

Dates To Remember

January 7-8, 2008
BMAA Missions Symposium
Temple Baptist Church
Little Rock, Arkansas

March 13, 2008
BMA of Mississippi
Missions Conference
Skyway Hills Baptist Church
Pearl, Mississippi
8:30 am - 8:30 pm

2008 BMA of Mississippi
Senior Adult Conferences
South Conference
March 27, 2008
Big Creek Baptist Church
Soso, Mississippi

North Conference
May 13, 2008
East Amory Baptist Church
Amory, Mississippi

NOVEMBER 15, 2007

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Mississippi Baptist

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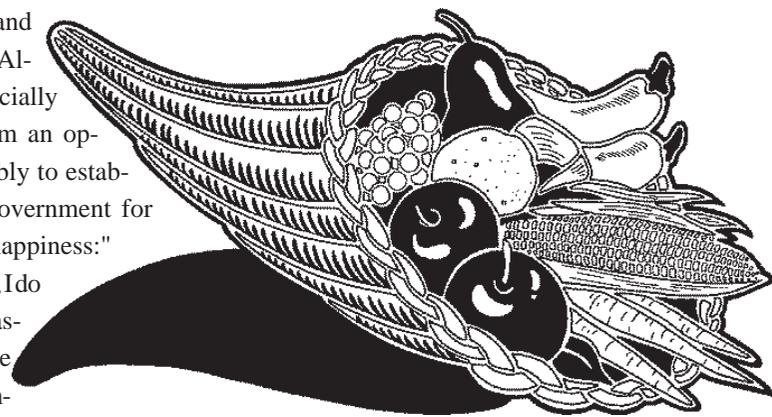
Washington's 1789 Thanksgiving Proclamation

Whereas 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; and Whereas both Houses of

Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me to "recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness:"

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we

have been able to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted for the civil and religious liberty with



The Thanksgiving Story

The Pilgrims who sailed to this country aboard the Mayflower were originally members of the English Separatist Church (a Puritan sect). They had earlier fled their home in England and sailed to Holland (The Netherlands) to escape religious persecution. There, they enjoyed more religious tolerance, but they eventually became disenchanted with the Dutch way of life, thinking it ungodly. Seeking a better life, the Separatists negotiated with a London stock company to finance a pilgrimage to America. Most of those making the trip aboard the Mayflower were non-Separatists, but were hired to protect the company's interests. Only about one-third of the original colonists were Separatists.

The Pilgrims set ground at Plymouth Rock on December 11, 1620. Their first winter was devastating. At the beginning of the following fall, they had lost 46 of the original 102 who sailed on the Mayflower. But the harvest of 1621 was a bountiful one. And the remaining colonists decided to celebrate with a feast--including 91 Indians who had helped the Pilgrims survive their first year. It is believed that the Pilgrims would not have made it through the year without the help of the natives. The feast was more of a traditional English harvest festival than a true "thanksgiving" observance. It lasted three days.

Governor William Bradford sent "four men fowling" after wild ducks and geese. It is not certain that wild turkey was part of their feast. However, it is certain that they had venison.

The term "turkey" was used by the Pilgrims to mean any sort of wild fowl.

Another modern staple at almost every Thanksgiving table is pumpkin pie. But it is unlikely that the first feast included that treat. The supply of flour had been long diminished, so there was no bread or pastries of any kind. However, they did eat boiled pumpkin, and they produced a type of fried bread from their corn crop. There was also no milk, cider, potatoes, or butter. There was no domestic cattle for dairy products, and the newly-discovered potato was still considered by many Europeans to be poisonous. But the feast did include fish, berries, watercress, lobster, dried fruit, clams, venison, and plums.

This "thanksgiving" feast was not repeated the following year. But in 1623, during a severe drought, the pilgrims gathered in a prayer service, praying for rain. When a long, steady rain followed the very next day, Governor Bradford proclaimed another day of Thanksgiving, again inviting their Indian friends. It wasn't until June of 1676 that another Day of Thanksgiving was proclaimed.

On June 20, 1676, the governing council of Charlestown, Massachusetts, held a meeting to determine how best to express thanks for the good fortune that had seen their community securely established. By unanimous vote they instructed Edward Rawson, the clerk, to proclaim June 29 as a day of thanksgiving. It is notable that this thanksgiving celebration probably did not include the Indians, as the celebration was meant

*Enter into his gates with
thanksgiving, and into
his courts with praise:
be thankful unto him,
and bless his name.*

Psalm 100:4

partly to be in recognition of the colonists' recent victory over the "heathen natives."

October of 1777 marked the first time that all 13 colonies joined in a thanksgiving celebration. It also commemorated the patriotic victory over the British at Saratoga. But it was a one-time affair.

