

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

NOVEMBER 1, 2008

VOL. 62 No. 21

Annual Association meets in Laurel

The 2008 Annual Session of the BMA of Mississippi was held on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College on Tuesday, October 21. Reports were given by each department and commission as well as a number of national workers and guests.

One new church petitioned membership into the Association. The Rock Hill Baptist Church of Union, Mississippi, and pastor



Roger Akers welcomes Wayne Stockstill, pastor of Rock Hill Church, Union

Wayne Stockstill were welcomed as part of the BMA of Mississippi State work.

Officers

New officers for the 2008-09 year are as follows: President Leon Carmical, pastor of Midway First Baptist Church, Sumrall; First Vice-president Shane Singleton, pastor of Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel; Second Vice-president Wayne McMahon, pastor of Woodlawn Baptist Church, Pascagoula, Mississippi; Recording Clerk Billy Huffmaster, pastor of Skyway Hills Baptist Church, Pearl; Assistant Recording Clerk Sam Oglesby, pastor of Westover Baptist Church, Hattiesburg; and Director of Information Don Brown, pastor of Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso.

The 2009 meeting will again be held at Southeastern College. The 2009 midyear meeting will be hosted by Parkway Baptist Church, Petal.

The speaker for the 2009 annual meeting will be Bro. Ken Riley, pastor of Lebanon Church, Laurel. Corbey Jones, Good Hope Church, Stringer, is the alternate.

The message for the midyear meeting will be brought by John Miller, pastor of Parkway

Church, Petal with Keith Ulmer the alternate.

Changes

Bro. Johnny Watts resigned his position as director of the Commission on History. Bro. Glenn Shoemake was elected to this position.

Dr. J. E. Simms resigned as director of Baptist Music Fellowship and recommended Bro. Doug Lee of Picayune as his replacement.

The salary committee recommended a 6% raise to the salary cap for each department worker. This committee did not present a recommendation for an increase during the 2007 meeting.

Auxilaries

Bro. Roger Jefcoat of Hopewell Church, Laurel was elected as president of the State Brotherhood. Mrs. Ruby Bynum of First Church of Calhoun, Laurel, was elected president of the state WMA.

The State Brotherhood held its annual supper on Monday Evening. The turnout was good, the food great and the fellowship was priceless.

A concert by the *Mississippi Five* bluegrass band was enjoyed after the Monday evening auxiliary meetings.

Missionaries

Each state missionary gave personal reports on their work and all were encouraging. Each asked for prayer for their continued work and offered heartfelt thanks for the financial and prayer support they have been given.

One sad note was the information shared by Bro. Ed Duvall, missionary to Cleveland, Mississippi, concerning his health. He stated he would shortly have to begin undergoing kidney dialysis. He ask for prayer and that God's will to be done as he continues to minister at Homestretch Mission in Cleve-



President Neil Murphy moderating the 2008 annual meeting. Murphy, a former state missionary and pastor of Grace Church, Guntown, completed two years as moderator.

land.

Personal reports

The personal reports of each department and commission director are included in this issue. Those not in this issue will be printed in the November 15 paper.

2008-09 Auxiliary Officers

Right - The newly elected officers of the Mississippi State Brotherhood

Below - WMA officers for 2008-09 just before their installation service

Newly elected clerk of BMAA Ken Vanderslice passes away

Bro. Kenneth Wayne Vanderslice, Sr. died in the early morning hours on Wednesday, October 9, 2008 at Scott-White Hospital in Temple, Texas, after a short illness.



Kenneth

Bro. Vanderslice was pastor of Shady Grove Baptist Church, Purden, Texas, at the time of his death. He served for a number of years as Director of the Baptist News Service until this work was integrated into DiscipleGuide. He served as assistant director for a number of years prior to becoming director.

Bro. Ken was elected clerk of the BMA of America at our 2008 annual meeting in Waco, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Felicia and three children.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, November 1, at Corsicana, Texas.



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.

Homecoming Celebration for Berean, Soso



Berean Baptist Church, Soso, will celebrate Homecoming December 7, 2008. The church was organized December 28, 1947, with 17 charter members. Services on December 7, will include special speakers in the morning and afternoon service.

All former pastors, members, families, and friends are invited. Lunch will be served.

Harold Floyd, Pastor

Petal Churches Merge

East Petal and Main Street Baptist Churches, Petal, have merged and become one congregation. The new church is Parkway Baptist Church and are located in the old East Petal Baptist facility. John Miller, former pastor of Main Street, is their pastor. Bro. Buddy Cameron and Bro. Eugene Murphy (former pastor of East Petal) are both serving as associate pastors.

Unity, McHenry, to Celebrate Homecoming

Unity Baptist Church, McHenry, will celebrate the 18th anniversary and Homecoming, Sunday, November 9, 2008. Morning services will begin at 11:00 a.m. and will honor the ministry of Bro. And Mrs. Glennis Bell. Bro. Charles Currie, grandson of Bro. and Mrs. Bell, will be the featured speaker. Lunch will be served in the fellowship hall following the morning service.

"Railroad Creek", bluegrass gospel group from Stone County, will be the featured singers in the afternoon service at approximately 1:15 p.m. There will be no evening service.

Pastor Carlos Smith and congregation extend an invitation to all former members and friends to attend.

Some General Life Observations

On occasion, I see things that make me think, catch my attention, or remind me of some pertinent issue. Here are a few I have observed with wonder lately:

The seasons change, and the moon changes. I'm not the original discoverer of these facts, nor am I the originator of the processes. I notice these most when I walk early in the morning. Sometimes it is lighter on my path. Sometimes it is darker. Sometimes it is warmer; sometimes it is colder. These are magnificent things.

Children are much like their parents. God must have a sense of humor. He didn't throw away the entire pattern when he made my wife

S. H. Johnson, Sr. dies

Sherman Harris (S.H.) Johnson, Sr., 79, of the Sharon community (Jones County), died on October 9, 2008. He was a member of the Sharon Missionary Baptist Church, Laurel, where he served as a deacon. He served in the U.S. Navy, and was a graduate of Jones County Junior College. He was retired from McRae's Department store.



S. H. Johnson

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Bobbie Helen Sims Johnson, 2 daughters and sons-in-law; 2 sons and daughters-in-law; several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Riverside, Ellisville sets revival

Riverside Baptist Church near Ellisville will have revival services November 9-12, 2008, with Bro. Kenneth Flynt as evangelist. Sunday morning worship will begin at 11:00 with lunch in the fellowship hall. Afternoon services will begin at 1:30. There will be no Sunday evening service. Monday through Wednesday night services will begin at 7:00.

We ask you to pray that we may be revived and welcome all who would like to attend.

Medrick Savell, Pastor

Westover, Hattiesburg, Revival set

Westover Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, will hold revival services November 2-5 with Bro. Gary Smith as evangelist. We will have Sunday services at 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and Monday through Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. We invite you to come and be apart of our services.

Pray that God would bless us with a heartfelt revival among our people and our community!



Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

it's best to laugh then. Some wedding ceremonies are full of drama until one outrageous blunder happens. The groom faints or the bride calls him by the wrong name. The tension quickly disappears. Political rallies provide wonderful silage for laughter. The description of "my opponent" is so silly it makes us all giggle.

I think more about the process, but have less energy to accomplish the task. "Back in the day" I had much more energy to get to the task. I had impetus to "get started." Today I ponder a bit more before I start. Sometimes the pondering leads me to realize I don't need to do this in the first place. So I don't.

Congregations have life and personality. Some are open and helpful to others. Some are stingy and closed to all in a non-discriminatory approach. Their traits are at time adolescent expressed through their lack of judgment. Sometimes they are mature in demonstrating the very best God can offer through His people.

Humorous things occur during solemn ceremonies. Funny things happen at funerals. People fall into graves at the graveside. Probably

Laurel church extends arm to mission

On Sunday evening, October 19, 2008, Fairview Baptist Church, Laurel, was honored in having Bro. and Mrs. Rayburn Freeman with us while we held a special business meeting for the purpose of extending an arm for a new Mission to be started in the Laurel, Mississippi area. The vote was unanimous.

Those at the mission have been meeting at a church building on Highway 84 east of Laurel. These people believe as we do along with their minister, Bro. Xaviar Joshua.

At this time, Bro. Joshua has over twenty waiting to follow the Lord in Baptism. (Churches, how many of us can give this report?). The Lord has blessed their effort and they weren't even an organized church. They were only meeting and doing what the Lord wanted Bro. Joshua and his dear wife to do.

After the business ended, Bro. Joshua and some of the ladies and children brought the special music. He then brought the evening message. We ask that you pray for this group at the "First Missionary Baptist Mission" and also remember to pray for Fairview that we, along with our pastor, may be a blessing to them.

After the services were over, everyone met in the fellowship hall for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

Bro. Harry Burge, pastor
Fairview Baptist Church



Fairview Baptist Church pastor Harry Burge (left) congratulates Bro. Xaviar Joshua. The Fairview Church extended an arm to the First Missionary Baptist Mission.

He is able to guide even when I am recalcitrant. He works things out for His glory and surprisingly to my best interests even when I don't see it.

Certainly there are many things that I run across that make me take a moment to write them in my mental file. Life events cause you to do the same in your own journey. I don't think our journeys with Christ are very different. Let's do our best for Jesus in our day and in our time. Let's look through His eyes at life as we journey together.

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

Church Seeks Youth Pastor

Calvary Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Arkansas, is seeking a full-time Minister of Students. Interested applicants may send your resume to the church at 1410 Porter Road, Fayetteville, AR 72703, attention Student Minister Search Committee.

Student Pastor needed

Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church of Nacogdoches, Texas, is searching for a Director of Student Ministries. Please submit resume and brief personal testimony to PHMBC, ATTN: Student Minister Search Committee, PO BOX 632070, Nacogdoches, TX 75963.

Texas church seeks pastor

New Bethlehem Baptist Church, Cut and Shoot, Texas, a traditional KJV Church, is seeking a full time pastor. Parsonage available. Resumes and current CD can be sent to: Pulpit Committee, New Bethlehem Baptist Church, 14730 Milmac Rd, Conroe, TX 77303-4757 or Contact Tom York, Chairman at 936-264-4800 or email him at nbbc2112@consolidated.net.

Louisiana church seeks pastor

East Side Baptist Church of Springhill, Louisiana, is searching for a full time pastor. We are small with a big vision and are very loving Christians who love their church and church family. We are Spiritually and Financially secure. If you are interested or have a recommendation please call 318-539-2639 or 318-268-4053.

Taylorville church seeks pastor

Mineral Springs Baptist Church, Taylorville, Mississippi, are currently without a pastor. Please pray for our church and the pulpit committee as we begin our search for God's man. If you are interested or wish to submit a name, please contact Joe Blakeney at 601-782-4205 or Carl Ivey at 601-782-9437. Resumes may be sent to: Carl Ivey by email at chattyatt@bellsouth.net.

Thank you,
Mineral Springs Baptist Church
Taylorville, Mississippi

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

Good Association Meeting

We at Southeastern Baptist College enjoyed having the brothers and sisters from the churches and the brethren representing the national work and other ministries to meet in our facilities.

I thought it was a good meeting and hope everyone's needs were met while you were here. May God give us all a successful year.

Thanks to those who were able to meet for the alumni breakfast and meeting. It was so good to see some of the earlier alumni that we had not seen in some time. We hope to do even more in this next year.

Memorial Gifts

The college has received a contribution given in memory of Mrs.

Louise Holifield. Another contribution was sent to purchase a book to be placed in the A. R. Reddin Memorial Library at Southeastern Baptist College in memory of Mrs. Mary Jo Howell. We appreciate this loving way to remember these great ladies and pray God's blessings will continue to be upon their families.

Another contribution was given to the Southeastern Baptist College Foundation by an alumnus of the college. Thanks for these contributions. They are a blessing to the college.

Annual Report

You may read my report to the Association that is printed elsewhere in this paper.

Southeastern College President's Annual Report

Theme

What a wonderful promise we have in Galatians 6:9! "Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." We at Southeastern claim that promise and trust that we will not be weary in well doing and will not faint, so that we shall reap in due season.

Opening Remarks

I consider the past year a good year, yet we never feel that we have done all that we should for the Lord. He deserves our best. I appreciate the privilege to serve as president. I want to thank the trustees for their faithful support and the administrators, faculty, and staff who are so dedicated and hard workers. God has given us an unusual team of workers. I also sincerely thank each person, church, and association who support the college with your prayers, encouragement, and finances. I have so many friends over the state and in other states who encourage me, help me, and pray for me. That means so much to me.

Trustees

Two of our trustees are going off the board this time, having served their two terms. They are Bro. A. W. Kirkland and Bro. Doug Wilson. Both have served faithfully and showed great interest in the college. They will be missed, and I feel confident that they will still support us.

Projects During the Year

The Bookstore and Registrar's office has been moved to the end of the library. That lets us reclaim the old location for a classroom. The student activities room was moved to the old canteen. The offices of president, vice-president, and secretary to the president have been remodeled. We thank the Lord for providing funds for these projects. Perhaps you have noticed the pictures of former presidents have been hung in the hallway.

Accreditation

Much time has been spent in the last two years preparing for a review of our accreditation, hosting a team of evaluators, and responding to their recommendations. The final report on that will be sent by next week, and we feel confident that the college will be reaffirmed. I cannot thank everyone enough who have worked so diligently on this. I think we have the best report ever in that respect. All this helps us be a better college.

Financial Condition

As always, finances continue to be very tight and we cannot do all that needs to be done. But we are thankful to the Lord, associations, churches, and individuals for all support.

The Foundation is growing and we received more from it this year than ever before. Thanks to those

Youth Director's Annual Report

"In Due Season - If we faint not we shall reap". Galatians 6:9

The word *faint* expresses the ideas of being off target and getting lost. It is coming short of the goal. It could be a breakdown in a personal relationship, bearing the blame and not respecting another's rights. It is failing short of God's standard.

