

Baptist

Mississippi

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VSMs Are 'One Step Closer'

by Jamie Morgan
Assistant to International Missions

Last week (first week of June), 68 students and leaders met at Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment for the VSM 2011 Boot Camp. Students for the 10 teams met their leaders for the first time and enjoyed the heat like only Gary, Texas, can provide. The week is designed to introduce students to different aspects they may encounter on the mission field. They are tested mentally, physically and spiritually.

This year the students were challenged in team building activities that encouraged them to work together, making their experiences on the field a little less stressful. They worked together to go through an airport relay, which simulated security, baggage claim and customs/immigration. They also had to answer multiple-choice questions that were about each of the 10 countries where our students

will travel. This tested their knowledge about their destinations.

The highlight of the week for most students was the Survival night where students had to work together with their team to run an obstacle course. They were challenged with eating bad food, balancing on a platform, crawling through mud and several other things. Although it's not always easy, the teams really bond through these activities.

Students also heard great speakers from within the BMAA. Student Missions Director, Donny Parrish, spoke to the students about Team Dynamics and he challenged the students to put others before themselves on their team and on the mission field. John David Smith, executive director of the Missions Office, spoke to the students about Biblical Foundations and World



Dynamics. He made the students stop and think about trends affecting Global Missions and possible conflicts they may face on the field. Adam Thomas, pastor for Family Ministries at Wyatt Baptist Church in El Dorado, talked about the importance of making sure every one of the team members knows the message of Jesus Christ.

Everyone also heard about "Practical Stuff" for their trips from Jesslynn Spence, veteran VSM team leader.

Phil Knott, Jerry Kidd and Larry

Barker, all directors at the Missions Office, spoke about the importance of personal testimonies, developing intimacy with God and challenges in our own backyard. (Bro. Larry was actually helping with relief efforts in Joplin, Missouri, during the week but he recorded his message beforehand for the students reminding them about the importance of helping serve in their own backyard firsthand.)

Tony Crocker from the ISHELP (interactive self-help English learning program) ministry led the last session and he spoke about bringing the vision home and knowing how you can tell others about the most important parts of your mission trip.

Boot Camp ended on Friday with a commissioning service where the teams were prayed over by leaders and parents. Students were sad to say their goodbyes but excited about getting one step closer to their actual trips.

The Cape Verde team will be the first to leave on June 14 followed by our Romania team leaving on June 16. Teams will be traveling all summer through Aug. 1. If you would like to stay in touch with the teams and hear about what they are doing, check out the Missions Website: www.bmaamissions.org. You can click on message boards to get to the entries from our students and leaders.

If you are interested in being part of a VSM team as a student or leader, please email me at jmorgan@bmaam.com.

Church destroyed by arsonist

by The Editor

Rocky Branch Baptist Church near Sumrall, Mississippi, was destroyed by fire early Monday morning, June 6, 2011. Pastor Dale Broom was awak-

ened by a phone call from the sheriff's department to inform him of the blaze. Evidently a passerby reported the fire about 4:00 AM on Monday morning.

When Bro. & Mrs. Broom arrived at the scene the church was totally engulfed in flames. The buildings are a total loss. The Brooms were recently elected as self-support missionaries to the African country of Ghana by the Baptist Missionary Association of America. Their original plans were to depart for the mission field some time this Fall.



Pastor and Mrs. Broom in front of destroyed church

Broom said he does not know if and how this event will effect the move to Ghana.

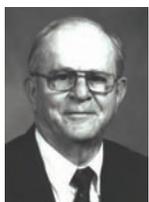
A number of local churches have rallied to the aid of Rocky Branch and offered the use of their facilities while the church is rebuilding. The Improve Baptist Church, located about 6 miles from Rocky Branch, has made their activity building (the old Improve School) available. At this early date it seems that the church will be meeting there on a temporary basis. Pastor Broom noted that church members drive from a wide area and the Improve building will be convenient.

Lamar County arson investigators have determined the fire was deliberately set. An arrest has been made and the individual was charged with burning or destruction of a church or place of worship.

Broom said that "God still is in control and He has a plan and a purpose for this."

Commission on Senior Adults

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



Well, here we are in the month of June. Six months of 2011 will soon be history. June brings Vacation Bible School. Do you remember when we held two week Bible Schools? Back then crafts were a big a part of Bible School. There was paint, glue, paper, etc all over the church buildings. Vacation Bible School can be a great soul winning time. The month of June opens the doors to revival time. May God bless our pastors and churches as they ready for this summer's activities?

OOPS!

In my last article in the Mississippi Baptist Paper I was

expressing my thanks and my joy that the Lord, through the churches of the BMA of Mississippi had given us great leaders. In listing those who are heads of BMAA departments I failed to name Brother Steve Crawley as Director of Lifeword. I am sorry for that error. May the Lord give us more good leaders.

Appreciation

I do appreciate the BMAA Seminary for conferring the Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree on me. They also conferred the degree on Brother Grover Laird and Brother James Blaylock. All three are

Mississippi preachers. I count it an honor and will always be humbled for all such blessings.

Another Blessing

On May 22nd the Mt Olive Baptist Church, Union, Mississippi, observed homecoming services and their one hundredth anniversary. I was honored to be asked to bring the message. Mt. Olive was the second church I tried to pastor. I was there in 1950 - 1951.

Believe it or not, there were a few people present who remembered our time with them. Those who remembered were very young back in 1950. The church enjoyed a great day.

Mt. Olive is one of our churches kind if on the fringe area of most of her sister churches, but they have remained steadfast for our BMA Association. She was a mem-

ber of the Big Creek Association for many years. They now belong with the Mid Central Association. They have a good young pastor and family in the person of Brother Bill Raines.

