

# **B** Mississippi **aptist**

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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## Churches Urged To Have Messengers Present Midyear Meeting to be held in Laurel

by the editor

Parkview Baptist Church in Laurel will host the 2011 midyear session of the BMA of Mississippi. The state WMA and Brotherhood will meet on Monday evening, May 16, with the general business session of the Association to begin at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 17.

Each department and commission will be reporting on their work and plans for the future. Each local church may be represented by up to 3 messengers. Important business is always cared for at each session.

### Department Vacancy

As you will read in other sections of this issue, the Association is being asked by the Trustees of the Missions Department and the Revolving Loan Fund to consider their nominee for a new director. Leaders of the departments carry a great responsibility and should be chosen carefully with participation of as many churches as possible. A good turnout for this meeting is certainly needed to consider all business and this position in particular.

### BMA Missions in Action

## Nehemiah Project: Partners On Mission

Nehemiah Project Coordinator Marvin Loyd has benefited from the support of the churches during his 30-year ministry as a missionary and now feels the need to back the new generation God has called to the fields.

Teaching school in Nicaragua one year to learn the mission field, he served in Bolivia 20 years as a pilot for the BMA of America and was also involved in church planting, medical and dental service in outback areas and national training.

He also served 10 years in Guatemala in church planting, as well as providing medical and dental service, institute training for nationals and assisting our nationals in El Salvador on a bimonthly basis.

Upon returning to the States, he worked in Arkansas and Mississippi establishing Hispanic work. He has also served for 12 years as a pastor in BMAA churches.

This is what he had to say about the Nehemiah Project:

### There Is A Need

There is a whole world of opportunities and needs in the mission field. The Nehemiah Project strives to fill as many of these needs as we have resources to match. We will be involved in one project at a time and will keep those supporting the project informed of its progress until it is finished. Here is just a sampling of the types of projects with which we are involved:

continued on page 2

## Missions Search Committee Report

by Frank Panzrino  
Clerk of Search Committee

The Search Committee for a new Director of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund met with the joint committees of Missions and RLF Trustees on April 28 recommending Bro. Shane Singleton for the position of director.

The Joint Committees voted unanimously to recommend Singleton to the Association for the position of director of missions.

The committees also asked the president of the association to call a special session during the midyear meeting for the purpose of considering the election of a new missions director.

The president had already been notified of the need to call for a special called session by the Search Committee for consideration of a new director recommended by the committees.

### Editor's Note

The Constitution of the BMA of Mississippi in Article IX, Section 1, requires that all department heads be elected during annual session or a special called session. This session will coincide with the midyear meeting to be held May 17, 2011 at Parkview Church, Laurel.

### BMA Missions Around The World

## "JAM Session" in Laos

### New missionaries report on ministry in Laos

On January 12, 2011, God opened the door for us to enter a Creative Access Nation. For those of you who are not familiar with "us", we are JAM (Joy, Alicia, and Margaret). This is the team that God has developed to represent you in the work of the Lord.

The three of us spent time in the Philippines prior to entering the country. We were able to work on team dynamics, culture training, and training for teaching English. We were also able to spend a great deal of time with the people of the Baptist Missionary Association of the Philippines building strong friendships and relationships. We are grateful for this time of transition and learning.

Entering this nation was an emotional experience for us. We patiently and prayerfully waited for the right timing to enter, and it was now upon us. As of

this writing, we have been in the country for almost 3 months. Things have started slow for several reasons, but we know that God is in control and time belongs to Him.

Within two short weeks after our arrival, a BMMI team visited. Plans had been made for the team to visit several villages and offer free medical checkups along with the administration of necessary medicines and vitamins. God had other plans.

The container, sent from the U.S. containing all of the medical supplies, was being held at the border. A doctor, one of the two Christian converts here, worked tirelessly to negotiate the release of the container. At first, the message was that it would be released in a couple of days, but by the end of

continued on page 2



Marvin Loyd

## Nehemiah Project

from page 1

### Training

Much of our goal is to provide training to leaders and new workers in the remote areas where they live. Many of them are not able to leave their families to attend the training institutes. Then, too, we have found that many times when we bring an individual to a distant location, they never return to their native area. Thus we lose workers in the areas where they are most needed. Short-term institutes in their home area seem to work best for them and us as well.

