

Baptist

Mississippi

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JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

JUNE 15, 2009

VOL. 63 No. 12

Director urges financial support

New Directory and Handbook Shipped

By Bobby L. Hudgens
DiscipleGuide Research and
Development Officer

The 2009-10 BMAA Directory and Handbook is scheduled for delivery to the churches on June 19, 2009. Every church will receive two copies of the directory.

Your regular support of DiscipleGuide is greatly appreciated and helps to keep this ministry going. Unfortunately, many churches have chosen to reduce or eliminate their support of this ministry. Two hundred and sixty churches immediately ceased all support when the association voted four years ago to merge Baptist News Service with Baptist Publishing House. We still have not

seen a return to previous levels of giving while the cost of producing the directory has soared. Two out of the last three years we have operated at a deficit. The deficit was more than \$10,000 in 2006 and \$7,300 in 2008. In 2007 income barely exceeded expenses.

In the past if a church requested additional books, we supplied them at no cost even though the actual cost of producing the BMAA Directory and Handbook was \$20.00 per book. Decreasing offerings and the current economic pressures in our country are forcing us to take measures just to continue providing this resource.

Beginning this year each church will receive two copies of the directory. Addi-

tional copies are available for \$20.00 each and can be ordered by phone (800-333-1442) or obtained online at DiscipleGuide.org.

The good news is that the directory information can be easily accessed through our Web site. We think you'll appreciate the searching and sorting capabilities online. It's also important to know that data online is updated on a monthly basis giving you access to the most current information, a clear advantage over using the book. Please understand that salary and Web-related expenses are still incurred for entering and maintaining data on the Web site. Thanks for your understanding and may God bless you.



Baptist Medical Missions International

Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI) is the humanitarian/benevolent arm of the BMAA Department of Missions. The primary purpose of this ministry is to provide humanitarian aid or assistance for many nations of the world where for reasons of economy, geography, or disaster such care is needed.

Emergency and Disaster Relief

Funds and volunteer relief teams are available through BMMI to provide emergency assistance and supplies to areas that experience natural disasters or catastrophic events. BMMI provides relief to areas where access to medical care, food, clothing, and other essential necessities of life have been temporarily interrupted or are not readily available.

Volunteer Participants

Physicians, dentists, nurses, and other medical professionals are needed as volunteers to serve on the medical teams. In addition, other support personnel are needed to assist these medical professionals. If you are interested in volunteering to serve on a medical missions trip, please contact the BMMI office at (501) 455-4977 or e-mail us at bmmi@bmaam.com

Financial Support and Contributions

BMMI is financed entirely through contributions. The financial needs of BMMI have increased proportionately to the growth in the opportunities for service. Even if you cannot serve on a team, you can become a part of this exciting humanitarian and benevolent ministry through your contributions.

Latest Book on Creation Available

Steele concentrates on writing and teaching ministry

Ed Steele resigned the Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg in September, 2005, after serving as her pastor for 32 years. He resigned because of the Lord leading him into a writing and teaching ministry. He immediately finished two small books that he had begun years ago. One was a biography on the life and ministry of Bro. R. G. Holland and was entitled "God's Big Little Man". The second was a doctrinal study containing thirteen lessons similar to a Sunday School quarterly that was originally written for new converts and new church members. It is titled "Rejoice! You Are God's Child!". Then, he began working on a study of creation that had been on his heart for many years.

"God's Creation Story" was recently published and is now available. The book presents both scriptural and scientific evidence of the creative works of God. It is in paperback form and is available at Amazon.com, Alibris.com,

Abebooks.com, and Booksurge.com at a price of \$15.99 plus shipping. Hopefully, it may soon be available at local bookstores. He also ordered a large supply of the books and, therefore, can sell them

cheaper at a price of \$12.00 (plus shipping if it must be mailed).

Steele has also prepared several Bible studies where a series of lessons can be presented on various topics for churches that may be interested. The use of a computer and video projector making Power Point presentations greatly enhances the studies. Hand-outs for each lesson are also available. There are either five or six lessons for each series.



Bro. Ed Steele

A series of studies can be held from Sunday morning through Wednesday evening, Monday through Friday evenings, or Monday through Wednesday evenings with 2 lessons each night. Other schedules can be worked out by interested churches.

Six lessons have been prepared for a study of creation that is called "God's Creation Story". The lessons are entitled: 1) The Theories Of Creation, 2) The Biblical Account Of Creation, 3) God's Judgment Against Rebellion, 4) The Crowns Of God's Creation, 5) Listen To The Earth, and 6) Salvation Presented By Creation's Story.

A study on the second coming of Jesus is called "A Discourse On The Olivet Discourse". The name is derived from the Olivet Discourse taught by Jesus in Matthew 24 and 25. All the verses of these two chapters are used in five lessons: 1) The Signs Of The Times,

continued on page 2

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.

Tombigbee/Judson holds succesful Youth Camp

We had 60 signed up this year and several visitors came thru each day. Preaching the messages this year were: Bro David Perry, Bro Fulton Lindsey, Bro Matt Hudson and Bro Nick Ulmer. There were 3 young souls saved and we had good

fellowship. The kids had some good times on the water slide - even some of the sponsors tried the slide. I also want to say thanks to Bro Phillip Burns and the great help that he gave this year. The camp was held at Tombigbee State Park, a great place to meet. Many thanks to Donna Hollis and the workers at the Park for their help.

Sword Drills and had fun with the Bible Quiz. We appreciate Bro. Anthony Hodges for the work that he did to put the Bible Quiz together. Thanks also to the churches and the sponsors for making this camp so successful. I love all you guys and thank you for all you have done in helping each year.

