

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

MARCH 15, 2008

Vol. 62 No. 6

A Medical Doctor looks at the Crucifixion

By Dennis Humphreys, M.D.

As a physician, I am confronted daily with the wounded and injured human body. It has often amazed me when I consider the degree of trauma the body can withstand and yet cling to the thread of life.

Since becoming a physician, I have been made acutely aware of the passion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. How the Creator, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, could allow Himself to endure incarceration in mortal flesh and submit to the ignominy of the cross arouses in me a profound wonder and holy admiration for my Saviour.

Our Lord's passion started prior to His betrayal and arrest. While praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, He became engaged in a fierce battle. He wrestled a problem so great that his sweat is described as great drops of blood.

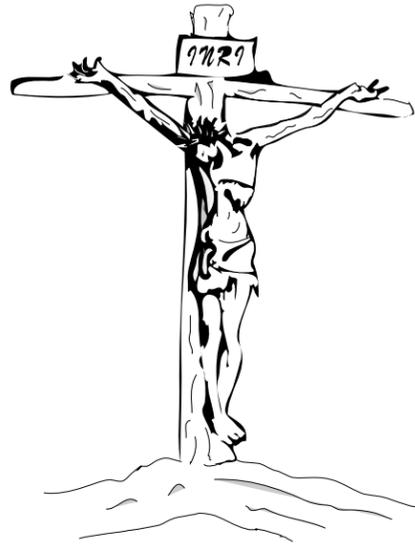
The Bible does not reveal the nature of the struggle, but its fierceness was such that capillaries in the skin ruptured causing blood to leak from the pores as sweat. This was similar to the stress bleeding we see in severe head injuries or the skin hemorrhages that occur in people that are strangled

or suspended head down for long periods of time.

He still can hear the throng chant, "Crucify Him, Crucify Him."

Though I do not know the natures of the stress which our Lord prayed to "let pass," I can say that it was similar in magnitude to those above. It was a stress so great that the very cellular integrity of the body was compromised.

We are told that Christ suffered every temptation to which you and I are sub-



jected. Perhaps the physical body of Christ was dreading the torture that lay ahead and Christ had to conquer that physical dread. While in the garden, the betrayal took place. The soldiers, under Judas' direction, seized Christ and brought Him to Pilate's Judgment Hall. There, under Pilate's command, Christ was whipped. Jewish law states that a man should not receive more than 40 lashes, but it does not specify the type of whip. Man's depravity devised a whip called the flagrum, a stout handle with several leather strips, each studded with a stone or metal tip. In this way they could fulfill the letter of the law while satisfying their own cruel nature.

The back is the only area of the body that could withstand this type injury. It is the most muscular and toughest part of the body. The lashes from a whip of that type could amputate a leg. The chest

Upcoming Events

2008 BMA of Mississippi Senior Adult Conferences

South Conference

March 27, 2008

Big Creek Baptist Church

Soso, Mississippi

9:30 AM

North Conference

May 13, 2008

East Amory Baptist Church

Amory, Mississippi

9:30 AM

Galilean Camp

April 11-12, 2008

Lake Tiak-O-Khata

Louisville, Mississippi

April 21-23, 2008

BMA of America

Annual Meeting

Waco, Texas

May 19-20, 2008

BMA of Mississippi

Midyear Meeting

Big Creek Baptist Church

Soso, Mississippi

(10 miles west of Laurel on Highway 84 West)

Skyway Hills Church hosts 50th Missions & Evangelistic Conference



People from across the state assembled at Skyway Hills Baptist Church, Pearl, for the annual Missions and Evangelistic Conference. The theme of this year's conference was "It's All About Him, Not Us!"

wall would be easily perforated, thus mercifully killing the victim.

By the end of the whipping, the back of our Lord was a shredded mass of crimson tissue. Long strips of torn skin

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Short Bible Messages by Grover Laird

Iron Sharpens Iron

By Douglas Laird

“Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend (Prov. 27:17).

Tools of steel usually grow dull with use, and none is resharpened by remaining in isolation. Days and even weeks could pass, and the tool would never grow a whjt sharper. The carpenter’s saw must be filed. The farmer’s hoe and axe must be honed. The carpenter’s saw is sharper and the gardener’s hoe is keener only when each has had an encounter with the metal of a file. Left alone, the dullness only changes by rust.

“Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend” (Prov. 27:17). One’s life is sharpened by an encounter with another. To neglect it leaves only one possible change—rust. The latter becomes worse than the former.

This is the way it has always been. The early Greek philosophers had their listeners. Spurgeon had his pulpit. Sandburg had his printed page. By these, others have sharpened their mental countenances and effectively extended their usefulness.

Boys and girls attend the classroom to listen to others and to read of others. Salesmen read books or attend lectures so they may knock off the dullness and more effectively pursue their goals. Golfers brush up on the manual as well as the club. Millions are moved forward in the tide of alleged civilization by the voluminous material afforded the ears, the eyes, and even the touch of man. By these the dullness of ignorance is filed or honed away little by little as one’s education broadens to encompass the ever-broadening scope of knowledge. One’s life is thereby sharpened by the association with another.

The inevitable dullness follows one who fails to allow encounter with others whose “tempered” theology, social science, athletics, biological science, political

astuteness, etc., could well enhance his effectiveness and “ease of operation.”

Unfortunately, many people resist encounter with the “file” under the pretended fear of loss of identity, only to lose perfected and effective identity and subsequent rejection or neglect as a dull hoe that affords little or no good for anyone. And tragic still, dullness seems to harden with neglect.

There is another application. In a very literal sense, the expression on the countenance of a friend will impress the countenance of another. The story has been often told of the friends who planned that each would tell a selected person how ill he appeared as each met him on a designated morning. The “victim” at first answered of his good health each time he was interrogated about his feelings. Each time he was told how he appeared to be ill. Finally he believed it and returned home for care.

You know how depressed some encounters will leave you because the person seemed to wear a rain cloud for a bonnet. Others leave you smiling and walking on air because they were cloaked in sunrays and wore daisies for a hat.

Today you will sharpen or dull the countenance and life of someone you encounter because of your own frame of mind, joy of soul, and philosophy of life. And the way you leave people may largely determine the desire of others to see you again.

