

# Delta Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

MAY 1, 2008

Vol. 62 No. 9

## State Association to meet at Big Creek

The BMA of Mississippi will meet for its 2008 midyear meeting on Monday and Tuesday, May 19 & 20 at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi. The church is located on Highway 84, 10 miles east of Laurel and 15 miles east of Collins.

The State Brotherhood and the State WMA will both meet on Monday Evening at 7:00 p.m. Individual meeting rooms will be provided for these auxiliaries.

A new feature for this meeting will be a meeting of the Youth Ministers and Youth Workers from around the state. A Youth Worker meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Monday afternoon. Youth workers will meet in the church Family Life Center for a meal and to organize into a state wide fellowship.

The business session of the Association will get underway at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 20. Big Creek Baptist Church, along with other local churches, will provide the noon meal for the messengers and visitors. Reports will be heard from each department, commission and auxiliary of our state work. Churches are encouraged to be represented by messenger.

New churches - New fields of service

## BMA of America holds productive meeting in Texas

by the editor

The Baptist Missionary Association of America held its 59th annual session at the Waco Convention Center in Waco, Texas, April 21-23. 261 churches were represented by 549 messengers with an additional 286 registered visitors. Seven churches petitioned membership into the Association and the Missions Department commissioned two new missionary families to new fields of service.

Officers elected for the 2008-09 year are President Philip Attebery, dean of BMA Theological Seminary, Jacksonville, Texas; 1st Vice-president Roy McLaughlin, pastor of Cornerstone Church, Swartz Creek, Michigan; 2nd Vice-president Paul Bullock of Texas; Clerk Ken Vanderslice, pastor of Shady Grove Church, Purdon, Texas; James Ray Raines, pastor of Lynchview Church, North Little Rock, Arkansas; and Greg Medenwald, pastor of Magnolia Church, Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

The 2009 meeting will be held in Branson, Missouri, with Bro. Greg Medenwald bringing the annual message. Former missionary John Smith of Colorado will serve as the alternate.



BMAA President David Watkins, pastor of First Baptist, Magnolia, Arkansas, bringing the President's message on Monday evening emphasizing the theme of the 2008 session "That The World May Believe".

New churches petitioning in to the association are as follows:

First Bikers Church, Texarkana, Texas  
Centery Church, Morrilton, Arkansas  
Oasis Church, N. Little Rock, Arkansas  
Iglesia Bautista, Carthage, Texas  
Iglesia Bautista, Cayey, Puerto Rico

continued on page 5

Former SBC instructor

## Mary Lou Kellar passes away

Mary Lou Kellar, the widow of the late Dr. Gerald D. Kellar, died at the Scott and White Hospital in Temple, Texas on April 28, 2008 at the age of 87. At the time of her death she resided by 726 Walnut Drive, Killeen, Texas. Mrs. Kellar was born May 30, 1920 in Ironton, Texas.

The Kellars met while students at Jacksonville College, Jacksonville, Texas, and married June 19, 1938. He preceded her in death in May 2001. The Kellar's children are Jerrie Sue Cleaver and husband Tony M. Cleaver of Killeen (Ding Dong), Texas; Charles Mark and Sondra Kellar of Tomball, Texas. Deceased children include Joseph Dean Kellar, Sandra Kay Kellar, and Mary Ann Kellar.

Mrs. Kellar has one brother, Gordon Nunn of Galveston, Texas. Two brothers preceded her in death: Charles Nunn and Tracey Nunn.

The Kellars have ten grandchildren: Amelia Cleaver Hartman and husband Michael, Dallas, Texas; Max Cleaver and wife Brandie, Harker Heights, Texas; Christi Kellar, Houston; James Kellar, Houston; Jamie Kellar, Joplin, Missouri; Brenton Huff, United States Army; Staci Huff, Spring, Texas; Ginger Parker, Joplin, Missouri; and Buffie Wescoat, Palm Desert, California; and eight great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Kellar graduated from high school in Jacksonville, Texas, attended Jacksonville College, Baylor University, and Stephen F. Austin University. She received her masters and bachelors degrees from Stephen F. Austin and associates degree from Jacksonville College.

Mrs. Kellar's teaching career spanned over 45 years, beginning in public school in



Mrs. Mary Lou (Gerald) Kellar

1940 in Palmer, Texas. She also taught public school at Parkwood High School, Joplin, Missouri. But her passion was Christian education, having taught at Jacksonville College in Jacksonville, Texas; Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas; and South-eastern Baptist College in Laurel, Mississippi.

She was also a writer and authored children's Sunday School literature for the Baptist Missionary Association of America for over 20 years, as well as a contributing writer to the Focus magazine. She has two published books, "Whither Thou Goest" (a study in the book of Ruth) and "Pride of Springfield", a biography of her husband.

Dr. and Mrs. Kellar retired to Ding Dong, Texas, in 1998, to make their home with their daughter and son-in-law Jerrie Sue and Tony Cleaver.

The Kellars were pioneers and leaders in the organization and work of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. The passing of Mrs. Kellar brings sadness to the hearts of our people along with a treasure of memories for the blessings they brought into the lives of us all.

**2008 BMA of Mississippi  
North Senior  
Adult Conference  
May 13, 2008  
East Amory Baptist Church  
Amory, Mississippi  
9:30 AM**

SHORT BIBLE MESSAGES - BY GROVER LAIRD

## Is Hell Real?

*"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." (Psalms 9:17)*

While the meaning of the word "Hell" may not call for more than a "place on the other side of death," the Bible speaks of a place of torment on the other side of death where sinners go that it calls Hell. And this Hell is more than the grave. Consider a few Bible verses.

Our text refers to Hell as a place where the wicked go, as well as all nations that forget God, and that hell is not the grave. More than the wicked and more the nations that forget God, go to the grave.

Look at another verse--"The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath." (Proverbs 15:24) Heaven does provide a way through Jesus whereby all can have everlasting life and escape everlasting punishment, but it has not provided a way whereby all can escape the grave.

Consider another verse--"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:" (Matthew 25:41) When Jesus refers to everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels, surely He is not speaking of the grave.

Consider another verse--"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:15) This lake of fire is first spoken of as the destiny of the Antichrist and his prophet (Revelations 19:20).

It is next referring to the eternal home of the devil that deceived the world (Revelation 20:10). Now it refers to the destiny of all who fail to get their name in the Book of Life. This is surely more than the grave. Hell is real.

