

Baptist

Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

JUNE 1, 2012

VOL. 66 No. 11

Midyear Meeting Held in Mantachie

The midyear session of the BMA of Mississippi was held at the First Baptist Church of Mantachie on Tuesday, May 21. The state Brotherhood and WMA met at the church on Monday evening.

Each department and commission gave encouraging reports. Change was in the air as Dr. Medrick Savell offered his resignation as president of Southeastern Baptist College. Kelby Johnson was introduced as the new interim state youth director. It is expected that he will be presented as the permanent director at the annual meeting in October.

52 churches were represented by 91 messengers with 64 visitors present. Two new churches were welcomed into the association. They were both the result of the Hispanic mission effort. El Camino in Laurel, pastored by Estuardo Marraquin and First Hispanic (The Way, The Truth & The Life Baptist Church) pastored by Elvis Garcia both officially were accepted as member congregations.



Bro. Grover Laird brought the midyear sermon

Recognition for service

One highlight of this meeting was the presentation to

Bro. Grover Laird of the Moral Action Award. This was presented to Bro. & Mrs. Laird by Dr. John Adams, director of Moral Action.

Southeastern College

Dr. Medrick Savell resigned as president, effective May 31, 2012. Bro. Joey Harris, who currently serves as vice-president, will serve as interim president. The Trustees have selected a search committee and their work has begun to seek candidates for consideration. (see block ad below).

Dr. Savell reported that the status of SBC with the U.S. Department of Education was good and that the school's rat-

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Southeastern Baptist College President Search

After serving as President of Southeastern Baptist College for seven years, Dr. Medrick Savell has offered his resignation effective May 31. All those interested in applying for the position of President should send their resumes to the Board of Trustee's Clerk, Danny Pitts, at 4432 Hwy 15N, Laurel, MS 39440 or kokmah@yahoo.com by July 31.

Two Faithful Servants Leave The Scene

Former SBC President A. M. Wilson passes away

Alford Marion Wilson of Taylorsville passed away Saturday, May 26th in Laurel at the age of 79 after a six-month battle with cancer. Bro. Wilson served as the pastor to numerous churches in Mississippi and Texas throughout his 57 years in ministry, most recently as pastor of Bro. A. M. Wilson



the Union Baptist Church in Bay Springs. He also had a long relationship with Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, serving as president of the college, vice-president, dean of the college, head of the Bible department, librarian, and professor. He worked with Colonial Chapel Funeral Home for 22 years, serving as a funeral director. Mr. Wilson was a veteran of the United States Army, serving with the 503rd Military Police Battalion in Fort Bragg, North Carolina from 1953-1955.

Bro. Wilson is survived by his wife Petra Gonzalez Wilson and her children Maria Estes (Eric), Gustavo Salazar, Yolanda Salazar, and Yacelly Wade (Richard), and eight grandchildren: Andrea (Shane), Elias, Daniel, Gabriel,

see Wilson page 4

Arthur Smith Goes Home

Bro. Arthur William Smith of Laurel passed from this life to his eternal home on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at the age of 74.



Bro. Arthur Smith was born November 4, 1937 in Wiggins, MS to Rev. Hollis and Maudie Smith. He graduated from Wiggins High School, Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, Mississippi, and Luther Rice Seminary in Jacksonville, Florida.

He pastored churches in Mississippi, Missouri, and Arkansas. At the time of his death, he was pastor of the Hopewell Baptist Church in Laurel, where he served for 24 years. He also held various positions and offices with the Baptist Missionary Association including: clerk of the Big Creek Association for over twenty years, president of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi, trustee for Southeastern Baptist College and the BMA of Mississippi Department of Missions, President of the National Brotherhood, and member of the advisory committee for the Department of Missions of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. He served as state

see Smith page 4

DiscipleWay 5.0 Witnessing Training for Summer

The BMA Seminary summer schedule includes an intensive week of training in DiscipleWay's 5.0 Witnessing discipline scheduled for July 23-27, 2012 at the First Baptist Church of Mantachie, Mississippi. The training is available to individuals with or without previous training in DiscipleWay.

DiscipleWay training conferences certified more than 300 participants in the disciplines of Bible study, prayer, worship, giving, service, and leadership

during the past year. Many participants also took advantage of a pre-conference Share Your Faith Workshop. The Seminary's summer evangelism training allows participants to complete the DiscipleWay training by learning its entire witnessing discipline. True to the DiscipleWay strategy, the week involves multiple opportunities for hands-on learning. Those interested in the DiscipleWay process should pursue this training opportunity.

The deadline to register for the training is June 25, 2012. Please contact the BMA Seminary Dean's Office for information on actual registration and preparation. Please contact the BMA Seminary Business Office for the costs of registration, materials, and the low cost housing available (if needed). The housing is located at a nearby church camp and provides a typical church camp experience (i.e., bring your own bedding, etc.). The seminary phone number is 903-586-2501.

Midyear Report

from page 1

ing by the Department has increased in the recent year.

Savell said that he did not get to accomplish all he had wished, but that the Lord had blessed in many ways and he was at peace with his decision. He gave credit to God for all the successes during his tenure.

Scott Kirkland was elected to serve the remainder of the term of Trustee Arthur Smith.

Youth Director

Interim Director Kelby Johnson gave his personal testimony. His home church is Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, where his grandfather, Bro. Howard Hill, serves as a deacon. He was saved at the age of 11 and shared some personal moments. He and his family currently reside in New Albany, Mississippi, where he recently served on a church staff.