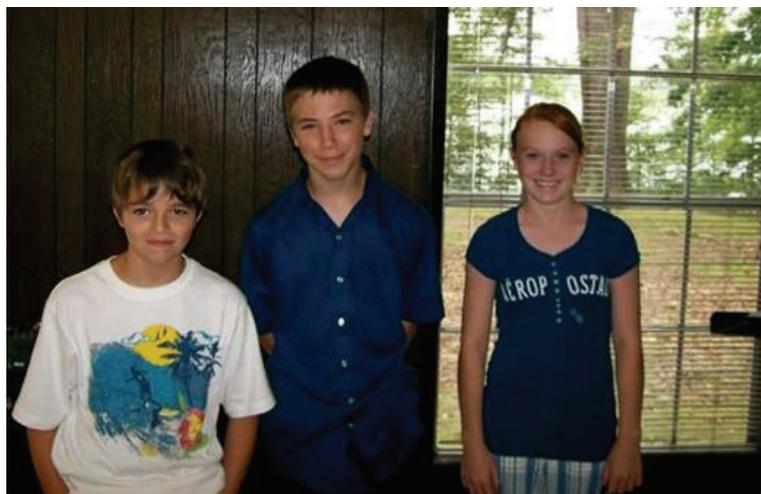
Bro Roger Franks
Camp Director

Some of the kids enjoyed the

possible. The WMA Ladies Retreat was held at Bethel on the 2nd of May. Thanks to all who had a part in this. On the 3rd we had a Gideon speaker in the morning service, then Bro. Tracy McMillen brought the morning message. Larry Tramel preached the evening message. Bro. Keith Carpenter brought a "chalk talk" on Wednesday night.

Each mother present was given a bookmark on the 10th for Mother's Day. On the 17th was Senior Day and each one received a gift. We wish them the best in all they undertake to do. A trip to Ronald McDonald House was held on the 23rd. Thanks to all who helped. There have been six additions since last report. Come see us when you can, we are always glad to see you.

Dr. Martin Jameson, pastor
Joyce Cooley, reporter



These are the three who made a profession of faith at the Tombigbee/Judson youth camp - to R: Chandler Hendricks, Blake Bucannon, & Mallory Turner



Junior Sword Drill Participants (L - R) Lauren Edwards, Amberly Hatch, Hannah Kirksey, and Mallory Turner.



Senior Sword Drill Participants (L-R) Amber Taylor, Dixi Franks, Robert Whitehead, Randy Taylor, and Hunter Williams.

Steele writing and teaching ministry

from page 1

2) The Rapture, 3) The Great Tribulation, 4) The Millenium, and 5) The Judgments.

A beautiful study on "The Covenant Of Grace" contains six lessons. Much of the information presented was received from the teaching of Dr. E. Harold Henderson many years ago. The six lessons are called: 1) The Benefits Of A Covenant, 2) The Participants In The Covenant, 3) Being Delivered By The Covenant, 4) The Binding Of A Covenant, 5) The Blessings From Our Covenant, and 6) Salvation Provided Through The Covenant.

A study is currently being prepared on the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit and will hopefully be ready soon. Other series are also in the planning stage as the Lord leads.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of any of his books or discussing any of these studies, Bro. Ed may be contacted at 1244 Purvis-Oloh Road, Purvis, MS 39475 or by phone at 601-794-8861. He and his wife Barbara are members of Midway First Baptist Church and can also be contacted through the church or their pastor, Bro. Leon Carmical. Bro. Steele is also available for pulpit supply, revivals, or any other way he can be a blessing to your church. Most of all, he covets your prayers as he attempts to share more of God's Word with others for the strengthening of the Lord's churches and the salvation of souls.

Shiloh Church to dedicate new sanctuary

Shiloh Baptist Church near Mt. Olive, Mississippi, has completed their new auditorium. They will hold an open house on Saturday, June 27 from 2: to 3:30 pm. The theme will be "Foundation For Christ". A reception will be held in the church's fellowship hall.

On Sunday, June 28, the church will hold dedication services for the new facility beginning at 10:30 am. Lunch will be served after the morning service. Friends and former members are invited to celebrate with the church at both of these events. For more information you may contact Sandra Sullivan at 601-737-4379..

Riverside, Ellisville plans Revival Services

Riverside Baptist Church, Ellisville, will hold revival services June 28-July 1. Sunday services will begin at 11:00 a.m. with lunch being served. Afternoon services will begin at 1:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday night services will begin at 7:00 p.m. The evangelist will be Bro. Dennis Knight, pastor of Paramount Baptist, Perkinston.

Everyone is cordially invited to attend the services. Pray for the revival.

Medrick Savell, Pastor

Bethel, Fulton

The Harmony Association meeting was held at Emmanuel in Tupelo on the 10th of April. On Easter Sunday we had a full house to worship our Lord and Savior. We set a record attendance of 569. The Senior Youth had, "Thirty Hours of Famine" on the 17 & 18. Bro. Martin is doing great teaching from Genesis on Wednesday nights, he makes it feel like you are right in the middle of everything. Thanks, Bro. Martin from all of us.

Bethel was well represented at "Relay for Life" on the 24th & 25th. Thanks to all who made it

Harmony Report

The June meeting of the Harmony Association was held Friday, June 12, at the First Hispanic Church in Ripley, with 5 churches present total of 38 in attendance. The worship service opened with congregational singing, followed by the message by Bro. Bryam Morales, of First Hispanic. He used Proverbs 3:1-8 with the message titled "The Rule of God". Dale Wirick gave a hand of appreciation. No minutes or treasury report was given. Josh Allred gave a report on upcoming Harmony Camp at Tishomingo State Park. Bro. Lee gave a report on missions and the Revolving Loan Fund. Bro. Elvis Garcia reported on the work at the Hispanic Mission, discussing the various ministries, and on-going renovations of their building.