So maybe before you leave for the office or from the office you should engage in a private orientation session. Strangely, you will feel better, you will make others feel better, and—you know what?—they will further sharpen your countenance in return.

Suggestion for orientation? OK, here it is:

1. Love people.
2. Maintain confidence in yourself.
3. Have faith in God Who is greater than your opposition.
4. Maintain a rigid plan of self-discipline.
5. Recognize the vanity of the present.
6. Possess a proper relationship to eternity.



Grover Laird

Background Check Time Again Daniel Springs Campground

by Director James Speer

Summer camp is just around the corner and so it is time for some of the sponsors to do the background check again to qualify them for the Texas State Health Department rules. This year, it will be easier on us at Daniel Springs if you include an e-mail address for each person who sends information to us for the background checks. We need your name, date of birth, social security number and e-mail address which we will submit to the company doing the checks and they will then send you your own log in information. The background checks are good for a period of two years and then you have to go through the same process again.

Flip This Cabin

Another new item this summer is an old program which we have revived and given a new name. It is called “FLIP THIS CABIN”. This is a take-off on the HGTV program called “FLIP THIS HOUSE”. First Providence in Livingston, Texas, got the ball rolling by adopting a cabin on the girls side of the camp and totally gutted it and renovated it with a new metal roof, painted walls and floor, gutted the bathroom and remodeled it, took out all the old beds and built new ones and purchased new mattresses. They did all the work and paid for all the materials which totaled a little over \$10,000.00. They have also started on one cabin on the boys side by putting a new metal roof on it, also.

Some of the old cabins are structurally sound enough that they can be used for a few more years, but several are going to have to be replaced. Our plans are to tear down at least 4 cabins at the end of the summer season and try to have 4 new ones built by the start of the 2009 camp season. Our plans are to pay for the cabins as they are built without borrowing any money for this phase. The cost of the demolition and building 4 new cabins should be between \$160,000 - \$180,000.

We had planned for the last few years to start building a retreat center this year, but the cost and length of the project in this economy has made us rethink our strategy. We feel that it will be better for us to replace the cabins now and take care of the church groups who have been so faithful to support us over the years than to try to attract new clientele at this time. Hopefully we will be able to replace another group of cabins about every three or four years if the funds continue to come in.

If you are interested in helping us Flip a Cabin or build new ones, please contact us at 800-332-2309.

under the direction of BMMI, and \$40,000.00 to help build a video/conference room at the BMA Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas, for the purpose of training national workers in other countries. The WMA, with the help of many, has raised \$76,000.00 to date. Bro. Smith then made a motion that the Big Creek Association give \$1,000.00 to help with this project. The motion was approved.

Reports were given as follows from the different department heads: Bro. Don Brown gave his report on publications, reporting that he has received over \$7,000.00 so far on special emphasis for the MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST. He also announced the South MS Senior Adult Conference that will be at Big Creek Baptist Church on March 27. Dr. Medrick Savell shared blessings upon Southeastern Baptist College as they prepare for evaluation for accreditation later this month. Mississippi State Missions was represented by Bro. Rayburn Freeman and Bro. Estuardo Marroquin.

Dr. Eugene Murphy brought the evening message. The April meeting of the Big Creek Association will be with First Baptist Church, Bay Springs, Mississippi.

Arthur Smith, 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.

California Church Seek Pastor

Our church is seeking an under-shepherd; a God called minister of the Word, sound in doctrine and faith. We are a conservative Missionary Baptist church and hold fast the faith, doctrines and ordinances as taught by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Please contact us if you feel God leading you to us. Further information about us is available on the internet at www.rbmbc.org.

First Missionary Baptist Church
Riverbank, California
209-869-3401

Central Church, Corinth

We appreciate all your prayers, because we have definitely felt the presence of the Holy Spirit. We are blessed to have Bro. Daniel Spencer and his wife, Leslie, serving as our interim pastor. Although we have been hit with a lot of sickness throughout the church in the last few weeks. Our

attendance has been up for both Sunday services along with our midweek service. We have also been having a good group of young people for Bible study at our midweek services, which is truly a blessing. We have welcomed 2 new members to our church family by letter, Bobby and Linda Sellers.

Anytime you are in need of a spiritual uplifting, join us for the first Sunday night of each month at 6 p.m. for talent night and fellowship dinner. We have many talented people in our church family that truly make talent night something to look forward to each month.

Please be in prayer as we have a lot going on in the next few months that include: painting some of the rooms downstairs (with hopes of turning them into Sunday school rooms for the youth), new carpet in the sanctuary, continuing to grow in number and doing God’s Will, and holding a revival April 6th-9th with Bro. David George conducting those services.

Big Creek Association meets

Thirteen churches were represented by messengers and visitors at the March Big Creek Mission meeting held at Fairview Baptist Church near Laurel. A cordial welcome was extended by host pastor, Bro. Harry Burge. Two new pastors in the Big Creek Association were introduced: Bro. Ken Riley from Lebanon Baptist Church, and Bro. Danny Pitts from First Baptist Church, Shady Grove.

Bro. Arthur Smith discussed the project of the National WMA and the fact that their goal is \$80,000.00 this year - \$40,000.00 to buy an ambulance for a province in China

Moral Action Committee

Baptist Missionary Association of America
6273 Miller Rd., Swartz Creek, MI 48473
810-635-4845



Dr. Roy McLaughlin
Director

It's Not About "Rights" It Is About Being Called "Normal!"

It could well be said that the courts are the most undemocratic arenas for settling public policy disputes. This is certainly true when it comes to the California State Supreme Court which began hearing a consolidated case seeking to overturn the Golden State's law on traditional marriage on March 4, 2008. The law supporting traditional marriage was overwhelmingly approved by voters in 2000. The far ranging effect of this State Supreme Court's decision will have tremendous national implications. Here is how one homosexual rights activist described the importance of this case: "Because it's California, where one-eighth of the U.S. population lives, with its enormous influence on culture and politics, the stakes are huge. If we can win marriage in California and see the next Congress

have one-eighth of its membership from a state where same-sex couples can marry, that changes everything politically and it will vastly accelerate the general momentum already in our favor."

