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Kellar Award Winner Announced Johnson To Be Honored at Seminary Friends Dinner in Norman, Oklahoma

The BMA Seminary will hold its annual Seminary Friends Dinner on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. at the sixty-fourth annual meeting of the BMA of America. The 2013 Kellar Award will be presented to Brother Aubrey "Buddy" Johnson. Brother Johnson is the tenth Kellar Award recipient.

This award, named in honor of the late Dr. Gerald Kellar, the founding president of BMA Seminary, recognizes a seminary alumnus for outstanding contributions in ministry typifying the legacy of Dr. Kellar.

The 2013 dinner will be in University Ballrooms A and B of the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Norman, Oklahoma. Once again, thanks to the gifts of generous friends, the cost of the dinner will only be \$25 per person.

The Kellar Award honoree, Aubrey 'Buddy' Johnson, surrendered to the ministry at the age of 21, while a student at Jacksonville College in Jack-

sonville, Texas. He later earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas and a Master of Arts in Religion from BMA Seminary.

Johnson pastored BMA churches in Etoile, Jacksonville, and Texarkana, Texas, before becoming a BMAA missionary to Mexico in 1973. While on the field, he led in the planting of 53 churches and missions, founded a Bible institute (the current Instituto Bíblico Asociacional) and was instrumental in the opening/operation of a bilingual elementary school, known as the Martha Johnson Elementary School.

In 1999, he moved back to the United States and pastored in Texarkana, Texas, until the Lord called him to his current ministry as Hispanic Coordi-



Buddy Johnson

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Hotel Reservations Update for BMAA Meeting in Norman, Oklahoma

As of February 20, eighty-seven percent of the rooms blocked for our annual meeting April 22-24 at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Norman had been reserved. Others wishing to stay at the headquarters hotel are encouraged to make reservations immediately. Please call the Embassy Suites at 405-364-8040 and tell them you will attend the Baptist Missionary Association of America meeting to receive the discounted rate.

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Four reasons to remember the Sabbath

by Mark Dance, pastor
Second Baptist Church, Conway, Arkansas

CONWAY, Ark. (BP) -- I had run through my adrenaline and serotonin. I was simply going through the motions. I was bone tired and worn out. My physical, mental and spiritual gas tanks were empty.

I had been called as pastor of Second Baptist Church of Conway, Arkansas, in 2001. We began a period of rapid -- and unexpected -- growth. We bought 50 acres of property to expand our footprint. I was busy!

For an extended season, I was meeting with planning teams, consultants, potential donors, small groups, staff, etc. I justified my schedule -- and my ambition -- to myself, my family and the church staff as a temporary seasonal burst. "Like a sprint," I said. I rationalized that CPAs do it every year during tax season, athletes do it before offseason, politicians do it before an election ... blah, blah, blah.

continued on page 2

South Forrest Mission to dedicate building



Work on the South Forrest Mission this past October. The finished building will be dedicated at a service at 2:00 pm on March 23

South Forrest will be having a building dedication service on March 23rd at 2:pm. We are excited about what God has been doing here in this mission effort and we want you to come celebrate with us.

We cordially invite everyone to attend this service. If you are one of the 93 people who were here on the 27th of October, 2012 for the "wall raising" we especially want you to attend this ser-

vice. We will have Bro. Dennis Knight the pastor of our mother Church, Paramount Baptist Church, as well as our state missions director Bro. Larry Gearldson speaking.

We also plan on having special music and a message from the pastor of South Forrest Baptist Mission Church Bro. Sidney Farmer. The service will be closed out with a special prayer of dedication led by Bro. Dennis Knight.

CONSIDER THIS

God did not call us to
sit..soak..and sour.

BUT TO SERVE!

Commission on Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Kenneth Flynt
Director

South Conference Nears

The South Mississippi Senior Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26, from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso. The program is planned to be one of the best.

Pastors, please encourage your seniors to attend and come with them. There will be preaching, testimonies, Gathier-style Homecoming Singing and testimonies from the attending seniors.

One call - that's all!

Make one call to give the number attending from your church. If you fail to do this, come on anyway. Call 601-763-8100 from 8-12 noon or 601-729-3198 (Mrs. Dot Holifield).

These special days been held for several years and

many tell of their joy in attending and look forward to attending the next one.

The afternoon session will consist of Gathier-style Homecoming Singing, and the congregation will participate in some of this homecoming singing.

North Conference

The North Mississippi Senior Adult Conference will be held Friday, May 10, at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton. Note the change from May 17 to Friday, May 10.

Bible preaching, gospel singing, and a sweet time of fellowship awaits all who attend.

Attend this special day for seniors and experience the joy of the Lord as we celebrate Heaven's Jubilee.

Remembering The Sabbath

from page 1

But, just like when my car gets low on gas, my warning light came on.

So I did what most terminally driven people do when they get close to running out of gas. I began to go faster! While I thought I could leap (or build) tall buildings in a single bound, I came to realize I was a man of flesh, not steel. I paid the price for that stupidity. So did my family, staff and church.

I had nothing left to give. There were no scandalous train wrecks, no suicidal thoughts or immoral actions, but the erosion had clearly crept into my relationships.

I reached out to my doctor and learned I was clinically depressed. A week later a licensed psychotherapist confirmed it. They helped me understand how to get out of it with the help of God and other people on my "Dance Team."

Fortunately my depression was temporary and treatable since it was diagnosed early. But, I also believe it could have been avoided.

