

Important Dates

**Northeast District
2007 Ladies Retreat**
Saturday, April 14
Woodland Baptist Church
Columbus, MS

2007 GMA Retreat
March 9-10, 2007
Camp Garaywa

2007 Galilean Retreat
March 16-17, 2007

**Missions & Evangelistic
Conference**
North - March 20, 2007
South - March 22, 2007

Senior Adult Conferences
South - March 29, 2007
Picayune, Mississippi
North - May 8, 2007
Fulton, Mississippi

**BMA of America
Annual Meeting**
Ft. Smith, Arkansas
April 16-18, 2007

**BMA of Mississippi
Mid Year Meeting**
Midway First Baptist
Sumrall, Mississippi
May 21-22, 2007

Barnabas Trips Scheduled

We still have room on these trips!

| | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Philippines | April 23 - May 4 |
| Russia | May 15 - 25 |
| Ghana | July 30 - August 10 |
| Cape Verde | September |
| Guatemala | Nov. 26 - Dec. 3 |

Barnabas Touch Trip Coordinator
Larry Barker
918-869-7966
barnabastouch@suddenlink.net

Time to Collect Used and Surplus Literature

The new MLM Literature Collection project (MLMLITCO) is designed to make the literature collection process easy and simple for your church. Used and surplus literature is shipped to West Africa where it's used again and again.

1. Upon receipt of literature, carefully open and save the shipping cartons.
2. Collect the BMAA Sunday School material for the quarter ending and carefully repack it in the saved cartons.
3. Use the peel-and-stick shipping label enclosed in your recent literature shipment. Request additional shipping labels by calling 1-800-333-1442, e-mailing us at mlm@bph.org, or photocopying the label on the instruction sheet. Use USPS, UPS, or other carrier of your choice.

MARCH 1, 2007

VOL. 61 No. 5



Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

America's Days are Numbered

by Dr. Travis Plumlee

Are we seeing the beginning of the end of this great nation of ours? Are we on a countdown to self-destruction? If you look and study societal history, one thing is clear to sociologists. When a society has a breakdown in the family unit, it spells doom for a nation. It does not matter how great the nation once was or how robust the economy is. When the family disintegrates, the society falls. The family was the first institution God ordained. It is the life blood to any continuity of that society. All other institutions in society feed off of the family unit. We can all clearly see that the American family is in trouble.

As much as it pains me to say it, the American family is falling apart. As it continues to erode, the American society will inevitably collapse. Perhaps this is the reason America is not part of the end times. If America was the lone great super power of the world, then wouldn't it figure that we would be a part of the last days? Would we not be mentioned in Revelation, if not by name, certainly by reference to the great powerful nation in a distant land? I am afraid the reason we are not mentioned is because we won't be here.

Are we so ethnocentric to think our nation will survive in spite of our thumbing our arrogant nose at the Lord God? What about the great Roman empire? The conquering giant once known as Greece is no more. The British empire once spanned the globe and it was said that the sun never sets on the British Empire because it encompasses the entire planet. What happened to these societal giants? More recently, Russia was the other great super power on the earth. However, when the vast majority of its population became addicted to alcohol, it began to unravel. The family unit collapsed under the weight of alcoholism. People gave up a desire to work hard under the communist regime and make it work. The nation ignored God and became an atheist nation for the most part. It wasn't the fall of the Berlin Wall that caused Russia to acquiesce into obscurity. It was the fall of the family, the giving up on God and the love affair with alcohol that spelled doom to the great Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

This brings us to America. Our families are hurting. We are falling apart. Divorce is rampant. Kids are rebelling. People don't take serious a commitment to home, but to career. And most Americans serve the almighty dollar instead of the Almighty God. Malls and movie

theaters are full on Sunday and churches are half empty.

The number one threat to our country is alcohol and drugs. The greatest threat to destroy America will not be Muslim extremists. It will be drugs. We have a war on terrorism and a war on drugs. It is the war on drugs that will kill our kids. That enemy is already here and firmly entrenched. As I work with youth groups across the country, I am grieving and burdened. Most of our young people today are doing drugs and alcohol. Yes, the majority, even in our church youth groups are doing it. It is not a rite of passage, but a rebellious spirit. Just a few years ago, most teens would not admit in a youth conference to me that they did drugs. Now they openly confess they do drugs on a regular basis. Marijuana and crystal meth and alcohol are just a part of their life and they are destroying



Travis Plumlee

their future because of it.

There are too few Christian adults who care about it as well. They say it is the parents responsibility. It is. But since so many have parents that don't care, can't the church at least try and show love to these kids and help them? But who will volunteer to spend time with the youth? Who will start a mentoring group with teens one night a week? Why can't churches use those costly family life centers as gathering places for the youth of the community on weekend nights? Fill it with kids and give them a clean, safe place to go play ball instead of going to the back woods and smoking dope. But that would require volunteers willing to put in a little work, and it just isn't happening. The end is near.

The second downfall is a sense of entitlement. Our young people expect things to be given to them. Gone are the days when Americans knew that to achieve and be successful it would take a lot of hard work. Many kids today

continued on page 3

SBC hosts special guests in chapel



On February 27, Hope Now Ministries presented "Sights and Sounds of Ukraine", featuring the young people's group, Kalyta, in chapel at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, Mississippi. Kalyta is a Ukrainian group out of Cherkasy Law Lyceum, a high school for gifted and talented young people. They have received national recognition in Ukraine for their brilliant performance of folk and Christian music. They sing in both Ukrainian and English.

Short Message Series by Rev. Grover Laird

Asking In Faith

"... ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord." (James 1:6,7)

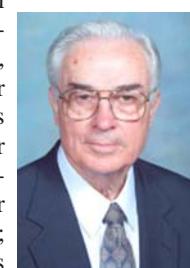
In James 1:5, we are told that if we feel a need of wisdom we should ask for it. Then he reminds us to ask in faith without any doubt, telling us that if we lack faith we probably will not get the wisdom we ask for. This would no doubt apply to any honorable thing that we would ask of our Heavenly Father.

The Bible mentions several things that will help us in getting our prayers answered. Earnestness will help--"And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?" (Luke 18:7) Righteous living will help--"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." (1 Peter 3:12) Praying in the Spirit is very important--"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost," (Jude 1:20) Humility is a factor in obtaining help from God--"But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace

unto the humble." (James 4:6) Prayers can be hindered when husbands and wives fail to treat one another as they should in the home--"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." Grover Laird (1 Peter 3:7) Yet

one of the most important things to remember in reaching God in prayer is to ask in faith.