### Transportation

Public transportation is an asset in third-world countries and generally the population can travel relatively inexpensively from mission location to mission location or church to church. Once there, however, it becomes prohibitive to move around locally. Many times a bicycle or small motorcycle makes a worker infinitely more effective. One worker with a simple mode of personal transportation is often equal to half a dozen confined to one small location.

### Buildings

Meeting in homes is great for small groups, but a church building enables a church to minister the Word in a more public way. It also makes possible a larger group that is better able to sustain the expense of a public ministry. In areas where the population earns from \$12 to \$15 a day or even less, it often takes many years to get the building up and usable.

We have found that to build a building just a little above the level of the average home enables the national to maintain the structure as it ages, yet use it to the advantage of the ministry. The most surprising thing about helping a congregation get into a building is how little it costs in a third-world country. As long as we make a part of the building their responsibility, they have the same appreciation for it that we have for our church plants once a part of us is invested in it.

### Our Mission

When there was a need — repairing the broken-down

This story is aimed at, intended for, and focused on people like me who believe they are not rich yet rely on the lifestyle of Western or American consumerism. I say, "I am not rich. However, I am comfortable." This story is about me and people like me. I do not consider myself a fool, but Jesus uses this word about this man in His story. How foolish do you have to be to be a fool?

"We must educate ourselves out of poverty" is a theme I have read lately. "We must legislate ourselves to a better life" is a subject much in the news. "We must allow our government to control the money supply in this way" is a thesis I hear repeated from every talking head on the television. Some of different persuasions counter with the old "I will pull myself up by my own bootstraps, and leave the government out of all this" kind of non intervention policy. Either way misses the mark in what we practice in the normal day to day life in our land.

If I focus simply on the "good life" I will miss it, and I will miss it altogether, completely, and with irrevocable ruin to my inner man. It is difficult in our culture not to be exposed

many times a day and thousands of times in a short lifetime to the consumer lifestyle of things. Things will make you happy. This product will make you a good person. This status - house, car, clothes, or whatever - will transform you to what you have dreamed of



### Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

all your life. You too, if you have the right things, can be a great human being of worth, prestige, and dignity.

Not! So very not! Not true. Not possible. Not in any way near the realm of reality. How foolish do you have to be to be a fool? I am not an idolater. I don't bow down to idols like the heathen. However, the Bible tells me if I focus my life on things, I have become one who worships at the shrine of things - possessions, fame, status, or class.

Greed can be defined by other words like insatiable hunger for more, avarice, materi-

alism, insatiability to be satisfied with enough (there is never enough, I must have just a little more), and just plain old fashioned gluttony for things that never, ever satisfy even though I have pursued them with great energy and finally acquired them. Life is exhausting in pursuit of, what Qohelet described as, vanity and reaching after the wind.

It doesn't take a lot to want to build bigger barns and ignore the things of God. It doesn't take a million dollars in the bank to talk to yourself in the terms of the fool in this story. I don't need several homes in exotic places to cause me to leave God out. It happens quickly, quietly, and with ever increasing damage. It is like water seeping in. It is not a flood that comes all at once. It is little by little, like the seeping water. Surely and certainly the damage is done even though it has not been a hurricane.

I must be on my guard against this terrible calamity potential for my life. I don't want to be labeled as foolish in the grand summation regarding my life. I don't want my epitaph to read: "Fool!"

13 And one of the company

said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.

14 And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?

15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

walls of Jerusalem — Nehemiah stood in the gap. Today, there are needs all around the world of BMAA global missions. That's why the Nehemiah Project was created.

The Nehemiah Project is an exciting, new and practical missions outlet for the churches of the BMAA. The Nehemiah Project will select, plan and promote strategic opportunities for practical missions work and resourcing throughout the world of BMAA missions. These projects support ongoing ministry and may take the form of buildings, transportation, training, literature or any other type resources needed to fill the gap in a missions location.