The July meeting will be held at Forked Oak in Booneville, with Dr. John Adams as the speaker. The business meeting was followed by special music by a group from First Hispanic. A time of food and fellowship was provided by the host church.

Bro. Josh Allred, Asst. Moderator

Tony Marolt, Reporter

DiscipleGuide Coming Events

Pastors Oasis
October 6-8
Chateau on the Lake
Branson, MO

National Senior Adult Conference
November 17-19
Hiltons of Branson
Branson, MO

Southeastern Baptist College

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



Dr. Medrick Savell
President

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

With youth camps, Vacation Bible Schools, and revivals being conducted at this time of the year, we at Southeastern Baptist College are praying for souls to be saved and real revival in the Lord's churches that will help bring revival in our country. We are preparing for the new school year beginning in August. The contacts and prospects for new students as well as the number of returning students are encouraging.

Advertising the College

The project I have mentioned in recent reports is receiving a good response. Enough has been sent for getting the billboard on Interstate 59 installed, and now we hope to receive the \$450.00

per month to leave it up to advertise the college. It should be up by the time you read this report. Anyone or any church who would help in this project would be appreciated.

Special Emphasis

The Special Emphasis for Southeastern Baptist College is July and August. A good response to this emphasis is very much needed. It is a constant struggle to raise the necessary funds to support even a small college like Southeastern. God has used the college in the past and is still using it to help prepare Christians to serve Him in His churches as pastors, teachers, laymen, missionaries, and in many other positions of ser-

vice to our Lord.

I am asking all churches who have been supporting the college in Special Emphasis to try to give as much or more as last year. And I am asking all others to pray and consider giving something this year. At least, pray for me and all the good workers who have given themselves to serve God in Christian education at Southeastern. Any of them could make more money somewhere else, but they feel this is where God has led them to serve, and they deserve the best we can do for them. All of them are well qualified and are always trying to better equip themselves to serve their Lord.

Pray for the Lord's help in reaching students that He would have to attend Southeastern. Recommend to those you know who are soon going to college to consider Southeastern. It is an accredited college that offers the basic courses that students take in their first two years wherever they go. For those who are answering God's call to some special service, Southeastern can help them prepare for that service. Financial aid is available to students who qualify.

Megachurch-goers younger, wealthier -- and stingier

Despite their reputation as symbols of baby-boomer America, Protestant megachurches attract a younger crowd and more singles than the average Protestant church, according to large-scale study released Tuesday. The survey also found distressing news for a movement that took off in the 1980s and remains influential in evangelical Christianity: megachurch-goers volunteer less and give less money than other churchgoers.

Conducted by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research at Hartford Seminary and Leadership Network, the survey of nearly 25,000 people who attend 12 U.S. megachurches was conducted from January through August 2008. It is billed as the largest representative national study of that religious demographic to date.

An estimated 5 million Americans a week attend roughly 1,300 U.S. megachurches, defined in the study as Protestant churches with attendance of 2,000 or more. To compare the megachurch

data to Protestant churches of all sizes, the study relied on the U.S. Congregational Life Study of 2001.

Among the megachurch report's highlights:

- The average age of megachurch attenders is 40, compared to nearly 53 at a typical Protestant church. Nearly two-thirds of megachurch attenders are under 45, double the numbers in Protestant congregations of all sizes. The vast majority are between 18 and 44.
- Nearly a third of megachurch attenders are single, compared to 10 percent in a typical Protestant church. They also tend to be wealthier and better educated.
- Nearly all those surveyed -- 98 percent, including visitors -- described themselves as a "committed follower of Jesus Christ." Nearly a quarter hadn't been in any church for a long time before coming to the megachurch.
- Sixty-two percent of megachurch attendees said they had experienced much spiritual growth in the past year. But that does not always translate

to behavior churches expect of members: nearly 45 percent of megachurch attenders never volunteer at the church and 32 percent give little or no money to the congregation.

"The ethos of the megachurch is to say 'You can't just sit there and spectate, that's not enough, you've got to do this or do that,'" said study co-director Scott Thumma, a sociologist at the Hartford Institute for Religion Research. "But a lot of people said 'I'm perfectly happy coming here and doing that.'"

Divided loyalties also might play a role: just three-quarters described the megachurch they were attending as their "home" church, and many said they were attending more than one church.

Thumma said the findings don't necessarily mean that megachurches fail to foster involvement. The study found that significant numbers of even the least involved participants still give generously, have invited others to church and attend services weekly.

The Impossibility of Same Sex Marriage

Some things just can't be changed. In the areas of nature and science, fire is hot and ice is cold. Wind always blows and the sun always produces heat. The aforementioned facts are not up for discussion or debate. Facts are facts. There is no movement underway to "redefine" or "better understand" these facts. They are accepted because they have been proven to be true.



miniedition

Joseph Harris

www.miniedition.net

With the advent of the destruction of absolute authority in society (which followed the discrediting of the Bible), has also come a redefining of many things. For instance, gender is up for debate. Several years ago, a "Christian" college offered three types of housing to its students: male, female and transgendered housing. This special housing was for those students who were not sure of their gender. Huhhhh! Without being crass or too improper, there is a real easy way to find out. The answer is so common sense, it does not even need mentioning.

The definition of murder was changed years ago when it began to be called by new names such as "choice", "abortion", "birth control" and "freedom", to name a few. With this change, came the questioning of life beginning at conception, which used to not even be an issue, but an accepted truth.

There are many absolutes in life. Here are some more: (1) Death is the absence of life, (2) a fertile sperm and egg are required to begin a new life and (3) Politicians, both Democrat and Republican, will always raise taxes, if given one tenth of a percent of an opportunity. The statement, "Fire is not hot" will not change the fact that you will get fried if you jump into it.