George Washington proclaimed a National Day of Thanksgiving in 1789, although some were opposed to it. There was discord among the colonies, many feeling the hardships of a few Pilgrims did not warrant a national holiday. And later, President Thomas Jefferson scoffed at the idea of having a day

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which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us), and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand, at the city of New York, the 3d day of October, A.D. 1789.

G. Washington

The Powerful Impact of a Christian Dad - Who Are They?

You may not know these men by name. But there are a great number scattered across the globe. These men may not ever be famous. Thousands of people may not know them for their wealth, their power, their position, or their prestige. The well-to-do social circles may be unaware of them. But the most important people know them. Their children.



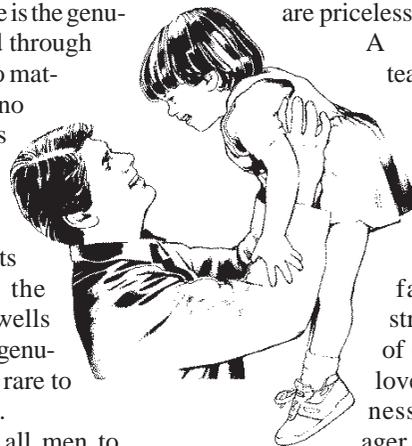
www.travisplumlee.com

Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

man walketh in his integrity and his children are blessed after him." A man blesses his family if he is a man of integrity. A man of integrity has a profound sense of right and wrong based upon the precepts and commandments of God. However, he not only knows them, but he lives them out in front of his children. It doesn't matter what the people in town think of him. People can fake being a good person. You can fool

people at church, you can fool people at work; but you can't fool your kids. They know the real you. A Godly man does not have two masks that he wears. He is the genuine man of God through and through. No matter where he is, no matter who he is around, no matter what he is doing; his character reflects the nature of the spirit that indwells him. Authentic, genuine manhood is rare to find these days.



children are left with a legacy of a lifestyle lived for Christ. You can't buy it. You can't fake it. But the blessings it gives to your children are priceless.

A Christian dad teaches his children by living out the Bible. This would include the characteristics of honesty in all of his affairs, courage, strength in the face of the storms of life, love, wisdom, kindness, hope, encourager, holy, forgiver, respects authority, denies self, reverent, faithful, humble and prayerful. Generous, thoughtful and perseveres. He hungers after God's Word and teaches it to his children. Above all, he is occupied with the things of Christ. These are just a few of the things we men should all work on and keep improving. We should never stop growing in these areas. This is in stark contrast to the worldly man, who looks, acts, talks and follows society standards.

I knew a man once who always

I encourage all men to hunger and thirst after righteousness and pursue to be a Godly father. Your job as parent is the biggest job you will ever have. It should be a priority right behind Jesus and your wife, if you are married. It is never too late. Even if your kids are grown and you messed up in the past, you can start to make a new ending for your life. God desires it. The Holy Spirit is always waiting to help you. Nothing is impossible with Christ. Philippians 4:13. What a great man you are, if when you die, your

was ready to talk about the blessings of having a Godly father. His dad was a good provider. He worked hard for his family. But he even worked harder to provide for them spiritually. He read the Word to them. He went to church with them, and actively participated in his local church. He loved his country and taught his children to stand in honor of the flag when it passed in review. He taught them to respect authority, whether that be a boss, a preacher, a teacher, a President or a police officer. He taught his sons to respect all women. He taught his daughter to be a Godly woman.

He stood in church and gave a tearful testimony to the whole congregation about how much Jesus had meant to his life. Since this little boy had never seen his dad cry, this lit a fire in the boy to seek out this Jesus who had totally come to dominate his dad.

He went out of his way to help everyone he met. Everyone was his friend and he let his light shine before others even if they didn't deserve it. But most of all, his children were blessed because he embodied the spirit of the living Lord in all of his day to day actions.

He played with his kids. He took them places, some for fun, some for

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Short Message Series by Rev. Grover Laird

The Lord is on the Side of Right

"...Deal courageously, and the Lord shall be with the good." -II Chronicles 19:11b

Our text records the words of King Jehoshaphat when he was encouraging his Judges in Judah. In explaining their duties, he had warned them that they "trespass not against the Lord" (Verse 10). Then he assures them that "the Lord shall be with the good," or the Lord will be on the side of right. These words are so comforting and reassuring to the righteous. May we consider them further in this little preachment.

These words of our text are not comforting, however, to the disobedient and sinner. They are frightening to them. Our text is saying that a person whose life is out of line with the Bible is on the losing side. He stands in conflict with the God who holds his breath and destiny in His hands, and he will therefore be the loser. For you see, God is the all-powerful One, and He will always have the final word.