Jesus placed a lot of emphasis upon the importance of asking in faith when we pray. In Matthew 21:22 He said, "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Again we read, "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." (Mark 11:24) One reason that Jesus placed so much emphasis upon asking in faith could be the fact that unbelief is very offensive to Him--"Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken." (Luke 24:25)



The Lord does ask that we pray in faith.

Does this mean that we could ask in faith and get anything we ask? Well, we must remember that faith is a gift from God. (I Corinthians 12:9) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above. (James 1: 17) And it matters not how hard we try, we cannot have faith that is free of doubt unless the Lord permits it. We therefore will not be able to start changing things around that are out of the will of God. Yet when the righteous pray earnest prayers of faith, we should expect God to answer. He may answer us by changing our desires and giving us understanding of His will. (II Corinthians 12:8,9)

But we still must come back and see that we are commanded to pray in faith if we desire help from the Lord. (Mark 11:24) And to fail to muster up all the faith we can when we ask, can hold back the answer. When a certain father begged Jesus for compassion upon his son, Jesus said, "... If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." (Mark 9:23) When the father heard these words he mustered up all of the faith he could and asked for more--"And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." (Mark 9:24) Jesus accepted his effort to believe and healed his son. We can also expect help from our Heavenly Father when we ask with all of the faith we have and trust Him for the rest.



News articles should contain information that will be of interest to the general public who are not members of the church that is reporting.

Parkview, Laurel plans revival

Parkview Baptist Church in Laurel will be holding Spring Revival services March 11-14. Bro. Greg Medenwald of Magnolia Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, will be sharing the message with Bro. Latrelle Windham of Parkview leading the music. Services on Sunday, March 11 will begin at 10:45 a.m. followed by the noon meal and an afternoon service. Monday through Wednesday evenings, services will be at 7 p.m. The invitation goes out to 'whosoever will'.

Shane Singleton, pastor

Mid-Central Association meets

On January 20, 2007, the Mid-Central Association held its regular business meeting at Magnolia Heights Baptist Church in Forest. Bro. Bobby

Carr lead the congregation in singing and then we were blessed with a special brought by Judy Carr and Faye.

Bro. Therrell opened in prayer and then Bro. Jimmy King introduced Bro. Brian Waltman to bring our message. Bro. Bill Raines gave the hand of appreciation to Bro. Waltman.

There were 23 in attendance. Bro. Bobby Carr read the minutes and Bro. Therrell read the treasures report. Both were approved and adopted. In the way of new business Bro. Raines asked everyone to be in prayer about our Mission Funds. Bro. Breland gave an update on the Master Builders. The meeting was closed in prayer by Bro. Bobby Carr.

Those in attendance enjoyed a great meal prepared by the ladies of Magnolia Heights Baptist Church. The next meeting will be March 17, 2007, at Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

Bro. Bill Raines, Moderator
Joyce Williamson, Reporter

Bethel, Fulton

We at Bethel extend a warm welcome to everyone, and hope you are surviving the cold weather. On the 3rd, the Awana Volunteers had a fellowship in the COC.

The Senior Youth had a "Super Bowl Bash" on the 4th and youth from other churches also attended. They had a great time of fellowship and food. At half time they had a worship service that was enjoyed by all who attended.

The Awanas continue to grow and the meals they prepare for the church are going well.

Our pastor attended the associational meeting at New Hope on the 9th.

The Senior Youth and youth from other churches attended "Winter Jam" in Tupelo on the 11th.

Our Golden Agers met on the 5th for a time of fellowship and food. They also fixed "Valentine Goodies" for the elderly and shut-ins.

The Special Events Committee planned a reception to honor our new pastor, Dr. Martin Jameson, and his family on the 25th. We are enjoying them very much. If you have not met Dr. Jameson feel free to stop by and say "hello."

Bro. Jameson has been preaching from the book of Titus on Wednesday nights and it is being enjoyed by all. The Brotherhood Breakfast was held on the 25th and well attended. There have been two additions since our last report. Come see us when you can.

Dr. Martin Jameson, pastor
Joyce Cooley, reporter

Tombigbee Meets

The Tombigbee Association met on February 8 at Woodland Baptist Church in Columbus. Eighty-six folks were present and enjoyed an evening meal before the meeting began.

Pastor Mike Allred welcomed the messengers and Bro. Gary Smith brought the evening devotional. Re-

Commission on Senior Adults

Vern D. Holifield, Director
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440



South Senior Adult Conference scheduled for Picayune

The Commission On Senior Adult Ministry of the BMA of Mississippi is proud to announce the program for the South Conference.

The Mill Creek Baptist Church of Picayune and pastor Arthur Lee will host the South Conference on March 29, 2007. The church is located on Hwy. 43 South & Old Kiln Road, Picayune. The program will begin at 9:30 AM and close around 3:00 PM. Brother Earl Smith of Picayune will lead the worship music for the day. Brother Gary Smith, Pastor of South Green Baptist Church, Tupelo, will be in concert in the Morning service. Brother Donnie Parrish, Director of Student Missions for the BMA of America will bring the message.

The Shallow Creek Singers of Picayune will be in concert that afternoon. Shallow Creek is a Blue Grass Gospel group. There will be door prizes, great fellowship and an abundance of food all for the small fee of \$15.00 per person.

Please call the Mill Creek Church office no later than March 23 and let them know the number attending from your church. The phone number is 601-798-1783. If no answer leave a message or call Bro. Lee at 601-337-4501. You may call me at 601-729-3189 for any additional information.



Gary Smith

Donny Parrish is a nationally known conference speaker and concert artist and serves as Executive



Donny Parrish

Pastor of Ministry and Worship Pastor for the Fellowship Baptist Church in Forney, Texas. He also serves as Director of Student Missions for the BMA of America as well as the Conference Division Director of the

BMA Department of Church Resources. He is author of instructional conference material on a wide range

ports were heard from Missions Director Rayburn Freeman and Bro. Joseph Oyeleye, Elvis Garcia and Bro. Lavelle Lee.

Roger Franks brought our evening message and encouraged us to be busy for the Lord. A bond of love is always felt when we gather at our monthly meetings.

Wanda Parmer, reporter

Missouri church seeks bi-vocational pastor

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

Arkansas church seeks student minister

Calvary Baptist Church in Fayetteville, AR, is seeking a full time Minister of Students and Outreach. Resumes may be mailed to the church at 1410 Porter Road, Fayetteville, AR 72703.

of ministry subjects and he works with churches to strengthen their individual local ministries. Part of his responsibilities includes sending high school and college students on mission trips around the world. Parrish is also responsible for visionary leadership and conference production through DCR. He and his wife, Datha, have been married for over 28 years. They have two daughters, Brittany, now with the Lord and Samantha, a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Kenneth Lofton

Bro. Kenneth Lofton is available for service wherever the Lord may lead. He is a member of Riverside Baptist Church. Bro. Lofton may be contacted at 601-319-7804.