The union of two males or two females may in fact be a union, but brother, it ain't a marriage and no amount of name changing, redefining, "compassion" or tolerance will change the truth. And speaking of civil unions, they should not even be allowed. A civil union for "domestic partners" is a mockery of marriage and an endorsement of fornication and perversity by "legally" allowing two individuals of the same sex to live together and potentially receive some of the benefits reserved for marriage.

If every federal, state and local court in the land declare that a homosexual union is a marriage, it still will not be a marriage. There are certain qualifying factors required for a couple to be married, but the foundational requirement of marriage, apart from a government license, is a requirement that is moral and common sense: that the candidates be of the opposite sex.

The continued push for perversion is not just an attack on marriage. It is an attack on God, the creator of marriage. Nevertheless, you better get ready. Buckle up tight. This abomination is coming soon to a town near you via New Hampshire.

Once again, I end this Mini Edition with another limerick from my newly written collection of Politically Incorrect Limericks (and soon to be illustrated and published):

Common Sense Sex

When your time has come for a mate

And you go out to look for a date

God made Adam and Eve

Not Adam and Steve

Common sense will help keep you straight.

Truth is truth and you can do one of two things with it: (1) Accept it or (2) Reject it... but you cannot change it.

Cold Hard Fact: If Adam and Steve had been the first couple in the Garden of Eden, none of us would be here today.

Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Pride In The Wrong Direction

I think most common sense folks have determined that we are not living in the same nation as our forefathers. After decades of 'liberal progressive thinking' we are quickly becoming - or have already become - just a shadow of what our great nation once was. In a few short days we will be celebrating July the 4th. I hope we will consider that we actually should not be celebrating the 'Fourth Day of July', but Independence Day!

Our independence is slowly being eroded and more and more being taken over by a central government that is taking us in a direction that most do not wish to travel. An article listed below is just one example of the changing or destruction of morality and common sense. Our president has declared that June 2009 is a time to celebrate that which God has called an abomination.

It is past time for God's people to speak up. We have allowed the killing of innocent babies, we have allowed God to be put on the sidelines in public life, we have allowed a small vocal, immoral minority to dictate. The only hope of man is found in Jesus Christ, not in the moral dictates of elected officials. May God help us to realize where we have come from and where we are headed. For our nation, it may already be too late.



Don Brown
Editor

Obama declares June 'LGBT Pride Month'

OneNewsNow - In a presidential proclamation on the White House website, Barack Obama has lauded what he calls "the determination and dedication" of the LGBT movement by proclaiming June as "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month."

"The LGBT rights movement has achieved great progress," Obama states in the official proclamation, "but there is more to be done. LGBT youth should feel safe to learn without the fear of harassment, and LGBT families and seniors should be allowed to live their lives with dignity and respect."

The proclamation, released on Monday, credits the LGBT movement with being a factor in more Americans who ascribe to those groups "living their lives openly today than ever before."

The president also takes pride in being the first U.S. chief executive to appoint "openly LGBT" candidates to Senate-confirmed positions in the first 100 days of an administration.

He uses the proclamation to emphasize LGBT-related initiatives that he intends to pursue in the future - both domestically and internationally.

"I have joined efforts at the United Nations to decriminalize homosexual around the world," he states. "Here at home, I continue to support measures to bring the full spectrum of equal rights to LGBT Americans."

Among those measures he lists "hate crimes" laws, civil unions, discrimination in the workplace, adoption rights, and ending the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy "in a way that

strengthens our Armed Forces and our national security."

Presidential pandering

Pro-family activist Peter LaBarbera says it is sad, but not surprising, that President Obama has chosen to issue a proclamation celebrating homosexuality. The president of Americans for Truth About Homosexuality says Obama is pandering to homosexual political activists.

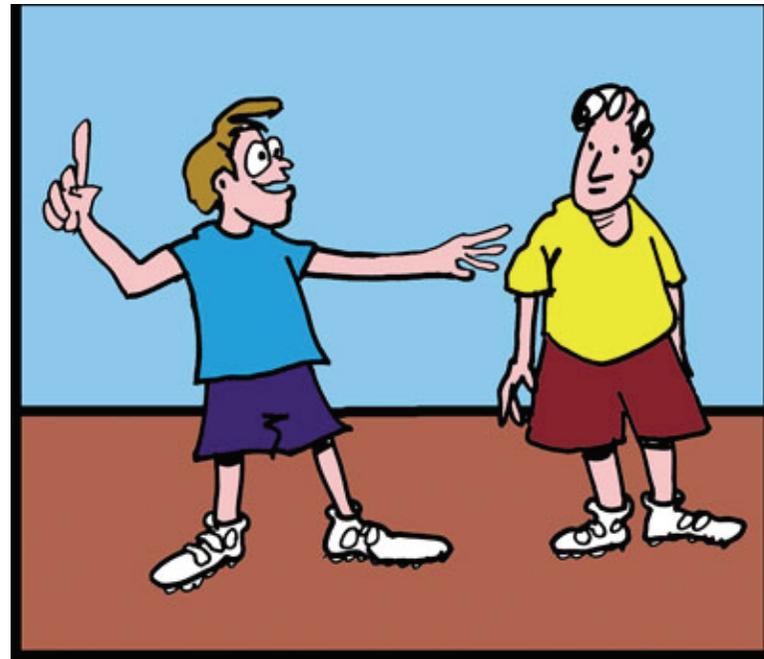
"Homosexuality is nothing to be proud of - bottom line," says LaBarbera. "The fact is people have left the lifestyle, people have overcome homosexuality [with God's help] - I think that's something to be proud of..."