It is a tragedy anytime a court gives a "stamp of approval" to the radical notion of homosexual "marriage" and undermines the fundamental principle that boys and girls deserve a mother and a father. This fact is not based on bigotry, but common sense supported by biology. The courts in California have approved of men "marrying" other men before. In 2005, a judge in San Francisco struck down the state's marriage laws, a decision that was later overturned by a state appeals court. Now the case is going before the State Supreme Court, which is expected to issue a ruling in 90 days. I'm not optimis-

tic. The militant homosexual movement and the radical Left generally are very good at cherry-picking their cases and courts.

On March 5, 2008, a report in the Los Angeles Times suggests the justices were very divided based on the questions they were posing to the attorneys. According to the Times, "at least three of the seven justices repeatedly noted that California voters have defined marriage as a union between a man and a woman, and that the public might not be ready to embrace same-sex marriage." One Justice, Carol Corrigan asked the pro-homosexual attorneys arguing for the court to invalidate the law "to show here where the state constitution addressed same-sex marriage." To all of us who are pro-biblical marriage, this is a sign that she may be unwilling to invent a new right that has clearly not been recognized in law or tradition.

It was Justice Carlos Moreno who exposed the true motivation behind this lawsuit to overturn traditional marriage. Justice Moreno asked the San Francisco city attorney if the state's domestic partnership law, which provides the legal rights of marriage to homosexual couples, was sufficient. The city attorneys said it was not, and Justice Moreno

asked, "Doesn't this just boil down to the use of the 'M' word, marriage?" (There you have it, dear reader.) The San Francisco attorney conceded, "That symbol has deep meaning." Indeed it does, which is why the militant homosexual rights movement has focused so much attention on achieving what it refers to as "marriage equality." But equality in terms of legal rights and privileges simply isn't enough.

The homosexual movement is not seeking legal rights. Most of the rights that are frequently bandied about in this debate can be achieved through simple legal instruments widely available to anyone for any reason, such as wills and power of attorney. What the militant homosexual movement is seeking is the acceptance and normalization of its lifestyle. I am sure praying that this never happens. For all of recorded history, marriage has meant one thing, and it has a sacred connotation in virtually all societies. By circumventing the elected legislatures, the homosexual rights lobby is asking our courts to use the brute force of big government to overrule popular opinion, biblical teaching and biology when it comes to the meaning of marriage and the common sense understanding of

family. But the government does not possess such power and not even a unanimous ruling from the United States Supreme Court can overturn "the Laws of Nature and Nature's God."

It is sad but true, that too many liberal judicial activists do not have the wisdom, nor the humility to clearly understand the limits of their own power and strangely seem to lack the ability to comprehend the true meaning of written law. Therefore, it is absolutely essential that every committed Christian educate himself on how their elected representatives vote on all key moral issues. May each of us encourage our elected officials in State and National office to put a marriage protection on the ballot.

May 19-20, 2008
BMA of Mississippi
Midyear Meeting

Big Creek Baptist
Church

Soso, Mississippi

10 miles west of Laurel
on Highway 84 West

A Medical Doctor looks at the Crucifixion

Continued from page 1

and muscle lay at peculiar angles and dangled like red icicles dripping blood. When the arms were finally freed and allowed to return to the side, raw tendons and muscle would be exposed to the air. It is any wonder that the flesh of an all-knowing Christ revolted in the garden?

The soldiers soon ceased the whipping. The older ones seemed bored with the proceeding. They had witnessed other whippings before and their sin-hardened hearts did not perceive that the very Son of God was before them. The younger were more sensitive to the situation. It was either the influence of their youth and the proximity to innocuousness, or they were acquainted with the ministry of Christ.

To cover the stillness between the moons, the men discuss Jesus. They recall certain of His prophecies. One of the men, a former paramour of the woman at the well, recalls that story. In no time a new torture is devised. One by one, the soldiers strike,

spit on or pull the beard of Jesus and ask Him to prophecy which of them was guilty. A robe is placed about His bleeding shoulders to declaim Him King. A branch from the firewood is twisted into a wreath and the thorns are driven into His scalp. They mock again and call Him "The King of the Jews."

The scalp is a very rigid tissue. Any injury to the scalp will bleed very freely because the tissue does not collapse around the severed vessel, thus sealing it off. The crown of thorns opened those ever flowing vessels and in minutes Christ's hair and beard are soaked with blood. The men mock and jeer at the Lamb of God, a bleeding, broken beaten man near shock from blood loss.

It has now been over 24 hours since our Lord has had any sleep. He is exhausted and His strength is failing. This broken man is then presented to the Jewish nation. Though His mind is dulled by lack of sleep and His life is oozing from the many

wounds, He still can hear the throng chant, "Crucify Him, Crucify Him." I think of a few short weeks before when this same man stood outside Jerusalem and wept, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem... how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" (Matt. 23:37) Now the very nation He loved was clamoring for His death.

So as to please the throng, Pilate pronounced the sentence. It would be as they wished, death by crucifixion. As was the custom in those days, the condemned was to carry the cross from the prison to the execution site. The cross was extremely heavy. The cross member alone weighed approximately 110 lbs. This cross (called patibulum) was placed on Christ's shoulders.

He started on the short 650-yard march to Golgotha. But this former carpenter, who was strong in His youth and manhood, was so weakened by the

blood loss, punishment and lack of rest that He could not make it. It seems a paradox that the Creator of the universe should be prostrated on the cobblestones of His own creativity beneath a timber. Why did He endure this pain and torture for you and me?

His physical energy is nearly gone. A man standing nearby is conscripted by the soldiers to carry His cross. Simone Cyrene removed the timber from the shoulders of Jesus. His body battered by the fall, His back burning as with fire, His head pounding with each heartbeat, He is dragged to His feet and guided between two guards as He staggers and stumbles the rest of the way.

At Golgotha, Christ is placed on the cross. The executioner had a great deal of knowledge about the placement of the nails. If they were placed too close to the base of the fingers, a man's weight could rip his hand free of the nail. So, carefully but swiftly, the nail was placed at the base of

the palm where the wrist joins the hand. The arms could not be stretched straight either, as this would prevent breathing.