The project will seek to exemplify the burden, prayer life, organizational skills, teamwork and triumph of Nehemiah's ministry. If you would like to participate in a project, I would be glad to represent it to you, your group or church. Just contact me at (479) 248-2701 or 12541 Haden Rd., Bentonville, AR 72712.

## JAM Session

from page 1

negotiation, the release would not be until after the team was scheduled to return to the U.S. Since there were no supplies, our plans had to be adjusted. Days prior to the start of the BMMI trip, God provided JAM with an apartment space large enough for 3 ladies and the start of God's ministry. This space had been vacant for quite some time and needed lots of scrubbing and cleaning along with electrical work and handyman services. The team was so generous in volunteering their assistance.

JAM, as a team, did not want this trip to be uneventful for the BMMI team, so we planned some sightseeing and cultural adventures along with our plans for cleaning. Ladies and

men both worked hard to make this new mission house spotless and livable. Our hearts were stirred by the selfless acts of love shone by this team. Not only did they clean, but they saw the need for necessary items to make this a home. Donations were made and items were bought and installed. I can't express the gratitude I feel toward each member of this team. Without groaning, they



ministered to these 3 ladies.

There was one day of clinic during the BMMI teams visit. One particular location was expecting our visit, and this expectation needed to be met. Since there were no supplies, BMMI purchased enough medicine to conduct a one day medical clinic. It was a successful mission and an outreach tool

for this ministry.

The container has since arrived. It not only contained BMMI supplies, but, also, donations sent for two hospitals and an elementary school. JAM was able to go with a group from one of the hospitals to inventory the items sent and obtain the BMMI supplies. We will make plans in the near future to distribute these items as previously intended. With the assistance of doctors and nurses, we will use this time as an outreach for meeting people and building relationships.

As of right now, the ministry of JAM includes learning the native language. Little to no English is spoken among the locals. Learning the language is definitely a challenge, but living and working among people with whom you cannot communicate is a greater challenge. In spite of the frustrations associated with learning a new

continued on page 3

# Church Multiplication

by Larry Barker  
North American Missions Director  
BMA of America

Transformational Church is a tool to help churches become healthy, thriving, and live “sent” because they accept the mission God has given them. They realize that they are missionaries in their communities and are always looking for the lost and unchurched to build relationships with them. They practice personal worship daily but also look forward to corporate worship with great expectation and anticipation. Transformational Churches realize that spiritual growth occurs best in small groups. They are dedicated to disciple making and have a system in place to help mature believers. They want to be healthy so they can glorify God and multiply!

Anything healthy reproduces! Many Christians consider themselves “mature” because of how long they have been saved or because of how much they know about discipleship but the true mark of ma-

turity is that you are reproducing. We ought to be seeing reproduction and multiplication in every aspect of our lives and our churches. Christians should be reproducing other Christians, Small Groups should be reproducing other Small Groups, Sunday School classes should be reproducing Sunday School classes, leaders should be reproducing leaders, disciples should be reproducing disciples, and churches should be multiplying also!

Paul emphatically says “imitate” me. What was his ministry all about? Multiplication! Usually his travels in the New Testament are referred to as Paul’s “missionary” journeys but really they were “church planting” journeys. C. Peter Wagner’s oft-quoted statement applies here, “the single most effective evangelistic methodology under heaven is planting new churches.” Ed Stetzer and Warren Bird say in *Viral*

Churches that the following statement should be added, “who in turn reproduce themselves.” This is not the latest trend, theory, or program but rather was the clear strategy of the early church.

The book of Acts was and is about spreading the gospel to the whole world (Acts 1:8). In order for the gospel to go somewhere a messenger like Peter, Philip, Barnabas, or Paul had to carry it and just about everywhere they went churches were established (Thessalonica, Corinth, Ephesus, and Macedonia). “True followers of Christ will not keep the gospel for themselves, but will reproduce it over and over again in others.... Thus we have the many letters of the New Testament written not to believers in Corinth, Ephesus, or Thessalonica but to churches gathered in those places.” You

cannot deny the fact that Paul’s primary ministry was the planting of a “copious” number of churches.