In Times Like These

In times like these God's children must determine to seek God's face. This is the time for Christians to seek true Biblical revival. True Biblical revival is a personal matter. In times like these the Lord's Church is to stand tenaciously for the Word of God. I am not talking about standing on the Word of God in fleshly pride. God will not bless an arrogant spirit or attitude. I have known good men to ruin their testimony and their ministry because they had an arrogant, ugly and hateful spirit. In times like these true Christians are to identify sin. We must look at sin through

the eyes of the Scripture. In times like these Christians must get back to loving one another. It is commanded by the Lord that we love one another. In times like these we must pray for a heart of compassion for lost sinners. If we can focus on the awful plight of hell bound sinners, then less important things won't demand our time and energy. We must get eyes off of our pet projects and look on the fields that are filled with hurting people. In times like these God's people must return to our first love. The first love is love for God.

Time Is Short

The last days spoken of in the Scripture are upon us. In fact, we must be deep into the last days. What we do we must do quickly. While we work we must look up for our redemption indeed draws nigh.

Backside of the Desert

by Joseph Harris

\$86,400

What if someone promised to deposit \$86,400.00 into your bank account each day? You would ask 'What's the catch?' The catch is, all money left over at the end of the day would be lost. But remember, the next day, another \$86,400.00 would be deposited again. Would you try to spend the entire amount each day in order to keep from losing any of it?

Actually, this does happen to everyone each day...sort of.

Every 24 hour period contains 86,400 seconds of time and time is a priceless commodity. The time you do not invest wisely each day is gone forever.

How much time do you spend with God each day? We must not only make the time, but it must be quality time in the presence of God. Real prayer takes time. Reading the bible and waiting for God to speak from His word requires time. In this fast paced modern world, it is all too easy to never have



Joseph Harris

enough time in important areas of life. Family time often suffers, and personal relaxation away from stress and the cares of life is often non-existent.

As always, the bible has a word and example to follow. Paul himself is a good example. He worked full time in the ministry and supported himself by making tents. A study of his life and missionary journeys will reveal that he was extremely busy with little time to spare, yet he stayed in communion with God. Personal time with God ranked high on his list of priorities. His fellow-

ship with God helps explain his positive attitude in suffering and his tireless determination to press toward the mark. He received strength by consistently spending time with God for renewal and refreshing. Perhaps William Longstaff said it best with these well known words:

Take time to be holy,
The world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret
With Jesus alone;
By looking to Jesus,
Like Him thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct
His likeness shall see.

Rev. & Mrs. Milton Wright celebrate 63rd Anniversary

Bro. Milton & Mrs. Dot Wright recently celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary. Sixty-two of these years



were spent in service to the Lord. The Wright's served in pastoral, missionary, and evangelism in five different states. Bro. Wright taught at Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel, and also served as an adjunct faculty member in various parts of Mississippi. Wright received his AA degree from Jacksonville College, and a THB from BMA Seminary. He received his BA in Bible from Southeastern College, Laurel.

Bro. & Mrs. Wright acknowledge that God has blessed them with a good life in His service and by His grace. He is no longer able to preach, but asks that he and Mrs. Wright be remembered in prayer.

The Wrights offer their thanks and appreciation to those individuals and churches who have been supportive of them.

SOAR 2011

iServe

PURPOSE

Powered by **GOD**

DiscipleGuide
CHURCH RESOURCES


Jason Aultman


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Bob Smiley

July 4 - 6, 2011
Marriott Rivercenter, San Antonio, Texas

REGISTRATION - \$70 Per Person by the June 10, 2011 deadline. Includes all sessions, artists and a conference t-shirt. Late Registration - \$80 Per Person and Staing Off-Site Hotel Fee - \$90 Per Person. All in attendance are expected to pay registration. Fees are non-refundable after the deadline.

HOTEL INFORMATION - Marriott Rivercenter is the housing and meeting host for SOAR 2011. Room rate is \$109 per night with up to four to a room. Make your reservations by calling 1-800-266-9432 or follow the link on our website to make online hotel reservations.

Go to www.DiscipleGuide.org/soar for more information and to register.

MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of America

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John Adams

and the United States Senate/ House offices.

Darla and I had an opportunity to meet and talk with Presidential candidate and United States Congresswoman, Michele Bachmann from Minnesota. She gave an excellent speech regarding the moral needs and financial responsibility of our nation.

We also had opportunity to share with United States Senator, Jim Demint, of South Carolina. I wish to recommend his book "Saving Freedom." It is excellent reading.

Please pray for those who lead us in our Nation's capitol. There is a glimmer of hope as many of our leaders are stepping up to the challenge of leading our nation back to a God-centered, responsible people. I have witnessed first hand the faith and passion that some of our leaders display. We still believe in II Chronicles 7:14.

Visit us on the web

Take time to visit us online at www.macbma.net

God bless each of you and God bless America

Hear What We Say

by Charles M. Lee, pastor
Pineview Baptist Church
Purvis, Mississippi

As Blinda was leaving the house the other morning, she asked me a question that I pondered on all day. Well, "pondered" might not describe accurately the discomfort and anguish boiling within me as the seconds ticked off an excruciatingly cold-syrup slow type of day. Perhaps, frantically pondered would be a better usage of the way I spent my day. Now I am not at the age of my grandparents when they began yelling at each other because of hearing loss, but I will readily admit that I am not a morning person either, and many days it takes me until the crack of noon before all my senses reach peak performance. Either way it seemed odd that my beautiful (notice I said beautiful, dear) wife would ask me this question.

"I'm leaving you for Ward, would you mind packing my clothes so I won't have to when I get home?"

