obvious answer is, "He has given us all we have!"

3. Study the Word (v 16) Open the Bible to hear God's Words. Many have advanced academic degrees and that is wonderful. Most have pre-juvenile understanding of God's Word and that is not wonderful.

4. Give your testimony (v 16) Walk the walk as well as talk the talk. As life gives opportunity share verbally with those you are in contact the blessings of God in your life. Tell of His help for you when you were in trouble.

5. Praise the Lord (v 17) Praise leads us to so many other things, but it all begins with praise. Ingratitude is a terrible thing. Ingratitude turns the stomach of the one who has been gracious. Praise to God is the antidote for ingratitude.

6. Turn from sin (v18) Repent, turn around, change your mind, go in the opposite direction from life's direction now. We get busy with life. We acclimate to doing things in certain ways. We need to consider life's ways.

7. Respond to Love (v20) When children respond their parents enjoy and are delighted. God is delighted when His children respond to His love. When was the last time

you hugged your Heavenly Father's neck? When was the last time you told the Father you loved Him?

Conclusion

Psalm 51 verses 16-17 tell us: God doesn't want fat animals sacrificed to Him. The annual sacrifice was over when Christ died on the cross. The veil was open to the Holy of Holies.

God doesn't want animal sacrifices. That's too easy. A one time shot of "payback" to God is not all there is to life and promise. "I went to church three times this year and I sat in the middle on the back row. I prayed before the Thanksgiving meal this year. I gave \$5 to the church this year." This is not what it's about.

God doesn't want animal sacrifice; he wants your life to be a daily and acceptable sacrifice to God in that you live your life in holiness. Your life is to be consecrated to the Lord. Your life is to be dedicated to the Lord.

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



Tony Cleaver

Southeastern Baptist College

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Dr. Medrick Savell
President

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Donation to help expand housing at SBC

The home which was donated to Southeastern Baptist College was moved to our property on June 12. We thank each individual, church, and association that contributed to the moving expense. When remodeling and other work is done, this home will provide additional housing space for the college. We thank the Lord for providing this valuable asset and the funds to make it possible.



School employees and workers look on as the house is moved to its permanent location. The home will be located on the property behind the current President's Home seen in the far left of this photo.

Resolutions

from page 2

be it further

Resolved, That we urge all Christians to vote in accordance with biblical values rather than according to party lines, personalities, or candidate rhetoric; and be it finally

Resolved, That the messengers to the Baptist Missionary Association of America, meeting in Fort Smith, Arkansas, April 16-18, 2007, to strongly encourage every Christian of voting age to exercise his or her God-given responsibility to engage in the political life of our Nation by voting in every appropriate election.

Van For Sale

Leakesville Baptist Church has a 1996 Ford 15 passenger van for sale. It has low mileage and may be seen at the church at 1702 Lackey St., Leakesville. For more information please call Bobby Fountain at 601-394-6141 or Franklin Hodges at 601-394-2602

Resolution III Appreciation For Our Military

Whereas, Following the ruthless and wicked attack on America on September 11, 2001, our nation was forced to respond in self defense with a war on international terrorism; and

Whereas, It has become increasingly clear that a vast, international terrorist network exists, which is allied with regimes that sponsor and support its evil goals; and

Whereas, Terrorist groups and their state sponsors threaten to continue their assault on innocent people and to escalate this terror through the use of any instrument of mass destruction including chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons; and

Whereas, The Scriptures command civil authorities to restrain evil and to punish evildoers through the power of the sword (Rom. 13:1-5); and

Whereas, The cause of freedom, democracy and peace is being advanced by the diligent and courageous performance of members of our United States military who serve our country faithfully, both here and abroad, while they are aggressively engaged in the global war on terrorism; and

Whereas, All the conflicts have not been fought and our soldiers are still in the battle to win the war as well as restore civil order at the risk of their own lives; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the messengers to the Baptist Missionary Association of America meeting in Fort Smith, Arkansas, April 16-18, 2007 commend and salute the President of the United States as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the commanders in the field, and the men and women of every resolve, their commitment to duty and to country, their fortitude in the face of danger, be it further

Resolved, that we pray for those who are missing in action, those who are being held prisoners and that in the conflict for their ultimate sacrifice in the cause of freedom and that we offer our heartfelt sympathy and gratitude to their families; and be it finally

Resolved, That we express reverent thanksgiving to Almighty God, the Judge of all nations, Who is mightier to save, and ask His continued guidance and mercy upon our troops and our nation.

