

The Mississippi Baptist

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South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference set for March 31

The 2009 South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference is set for Tuesday, March 31 and will be held at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi. The church is located on Highway 84-15 miles east of Collins and 10 miles west of Laurel.



Vern Holifield

Senior Adult Commission Director Vern Holifield is encouraging all the senior adults in our churches to attend this annual event.

The music is worshipful and entertaining, the food is the best, the fellowship is the greatest and the spiritual blessings are priceless.

This year's meeting features a mes-

sage by Bro. James Schoenrock, pastor of Shepherd Drive Baptist Church, Euless, Texas. Schoenrock is former director of missions for the BMA of America and has served as moderator of the Texas Association, the BMA of America and served in a number of denominational positions. He and his wife Wilma live in Mesquite, Texas.

Music will be provided by the Big Creek Joy Singers and other Big Creek talent directed by Big



James Schoenrock

Creek Minister of Music Bob Barger. Barger is a talented guitarist and vocalist and will also be performing. The afternoon session will feature the music of the Southern Gospel group "Stubborn Love".

The noon meal will be provided by Mac's Fish House. It will be Catfish, Chicken and all the trimmings. The members of Big Creek Church will provide coffee and finger food prior



Stubborn Love

to the beginning of the day's activities.

These conferences are always enjoyed by those attending and include door prizes and other activities during the day.

Churches are encouraged to preregister by calling Bro. Holifield at 601-729-3198 or the church office during morning business hours at 601-763-8100.

The program will begin at 9:30 and end about 3:00.

Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi

Bryan to Receive Kellar Award

Dr. Philip R. Bryan will be the recipient of the BMA Seminary's 2009 Kellar Award. He currently serves the seminary as President Emeritus and Professor of Biblical and Theological-Historical Studies. Dr. Bryan is scheduled to retire from full-time teaching at the end of the Spring 2009 semester and will receive the award during the Seminary Friends Dinner in Branson, Missouri.

The Seminary Friends Dinner is held annually in conjunction with the meeting of the BMA of America. This year, the dinner will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 5:15 p.m. in the Cooper Creek Room of the Branson Convention Center, with reservations being \$20.00 per person. There will be a reception time at the end of the dinner when you can personally greet Dr. Bryan.

Dr. Bryan has served faithfully in several positions of leadership throughout the BMA. These include pastoring churches and teaching at Jacksonville College (Texas) and Southeastern Baptist College (Mississippi). Dr. Bryan also taught at the California Graduate School of Theology. He served as BMA Seminary Dean from 1967-1975, and

again from 1979-1983. He served as President from 1983-1999. He has served as a full-time professor since 1999.

Dr. Bryan's educational background includes earned degrees from Jacksonville College (A.A.), University of Oklahoma (B.A.), BMA Seminary (B.D.), and Baylor University (M.A. and Ph.D.). He and his wife Janice have three sons: Jeffrey, Joel and Jon, and six grandchildren.

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. Philip Bryan



Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, will host the 2009 South Mississippi Senior Conference on March 31. The program will begin at 9:30 am and end around 3:00 pm. The church is located on U.S. Highway 84 15 miles east of Collins and 10 miles west of Laurel.

Guest Editorial

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DOOR

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)-- The door to your Sunday School class or department communicates a great deal more than you might think - especially to a first-time guest, a preschooler experiencing separation anxiety, or parents entrusting their newborn to your care. Even regular attendees get a message.

The Sunday School experience begins at the door. Is your door a safe and inviting threshold to Bible study and fellowship? Here are some tips for making your door a vital part of your small group experience.

1. Station a person at the door. Nobody should come through your door without being greeted

by a person (preferably someone with a sincere smile). In adult groups, this may be a greeter, but in preschool and children's rooms, this will almost certainly be a director or teacher. Make each person feel special. For adults, that might mean offering a firm handshake; for preschoolers and children, you will want to kneel and greet them at eye-level. This tip requires one primary commitment: Get there early!

2. Consider the view from the door.

What does the parent or participant see from the door? Is it a room that is ready for learning and fellowship? In a preschool or

children's room, are activity choices available on the tables? In an adult room, are the chairs mostly facing away from the door so that late participants can slip in without being stared at? If available, is there a poster or picture related to the unit or lesson mounted near the door? In a baby room, does the view communicate "bright, clean and safe?" Stand outside your door and ask, "What do my eyes tell me about this room?"

3. Consider the smell from the door.

In an adult room, nothing is quite as inviting as the smell of fresh coffee, pastries or fruit. In a preschool room, there is noth-

ing quite as uninviting as the smell of . well, you know. My wife and I teach pre-K Sunday School and we never have a problem with separation anxiety on the days we're baking cookies in the toaster oven.

4. Consider the paperwork at the door.

Nothing is quite as awkward as the "Baptist paperwork" we subject guests to when they visit our churches, so make this paperwork as easy as possible for the new person. Never ask a guest to fill out a visitor's form. Instead, ask the greeter or a class member to a) fill out the form and b) introduce the guest at the appropriate time. Coming to class for the first time should not resemble going to a doctor's office for the first time.

If you have a sign-in sheet as

part of your preschool/children's security system, don't assume a new parent knows how to fill it out. Be available to walk them through the process.

5. Remember Jesus at the door.

We all know the verse, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me". (Revelation 3:20). Each man or woman, boy or girl, who comes through the door of your Sunday School classroom may be doing so in response to God's gentle knocking at the door of his/her heart. What if it is the first time - or one, last time? Coming through the door may be a much larger step of faith than you can imagine. Do all you can to make it a great experience.

Doing and Getting

Change is part of the life process. Positive lifestyle requires that we accept change; we must be on friendly terms with it; we must welcome it. "If you keep doing what you have always done, you will keep getting what you always got." Change has meaning on many levels - personal, familial, social, congregational, national, and even global. The Old and New Testament Scriptures speak to this with life stories of eternal force. I know I must change my behaviors. Here is a personal list of some things I am working on to welcome change into my life:

I want to change my relationship with my family. Jesus told me to love my neighbor as my-

self. Certainly my family is my closest neighbor. I must be the one to bring change to my family. I cannot allow the old feuds, fusses, and fights to continue. I must model a temperament that is family constructive; support my family so that they can embrace Christianity and its lifestyle; and participate in positive extended family events.