To think of people who will "go away into everlasting punishment," (Matthew 25:46) is more than our finite minds can understand. But really, no one has to go there. God set man down in a beautiful paradise with all that he needed in the early days of creation (Genesis 2). And it was man's sin that caused him to lose it. But then the Lord made a way that all could have it back, and more. (John 3:16).

Since hell is so awful and God's love is so great, God made His "so great salvation" eternal. This way man can be sure to miss hell. (John 5:24) More than that, He made the way of salvation simple and free. (Romans 6:23) He also provided the grace that is needed for one to come to Jesus, making it easy for all to be saved. (Ephesians 2:8,9) Still more, God gave man more than enough time to turn to Jesus. He even works with men to help them feel a need and make the simple turn to Jesus. What could the Lord have done more than He has done, and still be faithful and true to Himself?

Those who are upset with God about permitting sinners to go to hell, surely have not considered what the Lord has done to keep people from going there. Another thing, they do not realize how sin looks to God. Our God is all-wise, all-powerful, and all-loving. We should therefore leave His work with Him, while we pray for sinners, (Romans 10:1) witness to sinners, (Acts 1:8), and live a righteous life before them. (I Corinthians 9:27)

## Lodens celebrate in May

May is a very special month for Bro. John and Mrs. Mae Loden. Mrs. Mae's 80th birthday is May 10th, Bro. John's 90th birthday is May 24th, and May 10th is also their 62nd wedding anniversary.



Bro. John & Mrs. Mae Loden

Bro. John Loden's ministry has included pastoring several churches throughout Texas and Mississippi and one church in Birmingham, Alabama. He also served as missionary for the BMA of Mississippi. Mrs. Mae has worked in GMAs, WMAs, and taught in Sunday School Classes and Vacation Bible Schools. Both of them have been active in Junior and Senior Youth Camps. The Lord has truly blessed them throughout their ministry.

If you would like to send them a card, letter, or call them, their address and telephone number are listed below.

Bro. and Mrs. John Loden  
4770 Dorsey Evergreen Rd.

a.m. with a hamburger and hotdog lunch at noon. At 1:00 p.m. we will be back in the sanctuary for an afternoon of special singing. Please be in prayer for us as we move toward this special service.

Join us for the first Sunday night of each month at 6 p.m. for talent night followed with a fellowship supper. Thank you for your continued thoughts and prayers because good things are happening at Central Missionary Baptist Church.

### Harmony Meeting

The Harmony Mission meeting meet April 11, at Forked Oak Church Booneville. We would like to welcome Bro. Daniel Brookman into the Association. He is the pastor at New Hope Church Fulton. Bro. Ray Freeman brought the evening message.

Reports were given by Dr. Medrick Savell for Southeastern College, Bro. Vern Holifield Senior Adults, Bro. Ray Freeman for the Mission and Loans, Bro. Joseph Oyeleye for the Maple Street Mission, and Bro. Elvis Garica for the First Hispanic Mission at Ripley.

There were 59 present from 7 churches  
Lisa Wilemon, reporter

### Mid Central Association report

On March 15, 2008, the regular Mid Central Association Meeting was held at New Hope Baptist Church. Bro. David Kilpatrick delivered a wonderful message from 2 Timothy 3:1-9 on "Having a Form of Godliness." Bro. Raines gave the Hand of Appreciation and opened the meeting in prayer. There were twenty-three in attendance.

Bro. Bobby Carr read the minutes and Bro. Gene Therrell gave the Treasurers Report. A great time of fellowship was enjoyed by all in attendance. The next Mid Central Association Meeting will be held at Broadmoor Baptist Church on May 17, 2008 at 7:00 P.M.

Joyce Williamson, Reporter  
Bill Raines, Moderator

### Tombigbee Association report

South Prentiss Baptist Church at Marietta hosted a crowd of 71 at our April meeting. After opening songs we enjoyed a message by Pastor Mobley of South Prentiss Church.

We were blessed to have good reports from Bro. Rayburn Freeman, Dr. Medrick Savell, and Bro. Vern Holifield. We also heard a CAC report from Bro. Wexford Parmer. Elvis Garcia reported on his mission work.

The ladies served a delicious meal and we enjoyed good fellowship.

continued on page 3

## CHURCH NEWS

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

### Bethel, Fulton

A big Christian hello from all at Bethel. The Senior Youth went to the Ronald McDonald House in Memphis on the 5th to help prepare meals for the families of the patients there. A great time was had by all. Also on the 5th the GMA's attended a District meeting in Caledonia, Mississippi.

The Harmony Association meeting met at Forked Oak in Booneville on the 11th. Our Galileans went to State Camp on the 11-12 and the State Galilean was Jake Steele and the Junior Galilean was Peyton Umfress both from Bethel. The State President is Dalton McMillen and the Vice President is Drew Wheeler also from Bethel. We are very proud of all of the boys who attended. Thanks to the leaders who work with them all the time.

Some of the ladies from Bethel worked as a team to raise money for "Relay for Life" held at ICC in Fulton on the 25th. Thanks to all who made this possible. On Wednesday nights Dr. Jameson has begun a verse by verse study in the book of Proverbs. Mission Trip 2008 will be led by Tracy & Michelle McMillen, they will take six of our students to spend a week in the Philippines to work with missionary Robert Murphy. Pray for this team, the trip is May 25 - June 5th.

A Family Life Conference with Dr. Joel Slayton from Conway, Arkansas, will be held May 18th-21st. The time is 7 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. When you are in our area also feel free to stop and chat awhile. There have been 8 additions since last report.

Come see us when you can.  
Dr. Martin Jameson, pastor  
Joyce Cooley, reporter

### Big Creek Mission Meeting

The Big Creek Mission meeting met with First Baptist

Church, Bay Springs, on April 10, 2008. Fourteen churches were represented by messengers and visitors. Pastor James Sprayberry extended a very cordial welcome to each one. Moderator Steve Clark recognized Bro. B. J. Sullivan as the new youth pastor at First Baptist Church, Shady Grove.

New items of business that were transacted included the following:

1. A motion carried to accept the recommendation of the Christian Education Committee to host a Teachers' Conference the last Saturday in August. This conference will be taught by Dr. Larry Silvey. More information will be made available about the conference in the coming weeks.

2. Motion carried to give an additional \$100.00 monthly to the Laurel Hispanic Ministry for their building fund until the annual meeting in October.

3. Because of a planned mission trip to Canada, the June meeting of the Big Creek Mission meeting will be postponed. The July meeting will meet with First Baptist Church, Louin.

After reports from the departments, Bro. Sprayberry introduced Bro. Harold Floyd for the evening message. His subject was "Lord, Bring Back the Glory Days;" his text was Psalm 103:1-5.