Resolution IV The Appointment Of Federal Judges

Whereas, The Bible teaches that civil government is ordained by God to recognize good and punish evil (Rom. 13:1-6); and

Whereas, Some federal judges have undermined and supplanted the United States system of limited government by presuming to write and impose laws upon America's citizenry rather than interpreting law according to constitutional intent; and

Whereas, This tendency by some unelected judges to legislate from the bench subverts the foundation of our democracy, "a government of the people, by the people and for the people," and moves the nation closer to being governed by an elite class, unaccountable to the American people; and

Whereas, Some of the worst decisions put into law during the last half century have been handed down by federal judges who hold no valid constitutional or legislated authority to make such decrees; and

Whereas, Examples of this judicial activism include, but not are not limited to, the United States Supreme Court's approval of abortion on demand in Roe v. Wade (1973) and its declaration that a popularly

held moral disapproval of homosexual sodomy was insufficient grounds for laws prohibiting that behavior in Lawrence v. Texas (2003); and

Whereas, Judges increasingly invoke foreign courts and foreign law as partial justification for their opinions, e.g., Atkins v. Virginia (2002); Lawrence v. Texas (2003); Goodridge v. Massachusetts (2003); and, most recently, Roper v. Simmons (2005); and Whereas, In recent years the President has appointed judges he believes are strict constructionists, who would interpret the Constitution rather than make law; and

Whereas, The Constitution is clear regarding the nomination and confirmation process: "He (the President) shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the Supreme Court and all other Officers of the United States" (U.S. Constitution, art. 2, sec. 2); and

Whereas, Many United States senators have recently defaulted on their explicit constitutional responsibility to vote as a body to confirm or deny the president's appointees

see Resolutions on page 4

Mississippi Baptist | Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Whores, heretics, devils, lies, grace & love

There seems to be an attitude spreading among some of our brethren that if there are disagreements over methods and attitudes concerning certain issues and if we are not in 100% agreement that there is something terribly wrong with those "on the other side".



Don Brown
Editor

At our recent annual meeting in Fort Smith, Arkansas, it was stated that those who may continue on a certain path were no better than the **"whore that rode the beast in the book of Revelation"**.

This individual was speaking of our Brothers in Christ! That statement pierced the hearts of dedicated, faithful men who have proven themselves through the years by their loyalty to the work of the Gospel of Christ. I hope these words were from the emotion of the moment and not the true intent of his heart.

This editor has received letters from writers who wished them to be published that equated those who do not agree with their position on certain issues to those who *"depart from the faith...give heed to seducing spirits...speaking lies in hypocrisy...and having a seared conscience."* [content from I

These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Proverbs 6:16-19

Timothy 4:1-2]. Applying such words to those who have been faithful through the years and whose ministry is fruit of their faithfulness is certainly misplaced.

Through the years I have heard a number of sermons where I thought the speaker misapplied scripture. I have probably been guilty of that at times myself. We must be very careful in our preaching not to take scripture out of context to support the points we are trying to make and we also must not misapply scripture to unrelated situations.

If we have a valid point to make then let us make it with an attitude of grace and love. If we cannot do that then the best move on our part may be to hold our tongue.

Issues have been put before us that are highly emotional and can lead to a breach in fellowship if we are not careful and

particular in our methods in dealing with them.

Issues are being brought forward that previously had not been an issue due to the general practice and belief of the great majority of our pastors, churches, and laymen. By implication some seem to be saying that if you do not believe and practice exactly like me or follow my ways of thinking, then you are not following God, His mind, or His will.

How tragic for us to create divisions where none exist! How dangerous to accuse brethren of beliefs and practices that have no basis! How tragic for one to sow discord among the brethren!

God help us to be who God would have us to be and heed Jesus' words in the Gospel of Luke *"And John answered and said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbid him, because he followeth not with us. And Jesus said unto him, Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us."* Luke 9:49-50

Letters From Our Readers

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

Writer asks 'What Do We Believe?'
Dear Editor,

Do we have the cart pulling? There was much discussion about the issues during the last state association. It was mentioned time and again that our workers had agreed on these issues. This was good to know, but nothing was said how the churches or the association felt about it. Suppose all of our workers died, retired or were replaced then where would we be?

When I was a young preacher about 63 years ago, our local churches de-

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"Didn't I tell you bungee jumping would bring in a bunch of kids to Vacation Bible School?"

Missionaries ask for prayer

Rejoice with us! Shaelynn Grace was born at 3:58 p.m., CST, at 1 lb., 11 oz., 13 inches long. She is in NICU, and Rachel is tired, but doing okay after the C-Section. Please keep praying, as the baby is doing well, but still not out of danger. The Lord is so good! God bless you all.

Linda & Doyle Moore
Missionaries to Philippines

terminated what we stood for. The workers didn't dictate to the churches as to what to stand or not to stand for, but the churches decided and then elected men who would follow these decisions.

Until all principals are written down then we cannot question a worker on his or her stand on an issue. If this is what we believe what is wrong in making it official by putting it in the minutes? Instead of spending time saying what our workers believe, why not vote on it and make it official that we do or do not believe, then elect men who believe as we the Mississippi Association believe.

