

Darby Beal Mississippi Baptist

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Ed Stetzer To Speak At 2012 Pastors Conference

Ed Stetzer will be the featured speaker for this year's Pastors' and Laymen's Conference at the national meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association. The conference is set for Tuesday, April 17th, at 10:00 a.m. at the Jackson Convention Center in Jackson, Mississippi. Travis Sellers, Pastor of Worship Arts at Antioch Baptist Church of Conway, Arkansas, will be leading worship for the event.

This will be Dr. Stetzer's second time to speak at the annual conference having served as featured speaker last year in Wichita Falls. "I am tremendously excited about having Ed back with us again this year," said Kirk Shelton, Pastoral Ministries and Church Growth Consultant for DiscipleGuide Church Resources. "We have never received a response more positive than what was received to Dr. Stetzer last year. We knew we wanted to get him back."

DiscipleGuide, in cooperation with BMAA Missions, has asked Dr. Stetzer to speak on the topic of "Church Multiplication." On Tuesday afternoon he will be available to visit with pastors and sign books in the display area.

Dr. Stetzer has planted, revitalized and pastored churches, trained pastors and church planters on five continents, holds two masters degrees and two doctorates and has written dozens of articles and books. He is one of the most travelled speakers serving the Lord's Church today. In addition, he is a contributing editor for Christianity Today, a columnist for Outreach Magazine and Catalyst Monthly, as well as serving on the advisory council of Sermon Central and Christianity Today's Building Church Leaders and is frequently cited or interviewed in news outlets such as USA Today and CNN. More importantly, he is a pastor, husband, and father.



Ed Stetzer

Albert Mohler to be Guest Darby/Beal Lecturer Topic: *The New Hampshire Confession of Faith*

The 2012 Darby/Beal Lectureship will be held April 3-5, 2012 at the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) Theological Seminary Dorman Memorial Chapel in Jacksonville, Texas. Guest lecturer will be Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr., President of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

Dr. Mohler will be lecturing on sections of the New Hampshire Confession of Faith (NHCF), which is the basis of doctrinal statements ascribed to by both the Baptist Missionary Association of America and the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

A community-wide venue for the Wednesday night lecture will be Buckner Chapel on the Jacksonville College campus. Tuesday 10:00 a.m., Dorman Memorial Chapel, BMA Seminary, NHCF—Item III—Fall of Man; Thursday 10:00 a.m., Dorman Memorial Chapel,

BMA Seminary, NHCF—Item IX—God's Purpose in Grace; Wednesday 7:00 p.m., Community-wide service, Jacksonville College, NHCF—Item VIII—Repentance and Faith



Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr.

Dr. Mohler earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, a Master of Divinity degree and a Doc-

tor of Philosophy (in systematic and historical theology) from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He has pursued additional studies at the St. Meinrad School of Theology in Indiana and conducted research at the University of Oxford, in England. He and his wife Mary have two children, Katie

and Christopher.

Dr. Mohler's ministry experience includes pastoring or staff positions in several Southern Baptist Churches and editing *The Christian Index*. Mohler is a prolific writer and recent works include *Culture Shift: Engaging Current Issues with Timeless Truth* and *The Disappearance of God: Dangerous Beliefs in the New Spiritual Openness*. He currently serves as editor-in-chief of *The Southern Baptist Journal of Theology* and is a widely-sought columnist and commentator. He has been quoted in the nation's leading newspapers, appeared on national



Armen and Dorthy Darby

news programs, and been called "the reigning intellectual of the evangelical movement in the U.S.," by *Time*.

In addition to his presidential duties, Dr. Mohler serves as a professor of Christian Theology. He provides a national commentary via podcasts called "The Briefing," which is a daily analysis of news and events from a Christian worldview, and "Thinking in Public," a series of conversations with the day's leading thinkers. Dr. Mohler's mission, as stated on his web site, is "to address contemporary issues from a consistent and explicit Christian worldview."

As an SBC leader, Dr. Mohler has served in several offices and on many commit-

BMAA Letter Now Online

by Grant Barnett,
Chairman of the Enrollment
and Finance Committee

BMAA churches now have an online form to use when registering for the national meeting. Just go to DiscipleGuide.org/BMAALetter to access the form and enroll.

When you arrive at the na-

tional meeting, go 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 may take it to the enrollment desk.

We trust this will be a convenience for all our churches that have access to the internet.

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI
SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

March 27, 2012

9:30 AM

Big Creek Baptist Church

Soso, Mississippi

(10 miles west of Laurel on Highway 84)

For More Information Call 601-763-8100 or 601-426-3293

continued on page 2

Commission on Senior Adults

Kenneth Flynt, Interim Director
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440

It's almost here, the annual gathering of Senior Adults for all over the Pine Belt will take place March 27, 9:30 a.m. at Big Creek Baptist Church, 10 miles west of Laurel on Highway 84. It promises to be a blessed time in the Lord. I hope it will turn out to be a day of spiritual uplifting among those attending. Let us pray that all who attend will go away enthused, encouraged, and enlightened.

It is time to call in the number attending from your church in order that our food preparer will know how many to prepare for. Mac's Fish Camp will once again provide the noon

meal, so please call one of the following numbers as soon as possible. Deadline is March 20. The telephone numbers are 601-763-8100 (Big Creek Baptist Church); 601-729-3198 (Dot Holifield); and 601-426-3293 (Bro. Don Brown).

The registration fee remains at \$15.00 and this covers the noon meal. It would be good if churches would pay the small registration fee for each of their seniors.

Preachers who will have completed 50 years in the ministry in 2012 will be presented a plaque of appreciation.

Pastors are encouraged to remind their senior adults of this annual meeting and to come with them if possible.

The theme of this conference "When We See Jesus" should thrill our hearts and cause us to look forward to His coming. It could be soon!