After announcements and prayer requests, Bro. Keith Ulmer dismissed the service. The church then provided a delicious breakfast meal for all to enjoy. The service, the food, and the Christian fellowship were a blessing and encouragement.

Bro. Arthur Smith, Reporter

### Central Church, Corinth

We are blessed to have Bro. Daniel Spencer and his wife, Leslie, serving as our interim pastor. He blessed us with a great revival that was held Sunday, April 6th- Wednesday, April 9th with Bro. David George as our guest speaker. Each night was filled with many visitors and a lot of special music. We are proud to say, that a spiritual uplifting took place. We had a young man walk the isle and accept Christ into his life - what a blessing!

In the last few weeks we have welcomed another member to our church family: Tom Fitzgerald. We have been able to do a little upgrading around the church. Four wireless microphones and a Peavey mixer were purchased to improve our sound system and carpet has been ordered for the sanctuary.

We are hosting our 36th Homecoming on May 4, 2008. We will have Sunday school at 9:45 a.m., service at 10:45

## Raising Visionary Sons and Daughters for God Part Four

Hopefully in the last article I exhorted you enough to begin to desire home worship, home devotions and family meetings. What happens if you have an older child or teen who rebels against such home worship. They resist the family time and make smart-aleck comments. What would you do if your older child had a bad attitude towards English class? Would you simply excuse them from learning English, or would you make them sit down and do their homework and help them with it?

If any of your kids balk at home worship, the answer is to not excuse them from the process, or wave the white flag of surrender after 3 weeks. You can't say our kids hated that so it didn't work out. God has put you over your children. You are to rule over them as the loving authority. They are not to rule over you. God, in His wisdom, appointed and anointed you as the parents of this child, giving you all the responsibility and all the authority by Him to raise these children for His glory and according to His Word. You may need to seriously consider re-vamping your entire parenting and discipline techniques if your kids cause you to stop home worship because of their attitude.

This is where family meetings are great. It exposes our children's negative and rebellious attitudes and allows us to deal with them in a calm manner, rather than dealing with them during the moment of a melt down. Home worship and family meetings expose the weak areas of your family life. That is okay. Thank God it allows you the opportunity to correct them at home before they get out of control in the public arena.

There are 3 major components to home worship. They are prayer, singing and Bible study. Fellowship, growth, closeness to one another all occur as a benefit of this practice. However, these three things comprise the major focus of home worship. And don't try to be someone you are not. Keep it simple. You don't have to try and out perform each other. This is not a one person show. It is family interaction. Everyone participates. Some kids may feel like they can't sing as well as another sibling. Encourage them that the Lord loves everyone's singing. Everyone prays differently too. Don't try and put on a Christmas cantata each week in your home. This is not a production, but a family expressing love to a savior in a simple, pure form.

Home worship will draw your family closer than any one single thing I can tell you. Don't you appreciate people who pray for you?

Prayer melts resistance and fosters love and closeness. Prayer will bond your family together as nothing else. If you ever see that your family is



### Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

www.travisplumlee.com

breaking apart, or even slightly drifting away, pray harder.

Singing stirs the soul. It lifts the spirit. When your kids are little, pick simple Sunday school type songs. As your kids get older, you can mix in praise choruses. I still personally prefer that my children learn some of the classic hymns that are Biblical. I love contemporary Christian music, but I also believe in passing on our Christian heritage. It is sad that so many young people I work with today, can't sing Amazing Grace. They don't know the words to this song. Catechisms teach hymns of the faith as well as scripture as part of the process. (See previous articles).

Bible study teaches your children how to live their life. I could write for pages on the importance of Bible study. Don't just read the Bible to your kids. Study it together. Ask questions? If you don't know how

to do this, then make a visit to a Christian bookstore where you can find some wonderful family devotion books.

There is no guarantee that if you do this, your children will continue this practice on in their homes. Never underestimate the power of the enemy to corrupt. However, they will grow up knowing that home worship is the norm. Kids learn to hunt, fish, camp, play musical instruments and play sports because the family they grow up in does this. It doesn't mean that every child will grow up and hunt, but it does mean they have been exposed to it and see it as part of their family life. Home worship of Jesus should certainly be at the forefront of this family bonding for the future. Singing together, praying together, reading the Bible together, has a tremendous impact on bonding your family together.

Schedule the time. If you don't, you won't make it a habit. See it as important and every member must participate. Don't let the world's schedule cancel home worship. Keep it simple and require that everyone participate. It will both bless you and bless God at the same time. Don't attempt this under the flesh. Let the Holy Spirit lead you and it will not end in failure in a month. Be a good steward of the gifts God has given you in the way of your children. Be a Christian home, not a worldly home.

## Church News

from page 2

### Fairhope Baptist Church Homecoming Celebration

Fairhope celebrated an Old Fashioned Homecoming Day this year on April 6. Services for the day turned out to be some of the best ones yet. As the ladies and little girls arrived in their bonnets and dresses to match, men and boys in overalls, old photographs lined the halls and entrance ways into the fellowship hall and sanctuary, the spirit was felt before the singing ever started. We had many specials that blessed our hearts in song, but there was one that stood out with the

services. It was a special song sung by a grandfather and his younger granddaughter.

We heard the history of Fairhope from our church secretary, it was very interesting to hear the story of how little the older generations had, but how eager they were to serve the Lord and how hard they worked to build the church that we are now sometimes take for granted.

Bro. A. W. Kirkland was our guest speaker. His message was "How Far Have You Wandered if You Have?" His text was Luke 15:11-32.

Our services for the day were concluded with lunch and Christian fellowship. What a homecoming day preparing for a greater home going one fine day.



## Southeastern Baptist College

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



Dr. Medrick Savell  
President

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

### Graduation 2008

This semester is rapidly coming to a close. Our graduation exercises will be May 15 at 7:30 p.m. The commencement speaker will be Bro. Harold Holifield, who was a member of the first graduating class in May, 1957. Bro. Holifield has been a good friend and supporter of the college all these years and is pastor of First Calhoun Baptist Church of Laurel.