My eyelids sprang to attention with such promptness that military recruiters all over started calling and asking if I could bring them to their bases and train new recruits, but I had other things occupying my thoughts. As the van pulled down the narrow road by our

the gospel can be understood in a new generation among people who live where we are - not where we were."

As members gather for the annual convention this week, Stetzer is hopeful leaders will recognize the changes that need to be made.

"As I look at the future, we need to teach our churches to be more effective, to live on mission," the LifeWay Research president contends. "We need to engage ethnic leaders and [the] next generation, and we need to be more focused on what we're for and less on what we're against."

And despite the declining statistics, church leaders hope the SBC will continue to stand for biblical values and teachings.

home, I ran screaming after the exhaust fumes in the futile hope of apologizing for whatever I had done to make her want to leave me. Being in such great physical shape, I nearly made the end of the driveway before collapsing from exhaustion.

Well, by golly, if that's the way she wants it, then that's the way she'll get it. And I'm not packing her clothes either! Leave me for some guy named Ward and expect me to pack her stuff, humph.

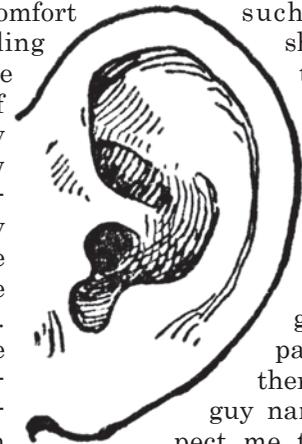
When she walked through the door that evening, I had nearly gotten all our suitcases packed. It took me all day because I needed to wash the clothes and I figured I would go ahead and pack mine just to see if she would let me come along too.

"Oh, you did wash the clothes like I asked you to this morning! Most of the times when I leave for work you don't hear a word I say."

Wash the clothes? WASH THE CLOTHES!!! LEAVING FOR WORK!!! "Of course I listen to you sugar dumpling. In fact, I packed us some clothes in case you wanted to go spend a few nights at the Bed and Breakfast." Heh, heh. What she doesn't know won't hurt her. It felt good to get one over on her. That's how marriage works and also why I am not a marriage counselor. I did learn that Bed and Breakfast places aren't cheap, but it has mightily improved my hearing.

A week later, Blinda came home and mentioned they had hired a new employee at work. "I think they said his name was Ward" she hollered as she came in from the kitchen. "What on earth are you doing now, Chuck?"

"Just packing the suitcases." I wonder if they give discounts for frequent visitors at the B & B?



Freedom Offering July 3, 2011

Our annual Moral Action Freedom Offering is upon us. We are excited as we encourage our BMA family to share in this ministry. We ask each church and their classes/auxiliaries to take a special offering for Moral Action Ministries on July 3rd.

Soldiers are our Concern

Our soldiers are on the front fighting everyday for the freedom that we cherish in the United States. Your church/auxiliaries or individuals may wish to send an offering in honor or memory of a Soldier. Be sure and include their name when you send in the offering. Moral Action will list these individuals in a future report.

Remember to pray daily for the safety of our men and women. They are certainly deserving of this honor.

Washington, D.C., 2011

Mrs. Adams and I have just returned from DC. We were in Washington, May 23-28 for the annual "Watchmen On The Wall Conference" with the Family Research Council and Dr. Tony Perkins. Approximately six hundred (600) attendees listened to congressmen, congresswomen, Senators and God's ministers as they shared their vision for America.

We were privileged to represent our BMA churches in this awesome event. One of the highlights was the Prayer Walk around the Capitol Building

'Gay' group seeks apology from Southern Baptists

OneNewsNow - A Southern Baptist leader doesn't think a pro-homosexual group will get too far with its request for an apology from the conservative Protestant denomination.

Get Equal, a pro-homosexual advocacy group, has launched a petition drive that calls on the denomination to apologize for its teaching against the homosexual lifestyle. Organizers on the group's website contend the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) is causing harm to the lesbian, "gay," bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community, and petition signatures will be delivered this week to the SBC's annual meeting in Phoenix.

Terry Fox, senior pastor of Summit Church in Wichita, Kansas, and a longtime leader within the denomination, says the group is looking in the wrong place for an apology. "I think they're the ones that owe America an apology," he contends. "Their whole platform, that whole organization...is nothing but perversion, and it damages families, it damages children. Ultimately, it damages our own society."

Fox, who has been in the

ministry for over 32 years, tells OneNewsNow he is proud that his denomination has stood strong on moral issues in the midst of increasingly liberal Christian teachings.

"It shows [Get Equal] think[s] they have become an accepted organization in America, which I would beg to differ with them," the pastor adds. "Any poll you would take from any region in America, including the more liberal parts of the country, they would find that they're out of sync with all of society. So I'm embarrassed for them for even asking for an apology."

In 1995, the Southern Baptist Convention repudiated slavery, denounced racism and issued a public apology for the role the denomination might have played in harming African-Americans. Get Equal leaders liken its desire for an apology to the same action 15 years ago.

Meanwhile, a new study shows that 2010 was not kind to the nation's largest Protestant denomination, as the Southern Baptist Convention reports its lowest record of baptisms in 60 years.

The Annual Church Profile (ACP) was compiled by LifeWay Christian Resources in cooperation with Baptist state conventions, and it was released in advance for the convention's annual meeting, which opens Tuesday in Phoenix. Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research, says the nearly five percent decline signals serious issues within the denomination.

"I think the reality is that something needs to change, and I think it's possible it's kind of at the peak starting to tip into decline," he suggests. "But decisions need to be made, directions need to be set, and I think churches need to engage their communities to see that change come."

