

Baptist

Mississippi

Journal

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

JUNE 1, 2011

VOL. 65 No. 11

DiscipleWay Training Begins

Thirty people from six states with one goal all came together May 23-25 as the first DiscipleWay training took place at Camp Bethany in northwest Louisiana. The participants were immersed in two and a half days of intense Bible study and fellowship as Dr. Philip Attebery and his training team worked alongside them to cover the seven disciplines of a maturing Christian as set forth in the DiscipleWay process.

Steve Crawley of Lifeword opened the training on Monday night with an overview of the philosophy and history of DiscipleWay. All day Tuesday was spent in small groups going through the Bible study discipline with training leaders Jerome Cooper, Dr. Ronnie Johnson, Jake Vandenberg, and Dr. Philip Attebery. Chris George joined the team in teaching the leadership component as did Dr. Charley Holmes in sharing the witnessing aspect.

To model the process, participants were broken up into small groups of 'disciples' and taken through the same format they will take with their own disciple(s). The hands on training solidified the true meaning of discipleship as was noted in the comments

given by some of the participants.

"I have not had any previous training. I have tried to disciple on my own with some success. Now I have the materials and structure that I need."

"This has increased my desire to begin building disciple makers."

"I loved the personal 'for the average man' level of instruction. The work is professional and authoritative, but kept simple."

"This has encouraged me in knowing that now I am equipped to make disciples."

"I now have a tool that God can bless as disciples begin to multiply."

"As a pastor am I 'equipping the saints' or only leading them? Disciple-making must take priority over leadership!"



DiscipleWay Trainers - Back Row L to R: Dr. Kevin Clayton, Chris George, Dr. Ronnie Johnson, Jake Vandenberg, Steve Crawley, Dr. Philip Attebery, Jerome Cooper, Front Row, Tommy and Judy Wallace.

of Missouri probably summed it up best when he said the philosophy of DiscipleWay was "seeking faithful men in whom we may invest ourselves as we teach, train, and pray for them to become disciple-makers."

The training was rated as excellent by most participants and the only major suggestion offered by several was to make it longer.

The next training will be held July

"I now have a greater burden for me to be discipled so I can disciple others. Until now I have never gone through a process like Discipleway and I am so grateful to have it now."

"It is an exciting time to be involved with the BMA as a powerful tool for discipleship has been presented. God is going to use this in a big way."

Bro. Claude Evans



The first group of those taking the DiscipleWay Training. Paul Spurlin, MS; Paul Bullock, TX; James Sprayberry, MS; Dan Carson, AR; Dr. Charley Holmes, TX; Steve Puckett, OK; Martin Jameson, MS; Raif Turner, TX; Jonathan Montgomery, AR; Paul White, AR; Dr. Kevin Clayton, AR; Richard Smith, TX; Clinton Everitt, TX; Jim Swinea, AR; Claude Evans, MO; Jason Aultman, AR; David Pickard, OK; Sidney Farmer, MS; Bart Herrington, AR; Eugene Anderson, MS; Tommy Rose, TX; Mel Mellenberger, TX; and John David Smith, AR.

Tornado Relief Joplin, Missouri

Editor's Note - The following email was received by this editor for distribution. We have sent it to a number of individuals on our mailing list and have posted it on our web site. We encourage you to read the letter and respond as you can to assist those in Joplin who have great needs due to the recent tornado.



Dear Friend,

On Sunday evening May 22nd, a killer E-5 tornado ripped through Joplin, Missouri. In response to this tragedy, First Baptist Church of Galena, Kansas, partnered with Grace Baptist Church of Joplin, Missouri, and Pastor Fred Vogel, to minister to our neighbors and church families who are enduring the greatest challenge of their lives. On Monday morning after the tornado, several of us met and developed a strategy to minister to the short-term needs of our community and God has touched the hearts of others to partner with us. Last week, we fed over 5,000 victims and volunteers a hot meal, provided tetanus shots to hundreds of volunteers, and collected and distributed water, non-perishable food items, personal hygiene articles, and articles of clothing. We further completed more than 400 construction projects which included sifting through the remains of houses to salvage what could be found, moving people's belongings into storage facilities, using chain saws to clear the



21-23 in Jacksonville, Texas, on the campus of the BMA Seminary. Be checking this paper and the DiscipleWay website (www.discipleway.com) for further information about upcoming events. Once again, space is limited so contact Tommy and Judy Wallace at Wallace@discipleway.com. if you want to be included in this next training.

continued on page 4

Would Abraham Say the Same Today?

Luke 16:19-31

This story is the most extreme level of any in the Gospel. It is a walk on holy ground. Let me take off my shoes. Let me kneel in quietness in the presence of God. This is an awesome story about a man's - and every person's - eternal destiny. This is a story of solemnity, somberness, and seriousness. This is the weightiest question I will ever face: "Where will I spend eternity?"

