

Baptist

Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

MAY 1, 2012

VOL. 66 No. 9

"Until The End" National Association Comes To Mississippi

by Don Brown, Editor

The BMA of America held its 2012 annual meeting at the Convention Center in Jackson, Mississippi, April 16-18. The attendance was up from the 2011 meeting in Texas, but still short of what this write would expect. A total of 686 messengers and visitors were in attendance.

Four new churches were welcomed into the fellowship of the BMA. They are Homestretch Baptist Church, Cleveland, Mississippi; Celebration Church, Haskell Arkansas; All Nations Indian Church, Rio Rancho, New Mexico; and Fusion Church, Fountain, Colorado.

Business was conducted smoothly with all reports well received and no constitutional changes brought before the body. Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant, a devout Christian himself, welcomed the messengers on Monday evening. Bryant, in his first year as



Director John Adams (right) presents 2012 Morality Award to Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant while Mrs. Bryant looks on.

governor, was well received. He welcomed the messengers and urged the body to continue to press forward in her work. Dr. John Adams, director of Moral Action for the BMA of America & Mississippi and pastor of First Baptist Church, Mantachie, presented the Governor with the 2012 Morality Award. Adams stated that Bryant's Godly example and purpose was appreciated.

The theme for the 2012 meeting was "Until The End". President Paul Bullock encouraged God's people to be faithful and to have a long term impact for

Christ. (His message appears in this issue of the Mississippi Baptist.) Each session of this year's meeting was opened by someone with a lengthy tenure. The first individual to do this was Bro. Billy Huffmaster, former pastor of Skyway Hills Church, Pearl.

New officers for the coming associational year are President Ed Stephenson, First vice President Jason Aultman, and Second Vice President Paul White. Clerks continuing to serve are James Ray Raines, Jerome Cooper and Greg Medenwald. The 2013 annual message will be brought by Scott Attebery of El Dorado, Arkansas. The 2013 meeting will be held in Norman, Oklahoma.

A feature of each annual meeting has been the Charley Holmes Invitational Golf Tournament. It is a time of fellowship and relaxation for those participating. Holmes challenged those attending the 2013 meeting in Oklahoma by cancelling the tournament and encouraging our people to gather early and to go into the city of Norman and share the Gospel. This was well received and a large number of individuals came forward and pledged to participate.

Good positive and progressive reports by each area of our work and by various ministries were given. Each department leader indicated a desire to work closely with the other departments in carrying out the Great Commission and to support each other to insure common goals and visions. This was very



Governor Phil Bryant welcomes BMA of America to Jackson



President Paul Bullock

Midyear Meeting at Mantachie Attendance Encouraged at Midyear Meeting

by Shane Singleton, President
BMA of Mississippi

I would like to take the opportunity to encourage each of you to be sure to attend our mid-year meeting at First Baptist, Mantachie, May 22, beginning at 9:30 a.m. As your church makes preparations to come, please know that we will be attempting something new for our mid-year gathering. The response to the use of ballot voting at the October meeting was incredibly positive, and so the program committee has decided to try this method at our mid-year meeting as well.

What this means for your church - nothing extra or out of the ordinary. The enrollment committee will be set up at First, Mantachie, with a list of all of our state churches. As your church arrives, simply send one messenger over to that table, tell the committee which church you represent, and how many messengers you have (each church is entitled to up to and no more than three). There is no letter to bring or registration to fill out, just an account on arrival of the messengers from your church.

Bear in mind, this is a new effort we are trying. It worked well and was received well in October and the hope is it will be just as effective and well received in May. Thank you for your cooperation as we seek to serve the Lord together.

For His Glory!



Singleton



Bro. Larry Barker welcomes messengers of new churches joining the National Association

continued on page 2

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

College Day on April 24



Students enjoy lunch during their recent visit to SBC

We had a great College Day for prospects to visit the college on Tuesday, April 24. Lamar Christian School had approximately 30 students attending and presented a band concert during our chapel service. Several others were present.

We encourage anyone interested in attending Southeastern to contact our Admissions Director, Ronnie Kitchens, for information about classes and degree programs offered by the college. His office number is 601-426-6346. Financial aid and on-line classes are available.

Graduation

The commencement services for this year will be May 10, at 7:30 p.m. We commend those who have completed the requirements and will be receiving degrees and certificates.