South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference Registration

Please call the Mill Creek Church office no later than March 23 and let them know the number attending from your church. The phone number is 601-798-1783. If no answer leave a message or call Bro. Lee at 601-337-4501. You may call me at 601-729-3189 for any additional information.

Moral Action Committee

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



Dr. Roy McLaughlin
Director

An Article Worth Reading by Ted Sampley

"What Thomas Jefferson Learned from the Muslim Book of Jihad"

Democrat Keith Ellison is now officially the first Muslim United States congressman. True to his pledge, he placed his hand on the Quran, the Muslim book of jihad and pledged his allegiance to the United States during his ceremonial swearing-in.

America's Days

from page 1

expect things given to them. They expect big salaries for little work. They expect to be passed in high school and want a degree in college, but they don't want to have take the hard work and time to study. They expect to be passed and they are. They can't read or make whole sentences, but it doesn't matter. Colleges are dumbing down and passing them because their funding is by graduation rates. Parents and society expect schools to pass kids. They don't expect kids to pass and earn it by hard work. I'm not saying all kids. I am saying most.

Finally, the trifecta of collapse for America will be the mass immigration of illegal people into our country. A society only stands as long as there is a common bond, a common language and a common love for their home land. This will be completely gone in a few years with millions of people that insist on coming here illegally, having all the benefits, and wanting nothing of what makes America - America.

These three problems will probably spell the end to America. A nation of drug and alcohol abusers who have no willingness for hard work, coupled with people who don't really want to be a part of the American society. Is there hope? There is always hope in Jesus Christ. But we adults better stop just complaining about the problem and start doing something about it. We need to strengthen our families and get them back under biblical authority. We need to open our churches to the masses of kids that don't have parents who care and teach them that we Christians do, and that there is a better way to live. We need to give them hope. We also need to speak up and keep America uniquely American.

The hand writing is on the wall for us. We have to reach this younger generation. What are you doing to help?

Capitol Hill staff said Ellison's swearing-in photo opportunity drew more media than they had ever seen in the history of the U.S. House. Ellison represents the 5th Congressional District of Minnesota.

The Quran Ellison used was no ordinary book. It once belonged to Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States and one of America's founding fathers. Ellison borrowed it from the Rare Book Section of the Library of Congress. It was one of the 6,500 Jefferson books archived in the library.

Ellison, who was born in Detroit and converted to Islam while in college, said he chose to use Jefferson's Quran because it showed that "a visionary like Jefferson" believed that wisdom could be gleaned from many sources.

There is no doubt Ellison was right about Jefferson believing wisdom could be "gleaned" from the Muslim Quran. At the time Jefferson owned the book, he needed to know everything possible about Muslims because he was about to advocate war against the Islamic "Barbary" states of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Tripoli.

Ellison's use of Jefferson's Quran as a prop illuminates a subject once well-known in the history of the United States, but, which today, is mostly forgotten – the Muslim pirate slavers who over many centuries enslaved millions of Africans and tens of thousands of Christian Europeans and Americans in the Islamic "Bar-

bary" states.

Over the course of 10 centuries, Muslim pirates cruised the African and Mediterranean coastline, pillaging villages and seizing slaves.

The taking of slaves in pre-dawn raids on unsuspecting coastal villages had a high casualty rate. It was typical of Muslim raiders to kill off as many of the "non-Muslim" older men and women as possible so the preferred "booty" of only young women and children could be collected.

Young non-Muslim women were targeted because of their value as concubines in Islamic markets. Islamic law provides for the sexual interests of Muslim men by allowing them to take as many as four wives at one time and to have as many concubines as their fortunes allow.

Boys, as young as 9 or 10 years old, were often mutilated to create eunuchs who would bring higher prices in the slave markets of the Middle East. Muslim slave traders created "eunuch stations" among major African slave routes so the necessary surgery could be performed. It was estimated that only a small number of the boys subjected to the mutilation survived after the surgery.

When American colonists rebelled against British rule in 1776, American merchant ships lost Royal Navy protection. With no American Navy for protection, American ships were attacked and their Christian crews enslaved by Muslim pirates operating under the control of the "Dey of Algiers"—an Islamist warlord ruling Algeria.

Because American commerce in the Mediterranean was being destroyed by the pirates, the Continental Congress agreed in 1784 to negotiate treaties with the four Barbary States. Congress appointed a special commission consisting of John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin, to oversee the nego-

tions.

Lacking the ability to protect its merchant ships in the Mediterranean, the new America government tried to appease the Muslim slavers by agreeing to pay tribute and ransoms in order to retrieve seized American ships and buy the freedom of enslaved sailors.

Adams argued in favor of paying tribute as the cheapest way to get American commerce in the Mediterranean moving again. Jefferson was opposed. He believed there would be no end to the demands for tribute and wanted matters settled "through the medium of war." He proposed a league of trading nations to force an end to Muslim piracy.

In 1786, Jefferson, then the American ambassador to France, and Adams, then the American ambassador to Britain, met in London with Sidi Haji Abdul Rahman Adja, the "Dey of Algiers" ambassador to Britain.

The Americans wanted to negotiate a peace treaty based on Congress' vote to appease.

During the meeting Jefferson and Adams asked the Dey's ambassador why Muslims held so much hostility towards America, a nation with which they had no previous contacts.

In a later meeting with the American Congress, the two future presidents reported that Ambassador Sidi Haji Abdul Rahman Adja had answered that Islam "was founded on the Laws of their Prophet, that it was written in their Quran, that all nations who should not have acknowledged their authority were sinners, that it was their right and duty to make war upon them wherever they could be found, and to make slaves of all they could take as Prisoners, and that every Musselman (Muslim) who should be slain in Battle was sure to go to Paradise."

For the following 15 years, the

American government paid the Muslims millions of dollars for the safe passage of American ships or the return of American hostages. The payments in ransom and tribute amounted to 20 percent of United States governmental annual revenues in 1800.

Not long after Jefferson's inauguration as president in 1801, he dispatched a group of frigates to defend American interests in the Mediterranean, and informed Congress.

Declaring that America was going to spend "millions for defense but not one cent for tribute," Jefferson pressed the issue by deploying American Marines and many of America's best warships to the Muslim Barbary Coast.

The USS Constitution, USS Constellation, USS Philadelphia, USS Chesapeake, USS Argus, USS Syren and USS Intrepid all saw action.

