

# Mississippi Baptist

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## Part 1

# Unity: Get In "The Way"

### By Dr. Philip Attebery 2010 BMA President's Message

"As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I 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."

(John 17:18-23)

These words from John 17 were spoken by Jesus to His Father shortly before His arrest and death on the cross. They were, essentially, His last words as a free man. And if you are aware that the end is imminent, the words you'd say would really reflect what was most important in your heart, would they not? The concerns that are deepest in you would be what comes out, and that was true of Jesus' final words.

I don't want to compare myself with Jesus in any way because I'm not worthy to do that. But I do hope my final



Dr. Philip Attebery

address to you as president will express the concerns that are on my heart, which are very similar to those Jesus had at the end of His ministry upon the earth.

Most of us are aware that Jesus was praying for future believers in our text, but for what did Jesus pray? In John 17:1-5, He prayed for Himself and, in verses 6-19, He prayed for His disciples. Then in verse 20 He prayed for us - those who would believe: "Neither pray I for these alone (referring to the 12) but for them also which shall believe on me through their word."

Last year our theme was "Raising the Sails," and we spoke about the need to raise the sails of faith. When the sails on a sailboat are raised and the wind blows, the sails harness the wind and the wind pushes the boat to accomplish what it was intended to do. Without faith raised high, the Holy Spirit is not going to be harnessed and we're not going to be doing what God would have us to do.

Jesus makes it clear that there will be people who will believe and trust in the message of the disciples, which Jesus said in verse 18 was the same message He preached: "Father, as You sent me, I have sent them." Their purpose would have been to do exactly what Jesus wanted them to do and what He had been sent to do.

What was Jesus sent to do? I believe Jesus had a two-fold work or ministry. This is evidenced by two statements He gives - one in John 17 and one in John 19. In John 19:30, Jesus is on the cross when He says: "It is finished." Actually, in Greek, it is one word that is translated to "It is finished" in our English versions. The word in Greek means "paid in full."

What Jesus is saying in 19:30 is that His work on the cross is paying the debt of sin for all mankind. We know Jesus

died on the cross, was buried and rose again to pay the penalty for our sins and to purchase our place in Heaven.

Without faith it's impossible to please God and, at that moment of all moments, Jesus had faith. The reason I mention that is because Jesus says "it is finished," but is it really? The death, burial and resurrection are essential elements of the gospel, but when He says those words, Jesus has yet to die, yet to be buried and yet to rise again.

I think, while Jesus hangs there, He sees from the cross through the grave and to the other side the fact of the resurrection and He says in faith, "It is finished." So there on the cross Jesus completes that part of the redemptive work He was sent to do. He came, suffered and died to redeem mankind; and I'm so grateful that He did.

That would have been the same message the disciples would have had. Jesus sent them as He had been sent, and He came to redeem the world. We are also

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## DiscipleWay Seeks Success Stories

The content management team for DiscipleWay is inviting input from pastors and Christian education leaders who have had success with providing hands-on training in spiritual disciplines of the Christian life.

DiscipleWay is the name of a new discipleship training program under development by the departments of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. The program centers on seven basic spiritual disciplines and offers classroom instruction as well as hands-on training.

The combination of content-based and experience-based training gives DiscipleWay its uniqueness among available materials on the market today.

DiscipleWay will offer seven weeks of training in each discipline, including Bible Study, Praying, Worshiping, Giving, Witnessing, Serving and Leading. The team would like to include hands-on ideas that have worked for pastors and other teachers in any of the seven disciplines. Send submissions to

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Jacksonville, TX 75766-0670  
attebery@bmats.edu

Curriculum materials have been submitted by the seven teams of writers and are currently in the editing stage. The program will be tested in selected churches of various sizes and environments beginning this Fall. Target date for the launch of the program is April, 2011, at the annual session of the BMA of America.

## Arrangements Committee Invites Suggestions

The arrangements committee of the BMA of America invites suggestions for meeting locations for 2013 and 2014. Potential locations must have convention center or hotel facilities with a meeting room capacity of at least 1500, and have at least 500 hotel rooms that can be blocked for the meeting.

Suggestions should be sent to committee chairman Charles Attebery by e-mail ([charles@lifeword.org](mailto:charles@lifeword.org)) or by regular mail (606 Carol Ave., El Dorado, AR 71730). The deadline for submitting suggestions is July 31, 2010.

## Unity: Get In "The Way"

### Message from page 1

sent to bring the redemptive message to people around this world.

I'm excited to be a part of the Baptist Missionary Association because of its concern about missions and getting out the gospel. We have missionaries, religious broadcasts, literature, camp and conference ministries. We have a seminary that trains people who go around the world. We have a Moral Action agency that is influential in bringing morality to our world. We are involved in a redemptive work, and we need to do this redemptive work as individuals, churches and as an association.

Jesus had another element of His work. In John 17:4 He says to His Father, "I have finished the work You gave Me to do." Now that's interesting because He has not been arrested or crucified. He has not even shed blood under the persecution of the authorities and yet He says, "It is finished." Why does He say His work is "finished" before the crucifixion (17:4) and again during the crucifixion (19:30)? I do not think it's a conflict. I think it is evidence of the two aspects of the ministry of Jesus.