I am healthy now and want to use my experience to help other people. A good plan for staying healthy is to apply the Sabbath to your life.

1. The Sabbath is a gift.

Humans have been hardwired to both work and rest. If we stop doing either, we stop living full and abundant lives. Each of God's commands was given to be a blessing, not a burden.

The Sabbath originally was a gift to freshly emancipated slaves. Slaves don't usually get gifts, much less days off. Yahweh wanted them to know that they were no longer slaves, but His sons and daughters.

He not only provided deliverance, but rest and food, as well. God provided twice the amount of daily manna they needed on the day before Sabbath, so they would not have to collect it during their only day of rest. What a generous God! He enjoys blessing us, if only we will let Him.

"If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:" (Isaiah 58:13).

You would expect high-fives all around, but the Israelites were awkward with the new normal.

The people of God were not yet used to life without their Egyptian taskmasters. Some even wanted to go back to that awful life of slavery. Embracing a new lifestyle on God's terms took a considerable amount of courage. Many resisted and rejected His gift, which also was a significant sign of their new covenant with Yahweh.

We still resist and reject His Sabbath gift, don't we? I sometimes marvel at how quickly I slip back into my chains of slavery. A terminally driven life has the lure of Egyptian bondage, yet the pressure to succeed still draws me back there. But there is a better way to live.

I personally have experienced the pleasures of this wonderful gift and passionately want you to, also. I'm not saying I have perfected the art of Sabbath keeping, because I still struggle every single week. But I am not going back to Egypt without a fight! I have found the rest of God right where He left it for us, in the open pages of His Word.

God not only blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy, He blesses those who courageously and consistently observe it. He wants to bless you

as you explore and apply Sabbath principles to your busy life. You will find those closest to you also will be blessed when you consistently receive God's gift of rest. At first, you may want to resist these practical Sabbath principles, as the Israelites did. Your courage will be tested, but the payoff is worth the effort, I assure you.

The Sabbath is a practical gift, as well. It stops you for short periods for rest and refueling. Work six days, then take the seventh day off. Rest is refueling for another week to accelerate.

2. The Sabbath is a command to obey.

Rejecting or neglecting this gift is nothing short of open rebellion. It wasn't optional and initially was enforced with a death penalty. While those desert rules were intense (and fortunately temporary), they do give us glimpse into the seriousness of the Sabbath to God.

No. 4 on God's top 10 list is a 24-hour cease and desist order! Sabbath rest is not a punishment, just a reminder that we were created to work hard and then rest easy. We do not need to choose between the two.

We pastors are among the worst at ignoring the Sabbath command. Motivated people like us don't comply because

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Hotel Reservations

from page 1

The committee on arrangements has also contracted for overflow rooms at the following hotels.

Hotel	Room Rate	Reservation Deadline for Group Rate
Hilton Garden Inn 700 Copperfield Drive 405-579-0100	Single & Double- \$119 Triple & Quad- \$129	March 31, 2013
Courtyard by Marriott 770 Copperfield Drive 405-701-8900	\$89	April 7, 2013
Holiday Inn 1000 North Interstate Dr. 405-364-2882	\$89	March 31, 2013
Comfort Inn & Suites 840 Copperfield Drive 405-701-5200	\$79	April 1, 2013

Filling our room block at the Embassy Suites will cap the fee for meeting space at \$5,000 and filling all the other blocked rooms will result in no charge for the meeting space. Please help us make wise use of our resources by doing so.

BMAA Committee on Arrangements
Charles Attebery
Leon Carmical
James Ray Raines

Online Option for Norman Hotel Reservations

The Norman Convention and Visitors Bureau has provided an online option for making hotel reservations for the upcoming Baptist Missionary Association of America meeting. Please use the following link to take advantage of that option:
<http://www.visitnorman.com/baptist-missionaries/>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GMA & Galilean Retreat Camp Garaywa, Clinton	March 8-9, 2013
Sharpen Leadership Conference Big Creek Church, Soso	March 23, 2013
South Senior Adult Conference Big Creek Church, Soso	March 26, 2013
Sharpen Leadership Conference Bethel Baptist Church, Fulton	March 30, 2013
BMA of America Norman, Oklahoma	April 22-24, 2013
Missions & Evangelistic Conference First Baptist, Bay Springs	May 3, 2012
North Senior Adult Conference Mt. Pleasant Church, Fulton	May 10, 2013
BMA of Mississippi Midyear Meeting East Fulton Church, Fulton	May 20-21, 2013

Southeastern Baptist College

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

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

News from the Accreditation Meeting

I recently returned from the annual ABHE meeting in Orlando. Amy Hinton, our librarian and Director of Assessment (and Accreditation Liaison) also attended. Our greatest concern was to hear the finding of the commission concerning our status. We have been on warning because of a low total weighted score which was directly related to a low financial responsibility composite score based on a continued net operating loss, which violated standard 6b in the ABHE compliance standards.

There were three possibilities: (1) Being placed on proba-

tion, which would have been a step from losing accreditation, (2) Remain on warning another year, which would not be great, but better than probation, or (3) Removal from warning, which is what we prayed and worked toward.

After I appeared before a panel on Monday, February 11, I was called back in one hour to appear before the Commission and hear the result. The Commission stated, "The ABHE Commission on Accreditation



Joseph Harris
Interim
President

reviewed your institution at its February 9-13, 2013, meeting and took the following action: Remove Southeastern Baptist College (MS) from warning in light of their significant progress toward financial health...." This was followed by a requirement for specific reports that will be required later in the year. Thank the Lord! The warning was removed, but we still have financial issues to deal with to ensure that we do not continue to operate at a loss and end in the black this June. God has already proven more than faithful as He has moved upon His people in the past to supply the needs of His college.