The following students will be receiving degrees, diplomas, or certificates:

Bachelor of Science -  
Church Ministries  
Tony G. McKellar, High Honors  
Wendell Wayne McMahon,  
High Honors  
Les Lee Grant Shields  
Dana Jay Williams

Associate of Arts - Bible  
Nicholas Buchanan  
Maria de los Angeles Estes  
James Caleb Martin  
Matthew Dayne Pittman  
Jared Bo Stockman  
Dana Jay Williams

Associate of Arts - Business  
Jerry Allen Bolton

Associate of Arts -  
General Education  
Brianna R. Barnard -  
Highest Honors  
Jerry Allen Bolton  
Casey Provost

Diploma in Christian Leadership  
Jerry Allen Bolton  
Donald Miller  
Kenneth Vaughan  
Trent Warren

Diploma in Bible  
Jerry Allen Bolton

Certificate in Christian Leadership  
Jerry Allen Bolton  
Annie Clayton  
Terry Jones  
Donald Miller  
Kenneth Vaughan  
Trent Warren

### Memorials

Since our last report, three more contributions have been received for library books in memory of Mrs. Julia Cauley. Thanks to those who remember loved ones in this manner.

### Mrs. Mary Lou Kellar goes on to be with the Lord

We were saddened to hear of the passing away of Mrs. Kellar on April 28, but rejoice to know where she is now. Her funeral is to be May 2 in Jacksonville, Texas. She will be missed by family and many friends. She touched so many lives and had a great influence for her Lord. We are praying for her family.

## Soap maker urged to come clean

**OneNewsNow** - The president of the American Family Association says Proctor & Gamble needs to stop advancing the homosexual agenda through a popular daytime soap opera.

On Wednesday, As the World Turns -- which is owned by P&G -- featured two homosexual characters kissing. Earlier this year, the show included a similar scene, after which the American Family Association (AFA) and other pro-family groups encouraged people to contact the consumer products company.

With this latest development, AFA president Tim Wildmon says it appears that Cincinnati-based P&G is making a concerted effort to promote the homosexual lifestyle.

P&G products "Proctor & Gamble is a leader -- they're the largest television advertiser in the world," Wildmon points out. "And here they are, using their soap opera to advance and promote more gratuitous, homosexual, [and] sexual content into their programming."

According to Wildmon, complaints to the international conglomerate have fallen on deaf ears. "We've asked them not to do this, but they've decided this is the direction they want to go," the pro-family leader laments. "And it's unfortunate, because I think a lot of people, a lot of consumers who buy Proctor & Gamble products every day are not going to appreciate their promotion of this."

# Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

## The Dearest of the Dear Mary Lou Kellar goes home

Bonnie and I had the distinct honor and privilege of knowing and working with two of God's most gracious saints: Gerald and Mary Lou Kellar. You may read about her passing on page one of this issue.

I take these few lines to express my personal sympathy to the Kellar family and to thank our Father in Heaven for the Kellars and their life's work for Him. The people of Mississippi fell in love with the Kellars when they "retired" here in 1983 to begin a new career at Southeastern Baptist College. God truly blessed the BMA of Mississippi by sending the Kellars our way. They endeared themselves to each of us and gave so much more than they received.



Mary Lou Kellar

These dear people who were giants among us, were a loving, caring couple who were 'just plain folks'.

I remember the first time I heard Dr. Kellar preach. It was in 1978 at the National Missions Symposium in Little Rock. It was as if Moses had taken the stand and was delivering God's Word to a needy and unruly people. I was most impressed! What a dignified preacher of God's truths. He was that and more.



Don Brown  
Editor

When I met the Kellar's personally and had time to fellowship with them I discovered they were true servants of God and that they were some of the friendliest and loving people I had ever known.

Mrs. K (as Bonnie and I were allowed to call her) was a true friend. She always cared about, and always asked about, our family. She taught both of my daughters when they were students at Southeastern College and they both agree that she made quite an impression on them.

We loved Mary Lou Kellar and she loved us. What a personal emptiness we feel at her death. What a personal joy knowing that she and her Gerald are sitting at the table of our Lord enjoying the rest, blessings and crowns that they so richly deserve.

### Ministry Changes

It was my honor to be elected a recording secretary of the Baptist Missionary Association of America in 1995. I served through the 2008 session of our great work. The term which I was serving ended this year and due to the change in my personal ministry I offered my resignation this year and nominated Bro. Ken Vanderslice of Texas to fill that position. Bro. Vanderslice is a faithful pastor and has served a number of years as the assistant director of the Baptist News Service under Bro. James Blaylock and then served as its director of the BNS for several years.

I have enjoyed my years as the clerk of our association and will always cherish the confidence placed in me for this position. Thanks to you all for allowing me this honor.



#### Photo at right

At the recent meeting in Waco, Texas, BMA of America Clerk James Ray Raines of Arkansas (right) presents a plaque to outgoing clerk Don Brown for his 13 years of service.

## Letters From Our Readers

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

### Outreach to Minister's wives begun

Dear Editor,

An email group has been started called BMA Diamonds for pastor's wives in the BMA. The name "Diamonds" was chosen because diamonds are transparent gems, beautiful and tough, formed under extreme pressure and heat. One most important characteristic that contributes to a diamond's beauty is the brilliance (reflection of light) of the stone. To join is by invitation only. Here is the information.

BMA Diamonds is an email group formed for and made up of pastor's wives within the Baptist Missionary Association of America. The sole purpose of the e-group is to provide a place for women whose husbands are in ministry to come together for encouragement, prayer request, announcements, questions and support. If you are a pastor's wife and would like to join the e-group, send your name and church to kimwilliams3@bellsouth.net.

Thanks.

Kim Williams

## AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

### Freddy Mills

Bro. Freddy Mills, 58, is available for pastoral or pulpit supply. He has been preaching for 23 years and is a member of Bethel Baptist Church, Bassfield. He may be reached at 601-441-4057.

### Alan Smith

Bro. Alan Smith is available for service. He may be reached at 601-422-9641. He is a member of Fairview Baptist Church, Laurel where Bro. Harry Burge is pastor.

BMA of Mississippi  
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May 19-20, 2008  
Big Creek Baptist Church  
Soso, Mississippi

## Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



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

## Youth pastors and workers hold initial meeting



Youth pastors and workers from around the state met at Big Creek Church, Soso, on Saturday April 26. Their goal was to discuss the work of reaching the young people in our state and to make plans to have a Winter Conference for Teenagers.

State Youth Director Latrelle Windham was also present and shared in the meeting.

Plans were made to have another meeting during the Midyear meeting of the BMA of Mississippi. The group will at 5:00 p.m. in the Family

Life Center of Big Creek Church. A meal will be provided for those attending. Each youth pastor/worker in the state is invited. Please call Will Hutchinson at 601-422-7580 to let him know how many will be attending.

Churches present at the April 26 meeting are reminded to send their \$50.00 pledge to cover the cost of the meeting to:

Will Hutchinson,  
28 Big Creek Church Rd.  
Soso, MS 39480.