The word *season*, time, implies that which time gives an opportunity to do. The word implies not the convenience of the season, but the necessity of the task at hand whether the time provides a good convenient opportunity or not. It is time guaranteed by God.

Weary means to loose heart. What are some the things that cause us to become tired or weary in well doing? These are things each of us have experienced, that can cause us to be weary; physical fatigue, ritualism, study, anxiety, vain words, not speaking and frequent visits.

How can we overcome these things? Waiting with a expectant attitude upon the Lord, an appropriate word, accepting divine correction, God's promise, persevering faith, promised Messiah, and looking unto Jesus.

"We shall reap, if we faint not!" What is fainting, faint heartedness? It is a loss of vital powers. Some of the same things that causes us to be weary, cause us to be fainthearted. These things are: physical fatigue, famine, unbelief, fear, sin, sickness, human weakness, disappointment, and God's chastening.

who contribute to it.

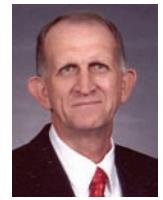
The Special Emphasis is doing well again this year. We have been and continue to try to honor the Lord for all He has done through the college these sixty year. This is our Sixtieth Anniversary. Thanks to all who have given contributions toward this celebration. If you have not, will you consider giving a special offering during this sixtieth year?

The total received at this time has gone over \$32,000.00 on our goal of \$60,000.00.

Some Needs

The reason we need to have a good response in this anniversary year is that there is so much more that needs to be done and we see the Lord opening up other opportunities for us to do. We have some serious maintenance to do soon, we need to make some good payments on the land and get that balance down, the parking lot needs attention, we need some more teachers, and must have them as the enrollment increases. We are trying to do the best we can with what we have.

Please pray that the Lord will provide every need.



LATRELLE WINDHAM
DIRECTOR

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

What should we do? Remove the fear, strong faith, waiting upon the Lord, prayer, assurance of hope and faithfulness, are some of things we can do.

Some Facts About the Last 25 Years

We were elected in May of 1983 at Westside Baptist Church in Hattiesburg. I accepted and began my duties on the same day. Our first camp was within two weeks of my acceptance.

In our first year of activities we had 1,094 people registered during that camp season with 82 professions of faith. From that time forward we have had 1,370 professions of faith. We have ministered to 38, 697 people. We have had several to surrender to

ministry and the foreign mission field. In 1990 we had a record of 2,650 in all our activities. We had the high of 13 activities per year for four or five years. We praise God for allowing each of us to have a part in such a ministry. This ministry has always been a continuing sowing ministry. God has reaped through our churches sowing. Praise God for His mercy in all our activities. May he receive the honor and glory.

Mission Accomplished for 2007-2008

Our mission for 2008 is not over, but through our ministries we have accomplished a great deal for the

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State Brotherhood Report

The Brotherhood of the Mississippi BMA met Monday, October 20, 2008, at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, Mississippi. There were fifty seven brotherhood members present with seven visitors from 27 churches.

Brother Mark Jones reported that the state Galileans had a great Spring camp and Mississippi

was well represented at the National Galilean Camp in Gary, Texas. This year's National Mr. Galilean and National Junior Galilean are from Mississippi.

Brother Matt Hudson reported that the National Brotherhood Project was the National Missionaries in Cape Verde. The goal for this project is \$15,000.00. The National Brotherhood is asking 300 men from our churches to give an offering of \$50.00 each to reach this goal.

The following officers were elected. President – Roger Jefcoat; Vice President – Bryson Haden; Secretary/Treasurer – David Lawrence; Galilean Director – Josh Spears; and assistant Galilean Director – Mark Jones. The Annual Project is 75% Southeastern Baptist

College Land Fund and 25% Mississippi Galileans.

Bro. Harold Floyd brought the evening message, "Making a Checklist of Why We Have a Crop Failure." His checklist included checking the seed, the field, your labor, and God's part in the crop. His text came from Haggai 1:10.



Bluegrass specialist "The Mississippi Five" entertained after the 2008 State Brotherhood meeting in Laurel.

Prior to the meeting a chicken dinner was enjoyed by over 130 Brotherhood and WMA members. Thanks to Brotherhood members from Shiloh – Caledonia; East Amory – Amory; Hopewell – Laurel; Calhoun – Laurel; Lebanon – Laurel; Springhill – Laurel; and Shady Grove – Laurel, for donating, preparing and serving the meal.

Lavon Haden, President
Roger Jefcoat, Clerk



Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Losing our loved ones

We know it is inevitable and that ultimately we will be getting sad news. This is a fact of life. As the Apostle Peter tells us in his first epistle, we should not think it a strange or unusual thing for the trials of life to come our way.

He was speaking of those trials and testings that will come as a direct result of us being followers of Christ, but how we as Christians handle all of life's problems is a test of our closeness and fellowship with Christ.

Mrs. Mary Jo Howell, a dear friend of this editor, passed away October 8, 2008. You will see a related article on this page. Our prayers go out to Bro. Lonnie, Steve and Beth and the rest of her family. She was a faithful pastor's wife, worker and friend.

Word came to us on Wednesday, October 29, that Bro. Ken Vanderslice passed away. An article concerning Bro. Ken is found on page one of this issue. May God comfort his wife, children and church in this time of sudden loss.

God is always in control and makes no mistakes. May He be glorified in all things and at all times.

Annual Report

In this issue we are printing the annual reports of our departments and commissions given at the recent BMA of Mississippi annual meeting. Those not included in this issue will be printed in our November 15 paper.

Editor's 2008 Annual Report BMA of Mississippi

Change

In this political season the catch word is "change". Change can be good, it can be bad and sometimes it can be necessary. Last year this body voted to allow a change in my status as editor. This was due to the convergence of two forces - the force of reduced income for this department and the force of the direction of the Lord on my ministry as pastor of Big Creek Baptist Church. I do believe that things don't "just happen", but that God is in control and that He directs our paths.

From my perspective this "change" has been good. My goal was to maintain the quality and con-

tent of the paper after this change and I feel this has been accomplished. I thank this body for allowing this change and I appreciate the good people of Big Creek Baptist Church for their understanding and cooperation.

Finances

The change in status of this ministry was necessitated first by finances and, I am convinced, by God's leadership. Our financial situation is greatly improved over last year. This is directly related to the adjustments made in 2007. Our income was down from 2007 by \$2,000.00, but our expenses were



Don Brown
Editor

Mrs. Mary Jo Howell passes away

Mrs. Mary Jo Howell of Lucedale, Mississippi, wife of BMA minister Lonnie Howell, died October 8, 2008, after a lengthy illness. Services were held on October 10 at Corinth Baptist Church, Lucedale. Revs. A.W. Kirkland, Dennis Knight and Jeff Bass conducted the services.