I want to change my relationship with my money. Money cannot rule my life nor can it be the primary focus. Money will not assure me of health, happiness, or hope of heaven. I am asking the Lord to make me ever more generous with the abundance He has placed in my hands. After all, it is His money



Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

He has loaned me. I want to be a good banker in this terrible economic time.

I want to change my relationship with my church. My congregation is not simply a place where "they" come from time to time. I am one to "them" because of my commitment to Christ and my public profession of faith through baptism. I have taken an oath - a sacred oath - to

walk the path the saints have trod. That's right, even with the few sore-heads who occupy the pews around me, and that is what the others say of me when I sit in the pew in front of them! My local church is the hope of the world. There is no other!

I want to change my relationship to myself. I want to become an authentic Christian. I want to demonstrate character and integrity in the routine processes of living. I want to be a prudent and caring neighbor and citizen. I want to be intentional in my leadership: seek responsibility; encourage people; pursue excellence. I want to inspire positive leadership within my small circle to demonstrate servant

leadership in actual performance.

I want to change my relationship with my Lord. I must intentionally seek Jesus' presence to do this. I must be unhurried in my time with God. I will of necessity have to ponder - think deeply about - the Scriptures to discover life guidance. I am going to have to move on to comply with the Spirit's leadership.

If I keep doing what I have always done, I will keep getting what I always got. Lord Jesus, help me to change. It is Your resurrection that shows me God is able to raise the dead. Regenerate my old self in the image of Your newness.

Experts give churches safety pointers

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--In light of the shooting death of Illinois pastor Fred Winters March 8, some might ask, What's a church to do?

Winters, pastor of First Baptist Church in Maryville, Ill., was preaching when a man walked down the aisle, pulled out a gun and fatally shot Winters in the chest.

Two security officers at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where Winters had earned a doctor of ministry degree, offered suggestions to help other congregations stay safe.

"People go to church for a couple of real good reasons," said Bob Perkins, director of safety and security at the Louisville, Ky., campus. "They want to know who God is and come to

know God. But they also want to be safe," which Perkins described as a subconscious matter that church leaders need to address.

While most church crimes do not involve violence or shootings, congregations should have a plan for handling an attack like the one at First Baptist Maryville, Perkins said. People who want to bring guns into a church can do so with relative ease, Perkins admitted, but noted that certain measures can reduce the risk of harm.

A security officer should sit in a strategic location in each service so that he can scan the crowd and spot anything out of the ordinary. The security officer should position himself between a potential shooter and the pulpit, Perkins said.

If someone approaches the platform unexpectedly during a service, the pastor should take cover.

"If someone out of the blue just walks up the aisle in the middle of a sermon or the middle of a service, we don't know how to act," Perkins said. "Somebody has to be aware that this is the potential for a problem, and they've got to avoid that problem. Anybody is a potential victim, and they have to be ready for these types of situations."

All security planning must begin in deacons meetings, staff meetings and other committee meetings, Perkins said.

"There needs to be emergency planning," he said. "How do you exit your pulpit? Where do you go? Who gets between you and

the assailant? Those types of things have to be discussed."

If a church doesn't know where to begin its security planning, Perkins and James Sharon, Southern Seminary's supervisor of safety and risk management, offered several suggestions. First, ask a local law enforcement agency to do a security survey and suggest an emergency plan. Most police and sheriff's departments are happy to provide such services, they said.

A great way for churches to detect potential threats is to appoint a member to head up security. Often a police officer in the congregation is the ideal person for such a job, although other interested members can serve effectively as well, Sharon

and Perkins said.

They recommended two helpful books: Ron Aguiar's "Keeping Your Church Safe" and Jeffrey Hawkins' "An Introduction to Security and Emergency Planning for Faith-Based Organizations."

While security planning is important, they reminded congregations that in almost all instances, churchgoing is a safe activity.

"You're still safe to go to church," Sharon said. "The chances of you getting killed in a car wreck going home is 100 times greater than the chances of getting shot in church Sunday morning. Always plan, but don't panic because there's a

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One Smooth Stone...

by Kirk Shelton

DiscipleGuide's Pastoral and Church Growth Consultant

A shepherd boy stood before the challenge of the giant. The boy had one shot to make a difference. He selected one smooth stone and with great precision defeated Goliath. Like that one smooth stone, a timeless truth communicated in a timely fashion can slay giants.

We Need Genuine Renewal and Revival

(Article No. 1)

renewal, n.--- to begin again; to make effective for an additional period; to restore or replenish; to bring back to an original state of freshness and vigor; to revive and become new again; to regain what has been lost.

Perhaps nothing is more sorely needed among God's people today than genuine renewal and revival. Living in a culture that dismisses God, despises His unchangeable Truth, and disregards His church has taken a toll on our passion and our purity. The temptation to redefine God and reinterpret His Word has proved to be irresistible, rendering many churches impotent and many Christians unfruitful. In some instances entire denominations have lost their way resulting in "maintaining the machinery" rather than maximizing ministry.

What can be done when such a situation develops in a church or a denomination?

Where is genuine renewal and revival found? It goes without saying that the source of power, life, and vitality can only be found in God and His Word. But most believers, pastors and leaders included, do not understand that four levels of renewal must be experienced in a specific order for genuine, lasting renewal to take place. Like Nero fiddling while Rome was burning, if we do not understand this important process of renewal we are just "fiddling around" with all of our spiritually vacuous activities.

Four Levels of Renewal

The first level of genuine renewal is personal renewal. Anytime God did something significant in Scripture He began in the heart of a single believer. In Ur it was Abram who was singled out to begin an adventure of following God's call. It was in Moses' heart where the very first seeds of deliverance and freedom were sown by God. And it was in the citadel of Susa where Nehemiah's heart became burdened to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Each of these men, along with countless others through the ages, lived with the passion and pain of a Godplanted vision—a vision that never comes through committees, boards, or

strategy sessions. Revival and renewal is always personal. It works from the inside out, never from the outside in. For renewal to come to a family, a church, or a denomination, it has to first be birthed by God in the heart of His servant.

The second level of genuine renewal is mission renewal. Once a heart has been ignited by God with a renewed passion for following Him, there then comes a renewed sense of mission and purpose. According to James 1:8, the double-minded (literally, two-souled) man is unstable in all of his ways. When we are in need of personal revival and renewal, our spiritual vision is clouded and we become two-souled, vacillating in our loyalties and compromising in our commitments. Personal revival will always lead to a clear view from Mount Perspective where we see, unclouded, our mission and purpose in the world.