As I was listening not one time did I hear this is what I or the Association believe, but what our workers believe. It is good to know what my wife believes, but would not it be good for her to hear me say what I believe? The question in my mind is just what does the Association believe? We left the meeting with question still not answered.

J. B. Stonecypher
Lucedale, Mississippi

Resolutions

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to various positions in the federal court system by filibustering the confirmation of some of the President's judicial nominees or by engaging in other acts of obstruction; and

Whereas, These obstructionist activities have disproportionately targeted nominees who hold biblical convictions on issues such as the sanctity of life and the definition of marriage; and

Whereas, This dereliction of duty constitutes a deplorable and intolerable impediment to good government; and

Whereas, It is likely that the President will have the opportunity to appoint one or more Supreme Court justices during the remainder of his term, setting off an intense battle unless fairness is restored to the judicial confirmation process; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the messengers to the Baptist Missionary Association of America, meeting in Fort Smith, Arkansas, April 16-18, 2007, call on the United States Senate to return to the constitutionally established principle and two-hundred-year-old practice of basing "Advice and Consent" decisions on a simple majority vote of the Senate; and be it further Resolved, That we call upon all future presidents to nominate strict constructionist judges who will interpret the Constitution rather than create law; and be it finally

Resolved, That we call upon all Missionary Baptists and all Christians to contact their United States Senators with verbal and written encouragement to stop the obstruction of the appointment of judicial nominees.

Mississippi Baptist

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ONE NEWS NOW.COM

Keeping Teens Busy in the Summer

You have to strike a nice balance here with the teens during the summer. All young people need some down time during the summer. It is perfectly acceptable to let your teen have some expanded free time during the summer. There are a handful of parents out there who have a rigorous schedule for their teens during the summer. You might want to consider softening a rigid schedule. A little extra sleep time and some fun time is okay for your teen to enjoy during the summer.

Most parents however, are on the other end of the spectrum. They allow too much free time with the teens because that is what their teen "wants". Too much free time will not only undermine their growth potential in all developmental areas, but it also is a great catalyst for sin. When teens have too much unstructured time on their hands the parents are in effect setting up a greater potential for moral failure for their teens in the summer.

You need to monitor their free time. This is not being over-bearing, but is referred to as "parenting". You need to know who they are hanging out with at the lake or swimming pool. You need to know who is coming over to your home, or who is the adult supervisor when

your kid is over at someone else's home. You need to exercise great wisdom in knowing where your kids are all the time. Obviously, boy-



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

www.travisplumlee.com

friend/girlfriends are not allowed to have alone time. This is a recipe for moral failure.

It is acceptable for same sex friends to spend some time together over at a friend's home as long as you know the family well and have not been given any reason to not trust your teen or their friends. You still need to know who will be at the home (what other kids) and what are their plans. Never underestimate the ability of a close friend to pull your good teen down morally. Buddies getting together to play video games or go four wheeling can be okay as long as there are limits. Still, you have to be aware that this can lead to trouble on the internet or some act of delinquency if there are hours of no supervision.

You really need to know what they are doing while you are gone to work if no one is at home during the day. Then the critical time is at night - what are they doing at night and who are they hanging out with? You have to let them have some fun and freedom, but it must be couched within the context of responsibility and wisdom.

Your teens should have a standard rule that they do not get to have fun until the chores are done. Each teen in the home should have structured chores done on a daily basis. There is no need for nagging. Failure to do the chores means no fun activities. Fun activities, and even ball games, can be cancelled if

N.C.courtroom oaths expanded beyond Bible OneNewsNow.com

A ruling from a North Carolina judge that allows other religious texts besides the Bible for swearing in of courtroom witnesses is being called a further example of the secularization of the procedure.

The American Civil Liberties Union assisted in the case of a Muslim woman who sued for not being allowed to take her oath on the Koran, according to Associated Press. Judge Paul Ridgeway ruled that witnesses and jurors may use the text "most sacred and obligatory upon their conscience" to make an oath - in addition to what state law already allows: laying a hand over the Bible, saying "so help me God" without the use of a book, or affirming to tell the truth without use of any religious symbols.

Liberty Counsel's Mat Staver says the affirmation is already a compromise allowing secularization of a religious oath, and that other text options are not necessary. "I think the judge is trying to walk a tight-rope here," says the attorney. "On the one hand, he didn't rule the law unconstitutional as some judges might - on the other hand, he's still allowing some flexibility."

The Liberty Counsel founder and chairman believes the main argument that would be brought forth now is that the requirement to take an oath on the Bible is a violation of one's "religious conviction or conscience."

