BMA of Mississippi

Celebrating 200 Years 1806 - 2006

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Mississippi Baptist

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Wife of Honduran national missionary murdered

By Phil Knott
Director of Missions
Latin America

"Look out, we're going to get you! We will end your life." Those were some of the threats made by telephone to Juan Francisco Hernandez, pastor of the BMA Church in Azacualpa, Honduras. These threats, made over a period of about nine months, were fulfilled last Friday night (February 17, 2006) when they took life of his 36 year old wife, Elga Guisell Aguirre, in front of their five year old son.

Police investigations reported to the Prensa, a Honduran newspaper, indicate that two men arrived at the family's apartment situated on the campus of Baptist Missionary Bible Institute in the town of Sula. Preliminary reports indicate that it had to do with revenge. Elga's body showed evidence of lacerations to the throat. There weren't any signs of struggle by the victim nor was anything taken from the house. The child managed to escape and an even greater tragedy was prevented because Bro. Juan was not at home. As of now, it has not been determined what provoked such a violent crime. No prints or physical evidence were found at the scene.

Information reveals that Juan had suffered three attempts from which he miraculously escaped. The situation worsened one day when he was driving from Azacualpa toward Sula in the church bus. Three men fired on the vehicle from the roadside.

The second incident occurred on the highway between Macuelizo and Azacualpa, where the church is located, when the occupants of a white car pursued him. Again he managed to escape. Following that incident the situation seemed to settle down. He even traveled to the U.S. to visit some churches. Everything appeared to be normal, but about a week ago the threats resumed. This past Wednesday the pastor escaped death for a third time. The attempt occurred on the road between Azacualpa and Sula when the ambulance he was driving was fired on again leaving 12 bullet holes, mostly in the front windshield.

Elga's death is mourned throughout BMA mission work in Central America and Mexico. For many years, she had been an assistant and teacher in the Bible Institute serving with several missionaries. Bill and Jeannette Gibson have worked very closely with Elga and Juan. The church in Azacualpa has experienced dynamic growth under their leadership. The Sunday before her death more than 500 attended Sunday School and worship. Educatodos, a continuing education program, was another of Elga's visions to help many students who did not have a chance to get their grade school or high school diplomas. She had also taught in area public schools. Her latest project was the Morning Star Kindergarten, a bilingual school in Azacualpa.

A pastor's wife, a devoted mother, a gifted teacher, an excellent administrator - Elga was a dear a friend to many in the Lord's work and the community. Her death will be a great loss. Missionary Gibson describes her as his "right arm." He adds, "She had worked for our mission for over 15 years, most of that time with the Bible Institute. One day she told me that the Bible Institute was her real passion in life."

Elga Guisell Aguirre (left) helping a student (center) along with Missionary Bill Gibson.

Testimonials

"Elga quickly learned computer skills when programs were far more

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Dates to Remember

GMA Camp
March 3-4, 2006
Camp Garaywa
Clinton, Mississippi

Missions & Evangelistic Conference
March 20-21, 2006
North Mississippi Churches

Galilean State Camp
March 24th -25th
Lake Tiak O'Khata
Louisville, Mississippi

2006 BMA of America Annual Meeting
Mobile, Alabama
April 24-26, 2006

Sunbeam Camp
April 28-29, 2006
Camp Garaywa
Clinton, Mississippi

2006 BMA of Mississippi Mid-Year Meeting
May 22-23, 2006
First Baptist Church
Mantachie, MS

Committee on Arrangements provides motel information

Rooms for national meeting filling up fast

The motels that we contracted in Mobile have filled up for our national meeting. Listed below are other motels in the area that can be called individually. It looks like we are going to have a good attendance at the meeting in April.

Motel	Phone	Rate
Rodeway Inn Midtown	251-479-5333	$60.00
Hampton Inn Bellingrath Gardens	334-660-9202	$89.00
Comfort Inn Mobile	334-666-6604	$89.99
Econo Lodge Tillman's Corner	251-662-0076	$75.95
Red Roof Inn Mobile South	334-666-1044	$58.99
Suiteone Of Mobile	251-662-8080	
Courtyard By Marriott Mobile	334-344-5200	
Fairfield Inn By Marriott Mobile	800-228-2800	$89.00

Prompt return of church letters urged

The 2006 Annual Session of the Baptist Missionary Association of America meets April 24-26, 2006 at the Mobile Civic Center, Mobile, Alabama. According to BMAA Recording Clerk James Ray Raines, official registration forms have been sent to all BMA churches. He is requesting that all letters be mailed by April 7 to pre-enroll church messengers. Upon arrival, they need only to report to the enrollment desk to be certified. Churches not representing by messenger should return the completed letters to be listed in the official roster of churches in the yearbook.

Funds needed for meeting and minute expense

All expenses for facilities, equipment and supplies for the annual meeting, plus travel expenses for several committees and the printing of the yearbooks, are paid from the Meeting and Expense Fund. The total cost is $35,000-$40,000 each year. It is imperative that we increase contributions to this fund. We do not have a comfortable reserve and costs have continued to rise each year.

Lifeword Board Approves New Direction

Lifeword Broadcast Ministries set a new course for the radio/television ministry when the Board of Directors held its annual meeting Wednesday and Thursday, February 15 and 16, in the A. R. Reddin Chapel at Lifeword in Conway.

With an emphasis on evangelistic outreach using interactive short formats, the ministry's goal is to target age groups in which most people come to Christ—children and teenagers, according to George Reddin, executive director. When the new programming is implemented, the Lifeword helpline will be available twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week to receive inquiries from listeners and viewers.

To achieve its ministry goals Lifeword is pursuing objectives on two fronts: (1) reducing operating costs and (2) completing the Studio Building. It is fulfilling the first objective internally by downsizing and streamlining administrative functions. It is addressing the second objective by unveiling a fund-raising campaign called The Million Dollar Club.

Budget Reductions

Lifeword is taking proactive measures to reduce operating expenses. Cost cuts initiated in 2005 produced a savings of $45,420. Cuts authorized by the Board for 2006 total $177,881. Significant decreases included the elimination of four staff positions, reducing the hours of two employees and eliminating salary increases and bonuses.

"The goal of the drastic reductions is to maintain the current level of primary ministry functions—radio and television—while reducing operational costs to the level of general fund income, which has remained virtually static for the past five years when we back out extraordinary income which we cannot budget for, such as Foundation
distributions and major gifts by a few friends of the ministry," Reddin said.

Reddin commended Steve Crawley, Lifeword financial officer, for his diligence in finding ways to bring operational expenses in line with funds received.

"Brother Crawley's expertise and experience in corporate finance is paying off for us as we seek for ways to improve our stewardship and increase our effectiveness," Reddin said.

Building Fund

While Lifeword is cutting costs internally, it is gearing up to intensify its fund-raising efforts for the Building Fund. The ministry is seeking 1,000 friends, churches, classes, auxiliary groups, businesses and/or associations to give at least $1,000 extra in 2006 to complete the construction of the Lifeword studio building.

Reddin said he is encouraging charter memberships in Lifeword's Million Dollar Club. All who make a commitment for $1,000 or more extra in 2006 before the BMA meets in April will be charter members, and their participation will motivate others to join.