The third level is corporate renewal. Genuine revival is contagious! All God needs in any group or church is one heart set on fire by the Spirit. Nehemiah's passion was infectious, and God used it to bring a corporate revival among those living among the ruins of Jerusalem. For decades they had lived impoverished, downtrodden, and plundered lives. But it all changed within fifty-two days once genuine, heartfelt renewal and revival had come — revival that was first personal, then missional, and corporate.

The final level of genuine renewal is structural renewal. Many churches and Christian organizations are not structured for growth and effective ministry. It is a fact that with every 40-45% growth there must be structural changes to accommodate the growth. Yet most churches and ministries are attempting to do God's work with the same old worn-out methods and strategies. Jesus gave a word picture of this problem when He taught about new wine and old wineskins. His teaching did not advocate a rejection of truth for the sake of expediency, and neither must we. Truth never changes, but methods do. Baptists have long struggled with knowing the difference between theology and methodology. When

methodology becomes our theology, we are no different from the Pharisees and other religious leaders of Jesus' day.

Yes we are in need of genuine renewal today in our lives, our churches, and our denomination. But true, God-sent renewal will not begin with structural change or corporate initiatives. It will begin in individual hearts of God's people. If we attempt to initiate renewal by reinventing our mission we will only be chasing the wind. If we think it will come on a corporate level first, we will vainly wait for a visitation that will never happen. If we try to restructure our way into renewal, we only risk frustration and turf wars. But if we will humbly let God begin a work on the personal, heart-felt level, we can see the kind of renewal and revival so often described in God's Word. It is renewal that begins in individual hearts that will rekindle our sense of mission and vision, revive our churches and denomination, and guide us to do whatever it takes to structure our ministry for maximum ministry impact. Never has genuine renewal been needed more than now.

Expert Church Pointers

from page 2

report in the paper."

Additional security steps include:

-- Investigating all suspicious activity, including vandalism to church property and obscene or threatening phone calls, Perkins said.

"You want to try to detect and deter any type of threat before it gets into the physical phase," he said. "It doesn't depend on what size church you are, you need to be thinking about security systems. You need to be thinking about closed circuit TV and recording things that are happening."

Cameras and security systems are affordable even for small churches, Perkins said, noting that a congregation can install a

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

Good News

The official report that Southeastern Baptist College has been recertified for accreditation for ten more years was given in the meeting of the Association for Biblical Higher Education, February 19-20, 2009. This progress was made possible by the Lord's blessings and the dedicated, hard work of the administration, faculty and staff in their willingness to go the extra mile to get all the work done. I appreciate each of them.

HEADWAE

On February 26 the Mississippi legislature recognized an outstanding faculty member and student with a banquet in Jackson. Mrs. Cellie Scoggin was selected as honor teacher and Bro. Timothy Buchanan was the honor student. Dr. Aaron Parker, Academic Dean, attended the meeting with them.

SBC Choir

The choir performed on March 3 for the South Alabama Association at Belle Fontaine Baptist Church. They enjoyed that trip and were well received. Other performances have been set for this semester and a few others are being planned.

We appreciate the interest in

the choir and ask for your prayers that the Lord will use it for His honor. Mr. Glenn Padgett is doing a good job as director.

College Day

The College Day for Spring semester is set for April 14. This is a day of fun, food, inspiration, and information about the college. It is attended by groups from private schools and by pastors, parents, and prospective students who are able to attend on that day. We would like to urge anyone interested to attend if you can. It would help us to plan for the day if you could let us know that you are planning to attend.

Memorials

Since the last report, several contributions have been sent to the Southeastern Baptist College Foundation in memory of Mrs. Miriam C. (G. H.) Gordon.

Also, some books were donated to the A. R. Reddin Memorial Library in memory of Dr. Jentry Warren Bond and a gift was sent to purchase library books in memory of Mrs. Julia Cauley.

We appreciate these who have remembered loved ones in this manner. Our prayers are with these families.

motion-sensitive closed circuit TV system for less money than they might think. Because most criminal acts are carried out by people who have previous contact with a church, cameras can deter criminals from coming back for a violent attack or burglary.

Anyone who threatens a church or spends time on the church property without attending church activities should be reported to security or law enforcement officials, Perkins said.

-- Keeping a record of all incoming phone calls. A digital phone system that automatically records callers' identity is particularly helpful, Perkins said.

"There's a term that's always kicked around in law enforcement: situational awareness," Sharon added. "You need to be aware. It's amazing, when you go back in crimes we've worked, how many times there's a hint before a crime. The majority of crimes that happen, somebody had knowledge beforehand."

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Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

You Gave A Blessing

January of each year is our Special Emphasis period for raising additional operational funds. The need is always great and our churches have always responded by meeting our need. 2009 was no different. You gave and you gave not just the money, but you gave a blessing.

How blessed we are as a people when needs are shared and God meets those needs through His people.

Thank you for your generosity. May the Lord's blessings be yours.

Below is a list of those who gave and the amounts. If you find an error in the amount listed for your church, please let us know and we will correct it.



Don Brown
Editor

2009 Special Emphasis Results

Antioch Baptist Church, Taylorsville	\$150.00
Bethel Baptist Church, Seminary	\$49.07
Bethel Baptist Church, Louise	\$50.00
Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso	\$500.00
Community Baptist Church, Poplarville	\$123.00
Cypress Creek Baptist Church, Brooklyn	\$50.00
First Baptist Church, Mantachie	\$50.00
First Baptist Church, Bay Springs	\$787.25
First Baptist Church Of Calhoun, Laurel	\$500.00
First Baptist Church Of Shady Grove, Laurel	\$150.00
Grace Baptist Church, Pass Christian	\$19.50
Helton Road Baptist Church, Theodore	\$100.00
Hopewell Baptist Church, Fulton	\$54.00
Hopewell Baptist Church, Laurel	\$200.00
Lebanon Baptist Church, Ellisville	\$130.00
Lee's Chapel #2 Baptist Church, Picayune	\$73.11
Liberty Baptist Church, Belzoni	\$150.00
Lifepointe Baptist Church, Hernando	\$100.00
Little Creek Baptist Church, Perkinston	\$77.51
New Bethany Baptist Church, Seminary	\$36.00
O'neal Road Baptist Church, Gulfport	\$98.00
Oak Grove Baptist Church, Mantachie	\$90.00
Oak Grove Baptist Church, Lucedale	\$49.94
Palestine Baptist Church, Bay Springs	\$50.00
Paramount Baptist Church, Wiggins	\$300.00
Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel	\$160.00
Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis	\$500.00
Riverside Baptist Church, Ellisville	\$100.00
Shiloh Baptist Church, Ethel	\$107.25
Spring Hill Baptist Church, Laurel	\$67.00
Spring Hill Baptist Church, Ocean Springs	\$25.00
Temple Baptist Church, Biloxi	\$29.00
Ten Mile Baptist Church, Perkinston	\$36.00
Washington Baptist Church, Neely	\$25.93
Westover Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	\$250.00
Zion Baptist Church, Anguilla	\$800.00
Total	\$6037.56

Recent Obituaries

We are saddened by the news of the passing of the two ladies listed below. Our prayers are for the Lord to give grace and comfort as only He can.