## Mississippi Baptist

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# Report from Waco, Texas

from page 1

Iglesia Sin Peredes de Coamo, Coamo Puerto Rico  
Eglise Baptist, Thetford Mines, Quebec, Canada.

## Department Reports

Reports from each department were positive and plans were shared for the year ahead. All department workers were reelected

## Constitutional Issues

A change to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation was presented by Lynchview Baptist Church, North Little Rock, Arkansas. The proposal would have taken some of the authority away from the recently created Coordinating Council. The proposal failed to reach the required two-thirds majority needed for passage, but the amendment had substantial support.

## Tabled motion misunderstood

Pastor Tommy Watts of Canaan Church, Avera, Mississippi, tried to get a motion that was tabled at the 2007 session back in discussion. A resolution concerning the use of Bible translations and speakers from outside the denomination was tabled at the 2007 meeting. It was not brought "off the table" during that meeting and subsequently died. It was explained that the issue was dead and to be brought back to the body it would have to come in the form of a motion or constitutional change from a local church and be presented by the February deadline as stated in the bylaws.

## Disciple Guide Web update

Discipleguide Church Ministries introduced their new web site at the Waco meeting. Live terminals were available for messengers to use and

to get acquainted with the new site. While it is not yet complete, there are many new features for churches, pastors, teachers and laymen. Our people are encouraged to do to discipleguide.org and use this valuable asset and resource.

Discipleguide also announced the establishment of a new ministry. Equipping Centers have been established in strategic places to present seminars and training opportunities for our churches. In Mississippi the two centers will be at Bethel Church, Fulton and Magnolia Church, Hattiesburg. Meetings begin as early as June. Schedules for these meetings will be in future issues of this paper.

## New Missionaries

Missionaries were elected to two new fields at this year's meeting. Eric and Kelly Johnson will be go-



Newly elected missionaries Eric & Kelly Johnson and daughter

ing to Mexico to eventually work with the Aztec Indians.

Michael & Jocelyn Barton were elected to serve in Quebec Canada.

Barton admitted that this area is a hard mission field, but showed excitement and optimism for the future.



Michael & Jocelyn Barton were elected to go to Canada

## Annual Kellar Award Presented



Pictured above Bro. James Shoenrock received the annual Kellar Award from BMA Seminary President Dr. Charley Holmes.

Dr. GERAL KELLAR was the first president of the Seminary and the award is given annually in his memory to outstanding graduates. Shoenrock serves as pastor of Sheppard Drive Baptist Church in Euless, Texas. He and his wife Wilma have three children.

## Jurors Can Bring Faith into Courtroom

The U.S Supreme Court recently agreed with a federal appeals court that jurors can bring their Christian faith into the courtroom. Because a juror on a death penalty case quoted the passage from Matthew, "an eye for an eye," the defendant wanted the conviction thrown out.

"The fact that jurors bring biblical understanding into a jury room is the essence of democracy in the United States," said Bruce Hausknecht, judicial analyst for Focus on the Family Action. "It is a positive move for Christians and the justice system "because recently courts have been holding against jurors who discuss or bring a Bible into a jury room."

Several years ago in Colorado, the state Supreme Court ruled a jury resorted to a "higher authority" by using Scripture during deliberations on a death row case. The criminal's sentence was reduced to life without parole. (www.citizenlink.org)

## A Pictorial view of the 2008 Baptist Missionary Association Annual Meeting



First Vice-president Philip Atteberry welcomes the messengers from seven new churches to full membership in the BMA of America.



Mrs. Katherine Arrington (center) was present at this year's meeting along with her daughter Mary Jane Mathis (left). The missions riverboat ARRINGTON was launched March 29 and is now in service in Bolivia. The Arringtons served as missionaries to Bolivia from 1967 to 1983. The boat is an integral part of the Rivers of Blessing ministry reaching those people living in the jungles and along the rivers of Bolivia. Bro. Phil Knott (right) recognized Mrs. Arrington for her and her husbands dedicated service.



National WMA ladies hold their annual meeting



The Sanctuary Choir from First Baptist Church, Magnolia, Arkansas presented a special program before President David Watkins message.

## Missionary Retires

Wayne and Darla Ely have served as BMA missionaries to Honduras since 1990. They have retired and will be living in Florida. The association recognized the Elys for their years of faithful service.



Wayne and Darla Ely receiving a plaque from Bro. Phil Knott.



LATRELLE WINDHAM  
DIRECTOR

P.O. Box 4247, Laurel, Mississippi 39441 • 601-649-0502  
Email - bmayouth@comcast.net

## Summer Camp Time is Here

Theme: Missions  
Junior Aim: "A Heart for God"  
Senior Aim: "Define God's Will"



### Missions.

My assignment. My task. To the World. My World.  
Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28:19-20

Our command for missions is not an option, but something to be obeyed. Our mission is imperative. We are commanded to go. We are to wait with an expectant attitude. We are to arrive at our destination.

Our inner impulse for missions should produce outward action. Our motive should be God's love, Christ's love, and mankind's need.

Our equipment should be the best - the Word of God, the Holy Spirit, and prayer. These are the things that are used in our work that are useful in effecting a given end. These three things are everything needed for efficient operation or for efficient service.

Deadline for T-Shirt orders will be May 9, 2008.

## Persecution continues in India

**OneNewsNow** - Christian mission groups are trying to get details about the fate of a group of believers who were kidnapped in India.

The group - about 40 Christians - was reportedly kidnapped by extremists who took them to a religious temple. At the temple, they tried to force them to renounce Christ and return to Hinduism. According to Gospel for Asia, the crime took place in Himachal Pradesh, a northwestern Indian state, where persecution against Christians has been common.

Daniel Yohannan, vice president of Gospel for Asia, says these extremist are just one of many anti-Christian groups throughout India. "All of them have the same agenda ... they don't want Christianity, they don't want Christians spreading the gospel," says Yohannan.

According to Yohannan, some of the persecutors become believers in the process. "... [I]t's kind of cool how that happens," he expresses.

## Marital Faithfulness Linked To Church

"Attendance at religious services is tied to improved rates of fidelity in marriage, according to research from Fuller Theological Seminary. Attending services perhaps means an individual is hearing religious teaching on marital fidelity and the importance of marriage, the researchers suggest. The assumption is they're more likely to practice what's been preached, Fox News reported. But the researchers also figure that attendance implies a shared commitment by spouses and a strong network of social support..." (www.citizenlink.org)

## Court Rules Unanimously: Illinois School Must Allow "Be Happy, Not Gay" T-shirt

**CHICAGO** - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit reversed a lower court's ruling against an Illinois student Wednesday, saying the district court must order a Naperville high school to suspend its ban on a T-shirt that reads "Be Happy, Not Gay" while the student's lawsuit proceeds. School officials prohibited student Alex Nuxoll, who is represented by Alliance Defense Fund attorneys, from wearing the clothing.