And Staver says taking the Bible away from the process changes the founding fathers' notion of accountability to God based on the Ten Commandments of the Bible - but he admits, "That's the way secularization has crept into the judicial system today Our courts have weakened and watered down the religious history and the significance of oath-taking."

the teen shows signs of rebellion to your parental authority. If a teen is out of control with their mouth and attitude toward you or the chores, then they can be grounded from the ball games or fun activity. Disrespect or dishonoring of you as a parent should never be rewarded.

Teens need to learn that their wrong behavior is going to cost them. How much discipline should be enacted for the infraction is up to you. You will have to pray hard and let the Spirit lead you. You don't want to be too permissive. You don't want to be too harsh or unfair.

If they do the crime, they have to do the time. However, discipline should be reasonable.

It is very important for you to insist that your teen has spiritual growth opportunities during the summer. Without school work, it is a great time to grow in the Lord. You might buy them a journal and have them log in each day what scripture they read and what they prayed about in personal devotion time. Check it each evening. Help them develop a habit of devotion time during the summer. If at all possible, I would encourage you to send them to church camp. They may pitch a fit, but they'll get over it.

Camps force kids out of the world and into the Word. Some of the greatest experiences in spiritual growth occur at camp. There are many good ones each summer in-

cluding ones that I am doing which can be checked out on my web page at travisplumlee.com. If they have a friend they can't live without, then encourage the friend to go to camp with them. This does not mean opposite sex boyfriend or girlfriend. Camp is a good time for them to be apart for a while. If they can't be apart that long, then they are already too involved as teens.

Have your teen establish a personal ministry for the summer. This is so important in developing a lifetime habit of serving the Lord. Find out who in your home church is sick or elderly. Have your kids go over and mow the lawn all summer. Water the lawn. Have them bake something each week to take to some older person in the church or a neighbor. You can sit down and have a family meeting and all of you talk together about what would be a good summer ministry.

Not having a ministry is not an option. If your kids are really involved in band, sports etc. and don't have time for a ministry, then I would reevaluate your family priorities and decide what is important for your teens development in the eyes of God. No time to serve God because of other activities is a sad commentary. Have fun, but grow on in the Lord this summer. Allow freedom and fun but be very vigilant to monitor what is going on to avoid severe problems this summer.

Commission on Senior Adults

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



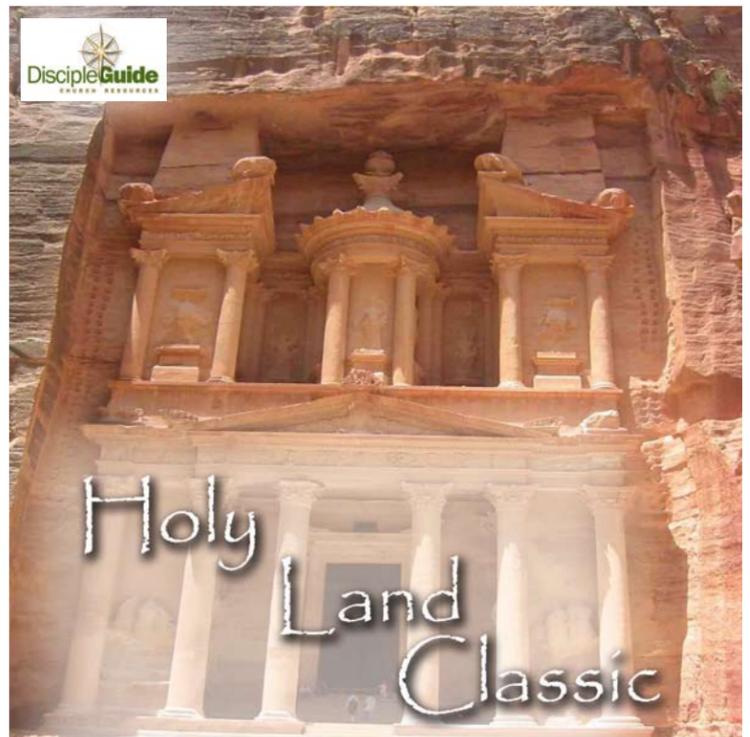
It is good to greet the readers of this article in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We have somewhat to fret about. There is a lot of evil work being presented today. The devil has many emissaries working for him in our day. Often his message looks good, sounds good, and appeals to our flesh. We must look up to Him from whence our help comes. We are admonished to see the Lord and know He never loses a battle. In 1 John 4: 4 we are told that "...greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." We know at the end of the way we will be victorious.

A matter of fact

I didn't intend to respond to any of the in's and out's of the Bible question. However, when I read the June 1st issue of the Mississippi Baptist Paper I found a statement that in my opinion included the Commission On Senior Adults. I quote what was said, "whomsoever takes the pulpit in a conference for our seniors in the state of Mississippi." The full name of the Commission is, THE COMMISSION ON SENIOR ADULT

MINISTRY. The Commission is an official part of the BMA of Mississippi. To my knowledge the Commission has never used a preacher outside our BMA work. To my knowledge every preacher we have used has preached from the KJV of the Bible. This includes the 2007 conferences. We have used singing groups that were not BMA people. As a matter of fact, if people don't attend the conferences they rely on hearsay.