At the BMAA National Meeting April 11-13 Ed Stetzer brought to light several biblical challenges to us as an association of churches and all of them had to do with reproducing ourselves and multiplying. He quoted Charles Spurgeon who said, “Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter.” He also said, “We must transition our churches from a room full of customers to becoming co-laborers on mission for God” and “The Jerusalem church inspected church plants while the Antioch church planted churches.” Which church do we want to be like; the one that examines and discusses what everyone else is doing wrong or the one that does it?

Dr. Stetzer challenged the 80/20 rule that says that 80% of the work in most churches is done by 20% of the people. He made it clear that this should not be referred to as a rule but we must call it what it is, sin!

His message on I Peter 4:10-11 challenged us to realize that every single soul that has surrendered to God’s grace is called to the ministry. We should not abolish the clergy but rather we should abolish the laity because everyone who follows Jesus has been given gifts and we are called to be stewards of those gifts.

You say, “We can’t plant a new church.” I would challenge that because all of us should be involved in church planting one way or the other but I will address how to be a part of a Church Multiplication Movement next week. The question today is what are we going to do now? Embrace multiplication in every area of our lives, churches, and ministry. We must become the messengers of the gospel God has called us to be right where we are. There is no true gospel-centeredness unless it leads to mission. Who do you know that needs you to share the love of Christ with them? Where do we begin? Christians reproducing other Christians!

## JAM Session

from page 2

and uncomfortable language, speaking the language is detrimental and necessary for this ministry to succeed. With God’s help, we will soon be able to cross the barrier of limited communication to develop deeper relationships with the people in their heart language.

Even with limited access, God has introduced us to several people with whom we have been able to develop relationships, many of whom are eager to learn English. We pray that God will not only use us to assist in learning English for these ladies, but that He will also use us as a vessel to introduce Jesus, through the life that we live and the example that we set.

We continue to patiently await the approval of our MOU or Memorandum of Understanding. The government must approve us as volunteers in order for us to volunteer our services to the hospital and

university as previously planned. Without the necessary documents, our volunteer work is limited. We know that even time belongs to God, and we trust that in His timing, His perfect plan will unfold. God is teaching, growing, and preparing us to join Him where He is already at work. Please continue to pray for us during this time of waiting.

Pray with us:

1. A supernatural understanding of the native language
2. Approval of the MOU
3. The administration of a one year visa for each of us
4. Wisdom and guidance as we wait
5. Protection from the enemy for us as a unified team
6. Discipleship for our female doctor friend and a child of God who needs spiritual growth and guidance
7. A few of our new friends

### Junior Camp Reminder

Registration for Junior Camp is due in May 13th.  
Dwight Lindsey  
State Youth Director

# SOAR2011

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Go to [www.DiscipleGuide.org/soar](http://www.DiscipleGuide.org/soar) for more information and to register.



Shawn Hammontree



Jason Aultman



Mark Livingston



Kent Wiles



Gungor



Bob Smiley



# Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

## Attendance Imperative!

I have addressed attendance at meetings on more than one occasion by means of this column. Attendance at regular meetings has been dwindling in the past few years. I am not sure of the cause, other than a possible lack of excitement and concern for the work that we have set before us.



Don Brown  
Editor

The attendance at the recent BMA of America meeting in Wichita Falls, Texas, was disappointing. Only 251 churches, of over 1200 national members, were represented in person by messengers. Wichita Falls, Texas is a long trip for many of our churches and economic times may have played a role in the small number present.

The BMA of Mississippi will hold its Midyear meeting on May 17, at Parkview Baptist

Church in Laurel. I see no good reason that most of our churches could not and should not be represented. This particular meeting is even more important than normal since it is also containing a "special called session" for the purpose of considering a nominee for the office of State Missions Director.

No business of our work should be cared for by a minority of our churches. The choosing of a department leader - any department leader - should be done by a majority of supporting churches. Each church will be allowed 3 messengers. No doubt many churches will have 3 messengers present to care for this business. Every church should make every effort to ensure that they are represented by members of their church and that 3 messengers be present if at all possible.