Johnson says his goal is to support church leaders and minister to young people.

Missions

Bro. Larry Geraldson, director of state missions reported additional applications for missionary status and the addition of new mission fields. Each current missionary was present and reports were given on each field. Geraldson noted that if we are to put more men on the field and plant churches, then the finances must be available. He thanked the churches for

their current support and noted that the department was currently operating within current budget needs.

Bro. Ed Duvall, former missionary to Cleveland, was named as African American coordinator for the BMA of Mississippi. It was noted that this was a 'non-paid' position at the present time.

Geraldson reported the Revolving Loan continues to grow in both deposits and overall equity. He encouraged continued investment in the Fund.

James Sprayberry was elected to serve out the trustee term of Sidney Farmer and Kevin Clayton was elected to serve the remainder of Bryan Wilson's term. Willie Tebo was elected to fill the balance of the RLF term of Doug Lee and Larry Welborn was chosen to fill the term of Mike Lowe.

Senior Adult Commission

Kenneth Flynt, interim director, was unable to attend the meeting, but the Commission Trustees will be recommending Bro. Flynt for the position in the October meeting. He requested continued support for this ministry. He sent word that Mrs. Dot Holifield will continue to serve as book-keeper.

Moral Action

Dr. John Adams reported on the Moral Action ministry. He



Trustee President Doug Wilson (left) presents a plaque of appreciation to outgoing SBC President Dr. Medrick Savell.

stressed the need to promote "value voting" during this election year. He said he felt this was the most critical national election in the life of our nation.

Adams said he would be sending letters to our Senators to urge the President and Attorney General to obey the law and enforce the Defense Of Marriage Act (DOMA).

Children's Home

Director Sidney Davis reported on the ministry of the Home and shared the accomplishments (academic, personal and spiritual) of the children at the home.

At the end of the Home's report, Matt Hudson, pastor of

Hopewell Church, Fulton, moved that the moderator appoint a committee of five to work with the trustees of the Home and the Youth Department to consider the possibility of using the facilities and property of the Children's Home for Youth Camp purposes.

For clarification, the motion was meant to see if the two ministries could coexist on the current property of the Home.

President Shane Singleton appointed Matt Hudson, Kevin Clayton, Dennis Knight, Ken Riley and Harold Floyd to this committee. The committee was requested to give a report on this project at the annual meeting in October.

A new website

A BMA of Mississippi Website has been established at bmamississippi.org. Information concerning the association and its departments can be accessed at this site.

Publications

Editor Don Brown reported on the Mississippi Baptist. Churches are encouraged to get every church family on their mailing list. He stressed the need to keep our people informed about the work of each department - communication being the key to cooperation.

He thanked the churches for their financial support and a good Special Emphasis offering this past January.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the BMA of Mississippi will be held on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College on October 22&23, 2012.

Pastors Mourn

The families of Arkansas Pastor Aaron Maxwell (Ramsey Heights, Batesville) and Texas Pastor James Schoenrock (Sheppard Drive, Euless, TX) experienced terrible losses last week. Bro. Maxwell lost his 38-year-old son, Tim; and Bro. Schoenrock lost his 20-year-old grandson, Blake.

Timothy Jarrett Maxwell of St. Clair, MO, died May 17 following a battle with cancer. He was the son of Aaron and Alberta (Bert) Maxwell, the husband of

R a g a n Michelle Miller Maxwell and the father of four young children. Other survivors include a sister, Sarah McGraw, wife of Sidney



Maxwell

McGraw who pastors Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in El Dorado.

He was a licensed minister, a member of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in St. Clair, MO, and a graduate of Central Baptist College in Conway. Funeral services were held May 21 and interment was at Midlawn Memorial Gardens in Union, MO, under the direction of Russell Colonial Funeral Home in St. Clair, MO.

Memorials may be made to his family at 530 Columbia, St Clair, MO 63077.

Blake Matthew Schoenrock, 20, of Mesquite, TX, died May 15 after a short illness. Survivors include his parents, Randy and Lisa Schoenrock, and grandparents, James and W i l m a Schoenrock.

B l a k e had just finished his second year at Texas A&M and was a member of Community Life Church in Forney, TX (Southern Baptist). Funeral services were held May 19 at First Baptist Church of Sunnyvale in Sunnyvale, TX, under the direction of New Hope Funeral Home.

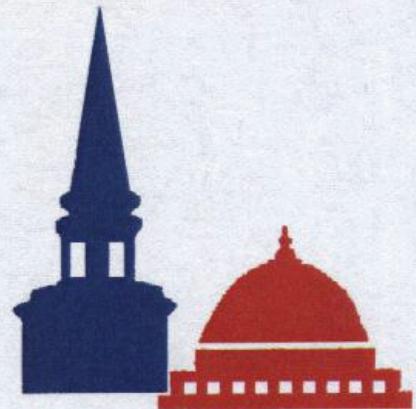


Schoenrock



Director Larry Geraldson presented all current state missionaries and their families as the recent midyear meeting in Mantachie.

MORAL ACTION FREEDOM OFFERING 2012



**PLEASE HELP DR. ADAMS AND
MORAL ACTION IN THIS JULY 1
“FREEDOM OFFERING”
TO PURCHASE A USED VAN**

B.M.A. of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Executive Director
www.macbma.net

Mail offering to: Moral Action • P.O. Box 305 • Mantachie, MS 38855

Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Dear Friends and Faithful Workers

Change is inevitable, but many times it is not welcomed.