Mrs. Gladys Adams

Mrs. Gladys Adams, a member of Scotland Baptist Church, Bentonia, passed away February 5, 2009, at the Oasis Health and Rehab Center. Funeral services were held on February 7 at Stricklin-King Funeral Home in Yazoo City. Burial was in the Scotland Baptist Church cemetery.

She is survived by two sons, Charles "Bud" Adams and his wife Janis of Bentonia, Dr. John Adams and his wife Darla of Mantachie; two daughters, Dot Irwin of Bentonia and Jo Ann Doublas of Bentonia; 13 grandchildren; 22 great grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; and a son-in-law, John Bodie of Cary, Mississippi. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Rena Bodie; husband, Melvin Adams; and son-in-law, Dave Irwin.

Mrs. Mae Loden

Era Mae Loden, 80, died Monday, March 9, 2009, at the Countrywood Plantation Assisted Living Facility in Mantachie. She was born May 10, 1938, in Alabama. She was a member of Greenwood Baptist Church.

As a pastor's wife, she was instrumental in her husband's pastoral ministry in churches in Texas, Mississippi and Alabama. She was a beautician and enjoyed seamstress work, crocheting and cooking for others, especially fellow pastors' families. She was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Most of all, she loved the Lord.

Services were held at the McNeece-Morris Funeral Home Chapel in Fulton with Bro. Gary O'Neal, Bro. Gary Smith and Bro. Vern Holifield officiating.

Survivors include her husband of 63 years, Bro. John Loden of Fulton; one daughter, Mary Beachum (Roger) of Fulton; two grandchildren, Debra Bailey (Jeff) and Eugene Beachum (Amy), both of Fulton; four great-grandchildren, Darbie Bailey, Reid Bailey, Eva Beachum and Jonathan Beachum.

She was preceded in death by

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



Valedictorian's free-speech case goes to court

OneNewsNow - A student's free-speech rights are being defended in federal court.

Liberty Counsel is pursuing the case at the Tenth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. General counsel Steve Crampton is defending Colorado high school valedictorian Erica Corder. Along with 14 others, Corder was permitted to make a 30-second statement at the graduation ceremony.

"And because she mentioned Jesus Christ, she was told immediately after the service that she would not be receiving her diploma along with the other students, but had to meet the principal who then required that she sign an apology, with which she did not agree, as a condition for receiving her diploma," Crampton explains.

Corder wrote the apology under compulsion, and Liberty Counsel then sued the school on her behalf. Crampton says it is unconstitutional to restrict public speech, especially since it was student-initiated.

Evidently, says the attorney, "there's basically no such thing as private speech at a graduation ceremony -- even for a valedictorian who earned the right to address her classmates."

Crampton calls it a clear case of viewpoint discrimination.

an infant son, Donnie Eugene Loden; her parents; one brother, Odis Blackmon; and one sister, Edith Loden.

The family requested memorial donations may be made to the Greenwood Baptist Church Building Fund, 4810 Dorsey-Evergreen Road, Fulton, MS 38843.

Christian club still fighting for recognition 8 years later

OneNewsNow - A Christian club in Seattle is still going through the courts to gain recognition.

The case has been in the courts since September 2001. Nate Kellum, an attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF), explains. "Kentrige High School has refused to grant official recognition to a student club called Truth Bible Club because [the club] wants to require their members to hold certain religious beliefs," he says.

The school insists that the club follow its anti-discrimination rules, which could mean atheists, agnostics, Muslims, and other faith groups would have automatic membership if they wanted it.

"According to the Ninth Circuit's logic, were they to become members and therefore they could effect policy of the group," Kellum points out. "And Truth stands by very sound Christian, biblical principals in what they try to promote with their club, and if they're not allowed to do that then there is absolutely no use in letting them have a club."

ADF is filing an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court.

Church seeks music director

Calvary Baptist Church of Purvis is looking for a music director. If interested call Bro. Milton Bourn (601-794-8253) or Bro. Ralph Hatten (601-794-7779).

Mississippi Baptist

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True Friends Are Hard To Keep

Proverbs 17 says that a friend loveth at all times. Proverbs 27 states that friends are like sweet perfume to the heart. It is so true. There is something wonderful and sweet to have a true friend. But the key to a true friend lies in the first proverb above. A friend loves you at all times. It is hard to find someone like that in today's society. Most people will spend all of their lives, or a great deal of it; never having a true friend. If you do, count yourself blessed. You need to write a card, or tell them next time you see them how much they mean to you.

Most people think they have true friends. Most people will

say they have lots of friends. I would use the word "acquaintance". A true friend is there for you in the good times and the bad times. But the single greatest determining factor of who is your friend, would be that they "give to you unselfishly of themselves". Many friendships today are dysfunctional. I am only your friend as long as you meet a need of mine. There are too many needy people in our society. I will call you a friend as long as you are able to do something for me. If you cannot, we are finished.

Here is an example of a manipulative comment. "I like you so much because you make me



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

laugh". They meet a need in your life. There is nothing wrong with a friend making you laugh. However, what happens when this person doesn't make you laugh? Do you like them when they are depressed? Do you like them when they are sick and unable to do things with you? Do you like them even when they

on occasion may hurt your feelings? The wounds of a true friend are better than the kiss of the enemy. But in this situation, you only like this person for what they can do for you.

We live in a society where so many people are increasingly selfish and self-centered. Two people become friends because you do things for each other. I'll do this for you, but I expect you to do this for me. A true friend will do things for you regardless of payback. Of course, a true friendship should not be one-sided. People should mutually support each other.

But a friend does not make you laugh, go out to eat with you, come over to your house just so they can get something back from you later on. I want to do things with you because I like you. I don't bring you something to eat because I am expecting something back. I do it because I want to. I like doing things for you. That is a friend.