LaBarbera warns of the repercussions of the president's pursuit of expanded rights for those who are confused about their sexual orientation.

"This proclamation talks about the entire radical homosexual agenda that Obama supports - including homosexualizing the U.S. military [and] federal so-called 'rights' based on homosexuality, which will impinge on the religious freedoms and freedom of conscience of other Americans."

Christians, he believes, must reach out to homosexuals with the message of the gospel.

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



Let's play church...I'll be the preacher and jump up and down and snort...and you can bring a motion to run me off!"

DC board rejects referendum to block same-sex 'marriage'

WASHINGTON, DC - The DC Board of Elections and Ethics has rejected a clergy-led effort to hold a referendum on whether Washington should recognize same-sex "marriages" performed elsewhere.

The DC board said a referendum to block the council-passed measure could lead to discrimination, and no referendum can appear on the ballot if it violates the city's human rights laws.

A coalition of black ministers led by Bishop Harry Jackson sought the referendum opposing recognition of same-sex marriages. "We feel that there is a moral imperative for us to stand against the effects that this particular same-sex marriage direction for the District would have on the next generation," Jackson says.

The bishop acknowledges that working to ban same-sex marriage can make Christians unpopular. "[But] we have a responsibility to be salt and light," he shares, "and if we take that seriously, then it means at times you're going to have both persecution and intense conflict."

Jackson says he will now ask a court to reverse the board's decision.

The measure recognizing same-gender marriages performed outside the District of Columbia is currently under congressional review. Other local pastors support same-sex marriage, calling it a civil rights issue.



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PRICE
\$20.00 Per Year by Mail
\$10.00 Per Year by Email
CHURCHPLAN
\$ 1.30 Per Month

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402.
Postmaster: Send address changes to the *Mississippi Baptist Paper*, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441-8000.

Soar '09 ° July 1-3
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'Come Together'
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It Will Be Okay! Re-frame Your Thinking

What you choose to focus on determines what kind of life you are going to have. People do not know to be sad, glad, or mad until their brain tells them. Your emotions and your behavior are driven by your thinking. This is why the Bible has so many scriptures related to what you focus on, in your thinking process. II Corinthians 10:5 tells us to take all our thoughts captive to Jesus. Philippians 4:8 tells us to think on several things in a list. Philippians 2:5 states, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Proverbs 23:7 tells us that whatever we think of - so we are. Do you get the point?

Sometimes you can have a pretty picture in your house

hanging in a cheap frame. Then one day, you get a little extra money and you decide to fix your place up a little. You go and buy a nice expensive frame to go around that same old picture. People come over and marvel at the pretty picture. They act as if they have never seen it before even though it has hung on that wall for years. What's the difference? The difference is it has been re-framed. This is how it is with your thinking about your problems. We all have problems. But it helps to re-frame our thinking about our problems. You think this is the worst day. You think this person was so cruel. You think you will never get out of this situation. Nothing will change. Re-frame your

thinking. Do you have a home in glory?

Then everything will be okay. Are you still saved? Does Jesus love you even if this person doesn't



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

anymore? Isn't Jesus enough for you? Feeling poor? Jesus will give you from His riches in glory. Nothing will change? Huh? God always changes things in our life for His glory. Just give Him

time. It is according to His will and His time. And until His time, he will help you in the meantime. Don't count your problems. Count your blessings. Get rid of your stinking thinking. Like the picture hanging on the wall, the problem didn't go away. It is still there. But you re-frame it, so it looks nicer. You look at your problems as growth opportunities. You look at problems as grace events. You don't look at them as something that is insurmountable or unchangeable.

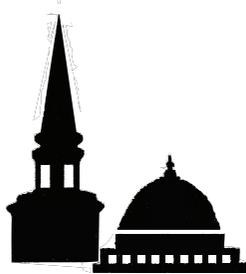
Everyone has problems in life. Everyone has stress. It is how we choose to respond to life, that determines how far we will go in life. You have to start with a mind-set of victory. You have victory in Jesus. It is more than a song; it is a way of life. Romans 8:37 tells us that we are more than conquerors to all the problems of life through the one who loved us - Jesus Christ. Stop allowing the enemy to discour-

age you. He can't defeat you. He can only trick you in your mind with discouragement and making you think there is no hope or help. There is always hope and help. Nothing is too hard for God. Luke 1:37.

You have to stop letting people have power over you. "My mom makes me feel so guilty." "My husband makes me so mad." "My wife drives me up the wall." "My friend makes me feel bad." None of these people have power over you unless you allow them to. Memorize the scriptures that tell you who you really are. Quit letting people tell you who you are. There are always going to be people who put you down. There will always be people who want to keep you down where you used to be.

God wants to lift you up to a place you have never been before. When people try and get you, tell yourself - "I am not

continued on page 8



Dr. John M. Adams

Executive Director
www.macbma.net

P.O. Box 305
Mantachie, MS 38855

FREEDOM OFFERING

JULY 5, 2009

for

MORAL ACTION COMMITTEE

B.M.A. of America

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www.macbma.net

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Clinic in Laos is National WMA project

Through the years, the National WMA has selected projects and set goals and ladies across the country have responded to these challenges. Over a period of time, their efforts have resulted in a cumulative total of over 1.5 million dollars being raised. I doubt there are very many ladies in the National WMA who could have given this amount individually, but because many ladies were willing to cooperate, this was accomplished. Many mission points, schools, orphanages, etc., have been helped to do great things for our Lord.

This year the project for the National WMA is to build and equip a clinic in the country of Laos. Laos is a relatively small country, about the size of our state of Oregon. Its neighbors are China to the north, Vietnam on the east, Cambodia on the South and Thailand on the west. Some of you remember the horrifying stories that came from the atrocities committed on the Ho Chi Minh Trail that passes through Laos during the Communist takeover in that part of the world. The people of Laos have endured more suffering than most of us will ever experience.

