

Important Dates

**BMA of Mississippi
Mid-Year Meeting**

**WMA & Brotherhood
May 21 - 7:00 pm**

**Business Session
May 22 - 9:30 am
Midway First Baptist
Sumrall, Mississippi**

MAY 15, 2007

Vol. 61 No. 10

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

DiscipleGuide Is the New Name

By Bobby L. Hudgens

TEXARKANA - What's in a name? According to Houghton Mifflin Company, "a name is a word or words by which an entity is designated and distinguished from others." A name performs quite a service. It identifies and distinguishes one entity from others. For instance, what do you think about when you hear Baskin-Robbins? You probably think 31 flavors of delicious ice cream. A name has become synonymous with a high quality product. Other examples might include Ford, Hershey's, Coca-Cola, McDonald's, iPod, and Google.

You are certainly aware of the recent merger of the Department of Camp Ministries, Department of Church Ministries, and Baptist Publishing House to form the new Department of Church Resources. While this merger is still

by Joseph Harris, Vice President
Southeastern Baptist College
Laurel, Mississippi

"His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber." Isaiah 56:10

I do not know if a better description can be found to fit the average Baptist preacher of today. The Old Testament prophet was speaking of the lax prophets of his day, but his words apply to modern-day church leaders who are asleep at the wheel, or to give a better ecclesiastical example, asleep in the pulpit.

A blind watchman sees no one and therefore, warns no one. A watch dog that will not bark is nothing more than a biscuit eater. He doesn't pull his own weight and is a danger to those who depend on his faithful bark. The modern day professional preacher is willfully blind and purposefully silent, when it comes to warning of the dangers and consequences of sin. In this age of enlightenment, we have arrived at the place where sin is no longer preached against. Instead, Bible principles are taught, Bible studies are held, prophecy conferences are offered and social gatherings in churches are at an all time high.

The average Baptist preacher places a premium on being spiritually politically correct, non-judgmental, sensitive, purpose driven, and popular. He shudders with horror that he could be seen as legalistic, mean spirited,

With the union of the three former departments into one, it will be necessary that we use new terminology when referring to these areas of ministry. When inquiring about conferences and seminars, ask for DiscipleGuide Conference Ministry, for matters regarding camps refer to DiscipleGuide Camp Ministry, and when addressing publishing issues refer to DiscipleGuide Publishing Ministry.

So what's in the name DiscipleGuide Church Resources? It's a name that describes this department's purpose, distinguishes it from other such entities, and can provide a presence on the Internet in the .com, .org, and .net domains.

Help us spread the word about the name change! Please send offerings supporting conferences, camps, publishing, missions literature, and information services (BNS) to P.O. Box 7270, Texarkana, TX 75505-7270.

narrow minded, old fashioned and out of touch with the times - and especially out of touch with youth. As a result, these preachers become blind watchmen and dumb dogs who facilitate the destruction of their sheep as they plunge headlong down the slippery slope of the world with its philosophies, standards, dress code, attitude, and actions.

Baptist preachers as a rule, no longer preach against drinking. I know all the arguments that can be given for taking just one drink, but not getting drunk, but why would you want to get near a rattlesnake? And even if Dad can "handle" it, can Junior handle it when he grows up? Remember the church

covenant. I just read about a wedding reception of some prominent Baptists in our town. The write up in the paper recounted how they celebrated at the wedding reception with dancing, wine and beer. How blatant. God help their preacher to grow a backbone and love his people by warning them of this serpent in a bottle.

Baptist preachers hardly ever preach against sexual immorality and homosexuality and pornography. Churches are full of immorality in the pew and broken homes attest to this fact. I have been told that it doesn't matter if the preacher preaches against it or not, people will do what they want to do regardless. That is true to a certain extent, but there is a direct correlation between silent pulpits and the increase of ungodliness in churches and society.

Baptist preachers won't usually dare touch the issue of dress and appearance. Just who does the preacher think he is, telling people what to wear and not to wear. I'll tell you who

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Joseph Harris

Lifeword Names New WOF Coordinator

Our churches know her voice even if they may not recognize her face. Diane Ward talks to many pastors and church coordinators on the phone to put the organizational structure in place and answers the Walk of Faith hotline to answer questions from the churches. And now she has earned a new title.

Diane is the new national coordinator for the Paul L. Bearfield Walk of Faith, an annual fundraiser for Lifeword Broadcast Ministries. She succeeds Rick Russell, who coordinated the event twelve years (1989-1991 and 1998-2006). Donny Parrish led the Walk during his six-year tenure as director of creative services (1992-1997).

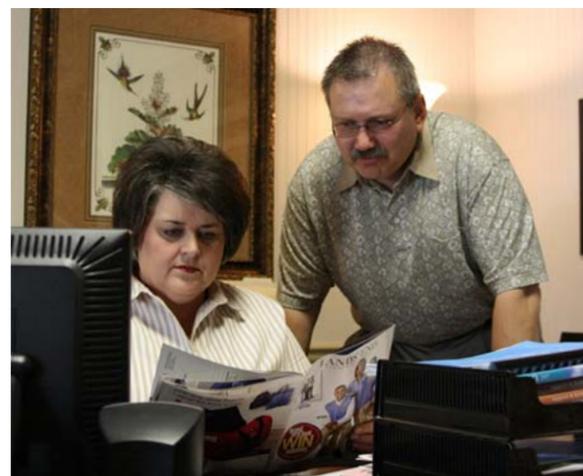
Under Russell's leadership Walk of Faith contributions grew from \$217,066 in 1989 to a high of \$423,099 in 2003. He credits much of the success to Diane Ward, who has served as his assistant since 1992.

"Diane has been my strong right arm in the Walk of Faith for many years," Russell said. "She knows the Walk inside-out, and she

knows the people in our churches who make this fundraiser work. She has some really great ideas that will make it more effective than ever before. As with everything else Diane does, it's going to be great!"

Russell is leader of Lifeword's broadcast

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Diane Ward and Rick Russell review plans as she becomes national Walk of Faith coordinator for Lifeword.



in process, the three former departments are now united and functioning under the guidance of one executive director, Dr. Kevin Clayton.

After a rather lengthy process of exploring possible names we settled on DiscipleGuide Church Resources. DiscipleGuide clearly and accurately defines the purpose of the department. We exist to provide resources that will guide our churches in making disciples. When promoting our discipleship resources outside our own ranks, including over the Internet, we also needed something appropriate for that purpose.

DiscipleGuide is available to us as a domain name on the Internet. This availability will be of tremendous value to us as we increase our marketing efforts online, "a strategy that we believe is vital to the long-term growth and stability of this department," states Dr. Clayton.

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.

Gary Smith enters evangelistic ministry

Bro. Gary Smith has resigned South Green Baptist Church, Tupelo, as pastor, and has is a full-time evangelist. Bro. Smith is now scheduling revivals and concerts for the summer and fall, 2007. You may call him at 662-322-6974 or email Bro. Smith at garysmithministries@yahoo.com.



Gary Smith

Church Seeks Pastor

Recently the pastor of Mulberry Missionary Baptist Church near Richton, Mississippi (Wayne County) resigned. The church is searching for the "shepherd" that our Lord has for us. If you are interested in an invitation to "preach in view of a call," please call Bro. Joe Beech at 601-735-3536, Bro. Rufus E. Landrum at 601-735-9972, or Bro. Thomas Smith at 601-735-9792. Either of the three

will gladly discuss the matter and make the necessary arrangements.
David Daw
601-735-4722

Church seeks Youth Pastor

Community Baptist Church, Poplarville, Mississippi, is looking for a youth minister. If there is anyone that feels led to apply for the position to lead our youth, please call Scott Hariel at 601-795-0438 or Chuck Hariel at 601-795-8706. Please help us pray for the man God would have in this position.