Following John 17:4, He says to the Father, "I have finished the work you gave me to do." It's like an inventory. He says to the Father, "I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me and they have kept (it)." (John 17:6)

He is saying, "I have given them your words and they have obeyed; this is what I've done to the men and here is their response." Jesus was concerned about the spiritual maturity of those disciples and what He did those three years of His life's ministry on earth was to make disciples.

You've heard me talk about these things before, but I believe we find evidence here that Jesus is concerned about evangelism and discipleship. That's what Jesus came to do, and in those verses He is saying that He finished and completed both those works.

The disciples were sent to accomplish the same things. Their message would have been evangelism and discipleship. Jesus spent time with these 12 men and taught them so that when He was out of the picture (after the resurrection and His ascension back to Heaven) they were able to carry on and do the work He had prepared them to do.

The disciples would have been all about evangelism. They would have heard Jesus' words. They would have remembered Acts 1:8, "You shall be my witnesses, after that the Holy Spirit has come upon you" in Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth. They would have been all about spreading the gospel around the world.

They would have also been about discipleship. In Matt. 28:18-20, when Jesus gives the Great Commission, He says, "All authority has been given to me in Heaven and in Earth." There is no country we can go to and no people group we can ever encounter where Jesus does not have authority. There is no place under Heaven or in Earth where Jesus is not in control. Therefore, as we go into all nations, we are to make disciples.

Not only do we need to be concerned about getting the saving, redemptive message of God to all nations, we also need to be concerned about the discipleship, spiritual maturity and growth of those who are saved. Those two things must be equal in our priorities - leading the lost to Christ, then developing and intentionally leading people to spiritual maturity.

The disciples would have understood the words of Jesus: "Go and teach them. Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to observe all that I commanded you."

It would have been ridiculous if the disciples had adopted the attitude that many churches adopt. Their goal is to teach people to know in their heads or to believe in all that Jesus commanded. But we need to not only know His commands and believe in them; we need to observe them.

The Lord's first commandment to the disciples was, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." How did Jesus make His disciples fishers of men? Did He turn on a video to show them how to do it? Did He give them a magazine? Did He hold a special conference to bring in people to show them how to fish?

No, Jesus taught His disciples how to fish for men by fishing for men. He took His disciples with Him and they were able to see Him witnessing. Before you know it, He sends them out two by two. He prepares them to a

point where they are able to go out and do it on their own.

The 12 disciples had been matured spiritually and we need to be concerned about seeing that the individuals in our churches mature spiritually. I think the essence and the impetus of our evangelism and our ministries as an association should be evangelism and discipleship.

Most here will agree that we need to make disciples, but I doubt that most of us have disciples being made in our churches. Most of us have people who learn and know more about God in their heads, but even Jesus did not come and simply tell His disciples what they needed to know in their heads about God. He prepared them and showed them how to do the things He wanted them to observe and He created in them spiritual maturity. That must be our goal, what we are about - teaching them to observe all that He commanded.

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word." (v. 20) Their message is supposed to come down to future believers - if they were sent to do the same thing Jesus had been sent to do, they would have sent others to do the same.

The concerns of Jesus (evangelism and discipleship) would have been the concerns of the disciples and the disciples would have intended for those to be our concerns as well. Are you and your church prepared to do what it takes to win the lost and lead them to spiritual maturity?

Jesus says in verse 21: "Here's my prayer for those that shall believe on Me through the message of my disciples - that they all may be one."

If I were to ask you what a Christian should be able to do, most of us would say, "Be able to study his Bible, pray, understand what it means to worship, be involved in giving finances, share the gospel, understand things about serving and about his spiritual gifts and be a leader, amongst other things." We would be right in saying those are things we have to be disciplined to do. You're not born with the ability to pray or study the Bible, and when you get saved you don't automatically know how to do those things either.

Our choir directors may well have enjoyed music for their entire lives, but until someone taught them how to direct, they would not have been able to lead the music like they did tonight.

## I Want Some of That

I saw a billboard advertising "memory care" along with other services in a certain residential center. At my age, I want some of that. The last few months I note I need to be reminded of many things. My wife would share a hearty "Amen!" at this point. I think all Christians need memory care regarding:

The special people of God: (1Cor 11:24; Phi 1:3) God has always worked through His people. It is the people of God that have made my life what it is today. These special people shared the Gospel with me, educated me, loved and nurtured me. I want some of that in remembering them.

The poor: (Gal 2:10) In my abundance, I can easily forget there are those not in simple need but in great need. The gift of giving is a grace. I ask the Lord to touch my pocket book and check book to let me give to those who are in need not only with money but also with time and heart. I want some of that remembering the poor.

The special God day: (Ex 20:8) The youngest at Passover asks "What is special about this...?" The special day we remember the resurrection of our Lord and Savior is a unique, once a week God day. It is not profane, secular, or normal. It is of God. I want some of that remembering the special God day.

The origin of life: (Ps 103:14) Contrary to some beliefs, God made his own dirt. From that dirt, he made me and those who occupy this planet with me. I have only limited time in this skin suit. It is true only those things done for Christ and His Church will last. I want some of that remembering of my life process.

The ones coming now: (Ecc 12:1) The faith of Christianity is passed from one generation to another. It is done one person at a time. It is my business as a mature Christian to see that the next generation knows about the death, burial, and resurrection of the Messiah. I want some of that remembering about evangelism - even regarding people unlike me and my culture.