In 1805, American Marines marched across the desert from Egypt into Tripolitania, forcing the surrender of Tripoli and the freeing of all American slaves.

During the Jefferson administration, the Muslim Barbary States, crumbling as a result of intense American naval bombardment and on shore raids by Marines, finally officially agreed to abandon slavery and piracy.

Jefferson's victory over the Muslims lives on today in the Marine Hymn, with the line, "From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli, we will fight our country's battles on the land as on the sea." It wasn't until 1815 that the problem was fully settled by the total defeat of all the Muslim slave trading pirates.

Jefferson had been right. The "medium of war" was the only way to put an end to the Muslim problem. Mr. Ellison was right about Jefferson. He was a "visionary" wise enough to read and learn about the enemy from their own Muslim book of jihad.

NORTHEAST DISTRICT 2007 LADIES RETREAT

Saturday, April 14
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Woodland Baptist Church
Columbus, MS

Theme

Your Parachute in a Kaleidoscope World

Speaker: Allegra Brigham
CEO of
4-County Electric Power

Registration Fee
\$20 includes lunch
(Due by March 31)

For more information, call
between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.
662-327-6689
or
662-328-0766

SOAR 2007 - July 3-5

Renaissance Grand and Renaissance Suites
St. Louis, Missouri

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

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SOAR Villages and much more.

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Editorial



Don Brown
Editor

Special Emphasis

Funds continue to come in. Listed below is the total received to date. If you gave to our Emphasis Drive and your name is not listed, please let us know.

We extend a **special thanks** to each one who gave to this effort. It is vital to the success of our Association that we have a strong, united purpose and vision for reaching the world for Christ. Fellowship and a common cause is enhanced by staying in touch with each other and keeping up with the various ministries supported by our churches.

Your Mississippi Baptist Paper is a strong, valuable link from the pew to the numerous mission fields that our Association supports. Continue to support it and share in the good news of God's wonderful grace.

2007 Special Emphasis Giving

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Antioch Baptist Church, Taylorsville | \$150.00 |
| Berean Baptist Church, Ellisville | \$143.15 |
| Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso | \$100.00 |
| Big Creek Baptist Church WMA, Soso | \$100.00 |
| Centerville Baptist Church, Mantachie | \$48.00 |
| Collins, Don & Linda, Carthage | \$100.00 |
| Community Baptist Church, Poplarville | \$128.00 |
| Corinth Baptist Church, Lucedale | \$100.00 |
| Corinth Baptist Church, Petal | \$100.00 |
| Cypress Creek Baptist Church, Brooklyn | \$75.00 |
| Ellis Ryals, Soso | \$40.00 |
| First Baptist Church, Bay Springs | \$542.86 |
| First Baptist Church Of Calhoun, Laurel | \$500.00 |
| Forked Oak Baptist Church, Booneville | \$117.00 |
| Good Hope Baptist Church, Columbia | \$64.08 |
| Grace Baptist Church, Pass Christian | \$28.00 |
| Harmony Baptist Church, Hurley | \$83.00 |
| Hopewell Baptist Church, Fulton | \$100.00 |
| Hopewell Baptist Church, Laurel | \$150.00 |
| Lebanon Baptist Church, Laurel | \$205.00 |
| Lee's Chapel #2 Baptist Church, Picayune | \$36.00 |
| Lone Oak Baptist Church, West Point | \$56.00 |
| Movella Baptist Church, Lucedale | \$65.00 |
| New Bethany Baptist Church, Seminary | \$67.00 |
| O'Neal Road Baptist Church, Gulfport | \$168.00 |
| Palestine Baptist Church, Bay Springs | \$100.00 |
| Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel | \$295.00 |
| Riverside Baptist Church, Ellisville | \$75.00 |
| Shady Grove Baptist Church, Tishomingo | \$200.00 |
| Sharon Baptist Church, Laurel | \$100.00 |
| Shiloh Baptist Church, Ethel | \$198.20 |
| Spencer Memorial Baptist Church, Pascagoula | \$50.00 |
| Spring Hill Baptist Church, Laurel | \$64.00 |
| Sycamore Baptist Church, Picayune | \$42.00 |
| Temple Baptist Church, Biloxi | \$4.00 |
| Ten Mile Baptist Church, Perkinston | \$27.00 |
| Union Baptist Church, Bay Springs | \$769.80 |
| Walter Johnson, Wiggins | \$30.00 |
| Washington Baptist Church, Neely | \$28.00 |
| Westover Baptist Church, Hattiesburg | \$90.00 |
| Zion Baptist Church, Anguilla | \$400.00 |
| Total | \$5739.09 |

Letters From Our Readers

Thomas Family ministry continues
Dear Editor,

I bring you greetings from the Gary Thomas family and A Heart for Home Ministries. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to update the readers of The Mississippi Baptist concerning our ministry.

Seven years have passed since the Lord impressed upon us to "by faith" follow Him in this ministry of revival to families. We have traveled over 250,000 miles and ministered in over 140 churches. The salvation of hundreds of souls and the revival of many families has been witnessed. God truly moved within many willing hearts and homes. Some of the best years we have ever experienced as a family were the past seven years.

On November 1, 2006 we began our eighth year of full time itinerant ministry to the church and families. Our family ministry team has and is experiencing change. Matthew is now serving in the United States Marines. He has led young men to Christ and helped fellow Marines in spiritual bondage. Brian is now working for Wal-Mart in preparation for college this fall. As the Lord began to reveal His will to Matthew and Brian, we as a family were wondering if God was finished with A Heart for Home. While in revival at the First Baptist Church of Branch, Arkansas God confirmed that we were to continue our ministry. The church's greatest need is revival. At the Heart Cry for Revival Conference I heard the following statement, "America's hope is in the church and if the church does not experience revival, America has no hope."

Even with two children gone, we remain to have a strong ministry team. We still offer three different revival formats for the church ranging from traditional to a more widely used expanded design that truly ministers to the entire family. Our son Kevin (age 22) along with Garrison, Jessica, Daniel and Sarah Katherine lead the children's side of the meeting while Detra and I lead in the main worship service. Although our banjo and fiddle player are no longer with us, we continue to be strong in the realm of music. Detra has produced two new albums and our three younger children have really "stepped up" musically and are making up the difference. Our ministry also includes Family Day services and concerts. Bible Schools, Kids Crusades and Camps continue to be the greater part of our schedule in the summer months.