The Lord called home two faithful workers and dear friends recently. You will see articles beginning on page 1 of this issue informing about the passing of two of God's faithful servants. Bro. Arthur Smith and Bro. A.M. "Bud" Wilson have completed their journey.



Don Brown
Editor

Both men served God and our Associated work with distinction. Both were stricken with cancer and have now received their eternal reward.

Arthur Smith

Bro. Arthur Smith was the missionary pastor to Parkview Baptist Church,

Wilson

from page 1

Ronald, Wil, Ryan, and Sophia. Mr. Wilson is also survived by a daughter Jolene Wilson, six brothers and sisters and their families, who all knew him as "Bud", as well as Denise Crozier (Nelson) and Sherry Barnes. He was preceded in death by his parents Willie J. and Ruby Wilson of Stringer, Mississippi and his first wife Marianne.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, May 30 at the First Baptist Church of Bay Springs. Interment was at Union Baptist Church near Stringer.. Revs. Harold Floyd, Don Brown, Bobby Grayson, and Eric Estes officiated.

Gautier, Mississippi. In 1973 a homesick Mississippi couple moved back home from Texas and ended up on the Gulf Coast. They searched for a local church to join and ended up at Parkview. This is how Bonnie and I became acquainted with the Smith family. About one month after we joined, Bro. Smith felt the call to go to Purvis, Mississippi and plant another church.

We always teased Bro. Arthur and Mrs. Shirlene that he was our pastor for only one month. A very faithful and dedicated servant will truly be missed. We pray for comfort for the family.

A.M. Wilson

Bro. Marion Wilson was working at Southeastern College when my wife and I moved to Laurel in 1980. What a joy he was to work with. He served in every capacity that could be named, including two terms as presi-

Smith

from page 1

missionary for the BMA of Mississippi and planted churches in Gautier, Mississippi and Purvis, Mississippi.

He is survived by his wife of almost 53 years, Shirlene Hall Smith; four Children: Mrs. Cindy (Corbey) Jones of Stringer, Mississippi; Mrs. Lisa (Matt) Hudson of Fulton, Mississippi; Dr. John David Smith (Kim) of Conway, Arkansas; and Dr. Rhonda (Steven) Tilly of Florence, Mississippi; 8 grandchildren: Carey Jones, Andrew Jones, Cera Jones, Mrs. Bethany (Patrick) Hinton, Kala Hudson, Jonathan Hudson, Josiah Smith, and Seth Smith; and three great-

grandchildren: Abby, Kadey, and Ellie; one sister: Ann Gibson (Bill) of Wiggins, Mississippi; many nieces and nephews; and his church family at Hopewell Baptist Church.

He is preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Rev. Kenneth Smith; and three infant sisters.

His celebration service was held Friday May 18, 2012, at Springhill Baptist Church in Laurel. Internment was at the Hopewell Baptist Church Cemetery. Dr. John David Smith, Rev. Corbey Jones, Rev. Matt Hudson, and Steven Tilly officiated.

The family requests memorials be made to the Baptist Missionary Association of America Department of Missions: 9219 Sibley Hole Road Little Rock, AR 72209.

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"Can you remember way back when sin was a BAD thing?"

More From The Editor

E-Mail Copy

Two items of interest. Pastor, if you are on our mailing list and would like to receive an E-Copy of the paper via Email, please send your name, mailing address, church name and your email address to us at editor@msbaptist.org. We will be glad to add you to our list. You will receive the e-copy early.

Notification List

Anyone who would like to be on our "instant notification list" can send us a request by email to editor@msbaptist.org and let us know you want to be added to this list.

We use this to instantly notify our readers and members of items that would be of immediate need. The recent deaths of Bros. Wilson and Smith are the types of information we can share.

We want to serve our people with up-to-date news as possible.

Letters From Our Readers

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

Dear Editor,

The family of Bro. Arthur W. Smith expresses our love and gratitude to each one for your kindness, thoughtfulness, and compassion during the sickness and home going of our dear loved one.

A special thanks to Hopewell Baptist Church, to the pastors and preachers of the BMAA, and each one whose life was touched by the ministry of Bro. Arthur.

Your prayers have helped sustain us. May God bless each one as you serve Him faithfully.

Until the trumpet sounds,
Mrs. Shirlene Smith
Cindy Jones and Family
Lisa Hudson and Family
Dr. John David Smith and Family

Dr. Rhonda and Steven Tilly



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Testimonies From The National Meeting

Editor's Note: Keith Lunceford and I graduated from high school together in 1966. He has been a friend for all these years. He went to his current pastorate one month before I became editor of this publication in 1978. I hope you will be blessed by the testimony he presented at the 2012 national meeting in Jackson..

-Courtesy of Baptist Trumpet

At the beginning of each session of the BMA of America meeting in Jackson, Mississippi, "long term ministers" were asked to share their testimonies. Others shared their testimonies about their experiences with DiscipleWay at the end of each session. We have transcribed all of those presentations and will run them in upcoming issues of the Baptist Trumpet.

The following testimony is by Keith Lunceford, who has served as pastor of Park Avenue Baptist Church in Searcy for 35 years:

I moved to Park Avenue Baptist Church in Searcy in February 1978 and I am in my 35th year of service there. So that you'll understand that I'm not really all of that bad a guy, I need to tell you that about three months after I moved there I hired a wonderful, godly, saintly woman named Elaine Barnes. She has worked with me as my secretary for 34 years. I've been married to my wife, Rita, for over 40 years.