The body and blood of Christ: (Lk 22:19) I may have many things on my mind. I might have many weighty events at my work. No event is more important than my remembering the body and blood of my Savior. I want some of that remembering as he offers the gift of eternal life to me through His sacrifice.

"Memory care" — I want some of that.



**Leave It To Cleaver**

Tony Cleaver

thority to change that either. I cannot lower my faith. I cannot doubt and question. I must do what He commands me to do.

Like Paul said, "We must preach the Word of God." That doesn't mean we must be a good speaker. I hear a lot of sermons, BMA and otherwise. There are many times I hear a message that starts at John 17, but the message has nothing to do with the passage. That's not the way to do it.

We should have a consistent diet so that when your people open their Bibles and hear you proclaiming a message and you are going through verse one and verse two - they should see the points. They should not have to guess. Your people shouldn't say, "Hmm. I don't see it, but my pastor is closer to God than I am. He must see it and I don't see it."

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## 'Walk' Offerings Moving on Up

The latest offerings received for the 2009 Lifeword Walk for the World have now pushed the total up to the second highest ever in the 30-year history of the fund-raiser, according to an announcement from Diane Ward, national coordinator.

The total for the 2009 Walk now stands at \$423,262, topping the previous second place of \$423,000 set in 2003 and is only \$2,959 away from an all-time high of \$426,221 received in the 2007 Walk.

The national coordinator said that is too close not to issue a challenge to break the record this year.

"Surely there are some churches who have not given an offering to the Walk this year who would like to help us make this a record-breaking year," Ward said. "All Walk offerings received by June 30 will count toward the 2009 Walk. The fiscal year for the 2010 Walk begins July 1, and some exciting plans are in the works."

Walk for the World offerings are used to pay for the production and air time costs of Lifeword broadcasts and the development of new programs. Lifeword currently broadcasts gospel programs in 32 languages and more than forty formats to almost 100 countries every week. Responses from listeners averaged 226 per day, seven days a week, in 2009.

### Offerings Reflect Growth

The growth of the annual Walk is obvious in a statistical comparison of the three decades of its history.

	<b>High</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Average</b>
1980s	\$373,822 (1985)	\$2,278,100	\$227,810
1990s	\$390,399 (1999)	\$3,307,743	\$330,774
2000s	\$426,221 (2007)	\$4,044,994	\$404,499

## Unity: Get In "The Way"

### Message from page 2

I'm not even going to try to study my Bible." We must do expository preaching, expounding the Words of God. If you don't know how to do that, you can learn.

Paul said, "That's why we warn every man." He is saying that if I see you involved in something wrong, incorrect or sinful, I should point it out to you and say, "You need to be over here where things are right." This is really talking about church discipline. Not many churches discipline and warn people. Some will say, "You just can't do that today." But Jesus Christ is the Head of the church and the Head of the church says we need to be warning people.

I was talking with someone several months ago about an issue that was going on at a church and mentioned that some discipline probably needed to be done. The person looked at me and said, "I just don't think that's any of the church's business." My reply to him was this:

"I was eager to give my life to my wife on our wedding day, and I knew that meant giving up some of my personal rights. What if I were to show up at the house one day and my wife asked me if I was having relations with another woman and I told her, 'Hon, that's none of your business.' I made it her business when I married her. And when you join a church you make issues of sin the church's business."

I'm not saying we need to be on a witch hunt, but when things are wrong we must be obedient and have faith that the Lord is going to work it out. Some will say, "We might lose members." And we might, but that's not my call. Jesus has already made the decision for me.

We're supposed to be preaching, warning and teaching and we do so in wisdom. We must follow the teaching example of Jesus.

How many of your people have attended Sunday School and preaching for years, maybe decades, but have still never led anybody to the Lord? When asked to pray, there are some men in some of our churches who will nudge their wives and she voices the prayer. This comes from people who have been in church for a long, long time. I'm not seeing spiritual maturity there. (And not that I should be a judge, by any means; it's just obvious.) We should be involved in teaching with effective teaching methods.

When Jesus says, "I pray that they would all be one," He's not only saying that the apostles would be one but also that the next group of followers would be one. Even the Greek text bears this out - that the "all be one" is for all believers of all time. We have a unity that we must join in with believers who have already passed away, even centuries ago. If we traveled through a time machine to and from thousands of years, we should

find all churches and believers being one in evangelism and discipleship. We are one with them for all time.

Can you imagine the 12 disciples showing up today at one of our churches and wanting to see how we do discipleship? Most of them would say, "What are you guys doing? What are you thinking? Nobody is mature!"

I've heard from our Missions department that, on average, churches of all kinds in the United States spend more than \$1 million per baptism annually. If that is true, or if it's just half that number, it's ridiculous. There's no way the 12 disciples would show up and say, "Oh, yeah. Ya'll keep increasing your budgets." They would be saying, "What are you doing? Why are you throwing money at something when all you have to do is get personal?"