By your helping build this clinic, we will be shining the love of Christ into this country that has not experienced many acts of kindness during their history.

Will you accept this challenge through the WMA to build a clinic for the village of Mia in Attapeu, Laos? Jesus was pleased with the widow's mite and He will be pleased with whatever amount you feel led to give to this 2009-2010 project of the National WMA.

Send all offerings to: Glenda Tipton, P.O. Box 95274, North Little Rock, AR 72190 (Make checks payable to National WMA Project)
National WMA Project Promotion Committee
Patricia Duncan
Renna Hight
Barbara White

Medical clinic in the country of Laos National WMA project

The WMA's who gathered in Branson, Missouri, for the National WMA Meeting were blessed in so many ways! The pastors' wives and widows were honored to be served a breakfast by the officers of the National WMA.

The meeting seemed to be ordained by the Holy Spirit from the opening song until the final benediction. One of the highlights of the program was the reminder that the National WMA has raised over 1.5 million dollars in the 46 years that they have been cooperating in a project. That may not sound like much when compared to the trillions that are being handed out by the government, but we praise our God for allowing us to have a part in raising this amount through various venues.

This amount was raised through a lot of bake sales, rummage sales, tea parties, fund-raiser suppers, and a myriad of other innovative ideas that WMA ladies come up with.

This next year 2009-2010 is a special challenge. The

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Northeast District Ladies hold retreat

Bethel Baptist Church near Fulton, hosted the annual Northeast District Ladies Retreat on May 2, 2009. Beautiful garden-themed decorations carried out the theme, "Bloom Where You Are Planted."

Special music by Robbin Reeder and Carli Reeder was enjoyed. A meal of delicious salads was served by the GMA's, and numerous door prizes were given away. Diane Spriggs, editor/business manager of the Baptist Trumpet and resident of Hensley, Arkansas, spoke to our hearts in a morning and an afternoon session. She encouraged us to use each situation in which we are planted to share Jesus, let others see Jesus in us, use difficult situations for God's glory, and just bloom where you are planted by using this acrostic: P-pause, L-lean on Jesus, A-allow Him to have His perfect will in your life, and N-never lose hope.

Mark your calendars to meet with fellow WMA Christians at Hopewell, Fulton, on August 11 at 6:00 pm for a time of missions encouragement and fellowship.

President Patti Harlowe
Reporter/Historian Beth Haden

Benville Hosts WMA

Our president, Cassie Miller, asked Mrs. Tebo to open with prayer. A hearty welcome was given to ladies and visiting ministers.

Beverly Vernon led the state WMA song with Claudette at piano. Mrs. Lee gave a report on Mr. Ramey Lee's mission trip. Devotional and personal testimony was given by Dale Wauden entitled "I've Missed So Much."

Our mission project is Elizabeth Smith. Mrs. Mary Rhoden gave a report on Bro. Howard Rhoden's fifty years of ministry. They are truly a blessing and have touched many hearts around the world with the gospel.

Bro. Adams brought a message from I Corinthians 7:29 entitled "What If?" Our July 28 meeting will be at Canaan Church near Franklinton, Louisiana. Ladies come prepared to elect and install officers for 2009-2010. Also make plans for our fellowship at Jack's Fish House June 25.

Jean Overton, Reporter

National WMA accepted the challenge to build a medical clinic in the country of Laos at a cost of \$24,000 to \$25,000. The

The Project Promotion Committee suggests that you start now thinking of ways that YOU can have a part in this splendid project. After the building is completed there will be a need for equipment so anything received over the cost of the building will go to purchasing equipment.

Let's just see what our wonderful God will do through us this coming year.

Send all offerings to: Glenda Tipton, P. O. Box 95274, No. Little Rock, AR 72190. Make checks payable to National WMA Project.

National WMA Project Promotion Committee
Patricia Duncan
Renna Hight
Barbara White

The Christ Who Divides

Christ divides as well as unites.
We dare not lose sight of this fact.

Isaiah the prophet predicted that the Messiah would become a stone of stumbling (8:14), and Simeon, holding the Christ Child in his arms, affirmed the truth in these words: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel" (Luke 2:34).

Historically, the people of Israel stumbled over three aspects of Jesus.

First, "there was a division among the people because of" His birth. Hearing the claim of some that "this is the Christ," and not being in possession of the full facts, some said, "Shall Christ come out of Galilee? Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" (John 7:41,42)

Second, "there was a division among" them because of His Person. When Jesus restored the sight of a blind man on the Sabbath, some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the Sabbath day." Others said, "How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles?" Thus the people were divided as to His identity.

Third, "there was a division therefore again among the Jews" over His teaching. "I have power to lay it {my life} down, and I have power to take it again," declared Jesus (see John 10:18,19). Hearing His remarkable claims, some said, "He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?" Once again there was division.

When the message of Jesus is presented, there is always division. Some accept; some reject. We should not be surprised by the fact, and we should not seek to compromise the message in order to lessen its divisive impact upon its hearers.

-The Prairie Overcomer

Mississippi State Sunbeam Treasurer's Report

June 2, 2009

by Shirlene Smith

Contributions for the State Sunbeam Project

1. Big Creek Baptist Church Soso	\$ 135.00
2. East Amory Baptist Church, Amory	100.00
3. First Baptist Church, Bay Springs	50.00
4. Hopewell Baptist Church, Laurel	300.00
5. Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Carriere	140.00
6. Skyway Hills Baptist Church, Pearl	138.00
7. Temple Baptist Church, Lucedale	105.00
8. Wilderness Baptist Church, Vicksburg	30.00
9. Snack Shop at Sunbeam Retreat	180.20
10. Craft Sales at Sunbeam Retreat	85.71

Total received for the Sunbeam project
\$1,263.91

25% for the General Fund \$ 315.97
75% Missionary Ed Duvall, Cleveland 947.94
Total received **\$1,263.91**

The Sunbeam Project for 2009-2010 is 50% General Fund and 50% Savannah Smith.