But may the righteous be encouraged by the words of our text, as well as other verses. Many are the times that the Bible assures us that when we stand for what is right, the Lord will be with us. The prophet Azariah preached it this way--"...The Lord is with you while ye be with him..." (II Chronicles 15:2).

We see an example of the Lord being on the side of right when Moses went down to Egypt to deliver Israel from their bondage. At first, Moses got into a frightening conflict with Pharaoh, King of Egypt. Yet, when the conflict ended, Egypt was destroyed, their army was washed up on the shore of the Red Sea, and Israel was singing praises to God on the other side (Exodus 14:25-15:1). The Lord was on the side of right.

The truth of our text shows up again in the days of Daniel. Daniel had some enemies who sought to destroy him. (Daniel 6) Their plan called for tricking King Darius into casting him into the lion's den that he might be killed. Yet, God was on the side of right and turned it all around. Daniel was delivered, and his wicked enemies were crushed in the den of lions.

We will need to remember, however, that help may not always come when we expect it. Our patience may be tested. Israel's deliverance from Egypt surely came slower than Moses expected it (Exodus 5:22,23). But God was on the side of right.

Also, help may not come the way we look for it. Abraham expected God to work for him when he offered up Isaac his son. (Genesis 22) However, help did not come in the way he had it figured out. He expected God to raise up Isaac from the dead. (Hebrews 11:17-19) Instead, God provided a substitute which Abraham surely liked better. (Genesis 22:10-13) But either way, God being on the side of right met Abraham's need.

In these last days we can expect to get deeper into a conflict with the powers of darkness. It may appear at times that the forces of evil have the upper hand. It may even get more involved and drawn out than we expect. But regardless of what may come, we should never get discouraged and faint. "The Lord shall be with the good." Right will win in the end (1 Samuel 17:45,50; Acts 1:14;2:41; Acts 11:19-21).

-from "Sermons, Devotionals, Thoughts"



Grover Laird

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.

First Baptist Shady Grove has new pastor

The First Baptist Church of Shady Grove, Laurel, has called Bro. Danny Pitts as their new pastor. Bro. Pitts is on the field. Pitts previously pastored Hopewell Baptist Church, Fulton.

Benefit to be held

A Benefit Gospel Sing will be held for Bro. Erby Floyd at Trinity Baptist Church, Florence, Mississippi, on Saturday, November 24, 2007 at 6:00 PM. Bro. Erby was severely injured while participating in a Brotherhood work day at the church on September 8, 2007. The injuries he sustained are due to a storage building collapsing while he was working inside the structure. He spent 1-1/2 months in the hospital and has a long time of healing, physical therapy and future surgeries ahead of him.

Admission is free and a love offering will be taken. Hamburger plates

will also be available for \$5.00 and will be served at 5:00 p.m. Featured singing groups will include The Revelations, Briarhill Quartet, and The Gospel Tones. For more information, please call Pastor James W. Brown at 601-209-1502 or 601-845-2328. Donations to Bro. Erby Floyd may be mailed to Trinity Baptist Church, 128 Hwy 469 N., Florence, MS 39073. Please keep Bro. Erby and his family in your prayers.

Central Church, Corinth

Although we have been without a full time pastor since January, we are still receiving God's blessings. We were blessed to have Bro. Michael Shook fill in for us from January - September. We have had 5 professions of faith since the first of the year. We have been able to do some remodeling to improve the looks of the entrance ways and the restrooms. We have been blessed with a number of visitors in the past few months. While we may be small in number, we are large in members with talent, so if you are ever in need of a spiritual uplifting, come see what we have to offer. On a happy, but sad note- Mrs. Edna Gardner, a long time member went on to be with the Lord.

Please continue to pray for us as we are patiently in search of a full time, God fearing man to call our pastor.

Don't worry about anything, pray about everything. Philippians 4:6

Thanksgiving Story

from page 1

of thanksgiving.

It was Sarah Josepha Hale, a magazine editor, whose efforts eventually led to what we recognize as Thanksgiving. Hale wrote many editorials championing her cause in her Boston Ladies' Magazine, and later, in Godey's Lady's Book. Finally, after a 40-year campaign of writing editorials and letters to governors and presidents, Hale's obsession became a reality when, in 1863, President Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November as a national day of Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving was proclaimed by every president after Lincoln. The date was changed a couple of times, most recently by Franklin Roosevelt, who set it up one week to the next-to-last Thursday in order to create a longer Christmas shopping season. Public uproar against this decision caused the president to move Thanksgiving back to its original date two years later. And in 1941, Thanksgiving was finally sanctioned by Congress as a legal holiday, as the fourth Thursday in November.

Southeastern College Holds Prospect Day



Southeastern College hosted over 200 prospective students on Tuesday, November 13.

Top left - Part of the large crowd visiting to consider SBC as their college of choice.