You don't have to have a lot of money. Some churches might say, "We're not as big as that church" or "We don't have a large staff." But nowhere in Scripture does Jesus say you need to increase your finances and staff so you can be more effective in sharing the gospel. There are plenty of people in your neighborhood you can share the gospel with and it won't cost you anything. You can be in the smallest, most out in the country BMA church there is and still find people who need to be saved and discipled. We can go to the largest church in our association or any group of churches and find people who need to be saved and discipled. And it doesn't cost us a lot of

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## Fishing Stories

by Dr. Charley Holmes  
BMA Seminary President

Each year during the two weeks before graduation, I interview all the grads about their experiences, good or bad, during their time at the seminary. One of the last questions posed is, "Of all of your classes or teachers, which have made the biggest impact on your life?" In my 10 years as president of the seminary, at least 80% say that Evangelism Explosion training added the most to their ability to serve God.

Just today a graduating student answered that question with that common answer, EE. He added the following comments and related an experience that he had in class. After a classroom session, this student went out on training visitation with the assistant instructor and graduate Jerry Browning (class of 1975) (Keltys First Baptist Church, Lufkin, TX). They began knocking on doors in a particular neighborhood in Conway near Central Baptist College and initially encountered some discouraging results. They went to seventeen houses without an opportunity to share the gospel. However, the eighteenth door was a different story. A man in his 20's answered the knock on the door with a curious eye toward three strangers. Yet, after introducing themselves and informing him they were making themselves available to those who had questions about religious issues, he gave them an eager welcome and listened intently as the student shared his testimony and a simple gospel presentation. After gladly receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior, the young man told them that at the moment the student knocked on his door, he was praying that God would bring someone into his life to explain to him how to be at peace with his creator. He went on to explain that, though he regularly attended a church, no one had ever taken the time to explain the way to Christ in a simple way in a one-on-one encounter.

The student went on to say that the seminary evangelism class with its on-the-job training has made an impact on his continuing ministry as well. Since his training, he has trained nine adults and seven teenagers in evangelism and discipleship with the techniques he learned in his seminary class. One youth group in eighteen months grew from seven to fifty, mostly due to the teens he trained winning their friends to Christ. The grad, Josh Currie, added that his seminary work emboldened him to share the gospel at any opportunity. He has, since that class, brought people to Jesus, not just in his formal church ministry, but in circumstances ranging from meeting strangers in coffee shops to chance encounters in a park while playing with his children.

If you were trained like this seminary graduate, God could have an unusual blessing for you behind the next door that opens.



Dr. Charley Holmes

**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.

having good Christian fellowship. For more information please call 601-319-8466'

### Tombigbee meeting

The Tombigbee Association met at Lone Oak, West Point, in April. We heard good reports from various ministries and a message by Bro. Hugh Duza. We enjoyed a great meal by the host church.

On May 6, we met with Mt. Pleasant Church. Another good meal and time of fellowship was enjoyed. A special offering was taken for Bro. Joseph Oyeleye. Bro. Gary O'Neal brought the evening message and urged us to continue to win souls and not give up.

Wanda Farmer, reporter



# Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

## Department Realignment/Cooperation

At the midyear meeting of our Association a committee was appointed to discuss possible merger/cooperation of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home and the State Youth Department.

With the retirement of long time State Youth Director Latrelle Windham, the Youth Department position has transitioned into a part-time position. The major activities of the Youth Director position currently seems to be planning and managing the State Junior Camp and the State Senior Camp. Various local associations and churches around the state run and manage their own local camps each year. Other activities and camps are certainly possible, but currently none have been set.

For years the Association and the Youth Department have desired to have its own campground. This was a temporary reality a few years ago with a campground and facilities being donated near the Gulf Coast. This property was later deeded back to the family of the donor. Funds have been donated and set aside over the past several years to go toward an Association owned facility. The initial cost is certainly a major factor as well as opera-

tion and maintenance costs.

Discussions have been held in the past concerning using some of the property owned by the Children's Home for a state campground. This seems a logical move, but I am sure there are many details of which we are not aware and no doubt that would have to mutually be agreed upon.

The 'merger' of the two works does not seem a logical move to this writer.

While both of these ministries involve young people, the ministries are obviously totally different. An individual qualified to manage and run one work would not necessarily be qualified to run the other. The concern over the number of residents verses the cost of operation at the Children's Home seems to be a valid concern, but merging the two departments into one may not be the logical answer.

However, cooperation between theses two works to provide a location for a State Campground seems to be a workable option.



Don Brown  
Editor

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



## AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

### Virgil T. Ainsworth

Virgil T. Ainsworth is available for service as the Lord leads. He may be contacted at the following numbers - cell 601-577-0924 or home 601-729-8059.

### Chad Cummins

Chad Cummins is available for pulpit supply. He is a member of Pine Ridge Baptist Church in Laurel. Chad is married to Christie and they have 2 children, Brittany and Dalton. Chad is anxious to do the Lord's Will and prays God will put him where He would have him to serve. You may reach Chad at 601-580-7037 or by calling Southeastern Baptist College at 601-426-6346 for references and more information.

## Church to honor pastor

First Baptist Church of Bay Springs, Mississippi, will hold a reception honoring their pastor and his wife, Brother James & Mary Sprayberry, on their 20th anniversary at the church.

The reception will be held June 27, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the Old Post Office in Bay Springs. For directions or more info. please call Mary Jenkins 601-670-5878.

The reception is a "Come and Go" event. The public is invited to help us recognize our pastor and family for 20 years of service.