Some encouraging developments point to the possibility that Lifeword's property on the Interstate as well as its old location in the Industrial Park may both sell in the near future. "Prospective buyers are negotiating with us right now," Reddin said. Proceeds from those sales will apply on the indebtedness incurred by the purchase of the new location in downtown Conway.

More to Come

Lifeword is entering the second phase of a three-pronged strategic planning process led by Steve Crawley, development director. That will initiate more changes during 2006, Reddin said.

Phase I was a year-long gathering of data, which included the BMA-wide survey of affiliated churches. The current phase is the analysis of the data and the creation of an action plan for the future. Phase III will be the implementation of the action plan.

Short-term objectives passed by the Board include restructuring of the staff, completing sales of Lifeword properties now on the market, completing the audio portion of the Studio Building and conducting research and development to guide the ministry into the transition to high-impact, short-format programming, Reddin said.

Missionary's wife killed

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difficult to master. She become a key element in the training program, and over the years has been the oil that has kept the Bible Institute machine going. Her clerical, organizational and teaching skills, though valuable to the mission work, were not her most valuable assets. Her deep devotion to the Lord and her effective witness outweighed any of her other qualities. She was a tremendous blessing and a real friend to all who knew her." *(Bobby Bowman, former missionary to Honduras)*

"I met Elga in July of 1992. From the moment I stepped foot in Honduras it seems Elga and I were always together. I was Tommy Bowman's teacher. When the Bible Institute opened, Elga moved to Sula. From then on we were like salt and pepper - never finding one without the other. Elga and I have stayed in touch via email off and on since I left Honduras. I always took for granted that she would be there. This proves that life is way too short and we cannot waste precious time on things that are not eternal. She did not waste a moment of her life and right now she is sitting at the feet of Jesus!" *(Julie Utley Tolman)*

"There are no words to describe the sadness in my heart as I think about Elga. She was a wonderful young woman who was a beautiful example of a spiritual woman as portrayed in the Bible. She and I had just opened a bilingual school in our town. Elga was the kindergarten teacher. The school had been her dream for many years. We had only three days of classes." *(Darla Ely, missionary to Honduras)*

"We worked closely with Elga in children's ministries, youth and music conferences, camp and Bible Institutes. Young people were inspired and challenged by her example of Christian values. She was truly a person of vision and dedication, and she had a passion to do her job well for God's glory and to help others." *(Wayne Ely, missionary to Honduras)*

"As I look over at their house, which is about 100 yards away, I wonder how this could have happened. But God's ways and will are not ours. The Lord will turn this trial into a blessing. Juan spoke at the grave side service and seven or eight people accepted Christ as their personal Savior. Elga's death was not in vain." *(Bill Gibson, missionary to Honduras)*

God Is At Work

By Jaime Jorge,
Concert Violinist
2006 BMA
Missions Symposium

Introduction By Jerry Kidd — In the country of Cuba, a number of years ago, there was a mother who had a little son and she insisted that he learn to play the violin. He was obedient and began taking lessons at age five. He learned to play well and entered competitions in the capital city of Havana. When the competitions were over, the leaders said to him, "You have won! You have won the right to go to Moscow and study under the greatest violinist in the world. All you have to do is say that you will now dedicate yourself to the Communist way of life, which says 'There is no God'. " But, because the young man had been raised in a Christian home and loved the Lord, he said, "No."

Jaime Jorge, Concert Violinist

His family then immigrated to the United States when he was 10 years old, and today that young man travels all over the United States and many countries of the world playing for the honor and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. It's a joy to have Jaime Jorge back with us tonight.

He Is At Work In Cuba

I want to share with you some of the wonderful work that is taking place in my native country of Cuba. In 1990 there were 6,000 members in the Western Convention of Baptists in Cuba and 10,000 in the Eastern Convention. In 2006, there are more than 25,000 members in the East and 36,000 in the West.

The Eastern Convention has 102 missionaries that tend to 300 different fields in Cuba. They are now earning $20 a month. (They just got a raise; it used to be $10 a month!) Even though these people don't have much by way of resources, they have much by way of hope because they have Jesus Christ.

I talked to the secretary of the Missions Board this afternoon and he said something that shocked me: "We are getting ready to send two missionaries to Honduras and two to India." I thought, "Am I hearing this right? Here is a country that has been oppressed for 45 years, has had religious persecution for 25 or 30 of those 45 years, and they want to send missionaries to other countries?"

They are very interested in the expertise and in the church planting models the BMA may be able to provide them so that more people can come to know Jesus Christ. The secretary assured me today, "It doesn't matter whether we have money or not, the workers are going to continue working."

As a result of what the Lord impressed Bro. Grady (Higgs) and this congregation to do in September 2004, new water tanks were bought for the seminary so they could replace the old ones that had asbestos in them. Seventy students are attending seminary there and are preparing to become leaders and pastors of congregations in Cuba. One BMA member also felt impressed to support the work, so the work is being supported in Cuba through the BMA.

I know the leadership of the BMA has been working, Bro. Phil (Knott) particularly, to obtain the license that is necessary to be able to travel to Cuba. Every time the people in Cuba and I are in contact, they say, "Please know that we are praying for you."

I want to share with you the story of somebody that I actually happened to meet a couple of years ago. This man came to know Jesus as a result of somebody who was visiting around the neighborhood, inviting people to come to his home where he was sharing about Jesus Christ.

One night a Christian gentleman went to a bar and handed out flyers inviting people to come to the church in his home. While he was there, he gave flyers to four men who were playing dominoes. (If you're from the Caribbean, you know that dominoes is a big game.) These men were drinking and having a good time.

As he turned to leave, he saw a man lying on the street and went to hand him a flyer. But the men said, "Sir, don't waste your flyer on that man." At first, he pulled back his arm, knowing that each flyer was absolutely precious.

But then the man who was lying there overhead what the other men had said, and asked, "Can I at least see the flyer?" Once again, the Christian man went to hand him the flyer and, once again, the other

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Think About It

Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

One of the joys of my life is to be a teacher in a faith-based junior college.

Even more than that, I get to teach Bible, religion, preaching, leadership, and all the related courses in the catalog. I also am honored to sponsor the ministerial alliance on the campus. This is an organization for young men who are exploring the possibility of giving their lives to ministry. I get to sit on the front row during chapel services. I am called on often to provide extemporaneous public prayers. In short, I am the "religious" guy on campus.

I have to think about that on occasion. I do not consider myself that "religious" as I view my own life. On the other hand, there are some, probably more than I know, who observe my life. Affective learning in my classroom and in my walk on the campus is probably more important than the memorization of lists of prophets, kings, apostles, or cities of Israel. Students see me in a context of right now. What is our teacher doing that makes him different? What is our teacher doing that touches us? Is there something in his life that is winsome, attractive, compelling, or memorable? Is there some compelling and engaging influence that makes me want to imitate his life?

God forbid that the opposite would be spoken. To me that would be the most damning thing in all imagination. I cannot think of standing before Christ in glory to hear him say, "You discouraged many of your students by the way you lived. Your life was not one that turned your young students to Me. Your life turned your young students away from Me. You had the opportunity to touch them with My resurrection power in your classroom, and you were unsuccessful. More than that, you were flawless in your failure."