Should your church be interested in using us in a meeting, we would be thrilled to come serve you and the families of your church. Currently, we have dates available in the Spring, Summer and Fall. If you have any questions or inquiries you may con-

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"You can always tell when he's going to preach from the Book of Romans"

Sermon of Conglomeration

by Dr. Ritcheous N. Dignation

Let's talk about preachers. Why not? Ever' body does on Sunday at the dinner table after church. Let's just make it official. When it comes to preachers and preachin', there's all kinds. I know some short preachers, tall preachers, fat, skinny, and even a few handsome preachers. I've also met some ugly preachers. I've heard some good preachin' and I've heard some sorry preachin'. I've endured long sermons and enjoyed short ones.

Here's a word of the wise to preachers. Bale your hay. That's what old Brother Gerald Kellar taught us preacher boys at the institute. Stand up, speak up, and shut up. The direct result of hay not baled is long sermons. I remember once in preachin' class, one fellow preached so long, half the class left out to go get a haircut. Not to be outdone, a preacher boy got up the next week, preached longer, so Brother Kellar started shaking his watch in the air. He never got the message. The next time he preached, Brother Kellar brought a calendar and tore pages out during the sermon. To quote my wife, Sister Ritechus N Dignation, "The mind can only absorb what the bottom can endure."

The most classic mess of a sermon I ever heard came from Archibald T. Purvis. He preached what I call a sermon of conglomeration. From the best of my memory, it went some-

tact us at: A Heart for Home Ministries, P.O. Box 2002, Clarksville, AR 72830. You may also call or e-mail us at: 479-705-8409, (Cell) 870-270-0448, or gthomasfam@juno.com.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We love you in the Lord Jesus.

Sincerely,
Gary Thomas
A Heart for Home Ministries

thing like this:

"Open your Bibles to the book of Genesis while I preach to you about a man named Adam. God made Adam and put him in a garden and he worked until he got tired, then fell asleep. While he was asleep, an enemy came and sowed tares in his field. When he awoke, he wist not that his strength was gone from him. So he left the garden-uh, and went into a far country and there he married 700 wives and 300 concubines. Then began great tribulation-uh. Can I get an amen-uh? Now I want you to know-uh, that he met a man named Noah, who took him for a ride on his boat-uh. And while he was on top of the boat, a great whirlwind came and knocked him off the boat and he fell into the water and was swallowed by a great fish-uh. And he remained in the belly of the fish-uh, for 40 days and 40 nights-uh. Then the fish-uh was caught in a net, and the net began to break-uh and the fish spit him out-uh and he fell on top of Peter who was praying on a roof, and he got tangled up in a great sheet-uh. He then fell out of the sheet-uh into a bottomless pit-uh and remained there for 1000 years, until he was loosed for a little season. He then went to the city of Gadara, and there wandered among the tombs forever-uh and ever-uh. Amen."

Now that's apostolic preachin'. The apostles went every where preaching the gospel. So did Archibald. He started in Genesis, than went everywhere preaching the gospel. Preacher, you may wax eloquent in long sermons, but more than likely, your just repeatin' yourself and probably are just a legend in your own mind. Bale yor hay!

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

That's liable to get 'historical'

Two men were discussing a mutual third friend when this little exchange took place. "I was just talking to ol' Bob the other day and you know our conversation became a little more of a spirited discussion. And then it just turned right into a heated argument. Before I knew it, ol' Bob had

become downright historical".

The other man replied, "I think you mean ol' Bob became hysterical."

"No," the other said to clear things up, "I mean historical. He told me everything I have ever done wrong to him in the entire time I've known him".

Do you know anybody that's liable to get 'historical' in a conversation, or more likely in an argument? Do you ever realize that sometimes that 'somebody' can be you? We all have great archives of bitterness and hurt in our lives that we can reach back to at the appropriate times and with the appro-

priate person. How much better would it be though, if instead of reaching into those archives, we reached into the depth of faith and found that flowing spring of forgiveness?

Forgiveness is from the very hand of God. There is not one person on the face of the earth that does not stand in need of forgiveness by God. We are either living our lives in rejection of His Son or in rebellion of His grace

(think about it - over the last 24 hours has everything you've done been something you would have wanted Jesus to find you doing?).

We each need forgiveness. That is why God made the preparation that we might receive it. Because of Jesus Christ we are able to confess our need and with a repentant heart we are able to receive forgiveness and be made right in our relationship with God. Forgiveness is from the very heart of Jesus. It is the primary reason for His death at Calvary - that our sin may be



Shane's World

Shane Singleton

forgiven. But Jesus lived a life of forgiveness all through His earthly ministry. He taught that if we lived our lives in an unforgiven and unforgiving manner that our prayers would be hindered and our lives would be burdened.

Consider the many people that did Jesus wrong or unjustly - to whom did He not offer forgiveness? If we are calling ourselves by His name - Christian - then we are to live as He lives - forgiving. And we do not forgive others that we might obtain forgiveness for ourselves - we forgive others because we recognize and value the forgiveness that He has given us. Forgiveness is from the habit of every Christian.

We should strive to live our lives not being unjust to others, but also forgiving injustice done to us. We have to give up our right to strike back - physically, mentally, emotionally; we have to turn the resentment in our heart to love - this is done best through God's grace and our efforts to sincerely pray for those that have deeply hurt us. No one can stand against the strength of sincere, loving prayers. We must take the responsibility to restore relationships. This is best done at the moment of injustice. Say, "Friend, you have offended me" and at his apology, forgive him and the moment is forever gone.

However, it is our nature to let things carry over for days, months, sometimes even years, by this time the offender may not realize he has offended - to say to him or her "I forgive you for wronging me" can do more harm than good. Forgive in your heart the injustice done and restore fellowship by loving, caring, and praying for the offender. Forgiveness is a grace, a gift, and a growing experience. It continues day by day - the offender you've forgiven today may offend you again tomorrow with the same old stupid thing. Remember Jesus' words 'seventy times seven'. In light of how often He forgives us when we 'wrong' Him (often in the same old stupid things), how often ought we forgive those who 'wrong' us?

Let's none of us be 'historical'. Let us strive to rarely be 'hysterical', rather may we always be 'kindhearted', forgiving one to another as Jesus Christ has been forgiving to each of us!



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

Mississippi State W.M.A.

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

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

National WMA 1st Vice-president

Dear Ladies,

I can't believe another year has passed already in WMA. It has truly been a pleasure serving as your 1st Vice-president.

Our goal for this year has been to reach out to more ladies, more auxiliaries, and more prayer. I trust God has richly blessed you and your auxiliary work in all of these areas this year.

We have asked ladies all over the U.S. to help by forming prayer circles for intense prayer for our WMA work. There is strength in Unity. All of us will be blessed by joining together in prayer.

Also, we have designed a brochure for you to use as an enlistment tool and encouraged ladies to run off copies to pass our to churches and ladies not involved in WMA.