Please send your offerings for this project to Shirlene Smith, 730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443.

God bless each of you as you serve Him in Sunbeams this year.

One Smooth Stone

A series of monthly articles by Kirk Shelton, DiscipleGuide's Pastoral and Church Growth Consultant

Love's Great Risk

I should have listened to the counsel I was given. It might have saved me a ton of grief and sorrow. My problem is that I often thought I knew better than my mentors and instructors.

Why didn't I just listen and follow their advice? After all, they were the ones with years of ministry experience. Now I'm the one with a burden of grief and loss that seems much too heavy to carry.

You see, I buried my best friend today. Jeff Allen was approaching his forty-fifth birthday. A beautiful and godly wife, five wonderful children ages ten to eighteen, an excellent career where he was living out his faith – Jeff had everything going his way. He was blessed by God. (Jeff is on the left in the photo.)

We first met almost twenty years ago. Not long out of college, Jeff and Melissa were getting started in life, and God was at the center of it. We instantly became "brothers." Over the years we have worshipped (he was my worship leader for several years), played, vacationed, hiked, laughed, and prayed together. We struggled through our own version of the "worship wars" and wrestled with the great truths of God's sovereignty over our lives and his will for our lives. With the exception of my own family Jeff was as close to

me as I have ever let another person get. He was a friend and brother of unquestioned loyalty and unconditional love. Now he is gone and the tears do not want to stop.



Jeff Allen is on the left with Kirk Shelton in the center.

It was planned as a great family weekend. On Friday night we all attended the graduation ceremony for Jeff and Melissa's oldest daughter, Anna. She was valedictorian and delivered an address that made us all proud. Anna spoke of the bends in the road where we are not allowed to see what is coming our way and related it to life. Twelve hours later her father was very likely already with the Lord. Three days later, after the doctors had done everything they could, life support was turned off. Little did anyone know what the bend in the road was going to mean for this family. The most difficult experience of my almost forty years of ministry was to help explain to Anna, Emily, Jacob, Nathan, and Sarah that their daddy was not going to live

and then to be with them as they said their goodbyes. They are like my own kids; I was there when they were born and there when they spoke their final words to their dad.

If I had only listened to the advice I received as a young preacher this loss would not be so great. "You cannot be friends with the people you pastor...Don't get too close to your congregation...Remember, you are the clergy, they are the congregation." That was the advice I was given. If I had only followed it I would have been distant, apart, separate; then I could do ministry from a safe distance.

No, the more I think about it, I'm glad I did not listen. Ministry is a risk, but love is also a risk! My life has been immeasurably blessed by letting Jeff and Melissa into it. And it's also blessed by others I have let get "too close" – Kevin and Valli, John and Jill, Brian and Jennifer, Donny and Benita, there are more. And the children, don't forget the wonderful children that are just like our own. Yes, this is the way I prefer to flesh out my calling and the ministry God has entrusted to me. As a result there will be other deeply painful experiences to come. I will embrace each one as a gift from the God Who made us one, and I will remember that Jesus wept at the death of His friend. And I will weep again.

Pro-lifers rally outside AMA meeting

OneNewsNow - Pro-life protesters were out in full force as President Obama spoke to the American Medical Association in Chicago on Monday (June 15).

Eric Scheidler of the Pro-Life Action League spearheaded the demonstration. "We're here to ensure that Barack Obama understands that we're going to oppose any effort to expand abortion through his proposed healthcare plan," the pro-life leader explains.

Currently the Obama administration is pumping more than \$300 million into Planned Parenthood, which is a profit-making non-profit abortion provider and referral service. Demonstrators are sending two more clear messages to Washington, ac-

CHILDREN'S HOME

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

Southeastern Baptist College Commencement

On May 14, 2009 it was my privilege and honor to address the 2009 graduating class of Southeastern Baptist College. Our prayers and best wishes extend to those graduating and to the staff and faculty of SBC.

A Word of Appreciation

I would like to express my appreciation to Latrelle Windham for his faithfulness and dedication to the BMA of Mississippi Department of Youth for these past 26 years. Thanks, Latrelle, for the memories and may God bless Linda and you as your service to the Lord continues.

End of School Year Awards

Recently awards were given to students at North Jones El-

ementary School for the past year where our elementary students attend. One student was recognized for being on the Principal's List. Three other students were on the Honor Roll. One student received a Music Achievement Certificate. Three students went to school all year long without missing a day of school and received a Perfect Attendance Certificate, and one student just missed one day at the end of the school year. We thank the Lord for the good school year that all of our boys and girls enjoyed.

Continue to remember the Home in your prayers.



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR



Children's Home residents receive school awards

ording to Scheidler.

"We want to make sure that our healthcare professionals -- doctors like [those] here at the American Medical Association -- have the right to refuse to be involved with abortion and care for their patients without any complicity in abortion," he says.

"And we want to ask the president to follow through on his pledge to reduce abortions by providing help to crisis pregnancy centers where we're really helping women to choose life for their unborn children."

Scheidler shares that the pro-life movement has been invigorated in the aftermath of the most pro-abortion president in history taking office.

It Must Be From God

The Holy Bible must have been Inspired of God and not of men. I could not if I would, believe That good men wrote it to deceive, And bad men could not if they would, And surely would not if they could. Proceed to write a book so good.