Primary worship attendance in SBC churches mirrors the drop in overall membership, declining 0.19 percent to 6,195,449 in 2010.

Stetzer points to several contributing factors and notes lethargy as one of the top reasons.

"I think you've got a lot of people who are not engaged in much more than attendance," he laments. "I also think that Southern Baptist churches have struggled because they're not engaging their communities well, and so I think there are some methodological shifts that need to take place so that



Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

U.S.-Israel relationship thrown 'out the window'

OneNewsNow - A Jerusalem-based Messianic Jewish ministry dedicated to solidarity with Israel says President Barack Obama has effectively destroyed the special relationship between Israel and the United States with his demand that the Jewish nation return to its pre-1967 borders.

President Obama has been forced to concede that he has serious differences with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the question of a future state for the Palestinians. After Friday's lengthy meeting in the Oval Office, Netanyahu told Obama that Israel values the U.S. president's efforts to advance the peace process, but he made it clear that Israel cannot return to the 1967 borders, which he calls "indefensible."

"There's a traditional, special relationship between America and Israel that Obama is basically throwing out the window in a sense," laments David Parsons, spokesman for the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ). "Obama has declared the settlements are no longer legitimate and [that Israel has to] go back to the '67 line."

And Parsons believes some serious questions will be raised about Obama's leadership in places like Europe.

"They may...be an even more important player now," he suggests. "They'll probably jump on this line of the '67 borders, but even they are starting to have questions about President

Obama in the foreign policy field [and] the fact that he's just not being coherent and clear in enunciating policies that are really in our interest."

But now that the Palestinian Authority has the support of Obama, the ICEJ spokesman predicts the Palestinians will dig in their heels on the border issue.

Obama 'harmful for Israel'

A U.S.-born Israeli author and expert on the Middle East, who survived an Islamic terrorist attack, joins Parsons in criticizing President Obama's remarks.

David Rubin, who emigrated from New York City to Israel nearly 20 years ago, shares the outrage of many Israel supporters over President Obama's decision to side with the Palestinian demand that Israel return to its pre-1967 war borders.

According to Rubin, Prime Minister Netanyahu had no choice but tell Obama that Israel cannot do that. "President Obama is very harmful for Israel and very dangerous for the future of Judeo-Christian civilization," Rubin warns, adding, "I believe that very strongly."

He goes on to note that "there are a lot of Jewish donors in the Democratic Party, [so] it's no secret that a great majority of American Jews voted for Obama in 2008. I think it was one of the worst mistakes that they could have made. They did so probably based more on

liberal principles than on Obama's reputed support for Israel."

But the author hopes and prays that American Jews will understand that Obama poses a threat for Israel, the country that is tied to their fate.

Markell: Israel ready to defend itself

OneNewsNow - The leader of a Messianic Jewish ministry believes Israel is willing to do whatever it takes to defend itself against the threat from Syria, which has become more hostile in recent weeks.

On Sunday (June 5), Israeli self-defense forces were compelled to open fire on a mob of Palestinians and Syrians who tried to storm across the Israeli border into the Golan Heights, leaving as many as 23 protestors dead.

But a state-run Syrian government newspaper assures that "marches" to the border will continue and warns Israel that the day will come when thousands of Syrians will return to what they claim are "occupied" villages. It also says Sunday's march was only an introduction, and Israel should not be surprised when 600,000 so-called Syrian "refugees" cross the border.

But Jan Markell of Olive Tree Ministries believes Israel is prepared to harshly deal with Syria if things get out of hand. "We do know that Israel is on record... saying if Israel finds any weapons of mass destruction landing on them coming from Syria, they will respond with weapons of mass destruction," she notes.

And she points to the prophecy in Isaiah 17 that tells of Damascus' destruction, which will take place sometime in the future.

"The destruction of Damascus, the timing of that we don't know. It has not happened in the past, [but] it has to happen," Markell explains. "Some say that it's going to happen in the very near future, others say in the tribulation. We don't know."

But she concludes that the Bible makes it clear that God gave the disputed land to the Jews -- not to the Palestinians or Syrians.

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



Letters From Our Readers

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

Pastor available for extra service

Greetings my brother, in the Name of our Lord

As you know my church was invited into the association at this past month's meeting for which the wife and I are eternally grateful. However, I have another favor to ask. At the present time, we are only holding Sunday morning services and the bills go on. As such, I am available for pulpit supply, revivals, as well as Gospel concerts.

I have been in the ministry for 42 years, having pastored throughout southern Louisiana and preached revivals as well. I am also a Gospel soloist and have sung in various venues throughout Mississippi in the past year. Anything that you can do for me would be greatly appreciated.

Rev. Richard C. Arceneaux
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Plumlee

from page 5

not how God intended you to go through life. It isn't pleasant. But it can be done in the right Christian spirit. Your only other choice is to live with misery.

Often times the confronted person had no idea and they back way off when you make them aware. But even if they don't, you should set boundaries of self-protection and speak the truth in love. If you need courage to do it, ask God for it. Be kind. Be loving. Be prayerful. And speak up. The relationship and sanity you are saving is your own.

Positions Available

Church seeks pastor

Mineral Springs Missionary Baptist Church, Taylorsville, Mississippi, is seeking a pastor. For those interested please contact Carl Ivey at 601-782-9437 or Joe Blakeney at 601-782-4205.

Cat Ivey, Church Clerk

Youth-Music Director Sought

Fairview Baptist Church in Blytheville Arkansas, is seeking a full-time music and youth director. If interested please call pastor Collin Jones at 870-838-9035.



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Confronting Those We Love

"Maybe if I just be quiet, and be patient, they will change. I can't upset this person because they are such a big part of my life. It is probably easier to put up with the remarks than to start World War III. But wow, are they ever wrong about me."