This business is serious business and deserves our collective attention.

## Heaven, apart from Christ? 'Dangerous folly'

**OneNewsNow** - Mega-church pastor and author Rob Bell has created a stir among evangelical Christians with his new book that questions traditional interpretations of heaven and hell. One theologically trained historian and author, however, says Bell's assertions are nothing new.

Bell's controversial book entitled *Love Wins* poses questions like: "Are heaven and hell real places?" "Who goes where?" and "How do we know and why does it matter?" Notably, he departs from historic Christianity, proposing everyone's eternity ultimately ends up as heaven.

In her own book *Who Goes There? A Cultural History of Heaven and Hell*, Rebecca Price Janney contends it is dangerous teaching to lead people to believe that heaven can be obtained apart from Christ.

"We live in a time, of course, when truth is regarded as being relative, individual to each

person," she says, "and yet so many people are arriving at this same conclusion, this universal idea that everybody goes to heaven unless they're really horrible people like Adolf Hitler or Josef Stalin."

The author says one benefit from the debate is that believers and non-believers alike can take Bell's assertions and compare them with scripture.

"I think we can be like the Bereans," she suggests, "who were a group of believers in the New Testament who would hear the teachings of the apostles and then go back and say, 'Alright, how does this stack up to what scripture tells us, to what God's Word is telling us?' So I think it's also an opportunity for that."

In *Who Goes There?* Janney writes: "We dislike the idea that those who die apart from Christ go to hell, but are we willing to let our emotional preference take the lead over truth when souls hang in the balance? Cur-

rent events, pop culture, and our own emotions color our perspective of eternity more than we may realize."

Janney believes a right understanding of people's eternal destiny is critical, and not just for the end of life, but for the here and now. "Living with the hope of Jesus Christ to overcome sin and hell gives meaning and perspective to life, as well as hope, purpose in suffering, and a moral foundation for individuals and society," she writes. "Believing that we get all this, and heaven too, apart from Christ is the most dangerous kind of folly."

### Junior Camp Reminder

Registration for Junior Camp is due in May 13th.  
Dwight Lindsey  
State Youth Director

## Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"Looks like another sermon on stewardship..."

### Letters From Our Readers

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



Bro. & Mrs. Dale Broom

### New missionaries begin deputation

Dear Editor,

Bro. Dale and Celia Broom are beginning to start their deputation work as new self-supporting missionaries to Ghana, West Africa. If you would like for them to come to your church to present their vision for Ghana, you can contact them at the following numbers - Bro. Dale at 601-441-6789 and Celia at 601-402-8059. Their mailing address is 2 Bay Lane, Columbia, MS 39429.

Please be in prayer for us as we follow God's will for our lives. We also will appreciate any financial support as well. We would like to thank Rocky Branch Baptist Church for being the host church and recommending us for the field in Ghana as well as Bro. Arthur Smith for presenting that recommendation at the National Meeting.

Thank you for your support.  
Bro. Dale and Celia Broom



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From Baptist Medical Missions International  
**Making Everlasting Smiles - 2011**

It's that time again.....time for "Making Everlasting Smiles" with the Christmas shoebox project sponsored by Baptist Medical Missions International! The information is being sent to the churches within the next week, so watch your mailbox for this important envelope, which will be stamped "Christmas Shoebox Information".

Each packet will include a letter, a list of suggested items for the boxes, a list of the drop-off locations, a poster for your church, and a DVD showing last year's shoeboxes being distributed. It is our hope that your church will want to be involved in "Making Everlasting Smiles" in the countries of Georgia and Nicaragua this year.

So.....watch for this important information that will be arriving in your church's mailbox very soon!



**Sofilthy's Attic**

by Barbara White

**J - O - Y**

There's a Bible Study teacher in our church who has been teaching the book of Ecclesiastes. He has emphasized over and over that we should enjoy life! Well, "them are my sentiments"! Must of been Paul's also as he wrote the book of Philippians. Another writer said; "... neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength." Nehemiah 8:10

The wise man who wrote Ecclesiastes said it this way in 8:15. "Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: for that shall abide with him of his labor the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun."