When we needed a full-time music minister, we called Kevin Prawl. He's a very talented, loving man. He's from Missouri. I'll say no more. He's been with us for 23 years. Ed Stephenson's son, Chad, is our youth minister. He has been there 3 years and in youth director years that's like he's been there for 21 years.

So I've managed, by the grace of God, to stay in one place and, basically, to keep the same people around me. I'm grateful for that. Some people are amazed that I've done it, but it did not happen by accident.

The Apostle Paul once encouraged Timothy to "abide still at Ephesus." The word "abide" is kind of a non-descript word in English, but if you research it in the Greek, it is the word "meno" and conveys the idea of permanence.

Paul had hoped Timothy would go to Ephesus and make a long-term commitment, but he only lasted about six months. Some have suggested that he got into trouble with the WMA. He probably didn't fair much better with the Men's Brotherhood. They wondered who this boy preacher was and whether or not he knew enough to instruct them.

Depending on the source you look at, the average stay of a Baptist pastor



Keith Lunceford

in America at a church is about three to three and a half years. We don't tend to stay very long in one place and I think that's a shame. Gentlemen, if you're going to stay in your church, I have some sugges-

tions for you:

Toughen Up

Paul said, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood." Our enemies are bigger than that and, unfortunately, some of them are seated on the pews in your church every Sunday. Dr. Wassell Burgess used to talk about angels coming to church, but remember, there are two kinds of angels.

Richard Walters has always been one of my heroes. He told me this story:

"Keith, I was preaching in a church and when I got through, I walked out on the front porch to greet the worshipers. This old boy walked out, looked me right in the eye and said, 'Bro. Walters, I just don't much like you, so I think I'm just gonna whip you right here on the spot.'"

I was a young, kid preacher, and I was amazed that God's people could ever act that way, so I said, "Bro. Walters, what did you do?"

He said, "I decided he wasn't."

It wouldn't hurt you men out there to toughen up just a little bit. The Bible says, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood" and wrestling is a face-to-face, contact sport. It's personal. So if you're going to stay very long in a place, you need to toughen up just a little bit and not run away every time some ole boy growls at you.

Smarten Up

Then it would help if you would grasp some realities about the ministry to Smarten Up.

Joel Slayton called me several years ago and asked me if I'd come over to Central Baptist College and teach some on an adjunct basis in their pastoral

ministries department. I told him I wasn't qualified because all I had was a Bachelor's degree. I didn't finish my Master's.

"No, Keith," he said, "You don't understand. All these boys at CBC come out of here with a world class education, but not one of them has a clue about how to pastor a church or what they're going to face when they get into the churches. We want you to speak to them from your experience." So I put together a series of lessons, and these are the real titles a few of the things I teach:

- All Youth Directors Are Brain Dead: Now before all the youth ministers get mad, I used to be one of you and I don't dislike you, but I want to tell you that you have an impossible job; and if you weren't brain dead, you wouldn't take the job!

There are a variety of "offices" mentioned in the Bible, but it doesn't say anything about youth directors. The only youth directors the Bible talks about are a godly mama and a godly daddy. But because so many modern parents have abdicated responsibility, the churches have asked youth directors to do the impossible — to help to raise little spoiled rascals that their moms and daddies can't even control.

- If They Look Crazy, They Probably Are: That's the actual name of a class I teach and it's true. I've met a lot of folks in our Baptist churches — some are on Lithium and others need to be. These preacher boys don't know they're going to meet people like that out there in these churches. But they assuredly will.

- Not All Baptists Voted Republican In The Last Election: These CBC boys have all these moralistic ethics that the college has been so good and gracious to teach them. But there are people out there in the pew who don't care about abortion or the other moral and spiritual issues that are a concern to pastors. All they care about is their Social Security and free health care. So while the pastor may be voting his convictions, you can bet about two-

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National Brotherhood President

Tribute to Brother Arthur Smith 1938 –2012

by Collin Jones, President National Brotherhood

"A Prince has Fallen"

II Samuel 3:38

For nearly thirty-one years of my life, I have had the privilege and blessing of being closely linked to Brother Arthur W. Smith. I first met him when my brother, Corbey, married his daughter, Cindy. In today's world, sad to say, some preachers who do not take their responsibility to be a spiritual example to others seriously hinder the cause of Christ. Some find themselves caught up in society's political correctness instead of taking a stand on the moral and spiritual issues that are eating away at the fiber of our nation and churches. It is disheartening to see some pastors fall into gross sin causing shame to the cause of Christ and the ministry for which we live.

Praise the Lord for Brother Arthur W. Smith, a man who looked neither right nor left, but kept his eyes on the Lord and his heart grounded in the Word of God. Brother Arthur did not allow what was popular to cause him to waver in his stand for Christ. Bro. Smith's life has been an encouragement to me. He set the example that we all might strive. Arthur Smith was a leader, not only in his own family and in the local churches that he pastored for over 50 years, but in the BMA work on every level - district, state and national.

Some people might not realize that Brother Arthur was one of the founding fathers of the National Brotherhood and the Galileans. He served faithfully on every level of those organizations, including a tenure as President of the National Brotherhood. As the current National Brotherhood President, I want to express the Brotherhood's appreciation for Brother Arthur Smith's legacy and the 'high mark' which he gave younger men (not just preachers) to reach for.

Brother Arthur Smith is one of a special group of Christian men who could say with the Apostle Paul, "I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course. I have kept the faith."