Have you ever said things like this? Do you have someone in your family, your church, or your workplace that is saying or doing some really unfair things towards you? Confronting someone about their behavior towards you, is one of the hardest things to do in the field of human relationships. You don't want to hurt the relationship. You love this person. Or at the very least, you have an on-going relationship with them, such as someone you work with. You don't want to stir up trouble. You want to be seen as a nice Christian person. Isn't it easier to just let it slide?

It may be easier to let it slide, but it is also unhealthy and unholy. It is a dysfunctional family where we keep secrets. It is a messed up home where

we give a smile to someone, and then turn and gossip about them to another family member. Is it really easier to come home all upset all the time? If it is a family member who in-



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

flicts verbal attacks, then every family get-together is a dreaded opportunity for pain. If it is a co-worker, then you have to face your Goliath who taunts you every day. If it is someone at church, then you really feel like you can't say anything because you are in church. Yet, this person and their remarks can ruin the spirit of worship.

Nothing will change from your silence. If it is too hard for you to confront the person, then you are choosing to live with the relationship as it is. You

can't gripe or complain about the other person if you aren't going to do anything about it. If someone is bothering you by something they say or continue to do, then you must confront them in a loving way. Ephesians 4:15 tells us to speak the truth in love.

In love. This is the part where many Christians fail. As Christians we are to even love our enemies. We are to show the world a different way of responding to difficulties in life. We have the power of Christ in us. He has taught us new ways to respond to old hurts. We are now different creatures. So, it is okay to be angry. That is not a sin. God and Jesus are both perfect, and they both became angry in the Bible and that is part of their character. It is however, never okay to sin with our anger, which is by the way we choose to respond with it. Exploding, holding it in, bearing grudges are all unhealthy ways of dealing with our anger towards someone.

We must learn to communicate to solve all problems in

life. Some Christians speak the truth. But they do so with a viscous manner. They excuse their tirades in the name of honesty. "Well, I can't help it. I am an honest person." We are suppose to be honest, but you can help it by not being cruel or exploding on someone. There is a healthy, holy way to respond to others who are wreaking havoc on your life. That is to speak the truth. But you must always do it in love.

What does that mean? You never have permission to name-call, gossip, belittle or dishonor the other person. You can speak the truth in love to a parent or in-law or adult child without being hateful, spiteful or dishonoring. You can confront your mother about making you feel guilty. But you don't have biblical permission to yell at her, call her names, put her down or in anyway dishonor her. Yet, it is very appropriate for you to follow scriptural principles in dealing with this person.

You always go to them in private. Never have an audience. It puts people on the defensive and actually is often times done to humiliate the other person. If it is trouble

with parents or adult children, the adult child speaks directly to his/her own parents rather than the daughter/son in law. It is wise for the parents to have their own child present when confronting a daughter/son in law. This is the only exception to the previous rule.

This is for verification.

You don't have to be mean to the other person. It is called boundary setting. God has made me worthy through Christ to not accept verbal abuse. Life is short and I won't go through life feeling guilty, shamed or inadequate. "I need your help. I feel ____ when you say ____." Be specific. Can you please give me a break on the reminders. If they say okay but you make me feel ____ when you _____. Accept it. Deal with it. Talk about it.

This is how we solve problems. Communicate. But keep your words sweet, non-inflammatory, don't get angry or emotional. Try this. Pray for God to give you the words before the confrontation. But to just keep putting up with this is miserable and dysfunctional and is

continued on page 4



Connect

Small Group Resources

(Connecting you with God and with one another)

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Connect Small Group Resources offers your church undated studies that are grouped in four to six related topics and are relevant to the needs of small group participants. The sessions are meaty enough to be stretched into more sessions if desired.

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CHURCH RESOURCES
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Three Shepherd Bags Distribution Team Trips Remaining for 2011 with Evangelistic International Ministries Still Open!

by Fonda Norris,
EIM Mission Coordinator

We still have three open dates to distribute Shepherd Bags in Honduras. If a church would like to put a team together, please contact Mike Goodwin at 870-234-5319 or mgoodwin@eimworldwide.org. The maximum number of people per team is five per group. Come join in a life changing adventure and be a part of something great that God is doing in the country of Honduras. For the dates, go to our website at www.eimworldwide.org/schedule.

If questions, contact me. Thanks!

Need a project for VBS?

How about allowing your students to take an active role in world evangelism?

With EIM's Shepherd Bags™, children can reach other children with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Bags are placed in the hands of children in need around the globe.

For more information on how your church can get involved, contact Fonda Norris at 870.226.3626 or fnorris@eimworldwide.org. Also visit our website at www.eimworldwide.org

No adverse effects' report challenged

OneNewsNow - A pro-family leader disagrees with a report that Pentagon officials have seen no adverse effects from the training of troops for the new law that will allow homosexuals to serve openly in the military.

Recently the Pentagon announced that more than a million troops, roughly half the armed forces, have been trained on the new law that repeals the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy. Military officials say they see no adverse impact on the force so far; no widespread resistance, no mad rush to the door by those opposed -- and, importantly, no drop in recruiting.

But Robert Knight, a senior fellow/executive director at the American Civil Rights Union, says they are mis-characterizing the process.

"A lot of troops have been trained in this new sensitivity

program -- and they're saying, 'Well, that's a success. It shows it works.' Well, no it doesn't," he argues. "It just shows people have had to undergo this training.

"They can't say anything about it because you can't really have dissent in the military -- and nobody knows whether it's worked or not," Knight continues. "My guess would be it hasn't worked. During the hearings in Congress, none of the military officials could come up with any reasons why it would help the military. They just said they might be able to manage the problems it causes."