I came across a little sayin' the other day that kinds boils it down. "Life is short. Eat more pancakes and fewer rice cakes."

**AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE**

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

**Dale Wirick**

Dale Wirick is available for pulpit supply. He can be reached by calling 228-474-8886 or 228-249-3731.

**Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi**  
**Department of Missions & Revolving Loan Fund**

**Special Emphasis 2011**

**Continuing Church Supported Projects**



**Maple Street Mission**  
Columbus, MS  
Bro. Joseph Oyeleye



**Homestretch Church**  
Cleveland, MS  
Bro. Edward Duvall

**Hispanic Missions Coordinators**



**First Hispanic Church**  
Ripley, MS  
Bro. Elvis Garcia



**El Camino Church**  
Laurel, MS  
Petal Mission  
Petal, MS  
Bro. Estuardo Marroquin

**Goal**  
**\$30,000.00**

**State Mission Project**



**New Heart Mission**  
Hattiesburg, MS  
Bro. Ray Boone

**Winning souls for Christ in 2011!!!**

Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.  
 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and *then* cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. John 4: 34-35  
 Peace be unto you: as *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you. John 20:21

# Ten Tactics to Avoid in Marriage

1 Thessalonians 3:17-19,23 "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and be not bitter against them. And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men." Wise words from a loving God on marriage.

Scripture tells us to do everything according to Jesus, whether it be the way we talk or our actions to our spouse. Give God thanks for your marriage. Just doing that can turn things around in a hurry. Wives need to respect their husbands. If you say you can't find anything to respect ask



## Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

If you attempt to do this marriage thing for any other reason besides Christ, you are going to be very disappointed. Every marriage involves a commitment of imperfect people. Happiness and joy come and go in a marriage, but our love for the Lord is forever and growing. Live your marriage for the Lord and it will be forever and growing.

Here are some things to avoid in your marriage that will slowly erode the marriage landscape.

God to show you at least one small thing. Start there and grow. Husbands should love their wife like Jesus loves all of us. Give your life away and sacrificially serve and die for your wife. (Ephesians 5:25). It is easy to respect someone who is loving you like Christ loved the church. Ask God to remove your bitterness towards your wife. Your bitterness will not serve you well, and it will poison your marriage.

Finally, don't give up. You don't submit to your husband because every day he is so perfect he deserves it. You don't love your wife and sacrifice for her because she is Miss Perfect. You do everything because you love Jesus. It is not based upon how they act, or what they say. It is based upon doing it for Jesus and showing your obedience to him and how much you love him.

need is for their life mate to come and point out their failure and kick the last breath out of them. If it involves the family, sit down and talk about it, and resolve it. In work and other areas, be a good listener and offer support.

2. Criticize their faults. Does anyone truly believe in constructive criticism? Criticism is destructive. It is one thing to offer helpful advice like, "You have a June bug in your hair". That is helpful. But criticism is finding something that you don't like in your spouse and verbalizing it. Try role-modeling the desired behavior in front of your spouse. Accept things that are part of their personality. They are not going to be a clone of you!

3. Condemn them when they are down. When people feel down for whatever reason, find something to say to lift them up. Whether it be a mistake, a sin, a bad habit, or a bout with depression, etc., a spouse should find some way to lift up their spouse so they can believe and grow in a better tomorrow.

4. Pick on them. You might call this nagging. It might appear in the form of "No matter what I do, it is never good enough for you". That is a miserable life. Please don't ever expect everyone to live up to your standards for life. Remember, you are sleeping with the enemy.

5. Make fun of your spouse. Hostile humor is not funny. It is insulting someone and then hiding behind a mask of laughter. Teasing from time to time is okay. But even too much of a fun thing can go too far. Don't ever make fun of the way your spouse looks.

6. Attack their self worth. This is done by name-calling. This is done by verbal put-downs. Maybe your spouse doesn't respond to you as you would like because you make them feel like a dirt clod all the time. Everyone is valuable in God's kingdom.

7. Blaming or fault-finding. Not every problem has to be assigned someone to take the blame. Things happen. Don't lift yourself up by beating your spouse down.