The North Mississippi Senior Adult conference will meet May 1, 2012, with Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi. More about this later.



flight, the head flight attendant usually says something like this, "We know you have many choices when you fly, but we appreciate your flying with us."

We think there are many good reasons for our senior citizens to attend these conferences planned especially with them in mind. Let's look at a few of these reasons:

1. The speakers bringing messages from the Word.

2. The music is always uplifting and Bible-centered

3. The crowd - the influence of an unashamedly fundamental crowd will be evident, always joyfully greeting those who we have not seen for the past year.

4. The local church repre-

sented, members from congregations from across the area.

5. Changed lives - we can leave these conferences spiritually lifted and rejoicing in the Lord. Wouldn't it be great if we could feel the power of God together as we look forward to meeting Him in the air someday?

Yes, we can think these are a few good reasons why you should come to these conferences prepared just for you. We also will enjoy the good meal catered by Mac's Fish Camp.

Get a load from your church and head for Soso on March 27, to gather at Big Creek Baptist Church for a wonderful experience in the Lord. Plan to be there for the Senior Adult Conference on March 27 - Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, located on Highway 84, 10 miles west of Laurel.

Seminary Lectures

from page 1

tees that helped to shape Southern Baptist policy regarding moral and doctrinal issues. He currently serves on the board of Focus on the Family.

In 2011 Wayne and Elaine Beal of Jacksonville, Texas, endowed this lectureship series in honor of Mrs. Beal's father and mother, Armen and Dorthy Darby. Bro. Darby was a lifelong rancher in Cherokee County, Texas,



and was a faithful deacon at First Baptist Church of New Summerfield, Texas, for many years.

BMA Seminary is pleased to host the second annual Darby/Beal Lectureship. The seminary's mission is to provide accredited theological education to qualified individuals by seeking to equip them for Christian service and leadership roles. The seminary supports the educational needs of the Baptist Missionary Association of America and other groups who share a like commitment to the authority of Scripture.

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.

Tombigbee Association

The Tombigbee Association met March 8, at Hopewell Baptist Church, Fulton. We had 41 messengers present with 6 visitors. There were 10 churches represented. After special music was brought by Josh Awtrey, we heard a message by Bro. Mike Reeves. A gracious meal was served by the host church.

Moderator Matt Hudson
Reporter Debbie Franks

Harmony Meeting

The March meeting of the Harmony Association was held Friday, March 9, at Westview Baptist Church in Oxford. After Bro. Ricky Johnson called the meeting to order the meeting opened with a hymn and welcome by the host church. After special music the message was brought by Bro. Tommy Shroads of Westview Church, entitled God's Judgment and Mercy.

Business was then conducted. A roll call of the churches showed 4 churches represented with 29 present and 10 visitors. Reading of the minutes was read and approved. Financial report was

Why Attend?

Why should you, our senior adults, attend the South Mississippi Senior Adult conference March 27 at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso?

On many flights across the country today, at the end of a

Pastors and the IRS bogeyman

by Dr. Jerry Newcombe
OneNewsNow

This is a critical election year. Some have said it may be the most important election in our lifetime. With so much at stake, how great it would be to hear from more pastors and priests, during these times when the government encroaches on more of our freedoms.

Some fear that to preach on the moral issues of the day, like abortion or marriage, might be construed as "preaching on politics." But they are moral issues addressed in the Bible. But I recognize that elements of our culture may have turned them into political ones.

I think part of the reason many pastors and priests are unwilling to speak out on "politics" (so-called) is because they fear the loss of their tax-exempt status.

I believe that the perceived threat is far more insidious than the actual threat. The dog's bark is much more prominent than the dog's bite.

I also believe there are some

not available and will be presented next meeting. The next meeting will be held at Bethel Baptist with the speaker Bro. Bobby Elliott. Bro. Elliott gave a report on Freedom Hills Church. Westview is to be commended for the food, drink and fellowship provided prior to the meeting.

who stoke this fear. For example, Rev. Barry Lynn (a liberal minister) of Americans United for Separation of Church and State sends out letters like clockwork during election years, warning pastors to not say anything too political or he'll be sure to tell the IRS on them.

For example, during the last president election, Barry Lynn sent out a letter with the headline: "Election Season 2008." He stated, "Dear Religious Leader....The First Amendment protects the right of all Americans, religious leaders included, to speak out on religious, moral and political issues." So far so good.

He goes on more ominously: "However, houses of worship...are barred from endorsing or opposing candidates for public office and may not intervene directly or indirectly in partisan campaigns. Any activity designed to influence the outcome of a partisan election can be construed as intervention. If the IRS determines that your house of worship has engaged in unlawful intervention, it can revoke the institution's tax-exempt status or levy significant fines on the hour of worship or its leaders."

I asked Mat Staver about this letter. He heads Jerry Falwell's law school and also Liberty Counsel, his own organization fighting for religious

liberty. He responded: "I think Barry Lynn's letter is bogus. It's basically full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

Really? Staver continued, "Look at Barry Lynn -- how many of these cases has he ever won? Zero. How many churches have ever lost their tax-exempt status since this was put into the IRS code in 1954? Zero. And in fact, if you have that kind of a track record, I don't think his advice is that strong."

Staver also clarified: "Churches can't corporately endorse -- say that First Baptist or First Presbyterian Church supports so and so for President or opposes so and so for President. But what churches can do is they can educate, they can give out voter guides that are objective that indicate what the position the candidates [have]." Churches may certainly proclaim what the Scriptures teach on the issues of our day.

Even still, a pastor can endorse a candidate -- when speaking only for himself, using this formula: "Rev. Joe Smith, First Church East. (For identification purposes only)." Many pastors I know wouldn't feel comfortable making such an endorsement in the first place. But legally they are free as citizens to do so.