Mrs. Howell was born in Chatom, Alabama to Olgia and Ethel Caten. She served faithfully as a pastor's wife and was active in both her church work and the work of the BMA. Many will remember Mrs. Howell for her years of service as the camp nurse for the State Youth Department summer camps.

She is survived by her husband, Bro. Lonnie Howell; daughter Elizabeth Mizell, son Stephen Howell, 6 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, 1 brother and two sisters. She was preceded in death by a son, Bobby Howell.

The Howells are close friends of this editor and we wish God's blessings and comfort for them in this time of loss.

down by almost \$21,000.00.

This puts this department on much sounder financial footing. We are able to operate in the black and continue this ministry at the same level. Costs continue to rise in two major areas - Postage and Printing. These are costs over which we have no control and we just have to absorb them as they rise.

The churches of this great association continue to support this ministry liberally with their monthly support above the cost of subscriptions and with a good Special Emphasis offering each year. This past January you rallied to our need with a total of over \$8,000 for our Special Emphasis drive. We humbly thank each individual and church who gave to this effort.

Content

We appreciate, seek after, and need submissions from our churches, departments, auxiliaries, and those who are interested in the ministry and the progress of the BMA of Mississippi and the BMA of America. We request that article submissions be limited to those items that will be of interest to the general public and readership of our churches. It should come as no sur-

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"Would you mind preaching on something other than sin for a while? There are a few things I need to do this week."



Turning Your Church Inside, Out!

Saturday, November 15, 2008

Magnolia Baptist Church

148 King Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39402 - 601-264-8087

| | |
|----------|---|
| 9:00 AM | Registration |
| 9:30 AM | Worship |
| 10:15 AM | Becoming A Missional Church Dr. John David Smith |
| 11:00 AM | Break |
| 11:15 AM | Lost People Matter To God Bill Hybels |
| 12:00 | Lunch |
| 1:00 PM | What's You Plan? Dr. John David Smith |
| 1:45 PM | Let's Brainstorm |



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P.O. Box 8181
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Moral Action Committee

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



John Adams

The Election and the Supreme Court

The November election will eventually produce a change in the makeup of the United States Supreme Court. The power grab by this court is a modern phenomenon.

The most dangerous change would be a more liberal court with the desire to remove "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance. We believers must pray that God will protect this allegiance.

Five Justices decided that our nation could not pray in school or display the Ten Commandments. Therefore, we have lost not only freedom rights but spiritual rights.

Of great interest, is the book by Newt Gingrich entitled, "Rediscovering God in America." I quote from his book, "if they (the Supreme Court) decide for example that virtual child pornography on the internet is protected by free speech while having already ruled that prayer and political speech are not, then they are not only arbitrarily rewriting the law of the land but are usurping the legitimate rights of the legislative branch of our government to make the laws."

The liberal and elite media are systematically attempting to purge all religious thought and words from the American public life. Please pray, pray, pray, as Associational Baptist. Write and call your legislators.

As We Approach Thanksgiving

President George Washington declared in his Thanksgiving proclamation, October 3, 1789, "It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor."

How much more, that we have an obligation before God, both as individuals and a nation, to honor our Lord and Savior. May we be ever so thankful for our great nation. Let us as

BMA people gather this Thanksgiving around our church and home tables with a grateful heart and earnestly implore God's blessing on our nation as we seek his will for our nation.

As We Approach Christmas

Likewise, we will be approaching the Christmas season. The forefront of our focus is to keep Christ in the holiday season. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is fervently attempting to have any reference to Christ removed from the season. Their assault is relentless so we must resolve to keep Christ in Christmas.

According to Alan Sears, President of the Alliance Defense Fund, even after years of legal assaults and confusing rulings:

- 1) It is still ok to sing Christmas carols,
- 2) It's ok for schools to call Christmas "Christmas,"
- 3) School districts and courts cannot ban individuals from saying "Merry Christmas,"
- 4) Schools and churches may teach about the religious origin of Christmas,
- 5) Schools may display religious symbols, such as the nativity scene, shepherd scenes, etc,
- 6) Cities and towns may sponsor Christmas Nativity scenes in public parks and on public lands.

John Leo of the U.S. News and World Report, wrote the following poem with a tongue in cheek approach about the liberal ACLU and Christmas:

*"Twas the night before Christmas,
when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care.
In hope that St. Nicholas soon would be there.
When out on a lawn there arose such a clatter.
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
There was Santa again, on his annual journeys,
Ensnared in a group of eight tiny attorneys.
They looked pretty grim and they threatened to sue,
So we knew in a flash - "It's the ACLU"
They paid us no heed, but went straight to their work.*

who has the gift of insight, entertainment, and spiritual discernment. We appreciate his continued work and offerings through his column "Leave It To Cleaver".

Travis Plumlee continues to offer guidance and advice in various areas of family life. He makes us think and often addresses areas that we tend to shy away from, but that are real, everyday issues that families face.

Every time I think of common sense and country wisdom, I think of Mrs. Barbara White, or as we all know her alter-ego, Sofilthy McNasty. In her precious, short statements, we get a dose of "every day, common sense logic" wrapped up in a practical, spiritual application. When God created Sofilthy, surely He was thinking of the words He gave Solomon in Proverbs 17:22 - "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." Mrs. White certainly has a merry heart and her musings no doubt serve medicinal purposes. A regular dose of Sofilthy is good for us all.

Subscriptions

We are pleased to report that we have added a couple of new churches this past year. As of the writing of this report there are 143 churches subscribing to the "church family plan". We encourage each of our churches to follow this example and provide the paper to their members.

Even with the addition of these new churches, our total subscription list continues to grow smaller. I shared with you

Handcuffing poor Santa, then said with a smirk:

*"This is secular airspace, we can't have a saint
Flying our flightpaths - we need some restraint.
A sleigh full of toys is OK, we suppose,
But faith-based incursions we've got to oppose."*

*Litigation on Christmas is something we dread,
So we nestled our children all under their beds,
The grinch doesn't scare them, and Scrooge they see through,
But what kids are prepared for the ACLU?*

*The reindeer were shackled as a further incitement,
Then the lawyers unpackaged a 12-count indictment.
"Santa's climb up each chimney (one lawyer made mention)
Is a symbolic reference of Jesus' ascension.*

*And the reindeer, of course, recall the Apostles,
And those who deny it are nothing but fossils.
These lawyers had labored at neighborhood schools,
Making Christmas extinct there as part of the rules.*

*Praise Kwanza or Ramadan - they think it's quite splendid,
But say "Merry Christmas" and you might get suspended.
Our children, God bless them, don't get or recall
Why "inclusiveness" doesn't include them all.*

*Why diversity theory (as the lawyers insist) must
Require the annual quashing of Christmas.
In Canada, home of post-everything living,
Now the "12 Days of Christmas"*

*are "The 12 Days of Giving."
Christmas trees aren't party to the season at all,
They buy "multi cultural trees" at the mall.
At a hospital (Catholic), the staff is ashamed
To use the word Christmas, so their tree is misnamed.
As a "care tree," though some would prefer "tree of life."
(Why not "tall lit-up flora" to avoid any strife?)*

*Australians are told they should have no compunctions
Calling parties at Christmastime
"end of the year functions."*

*The idea is to make Christmas somehow unmentionable.
A tactic I think of as wholly contemptible.
Instead of "White Christmas" they will probably sing,
"I'm dreaming of a snow day sometimes in pre-Spring."
Here's my suggestion, a harsh one I fear,
Why not call Christmas "Christmas?" (It's just an idea)*

So, BMA folks, let's step up to the plate and show others around us what Thanksgiving and Christmas is really about. It is about Christ. We will not be robbed of "joy to the world."

Book Recommendations

1. Culture Shift by Albert Mohler, Multnomah Press - \$15
2. The Truth War by John MacArthur, Thomas Nelson Publishers - \$23

Trustee of the Month

Bro. Bobby Hudgens' hometown is Waldo, Arkansas. He graduated from Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia, with a Bachelor of Music Education. He has been married for 36 years to Donna Ferguson and they have three married children: John, Emily, and Rebekah. They have one grandson. Bro. Bobby was on staff at Temple Church, Little Rock for 27 years. He is the Research and Development Officer at DiscipleGuide Resources and the Worship leader at Richmond Road Baptist Church, Texarkana, Texas. It is an honor to serve with Bro. Bobby on the MAC.

Churches Supporting the MAC

Round Prairie, Fairfield, TX
Unity, Hope, AR
First, Carthage, TX
Trace City, Natchez, MS
Pine Grove, Purvis, MS

Website for MAC
www.macbma.net

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Dr. Tony Cleaver is a unique individual and a dear friend

Mississippi W.M.A.

Mrs. Ruby Bynum, President

43 Bear Pen Creek Rd., Laurel, MS 39440
601-428-1901

Corresponding Secretary

Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443
601-729-5638

Oak Grove District WMA Report

The Oak Grove District WMA met at Good Hope Baptist Church, October 10. There were 24 present. We had an encouraging devotion by Mrs. Janice Ramshur on having peace in the midst of our storms. After taking care of business, Bro. David Ruffin presented a report on his trip to China with Operation New Generation. He gave an interesting and inspiring report on the accomplishments of the four who went with his team. He encouraged us to pray for the salvation of the ones they had ministered to and the future of this mission endeavor.

Our association is down to churches participating in the WMA. We would like to encourage our churches to come and take part. You will receive a blessing. Please pray about this matter. Our next meeting will be January 9, at Bethel Church in Bassfield.

Belinda Lee, Reporter

Big Creek, Soso, WMA Report

My, how time goes by. Hard to believe that we are already two months into a new year of our 2008-2009 WMA work. Our WMA still meet on Wednesday nights, but our time was changed to 7:30. We are still getting new members nearly every week, what a blessing!

Mrs. Bonnie had the opportunity to attend "SOAR" with our group of young people. That week Fredie Merchants brought a very timely and interesting lesson on "Freedom." We have studied "Twelve Extraordinary Women"; studied the history of our local, district, state, and national WMA. We are now studying the book "Precious Jewels" by Mrs. Shirlene Smith and Mrs. Chris Smith. I can truly say these ladies are all very "Precious Jewels." We are so thankful that we can say the Lord is still blessing us in letting us reach out in our service for Him through our WMA.

In July we helped provide a meal during our summer revival. We also hosted a bridal shower, gave Youth Pastor Bro. Will a love offering to help with the expense of a youth revival and provide Bibles for two new babies in our church family.

Our new officers for 2008-2009 are as follows: President, June Holifield; Vice-president, Peggy Jefcoat; Secretary/Treasurer, Lorene Dykes; Bible Teacher, Bonnie Brown; Sunshine Chairman, Bettye Jefcoat; Project Promoter, Charlene Dykes; Reporter, Rovenia Hunnell; Food Committee, Mary Parker, Peggy Jefcoat, and Marsha Yarborough; Flower Committee, Ann Katherine Hasting, Laurice Thompson, and Barbara Hollingsworth; Hospitality Committee, June Holifield, Peggy Jefcoat, Ann Katherine Hastings, and Barbara Hollingsworth; GMA Counselors, Ginny Kellum, Angie Hite, and Angie Gamble; Sunbeam Sponsor, Linda Faye Dertinger; Reviewing Council, June Holifield, Lorene Dykes, and Peggy Jefcoat.

Let us remember to pray daily for one another as we serve our great Lord and Savior through WMA.

Rovenia Hunnell, WMA Reporter

GMA Girls

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

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

Big Creek, Soso, Sunbeam Report

A Sunbeam Missionary auxiliary is a group of boys and girls, birth through third grade in school. It is a part of the total program of youth auxiliaries sponsored by the Women's Missionary Auxiliary (WMA). The local WMA plays a vital part in the Sunbeam auxiliary by providing prayer support, financial support, and any other assistance needed to maintain the program. Sunbeam Auxiliary is a great organization to teach our children of Jesus Christ.

Our Sunbeam director/sponsor is Linda Faye Dertinger. She has served in this position for several years. She also serves as the Big

Department of Youth Annual Report

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honor and glory of God.

What kind of year have we had? It has been exciting to honor God through our ministries. We have been on the mountain top. We have been through the valley. Again, have we been successful? Success is not determined by what we are, but rather by what we are compared to what we could be. It is not measured by what we have done, but rather by what we have done compared to what we could have done. Successful living results from successful development of spirit, soul and body.

In our mission for this year we followed our commands. Our commands were something imperative. Our command was not an option, but something to be obeyed. We have done a lot of waiting with an expectant attitude.

When we were to come we responded, but we didn't make it for all the calls. We didn't always know the direction God wanted us to take.

Our motives were inner impulses producing outward action. These motives were the things that kept us going: God's love, Christ's love, and mankind's need.

We had the best and most powerful equipment that anyone could have asked for. The equipment for our mission is what God has always given us to be used in a given work or useful in effecting a given end. We have everything needed for efficient operation or efficient service. This equipment is the

Creek District Director of both Sunbeams and GMAs, and the State and National Sunbeam Director. She is very busy keeping everything going in this part of our associational work. She needs our prayers daily as she serves the Lord through the Sunbeam work.

The 2007-2008 National Sunbeam project was Shepherd Bags for Bro. Rocky Godwin and small toys for Bro. Robert Murphy. Ginny Kellum, Tabitha Wade and Rovenia Hunnell made up 115 shepherd bags and collected 100 small toys to help Linda Faye on this project. We also had the opportunity to provide crafts for the State Sunbeam Craft sale with the proceeds going to the State Sunbeam project. The Shepherd Bags and small toys are a need that everyone can have a part in. I can assure you that you will receive a blessing. I am so thankful for the opportunity to be a part of this project. What a blessing I have received.

Through the Sunbeam program our precious boys and girls, through their studies of the Bible, church, prayer, memory work, missions, and music, are made to realize that Jesus wants them for a Sunbeam to shine for Him each day and in every way try to please Him at home, at school, and at play. They are truly a bright and shining light for Jesus. Ladies, let's be more faithful in our prayers and support for the Sunbeam work.

