

Mississippian Eugene Murphy chosen to receive 2007 Kellar Award

The BMA Seminary Board of Trustees recently voted to select one of their own members, Dr. Eugene Murphy, as the recipient of the fourth annual Kellar Award for 2007.

Dr. Murphy is eighty years of age and he and his wife, Faye, have been happily married for almost two years. He was married to his first wife, Bernice, for 56 years prior to her death. Together they had two children, four grandchildren and one great grandson.



Eugene Murphy

Dr. Murphy was saved in Temple Baptist Church in Laurel, Mississippi. Pastors Gerald Bridges and V. D. Parnell encouraged him to get into school. Bro. Parnell offered to take him to Jacksonville College.

When he arrived, he was interviewed by Dr. Gerald Kellar, who asked, "What do you feel like God wants you to do?" Bro. Murphy's response was, "Be a pastor." Dr. Kellar outlined his course of study right then.

He and his wife moved from Laurel to Jacksonville in September of 1955 and he enrolled in the seminary division of Jacksonville College. Dr. Murphy was in the first graduating class of the national seminary in 1958.

After graduation he went back to Mississippi and became pastor of Lebanon Baptist Church in Laurel. The church experienced tremendous growth during his stay. He has been pastor of 14 churches in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. He has also been active in evangelism and conference ministry.

He has served in various leadership positions, on committees and trustee boards of state and national associations. He served as Director of Missions for the BMA of Mississippi for seven years and as president of Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, Mississippi for 14 years. In 2004, Dr. Murphy resigned as a BMA Seminary trustee board member, but because of his love for the seminary, he reconsidered and agreed to serve another term.

The Kellar Award was created in 2004 to honor BMA Seminary graduates whose ministries reflect the example of Dr. Gerald D. Kellar, founding president of BMA Seminary. Dr. Kellar served as the seminary's first president from 1956-1967. He was instrumental in the organization of the BMA of America and served as president of each BMA institution of higher learning. In 1964, the BMA Seminary library was named Kellar Library in his honor. He passed away in May 2001.

Dr. Murphy joins former Kellar Award honorees - Brethren Grady Higgs, Ronald Morgan, and Ronnie Chesser. The fourth annual Kellar Award will be presented at the Seminary Friends Dinner on Tuesday evening, April 17, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn City Center in Fort Smith, Arkansas. All are invited to attend and honor this deserving man of God. For information or reservations, contact Carol Shine at 903-586-2501, Ext. 218 or cshine@bmat.edu.

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Dealing With Heresy in our world today

Moses, Jesus 'really prophets of Islam' claims Muslim cleric

JERUSALEM - The Jewish Temples never existed, the Western Wall really was a tying post for Muhammad's horse, the Al Aqsa Mosque was built by angels, and Abraham, Moses and Jesus were prophets for Islam.

All this according to Sheikh Taysir Tamimi, chief Palestinian Justice and one of the most influential Muslim leaders in Israel. Tamimi is considered the second most important Palestinian cleric after Muhammad Hussein, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem.

In a WND exclusive interview, Tamimi, who preaches regularly from the Al Aqsa Mosque, claimed Jews have no historical connection to Jerusalem or Israel and that the Jewish Temples never existed.

"Israel started since 1967 making archeological digs to show Jewish signs to prove the relationship between Judaism and the

city and they found nothing. There is no Jewish connection to Israel before the Jews invaded in the 1880's," said Tamimi.

"About these so-called two Temples, they never existed, certainly not at the Haram Al-



Jerusalem's Temple Mount

Sharif (Temple Mount)," Tamimi said.

The Palestinian cleric denied the validity of dozens of digs verified by experts worldwide revealing Jewish artifacts from the First and Second Temples throughout Jerusalem, including on the Temple Mount itself; excavations revealing Jewish homes and a synagogue in a site in Jerusalem called the City of David; or even the recent discovery of a Second Temple Jewish city in the vicinity of Jerusalem.

He said descriptions of the Jewish Temples in the Hebrew Tanach, in the Talmud and in Byzantine and Roman writings from the Temple periods were forged, and that the Torah was falsified to claim Biblical patriarchs and matriarchs were Jewish when indeed they were prophets for Islam.

"All this is not real. We don't believe in all your versions. Your Torah was falsified. The text as given to the Muslim prophet Moses never mentions Jerusalem. Maybe Jerusalem was mentioned in the rest of the Torah, which was falsified by the Jews."

He said Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and Jesus were "prophets for the Israelites

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Arkansas Church tops Walk of Faith

Calvary Baptist Church of Fayetteville, Arkansas, was the top contributor to the 2006 Paul L. Bearfield Memorial Walk of Faith and set a new all-time high record of \$16,000 from one church in the annual fundraiser for Lifeword Broadcast Ministries. Calvary has been the leading church in the Walk of Faith four of the last seven years.

Gene Fulcher is pastor, and the church coordinators are husband and wife, Don and Maribelle Williams. Rick Russell, national coordinator, said that leadership team makes the difference.

"Dr. Fulcher and Don and Maribelle are to be commended for their work and for their enthusiastic spirit which carried over to the

entire church in support of the Walk of Faith," Russell said.

Calvary Church will receive a \$3,000 media package in appreciation for their attainment as the top contributor to the Walk this past year.

Pastor Fulcher said he was not surprised that Calvary was the top contributor. "We came so close last year, and our people worked even harder this year because we believe in Lifeword," Dr. Fulcher said.

Contributions to the Walk of Faith as of March 1 totaled \$347,008.25.

The churches that led their regions in the 2006 Walk of Faith are listed in the chart below.

Church	City/State	Region	Offering
Calvary	Fayetteville, AR	North & Central Arkansas	\$16,000.00*
First	Louin, MS	South Mississippi	\$ 5,555.00
Hall Summit	Hall Symmit, LA	Louisiana	\$ 5,000.00
Antioch East	Magnolia, AR	South Arkansas	\$ 4,909.00
Grace	Joplin, MO	Missouri/Kansas	\$ 3,611.00
Helton Road	Theodore, AL	Southeastern US	\$ 3,340.00
Mahl	Nacogdoches, TX	Southeast Texas	\$ 3,335.00
Rosewood	Gilmer, TX	Northeast Texas	\$ 3,324.00
Southgate	Moore, OK	Oklahoma	\$ 3,213.12
Beacon Hill	Waco, TX	Central West Texas	\$ 2,562.01
South Park	Fort Worth, TX	Metro-Plex Texas	\$ 2,479.11
First	Tremont, MS	North Mississippi	\$ 2,390.00
Memorial	Fremont, CA	West Coast	\$ 1,358.00
New Home	Lansing, MI	At Large Region	\$ 1,026.00

*Overall Winner

Coming Events

Missions & Evangelistic Conference

North - March 20, 2007

South - March 22, 2007

Senior Adult Conferences

South - March 29, 2007

Picayune, Mississippi

North - May 8, 2007

Fulton, Mississippi

Northeast District

2007 Ladies Retreat

Saturday, April 14

Woodland Baptist Church

Columbus, Mississippi

Mississippi State

Sunbeam Retreat

May 4 & 5, 2007

Camp Gawaywa

Clinton, Mississippi

"Change for a Chance" effort of Big Creek Kids successful



The children of Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi, began a mission effort called "Change For A Chance" in early January. The program ended on World Missions Sunday.

Their goal was to fill up a 'Five Gallon Water Bottle' with change collected each Sunday morning from the congregation at Big Creek. Members were urged to bring their pocket change and give it to missions.

The children chose Cambodian Missions as their project with the goal of giving our 'change' so Cam-

bodian children would have a 'chance' to hear about Jesus.

Dr. Ralph Izard and Dr. Fil Tabayayong presented the work of BMMI and Cambodian Missions to Big Creek Church in late January.

The members of Big Creek were very cooperative by giving a total of 7 1/2 gallons of change during this effort. The children were rewarded with a Change Counting Pizza Party. Adults and children alike gathered to count and wrap the money that was given. The total was a surprising \$2,640.30.

Short Message Series by Rev. Grover Laird

God Does All Things Well

"And were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak." (Mark 7:37)

When Jesus was busy healing the sick and blessing everyone, people were saying, "He hath done all things well." We all feel the same way when things are going good for us. It is different however, when the Lord is carrying us "through fire and through water." But whether we are enjoying it or enduring it, the Lord is always doing all things well.

Joseph, the son of Jacob, was hated by his brethren. This hatred was so strong until they sold Joseph into Egypt for a slave. In Egypt, his master's wife lied against him, which resulted in Joseph being imprisoned. Joseph may have wondered why the Lord permitted him to be taken from his home and oppressed in Egypt for about twelve years. But the Lord does all things well.

Later, we see Joseph reigning next to Pharaoh in Egypt and saving nations from starvation, surely all would now agree that what the Lord did was well. Joseph explained it this way to his brethren - "But as

for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive." (Genesis 50:20)

Our enemies will surely not do all things well, as Joseph's brethren surely did not. But what the Lord does with what they do, will be well. This is how Paul explained it, "And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition but to you of salvation, and that of God." (Philippians 1:28) Joseph was blessed for his faithfulness, while his brethren suffered for their sins. (Colossians 3:25) God did all things well.

Job was also a great man of God. He was wealthy and righteous. But Satan's false charges against Job caused the Lord to put Job through much affliction. (Job 1,2) In all of this, however, the Lord taught the devil a lesson, provided the world with a book of needed instruction concerning afflictions, and made Job a better man. He then paid Job well



Grover Laird

for his trouble. As painful as it was for a time, the Lord did all things well. I am sure that before Job lived out the hundred and forty years given him after his trial, he fully agreed that God did in deed do all things well.

There are many Scriptures that teach us that God does all things well. We are taught to give God thanks for all things that come our way because it is God's will for us - "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

The Bible assures us that whatever happens to those who are saved and love the Lord is for the best - "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28) Jesus tells us that nothing can happen to us without God's approval - "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows." (Matthew 10:29-31) Oh how comforting the Scriptures really are!

It should move fear and add peace to know that everything is in the hand of an all-wise, all-powerful, and all-loving God. And that this Ruler of Heaven and Earth doeth all things well.

BMA Seminary 2007 Summer Schedule

The BMA Seminary is pleased to announce its summer schedule of courses for 2007. Six courses will be offered.

Two subjects will be taught at the seminary's extension site at Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas. Training in Evangelism Explosion will be offered June 4-8 with Drs. Elton McCann, Charley Holmes and Philip Attebery. Bro. Jerry Browning of First Baptist Keltys, Lufkin, Texas will also assist this course. Dr. Ronnie Johnson will teach a course in Christian Psychology July 23-27. The course should be profitable for learning how basic principles of psychology apply to

the ministry.

Two practical ministry courses will be offered at the seminary's main campus. Dr. Joe Pendleton will teach a course in sermon preparation and delivery June 18-22. Dr. Mike Smith and guest Bill Stewart will lead a course in administrative Christian leadership June 25-29.

Two courses in Biblical studies will also be taught at the main campus this summer. Dr. Matthew McKellar will teach an Old Testament Course, Introduction and Survey I, July 9-12 and Dr. Jim Shine will teach Intermediate Greek July 30 to August 3.

The seminary will also offer stu-

dents an opportunity to earn seminary credit for a course in Baptist Heritage by attending the Baptist History Celebration August 1-3 in Charleston, South Carolina.

Interested persons should complete application and registration by May 3, 2007 by contacting the seminary dean's office.

National WMA to host breakfast for wives & widows

An invitation is given to widows and wives of ministers to attend a bountiful buffet breakfast in your honor on April 17, 2007 at 7:15 a.m. at the Judge Parker Room of the Holiday Inn - Convention Center in Fort Smith, Arkansas. The event is hosted by the Women's Missionary Auxiliary of the BMA of America. No reservation is required.

Valarie Fish
National WMA reporter

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.

Springhill, Laurel

Springhill Baptist Church of Laurel will be hosting her annual youth revival on March 18-21, 2007. The order of services will be as follows: Sunday services will begin at 9:45 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon services. The evening services will begin at 7:00 p.m., Monday through Wednesday.

The Thomas Family will be leading us into a time of worshiping our heavenly Father. We would like for you to come and be with us during this time of worship. In the meanwhile pray that lost sinners would be redeemed, and that saints would be revived unto the Lord. Also be in

prayer for the Thomas family as they travel. God's Word tells us in March 10:15, "Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein."

Steven Clark, Pastor

Vardaman Street, Wiggins

Vardaman Street Baptist Church, Wiggins, has scheduled a series of services for the purpose of seeking revival. The guest evangelist will be Pastor John Bureson from Immanuel Baptist Church of Camden, Arkansas.

Vardaman Street invites all believers who earnestly desire to draw closer to the Lord to join them in their pursuit of revival and spiritual renewal. Revival services begin Sunday, March 18 and continue through Wednesday, March 21. Sunday service times are 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. with dinner on the grounds between the two services. Service times Monday through Wednesday will be noon and 7:00 p.m.

J. D. Courtney, Pastor

Good Hope, Overtt

Good Hope Baptist Church of Overtt announces our Spring Youth Revival to be held Thursday, March 22 - Sunday, March 25. Our evange-

lists for this revival will be the Thomas Family. Bro. Gary Thomas and his family will bless your hearts as they minister the Word to you and your children through song, preaching, ventriloquism, story telling, and object lessons. Services will begin at 7:00 p.m. each night, and at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday. For more information please call Bro. Cliff Jenkins at 601-422-0713 or 601-498-2748.

Cliff Jenkins, Pastor

Pineview, Lucedale

We are being blessed at Pinview Baptist Church in Lucedale. We are

going forward and God is blessing. We are still in need of a full-time pastor, but Bro. Chris Jemison is serving as our interim pastor and he is doing a great job, especially with our youth.

We baptized one recently and are looking forward to many more. We viewed the film "Facing The Giants" recently on a Sunday evening. It is amazing what God can do and that "all things are possible with God". Every child from the 6th grade up needs to see this movie.

We ask for your prayers for our church as we seek a pastor.

Army suffers chaplain shortage

(OneNewsNow.com) - A Pentagon advisor and national defense analyst says the U.S. Army has such a severe shortage of chaplains that some reserve units may be forced to deploy without chaplains. The Army's Office of the Chief of Chaplains in Washington, DC, reports that branch is currently short by about 520 chaplains, with 80 Regular Army vacancies and 440 openings in the National Guard and Reserves.

Retired Army Lt. Col. Bob Maginnis says the Army tries to place chaplains with troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. "When we send a unit to Iraq or Afghanistan or elsewhere in the world, we like to have at the battalion level - there's between 500 and 700 people in a battalion - at least one chaplain," he explains.

However, Maginnis notes, despite some great incentives, it is harder to recruit National Guard and Reserve chaplains. "Typically, we have local pastors that are serving as chaplains for units that are National Guard or Reserves from their local area," he says.

But unfortunately, the Pentagon advisor points out, often these ministers' congregation members do not want them away from the pulpit,

even for one weekend a month. He says many "congregations are going to say [to their pastors], 'You serve on the weekends? ... Well, we don't want you gone. That's prime time for a pastor.'"

This puts clergy who want to serve in the Guard and Reserve in a difficult position, Maginnis observes. He feels local churches under these circumstances ought to be understanding and allow their pastors time and freedom to serve God and Country.

The U.S. military's chaplaincy is "severely short at this point," the defense analyst emphasizes. "We've tried to ratchet up recruitment and the like," he says, "but this is critical because, in fact, these units are deploying without chaplains or may [do so] in the future."

The shortage is "pretty bad for Reserve units that have now been called to active duty," Maginnis notes. "And for the most part in the past, they haven't been serving as much active force," the military advisor adds. Now that these units are being deployed, he is concerned that these troops may be going into some of the most dangerous parts of the world without benefit of a chaplain to minister to their needs.

Department of Justice seeks to protect religious freedoms

A new program has been introduced by the U.S. Department of Justice to educate Americans about their religious liberties. During the past decade, complaints of religious discrimination regarding employment practices rose 69 percent - which is one reason why the Justice Department has unveiled the "First Freedom Project."

Wan Kim is assistant attorney general with the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. He says not only will the First Freedom Project educate citizens about their religious rights and freedoms, but the initiative is being backed up with action.

"We filed a brief in a case in New Jersey where, during a talent show, a girl was prohibited from singing the song that she wanted to sing to demonstrate her singing talents," Kim notes. "The song was 'Awesome God,' and the school censored her because of the religious content of that song," the assistant attorney general says. Now that's just out and out viewpoint discrimination," he says, "and we're fortunate that a federal judge agreed with us and allowed the girl to go forward free of that type of discrimination."

Recently, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales asked Southern Baptist Convention leaders to help when it comes to identifying and reporting cases where the rights of Christians have been violated. Kim

says there are many common issues that lead to discrimination against believers.

"We see in many school districts across the country where school officials stop kids from handing out candy canes with a religious message," the Justice Department official points out. "And they do so because they think that that's impermissible, when in fact just the opposite is true," Kim adds. "It's impermissible for them to bar that type of viewpoint from being disseminated - that's viewpoint discrimination. That's forbidden."

As part of the First Freedom Project, the U.S. Department of Justice has set up a Web site, <http://www.firstfreedom.gov>, to provide information including how to file a religious discrimination complaint. Also, Attorney General Gonzales has said he plans to create a Religious Freedom Task Force to review religious discrimination cases and policies and help make people more aware of their First Amendment Rights.

Missions & Evangelistic Conference

North - March 20, 2007
South - March 22, 2007

Southeastern Baptist College

4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440, (601) 426-6346



Dr. Medrick Savell
President

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Thanks

I want to thank all who support Southeastern Baptist College for supporting Biblical education. When a person gets concerned about the direction our country is going, and even the spiritual condition of many churches, it seems to me that college education that emphasizes the Bible and teaches all courses from a Biblical point of view is needed more than ever. To me, a college education is not complete if it does not include studies in the Bible.

A Bible college is a good place for Christians to attend. It does make a difference when the teachers are Christians, know the Bible, and are active members of churches. Each student takes the basic courses that are required in all colleges and also takes four or more Bible courses.

The Christian influence is needed more than ever on college campuses. Students at Southeastern are not confronted with the immoral conduct that is in some colleges. Crime

on campus is not a problem, when administrators, faculty, staff, and most students are Christians. Many are receiving training to help them in Christian service in some way.

New Book Presented to Library

Mrs. Jewel Riles, wife of Bro. John Riles, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Taylorsville, presented a copy of "Volume I of Jones County Mississippi Echoes From Our Past" to Southeastern Baptist College library, which was donated by the Jones County Genealogical and Historical Organization. Mrs. Riles says, "This gift is our means of giving back to our college and community. We hope you will find this book useful in genealogy and history projects. BMA families and churches have con-

tributed richly to the formation and growth of Jones County. It is our desire that others will contribute to any future volumes. For more information you may contact: Beverly McNease at 583-6316 or Jean Holifield at 518-7708, or any member of JCG&HO."

Anyone may come by the college library and read the book. It presents much history of the county, including the history of several BMA churches.

Summer Classes Offered

Two summer classes mentioned in the February 15th issue of the MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST. The deadline for enrolling in the Apologetics class is March 30, 2007. Some reading is required before the class begins to meet.

For more information, call the college at 601-426-6346.



President Medrick Savell and Librarian Amy Bond receive book from Mrs. Jewel Riles (center).

Mainline Protestant churches losing members

NEW YORK - The Roman Catholic, Southern Baptist and Methodist churches remain the largest three denominations in the country, with the Mormon church ranking fourth in size, according to the latest edition of the Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches.

The 2007 edition of the book, which is published by the National Council of Churches, an ecumenical group based in New York, tallied statistics collected by churches in 2005.

The number of Roman Catholics rose nearly 2 percent since the 2006 yearbook to more than 69 million, while the Southern Baptists reported 16.3 million members.

The United Methodist Church came in third with just over 8 million members, but that figure represents a decrease of 1.36 percent. The Church of God in Christ, a Pentecostal denomination, was fifth with 5.5 million members.

Only three mainline Protestant denominations were among the 10 largest churches. The Methodists were the largest, followed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which ranked seventh with a membership of 4.85 million, and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which

Temple Mount

from page 1

sent by Allah as to usher in Islam."

Asked about the Western Wall, Tamimi said the structure was a tying post for Muhammad's horse and that it is part of the Al Aqsa Mosque, even though the Wall predates the mosque by over 1,000 years.

"The Western wall is the western wall of the Al Aqsa Mosque. It's where Prophet Muhammad tied his animal which took him from Mecca to Jerusalem to receive the revelations of Allah."

The Al Aqsa Mosque was constructed in about 709 to serve as a shrine near another shrine, the Dome of the Rock, which was built by an Islamic caliph. Al Aqsa was meant to mark what Muslims came to believe was the place at which Muhammad, the founder of Islam, ascended to heaven to receive revelations from Allah.

Jerusalem is not mentioned in the Quran. Islamic tradition states

ranked ninth with a membership of nearly 3.1 million. Still, all three reported declines.

Pentecostal churches, however, reported significant growth. As one example, the Assemblies of God increased nearly 2 percent to 2.83 million.

Mohammed took a journey in a single night on a horse from "a sacred mosque" - believed to be in Mecca in southern Saudi Arabia - to "the farthest mosque" and from a rock there ascended to heaven. The farthest mosque later became associated with Jerusalem.

The First Jewish Temple was built by King Solomon in the 10th century B.C. It was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. The Second Temple was rebuilt in 515 B.C. after Jerusalem was freed from Babylonian captivity. That temple was destroyed by the Roman Empire in A.D. 70. Each temple stood for a period of about four centuries.

Tamimi went on to claim to WND the Al Aqsa Mosque, which has sprung multiple leaks and has had to be repainted several times, was built by angels.

"Al Aqsa was built by the angels forty years after the building of Al-Haram in Mecca. This we have no doubt is true," he told WND.

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Special Emphasis

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Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



Letters From Our Readers

Reader says church today not the same

Dear Editor,

As a Christian, I believe that it is my duty to be separated from worldliness in the Church. I believe that all Christians should have a desire to worship God and promote the Kingdom of Heaven. Standing up for my conservative beliefs is a major part of my Christian life. Working hard to stop the things of the world from entering the Church should be one goal of every church member. Instead, many church members promote and support much of the worldliness that is in our churches today. Church members should stand together in one accord, as they did on the Day of Pentecost, against the

onslaught of worldliness in the Church. Jesus instituted the Church to be a group of people sharing a common goal. The Church was a place where people could come together in Christian love to worship God. No one person was more important than another.

The Church of today has changed. It is no longer a safe haven of refuge from the world. People no longer come together in common unity to worship God or advance the Kingdom of Heaven. Biblical practices and doctrines have been abandoned. Love for each other no longer exists. Gaining social status within the Church has become the main goal of many church members. Pastors and teachers no longer operate under guidance from the Holy Spirit. Pastors no longer preach the horrors of hell, the effect of sin, and the result of dying without Jesus. I have heard very few preachers preach that Jesus is coming soon and the importance of preparing to meet Him.

Instead, the Church has become bogged down in such things as praise and worship, new age music, all kinds of evil translations of God's word, and changing the way we worship.

I believe God's Word. God's Word says that God never changes. The things that were good two thousand years ago are still good today. I have never found an instance in the Bible where God changed the way he wanted to be worshiped. Considering the changes being made in churches today can only lead to one or two conclusions. Either what we did in Church for many years was wrong or what we are doing today is wrong. I have asked many Christians, "Do you believe God's Word? Do you believe the scripture that says God never changes?" The answer is always the same, "yes". If we believe that God never changes then why is it necessary to change the

see letter on page 5

Editorial



Don J. Brown
Editor

The Necessity of Easter

As we approach Easter we are often busied with special services, new clothes, beautiful musical presentations and of course egg hunts and events designed just for the kids.

Families make time to get together and visit and many individuals make plans for their annual trek to the church of their choice.

Commercialization takes its toll on us all and the true meaning of this time is often lost in the American way of celebrating certain days.

It behooves us as God's people to stop ourselves from being overwhelmed with the activities of the season and to lose sight of the necessity of Easter.

It is necessary because man is sinful, sin destroys, God hates sin, God made provision and Jesus paid the price!

Our salvation is based upon the sinless perfection found in the life of Jesus Christ and His work on Calvary. It was necessary for Him to pay the perfect price to pave the way for our acceptance by a perfect God.

Celebrate Easter and remember that it was necessary! When Jesus appeared before Pilate he made the following statement...

Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

Let us each hear His voice this Easter Sunday and celebrate the work He accomplished. The grave was empty! Hallelujah & Amen!

Mission Day Celebrated

Thanks to Bro. Ray Freeman for a job well done in planning a good program for the day and getting all our missionaries to come and speak at our Missions Day.

The Shady Grove Baptist Church in Tishomingo, Mississippi, had Mission's Day the first Sunday in February 2006, and had such a wonderful spiritual fellowship in the Lord that we decided to set it for 2007. We had another spirit filled day with each missionary sharing how God is leading them in building mission churches throughout the state and other countries.

Bro. Wallace Williams from Divine Grace shared how God led them to land for their new church building, and so far people from every where have graciously donated over \$200,000 to their church.

Phil Knots, from Foreign Missions, shared how God is opening doors with missionaries and planting churches in places like the Middle East, Bolivia, Africa, Sudan, Russia, China, and also through Medical Missions International. Bro. Knots shared how God wants us to plant churches and lead others to Christ here in America.

Bro. Elvis Garcia from Ripley, Mississippi, brought two young la-

dies to share how God has changed their lives. Bro. Garcia also showed a filmstrip on how his church grew in the first year (2004) to 40 members, and God supplied them with a bigger and better church. Bro. Garcia says, "To God be the Glory!"

Bro. Edward Duvall read from Jonah and compared Jonah's life to others, and how we should stay in God's will as we journey. Bro. Kevin Marr challenged each of us to study and show ourselves approved unto God. Bro. Estuardo Marroquin, from El Camino Baptist Mission read from

Matthew 9:35-38 and encouraged us to have love and compassion for lost souls and help win them to Christ. We need to be laborers because the Lord needs people with convictions, passion for lost souls, and with action - preaching for the kingdom of God, reaching and winning souls. He prays they will get in their own building this year and open a new mission church in Gulfport.

With a great spirit-filled day we had. We look forward to Mission's Day, 2008, and invite everyone to join us.

Mavous Phifer, Pastor
Connie Smith, Church Clerk



Pictured above are those missionaries and missions personnel who made our recent Missions Day a success.

THINK GLOBALLY... LIVE LOCALLY!

MI:8

SOAR 2007

SOAR 2007 - July 3-5
Renaissance Grand and Renaissance Suites
St. Louis, Missouri

Registration - \$60 Per Person
Room Rate - \$79 @ 800-397-1282
www.myspace.com/soarconference
or www.dcmstudents.org
DCM office 501-513-3726

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The SOAR Band
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(Christian BMX Bike Team)
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4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Greetings

Here we are in the beginning of Spring time. The trees are blooming and the leaves are beginning to grow. New life is being seen all around us here in South Mississippi. The time has changed and we have more day light in the afternoon. It suggests that we Christians should shake ourselves and give our lives anew to the Lord. We should prepare to bear new fruit for the Master.

Good Things

Some good things are happening to and with the Commission on Senior Adults. Interest in the Commission is growing among our churches. All along another church has organized a ministry to their seniors. Recently two churches added the Commission to their budget giving. That list is growing slowly, but growing. When a BMA Church

understands this ministry and the goals of the Commission, they want to help. Very often it takes one person in the church to take the lead and make a motion to support a worthy cause. The ministry to the older members of the church is a worthy cause. Farmington Baptist Church, Corinth and Pastor Tim Nall and Broadmoor Baptist Church, Meridian, and Interim Pastor Billy Higgingbotham, and Shady Grove Baptist Church, Tishomingo and Pastor Mavous Phifer have placed us in their budgets. We do appreciate this support.

Church and Association visits

My wife and I enjoyed visits to Tiger Creek, Broadmoor, and Sand Hill Baptist Churches. I have attended the Ten Mile, Hoblochitto, Big Creek, and Washington Associations. We enjoy meeting with our

good people around the state.

South Conference

It may be that when you read this the South Conference will be history. However, today, March 13, we are anticipating a great meeting. All the program and people are in place. It seems that our people in South Mississippi are excited about the Conference. I look for God to be very gracious to us on that day.

North Conference

It is time for our people in North Mississippi to make plans to be at Hopewell Baptist Church on May 8. Pastor, a lot depends on your attitude about this good meeting. If you are excited about it you will recite your people. If you are cool toward the meeting, your people will likely be cool too. Please promote the meeting from the pulpit, in the bulletin, and as you visit your church family. Plan to attend and bring your senior adults. Hopewell and Pastor Danny Pitts are looking for a full house. Watch the Mississippi Baptist Paper for the program. Above all, pray for the meeting.

Letter to Editor

from page 4

Church? I asked a local, well-known preacher why we needed these changes in the Church. I was shocked by his answer. He said, "It is a proven fact that the things we used to do to bring people to Jesus no longer work." Prior to His death, Jesus told the disciples, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." The problem is the Church no longer lifts up Jesus to the lost world. The Church today is so full of worldliness that the only thing it can offer a lost person is what he already has.

When we enter God's house we should know that we are in a special place. We should not see the things of the world in Church. The music we sing is made of words that talk about Jesus, but is fashioned after the music of the world. The bibles we read are translated by people of different religious beliefs, some of which openly support such things as homosexuality. It is hard to believe that God called these people to re-translate the English version of His Word. These things are an effort by the new age church to bring the lost to Jesus by offering them part of what they already have along with the things of God. The Bible says to "come out from them and be ye separate." This is the

reason the Church of Old sang hymns instead of new age music. We read from a Bible that was considered to be the infallible Word of God. There was no need for another translation. Sound doctrine was taught from the pulpit as well as the Sunday School class. God's house was a place of reverence. People were willing to stand for what was right regardless of what people thought. People lived their life outside the Church the same way they lived in the Church. There was no state of confusion.

These are the things that are missing from our churches today. It is not that the things we used to do no longer work, it is just that we do not do the things we used to. The Church today needs to return to its roots. We need to return to the old ways and purge the Church of worldliness that has entered in to it. Then, we will see God pour out his blessings on the Church once again. "Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore, they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the Lord." "Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, we will not walk therein." Jeremiah 6:15-16, KJV.

Faron K. Lee
10346 Ceasar Necaice Rd.
Picayune, MS 39466

'Faith-friendly' doesn't always mean 'Christian'

(OneNewsNow.com) - Media articles over the last few years - including those published by the New York Times last month and FORTUNE magazine in January - have addressed the apparent growing willingness of major American companies, including some in the Fortune 500, to become "faith-friendly." But a Christian business consultant and trainer is advising that those of faith need to understand that the change is based on the same concept that business is built on: competing ideas being allowed in the marketplace, without a preference for one over the other being allowed.

FORTUNE reported on the recently released book, *God At Work: The History and the Promise of the Faith at Work Movement*. The book, written by minister and former business executive David Miller, names Ford, American Express, and Tyson Foods as some of the better-known faith-friendly firms - that

is, at a minimum, they allow workers of various faiths to organize in groups. Those groups then help the company to recognize religious holidays and practices, and overall make it a more accommodating environment for workers and customers of the firms.

But with companies like Ford and others also having been documented to support liberal and sometimes antithetical causes to evangelical Christianity or other faiths, how does one explain the move to be "faith-friendly?" Michael Pink is the founder of Selling Among Wolves, a Christian-based business consulting firm. He exchanges the term "faith-friendly" for one that he says better describes the actual situation.

"They're probably 'faith-tolerant' to some extent, but it's more spirituality," Pink shares. "I think they're more comfortable with that [term]" - and with the realization that because people have a spiritual component of their lives, it would do companies well not to suppress it, thereby making them more likely to get a content and productive worker. In other words, it is an investment in their own business.

David Miller agrees, telling FORTUNE in its report that many companies like Tyson are also trying to remove themselves from an environment fostering scandals and the accompanying reputation by encouraging employees to bring their religious and moral values to work.

But as Pink points out, that does not mean those companies have to promote any one religious view over another - hence the remaining support of issues like the homosexual agenda or discouraging in-house elevation of Christian standards concerning secular, social, and moral behavior.

"So they're accepting [of faith], as long as you don't bring - as they call it - the 'J-word,' for example," says Pink. "The closer we get to the Way of salvation, the closer we get to the Truth, the more repelled many of the people who walk in darkness are going to be."

But he says the fact that the new corporate environment gives everyone a chance from the spiritual marketplace of ideas is a good thing - and that it provides Christians with the starting point they need for any reaching out with their faith: a toehold in the door.

"I'm glad to have a toe-hold," observes Pink, "and we can certainly exhibit our faith in front of that world and compete, I think, very effectively when we are living out our faith in an environment where others are there." Because as any good salesman would, Pink believes the strength of his message and lifestyle - and that of other believers in Jesus Christ - will win out in the marketplace.

Students suspended for praying

(OneNewsNow.com) - Mathew D. Staver, founder of the pro-family legal group Liberty Counsel, says a lawsuit is possible against officials at a Washington State high school that suspended 12 Russian immigrant students because they gathered to pray before school.

Several weeks ago, administrators at Heritage High School in Vancouver, Washington, denied a request from Christian students to start a prayer club. The students, who were not allowed to meet for prayer in a private room, instead gathered before school in the cafeteria to pray; however, they were reported by a student who claims to be a Satanist.

The school's vice principal then told the Christian students they could not pray in the cafeteria and would have to go outside. The Christian students refused and were suspended, some for three days and others for ten days. Staver says the students' constitutional rights were violated.

"It's absolutely outrageous that the school allowed one Satanist student to exercise a heckler's veto over the other students' speech," the Liberty Counsel spokesman

observes. "The situation underscores the ignorance of the school officials, and what Liberty Counsel has now done is issued a demand letter, demanding immediate action by the school to allow these students to be reinstated."

Staver notes that most of the students suspended were Russian immigrants who "came to America assuming that America was the land of the free and the home of the brave -- assuming that they would have religious liberty."

Mississippi State Sunbeam Retreat

May 4 & 5, 2007
Camp Garaywa
Clinton, Mississippi

Camp Pastor
Josh Spiers

Registration
5:00 pm Friday
Sunbeam Presentation
7:30 pm Friday

For More Information Contact
Linda Dertinger
601-422-5552

Mississippi State W.M.A.

Mrs. Jean Knight, President
27 Paramount Church Rd.
Perkinston, MS 39573
601-928-3764

Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533
Laurel, MS 39443

Northeast Mississippi Ladies Retreat planned

Woodland Baptist Church will be hosting this year's Northeast District Ladies' Retreat on Saturday, April 14, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Allegra Brigham is the featured speaker and her theme is "Your Parachute in a Kaleidoscope World." Allegra is CEO of Four County Electric Power Association and an active member of First Baptist Church in Columbus. She is a gifted speaker and motivator and the Lord has given her many speaking opportunities. We are very pleased to have her for the Ladies' Retreat.

Registration forms and fliers are being sent to the churches of the Harmony, Judson and Tombigbee Associations. If anyone has questions or needs directions to the church, please call 662-327-6689 or 662-328-0766.

WMA Retreat Offers Revival and Refreshment

by Valarie Fish
National WMA Reporter

With triple the attendance from two years ago, the 3rd annual National WMA retreat can be appropriately labeled a success!

Close to a hundred women met in Branson, Missouri, for two days of worship, fellowship, and loads of fun. Attendees came from Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas to find refreshment and revival together. Distance and other unforeseen issues kept some from attending but many that made the trek felt it was well worth the effort.

National President Janet Widger reported, "Our few hours in Branson was short in time, but worth every dollar that it took out of our personal wallets to attend."

Speaker Sabrina Clayton taught from the Word and Ladonna Baker (MO) and Lisa Hudson (AR) led in special times of worship with help from video and sound tech Adam Owens. Fun activities included beauty make-overs by Pat Duncan (AR), a design-a-hat contest, and silent auction. A special "share time" coordinated by Martha Langley allowed the women to share from the heart burdens and joys. Tracy Goede (MO) and Robbie Clark (AR) stepped up at the last minute to oversee the auction which brought in a little over \$500 to offset the cost of the retreat.

President Widger especially wanted to thank the members of the retreat committee - Connie Reifsteck (MO), chair; Gladys Boatright (KS), Martha Langley (OK), Lisa Hudson

There are three great questions in life that have been asked by philosophers, preachers, humanists, scien-

(AR) and Peggy Thomaston (MS) - for their hard work and planning. Widger said "I want to thank all of the ladies that assisted in planning this retreat and I especially want to thank all of you who took the time to attend. I know that you received a blessing."

The Most Important Meal of the Day

This is more than just breakfast Ladies! This is a special buffet breakfast to honor those women who stand beside our pastors and keep them pressed and presentable, making sure their socks and tie match the suit coat and praying fervently for God to anoint and protect this man they love.

If you are a pastor's wife or the widow of a pastor then this breakfast is being held in your honor at the national meeting of the BMA in Fort Smith, Arkansas on April 17, 2007 at 7:15 a.m. Plan to attend this meal provided for you by the National WMA in the Judge Parker Room of the Holiday Inn - Convention Center. It is free to pastor's wives and widows and no reservations are necessary.

Besides a selection of fruit juices the menu includes fresh fruit, eggs, bacon, sausage, breakfast potatoes, biscuits, gravy and an assortment of Danishes, rolls and muffins. You won't want to miss this time of fellowship, encouragement and great food!

ancestors are teachers from whom our kids learn things of the past. Church leaders also teach our kids. Each of us should recognize our kids when we are in their presence and make them feel wanted and accepted. This is good teaching.

What is the significance of teaching? Teaching is combined with preaching. Teaching is a divine call. Our Sunday Schools, church officers, and ministers all have a responsibility to teach. They are to go from house to house teaching new converts to be a disciple of Christ.

The authority to be a teacher, is derived from Jesus Christ. Jesus gives to us the power of the Holy Spirit when we are saved. We are empowered by His Holy Spirit and we are taught by God through the Word and the Holy Spirit. Teaching originates in revelation from God through His Word.

The objects of our teaching are in divine things concerning God's way, path, law, will, holiness and false believers.

Pray for our camps as we seek to teach our kids!

Our New Email Address
bmayouth@comcast.net

And the Answer is . . . God

tists, farmers, and well, basically people from all walks of life have asked these questions. From where did I come? Where am I going? What is my purpose? Though



miniedition

Joseph Harris

www.miniedition.net

phrased differently by some, those are the main questions asked when searching for truth and the meaning of life. At the risk of sounding simplistic and unscholarly (which is not difficult for me to do) I say the answer to all three questions is God. Let me explain by asking the questions again.

From where did man come? What is the origin of man? There are really only two options for this one. They are:

God - God is creator of everything. As Paul states in Acts 17, when preaching to the intellectuals on Mars Hill, God is the author of plant life, animal life, human life and eternal life. God created the dirt, then made man from the dirt. We are sustained and nourished from the dirt. Both plants and animals get nourishment from the dirt and man eats plants and animals. Everything we eat is nothing more than chemically changed dirt.

Goo - Or maybe we came from nothing that exploded, then formed at the right temperature, on the right planet, in the right substance, at the right time. Maybe life came from the random chance of proteins and acids that formed into a goo, which then produced a cell which then evolved into a cluster of cells, and then grew, eventually, into Grampa. Than again, maybe not.

What is the purpose of man? Again, there are only two options for answers and they are:

Glorify God - To live for God is to put Him first in all decisions and actions. He is to be the center of your thinking and philosophy of life. He is to be acknowledged and worshiped daily, bowing to His will

in all matters, events, and circumstances.

Glorify Self - You either live for yourself or someone else. You tend to the needs of others or yourself. In serving others, we serve God. In serving self, we glorify self and not God. Self must be dethroned and God enthroned.

Where is man going? And again, there are two basic answers which are:

Glory - The eternal presence of God is the ultimate destination of the believer. After death and judgment, then the eternal presence of God will be enjoyed by all believers on a new earth in a new Heaven. There is no other destiny, except:

Grave - By grave, I mean more than a burial plot. I am speaking of death, hell and the grave or the second death. All the lost in hell will eventually be delivered to the great white throne judgment, then be cast into the lake of fire, which is the second death. They will then be FOREVER separated from God, yet retain a state of consciousness. The knowledge and experience of eternal separation from God is the greatest punishment of the lost.

When GOD is the answer to life's three greatest questions, then hope abounds. To use a cliché, NO GOD, NO HOPE; KNOW GOD, KNOW HOPE.

Joseph Harris is the Vice President of Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, Mississippi.

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Missouri Church seeks pastor

Grandview Missionary Baptist Church of Springfield, Missouri is currently seeking a bi-vocational pastor. If you believe that you are led to come in view of a call, please call Bro. Marvin McMullin at 417-833-2239 or e-mail him at donnajoyce1201@aol.com."

Dana Williams

Bro. Dana Williams is available for service wherever the Lord may lead. He is a member of River Oaks Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Bro. Williams is married and he and his wife have three children, ages 10, 8, and 4. He has been in the ministry 9 years, 5 years as a youth director and 4 years preaching and pastoring. He is presently a student at Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel, Mississippi, and may be reached through Bro. Joseph Harris, Dean of Students, at Southeastern Baptist College at 601-498-8418 or 601-426-6346.

National WMA to host breakfast for wives & widows

This invitation is given to widows and wives of ministers to attend a bountiful buffet breakfast in your honor on April 17, 2007 at 7:15 a.m. at the Judge Parker Room of the Holiday Inn - Convention Center in Fort Smith, Arkansas. The event is hosted by the Women's Missionary Auxiliary of the BMA of America. No reservation is required.

Valarie Fish
National WMA reporter



LATRELLE WINDHAM
DIRECTOR

P.O. Box 4247, Laurel, Mississippi 39441 • (601) 649-0502
Email - bmayouth@comcast.net

Special Emphasis 2007

Thanks to our churches for your consistent giving. Thanks for your special offerings. Continue your support for our Special Emphasis. God is good and we are excited about our summer activities and what God is going to do.

"A Time to Teach"

As we gear-up for summer camp, with activities already starting during this month, I think about another important use of our time in life and in camp. Camp is a time we teach our kids. It's a good learning atmosphere. We try to have good speak-

ers that can relate to our kids and good musicians that lead us. Even if we have a good speaker and good musicians, our kids must have a teachable attitude. Being teachable is a willingness to learn. Humility and being receptive characterizes a person that is teachable. In the Bible we have examples of people who were teachable. Jesus as a child was a good example. Others were Mary, Cornelius and the Bereans.

Who are to be the teachers of our kids? Parents first all, you should be the teacher of your children. There are many things to teach our kids. Each "little thing" takes time. Our

Too Blessed to not be a Blessing

As you walk through town these days, you can find slogans written on just about everything. From the billboards, store signs, and window ads to T-shirts, hats, and bumper stickers, there is a good chance you're going to find out what some folks are thinking. And there are a

few old slogans that show that folks just aren't thinking, they just want.

Most of the time the slogans are 'inspirational'. One of the current ones (or at least one that I've seen a lot of recently) is the one that says "Too blessed to be stressed". In this day and age, that is quite the accom-

plishment. Stress follows us everywhere we go and if we can't be found by stress, we do our best to find



Shane's World

Shane Singleton

stress for ourselves. It has been my experience that most of the stress we have in our lives (if we're honest about it), we chose to put there ourselves.

How many activities in your life do you hear yourself describing as something that 'has got to get done'? A good many are things we chose to get involved with, but not things that necessarily have to be done. But it is not the stress part I want to share with you about today. It is the blessing part.

Can you picture the last blessing you received? For some they might feel that it has been a while since blessing fell on them; some woke up feeling blessed (as should we all - another day of life is certainly a blessing). However, how are you using that blessing? That's a question we don't hear very much. How have you been blessed? Why were you blessed? What kind of blessing was it? We hear these things, but how are you using your blessing? The only reason we are blessed at all is so that we might in turn be a blessing to someone else.

When we are blessed financially it frees us to give a little more to those less fortunate. When we are blessed materially we have more items with which to use for the furtherance of God's kingdom - a home is an excellent place for a Bible study - a car is a good means of carrying the gospel, etc. When we are blessed physically we have been given strength to help those more feeble. When we are blessed spiritually through God's comfort and care we are able to offer comfort and care to others because 'we've been there'.

It is true that we live in a time when stress, real or imagined, is all around us. We all have bills that we can't seem to pay, illness that seems to last forever, tiredness from keeping up with the Joneses, and emptiness because of the loneliness of our hearts. But notice the first part of that last sentence "WE ALL" have these things, we may not have them all at once; all of us may not have them at the same time - but we live in a stressful age. And we live in a blessed age, too.

You have received great blessings from the hand of the Lord - maybe not all at once and we all may not be blessed at the same time. But we have been blessed. Too blessed to be stressed. Someone has given us privilege and opportunity -

CHILDREN'S HOME

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

Children's Home Rally

The Gulf Baptist Association had their annual rally for the Home on February 15. The meeting was held with the Woodlawn Baptist Church in Pascagoula and Pastor Wayne McMahon. It was a delight to have an opportunity to report on the ministry of the Home and also share a message from God's Word to those in attendance. Our appreciation is extended to each church and individual who gave towards this rally.



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

thoughts are with the Welborn family during their time of loss.

Playground Equipment Installed

Recently playground equipment was purchased by the Parkview Baptist Church in Laurel where Bro. Shane Singleton is pastor. The Brotherhood of the church took on the project of assembling the equipment. Thanks Parkview Church for the gift and a big thank you to the Brotherhood for putting it together.

Special Offerings

Special offerings received are as follow: Parkview, Laurel, \$1,200; Mr. & Mrs. Claiborne Bounds, Picayune, \$100; Bible, Ovett, \$200; Faith, Escatawpa, \$40; Gulf Association, \$200; North Gautier, Gautier, \$400; Woodlawn, Pascagoula, \$300; O'Neal Road, Gulfport, \$111; Lee's Chapel #2, Picayune, \$25.00. We appreciate each of these special gifts as well as regular monthly offerings.

Expression of Sympathy

We would like to express our sympathy to the family of Mrs. Marie Welborn. Mrs. Welborn was a faithful companion to the ministry of Bro. Thomas Welborn. Our prayers and

Former Navy chaplain vows to continue appeal as civilian

(OneNewsNow.com) - Former Navy chaplain Lieutenant Gordon James Klingenschmitt says he will now have to fight as a civilian for his reinstatement after a federal judge lifted a restraining order that had temporarily blocked his removal from the service. The evangelical pastor feels he won his battle with the Navy over a policy that barred him from praying publicly in Jesus' name while in uniform, but the fight has apparently cost him his military career.

The Navy ordered Klingenschmitt's dismissal in light of a court-martial ruling that determined he was guilty of disobeying a direct order when he prayed in Jesus' name while in uniform at a news conference outside the White House last March. The former chaplain was originally scheduled for dismissal January 31, but the judge's restraining order bought him a little more time to move forward with his appeal.

Now, however, Klingenschmitt says he will have to carry on as a civilian while his lawsuit continues. "And then, if I win, maybe in six months or eight months, I could be reinstated to the Navy with back pay," he observes.

blessed us; knowing so many face the same things we face - stressed out. How are we using our blessing? Blessed to bless others - by the great hand of God.

"I want to be a chaplain, I want to wear my uniform, and I want to pray in Jesus' name," the ex-Naval officer asserts. And he believes he has a good chance of eventually being reinstated, he notes, as judges that have heard his case "seem to admit that I am being harmed."

These judges are "just saying it's not irreparable harm," Klingenschmitt says. In other words, he contends, they are saying that the dismissed chaplain is being punished for his prayers and sermons, but that this harm can be repaired later on if he is reinstated to the Navy and awarded back pay.

Nevertheless, Klingenschmitt acknowledges that his Naval career is over, at least for the time being. "I have lost a 16-year career, I am out on the street without a job, and we've already been evicted from our home," he says. "But you know what? I am declaring victory. I would do this all over again."

Despite the court-martial and his subsequent dismissal from the Navy, the evangelical pastor insists he has no regrets, "because we got the policy changed for all other chaplains, and now they are free again to pray in Jesus' name."

And because of that policy change Klingenschmitt feels his chances are good of being reinstated and serving as a chaplain again. In the meantime, he is attending Regent University and accepting speaking invitations.

2007 Special Emphasis



Redeeming the Time
because the days are evil.
Ephesians 5:16



BMA OF MISSISSIPPI YOUTH DEPARTMENT
LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI
LATRELLE WINDHAM, DIRECTOR



You're Invited
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In Celebration of 50 Years of Service
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Dr. Charley Holmes
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On Monday, the sixteenth of April Two thousand and seven
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Two man scramble format
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Fort Smith, Arkansas
#1 Essex Place, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72908
(www.fiannahillscountryclub.com)




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YES, I (WE) will participate! (\$95 per player)

Sorry, I cannot participate, but enclosed is my donation in the amount of \$ _____ to support Christian Higher Education and BMATS Golden Jubilee!

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When your kids visit your parents

This is a companion article to the one I recently wrote on guidelines for grandparents. In that article I discussed how grandparents should be very quick to get into a dialogue with their adult children about the do's and don'ts when they are keeping the grandkids or are contemplating giving gifts. This article will hopefully help young parents have a better understanding of grandparents. Here are some things to consider.

Don't treat grandparents like they are idiots

They are not. They have done this before. They have raised kids. You or your spouse are living proof that they have the ability to raise kids without killing them. Don't talk down to grandparents like they don't know what they are doing. Don't maliciously hurt their feelings. Simply communicate your needs for your kids. Tell them the boundaries that you have established in child rearing for your kids and ask them to abide by these rules. How you present these boundaries is critical. Keep a civil tone. Be nice. Talk to them in a respectful, honoring and pleasant manner. Don't patronize or talk down to them.



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

www.travisplumlee.com

Never get on to a grandparent in front of the grandkids

If the grandparents have done something you don't approve of, wait and talk to them in private. Send the kid into another room or outside to play. Don't run down the grandparent in the eyes of the grandchild. This is the same reason I ask parents to not talk negatively about in-laws in front of the kids. You may have a problem with your in-laws, but your kids don't. They don't have the issues adults have. Please don't rob your children of having unconditional love for their grandparents. You are teaching them that in-laws are the problem. You are hurting their future marriage. These problems should be discussed in private between the spouses and out of ear-shot from the kids. They don't

Publishing House offers resource

It's New ... and It Really Is Free!

Baptist Publishing House announces its newest Victory Series resource. Explorer, Voyager, and Adventurer lessons now have complementary coloring sheets. Explorer and Voyager coloring sheets highlight the Bible story with a simple picture and statement. Adventurer coloring sheets emphasize each lesson's memory verse.

These coloring sheets are available online as free PDF downloads. Go to www.bph.org. Simply locate and click on the children's literature for the Victory Series section. Click on the "Coloring Sheets" heading. Then under the desired level, click on the lesson text. Permission is granted to print copies for classroom or home use.

These PDF coloring sheets will be archived. By looking through each quarter's Bible texts teachers can check for a quick activity even when the Victory Series curriculum is not in use. We hope this will be a helpful resource teachers can look to when preparing to teach children God's Word.

understand all of this. Just let your kids love their grandparents.

If you haven't defined it, you can't enforce it

It is very important that you communicate specifically and up front what are the expectations you have of the grandparents towards the grandkids in certain areas. It is your responsibility to let the grandparents know in advance about medicines, food allergies, food requirements, pets, gifts, money etc. and what is okay and not okay. I remember back when our daughter Alison was about two years old. My wife was delaying the introduction of sugar and candy to her. Alison's idea of something sweet back then was Cheerios. She stayed with my mom and dad one night and when we went to pick her up, she was sitting in the floor finishing off a big bag of M&M's. She had the biggest smile on her face. My wife had a look on her face too. She wasn't smiling. But it was our fault. We hadn't communicated to my parents that there was to be no chocolate. Of course, that introduction of chocolate that night changed Alison's life forever. She had discovered chocolate and there was no going back.

Discipline

Parents set the rules for discipline. However, you can't expect the grandparents to keep your kids in their home and then not give them the authority to discipline your kids. It was very easy for us. Our parents had total authority to discipline our children in anyway they saw fit, and we told our kids this. Of course, we had no reason to not trust our parents. The exception to this rule would be if the grandparents had a history of abuse or going overboard. As you know from all of my articles on parenting, spankings are not going overboard, but should be a centerpiece of discipline. Proverb 23: 13,14. Your parents should have the right to spank the grandkids when your kids do something wrong. If you don't want that, then you can't leave your kids with them. I see this as very different than leaving your kids with a babysitter or some

Christians encouraged to stand against efforts to silence their witness

(OneNewsNow.com) - The Alliance Defense Fund has kicked off a campaign aimed at increasing awareness of what many believe is a concentrated effort to silence Christian activists in America. The multimedia campaign will seek to educate, motivate and

family that is not related to you. I don't think they should spank your kids. But grandparents should hold an enormous deal of honor, respect and authority in your child's life.

Use them, don't abuse them

You can use your parents as sitters, and places to leave your kids when you go on a trip. But always remember, that you shouldn't expect grandparents to drop everything in their life to meet your needs on a whim. That is selfish on your part. Respect that the grandparents may have plans or be busy on that weekend. That never happened with our parents who were always thrilled to keep the grandkids. But we also asked way in advance just to show respect and courtesy. Everyone deserves courtesy. Even family.

A final word from someone who is now older and wiser than when I was in my 20's. Just let it slide. A lot of what young parents get so worked up about is not really worth going to World War over. Always err on the side of love. Love and honor your parents and in-laws. Life is too short to be stirring up strife over things that someday will seem trivial to you. I thank God for the relationship my parents had with my kids. Now that my mom has gone home to heaven, M&M's don't seem so important. Only loving relationships.

equip Christians to stand against attacks on religious liberties.

"Silenced" - a project incorporating public service announcements, an Internet presence, and other educational materials - is meant to inform people about an increase in efforts to discriminate against Christians in the United States. Mike Johnson, senior legal counsel with the ADF, says there is no doubt that the religious liberties of Christians are under attack.

"The ACLU and its radical, secular allies are becoming more bold in their attacks on religious speech and the public expression of traditional moral viewpoints - and it's a real problem," says the attorney. ADF is encouraging Christians to be proactive when it comes to efforts to silence believers. "It's something that all of us need to be aware of and vigilantly defend against," adds Johnson.

Thus the reason for the "Silenced" campaign, he explains. "The idea is to really educate and inform and equip people of faith, that we've got to be able to articulate why the threats are groundless," says Johnson.

According to the ADF senior legal counsel, such "assaults," as he calls them, are based on a misinterpretation of the First Amendment and its Establishment Clause. "That is not what the founders [of America] intended when they drafted and ratified the Bill of Rights."

In fact, Johnson points out, the first freedom guaranteed in the Bill of Rights is the right of religious freedom.

Master Builders help Mississippi Church



The Master Builders group recently came to the Jones County area to help Fairview Baptist Church near Laurel complete the interior of the church's Family Life Building.

They worked diligently to help complete bathrooms, kitchen, fellowship areas and the larger recreation area of the building.

The people of Fairview Church provided help, food and camping spaces for the workers. Master Builders is a group of dedicated Christian men and women who volunteer to help with projects around the BMA of America.

Pastor Harry Burge and the members of Fairview Baptist Church appreciate the help and dedicated service of these people.

Mississippi State Sunbeam Retreat

May 4 & 5, 2007
Camp Garaywa
Clinton, Mississippi

Camp Pastor
Josh Spiers

Registration
5:00 pm Friday
Sunbeam Presentation
7:30 pm Friday

For More Information Contact
Linda Dertinger
601-422-5552