The two hard-and-fast IRS

continued on page 3

The Problem With Youth

I have found that the older I get, there are still people who look at me as a youngster. Take the other day for instance. For some unknown reason, I found myself in a meeting and finding no suitable excuse to leave, had to stay throughout its entirety. It seems one of the duties of being a pastor is attending meetings, if for no other reason than making sure everyone fights fair. As meetings generally go, we soon found ourselves discussing topics that nobody understood and answering questions that nobody knew. Before I could tie a quick slip knot around my mouth, an opinion slipped out and all eyes began to bore down upon me. It soon became apparent that there were no facts to back up my opinion, but that was okay since we were in a meeting. However, one of the contestants...er..uh...men in

the meeting casually commented that "the boy had a right to his opinion even if it was stupid". I was seething inside. Imagine someone having the nerve to say that about me! Sure, the comment was stupid and I had that coming, but calling me a boy! That really struck a nerve.

It is the desire of every young boy to grow up to be thought of as a man. The problem lies with those older people aging proportionally to the younger people and therefore always viewing them as those rotten kids that used their backyard as a shortcut and trash bin. To be fair, I still view people that were my age now, back then, as being those geezers who were always yelling at me to stay out their yard. I guess that the only way to solve this problem is for people that are older than me to just quit

From The Mind of



Chuck Lee

aging. I hear they are making great strides in freezing people and one day unfreezing them and they come back the same age. It is called cryogenics or something like that. Whatever it's called, I'm willing to go ahead and try it out on some folks. I'm sure there will be some bugs to work out, but in the interest of science there must be some sacrifice. I would even be willing to nominate the candidates for the experiment, even though that would mean attending another meeting.

I am thankful there is still a generation of people that grew up in a different era of time where honor and respect and hard work were just a way of life. These heroes of mine can call me boy any time they feel like it. They have earned my respect and the right to view me through eyes of long ago. Hopefully their sense of value will not be completely snuffed out by generations to come. In fact, to do my part, I will now proceed to yell at the young kids slipping through the backyard because "they say it's closer". Hee hee! They probably think I'm an old geezer.

Pastors and the IRS

from page 2

rules are: A church cannot endorse a candidate, and they can't give money to a candidate. That's it.

I spoke recently with Dr. Robert Jeffress, senior pastor of the huge First Baptist Church of Dallas, author of *Twilight's Last Gleaming*. He said he often receives letters

like the one cited above from Barry Lynn. He views them as a badge of honor.

Dr. Jeffress told me, "Barry Lynn has been after me for years, threatening our tax-exempt status as a church. Look, what Barry won't tell you is there is never any church in history that has ever lost its

tax-exempt status. There has never been a church that's even been fined by the IRS for anything that the pastor has said in the pulpit."

But one church in upstate New York apparently lost its letter of tax exemption -- for one day only -- for placing an ad in 1992 saying that to vote for Bill Clinton was to sin against God. That's a far cry from what even bold pastors would want to do.

Dr. Jeffress fears that we have much more to lose from self-censorship in the pulpit than we do from any real threat by the IRS: "I think many pastors are shrinking from the role of being a prophet -- some because they don't understand the Bible. You know in the Bible, the prophets didn't just speak to God's own people; they spoke to ungodly rulers, ungodly cultures. And without stuttering or stammering said, 'thus sayeth the Lord,' and today pastors are called to be prophets as well."

Martin Luther King, Jr. said the church is the conscience of the nation. Too bad that that conscience is often silent nowadays when it is most needed "for such a time as this."

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

We have so many reasons to offer thanks to the Lord for the ways He provides our needs and the people and churches He uses to do that. Thanks to all who have helped financially and prayed for the ministry of the college. It is so evident that His hand is on Southeastern Baptist College.

Appreciation to Hopewell Baptist Church Brotherhood

One example of faithful support recently is a project taken by the Brotherhood of Hopewell Baptist Church, Laurel. They purchased a new sound system for the auditorium. Those who were at the annual meeting in October will know how much this was needed. We appreciate them for doing this for the Lord, along with Bro. Glenn Musgrove for his expertise in advising them on what was needed, getting a good price, and helping to deliver it and set it up.

Spring Festival

This special day to bring prospective students to the cam-

pus has been set for April 24th, beginning around 9:30 a.m. It will begin with a chapel service, then activities and lunch. Pastors or parents who can bring prospects that day are asked to contact the admissions office and let us know how many are coming. Information will be available about making application to begin their studies.

Greek Class Offered in Fall Semester

We are seeking students who would like to take a class in Greek for the Fall semester. Some have already signed the list. Anyone who is interested in the class should contact the admissions office and let us know.

Memorial Gifts.

Contributions to the College Foundation have been received recently in memory of Bill Dees, Jean Gardiner, Willie Mae Kennedy, and Jack Taylor. We do want to honor their memory by this recognition and our prayers for their families.

"Our Increasingly Immoral Society" Reality TV show's 'distressing message'

OneNewsNow - A conservative advocacy group is calling out another reality TV show for shamelessly sexualizing girls as young as eight years old.

The Parents Television Council's (PTC) Melissa Henson says her group is calling out Lifetime's *Dance Moms*, a series that follows a dance studio, young dancers, and their mothers. Last week's episode featured a group of young girls being taught to do a Las Vegas showgirl routine, "which is basically on par with a strip tease," says the PTC spokeswoman.

"They had the girls wearing sort of flesh-colored bikinis and doing a fan dance, which originated as a form of burlesque, as a form of strip tease," Henson

details. "And the fact that anybody would think that was appropriate for children, let alone to televise to a national TV audience, is pretty appalling."

She is particularly concerned about the message being taught to the girls featured on the show.

"There's no emphasis on cultivating talent; there's no emphasis on cultivating your intelligence or your education," she laments. "It's all about how you look, and that's a very distressing message to be sending to young kids."