Rovenia Hunnell, WMA Reporter

Big Creek, Soso, GMA Report

The GMAs of Big Creek, Soso, meet on Wednesday nights at 7:00. The counselors are Ginny Kellum, Angie Hite, and Angie Gamble. They only have 6 girls. They may be small in number, but with the Lord's blessing.

On Wednesday night, August 24, the kitchen area of the Family Life Center was the setting for a "Rainbow Tea" sponsored by the GMA counselors and girls in honor of the ladies of the WMA to show their love and appreciation for their support of GMAs. The beautiful decorations were done by Mrs. Marie Dykes. There were 6 tables with lace table cloths, a different color of the rainbow. The center piece for each table was a gold candle holder, white candles and a rainbow colored bow. There was also a special table with the theme of "Precious Jewels" of pictures of some of our loved ones. The very interesting program was "The Rainbow Story" narrated by Ginny Kellum with each girl representing a different color of the rainbow. Mrs. Rhonda Ainsworth stepped in for one of girls who was unable to be there. Special music was presented by the Sunbeam hand bell choir under the direction of Linda Faye Dertinger.

The delicious refreshments and fellowship was enjoyed by every one. The real purpose of the GMAs is spelled out in their watch word, aim, allegiance, and star ideals. Through their GMA studies the girls have been made to realize that they are ambassadors for Christ and that they have a responsibility to tell a lost world of Christ. Let us remember to pray for our girls and their counselors.

Rovenia Hunnell, WMA Reporter

Annual Message

Missions Director

Rayburn Freeman

bringing the

message on

Tuesday evening a

t the 2008 BMA of

Mississippi Annual

meeting.



Word of God, the Holy Spirit and prayer.

Opportunities come to people busy serving the Lord. If you want God's guidance, get busy serving where you are and He will show you the next step.

Opportunities usually produce opposition. God sows the good and Satan sowed a counterfeit. Opportunities reveal character. Opportunities develop leadership. What we are doing and what we have done is a team effort and the vital thing is the glory of God.

Summer Camp Report 2008

Tombigbee, Judson, 92 campers; Harmony, 132 campers, 8 saved; South Central Junior Camp, 265 campers, 10 saved; State Junior High - Senior Camp, 100 campers.

Editor's Annual Report

from page 5

last year that over the past 5 to 7 years our subscription list had shrunk by approximately 1,000. As I shared with you in previous reports, this reduction of subscriptions has a direct financial impact. Currently we have approximately 4,400 on our mailing list with only 4,200 representing paying subscribers.

This is alarming to this editor because I think it speaks to the health of our churches, our association and our overall ability to carry out the Great Commission. Our Association is smaller than we have been and possibly larger today than we will be tomorrow. Our God is an awesome God and is able to do all that He promised, but it appears His people - and I believe we are His people - it appears we are not doing all we were charged to do.

Importance

The Mississippi Baptist paper is an important part of our associated work. It informs us, it ties us together, and it keeps us together. Information is important. It is a vital ingredient in the overall formula of what makes any worthwhile effort successful. Armies march on good information - people act when they have information that drives their passions and inspires their performance.

I received a letter recently from Mrs. V.L. McDaniel. She is a member of Creston Hills Church in Jackson. She and her late husband were very active in their local church and in the work of the BMA of Mississippi. Her health is failing and while I cannot share all of her thoughts, she made it clear that she looks forward to her paper. She is not able to participate as she and her husband once were, but she still loves her Lord, her church, her association and all of their activities. She shared in her letter how she looks forward to receiving the paper and keeping up with all that she has come to love and all that she holds dear to her heart as it relates to our overall work. She continues to be a part of it all through the pages of the "Mississippi Baptist".

God gives us a mission and a ministry. He calls us, He qualifies us, and He enables us. He promises to bless us and He does that in His way and in His time. Let us continue to be His faithful instruments and claim the promise of the theme of this year's meeting that we will overcome and be victorious "In Due Season" if we are faithful and do not faint or falter.

May God bless you as you labor for Him.

Commission on Senior Adults

Vern D. Holifield, Director
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440



Greetings,

Here we are in the autumn side of 2008. The leaves are turning and beginning to fall to the ground. The turnips, mustard, collards, and onions are growing in many Fall gardens. Those who love to hunt are getting all the gear ready for opening of the seasons. At this writing, the Annual session of the Baptist Missionary Association Mississippi is next week. I pray for a prosperous and harmonious meeting. Also, the November elections are near. This is, I think, the most crucial election in my entire life. I urge our people to pray and go vote.

New Church Support

The Pine Grove Baptist Church, Purvis and pastor Kenneth Flynt are on board beginning this new year. The Big Creek Church, Soso, and pastor Don Brown are also on board beginning this new year. The Hopewell Church, Stringer, and pastor Arthur Smith are on board with us too. Thanks to these good people for supporting this worth cause.

A Good Reminder

The various Departments and Commissions of the BMA of Mississippi don't belong to the Directors and their Trustee Boards. These Departments and Commissions belong to the Lord and His Churches here in Mississippi. The work is your work. The Messengers of the churches voted to establish every one of the Departments and Commissions. I believe that all the work deserves the prayers and the financial support of the churches that control them. Amen!

Church Visits

We continue to assist the Shiloh Baptist Church, Mt. Olive. We enjoyed a visit to the Springhill Baptist Church at Ocean, Springs.

Association Visits

We enjoyed the Annual Sessions of the Big Creek and the Gulf Associations. A good spirit prevailed in these meetings. Progress was noted in their work.

2009 Conferences

The 2009 South Senior Adult Conference will be conducted on Tuesday, March 31. The Big Creek Church, Soso and Pastor Don Brown have graciously agreed to host this meeting. The 2009 North Conference will be conducted on Tuesday, May 12. The Hopewell Church, Fulton and Pastor Matt Hudson have

kindly agreed to host this meeting. We are praying about, and working on the programs already. Please join me in prayer for these important meeting for our Seniors and for all who will attend.

I am praying for and believing for a full house in both these Conferences.

A New Service Offered

I have been contacted by a group named "Senior Planning Agency" about their ministry with Senior Adults. The work they do sounds good. They have a number of subjects that would be good for Seniors to hear. I am not recommending this group at this time. When and if I learn more about them I will have more to say. They may be contacted at 601-936-6917. This is Pearl number. The lady that contacted me is Mrs. Joann Caves. If you are interested call her.

Commission on Senior Adult Ministry

Annual Director's Report

I am honored to be able to be in this 2008 Annual Session of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. I have no idea how many times the Lord and our people here in Mississippi have honored me with this opportunity. I thank the Lord and our people for blessing me so much. Each year I wonder if this will be my last report. One day will be my last time to be here. That is true with you as well.