Bachelor of Science, Church Ministries

Robert Crenshaw, IV
Rodney Goss, High Honors

Associate of Arts - Bible

Jeffrey Samael Barahona-Paredes, Honors
Homer Kemp
Donnie Loggins
Gregory Mangum
Marshall Mason, Jr.
Annie Clayton McLean
Mossie Redmond Phipps

Billy Prestage
Matthew Yontz

Associate of Arts -

General Education

Jeffrey Samael Barahona-Paredes, Honors
Sandra Buckingham, Honors
Kenberlyn Dixon
Rodney Goss, High Honors
Candace Hillman, Honors
Mary Lavinghouse, Honors
Janice Smith
Adrain Taylor

Associate of Arts -

Business Administration

Sandra Buckingham, Honors
Kimberly Davis
Mary Lavinghouse, Honors
Florence Mutebile
Adrain Taylor

Diploma in Bible

Homer Kemp
Mossie Phipps
Billy Prestage

Diploma of

Christian Leadership

Homer Kemp
Marshall Mason, Jr.
Mossie Phipps
Billy Prestage

Certificate of

Christian Leadership

Connie Evans

10 x 10 Project

If you have not responded to the 10 x 10 Project, we

National Meeting Report from page 1

evident by the reports from Missions and LifeWord. Director of Missions Dr. John David Smith and LifeWord Executive Director Steve Crawley stressed the 'integration' of these two works for the purpose of being more efficient and effective, and also emphatically stressed that this new direction was not a 'merger' of the two departments.

The relocation of the Department of Missions from Little Rock to the campus of LifeWord in Conway, Arkansas, was stated to be a certainty and to be complete most likely by January 2013. Smith and Crawley stated that this arrangement would allow these two separate works to better coordinate missions outreach and to better support the efforts of each department. Crawley stated that the sharing of resources and staff could conservatively save approximately \$300,000 per year.

DiscipleGuide Church Resources is still with-



Students share thoughts concerning training they receive at BMA Seminary, Jacksonville, Texas.

out an executive director and the financial difficulties were stressed. Publishing ministries of all types have seen a decline in recent years and DiscipleGuide is seeing a continuing decline in revenue. Clinton Everett, chairman of Trustees at DiscipleGuide

presented their report. He mentioned the possibility and goal of joining with Missions and LifeWord to share resources.

Charles Reddin, editor of the Adult series, was recognized for 40 years of service to Baptist Publishing House/DiscipleGuide. Reddin was presented a gift of appreciation for his length of service.

Ministers Resource Services reports continued increase in deposits and a good return on the investments. Director Ron Chesser stressed the importance of churches enrolling their staff in the retirement program and participating in the benevolent ministries of MRS.

BMA Seminary reported a good year with the campus extension in Conway, Arkansas, making progress. Four



Coy Quesenbary (center) receives Kellar Award for Bro. Gaylon Henry, who could not attend the meeting due to health issues, from Seminary President Dr. Charley Holmes as Seminary Dean, Dr. Philip Attebery looks on.

request that you consider helping us at this time.

What is the 10 x 10 Project?

A fund raising project designed to strengthen the financial foundation of the College. The project calls for 1,000 individuals, churches, auxiliaries, businesses, and other friends of Southeastern to build a 10 x 10 room in the financial building at Southeastern Baptist College which equals \$100.00 per room.

Why is the 10 x 10 Project Needed?

The economic downturn in our nation has affected everyone and Southeastern is no exception. Our expenses have been greater than our income for some time. We have taken several steps to correct our financial program and ask for your help by giving \$100.00 to build a room in our "financial building" at the college.

It is imperative, if at all possible, that we end this fiscal year on June 30 with a solid financial year.



Bro. Charles Reddin (right) receives gift of appreciation for 40 years of service from Jerome Cooper of DiscipleGuide.

of this year's graduates completed their work at this site. In his official report President Charley Holmes urged individuals and churches to consider funding a scholarship for "one of our worthy young preachers." The Seminary continues to train workers for the Master.

President's message at BMA of America - Jackson, MS

“Until the End”

By Paul Bullock, president
Baptist Missionary Association of America

9 But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak. 10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. 11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: 12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. Hebrews 6:9-12

The Space Shuttle program took its maiden flight with shuttle Columbia on April 12, 1981 and was retired on July 20, 2011 with the shuttle Atlantis taking the last flight. Over thirty years, the program took 135 total flights with five different shuttles: Columbia, Challenger, Discovery, Atlantis, Endeavour. It is the only system in the history of the world to have reusable, winged vehicles that can travel into space and back. It is a unique system with unique features. You will see it on the news this week as one of the remaining shuttles will be flown into and around the Washington D.C. area as it is put on display at the Smithsonian. I remember Liz and myself going from Ruston, Louisiana to Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City that first year to see one fly in piggyback on a jumbo jet.

Allow me to me share with you about another system, the railway system in the United States.

The standard gauge, or width, of the inside rails of railroad tracks in the United States is four feet eight and one-half inches. That seems to be an odd number to become such a standard. That begs the question. Why is the ‘gauge’ of U.S. railroads four feet eight and one-half inches? Our railroads were built by Europeans and that was the width they used. So why was the width they used that odd measure? Their railroads were built by those who built early trams in underground mines and they had used that same width. Why were the early trams built with that width? Their trams were built by the same people who built wagons and they used the same jigs and tools to build both and that was the measurement they used. Why were their wagons built with that width? There were ruts in the roads with that same width and if they used a different width, their wagon wheels usually broke. Why were the ruts in the roads that width? The Roman Imperial Army had purposefully made roads with ruts in them to better help their armies travel. Why were the ruts that



President Paul Bullock

certain width? They discovered the optimum width for their wagons was the same measurement for the rear ends of two horses approximately five feet at the center of the wheels and four feet eight and one-half inches at the inside measurement.