Henson believes *Dance Moms* has unfortunately been overlooked because of a TLC show, *Toddlers & Tiaras*, that has also received criticism for sexualizing toddlers.

LifePrep Resource Kit CD New and Improved



Teaching Boosters will make preparation for teaching easier than ever before for the youth teacher! Teaching Boosters are things you would normally have to make extra copies of, or signs and activities you would have to make yourself. Now you can simply print them using the *Life Prep Resource Kit CD*. Coming the spring of 2012!

DiscipleGuide
CHURCH RESOURCES
1-800-333-1442, www.DiscipleGuide.org

Rebecca Watts, youth editor

Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Some Things Just Cannot Be Faked

Enthusiasm is hard to come by if it is not felt deep within the human heart.

I have been watching some basketball games recently and have been disappointed and amazed at the way some teams have ended their season.

Teams that have had so much promise, and seemingly so much talent, have ended their season with a 'whimper'. While they may have been giving it all they had, that is not the impression that many of their fans took away from the last few weeks.

The "Top 25" ranking of sports teams changes from week to week. A team that is Number One this week can lose its focus and lose two or three games and drop like a rock in the national rankings.

We fans are a goofy lot - If you are winning, we are your best friends and supporters. But if you disappoint us by losing and not living up to our expectations, then we want the coach fired, the players to be replaced, etc. Our enthusiasm depends a great deal on "what have you done for me lately".



Don Brown
Editor

Over the past few years it occurs to this writer that some of our meetings, conferences, workshops, etc., have met with little enthusiasm. It may be a matter of direction and dedication when "Remember when" seems to be a topic of regular discussion.

Yes, I too can "remember when". It is frightening to this writer when we have to "remember when" and not "rejoice now" concerning the Lord's work.

The church I pastor will celebrate 150 years as a New Testament Church on August 18, 2012. We are in the process of remembering some of the great moments in our history.

We are not relying on those past moments to carry us forward. We are enthusiastic about today and tomorrow.

As I think about the history of our great Association, I yearn to see the same enthusiasm exhibited today that we have experienced in the past.

It may be a matter of direction and dedication. If our direction is right and we are dedicated to the cause before us, then by all means, let's see some enthusiasm!

Marie Darst of Jacksonville, Texas, Passes Away

Marie Roena Britton Darst, of Jacksonville, Texas, died February 28. She was 92 years of age and the widow of BMA pastor Harry Walter (H.W.) Darst.

Mrs. Darst was a member of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Texas. She also served as corresponding secretary of the WMA of America for over 30 years, was very active in the GMAs. She also authored three books.

Survivors include a daughter, Marilyn R. Darst; two brothers, Don Britton and John T. Britton; three sisters, Erma Holley, Opal Wilkerson, and Dolorece Gibson; 4 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren and 1 great-great granddaughter.

Funeral services were held March 3 at First Baptist Church of Jacksonville with Dr. Larry Silvey and Vernon Lee officiating. Interment was at Resthaven Memorial Park in Jacksonville, Texas, under the direction of Autry Funeral Home in Jacksonville.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to BMAA Missions, P.O. Box 30910, Little Rock, AR 72260 or the charity of your choice.

Editor's Note: *The Darst's were wonderfully gracious and loving people. Bro. Darst was my wife's pastor at Liberty Church, Isola, Mississippi, in 1968 when we married. They were special people. Bonnie and I always looked forward to seeing Mrs. Darst at the Annual BMAA meeting. We would reminisce about their time in Mississippi and about the "knot" that her husband had tied.*



Marie Darst

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"I found you cactus pastor . . . Someone put it in the choir rehearsal room."

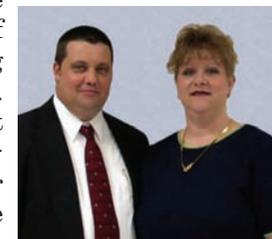
Missionary couple leaving for Ghana, West Africa

Greeting from your missionaries to Ghana, West Africa. We would like to take a moment of your time to share what God is doing in our ministry and to thank everyone that have been so kind to us during our time of deputation. Your hospitality has been such a blessing to us. We will be leaving for Ghana around the first of May and have been very busy packing and getting prepared for that journey. There are many things to think about when preparing to move to another country. We will be able to send more of our personal belongings than we once thought we could.

We would like to thank our supporters for their financial support and also for the prayers that are offered up for us daily. We appreciate everything that has been done on our behalf. It has been challenging to say the least to be a self-supporting missionary, but it has also been such a blessing to see God work and supply our needs through His people.

We are sure that there will be other challenges that we will face, but God is in control of everything and He will supply our needs. Please pray for our families and us as we prepare and leave for Ghana. We will be sending out newsletters via email to keep everyone informed about the ministry in Ghana. If you would like to be added to the email list, please send an email to brodale42@yahoo.com with your request to receive a newsletter. Again thank you for your prayers and support.

Bro. Dale and Celia Broom



Dale and Celia Broom

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Anders Lee

Bro. Anders Lee is available to fill the pulpit, revivals, DNow's, retreats, Summer camps or serve in whatever area the Lord leads. He may be reached at 901-343-3293 or leeboy1989@gmail.com.

Virgil Ainsworth

Bro. Virgil T. Ainsworth is available for preaching appointments, supply or as the Lord may lead. He may be contacted at 601-729-8059 or 601-577-0924.

Church seeks Hymn Books

Cypress Creek Missionary Baptist Church is seeking a few copies (even used) of Songs of Faith and Hope (Our copies are black limp binding). It was published in 1966 by Temple Music Co., Inc. in Nashville or Dallas. The songs were compiled by James Blackwood.