"Christian students shouldn't be discriminated against for expressing their beliefs," said ADF Senior Counsel Nate Kellum. "Public school officials cannot censor a message expressing one viewpoint on homosexual behavior and then at the same time allow messages that express another viewpoint. The court's ruling is a victory for all students seeking to protect their First Amendment rights on a school campus."

Nuxoll, a student at Neuqua Valley High School, desires to express his perspective at various times throughout the year, including the next school day after the "Day of Silence." Other students at the school are permitted to wear shirts with messages supporting homosexual behavior as part of the "Day of Silence," which is sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network. The 7th Circuit ruling prevents school officials from singling out Nuxoll's message for censorship.

ADF attorneys appealed to the 7th Circuit after the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, refused to stop school officials from silencing Nuxoll while the lawsuit proceeds. ADF attorneys had originally filed the lawsuit on behalf of another student, Heidi Zamecnik.

In its opinion, the 7th Circuit stated that "people do not have a legal right to prevent criticism of their beliefs or for that matter their way of life." The court also said the school district does not appear to be justified in suppressing Nuxoll's message on the grounds it might provoke "incidents of harassment."

"It is highly speculative that allowing the plaintiff to wear a T-shirt that says 'Be Happy, Not Gay' would have even a slight tendency to provoke such incidents, or for that matter to poison the educational atmosphere," the court wrote.

## Violence escalates for Christians in Iraq

**OneNewsNow** - John Eibner, who heads a worldwide Christian human rights group, says although the U.S.-led military surge is reducing violence overall in Iraq, the situation for Christians is still tense and dangerous.

A Catholic archbishop was recently kidnapped in eastern Mosul, and his two bodyguards - who were both Christian - were shot and killed. This is the latest in a long line of violent acts targeting Christians throughout Iraq. Since the fall of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, more than 400,000 Christians have been forced to flee the country.

Dr. John Eibner, CEO of Christian Solidarity International, encourages believers in the U.S. to call on the government to ensure that Christians in Iraq are protected. "We have a special responsibility because we are in a position to make a difference," says Eibner. "It's now or never, and we have to pull out all stops if we're going to fulfill our obligations as members of the body of Christ, to help the other parts of the body that are suffering."

Christians are not simply caught in the middle of the crossfire, notes Eibner, but are actually targeted for death, and are also discriminated against on a regular basis. He says some Christians even receive letters that demand they convert to Islam or face death.

Eibner believes as long as U.S.-led forces are still in the country, it is the responsibility of the United States to ensure that Christians and other religious minorities are safe.

## 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

## Big Creek District GMA/Sunbeams

The quarterly meeting of the Big Creek District GMA/Sunbeams met at Bay Springs, Mississippi, on Saturday, April 26, 2008. Four churches were represented.

GMA Promoter Linda Faye Dertinger welcomed everyone. After the girls introduced themselves, the devotional was given by Dustie Chisholm of First Baptist Church, Louin. Her subject was "The Pesky Fly." The fly is like our sins. The Word of God is the "swatter" to help us get rid of our sins.

Bethany Jones, State GMA President and National GMA II Vice President, spoke from Psalms 15 about God's Standard for our Lives. She reminded each one to remember if you say you are a Christian, act like it, not only at church, but everywhere you go.

A "sleep-over" is being planned for the July meeting. The date and details will be published later.

The State GMA/Sunbeam project for 2008-2009 is 25% General Fund and 75% for Missionary Ed Duvall's building fund in Cleveland. They have purchased land and will be building a church as soon as the land is paid for. Please send your offerings for this project to Shirlene Smith, 730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443.

EIM under the direction of Bro. Rocky Goodwin is planning to ship 30,000 Shepherd Bags to be used in the Philippine Islands by our missionaries there. The Shepherd Bag Ministry is the National Sunbeam project this year. To help send the Shepherd Bags that we make to the Philippines, send your offerings to Glenda Tipton, P.O. Box 95274, N. Little Rock, AR 72190.

The National GMA project for this year is Y 10 for Armenia. This project will help in building ten new churches in Armenia. If you have offerings for this project, they need to be sent to Carol Taylor, P.O. Box 1424, Quitman, TX 75785.

We invite all our churches who have GMA and Sunbeams to come to the district meeting in July.

Bro. Arthur Smith led the dismissal prayer.  
Shirlene Smith, reporter

## Mississippi State WMA

**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

## Northeast Ladies WMA Retreat

Providence Church will host the Northeast Ladies Retreat on May 17, 2008.

Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m.; the meeting will begin at 9:30.

Kay Fortenberry is the featured speaker. All WMA ladies are invited to attend.

Beth Haden, reporter

## BAPTIST MUSIC FELLOWSHIP

Dr. J. E. Sims, Director  
P.O. Box 24, Mantachie, MS 38855  
662-282-7425  
Email fbcjes@nexband.com

### Not "How", But "Who"

My good friend, L. Graham Smith, Director of the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, wrote the following article for their publication titled "Upbeat". It is well worth reading:



J.E. Sims

#### Not "How", But "Who"

"Recently, I read an article that pointed out that if one letter was moved from the word "how", it could become "who".

May I share with you that using these two words could point out some of the challenges we face in planning the worship of our great God.

First of all, much of our focus of time and effort in worship planning has been on the "how" of worship - the kind of music, instruments, choirs, ensembles, solos, etc. - instead of the "WHO" - our Lord Jesus Christ whose true praise is empowered by the Holy Spirit and honored by God the Father.

In the "how", we are constantly barraged by some vocal members of the church, other leaders and clinics or conferences that are advertised as promoting the very latest, must-have music for the edgiest worship that will fill the worship center. Comments have been made, "It will offend no one except those who have closed minds already. It is the only music that is now being blessed by the Lord and used by those who are concerned about being culturally relevant."

In the "WHO", we are seeking to be led by the Holy Spirit in doing everything inspired by God from the past, the present and open to future inspiration that is done to the very highest standards possible in order to share the Gospel message for the furtherance of God's Kingdom! Our concern in this focus is not on what "I" or "we" want, but rather the great reservoir and ongoing wells of praise that has been and is being given by our Majestic Lord for His Glory.