Prayer for Me

While at the meeting in Orlando, I had some major health problems. On the final day of the conference, about three hours before attending the last session, I experienced excruciating pain in my lower right abdomen. After going to a local ER, I was admitted to surgery for a strangulated hernia, plus

the repair of a second hernia, and treatment for diverticulitis. I was not aware of any of these conditions prior to the pain. I had surgery on February 16, but had to stay in Orlando due to complications in order to recover for travel until February 24. In all, my family and I were gone for 17 days.

Maybe it was God's way of reminding me that He is in control of my schedule and travel plans. Thank you to the ones who prayed and contacted with encouragement during this difficult time.

Voice of the Martyrs

One of the benefits of chapel services at SBC is the exposure to our students of different ministries. On Tuesday, February



Bob Bozeman of Voice of the Martyrs in Chapel

12, Bob Bozeman was the guest speaker in chapel. He is a representative from The Voice of the Martyrs ministry. Though millions of believers have been persecuted throughout church history, many are surprised to hear that Christians are still being persecuted today around the world. Voice of Martyrs (VOM) elevates this awareness through an effective ministry.

Old Time Preachin' and Singin' Sabbath

from page 2

Being me is not easy. I say that because I have to deal with someone that entertains crazy thoughts all of the time. Myself! I can be minding my own business and all of a sudden WHAM, a weird thought. Then I get beside myself thinking about it and suddenly there are two of me. It's weird.

The thought in question was, 'Who is this Gregor guy, and why did he make up a chant called the Gregorian chant?' In an enlightening, (read extremely tedious here), Music Appreciation class, it was encumbered upon the students to listen to these guys Oohing and Ahhing and having the gall to call it music. It was excruciating. I couldn't imagine listening to that and then having to preach. The head chanter probably prefaced the song by saying that God had given it to him. Some kid on the back row was most likely saying, "Give it back!" The older church members possibly complained about that modern music and the younger crowd may have been

complaining because nobody wanted to try anything new.

It seems that we all have the tendency to think we have perfected the right style of music when it comes to singing in the church. I had a man tell me that he didn't like bluegrass music. I started to tell him that he wouldn't like Heaven very much, but that didn't seem respectful. There was also the issue of being beat like a drum by a seventy year old man and thus, losing my credibility as a mean, lean, fighting machine.

Reputations have been lost many times by people actually having to give proof of who they say they are.

People who say they like that old-timey music and that it is the only music God will accept are usually simply talking about music from twenty to fifty years ago, which in all reality isn't very old at all. You want old-timey, start a Gregorian chant in church.

We tend to labor on the style of preaching also. Most of the time when people say they miss

old-timey preaching, they really mean preaching from just a few decades past. Some of the old deacons most likely had their hands full trying to stomp out that new fangled modern style of hell-fire and brimstone preaching. "Just read us a Psalm preacher! You don't have to romp and stomp and get all red in the face!"

I personally like the romp and stomp method. It keeps me awake. Nowadays the trend has gone to expository preaching. Many are convinced that it is the only way a man should preach, verse by verse. I have to admit, you can't go wrong just reading the Word, however, I'm pretty sure that most any style or method a man may be led to pursue has already been tried. We just like to think we are the first and that we are the only ones that are right. Forget the fact that we are the generation spawned by the style of singing and preaching that we so vehemently dismiss, as were the generations before us.

I'm pretty sure that even Ray would agree, if we give our whole being to serving the Lord, we would probably enjoy most any style of singing or preaching. With the possible excep-

tion of Gregorian chants. I'm afraid the reason we fuss so much about it, is not because we are so sanctified, but because we are not.

we don't want to, don't think we need to or, frankly, don't know how to stop. Many of us are conservative in what we believe about the Sabbath, but are liberal in our practice of it.

As a pastor, I work hard on Sundays, so it is not even close to a Sabbath rest for me. But does that get me off the hook? Like others who work on Sundays, I must find a way to disengage from my occupation for a full day every week. God won't let your job and family and ministry fall apart because you obeyed Him and unplugged for a day.

3. The Sabbath is an example to follow.

"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all

his work which God created and made." (Genesis 2:1-3).

Balance is an illusion for driven people. Life is too unpredictable to balance. A better biblical goal is to live a life in rhythm. Athletes understand the need for a pre-season, season and off-season. So do accountants and politicians. Even nature's seasons and cycles remind us of God's rhythm.

Jesus demonstrated how our lives can be in a healthy rhythm between life and vocation. We see Him oscillating between work and rest. Sometimes He would encourage the crowds to stay and eat, heal one more person or pray all night. Other times He would retreat to the lakes, mountains or wilderness for rest and renewal. One time Jesus even slept through a life-threatening storm. Why? Because He was tired!

A healthy Sabbath lifestyle includes seasons of intense work, followed by periods of intentional rest. Rhythm is a series of sprints and recoveries. A life of work and rest and worship is an abundant life. Jesus wants and expects us to live abundantly and fully.