God Bless
Jolene O'Neal, church clerk
1487 Benndale Rd.
McLain, MS 39456



Mississippi Baptist

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The Journey of Faith

In Deuteronomy 1:6 the Lord spoke unto Israel saying, "Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount:" The journey of faith comes with challenges to obey. One could argue that the grace we have received is visible to others through our obedience to God's Word. Romans 1:5, "By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:" Churches plant churches in obedience to God's Word. Over and over again God has blessed my heart as call after call has come in from pastors who are revisiting this truth. I love to hear them say, "I believe our church can plant a church."



Larry Geraldson
Director

Complete Turn Around

Nothing short of a complete turn around has occurred in our associational work in the area of missions. A general fund that was very low and

depleting rapidly has turned around and headed upwards and is now hovering around \$90,000.00. My goal is to exceed \$120,000.00 and hold it there. I feel we need to maintain a reserve that will take the ripples out of the ups and downs in monthly contributions. I believe we can achieve this with a healthy Special Emphasis offering, which is scheduled for April and May. The monthly contributions had reached an all time low of \$18,000.00 in October but in the four months following, has averaged \$33,000.00. I have been asked the question, "Can we afford to keep adding missionaries?" After making some adjustments to our budget and eliminating some unnecessary expenditures, our average monthly receipts exceed our average monthly expenditures. This includes the two new missionaries we have already added. We are scheduled to interview another missionary candidate on March 15. I feel confident that we can add two additional missionaries, and remain under our average monthly contributions. It is not my desire to operate outside our means. However, it is my desire to maintain

momentum. Therefore, I am asking every church and local association in the BMA of Mississippi to consider adding a bit more to your monthly contribution. Even our missionaries have agreed to tighten their belt where necessary, to see new missionaries added. Adding new missionaries is always going to be directly impacted by monthly contributions.

Following The Leader

A number of you have commended me for this turn around. But the truth is that you are to be commended and I commend you to the Lord. It is by and through your leadership, in response to the Holy Spirit, both spiritually and practically that this turn around has occurred. It is your love of our Lord and your longing to live in obedience to Him that is leading our people onward. God bless you all. My prayers are constantly with you, as you lead our people forward.

Strategy Session

At our upcoming Missions and Evangelism Conference, on May 4th at Skyway Hills in Pearl, Mississippi, I will share a simple challenge and a simple 5 Step Plan for churches to reproduce. I am praying that God will give us 35 churches that will sign on to take this journey. If your church can attend, please email us at our new office email, missions@bmams.org.

Communication Is Essential

We have launched a new website for the Missions & RLF Departments and plan to launch sites for each missionary by the end of March. We will incorporate social media and dynamically link these sites together to better enhance our ability to communicate in real time. Please visit our new website at www.bmams.org. It is not complete. We have much more content to upload but you will find good information and we would love to receive your feedback. Keep checking back to get the latest news and updates.

NOTE: Missions & Evangelistic Conference Program listed on page 8 of this issue.

Missionary Reports for February

El Camino (The Way) - Bro. Estuardo reported 22 homes visited and 29 soul talks, 4 professions of faith and an average attendance of 97. His offerings averaged \$870.00 weekly. El Camino's mission project in Petal is averaging 10 and they had 0 professions of faith.



Estuardo Marriquin

First Hispanic - Bro. Elvis reports 23 homes visited, 15 soul talks, and 2 professions of faith and 2 baptisms. Their average attendance is 88. His offerings averaged \$1,100.00 weekly. Bro. Elvis continues to work with a new mission group in Tupelo which meets in the fellowship hall of South Green Baptist Church. The Tupelo mission is averaging 20 each week.



Elvis Garcia

New Heart Mission - Bro. Ray Boone reports 185 homes visited 68 soul talks, and 0 professions of faith and 2 baptisms. Their average attendance is 36 in AM attendance and 33 in the PM Service. New Heart's offerings averaged \$412.00 weekly.



Ray Boone

Caledonia Mission - Bro. Bob Burch has completed his training and has moved to the field. His sponsoring church is East Fulton Baptist Church, Bro. Gary Smith, pastor.



Bob Burch

Clinton Mission - Bro. Justin Rhodes has completed his missionary training and has begun serving on the field. His sponsoring church is Wilderness at Vicksburg, Bro. Bob Conrad, pastor.



Justin Rhodes

Special Offering Received

Below is a list of the offerings we have received in response to my request made at the Annual State Association Meeting, since my last article: Helton Road - \$100.00 Shady Grove, Tishomingo - \$2,150.00 Shiloh, Mt. Olive - \$679.00

Thank you to all those who have helped us get started in the right way.



Missionary Training Session recently held at Missions Complex in Laurel.

Prisoners Bible Crusade report

720 English Bibles; 140 Spanish Bibles; Bibles totals, 860; 0 New Testaments; All Study Books 500; 280 Study helps, totals for all Bibles and materials to date in 2012 is 1,640. These were sent into 5 prisons. Chaplains report 33 people saved (20,321 since 1/1/2000). 1 new Chaplain requesting Bibles for the 1st time in 2012. PBC's Evangelistic Team has conducted 4 Worship services in prisons in 2012. (Since 1973, 209,111, Bibles; 58,099 New Testaments; Total bibles & materials: 620,739.)

I have traveled 1,022 miles, I have personally seen 1 confession of Faith in Jesus Christ in 2012 (343 since 1/12000), & 6 Rededications; visited 3 churches, 8 associations meeting & 21 prisons visits, taught 19 bible study classes, taught 1 volunteer worker's class. Preached 4 sermons in prisons. Sent at total of 55 CD/DVD sermons into prisons. Isaiah 55:11 inside prisons!