The cross member was then lifted into place on the upright. The weight of Christ's body sags and the full torture effect of the nails is felt. Next, His feet are fixed to the upright. With His knees slightly flexed, the left foot is placed on top of the right, a single nail is driven through both feet. The torture of the crucifixion lies on the bent arms and flexed knees. The pain is a constant seesaw from hands to feet to hands. As He would stiffen His legs to relieve the pain in His hands, the agony would cause Him to pull with His arms to relieve His feet; thus the constant motion trying to obtain some less painful position.

As the muscles in His arms and legs fatigue, the shock deepens and the agony increases. A new pain begins. Deep within His chest, a crushing, vise-like feeling begins to mount as His heart starts to fail. His breathing becomes very short and labored. Each breath is a gasp. It is with

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Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Missionary needs assistance

BMA Missionary Fiodor Baraniuk, who currently serves as Russian Church Planter Co-ordinator for North America, has run into some immigration difficulties.



Don Brown
Editor

I could not begin to share all of the details with you in this space, but they are of a serious nature. Bro. Fiodor is currently in Russia for the purpose of obtaining new, up-

to-date passports for his family.

He has an attorney who is handling this matter. The cost of these legal proceedings will total about \$11,000. This money is the responsibility of the Baraniuk family and will certainly be a financial strain. Our national missions office has advanced them funds to care for this, but these must be replaced.

His home church of Calvary Baptist Church, Horn Lake, Mississippi, has already raised around \$2,500, but more is



Fiodor Baraniuk Family

needed. If you or your church could help, please send your gift to the national missions office and earmark it for the Baraniuk immigration needs.

Pastor Bob Steele passes away

Robert L. (Bob) Steele, 63, passed from this life on March 6, 2008. He was Pastor of the Canaan Baptist Church in Purvis. Bro. Bob surrendered to the ministry at Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis, on Easter Sunday, March 30, 1975. After being ordained by Pine Grove he served as Pastor at Bethel Baptist Church (Wiggins), Fairhope Baptist Church (Beaumont), Mulberry Baptist Church (Wayne County), East Main Baptist Church (Lumberton), Calvary Baptist Church (Purvis), in addition to Canaan.



Bro. Bob Steele

his parents, Rev. William E. and Joyce Steele, and his sister, Annie Rose Rector. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Gloria Cook Steele, three sons and daughters-in-law: Mickey and Lynn, Ken and Shellie, and Scott and Olivia. He had seven grandchildren: Matt, Logan, Kaitlyn, Kristen, Kerri, Lane and Lori Anne Steele.

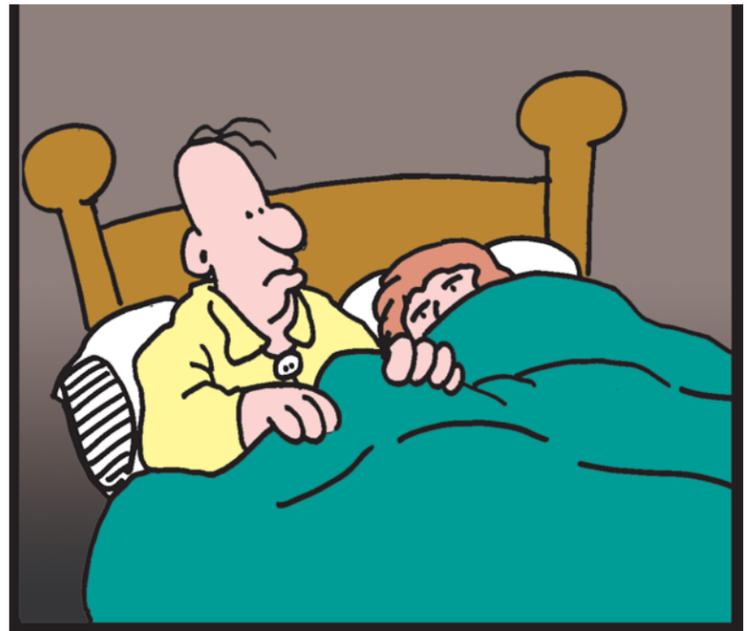
He was also survived by three brothers, Fred Steele and Tommy Steele of Oak Grove and Ed Steele of Purvis, many loved nieces and nephews, and a host of friends.

Services were held at Pine Grove Baptist Church on Sun-

day, March 9, 2008, with Ed Steele, Mickey Steele, and Sidney Farmer officiating. Music was provided by granddaughter Kristen Steele, niece Melanie Dunnam, Robyn Cagle, and Roger and Sharron Blackwell. Pallbearers were grandson Matt Steele, nephews Randy Steele, Dave Steele, Ricky Steele, Alan Cook, and special family friend James Cagle. Honorary pallbearers were grandsons Logan Steele and Lane Steele and men of Canaan Baptist Church.



Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"You were preaching in your sleep again dear, you just finished point three, and were about to start into your poem."

Holifields to celebrate 60th Wedding Anniversary

Rev. Harold and Mrs. Ann Holifield of Laurel, Mississippi, plan to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on April 12, 2008 at First Baptist Church of Calhoun, Laurel. A reception will take place in their honor from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.

Hosting the celebration will be daughter and son in law Rev. Sidney and Mrs. Pat Davis of Laurel, MS. They have two sons, Danny and David. Rev. Danny and wife Jennifer are pastoring in Meridian, Mississippi, and have two children, son Connor and daughter Anna. David works with his parents at the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home in Laurel.

Also hosting the celebration is son and daughter in law Charles and Kathy Holifield of Taylorsville, Mississippi. They have two daughters, Kristen and Kelly. Attorney Kristen and husband Darrel Martin have one daughter, Audry. Kelly Cantrell has two children, daughter Sarah Layne and son Levi.

In August 2008, Bro. Holifield and Mrs. Ann will have been in the ministry 59 years. He has pastored eight churches and was interim at another. He was also Interim Director at the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home. Two of these churches he



Harold & Ann Holifield

pastored twice. Presently he is pastoring First Baptist Church of Calhoun, Laurel, and is in his 10th year. His longest pastorate was at Antioch Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi, for 24 years. Mrs. Ann has followed him every step and was and is the greatest pastor's wife one could ask for.

Each one is invited to come by and help us celebrate. Your presence will be our gift.

Galilean Camp
April 11-12, 2008
Lake Tiak-O-Khata
Louisville, Mississippi

USPS 353-960
P.O. Box 8181
Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000

Phone 601-426-3293
Fax 601-763-7404

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

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402.
Postmaster: Send address changes to the *Mississippi Baptist Paper*, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441-8000.