It is good to say thanks to the Trustees of the Commission for their faithful work and cooperation through the year. I want to thank Brother Freeman and his committees for providing office space for the Commission. We do give a small amount as rent, but we appreciate the provision. It is a joy to have a little time to fellowship with all those who work in the Mission's Complex. I am grateful to my wife for her faithful work in keeping the financial books for the Commission.

The Trustees and I join Dr. Savel, his staff and his Trustees in the celebration of sixty years of ministry for Southeastern Baptist College. I read with interest the articles in the Mississippi Baptist Paper dating back to 1949. It was my privilege to be in that number which met in the facilities of Parkview Baptist Church. The college has an important ministry among our people, and deserves our faithful support.

CHILDREN'S HOME

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

In Due Season

This year's theme of the BMA of Mississippi's 2008 annual session is "In Due Season—If We Faint Not We Shall Reap". Galatians 6:9 states, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." It is encouraging to know that what we do for the Lord touches the lives of those that we minister to and will pay dividends in eternity.

In light of the fact that in due season we shall reap, if we faint not it behooves us to continue to be faithful to the Lord in what He has called us to do. We rejoice what the Lord is doing through the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home in meeting the needs of children in need.

Special Emphasis

October and November are the months that have been set aside by the BMA of Mississippi as Special Emphasis months for the Children's Home each year. Our goal this year is \$25,000 and we want to solicit your generous participation in helping us reach this goal. Your gift will help provide young people from unstable

homes a life of stability and structure that they so desperately need.

Food and Miscellaneous Rallies

The food and miscellaneous rallies continue to be of utmost importance in the ongoing operation of the Home. They help provide the extra support from the churches throughout the year that supplies the needs of the Home in a financial way. We want to say "thank you" to all the associations, churches, and individuals who participated in these rallies during the previous year.



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

Christmas Sharing

As you know, Christmas is not too far off in the distant future. Each year during the Christmas holiday season many of you share your generosity with the children. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated and brightens the lives of our boys and girls. If you would like to help this year at Christmas time you may con-

this good work. Budget support is naturally best. The Judson, Tombigbee, Capitol, Big Creek, Oak Grove, Washington, Hobolochitto, and East Central Associations give regular support. There are Senior Adult groups that support the Commission too.

The Lord gave us two great Conferences in 2008. The Big Creek and East Amory Churches did a wonderful job hosting the meetings. Thanks to these good churches and their faithful pastors. The Big Creek Church, Soso and Pastor Don Brown will host the 2009 South Conference. The tentative date is Tuesday, March 31. The Hopewell Baptist Church, Fulton and Pastor Matt Hudson will host the North Conference. The tentative date is Tuesday, May 12. We packed out the Big Creek Church Sanctuary in 2008. We had a good crowd at East Amory. I am asking for and, believing for a full house in both 2009 Conferences. More and more of our pastors are supporting these good meetings. The pastor is the key. I just ask you good men to help us help your dear seniors.

When you hear the financial report you will see that we are on our own now. The Commission pays all the expenses in the Conferences. The \$15.00 fee does little more than pay for the food. The food cost will

tact us about your desire to help and we will be glad to assist you concerning your wishes to share with the children at Christmas.

Staff and Trustees

I would like to express my appreciation for the very capable and dedicated staff serving you at the Home. Also, I would like to express my gratitude to the board of trustees for their interest and dedication to this ministry.

Tenth Annual Report

This makes the tenth time I have given an annual report to the association as Director of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home. These ten years have come and gone by so quickly and swiftly. I can with all confidence and assurance give praise, thanks, glory, and honor to the Lord for the blessings of the past ten years and look forward to His guidance and direction as we face the challenges and opportunities that are on the horizon before us.

Remember In Prayer

We want to be an extension of the love of Jesus in touching the lives He has placed under our care. Pray for this ministry that "in due season if we faint not we shall reap", not only now but for all eternity. *Touching Lives Now & For Eternity, Sidney D. Davis, Director*

go up next year. We will hold the fee at \$15.00 as long as we can. We aim to have good quality programs. We don't expect a free ride. We will offset the expenses of those who help us each time. We always have to dip into the general fund to finish paying the expenses of the Conferences. Please help us with your offerings.

The project of recognizing our preachers with fifty years in the ministry or more was a huge blessing and success. We will recognize the preachers who reach fifty years in the ministry in 2009. A letter and a form will be sent to each church asking for the information on the qualifying preacher. Please be prompt to reply.

If you find some discrepancy between our financial record and your record let me know. We close our books on September 30. We may receive a check that day, but too late to go in this year's report. That money will show up next year.

*Thank you and God bless.
Vern D. Holifield, Director*



The 2008 Annual State Associational meeting was one of our best. Bro. Neil Murphy did a wonderful job in moderating, he is to be commended for two years of faithful service. Bro. Billy Huffmaster has also done a superb job of serving as associational clerk. The messenger body is to be commended for expediting the business in a loving Christian spirit.

Our missionary status will be changing by December 31, when two of our missionaries Bros. Wallace Williams and Kevin Marr will be going off mission support. However, the missions they are with will remain in the Debt Reduction program which will end March 31, 2009. Any financial assistance for them personally or for their respected mission sent through our state mission office should be accompanied with a note stating such. Funds not designated always goes into general missions operations for the payment of missionary and office staff salaries, general operations, and miscellaneous expenses.

It is the plan of Missionary Kevin Marr and LifePointe Mission to organize on January 24. Bro. Wallace Williams and Divine Grace has not yet decided on a date for organization. Plans for each mission's organization will be featured in an issue of the Mississippi Baptist. Pray for these missionaries as they continue to prepare their missions and themselves for this exciting occasion.

It is also in order to commend Bros. Estuardo Marroquin and Elvis Garcia for the progress being made in the Hispanic ministry. Each mission is increasing in numbers, finances and spiritual growth. El Camino lost members in the U. S. deportation effort, but was quickly reconciled to the fact that God was acting on His behalf. Several of those deported will be starting missions in their

BMA of Mississippi MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

4226 Highway 15 North, Laurel, Mississippi 39440 - (601) 428-8616
Rayburn Freeman, Director



home place. It is fascinating to see how God can take situations we do not understand which seems to be beyond salvaging and turn them into something good for Him. First Hispanic of Ripley is beginning to see substantial growth coming not only from Ripley, but also from the neighboring town of New Albany.

Bro. Joseph Oyeleye and Maple Street of Columbus are yet struggling as they strive to reach the area of Columbus with the Gospel of Christ. Bro. Joseph remains doctrinally sound, enthusiastic, and working hard to build a strong New Testament church for the Lord. His goal is to soon become self-supporting and organize into a New Testament church.

Bro. Ed Duvall has proven himself to be a consistent hard worker at Homestretch, the mission has also experienced some growth in the last few months. In addition to his work in Cleveland he is involved with a group in Indianola which is being lead by Bro. Donnie Logan. If this work continues to develop it appears that Bro. Ed will be baptizing several there after a period of intense Bible studies.

We welcome and look forward to working with our new members on the Missionary Committee and the Revolving Loan Fund Trustee board.