Paul E. Lee, Director PBC, Phone: 601.798.6431

Email: pbcbpaul@datasync.com

**STOP TELLING GOD
HOW BIG YOUR
STORM IS.
INSTEAD, TELL THE
STORM HOW BIG
YOUR GOD IS.**

Fire Damages BMA Worker's Home

From BMAA Missions Office

An uncontrolled fire destroyed a part of the city of Pakse, Laos, on Sunday, March 4. In this southern region known as the Champasak District, a lone BMA worker shares her testimony:

"I am most thankful for everyone's concern and support. Yesterday still feels like a bad dream. Yet, I have peace, knowing that He allowed it all to happen. For sure, He has a purpose for it. I'm grateful for all our friends who lifted me up in this difficult time.

"The fire started 10 houses behind our building at around 5 p.m. From what I learned today, it was caused by a gastank that blew up. Fire destroyed the entire area of 35 homes, apartments and business establishments. The firefighters tried their best to put out the fire, but I think nothing prepared them to face such a strong fire. Two units to the left of our building is a seller of petroleum and oil products — that was the main factor why the fire went on until the wee hours of the morning.

"My friends, who run the travel agency, along with a local doctor were so swift to come to my rescue. I juggled phoning them while trying to salvage



whatever I could from the fire that got to the second floor so quickly, burning the wooden frames of the windows and the wooden door. With just two suitcases, my purse with my important documents, laptop and phones, they all helped me get out of the building. We also saved my bicycle. I think it was about 6 p.m. our time when I was in a safe place.

"We were at the market for about an hour until we saw that the fire was getting stronger and it looked to be coming in the direction of the market. My friends then thought we better vacate the area along with other people to make way for additional fire trucks to get thru quickly.

"My friends and I went back

to our building at around 8 p.m., hoping that the fire at that time was finally out. We were wrong. It was still causing havoc. What is amazing was seeing our building being the only one still standing when all buildings beside it and behind it were trampled (destroyed) already.

"Our landlady's husband was there beside us, and he was in tears. His home is two units up from our building. It was almost pulverized like all the other buildings. We stayed in the area until 10 p.m. when he told us that it was safe to padlock the outside shutter. We left, telling him I would be back early the next day to check on things.

"At supper, I had the opportunity to lead my friends to

Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White



How Do You Park?

I was driving down the road the other day listening to the radio. What was on was a talk show and they were telling that some places of business were requiring that their employees to NOT back in to their parking spaces. Seems they thought this indicated

that they were anxious to leave and it was not good for the morale of the other employees.

Hmmmm.... That set me to wondering about how people park at church. In a spot where they can get out quickly and be on their way to the local restaurant, or in a spot near other members so they know they'll be able to meet and greet.

Reminds me of something that happened to my cousin out in Dallas. He and a friend were visiting in the parking lot after church when they noticed that everyone else had left. So they got into their cars to leave also and they backed into each other! WHAM!

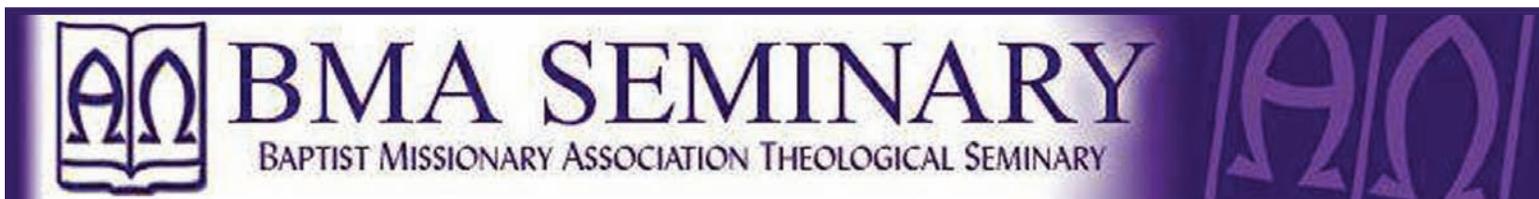
Part of the worship experience is the fellowship we have with other church members. I John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another...."

talk to the Father and give thanks for His protection.

"The landlady called, asking us to come to the area. I walked inside together with everybody and, true enough, our building had the least damage among all others.

"There's more to tell of how He held me in His strong arms and kept me safe. For now, I just want everyone to know that I am doing great. I am surrounded with people who are selflessly helping me. For now, I will stay here with my friends.

If you'd like to help with this faithful servant's expenses, donations (marked Pakse Fire) may be sent to BMAA Missions, P.O. Box 30910, Little Rock, AR 72260.



Are you a pastor and wish you could attend Seminary?

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Thoughts From The Scripture

by Bro. Grove Laird

There is a great need for all of God's children to find their place in the harvest field and faithfully fill it. There is a special Peace that one will receive when He does this.

It is a special peace that many of God's children are seeking for, yet will live and die without — *"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls."* (Matthew 11:29)

Mississippi W.M.A.

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National WMA meeting near Ladies urged to reach goal

When it comes to spreading the Gospel of Christ, showing how much YOU CARE often earns you the right to share how much HE loves. Following the example of compassionate care that Christ Himself exhibited, the BMAA Women's Missionary Auxiliary adopted last year the Haiti Relief and the ISHELP.

We are supporting through prayer and action. That action includes financial help. We are happy to report that as of February 29 the total is \$30,534.00.

Ladies, as we most of us know they are still sleeping in tents under the worst of conditions in Haiti. We know Women around the world need the help that ISHALP can give. That might be the help that can truly change lives for this generation and the ones that come after us.

As of this writing, it is only 49 days until our National meeting, I challenge each of us personally or from your WMA, to send either \$4.90, \$49.00, \$149.00 or \$1,049.00 to the National WMA project. Send to: Mrs. Pat Duncan, Box 30, Hardy, Arkansas 72542. She will take the funds anytime, even at our meeting.

I pray that God will bless our work and that we can make our project \$40,000.00.