Women are better at establishing these kind of friendships than men. Men always have to have a reason to be friends. They nearly always have to have a situation in common. We play golf together. We were in the army together. We work together, go to school together or something like that. The friendship has to be based on something like this. It cannot be based upon the fact that I just enjoy you. Even away from our common shared involvements, I still like you as a friend. A true guy friend will check up on you. He will ask how you are feeling. He will ask how your wife is doing. He is not afraid to share some of his concerns with you when he is troubled. Most men never have one of these true male friends, and that is sad. Some people have friends just so they won't have to go out and eat alone.

With the increase in dysfunctional families, children are not learning healthy relationship components. They take their dysfunctional behaviors and implement them into friendships as well. Young people today call each other horrible names in the disguise of teasing. They hang out with friends as long as

things go well, but they are not there for their friends when there is sickness. They would never think of taking some food over to a sick friend's house. They'll just catch up with you later when you are feeling better. But you see, that diminishes what true friendship is about. The capacity to care about someone else at a deep level and desire to do things for them. There is no hidden agenda. It is done out of love. Jesus didn't need anything from anyone. He did things for his friends because he loved them.

So, what does a true friend look like? A true friend is found in the word itself F-R-I-E-N-D.

They are FORGIVING. Eventually one or both of you will say something that hurt the other one. A true friend doesn't dump you and move on. They work it out and practice forgiveness on one another.

They are RESTORING. A true friend restores their friend. They don't run away when the times get hard. They understand everyone falls. They try and help them and pick them back up. They look for ways to restore the friend with a book, or CD or spend time on a special outing.

They are INTERCEDING. A Christian friend will pray for you and with you. Praying for one another is the tie that binds you so close together.

They ENCOURAGE you. They don't gossip about you to other friends. They don't criticize you all the time. They don't find fault with you and see themselves as better than you. A true friend always makes you feel good and believes in you even when others don't. They believe in you, even if you don't believe in yourself.

They are NURTURING. They cause you to grow in your life. Spiritually, physically, emotionally they challenge you to grow stronger.

They are DEVOTED. A true friend is there for you at the hospital, the divorce court, the funeral or just sitting with you in your living room. You can count on them. Pray for God to send you true friends. They are precious to your life. Most Americans will never have one.

Man walks to D.C. in support of public Ten Commandments displays

WASHINGTON (BP)--Scott Teague, a funeral director and former Marine from Mountain City, Tenn., is on his way to the nation's capital to make a point. He is walking 440 miles to Washington to ask Congress to pass a law allowing the Ten Commandments to be placed in public schools and government courthouses.

"My mission is to bring awareness to our great nation and to remind all that the Ten Commandments are the historical foundation of American law, moral values and code of conduct," he told his local newspaper. "These commandments were not written by any religion but by the finger of Almighty God, our great creator and heav-

enly Father, to be followed by everyone."

Teague, 51, left the Johnson County Courthouse in Tennessee Feb. 5 and expected to arrive in Washington in early March, hoping to speak with some members of Congress. He has the support of many people in his local community, the newspaper said, and he believes the current economic turmoil gripping the nation is a result of an abandonment of God's principles.

Before he left, Teague, a member of the Gideons, spoke at a gathering of Baptist pastors in his hometown.

"This goes to the heart of our identity as Americans and the right of a local community to

express its values," Jack Roddy, director of missions for the Watauga Baptist Association, told the Baptist & Reflector newspaper. "We have been one nation under God and earnestly wish to keep our footing on this foundation. The walk is one man's extraordinary effort, yet so many seem to be identifying with it. In fact, some are actually joining him along the way."

A nearby newspaper, the Bristol Herald Courier, ran an editorial saying they were refreshed to see people "eager to live their beliefs and to openly act upon them," but claimed that Teague's mission runs counter to the U.S. Constitution.

"Millions of Americans, including members of this editorial board, find strength and solace in their faith. But the strength of this nation is rooted in its respect for all religions, or none, and for its refusal to honor one religion over others.... Congress cannot pass a law upholding the Ten Commandments as the right words to be installed in courthouses and publicly funded schools," the Herald Courier said.

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Donald Sims

Bro. Donald Sims is available for pastoral work and pulpit supply. He has been a BMA pastor for 20 years and may be contacted at 601-528-3295.

BMAA Letter of Representation Now Online

Bro. Doyce Whitten

Chairman of the Enrollment and Finance Committee

We are happy to announce to BMAA churches that we now have an online form for you to use when registering for the national meeting. Just go to DiscipleGuide.org and click on the BMAA Letter of Representation link on the home page to access the form and enroll.

You will need to come by the enrollment desk to check in and receive your badges, name tags, etc. All monies are to be mailed to Bro. James Ray Raines as previously done, or you can take it by the enrollment desk.

We are praying that this will be a convenience for all of our churches that have computer online access.

ONE NEWS NOW.COM

BMAA Equipping Center Locations and Schedules

Bethel Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi

June 20-21, 2009

It All Rises and Falls on Leadership

Magnolia Baptist, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

June 21, 2009

Sunday School Materials That Work!

Mississippi W.M.A.

Mrs. Ruby Bynum, President
43 Bear Pen Creek Rd., Laurel, MS 39440
601-428-1901

Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443
601-729-5638

Northeast District Missions Banquet

Forty-seven Northeast District WMA ladies and twelve visitors met at Greenwood Baptist Church on February 10, 2009, for our annual missions banquet. Candles, candies, hearts, and red tablecloths carried out the meeting's Valentine theme.

After a congregational song, "My Jesus I Love Thee," we voted to continue to support the Moral Action Commission as our project.

Christy Steele blessed us by singing "Common Garments". Bro. Gary O'Neal then read from Matthew 13:1-9 and challenged us not to quit on God. Be faithful to the tasks God gives, and God will determine the harvest.

Bethel Baptist Church, Fulton, will host our annual ladies retreat on May 2 from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. with registration beginning at 8:30 A.M. The speaker will be Diane Spriggs, editor of the Baptist Trumpet, from Hensley, Arkansas. Set this date aside to be renewed and encouraged.