National Missions Symposium postponed

The BMA of America Department of Missions announces that the next Missions Symposium will be held September 10-11, 2013. There will be no symposium in January. The location and schedule will be released at a later date.

John David Smith, Executive Director of Missions
501-455-4977 - jdsmith@bmaam.com

**WMA Women's Retreat
August 31 – September 1
Register Today!**

**You will Not want to miss this Retreat.
My Heart's Desire
Speaker: Valarie Fish
Watch for future updates
in the Mississippi Baptist**

Mississippi W.M.A.

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2012 Christian Women's Retreat

Sponsored by BMA of Mississippi WMA
Camp Garaywa Conference Center – Clinton
August 31 – September 1, 2012
Speaker: Valarie Fish

My Heart's Desire

We are excited about the upcoming retreat. This will be one you will not want to miss.

(Retreat: a perfect time to get away for spiritual renewal and relaxation.)

Program: Registration is from 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. Friday, August 31.
Session on Intensive Prayer – 3:30 p.m.
Dinner at 6:00 p.m.
General session begins at 7:00 p.m.

The retreat will continue through lunch Saturday, September 1. The conference fee is \$45.00 per person and includes three (3) meals. Room accommodations vary on type room desired. Rooms at Patterson Place have two queen beds and are \$120.00 per night up to four (4) people per room. Accommodations in other parts of conference center are single beds with shared bathrooms at \$25.00 per night. For the adventurous, there are cabins with bunk beds at \$15.00 per person (must furnish own linens). These cabins have outside bath houses. All sleeping areas are air-conditioned. Rooms are assigned on 'first come first served' basis. Registration form, conference fee, and room charge must be received together to get room of choice. Do Not delay, send registration in NOW!

Name _____

Phone # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

Church _____

ROOMS (Please check)

(1) Patterson Place: 1 per rm \$120 _____ 2 per rm \$60.ea. _____

3 per rm \$40 ea. _____ 4 per rm \$30 ea. _____

(2) Single beds (25 ea) _____ (3) Outside cabins (\$15) ea. _____

List roommates _____

Camp Garaway is a SMOKE FREE campus.

REGISTRATION FEE (\$45) _____

ROOM COST _____

Total Enclosed _____

Please fill out (completely) registration form below, clip and mail with registration fee and room rent to: Beth Caldwell, 166 Twin Creek Rd., Lucedale, MS 39452. Ph: 601-947-6011. (Feel free to make copies of this form.)

For more information or questions, contact
Sharon Lindsey, Retreat Coordinator
Ph. 228-588-2494 Email: slindsey157@yahoo.com

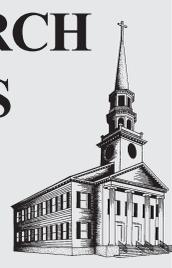
Cut off date for registration is Friday, August 10, 2012.

WMA Women's Retreat
August 31 – September 1
Accepting donations for the
White Elephant Auction

One of the main attractions of the retreat is the White Elephant Auction.

If you have a white elephant that you would like to donate, please bring it to the retreat.

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.

Former Mississippi pastor celebrates anniversaries

Bro. Dale Blount, a former Mississippi pastor, is celebrating his 80th Birthday and his 54 years in the ministry. Everyone is invited to join the celebration on Saturday, June 23, 2012, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the First Baptist Church, Potosi, Missouri. If you would like to share a memory of your time spent with Bro. Blount please send a note to the e-mail address below and we will present these to him.



Dale Blount

deiatre@hotmail.com. For more information you may call 573-729-2868.

Harmony Association

The monthly meeting of the Harmony Association was held May 11, 2012 at Bethel Baptist Church. Bro. Bobby Elliot brought the evening message entitled "Rescue 911". Business was then conducted.

There were 8 churches represented, with 55 in attendance, along with 4 visitors. Camp Director Eddie Boutwell gave a report on Harmony Camp which meets on June 18-20. More information will available later. The next meeting will be held at Central Baptist with Bro. Kevin Clayton as speaker. Dr. John Adams re-

Northeast Mississippi Ladies Retreat

The Northeast Mississippi WMA ladies retreat was May 5, 2012, at South Green Street Baptist Church, Tupelo. The theme of the retreat was "Bloom Where You are Planted" based on Matthew 13:14.

Registration began at 9:00 with the Bethel Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi, WMA ladies helping with name tags and goodie bags. The church was beautifully decorated with flowers depicting the retreat theme.

Mrs. Dot Emison, president of South Green Street WMA, welcomed everyone to the retreat. Mrs. Anita Akers led the opening song, "Standing on the Promises." Mrs. Dot Emison gave a devotional reading from Matthew 13:1-9 and closed with prayer. Mrs. Anita Akers led the congregation in singing "Bringing in the Sheaves." Mrs. Jackie Davis sang a beautiful song based on Genesis 2:8, "I Found My Lily in the Valley."

Mrs. Keri Robertson was the guest speaker. In 1996, Mrs. Keri served as Miss. Mississippi. We were so honored to have her speak to us. She showed slides of her family and told how God has planted her in different places. She told how God had brought her and her husband together. They have two sons and adopted a baby girl. She inspired all of us to just be ourselves and bloom wherever we are planted.

Mrs. Dot Emison read a story, "The Trellis and the Seed," the vine that bloomed at night (moon flower). We can bloom at night as well as day.