4. The Sabbath is a person to love.

"Come unto me, all ye that

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From The Mind of



Chuck Lee

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

www.bmaofmississippi.com

DEPARTMENTS & COMMISSIONS

Mississippi Baptist Paper

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Commission on Senior Adults

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39440
601-729-3198

History & Archives Commission

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39440
601-729-8098

Moral Action

P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855

Mississippi Baptist | **Opinion Page**

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Department Directors Share Information

BMA of America Department Directors met with Texas pastors on Thursday, February 28, at Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie, Texas. Directors John David Smith, Steve Crawley and Scott Attebery joined BMAA Public Relations Director David Watkins for a round table discussion concerning current integration efforts and future plans for the association.



Don Brown
Editor

This writer applauds this effort. Our directors (Smith and Crawley) have been talking about "integration" for a couple of years. Many still do not understand exactly how this new organization of the departments will work. The benefits of working together

for a common goal (which of course is the purpose and goal of our Association) is understood, but this new path is foreign to a great many who are use to our traditional mode of operation. Our association has spent large amounts of money in recent years on new facilities for Missions, LifeWord and Publications. The plan is to centrally locate these departments in the LifeWord building in Conway, Arkansas. This will no doubt necessitate relocating personnel and disposing of some valuable assets.

The goals of our directors are to be commended. I do not know the outcome of the meeting in Texas. I feel it should be a productive one. It seems it would be advantageous to hold similar meetings in other geographical areas to allow those interested to be a part of the discussion.

Time is short. Our annual meeting is only 7 or 8 weeks away.

Johnson To Be Honored at Dinner

from page 1

nator and Church Planting Trainer for the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of America. In this capacity, he has lived in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Colorado.

Johnson is also active as a trainer (Senior Master Trainer) for DCPI (Dynamic Church Planting International) and frequently travels to Spanish-speaking countries for both the BMA and DCPI. Buddy and Taffy have 6 married children and 12 grandchildren (plus one on the way!).

Come and show your love and support for this faithful servant of the Lord.

Evangelistic Effort planned

Special note: Instead of the Annual Dr. Charley Holmes Golf Invitational held on Monday before the meeting,

BMAA Department Directors have planned a Norman (Oklahoma) Invasion. Those who will help our directors "do the work of an evangelist" should meet at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, April 22, 2013, near the entrance of the Convention Center to receive survey forms, tracts, and instructions. Teams will be formed and sent from there to witness near the New Generation Baptist Church, a BMA of Oklahoma mission project, until about 4:00 p.m. Just bring your New Testament and an expectant, prayed-up heart. There is no admission fee for this event.

To make reservations for the Seminary Dinner, join the Norman (Oklahoma) Invasion, or volunteer for a support prayer group, contact Carol Shine at 800-259-5673 or carol.shine@bmats.edu.

Letters From Our Readers

Letters reflect the opinion of the writer and not necessarily this publication or the BMA of Mississippi

National WMA Project Procedures Explained

Dear Editor,

A very important part of the national work of the WMA is our dedication to deserving projects. Over the years the national WMA has funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars into missions endeavors both in the U.S. and all around the world. Some years we have had multiple recommendations for projects and we wanted to take a moment to inform those who are looking for support that there is a process for having your project nominated.

First, all project nominations must come from a local chapter of the WMA. For consideration as a project you must first approach a local church with a participating WMA.

Next, the local WMA must submit their recommendation of your project to the Project Promotion Committee for review by March 1. This gives the committee time to research the specific details of the support needed and to verify that the recommended project is affiliated with a legitimate BMA-sponsored work.

Finally, the Project Promotion Committee will contact a representative to request they present the project need at the National WMA meeting on April 23, 2013.

The local WMA chapters all across the U.S. rely on the Project Promotion Committee to vet multiple requests so they can be assured the projects presented for their selection have met requirements and they can support with confidence a worthy project.

Prayerfully,
National WMA Project
Promotion Committee
Ruby Poteet
Valarie Fish

Mississippi Baptist

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

Phone 601-426-3293

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Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



BE VIGILENT – THE END IS NEAR,

Newsweek Magazine had a full page photo of Obama on its recent cover. The large title simply read: "The Second Coming". People may try and defend the cover photo saying it meant something else. However, it is a clear and indisputable reference to Christian Messianic Second Coming. That term was used intentionally. That term is only used as

a term people understand to be speaking of Christianity and the second coming of Jesus Christ. I guess we shouldn't be shocked. The once respected national magazine had an article by Thomas Evans in 2009 where he compared Obama to God. "In a way, Obama is standing above the world – he's sort of God" Evans told Chris Matthews. In 2010 Newsweek

called Obama, "the God of all things" for his stand on same-sex unions. And again after his reelection, the magazine hailed him as the conqueror dressed in ancient warrior armor.

Then, you have a music awards program on national TV. An actor by the name of Jamie Foxx wins an award. In his acceptance speech he says, "I would like to thank my God and Savior – Barack Obama." I actually saw him say this when his speech was re-aired on cable news programs. I was so very sad. I felt sorry for these people. It was the same kind of sadness I felt when a few years back they interviewed some people who said they worshiped Oprah. I just thought they were like sheep without a shepherd. I don't really care if these people really believe this or not. It is blasphemy just to utter such evil. At the same time, I am filled with joy over being reminded just how powerful my God is. I am thrilled at knowing how sweet and beautiful my Savior – Jesus Christ is. He saved me and has been given all power and all authority. But all of this got me to thinking.