One more thing, I hope all of you have been working on the WMA Standard of Excellence. If you have reached the Standard of Excellence, it is time to send the name of your church and address to me. Write to Renna Hight, 607 S.E. First, Bryant, AR 72022 or you can e-mail me at ivhight@aristotle.net.

Thanks,
Renna Hight

Northeast District Ladies Retreat Scheduled

Woodland Baptist Church will be hosting this year's Northeast District Ladies' Retreat on Saturday, April 14, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Allegra Brigham is the featured speaker and her theme is "Your Parachute in a Kaleidoscope

NORTHEAST DISTRICT 2007 LADIES RETREAT

Saturday, April 14
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Woodland Baptist Church
Columbus, MS

Theme
Your Parachute in a Kaleidoscope World
Speaker: Allegra Brigham
CEO of
4-County Electric Power

Registration Fee
\$20 includes lunch
(Due by March 31)

For more information, call
between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.
662-327-6689
or
662-328-0766

Prison Ministry seeks help with ... Books for women in Prison

The Ladies of the BMA of America has begun a project to give study books to women in prisons. The Prisoners Bible Crusade will be partnering with the WMA's as the ministry that sends the books into the prisons. Also, the Ladies of churches where there are no organized WMA's are encouraged to join in this project. The "Books for women in prison" project will be carried out in two ways.

Contact information:

Prisoners Bible Crusade

Mailing address:
P. O. Box 696
Picayune, MS 39466

Shipping address:
24090 Road 269
Picayune, MS 39466

Gretchen Lee, Project Manager
Prisoners Bible Crusade
Phone 601.798.1341

Paul E. Lee, Director

South Mississippi Senior Adult Conference Registration

Please call the Mill Creek Church office no later than March 23 and let them know the number attending from your church. The phone number is 601-798-1783. If no answer leave a message or call Bro. Lee at 601-337-4501. You may call me at 601-729-3189 for any additional information.

Parkview Sunbeams

The youth group at Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel, recently visited the Painted Zebra in Hattiesburg as a youth activity. The children are seen here painting ceramics.

Our youth group has an active kids choir that performed a Christmas musical. Pictured here are Brother Ray Thornton and Mrs. Shirley with John and Joseph Harrison after the musical presentation.

Parkview Sunbeams are an active group with art and music being an important part of our program.



GMA Girls

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

Sunbeam Prom. Linda Dertinger
132 HowardHill Road
Soso, MS 39480
601-729-2908

State GMA camp time is here

Dear GMA's,

This is Savannah your State GMA President. It's almost time for camp! Just a few days! We are making final preparations and I am so excited about what God has in store! The theme this year is "Walk and Work" with the scripture taken from Ephesians 2:10. The dates for camp are March 9th and 10th at Camp Garaywa with Brother Josh Spiers as the Camp Pastor. I would like thank each one of you for praying for camp and for Bro. Josh. We are going to have a blast! Get your bags packed and get ready for a blessing. I can't wait to see all of you at camp. May God Bless each of you.

Your sister in Christ,
Savannah Smith, State GMA President

2007 Pastor's Retreat held

The 2007 Pastor's Retreat was held at Skyway Hills Baptist Church in Pearl. Pastor Billy Huffmaster and the church were good hosts and provided meals and recreation for those attending.



CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION

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



CAC Represented at the State Capitol

It was my distinct privilege in January, 2007, to represent the churches of the B.M.A. of Mississippi at the Mississippi State Capitol in Jackson. This commission/department is supported by our gracious churches with the mission to express our views and concerns before our State Representatives and Senators, area judges and local officials.

On January 18, State Representative Jamie Franks of Mooreville, introduced me before the State House as it convened. I was introduced for prayer as a representative of the B.M.A. of Mississippi Christian Action Commission and as the Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Mantachie. God gave our cause major exposure.

During my two January visits, we promoted:

- 1) an increase on the cigarette tax, to help curb smoking among the youth,
- 2) opposition to more gambling casinos being built in Mississippi, and
- 3) support of greater emphasis to lower the high school drop out rate in Mississippi.

Your Director personally visited with several legislative men and

women: Senator Travis Little, Senate Pro Tem of the State Senate of Corinth; Senator Lydia Chassaniol of District 14, Winona; Senator Hob Bryan of Tupelo, District 7; State Representative Ricky Cummings, District 1, Iuka; Representative Bryant Clark, District 47, Pickens; House Speaker, Billy McCoy;

Representative Jim Evans, District 10, Jackson; Representative Steve Holland, Tupelo; Representative Randall Patterson, District 15, Biloxi; Representative Linda Coleman, District 29, Cleveland; Representative Eric Robinson, District 84, Quitman; Representative Jamie Franks, Candidate for Lt Governor of Mississippi.

Letters have been sent to Governor Haley Barbour and Lt. Governor Amy Tuck on our church positions of the previously mentioned concerns. We must pray for our political leaders that God will lead and direct them in Biblical paths.

Our Counterpart

During these last few months, it has been my privilege to familiarize myself with Dr. Jimmy Porter, Director of the Christian Action Commission for the Mississippi Baptist Convention in Mississippi. Bro. Porter's main thrust is the anti-abortion

agenda. If you have an opportunity, visit the Mississippi Baptist Convention display in Jackson, across from the state Capitol. Located in the front of the office, is an encasement that has 50,000 pennies. The pennies represent 50,000 babies aborted in our own state of Mississippi. It is an awesome and sober display.

Highlighted Churches that Support the CAC

Buffalo Baptist Church, McLain
Centerville Baptist Church,
Mantachie
Clearview Baptist Church,
Mendenhall
Corinth Baptist Church, Petal
Dykes Chapel Baptist Church,
Richton

Highlighted Trustee of the Month

This month we wish to highlight our CAC Trustee, Bro. Wexford Parmer, pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church of Tupelo. Bro. Parmer, 65, was born in Marion County, Alabama. He and his wife, Wanda, have four grown children and are happy grandparents. He has pastored for forty-five years, with twenty-five years in the Missouri pastorate. We are glad to have this Godly man on our Trustee board, and as our trustee clerk.

49th MISSIONS & EVANGELISTIC CONFERENCES

Text

John 20:21 Then Jesus said to them again, Peace to you. As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.