All courthouse cases are not the same. Some have to do with minor offences - some with minor crimes. Then the level increases all the way to a murder trial. This seems the most serious thing that could be heard in a court. One person is on trial - probably to forfeit their life - for taking another's life.

In a murder trial, the lawyers want only the best witnesses for their side. The defense wants witnesses to tell about the guilt of the accused murderer. The defense wants the best to tell about the innocence of the accused murderer. Each side calls their witnesses to prove their case. Each wants to establish the credibility or non credibility of the charge beyond a reasonable doubt.

What a witness! Abraham is called to the stand in this big trial. There is no witness with more credibility: Abraham, the father of all who call on God; Abraham the father of all the

faithful; Abraham the founder of three of the world's great religions. Jesus uses Abraham in this story to testify to the truth of eternal destinies of humankind. No one can doubt



Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

this witness's validity for it is Father Abraham himself from the eternal witness stand.

What damning evidence Abraham gave against this man with no name other than the Latin term the Church has given, Dives, which means rich. He is so guilty, he is so busted that his name is not even recorded on the docket. His case is settled by Abraham as he recounts the facts of the rich life he had lived on earth.

Would Abraham say the same thing today about me that he said of the rich man in the day of Jesus' story? Yes, he would if it were not for the fact I have asked Jesus to forgive my sins. I know I am a sinner. I acknowledge that if I were to die without Christ, I too would go to hell. I

have cried to God for His mercy from the cross of Christ. I have repented. I have been born from above. I have passed from death

to life. My inner man has been converted to the point that I believe the Gospel.

Abraham centered his witness against the rich man for his indulgent and luxurious lifestyle. Not that being rich was the sin, but that ignoring God was the sin. Focusing on the here and now and leaving the eternal to tomorrow was the disregard of his life choices. Where is my focus? I can build new barns to hold the crop, but I cannot get into heaven on my barn and crop balance sheet.

Abraham did not speak for the poor man's poverty. This poor man was not in his bosom because of his being poor no more than the rich man was in torment because of his being rich. He simply stated his life choice had placed him in his presence - in my bosom, close to me, at my side. Where more would anyone want to be than in the presence of Abraham? Sometimes the poor see more clearly without the barns and the crops blinding them. They make positive eternal choices we chose not to make. The point of the story is Abraham was witness against this rich man and his choices.

Would Abraham say the same thing today? Yes, Abraham would still witness against the rich man, woman, boy, or girl who chooses possessions over the Kingdom. Abraham would still be an un-

impeachable witness against any of us who place life value solely on barns and crops, stocks, bank accounts, prestige, power, fame, or other ethereal measure to the exclusion of the grace of God in Christ.

What a tragedy for Father Abraham to stand in witness against this man who was of his own race, ethnicity, and faith! This man was condemned by his own works, much like any guilty of crime in court. The witness sealed the judgment against him. What would Abraham say of me? What would Abraham say of you today if you were in this rich man's place? I want the comfort of God just like Lazarus. You want the comfort of God just like Lazarus. Let us be poor in spirit, as Jesus wants us to be. Let us cast ourselves solely on His grace to save us from ourselves and the wrong standards of living. Let us not be like the rich man whom Abraham could not commend in his words.

Luk 16:19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

Luk 16:20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

Luk 16:21 And desiring to be fed from the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

Luk 16:22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was

carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried:

Luk 16:23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Luk 16:24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

Luk 16:25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

Luk 16:26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

Luk 16:27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

Luk 16:28 For I have five brethren: that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

Luk 16:29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

Luk 16:30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

Luk 16:31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

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.

Lebanon to hold Gospel Sing

There will be a Gospel Sing at Lebanon Baptist Church, Saturday, June 18th at 7:00 p.m. The featured groups will be Stubborn Love, Ridge Road and Tommy Everett & Friends. There is no admission fee, but a love offering will be taken. For more information you may call 601-729-2436 or 601-729-2052.

Temple Baptist Church, Laurel, to hold VBS

Temple Baptist Church, Laurel, will be hosting Vacation Bible School from Sunday, June 5th at 5:30 p.m. thru Friday, June 10th. The theme of our VBS will be "Gold Rush." We will be searching and panning for gold found in the "Word of GOD." Come join us for lots of fun and excitement as we learn about God's Word Together. Classes will be held for Nursery through 6th grade. Times will be from 5:30 P.M. until 8:15 P.M. each night. A small meal will be served each night at 5:30 P.M. If you have any questions, you may contact Bro. Cliff Jenkins at 601-498-2748.