We also would like to let everyone know we are having revival services May 27th through June 1st. Bro. Travis Plumlee will be the evangelist. We will have Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. then worship service at 11:00, followed by dinner on the grounds and an afternoon service that begins around 1:30 to 2:00 p.m. (No evening services on Sunday). Monday through Friday services begin at 7:00 p.m. Friday night the youth will have pizza at 6:00 p.m. & this is youth night. (Youth defined as 1 to 99). Please join us if you can. Bro. Travis is a dynamic speaker and man of God. If you can't join us please be in prayer for the services.

We are also beginning a new building project and we ask for your prayers. We are enjoying having Bro. Sam Freeman as our pastor and his family.

We do appreciate if you will help us in prayer for our youth pastor, revival, building project, and that God will send us souls to add to His kingdom. May God bless each of you.

Belinda Mitchell, reporter

First Baptist, Calhoun to hold revival

First Baptist, Calhoun will be hav-

ing Revival services June 3-6. Regular Sunday morning services. We will have lunch at the church and an afternoon service, omitting the evening service. Monday through Wednesday nights will be at 7:00 P.M. Rev. Robby White, pastor of Old Antioch Baptist Church near Soso, will be preaching.

Pastor and members welcome you to our services.
Harold A. Holifield, Pastor

Springhill, Ocean Springs

Greetings to our sister churches. God continues to work here at Springhill. In the past two months He has blessed us with six additions by baptism and four additions by letter.

We have five of our youth graduating from high school here in Ocean Springs, some with honors. We are so proud of them.

Our fellowship is very good and enjoyable with attendance remaining real good in all services. Most of our folks have recovered from Katrina. We thank each one for your help, support, and prayers. Please continue to pray for us as we seek to do God's will in this area. Come visit with us when you can.

Duane Ledlow, Pastor

Church to host Missionary to Africa

Bro. John Lindsey, BMA Missionary to Africa, will be with Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Picayune, Mississippi, on Wednesday, May 30. He will be sharing how God is working on the mission field in Africa. We invite all who can to attend this service. The service will be held in the Fellowship Hall at Mt. Calvary at 6:00 p.m.

Wayne Rice, pastor

Oakland, Vicksburg report

The members of Oakland Baptist Church welcomed our new pastor and family, Bro. Michael, Cheri, and Jonathan Moore, on Sunday, April 1. The Learning Garden Preschool at OBC observed its Graduation and Reception during the evening service on May 6. This year's graduates are Zoie Cantin, Meghan Hinton, Andrew Johnson, Mia Johnston, Ethan Puckett, and Sarah Tate. The AWANA closing ceremony will be during the evening service on May 13. We will be honoring our high school graduate, Amber Hollingsworth, on May 20 with a reception during the evening service. Vacation Bible School will be June 11-15 from 6-8 p.m.

Red Creek Revival

Red Creek Baptist Church will be in revival June 3-8. Our evangelist will be Bro. Dan Carr, pastor of Faith Baptist, Canal Road, Gulfport. Service times are Sunday at 10:45 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. We will have a covered dish lunch after our morning service. Monday-Friday at 7 p.m. Our church is located at 630 Smithtown Rd./Red Creek Church Rd., Wiggins, MS.

For more information contact Bro. Scotty Rayburn at (601) 928-9886. Everyone is invited!



ABS * Camp Ministry



LATRELLE WINDHAM
DIRECTOR

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

ABS Next Fall! Association of Baptist Students

If you have High School students that graduated and will be attending college this fall, we would like to have their names and addresses and the college where they plan to attend. College Ministry is great mission field for our association to reach out to.

If you have students who have attended Junior College and are planning to attend a University, we would love to contact them through our department.

Our theme for the year is "Time". Even before a student starts college he will be making five of the most important decisions that will affect his life tremendously. The five big questions of life are: (1) Where shall

I attend college? (2) What vocation shall I pursue? (3) Whom shall I marry or should I marry? (4) Where shall I live? (5) Where shall I attend church?

A number of Christian boys and girls are forsaking the church when they go off to college. Let's help give our students an opportunity in time for college ministry.

Alcohol is a major problem on college campuses and among students. Gambling and sexual sins, loneliness and many other things are what our kids have to deal with. Prayerfully consider our ministries for your kids.

Summer Camp Season Starts Soon, remember to pray.

Scotland Baptist Church, Bentonia

Scotland Baptist Church's Youth Choir recently presented its first Easter Musical Sunday, March 18, 2007. Under the direction of Margaret



sult, Scotland held its annual Senior Day on April 1 to honor these graduates as well as all the graduates in the community. After services, the church also honored the seniors with a church dinner.

If ever you find yourself in the Yazoo County area, please feel free to stop in and worship with us. We are located at 5617 Scotland Road in Bentonia, MS. Come worship with us at Scotland Baptist Church where every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before!

Melanie Hardy
Church Reporter

Woodlawn holds Easter Egg Hunt

On a beautiful Lord's Day following morning service and a lunch of hamburger/hotdogs youth and visitors enjoyed a fun filled day. A cakewalk won by Victoria Burrows grouped the youth so they could be divided into age groups. Group One - Infant-4 years; Most Eggs - Caroline Roberts; Golden Egg - Carter McDonald; Bean Toss - Anna Leigh O'Brien; Pin Tail on Bunny - Jay Blake. Group Two: Most Eggs - Blakeney O'Brien, who also won the Sack Race and the Hop, Skip and Jump; Evan Hattan - Golden Egg. Group Three: Robbie McCary - Golden Egg; Philip Burrows - Frisbee Throw; Adam McMahon - Sack race. Christian fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Work is just about completed on repairs to the sanctuary; rededication information will be announced in the near future.

Please continue to remember us in your prayers as we work together for the Lord!



Turner, eleven children took part in singing songs about the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In December, Scotland Baptist Church hosted Brother Donnie Guy in revival. During and after the revival, over 16 people have made acts of profession from recommitting their lives to Christ to baptism. As a result, our pastor has set up a very active New Believers in Christ Bible Study on Sunday afternoons. Praise the Lord! God is good.

Scotland Baptist Church has five seniors graduating from high school this year and one graduating from five-year-old kindergarten. As a re-

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

New minister available for service

B.J. Sullivan, a member of Magnolia Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, surrendered his life to the Gospel ministry October 29, 2006. He and his wife, Marci, are planning a move to Jacksonville, Texas where B.J. will enroll in the BMA Theological Seminary. Currently, he is a United States Marine



B.J. Sullivan

stationed at Keesler Air Force Base and is scheduled to be discharged sometime this Fall. B.J. and Marci have a three-year old daughter whose name is Kailey.

B.J. can be contacted for preaching appointments and church service as God may lead by calling 601-329-4864, or through his pastor, Greg Medenwald, by calling 601-264-8087 (office), 601-264-8987 (home) or 601-520-3135 (cell).

Editor's note: Sullivan is the son-in-law of Bro. Greg Medenwald, pastor of Magnolia Baptist Church, Hattiesburg.