President Patti Harlowe
Reporter Beth Haden

GMA Girls

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

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

Thanks for your help at GMA Camp

I would like to express my appreciation to all the churches and individuals that made food contributions to the State GMA Camp Snack Shoppe. For the short time that we were there we made over \$790.00 for the Homestretch Mission Project. This could not have happened had it not been for all the donations of food items. Thanks to each of you that helped in any way it is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank Mrs. Krystal Kuykendall, Mrs. Sue Smith and Mrs. Tyanne Roche for their faithfulness to help with preparations to get the Snack Shoppe ready to open for service by 11:00 AM. These ladies remained faithful until the last thing was loaded and the room cleaned before we left.

We will be looking forward to next year with plenty of chicken salad, nachos, chili and cheese and dill pickles. You would just have to be there to believe the amount of dill pickles those young girls ate.

Mrs. Shirlene Smith will have a complete report of the finances, be watching the paper for that report.

Thanks to the counselors that work so faithful to educate these young ladies that will be the leaders in our churches in the future. We need Godly young people to take the places of the leaders of today. Please make that a part of your daily prayers that God will raise up these young people for His honor and praise. Thanks again to all that worked so hard to make this camp the success that it was.

Donna Lawrence
1621 Hildreth Road, Columbus, MS 39702

Unity or Purity?

The leavening of America, God's churches, the family and society has been underway for decades. In a sense, the leavening process has always been around as Satan has constantly tried to dilute and weaken the people of God and their influence in the world. Paul said in I Corinthians "Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?" The nature of leaven (yeast) is to permeate and spread throughout the entire lump of dough, causing it to rise. It only takes a small amount to change the entire lump.

What disturbs me does not always disturb others. In this fast paced age of change, I am disturbed by the change in attitude and philosophy of the average person. I am increasingly finding myself in the minority on issues of Bible doctrine, politics, and ethics. Yet, I haven't changed. I stand where I stood 27 years ago when surrendering to God's call to preach and teach his Word. I see the danger in a little leaven. The depraved nature of humanity leans toward sin and the path of least resistance and will exploit every inch given, hence the saying, "Give him an inch and he'll take a mile" is an absolute. Maintaining purity requires effort.

In the religious, political and cultural battles of today, purity has taken a beating. However, purity is essential. Consider the following: when given a choice, would you rather drink pure water or filthy water? Would you prefer a virgin for a spouse or a promiscuous person? Would you choose dirty clothes over clean



www.miniedition.net

miniedition

Joseph Harris

clothes for your body? Would you rather have a clean politician (I know this is an oxymoron, but bear with me) or a person of character as your representative? Any sane person would choose purity in these and other situations. But when the choice of purity may result in conflict, stress, and division, people will choose unity over purity 95% of the time.

Look first at purity in the local church. Concerning immorality in a church, it will usually be tolerated, when the other option is conflict through confrontation.

It is not easy or pleasurable to confront sin and demand purity from ungodly church members who may also be family members, or influential in the community or big givers in the offering plate. Yet, the small amount of leaven will spread throughout the lump, affecting the whole. When we are more concerned with the smile of men, then

we will have the frown of God and when purity goes out the window for the sake of unity, then God's churches lose the power and blessing of God.

Consider purity of church doctrine. Baptism and the Lord's table have taken a beating with pastors and churches caving in to the plea for unity rather than purity in the practicing of these ordinances. Only a scriptural New Testament church of the Lord Jesus has the authority to baptize new believers and administer the Lord's Supper and guard His table from non-members, unbelievers and the immoral and profane. These ordinances belong to the Lord, and he has given their care and stewardship to His church, which is local and visible, for their proper administration. Rather than stand for purity and cause contention, many are satisfied to sacrifice purity for unity, forgetting that unity with God through purity is primary. When a church adopts a purpose driven, seeker-sensitive philosophy, their main priority will be to please men and not God. Here is a novel idea: How about a God driven, Spirit sensitive church. It just might work.

Look also at purity in church associations. Ecumenism has taken hold and so many are willing to turn loose of Bible doctrines that "divide" in order to fellowship with those who disagree in doctrine. After all, we are all children of God, and why can't we just get along and love one another? True love often requires hard choices. Amos the prophet asked "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" They can walk, just not together, because those not of like faith will have different beliefs, different standards, different philosophies of ministry, different goals and different ways to achieve those goals. When pastors and churches do not associate and cooperate with others who are not of like faith, they are accused of being hateful and having no love for the brethren. Loving the brethren is not the issue, purity is the issue. Besides, we are commanded to love God before we are commanded to love others and maintaining purity is loving God. We are never commanded to fellowship with those who show a contempt for God by disobeying his Word. As Dr. Curtis Hutson used to say, "There are some things that cannot be sacrificed on the altar of love."

Purity of the Word of God is important. Concerning the Word of God, I believe in the purity of His Word. I believe the scriptures were divinely inspired and provisionally preserved. God divinely inspired the writers in the original manuscripts and provisionally preserved these writings in the original languages of the Hebrew Masoretic text and the Greek Textus Receptus. I use the 1769 edition of the 1611 King James version, not because of "Thee's" and "Thou's", but because I believe it to be a faithful translation from these texts. The primary issue is not the English translation as much as it is the original language

continued on page 7

National WMA project nominations due

Any project nomination for this year must be sent in writing to the Project Promotion Committee by April 1, 2009, and must be submitted by a local WMA group. We have received one nomination thus far.

Also, if anyone has lost a WMA member in death during the past year, please send the name and church to Lisa Hudson as soon as possible to be listed in the program at the National WMA Meeting. Her Email address is lisawmapres@yahoo.com.

A Word from National VP

The WMA personal report form is no longer in use. However, the importance of personal service has not been diminished. In these trying economic times, WMA ladies need to remain faithful in service to the Lord. Ministering to others is a major part of WMA work. There are many opportunities to meet the needs of people in the church, in the community, and "unto the uttermost" through our BMA missions program.

Personal service involves many areas starting with personal prayer and Bible study. It also includes personal soul talks with others, visits, phone calls, flowers, cards, letters, or food to the sick or bereaved, and invitations to church. Benevolence (in the form of money, food, or physical help) is one of the main areas of personal service.

WMA ladies can provide help in many ways such as collecting canned goods, cooking, personal shopping, child care, yard work, house cleaning, and transportation. Look for opportunities to engage in personal service to the following in your church or community: Widows or widowers, Retired people on fixed incomes, Single parents, Those who have lost their jobs, The bereaved, College students, The handicapped, The homeless.

The ladies of our local WMA groups can make a difference in these trying times.