Top right - Recruiter Ronnie Kitchens shares information about Southeastern College.

Bottom left - Graduates Cliff Jenkins and Thomas Laird cooked up a Catfish meal with all the trimmings for all of the faculty, students and guests.

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

Special Emphasis and Special Projects

The following is a list of those who have given special contributions at the time of this report.

Special Emphasis Churches

Antioch, Soso
Berean, Soso
Bethel, Seminary
Canaan, Richton
Central, Ellisville
Community, Poplarville
Corinth, Petal
Creston Hills, Jackson
Cypress Creek, Wiggins
First, Bay Springs
First, Calhoun, Laurel
Forked Oak, Booneville
Grace, Saucier
Harmony, Hurley
Hopewell, Fulton
Hopewell, Laurel
Jerusalem, Lawrence
Lebanon, Laurel
Movella, Lucedale

Mt. Calvary, Picayune
New Bethany, Ellisville
Oak grove, Lucedale
Oak Grove, Mantachie
Oakland, Vicksburg
O'Neal Road, Gulfport
Palestine, Bay Springs
Paramount, Perkinston
Parkview, Laurel
Plainview, Poplarville
Riverside, Ellisville
Rock Hill, Meehan
Shady Grove, Tishomingo
Sharon, Laurel
Shiloh, Kosciusko
Skyway Hills, Pearl
Springhill, Laurel
Temple, Biloxi
Ten Mile Ladies Sunday School Class, Perkinston
Union, Bay Springs
Washington, Neely
Westhaven, Jackson
Wolf Creek, Kiln
Zion, Anguilla

Individuals

Marjorie Harper
Frank Panzrino
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Welborn

Christian Dads

from page 2

learning. But the most precious memories this man can remember is his father kneeling in the altar. Loving his mom with all his heart. Praying together as a family. These memories are planted firmly in the soil of this man's heart. Of course, this little boy who grew to be a man is me! How thankful I am for a Christian dad who loved me. Who taught me. To me, he is the greatest man who walks the earth!

Others may not know these warriors for Christ, but their children do. My dad isn't alone. There are countless numbers in every community and every state. I could fill pages with these dads that I have seen in action.

Men like James Sprayberry in Mississippi, Wayne Edgar in Oklahoma, Mike Stone in Texas, John Newland in Indiana, Bill Lefler in Arkansas, and the list goes on and on.

People may pass any Christian dad and not recognize his power and importance, but his children do. And they are blessed by having a dad who looked like Jesus. All men have this potential for power within their grasp. Reach up to Christ, and reach out to your kids.

proud of what we have accomplished."

What is it that supporters of the registry think has been accomplished? Although The Morning News, a newspaper in northwest Arkansas, said Mayor Wilson and other members of the city council did not consider the registry a gay issue - cohabiting heterosexual couples could also register - other supporters of the vote clearly did.

One lesbian couple that registered, Maria Howard and Trella Laughlin, told KTHV, "Gays and lesbians are good people and we deserve civil rights just like everybody else."

However, the domestic partner registry doesn't actually grant anything in the way of civil rights. Mayor Wilson admitted that the certificate of registration "means nothing legally. It holds no legal boundaries or connotations at all."

By virtue of the city council's vote, homosexual couples can go to Eureka Springs and register their partnership and receive a certificate. While some companies like AT&T, Cisco Systems, and Kraft Foods will extend domestic partner benefits on the basis of that certificate, the registry does not confer any legal standing that, for instance, would force other Arkansas towns to recognize the relationship.

"It is just a piece of paper that says these two people are in a relationship and are committed to each other," Mayor Wilson said. "That's

all."

The church's 'prophetic voice'

In the opinion of those opposed to the city council's decision, however, that's not all the piece of paper says. It represents a promotion of the homosexual lifestyle.

Rev. Wilson said, "God wants everybody to have the best possible life. Anything that deteriorates from the quality of life, God would like to call us away from that, and I put homosexuality in that context."

It was the church's responsibility, he added, to take a stand against the promotion of homosexuality. "What I've learned out of this is the importance of the prophetic voice of the church," he told OneNewsNow. "God calls us as a prophet occasionally, and our job is to speak the words and the message of God - even, if necessary, in a hostile environment." (See related article)

There's little doubt that homosexuals play a huge role in the life of Eureka Springs. KTHV said that, of the roughly 2,000 people who live there, about 400 are homosexual. That's a whopping 20 percent of the population - far in excess of the approximately 2-3 percent of the U.S. population as a whole who are gay or lesbian.