I used to wonder sometimes after reading about the anti-

Christ; how would this ever come to reality. I didn't doubt that it would come to reality. I know it is coming. But I mean I used to wonder how far away in time it would be before we had a world of people who would

how many people in this country, how many of the news media, how many celebrities and masses of people are getting close to thinking that way about Obama. For all of you who vote democratic as Christians, please do not send your usual hate mail to me when I dare write anything asking people to vote biblical principles. I am not, I repeat, I am not saying Obama is the anti-Christ. I am not telling people to vote a certain way. I am merely noting that I can now see how the anti-Christ can come to power with the majority of people because of the way certain groups of people are hailing Obama as the Second Coming. I can now see how people will listen to celebrities and news people promote the anti-Christ and he becomes a beloved world leader. It just means that Jesus is a soon returning King. So much of biblical prophecy about the end times has already been fulfilled. So many things that are suppose to be done before His return, have already happened.

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Kelby Johnson
Director

S-H-A-R-P-E-N 2013

Theme: The Importance of the Word of God

March 23rd, 2013 @Big Creek Baptist Church (Laurel)

9:00 am Registration (Worship led by Justin Bynum)

10:00 am Session 1 "Know The Word"

(the importance of Bible study) Brad Stephens

11:10 am Session 2 "Share the Word"

(the importance of Bible teaching)

Larry Geraldson

12:10 pm Lunch

1:30 pm Group Discussion

2:45 pm Session 3 "Live The Word"

(the importance of Bible living)

Kelby Johnson

3:30 Final Thoughts

(All worship led by Justin Bynum)

March 30th, 2013 @Bethel Baptist Church (Fulton)

9:00 am Registration

10:00 am Session 1 "Know The Word"

(the importance of Bible study)

Gary O'Neal

11:10 am Session 2 "Share the Word"

(the importance of Bible teaching)

Kevin Clayton

12:10 pm Lunch

1:30 pm Group Discussion

2:45 pm Session 3 "Live The Word"

(the importance of Bible living)

Tracy McMillen

3:30 Final Thoughts

(All worship led by Dwight Lindsey)

*Choose the time and location that fits your schedule!

Sabbath

from page 3

labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30).

In Matthew 12 we see a Sabbath showdown between Jesus and the Pharisees. These Sabbath saboteurs tried unsuccessfully six times to place their rabbinic restrictive yoke of man-made rules on Him. Telling the Lord of the Sabbath how to observe it was almost laughable. But we do the same thing; we make up our own rules and ignore His.

The application is flexible, but the command is not. One day a week, disconnect from work and connect through worship and rest.

Mark Dance is the pastor of Second Baptist Church, Conway, Arkansas. This article first appeared in Facts and Trends, a publication of LifeWay Christian Resources.

Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee



just blindly follow someone like that. I used to think it must be years away before America would be filled with enough people to blindly follow someone and think they are a deity. I know the anti-Christ will be charismatic, but come on! There are too many Christians, and too many smart people in America to fall for this today.

Now, I no longer wonder. I can clearly see how this country and the rest of the world could easily be swept off their feet by a charismatic world leader. How? Because in recent weeks I have been appalled

CHURCH NOTES

Revival at Mount Gilead Baptist Church

Revival services will be held at Mount Gilead Baptist Church on March 17 – 20. Bro. Steve Crawley, Executive Director of Lifeword Media Ministries, will be the Evangelist. Bro. Steve's great-grandfather, Bro. Moran Crawley, taught Bible studies and conducted services under a group of oak trees near the current church facilities before leading in the organization of the new church on July 26, 1936. Bro. Moran served as Pastor of Mount Gilead until his death. In addition to the influence that his great-grandfather had, Bro. Steve will have the joy of preaching where his grandfather, Bro. V. L. Crawley, and father, Bro. LaVay Crawley, have also preached.

The Sunday morning service will be at 10:30 and will be followed by a noon meal and an afternoon service. The Sunday evening service will be omitted and the week night services will be at 7:00 through Wednesday evening.

Oak Grove Association Report

The Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Association will meet with Pine Grove Baptist Church near Purvis on Thursday night, March 14, at 7:00. We know that Pastor Chuck Lee and all the members of Pine Grove will be great hosts for this meeting and each church is urged to send her messengers to hear the reports and help in each deliberation.

Ed Steele, Reporter

Washington Association Report

The Washington Baptist Association met February 15th at Movella Baptist Church. Pastor Donald Brown welcomed the association and Bro. Cotton Hillman gave the response.

There were 8 churches represented at the meeting. Reports were given by Bro. Larry Geraldson and Bro. Donald Brown.

Bro. Brown introduced the speaker, Bro. Nathan Brown, pastor of Leakesville Baptist. Bro. Nathan preached from Romans 1:16 about the Gospel. Thank you Movella for hosting the meeting and for the great meal prepared for us. Our next meeting will be at Midway Baptist on March 15th at 7:00 PM.

Moderator B.J. Hudson



GMA Girls

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

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

National GMA Camp Dates Set

The 2012-2013 Girls Missionary Auxiliary national officers met at the home of Peggy Lee on February 8-9. After this planning meeting, the National GMA officers have some news for you! GMA camp will be June 18-21, 2013, at Daniel Spring Baptist Camp in Gary, Texas..

The theme of this year's camp is "We are the Light of the World" from Matthew 5:14-16. The theme song is "We Are" by Kari Jobe. The 2012-13 project is 90% Laura Kanaykina, 10% General Fund. This year, decorate a coke bottle or milk jug like your favorite light source, for example, a flashlight, or a candle. Fill it up with change for the project, and

bring it to camp! We will have a competition and decide who makes the best light source!