THEME SO SEND I YOU

North Conference - March 20, 2007

Tuesday 20th – Morning Session Hosted by

SOUTH GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH, TUPELO, MS

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 9:00 | Congregational Singing |
| 9:05 | Welcome & Introduction of Program |
| 9:10 | Bro. Martin Jameson - God Sends Abraham |
| 9:40 | Bro. Bryan Issacs - Jesus Reaches the Outcast |
| 10:10 | B-R-E-A-K |
| 10:20 | Special Music Bro. Gary Smith |
| 10:30 | Bro. Kevin Marr - Guidelines for Being Sent to Reach My Community |
| 11:00 | Special Music Bro. Roger Franks |
| 11:10 | Bro. Rayburn Freeman - Mission Report - God Sends Daniel |
| 11:40 | Altar Call and Benediction |
| 11:50 | NOON MEAL PROVIDED BY HOST CHURCH |

Tuesday the 20th – Afternoon and Evening Session Hosted by

BOGUEFALA BAPTIST CHURCH, MOOREVILLE, MS

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1:50 | Congregational Singing and Prayer <i>the African-Americans</i> |
| 2:25 | Bro. Royce Hawkins - God sends David |
| 2:55 | B-R-E-A-K |
| 3:15 | Special Music Shiloh Singers |
| 3:30 | Bro. Roger Akers - God Sends Paul to Reach the Gentiles |
| 4:00 | Bro. Tim Nall - God Sends Joseph |
| 4:30 | Bro. Jackie Gray - God Sends Gideon |
| 5:00 | Altar Call and Benediction |
| 5:20 | EVENING MEAL PROVIDED BY HOST CHURCH |
| 6:30 | Congregational Singing & Prayer |
| 6:35 | Special Music by Betty Dillard |
| 6:45 | Bro. Elvis Garcia - God Sends the BMAM to Reach the Hispanic |
| 7:15 | Special Music Shiloh Singers |
| 7:45 | Bro. Jerry Kidd - God Sends the BMAA to Reach the Regions Beyond |
| 8:15 | Altar Call and Benediction |

South Conference - March 22, 2007

Thursday 22th – Morning and Afternoon Session Hosted by

CANAAN BAPTIST CHURCH, AVERA, MS

- | | |
|-------|--------------------------------------|
| 9:00 | Congregational Singing |
| 9:05 | Welcome & Introduction of Program |
| 9:10 | Bro. Coy Rice - God Sends Abraham |
| 9:40 | Bro. Tommy Watts - God Sends Joseph |
| 10:10 | B-R-E-A-K |
| 10:20 | Special Music |
| 10:30 | Bro. Stan Bennett - God Sends Gideon |
| 11:00 | Special Music |
| 11:10 | Bro. David Bailey - God Sends David |
| 11:40 | Altar Call and Benediction |
| 12:00 | NOON MEAL PROVIDED BY HOST CHURCH |

Thursday the 22th – Evening Session Hosted by

TIGER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH, OVETT, MS

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1:55 | Congregational Singing and Prayer |
| 2:00 | Bro. Harold Floyd - God Sends Daniel |
| 2:30 | Bro. Neil Murphy - God sends the Disciples |
| 3:00 | B-R-E-A-K |
| 3:20 | Congregational Song and Special Music |
| 3:35 | Bro. Keith Ulmer - Jesus Reaches the Samaritans |
| 4:05 | Bro. Randy Clark - God Sends Ester |
| 4:35 | Bro. Wallace Williams - God Sends Paul to the Gentiles |
| 5:05 | Altar Call and Benediction |
| 5:20 | EVENING MEAL PROVIDED BY HOST CHURCH |
| 6:30 | Congregational Singing & Prayer |
| 6:35 | Special Music |
| 6:50 | Bro. Bro. Jerry Kidd - God Sends the BMAA to Regions Beyond |
| 7:20 | Special Music |
| 7:30 | Bro. Winnie McMahon - God Sends the BMA of Mississippi |
| 8:00 | Altar Call and Benediction |

BMA of Mississippi MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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



Pastor Virgil Ainsworth and Spencer Memorial Baptist Church, Pascagoula

The work of our missionaries is commendable, but so is the work of our pastors and churches that are helping to make missions possible. Recently Bro. Virgil Ainsworth the pastor of Spencer Memorial Baptist Church of Pascagoula visited the missions office. Bro. Ainsworth wanting to respond to the help churches, associations, and individuals that gave in the aftermath of Katrina, challenged his church to raise \$500 for state missions. His challenge was, you raise \$250 and I will match it with \$250. The church accepted the challenge and raised not only the \$250, but also the entire \$500. As any pastor would be, Bro. Ainsworth was excited and expressed high appreciation for his church and their accomplishment. As Missions' director I join with Bro. Ainsworth in commanding Spenser Memorial Baptist Church for accepting the challenge and providing a generous offering of \$500.00 to mission.

Shady Grove Baptist Church, Tishomingo

In 2005 I was asked by Shady Grove and Pastor Mavious Phifer to plan a Missions Sunday for the first Sunday of February in 2006. In order to expose them to an overall view of BMA missions, I invited Bro. Grady Higgs the executive missions director for the BMA of America as one of the speakers. The day was well attended with a delicious lunch served by the ladies of Shady Grove. The people of Shady Grove made us feel welcome. They did everything possible to make us feel a part of them. That day they said, "we want this to be an annual event, so go ahead and plan for 2007." A few days afterward Bro. Phifer called to confirm the date for 2007. The day was planned for Sunday, February 4, 2007 when our state Missionaries, Bro. Phil Knotts representing the National office in Little Rock, and I with our families visited Shady Grove. The day was a highlight of the year. Each one was given an opportunity to speak; a delicious lunch was served and the fellowship was sweet. The mission spirit expressed by Shady Grove is an encouragement. Their gift to state and national missions was \$1,100.00 each. We are planning for 2008.

El Camino Mission in Laurel is not a small mission anymore! They are growing numerically, financially, and best of all spiritually. Parkview in Laurel continues to be more than generous to El Camino by providing a parsonage and place of worship. However, we cannot expect them to continue such generosity without end. The relationship between



Bro. & Mrs. Estuardo Marroquin

Parkview and El Camino continues to be outstanding. El Camino is a soul winning mission, and is anxious to reach the goal of organizing into a New Testament church. They support local, state, and national missions on a regular monthly basis, and contribute \$1,200 monthly toward the salary of Bro. Marroquin, their missionary pastor. Bro. Marroquin is faithful to attend monthly meetings of the local associations and

many times is accompanied with some of his members. The members of El Camino are making plans and saving for the construction of a new sanctuary and educational building. The building funds that have been donated together with what they have saved are near \$30,000. We hope to begin the groundwork for their new building by the first week in April. We are asking you to pray with us that we will be able to acquire an adjoining lot that is greatly needed, last week their attendance hit the eighty mark.