Northeast District WMA Report

The Northeast District WMA met at Bethel Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi, on Valentines Day, February 14, 2011. Emily Bean welcomed everyone to the 6:00 meal, a delicious meal of barbecue, potato salad, slaw and "oh those tasty desserts". The tables were beautifully decorated with Valentine colors and goodies. Good job ladies! Love was truly shown us as we were gathered in friendship and worship. Door prizes were given to those whose names were drawn. Thank you so much for the gifts. It was good to see Mrs. Bobbie

Sue Bradley able to attend after having surgery. She asked to remember her daughter, Mrs. Kay Phillips of Anguilla. She has leukemia.

At 7:00 President Stacey Smith called the meeting to order reading I John 4:7-8. Emily Bean, president of Bethel WMA, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mrs. Donna Lawrence gave the response, thanking Bethel for making us filled so blessed to be there. Stacey Smith gave the treasurer's report. Secretary, Martha Duncan, read the minutes of the previous meeting. It was noted that South Green, Tupelo, Mississippi, will host the Ladies Retreat on May 5, 2012. The project for next quarter will be the BMA Bible College in the Philippines. Missionary Alicia Ramshur, campus nurse, says that \$60.00 will supplement and provide for the medical needs and medication for one student for one year.

We welcomed Bro. Kevin Clayton, his wife, Sabrina, and twin daughters, Abby and Lexi, to this area. Mrs. Sabrina was the speaker for our district meeting. It was just wonderful. Sabrina and her daughters sang a beautiful song, "Think About His Love." Using Psalm 66, she demonstrated the different stages of a woman's life and how God is with us in every stage. The title for her lesson was "Don't Forget to Remember." Four things not to forget to remember, prayer, past, promises, and His persistent love. Thank you so much for a well prepared program. We enjoyed it very much.

There were ten churches represented with 74 members present and 18 visitors, including members of Pleasant Hill and First Hispanic Church in Ripley. Everyone enjoyed the great meeting. Thank you Bethel!

The next meeting will be at East Amory, May 15, 2012.



A New Name Added To The Endangered Species List

The endangered species list is prepared to warn people about a certain species that is so low in number that they are about to go out of existence. The list also serves as a catalyst to get people motivated to do everything possible to help ensure that this species survives and does not become extinct. I am adding a new name to the endangered species list.

This is a beautiful creature. Strong. Intelligent. It has the ability to adapt to it's environment. It has an incredible knack for survival techniques. It is fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14. It is made to look like the very image of the creator himself. Genesis 1:26. This is a majestic creature, because he has an ornament of grace and wears a crown of glory. Proverbs 4:9. Actually, he is crowned with 2 crowns. Glory and honor. Psalm 8:5. Surely, with all of these attributes that God created this creature to have, we must all work hard to see that this creature does not become extinct.

What is the name of this creature? A Godly man. Also known to be from the family of Godly husband and Godly father. Man is not endangered. There are at least a couple of billion plus men in the world. It is a Godly man that is almost extinct in the world today. The key word here is GODLY man. Our world is ever-increasing in godlessness. Our world is in-

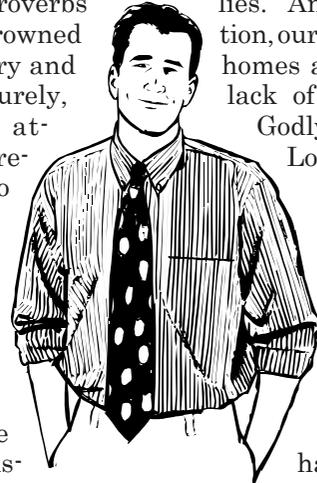
creasing in men that are followers of false gods and false religions. There are plenty of men in our own country and in our own churches who give lip service to Christ, but fail to follow through with a lifestyle to glorify God. They may be



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

fans of Christ, but they are not followers of Christ. Otherwise, they would follow Christ and His commands out of the Bible when leading their families. And sadly, our nation, our churches and our homes are dying for the lack of finding enough Godly men serving the Lord God Jehovah.



What does one of these creatures look like? They look like Jesus. They know they are to represent Christ in the home to their family. They have their priorities straight. That is

to lead their family spiritually because Christ is number one in this man's life and he wants that same thing for his family. He realizes that God holds him accountable for how he responds, loves and teaches his family that God gave him.

Psalm 127 and 128. He makes sure that the family is focused on the things that really matter. Spiritual things are always ahead of sports, TV, entertainment, pursuing making more money for survival, not for worldly indulgences. Romans 8:5.

They are men who see their priority as being the head of the home as outlined in Chapter 5 of Ephesians v. 23. They lead their wife in prayer and devotion time in the Word, v.26. They love their wife just like Jesus loves His bride and sacrifices his life for his bride, v.25. They don't

just say it. They show it, v.27. They love their wives like themselves, v.28. They water their wives with the Word of God on a daily basis v.26. They praise their wife, Proverbs 31:28. They don't ignore their wife by focusing their mental energy and time spent on their jobs, hunting, fishing, hobbies, friends etc. They dwell with their wives. They honor their wives. I Peter 3:7. While Godly men must be good financial providers for their families, and not be lazy - Romans 12:11, they also never put their job ahead of their most important job. That of being a Godly husband and dad.

They realize that putting a roof over the head of their family and putting food on the table is something that any animal does for it's young out in the woods. A man of God has a much greater role than this. A Godly man has a high calling to provide for his family spiritually. Ephesians 5:29. Philippians 3:14.

A Godly man is one who teaches his children scripture. He prays with them. He teaches them the ways of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4. Deuteronomy 6:7. He makes sure that they have a biblical vision of manhood and womanhood memorized from scripture when they leave home. He teaches them wisdom out of the book of Proverbs. He realizes that he will have many jobs during his lifetime, but he will never have a more important job if he is a parent, than loving his children and teaching them the ways of the Lord. That is job one for the Godly man.