Walter Hickman

Bro. Walter Hickman has resigned as pastor of the Hacienda Baptist Church, Las Cruces, N.M. He and his wife Norma have moved to Seminary, Mississippi. Bro. Hickman is available for service and may be reached at 505-496-5875 (cell phone) or through his daughter, Leah Ricks at 918-409-1448. He is a graduate of both Southeastern Baptist College and William Carey University.

Southeastern Baptist College

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



Dr. Medrick Savell
President

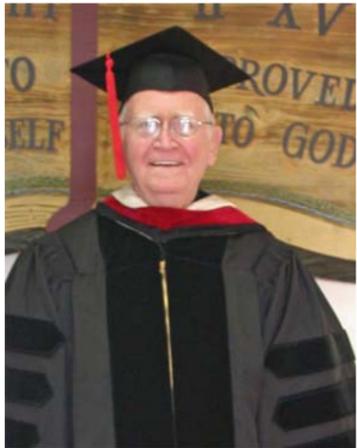
Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Change of Pace

We thank the Lord for changes in our lives from time to time. The summer semester at Southeastern has arrived. It is a time of closing out one year and making extensive plans for the next year. Yes, we do work in the summer! A class in college algebra will meet in the month of June.

Graduation

The graduation service was held on May 10, 2007, and was a great time for the graduates. We are includ-



Former SBC President
Eugene Murphy brought the
2007 Commencement address.

ing a corrected list of graduates (Some names were not on the last list.) and some pictures of the event. Dr. Eugene Murphy gave a good challenge to the graduates.

Bachelor of Science - Church Ministries

Wilfred Earl Bridges
Charles T. Davis (High Honors)
Hubert Aaron Dyess
Kelby R. Johnson
Linncoyaa Rice
Joshua Phil Spiers

Associate of Arts in Bible

Kimble L. Allen (Honors)
Jerry Bolton
Timothy Glen Buchanan (High Honors)
Richard Lee Clark
Christopher Marcus Freeman
Kelby R. Johnson
Rev. Percy Pollard, Jr.
Gustavo E. Salazar
Dennis Shaw (High Honors)

Associate of Arts in General Education

Kimble L. Allen (Honors)
Maria de los Angeles Estes
Nancy Noiy Knight

Associate of Arts in Business Administration

Gustavo E. Salazar
Sondra Louise Walters

Diploma in Bible (42 Semester Hours)

Gladys Thompkins

Diploma in Christian Leadership (24 Semester Hours in Bible)

Sidney Tucker

Certificate in Christian Leadership (12 Semester Hours in Bible)

Helen Crosby
Byron Arrington
Troy Leggett

Fall Registration

Registration for the Fall semester is now going on. Anyone interested in enrolling for that semester should contact Mr. Ronnie Kitchens at the college at 601-426-6346. Pray that the Lord will send us many new and returning students.

Memorial Gifts

We appreciate those who send memorial offerings in honor and memory of loved ones. Usually these contributions are made to the Library or the Foundation. The gifts to the Library are very helpful. The assets in the Foundation are steadily growing, and this makes the college income from the Foundation increase.

A gift to the Foundation in memory of Mrs. Elbert (Catherine) Boutwell was received recently. May the Lord bless the Boutwell family.

Lifeword

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team, and Diane will continue to serve as his assistant in addition to her duties as Walk of Faith coordinator.

Diane Is Calling

Months of preparation go into the success of each year's Walk. Diane already has selected the thirteen regional directors for the event, and she is helping them name area coordinators for each local association in the BMA of America. Diane said she needs and appreciates the cooperation of pastors and church leaders when she or the regional directors call.

"I just want to put our pastors on notice that they may be contacted by someone other than me or Lifeword staff members in behalf of the Walk of Faith. Just remember that all those



2007 Graduates of Southeastern Baptist College

E. Harold Henderson Emphasis Continues Through May

by Kevin W. Clayton, D.Min.

I greet you in the strong name of Jesus, our Savior, from DiscipleGuide Church Resources! Hopefully you caught our new name in that opening sentence. We are in the process of completing the merger of three departments of the BMA of America. Baptist Publishing House, Department of Church Ministries, and Department of Camp Ministries are all united now as DiscipleGuide Church Resources. Also included in the merger is Baptist News Service (Information Services), Missions Literature Ministry, and Pathway (DiscipleGuide) Christian Store. Obviously this merger of departments within the BMAA has constituted quite an undertaking for our association.

The E. Harold Henderson Easter Offering provides vital financial support for DiscipleGuide, as well as the BMA Theological Seminary, Minister's Resource Services, and the Moral Action Committee. Easter 2007 was the inauguration of this special

offering. We trust that this special emphasis will become an annual tradition among the churches of the BMA of America.

Unfortunately many of our pastors have reported to us that they did not lead their church to participate in this special offering this year due to various factors. While we certainly respect each church's autonomy in this regard, we do want to reiterate the awesome need for your support and to remind you that our actual special emphasis period runs through the month of May. In other words, it's not too late to have a part



The late
Dr. E. Harold Henderson

in supporting the development of discipleship and ministry resources, Christian education, and much more through this special emphasis! Your efforts to make this offering a financial success will redound to the glory of God throughout the worldwide ministry of the BMAA. Thank you for your prayers for us and consideration of my

heartfelt appeal to you on behalf of these departments and agencies of our associated work.

If we can help by supplying you with the DVD and bulletin inserts, please call us at 870-772-4550.

Short Message Series by Rev. Grover Laird Preachers Need To Be Free

It is difficult for a preacher to be completely free to speak the Word of God. Many who think that they are free are really not. Often times parts of the Lord's message is left off because the preacher is afraid of how the people would react, or because he feels that he is preaching too many messages of rebuke, or he is afraid that the people do not believe what he is preaching. He may even preach in a way to get the Amens and the smiles of the congregation, rather than the approval of God. But in either case, the preachers need to be free.

People's reaction to a preacher's message and ministry is normally to an extreme. If they like him and his preaching, they will hold him too high. If he fails in getting their approval, they put him down too low. Realizing that he and his ministry are continually being evaluated--an evaluation that may bring favors or hurt--a preacher will have to pray for grace to stay free.

The Apostle Paul was a man who seemed to be free to minister as the

Lord directed. Instead of building himself up in the eyes of men, he tried to get the eyes of people off of him. To the church at Corinth he wrote,

"Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?" (1 Corinthians 3:5) He sought to get people to look at



Grover Laird

all true ministers alike, though he realized that the more faithful ones would stand higher on Judgment day than those who were less faithful. For this reason he wrote, "Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour." (1 Corinthians 3:8)

Paul made sure that if people thought highly of him it would be according to what they saw, or heard

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All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen.

Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Guest Editorial

Unity or Uniformity?

by Jerry Fulton, editor
Baptist Progress
BMA of Texas

We often hear our fellow believers say things like, "In order to keep unity, we should do thus and so." The problem is, most of the time, when such a statement is made, the person making it has confused "unity" with "uniformity."

Unity has been defined as "agreement of parts; harmonious adjustment of constituent elements." Uniformity, on the other hand, means "Always the same, as in character or degree; unvarying." By simple definition of the two words, we find that unity leaves room for diversity, uniformity does not.

When we are in unity, we have come together from varied backgrounds and convictions having determined to agree for the sake of the cause. Uniformity, on the other hand, insists things be done one way and one way only. Unity respects. Uniformity demands.