I encourage our people to visit **Divine Grace** and Missionary Williams. For those traveling south on highway 49, take the I-10 exit west toward New Orleans; after 4 to 5 miles turn right at the Long Beach exit then turn left and go south about 1 mile. After crossing the railroad track, turn immediately to the right on Red Creek road. The mission is located on the left after 4 miles or so.

Bro. Ed and **Homestretch** in Cleveland are thankful for what the Lord is doing in Cleveland. Even though initially the work is moving kind of slow Bro. Ed says he is not discouraged. He is sure that Cleveland is where the Lord wants him to work and build a strong African-American Bible believing church. Bro. Ed welcomes any group who will schedule time with him to help conduct a summer Vacation Bible School. Any BMA church or group interested in helping can contact Bro. Ed at 662-843-9979 or the missions office. Homestretch has saved near \$20,000 to buy property for the construction of a sanctuary. Bro. Ed and I have looked at property and I plan on returning with members of the Missionary Committee and Revolving Loan Fund Trustees to view it and look at additional locations.



Bro. & Mrs.
Wallace Williams



Ed Duvall Family

Bicentennial Mementos

Those who would like a bicentennial jacket, watch, lapel pen, pencils, calendars or other items can avail of these at the mission office. The jackets are \$65.00 and the watches are \$30.00. We yet have a few of the Special Emphasis Calendars for 2005 and 2006. If Churches or individuals would like copies, or additional copies please notify us.

2007 Missions and Evangelistic Conferences

The 49th Missions and Evangelistic Conferences for the North and the South were planned by members of the Missionary Committee. They did a wonderful job and I appreciate them and the churches that have committed to hosting these conferences. Programs of the conferences

are printed in this issue of the Mississippi Baptist. Remember, this event always takes place the week after the third Sunday in March. We are encouraging each church to help promote this annual event. Copies of the programs have also been mailed to each church. To obtain additional information you may call 601-428-8616 or email us at director@bmaofmmissions.org. Attend and bring others with you, especially the lost.

Mid-Year State Associational Meeting

Just a reminder to mark your calendar for May 22 for this fellowship and sharing of how God is working among our BMA churches. The meeting will be hosted by First Baptist Midway, Sumrall.

Our Special Missions Emphasis months of April and May are just around the corner. Considering the quality of our missionaries and progress that each mission is making, I know, will encourage our giving. Consider that if our one hundred and ninety plus churches and missions gave an average of only two hundred fifty dollars each, there would be a total of forty seven thousand five hundred dollars raised. This amount would be enough to give full missionary support for one year; this includes salary, house allowance, insurance, retirement, worship center rent, travel and some of the unexpected. The first year always seems to be the most expensive. Our six state missionaries are working hard to reach the goal of self support. Until that happens at least in part, or we have a good special emphasis in April and May we cannot financially commit to another mission project. Join with us in promoting and praying that we will have the greatest special emphasis ever for our Missions and Missionaries.

If your local associations would like for the Missions Department to have the program during special emphasis period. You can contact us by calling 601-428-8616 or 601-319-0003.

Concerned Officers Meet

The officers of the Missionary Committee and Revolving Loan Fund met on January 15. In that meeting a study of missions and loans in light of the present Cultural Revolution was made. It is the general feeling of most that some direction should be chartered to counter the declining interest in the Lord's work. Today we see less and less people in church, less churches with open doors, and a dwindling spirit toward the Lord's church and her mission outreach. There are BMA churches that are financially strong and could be doing a lot for missions, but their interest appear to be more toward material matters on the home front. This kind of spirit leaves missions that will glorify the Lord and be a blessing to others undone. Jesus clearly defines our purpose of existence as missionaries of the gospel. If we do not do missions, people will not hear, and if they do not hear, they will not be saved. Jesus teaches that only souls will go to heaven, material things are good for what they were created, but they will perish and should not have priority. Rewards in heaven will be determined by how much one loves the Lord and other people while here on earth. When I can't go myself, will my giving make it possible for other to go? Leaders of other works have shared how they are also experiencing a decline in church interest and attendance. It has been said that misery loves company, and maybe there is some consolation in knowing that we are not the only ones faced with this problem. However, that does not justify us being content to sit back and say "we cannot, we will have to accept the fact, it's just the signs of our time." It's happening in other places and to other people, so what can you do about it? There is

something that can be done! Somewhere, there is a missing link between Christian families and the church and we should at least try to identify and attempt to address it. Is it the Father, the Mother, or both, or just something? Our children are not leaving church for no reason. Where are they going, to other churches or no church at all? In one of the latest issues of the Mississippi Baptist, it was stated that 63% of Christians between ages 18 and 40 are uninvolved, un-attached, non-committed, and show no responsibility for pointing their families in the direction of Jesus. When considering such mindset, it is easy to see where America could easily be one generation from atheism. Judging from the results of some political poles we could be nearing the mark already. Maybe America and what she has (as much as we love her) to offer has become our problem. Has materialism become the priority for most Christians rather than the cross, the glory of God, and the eternal security of our families? Maybe a good question would be: do I own the material things of life, or do they own me? History attests to the fact that prosperity and Christianity have problems living together in our homes, our nation, in this world. You be the judge as we pray together.

Mission needs additional help

Dear Churches of the BMA of MS,

Greetings from Divine Grace Baptist Mission. I am writing to inform you of our building progress and a need we have. We just received temporary power this week which means we can start meeting in part of our new building. We thank the Lord for that and now we can meet in a controlled environment instead of a small building with no heat, air or indoor plumbing. The section we are meeting in consists of Sunday School rooms, a nursery, two restrooms, a dining hall and kitchen. The floors are unfinished, but we plan to start putting down porcelain tile next week. We have the tile and it's paid for. We also lack half of the ceiling tile, but we have the tile on site and will work on that as well next week. I hope to have our two restrooms working in two weeks.

On January 8, 2007, I challenged our members to begin praying about giving a special offering on March 25, 2007. When we began this project, we applied for \$250,000.00 from the Revolving Loan Fund. We have secured that entire loan. The building is now about 75% complete. Due to the rising cost of material and labor, we are going to be about \$60,000.00 short of completion. This does not include the parking lot and any landscaping, which can wait till a later time.

Since I challenged our members we have already received \$14,500.00 from our people. I trust God for the rest and He has been faithful to meet our every need. I am hesitant to even ask for help because the churches and individuals of the BMA of Mississippi have already given so much, and are still doing a lot to help. God has used so many of you and we are very grateful. If your church, a Sunday school class, auxiliary, or an individual can help on March 25, 2007, we certainly would appreciate it. Thank you for your help and please continue to pray for us. May the Good LORD bless you with abundant grace.

In Christ,
Wallace Williams
Missionary Pastor



Bro. & Mrs.
Wallace Williams