We will also have our silent auction, candy grams, buttons, grab bags, and more to raise money for the project. Our project goal is \$25,000! The attendance goal for this year's camp is 400 girls, so make sure to bring your friends!

We also found out some big news, Wade Allen will be our camp pastor! Wade, Joanna, and their children are BMAA missionaries in the Philippines and are excited to be visiting GMA camp again. Don't forget to mark your calendars for GMA camp 2013!



The names of the GMA officers are Front Row: Kaylen Fagala (AR), Emily Luck (AR), Addie Bender (R), Katy Hicks (AR), Makaye Key (TX). Middle Row: Olivia Fairley (MS), Hayley Maynard (Tx). Back Row: Megan Gunnels (AR), Kailee Martin (MS), Amanda Hall (AR).



Adults: Front: Kelsey Fagala (AR), Beth Caldwell (MS), Laurie Hicks (AR), Margaret Wolf (TX), Teel Witt (TX), Mandi Townsend (AR). Standing/Back: Jayna Williams (T), Kristi Key (TX), Paula Bender (AR), Robin Clark (AR), Valarie Fish (AR).

State GMA News GMA & Galilean Camp Time

How Excellent Is Thy Name!

by Mary Cross, GMA Pianist
Mississippi GMA Camp is getting really close. Just a few more days! March 8 & 9. I am so excited to see all of you there and hope you have made plans to come! It's gonna be a great time to spend with friends and with the Lord.

Camp will be a bit different this year because the Galileans will be there! Also girls don't forget to bring extra money for candy grams, snack shop, craft table and the silent auction. Also the house party is gonna be a lot of fun!! Just remember NO PAJAMAS! Please be in prayer for camp that should will be saved and lives will be changed!

State Corresponding Secretary

Hey girls, this is Clara Williams, your State Corresponding Secretary. State GMA camp is fast approaching! I can't wait to get to camp this year and meet the new faces that have joined GMAs this past year and to see how the Lord is going to work in our camp!

We have a very fun camp prepared, and this year we are going to be sharing our camp with the Galileans! Our house party is going to be super amazing this year and our snack shop is going to be loaded with tons of delicious goodies! Our camp pastor will be Bro. Sidney Farmer of South Forrest Baptist Mission and I know he has a good message prepared for us! I hope to see you all there!

Brotherhood Information

Brotherhood Projects

The **Brotherhood of the Mississippi BMA** (state brotherhood) project is BMA of Mississippi Missions Department (75%) and State Galileans (25%). Designations may also be sent for the Disaster Relief Fund which continues to be maintained. Send project money to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Roy Caldwell
166 Twin Creek Rd
Lucedale, MS 39452

The **Brotherhood of the BMAA** (national brotherhood) project is Moral Action (An Agency of the BMAA) (65%), National Galileans (25%), and General Fund (10%). Send project money to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Robert M. Bynum
43 Bear Pen Creek Rd
Laurel, MS 39443

Plumlee

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The Second Coming of Jesus Christ is coming soon, but He won't be marching down Pennsylvania Avenue. He will be riding a great white horse and He comes with clouds.

The anti-Christ will be charismatic. He will have power over people. The media and celebrities, even certain religious leaders, will be quick to point out how wonderful he is. And then he will start making his move. I can see now how it could happen so quickly. We Christians just need to be ready. Be vigilant. The end is coming soon. We are headed to heaven. You must tell everyone they need to be saved by the blood of Jesus. He is the only way to God and heaven. Hurry. Witness now!

Revelation 13:6 "And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and

them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If any man have an ear, let him hear." I John 4:3,4 "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and EVEN NOW IS ALREADY IN THE WORLD." I hear a song in my head... Jesus is coming soon, morning or night or noon...

The Clock of Life

The clock of life is wound
but once,
And no man has the power
To tell you just when the
hands will stop,
At late or early hour.
Now is the only time
you have
Live, love, and toil with a will
Place no faith in
"tomorrow" for
The clock may then be still

by L. H. Parrish

Editor's Note: I found this poem recently among some of my notes during our recent move back into our home. Bro. Luther Parrish was a great and faithful warrior of the Lord. He and Mrs. Parrish retired and lived about one mile from us. We visited from time to time and I thought you might enjoy this short poem.

2013 Senior Adult Conferences

South Senior Adult Conference
Tuesday, March 26, 2013
Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso

North Senior Adult Conference
Friday, May 10, 2013
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton

2013 Theme - *Heaven's Jubilee*



"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Rom 10:13

Can We Impact The State of Mississippi For Christ?

The posited (assumption of fact based on an argument) existence of state cultures of religion suggests that migrants who cross state lines could be socialized into the religious patterns of the states to which they move. In other words, it can be hypothesized that a person moving to Mississippi is more likely to become personally more religious than if that same person moved to Vermont. Some evidence suggests there has been more migration to religious states than to nonreligious states over the past decade or so. If that is the case, and if it continues, it's possible that this will effectively increase the overall level of religiosity in the nation, or at least moder-

ate a decrease in religiousness. Mississippi remained the most religious state in the union in 2012, with 58% of its residents classified as very religious." --- Frank Newport

Frank Newport is the author of "God Is Alive and Well". Frank Newport is the Gallup Editor-in-Chief and one of the nation's leading public opinion analysts. He has spent the major part of his working life studying public opinion -- much of that opinion about religion. Newport earned a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Michigan and has worked as a college professor, as a partner in a market research firm, and as Gallup's chief pollster for more than 20 years. He is the former president of the American Association for



Larry Geraldson
Director

Public Opinion Research. The son of a Southern Baptist theologian, Newport grew up in that tradition in Texas and graduated from Baylor University. Newport's religious background and his current role as a neutral social scientist give him a unique ability to probe the reality of religion in the United States today.