Two different systems from two different eras. Could they somehow be connected? At liftoff the shuttle's two solid rocket boosters use seven million pounds of thrust and require only eight and one-half minutes to reach space at a speed of 17,000 m.p.h. It turns out that those two solid fuel rocket boosters on the each side of the space shuttle at launch were built in the western part of the United States and had to travel by rail to the launch facility in Florida. Designers of these rocket boosters were limited because the railway had to travel through tunnels in the Rockies. As a result, their shape was at least influenced by the width of the railway tunnels. So one can rightly assume that the space shuttle, possibly the most advanced system of human travel we know of, was at least influenced by one of its most simple methods of travel from thousands of years before. That is a long-term impact!

One system put in place two thousand years ago at least in part influenced a thoroughly modern system. We all also know about another important institution put in place two thousand years ago which continues to influence the world today, the kingdom work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are part of that kingdom system, and we are to continue its influence today and into the future until the end. I want to encourage you to join me as we learn from the writer of Hebrews and how this passage from chapter six challenges us concerning our long term impact for the cause of Christ.

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 or call 1-800-333-1442.



DiscipleGuide
CHURCH RESOURCES
1-800-333-1442, www.DiscipleGuide.org



Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Just A Few Notes

The State Association will hold its Midyear meeting on May 21 & 22, at First Baptist Church, Mantachie. Reports will be heard from each of our departments and commissions and from other aspects of the BMA of Mississippi. Each church may have 3 messengers to represent them. Churches are encouraged to be present for this meeting.

The Brotherhood and WMA will meet on Monday evening at 7:00 at First Baptist. The business session is scheduled for Tuesday morning at 9:30.

Attendance at our recent national meeting showed that only 23% of our member churches sent messengers. It would be good for all of our churches to make a special effort to be present.

This editor has received word that the Youth Trustees have elected an interim director. This department has been without a director since December when Dwight Lindsey's resignation became effective.



Don Brown
Editor

Mississippi A Good Host

The state of Mississippi was a good host to the 2012 BMA of America meeting. I was personally pleased that Governor Phil Bryant took time to attend our meeting and welcome our Association to Mississippi.

The Association went well with a good spirit and good reports. The reports and integration of the efforts of the National Missions Department and LifeWord drew a lot of discussion in the halls. As you have read in their reports and in the report on this meeting, Missions Director John David Smith and LifeWord Director Steve Crawley have formed a close relationship. They stressed the departments are not merging (something that would take Association approval) but that they are 'integrating' their efforts to better accomplish their mission. Other departments, namely DiscipleGuide, have indicated that they too wish to better coordinate our overall mission effort. It will be interesting to see how this new arrangement works and the future participation of any other departments.

The goal of our work is to spread the Gospel and our desire should be to do it in the most efficient and effective way. We pray for these workers as they forge ahead.

A Challenge

A challenge has been issued to add 100 new churches in the next 3 years. Larry Barker's report included in this issue addresses that challenge and the good start of at least 51 churches who have accepted the challenge to partner with the national Missions office to make this a reality.



Life Prep Resource Kit Improved Again!

by Rebecca Watts
DiscipleGuide
Student Editor

This spring Teaching Boosters were added to the Life Prep Resource Kit CD to make teacher preparation easier than ever before.

In the summer quarter the Life Prep Resource Kit CD will undergo another improvement! PowerPoints this summer will make expressing all four of Paul's missionary journeys come alive as we follow Paul through all four of his journeys. Our extensive PowerPoint map will allow you and your students to connect the dots as Paul makes his way through the world of his day. Plus it will make studying Paul's travels easy!

Tennessee Church Seeks Pastor

First Baptist Church, Munford is located 25 miles north of Memphis, Tennessee and is currently seeking a bi vocational pastor. Resumes may be sent to, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box X, Munford, TN 38058 or contact Don Maxwell at 901-826-6653.

Revival Services

Faith Baptist Church of Florence will hold revival services Monday May 7 - Wednesday May 9 at 7:00 pm each evening. Bro. Mike Holcomb will be preaching. For more info or directions contact Pastor Mac Pierce at 601-503-0677.

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Scott Downes

Bro. Scott Downes is available for pulpit supply, pastoral positions and/ or revivals. He may be reached at 601-749-0951 or 601-916-0486.