Brenda Hornaday,
National WMA First Vice President

MiniEdition

from page 6

texts. The purity of His Word is essential since doctrine and practice are based upon the authority of scripture. "The words of the Lord are pure words". Psalm 12:6

Purity in the home. Purity must first be established in the heart, otherwise, the outward appearance is a sham. However, after purity is a reality inward, further instruction is still needed concerning outward conduct and appearance. With standards of dress, entertainment choices and others issues in contemporary culture, most churches and parents opt for unity and peace in the congregation and the home rather than the unsettling, stressful conflict which comes from requiring standards of purity. Modern apparel is more important than modest apparel. A sloppy, unkempt, casual appearance has replaced a dignified, neat and tidy appearance, yet what is on the outside, usually reflects the attitude of the inside. Degrading movies and videos desensitize values concerning right and wrong over issues of sexuality, ethics and the role of men and women in the home. Ultimately,

standards or lack of standards, go back to the home and the example set by the parents. Godly parents face intense pressure in the world and often from their church, over disagreement of standards, and parents too often give in to the pressure of their children, their church and other family members, who accuse them of being too hard.

Consider purity in society. Homosexuality and immorality have become more and more accepted through gradual exposure. To address someone's sexual lifestyle is considered an attack on the individual. Homosexuality and immorality are both destructive to all who participate, ruining self esteem and respect, destroying families, and can end in death from disease. To warn of self destruction and promote sexual purity honors God and helps people experience full, and more satisfying lives. Sexual immorality affects everyone in society as a whole through broken homes, wounded children and adults and increased financial costs, resulting from choices that damage health.

May God give us the resolve to stand and be more concerned about maintaining unity with God, as we preach and practice purity in a culture that has an ever growing contempt for truth.



CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
Dr. John M. Adams, Director
P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863
Email - fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com



John Adams

Begin Preparation now for the National Day of Prayer, May 7, 2009.

The National Day of Prayer's mission is to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer, mobilizing the Christian community to intercede for America and its leadership in the seven centers of power: Government, Military, Media, Business, Education, Church and Family.

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observation held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. It exists to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer. The National Day of Prayer is based on our understanding that this country was birthed in prayer and in reverence for the God of the Bible.

Our CAC trustees and Direc-

tor encourage each Mississippi Church to make plans to participate in this special prayer day. Here are some suggestions:

- 1) Announce the day via bulletin, church signs, mailouts, etc.
- 2) Have a National Prayer Day Committee or individual make preparations for this day.
- 3) Open your church building or fellowship hall all day for prayer by your congregation and community.
- 4) Arrange for prayer at the town or city hall, courthouse or flagpole in the AM or at the noon hour.
- 5) Pray specifically for: the nation, soldiers, President of the United States, Governor, Senators, Representatives, Mayor, Judges, Sheriff, Police Officers, Pastors, Teachers, Schools, Colleges, Missionaries, Associational Leaders, youth, and our church pulpits.
- 6) Pray for peace, for Jerusalem, for Israel and for our Lord

to come.

7) Pray and pray some more - prayer is the need, not a social gathering, not a meeting, but prayer where God meets with his people.

You may contact this site for additional information and resources: www.ndpf.org.

Highlighted Churches that support the CAC

Midway First Baptist, Sumrall New Bethany, Seminary Oakland, Vicksburg O'Neal Road, Gulfport Oak Grove, Mantachie

Highlighted Trustee of the Month

Rev. Ed Duvall is married to Patricia and they have two (2) children. He is a missionary/church planter at Homestretch Baptist Church, Cleveland, Mississippi. His hobby is coaching kids sports. God bless Bro. Duvall and his family.

Prisoners Bible Crusade Report for year 2008

Paul E. Lee, Director

On May 4, 2008 The Prisoners Bible Crusade was 35 years old. In that time we gave 536,717 Christian books and study materials, of which 183,137 were whole bibles. I became full time Director in Jan. 2000. In those 8 years I have personally witnessed 300 people get saved and traveled 197,417 miles. Chaplains reports 15,566 peoples saved.

For the year 2008 we have given free to prisoners 6,074 English Bibles; 1,300 Spanish Bibles; 425 New Testaments; 540 John/Romans; All Study Books 11,852, 2,808 Study helps, all totals to date in 2008 is 22,999.

These were sent into 55 prisons. Chaplains report 1,328 people saved (15,566 since 1/1/2000). 8 new Chaplains requesting Bibles for the 1st time. I have traveled 13,840 miles, I have personally seen 18 indicated professions of faith in Jesus Christ, visited 26 churches, 25 associations meeting & 28 prisons, taught 60 Bible study classes, taught 3 volunteer worker's class. I have preached 18 sermons in churches, 12 in prisons. PBC's Evangelistic Team has conducted 11 worship services in prisons in 2008. Since 1973 we have given 183,137 Bibles; total for all bibles and materials: 536,717

PBC's Evangelistic Team began a worship service once a month in the South Mississippi Correctional Facility in Leakesville. The team requests your prayers for 2009 as we carry the Gospel message into the prisons and jails in our area.

I would be happy to speak to your church or group about this prison ministry or the one day Bible Study Helps Seminar for your church or association. Again, our thanks for your prayers and support for this Bible Ministry. For with out them this ministry could not do what God raised it up to do, give His Word to prisoners behind bars across our land.

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.

Church to hold revival

We at Corinth Baptist Church will be having our Spring Revival starting Sunday, April 5th through Wednesday, April 8th. Sunday morning services will begin on regular schedule with lunch at noon and a service following. The services will begin at 7:00 PM on Monday through Wednesday. Bro. Ed Steele of Hattiesburg, MS will be the guest speaker.

You are invited to join us for these services

Virgil T. Ainsworth, pastor

Sharon, Laurel, to host Gospel sing

Sharon Baptist Church of Laurel will host a Gospel Music Sing on April 11 at 7:00 pm featuring The Myers Family. The church is lo-

cated at 4346 Sharon Road north of Laurel. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Church to hold ordination service

O'Neal Road Baptist Church of Gulfport invites our sister churches to join us on March 20 for an ordination service. We will ordain Bro. Charles Carpenter to the Gospel ministry with the service beginning at 7:30 pm. The church is located at 14049 O'Neal Road, Gulfport. For more information call 228-832-2408.

J.T. Byrd, pastor

Harmony meeting

The March meeting of the Harmony Association was held Friday Night March 6th at Central Baptist Church in Corinth. After a welcome and special music the evening message was brought by Bro. Doug Wilson from Isaiah 29:

10-14 entitled Blinded Spiritually.