8. Hardness of heart - I call this "Pharaoh's Disease". He had a hard heart. This is where you just give up and dig your heels in and refuse to work with your spouse. Ask God to soften your heart towards your

continued on page 7



## Piano CDs for Churches to Sing By!

If your church doesn't have a pianist or needs an option for when your pianist isn't available, Christian piano CDs can be a wonderful solution for your congregational singing or small group gatherings. The challenge is finding accompaniment CDs with instrumentation appropriate for your congregation or small group – and one that is easy to use. Worship Service Resources provides a solution! At DiscipleGuide we are partnering with them to make these worship resources available to you. Log onto [www.DiscipleGuide.org/PianoCDs](http://www.DiscipleGuide.org/PianoCDs) or call 1-800-333-1442.



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# Not Ashamed Of Jesus

by Evangelist Grover Laird  
from Revivalist Newspaper

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." (Romans 1:16)

The word Gospel means "good news." The gospel of Christ is the good news of Christ. It is the good news of Jesus providing salvation for a lost world by His death on the cross. Paul said in our text that he was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ.

Spreading the gospel, or telling the good news about Jesus, is the duty and privilege of every child of God. (Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 14:36) Yet, many who enjoy the benefits of the death of Christ on the cross are slow to pass on the good news to others. And this failure to tell that good news to those who are lost in sin, may be the greatest reason that most Christians are not the happy Christians God intended for us to be. And because people cannot say with Paul, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ," may be the reason that many fail to tell others the good news about Jesus.

Speaking of Jesus, the prophet Isaiah said, "...we hid as it were our faces from Him.." (Isaiah 53:3) This sounds like a

person who is ashamed of Jesus. While we could give a long list of things that we all should be ashamed of, one thing is certain, Jesus would not be on that list.

Consider with me three reasons found in my text, why we should not be ashamed of the gospel of Christ, or ashamed to talk to others about Jesus:

## 1. Because Of The Person of the Gospel

The person we talk about in spreading the gospel is Christ. It really seems strange that we freely talk about others who are considered great, but are very reluctant in saying anything about Jesus who is greater than all. The Bible speaks of Him being "the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys." He is the "Alpha and Omega," and "the bright and morning star." He is the Son of the living God. He is the coming king. Please tell me why people are ashamed of Jesus?

## 2. Because Of The Power of the Gospel

Nothing has as much power to change lives as does the gospel? All of the efforts to reform and improve mankind fall far short of what a simple presentation of the gospel can do. The

Bible was speaking of the power of the gospel when it said, "...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." (1 Corinthians 1:21) The gospel is indeed "the power of God unto salvation."

The gospel can take a weak, helpless sinner who is wasting away his life and make him a new creature in Christ who will be a blessing to many. (11 Corinthians 5:17) The gospel can take a miserable home that is at the point of falling apart and make it a happy home for both parents and children. The gospel can take sinful, unfaithful, lost church members and bring them to Christ and make them faithful church members. Why should we be ashamed of something as powerful and as profitable as the gospel of Christ?

## 3. Because Of The People of the Gospel

The gospel is for "everyone that believeth." It is for the Greeks and Barbarians, the rich and the poor, the educated and the uneducated, the young and the old, and even the good and the bad. II Peter 3:9 says, The Lord is "not willing that any should perish." II Timothy 2:4 says, the Lord "will have all men to be saved." Acts 17:30 says, the Lord commands "all

men everywhere to repent." Hebrews 2:9 says that Jesus "taste death for every man." John 3:17 tells us that Jesus came to this world and died "that the world through him might be saved." John 3:16 tells us that it was God's love for the world that caused Him to send Jesus to be our Savior. Our sovereign God set up His salvation plan before the world was, and all who come to Jesus

can feel that they were part of the plan. And only by God's grace will any sinner come to Jesus.

We should not be ashamed of the gospel because of who it magnifies. We should not be ashamed of the gospel because of its Power to change lives. And we should not be ashamed of the gospel because of the People that were included in God's redemption plan.