I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

Psalm 40:8

Church Seeks Youth & Music Minister

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

Sound Equipment For Sale

The equipment listed below would be an excellent buy for a church looking for a good system. It is as follows: A 20 channel Yorkville sound mixer that has it's own amp built in. It is a 1200 watt mixer. Renkus Heinze main speakers' (2), 3 Yorkville floor monitors, 4 Shure Beta 58 mikes with cords, speaker stands, a folding stand to hold the sound board, speaker cords, monitor cords, and one mike stand.

I am asking \$2500 and that price is firm. Call Kenny Mitchell at 601-569-1896 for more information.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Forgetting Machine

It seems that as people grow older, their "forgetting machine" begins to kick in. Lots of folks worry about what they can't remember. Me? What concerns me are the things I DO remember - like: when gas was 18 cents a gallon, when you could buy all the bread you wanted for 39 cents a loaf, when kids were expected to say, "yes, ma'am/sir", when I wasn't shaped like a bale of cotton, etc., etc.

If we could forget all of the above we might be more content in our present day situations.

Actually, forgetting is scriptural. Philippians 3:13, 14: ".....forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Lessons Learned From Tornadoes

No one alive today has ever experienced a Spring like this one. There have been some major deadly tornadoes in the past. But even if you go back into the 1920's, you won't find a time when there was one giant killer storm followed by more and more swarms of deadly outbreaks in one single Spring. It boggles the mind. I pray it might shake some people up to the point they wonder if they were killed in a tornado: where they will spend eternity. I pray someone might get saved out of all of this bad news.

I have been praying for all my friends in Oklahoma and Arkansas. I have prayed for Pastor Fred and wife Mary and the congregation of Grace Baptist at Joplin. I always love doing conferences in Joplin. I have prayed for many family and friends who live in Mississippi and Alabama. We must all continue to pray for these people and these communities. But in every disaster or problem in life, we Christians must ask ourselves: what do I need to learn from this experience to

grow, and how can God get glory.

There are people who experience tragedy in life that increases their faith. These people have major catastrophes



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

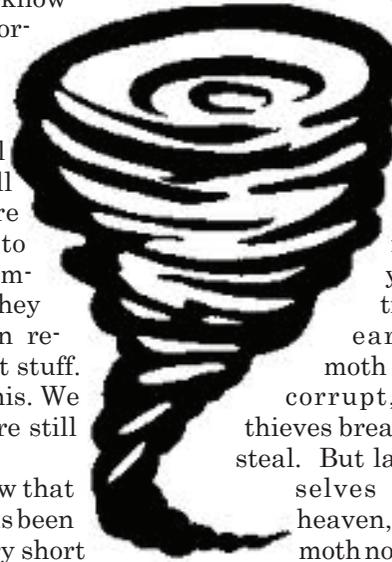
at a personal level, and I call these experiences a "life adjustment event". When a tornado, flood, fire or other disaster destroys your home, your material possessions, your church, your job site, schools where your kids go etc. you come out of those things a different person. It marks your life forever.

I have never seen anyone interviewed after their home was destroyed by a tornado and start crying over the loss of their CD music collection. I have never seen people on TV

get hysterical over losing their favorite pair of shoes in a tornado. See, these people have had major life lessons. Their priorities have been rearranged for life. They know now what is important. Almost universally, these people say they are thankful that they are still alive. They are giving thanks to God that their family survived. They all say, "We can rebuild. It was just stuff. We can replace this. We thank God we are still alive."

They now know that too much time has been spent on this very short life on earth chasing materialism and worldliness. They have learned that all this pursuit of pleasure is meaningless in the face of death. They have learned that the accumulation of wealth can all be taken in a moment's notice. A fire, a flood or like this Spring,

a tornado can take every single thing you have worked hard for all your life, and blow it away leaving nothing but a cement foundation.



Oh, how the words of scripture must ring true at this moment. Matthew 6:19-21, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." If you put your heart into "things", you will be devastated when those "things" are taken from you. Look around. All that is important in life is Jesus,

family, friends and life and love. That's it! If you have that, you are blessed abundantly. If you have nothing else, but still have Jesus, you have it all.

It is perfectly okay to be sad, cry and be devastated by losing your home or other things. There is absolutely nothing wrong with having a nice home, nice vehicles and nice clothes. The Bible teaches that for Christians, that should not be our focus. That is not our goal in life - to accumulate things. We do not worship things. We worship a living God and no storm can take that from us. He is forever alive and eternal. So this should be a lesson for all of us from this Spring's disastrous storms.

Get your priorities straight. The people in Alabama, Mississippi, and Joplin and many other places have had their lessons the hard way. Don't wait for a disaster before you learn this lesson. Life is short. Psalm 144:4 "Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow

continued on page 7



Connect

Small Group Resources

(Connecting you with God and with one another)

Go Deeper with Connect Small Group Resources

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.