The website EurekaSprings.com considers the gay-friendly atmosphere a positive thing. "Sometimes people ask us, 'Is it true that Eureka

continued on page 7

Perspectives: Eureka! Exclaim gay activists

by Ed Vitagliano

OneNewsNow.com - It's a little town in Arkansas with a name connected to Christian traditions by virtue of events like The Great Passion Play, and places to visit such as Christ of the Ozarks, the Bible Museum, and Thorncrown Chapel. Now, however, the name of Eureka Springs is also connected to controversy over the homosexual agenda.

If that sounds incongruous, it also came as a surprise to the Rev. Philip Wilson, pastor of First Christian Church in Eureka Springs, when he found out what the city council had done. In May the town's leadership unanimously approved an ordinance that allows homosexual couples to register as domestic partners, making Eureka Springs the first city in Arkansas to have such a registry.

Rev. Wilson has led an effort to resist the council's decision. "This is an issue of City Hall, the city council with six votes making a moral decision for an entire city," he told KTHV, the CBS affiliate in Little Rock.

'We deserve civil rights'

Those in favor of the domestic partner registry, like Mayor Dani Wilson, have lauded the council. "It was an historic day for the city of Eureka Springs and the state of Arkansas," she told the Carroll County News as 18 gay couples signed up at city hall on June 22, the day the registry officially opened. "And I'm

Land Purchase

(Specifically Designated for Land)
Capitol Association
Little Creek, Perkinston
Paramount, Perkinston
Riverside, Ellisville
Ten Mile Association

SPECIAL PROJECTS DURING SUMMER

House Repair

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Holifield, Laurel
Marjorie Harper

Remodel Music Rooms

BMA of South Alabama

Land Clean-Up

Big Creek Association
Washington Association
Marjorie Harper

Total Received:

Special Emphasis	\$19,454.98
Land Purchase	13,500.00
House Repair	2,500.00
Remodel music Rooms	1,500.00
Land cleanup	1,350.00
Total	\$38,304.98

Thank the Lord for all His blessings, and thanks to each one who contributed.

Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP

A Thankful Heart

As God's people we are keenly aware of the bountiful blessings that He has bestowed upon us. Our hearts should continuously be filled with thanksgiving.

Understanding that the attitude of our nation is changing and that references to God and His Word are constantly being assaulted by various groups, and even government entities, let us be ever mindful that it is to Him that we are to offer thanks and to Him that we owe the blessings of life.

As we gather with family, friends and our fellow believers this holiday season, let us honor the One to whom honor is due and let us bow before Him with a humble, thankful heart. It is about our honoring Him for the blessings of life and not about the holiday sales or about the time off from work.

Have a heartfelt time of giving thanks to the One to whom thanks is due.



Don Brown
Editor

is that we have been recognized by their government as a humanitarian NGO (Non Governmental Organization). This has been a miracle of all miracles since starting this ministry. Imagine if you will, an Islamic Republic recognizing such an organization, but yet, this has happened. We are going to be sending Shepherd Bags to Pakistan this coming year. If you would like to be involved in this great adventure, please feel free to fill as many bags as you can because our goal is 20,000 bags! So we will need your help again this coming year. The Shepherd Bags Ministry is an on-going ministry. This is not only a Christmas ministry as we fill bags all year long and they are shipped as soon as we get them ready.

It seems so inadequate to say "thank you" but please accept our thanks for participating in this God sanctioned ministry. Please keep us in your prayers as we try to be a blessing to those that are less fortunate than we are. Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 25:40, And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me.

-Evangelistic International Ministries

Reader views guest speaker as a 'Disgrace'

Dear Editor,

While reading my October Mississippi Baptist paper, an article noting a person of another Baptist faith was invited to speak in our seminary, made me think - what a disgrace. Our seminary is older than our association. Many have gone through its doors. Now, someone is saying there is no one qualified in our faith to speak on chosen subjects. It is a slap in the face to our seminary and those who have taught for so many years. We are saying that the seminary did a poor job in teaching our students. Brethren, it is past time for our associational churches to honor those who our seminary has served faithfully. To make it worse some of the money I tithed to the church paid for his



"I'm sorry you didn't like my sermon Sunday, but I really didn't care for your snoring either!"

A book review by Patsy Campbell



Is Love Enough?
By Glenda Haynes
Baptist Publishing House, 1997
ISBN#0-89114-244-4

This book covers a variety of

topics and is a wonderful tool for women who are looking to improve the family dynamic. The author draws on her experience as a wife, mother, grandmother, and school-teacher as well as the truth of God's Word to guide the reader to better relationships. The author points to a practical use of John 15:9,11,12 in every relationship.

This two-part book covers some of the most common stresses in marriage: Will he meet all my needs? Will our lives be perfect? Will I always be number one? It addresses communication dilemmas, arguments and the best ways to resolve conflict, questions of fidelity, and financial stresses.

The second part of the book gives practical solutions for the most common topics concerning children. This section of the book will not only be beneficial to parents but also for grandparents, school teachers, church youth workers or any one who has a child in their life.