Our day is so filled with opportunities and pitfalls on our pilgrimage of praise. Let us resolve that with God's guidance, we will not let our ministry of music be consumed by the "how", but rather focused on the "WHO" of our worship and indeed, our existence - yesterday, today, and forever!"

#### Another Supporting Church

Thank you to Midway First Baptist Church, Sumrall, Mississippi; their pastor, Rev. Leon Carmical; and their music director, Kenneth Lott for contributing to the Baptist Music Fellowship.

### BMA of America Armed Forces Chaplains



Bro. Grady Higgs, Executive Director of Missions (far right) recognized the chaplains of the BMA who were able to attend this year's meeting in Waco, Texas. Director of Chaplains Bobby Thornton is second from the right.

### 'I Believe' plate nixed by Florida lawmakers

**TALLAHASSEE, Florida** - A license plate that would have become the first in the nation to prominently feature a religious symbol is unlikely to be on the road any time soon after state lawmakers did not include it in a bill Tuesday.

The plate, which included an image of a Christian cross,



stained-glass window and the words "I Believe," is not in legislation passed late Tuesday that's now headed to the governor. Opponents of the plate said approving it would result in a court challenge because it violated the separation of church and state and gave the appearance the state was endorsing a particular religious preference. Supporters countered that not approving it could also result in a lawsuit.

Republican Sen. Ronda Storms, a plate proponent, said the state had created a "public forum" by allowing a variety of license plate designs with different messages. Restricting speech in that forum was also unconstitutional, Storms said.

One vocal opponent of the plate, Democratic Leader Dan Gelber, said he did not think the plate was likely to pass in the remaining days of the session after lawmakers passed the bill without the "I Believe" plate. It could still be amended onto another bill, but the prospects of that were increasingly unlikely with few bills available on the Legislature's calendar to which it could be added.

The South Carolina legislature is also considering the same license plate, however, and it won key approval in the state Senate there Tuesday. A handful of other states have license plates with religious symbols including crosses, but they are part of college logos. Florida itself has over 100 different designs.

The proposed "I Believe" plate would have cost drivers an extra \$25 annual fee and would have given that money to the Orlando, Florida-based nonprofit Faith in Teaching, Inc., which supports faith-based school activities. The group's president, Carla Mallen, wrote in an e-mail that the group would give money to programs of a variety of faiths.

## CHILDREN'S HOME



SIDNEY DAVIS  
DIRECTOR

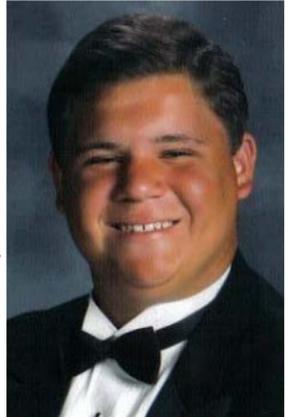
118 LOWE ROAD, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39443  
- (601) 426-3928

### Graduating Senior

It is a joy and delight to announce that Donald Andrew Curry will be a part of the 2008 graduating class of West Jones High School. Graduating ceremonies will take place on Thursday, May 22nd at 7 P. M. at the Magnolia Center in Laurel.

Andy plans to attend Jones County Junior College in Ellisville this fall. Remember Andy in your prayers as he enters this all-important phase of his life as he prepares and plans for his future.

Congratulations Andy on your achievements. Our prayers and best wishes are with you. Proverbs 3:5,6.



Andy Curry

### BMA of Mississippi Meeting

In just a few days the BMA of Mississippi will be meeting with the Big Creek Baptist Church near Soso. I'm looking forward to reporting to the association of the blessings of the Lord on this ministry.

Hope to see you at the meeting on May 20th.

### Porn continues to plague church members

The viewing of pornography persists as a problem for members of U.S. churches, according to a recent article.

John W. Kennedy, consulting editor for Christianity Today magazine, recently published some disturbing findings while collecting information for an article titled "Help for the Sexually Desperate."

Through his studies, Kennedy found one evangelical leader who questioned the accuracy of the finding that "50% of Christian men have looked at porn recently." In response to his own skepticism, the leader surveyed his church members and found that:

60% of Christian men had viewed porn within the past year;

25% of Christian men had viewed porn within the past 30 days.

But it's not just men who struggle with pornography. Other research found that women accounted for one in three visitors to adult Web sites.

Overall, Kennedy discovered that experts believe tens of millions of people are actually sex addicts.

### eHarmony apologizes for 'One-Night Stands' Article

Dating Web site eHarmony has apologized for its article "Navigating The One Night Stand," which was recently featured in the advice section of the Web site and included in its e-mail newsletter. Stan Holt, eHarmony's vice president of publishing, "removed the article from the Web site and issued an apology to its members, many of whom canceled their subscriptions in response to the article.... (He) also assured members that the publishing team has upgraded its editorial process and will be reviewing existing content to ensure its consistency with members' interests." (www.citizenlink.org)

### Midyear Brotherhood Meeting

The State BMA of Mississippi Brotherhood will meet for their midyear meeting Monday, May 19, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi. All men of the association are encouraged to attend.

*Roger Jefcoat, President*

## Reaching those that other churches are not We are here for the convention

by Editor Don Brown

Arriving at our hotel in Waco, Texas for the recent BMA Annual meeting, Bonnie and I pulled up in our parking space and exited our car. Two motorcyclists pulled up next to us almost immediately. I spoke and

asked one of the men, "Are you from out of town or from Waco?" In a very friendly voice he said, "We are here for the convention." Being a former bike rider, I commented on their mode of transportation and wished them well.

As Bonnie and I turned away with our luggage and headed to our room I looked at her and said, "There must be a motorcycle convention in town this week also." I thought nothing of this encounter until breakfast the next morning. Our two motorcyclists were in the hotel restaurant enjoying breakfast and fellowship with Bro. I.V. Hight, director of



Pastor Gary Don Sandlin (right) and member Gerald Payne (left)

Arkansas state missions, and a number of other BMA preachers. I looked at my wife and announced that these men were here for our "convention."

Gary Don Sandlin, 51, of Texarkana, Texas, is the pastor of one of the newest member churches of the BMA of America. The First Bikers Church was admitted to our fellowship at our recent meeting in Waco.