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



New Book by Tony Cleaver - "Luke Only"

Tony Cleaver announces that he has just published his new book "Luke Only" on Amazon.com. It is a devotional book on the passages the Gospel of Luke that are unique to his story of Jesus. You can download this book to your computer, smartphone, reader, or pad.



Reflect upon the anguish of a father's heart as he struggles with his two sons. Rejoice once more with a lady who finds her Tony Cleaver coin.

About the book

Who has not read the Gospel of Luke? Who would not want to re-read, re-study, and re-pray over the great passages of Luke's Gospel? The penetrating life questions all of humankind faces are included in this Gospel story of Jesus: What is the cost of following Jesus? Who was He? Why do I worry? Can I have a better life? Is there any hope for me? May I choose Jesus later? Am I really like that?

These kinds of devotional questions and more are here in Luke Only for readers to answer for themselves as they are still and quiet in the presence of God.

Recall the examination of a life with Father Abraham as a chief witness. Recalculate the worth of a converted public official as he makes restoration to those he once might have cheated. Reproduce in your mind's eye the healing of a woman bound by disease for years. Redirect your thoughts from the ordinary of daily life to the extraordinary message of the story of Jesus. It is He who transforms life to the highest plane.

Join with the author as you read the stories again in the Luke Only passages of this devotional book.



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

Phone 601-426-3293
Fax 601-763-4430

Don J. Brown, Editor
E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org
Web site www.msbaptist.org

PRICE
\$20.00 Per Year by Mail
\$10.00 Per Year by Email
CHURCH PLAN
\$ 1.30 Per Month

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Mississippi Baptist Paper, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441-8000.

Being A Friend To Your Child

Perhaps you are a friend to your child or teenager because you had a hostile relationship with one of your parents growing up. You sure don't want that for your kids. Or it could be that you are driven to be a successful parent, so you will do almost anything your kid wants so that you can win their approval. Still another common reason for parents trying to be a friend to their child is because you have low self-esteem.



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

their life. They need someone to actually parent them. This is why God put all authority in the home squarely in the hands of the parents. Ephesians 6:1, 2 reads: "Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. Honor thy father and mother which is the first commandment with promise."

It doesn't matter what some talk show host tells you. It doesn't matter what some pop culture icon or therapist tells you is best. God didn't ask the culture for their approval. God knows best. He says the best way to raise your children is to love them unconditionally, and at the same time set boundaries, rules, restrictions, and carry these out with discipline. A child left to their own brings shame to their parents. Proverbs 29:15: "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."

You can laugh with your kids. Play games with them. But you must not blur the lines. They have to always see you as the authority of their life. They cannot see you as an equal. When I say this, I mean all people are created equal by God and Jesus died for all. I mean that in terms of the family roles, parents area always to be the authority. You are not to be a ruthless dictator, but you also should not be seen as a friend. Kids don't respect parents who they see as a buddy. They simply use that situation to their own advantage, which in the long term becomes a detriment.

You don't have to always be in their playing games with the teens. Supervising your teens is always necessary, but being a part of their games is not. Talking and looking like your teens and hanging out with them all mean your cool - right? No, it means you need to work on your self-worth. You are a valuable person to God regardless of your kids. Sure, we all want our kid's approval. I want my kids to think I am a good dad. But we cross the line when we "must" have their approval or we can't like ourselves. I want my kids to approve of me as their father, but if they don't, that is okay. I still have everything I need. I have God. God always approves of me. He will in no way cast me out. I am His forever through Christ. God always loves and accepts and approves of me. I don't have to have other people's approval to feel good about myself. God is enough. That frees me up to be the

Walk Registration Goes Digital

Diane Ward, National Walk for the World Coordinator
Lifeword Media Ministries

Plans are being made for the 2012 Walk for the World, Lifeword's annual fundraiser. This year all items will be accessed online. Your church's Walk Leader (formerly known as the Church Coordinator) will register online, and all Walk materials and video must be downloaded from the Lifeword website. Walk t-shirts will be ordered online as well, and while there is one Walk design, you will have a selection of colors to choose from to personalize your shirt.

We ask each church to select a Walk Leader who is enthusiastic and preferably has computer access and knowledge. Once a Walk Leader has been chosen, he or she can call Lifeword with any questions or just go directly to www.lifeword.org and click on the Walk tab to register.

The 2012 Walk updates, links, and

registration will not be available online until the first week of July. At that time, you'll be able to register, download materials, and order t-shirts.

The national Walk for the World is set for Saturday, October 13, but that date is flexible according to your church's calendar of events. This year's award is a Youth Room Makeover for both the church that raises the most money overall and for the church that raises the most money per-capita. Encourage your youth to get involved in this year's Walk!

Start thinking now about how your church can promote the 2012 Walk for the World. Go to www.lifeword.org to watch videos of people who have been touched by Lifeword's worldwide broadcasts. Through your participation in the Walk, Lifeword hopes to maintain and expand these efforts.