The 58% mentioned above are considered very religious and is representative of all denominations. Even if the entire 58% mentioned above were saved and in church, 1,253,668 people remain admittedly unchurched or unsaved in the State of Mississippi. The Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies (AASARB) estimates that there are approximately 2,366 BMA, Southern Baptist, and ABA churches in the state of Mississippi. The average membership of one of these Baptist churches is 112. If you used that number and considered the number of unchurched and unsaved people we have in the state of Mississippi, one might suggest that there are enough people to plant 530 new churches without taking into account biological growth or future growth rate of the state. The SBC planted 112 new churches from 2000 to 2010 in the state of Mississippi. This is an average of 12 per year or .5% growth for the SBC in Mississippi. The BMA of Mississippi had a net gain of zero over the same period and the ABA decreased by 10. We can and must turn this around.

The Churches of the BMA of Mississippi have 12 new church planting projects ongoing through the Department of Missions. Other churches are reproducing themselves independent of associational support. Our associational goal is 7 new projects every year for the next 20 years. This is a projected initial growth rate of 3.7%. To maintain this rate of growth we must cultivate the spiritual climate for each church to reproduce. We have identified 35 locations where we need to plant churches. Each church should pray over this matter and then, adopt a location and take the first step toward reproduction. We are turning things around but we can and must do more.

What Can Your Church Do?

Sometimes the Holy Spirit will speak directly to the heart of a man and place a burden on his heart for the work of missions. Sometimes the Holy Spirit moves in a congregation and a passion to reproduce the church is born. Sometimes the Holy Spirit draws a person, congregation or a group of churches to take interest in a specific site or location. Sometimes, an offering is given from the heart of a church, local association or person, that becomes the catalyst for prayer and missions awareness. The Holy Spirit can use a variety of ways to initiate the missions/church planting process but to constitute a mission project; consider the follow-

ing:

THE LOCAL CHURCH

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?" Rom 10:14-15a

A church, which has the sole authority for sending a missionary, led by God, must see a need to reproduce. They must be willing to sponsor a person who will be called a missionary. That missionary must be a member of that church. The church must vote to endorse the missionary, thus giving him the authority to do missions work. The church must vote to initiate a new church in the area determined to be the mission field. The church must be willing to pray (as much as possible), participate (however possible), promote (as often as possible), provide support (as providentially, as possible), and protect (as prudently, as possible), the missionary and missions congregation.

THE MAN

"...How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Rom 10:15

The church planter is sent out by a local church to evangelize the lost and disciple the saved. He is accountable to God to establish and maintain a strong biblical preaching ministry. He is first and foremost responsible to his sponsoring church and is accountable to the association through the Missions Director. The church planter is in a collegial relationship to other churches in the association.

THE ASSOCIATION

"Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity." Phil 4:14-16

The association works with churches to select a potential area for a church plant; to assess and interview a missionary candidate; to train, prepare and supervise the missionary before and while on the field, on behalf of the sponsoring church and the association, to raise funds to help support the financial needs of the missionary and his work.

Final Thought

It is estimated that 1,253,668 people in Mississippi are unchurched or unsaved.

• 82% of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited – Dr. Thom Rainer, The Un-

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Date: Friday, March 29, 2013

Time: 6:30pm—Doors open at 5:30pm

Where: Vardaman St. Baptist Church
334 S. Vardaman St.
Wiggins, MS 39577

Tickets: \$12.00 in Advance Children 6-11 Half Price
\$15.00 at the Door Children 5 & Under Free

Church to Celebrate Anniversary

On Sunday, March 24, 2013, the fine food and fellowship. First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel, Mississippi, will During the afternoon service, immediately following



First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel, Mississippi

host its 125th Year Homecoming Celebration. All past and present members, family and friends are cordially invited to help celebrate.

Rev. Grover Laird, a former pastor, will deliver the morning message beginning at 10:30. Lunch will follow and all are encouraged to stay and enjoy

lunch, other former pastors and music ministers will have an opportunity to briefly share highlights of their ministry at FBC of Shady Grove. There will be time for anyone or any groups to present a musical special, so come prepared to sing.

There will be over 250 pho-

tos from years gone by on display for your enjoyment. A history booklet and a commemorative 125th year bookmark will be available for all as a keepsake of the celebration.

Awards will be presented in the following categories:

- The male and female in attendance who have been members at FBC of Shady Grove for the greatest number of years (do not have to be consecutive years)

- The family in attendance who is the most closely related to a charter member. Check your family history to see if you are related to a charter member, you might receive this award.

- The family with the most generations in attendance.

- The youngest male and female member present.

- The family with the most members in attendance.

If you would like to present a musical special during the service, please contact Danny Holifield at least one week before the celebration at 601-470-8918. For more information, contact the church office at 601-426-6098 or by email at fbcshadygrove@yahoo.com.

Celebrating 70 years of Marriage

On March 16, 1943, God joined Roy L. Derfelt and Virginia Tyler in marriage at the home of Roy's parents, the Rev J.O. and Lottie Derfelt. This was the beginning of the couples 70 year journey that has only strengthened because of their belief in God and love for each other.