The children's song is appropriate here: "Be careful little feet where you go…for the Father up above is looking down in love, so be careful little feet where you go. Be careful little tongue what you say…Be careful little hands what you do…" In my case it would be best said, "Be careful big feet…big hands…big tongue…" What I am doing in my classroom is speaking so loudly that the young students cannot hear what I am saying. The affective learning going on in my classroom is impacting the students more than the cognitive lectures, slides, handouts, websites, and internet connectedness.

The same is true of my children. The same is true of my grandchildren. The same is true of my neighbors. The same is true of my office workers. Those who see me on a daily basis and in a neighborhood; those who see me in a family setting; those who see me in a community cannot hear what I am saying for they are focused on my doing-the life I am living in front of them. How do I affect those around me? My prayer is that I influence them in a positive way for Christ and His Church.

I need to think about how others see me. I see myself as a certain way. Am I the "religious" guy or gal that others see me as being? Do I really have a connection with Christ that makes others want to know about Him? Do I offer the cup of cold water with an open hand to all who might be thirsty? I need to think about my life and its impact in my world, in my day, and in my time. Lord Jesus, help me to be converted by Your power, convinced of Your care, connected to Your cross, concerned with others, and compliant with Your pathway for my life.

Corrected Date for seminar

The date for this seminar listed in the February 15th issue was incorrect. The correct date is the 28th of March. *The Editor*

Southeastern to host Dr. Kent Hovind

Creation Science Evangelism Seminar to be held March 28, 2006

The debate continues to rage in the creation-evolution conflict. The following questions are constantly asked:

"Does science contradict the Bible?"
" Is the earth billions of years old?"
" Are dinosaurs mentioned in the Bible?"
"Is there really proof for creation or evolution?"

Dr. Kent Hovind

In order to give people a better understanding of the creation-evolution conflict and provide answers to some of the questions on this vital subject, Southeastern Baptist College, located at 4229 Highway 15 North in Laurel, Mississippi, will be hosting a free seminar from 6:00-9:00 pm on Tuesday, March 28, 2006.

The guest speaker is Dr. Kent Hovind of Pensacola, Florida, who taught high school for 15 years before becoming a full-time creation-science evangelist. He now speaks over 700 times each year in public and private schools, churches, youth meetings, radio and TV programs, and university debates. His humorous, fast-moving, illustrated seminars are fully documented, Biblically and scientifically. He has engaged in over 90 debates with some of the top scientists and university professors in the nation.

In order to illustrate the fact that evolution is a pagan religion, unsupported by scientific facts, Dr. Hovind has a long standing offer of $250,000 for anyone with empirical evidence (scientific proof) for evolution. Don't miss these sessions! There will be abundant 'hands-on' displays for young and old alike as well as time for questions after each session. An offering will be taken for those who would like to give, but there is no charge for the seminar.

Call 601-426-6346 or email joharris@comcast.net for more information. The public is invited.

God at work

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men protested and said, "Sir, the reason why we tell you not to give him that flyer, not to waste it, is because that man is hopeless. He is not just any ordinary drunk, this man is the 'official' town drunk! He has been drunk for years. He has lost everything. Forget about him."

At that point, the drunk man sat up and said, "Sir, if you'll give me that flyer, I will go to whatever it is you're advertising."

So, on the first night of the meetings, of those five men at the bar that night, who do you think was the only one that came? The drunk man! He was tired of that life. He was tired of no life, because life apart from Jesus is not life at all. He came to bring us life, and abundantly so! When we don't have Jesus, we don't have anything!

The man came to the first meeting drunk, sat down and mumbled to himself. When the meeting was over, he was the first one out the door. But on the second night, he came back; and on the third he was back again. Every night he came and by the fourth night he was sober when he came.

On the ninth and last night, when that missionary invited people to stand up and give their hearts to Jesus and accept the gift of grace and salvation, the first person who stood up was that man. And he is no longer a drunk in Cuba — he is now a missionary there! There is power in the blood of the Lamb!

A lot of people go chasing after rainbows that don't exist in the world and they try many different forms of entertainment; but all they end up doing is wasting time and precious energy. Do you think what you've done can't be forgiven and forgotten by God? That just isn't so because we have a Father in Heaven that forgives and forgets, and we can have a brand new start in Jesus Christ today and every day.

He Is At Work In America

Being able to go to Cuba in 2001 gave me an enthusiasm and a love for the work of the Lord in Cuba and around the world that I wanted and needed to have. It has been a little over 25 years since my family arrived from Cuba. As I look back on the last 25 years of my family's history, I realize that only in the United States of America is it possible to arrive with nothing and make anything happen. The history of this nation is certainly not a perfect one, but we are very privileged to live in perhaps the greatest nation in the world.

The reason America is great is because when people came to this country they put God first. And I believe we have a responsibility before the world to continue to put Him first and show everyone else that we love Jesus. We have become fat, spiritually speaking, because we have not shared and we have no longer decided to make God #1 — and that's why we are in trouble in this nation. Despite that, I cannot help but feel very privileged to be able to call myself an American!

Last year, this nation was stricken with disasters. But the true heart of the people has come forth because billions of dollars have been given to help people, just as billions have also been given to rebuild other countries.

My challenge to you tonight is that, while we enjoy the freedoms we have, we don't just think about working harder so we can make more and have more. There is a greater objective — reaching people here and around the world for Jesus Christ. We must continue to do God's work because there is a drunk somewhere, there is a prostitute somewhere, there is a drug addict somewhere that needs to come to Jesus and be saved by His amazing grace.

-from the Baptist Trumpet

Southeastern Baptist College

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

Dr. Medrick Savell
President

Update on Summer Classes Offered

In my last report (2-15-06) I mentioned one new Bible class being offered this summer. Bro. Joseph Harris will be teaching a course on Comparative Religions, June 5-9, which will meet from 8-12 and 1-5 Monday through Friday. Three hours credit can be received by attending the class for that week plus other requirements to be done before the class begins. For more information, call the college.

Another similar course will be offered June 12-16 if there is enough interest. A person can take both courses if he meets the requirements. More details will be given later.

A course in College Algebra is planned for June 5-29. It will be taught on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. The application fee (for first-time students) will be $15.00, and the tuition will be $320.00 (which is a $100.00 discount). Again, please call the college for more information.

Memorial Gifts

Memorial gifts have been sent to the college recently in honor of Mr. Earnest A. King and Mr. Cletious Creel. Memorial books have been placed in the library in their honor. May the Lord bless these families.

Contributions for Dr. Jentry Bond

Thanks to all who have given contributions toward the honorarium for Dr. Bond. All of the amount used for the honorarium has now been replaced. They appreciate this consideration and all of us at the college appreciate those who gave. I know you are still praying for Dr. Bond and his family.

Family Topics

Family meetings are essential

Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

How do you practically apply the scriptures that command us to teach our children scripture and the ways of the Lord? In Deuteronomy 6: 6-9 and Ephesians 6:4 we are told by God to teach scripture to our children. In the Ephesians passage, we are told to nurture our children in the Lord. Nurture means "to cause to grow". We should cause our children to grow in the ways of the Lord. Here is one of the best ways to accomplish this.