## Junior Camp Reminder

Registration for Junior Camp  
is due in May 13th.

Dwight Lindsey  
State Youth Director

## Mid Central Association report

On March 19, 2011, the regular Mid-Central Association Meeting was held at Magnolia Heights Baptist Church. We were blessed with special music from April Ezell entitled "God on the Mountain and special music from Sherry Hollingsworth and Becky Cole entitled "Shepherd Point of View". Bro. Kent Grice brought an uplifting message from Deuteronomy 28.

There were 33 in attendance. Bro. Vern Holifield gave a report on the Senior Adult Commission. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal provided by the ladies of Magnolia Heights Baptist Church after the meeting. The next meeting will be held May 14, 2011, at Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church at 7:00 P.M.

Joyce Williamson, Reporter  
Jimmy Harrison, Moderator



## 2011-12 WMA Officers



Pictured above are the new officers for the National WMA elected at this year's meeting in Wichita Falls, Texas. Officers are as follows: President Valerie Fish, 1st VP Carolyn Colvert, 2nd VP Janet Widger, 3rd VP Brenda Housday, Corres. Sec./Treasurer Pat Duncan, Asst. Cor. Sec. Glenda Tipton, Rec. Secs. LaDonna Baker & Bea Evans, Editor Shirlene Smith, Reporter Julia Barnett, Historian Chris Smith, Director of Youth Activities Robin Smith, Asst. Mindi Townsend, GMA/YLA Promoter Jayna Williams, Asst. Beth Caldwell, Sunbeam Promoter Claudie Thompson, Asst. Linder Faye Dertinger, Pianist Beck Way, Song Leader Alice Smith, Project Promotion Committee 2014 Betty Wilson, Salary & Expense Committee 2014 Linda Thomas, Study Book Committee 2014 Val Blackmore.

The Advisory Committee is Dale E. Fish, Rick Smith, and Kenneth Colvert. The project for 2011 Haiti Relief Fund and ISHELP.

## Plumlee on Marriage

from page 6

spouse. Otherwise, this response leads to divorce.

9. Ignoring. You will never solve a single problem in your family life by ignoring your other half. Always pay attention every day to your spouse. You can't ever put them on hold, while you get overly consumed with your career or your kids, other people or projects.

10. Neglect. The worst thing you could ever do for your marriage. Neglect the mental, emotional or spiritual needs of your gift from God - your spouse. Love your spouse as joint heirs together of the grace of life. Everything is possible to them who believe.

## New Heart Mission Making Progress

Site preparation in progress.



David Boone and his son Aaron setting batter boards.

Here are a few of the men from the mission that has helped make our progress possible. From left to right is Horace Jenkins, Michael Jenkins, Ray Boone, John Parvin and David Boone.



Putting metal roofs on is not something the Master's Builders do, but with our men and a few others who volunteered their help we were able to get the roof completed.

BMA OF MISSISSIPPI

# MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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

by **Dosson L Lee**  
**Interim Missions Director**

I have been visiting among our mission congregations during the months of March and April and there is a good spirit in each of them. It is a joy to see what God is doing through the BMA of Mississippi. I hope this letter finds you prospering in God's blessings.

The building program at New Heart Baptist Mission in Hattiesburg is moving along quite well. The Master's and Classic Builders worked hard for over two weeks beginning March 25, 2011 and took a break for the BMA of America meeting. As of April 25, 2011, they are moving back on the building location to continue work. The building is now "in the dry", and they are starting to install insulation, heating

and cooling, dry wall, and lighting. We are grateful for their help.

I know that you remember that April and May 2011 is special emphasis time for State Missions and Revolving Loan Fund Departments. I request that each church consider taking a special offering for Missions during the latter part of May 2011 and give our people an opportunity to respond to the needs of your State Missions Department. Our goal for this special emphasis is to raise \$30,000.00. Souls are being saved and progress is being made all by the grace of God and for His honor and glory.

Above all things, we ask that you pray for us, and we are grateful for your continual support. God bless you.



Thanks for the Master's Builders and the Mississippi Classic Builders and our folks from the mission. We were able to get it framed up in about 2 weeks.