His number one job is not showing up at every ball game and push his kids into sports and think that he is a good dad.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

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continued on page 8

Brand Lectures set for March 20 and 22, 2012

This Year's Guest Lecturer is Dr. Billie Hanks, Jr., Founder of "Operation Multiplication"

The 2012 "Brand Lectures" will be held March 20 and 22 in the Dorman Memorial Chapel on the campus of Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas. Guest lecturer will be Dr. Billie Hanks, Jr, founder of "Operation Multiplication."

The public lectures will be presented in three sessions: Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., "Investing Your Life Wisely," Psalm 90:12

Tuesday at 3:00 p.m., "Jesus' Public and Private Ministry," Mark 3:14

Thursday at 10:00 a.m., "Carrying Out His Greater Work," John 14:12

Dr. Hanks earned a Bachelor's Degree from Baylor University and a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, TX. He has received honorary doctorates from California Baptist University in Riverside, CA and Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, MO.

In 1954, Hanks met Billy Graham and his associate evangelist, Grady Wilson. He be-



Dr. Billie Hanks

came an intern for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA), traveling extensively and learning crusade evangelism. Later, he served as a minister-at-large for BGEA and helped equip disciple-makers to minister to new Christians.

Two books had an impact on Hanks' ministry focus; they

were: Born to Reproduce by Dawson Trotman and The Master Plan of Evangelism by Robert Coleman. Realizing the importance of life-to-life training, he began discipling men and together they developed materials for use by churches worldwide.

In 1972, The International Evangelism Association was formed and today it guides Operation Multiplication, which implements this disciple-making process throughout the world.

The "Brand Lectures" are

named in honor of the late Dr. and Mrs. Ralph A. Brand of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. They were faithful servants of the Lord for over 50 years.

Mrs. Brand retired as head of the cataloguing department of the library at the University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Brand worked in prison ministries for over 30 years and was Director of New Directions Prison Ministries until his resignation in 1998.

Dr. Brand traveled extensively and authored several articles and books. Three of his best known works include Simplified Techniques of Counseling, Analysis of Revelation and Techniques of Counseling: An Aid to Pastoral Efficiency.

Missions and Evangelism Conference

May 4, 2012

Presented by the Department of Missions (BMA of Mississippi)

Hosted by

Skyway Hills Baptist Church

Pearl, Mississippi

The Journey of Faith

Mark 4:1-41 & 5:1-20

10:00 am - "The Parables of Faith" (Mark 4:1-34) -

Bro. Dennis Knight

11:00 am - Bro. Estuardo Marroquin

11:15 am - Bro. Elvis Garcia

11:30-1:00 Lunch

1:00 pm - "The Picture of Faith" (Mark 4:35-41) - Bro. Dewitt Bain

1:45 pm - Ray Boone

2:00 pm - "The Power of Faith" (Mark 4:1-17) - Dr. Kevin Clayton

3:00 pm - Bro. Bob Burch

3:15 pm - Bro. Justin Rhodes

3:30 pm - "The Person of Faith" (Mark 4:18-20) - Bro. Jeff Dixon

4:15 pm - New Missionary

4:30 pm - 5:00 pm - Break

5:00 pm - Video - "Search For Mt. Sinai, Mountain on Fire"

Explorers Bob Cornuke and Larry Williams take an incredible expedition into the blistering heat of the deserts of Saudi Arabia to investigate what many scholars believe to be one of the greatest discoveries in history - the real Mt. Sinai, the holy mountain on which Moses received the Ten Commandments.

6:00 pm - Banquet Begins

6:30 pm - "The Journey of Faith" - Bro. Larry Geraldson - Introducing a 5-year strategy for church planting and a 5-step plan for execution

7:00 pm - Dismiss

EIM To Receive Shepherd's Bags in Jackson

by Fonda Norris

Mission Coordinator

Evangelistic International Ministries will have their trailer at the BMA of America national meeting in Jackson, Mississippi, in April to pick up any Shepherd Bags you may have. This would be a good time for our Shepherd Bags drop off stations to bring any bags they have as well.

Shepherd Bags Update

We currently have 15,000 bags awaiting shipment to the Philippines. And we are currently working on our 2012 Honduras school campaign. We have over 2,000 bags already assembled so we're well on our way for this year. If you would



like to get involved in this God blessed ministry of presenting the Gospel to children in the Honduras schools, we need your help. A 40 ft. container holds approximately 35-40,000 bags so we have quite a ways to

go. Please pray and get involved! If you have questions, visit our website at www.eimworldwide.org or you can contact us here at EIM at 870-226-3626 or you can email fnorris@eimworldwide.org.

Plumlee

from page 7

He is a moral beacon to his kids and teaches them every night life lessons out of the Bible. He takes them to church. He spends time mentoring his kids. He interacts with them face to face, as opposed to bleacher to ball field. Yes, I am afraid that these creatures are in the minority and are a dying breed. We must all pray for men to be broken so that God can raise up a nation of men who are courageous, strong, wise and pursuing Christ in their homes. Otherwise, there is no future for America. Don't listen to me. Read the scriptures cited in this article and align your life as a man, up with the inerrant, unchangeable, unalterable Word of God. It's never too late to get started. God is on your side.

Noah ... Saved By Grace

Taken from a message by Adrian Rogers

Genesis 6:8 says, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."

How was Noah saved? By grace. The only way that anybody has ever been saved in the history of the world is by grace. God only has one plan of salvation from beginning to end and that is grace.

What is grace? It means that God saves us apart from any effort on our part. You are not saved by keeping the Ten Commandments. You are not saved by giving money. You are not saved by being a good person. You are not saved by the sweat of your brow, but by the grace of Almighty God.

But now wait a minute. Let's look at what God's Word says, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9, emphasis mine). By grace through faith.

Hebrews 11:7, "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord and how did Noah respond to that grace? It is by grace through faith.