You absolutely have to have your child's approval. You need them to like you. You need to be needed by them. Maybe you have a bad marriage, or are single now, and you are trying to put all your emotional assets into your children. Maybe you are happily married, but you still have low self-esteem and you try and boost yourself by being all things to your child.

There are many other reasons I could go in to for reasons parents try to be "friends" with their own children. All of them are bad ideas. It is never a good idea to try and be friends with your child. There is nothing wrong with having your children love you. There is nothing wrong with having a good relationship with your children. These are desirable qualities. But our children need a loving authority in

parent I need to be. Some days my kids might like me. Other days, usually when I have to ground them or spank them, I suspect I am not on their favorite list at that moment. I don't want to see me as that person



who always loves them unconditionally, but is also seen as the person God put in charge of them, to teach them the way they should live. And if they don't, then to follow that up with discipline.

Your children can still be very close to you and respect you as the parent. They lose that respect when they see you as an equal. This is when kids will actually argue more with you. They don't respect you. Strong leadership

equals strong respect. Weak leadership equals no respect. Sure your kids get along great with you. That is because you are teaching them very little about the ways of life. They get to do most anything they want to with little boundaries because your goal is not to parent, but to be "liked." Now, or at some point in the future, this behavior will cost your child. Get your Christ-centered esteem settled. You are wonderful to God regardless of who likes you and who doesn't. He has called you to be a good steward of the gifts He gives you which are your children. He has also commanded you to be in authority over them. Follow God, not your heart.

Our daughter wrote us a letter after leaving home. One of the lines in that letter I shall never forget. "Thanks for being my parents first and my friends last. Kids have friends. We need parents who love us, yet also serve as the authority in our life and keep us on the right pathway. Thanks for being the loving authority in my life."



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

HUMOR MONTH

For those of you who may not know, this is FYI (For Your Information). April is designated as Humor Month. It starts out with April Fool's Day and just goes on from there to get funnier and funnier.

There are many references to laughter, making merry, etc. in God's Word. James 5:13 ".....Is any merry? let him sing psalms." Ephesians 5:19 ".....singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." It seems that merry produces singing. We should all be singing because there is so much to laugh about.

I ran across the following little prayer the other day:

Dear Lord,
Give us a sense of humor,
Give us the grace to see a joke,
To get some humor out of life,
And pass it on to other folk.

Missionary Recognized For Dedicated Life

Phil Knott recognized Bro. & Mrs. Bill Gibson for their years of work for the BMA on the mission field.



Scenes From 2012 BMA of America Meeting



National Officers (Left to right) President Ed Stephenson, 1st VP Jasonn Altman, 2nd VP Paul White and clerks James Ray Raines, Jerome Cooper and Greg Medenwald.



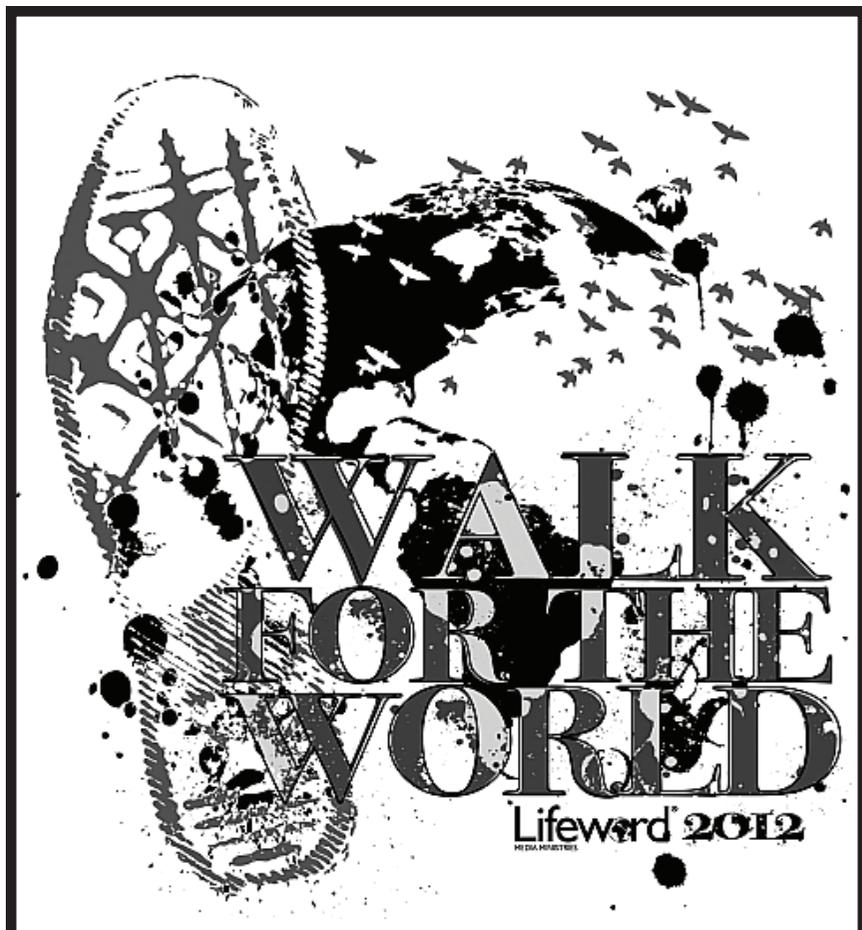
Brotherhood officers - Front row Left to right - John Adams (Moral Action) Brotherhood project; Kenneth Culvert, Galilean Leader; Matt Hudson, Worship leader; Roy Caldwell, Asst. Sec/Treas.; Robert Bynum, Sec/Treas.; Van Widger, 1st vice pres.; Collin Jones, President; Back Row: Arthur Smith, Project Promoter; Kevin Clayton, Brotherhood speaker; Dan Williams, Asst. Galilean leader; **Not pictured** Josh Awtrey, 2nd vice president; Mark Jones, 3rd vice president.