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## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White



## E-V-O-L-U-T-I-O-N

There was a meetin' a week or so ago in which the speaker talked about evolution. As far as I could tell, he was agin' it as much as I am. But it set me to thinking about a little poem that I heard years ago and so I scratched around in my attic and found it.

Here 'tis:

### The Monkey's Disgrace

Three monkeys sat in a coconut tree  
Discussing things as they're said to be.  
Said one to another, "Now listen, you two,  
There's a certain rumor that cannot be true.  
That man descends from our noble race -

The very idea is a disgrace.

No monkey ever deserted his wife,  
Starved her babies and ruined her life;  
And you've never known a mother monk  
To leave her babies with others to bunk,

Or pass them on from one to another

'Til they scarcely know who is their mother.

And another thing you'll never see -

A monk build a fence around a coconut tree

And let the coconuts go to waste,

Forbidding all other monks to taste.

Why, if I put a fence around this tree,

Starvation would force you to steal from me.

Here's another thing a monk won't do -

Go out at night and get on a stew,

Or use a gun or club or knife

To take some other monkey's life:

Yes, Man Descended - That ornery cuss -

But, brother, he didn't descend from us!"

-anonymous

ONE NEWS NOW.COM

## Announcing: Online Classes at Southeastern Baptist College Beginning Fall 2010

### BI-231- BIBLE MANNERS AND CUSTOMS

This course is a study of the cultures of Bible lands important in the instruction and interpretation of the Bible. Over 300 verses from the Bible are studied to illustrate many of the customs. Three hours credit.



### HI-431- HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY

A study of the history of Christendom is presented. Three hours credit.

### BI-332- BIBLE GEOGRAPHY

The history of the Bible is related to the geography of Bible lands. Three hours credit.

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## Unity: Get In "The Way"

### Message from page 3

money to do that.

If you're blessed to have finances and you can spend it on that, that's fine. But what are we going to do when we go to a mission field in a third world country? I believe that when Jesus has all authority over all people, places, times and cultures, what I have learned in the U.S. about evangelism and discipleship is what I should be able to take that to a third world country. When we are one in our commitment to do what Jesus did and do it the way He did it, we demonstrate the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Are you doing it His way?

Please don't tell me that you make disciples in your Sunday School class and from the pulpit. How many people have heard you preach a sermon on the need to share the gospel and then gone out and shared the gospel? How many people's lives are

being changed?

I know some of you are having some people whose lives are being changed and that's great! The fact that we are here tonight demonstrates that God has done something in our lives. God has brought us here. He saved us and He wants us to be in the evangelism business and the disciple-making business. And such unity demonstrates His Lordship; whether we are in rural areas or urban areas, whether we are in the most civilized or the most uncivilized nations in the world.

Jesus' prayer in verse 21 is "That they may be one" and He qualifies that when He says: "as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us." You see the word "in" several times in that verse, and that's the "get in" part of our theme. We have to be like God on this. He qualifies this unity.

Most people agree that believers need to be unified. Some believe in ecumenicalism and think it does not really matter what kind of church you belong to. But we are to be one as the Father is in the Son and the Son is in the Spirit. Those parts of the trinity are perfect. They are one in love, one in purpose, one in focus, one in their belief in the Word of God and one in the mission of Jesus to do redemptive work and discipleship work. Theologically they are one.

Can you imagine the trinity - the Father, the Son and the Spirit - having a conversation and the Father saying, "You know, I just believe in one." And the Son saying, "You know, I believe in the trinity. I believe there are three of us." And the Holy Spirit saying, "Well, I am an agnostic. I don't think we can know what we are." Isn't that ridiculous? Yet there are people who think that's what God is like - that He's all twisty and turney like that - but that's not right.

We are to be one as God is: one in theology, one in purpose and one in mission. The Bible tells us that God is one, so when we are one we are like God and that pleases Him.

Now I'm not saying we become God where we can create worlds or know everything or be all-powerful. But the Bible tells us in several places that we are to be like God - "Be holy as I am holy; be merciful for I am merci-

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Kirk & Toni Shelton



continued on page 8

# Mississippi W.M.A.

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730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443  
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## National WMA Projects Promoted

by National WMA Promotion Committee  
Ruby Poteet, Renna Hight, Linda Thomas

In April, the National WMA chose for the 2010-2011 theme, "Go Quickly and Tell" from Matthew 28:1-8, 16-20. How appropriate for our National project which includes "DiscipleWay" and "I AM A Woman Ministries." The theme for last year "No Limits" still rings in my mind as we prepare for the promotion of our project. Our goal is \$80,000.00. There truly are "No Limits" to what God can do thru the WMA's in our churches. Sabrina Clayton, in the morning program in April at our meeting said "It's all about me, it is our time". I add my own phrase "If it's to be, it's up to me." What we do can make a difference. God will supply the means for us to reach out goal. How can we reach people if we don't "Go Quickly"

Our two projects are:

IAW Woman is an Arab ministry by Arab women and for Arab women with the focus of reaching out to Muslim women. It was born out of a vision to see women empowered to be all that they can be and to know and accept themselves in the image of the One who created them.

DiscipleWay – Disciplines for Maturing in Christ. Unlocking your Churches potential, thru Bible Study, Praying, Worshiping, Giving, Witnessing Serving and Leading.