Participant's material is provided that contains valuable discussion notes to stimulate interest in the biblical content and its practical application. The leader notes are essential guidance for the leader and contain supplementary material.

Just download the master copy from our Web site and make photocopies for the leader and participants of your small group. Use *Connect* studies in small groups at any time during the week or on Sunday evenings

You can download *Connect* studies for a nominal cost by going to DiscipleGuide.org/connect. If you want more information about the lessons, there is a preview option provided.




DiscipleGuide

CHURCH RESOURCES
www.DiscipleGuide.org

Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Doing Unto Others

We know the truth that we are to be compassionate and help those who need help. We are to do those 'good works' that our faith says we are to produce.

The terrible storms that ravaged our nation over the past several weeks are devastating both to property and lives of many. This is a God given opportunity and obligation to be a blessing to those in need.



Don Brown
Editor

Those of us in South Mississippi remember the devastation that Hurricane Katrina brought to our area. Just as many came from all over the nation to help the residents of South Mississippi, many are responding to the needs of those who have been victims of this Spring's storms. All across the South, the Midwest and now in the Northeast, nature and its fury has taken its toll.

You will read beginning on page 1 of this issue and continuing on this page the need of those people in Joplin, Missouri. Bro. Jeff Swart of First Church, Galena, Kansas and Bro. Fred Vogel of Grace Church, Joplin, have banded together to provide help to those in need.

I encourage our churches to rally to their side and help relieve some of the pain that these people are experiencing.

A call to Bro. Swart will provide information of immediate and long term needs.

Let us yield to the admonition of James when he says "...be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only." James 1:22.

Joplin Tornado Relief

from page 1

downed trees, repairing roofs, and many other services too numerous to mention.

On day three, we developed a long-term strategy to minister to the people. We identified the "Jerusalem" (Acts 1:8) of Grace Baptist Church, their area of ministry and influence, which includes 450 houses located in and around the church. We initially surveyed these houses and identified the specific needs of each family and then we met that need. We are going back every other day to these families to identify other needs and meet those. Our prayer is that as we develop a relationship of love with these families that we will gain their trust and will have earned a hearing as we share God's marvelous plan of salvation with them.

The purpose of this letter is to ask your help. First of all, please pray for us. We need physical strength, emotional strength, spiritual power, and wisdom to minister in a crisis

that is in a constant state of flux-changing every day. Only God can meet these personal needs and so would you please pray for us?

Secondly, we ask that you pray about sending an offering to help us. We need individuals, families, Sunday School classes, small groups, and churches to help us with financial donations. Because we have no operating overhead, we assure you that 100% of every dollar given is invested through two local churches directly to the families of Joplin, a claim that no other national or international relief agency can make.

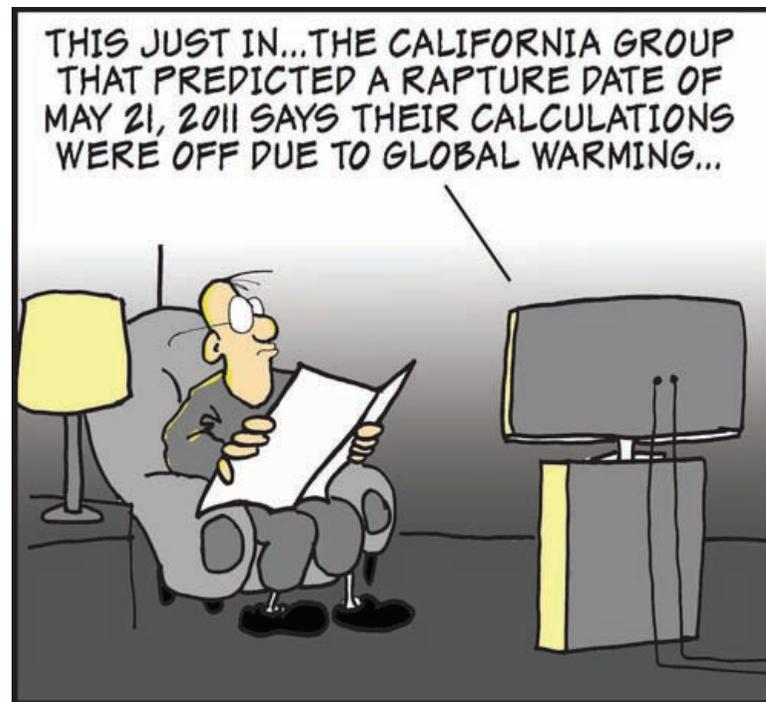
Thirdly, we could use your physical presence here in Joplin. If you can come, please call, email, or text me and we will do our very best to provide housing and some meals. We are in this for the long-term so we need help over the next year plus.