Knight adds he would not be surprised if President Obama moves ahead with certification of the new law during "LGBT Pride Month" in order to pander to a tiny minority purely for political considerations -- effectively ignoring the welfare of the troops.

Bethel, Fulton

Bethel took their largest group ever to the National Galilean Camp in Gary, Texas. Trent Ellis from Bethel was named Senior Mr. Galilean and Drew Wheeler was named National Galilean VP.

Several GMA'S & sponsors will be traveling to GMA camp next week. Junior Youth Camp will be June 20-22 at Tishomingo State Park. Several will be traveling to Ronald McDonald House of Memphis to minister to the families of the children receiving treatment at

St. Jude on June 25. "Connect" for Senior Youth, will be June 27-July 1 at Pickwick. You are always welcome at Bethel. If you are ever in the area, please stop by for a visit.

Pastor Dr. Martin Jameson
Reporter Martha Duncan

B.R.A.G. 2011

July 28, 29, & 30

Oakland Baptist Church - Vicksburg, MS

Oakland Baptist Church and BMA of Mississippi Youth Department present B.R.A.G. 2011.

The theme for this year is "Surrender". We have worked hard to have quality speakers who are great ministers of God. The music has been carefully selected as well. We are praying and expecting a great time with God at B.R.A.G. 2011.

Any information not listed below can be found by contacting Oakland Baptist Church at 601-638-6724.

B.R.A.G. Speakers

Todd & Paige West
Richard Payne
Neal Broome
Chuck Lee

Fragile Stone – Leading Worship

Parking is limited at OBC so any carpooling from hotels to the Church will prove beneficial.

B.R.A.G. Schedule

Thursday - July 28
Registration 4:30 pm
Opening & Welcome 6:00 pm
Break 7:00
Session 1 7:30

Friday - July 29
Session 2 9:00 am
Lunch
B.R.A.G. Challenge 1:30 pm
Session 3 6:00 pm

Saturday - July 30
Session 4 9:00 am

Registration Form

Church _____ Phone _____
Address _____
Youth Leader / Chaperone _____

T-Shirt Sizes

Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____

X-Large _____ XX-Large _____ XXX-Large _____

Total Number Attending _____ at \$40.00 each = _____

Registrations forms must be turned in by June 28 - Mail to:

Oakland Baptist Church
2959 Oak Ridge Rd
Vicksburg, MS 39183
Payment may be made at registration

Mississippi W.M.A.

Blinda Lee, President

77 Morrow Rd., Purvis, MS 39475
601-596-3417
blinda.lee@lamarcountyschools.org

Corresponding Secretary

Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443
601-729-5638

Hobolochitto WMA report

The Hobolochitto Ladies met recently at Bienville Baptist Church, Carriere. After prayer they were blessed with a devotional from Mrs. Jane Mitchell from Ezekial 37 on "Rising Up and Serving The Lord".

Reports were given and it was noted their July meeting will be held at Westlawn Church, Picayune. Each church is urged to be represented at this meeting.

Bro. Reeves brought a message from I Kings 17. Special prayer was lifted up for the recent storm victims. Mt. Calvary received the banner.

Those attending enjoyed a delicious meal after the meeting. The ladies will meet at IHOP on July 2 for a time of fellowship.

Jean Overton, reporter

Ten Mile WMA Meeting

The Ten Mile District WMA held their April meeting at Vardaman Street Church, Wiggins. Mrs. Louise Crawley presided and Mrs. Alana Woods led us in song. The theme was 'All for One Ephesians' 4:4-6.

Our Devotional was from, Psalms 142:5, by our President Mrs. Crawley. Our Program was presented by Vardaman Street. Mrs. Crawley brought an outstanding presentation on Introducing people to Jesus Christ, how important it is and gave us a number of methods for doing so.

Our next meeting will be on July 11, 2011, at Heritage Baptist Church, in Biloxi, at 7:00 p.m.

We will be electing officers for the next year.

Maria Ochoa, reporter

Church Lessons from Exodus 13 and 14

The story of the Exodus is the central point of all the writings of Moses regarding the Hebrew people. Here a people were liberated from slavery to form a new nation. That doesn't happen very often. Let us remember some of the highlights of this story.

I see some parallels in this



Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

story and the situations with many churches as they call a pastor, build a new structure, plan new outreach, add a staff member, or many other things. Let me share some of those obvious lessons with you. I know an example does not always fit 100% into any application. I am not calling anyone bad to make them like Pharaoh, or trying to tell you who the army is who drowned. I am simply trying to encourage any

congregation as they wait on the Lord to move with His people.

1. God does not follow our road map or timetable or GPS. (Ex. 13.17-18)

Congregations might feel they have waited long enough, have a better map, or more accurate timetable. God follows His plan and follows it well.

2. God puts us in His best place to accomplish His purpose. (Ex. 14.1-4)

"God where in the world did You find this place? We need to be in that place over there."

3. God's people sometimes lose courage. (Ex 14.10-12)

Yes, in the face of seemingly overwhelming circumstances, all of us are faint of heart. We find the ubiquitous they or them to blame.

4. God's people need to be still to see God's miracles. (Ex 14.13-14)

Most of the time, I feel I need to do something to help God. The best way to let God help

me is to be still in His presence.

5. God will arrange and organize His deliverance in an unusual way. (Ex 14.19-20)

The Hebrew people had no idea what was coming. We in churches cannot imagine the miracle God is preparing in our congregations.

6. God will deliver His people. (Ex 14.21-22)

Certainly to look back after the water is crossed and the enemy is dead, we can easily say, "I knew it all the time!" It is difficult to say that when the water is to the left and right of you. Nevertheless, we look back in history to have faith in the future of those things we cannot see and rest in assurance God is at work in our church.