We are preparing material and brochures for mailing. In June your church should receive information concerning these two projects of the National WMA. Please prayerfully consider making a goal and working towards achieving our National Goal of \$80,000.00.

## Offering plates get lighter

**OneNewsNow** - An annual survey finds that about 40 percent of U.S. churches experienced a decline in donations last year.

The report by Maximum Generosity and Christianity Today International says the decline follows a 29-percent slide in 2008; and the research shows that about 30 percent of churches reported their collection plates were light in the month of December -- a period when some houses of worship are trying to meet their annual budgets. Some of the sharpest declines hit mega-churches, and about 55 percent of West Coast churches fell behind in donations.

Churches are feeling the impact of people just not having as much money and some people losing their jobs," comments Brian Kluth, founder of Maximum Generosity. "I think those are two of the biggest factors related to what's happening with church giving."

He adds, however, that many churches are responding with increased benevolence. "Thirty percent of the churches have actually increased the amount of money they give to help the needy," he reports. "That would go to help people in their own church and also those in the community."

Kluth points out that the two-year overall drop in giving is unprecedented.

## Big Creek WMA

The Big Creek WMA held its quarterly meeting at Parkview Church, Laurel on April 5. After music and a welcome, Gleda Winn brought a devotional asking if people can tell we are godly ladies by the way we walk, talk, sit, and dress. The theme was "Lady Bug".

After the minutes and treasurer's report were presented it was reported that we had 11 churches represented and 33 ladies present.

A report was given on upcoming GMA activities by Linda Dertinger.

An nominating committee consisting of Janice Bryant, Shirlene Smith, Sherry Shows, Cindy Jones and Ruby Bynum was selected. After another devotional and special music our meeting was adjourned.

Sherry Shows, reporter

## Oak Grove WMA

The Oak Grove District WMA met with Good Hope Church, Columbia on April 19.

Our guest speaker was Katie Atwood, a senior at Taylorsville High School. She graduated in May.

As a passenger, Katie was involved in a wreck in March 2009. The accident left her paralyzed from the neck down. After extensive care, therapy and a trip to Costa Rica for stem cell injections, she is progressing well.

God has worked miracles in Katie's life. She continues therapy 3 days a week and now has movement in her upper body. She has a positive outlook and a sweet spirit. Katie and her parents, Kerry and Connie Atwood, give God all the glory for the healing that has taken place.

Margie McVay, reporter

## Hobolochitto WMA

The Hobolochitto WMA met with First Baptist, Henleyfield on April 24. After a welcome from the host church, regular business items were taken care of. Claudette Heasly reported that the project money for the quarter were for Haiti relief.

Mrs. Mary Rhoden reported on the recent National meeting and project.

Our next meeting will be at Lee's Chapel #2 on July 31. The day's message was brought by Bro. Willie Tebo and afterwards we enjoyed a time of food and fellowship.

Debbie Lott, reporter



*Taking Christ To The Corners Of The Earth*

## GMA Girls

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

**Sunbeam Promoter** - Linda Dertinger  
132 Howard Hill Road, Soso, MS 39480  
601-729-2908

## State Sunbeam Project Contributions

June 2010

by Shirlene Smith

1. Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso	\$ 100.00
2. Canaan Baptist Church, Lucedale	32.60
3. First Baptist, Bay Springs	50.00
4. Hopewell Church, Laurel	100.00
5. Louise Crawley (in memory of Tommy Dertinger)	25.00
6. Mt. Carmel Church, Carriere	100.00
7. Paramount Church, Wiggins	150.00
8. Skyway Hills, Pearl, PEALR	200.00
9. Temple, Lucedale	75.00
10. Bro. Dennis Knight, Paramount Chuch	100.00
11. Snack Shop, Sunbeam Retreat	66.83
12. Craft Sales, Sunbeam Retreat	80.58
Total Received	\$1,080.01

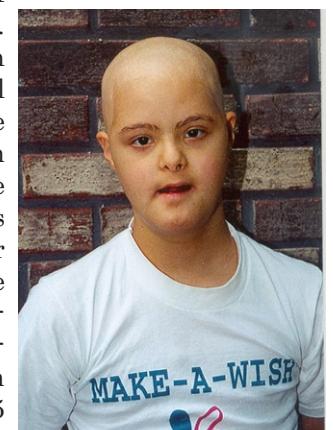
Sunbeam General Fund	\$540.00
50% To "ELIZABETH"	540.01
Total Received	\$1,080.01

Received for GMA Project	\$9,356.37
Received for Sunbeam Project	\$1,080.01
Total Received	\$10,436.38
Total Received for "ELIZABETH"	\$5,858.61

*This was a record year in giving for the Sunbeams and GMA.*

## Billy Joe's Scholarship Helps Ministers

Mark Williams of Pleasant Hill Church, Saucier, was this year's recipient of the Billy Joe Johnson, Jr. Scholarship given each year by Pleasant Hill Church, Saucier. Billy Joe Johnson, Jr. died from Leukemia in 1999 at the age of 12. He had always said he would be a preacher when he grew up. Billy Joe was born with Downs Syndrome and contracted leukemia at the age of 9. From the early age of about 5 years, he was referred to as the "associate pastor" of Pleasant Hill.



Billy Joe Johnson, Jr.

After his death in 1999, Pleasant Hill Church, along with the Johnson Family, set up this manner of remembering Billy Joe and helping to carry on his desire to preach. The following lines are from a poem that was written by his mother, Pat Johnson. "His goal is life was to be a preacher, But he was in his 12 years my greatest teacher."

Through this scholarship this young man is still touching, teaching and of course "preaching".

# Summer Time is Ministry Time for Kids

Ah, yes. The lazy, hazy days of summer. Children should be allowed to have lots of free time in the summer. I am an advocate of allowing children time to just decompress over the summer. There should be time periods in your children's life where there is no schedule. They need time to just play, have fun and basically do nothing. In today's modern society, many children go from a hectic school schedule, to an even busier summer schedule. Many American children have a summer that is packed full of non-stop activities. They have ball games, swimming classes, camps, specialty camps, church activities, vacations etc. When do they have time to rest? A meaningful life is not one that is filled with unending activities. That leads to adults and young people who are stressed out and have an insatiable appetite to constantly be entertained. That is not the key to a nice life.

While some activities are good, too much of a good thing becomes a negative. There is

nothing wrong with sports or band camp, science camp and a trip. However, all these things need to be in moderation and with limits. Your child may be good at several sports, but that does not mean they need to play in every one of them. They have to learn that there is more to life than sports. There is more to life than having to be constantly entertained. This is why so many Americans are anxious, restless and stressed out. Kids need to learn to have quiet periods. They need to pray and study the Word each day. They need to keep up with the process of learning whether they are in school or not.

It is good to teach your children to always build into their day to learn something or read something. Try and establish a 30 minute period each day when all activities cease, and there is a quiet time. Everyone just reads or prays or is quiet. There doesn't have to be music blaring. Most children are constantly engaged with external stimuli. They have



## Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

their cell phones, ipods, music in their rooms, TV, video games, or even occasionally actually talk to a person face to face. But few kids have time where all electronic engagement is shut off and they just find a comfortable spot to absorb some peace and quiet. This would be a healthy and holy habit to establish. Psalm 46:10. Mark 6:31.

Kids need to find a desert place and come apart to rest.

Summertime is also an excellent time to teach the Biblical command to serve others. It is so critical for Christian parents to teach their children to serve others. We want to serve Jesus. We do this by serving others. While it would be good for kids to have ministry all year long, we can shoot for a goal of at least having them do ministry activities when school is out and they have more free time. If your kids spend their entire summer doing what they want to do, and chasing all the activities they desire, without ever doing something for someone else; then don't be surprised when they grow up to be selfish, self-serving adults. That is how they were raised. Again, it is okay to play, but we have also been given a high calling by the Lord to serve others.

Begin this process by having a family meeting to discuss ministry activities for the summer. You can begin by reading Matthew 25: 34-46. This is clear for kids to understand. If we love and serve Jesus, then we will serve others. It is like doing it to, and for, the Lord. While many church kids go on church trips in the summer, it is not the same as owning a personal ministry that is right around them. And it is good for them to have a helping/serving ministry that gives them no personal pleasure at all. We don't help others only because we want the chance to win a free bicycle or to get a free T-shirt.

There are many activities where church kids do great things, and along the way they

stop off at an amusement park or a ball game. Please, understand. This is great. I am not knocking this. I just think that your kids ought to do one thing to help others where they get absolutely no personal pleasure or benefit for themselves. Their reward is from serving the Lord.

Write it down. Let the kids and parents come up with a list of possibilities. Then, make a plan. Who will do this? Where? What day each week will we do this? Time of day? Who else will be needed? Should it be done in the evening so dad can drive you over there? These things have to be talked out so that the plan works and is not a burden to the family. All children can serve.

Little ones may have to help bake something to take to elderly shut ins. Just having a four year old show up with some cookies and a picture that has been colored by them; to an older person's home is a blessing to that person. It brightens their day. Older kids can mow lawns, change light bulbs in houses, water gardens, paint, clean up a home or yard that has fallen into disrepair, visit hospitals, nursing homes, etc. The list is endless.

If you know of no one in need, ask your pastor. There are neighbors even right around you that you could do something nice to help them. That is letting your light so shine before others that they can see your good works and glorify God. Matthew 5:16. Set this summertime as a ministry time for your kids.

## Can Christians define revival?

**OneNewsNow** -A well-known pastor feels there needs to be a fervency for prayer and passion for the lost among churches across America.

In his new book *The Power of Surrender: Breaking Through to Revival*, Michael Catt, pastor of Sherwood Baptist Church and executive producer of *Facing the Giants* and *Fireproof*, says many Christians do not know what true revival is.

"Revival has always historically been centered around the Word of God and obedience to the Word of God," he points out. "It always is a movement of the Holy Spirit. It's always birthed in prayer, [and] typically there's a person that God uses -- whether it's a John Wesley, or a [George] Whitfield, or a Vance Havner, or whoever it might be,

**Mat 25:34-46** *Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungry, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungry, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungry, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*

there is a person that God uses to spark within the Church a fire."

Catt says people are searching for answers, so the Church must be ready to answer them.