Part One

Raising Visionary Sons and Daughters For God

You are standing around in church after services talking with other adults. Your two year old comes up and you ask him or her to say something to the pastor. Your two year old sticks their tongue out and yells, "no". They run off. You are embarrassed. The other adults say things like "that is okay" or "mine did the same thing", or "they are like that at two". You run off after the child and everyone tries to make you feel okay about the behavior and to accept it. It is never brought up again and is forgotten.

The only problem with this scenario is that the behavior violates God's Word in Ephesians 6:1,2. When parents do not deal with this behavior biblically, the child will grow up to be disobedient and disrespectful. They have established a pattern of behavior that is totally against the spirit filled life of a young person. Their teen years will be spent demonstrating marked disobedience and dishonoring towards the parents. This behavior must be corrected at an early age or

they will grow up and no one will want to be around them. Not even you. Christian parents are becoming too accepting of dishonoring behavior because we allow society to say 'that is no big deal.'

It should not require us to yell at our children. We don't want obedience only when we get angry and yell at a child. We should be able to speak in clear, normal tones to our child and expect obedience. There should be natural consequences for every single act of defiance or dishonoring. We cannot expect our children to be perfect, but they must clearly understand that disobedience will be met with consequences. Obedience and honoring are the fulcrum of child-rearing in the Christian home.

Sadly, too many Christian parents live like everyone else in our culture. There is little distinction with the way we raise our children and the way the lost parents down the street raise their children.

We watch the same movies, listen to the same music, dress

our children in the same provocative clothing, read the same magazines, send our kids to the same schools and act like we are raising future major league sports stars instead of warriors for the cause of Christ. We should not be surprised when we send our young recruits (children in God's army) into the enemy camps and allow them to adopt the enemy's teachings that our children will come home and raise the enemy's flag of rebellion in our homes.

Raising the King's kids should involve a total obedience to the fifth command that God gave. Honor the parents. It is not enough to get our children to obey us, but they must also honor us. It is not all right for your children to hit at you, stomp their feet, make a face, roll their eyes, slam their bedroom door or raise their voice to you. This is dishonoring. God has clearly spoken on this issue and parents will reap what they sow regarding this fundamental family principle.

It is high time that Christian parents start teaching their children the ways of the Lord. It is not enough to have them read and discuss scripture. That is the beginning. But they must gain

an understanding and receive it in their heart. They must understand how to live scripture out for the glory of God. They can memorize all the scripture in the world, but if they don't know how to live it out; they will be easy prey for our enemy who walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. God has designed your family as the main institution to discipline and disciple your children. It is not the youth group's job. It is not the Christian school's job. It is not your church and pastor's job to instruct your children in the ways of the Lord. It is not their job to discipline your children. God has said it is your job. These other institutions will greatly assist you in that effort. But if you send your kids to church and Christian school and expect these institutions to create a child that will live the spirit filled life for Christ, then you are raising your children in spiritual welfare.

A welfare recipient in many cases looks for the government

to help them. They won't help themselves. They want a check from Washington. And if there is trouble, they wait for the government to bail them out. Many Christian parents raise their children the same way. You expect your church to give your children all the foundational teachings to be a courageous warrior for Christ. You are suppose to do that. That is your job. All the Sunday School in the world will get blown away in a philosophy class in college if the kid didn't see scripture lived out in his home on a daily basis.

The Word of God is real to those kids who see it lived out at home. You must teach your children what you believe. Why you believe it. And then, most importantly, how do they live that out in their daily walk. If kids can't apply scripture to their life, they won't think it has much value. Your family should see scripture as having value and purpose and it should be seen as a treasure chest for the family.

In the next few articles, I will give you some ways to make a home that is conducive for building visionary sons and daughters for the kingdom - building of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We are in desperate need of more of these type of homes rather than the culturally contaminated homes seen in too many of our home towns.

It is high time that Christian parents start teaching their children the ways of the Lord.



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

www.travisplumlee.com

A doctor's looks at the Crucifixion

from page 3

great effort that, seven times, He stiffens His legs and draws in enough breath to utter those last cries.

The time of death is drawing nigh. To the passerby, it is a Jew dying on a cross. Those close enough to read the small sign find that this is "Jesus of Nazareth — King of the Jews." Disillusioned friends watch their hope die, a leader destroyed. A mother watches her son die. The soldiers watch and wonder about this prisoner as His execution progresses.

But as the whole world watches, the very God of Heaven, Christ's own Father, cannot watch, for He cannot look on sin. God the Father turns His

back on His only begotten Son. The sun in the sky grows dim, clouds roll into place obscuring from God's eyes this horror on Golgotha's Hill.

Christ looks quiet now. But wait, He moves. With the forces of sin heavy on His raw shoulders, the guilt of mankind on His back, the pain of disobedient children searing in His hands, the poker of Hell burning in His feet and the broken heart of rejection by God and man struggling within His chest, He forces His legs to lift Him one last time. He raises His head, sucks in that last breath and looks up into the darkened sky and whispers triumphantly, "It is finished!" (John 19:20)

As I contemplate Christ on the cross, my heart fills with sadness, my eyes dim with tears. I do not understand how the Great I Am, the Word, the Truth, the Life, the Way, the very Son of God could die such a miserable broken death. He said He died because He loved us. (John 3:16) How can God love a creature that would do what we did to His Son? How could God let us do it? Sinful and depraved creatures though we are, God chose to redeem us, for He loved us so. Isaiah 53:10 says, "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief..."

— Reprinted from the August 22, 1990 Baptist Trumpet.

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Virgil T. Ainsworth

Bro. Virgil Ainsworth of Soso, Mississippi, is available for pulpit supply or preaching appointments wherever the Lord may lead. He may be reached at 601-729-8059 (home), or 228-218-2263 (cell).

Alan Smith

Bro. Alan Smith is available for pulpit supply or pastoral service wherever the Lord may lead. He is 33 years old and married. He is a member of Fairview Baptist Church of Laurel. He may be reached at 601-422-9641.

J. T. Roberts

Bro. J. T. Roberts, 18, is available for preaching appointments.

BMA of Mississippi Senior Adult Conferences

South Conference
March 27, 2008
Big Creek Baptist Church
Soso, Mississippi
9:30 AM

North Conference
May 13, 2008
East Amory Baptist Church
Amory, Mississippi
9:30 AM

ments. He is a member of Bethel Baptist Church in Fulton, Mississippi. He may be contacted at 1106 B78 Bankhead Rd SW, Mantachie, MS 38855 or at 1-662-397-2679.

Larry Pierce

Larry M. Pierce, of Lucedale, Mississippi, is available for pulpit service and may be contacted at 601-947-3531.

Mississippi State WMA

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

National WMA Project Procedures

Nominations for the National WMA Project are to be presented in writing to the Project Promotion Committee at the registration table on the day of the annual meeting. Each nomination may have one person speak briefly on nominated project, amount needed to complete the project and details regarding the ministry.

Ladies Retreat Hosted by Providence, Amory

Providence Baptist Church of Amory will host a ladies retreat May 17, 2008, at 10:00 a.m.. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. Kay Fortenberry is the featured speaker. There will be a fee of \$20.00 for the retreat. For more information, please call 662-251-0441.

Northeast District WMA Report

On February 12, 2008, Boguefala Baptist Church served a delicious meal to the Northeast District WMA prior to our quarterly meeting. Decorations and favors carried out the theme of Valentine's Day.

There were 63 present, including many of our husbands. The meeting was opened with "Love Lifted Me" sung by the congregation. Anita Akers reported that the music CD's generated around \$2,100.00 for the National WMA projects. Since the Mission Symposium, offerings for those projects have picked up to \$40,000.00.

We voted to continue to support the State WMA project, El Camino Mission Land Fund, through August.

Elaine Smith encouraged each of us to enroll younger ladies in our WMAs and seek to get them more involved.

Special music was offered by Betty Dillard and Burma Schumpert. Ann Smith gave a devotional using I John 4:8 and I Corinthians 13:13 - "Love motivates; love is a vital life force; and we show our love through our actions."

Providence will host our Ladies Retreat on May 17, 2008. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m.; the meeting will begin at 10:00. Kay Fortenberry will be the featured speaker. You will miss a blessing if you do not attend.

Patti Harlow, president
Beth Haden, reporter

We have gone over \$80,000 ! Are we shouting yet?

To be specific, we have \$80,586.40 to be exact. We will still collect until April 22, 2008, for this National WMA Project. The Seminary will get 40% and BMMI will get 40% while the other 20% goes to the youth fund and general fund. Now some of you may remember that the Seminary and BMMI requested \$40,000.00 so for them to receive that amount we really need to strive for a total of \$96,000. This is still possible before April 22. Thanks to everyone who has contributed and supported this project. This has been accomplished only through prayer and the power of God to move people to give to such a worthy cause.

I thank each of you for allowing me this means of keeping you updated on our National WMA work.

Janet Widger

Trash Talk

by **Danny Pitts, Pastor**
First Baptist Church of Shady Grove
Laurel, Mississippi
(from church newsletter)

Proverbs 30: 11-14 *"There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up. There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.*

Solomon identified the next group as the Cocky Generation. That surely seems to fit many of our day. Pride describes almost everyone in our culture. In the 1960's when the shouting boxer, Cassius Clay, declared, "I am the greatest in the whole world," many were appalled at his brashness. Today, almost all athletes are known for their "trash talk". They promise their opponents that they will devastate them in their competitions: They call it "trash talk" because it does not mean much if a person cannot deliver. Amazingly today even poor players are expected to do this bragging. Obviously this attitude is out of step with the Bible: This outlook has reached almost everyone of our generation. Rather than humbly admitting faults and limitations, people are pushing themselves forward to the exclusion of others and God.

An humble spirit does not mean that a person is so

A BOOK REVIEW

The Pearl Button: Meant to Be

by **Sandy Jones**

Continuing granny's stories from the button box the author takes us into the heart of John Snow, Dimple's father. Having raised her alone, after his wife's death in childbirth, he now faces the emptiness of the house and his own heart following Matt and Dimple's honeymoon departure for Texas. His Trapper Valley Colorado friends and neighbors begin to notice a real change in John, such a change that alters his very personality. Where will he find fulfillment? Will he find peace in his work on the ranch or in the things he has always enjoyed, or is it possible that there is room in his heart for another love after so long?

Cynthia Ann Soileau had something in common with John Snow. She too had lost her life's companion. Robert, Ann's husband, had been killed in the War of Northern Aggression and since that time her Baton Rouge home was simply not the same. When her sister invited her to visit in Colorado she hesitantly accepted. Maybe she could forget. Maybe she could escape the pain of loneliness. Is it possible the answer awaits her out west? Is it possible she has no idea how?

If you enjoy high adventure, or heartwarming romance without the compromise of Christian values or Biblical, truth this one is for you. If you enjoyed the author's first story, The Brass Button, then this continuing saga is a must. This edition can be ordered on the Publish America website or through your local bookstore.

Sandy Jones is the widow of C. Bert Jones, a pastor of over forty years and currently serves as the dorm director at Jacksonville College in Jacksonville, Texas.

lacking in confidence that he or she cannot be successful. In fact Solomon suggested the opposite: "A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirif' (Proverbs 29:23). Confidence must be in the Lord's Grace.

Trusting in the flesh may appear to work for awhile, but ultimately it will bring disastrous results. Solomon expressed it: "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall (Proverbs 16:18).

Even if a proud spirit brought some rewards, the Godly person should not be drawn into such a way to live. The Scripture says, "Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud' (Proverbs 16:19).

Jesus gave an illustration which suggested that more honor and less embarrassment comes to those who avoid a cocky attitude. He tells the parable in Luke 14:7-11. He told them not to sit in the highest seat of honor, but in the lowest. If you claim to be deserving of the highest seat, you will be shamed when asked to move down. If you take a lower one, you will feel better when asked to move up to the higher room.

Our text in Proverbs may be a play on words with the references to the eyes and eyelids. Do not the eyes of many give them away in their prideful spirit! Keil and Delitzch wrote, "the lifting up of the eyebrow as an expression of haughtiness." It appears difficult for the proud to keep their haughtiness to themselves.

Wisdom says, "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate" (Proverbs 8:13). All who love the truth and fear the Lord will react to pride and arrogancy in the same way.

South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference

March 27, 2008 - 9:30 am
Big Creek Baptist Church

Soso, Mississippi
(10 Miles West of Laurel on Highway 84)

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 14. The meeting was held with the Spring Hill Baptist Church in Ocean Springs and Pastor Duane Ledlow. It was a joy to have the 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. Hallelujah He Arose!



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

We serve a living and risen Savior! During this Easter season may we as Christians take the opportunities afforded to us to declare to the lost world around us the message of the resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15:3,4. Jesus died in order to save us from our sins. The penalty for our sin debt has been paid for all because of Calvary. Now sinners everywhere can be saved through faith in Jesus Christ. Thank the Lord for the saving power of Christ's resurrection. Hallelujah we serve a living Savior!

Study: Behaviors Americans Consider 'Sinful'

Americans overwhelmingly believe in the concept of sin whether they are religiously involved or not, according to a new Ellison Research study released Tuesday.

"Sin," as defined by the research organization, is "something that is almost always considered wrong, particularly from a religious or moral perspective." The study questioned more than 1,000 American adult respondents whether they believe in such a thing as "sin" and then asked them whether 30 different behaviors were sinful.

Out the list of 30 behaviors, adultery was most often described as a sinful behavior by American respondents (81 percent).

Following adultery was racism (74 percent); using "hard" drugs such as cocaine, heroine, meth, LSD, etc. (65 percent); not saying anything if a cashier gives you too much change (63 percent); abortion (56 percent); and homosexual activity or sex (52 percent) rounded out the top five behaviors most often considered sinful by Americans.

Other behaviors with significant moral objections included reading or watching pornography (50 percent); swearing (46 percent); sex before marriage (45 percent); harming the environment as a consumer (41 percent); smoking marijuana (41 percent); getting drunk (41 percent); and not taking proper care of your body (35 percent).

Not surprisingly, religious people are much more likely to believe in sin, with 94 percent of Americans who regularly attend religious worship services saying they believe in the concept of sin. The number drops to 80 percent among those who do not attend service, although the percentage is still a large majority.

But perhaps more surprising is the differences in the belief of sin between political divides. Political conservatives (94 percent) believe there is such a thing as sin. The number remains high among moderates (89 percent) but then drops to 77 percent among political liberals.

Among Christian traditions, Protestants are more likely than Roman Catholics to include most of the 30 different behaviors as sin. The biggest differences included gambling (50 percent of Protestants compared to 15 percent of Catholics); failing to tithe 10 percent or more of one's income (32 percent to 9 percent); getting drunk (63 percent to 28 percent); gossip (70 percent to 45 percent); and homosexual activity or sex (72 percent to 42 percent).

However, Catholics are more likely than Protestants to believe that not attending church is a sin (39 percent to 23 percent).

The percentage gap widens when evangelical Christians are stacked against the general American population. Ninety percent of evangelicals believe getting drunk is a sin, compared to 35 percent of all other Americans. Likewise, 92 percent of evangelicals believe sex before marriage is sinful, compared to 39 percent of the general U.S. population.

But only a minority of evangelicals believes it is sin to work on the Sabbath, not attend church, drink alcohol, dance, play the lottery, watch an R-rated movie, or not tithe 10 percent of their income to church or charity, according to Ellison Research.

Furthermore, the study reveals how Americans weigh sinful behaviors differently. While 81 percent feel adultery is sinful, only 43 percent say that having sexual thoughts about someone to whom they are not married is sinful.

Although 41 percent of Americans believe getting

Moses was High All Right...On the Mountain

In case you haven't heard, Moses was on drugs. Yep, he was just some whacked out old man hallucinating about the burning bush and about God on Mt. Sinai, because of partaking of the bark of the acacia tree. Before you think I am speaking tongue-in-cheek, these are serious allegations from a psychology professor at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. This professor also claimed that the Israelites used mind altering substances as a basic part of their worship. After reading these claims and other outrageous musings from Breitbart.com, I noticed a glaring absence in the professor's statements: PROOF. No biblical, archaeological or historical proof was ever mentioned in the article. Here are some exact words or phrases found in the article: (1) "Israeli researcher claimed" (2) "a professor...wrote" (3) "very probable" (4) "was probably". There was, however, one emphatic statement made, by the "researcher", concerning himself: he has "dabbled" with drugs. Hey, that's where I prefer to get my historical bible truths: from a psychology professor who is also a self professed drug user.

He does give one tidbit of "proof" as to the drug use of Moses and Israel by referring to some obscure and irrelevant example about some modern day tribe in the Amazon that uses drugs in religious ceremonies. He never bothers to close the cultural, linguistic, geographical and time gap between the Old Testament Israelites and the modern day Amazons. He then recounts his own spiritually based religious visions while on a similar drug used by the Amazons which, once again, must be proof positive that Moses did drugs.

drunk is sinful, only 14 percent believe drinking even a little alcohol is a sin. Gambling is a sin to 30 percent of Americans, but only 18 percent feel this way about playing the lottery. And while 65 percent feel doing hard drugs are a sin, only 41 percent say this about marijuana.

"We can see numerous inconsistent patterns of thought and belief throughout the responses," Ron Sellers, president of Ellison Research, stated. "For instance, over a third of all Americans believe failing to take proper care of their bodies is sinful. Yet far fewer believe tobacco or obesity are sins – even though medical science consistently shows using tobacco and being overweight are two of the most harmful things they can do to their bodies."

Other inconsistencies highlighted by Sellers include:

- Over four out of 10 evangelicals believe it is a sin not to tithe, but other studies show relatively few evangelicals actually do so

- The Roman Catholic church consistently teaches that sex before marriage, abortion, pornography, and homosexual activity are sins, yet as many as half of all practicing Catholics do not personally define each of these as sinful.

Sellers suggests that religious leaders look at the findings of the study and compare it to their own teachings.

"If your church is teaching that working on the Sabbath is sinful, or that drinking or abortion or gossip are sinful, it's likely that many of your own people don't agree with you," Sellers said.

"Leaders need to understand why this is, so they can figure out how to respond. Rather than just teaching, they need to discuss these issues with people – getting feedback on why so many of their own people differ with them may help them understand how to reach those people more effectively with their teaching," the Ellison Research president commented.



www.miniedition.net

miniedition

Joseph Harris

This professor must be a Democrat or the Israeli equivalent, since no one in the media has bothered to call his hand on his obvious lack of proof. You know the old liberal media philosophy: if it slams God or Bible truth, then it must be true, and don't you dare question it. This discovery was considered "news" and most internet search engines will give several references to this discovery.

This is great news for fornicators, adulterers, liars, thieves and all other commandment breakers. If Moses was just some dope head, then the Ten Commandments would naturally be the ravings of his wild and drug influenced imagination and therefore, not authoritative (the truth is, God authored the Ten Commandments, not Moses). The woods are full of doubters, skeptics and atheists. They never seem to tire of attacking God and the Bible, but I get weary when their opinions are treated as gospel truth with no challenge.

Joey Harris publishes new book

The Rediscovery of Common Sense is now available. The book contains 77 writings arranged under the chapter headings of Personal Responsibility, Family: Abortion, Homosexuality, Moral Deterioration in Culture & Society, Patriotism, Politics, Church: Religion, Ethics and Education.

It can be purchased online through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Target, or the Publisher, Publish America.

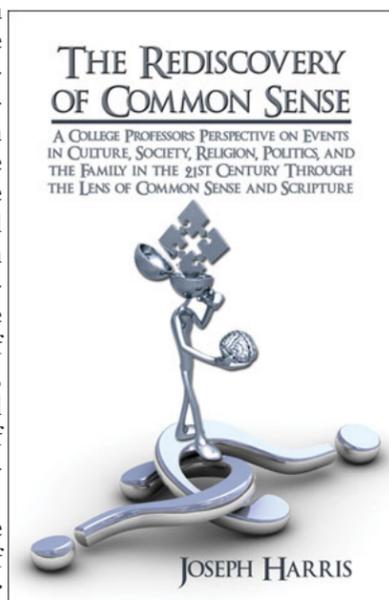
From the back cover:

"The Rediscovery of Common Sense is a look at American culture, society, religion, politics and the family in the 21st century through the lens of common sense and scripture.

The breakdown of the family, the moral deterioration in society, excessive corruption in politics, and the lack of ethics in the religious realm all have one common factor: they are directly linked to the abandonment of common sense, based on a literal interpretation of the Judeo-Christian scriptures.

Written in the style of some of today's popular conservative pundits, it contains the clarity of Rush Limbaugh, the common sense of Ann Coulter and the boldness of a biblical John the Baptist."

NOTE: The original price of the book is \$19.95, but if you would like to order it from the author, it will be \$15.00 and that will include the postage when it is mailed to you. Mail your check to: Joseph Harris 77 Neil Road Ellisville, MS 39437.



When God Doesn't Guide

I have prayed and prayed for God to guide me. He hasn't answered my prayer. I have asked God for direction for my life. He has not given me direction. What do I do? Gideon (Judges 6) asked God for a sign that the fleece to be wet and the ground be dry. Then he asked for the ground to be wet and the fleece dry. God replied as Gideon had requested. What happens when all is wet and all dry at the same time? What do I do? Here are some things we can do as we ask God for leadership when there seems to be no immediate answer:



• Look for change. Many times prayer changes me. Many times prayer changes circumstances; even those people around me. There may be movement in the condition I find myself. New insights do occur when we are open to the presence of the Living God.

Leave It To Cleaver

• Read and reread the Scriptures. The Bible is the guide for my life. It is authoritative for my journey. It is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path. There is no human condition the Bible excludes. I will find more than a hint in the Book of books.

• Enquire of spiritual mentors. Some people are good guides. They are spiritually sensitive to your journey and will give you Godly and sound counsel — not "Here's what you need to do now" kind of advice.

• Keep on asking. God is interested in your well being and the well being of His Kingdom. God is not annoyed at your asking direction of Him. He is honored when we truly ask direction from Him. Ensure it is His direction we seek rather than blessings on our escape plans when we are in trouble.

Go-ahead given to lawsuit against teacher for 'anti-Christian diatribes'

OneNewsNow - A lawsuit accusing a public school teacher of making anti-Christian remarks during a history class will move forward.

Chad Farnan, a sophomore at Capistrano Valley High School, claims his Advanced Placement European history teacher, James Corbett, made hostile remarks toward Christianity. The Christian student cites an incident from last December when Corbett stated that conservatives do not want women to avoid pregnancies because that interferes with God's work. In another statement, recorded by

Farnan, the teacher claimed that when people put on their "Jesus glasses," they cannot see the truth.

Jennifer Monk is with Advocates for Faith and Freedom, which is representing Farnan. She agrees with the judge who denied the school's motion to dismiss the case. "At stake really is a Christian student's rights to go to public school and be able to express their faith and hold their faith without being discriminated against in the classroom," she argues.

Monk says the judge clearly saw there was probable cause for the case to proceed, but attorneys for the school argue the teacher in question is a 35-year veteran educator whose statements were taken out of context. But Corbett's statements are "definitely not passing remarks," says Monk.

"These are anti-Christian diatribes by this teacher pretty much almost every day in class," says the attorney. In addition to the comments about "Jesus glasses," says Monk, "he's said things like 'Aristotle argued that there has to be a god. Of course, that's nonsense.'"

The case should be heard by the end of the year.

ORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY RESULTS. SOAR: TWO THOUSAND EIGHT JULY 3-5 - GRAND HYATT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



SOAR Registration- \$60 Per Person by June 11
First Session Begins @ 2:00 pm, July 3
Final Session Ends @ 12:00 pm, July 5

You may register online at www.discipleguide.org and follow the links for "conferences." To use snail-mail, download a registration form and mail along with your check to the DiscipleGuide Conference Ministry office.

Make your hotel reservations by calling the Grand Hyatt by June 11 @ 800-233-1234 or direct at 210-224-1234 or follow the online link at our website. (No rooms available for July 1.) Special SOAR Grand Hyatt Room Rate is \$105/night.

Call the DCM office with any questions @ 501-513-3726 or triciak@conwaycorp.net.

Be sure to check out the all new SOAR SERVES at our website! We want your group to SERVE! All service projects are July 3 @ 9:00 am.

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ORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY RESULTS.

SOAR: TWO THOUSAND EIGHT



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