Every Christian home needs to have a family meeting once a week. This simple act can change the entire dynamics of your family life. I cannot impress upon you how important this is. You should sometime read your church covenant. The covenant states the principles that you covenant together to carry out. In the church covenant posted on many church walls it states that we will be sure and maintain secret family devotions. You should try and have short devotions every night. Your family meeting lasts longer, but it is only one night per week.

Many parents tell me that their children can ask them anything. I ask them back, "but do they?" As your children get older, do you stop your hectic lifestyle and give them a platform to ask you questions about life? It is critical that our children feel free to come and ask us things, so we can give them a Christian response. If your child ever asks you a question, and you don't feel qualified to give the true biblical answer, be honest and tell them you want to study that further and you will get back to them. Follow this up with study in the Word and perhaps speaking with your pastor or other scripturally grounded Christian. You must give your kids "the ways of the Lord" to these questions in life.

Pick a night. Any night. Be flexible. If your child has a school play on family meeting night, by all means go to the school play. However, make that a rare exception. Do not cancel the family meeting every time something else comes up or your children will learn that family things are the lowest priority. Let them hear you cancel plans with friends. You must also be there. This will allow you to hold them accountable to be there when they are in their late teens. You shouldn't have to cancel more than 2 to 4 times per year. This has to be a set aside, sacred time for you and your family.

Don't' make so many rules that it becomes a torture time. Be strong on grace and weak on law. The purpose of this family time is to come together and covenant as a family. Everyone is allowed to express themselves, but no one is allowed to be disrespectful of anyone regardless of age. You share problems, ask questions, discuss family rules, give encouragement to one another, and prayer requests. The main purpose is to communicate and communion with each other and the Lord. I will say that again so you get it: "The main purpose is to communicate and communion with each other and the Lord".

Most families today do not come apart and check in with each other. This is what binds us together. Another essential of this family meeting is prayer time. The family that stays together, prays together. Find out from each family member what they are going through. Then pray through this as a family. This is how parents can role model prayer, and raise prayer warriors as kids. Everyone in the family takes turns praying as soon as they are old enough. They are old enough to pray when they start talking in sentences.

If there is an age difference, work with that. As long as a younger child is quiet and in the room, they may color a picture or play with a car when their older sibling is going on and on about problems. You can't expect a high energy 4 year old to sit still while a high hormone 14 year old vents. But the 14 year old needs this time. If you have a two year old, your family meeting will last about one minute. That is okay. Just get in the habit of having them. If you have teens, they will balk at the idea at first. You may have to order them to participate at first. If you have it every week, they'll come around. It helps when you pray for them with love. It helps when you give them time to listen to them.

This meeting is where you discuss heated issues and not at the dinner table. Grades, choice of friends, attitudes are all addressed here. This gives every one time to cool down and pray up about issues. This can prevent angry explosions in the family. You can say, " Okay we will talk about this at the family meeting." Obviously, there are some issues that can't wait. But this still remains a good option to prevent family meltdown. There is no TV, video games, computer or radio for family night. All night. 24 hours without external stimulation. After the formal part of the meeting, you can sing, play games, eat or just have fellowship time. This is critical. You must spend time together as a family, and not just as a television audience.

This family meeting also is a great time to have home worship. You do a longer, deeper devotion. You talk about family morals and what God would have us do. This meeting could be the single greatest act you could do to build family cohesion and love within your home. A family spends time together.

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Don J. Brown, Editor
E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org
Web site www.msbaptist.org

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Letters From Our Readers

Cheap Mission Trip

Dear Editor,

Oops! I Almost forgot, a cheap mission trip that anybody can afford. May 18-20, 2006. I love itwhen I have a cheap trip.

Our national campground in Gary, Texas needs some more work. If you can get there we will furnish food and housing for all workers. Now that's cheap. I need plumbers, electricians, carpenters and flunkies - like me. If you don't enjoy the fellowship I'll personally double your room money back.

Contact:
Jerry Pommerening
e-mail audioman2@earthlink.net
Home # 254-578-1525
Cell # 903-851-3675

Master's Builders 15th year

Dear Editor:

"Your service was a moving experience, three people had us to move because we were in their seats."

The Master's Builders are getting ready to start our 15th year of helping the churches and institutions of the BMAA with building projects.

The builders are volunteers, husbands and wives, that donate their time to build building for the glory of our Lord. Most of the builders are retired, but that is not a requirement. Anyone is welcome to come and help on any project that we have.

Our first project for 2006 will be with Round Prairie Baptist Church, Fairfield, Texas. The first work day will be March 13.

Anyone needing information may contact: John Mangum at 870-777-3929; Cell no. 870-703-4371 or Roy Tilley at 501-525-8044; Cell no. 501-282-7697.

Thank you
John E. Mangum
Office Coordinator

Barnabas Touch Ministry to minister in Brazil

Dear Pastors,

Our Barnabas Touch Ministry is about to head to Brazil on March 27 - April 5 for a wonderful opportunity to minister a hand of encouragement to the pastors and people of our churches there. We will visit our churches in Campinas, Sao Paulo, Belo Horizonte and Pira Pora.

While in Pira Pora we will conduct a Bible Conference focusing on Pastoral Ministry. You will get a wonderful overview on this mission field often referred to as the "first-born" of BMAA international missions. Here is a schedule of our activities:

March 27	Fly to Brazil in the PM
March 28	Arrive in Brazil (Some Sight-Seeing)
March 29	Visit Churches in Campinas
March 30	Visit Churches in Sao Paulo
March 31	Fly to BeloHorizonte Drive to Pira Pora
April 1	Bible Conference
April 2	Visit Churches in Pira Pora
April 3	Drive to Belo Horizonte Visit Churches in Belo Horizonte
April 4	Fly to Sao Paulo in the AM Sight- Seeing
April 5	Fly Back to States
April 6	Arrive Home

All of this for just $2300 (subject to change) which includes airfare, hotel, food, visa, translators, and transportation in country. We must have your passport in the Missions office by March 10 in order to get your visa for Brazil. Airfare is due by the 15th and the rest upon departure. Call today if interested because we will only take 8 on this trip!

Larry Barker
Barnabas Touch
918-869-7966

Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

If You Can't Be Smart

Mama always said, "If you can't be smart, be around smart people." Well, I've always tried to do that and it has helped me get through some tight episodes. So you can know that if I've been around you very much I consider you smart.

Mama wasn't the only one to give that advice. The wise man who wrote many Proverbs had a lot to say about the people you hang with. Just go read from Proverbs, the first fifteen chapters.

Bush and Congress Urged to Protect Religious Freedom in U.S. Military

(AgapePress) - A Navy chaplain who went on an 18-day hunger strike for the right to pray in Jesus' name says new guidelines adopted by the U.S. Air Force might be expanded to cover America's other armed forces as well. However, he believes those regulations would end up restricting free speech and religious expression.

Lieutenant Gordon Klingenschmitt says the Air Force's new policy does nothing to free up chaplains and other Christian military personnel to pray according to their own religious traditions. Instead, the regulations require inclusive or nondenominational prayers at public events - which, he points out, in effect prohibits praying in Jesus' name.