Congregations must be still to see the work of God in their midst. Don't lose courage; don't be frightened. Don't get angry at God because He is not doing what we want, when we want it done. Trust Him to lead us to the place we need to go - the best place He has for us.

CHILDREN'S HOME

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

Recent Church Visit

We were with the Antioch Baptist Church near Soso on Sunday, May 15, where Bro. Robbie White is the pastor. Bro. Robbie was recovering from eye surgery and I had the opportunity to bring the messages for the Sunday morning and evening services. It was good to be with this good church and renew acquaintances with them. Be in prayer for Bro. White as he recovers from this surgery.

God Bless America

In just a few weeks July 4th will be upon us. On this day we as Americans have the opportunity to once again be reminded of the liberties and freedoms that we enjoy. All of these countless blessings are a result of the goodness of our gracious Heavenly Father.

Our country was born out of a desire for religious freedom. Our amazing Constitution was founded upon the principles of the Ten Commandments. And on our currency are engraved the words "In God We Trust". Thank God we still have the privilege in this nation to worship freely as we choose. We are still able to pledge alle-

giance to the flag and still recite the pledge which says, "One nation under God".

One can still have their dreams to come true in America. God has showered His grace upon us with His abundant mercy. He has granted us with Bible-believing, preaching, and practicing churches all across this land where the Gospel message is sent forth in all its purity.

There is no land like America! We are glad we are citizens of this great republic and pledge our prayers to God for her that He will give her leaders with integrity and her citizens will have a love for God and country.

Remember in Prayer

Continue to remember the Home in your prayers through these summer months as the children participate in the activities that are ahead. We are thankful that the Lord continues to shower His blessings on the ministry of the Home.



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

How To Be Sure We Are Saved

by Dr. Grover Laird
Fulton, Mississippi

"... I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." (2 Timothy 1:12)

The words of our text are the words of the Apostle Paul. It is rather obvious that he knew for sure that he was saved and why. What was true of Paul can also be true of all of us. In this message I will list three things that should give us assurance of salvation, if indeed we are saved.

I. We Have Done What the Bible Requires One to Do to Be Saved

The first thing that is required in order to be saved is to open one's heart to the gospel of Christ. God uses the gospel of Christ, or the Good News of Christ, to bring sinners to salvation--"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." (Romans 1:16) In 1 Corinthians 1:21 we are also told, "...it pleased God by the

foolishness of preaching to save them that believe," One must therefore open his ears and heart to that wonderful message of salvation in Jesus lest he hinders God in bringing him to eternal life.

One must also repent toward God and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. I put repentance and faith together because they are inseparable. One cannot do one of these without doing the other. When the Holy Spirit uses the gospel to convince one that he is on the wrong road, serving the wrong master, and headed to the wrong place, it also points him to Jesus as his only hope for deliverance. As he turns from his old sinner life, he turns to Jesus to save him. This was the way Paul preached it-- "Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." (Acts



Grover Laird

20:21) Those who obey this gospel are saved. (II Thessalonians 1:8)

Consider a few verses that clearly teach that salvation comes by faith in Jesus. As you read each verse, ask yourself the question, "Have I done this?" "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." (Acts 16:31) "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:9, 10)

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" (John 1:12)

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." (John 3:36)

II. We Have Experienced What Happens When One Gets Saved

When one believes in Jesus

as his Savior, the Holy Spirit moves in. This, within itself, is one of the greatest proofs that one is saved--"Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit." (1 John 4:13) But more than this, several things happen when the Holy Spirit comes to abide in us. One of those things is, the love of God fills us--"... the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." (Romans 5:5) Nothing feels better than to have the love of God down deep in our heart. This love not only manifest itself toward God, but it also manifest itself toward His house, (Psalm 122:1) and His Word, (Psalm 119:97) and His people. (I John 3:14)

One of the clearest proofs of salvation is the fact that this love does indeed manifest itself toward God's people. When one is lost, he feels comfortable in the presence of the unsaved and uncomfortable in the presence of the saved. When he is saved, he feels comfortable with the saved and out of place with

the unsaved. Here is how John says it--"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." (1 John 3:14; See also 1 John 4:12)

This love also manifest itself toward sinners. Often times when a person is saved he immediately expresses interest in a friend who is unsaved. Paul is a good example--"...I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." (1 Corinthians 9:22; See also Acts 26:19.20)

Another thing the Spirit does that assures us that we have been saved is, He brings peace to our heart. When the gospel message troubles one's heart over his condition and need, if he turns to Jesus peace comes into his heart--"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) This peace of God "passeth all understanding." (Philippians 4:7)

The Spirit also brings joy

continued on page 8

'Go Forth' ministers in Honduras

From June 3-11, a 20-member Go Forth Ministries team finished a nine day mission trip to Santa Barbara, Honduras, with 242 professions of faith. In the hottest June in 11 years, they witnessed in the streets five days and visited six schools in Santa Barbara and Gauljoquito, Honduras and a military base in Pinalejo, Honduras, opening doors for missionaries Bro. Arnol Maldonado of Santa Barbara and Bro. Lenin Perdona of Quimistan, Honduras, to establish Bible studies in these areas.

Plans are also under way to establish a mission church in Gauljoquito village.

A series of services were held at La Iglasis Bautista Lan Gran Comision with Bro. Coy Rice of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Saucier, Bro. Donald Hilbun of Heritage Baptist Church of Woolmarket, Bro. John Mills of Pineview Missionary Baptist Church in Lucedale and Bro. Jonathan Williamson of Sandhill Baptist Church in Lucedale preaching.