Because we are a part of the priesthood of believers, God has given each of us direct access to God without another person's intervention. We have access in our prayers and in our faith. We require no pope, no confessor, no saint of the church and no president of an association or convention to guide us into God's presence.

Second, as individual priests, we are responsible to Christ for our ethic and our lifestyle. The church as a whole has the duty to support, teach sound doctrine and pray for each believer. But ultimately, no one can coerce anyone into any particular stripe of morality or theology.

Third, priesthood means we have

the privilege, but also bear the pressure, of opening the Bible, reading it and reaching our decisions about what it means as the power of the Holy Spirit gives us direction.

As an association of churches and as individual members of local churches, we are not always going to agree. Still, as Associational Baptists, with our varied backgrounds, educations and convictions, we agree on enough that we are unified to "associate" with one another in fulfilling the Great Commission.

However, there is a danger when any individual or group in our churches or association issue demands and ultimatums that we do things their way or else. When we reach such a point, we are no longer unified, but uniform.

We all have our preferences, but we must seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. My point is, the things we argue over, even demand of each other, do not matter as far as eternity is concerned, or then, maybe they do, if we allow them to occupy our time instead of doing what matters most—going and making disciples of every nation!

Letters From Our Readers

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

Materials needed for Vietnam

Dear Editor,

I have recently had the privilege of working with some Filipino Baptists

From the Editor On Opinions and Opinions

We have chosen to run the article to the left from Jerry Fulton, editor of the BMA of Texas publication the *Baptist Progress*. Although Jerry does not directly address the discussion at our annual meeting in Fort Smith, Arkansas, this past April, it is apparent that discussion prompted his editorial.



Don Brown
Editor

The freedom to express our opinion on subjects of interest to our work and the constraint to respond in a loving, brotherly manner are essential to our fellowship. We have received numerous letters to the editor that address the issues at hand and have printed some of them.

The opinion of our readers and members of our churches is valued and respected and we urge those with differing opinions to be respectful in their hearing and responding. Our mission - to reach the world with the Gospel - is the core of our work. May we approach differences of opinion in a humble, Christ-like manner, and with respect to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

who are ministering in home churches in Vietnam. They are very conservative and are leery of modern liberalistic leanings that they are observing among some Baptists that have ministries in Vietnam and do not wish to associate with them. They need good Baptist doctrinal study materials and sound Baptist sermon manuscripts on CDs. God willing, I will return to Vietnam, June 18, and if you have materials that would be suitable for them on CDs, please forward them to Bobby Bowman, 103 Mill Creek Drive, Greenbrier AR 72058. My phone number is 501-205-4926, and my email address is bbowman@eimworldwide.org.

On behalf of workers who are laying it all on the line for the Lord and hundreds of young Vietnamese Christians, I thank you.

Bobby Bowman

Former Mississippi pastor's wife to hold 'book signing'

Dear Friends

I am writing you about an upcoming event which is of a personal

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"Dear Brother Eli, I have been out of town on vacation, and I would have sent you my tithe, but I already sealed the envelope."

Pastor's wife passes away Mrs. Catherine Boutwell

MANTACHIE - Catherine Boutwell, 81, died Friday, April 27, 2007, at the North Mississippi Medical Center after an extended illness. She was born Oct. 22, 1925, in the "Free State" of Jones County to the late Louis Napoleon and Ada Walters Miller. She grew up in the Myrick community and graduated from Myrick High School. While training to be a nurse, she met Elbert Boutwell. They married August 17, 1947. After Elbert surrendered to the ministry in 1949, she spent her life by his side doing the Lord's work. He pastored many churches in the state and served on the mission field with her as his constant supporter. They touched many lives throughout 58 years in the ministry, especially children. She was an active member of Oak Grove Missionary Baptist church in the Ratliff community of Itawamba County. She excelled at cooking for her family and friends and giving "guidance" to all who needed it.

Services were held Sunday, April 29, at the McNeece-Morris Funeral Home Chapel in Mantachie. Bro.

Grover Laird and Bro. Gary Smith officiated.

Survivors include her husband, Bro. Elbert Boutwell; one daughter, Connie Sheffield of Dorsey; three sons, Ron Boutwell and Eddie Boutwell (Jan Cooper) all of Mantachie, and Dan Boutwell of Booneville; six grandchildren, Amy Johnson (Chris) of Saltillo, Scott Boutwell (Stephanie Upton) of Ozark, Misty Austin and Christy Boutwell, both of Tupelo, Brent Sheffield (Dana Carver) of Dorsey and Sean Boutwell (Candy Robinson) of Unity; seven great-grandchildren, Meggan Johnson, Cory Scribner, James Elbert Boutwell, Randa Dees, Alexandria Sheffield, Abby and Tanner Boutwell; one brother, Theron Miller of Tuckers' Crossing, Laurel. She was guardian of Gary Winland of West Virginia, who still calls her "mom".

She was preceded in death by her parents; one daughter, Susan LaDonna; one sister, Virgie Hurst; one brother, Thurmon Miller; and her sister, Hazel Cleckler, who died within minutes of Catherine on Friday.

The sympathies of all of us who knew Mrs. Boutwell go out to her dear family.

nature to my family. My mother, Sandra Jones, wife of the late C. Bert Jones, BMA pastor of over 40 years until his death in 2000, has written a series of books entitled The Button Box. The first in the series has been published by Publish America and is presently on the market. It is entitled "The Brass Button: No Surrender, No Retreat." It is a Christian, western, historical romance. Many women and quiet a number of men have also sung its praises, including her pastor at First Baptist Jacksonville Texas, Brother Vernon Lee. It is fictional, romance but she makes a brilliant effort to bring in the message of the gospel and the principles of God's

Word. If you enjoy reading this one is a must for you.

The event, I mentioned is coming up on May 26th, at the Baptist Bookstore in Laurel. Mrs. Jones will be there to do a book signing. She also would be glad to come and speak to your WMA ladies or any of your adult groups in your church

In addition to being a pastor's wife, Sandy Jones was involved in the WMA work for many years on all levels and was the GMA promoter for many years for the National WMA. She did much of her writing, while spending time with my brother in

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for Voice & Fax
601-342-9443 Cell

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Vern D. Holifield, Director
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Laurel, Mississippi 39440



2007 Conferences successful and enjoyed by all

This article is being written on May 11, 2007. The North Senior Adult Conference was held the past Tuesday. We had a great day in the Lord. The Hopewell Church and pastor Danny Pitts did a wonderful job entertaining the Conference. Those on the program were at their best. The food was good too. A spirit of worship and praise was manifest all day long. I do appreciate the several pastors who took time to attend the Conference with their people. Most of the time the pastor is the key. If he is cool toward such a meeting, then his people will be cool. If he is positive and pushes such a meeting, then his people will be positive.

Many Senior Adults in our churches give financial support to every phase or department of the work.

These give financial support to the ministry of their church. They attend, and they pray for the Lord's Work. Therefore we should do all we can to support them in their activities. We have two conferences each year. I urge every pastor and all leaders in our BMA of Mississippi to join the Commission as we try to provide two great, Spiritual days for our older members.

Church and association visits

The wife and I enjoyed our visits to Calvary, Taylorsville; Bethel, Seminary; Berean Soso; Bethel, Louise; and Hopewell Fulton. We visited the Big Creek, Tombigbee, Delta and Harmony Associations since my last report.