East Petal

The East Petal campaign sponsored by East Petal Baptist Church and Dr. Eugene Murphy as pastor mentioned in the September 11 issue is now history. The Campaign

began Wednesday September 24 at 2:00 P.M. and continued through Sunday morning, September 28. Those involved gathered each afternoon at 2:00 P.M. for prayer and direction for visitation before going out into the communities. A worship service was enjoyed each evening following visitation, it was a wonderful time of personal fellowship filled with singing, preaching and snacks afterwards.

The door to door witnessing, passing out tracts, and inviting people to come and be a part of each evening worship service was an uplifting experience. This was an effort to revive the East Petal Baptist Church while reaching their neighbors with the gospel.

Reaching the people was successful, however, after this effort to revive the church fell short of expectations. East Petal Baptist Church voted to disband on October 19 and donate the property to Main Street Baptist Church in Petal. The new location of Main Street necessitated a name change, the name chosen was Parkway Baptist Church, Bro. John Miller the present pastor of Main Street (now Parkway Baptist Church) will remain as pastor. The new location for Parkway is very visible and accessible. That, together with the excitement of this move, should enhance church growth. The former Main Street Baptist Church property will possibly be used by the state missions department for some future mission effort. Dr. Murphy and Bro. Miller are to be commended for having a desire and vision to see souls saved and a church grow.

Annual Missions Director Report Missions and Revolving Loan Fund

More than 2000 years ago was the birth of the New Testament Baptist Church, the church that Jesus built. We thank the Lord for his promise of its continual tenure. In her years she has remained faithful in doctrine and direction.

Individuals come and go, local churches come and go, but his church marches on as she victoriously encounters the doctrinal, financial and numerical obstacles.

Hope for America yet lies within the local church through her outreach ministry to the world with the news that Jesus saves. Time has ushered America to an era of intense demonic aggression against the Lord's church, therefore we must keep our priorities in order.

God is good to the BMA of Mississippi. Missions revenue for 2007-08 grossed \$349,712, down \$3,835 from the previous year. If special emphasis is added which was included in the previous year's revenue, but for the current year was posted directed to the RVLF account, then the total revenue would be \$399,486 which would give a \$45,912 increase over the previous year. Operation expenses for the year 2007-08 reached \$369,706.

The twelve leading churches (in) 2008 special emphasis giving in descending order are Zion, Anguilla; Paramount, Perkinson;

Union, Bay Springs; Main Street, Petal; Hopewell, Laurel; Skyway Wills, Pearl; Forked Oak, Booneville; Harmony, Hurley; Boguefala, Mooreville; Mt. Carmel, Carriere; Berean, Soso; Lebanon, Laurel all of Mississippi. The placement of each church is determined by the amount given divided by their recorded Sunday School attendance.

Bros. Kevin Marr and Wallace Williams will be going off mission support December 31, 2008. This will be a breather for our missions budget allowing to look forward to opening new missions in the near future. However, since missions financial reserve has been depleted it will be necessary to realize an increase in missions revenue before we can move ahead.

Your prayerful, moral, and financial support given through the church and associational effort of reaching the lost and building churches is appreciated and has eternal blessings. Our Mission Statement, to win souls and build churches, remains.

The BMA of Mississippi is blessed to have six missionaries and missions, Bro. Wallace Williams and Divine Grace Baptist Mission of Long Beach; Bro. Estuardo Marroquin and El Camino Hispanic Baptist Mission of Laurel; Bro. Joseph Oyeleye and Maple Street Baptist Mission of Columbus; Bro. Elvis Garcia and First Hispanic Baptist

Mission of Ripley; Bro. Kevin Marr and LifePointe Baptist Mission of Hernando; and Bro. Ed Duvall and Homestretch Baptist Mission of Cleveland all of Mississippi.

At different intervals through this associational meeting your missionaries have shared with this body an updated progress report of their mission. In the handouts of the Missions Department are the statistics of each missionary.

It has been privilege to work with Bros. Wallace Ray whose term expires, and Mike Allred who resigned for personal reasons. Their service to the committee will not be forgotten.

Revolving Loan Fund

Another very good year for the Revolving Loan Fund is now history. As director I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Bro. Dossen Lavell Lee as RVLF Manager and Mrs. Lori Garrett as RVLF Bookkeeper and secretary. Bro. Lee's past experience in financing and as a RVLF trustee have proven to be beneficial for the management of this position. Mrs. Garrett, except for a short leave, has been with this department since 1997 and has excelled in her performance.

You will be blessed as you learn from Bro. Lee's report and the handouts how God has blessed the RVLF with another good year. I am also grateful to Mrs. Cindy Jones who worked diligently with us as we waded through the routine of general operations in the an-

2008 Annual Meeting Revolving Loan Fund Report

We are truly thankful for the Lord's continued blessings upon the BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund. The RLF continues to be a strong and growing ministry that BMA of MS churches and Missions use to help with their financing needs. We praise God from whom all blessings flow.

It is a privilege to serve as manager of your Revolving Loan Fund. This has been a challenging year as I grow in grace through this learning experience. I came into this calling at a time when our nation is experiencing very troubling economic stress. However, the Lord knows all things and He is my guide and strength. I appreciate the wise counsel of Dr. Freeman and the encouraging counsel of our Trustees. In addition, it would be difficult for me to overstate the value of our very able RLF accountant, Sis. Lori Garrett. All the other staff are a blessing to work with as well.

I am thankful for the nine good men that serve as your Trustees for the RLF. Their wise counsel serves us well in all the decision-making that comes our way. I want to give special acknowledgment to Bro. Frank Panzrino who has served well as chairman of the RLF this past year. He is going off as Trustee and he will surely be missed.

Some financial statistics for your Revolving Loan Fund are as follows: Gross assets are \$13,600,195.00, an increase of \$2,095,964.00 over 2007. Net assets stand strong at \$2,256,552.00, an increase of \$693,584.00 over 2007. Investor accounts have increased by

\$1,264,058.00 over 2007, and Loans, net of allowance for loss, have decreased \$99,399.00 from 2007. Listed on the following page, is the good outcome of our Debt Reduction program as of October 13, 2008. Excess funds are invested in strong local banks in a manner to attain as much FDIC protection as we can get and still have enough funds with which to operate.

Finally, we must be strong in the Lord and the power of His might. This is His work and we are His children, and we rest ourselves in Him alone. (Psalm 16:5, Eph. 6:10-20)

D. Lavell Lee, RLF Manager

nual close out and audit of another year. For personal reason Mrs. Jones resigned October 1, 2008.

At this time I feel it is in order for me to say to our pastors and churches, thank you for your continued regular monthly support and personal investment with the Revolving Loan Fund. We also appreciate Bro. Frank Panzrino for several years of faithful service as trustee.

It is my pleasure to announce that your missions department and the state auxiliaries are working together to bring our young people more into the internal action of the church. For information on how all or either segment of the state auxiliary can help your ministry please call that particular auxiliary or the Mission Office at 601-428-8616. Handouts relating to this ministry can be found on one of the presentation tables.