Soon after their marriage, Roy left for the Pacific and Virginia finished her nurse's training. Upon his return, Roy attend college to become a licensed embalmer and funeral director. He and Virginia partnered with J.O. to run the Derfelt Funeral Home in Galena, Kansas. Roy and Virginia also ran the ambulance service in Galena for many years.

The couple are members of the First Baptist Church in Galena, Kansas. Roy has been a member of that church for 80 years. He has filled many positions such as, Deacon, Treasurer (over 50 years), Sunday school director, and BMA of Kansas Summer Church Camp director, as well as serving on many committees for BMA of

Kansas. Roy was a charter member of the Minister's Benefit Committee and served 20 years on that committee. Virginia has severed the Lord for 84 years. She worked alongside Roy as Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School teacher, co-director of BMA of Kansas Summer Church Camp, working with WMA, and severing on committees for BMA.

The couple are highly respected by the community for their unselfish service. They never turned anyone away that needed help.

The couple had four children, John, Molly, Mary and Jerry. John and Jerry has followed in their Dad's footsteps. Molly became a teacher and Mary is a Speech Pathologist.

A reception is planned for March 16th at the First Baptist Church in Galena from 2 pm to 4 pm. Their address is P. O. Box 367, Galena, Kansas 66739.

Editor's Note: I was introduced to the Defelts by the late Gerald and Mary Lou Kellar. Dr. Kellar served as their pastor for a number of years and continued to be dear friends. I count the Derfelts as dear friends and we congratulate them on their 70 years together. May God continue to bless them with many more.

Missions

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churched Next Door

"Only 2 percent of church members invite an unchurched person to church. 98% of church-goers never extend an invitation in a given year." - Dr Thom Rainer, The Unchurched Next Door

We cannot expect those who are not willing to invite their neighbor to go to church to be responsible to reach out beyond their own community to share the gospel with the lost and unchurched. We must send men. We need more churches that are willing to send and we need more men who are willing to go.

Matching Funds (extended until the end of April)

Missionary Bob Burch has raised \$14,739.00 of the \$50,000.00 needed to receive full matching funds. If Bro. Burch is able to raise the entire \$50,000.00 his indebtedness will be reduced by \$100,000.00. This will make the difference in a monthly note of approximately \$600.00 per month verses \$900.00. This is a big difference for a mission congregation.

Missionary Sidney Farmer has raised \$21,877.00 of the \$35,000.00 needed to receive full matching funds. These matching funds have been made available to help reduce the cost of the building loans at Caledonia and South Forrest. If you would like to make a special donation to these funds, please send it to the BMA of Mississippi Missions Department designated for Burch or Farmer matching building fund.

Upcoming Events

South Forrest Building Dedication – March 23rd at 2:00pm
55th Annual Missions and Evangelism Conference – May 3rd at First Baptist Bay Springs
 (For more information visit our website at www.bmams.org or visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bmamsmissions>)

Missions Special Emphasis is April–May (Promotional material will be mail out in March.)

55th Annual Missions and Evangelism Conference

(May 3, 2013)

Sponsored by:

The Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Missions Department

Hosted by: First Baptist Church of Bay Springs

Theme: "Arise, Go,... Preach..." Jonah 3:2

10:00-10:30am – Music/ Introduction of the Theme/Opening Prayer – Jonah 3:2 – Harold Floyd

10:30-11:00am – We preach the gospel ... Rom 1:15 – Grover Laird

11:00-11:15am – Break/Music

11:15-11:45 – We preach repentance and faith... Matt 4:17 & Heb

11:6 – Dr. Kevin Clayton

11:45-1:00pm - Lunch - (During the meal, our Missions Coordinators will give brief reports.)

1:00-1:10 – Music

1:10-1:50pm – We preach Christ... 1 Cor 1:23 – Ken Riley

1:50-2:00pm – Break

2:00-2:30pm – Music - (The Cameron Trio)

2:30-3:00pm – We preach security ... 1 Pet 1:5 – A.W. Kirkland

3:00-3:10pm – Break/Music

3:10-3:40pm – We preach the Word... 2 Tim 4:2 – Ed Steele

3:40-3:50pm – Break/Music

3:50pm-4:20pm – We preach sound doctrine... Titus 2:1 – Dennis Knight

4:20-4:45pm – Our journey along the 5 Year Strategy/5 Step Plan (Selected Scripture) – Danny Pitts

4:45-5:00pm – Break/Music

5:00-5:30pm - We preach to those who are not in church... Matt

10:1 & Rom 15:20- Larry Geraldson

5:30pm – Banquet Line Begins

5:45pm – (During the meal, our Missionaries will give brief reports and new Missionaries will be introduced.)

7:00 pm – Dismiss

'Tool of repression' – Corporations swing pro-'gay'

A traditional values organization is blasting several major U.S. corporations for using their clout to foist the homosexual agenda on the public.

"Gay rights" are good for business – that's the argument being put forth more than 200 major corporations that are filing briefs before the U.S. Supreme Court before it hears cases on homosexual "marriage" in late March. According to Reuters, companies such as Microsoft, Apple, Google, Nike, Facebook, Morgan Stanley, Intel, AIG, and Cisco Systems asked the high court on Wednesday to rule in favor of "gay marriage" in when it considers cases involving (a) California's Proposition 8, the voter-approved constitutional amendment making traditional marriage the law of that state; and (b) Section 3 of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage as between a man and a woman.

Peter LaBarbera of Americans for Truth About Homosexuality acknowledges that corporations are at liberty to do what they want privately, such as adopting pro-homosexual policies.