I have always urged, and even begged the pastors to attend these conferences. That is the best way for anyone to know what goes on. The conferences are open to all men, women, boys, and girls of all ages. The conferences are planned independently of any special interest group. We plan, we work, and conduct the programs, first to honor the Lord, and then to minister to the Senior Adults and others in and out of our churches. I like what Moses said to Hobab in (Num, 10: 29): "...come thou with us and we will do thee good..." Amen! Then all will know the truth.



Join Tricia and me for the trip of a lifetime as we tour the ancient cities of the Holy Land. Kirk and Toni Shelton will be our hosts for this exciting trip.

It has been a dream of mine to take a trip such as this-- to walk where Jesus walked, to visit the site where He performed His first miracle, to sail the Sea of Galilee, to stand on top of the Mount of Olives, and to pray where He prayed. What an adventure this trip will be. Come join us as we experience it all together.

Kirk Shelton
President, Central Baptist College

Departing November 19, 2007
\$2,650.00 from Dallas
Hosted by Kirk & Toni Shelton

Your Program Features:

- *First-class hotels
- *Professional English-speaking guides
- *Breakfast & dinner daily
- *Visits to sites such as Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Sea of Galilee, Megiddo, Jericho, Qumran, Masada, and much more
- *A special side trip into Jordan to visit the ancient "rose red city of Petra!"

Space is limited! Call for more information:
Kirk Shelton - 972.935.6898 or
kirk@fellowshipforney.org



LATRELLE WINDHAM
DIRECTOR

P.O. Box 4247, Laurel, Mississippi 39441 • (601) 649-0502
Email - bmayouth@comcast.net

“Redeem The Time!”

Camp season has started! About three weeks before camp season starts, We try to have our trailer packed and loaded to make the first trip of the summer.

Usually the Tombigbee, Judson camp is our kick-off for the summer. We usually make a list of all the things, we might need at camp and try to have these things ready.

Sometimes, it seems like it takes forever to finish everything up and be ready. Finally on Saturday June 2, about 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon, after about three weeks of work, I had things ready and loaded.

On Sunday afternoon about 3:00 o'clock, I pulled out for Tupelo, Mississippi. I was exhausted physically, mentally and other ways too.

On Monday morning June 4, I arose and headed for Tombigbee State Park and arrived about 9:30 AM. Immediately I met Bro. and Mrs. Roger Franks who had arrived at camp early also. We said hello and soon others began to arrive.

It took most of the day to set up our PA and make sure other things

were ready. We met for our assembly under an open-air Tabernacle. This tabernacle was right on the Tombigbee Park Lake. The Lake surrounded us about three quarters of the way.

During the first service on the night of June 4, we had our services led by our musicians and Bro. Travis Plumblee. We had several saved that night. We almost had a storm, we had boats on the Lake. We had distractions but God and his word are more powerful than any of these things. God's spirit moved! God was present and all the hard work, being tired, frustrated were replaced by what God did through His people at camp.

Thanks to the Tombigbee and Judson association for planning a camp. Thanks to the faithful people and churches of these associations. Faithful people whom I saw several years ago, that are still coming and evangelizing young people and adults through the preaching of the Word.

As you view our pictures of camp, you will notice that we had 3 differ-

ent photos of those who were saved. We took our first picture on Tuesday night after service. In the Wednesday morning service we had one saved and then after service, Bro. Roger Franks led another to the Lord. Praise God for moving in this camp!

Please pray for our summer activities of all our associational and church camps. Thanks again for the faithful people and churches in the Tombigbee and Judson Associations.

Contentment

from page 2

(Philippians 4:6) But if we come in discontent this could hinder the Lord in answering our prayer. He could feel that if the blessings He has already sent would not produce contentment and thanksgiving, it is doubtful that more blessings would.

Not only will we get more for ourselves by contentment and thanksgiving, our life will be more productive in helping others. When a Christian is ill and upset with God's will for His life, sinner and saint becomes confused and disheartened. All go through the valley of affliction at times. (Psalm 34:19; Acts 14:22; I Thessalonians 3:4) But when these times of testing come, we are to be "patience in tribulation," (Romans 12:12) not be "moved by these afflictions," (I Thessalonians 3:3) and remember "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God" concerning us. (I Thessalonians 5:18) While this may be difficult to do, some do it. (Job 1) And when we do give thanks in our trials others are not hindered but helped. It will be better on the rest of the family, on the rest of the church, and on all who are around us if we will be happy with God's will for our life.