The meeting then went into business session with a roll call of the churches with 7 churches present and a total of 43 present. Bro. Bob O'Neal was introduced as the new pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Tupelo. The minutes and treasurer reports were given and approved. Bro. Josh Allread, program chairman of the Harmony Encampment gave a report of church camp to be held at Tishomingo State Park June 22-29.

Bro. Tim Nall stated a meeting of the missions committee will be held to discuss possible future mission projects, in conjunction with adjoining associations. Next month's meeting will be held at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Tupelo on April 10th with Bro. Charlie Holmes, president of BMAA Seminary as the guest speaker.

Bro. Tim Nall, Moderator
Tony Marolt, Reporter

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BMA OF MISSISSIPPI MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

4226 HIGHWAY 15 NORTH, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39440 - (601) 428-8616
Rayburn Freeman, Director



Missions Debt Reduction Envelops

March 31, 2009 will conclude the Missions Debt Reduction program. To assist with your giving to this program Debt Reduction Envelops have been inserted into this issue of the Mississippi Baptist. This will help begin our Special Mission Emphasis which is during the months of April and May. These envelopes can be used during our special emphasis giving whether it is to the general fund or Debt Reduction. If additional envelopes are needed, whether it be an individual or church, we will be happy to provide them.

Girl's Missionary Auxiliary and Homestretch Mission

The State GMA project for the past year was 25% to the general fund and 75% to Missionary Ed Duvall's work fund. The 25% project fund plus special offering for the general fund has at the time of this writing reached \$1,834.12; the 75% for Ed Duvall's work fund has at the time of this writing reached \$3,873.82. The Women's Missionary Auxiliary sponsoring and working with the Girl's Missionary Auxiliary has done a wonderful work accomplishing much.

The finances are appreciated, but the most beautiful and precious of the entire camp was being able to witness these young ladies enjoying the fellowship of one another working their way up the ladder of spiritual maturity.

With the help of the State WMA and GMA Missionary Duvall will be able to begin construction on new facilities a lot earlier.

Homestretch has experienced encouraging growth for the month of February. Through the help of BMA people participating in the Debt Reduction Program their financial obligation on property indebtedness is steadily decreasing. We are now looking at plans for a building up to 6000 square feet. However, there is yet a lot to accomplish before engaging in actual construction that will take place on a beautiful 10 acrea location on the east side of Cleveland.

Also on the personal and physical side, Bro. Ed is yet experiencing some kidney discomfort, but the doctors are giving him more hope of improvement due to a new drug. Continue to pray for Bro. Ed, his family and Homestretch Mission.

Wilderness Baptist Church

Several months ago Faye and I were privileged to visit with Wilderness Baptist Church of Vicksburg and Pastor Bob Conrad. Bro. Conrad was generous enough to ask me to preach the evening message, needless to say it was an evening enjoyed. While there we were blessed with the opportunity to meet a young lady by the name of Victoria (Tori) Ross. Tori is thirteen years of age

and saved, she is very active in her church through several ministries.

Tori, like most all young Christians is very anxious to see her friends and others saved, she will appreciate your prayers in behalf of her effort. Due to her interest and enthusiasm Bro. Conrad is anxious to see the development of her many talents for the Lord. He shared with me Tori's interest in missions and has agreed for her to serve as missions contact person to Wilderness. We were also excited to see Tori attending the state GMA camp at Camp Garaway in Clinton, Mississippi on March 6 and 7. At the camp Faye and I were able to have our picture made with Tori which is being published in this issue of the Mississippi Baptist. Don't forget to pray for Bro. Bob Conrad and Wilderness as they continue to make progress in growing a strong BMA church.

Special Missions Emphasis

The Spring season is almost here and with it comes April and May, our Special Emphasis time for state missions. Missions Emphasis is like the Spring season. In Spring the air is filled with the fragrance of the Dogwood, Honey Suckle and other wild flowers bursting forth into new life. Spring season is always encouraging as we are reminded that from the dead (winter season) comes new life.

As a boy being reared on a farm, Dad and I would begin plowing the fields early in preparation for spring planting. Without the convenience of a tractor the plowing was done with a Mule and 8" turning plow. As the ground was being turn over, the Red Breast Robins,

Mocking Bird, Threshers and various other birds would surely be there feasting on worms and bugs that were being turn up. The sound of their singing and chirping was a song for the soul, it yet lingers in my heart. Missions like Spring bringing new things, hope, and excitement, are blessings from God as a reminder that He is in control.

LifePointe at Hernando, Bro. Kevin Marr Missionary

On January 24, 2009 LifePointe Baptist Mission was organized into a New Testament Baptist Church. We appreciate the pastors and deacons who were there and served on the organizational presbytery. Missionary Kevin Marr has worked long and hard to bring LifePointe Mission to the point of becoming a strong Baptist church preaching the good news.

LifePointe was organized with 36 charter members and in consideration of her location she will surely grow. In honor of the request from LifePointe the presbytery elected Dr. Kevin Clayton to bring the organizational message. Dr. Clayton reminded LifePointe of her commission and challenged to the lost while in the same message gave them encouragement.

Bro. Marr went off missionary support December 31, 2008, and will be going off as missionary status March 31, 2009, the same date that will close our Debt Reduction emphasis. Their building and property indebtedness is steadily decreasing which will enable them to amortize their payment after March of 2009 at much lower monthly payment. Pray for LifePointe and the Marr family.



GMA officers & Sponsors



Kevin Clayton & Missionary Kevin Marr



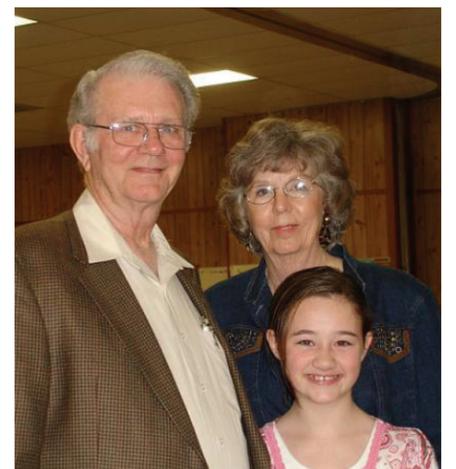
Organizational prayer at LifePointe Church, Hernando



LifePointe, Hernando church family



Missionary Ed Duvall receives the Project check from the State GMA's at the recent GMA retreat at Camp Garaywa in Clinton.



The Freemans with Tori Ross of Wilderness Baptist Church, Vicksburg.