New Senior Adult organizations

The Bethel Church, Bassfield and

Blind Watchmen and Dumb Dogs

continued from page 1

he is. He is the man of God who watches for the souls of his people (Hebrews 13:17) and he has every right to condemn nakedness, and tight clothing that reveals the body and fires the sexual imagination and blurs the line of demarcation between the sexes. Make no provision for the

the Berean Church, Soso have organized a work for their Seniors. More and more the churches are seeing the need for a positive ministry for their older ones. If I can assist you in organizing please let me know.

Financial support

The Lord continues to lead our people to support the Commission financially. This is His Work and He takes care of His Work. The Spencer Memorial Church, Pascagoula and pastor Virgil Ainsworth have us in their budget. Their first check came today.

flesh and don't flaunt the flesh either.

Baptist preachers won't preach against tattoos, body piercings on men and women and earrings on men, because they want to "reach" them. Reach them with what? You do not have to look like the world to reach the world. When Paul said he bore in his "body the marks of the Lord Jesus" (Gal. 6:17), he wasn't speaking of a tattoo of Jesus. I understand that it is through the preaching of the Gospel that men are saved, but there is never

a teaching of separation that follows the preaching of the Gospel to those who have been saved. Jesus said to preach the gospel to every creature (evangelism) and Paul said to preach the word (to those who have been evangelized), reprove, rebuke and exhort with all long suffering. It is not an either/or situation. We are to preach the gospel and preach the whole counsel of God, which includes reproof, rebuking and exhorting.

I was once told, as a young preacher, to not preach against "things" but just preach the gospel and love people. The preacher who gave me this advice didn't preach against sin and railed against those who did. It was later found that during his ministry he had done just that: preached the gospel and loved people. Actually, he loved many people, many women that is, to whom he was not married. By the way, warning people of danger is loving them.

Baptist preachers seldom preach about hell and eternal punishment of the lost in an eternal lake of fire. Hell should never be preached without the cross of Calvary as the emphasis, but the cross is often preached with no mention of hell. Why is there a need for the cross if there is no hell?

Baptist preachers do not often preach on the authority structure of the home, with the husband as the head and the wife as the completer. Parents are to be in charge of children, administering correction and discipline through love, training them to be submissive to parental authority in preparation for their submission to God in salvation.

Baptist preachers often fail to preach against ungodly entertainment via television and videos. Christians should not watch others commit acts that are ungodly and which they themselves do not commit. Christians should not listen to others profane, mock, and blaspheme the name of God, especially when they themselves refrain from such wickedness. Exposure to such filth desensitizes the believer to sin and its consequences, breaking down barriers and inhibi-

tions, weakening believers and preparing them for a fall.

Baptist preachers are hesitant to preach against corruption among politicians, afraid of offending those who vote for liberals based on party alone. Right is right and wrong is wrong. Just call it for what it is.

Preaching against sin heightens awareness of right and wrong and reestablishes the standard of absolutes. There is a God and a devil, a right and a wrong, a heaven and a hell,

Baptist preachers won't preach against tattoos, body piercings on men and women and earrings on men, because they want to "reach" them.

and everyone is going to one or the other. Preaching standards of right or wrong help to remind there is a standard for which God's children are to live up to. Specific, pointed preaching is effective. Telling people they need to live a Christian life and please God only

tells them what to do, without telling them how to do it. If the Ten Commandments were written by man with today's understanding, they would be condensed to one statement, "Thou shalt not do wrong." Though the preceding statement is true, it doesn't say anything specific about sin. I once heard a vague sermon against worldliness. Worldliness was never defined, no examples were given, and no consequences were listed. The preacher just said it was bad and we ought not to be worldly. I left the sermon agreeing that worldliness is bad, but without a clue as to whether or not I was worldly.

In most cases where there is an emphasis on evangelism, there is no emphasis on instruction in righteousness for the newly saved. The emphasis is to "reach" them by appealing to them or relating to them or understanding them. After reaching them with salvation, we need to reach them with right living. They are not to be conformed to this world (Romans 12:2) but be conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29). To be conformed means to be pressed into the mold of something, which means submission. Modern Christianity places an emphasis on hanging on to your "rights" and fitting God into your life, instead of totally surrendering to God in submission to His will and standards. When we don't preach separation from sin and the world for God's children, it undercuts the preaching of the Gospel and therefore affects the harvest long term, for future generations.

We have a full generation in power today who have not heard the truth about sin, and brother, it's evident in churches, politics, schools, families and the workplace. May God be merciful to those preachers who are not living up to their calling to preach the word.

Scenes from 2007 Senior Adult Conferences - Picayune and Fulton



Mississippi State W.M.A.

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

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

WMA Midyear Meeting First Baptist Midway, Sumrall May 21, 2007 - 7:00 p.m.

We are looking forward to seeing each of you again for our midyear meeting. The officers meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. with light refreshments served by the ladies at Midway Church.

Our WMA meeting will convene at 7:00 p.m. We welcome our guest speaker Mrs. Sandy Jones, author of a series of books entitled "Button Box". The first book, "The Brass Button" is in print and will be available for purchase at the meeting.

Ladies you do not have to be a member of the WMA to attend this meeting. Come and see what we are doing; and hear how God is blessing us. It would be a joy to see you there. Let's pray that the Lord will bless in this meeting.
Jean Knight, President

WMA News Flash!

The National WMA has good news to share. Together, they raised over \$40,000 for the project for 2006-2007 which was Creative Access Nations Ministry. Praise the Lord!

More good news - The project for next year is a double. The BMAA Theological Seminary Missions Video Classroom and an ambulance for use in China. The total will be divided with 40% going to each of these projects and 15% going to the Youth Fund and 5% going to the General Fund of the National WMA.

This is a stupendous opportunity for the WMA to exercise their middle name - MISSIONARY. Each WMA is being asked to check to see what their WMA did for the project last year and then set their sights toward doubling that amount this next year.

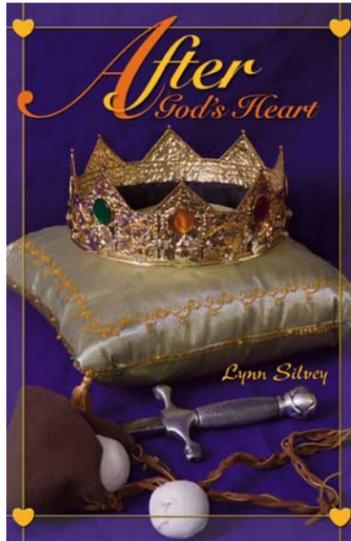
Send all offerings with checks made out to: National WMA of BMAA, c/o Glenda Tipton, P.O.Box 95274, North Little Rock, AR 72190.

Your National WMA Project Promotion Committee

DiscipleGuide Introduces the 2007 WMA Study Book

By Bobby L. Hudgens

Who has not been fascinated by the life of a man who was a giant-killer, musician, king, adulterer, murderer, warrior, grieving parent, and once called a man "after God's own heart"? The "sweet psalmist of Is-



rael" was a tender musician who led others in worship, who knew the heart of God, who provided relief through his music, who felt passionately, who loved his God deeply. David's epic story is ours. He felt the things we feel, expressed our emotions, succeeded amazingly, and failed miserably. Most of all this shepherd-boy-turned-king showed us the heart of God at work in a life devoted to Him.