Some are collecting items to bring to Joplin and we appreciate that very much. However, I ask that you please contact me before you start collecting items because the needs are constantly changing. For example, last week we needed clothing and bottled water, but not this week.

If you can help us with a financial gift, please send your tax-deductable offering to: First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 218, Galena, Kansas 66739. Please mark your check "tornado" or "Joplin."

I know that I have asked a lot of you, but could you please forward this email to those you

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



know who might be able to help us? We thank you in advance anything you can do!

There is no way that television can portray the real damage here. You can see the physical damage but we see and hear the emotional and spiritual damage to people on an hourly basis. God is all over this city and I promise that you cannot come to Joplin and not be changed. The need is great! The time is now! You are needed! Please pray about helping us!

Praying that Christ will be lifted up in Joplin, Missouri!

Jeff Swart

Senior Pastor

First Baptist Church of Galena, Kansas
417.499.0175

in Wichita Falls, TX last month. We are in the process of boxing them and getting them ready for shipment hopefully next month. Once again, we've been overwhelmed by your generosity and love for children around the world. Quite frankly a simple thanks seems inadequate most of the time for all that you do to support the Shepherd Bags Ministry. We've said it time and again and it is still true after all these years. "We simply couldn't do it without you." I know children will come to know Christ because of the tool that you've placed in EIM's hands to open doors to Jesus.

We're working on finalizing plans to get a large shipment to Honduras for the Million Bag Campaign. We also have the opportunity to send a small shipment of Shepherd Bags along with some dehydrated food, Gospel story books in the Illongo language and bicycles for pastors/workers in the Philippines. So needless to say, we are very busy but grateful.

So once again, a simple thank you for partnering with us and for all you continue to do in the Shepherd Bags Ministry. We give our mighty God all the praise, glory and honor that only He deserves through all that He allows us to do for Him. Love to all!

Fonda Norris, Coordinator
EIM Shepherd Bags

Letters From Our Readers

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

A BIG Shepherd Bags Thank You to our BMA Churches from EIM!

Dear Editor,

We at EIM wanted to take the time to say "thank you" once again to all the churches, WMA's, youth/children ministries who brought bags and supplies to the BMAA meeting

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

John Burleson

John Burleson has resigned as pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Camden after 13 years of service and is available for preaching appointments and pastoral service as the Lord leads. He has a B.S. in Bible from Central Baptist College and has been in the ministry since 1984. Contact him at 870-818-1200.

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Don J. Brown, Editor

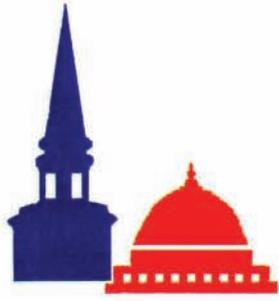
E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org
Web site www.msbaptist.org

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

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Mississippi Baptist Paper, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441-8000.





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April, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Greetings! I desire to let you know of my prayers for you and for your administration.

I am writing this letter to ask two things of you:

1. That you stop your support of full civil unions and federal rights for LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) couples.
2. That you see Islam as a dangerous and terrorist inclusive religion and that you not be lenient to the overt and veiled threats from Islam toward America and her citizens.

As President, you state that you are a Christian. If so, then you will reaffirm our Nation's need of moral living and reaffirm our Christian beliefs. I support this Moral Action request as a member of God's church.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua 24:15
"I Have Chosen..."

Beck's Jerusalem conference denounced

OneNewsNow - A journalist and biblical prophecy teacher doesn't think evangelical Christians should take part in talk-show icon Glenn Beck's "Restoring Courage" rally in Jerusalem this summer.

Beck explains on his website that the event will be similar to last summer's "Restore Honor" rally in Washington, DC, which drew hundreds of thousands of people to the nation's capital. He says, "It is time to return inside the walls that surround Jerusalem and stand with people of all faiths, all around the world."

Dr. Jimmy DeYoung, host of the Prophecy Today Radio Network, travels the world to educate the Body of Christ about the future events foretold in the Bible. While he agrees with Beck politically, he does not agree that the talk-show icon should be viewed as a spiritual leader.

"You might remember the Washington rally last year, and Glenn Beck said repeatedly, 'this is not a political rally; this is a spiritual rally.' He is not my spiritual leader," DeYoung contends. "He should be nobody's spiritual leader. I don't believe he knows Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. He is a Mormon, and the Mormon religion says that Jesus Christ is a brother to Satan."

And the Jerusalem-based journalist has a problem with Beck's desire to stand with people of all faiths.

"The mass majority of those who may well join with him are replacement theologians," DeYoung suggests. "They believe that God's Word has replaced the Jewish people and all the promises in the Word go now to the church. That is called replacement theology; it's heretical."

So he exhorts all true Bible-believing Christians to stay away from this rally, which he sees as nothing more than a money-making event for Beck.

The Church That Persecutes

by Joseph Harris

When one hears of the Christian church today, confusion can result. Some speak of the battles in centuries past between the church and Islam, when the church attacked, persecuted and slaughtered through the crusades. Reference is made to the church and the corruption that was resisted by the reformers as they sought to re-establish the purity of truth lost in the corruption of doctrine in the church. However, this church has in recent years repented of its sins, atrocities, and overall anti-Semitism against the Jewish people.

The hard truth is, no true Christian New Testament church has ever led or followed in the persecution or slaughter of the Jews, heretics, or any group that disagreed with them in doctrine. What is erroneously considered to be the Christian Church of antiquity, is at best, an apostate system of paganism and superstition known as Roman Catholicism. The Roman institution mentioned above, apologized mainly for the Spanish Inquisition, the Crusades and the anti-Semitic writings of Martin Luther. Of course, the first two mentioned, the Inquisition and the Crusades, were contrived and carried out by the Catholic Institution, not the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Martin Luther, a former Catholic, came into the light of salvation by grace through faith, and not through the church, thank God, but just didn't come far enough in all doctrines. He also carried over with him a view of intolerance and persecution against those who didn't agree with him. But so did John Calvin, John Knox and other leaders in the Reformation. The apple certainly did not fall far from the tree for these children of Catholicism.

New Testament Bible churches, have always ex-

Brotherhood Projects

The Brotherhood of the Mississippi BMA (state brotherhood) project is Disaster Relief Fund (75%) and State Galileans (25%). Send project money to the Secretary/Treasurer: Roy Caldwell, 166 Twin Creek Rd., Lucedale, MS 39452.

The Brotherhood of the BMAA (national brotherhood) project is ISHELP (65%), National Galileans (25%), and General Fund (10%). Send project money to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Robert M. Bynum
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Big Creek District WMA Report

by Sherry Shows, Reporter

The Big Creek District WMA met at Parkview, Laurel on April 4. Although the weather was stormy outside, the warm hospitality inside made you feel as though the sun was shining. The meeting was called to order by President Linda Smith with scripture reading from Matthew 6:25-34. Barbara White led in a song "A Shelter in the Time of Storms". Linda Windham led in prayer and welcome was given by Virginia Poore of Parkview with response by Nina Bartran.

Shirley Pope brought the devotional and Barbara Jones read a poem entitled "Fragrance". Linda Windham presented a very interesting program on Protestant Reformation and how the 13 colonies remained faithful to Christian principles.

Debbie Miller sang "Jesus is the Cornerstone." Ruby Bynum extended the hand of appreciation. Kristy Matthews presented each lady with a magnet she had made with the WMA theme "Noah Found Grace."

The stormy weather did prevent some of attending and attendance was pretty low with only 23 ladies present and 8 churches represented as reported by the corresponding secretary, Sharon Lancaster.

Linda Dertinger reported on Sunbeams, Shirlene Smith gave a report on WMA project, and Barbara White gave a report on National WMA project. Judy Eavansen requested each WMA to bring pictures of any of their activities for the scrapbook.

A nominating committee was elected consisting of Sherry Shows, Kristy Matthews, June Holifield, Nina Bartran, and Shirlene Smith. Joann Welch of Berean Baptist Church gave the resolution:

"We, the Berean Baptist Church WMA, do resolve to encourage all WMA ladies of our association to join us to pray for all our elected officials, local and national levels. We resolve to make a stand that all life is valuable and a gift from God and is to be nurtured. We, as mothers, grandmothers, and aunts, resolve to petition God's blessings on our families and church families. We ask each of your to pray for our military and their families.

The next WMA meeting will be on July 11 at Lebanon Baptist Church in Laurel. I encourage each WMA to attend this important meeting as we will have installation of new officers.

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False Teeth

by Chuck Lee, pastor
Pineview Baptist Church
Purvis, Mississippi

"Amen's" were voiced through the room. Someone kept saying "Praise the Lord!" The song service had ended and had left everyone hungry for the message that was to come. All eyes were fixed on me as I preached from God's Holy Word.

All eyes except for the little old lady that had fallen fast asleep in her wheelchair. Unfazed by her snores, I plodded on, intent on bringing forth the message and holding up my Lord before the masses. The masses were in reality only about twenty five elderly men and women that were residents

in a local nursing home in my hometown.