I sat down with Bro. Sandlin and one of his members, Bro. Gerald Payne, and would like to share the results of that conversation with our readers. Sandlin was an "outlaw biker" before he was saved and president of his own motorcycle club. He had to leave his job and riding motorcycles due to epilepsy. He began thinking of life and the life he wanted his daughter to have. He says he was concerned about her and decided that she should go to Sunday School. He did not take her, but had his wife, Gale, perform this duty. At first she would take their child to church and leave her and go back after her later. Soon Gale began to stay at church with their daughter.

His wife came home one day and told him that they needed to talk. She had been saved and wanted him to go to her baptism. Gary stated that he went because he knew it was important to her. By his own words Gary Sandlin said that he "was a dangerous person." He felt out of his element at church, but was impressed by his reception. He said the people at church treated him like family. He confessed that no one had ever treated him like that before.

Later his daughter accepted Christ as her savior and he attended her baptism also. Unknown to Gary his daughter had been asking the church to pray for her daddy. One Sunday when it was time to go to church she asked him to go and he said no. She told him that she would just stay at home with him that day and she let her mother go to church alone.

With his daughter in his lap, Gary said that she told him, "Daddy, without Jesus you are going to go to hell." She left his lap and went and got a Bible that she had won for bringing the largest number of visitors to Bible School. Gary said that he knew that

Bible was very important to his little girl and was impressed by her thoughtfulness.

Admitting that he was already friends with the church's pastor, he asked his wife to invite the pastor over and shortly after he arrived, Gary invited Christ into his life. That took place in 1993. Since then Gary surrendered to the ministry and served as associate pastor of Richmond Road Baptist Church.

He had been out of the biker lifestyle for over 7 years but felt God leading him to go back to those still there and minister to them. He has since blossomed as a minister and started the First Bikers Church. Gary states that about 25% of his congregation is made up of "bikers" and the remainder are people that "other churches are not reaching." Many in their congregation are individuals with addiction problems, those that are homeless and some who were not satisfied with what Gary calls "traditional church".

Currently their children's ministry is growing and the church as a whole is on the move. The church has been meeting in the pastor's home, but having outgrown it, they will be moving to a new building in downtown Texarkana in May. The church's average attendance on Sunday morning is about 100. They are growing rapidly as they continue to reach out to those in need of Christ.

He thanks God for the change he sees in the people's lives and says his biggest prayer request is for God's wisdom to lead others to a closer relationship with the Lord.

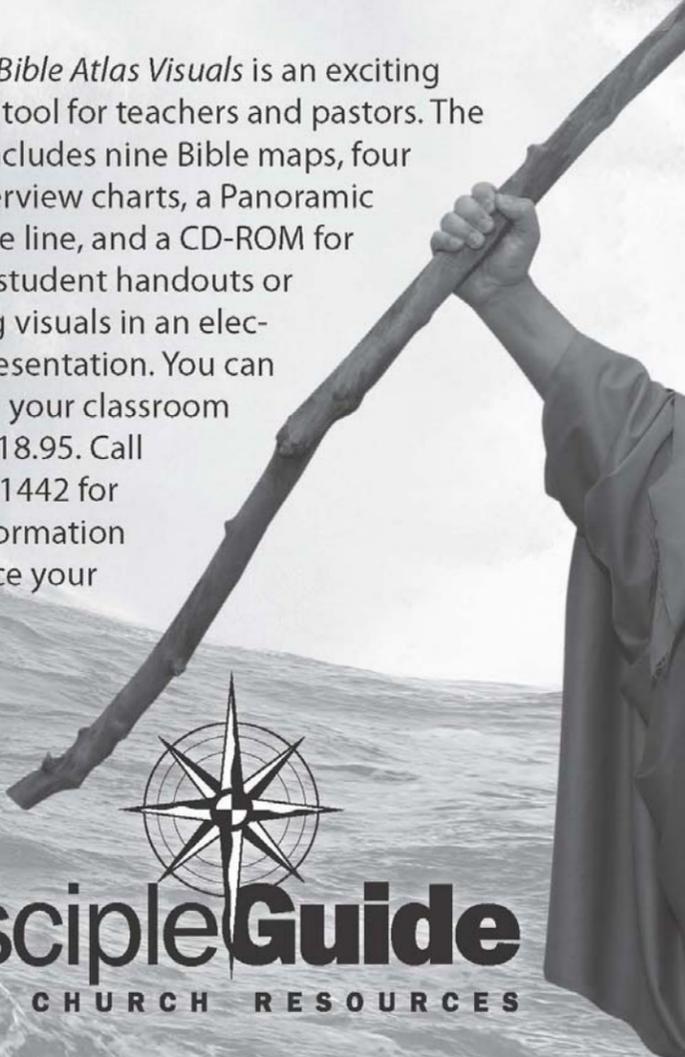
I learned recently that Bro. Sandlin will be bringing the annual message for the BMA of Arkansas. If you are ever in Texarkana, Texas on a Sunday morning, a visit to the Bikers Church could give one a different perspective on "go ye therefore into all the world."

## Family Deterioration A 'Legitimate Government Concern'

A new report commissioned by four policy and research groups finds that high rates of divorce and out-of-wedlock births cost American taxpayers a minimum of \$112 billion annually... national, state and local costs of family breakdown account for more than \$1 trillion in the last decade. The study (released by the Institute for American Values, Georgia Family Council, Institute for Marriage and Public Policy, and Families Northwest) looked at the most accepted consequence of "family fragmentation," which is poverty. The economist who conducted the research examined the cost of government antipoverty programs such as WIC, housing assistance, Medicaid and child welfare, and the effect of poverty on crime, among other factors... The study, according to Associated Press, does not offer formal recommendations to combat family fragmentation, but suggests that lawmakers at both the state and federal levels consider putting more money into programs designed to strengthen marriages. Noted are programs in both Oklahoma and Texas, the latter of which set aside \$15 million in federal funds for marriage education." (Jim Brown, www.onenewsnow.com)

## It's a Fact! Visuals Increase Retention!

The *BPH Bible Atlas Visuals* is an exciting resource tool for teachers and pastors. The packet includes nine Bible maps, four Bible overview charts, a Panoramic Bible time line, and a CD-ROM for printing student handouts or including visuals in an electronic presentation. You can have it in your classroom for just \$18.95. Call 800-333-1442 for more information or to place your order.

  
**DiscipleGuide**  
CHURCH RESOURCES



## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara  
White

### Ahhhh - - - Spring!

The season in which the fields and pastures turn green and everything else turns yellow. This is especially true if you live amongst a pine thicket. Then the expression turns from, "ahhhhh - spring" to "ahhhhhh - choo."

Pine pollen helps us discern the seasons. Jesus admonishes us to discern the times we're living in. Go read Matthew 12:56