Who should read this book? Engaged couples - be forewarned of some of the pitfalls in a marriage. Newlyweds - learn to avoid some problems. New parents - Be able to be more Godly parents. Sunday School teachers - become more sensitive to how to help your class.

Is Love Enough? would be a wonderful gift for a bridal or baby shower or a great study book and conversation starter for a young women's Bible study group or small group. It is available to order through DiscipleGuide Publishing and can be ordered by calling 1-800-333-1442 or by going online at www.discipleguide.org

Is Love Enough? Trust God and it will be.

Letters From Our Readers

A great year for the Shepherd Bags Ministry

A song that was sung by Ray Boltz says, "Thank you for giving to the Lord for I am a life that was changed." This is how we feel about your involvement in the Shepherd Bags Ministry.

This year has been the most exciting year of our ten year history. God has opened Heaven on this ministry. Tens of thousands have come to know Christ. Lives have been changed. Children have been blessed and for that we give thanks unto God.

This year because of the involve-

ment of the churches and individuals in participating in this ministry, we have been able to send 14,208 Shepherd Bags to various places where BMA missionaries are working. GMA's, WMA's, Sunbeams, Awana children, VBS & various other groups and individuals have made all of this possible! Since this ministry was started, we have shipped out over 64,000 bags to needy children all over the world. Imagine if you will, a child receiving this gift in the name of Jesus and watch their eyes as they get bigger and bigger because they have never received anything like this in all of their lives. What a thrill it is to know that we have been blessed to be a part of such a great ministry.

An exciting development that happened in the country of Pakistan

Mississippi Baptist

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National Missions Department News

Call for relief funds!

Several nations are in need of our financial help because of recent devastating floods. The people have suffered the loss of their homes, possessions and even family members. Many of these will be unemployed and unable to care for their families. Pray for all who have been affected by these storms. Some of the nations affected include: Ghana, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Mexico and Dominican Republic. We have already sent \$10,000 to Missionary Paul Heuermann in Ghana. Should you feel led to give you may do so by mailing your offering to BMAA Department of Missions, P. O. Box 30910, Little Rock, Arkansas 72260. Please mark your check and envelop "RELIEFFUNDS."

One more BMMI Trip this year! You can still go with us!

The Lord willing and enabling we will minister in the Dominican Republic December 1-8. We invite you to go with us. Call our office and speak to Doris at 501-455-4977 for further information. Pray for this team as they make preparation to go in the name of the Lord to reach the lost.

Senior Adults gave generously to help build a medical clinic in the nation of Laos

One of BMMI's goals for 2008 is to build a medical clinic along the Meking River that will minister to literally thousands of people and provide a wonderful opportunity to share the Gospel with people who have not yet heard of Jesus Christ. Dr. Ralph Izard and his team visited in the area some

months ago, and recently Bro. Jerry Kidd led a ground breaking ceremony for this much needed region. The cost is estimated to be about \$30,000.

When this was presented at the recent Senior Adult Conference in Branson, Missouri, God stirred the hearts of our people and they gave over \$16,000. Isn't that marvelous! All we can say is Glory to God in the Highest! It is wonderful to see where the hearts of our people are - on the masses of people who need to hear about Jesus. Thanks, Senior Adults of the BMAA! May God richly reward you for your generosity!

Arkansas WMA decides to raise the remainder

The day after the Senior Adults gave their offering to build the medical clinic in Laos, the Arkansas State WMA voted to raise the remaining \$15,000 it will take to complete the project! This will be their project for 2008. We thank these ladies for sharing the load of building this medical facility. May God's blessings rest upon our ladies as they labor to provide this great need. We pray God will use this facility to His glory and that through its ministry thousands of precious souls will be saved!

Christmas Shoe Boxes are on their way!

Over 5,000 Christmas Shoe Boxes are somewhere between Little Rock, Arkansas and Cambodia. Pray that they will get there in good condition and that God will bless all who provided them, and especially for those who will receive them. Pray that God will use these gifts of love to open the hearts

and homes of people who have never heard of Jesus Christ, and God's wonderful plan of redemption. Thank you for being such a generous people. Thank you for helping us, not only reach our goal of 3,000, but almost doubling it.

10,000 Visionaries Needed!

Bro. Don Collins, former Executive Director of BMAA Missions initiated our Visionary Program twenty-five years ago. Those who join the Visionary Program agree to invest \$25.00 on an annual basis. The money received by the BMAA Department of Missions is placed in a fund which is annually divided between the North American Revolving Loan Fund, and the International Revolving Loan Fund to loan to our missionaries to help purchase land and construct buildings. (These loans are interest free for the first five years. As the funds are repaid they are available for additional loans to other missionaries.