Stacy Smith, president of the Northeast District WMA, sang, "In the Garden." After the break, we enjoyed worship in song as Ms. Mallary Emison sang several songs. Bro. George Emison led the prayer and blessing on the food as we adjourned for lunch. Door prizes were given to those who held a lucky number as we ate lunch. Thank you South Green Street for the great gifts.

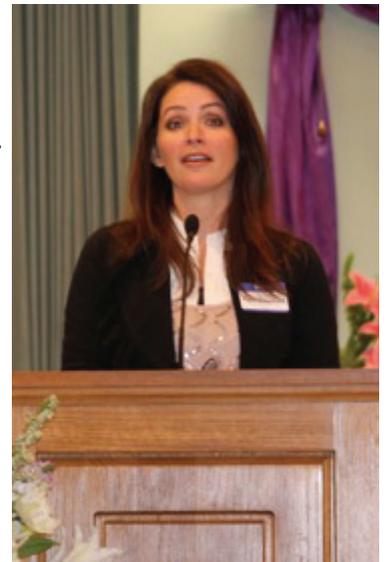
After lunch, Mrs. Keri Robertson again blessed us with a song about God's Amazing Grace. She then spoke about things that can steal our joy. She said, "If the Devil can't make you bad, he can make you busy. She also reminded us that beauty is not defined by the size of your jeans. Be yourself and quit trying to be someone else. She also reminded us that we are the apple of God's eye, that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. She did a great job and encouraged us to just be ourselves and let God plant us where we can grow and bloom.

Mrs. Dot read "The Rose," and closed with prayer.

The Kingdom of heaven is likened to a man which soweth good seed in his field, Matthew 13:24. It was a great day in the Lord, with a good lunch, great fellowship, beautiful flowers everywhere.

Thank you South Green Street for hosting the ladies retreat, you did a great job.

Betty Moody, Reporter



Former Miss Mississippi Mrs. Keri Robertson

ported on his work with Moral Action, both of Mississippi and the national work. Reports were given on State Brotherhood and Galieans. The Galiean ministry is celebrating their 50th year. Bro. Geraldson gave a report on missions, new missionaries were being added in the state. He introduced state mission workers, Bro. Bobby Elliott, Bro. Elvis Garcia and Bro. Bob Burch.

Doug & Diane Lee, new missionaries to the Phillipines, gave a report stating they were

scheduled to leave for the Phillipines on June 9th. The Harmony Association voted to determine the amount of support for their work and report at the next meeting.

Special prayer was requested for Bro. Randall Phifer, Bro. Kermit McFerrin and Mrs. Elaine Majors. The meeting adjourned to the family life center for a time of food and fellowship, provided by the host church.

Bro. Tim Nall, moderator
Tony Marolt, reporter

MORAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Baptist Missionary Association of America
Dr. John M. Adams, Director
P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863
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John Adams

Morals Under A Microscope

I Peter 2:9-19

Included in the verses of I Peter 2:9 are the words, "but ye are." This places every Christian under close scrutiny, or another appropriate word would be a "microscope." Pulpit commentary stated that "every Christian is bound both by witness for God with a life made fair by communion with Him, and by speech, when speech may be used." Intelligent Christians will many times have to avow the morals which guide him or her.

Issues become urgent when they affect you, your family, friends, neighbors or your Christian community. Putting faces to issues makes the issue become very personal and important. People tend to be apathetic to injustices that affect society at large. However,

when they affect us personally, or our children, grandchildren or others we know, we become concerned and engaged to become activists.

Marriage Is Under The Microscope

The Word of God affirms the sanctity of the marriage vows. Included in the vows are love, personal commitment, mutual support and fidelity between ONE man and ONE woman. By obeying these Biblical concepts, we teach our children what is morally sound.

The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was enacted in September, 1996 and is a United States Federal Law. It defines marriage as "a legal union of one man and one woman." The law was passed by both houses of the United States Congress with a large majority. It was

signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1996.

The DOMA law, in summary, states that no state or any other political subdivision of the United States may recognize "same-sex" relationships. God's law also states in Genesis 2:21-25, in the marriage of Adam and Eve, "a man and a woman." He declared "Adam and Eve" not "Adam and Steve."

Microscopically, we examine the law of the United States and God's Laws. The President and Vice President of the United States, recently, declared their allegiance to "same-sex Marriage." This is contrary to Federal Law and God's law. Therefore, we as Christians, must teach our children I Peter 2:9 so that they will know who they are in Christ.

Media and VThe Microscope

"But ye are" of I Peter 2:9, puts every Christian under a microscope, and "has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light." Mass Media, whether intentionally or not, is undermining the truths of Christianity.

The media continually pro-

notes non-Christian values including graphic sexual content, profanity, violence and non-functional family lifestyles. They could choose to promote, motivate and inspire but this is seldom the scenario. Family values are attacked through television, computer and the entertainment industry. Their affects are dehumanizing and with excessive sensationalism. They are, of course, in violation of Biblical teachings. For the sake of our Christian families, we must work together to halt the erosion of moral and ethical values.

Gambling is Under The Microscope

States are desperate again for economic dollars, particularly for the funding of education, and once again gambling is being considered the most likely source of income. Gambling is a menace to our society and further erosion to moral values. This so-called form of pleasure is destructive to "good" government and "good" stewardship.

Those who have faith in God's Word, should abstain

from this practice and pray for those who are victims of this deed. They should seek counseling and possibly be directed into positive and constructive habits. Pastors, church leaders and congregations should preach and teach against commercial gambling, public lotteries, casinos, bingo, and other 'games of chance' as either a source of income, recreation or escape.

Christians are Under The Microscope

I Peter 2:9 states, "but ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" The apostle Paul reminds us of the privileges we have as believers in Christ.

Recommended References

Personal Faith Public Policy Harry Jackson, Front Line, 21.99
Speaking My Mind, Tony Compolo, W Publishing, \$13.99
I Never Thought I'd See The Day, David Jeremiah, Faith Words, \$24.99

BMA Seminary's Fiftieth-fifth Commencement

Twenty-seven individuals received a certificate or degree from the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary of Jacksonville, Texas during commencement exercises conducted Saturday, May 19, 2012. First Baptist Church of Jacksonville hosted the event which marked the seminary's fifty-fifth commencement.

The Certificate of Christian Leadership was awarded to Billy Jack Smith of Lufkin, Texas. The Associate of Divinity degree was awarded to Everatta Cooper of Tyler, Texas; Denise Doughtie of Livingston, Texas; Tedric Hasley of Tyler, Texas, and Arie Morgan of Tyler, Texas.

The Bachelor of Arts in Religion degree was awarded to Joshua Allred of Tupelo, Mississippi; Joseph C. Davis of Tyler, Texas; Jeremiah Dollgener of Ivanhoe, Texas; Donna G. Kilgore of Palestine, Texas; Perry L. Kilgore of Palestine, Texas; Ryan Lavin of Lufkin, Texas; Wayne L. Rollen of Chattanooga, Tennessee; Jordan M. Tew of Karnack, Texas; Alan S. Thomas of Waco, Texas; and Lanny Williams of Mineola, Texas.

The Master of Arts (Religion) degree was awarded to Milan



2012 Class of BMA Theological Seminary

Bulak of Decin, Czech Republic; Micahel Hight of Benton, Arkansas; Johnny W. Qualls of Morton, Mississippi; and Michael L. Treat of Conway, Arkansas. The Master of Arts in Church Ministries degree was awarded to Barbara A. Gust of Jacksonville, Texas; William A. Hutchinson of Soso, Mississippi; and Jeffrey J. Mitroff of Lufkin, Texas.

The Master of Divinity degree was awarded to Michal Awbrey of Longview, Texas; David E. Cox of Conway, Arkansas; James A. Johnson, Jr. of Carthage, Texas; Patrick Mae of Whitehouse, Texas; and William Z. Nance of Conway, Arkansas.

Dr. Craig Blaising delivered

the commencement address. Blaising is the Executive Vice President and Provost and Professor of Theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary of Fort Worth, Texas. Prior to his coming to Southwestern, Blaising served as the Joseph Emerson Brown Professor of Christian Theology at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Professor of Systematic Theology at Dallas Theological Seminary.

Blaising earned a B. S. degree from the University of Texas at Austin, the Th.M. and Th.D. degrees from Dallas Theological Seminary, and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

Junior and Senior Camp Schedules

Both a Junior and Senior BMA camp will be hosted by Campground Baptist Church this summer. Junior camp for kids for First through Six grades will be held July 6 & 7. Senior camp for kids Seventh Grade through College will be July 19 - 22. Our purpose for these camps is to create an environment and worship experience where kids can come to

know Christ and to instruct young people on how to live out the faith they proclaim.

The cost of camp per child is \$25.00. If you are interested in your children being a part of one or both of our camps, please go to www.campgroundbaptist.com. You will find registration forms and camp rules and regulations that can be printed from this site. For questions you may call our church office 228-832-9016 and leave a message. We will return your call as soon as possible.

The Camp Schedules are listed at the paper's website - www.msabaptist.org.

**WMA
Women's Retreat
August 31 –
September 1
Register Today!**

**You will Not want to
miss this Retreat.
My Heart's Desire
Speaker: Valarie Fish**

Watch for future updates
in the Mississippi Baptist

Just a Dirt Pile

“Whoa!” The cowboy looked over the wasted land that had once been his dream for a better life. Smoke, the dust-covered gray mare, hadn’t wanted to stop. She had it in her mind to seek out greener pastures. At least they could have kept going until they reached the small spring at the foot of the hill country.

“Well ole girl, looks like everyone was right about this piece of land. Nothin’ but dirt and rock.” Jim wiped the sweat off his brow and fought to hold back the resentment he felt toward God. After all, wasn’t He supposed to take care of him.

Seems all he got was the tribulation part of the deal. Since getting this piece of land, he had suffered drought and lost all his crop and would have lost his livestock if it hadn’t been for that old spring at the back of the property.

“I’m sorry God. Guess I just have trouble really trustin’ in You. Why, I reckon if you would take an old sinner like me and give me a home in Heaven, You do care about me enough to know what’s best for me here.” Jim pulled the hat brim a little lower to shade against the sun and gently nudged Smoke’s side with his heels. “Let’s ride on over to the spring for a sip of water. We might as well bed down there under the rock overhang while we’re there. There won’t be time to make it back to the shack if we try and start back this evening.”

The bright flash and loud clap of thunder woke Jim up sometime after midnight. He looked over at the mare that stood three-legged with her head down. Jim smiled at how calm the horse took the storm. “Wish I could take life’s storms that calmly.” As bad

as the rain was needed, this storm would surely strip all the topsoil from the ground and carry it off somewhere south. “If it’s not one thing, it’s another. Lord, thank You for the rain. I don’t know why You do the things You do, but I know You know what’s best.” Even as he prayed, Jim wondered if he really believed God was doing what was best.