Living in contentment will not only be better for us and others around us, it will bring more pleasure and glory to God. Surely the Lord is pleased when we are pleased with His will for our life. Christians are the children of God. (John 1:12) Our Heavenly Father therefore cares for us and has assumed the responsibility of caring for us. (I Peter 5:7) Nothing happens to us without God permitting it. (Matthew 10:29) He will see to it that all things will work together for our good. (Romans 8:28) Our Heavenly Father is all-loving, all-powerful, and all-wise. We really do not have a reason to get upset at His will for our life?

It is true however, we do not always understand the routes the Lord carries us. Much of it we will understand a little later. Some will come clear much later. Some will not be understood until we see Him.

Mississippi State W.M.A.

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Laurel, MS 39443

Northeast WMA Retreat

The Northeast District WMA Ladies Retreat was held at Woodland Baptist Church in Columbus on April 14, 2007. Satan tried to put obstacles in our way with the stormy weather, preventing some out of town ladies from attending, nevertheless we had good attendance. Allegra Brigham, CEO of Four County Electric Power Association, spoke on the importance of an active prayer life and gave her testimony of how God has worked in her life through prayer. The theme title

was "Your Parachute in a Kaleidoscope World" with prayer as the parachute and the kaleidoscope signifying the ever changing world around us.

We were very excited to host our first WMA Retreat. It was hard work, but a great blessing to our church to prepare for such a worthy event. We wish to thank our sister churches for their help. Our own ladies worked very hard and we pray the experience will remain in all our hearts.

Lennie Thompson, President
Diane Betts, Reporter

But be assured, one day we will agree with God on every thing He permitted to come our way. But it will be better for us, for others, and for our Father's pleasure and glory for us to always say with Jesus, "...nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." (Matthew 26:39) To live in contentment and thanksgiving means much to our Heavenly Father. It should therefore mean a lot to us.

How We Can Grow in Contentment

By looking at our text again we notice that Paul said, "...I have LEARNED, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Paul LEARNED to be content. If we reach that high plane he lived on, we will also have to LEARN to be content. The God that taught Paul will surely help us. It will no doubt take a lot of Patience, Prayers, and Practice.

When Patience is mentioned, most feel a certain measure of fear. We remember immediately that "tribulation worketh patience." (Romans 5:3) But we need not fear. The blessings of patience will far outweigh the cost. (Meditate on these two verses, Hebrews 10:36; James 1:4) Also, earnest prayers of faith could obtain patience without some of the tribulation. Another thing, long-suffering is part of the fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22,23) Therefore making ourselves available to the Holy Spirit would also help in obtaining patience. But one thing is sure, we will have to grow in patience if we learn contentment. Being patience is part of being content.

Prayer always has a part in obtaining the good things of God. The Bible very plainly says "...ye have not, because ye ask not." (James 4:2) Most sincere Christians soon learn that we get more from Heaven

by praying more to Heaven. God can answer one short prayer the first time if He desires. But most of the time God answers His children "which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them." (Luke 18:7) Just keep on praying for God's grace, if you desire to learn contentment for your life. (Hebrews 4:16)

Practice is also important. The first time we seek to suppress our normal reaction to things not being like we wanted or expected, we may find it difficult. We may have to practice some. Paul said that he died to self daily. (I Corinthians 15:31) But this surely became easier the more he did it. If we will just keep on saying No to self and Yes to Jesus we will grow in contentment.

When we learn to be happy with God's will for our life, we will start missing a lot of misery we once had to endure. We will also notice a lot of blessings we had not been enjoying. Then we will be glad we started doing things God's way and started living in contentment.

He Has Promised

Do you sometimes feel forsaken-
All alone, with none to care.
When the burden on your
shoulders
Seems too great for you to bear?

Are you wearied with the journey
And the sorrows you have known?
Talk it over with the Master-
You are really not alone.

Let your fainting heart take
courage,
And your restless fears be still.
He has promised not to leave you,
And He never, never will.

-M. H. Goodman

Those Saved at Tombigbee, Judson Camp



Ex-'gay' group: Surgeon General nominee's views backed by medical science

OneNewsNow.com

The group Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays is rushing to the defense of President Bush's nominee for Surgeon General, who has been under attack from homosexual activist groups because he believes homosexuality is a choice.

Homosexual groups are seeking to derail the nomination of University of Kentucky professor and cardiologist Dr. James Holsinger. They claim he is unfit to serve as Surgeon General because he voted to expel a female homosexual pastor from the United Methodist Church, because his church has a ministry for recovering homosexuals, and because he has said homosexual sex is unnatu-

ral and unhealthy.

Regina Griggs, executive director of Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays, or PFOX, says Holsinger is also being unfairly condemned because his church is inclusive of former homosexuals.

"The official position of all medical and mental health organizations and the American Psychiatric Association is that there is no biological or genetic cause or replicated study for homosexuality," she declares. "So, why as a doctor should he not be allowed to interpret and support the fact that change is possible? That's what medical science says."