After God's Heart is designed to be a Bible study guide. It has "Meditations" between the chapters that serve as bridges from one event in David's life to another. Sometimes they continue the story, but other times they give background information. The book is intended to be a fourteen-to fifteen-week personal or group Bible study.

Author Lynn Silvey is married to Paul and is the mother of two sons, Zack and Matt. She has participated in Sunbeams, Girl's Missionary Aux-

iliary, and Women's Missionary Auxiliary, serving well in many positions in her local WMA, as well as in district, state, and national WMA offices. Lynn touches the lives of others as she serves as church musician and teacher. She teaches high school English and teaches in LeTourneau University's adult program and part-time at Panola College.

After God's Heart is the 2007 WMA study book and you can order your copy today for just \$12.95 by calling 1-800-333-1442.

Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary

1530 E. Pine St. Jacksonville, TX 75766
800-259-LORD (5673)

E-mail: bmatsem@bmats.edu Web Site <http://www.bmats.edu>

Motion Classes Summer 2007

<p>June 4-8, 2007 Biblical Evangelism EV 311/411/521 Dr. Elton McCann, Dr. Philip Attebery, Dr. Charley Holmes (Conway, AR)</p>	<p>June 18-22, 2007 Preparation & Delivery of Sermons/Homiletics PR 311/611 Dr. Joe Pendleton</p>	<p>June 25-29, 2007 Administrative Christian Leadership RE 512 Dr. Mike Smith Guest: Bill Stewart</p>
<p>July 9-13, 2007 Old Testament Introduction & Survey I OT 511 Dr. Matthew McKellar</p>	<p>July 23-27, 2007 Christian Psychology/Advanced Christian Psychology RE 325/535 Dr. Ronnie Johnson (Conway, AR)</p>	<p>July 30-August 3, 2007 Intermediate Greek GRK 415 Dr. James Shine</p>
<p>August 1, 2, and 3, 2007 Church History: Survey of Baptist Heritage CH 621 Charleston, South Carolina</p>		

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SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

Remembering Those Who Have Gone Before Us

On May 28 we will honor the many who have given their lives to preserve the liberties and freedoms that we enjoy as Americans on this Memorial Day holiday. May we never forget the price they paid and give God thanks for the ultimate sacrifice they gave.

As we honor the patriots of America it is also fitting to show our heart felt appreciation for the many soldiers of faith. One such true patriot of the faith was Apostle Paul. He gave his farewell words to us in 2 Timothy 4:6-8. "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Paul was able to look back on his life and say, "I have fought a good fight." We need to take time to look back. Have we fought a good fight? Are we doing the will of God in our lives from our heart?

One day life is going to end for you and me. I trust we will be able to look to the Lord Jesus Christ just as Paul did. Praise God for the memories of the many patriots of faith who have gone before us.

BMA of Mississippi Meeting

In just a few days the BMA of Mississippi will be meeting with the First Baptist Church of Midway near Sumrall. I'm looking forward to reporting to the association of the blessings of the Lord on the ministry of the Children's Home.

Expression of Sympathy

We would like to express our sympathy to the family of Mrs. Catherine Boutwell. Bro. Elbert and Catherine

were special friends to me when I first surrendered to the ministry and continued to be so. The Boutwell family has been a blessing to many. Our prayers and thoughts are with the Boutwell family during their time of loss and sorrow

Special Offerings

Special offerings received are as follows: Cypress Creek, Brooklyn, \$571; F. B. Shady Grove, Laurel, \$950; Spring Hill, Laurel, \$250; New Bethany, Ellisville, \$400; New Bethany Brotherhood, Ellisville, \$60; Buffalo Children, McLain, \$116.47; Parkview, Laurel, \$41; Good Hope, Stringer, \$200; Big Creek District WMA, \$213; Lee's Chapel #2, Picayune, \$25; Mt. Calvary Auditorium S. S. Class, Picayune, \$100; Canaan, Lucedale, \$100; Buffalo, McLain, \$477; Mr. & Mrs. Claiborne Bounds, Picayune, \$100.00. We appreciate each of these gifts as well as regular monthly contributions.

Letters

from page 4

Honduras, missionary Collin Jones. She is now the dorm director at Jacksonville College. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 601-428-0921 or (cell) 601-580-1281.

Corbey Jones, pastor
Good Hope Baptist Church
Stringer, Mississippi

Can you defend the NIV Bible?

Dear Editor,

For many years the argument over which Bible has been debated among believers. A recent defender, Bro. Josh Spears, in his letter in the *Mississippi Baptist* has caused some to question what is right. This is why I am writing this letter - to make it clear no one can defend the NIV Bible. If you believe you can, then here are the places I would like for you to defend. There are many verses, but let us look at just a few. These are of most importance to our beliefs.

1. The Purpose For Which Jesus Came
Matt 18:11 *For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. (KJV)* This verse is not found in NIV Bible. In every NIV I have ever looked at it simply is not there. In some of the

NIV Study Bibles this verse is a footnote or center reference, but not in the main scripture as you read the Bible.

So my first question how can you defend the leaving out, even once, the purpose of Jesus to save the lost. You simply cannot defend this wrong.

2. The Precious Blood Of Jesus
Col. 1:14 *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: (KJV)*

Col. 1:14 *In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (NIV)*

As you compare the two verses notice *through his blood* is missing in the NIV Bible. Again how can you once defend taking out the blood of Christ. To place His blood as a footnote is without excuse. If His blood was not necessary then he came for nothing. The blood of Christ should never be a footnote in any Bible.

3. The Qualification For Baptism
Acts 8:37 *And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. (KJV)* Again this verse is not found in the NIV Bible. The verse may be a footnote in some study Bibles, but to my knowledge never in

continued on page 7

Emergency Code for the Christian

The telephone number 9-1-1 is an emergency number for use in case of emergency. I can use it when I need help. "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil" is the emergency code for the Christian. Jesus knew His children would fail at trials in life. He himself was tempted. He provided us with an emergency code.

Simon Peter failed at the point of



Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

temptation. Jesus (Luke 22:31) told Simon he would pray for him and when he was turned about to strengthen his fellow Apostles. Simon realized this many years after the incident. In his writings (1 Peter 5:8) he talks about Satan who eats people up like a lion. How does Simon know this? He was the main course at the meal! Jesus instructs us to talk to Him in this portion of the Model Prayer.

James speaks to us about temptations (James 1:13) and tells us our own involvement in sinful behaviors lead us to fall into the traps of sin. A serious passage from Paul (1 Corinthians 10:13) tells us that God will provide us an escape from temptations. Both of these passages in their context instruct us to leave our sinful patterns of life to be joined with Christ.

Jesus cried out in prayer with loud crying and tears (Hebrews 5:7-9) to the one able to save him from temptations. This portion of the Model Prayer is from the very heart of Jesus. We do not have the ability to face the vicis-

situdes of life in our own power. Jesus invites us to come to Him in prayer to ask for that ability to change our behavior.

Jesus gives us the emergency code: "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." How I need to bend my knees and bow my heart in prayer with loud cryings and tears to the one who is able to save me. "Thanks be to God who gives me the victory through Christ Jesus my Lord." (Romans 7:25)

Letters

from page 6

main text.

If believing with all your heart that Jesus is the Son of God is not necessary, why would Philip have thought it necessary to ask. It is a question we must ask every candidate for baptism even today. Leaving out this verse opens the door for infant baptism and baptism for salvation instead of a belief in the heart that Jesus saves.