Go Forth Ministries is under the direction of Bro. Donald Hilbun of Lucedale. Go Forth Ministries and BEAMS presented Missionaries Bro. Arnol Maldonado of Santa Barbara and Bro. Lenin Perdona of Quimistan with 300 much needed Reina Valera Bibles (King James Version equivalent in Spanish).

The Go Honduras Christmas (trip) of December 2010 had 230 professions of faith.

Go Forth Ministries plans a crusade in Phil Campbell, Alabama, on June 13-19 to feed over 700 tornado victims at each meal and to spread the Gospel and two more crusades and mission trips to Honduras in September and December. For more information visit the website <http://goforthmin.tripod.com/> or contact Bro. Donald Hilbun at 601-508- 5784.

Go Forth Ministries' mission statement is Psalm 126:6 "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing."



Bro. Samael Barhona, left, translates as Bro. Don Hilbun compares Christian life to military life at the military base in Pinalejo where 17 soldiers made professions of faith.

Laird Message

from page 7

when we get saved. It is called the joy of our salvation. (Psalm 51:12) The Bible often mentions this joy when it speaks of one being saved. (Psalm 40:1-3; Acts 8:5-8; 8:39; 16:34) If no joy came into one's heart when he thought he got saved, he is surely mistaken about being saved. Joy always comes into one's heart when Jesus comes into his heart

The Spirit also makes one a new person when he gets saved. (II Corinthian 5:17) He is actually born again of the Spirit. (John 3:3-8) This new birth is a "washing of regeneration." that gives us a clean feeling. (Titus 3:5) When we realize that this has happen to us we can know that we are saved.

The Spirit actually tells us that we are saved. When one is lost the Holy Spirit tells him that he is lost. Sinners get disturbed about being lost because the Holy Spirit has caused them to realize that they are lost. After one comes to Jesus for salvation the Spirit changes His message. He is now say-

Bill Dees, Master's Builder, Dies

Billy Wayne 'Bill' Dees, 70 of Magnolia, Arkansas, died June 1 after a short battle with cancer. He had served with the Master's Builders since 2004 and took over as field coordinator after Roy Tilley stepped down due to ill health in 2008.

Bro. Dees' last job with the Builders was last October at Macedonia Baptist Church in Magnolia. He was diagnosed with lung cancer a few days later. "Bill was well respected by his Master's Builders coworkers and will be missed by all who knew and loved him," said Eddie Sikes, former BMA of Arkansas Missions building superintendent who succeeded Bro. Dees. "His shoes will be hard to fill."

He was a member of First Baptist Church in Magnolia and was also a retired maintenance supervisor for Albemarle Corporation.

Survivors include his wife, Anita Dees, also a Master's Builder; a daughter, Tonya Morrison; a son, Timothy Dees; and four grandchildren, all of Magnolia.

Funeral services were held June 4 at First Baptist Church in Magnolia with David Watkins and Roger Dunlap officiating. Interment was at Memorial Park Cemetery under the direction of Lewis Funeral Home, Inc. of Magnolia. Memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 456, Magnolia, AR 71754; or to the John R. Williamson Hospice House, 2301 Champagnolle Rd., El Dorado, AR 71730.

-courtesy of Baptist Trumpet



ing, "You are saved." Here is a verse that says this-- "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:" (Romans 8:16)

After one is saved the Holy Spirit gives special help in living the Christian life. This helps one to know that he is saved. He helps us to pray, (Jude 20) study the Bible, (John 14:26) and witness for Christ. (Acts 1:8) This is help that one only experiences after that he is saved.

Maybe I should say, many of the things that the Spirit works in our lives when we get saved does not continue as strong as they were at the first. Whether things like love, joy and peace continue as strong as they were at the first will depend upon our faithfulness to the Lord. For an example: when we get saved the Spirit sheds abroad God's love in our heart. But it is up to us if it continues strong--"Let brotherly love continue." (Hebrews 13:1)

III. Because the Bible Tells Us We Are

Let me explain what I mean. There are verses of Scripture that promises eternal life to any person who will do certain things. If we know that we have done that, or experienced that, we can therefore put our finger on that verse and claim the promise of salvation. (The Holy Spirit that bears witness with our spirit can help us to know, Romans 8:16.)

The Bible says, "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." (1 John 5:12) If we know that we have received Jesus into our heart, and know that He lives in us, we can put our finger on that verse and claim the promise of God's Word that we are saved.

The Bible says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13) If we know that we have called upon the Lord for salvation in the right way, we can know that we are saved. (I must say here, the Lord doesn't count our faith, or repentance, or calling upon Him unless it is with all of our heart, Romans 10:9, 10.)

The Bible says, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" (John 1:12) If we know that we have received Jesus into our heart as our Savior, on the bases of this verse we can know for sure that we are saved.

The Bible says, "... I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." (2 Timothy 1:12) If we are sure we have turned our sin problem and eternal destiny over to the Lord, we can put our finger on that verse and claim the promise of salvation.

Someone once said, "The greatest blessing of salvation in this life, is the assurance that we have it." One thing we do know is, assurance of salvation is indeed a "Blessed Assurance."

Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

The Tongue

In a Bible Study Group that I attended the other day, the subject was "the tongue". It's just like a nose or an opinion - we all have one. Of course, our study was centered on the wise use of that little piece of flesh.

Out study brought back a memory of a man whom I knew years ago. He used his tongue incessantly. He never let it rest and sometimes, it veered from the truth. My observation is that if you talk that much you are bound to run out of truth sooner or later.

The memory behooves to "tame" that critter, always speaking truth.

FW



The writer of Proverbs mentions the tongue frequently. I especially like Proverbs 12:19, "The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment."