

Baptist

Mississippi

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JUNE 15, 2010

VOL. 64 No. 12

SOAR - Sessions to be held at the Dallas Convention Center Overflow Hotel Information

Due to circumstances beyond our control the Sheraton has breached our contracted general session's venue and moved us to the Dallas Convention Center located 15 blocks from the Sheraton. We have tried in good faith to rectify with the Sheraton or to locate to another venue, but at this late date it is impossible. SOAR will happen and I am trusting SOAR will be used to bring many to Christ and his work. We are facing our challenges with this change and believe we have plans in place that will make it painless and smooth even with the inconvenience.

Sheraton will provide 40 air-conditioned charter buses to move attendees from the Sheraton to the DCC. All you will need to do is bring your group down as you normally would but instead of entering a ballroom you will proceed with them onto the bus and be delivered at the DCC. The busses will be waiting on you after the sessions and you will do the same thing back to the Sheraton. We encourage you to stay at the DCC throughout the sessions.

In the event there is an emergency reason you need to return to the Sheraton, there will be on call busses to take you back. The DCC has a very large area that can accommodate our group without any issues. A perk is that they will have the concession stands open and offering affordable food, drinks and snacks for our convenience. You may choose to have your group eat on site and not have to go back to the hotel then to find a fast food option. We regret these circumstances but know God already knew of our challenges and will bless SOAR and your group as we accept and trust Him.

The hotel is still working on the details of group drop-off information on your arrival and will be announced shortly. Also, they are working on logistics for bus boarding and drop off for each day. Watch the DCM website www.discipleguide.org for posting. Mission Arlington

Those participating in SOAR Serves with Mission Arlington should plan to meet on location at 210 West South Street, Arlington, Texas at 10:00am. Mission Arlington is about 24 miles from the Sheraton hotel so plan accordingly. You will be greeted in the parking lot and advised where to go for the briefing and service assignment for

the day. Your service times are 10:00am - 3:00pm.

Hotel Information

If you have rooms reserved at the Sheraton, you are secure with your rooms. They have all the original room reservations. Sheraton is completely sold out of guest rooms, so below are listed two options for overflow rooms.

If you had rooms reserved at the Aloft Hotel (by Dallas Convention Center), you should call to verify the correct rooms are secured. Call 877-462-5638 or the direct number at 214-761-0000. I know they have plenty of king rooms at the \$109 rate but are out of double/double rooms. Parking at the Aloft is \$6 per day.

An additional hotel has been secure for those still needing rooms. A SOAR block has been set up at the Westin which is across the street from the Sheraton and is connected by Sky Bridge. They have plenty of double/double rooms for our group at the \$109 per night rate.



Part 2

Unity: Get In "The Way"

By Dr. Philip Attebery
2010 BMA President's Message
(continued from June 1, 2010 issue)

Unity is the theme of this message and of our meeting. Jesus prayed that we would be one. It is essential for the lost to know Jesus was sent from God in order to be saved. The way they know that is by our unity.

Are we unified? Are we 'in the way'? Have we gotten 'in' as the Father and the Son are 'in' each other? Are we unified with

Christ and the disciples being sent to do evangelism, discipleship and develop spiritual maturity in believers? Are we in on it? Is that happening at your church? It must be!

A beauty of this is that throughout history we can join others and join future believers who will also be involved in evangelism and discipleship, being one and doing the mission Jesus was sent to do. We can do this regardless of the color of our skin, the amount of money we have in our bank accounts or whether our churches are large or small. We can do evangelism and we can do discipleship.

Wouldn't it be exciting if the 12 disciples showed up at your church and said, "Look at that! Look at them sharing the gospel. Look at that guy who's learned the gospel and is now taking those others out and sharing. Remember how Jesus did that with us? Remember that time we went up to Jesus after we saw Him pray and we asked Him, "Jesus, teach us how to pray?" Remember He said, "Listen. When you

To make your reservations at the Westin call 1-800-937-8461 or 1-866-837-4246. The direct number for the Westin is 214-979-9000. You will need to cross the sky bridge on the second floor to the Sheraton for bus transport.



Dr. Philip Attebery

pray, pray like this: Our Father, which are in Heaven. Hallowed be thy name." And He prayed with us. Remember how effective that was? He taught us how to pray by praying with us.'

They might also say of another church, 'Yeah, but remember that other church we went to, where the only way

they were teaching people how to share the gospel was the preacher getting on them about needing to go share? Remember how that Sunday School teacher said, "Yeah, I'll help you learn how to pray; go watch this DVD and that'll tell you how to pray." That's not what Jesus taught us to do. That's not how Jesus made us into disciples."

This being one is the exclusive testimony and evidence of the fact that Jesus is sent from God. Jesus prays that we would be one. He does not pray that we would have large church buildings in the best locations in town, but neither did He pray that we would have small churches in the worst location in town. He did not pray that we would have health and wealth, but neither did He pray that we would be sick and poor. He did not pray that we would have contemporary worship services, but neither did He pray that we would have traditional worship services. He did not pray that we would have Viking churches or Conquistador churches. (Vikings were around at one time and so were Conquistadors, but they're not around now.)

Jesus did not pray that we would have cowboy churches and He did not pray that we would have biker churches, but neither did He pray that men had to wear a suit and tie and women had to

Continued on page 2

I Want to be Included as a Friend Unity: Get In “The Way”

Everybody wants to be included as a friend. No one wants to be left out. I too want to be included as a friend. Feelings get hurt easily in elementary school over friendships. As we progress along in life, we come to understand we have very few real friends over our life span. Abraham was included as a friend of God (James 2.23; Isa 41.8; 2 Chr 20.7). How does one get to this status of ultimate friend?

He was an altar builder and worshiper of God (Gen 12.8 and others). Yes, he built many altars and at that point he worshiped God. Significant events took place before that altar time. Usually the conclusion to this landmark experience was the worship of God. I want to be a friend of God as an altar builder and worshiper.

He got his money right with God (Gen 14.20). The New Testament book of Hebrews makes

much of Melchizedek. So did Abraham. He paid his tithe to that representative of God. I want to be a friend of God by getting my money right with Christ and His Church.

He believed the unseeable of God (Gen 15.6). He was willing to walk toward something that God said was there even though he could not see it with sight, measure it by standards, or comprehend it through intellect. This is something that not all are willing to do as they are called to be God's friend. I want to be the friend of God by walking by faith toward the unseeable.

He laughed at the mysterious from God (Gen 17.17). Old men don't have children, much less their old wives. He laughed at

this along with his wife (Gen 18.12). What great pleasure to be enamored and buoyed along by the mysterious in life! I want to be the friend of God to smile

internally, even laugh out loud at the mysterious moving of God.

Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver



He focused on his family for God (Gen 21.3; 23.2; others). Isaac meant everything to him. He

showed concern by his actions. Sarah meant everything to him. He demonstrated his concern by actions. I want to be a friend of God by demonstrating my focus for my family by my actions.

Being chosen last, or not chosen at all for the team, in elementary school, hurts. Losing a friend in elementary school hurts. As we mature, let us remember it is God who chooses us as His friend because of our

Sermon - From Page 1

wear a dress. He did not pray that we would use the King James Version of the Bible, but neither did He pray that we would use the NIV.

In Jesus' last words, He does not even pray for lost souls to be saved. In fact, in John 17:9, He said: "I am not praying for the world." He is praying for His disciples and for those who would believe and for their message that they would be one. It's clear that Jesus knows when we are one in evangelism and discipleship that people will be saved. That's His way.

I've dreaded saying some of the things I just said to you.

behavior and commitment to Him. Abraham was God's friend. I want to be a friend of God like Abraham. Does my behavior merit such status as ultimate friend?

Jesus prays that we would be one. Do not leave this place saying that I preached against cowboys or bikers or anything like that because I did not. Those could be great ways of reaching people, but I also believe that those are ways that divide many believers.

Some of you have gotten real upset about this type of thing. I think I have, to be honest with you. But Jesus wants us to be one. We don't need to be upset about those things, but we do need to be concerned about what Jesus was concerned about and that is evangelism and discipleship.

He prays for His disciples. He sends them to do what He was sent to do and they would have told us the same and some of the things we struggle over today are not going to be issues through eternity. In fact, they won't even be issues in the future.

Like I said, the Vikings and the Conquistadors are things that were here but they're gone. What if we'd put so much effort into Vikings and Conquistadors and failed to share the gospel and make disciples? Then there would be a problem. But if we're discipling and evangelizing Vikings and Conquistadors, we're being one with all believers of all times.

When people see a group that's together, they know they have an obvious common interest. If you go to a football game and see everybody wearing the home team colors, you get the idea that those people are football fans. When you see people together in a group and they have a commonality, it's normal to say: "They're interested in this" or "They're interested in that." But it's not normal when you see people together and they obviously do not have commonalities.

When you have people that get together in church like that and they're diverse, it does require an act of supernatural power and capacity. Jesus said: "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one" (v. 22) He has given us the power to be one. He has given us the glory so that we can be one, not only with each other in different cultures and different groups within our own society, but one with all believers of all time.

When I come to church and

See page 3

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MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
 Dr. John M. Adams, Director
 P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863
 Email - fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com



John Adams

Dear BMA family,

We ask each church to participate in our 2010 Moral Action Freedom offering. We also will be giving the opportunity to remember or honor our brave soldiers. Please send us their names to Moral Action. We must seek God-sent revival to America, so help us on July 4 or July 11.

Dr. John M. Adams
 Moral Action Executive Director

Unity: Get In "The Way"

from page 2

see an older person worshipping with a younger person; a rich person with a poor person; a male with a female; a cowboy and a biker with a banker; a person carrying this version of the Bible and another carrying that version of the Bible; a person whose skin color is red, yellow, brown, black or white (it's not natural, it's supernatural! And it's a testimony to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

I appreciate those of you who clapped on that. You see why it's not easy to say some of these things. But if those things divide us, then we need to remember to be one. People can look and see us all together and that's evidence that Jesus is from God.

Psalm 133 says "Blessed are brethren when they dwell together in unity. It's like the oil that goes down the beard, even Aaron's beard." That oil was a particular perfume, an oil they put together with various ingredients for use exclusively in the Lord's house. And you'd face

severe punishment if you mixed those ingredients together for use outside of the Lord's house.

When they poured that oil over the priest before he went into the presence of God, and it went down his beard and over his breastplate, the aroma would last a while. After he comes out and even when he's walking through the community, the aroma would remain upon him. And when the people smelled that exclusive aroma, they would know he had recently been in the presence of God.

I believe the Bible tells us that when we have unity we can walk out of here tonight as one and people will know we have been in the presence of God.

I hear people talking about attending worship services and leaving unchanged, but it is impossible to come into the presence of God and leave unchanged. My hope is that we'll be in the presence of God today. We do not have the oil that created the fragrance pleasing to God, but we can have unity. Becoming one is a sweet smell to our Lord. We'll be in His presence.

When I was younger, I remember looking at our church and thinking, "I don't see why God can't grow our church and do great things with us like He would any other church." I really believed God could do great things in our church and He did. That can happen here tonight.

Jesus said, "Why do you call me 'Lord,' but not do what I say?" (Luke 6:46) I think all of us would call Jesus "Lord," and all of us want to be in His will. (Taking time to be here in Fort Smith is a sign that you want Jesus to be your Lord.) But we must do what He says and see Scripture in the same way. Just as the music is studied and per-

formed as intended by the composer, we must be diligent to understand the intent of the Author of God's Word and get in that way.

What am I really talking about? I think about a fictitious gentleman who is about 80 years old. He was saved when he was 10 at a revival service. He has a Bible, he reads it and he knows things about the Bible. But his Bible study is really only what he gets at church. His pastor is the one who has done the studying and he simply listens to what his pastor says about the Bible. That's really how he learns. He does not spend time studying the Bible on his own.

He prays every day. He prays before meals and he prayed extra hard when his wife faced surgery several years earlier. But you could not say that he has an aggressive prayer life that is touching the heart of God.

When he attends worship services and is asked to voice a prayer, he just says the same words over and over, and some of the kids probably laugh because they have his prayer memorized.

He does give money, but you might question whether he is a good steward of everything he owns.

He attends worship service, but he's never moved during an invitation, unless you count the time he moved when the pastor said, "I'd like to have all the men come and kneel in the altar." He came with all the men, but he never comes on his own. He has been to church for 70 years and during those 70 years it appears as though the Lord has never convicted his heart enough for him to respond and kneel or even pray for a lost person.

"I witness with my life," he says, but no one has ever said, "I've watched that gentleman and his life has been so impressive that I want to be saved today." He was involved in the

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.

Lucedale church to hold concert

The well known group, "Big Blessing" will be in concert at Temple Baptist Church, 88 Summer St., Lucedale, Mississippi, on June 27 at 6:00 PM. Pastor B.J. Hudson and the Temple family extend this invitation to all who can attend. A love offering will be taken to help in their ministry of sharing the gospel in song.

Harmony meeting

The June meeting of the Harmony Association was held at Central Baptist Church in Corinth. Following special music, the message was brought by Bro. Bob O'Neal from I Corinthian 16.

There were 7 churches present with a total of 51, with 2 visitors. Bro. Nall handed out schedules of the Harmony Camp to be held June 21-23 at

Tishomingo State Park. In new business, next month's meeting is to be held at Emanuel Baptist with Bro. Richie Hester as the speaker. Bro. Ray Freeman gave a report on missions, and also reported of a committee being established to check the feasibility of better utilizing the Children's Home and its assets along with the Youth Department. Bro. Elvis Garcia reported on the Hispanic mission work in Ripley and their new building being readied for use. Bro. John Adams reported on his work with the Moral Action Committee.

Bro Tim Hall - Moderator
 Tony Marolt - Report

Bethel, Fulton

Hello from Bethel Baptist Church in Fulton! We have several at the National Galilean Camp this week. Martez Wells & Miranda Francis are at VSM Boot Camp this week. Martez will be going to the Ukraine with a Basketball Missionary team & Miranda will be going to Jacob's Well Church in Chicago. We have several going to National GMA Camp June 15-18. Several will also be going to Junior Youth Camp June 21-23 & SOAR June 29-July 2. We have had 9 additions since last report. You are always welcome at Bethel. If you are ever in the area, please stop by for a visit.

Dr. Martin Jameson, pastor
 Martha Duncan, reporter

Church to hold reception for retiring pastor

On Sunday June 6, Pastor Leon Carmical announced to the Midway First Baptist Church his intention to retire. His last Sunday with the Midway Church will be on July 11.

The children of Pastor and Mrs. Carmical are planning a retirement reception on Saturday afternoon June 26. They are inviting the Carmical's friends from across the state to come to this event. The reception will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. The dress will be very casual.



Leon Carmical

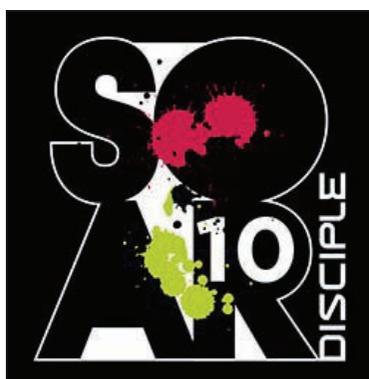
salvation of his young daughter when she came to him and said, "Daddy, I need to be saved" - he called the preacher and set up an appointment to visit and the pastor led her to the Lord.

He has served on numerous committees in church, but he does not know his spiritual gift. And to think about going online and filling out a spiritual gift inventory just doesn't seem right

to him. You could say he's a leader in the church because he's well respected and he makes many decisions regarding finances. But no one is going to call him by name when saying, "I am much closer to God because of Bro. So and So."

Does that sound like a spiritually mature man? It does not!

continued on page 4



June 30-July 2
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Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Guest Editorial

A Dose of Reality

Without Natural Affection

An accurate description of society today can be found in II Timothy 3:1-5. This description is not some abstract statement of an unknown people in an unknown time. I believe it accurately and prophetically describes the time in which we live today. Who can argue with such words and phrases describing men as "lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers" and this is only a partial list. Every one of these "qualities" can be located daily from a compilation of newspapers.

One phrase that stands out as especially true and descriptive is "without natural affection." The word natural is derived from the word nature which has to do with "the inherent or essential qualities of anything," to give a dictionary definition. To have affection for someone means to cherish that person. This phrase is also found in Romans 1 with reference to homosexuals who are without natural affection for the opposite sex. Having natural affection is the norm, as in a male having natural affection for a female, a female having natural affection for a male, and a parent having a natural affection for his or her children. In other words, it's just the natural thing,

or that which is expected and normal. Anything contrary to that which is natural, is unnatural, naturally.



Joseph Harris

Though the Bible never mentions the word abortion, it does speak of murder and shedding of innocent blood. The phrase "without natural affection" in II Timothy 3:3 can also describe the feeling of a mother toward a child she may want aborted. In the animal kingdom, most mothers have an intense desire to protect their young, to the point of the mother putting her own life on the line. With animals, this is called instinct. The mother doesn't think about it or have to be taught to protect her young. She just does it, therefore it is natural.

All human mothers have a God-given desire to protect their young, whether inside or outside the womb. To dislike, even hate a child to the point of murdering the child, is to be without natural affection. But God places a natural affection within the heart of every parent. The same can be said of any father who might abuse or kill his children. He is without natural affection. Simply put, it is natural for him to love and protect his children, and unnatural to hate and abuse them. The result of any mother

who rejects or denies this God-given natural affection is guilt and frustration, which explains why so many mothers who have had their children killed through abortion, eventually need some kind of emotional or psychological counseling. They also need forgiveness from God for committing the sin of murder.

As the ungodly "celebrate" decades of killing the innocent and helpless, may God have mercy on America and raise the awareness of this current generation concerning the horrible holocaust that has been taking place in the name of choice, because of the lack of natural affection.

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Jerry Jolly

Jerry Jolly has resigned the pastorate of the Highland Hills Baptist Church at Highland, Arkansas, effective June 20.

He is available for revivals, conferences or Sunday preaching appointments as the Lord leads. He can be reached at 1-870-932-8293 or 1-870-930-4309 or jerryjolly@suddenlink.net.

Sam McClure

Sam McClure is available for pastoral work, revivals or as the Lord leads. He is a member of Red Creek Missionary Baptist Church in Agricola, Mississippi and may be reached at 601-947-9686 (days), 601-947-9914 (evenings), or by cell 601-508-1053.

Dale Wirick

Dale Wirick is available for service where ever the Lord leads. He may be reach at P. O. Box 256, Escatawpa, MS 38655 or at 228-474-8886 or 228-369-1419. Bro. Wirick has recently resigned as pastor of Westview Church, Oxford.

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"OK Larry, when I blow the horn, you yell 'RAPTURE!'"

Unity: Get In "The Way"

from page 3

You could probably argue with me about it and you may be right, but my suspicion is that it is a description of the majority of our church members.

Then there is a young girl who is also saved at age of 10 - maybe it was at church camp at Daniel Springs or maybe it was through GMAs. Thankfully, she has a good youth director and he helps her to avoid some major moral decline issues during her teen years. But to be honest with you, she's heading the same direction as that older man.

In this banner for this year's meeting, we have red cars going one way - that's the way of that man. There are numerous Bible verses and things we could use, but I think most church members, most Christians, are really going like those red cars and are going a way that ends with no spiritual maturity. The young lady we just talked about is heading that way until somebody gets in the way because they know the way she's living is good but she is not going toward spiritual maturity.

They might say, "There are a few of us that get together and study the Bible, would you like to join us?" She says, "Sure," and joins in on it. It's not the

kind of thing most people do for Bible study such as get a little book and just go through it. It's a little more than that. They study the Bible and the leader asks the same questions every time they get together. The consistency of doing that is helping her know how to study the Bible for herself. In fact, she is able to study the Bible without a teacher being there. If asked to do so, she can even lead the group in how to study the Bible because of what she has learned.

Following several weeks of Bible study, they begin seeking to improve their prayer lives. Maybe it's because a study of John 17 inspires them to learn and pray as Jesus did. They begin to pray and realize that Jesus taught His disciples how to pray by praying with them, so they start praying together. Not just a few minutes, but they pray for maybe an hour, and they do that week after week. They're praying and her prayer life develops along with others as she learns how to pray.

She also begins to learn things about worship. She understands from her study of Scripture that there is more to worship than she has experienced. There are

continued on page 5



Mississippi Baptist

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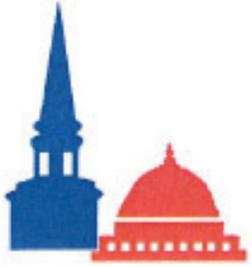
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Don J. Brown, Editor
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Unity: Get In “The Way”

from page 4

some things that are acceptable and some things that are not. She becomes very concerned about how to please God and she begins to study worship in the Bible.

She sits with people in church who help her to understand that being ready for Sunday morning worship means she cannot stay up late on Saturday night. She learns that praying and reading the Bible, paying attention and taking notes help her worship. Her group teaches her that worship is more than just attending services on Sunday morning; it's about worshiping God with your life and they live life with her to show that to her.

She learns about serving and about her spiritual gifts. Maybe she has the gift of teaching and

she is prepared to be an effective teacher because she has learned how to study the Bible, pray and worship. She is ready.

She learns how to share the gospel by getting in on something like Evangelism Explosion where she goes out with her teachers and actually shares the gospel.

When she's married and has a son, she also calls the preacher when approached about the need for him to be saved, but it's not as the gentleman had done earlier. She calls the preacher and lets her son talk to him. “Preacher,” her son says, “I want you to know I just got saved and my mom led me to the Lord!”

Are we seeing a difference in spiritual maturity? Somebody has to get in the way and stop us from going the wrong way. Good

people with good morals - some of the best people in the world - are in BMA churches. But we have to be about evangelism and discipleship, maturing people so we may, as Paul said, “in wisdom present every man mature in Christ.”

You must have a plan. You don't just show up and it happens. You must be prepared. If somebody fell down in front of me with a heart attack, I could look at him and know he needs CPR. I might even say, “You're having a heart attack. What you need is CPR. I'm going to go take a class on CPR and I will be back.” But it will be too late! I should already know that people have heart attacks, and I need to be prepared for when they do.

If we are going to be in the disciple making business, people are going to need to know how to study their Bibles, how to pray and how to worship. They're going to need to know about

giving, how to share the gospel and evangelize, about serving and their spiritual gifts, about leading and numerous other spiritual disciplines. I cannot wait until somebody comes up to me and says, “I need to be disciplined.” I need to already understand the things involved in discipleship. I need to get ready now. Many of us are not ready.

I stood before you a year ago and shared a message on “Raising the Sails of Faith,” and my closing statements emphasized the need to be prepared to equip people in these spiritual disciplines. I shared with you my frustration with trying to inform people of what they need to do but offering no solutions of how to get it done. I confessed to you then that I understood that we needed to be equipping people in disciplines, and that I was willing to help you however I could, but that I did not understand everything myself.

Some of you have asked me, “How can I help my people learn how to study the Bible and pray, etc.?” But as I (and others) have looked at various discipleship curriculum, I have discovered that there is no such curriculum, no plan to help you equip people. There are various things you have to pull together, but there isn't one thing you can go to and say, “This is going to help me to mature my people in these various disciplines.”

Following our 2009 meeting, I invited our directors, officers and Coordinating Council to my hotel room on Thursday morning. We just talked about the meeting, how to raise our sails of faith and stepping out to do what God wanted. Our directors said, “We need to find a way to help local churches fulfill the Great Commission and make disciples.”

continued on page 6

That's Not Weird, That's God!!

A couple of days ago I was doing a women's conference down on the ocean front in Texas. I had finished my morning prayers, and had walked out and got in my car to leave the hotel parking lot. God impressed upon me to start praying for one of the young men in my mentorship group. I love this about God. One of the greatest confirmations that God is real, outside of Him living in my heart, is how He speaks to me about my prayers. I haven't always been one who listened in the past. But I have grown up to love this. I strive so hard to not lean unto my own understanding, but in all my ways to acknowledge Him. Every time someone's name comes to mind, I don't think about them. I start praying for them. I frequently hear how that very day something happened to this person about what I prayed for them. So, I started praying for this young man. The Lord's spirit directed my prayers toward praying and asking that this young man receive a ministry opportunity.

As I am finishing this prayer, my cell phone begins to ring. Since it is in my lap; it startles me when it rings. I normally wouldn't stop any prayer for a phone call, but I opened my eyes when the phone rang so loudly. I looked at the caller ID, and the name on the caller ID was this young man I had been praying for.

I answered the phone and said, "I am freaking out. I was just uttering your name before heaven. The Lord asked me to pray for you about receiving a ministry opportunity." The young man replied back, "You are really going to start freaking out then, when I tell you that I was calling to ask you to pray for me. I am



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

driving to an appointment with a pastor to talk to him about being considered for their youth minister position. I was calling you to ask you to pray for me and this ministry opportunity." Wow!! I was amazed. I told him I didn't have to pray for him and this opportunity, because God had already gone out ahead of him and called on me to pray for him. As I shared this with some of the people at the conference, they said "that's weird". I said, "It's God!".

I know sometimes it is weird. I know sometimes you just cannot explain it. I have heard many Christians say, "Boy this strange thing happened to me today". Or they might say, "The weirdest thing happened today. You won't believe this. What a coincidence." I have said those things in the past as well. But I have also come to learn that these weird, unbelievable, coincidental things are not just random events.

We serve a mighty God who is deeply concerned with every aspect of our lives. We need to always reflect every day how God has chosen to reveal His mysterious power to us. I think sometimes we get so busy, we fail to see all that He has done throughout our hectic day. Sometimes, we are so lost in our pursuit of the things of this world, that we totally miss the blessing of seeing our Father in our daily walk. God sometimes will do great and mighty things in our life. Hopefully, we all see and recognize this for what it is, and begin a period of praise and thanksgiving to our Lord for these moments.

God really is concerned about us at such a deep level, that we can't truly understand it. The same with his unconditional love for us. We can't truly comprehend the depth of His love for us. If God loves us this much and cares about any part of our life (and He does) then He cares about ALL of our life. He isn't just watching over us on Sunday at church. He isn't revealing His hand of providence only during a crisis. He is always active in our lives. While God does do some miracles in big ways in the life of every believer, He also chooses to send tiny little reminders of who He is. He shows us little glimpses of His glory. He speaks to us in a still small voice. He doesn't just help us through the big hurdles of life. He helps us even with the mundane routines of our day.

We need to start looking for these and praising Him. He is worthy of our praise. It is encouraging and reassuring to all of us when God shows himself, even in the smallest, uneventful parts of our day. Try next week, and hopefully every week thereafter, to look for God doing little weird things in our life. They aren't weird. They aren't freaky. It isn't coincidental. It certainly has nothing to do with horoscopes. And above all, it has nothing to do with luck. "My, weren't you lucky." No, it was God. "Wow, that was weird." No, that was God. He is awesome. He is mysterious. He is worthy to be praised. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Psalm 147:3,6 "He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds. The Lord lifteth up the meek." Who prepares rain for the earth? Who makes grass grow upon the mountains? Who gives food to the beast? Who calls all the stars by name? Who causes the wind to blow and the waters to flow?

"Great is the Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite." Psalm 147:5.

Mississippi W.M.A.

Mrs. Ruby Bynum, President

43 Bear Pen Creek Rd., Laurel, MS 39440
601-428-1901

Corresponding Secretary

Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443
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Unity: Get In "The Way"

from page 5

The purpose of the BMA is to provide cooperating departments that inspire missions and assist local churches in fulfilling the Great Commission. Missions is obviously about evangelism and the Great Commission - but that commission is often translated "let's send missionaries" when it is actually talking about making disciples. You cannot study Matt. 28:18-20 accurately and come to any other conclusion.

The purpose of the BMA is to help churches. I've heard it asked before, "Do the churches exist before the BMA or does the BMA exist before the churches?" I believe, according to our constitution, that the departments of the BMA exist to assist our churches.

As I sat there in the hotel room a year ago, and some others could testify to it, I saw our directors and the leaders of our association begin to raise the sails of faith. They said, "We need to find a way to help our people make disciples."²²

Some of you have heard about DiscipleWay. You've read about it in our papers, and some of you have visited the website or signed up to be prayer partners. I am thankful that hundreds of you took our recent survey, which helps our department directors and

leaders who are trying to help you to be better at making disciples.

I'm asking you to get in the way. I'm asking you to be prayerful about DiscipleWay. Hopefully, it will be formally introduced and available to you at this meeting in 2011. It is a curriculum that will help you take your Bible, sit down with disciples at your church and teach them how to study God's Word. They will then be able to teach somebody else how to study the Bible.

It will teach them how to pray because you're going to pray with them like Jesus prayed with His disciples. They will be able to teach somebody else. It's discipleship, and it's what we're called to do. It's what we are to be - one with our Savior and His disciples and all believers through all time involved in evangelism and discipleship.

I've heard some people say, "My church is doing great; we have a lot of people." Sometimes people say, "Philip, you've never been the pastor of a church of significant size and you don't know what you're talking about."

I can't help but recall a story from the Old Testa-

continued on page 7

Ten Mile District WMA

On April 12, the Ten Mile W.M.A. held their meeting at Paramount Baptist Church near Perkinston. Paramount Church brought us our devotional from Proverbs 31-10.

Sister Louise Crawley reminded us to pray for our missionaries in Haiti. Mrs. Francisca Saldana was remembered. She passed away 6 February 2010. "Grandma Ochoa" was a faithful member of Temple Baptist Church for over thirty years and of WMA.

Julia Lee read the minutes and conducted roll call of our churches. All WMA officers presented their reports and they were accepted as given.

We presented a plaque in honor of Ms. Cherrie Breland for serving over forty years of faithful service as our Secretary/Treasurer. We appreciate her hard work and dedication to our Ten Mile District WMA. She has always been our mentor and role model. She serves God from the heart, and always a faithful servant. Cherri will always be remembered as a woman that did her job to the best of her ability and did an outstanding job.

We enjoyed the fellowship with Paramount Baptist Church. Our next meeting will be at 7:00 P.M., Temple Baptist Church, Biloxi, on July 12, 2010.

Reporter - Maria Ochoa

Baptist Missionary Association of America Middle East missions under persecution

by Charles Costa
Middle East Coordinator

We are having difficulties recovering from one attack after the other. First, one of our team members in Egypt was thrown in jail for "opening a place of worship without license." Getting a license is next to impossible. We would need a presidential decree.

Our Mauritania Church planter is under the threat of death with his family after a



colleague was shot to death on the street in broad daylight.

Today, the word came out that all of our Baptist churches in Syria are to be shut down except maybe 2. They use apartments in apartment buildings. From now on, no churches are

allowed in apartment buildings. This was an Achilles' heel for us. It is an illogical law, but none-the-less, a new law. We really need prayers. Our work in Syria is at stake. Could you please send out a prayergram to every email address you have so we can repel this satanic attack through the power of prayer?

Please share this with other Baptist papers. I will be forever grateful. It is crunch time and the victory is the Lord's.

Unity: Get In "The Way"

from page 6

ment about Moses. People had a legitimate need for water; they were thirsty and they began to complain. So God told Moses and Aaron to "get the people together, speak to the rock and there will be plenty of water."

You know the story - Moses struck the rock and it kept him from entering the Promised Land. Moses disobeyed God, but the people got water anyway. God blessed the people in spite of the sin of Moses

What was the sin of Moses? The Bible says the rock represented Christ, and some say the first time he struck the rock represented the crucifixion of Jesus and the second time represented crucifying Jesus again.

But Psalm 106 says Moses was so provoked to anger that he spoke words that were rash. Numbers records the incident

and emphasizes how irritating the people had become with all their constant complaining, so that Moses finally said, "You rebels. Must we bring forth water out of this rock?" He then hit the rock and water came forth, but God says that in doing so, "First of all, Moses, you did not believe me; and second, you did not sanctify Me in front of the people."

If Moses had spoken to the rock and water came forth, it would've been obvious that God brought forth water from that rock. But Moses got angry and said, "Must we bring forth water from this rock?" Then when he hit the rock, it opened the door for people to respond with comments like: "Moses is still strong!" "Did you see that old man, Moses? Man, he whacked that thing. I don't want him to hit me!" The attention was then on Moses rather than on God and God was not exalted. Did the people still get water? Yes. God still blessed His people with water.

Are people being saved in our churches whether we're making disciples or not? Yes. He still blesses people by seeing them get saved. Your church may be growing but not making disciples, which is God's way. Does it matter whether we do it God's way or Moses' way? Does it matter whether we do ministry God's way or ours? Ask Moses!

People are going to get water if God wants them to have water. But there are consequences for leadership that chooses to do the watering, the evangelism, the disciple making and the spiritual maturity their way as opposed to God's way.

Where are you? Believers of all ages should look at us and see our evangelism and discipleship. The result is found in verse 23: "In them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me."

I would love for the world to know that God loves the BMA. The way for that to happen is for us to be one, doing the things Jesus sent His disciples to do that He had been sent to do, letting that be the rallying point for all believers of all time.

You have heard of politicians known as RINO's (Republicans In Name Only) or maybe DINO's (Democrats In Name Only). What if the "D" meant Disciple-makers and DINO meant Disciple-makers In Name Only? Are you one of those? You may talk about evangelism and discipleship, but what is the result? You may talk about teaching and preaching the Word of God, but are your sermons really strongly expounding the Word of God?

Are you involved in discipling the way you need to be? Are you teaching and following the teaching example of Jesus? Would the Lord smell that unified aroma tonight? Did we come here tonight to worship the Lord, but we're going to leave changed?

People leave the BMA, our DiscipleWay survey showed some things about that. People ask me all the time, "What about these people joining other associations?" The BMA leadership is trying to do exactly what God wants us to do and I can tell you there are no other associations, conventions or organizations of churches that are doing this either. We can be one in doing what God has called all believers to do.

CHILDREN'S HOME

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

Awards for Students

Recently awards were given to students at North Jones Elementary School where our elementary students attend. Two students were recognized for being on the Principal's List and two students were on the Honor Roll. One student received the Spelling Award. Two students went to school all year long without missing a day of school and received a Perfect Attendance Certificate. We thank the Lord for the good school year that all our boys and girls enjoyed.

Church Visit

On Sunday, May 23, we were with the Woodlawn Baptist Church in Pascagoula for their morning services. It was good to be at Woodlawn again and to have the opportunity to fill in for Bro. Danny Cresswell while he

was away. The children of the Home shared special music and I shared a message from God's Word.

Expression of Sympathy

We would like to express our sympathy to the family of Bro. Howard Rhoden. His love, concern, support, and faithfulness to the ministry that God had called him to was evident. Our prayers and thoughts are with the Rhoden family during their time of sorrow and loss.

Remember in Prayer

Continue to remember the Home and its ministry in your daily prayers.



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

Trial opens on Scouts' Philly Headquarters

OneNewsNow - The Boy Scouts is on trial in Philadelphia - at issue is whether the Scouts' policy on homosexuals allows them to remain in their longtime base of operations.

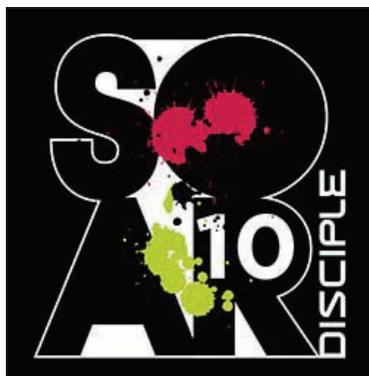
In a case that opened yesterday (June 14), the City of Brotherly Love is trying to evict the Boy Scouts from their building, constructed 80 years ago on city-owned property and provided rent free in perpetuity -- that is, forever. According to the city charter, one of the Scouts' national policies violates local rules.

"They said because of the Scouts' policy on not permitting open homosexuals as leaders or members, then they were discriminating -- and that was against the Philadelphia fair practices ordinance," explains Diane Gramley of the American Family Association of Pennsylvania, who adds that the city also wants more than \$300,000 in back rent as well as \$200,000 a year to remain in the building.

A U.S. Supreme Court decision a decade ago allows the Boy Scouts to exclude homosexuals because it is a private organization -- raising the question of how a local ordinance can supersede a decision by the nation's high court.

"I have asked that a lot of times here in Pennsylvania," Gramley shares, "because the Supreme Court also made a similar ruling dealing with sexually oriented businesses, and our state Supreme Court overruled the U.S. Supreme Court saying the Pennsylvania Constitution is older than the U.S. Constitution."

The pro-family leader contends the lawsuit against the Boy Scouts is driven by homosexual activists whose agenda of forcing acceptance of homosexuality is more important to them than the Scouts serving tens of thousands of area youth.



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BMA OF MISSISSIPPI MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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Rayburn Freeman, Director



We are privileged to share with you that the Lord continues to bless your state Missions program. We are thankful that Bro. Elvis Garcia and the congregation of First Hispanic Baptist Mission in Ripley, are now using their new facilities and they are grateful for the additional space that they now have. This will surely help them to grow now and in the future.

As of this date the trusses are on at our Cleveland, Mississippi, building project and this building will soon be in the black. Bro. Freeman is in Cleveland leading this building project. We are blessed to have the Master Builders on location to assist in the work there. These good people help save hundreds of thousands of dollars in building projects all around the country and the BMA of Mississippi is grateful for their help. We also appreciate that the Liberty Memorial Baptist Church of Memphis, going to help with the sheet rock on their project.

Bro. Ed Duvall and his congregation are looking forward to occupying their new building in the very near future. We have received about \$8,000.00 for 2010 missions special emphasis as of this date. Please continue to pray for state missions.

El Camino

For the month of May, in Laurel, Bro. Estuardo reached out and visited 18 homes, made 37 soul talks and had 6 professions of faith. They had an average of 65 in their Worship service. The Lord blessed El Camino with an average weekly offering of \$171.33.

Petal Mission

Bro. Estuardo's New Mission was very successful in May. In Petal there was 7 home visited with 16 soul talks. He had 3 professions of faith. They had a average Sunday school attendance of 9. They were blessed with an average offering of \$19.60.

First Hispanic

Bro. Elvis had a wonderful month by visiting 45 homes and talking to 46 souls. Their were also 2 souls saved. First Hispanic had an average of 76 in Sunday morning worship. Their average offering for May was \$720.40.

Maple Street

May was a blessed month for Bro. Joseph. He visited 30 homes, made 64 soul talks, and had 8 profession of faith. Their weekly average Sunday school attendance was 21. For morning wor-

ship they averaged 33, and had a weekly average offering of \$411.00.

Revolving Loan Fund Report

Rev. 22:12 *And, behold I come quickly, and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*

The Lord continues to bless the BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund. We are thankful that this continues to be a strong and growing ministry of the BMA of Mississippi. We are here to assist our churches and missions in their financial needs. Thank you for your continued support of the RLF.

For the fiscal year to date of August 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010, the RLF has opened 20 new investment accounts totaling \$527,198.74. The total current balance of investments is \$11,679,566.19, a decrease of \$252,024.55 during this period. We have issued 7 new loans totaling \$1,272,955.44 and the outstanding balance on loans receivable is \$11,011,453.93, an increase of \$404,675.96 since August 1, 2009. Unrestricted net assets as of May 31, 2010 is \$2,089,855.11. This is an increase of \$245,232.61 since the close of the fiscal year ended July 31, 2009 and for this we praise the Lord. These are all unaudited figures.

Thank you for your continued prayer on our behalf. If we can be of assistance in your loan needs, please give us a call.

Dosson Lavell Lee, manager
RLF



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

"Do It Cheerfully"

Have you ever been asked to do something that you would rather "take a whuppin'" than do it?

If you ever want to punish me for something awfully bad that I've done, just give me a list of names to call. Now that's something I'd rather "tak-a-whuppin'" than do.

A scripture comes to mind that might help me get through with that list of names (or some other tough task). Proverbs 15:15 "All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast."

Bobo To Celebrate Golden Anniversary

Kenneth Bobo will be honored at a reception June 20, 2-4 p.m., at First Baptist Church in Gurdon, where he is currently serving as interim pastor, to mark his 50th anniversary in the ministry. He was saved in July 1957 and married Shirley Hickman May 3, 1959. After surrendering to the ministry June 25, 1960, he was ordained by Providence Baptist Church near Hope.

"I am grateful to the Lord for His greatness, goodness and grace in this journey for the past 50 years, and also for Shirley, my loving and faithful wife, who has stood by me," said Bro. Bobo.

The Bobos have three children: Thomas Chad of Hope; Roger Gil of Olive Branch, MS; and Christi Dewanna Rooker of Slayden, MS. They also have six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

You may contact the Bobos at P.O. Box 1915, Hope, AR 71802.

Reaching Your Jerusalem

by Larry Barker
Director of Operations North America
BMA of America Missions Department

We cannot be followers of the person of Christ without being fulfillers of the mission of Christ. (Matt. 4:19) Allow me to share with you an excerpt from a booklet I compiled, *Across the Street, Reaching Your Jerusalem* which is available through the Mission's Office:

"Our churches are facing the greatest challenges and opportunities ever! While 85% of all churches in America are in a decline or have plateaued, there are 200 million people without Christ who live in our cities right next door to us. They are not born again but they think they are okay because of the good deeds they are performing. Hopefully, their good deeds will outweigh their bad deeds and an understanding God would never send anyone to Hell anyway, right? In their opinion, they are just fine because they are living as moral a life as those who are attending church!

"The reality is that the reason many remain detached from God is because no one has invited them to become a part of the family of God. How sad! There are over 100 million Americans who have absolutely no connection to any kind of faith-based organization. The task is

great but the opportunities are many!

"We are all familiar with the parable of the sower in Mark 4. The truth of this passage has been discussed many times and we know there are birds, the sun, thorns and weeds that can be a danger to the seed. In spite of the dangers, the sower is still to relentlessly distribute his seed everywhere he can so that as many as possible might respond to the gospel message. A good sower covers every area of his field in order to reap the greatest harvest possible. Church, how are you doing in spreading your seed? The good sower never leaves seed in the barn but distributes all he has, knowing that the harvest will come. God blesses the church that is doing everything it can to disperse the seed of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"This booklet is meant to be a tool to help churches develop an intentional strategy in reaching their communities for Christ. It is a call to reach our

Jerusalem by refocusing outside the four walls of the church. Our desire is to be extremely practical while still basing what we do on the foundation of what the Bible teaches to be solid evangelism. In the book of Acts we see that the early church believed in total participation, everyone was to be involved, and they also practiced total penetration, everyone was to be reached. The church that is not reaching anyone with the gospel really has no reason to exist because the mission of every church is the great commission. Will McRaney Jr in *The Art of Personal Evangelism* says, 'It is impossible to separate the mission of the church from the message of Christ...'

"Warning: Not everyone in your church will automatically be excited about focusing on those outside the church. Inwardly focused Christians are not comfortable when their church becomes outwardly focused. For a church to be outwardly focused, the members must be willing to give up some of their 'rights' and think of others before they think of themselves. It might mean giving up their favorite seat or favorite parking space. It could even



Barker