4. The Never Ending Power and Glory of God

Matt 6:13 *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.* (KJV)

Matt 6:13 *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.* (NIV)

Again notice the last part of the verse in the King James Bible *For thine is The Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.* (KJV)

This is not found in the NIV Bible. How can you defend this? Will God's

JULY 3-5, 2007
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The Renaissance Grand and Suites Hotels room rate for SOAR is \$79 by the June 11 deadline. Rooms are going fast so make your reservations as soon as possible by calling 800-397-1282 or call direct at 314-621-9600.

Registration is \$60 per attendee by the June 11 deadline. After June 11, registration is \$70 and off-site registration is \$80. All in attendance are expected to pay registration. You may register online at www.dcmstudents.org or complete the registration form and mail to DiscipleGuide Conference Ministry along with your check. Call the DCM office with any questions at 501-513-3726 or via e-mail at triciak@conwaycorp.net.

Conference Leaders
 Robert Murphy
 John David Smith
 Darren Neely
 Steven Carroll
 Donny Parrish

Drew Cline

Aaron Williams and the SOAR Band

Dave the Horn Guy

Illusionist Jared Hall

Stellar Kart

CO3

2 Empty Chairs

What God Stands For

Dr. Richard Land, Editor of Faith and Family Values, stated during a panel discussion at a Values voter Seminar that "God is" (1) Pro-life, (2) pro-heterosexual, and (3) anti-pornography.

Among many other moral values, these three truly stand out in our decaying culture. As associational Baptist churches, pastors and leaders our stand is also: (1) pro-life. The Christian Action Commission and this director are for God's Biblical view of marriage and the sanctity of life coming from that holy union of a married couple. We applaud the United States Supreme Court ruling released on April 18, 2007. In a 5-4 decision, the court reversed two federal appeals courts and affirmed the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act. This is the first judicially vindicated restriction on a specific procedure since the Supreme Court legalized abortion in the 1973 Roe vs Wade opinion.

The Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act bars a second and third trimester



CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION

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



John Adams

procedure in which an intact baby is delivered. In an actual abortion scenario, the baby is delivered and the doctor pierces the base of the infant's skull with surgical scissors, inserts a catheter into the skull opening and suctions out the brain, killing the baby. The Partial Birth Abortion Ban Law does allow an exception if the mother's life is threatened or in danger.

We Baptists, also take a strong stand on (2) Pro-heterosexual. These so-called homosexual and lesbian alliances are an abomination in God's eyes and pronounced so in His Holy Word. We must face this issue in our day and help turn the tide back to a one man, one woman, holy marriage.

It is time preach it, teach it, and live it. Your Christian Action Commission urges you to get involved. This is a hotly debated subject and our children, teens, and churches need clear Biblical direction.

"For many of us," states Cal Thomas in an October, 2006 article, "when growing up a social stigma was a good thing. Society's approval or disapproval of certain behaviors determines whether it increases or decreases"

Do many people care about this issue today? Not when Hollywood celebrities, politicians, musicians, actors, lobbyists, and overpaid sports figures are clamoring for the homosexual and lesbianism lifestyle. A

kingdom power and glory one day end? Then why leave this out? There is no defense!

5. The Awfulness Of Hell

The NIV Bible leaves out verses 44 and 46, but includes verse 48. Is it too much to repeat how bad hell will be for a lost person. When the NIV leaves out a verse the number for the verse is simply skipped so the reader will not notice. The Devil is a deceiver, be careful! From corrupted manuscripts you get a corrupted NIV Bible. All these verses are in the trusted manuscripts.

Mark 9:44 *Where their worm dieth not, and the tire is not quenched.* (KJV)

Mark 9:44 *Where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.* (NIV)

There is simply no defence for a NIV Bible when it leaves out the Power of God, the Purpose of Christ, the Precious Blood of Christ, the Qualification for Baptism, the Awfulness of Hell.

We are waiting for your defense of the NIV Bible. If you can defend THE

NIV BIBLE in these verses I have mentioned I want to know how?

Therefore we tell our young preachers to stand up for what is sound doctrine. Bro Josh Spears did stand up for what was right. My concern is will you stand with him and the proven King James Bible. If we are to preach the word as the infallible Word of God, we should stand and vote for those who do.

Thank you Bro. Josh Spears for your stand. You are not alone: there are many others in God's work and we should all stand together.

Pastor Randy Clark
 Tiger Creek Baptist Church
 Overtt, Mississippi

"I love the idea of selling your soul to the devil, because I kind of feel like I do it a little everyday in this business."

Pray, pray, pray

Trustee of the Month

Our trustee for the month is Rev. Kevin Marr who is 37 years old. His hometown is Memphis, Tennessee. He is married to Jill Marr, who was born in Costa Rica and has lived in many states. They have two children: Kati (8 years old) and Connor (2 years old).

Bro. Marr began his ministry at the age of 14. He has pastored for 14 years and has been serving as a missionary church planner for 3 1/2 years. We are honored to have Bro. Marr as a trustee for the C.A.C.

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 First of Midway, Sumrall

Learning How to Share Your Faith Adult Sunday School Topic for Summer 2007

By Bobby L. Hudgens

Have you ever been presented with a perfect opportunity to witness to a friend, acquaintance, or stranger? You knew you should and you wanted to, but you just couldn't bring yourself to do it? You felt like you were just not familiar enough with the plan of salvation or Scripture. Maybe you felt like they might ask questions you couldn't answer. It could have been any one of a number of reasons, but fear is probably the number one reason we fail to share the gospel. Why not equip yourself to witness to the people the Lord brings across your path? You can make yourself available to the Lord to use you to lead lost friends and family into the kingdom of God? Being equipped takes away that debilitating fear and frees you to join God as He performs a work of His grace in lives around you.

The adult Sunday School studies this summer will encourage every Christian to participate in spreading the gospel and train even the most inexperienced to begin sharing their faith.

The title of the quarter is Devoted to the Gospel. It's a topical study with texts from Acts and Romans. These texts cover the time period beginning with Paul's writing of Romans and ending with his first imprisonment in Rome.

This Bible study series will clarify for students the theological content of the gospel

message and thoroughly acquaint them with the fundamentals of the plan of salvation.

The studies will present ways that every Christian can become personally involved in sharing the gospel. They include being burdened for the lost, inviting the lost to church to hear gospel preaching, winning souls with a verbal witness, sharing a personal testimony of salvation, guiding the lost to a decision to receive Christ, targeting people groups who need the gospel, and being involved in worldwide missions. Each of these lessons contains encouragement to interact with specific training in what to do and how to do it.

The Adult Sunday School for the summer was written by Dr. Elton McCann, who teaches evangelism at the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary and leads teams of students in soul-winning efforts every week.

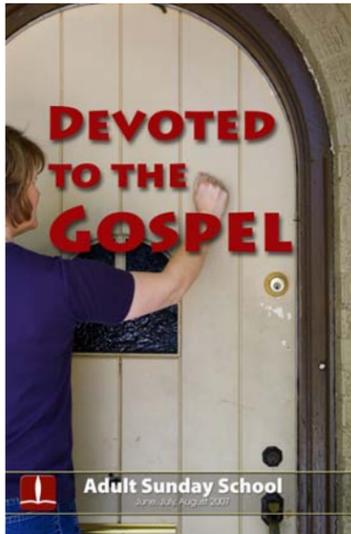
Helpful Resources

Guide to God New Testaments -- \$2.50 each or \$2.00 per hundred

Your Guide to God (tracts) -- \$12.00 per hundred

The Roman Road (tracts) -- \$4.50 per hundred
The Master Plan of Evangelism by Robert E. Coleman -- \$12.99.