Homosexual activists also take umbrage with Holsinger's view that individuals are not born "gay."

"It's time to face facts," Griggs asserts. "And of course [it's a threat to them] to put someone in a position who represents science and holds a different position and has values that say all individuals are allowed to receive help or seek their right to self-determination", she adds. "The one thing that we have not been able to get the public to understand is [that] change is possible. This is a threat to them."

Griggs says Holsinger has the right to tell people that there is hope that one can overcome same-sex attractions. But she contends homosexual activists will not be satisfied with a Surgeon General nominee unless he or she affirms their lifestyle.

CHILDREN'S HOME

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

School Is Out

The children at the Home are out of school for the summer. Activities for the summer include VBS, youth outings, summer revival services, and of course, picking peas and the other vegetables in the garden. Remember our girls and boys during this summer season in your prayers that God's protection and watch care will be upon them.



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

What does it mean that one walks with God? Enoch walked with God in that he behaved himself in a holy and upright manner which pleased God. So God shared fellowship with Enoch day by day.

The Bible says that Enoch walked with God three hundred years. Think about that! Doubtless in his long life he experienced many changes, no doubt all the changes that you and I face. But through them all, he kept on walking with God.

Thank God for the father who is faithful to his commitments, who keeps on walking with God through all the conditions of life. That man will leave an influence for good behind him in the lives of his children and all who know him. Will you commit to be that kind of father, dad?

A Walk With God - A Challenge for Fathers

In the account of the life of Enoch in Genesis 5:22-24 it is said two times that "Enoch walked with God."

Conference Leaders

Robert Murphy
John David Smith
Darren Neely
Steven Carroll
Donny Parrish



Drew Cline



Aaron Williams
and the SOAR
Band



Dave the
Horn Guy



JULY 3-5, 2007

RENAISSANCE GRAND AND SUITES HOTELS
800 WASHINGTON AVENUE, ST. LOUIS, MO

The Renaissance Grand and Suites Hotels room rate for SOAR is \$79 by the June 11 deadline. Rooms are going fast so make your reservations as soon as possible by calling 800-397-1282 or call direct at 314-621-9600.

Registration is \$60 per attendee by the June 11 deadline. After June 11, registration is \$70 and off-site registration is \$80. All in attendance are expected to pay registration. You may register online at www.dcmstudents.org or complete the registration form and mail to DiscipleGuide Conference Ministry along with your check.

Call the DCM office with any questions at 501-513-3726 or via e-mail at triciak@conwaycorp.net.

Illusionist
Jared Hall



Stellar Kart



CO3



2 Empty Chairs



BMA of Mississippi MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

4226 HIGHWAY 15 NORTH, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39440 - (601) 428-8616
Rayburn Freeman, Director



Wallace Williams Report

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a joy to serve our God and to be a part of His mission work. We are making progress in the spiritual work as well as the physical work. Our attendance for May on Sunday morning averaged in the mid forties and on Sunday night the mid twenties. We had



Bro. & Mrs. Wallace Williams

three join by letter in May! I started preaching through the book of Revelation on Sunday morning and preaching and teaching on evangelism on Sunday night. Our people are really excited

about this direction and I am expecting the Lord to bless with more souls saved and Christians to be challenged in their witness for Jesus.

We are getting close to finishing the floor tile and when we do, we can begin to have Sunday School. We have the sanctuary painted and are making plans to get the ceiling in. I hope to have the inside of the building completed by Thanksgiving. It has been a long and very tiring work, but the Lord has promised to bless if we "faint not". Our property insurance has increased from \$2,900.00 a year to around \$5,500.00 a year. That was expected, but certainly not wanted.

Please keep us in your prayers. Come visit

when you can. Thanks again for all the support, spiritually and financially, from our Christian friends across the state and even out of state. We love you.

Kevin Marr Report

Summer has arrived in Desoto County and a drought has quickly followed in its footsteps. Dark clouds have crept in a couple of times recently, but no real rain has come from them. The grass is shading more towards brown instead of green. It seems that our mission has fallen into that same situation recently. Several of the families that we were so excited about have decided that LifePointe is a little more than they are looking for when it comes to being sold out to Jesus. Our plan



Bro. & Mrs. Kevin Marr

for discipleship encourages people who attend LifePointe to do more than just sit in a chair and listen. We want them to get actively involved in winning their friends and family members to Jesus and then taking them through our discipleship track so that they too can reproduce reproducers.

While this drop in attendance has been difficult for us, it has also had a positive effect on our Leadership Team. We have recommitted ourselves to praying faithfully for God's

hand to rest upon His work at LifePointe and to reaching out to our friends and family with the message of Jesus Christ. We realize that trying to bring in people from other churches is not really building the kingdom - it is simply shuffling around those who are already a part of it. God has called us to grow and we hope to do that by seeing people saved, baptized, and raised up in the faith to the point that they join in reaching even more people for Him.

We did have an amazing Family Day at Enid Lake over the Memorial Day weekend. We swam, skied, spent quality time together, and worshiped in a wonderful pavilion surrounded by a beautiful lake. It was truly a wonderful day for our fellowship and a great way to start off what looks to be another incredible summer!

Thanks again for all that you do to make LifePointe a success. Your prayer and financial support are vital components to the work that is being accomplished here! We love you all and praise God for giving you the vision to plant this mission in Desoto County!

Bro. Elvis Garcia is rejoicing over one profession of faith this month! The mission averaged 23 in attendance. Bro. Elvis visited 40 homes and talked with 58 people about their souls. Total offering this month is \$831.00

Bro. Joseph Oyeleye is happy to report three professions of faith! Bro. Joseph has been busy visiting 55 homes. Maple Street averaged 35 in worship this month and total offerings were \$1,030.00.

Bro. Estuardo Marroquin gladly reports one soul saved! Bro. Estuardo visited 35 homes and talked to 40 people about the Lord. Average attendance for El Camino was 67 this month. Total offerings were \$3,884.75. Things are going very well for El Camino.

Bro Wallace Williams reports having visited 8 homes and talked with one person about the Lord this month. Divine Grace averaged 44 in attendance and received three by letter into their fellowship! Total offerings were \$5,216.00.

Bro. Kevin Marr reports visiting in 10 homes this month. LifePointe averaged 46 in attendance and had a total offering of \$6,699.55.

Missionary/Family	Birthdays
Estruado Marriquin Yasmine Marriquin Abigail Marriquin	3/26 4/11 9/23
Elvis Garcia Wendy Garcia Pablo Garcia	6/8 5/25 3/15
Ed Duvall Patricia Duvall Edward Duvall Jr. Essence Duvall	2/16 1/3 12/25 12/10
Joseph Oyeleye Alice Oyeleye Mary Oyeleye Bridget Oyeleye Louis Oyeleye	5/20 9/13 1/5 3/13 7/22
Wallace Williams Lois Williams	11/18 6/27
Kevin Marr Jill Marr Kati Marr Connor Marr	2/3 1/22 10/15 10/26
Rayburn Freeman Faye Freeman	9/16 2/28

Couple Celebrates Golden Anniversary

James Ray and Ann Raines celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 2 at a reception hosted by their children at Lynch View Baptist Church in North Little Rock, Arkansas, where he has served as pastor since 1990. They were married June 2, 1957 at the church he was pastoring at the time, Zion Baptist Church in Fordyce, by Ward Hornaday.



James Ray & Ann Raines

He surrendered to the ministry July 26, 1953 and was ordained by Farmville Baptist Church in Warren on October 15 of that year. He has pastored a number of churches in Arkansas and also held several district, state and national BMA offices, including serving as president of Central Baptist College for over six years and several years as recording clerk for the BMA of America.

Mrs. Raines is the former Ann Oldner. She has been an elementary school teacher for 32 years. They have three children: Dr. James T. Raines of Camden, Michael Raines and Kimberly Looney, both of North Little Rock; and four grandchildren. The Raines reside at 5609 N. Locust St., North Little Rock, Ark. 72116.

Lebanon VBS

Lebanon, Laurel recently held their VBS, "Avalanche Ranch" during which the children "took a wild ride through God's Word". They made prayer bears as one of their crafts and also as a mission project. Each child made two bears - one to keep and one to send to children in Africa to share God's love with them. The children also collected over \$480 to send to Bro. Paul Heuermann, our BMA missionary to Ghana, Africa, for him to use in ministering to children there. Shown are some of the preschool children Mackenzie Masters, Michael Jenkins, Ben Floyd, William Garrett, Malachi Hickey, and Brooke Perkins learning that "God is Strong!" Also shown is Cale Bynum attempting to "rope the reverend" as a reward for being in the crew that brought the most offering during bible school, and some of the children petting Gracie the pony during our fun time on the last day of VBS.



Van For Sale

Leakesville Baptist Church has a 1996 Ford 15 passenger van for sale. It has low mileage and may be seen at the church at 1702 Lackey St., Leakesville. For more information please call bobby Fountain at 601-394-6141 or Franklin Hodges at 601-394-2602



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

OLD ED'ARD SAYIN'S

You know what old Ed'ard Sayin's are. That's things that Ed'ard was all time saying.

One that I used to hear a lot was: "It's better to let folks wonder why you don't talk instead on why you did."

The writer of Proverbs says the same thing in the 17th chapter, verse 28. Go read it.

Another Ed'ard sayin' was, "Don't rassel with a pig. You both get all dirty and the pig likes it."