Your help is needed! We need 10,000 new Visionaries who will covenant to give \$25.00 each year. As you know, the cost of land and building materials is astronomical and is making it all but impossible to construct places of worship. Mission churches also have a very difficult time obtaining loans from lending institutions since they have no financial history or credit rating.

We would welcome your help in enlisting 10,000 new Visionaries! Pray about it and call the Missions office in Little Rock, Arkansas (501-455-4977).

Your prayers are needed

Join The BMAA Intercessory Prayer Force!

We have asked God to give us 5,000 prayer warriors who will pray daily for BMAA missionaries. If you have not enrolled as yet, why not call 501-455-4977 and enlist today!



Mississippi Baptist Children's Home Annual Spcial Emphasis - Our Needs - \$30,000

Helping Children
Understand
Their Heritage

Psalm 127:3



Mississippi State W.M.A.

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

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

Mississippi State Corresponding Secretary's Report

by Shirlene Smith

Thank you to each WMA and each individual lady who contrib-

uted to the Mississippi State WMA project this past year. Following are the final totals for the 2006-2007 project:

25% General Fund (plus designated offerings) \$2,108.74
75% Building Fund for Bro. Ed Duvall in Cleveland 5,579.68
Total received 7,688.42

Listed below are the churches who gave \$100.00 or more to the Mississippi State project this past year.

1. Berean Baptist, Soso
2. Big Creek Baptist, Soso
3. First Baptist, Calhoun
4. First Baptist, Louin
5. First Baptist, Shady Grove
6. Grace Baptist, Saucier
7. Good Hope Baptist, Stringer
8. Hopewell Baptist, Laurel
9. Lebanon Baptist, Laurel
10. Oakland Baptist, Vicksburg
11. O'Neal Road Baptist, Gulfport
12. Parkview Baptist, Laurel
13. Pleasant Hill Baptist, Saucier
14. Sand Hill Baptist, Lucedale
15. Shiloh Baptist, Steens
16. Skyway Hills Baptist, Pearl
17. Springhill Baptist, Laurel
18. Ten Mile Baptist, Perkinston
19. Temple Baptist, Biloxi
20. Temple Baptist, Lucedale
21. Vardaman Street Baptist, Wiggins

Our project for 2007- 2008 is Brother Estuardo Marroquin and the EL Camino Mission land fund. Please keep this in mind they are in need of a larger meeting place. Send all project money to Mrs. Shirlene Smith, 730 Jasper Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443.

Our officers for 2007-2008 year are Jean Knight, president; Kay Chisholm, First VP; Myrtis Mallett, Second VP; Cindy Jones, Third VP; Shirlene Smith, Corresponding Secretary; Barbara White, Assistant Cor. Sec.; Louise Crawley, Recording Secretary; Jeanelle Burkes, Assistant Rec. Sec.; Chris Smith, Historian; Donna Lawrence, Editor; Cindy Clark, Pianist; Anita Akers, Song Leader; Beth Caldwell, GMA-YLA Promoter; Linda Dertinger, Sunbeam Promoter; Lynn McCoy & Diane Rainey, Project Promoters; Peggy Thomaston, Retreat Committee Chairman; Chris Smith & Jean Knight, Co-chairs.

All WMA officers will serve on the Retreat Committee.
Jean Knight, President
Donna Lawrence, Editor

Two associations gave \$100.00 or more to the project:

1. Hobolochitto District WMA
2. Washington District WMA

The top five churches in contributions to the project were

1. Vardaman Street Baptist, Wiggins \$1,184.32
2. Big Creek Baptist, Soso 605.00
3. Temple Baptist, Lucedale 545.00
4. First Baptist, Louin 520.00
5. Skyway Hills Baptist, Pearl 414.00

The Mississippi State WMA project selected for 2007-2008 is 25% General Fund and 75% Land Fund for Hispanic Missionary Estuardo Marroquin who is working in Laurel, MS. This, too, is such a worthy project. Please send your offerings to Shirlene Smith, 730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443.

The audit for this past year has just been completed by Mrs. Delia Priest and follows this report. Thanks to Mrs. Delia for this service that she provides for the WMA with no compensation.

May God bless us all with the best year in service for Him during 2007-2008.

State WMA Meeting Report

The 2007 annual WMA meeting was held in the chapel of Southeastern Baptist College on October 22, 2007. Dr. Medrick Savell welcomed us to the college.

After the opening prayer, Vylinda Matte, from the Trinity Association of Covington, Louisiana, came to promote their ladies retreat entitled 'Kick Of Your Shoes' for April 11-12, 2008. Mrs. Mary Sprayberry and Mr. Travis Plumlee will be the speakers with music provided by Mrs. Sue Husser. The retreat will be at the Holiday Inn on Highway 190.