Ed Stetzer spoke at the Pastors Conference.



2012-13 WMA officers selected at the Annual meeting in Jackson.



Executive Director of Missions John David Smith presenting newly elected missionaries and their recommending churches.

President's Message

from page 3

1. INTENTION - your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name (v.10)

The writer of Hebrews challenges us to make a name for Christ, not ourselves. Every person who has answered God's call to ministry has made that commitment for a lifetime, but it seems that commitment can often be put aside by outside factors. We see that truth illustrated in scripture in the life of Demas whom Paul said had forsaken him having loved this present world. Are you at a point in your life and ministry where that call needs to be revisited to the glory of God? Is your ministry right now a true 'labor of love' and is it done for the highest glory, 'toward His name?' I've known many a minister that I wondered if their service was truly for the glory of God. It seemed that often what they did or said was more for the glory of self than the glory of God. No doubt we have all fallen into that trap at one time or another, but may the Lord always find us serving as a true labor of love to the glory due His name.

Paul said, "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Colossians 3:17).

Will MY intention be HIS intention? Without intent, our focus and actions can easily turn away from making a long term impact. And let me be clear, a positive God-honoring life will not happen accidentally. Jesus said, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). Does that sound like someone can be saved accidentally? Of course not, and neither will we be disciples, prayer warriors, or soul-winners accidentally. Jesus also said, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (Luke (9:23). Jesus declared that becoming a true disciple of His would also never happen accidentally. One must count the cost, sacrifice the world's offers, and choose to pursue the pearl of great price. There must be intent on our part to make our lives count for something more than what this world holds important. If you and I truly want to have a lasting impact, our commitment better be one with the right intention, the glory of His name. That is the only intent that truly inspires one to proper service in the kingdom of Christ.

2. INVESTMENT - ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister (v.10)

Anything of lasting value is worth investing in, and God's kingdom work is certainly no exception. When given the opportunity to offer a sacrifice that cost him nothing, David refused. David understood the value of investment, especially in the work of the Lord. David not only refused the gift of oxen, he also demanded to pay full price so that it would show that he was fully invested. The writer of Hebrews here shows us that to be fully invested in God's work is to be fully invested in people. Any service to God that is not fully invested in people is not a ministry that will have a long term impact for Him.

Listen to what Paul said in Colossians 1:28-2:2: "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily. For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together

in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God." Paul refers to those who "have not seen my face in the flesh," but it is obvious he still



Outgoing President Paul Bullock passes the gavel to newly elected President of the BMA of America Ed Stephenson.

believes that he can have an impact on their lives.

How can "every man" (even those he has not 'seen ... in the flesh') become mature (2:2) without Paul's influence? Through those he has already influenced. Paul is characterized as the greatest missionary the world has ever seen, and if one investigates his life, he will discover that Paul's influence was so widespread because he made wise use of his companions. Paul is said to have been mentioned with over a hundred companions in his writings and the book of Acts. Paul understood that in God's kingdom work, impact is made through people. One ministering to another, and they in turn ministering to others. That is how multiplication happened in the early church, and that is how it will happen today.

Paul's ministry was multiplied because he invested in people and allowed them to minister. Paul's greatest investment in the lives of those in Laodicea began with his investment in the lives of the men he sent to minister to them. Onesimus was just such one person that Paul influenced, then sent him to minister to Philemon. Tychicus came with the letter of Colossians and was also sent to minister to the church at Ephesus and to Titus at another time.

That shouldn't come as a surprise to us, because that is exactly what Barnabas did for Paul. How can one influence those with whom he has never come in contact? By influencing those with whom they will come into contact.

3. INTENSITY - we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end (v.11)

"Diligence" in the Greek is a word that means eagerness and earnestness. Eagerness and earnestness don't seem to be in vogue today when it comes to ministry. Maybe those are good reasons so many ministries today are dying on the vine and struggling to continue. Could it be that there hasn't been enough diligence in ministry for that ministry to thrive and impact others long term? Are we more eager to keep our internet profile updated than our prayer list? Does our handicap receive more focus than our heartache for lost souls? Are we more interested in Facebook than having our face in THE Book?

I wonder if God sometimes laughs at the excuses people use NOT to work: I'm too young or I'm too old; I'm too inexperienced or I've worked too long; I have too many jobs already or I just want to specialize; I

100 New Churches

by Larry Barker
Director of Operations North America
BMA of America Missions Department

The BMAA annual meeting this year was a meeting of great preaching, great vision and great fellowship. Someone has said, "The primary way to change the culture is when leaders are willing to step over the edge."

Tony Blair, former prime minister of Great Britain, recently said, "A true leader steps up when others step out." God has blessed our association with wonderful leaders in the past who have challenged us and He has now raised up leaders to remind us to be faithful "Until The End!" The challenge to me is clear — multiply or die!

The challenge at the meeting was for 50 churches to commit to parent, partner or plant a new church in the next 3 years. The meeting ended with 51 commitment cards in my hands from leaders willing to change our culture of steady decline and plateaued churches by stepping out over the edge in faith. It begins

with all of us making disciples and, as Ed Stetzer said during the Pastors and Laymen's Conference, "People that are rowing the boat have a lot less energy to rock the boat."

He also shared that we need to "Put our 'yes' on the table, and let God put the 'where' on the map." Far too many churches are like the disciples in John 20, where they were behind closed doors scared of their communities. Are we living sent or are acting as if we have arrived with our goods and services for sale? Maybe the most convicting comment during Stetzer's message was "Have our churches become a dead end on the Great Commission highway?" The choice is ours — will we live sent or not?

Allow me to say that 100 churches in the next 3 years is just the beginning of our church multiplication vision!

Every one of us is a missionary and we can live missionally! No matter what group you are over, whether it is a small group, cell group, Sunday School class, GMAs, Galileans, youth group or you are the pastor of a very small congregation, why not have the people in your group spend 15 minutes creating a list of all the people they know who are not following Jesus. Suggest that they commit to praying for them and, when possible, tell them their story. Remember, don't ask permission just begin sharing what Jesus Christ has done for you and how He transformed your life.

God blesses those who have a heart for the lost and are willing to do whatever it takes to get the gospel message to them. I believe the most effective strategy for reaching the world for Christ is church planting and the most biblical strategy for reaching the world for Christ is church planting. When a church gets a heart for church planting, it increases their spiritual passion. Wonderful things happen in a church when it decides to be more personally involved in church planting. A greater concern for reaching the lost develops naturally.

In research conducted by the Institute for Natural



John Bienlein and his wife will be going to Swartz Creek, Michigan to plant a deaf ministry church.

continued on page 8

President's Message

from page 3

need to take time off because I have little ones or because I have teenagers. The list goes on and on and I am sure you could add to the list with excuses you have heard or used.

Paul addressed the idea of diligence in Romans 1:14-16. "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Did you hear that? AS MUCH AS IN ME IS. Most today have no clue about the meaning of that phrase when it comes to ministry.

I think of diligence, and I think of my wife's sister in law Kay Hall. Kay was diagnosed with breast cancer in August 2006 and passed away nearly two years later in July 2008. Yet during those two years of difficult treatments and fighting her cancer, she never used her condition as an excuse to quit serving in her local church. She knew that her life had the potential of long term impact for little children and she continued to pour her life into the lives of others for as long as she possibly could.

4. IMITATION - That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises (v.12)

The Greek word "followers" means imitators. One definition of 'imitation' means "not genuine or real." It means being an imitation of the genuine article like synthetic fur, faux pearls, or false teeth. I do not want to be an imitation Christian in that sense nor do I want to see us to develop that type of believer in our churches. It will, however, be the end result if we do not intend for a long term impact, invest ourselves

fully, or minister with intensity.

I choose to believe that the type of imitation the author of Hebrews speaks of here is the type that is genuine. It is more like a clone or a replica of the true. Why were the disciples called "Christians?" They were Christ-like, and the world wanted to antagonize and poke fun so that they would quit being like Him. But those early followers refused. I love it that they were first called Christians at a place where the twelve were not ministering. That tells me that the ones first called "Christian" were being imitators of the twelve who themselves were imitators of Christ. And that is the way it is to be today. You and I imitating those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

One meaning of 'disciple' is to be molded like unto someone else. The life and ministry of Jesus impacted the twelve, they in turn impacted others, and we are here today as a result. Paul challenges us today in Philippians 4:9 to do the same: "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do." If we are to have a long term impact in ministry, it will only occur when we have a life worth imitating. How can we expect to see others "do" if they have not first learned, received, heard, and seen those same things in our lives?

5. INHERITANCE - them who through faith and patience inherit the promises (v.12)

By implication, there are those who do NOT inherit the promises. Those who do not inherit the promises will never make a long term impact for Christ. God desires that we live our lives according to His promises: "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Peter 1:4). We must be those who are first on the path to inherit the promises of God before we can influence others to do the same.

Ray VanderLann, the teacher on the Focus on the Family video series "That the World May Know"

makes the following statement: "God asks for a partner in His work before He completes His work; one who will share His story, but also one who will become part of His story." To become part of His story is to live a life of eternal impact. If we are to make a long term impact as individuals, as a local church, and as an association, there must be INTENTION from our heart, there must be INVESTMENT of our lives, there must be INTENSITY of our efforts, and there must be IMITATION of Christ's ways for there to be an INHERITANCE of His promises.

At age 16 Andor Foldes was already a skilled pianist, but he was experiencing a troubled year. In the midst of the young Hungarian's personal struggles, one of the most renowned pianists of the day came to Budapest. Emil von Sauer was famous not only for his abilities; he was also the last surviving pupil of the great Franz Liszt. Von Sauer requested that Foldes play for him. Foldes obliged with some of the most difficult works of Bach, Beethoven, and Schumann. When he finished, von Sauer walked over to him and kissed him on the forehead. "My son," he said, "when I was your age I became a student of Liszt. He kissed me on the forehead after my first lesson, saying, 'Take good care of this kiss—it comes from Beethoven, who gave it to me after hearing me play.' I have waited for years to pass on this sacred heritage, but now I feel you deserve it." (From "Beethoven's Kiss," Reader's Digest, November 1986, p.145)

Beethoven kissed Liszt when Liszt was twelve in 1823. Foldes was kissed at the age of sixteen in 1929. This is a story of unique men with unique talent each affected by a single blessing - a kiss passed down from one virtuoso to the next over the course of little over 100 years. Will we realize that God's blessings (more than one) are available not just to unique, talented virtuosos but to all His children (every one of you from verse 11)? God wants each of us to understand His promises and His blessings are on our lives as we minister with eternity in mind. May God find us faithful working to make a long term impact on others "until the end."

100 New Churches

from page 7

Church Development on worldwide data with a pool of 9,000 churches, it has been found that "Churches that have planted daughter churches are growing 3 times faster than those who haven't (47 per 100 over 5 years vs. 15 per 100 over 5 years). These figures include the members given away over these last 5 years." This vision is not encouraging you to keep your church small by planting daughter churches. Our prayer and hope is that we will see 100 new church plants in the next 3 years and that many more of our established churches will be growing and thriving. In fact, planting churches may cause you to grow, whereas not doing so may limit the size of your church.

How does that happen? It comes from making a practical application of the most effective evangelistic strategy. It comes from watching the new church plant reach people your church was not reaching and realizing that you also have that potential. Often God's blessing comes in growth in the parent church because He blesses those who give and returns even greater than what was given because He is God.

Dr. Bob Logan said, "Any leadership development system that does not have evangelism at its core is defective." Think about it — you could double or triple the impact of your church in just three years!

Protected classes in Kansas

OneNewsNow - Kansas has become the latest battleground for special rights for homosexuals and cross-dressers.

Human Relations Commissions and/or homosexual activists in Lawrence, Hutchinson, Salina, Wichita and Pittsburg have asked city governments to add "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" as protected classes. Lawrence, home to the University of Kansas, has already passed its ordinance. Liberty Counsel Action founder Mat Staver has taken a look at Hutchinson's proposed ordinance and says churches are even impacted by it.

"For example, if a church rents out any part of its facility to a person or group in the community, then that church then comes underneath this policy as well," he explains. "Therefore, if someone wants to have a drag fest at this church, then the church can't refuse, even though their religious beliefs will be violated."

Under the Hutchnison ordinance, dress codes would be based on an employee's gender "expression" -- not his or her gender at birth; public places, such as restaurants, hospitals, and theaters, would be required to allow men wearing women's clothing to use the women's restroom; and if a woman objects morally to the latter, that establishment should "encourage [her] to wait until the [male] has left the restroom." But the attorney points out that such an ordinance represents only a fraction of the overall agenda.

"This proposed policy is absolute absurdity, but it really illustrates the ultimate end-goal of the homosexual and radical so-called LGBT agenda, and that is the abolition of gender and the abolition of morality," Staver warns. "And they ultimately believe that their agenda should trump religious liberty."

Hutchinson is scheduled to vote on the proposal May 1. Meanwhile, some members of the Kansas Legislature have gotten involved by passing a law that would not allow a local government entity to add an additional category of protection that is not already listed under the Kansas Acts Against Discrimination, which does not include homosexual special rights.

The Liberty Counsel Action founder concludes that homosexual activists are trying to "hijack" the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, which "laid the foundation" for future civil rights laws.

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

Romans 1:21-23