-Author Unknown

Introducing Equip! One-Day Conferences

DiscipleGuide Conference Ministry announces Equip! – one-day conferences for all who serve in your church. Equip! will be loaded with ideas for everyone on your church ministry team, helping them to think like missionaries.

The Equipping Center events scheduled for June 20 have been canceled to make way for our new Equip! one-day conferences.

Conference Sites and Dates

September 12, 2009, Temple Baptist Church, Jonesboro, AR
September 26, 2009, Southgate Baptist Church, Moore, OK
February 6, 2010, Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel, MS
March 13, 2010, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, TX

This Is No Time To Quit

The great "falling away" is going on (II Thessalonians 2:3) and the "perilous times" are here (II Timothy 3:1-8). Our world is looking more and more like the days of Noah and the days of Lot (Luke 17:26-28). These days of apostasy should alarm us, because they are creating problems for us. They make the task of maintaining a strong, spiritual church increasingly more difficult. However, this should not discourage us or cause us to relinquish our efforts.

What would our cities and homes come to if we did cease our efforts to help people in spiritual matters? Most of those outside of Christ have no idea what our cities and communities would be if all of the Lord's Churches would give up. Jesus referred to His people as the light of this world and the salt of the earth. (Matthew 5:13,14) If this light would completely go out and this salt would completely lose its savor, this world would not be a fit place in which to

live (Matthew 5:13-16).

It is true that there are some respectable people and some respectable homes that are not going to church. However, this is only true because of the past influence of the Lord's churches. How many men can you name that lead their home with high morals who were not brought up in church, or were not trained by one who was? Most of those who have nothing to do with a church are bringing up wayward children and are being robbed of a peaceful and happy home.

Let us therefore, go back to the Bible and attend church regularly (Hebrews 10:25). Let us build spiritual churches by prayer, faithfulness, and faith in God. Let us build churches that will turn many to righteousness (Daniel 12:3), and edify themselves in love (Ephesians 3:21).

It is true that churches are not what they should be. Nothing that is made up of people is. Despite this, there are still true churches where

many are striving to live for the Lord and to serve Him. Jesus promised His Church that He would be with them unto the end of the age (Matthew 28:20) The Bible has also assured us that our God will be glorified in His Church in every age (Ephesians 3:21).

Every Christian should therefore find a true, Bible believing, Bible preaching, church of our Lord, and then faithfully serve the Lord through it. This is not a time to pull back. It is a time to reinforce our efforts and be "faithful unto death." (Read also Revelations 3:1-5; 1 Corinthians 4:2; Colossians 1:24).

by Grover Laird
from *Sermons Devotional Thoughts*

Plumlee - Reframe Your Thinking

from page 5

going to give you power over me today. You do not have that ability unless I give it to you." Then, quickly change directions. Move away from that person. If that is not possible, start filling your mind with other thoughts. Quote scripture. Remind yourself of who you are in Christ according to the Bible. Think about good things and nice things in your life. Count your blessings. Satan has used this person to try and get you started going down the path of negativism. STOP!

We do have control over our mind. We have habits of thinking. Instead of always responding the same ole way, we could start to change the way we respond to people. Instead of just accepting the guilt, we could speak the truth in love. Instead of believing the lies, we could replace it with the truth found in God's Word about who we are. It won't happen over night. You didn't develop this habit of negative thinking over night, and it won't go away that quickly either. But start to make progress. Gradual progress. Then steady progress. Then on-going progress. You may fall back occasionally. That is okay. As long as we keep moving forward.

Think about a baby. When a baby starts to pull up on furniture and tries to stand, eventually the baby will fall backwards on his rear. But he doesn't give up. If a baby did that, we would all be scooting around on our backsides saying, "well I fell once as a baby." But babies don't give up. They keep pulling up until they stand alone. This is how it will be with your changing your thinking. You will fall into your old ways of thinking. Some people will still get you. That is okay. Don't give up. Keep looking up and Jesus will pull you up every single time. You are what you think about.

Weighty Words

Words are wonderful means of communication if they are fitly spoken; but, when used amiss, they become weapons of destruction, not to the hearer, but also to the speaker.

"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." (Matthew 12:36)

If we always speak in the Name of The Lord Jesus, we will never have to be sorry for our words. It is our own fleshly manner of speech that causes us problems. When we keep the Lord in mind, and speak words that He used, we need not fear the results. They may not be pleasant, but they will not be harmful.

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." (Colossians 3:17)

Karen B. Carroll



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Wear It Out

Sometimes I read something that starts my memory wheels to turning. Well, I read an article a few weeks ago that was written by my friend Joyce Coulter Sullivan in which she quoted a poem that I heard often as I was growing up. "Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without."

All of us who can remember the days before paper towels, aluminum foil, plastic wrap, bathroom tissue, etc., can probably recall the necessity of knowing that poem.

But I do declare, we've come a long way from that mind set. There are a lot of people practicing the same kind of wastefulness that the prodigal son experienced. Nowadays, we use once and throw away. Do you know anybody who patches holes in the knees of britches anymore? (I know, the style seems to be wear them with holes in them. And they pay extra for the holes! But that's another "rant".)

I have a feeling we may be coming back to the days when we have to "use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without."

New Downloadable Bible Study Resources

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DiscipleGuide Classics are rich and meaningful Sunday School studies from the past, reformatted for you to download from our Web site for only \$.99 per lesson. Download one copy of the lessons you choose and photocopy for your Bible study group. *DiscipleGuide Classics* provide excellent group studies for Sunday evenings or during the week. Go to DiscipleGuide.org, click on the "Adults" tab, select "Undated Resources," and then click on the *DiscipleGuide Classics* link on the left.



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