"Somebody told me the number-one question on Facebook after the earthquake in Chile was, 'Are these the last days?' I really think we are in a prime environment to say to a lost world that God is still in control, and when we are yielded to him as the Church, then the world will look at us and say, 'You know, they do have something I need,'" the pastor comments.

He reports that his church is witnessing the fruits of prayer and repentance among the congregation as people are being saved and church members are inviting their lost friends and unchurched neighbors.

## Bay Springs Seniors Host "Rag-A-Roos"



On May 12, 2010, the Senior Saints of First Baptist Church, Bay Springs, Mississippi, was happy to host some very enjoyable light-hearted entertainment presented by the Rag-a-Roos from Raymond, Mississippi. Dressed in costumes of ruffled pantaloons, checked dresses, patched overalls, rolled up blue jeans and wigs, these nine ladies sang and played an assortment of musical instruments including keyboard, violin, harmonica, handsaw and others.

Their comedy routines were fantastic bringing laughter for all present, young and old. We were pleased when they made one of our very own, Mrs. Barbara White, an honorary member, dressed her in costume, handed her a triangle and she played a song with them. The oldest member of their group was 89 yrs. old. Visitors from Jasper General Nursing Home, Summerland Manor, Big Creek Baptist Church and other friends came to share in the fun.

# Unity: Get In "The Way"

Message from page 5

ful and be one as Father, You are in Me and I am in You, may they be in us and we all become one." That's what we're supposed to be about.

Remember, He's talking about those who have believed the message of the apostles; so again, we have qualification. These are people who would have believed the message of the gospel as presented by the apostles. The apostles would have been all about the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and salvation by grace through faith.

There is no way those disciples would have compromised the gospel after having seen Jesus suffer persecution, death on the cross and been resurrected by allowing someone to say, "Well, I don't want to believe in Jesus. I want to believe in some other way." There would be no room for tolerance by the disciples who saw our Lord suffer and die for the sins of mankind.

There would be no room to say, "Those of you who want to believe in grace by faith, that's okay. You guys sit over here. And those of you that want to believe in works for salvation, that's okay. You sit over here."

Some people look at salvation and how they get to Heaven as a choice to be made on the level of going to a hamburger place and trying to decide whether you want French fries or onion rings as a side item with your meal. You cannot degrade our Lord Jesus Christ to such a

level! There is no way the disciples would have said anything but "by grace through faith in Jesus Christ," and we're talking about unity amongst those people who believe in that. There is no room, as much as people would like, for all these different theological views to just be one; to all hold hands and sing Kum Ba Yah.

I have friends and associates who

disagree. They are good people, but I do not have the authority to change the fact that salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus and our unity must be with others who believe the same.

Why does the Lord want us to be such believers? "That the world may believe that thou hast sent me." (v. 21) That's essential for salvation. "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." (John 17:3) Knowing that Jesus is sent from God is essential to salvation and the gospel message, and Jesus says the way people will know

that He was sent from God is by our unity.

If you line up all the religious leaders and philosophers who have ever lived and claim to have been sent by or to have a message from God, how do we know which one is really from God? Exclusively in Scripture, Jesus gives us one way people will know for sure that He is the one who has been sent from God - it is our unity, our being one; and that must be something we cannot forget.

**Continued in Next Issue**

## Barton likes new history curriculum standards

**OneNewsNow** - An American history expert says the social studies curriculum recently approved by the Texas State Board of Education (SBOE) is the best he's seen since before World War II.

Defenders of the new social studies standards just passed by the Texas SBOE say it will encourage students to go back to the Constitution and First Amendment to learn about religious freedom. WallBuilders founder and president David Barton was among the six advisers the Board brought in to help rewrite the standards.

"You should present history has it happened - the good, the bad, the ugly; the right, the left, the center; the anything else that is out there," argues the Christian historian. "And I think that's the final product that we got, despite all the media clamor to the otherwise. When you just read the standards, they're

extremely balanced, extremely fair, and extremely thorough."

Barton explains to OneNewsNow that the standards will have students examine the founding documents.

"They have to spend a week every year on 12 grade levels studying the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Declaration [of Independence]; and memorizing lengthy segments from those documents," he says.

According to Barton, not everyone is pleased with that requirement. "...These standards really are a throwback," he points out, "and this is pretty scary to a lot of people who want to see America change in a new direction."

The WallBuilders founder explains that among the new standards is a focus on "American exceptionalism."

"There is a reason that we're the only nation in the world that does not aver-

age a revolution every 30 to 40 years; there's a reason that we have four percent of the world's population [and] 25 percent of the world's wealth," he notes.

And an emphasis on individuals, not groups. "...I think that's a real positive thing for kids not to feel like they have to be a part of identity politics, that they have to belong to some group or have to be identified by some group," Barton concludes. "We want them to be identified as Americans."

The new standards, which will be in place for the next ten years, also include an amendment in the curriculum comparing and contrasting the phrase "separation of church and state" with the Founding Fathers' intent to protect religious freedom. Because Texas is a large textbook market, other school districts around the country frequently buy the same education materials.

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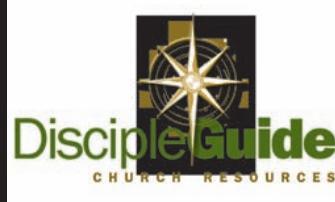
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