As I preached, to more or less attentive listeners (mostly less), something dropped and clattered on the floor near my feet. I fought the urge to run screaming from the building when I saw that it was the lady's teeth grinning up at me from the floor. Apparently, she had forgotten to glue them in upon hearing that she would be attending a church service that morning and would be getting a nap.

I considered kicking them under her chair so I couldn't see them, when an attendant

from the home, darted in front of me with the skill of one who had practice picking teeth off the floor, and picked the chompers up and placed them in a napkin to be cleaned and later returned to their rightful mouth.

Thankfully, a few years and a little experience with unruly false teeth (not mine), had hardened me against breaking loose with uncontrolled laughter. The same could not be said of some of the others in the room, who howled unashamedly at the teeth and the dilemma I faced. The lady continued to snore.

I was able to stand solemn faced and 'preacher-like' without even the hint of a smile. A few years earlier I didn't display such control. At the aforementioned time I was in the audience.

The man preaching had the habit of waving his arms back and forth in the manner of a flight attendant displaying the exits at the front and rear of a jetliner. This habit saved him from the embarrassment of searching under pews for HIS teeth. What he preached, I'm sure nobody can recall, but as his arms was in the exit position, his teeth shot from his mouth. Without missing a beat, his arms came back to the front of the plane position and caught and returned his teeth to their rightful place.

It was an amazing act to witness, and looking back on the incident, I wish we had instant

replay in the church service so I could have reviewed his technique for future references.

At the time, though, I could only bow my head as if I were taking a moment to pray and hope everyone else was having the same problem I was having - the problem of keeping their insides from exploding by holding in the loud laughter that was trying to escape. He continued bravely on hoping nobody had noticed. Fat chance! The one time you have an attentive audience, your teeth fly out.

As I search for the great theological lesson to be learned, the thought of those teeth jumping out of his mouth has me laughing out loud in the safety of my home. The kids look at daddy as if I have lost my mind when I turn and impart to them this wisdom that I have learned.

BRUSH YOUR TEETH, OR GLUE THEM IN LATER! It's the least I can do for them.

The Church That Persecutes

from page 6

isted from the time Christ instituted His church until now. The church of Jesus Christ did not begin with Peter, Constantine, or during the Reformation. It was started by Jesus. AND true churches have never tried to force their beliefs on those who disagreed with them, nor have they persecuted, tortured and killed those who have disagreed with them. They simply preached the Gospel. According to church history, true Bible believers were the ones persecuted, along with Jews who have always been persecuted. Again, the point is, true Biblical Christianity did not harass, harangue and hang those who differed. They prayed for them and preached to them. That's the true Christian way. I will give credit where it is due though - the Pope himself did earlier apologize for these sins committed by his church. Let's just don't let the line of demarcation that has been drawn be erased. True Biblical Christianity (as documented in Baptist history books) existed long before Catholicism and the Reformation and was guided by the love and longsuffering of Christ, the true head.

Now, don't get mad because I've called names. I don't hate anyone (nor have I persecuted anyone), but it's all in the history books. And you can do only one of two things with the truth of history: (1) choose to believe it, or (2) choose to not believe it, but you can never change it. Thanks Dr. Gerald Kellar for teaching to me the true history of Christianity.

Tornado Lessons

from page 3

that passeth away." Love those around you that God has given you to love. Love them on days even when they are unlovable. What is important in life? High school graduation is a big deal, until your son is killed coming home from graduation in a tornado and all you find left is his cap. Don't waste your precious time pursuing things. Pursue God. Pursue love. Pursue loving others. Embrace life. That is what is important.

We all need to learn this lesson from this Spring. What did God want us to learn? How can God get glory from this in your personal life? Do you and your family need to step back and reevaluate your daily life and priorities?

Finally, I leave you with some good news. If you are saved by the blood of Jesus, there is no tornado that can every blow Him out of your heart. Everything around you may be destroyed, but we Christians find hope in disaster because the Word of God endures forever. Your salvation is secure and permanent and no storm, no devil, no disease, no nothing can ever separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:37-39.

Don't just look and be appalled at disaster. Learn from it and grow!

Objections fly with rainbow flag

OneNewsNow -President Obama has declared June "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month" - and to the dismay of a pro-family group based in Richmond, Virginia, the Federal Reserve Bank is joining in the celebration.

Though The Family Foundation's new office in Richmond has a beautiful view of the state capitol and the flags, the rainbow flag fluttering above the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond is also in view. Foundation president Victoria Cobb does not expect it to fly away any time soon.

"Our expectation is it'll be flying all month," she predicts. "We think the Federal Reserve ought to be focused on the economy rather than focusing on special rights."

The Federal Reserve is a private operation and is not government run, but Cobb points out that it is simply following the nation's leadership in promoting a lifestyle that involves less than two percent of the population.