Klingenschmitt fears the Air Force regulations regarding prayer may eventually become policy throughout the U.S. military. "The Secretary of Defense has indicated that, when these guidelines are finalized, they will be implemented across all the Armed Services, telling Army, Navy, and Air Force chaplains that they are not allowed to pray in Jesus name," he notes.

Already, the Christian Naval officer points out, some believers in uniform have had to take legal action to fight what he believes amounts to religious persecution in the U.S. armed services. "Many chaplains are suing because they can't get promoted," he says. "They're passed over for promotions. Sixty-five chaplains in the Navy, and Congressman Jones has complaints from over 130 chaplains, including Army and Air Force chaplains who were all punished for their faith."

The new Air Force guidelines on public prayer are "basically the same as the old guidelines," Klingenschmitt contends. "They still require what they call nondenominational prayers, which is just a code for saying no Jesus -- you cannot pray in Jesus name. And if these Air Force guidelines are implemented in the Navy, I will definitely take legal action."

The best way to resolve the issue, the Navy chaplain asserts, would be for the federal legislature to get involved to enact a policy on prayer that safeguards the First Amendment rights of military personnel, or for President Bush to issue an executive order to that effect.

"We need congressional oversight," Klingenschmitt insists. "We still need the President to step in and protect free speech for military chaplains."

Late News from National Missions Department

Philippines

Bro. Robert Murphy is working among the victims of the recent mudslides on the Island of Leyte in the Philippines. Death has come to hundreds of people in this area. Pray for them and for the Murphys as they work with them.

Hawaii

Bro. and Mrs. Filomeno Kakilala and their family are in Hawaii. Pray for them as they seek God's will in many decisions to be made as they begin their new work there. They have a nice place to live in Ewa-Beach.

BMA of Mississippi

Youth Department

2006 Special Emphasis

Give!

How 2 Decide 4 : 7 Days a Week Live 4 the King

Romans 8:1

GIVE OF YOUR

...Energy

...Talent

...Time

...Funds

Military Service Prayer List - Please remember the following as they are serving in our military. You may add names to the list by mailing them to: Mississippi Baptist, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441 or by email at editor@msbaptist.org.

CPT Lawson "Sonny" Brannan, *Stringer, MS*
George Rogers, *Wiggins, MS*
Scott Clanton, *Pineview, Lucedale*
Miles Farragut, *FBC of Shady Grove, Laurel*
Kenneth Smith, *Hattiesburg, MS*
Wayne Mack, *Seminary, MS*
Anthony Hodge, *Purvis, MS*
Thomas Temple, *Laurel, MS*
David Cunningham, *Forked Oak, Booneville*
Jacob Blakeney, *Mineral Springs, Taylorsville*
Lance Holifield, *Mineral Springs, Taylorsville*
Phillilp Holifield, *Mineral Springs, Taylorsville*
Robert Shavers, *Pleasant Hill Baptist Church*
Jeff Necaise, *Pleasant Hill Baptist Church*
Michael Wright, *Pleasant Hill Baptist Church*
Harold (Scooter) Bond, Jr., *Laurel*
Harold (Tink) Compton, *Faithview Church*
Jeff Schonewitz, *Saucier*
Michael Casey, *Gulfport*
Larry "Dean" Welborn Jr., *Carnes, MS*
James Reeves, *Westlawn, Picayune*
Ronnie Spiers, *Westlawn, Picayune*
Mickey Mitchell, *Community, Poplarville, MS*
Patrick Garrett, *Poplarville, MS*
Darryl Gipson, *Poplarville, MS*
Ken Bullock, *Skyway Hills, Pearl, MS*
Lemuel Kendrick, *Lee's Chapel #2, Picayune*
Albert C. White, *Mclaurin, MS*
Craig Landry, *Benville Church, Picayune.*
Janet Hilbun, *Sand Hill, Lucedale, MS*
Barron Horn, *First Baptist, Bay Springs, MS*
Jessie David Loague, *Bethel, Fulton, MS*
Dustin Wills, *First Windsor Park, Ocean Springs,*
CPT. William "Lee" Henry, *Richton, MS*
Justin Johnston, *Summerland Baptist*
Roger Johnson
Josh Senter
Shane Cromeans
Dusty Gray
James Riley
Michael Lindsey, *Mt. Plesant, Mantachie, MS*
Randol Harlow, *Nettleton, MS*
Joshua S. Pierce, *Corinth Church, Lucedale*
Alan Fiscarckly, *South Green Church, Tupelo*
Russell S. Taylor, *Paramount Church, Perkinston*
Craig Fillingane, *Cypress Creek Baptist Church*
Michael Patrick Boyd, *First Baptist, Bay Springs*
Michael Garrick Boyd, *First Baptist, Bay Springs*
Lester Davis, *East Main, Lumberton*
Thomas S. McGill, *Groton, CT*
Johnny R. Hunt
Jason Rivers, *Ellisville*
Tommy Mitchell, *Purvis*
Jake Driskell, *Lebanon, Laurel*
Will Norris, *First, Henleyfield*
Trevor Saltsman, *Westview, Oxford*
Russell Robertson, *Temple, Lucedale*
Tim Cooper, Ozark, *Mantachie*
Wesley Grissom, *Hopewell, Fulton*
Sonny Jefcoat, *Hopewell, Laurel*
Derick Mallette, *Ramsey Creek, Saucier*
Mary Muffler, *Ramsey Creek, Saucier*
Jonathan Morgan, *Ramsey Creek, Saucier*
Neal Garrett , *First Baptist, Tremont, MS*
David Palmer, *First Baptist, Tremont, MS*
Bradly Sharp, *Bethel, Lucedale's 150th*
Johnny Ray Hunt, *Unity, Unity, MS*
Chuck Williams, *Sharon Baptist, Laurel*
Cory Williams, *Sharon Baptist, Laurel*
Jason Cotton Hillman, *Washington, Neely*
Richard Rylee, *Richton, MS*
Jennifer Norris, *Pleasant Hill Church, Mooreville*

Are You PC (Politically Correct)?

miniedition

Joseph Harris

Over the past few years the scourge of political correctness has caused people to choose their words carefully to "fit in" with an understanding and tolerant society. The real goal of PC is to redefine established definitions and effect a change in thinking, attitudes and philosophies.

Replacing well established words and phrases with less offensive, "more descriptive " words almost always changes the original understanding. Consider the following list of words, some are PC, others are "dressed up" to sound better.

Animal trainer - interspecies communicator

Animals - non-humans

Bald - hair challenged (this one gives me a higher self esteem)

Bisexual - sexually non-preferential

Paper - processed tree carcass

Bum - displaced homeowner

Cattle ranch - cattle concentration camp

False teeth - alternative dentation

Prostitute - sex care provider

Sex change - gender reassignment

Communication through speech is powerful. Speech is communication and occurs when one expresses thoughts of the mind with words from the mouth. Words are important and do have meaning. The word alcoholic is not harsh sounding and not as offensive as calling someone a drunk. Unfaithful spouse certainly sounds better than adulterer and promiscuity is more pleasing to the ear than fornication.