These resources can be obtained from Pathway (DiscipleGuide) Christian Store. Call 1-800-333-1442.



Preachers Need To Be Free

from page 3

someone else say, not because of anything he had said of himself--"For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me." (2 Corinthians 12:6) Paul placed little value on what others said or thought about his ministry. If some thought he was the greatest, he felt no better. If others thought he was a complete failure, he felt no worse. Being human, he surely had diverse feelings about his ministry. He therefore knew that if he was so changeable in his feelings about himself, surely no one else would be able to judge him. "...with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord." (1 Corinthians 4:3,4)

He did not prepare his messages by himself; his messages came from heaven. He therefore was not concerned about how his preaching sounded out in front of him; he was rather concerned about how it sounded up above him--"For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ." (2 Corinthians 2:17) Paul said that he would have been disqualified as a servant of Christ, if he sought to please men. "...For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." (Galatians 1:10)

Paul believed that the gospel had been committed to his trust. He realized that not only what he said in his messages would be accounted for, but also the attitude and feelings of his heart would also be judged. He realized that what people thought, or said, about his preaching

should not concern him--"But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts." (1 Thessalonians 2:4)

The Bible gives a beautiful testimony of an Old Testament prophet who seemed to share Paul's feelings. This man was Micaiah, a man who on one occasion was invited to speak before Ahab, king of Israel, and Jehoshaphat, king of Judah. The messenger who came for Micaiah encouraged him to speak according to what Ahab wanted to hear, as Ahab's prophets had done. But notice the Prophet's answer: "And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, even what my God saith, that will I speak." (2 Chronicles 18:13) This man was free. Surely God will bless the preacher today who will speak nothing more or nothing less than what his God saith.

To be free to preach what God gives one to preach does not mean that he is free to speak with harsh, cutting words. He should only feel free to preach the word, (II Timothy 4:2) and this is to always be done in love-- "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ." (Ephesians 4:15) Really, everything we do is to be done in love. (I Corinthian 16:14) There is a possibility, however, that the preacher is speaking in love when people think he is not. Paul had this experience once (Acts 26:24,25)

Some of the statements from Christ's Sermon on the Mount should encourage a preacher to stay free. Jesus taught that if one suffered from being true to Him and His cause, he would earn for himself great rewards. (Matthew 5:12) However, Jesus also taught that if one gets concerned about the praise of men and renders his service to God in view of those compliments, he will not receive any reward at all. (Matthew 6:1-18)

Preachers, as well as all others who serve the Lord, should therefore pray for grace to stay free - free to serve faithfully just for the glory of God-- "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31)

BMA of Mississippi MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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



It is good to be able to bring you another encouraging report of our missionary and mission activities. All continues to progress toward the establishment of strong churches with missions at the heart of their operations. Our missionaries met with our state missionary committee on Monday, May 7 for the midyear review.

We are now in the middle of the Missions Special Emphasis and we are thankful for the churches that have responded. It is our prayer that every church in the BMA of Mississippi uses this opportunity to meet the needs of our missionaries and our Missions office. A dollar amount was not set by the Missions office this year. We are asking instead, that each church pray and let the Lord guide your heart in this matter. There can never be too much emphasis put on MISSIONS.

The Missions office will be closed May 22nd. We will be attending the Mississippi midyear meeting at Midway First Baptist Church, Sumrall. We are looking forward to a great time in the Lord.

The office is working diligently on updating our website. We hope to have the website updated by June 1st. Our plans are to make the website user friendly and have daily updates as needed. If you have any suggestions or comments, please let us know. The website will be

a great tool of communication as well as a great help to the BMA of Mississippi.

This month we have added to our staff at the Missions office. We welcome Mrs. Corbey (Cindy) Jones, now working with Nikki Prickett, training to take over the office duties when Nikki leaves us to enter Mississippi Southern in July. Please pray for Cindy as she joins our work family.

Elvis Garcia, Ripley

Bro. Elvis Garcia and wife Wendy are enjoying the moving of the Lord in their lives and the ministry of the First Hispanic Baptist Mission of Ripley, Mississippi. Bro. Elvis visited 31 homes and made 48 soul talks. The regular Sunday worship of the First Hispanic Baptist for the month of March took a nose dive downward. However, the weekly bible studies are yet strong in attendance. Bro. Elvis is expecting a couple of these bible studies to develop into mission points. Their offerings for the month of March was \$887.00. We ask that you continue to pray for the First Hispanic Baptist Mission of Ripley.

Estuardo Marroquin, Laurel

Bro. Estuardo Marroquin and El Camino (The Way) Hispanic Baptist Mission of Laurel have broken the eighty barrier in attendance.

They have been using the basement of Parkview Baptist Church, but have now outgrown the place. The lot that has been considered for their building will only accommodate a small structure of which they can already fill. Bro. Estuardo met with and shared his problem with the Missionary Committee. After the meeting Bro. Estuardo and the Missionary Committee visited three pieces of property, but no decision was made.

Bro. Estuardo visited 21 homes and made 100 soul talks, and had 28 professions of faith. El Camino averaged 77 in Sunday School, 70 for morning worship, and 90 for evening service. They received \$3,118.11 in total offerings for the month. Remember them in your prayers

Joseph Oyeleye, Columbus

Bro. Joseph Oyeleye and Maple Street Baptist Mission is also making progress toward self support status. Even though at present, figures are running rather low, Bro. Joseph is targeted to go off mission support within the next 18 months. Bro. Joseph visited 43 homes, had 1 soul talk, and 1 profession of faith. Maple Street also experienced a low average attendance of 27 for the month of March with a total monthly offering of \$1,275.00. Remember them in your prayers.

Ed Duvall, Cleveland

Bro. Ed Duvall (Homestretch Baptist Mission) shared his excitement of progress with the Missionary Committee. He feels that it is now time to begin thinking of buying property and constructing a sanctuary. Homestretch has

approximately \$20,000 in the building and property fund. He is hoping they will be able to purchase property from that fund without borrowing additional money. Bro. Ed mentioned that he is not thinking of a mega church building but one that will provide adequate space at an affordable price. Bro. Ed visited 10 homes and made 14 soul talks, and had an average worship attendance of 19. Homestretch received a total monthly offering of \$1,410.34.

Wallace Williams, Long Beach

Bro. Williams expressed to the Missionary Committee how good it is to know that he is where the Lord wants him. Like any would be after weathering the aftermath of Katrina together with the construction delays of the various contractors he is tired physically, but in good spirit. They are now in their new building, but it is not yet complete. They are working on installation of floors and painting getting ready for the installation of the ceiling in the auditorium. Bro. Wallace visited 154 homes, made 60 soul talks, had 1 profession of faith, and 2 by letter. Their total offering for the month of March reached \$4,235.00.

Kevin Marr, Horn Lake

Bro. Kevin shared with the Missionary Committee how rearranging the inside of their building has added to the over all appearance and usage. Bro. Marr visited 200 homes, had 5 soul talks, had an average morning worship attendance of 52, and an evening worship attendance of 54. LifePointe received \$6,609.61 for the month of March.

Remember to pray for our missionaries.