Meanwhile, the Mississippi-based American Family Association has received a complaint from a Federal Reserve employee who objects to the flag and what it represents. In reference to the "gay pride" flag flying just below the American flag, the employee wrote in an email: "For the past five or six years, the homosexual agenda has been pushed down our throats. [The bank president

and vice president] have initiated this agenda. This offends me as a Christian."

According to Cobb, more than just bank employees are offended. "We know of businesses that are actually housed within the Federal Reserve building that I [bet] are very unhappy today," she suggests. "So it's going to be interesting to get the feedback from them."

But aside from the workers, she says the flag flies in the face of most Virginians. "In Virginia, this is not a stand that should be taken. We've as a state said we are not going to support gay marriage, for example, in our constitution, and we've been very clear on issues of gay rights," the pro-family advocate notes. "So it's disappointing to see such a large flag flying, as if it's something that this commonwealth supports."

In an interview with the website Richmond.com, Sally Green - identified as the bank's chief operating officer - says

the institution "strongly support[s] a diverse and inclusive culture" and has "learned it is important to value and embrace differences - both seen and unseen. We are flying the 'Pride' flag as an example of our commitment to values of acceptance and inclusion."

According to that report, PRISM - an employee LGBT group within the bank - requested the flag be flown. Richmond.com says the flag is expected to be flown all month.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I wonder how much diversity and inclusivity there would be if for instance a Christian asked for the Christian flag to be displayed or for a Nativity scene to be displayed. The 'politically correct' crowd is dominating our culture and we are much poorer for it. *"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"* Isaiah 5:20

The Church Is The Body of Christ

The church of Jesus Christ is the body of Jesus on this earth. Don't let that go over your head. That is not incidental. It is a fundamental truth that Jesus Christ inhabits His church. He is alive and well. We are His spiritual body.

People ask "what would Jesus do" if He were here. Friend, He is here. He lives in us, and if we don't understand that, we will live superficially and not supernaturally. We are called to be supernatural.

-selected

New Direction Prison Ministries

Fulton Lindsey, Director

THOU ART WORTHY O LORD

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. Revelation 4:11

Because of His holiness, they cried night and day, "Holy, Holy, Holy"! His holiness shows us our unrighteousness. Isaiah saw himself undone when he experienced God's holiness. This happens to us when we see and believe His holiness. The reason so many people feel self-righteous is they have never experienced, "Thou art worthy, O LORD."

Because He is the Lord God Almighty, He was, He is to come. He sits on His throne and lives forever and ever. In view of this, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory. In Matthew 2:9-14 a multitude of the heavenly host praised God saying "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace good will toward men". He is worthy to receive honor, homage, praise, adoration, and worship. When His holiness, power and glory is fixed in our hearts, we will glorify and honor Him because of his power. He created all things. He truly is the potter and we are the clay. We are the Lord's and for His pleasure we were created.

Since November, it has been a joy to serve and represent N.D.P.M. full

time by visiting among the churches and associations, and having more time in prison. We have held five (5) revivals in prison and two (2) in our



Fulton Lindsey

churches. We have had 481 prisoners saved since November. Please pray for N.D.P.M. and especially for the upcoming 2 church and 5 prison revivals. I appreciate the fellowship with the pastors and churches, and the gain in our finances. We still need churches and individuals to put us in their budgets. Any amount helps.

I am available for presentation of the ministry at your church, preaching appointments and for revivals as well. Please call me at 662-862-5889—home or 662-610-4952 to schedule a date.

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Lavelle Lee, Interim Director

2011 Midyear Meeting Revolving Loan Fund Report

Psalm 150:6 *Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.*

The Lord has truly blessed the BMA of MS Revolving Loan Fund. We are thankful that this continues to be a strong and growing ministry used to help our mission points and churches with their financing needs.

For the fiscal year date of August 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011, the RLF has opened 11 new investment accounts totaling \$257,551.54. The total current balance of investments are \$11,373,731.40, a decrease of \$303,475.92 during this period. We have issued 4 new loans totaling \$345,311.86 and the outstanding balance on loans receivable is \$11,677,207.32, an increase of \$829,498.24 since August 1, 2010. Unrestricted net assets as of April 30, 2011 are \$ 2,502,493.67. This is a \$ 415,340.27 increase since the close of the past fiscal year. These are all unaudited figures. Praise the Lord for these blessings.

There are some small indicators that the economy is slowly improving but we are not out of the woods of economic distress yet and we continue to exercise caution in the affairs of the RLF.

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

Dosson Lavell Lee,
Manager, RLF

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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.



Jason Aultman



Mark Livingston



Kent Wiles



Shawn Hammontree



Gungor



Bob Smiley