From The Mind of



Chuck Lee

The sun penetrated Jim’s eyelids earlier than he had wanted to get up. He just wanted to sleep and hope that his life was just a dream that he could wake up from and everything would be alright. After last night’s rain, Jim felt like he would have to put everything he owned behind his saddle and move to another place. Picking up the saddle, Jim walked toward Smoke resigned to moving on when a glint off a stone caught the corner of his eye. “Now what in the world could that be?” The storm had washed down the hill and carried the top layer of dirt off the rock beneath and out into the plain beyond.

“It can’t be!” Jim picked up the stone and gazed at the streak of gold glittering back at him. Several more stones at his feet showed the same color and his eyes followed their trail up the hill.

Years later, Jim looked out over the pasture at a smoke-colored colt running and kicking his heels over the lush green grass. Holding his two year old son on his shoulders, Jim thought back to what it used to be. Smiling as he walked back into the house, he couldn’t help but look up into the clouds. “Only You could make a pile of dirt worth something!”

Testimony

from page 5

thirds of the average Baptist church is voting something else.

About 50% of all Arkansans are members of a Baptist church, so nobody gets elected without a majority of Baptists voting for him. We elected Bill Clinton several times! That means, all you preachers from Arkansas, half of your church voted for him every time. I have a man in my church who traveled the state on his job. He used to say, “I haven’t found anybody yet who voted for him, but he keeps being re-elected.” Well, the Baptists did but just kept quiet about it.

Sweeten Up

Finally, if you are going to stay at a church a long time you need to Sweeten Up. I am trying to teach these boys

Holy Land Trip Rescheduled

A great deal of interest is being shown and sign-ups are underway for a DiscipleGuide Church Resources sponsored trip to Israel scheduled for later this year. The trip originally scheduled for this past March has been rescheduled for November 20-30, 2012. The Holy Land excursion will be led by Kirk and Toni Shelton and will include sites such as: Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Megiddo, Qumran, Masada, and much more. Included in the trip will be overnight stays of three nights in Tiberias on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, one night on the Mediterranean, and four nights in the city of Jerusalem.

“I am tremendously excited about this trip,” said Kirk Shelton, Pastoral Ministries Consultant for DiscipleGuide. “There is nothing quite

some realities. You laugh, but it’s the truth about what they’re going to find in these churches. Vance Havner said: “A preacher needs to, somehow, develop the hide of a rhinoceros and the heart of a child.” Preacher, you have to toughen up and accept some realities if you’re going to stay at your church; but you also have to sweeten up and maintain the heart of a child.

Richard Walters told me something else that has served me pretty well: “Keith, they’re never going to remember a single sermon you preach, but they’re going to remember if you cared enough to be there when their mother got sick. They’re going to remember that when daddy died, you were there holding their hand. And when their kid got arrested, they’re going to remember that you put down your pious eccentricities and held his parents close.”

Have you learned how to cry with your people? One of our boys was shot between the eyes in a drug deal gone bad. He was brain-dead and his parents and grandparents called to tell me they were going to unplug the machines. I went into that room and after they removed the machines, five of us stayed there watching his heart beat for over two hours as he slowly died. We held each other and shed tears together. One of the hardest lessons I’ve learned over the years is the lesson of how to cry with people with broken hearts.

I don’t think it’s an accident that some of these men we’re hearing from at this meeting were able to maintain long term ministries.

There are two ways to get a bigger church — you can move to it or you can build it. It looks to me like, around the BMA, that we need to build some of them. God bless all of you men who labor in the pastorate. You shall surely need His blessings. (via Baptist Trumpet; www.baptisttrumpet.com)

like seeing the land of the Bible and walking where Jesus walked. Eleven days in the Holy Land is worth a whole semester of seminary when it comes to insight into Scripture and inspiring one’s love for God and His Word!” The trip is being planned with Educational Opportunities and offers the very best of accommodations, travel expertise and guides and keeps safety for the traveler its foremost concern.

Travelers will depart Dallas/Ft. Worth on Tuesday, November 20 and return Friday, November 30, 2012. The total cost is \$3,498 per traveler which covers everything except the participant’s noon meal and souvenirs. Space is limited. Shelton commented, “I often hear pastors speak of their desire to visit the Holy Land, but most cannot afford to make the trip on their own. I will forever be thankful for First Baptist Church of Red Oak who made it possible for me to make my first trip to Israel. Little did they know what an investment they were making in me as their pastor. I would encourage any church to consider sending their pastor and his wife.” For more information contact Kirk Shelton at 972.935.6898 or kirk@fellowshipforney.org.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

The Professor's 23rd Psalm

With so many graduation exercises happening this time of year and lots of people planning to attend college in the fall, I thought this version of the 23rd Psalm should become familiar to students.

1. The LORD is my Professor; I shall not lack knowledge of God.

2. He makes me understand His ways; He leads me into refreshing new insights.

3. He restores my mind; He leads me in an understanding of holiness for the sake of His glory.

4. Yea, though I walk in an age of dangerous untruth, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your Spirit and Your Book, they reassure me.

5. You prepare a curriculum before me in the presence of my detractors; You anoint my mind with glory; my notebook overflows!

6. Surely wisdom and knowledge shall fill me all the days of my life, and I shall sit at the feet of my Teacher forever!

If the greatest commandment is to love God with all of your heart, the greatest sin is not to do it.