Jails are no longer known as institutions which incarcerate prisoners. They are adult detention centers where detainees are housed. Why? It just sounds better. After all, we wouldn't want the detainees to bear an extra burden of guilt by reminding them of what they really are (criminals) and what they have really done (broken the law). Notice also, the prisoners of war in the recent war on terror are called detainees. Call me crazy, but I like prisoner of war.

When I hear news reports of some Palestinian militant who has blown himself up along with innocent civilians and bystanders, I have to remind myself that he is a militant not a terrorist. It just sounds better. You've got to admit, militant and gunman both sound better than terrorist or bomber.

How about those high school drop outs? The battle is on to rename them so they will not be plagued with lower self esteem caused by a lifelong negative label. Though I haven't heard the new title yet, I think diploma challenged is nice. In the future I will no longer refer to myself as a professor or teacher, but a classroom facilitator, one who inculcates (teaches) recipients of knowledge (students).

And Black people are no longer Black people, but African Americans, yet not a single Black American I know was born in Africa, and neither were their parents, grandparents or great-grand parents. Here's a question: if a white person born and reared in South Africa becomes an American citizen, is that person an African American? This would also apply to Chinese, Italian, Arab, Korean and other ethnic groups. The correct classification should be Americans of African descent, Americans of Chinese descent, Americans of Arab descent, etc., with emphasis on American.

I think we should return to reality in plain speech. The truth is becoming harder to find, yet it is the truth which will set us free.

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

Christian Action Commission

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
P.O. Box 11, Fulton, MS 38843 - Phone 662.862.7375
Fax: 662.862.5351 - e-mail:bethelbc@intop.net
Web Site: http://user.intop.net/~bethelbc/commission.html

The Mississippi Legislature continues to meet. Below is an update on bills of moral importance. Elsewhere, Samuel Alito was confirmed and sworn in as the newest member of the U.S. Supreme Court. The court has already announced it will hear a case regarding partial-birth abortion. The New York City Council elected its first openly homosexual speaker, Christine Quinn. I like the following which I read. True patriotism acknowledges the law of God in national affairs. It is not by accident that our coins tell the world "In God We Trust." However, "In God We Trust" on our coins means nothing unless in God we trust.

Terry Coleman
Director

Recently I heard the following student-led prayer at a school sporting event. I asked the student if it was written and if so could I use it. She agreed. This is what she prayed: "Dear Lord, Thank you for this beautiful day and for all the blessings you've given us. Thank you for letting our school be allowed to pray at sporting events because you should be involved in everything that we do. Please help protect all the players and keep them safe from injury tonight. Just keep watch over the game and everyone who is involved and help us to keep our Christian attitudes all throughout the game. Lord, I pray for all those who are overseas serving our country, just help them get through this and know that they are coming home soon. I also pray for the leaders of our country, that they will make the right and Godly decisions that you would have them to make. Again, I just ask that you just keep everyone safe from harm tonight and help everyone have a safe journey home. In your name I pray, Amen."

Beloved, stand for righteousness. Stand for God even though you think you stand alone. Be a voice for God even though no one seems to listen. Do what God wants you to do even though no one else seems to follow.

LEGISLATIVE BILLS STILL ACTIVE AS OF 2/22/06

HB 551	Use capital punishment only when DNA evidence is used	NO
HB 707	Certain gambling activities are illegal	YES
HB 1202	Prohibit human cloning	YES
SB 2427	Teacher is not prohibited from discussing intelligent design	YES
SB 2922	Require sonogram and auscultation of heart beat before abortion	YES
SC 548	Declare human cloning against public policy	YES

Colorado church seeks pastor

The Baptist Chapel, a small church in Cortez Colorado is in search of a pastor. We average about 25 in Sunday School. We are asking those interested to send a resume'. The individual will need to have supplemental income. Please contact:

Pastor Search
c/o Baptist Chapel
1509 Hwy 145
Cortez, CO 81321

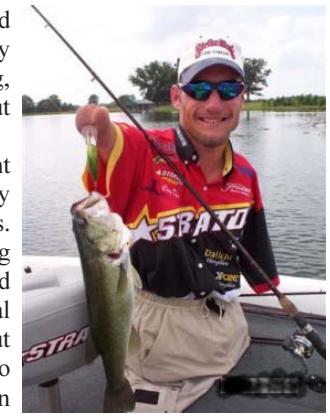
Church seeks staff member

Bethel Baptist Church, a growing ministry in Fulton, Mississippi, is searching for a person to fill the full-time position of Music and Outreach pastor, with emphasis on music. If you or someone you know is interested contact:

Bethel Baptist Church
c/o Search Committee
445 Bethel Church Rd.
Fulton, MS 38843
662-862-7375
bethelbc@intop.net

Christian Fishing Pro Conquers Physical Challenges, Inspiring Many

(AgapePress) - Standing 3'4" tall and weighing 85 pounds, Clay Dyer has made a big splash in the world of professional bass fishing. The 28-year-old Hamilton, Alabama man grew up in a family that loved sports. And from the beginning, Clay had a deep desire to be in the game, but he had a little disadvantage.



Clay Dyer

Born with no legs, no left arm and a right arm that reaches only to the elbow, Clay learned early to adapt to the circumstances. He credits his grandfather with sacrificing the time to take him hunting and fishing and helping him learn to overcome his physical obstacles. Subsequently, at age 18, just out of high school, Clay set his sails for the pro fishing ranks. In ten years, he's been in about 350 tournaments and won 30 of them.

Growing up, Clay found a natural friendship among boys who were into competition. "We were all a bunch of sports," he said. "All of us hated to lose." It has rarely been easy for Clay, but his life has always embodied the qualities of perseverance, humility and faith.

In school, he would tackle almost any physical challenge with zeal. With desire and determination, he learned to use his chin, shoulder, half-an-arm and teeth to do most anything he wanted to do. He would watch other kids, analyze their performance, get the equipment and find a way to use it himself, practicing until he knew he was at his best. He was so successful that he played junior high baseball. His positions? Catcher or first base because they didn't require so much movement. At bat? He had a designated runner.

"I knew early that competition was something I would love to be able to do for the rest of my life," Clay said. "That's when I started getting into fishing. I realized it was something I could do, no matter if I was 6'5" and weighed 250 pounds or if I was 40 inches tall and weighed 85 pounds. And I thought it was a sport I could take up on a national level, versus trying to play in the NBA or NFL!"

Clay was right. He can do it – in fact, is doing it – on the national level.

"He's a giant among fisherman," said John E. Phillips, sportsman and outdoors writer (www.nighthawkpublications.com). "In my opinion, Clay Dyer is the greatest bass fisherman with whom I have ever fished."

Jay Yelas, 2003 Bass Master Angler of the Year, said, "Clay drives his boat, runs his trolling motor, casts with precision, unhooks his own fish, even ties knots. Yelas lists Clay among his short list of heroes. "Few things move me as much as hearing Clay quote Philippians 4:13: 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,'" he said.

It's no surprise that that verse is Clay's favorite Scripture. "I've got a heart, a soul and a mind," he said, "and that's what makes a human being. Anything else you have is a bonus."

His small stature and success on the water have brought a certain degree of fame his way. He certainly doesn't seek fame, but he takes the attention and adulation all in stride, seeing himself as just an average athlete who loves his career. He's also generous with praise for other pro fisherman who, he says, have accepted him without reservation.

Clay came to Christ as a high school senior. Nowadays, he often finds himself with a platform to talk about his Christian faith. One would expect the "normal" venues – Fellowship of Christian Athletes, churches, youth retreats and other Christian groups.

However, his reach is much broader than that. He works frequently with national charities which serve children with special challenges. Furthermore, he also hits the "big time" speaking circuit from time to time. For example, he was a keynote speaker for Executive Experience, an event co-produced by the Disney Institute and the Professional Convention Management Association. Clay addressed the 2005 Disney World audience not on overcoming life's obstacles but on the qualities of leadership.

"I always bring a faith aspect [into my speeches]," Clay said, "to show people why I haven't given up and why I've succeeded, why I am where I am."

Mississippi State W.M.A.

Donna Lawrence, President
1621 Hildreth Road
Columbus, MS 39702

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

Lawrence

Oak Grove WMA

The Oak Grove District WMA met at Temple Baptist Church, Columbia on January 6, 2006. The meeting was called to order by President Celia Broom with an opening song led by Martha Ellis. The WMA song was sung and the moto was recited in unison. The president presented a wonderfully challenging devotional taken from Romans 15: 1-6. We were admonished to be leaders in the church as ladies and teachers. The welcome was given by Martha Ellis from Temple and a response was given by Lucille Watts from Good Hope. The group was invited to meet with Bethel, Bassfield on April 7, 2006 for our next quarterly meeting.

We selected Alicia Ramshur's mission trip to Mexico as our project for the next quarter. Special music was presented by Karen Seal. We enjoyed a very informative presentation by Wendy Tolar on highlights from her summer mission trip to Australia. It is so encouraging to see our young people with such a desire to help spread God's Word throughout the World.

Good food and fellowship was enjoyed by everyone following the meeting. We encourage all our sister churches in the Oak Grove District to come and join us in our quarterly meetings. You will truly be blessed.

Ten Mile WMA

The Ten Mile WMA held their meeting on January 3rd, at Vardman Street Baptist Church, Wiggins, for their coronation of the GMAs and Sunbeams.

Mrs. Alana Woods and Mrs. Sue Clark opened the meeting with a special.

Mrs. Louise Crawley gave the devotion taken from Luke 9:62, "Keep your eyes focused, Be constant in our prayer life, and don't look back". She challenged us to be a better witness in 2006.

The Sunbeams were presented from each church present and provided a program on the songs they have learned.

Miss and Mr. Sunbeam were presented. They are Crystal Brewer from Grace Church, and Eric Cochran, from Paramount. Little Mr. and Miss Sunbeam are Erin McClure and Bobby Jean Williams from Paramount Church. Two churches presented Sunbeams and we had a total of ten Children present.

Mrs. Paula Prickett presented the GMAs and told of their work. Their theme this year is Inward Beauty. We had 10 GMAs present.

The WMA continued with their part of the meeting. We had 6 churchs present. Mission Chairperson Mrs. Louise Crawley gave us a report on our Bro. Wallace Williams, our local missionary. His church sent the Ten Mile WMA a thank you card for our project money which is the local missions. He stated the ladies planned to use this money to furnish their kitchen.

Mrs. Pat Johnson suggested we do a spotlight on two ladies who have heen in the WMA work for awhile, if you have anything you would like to say fell free to contact our WMA President Mrs. Jean Knight.

The next meeting will be at First Baptist Orange Grove on April 10th. See you there.

Geraldine Necaise
Reporter

NE District Missions Banquet

The annual missions banquet of the Northeast District WMA was hosted by Greenwood Baptist ladies, Fulton on February 14, 2006. We enjoyed a big variety of soups, sandwiches, and desserts on tables pleasingly decorated with valentines, confetti, and red candles.

The meeting was opened with a special treat, singing by the Greenwood men's group. BMMI was chosen as our quarterly project, and the program was introduced.

Our Hispanic missionary working in Ripley, Bro. Elvis Garcia, played the guitar and sang "The Name of Jesus" in Spanish. He then read from Acts 8: 26-38 and preached a message that encouraged us to stay open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Mark your calendar for our next quarterly meeting which will be our annual Ladies Retreat. East Amory will host it on May 6th beginning at 9:00 A.M. Do you need some encouragement and fellowship? Make plans to attend this meeting.

Beth Haden, reporter

GMA Camp
March 3-4, 2006
Camp Garaywa
Clinton, Mississippi

Sunbeam Camp
April 28-29, 2006
Camp Garaywa
Clinton, Mississippi

Mississippi Galileans

Tracy McMillen, Director
445 Bethel Church Rd., Fulton, MS 38843
Phone 662-862-7375 email - bethelbc@intop.net.

Galilean State Camp

March 24th -25th

ΙΧΘΥΣ

Lake Tiak O'Khata
In
Louisville, Mississippi

Cost
$60 per camper

Speaker
Bro. Tracy McMillen

Worship music, games, food,
and messages from the Word of God.
Be sure to attend!

Please contact Bro. Tracy McMillen
if you plan to attend @ 662-862-7375
Or e-mail @ youthdudebbc@yahoo.com

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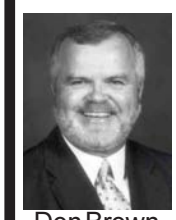
Mississippi Baptist, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441

Sign up online at **www.msbaptist.org** and click on the phone ad.
Questions? Call 601-426-3293 or email to editor@msbaptist.org


Don Brown
Editor

We encourage all of our churches and readers to sign up for this service. It is a good deal for you and will help support this ministry. 10% of your phone bill each month will go to help fund your Mississipppi Baptist Paper.

Name (on phone bill)_____ Estimated Monthly Usage _____

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*Use separate sheet for more numbers.

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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.

Trinity Baptist Church to hold study of Revelation

You invited to our Spring Bible Conference (a study of Revelation) on March 12-15. Our speaker will be Bro. Marion Wilson. On Sunday, March 12th,. our morning service will be at 11:00 a.m. with lunch after the morning service. Our evening service will begin at 6:00 p.m. Services Monday through Wednesday will begin at 7:00 p.m. There will be a nursery provided. We invite all to come and worship with us. May God bless you. For additional information, please contact Bro. James Brown at 601-209-1502.

Trinity Baptist Church
128 Hwy 469 North
Florence, MS 39073

Harmony meeting

The Harmony Association met on February 10th at Thomas Street Church, Tupelo. There were 8 churches represented with 41 present. Bro. Joseph Oyeleye reported on the work in Columbus. After a special by the Thomas Street Quartet Bro. Lavelle Smith brought the evening message. Our speaker for next month will be Bro. Eddie Boutwell.

Hobolochitto meeting

The Hobolochitto Baptist Association met on Monday, February 13, at First Henleyfield Baptist Church in Carriere. After the opening song, "Springs of Living Water", and the opening prayer by Bro. Willie Tebo, we heard reports from Bro. Paul Lee concerning the Prisoner's Bible Crusade and from Bro. Brian Williams about the Bibles that were purchased by the Association to be sent to Ghana, West Africa.

The minutes and treasurer's reports were approved.

Bro. Scott Downes was introduced as the speaker for the evening. His message was entitled, "Step into the Water" from Matthew 14:22-33. Bro. Willie Tebo gave the hand of appreciation.

The next meeting will be at Lee's Chapel #2 Baptist Church on March 13, 2006 at 7:30 PM.

Wayne Rice, Clerk

Bethel, Fulton

We at Bethel send everyone a warm hello. On the 1st of January we saw the film "Beyond the Gates of Splendor," and it was a very inspiring movie.

A good group of teenagers and sponsors attended the "Passion Conference" on the 2nd-5th in Nashville. In all there were 18,000 people at the conference.

The Golden Agers met on the 12th and reported a great time of fellowship and food. They made goodie bags for the shut-ins and delivered them.

On the 21st a GMA House party was hosted by Bethel. The Miss and Junior Miss GMA were selected and they are Keely Naden, Miss GMA and Carli Reeder, Junior Miss GMA. Mrs. Donna Lawrence presented the program "I Can Only Imagine." After the program the girls talked about who their Maker is and that God made them all special. There were 40 girls and sponsors in attendance. The state meeting for the GMA's will be at Clinton, MS on the 3rd and 4th of March.

On the 29th the Brotherhood held their quarterly breakfast. Bro. Carroll Roberson was in concert in the evening service.

The Senior Youth had a "Super Bowl Bash" on February 5th and all had a great time. On the 11th the Primary Youth had a Valentine activity and also that evening the Junior Youth had an activity. We are so thankful that we have adults that are willing to help with our youth.

A Prophecy Conference was held on the 12th-15th with Bro. Allen Lord from Hixson, Tennessee and Bro. Gene Fulcher from Fayetteville, Arkansas. There have been three additions since last report.

Ya'll come see us when you can.
Terry Coleman, Pastor
Joyce Cooley, Reporter

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Dale Wirick

Bro. Dale Wirick is available for service wherever the Lord may lead. He is a member of Faith Baptist Church in Escatawpa, Mississippi, and may be contacted at 228-369-1419 or 228-369-8042.

David Clark

David Clark is available for pastoral work or pulpit supply wherever the Lord may lead.

He may be contacted by calling 601-426-6896.

Larry Pierce

Bro. Larry Pierce is available for pulpit supply or pastoral work wherever the Lord leads. He is a graduate of Southeastern Bible College, Birmingham, Alabama. He may be reached at 601-947-3531.

57th Annual
BMA of America National Meeting
April 24-26, 2006
Mobile Civic Center - Mobile, Alabama
Annual Program

Monday Morning, April 24
Display/Exhibit Set-up (Mon.-Wed.) Civic Center
Registration Set-up (Enrollment and Finance Committee)

Monday Evening, April 24
7:00 First General Session
Volunteer Student Missionary
Welcome by President
Jacksonville College Choir
Introduction of Officers
Welcome Petitioning Churches and Seat Messengers
Introduction of Host Pastors
Central Baptist College Choir
President's Message and Introduction of Theme
Adjourn

Tuesday Morning, April 25
7:15-8:15 Ministers Wives' and Widows' Coffee
8:00-8:30 WMA Registration
8:30 WMA
9:00 Brotherhood
10:30 Pastors' and Laymen's Conference
10:30 Youth Ministers' Gathering

Tuesday Afternoon, April 25
1:00-2:00 Reception Honoring Dr. Larry Silvey
(Called Meetings)
1:30 Committee Meetings
All rooms are in the arena area.
BMF Room 5
BMA Seminary Room 7
Dept. of Church Resources Room 3
Evaluation Committee Room 4
MRS Room 6
Moral Action Room 8
Missions Room 1
Nominating Room 2

Tuesday Afternoon, April 25
3:00 Second General Session
Volunteer Student Missionary
3:10 Worship and Praise
3:20 Enrollment Committee (Initial Report)
3:30 Proposed Changes to Constitution
4:00 Report from Coordinating Council
4:30 Nominating Committee Report
4:40 Clerk's Report
4:55 Volunteer Student Missionary
5:00 Closing Prayer
Adjourn

Tuesday Evening, April 25
7:00 Third General Session
Volunteer Student Missionary
Worship
Annual Message John David Smith
Alternate Dr. Charley Holmes
Adjourn

Wednesday Morning, April 26
8:30 Fourth General Session
Volunteer Student Missionary
8:35 Worship and Praise
8:45 Brotherhood Report
8:50 WMA Report
9:00 BMA Theological Seminary Report
9:30 Election of Officers
Election of Annual Speaker
9:50 Department of Church Resources (Camp, BPH, DCM)
11:20 Evaluation Committee (Salary)
11:35 Committee on Arrangements Report
11:50 Volunteer Student Missionary
12:00 Adjourn

Wednesday Afternoon, April 26
2:00 Fifth General Session
Volunteer Student Missionary
Worship and Praise
2:15 Baptist Music Fellowship Report
2:25 Moral Action Committee
2:55 Pastors' and Laymen's Conference Report
3:05 Lifeword Broadcast Ministries
3:35 Final Nominating Committee Report
3:45 Recording Secretaries' Report
3:55 Minute and Clerk Hire
4:05 Ministers Resource Services
4:35 Miscellaneous Business
4:55 Volunteer Student Missionary
Adjourn

Wednesday Evening, April 26
7:00 Volunteer Student Missionary
Worship and Praise
Missions Department Report
Miscellaneous Business Report
Final Enrollment Committee Report
Missionary Commissioning Service
Closing Prayer
Adjourn

Enrollment Committee Schedule
Monday 2-4 PM & 6-7 PM (30 minutes after)
Tuesday 8-9 AM & 3-4 PM & 6-7 PM (30 minutes after)

DCM reaching out

Dates Available For Walk Thru The Bible Old Testament Seminars

A highly creative, action-packed, and interactive learning adventure, Walk Thru The Bible's Old Testament Seminar traces 4,000 years of Old Testament history through 77 key people, places, and events. Utilizing hand motions, catch phrases, and group review, participants will understand the Old Testament as never before and accomplish the following:

Grasp the special messages and meanings of O.T. characters, themes, places and events.

Integrate knowledge of all 39 books, 929 chapters, and 23,214 verses.

Meet key Bible characters up close and personal.

Trace major geographical movements on a giant map made up of the people attending the seminar.

Experience a rekindling of desire to read the Bible and pray daily.

Kirk Shelton, Church Growth and Pastoral Ministries Consultant for the Department of Church Ministries, is a certified instructor for Walk Thru the Bible's Old Testament Seminar. Describing the seminar Shelton had this to say: "I attended Bible College and took Seminary courses which taught me a lot about the Bible. But when I attended a WTB Old Testament seminar several years ago, it helped me understand and put in place people, events, and themes like never before. This is one of the best events a person can participate in if they want to truly grasp the Old Testament." Walk Thru The Bible was started in the early '70's by Bruce Wilkinson, author of numerous books including The Prayer of Jabez.

For many years the cost of hosting a WTB Old Testament Seminar was prohibitive for most churches with less than 500 in attendance. Thanks to a new initiative started about three years ago the seminar is available to even the smallest of churches. For more information on scheduling a seminar contact Kirk Shelton at 972-935-6898 or email him at kirk@fellowshipforney.org.