Brother Paul Lee spoke about the Women's Prison Ministry. There has been 957 WMA Bible study books provided prisons in Mississippi, Texas, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and California. There have also been 200 of these study books sent to Ocala, Florida to a prison that has 3,000 women prisoners.

Brother Ken Riley from Vardaman Street Baptist Church was our speaker for the night. He spoke on

'The Good News' from Ephesians 6:10 and Romans 1:16. He challenged each of us to see what a difference we could make IF we would spread the good news one door at a time.

He also shared some slides of the mission trip that he had taken with Brethem Steven Crawley, Justin Rhoades and Larry Barker and Sister Jennifer Bullock to visit Beirut, Lebanon. He shared just how much danger that missionaries face today as they prepared their wills and set things in order for their departure. This should be an eye opener for each of us to pray and support our foreign missionaries daily.

Mrs. Barbara White gave Brother Ken Riley the right hand of appreciation for such a timely message. Our fields are white unto harvest with such few workers for the Lord. Myrtis Mallett used the theme 'Teach Me Thy Ways, O Lord' for the installation of the officers for 2007-2008.

The top five churches that gave to the project are as follows, Vardaman Street Wiggins, \$1,184.32; Big Creek, SoSo, \$605.00; Temple,

Couples Christmas Retreat December 7-8

Hilton DFW Lakes • Grapevine, Tex.

Room Rates \$109 • Make your hotel reservations at (800) 984-1344

\$25 per Couple

Sessions — Friday 9 p.m. & Saturday 9 a.m.

Guest Speakers: Terry Kimbrow, Kirk Shelton & Donny Parrish

Worship: Steven Carroll

*Stirring Worship • Great Teaching • Fellowship • Shopping
Couple Time Alone • Relaxation • Fun*

That's what Couple Christmas Retreat is all about!

Make plans now to attend this new DCM event.

*For more details and to register, go to www.bma-dcm.org
or phone the DCM office at (501) 513-3726.*

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Virgil Ainsworth

Bro. Virgil T. Ainsworth is available for pastoral ministry or pulpit supply as the Lord leads. He recently resigned as pastor of Spencer Memorial Baptist Church, Pascagoula, Mississippi. He may be reached by calling 601-729-8059 or 228-218-2263.

Alan Smith

Bro. Alan Smith is available for service. He is 33 years old and a member of Fairview Baptist Church, Laurel. He may be reached at 601-422-9641.

Dale Wyrick

Dale Wyrick is available for service. He may be reached at 228-369-14149 or 228-369-8042. He is a member of Faith Baptist Church, Escatawpa.

March 13, 2008
BMA of Mississippi
Missions Conference
Skyway Hills
Baptist Church
Pearl, Mississippi
8:30 am - 8:30 pm

Pop Hearts

I am not much of a breakfast eater. I never really have been. I guess I 'trained' myself as such when I would rather grab a few more minutes of sleep before the bus came to take me to school than spend that time having some bacon and eggs.

As I've gotten older, I still very rarely eat breakfast (which I am learning is one cause of unhealthy weight gain, but that is another story for another time), but I do enjoy breakfast foods. The Cracker Barrel and the Huddle House - that's good eating. And on occasion, Ginny will make some sausage, eggs, bacon, with a little side of fruit and we will have that for supper. But if you want to know what I believe is nature's perfect breakfast food is, It's Pop Tarts.

I love Pop Tarts. And I can even remember when the addition of frosting (not to mention when they began putting sprinkles on them) was new and 'exciting'. Walking down the breakfast aisles in the grocery stores now is quite the treat. Pop Tarts have come a really long way. Some are still very plain and basic. Others have frosting on them and a dash of color with all those sprinkles. Some even have little twists to them

- S'mores flavor has frosting on top and on the INSIDE! And I have recently noticed that a lot more flavors have been added to the line - Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough (I

can hear it now - "Come on, kids, time for a healthy breakfast. Let's have some Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough Pop Tarts!"), wild Berry flavors of all kinds, and my new favorite,

Mint Chocolate Chip. After all, nothing says breakfast like an ice cream flavored pastry.

And you can enjoy Pop Tarts in any fashion. You can eat them raw (actually just unheated). Or you could heat them up - the Pop is for 'popping' out of the toaster. And now the new 'thing' is to freeze them. They can be hot, they can be cold, they can be instantly ready - it's the perfect food for nourishment on the go.

Could you be somebody's Pop Tart? Or maybe the owner of a Pop Heart? People come in a variety of personalities that allows them influence over certain groupings of people. Some folks are very plain and basic with all that they do. Others are a little sweet inside and out. And more still are flashy and colorful. A lot of different flavors of living

to offer nourishment to other people in the form of love and encouragement. And remember the words of our Lord when He spoke to the church at Laodicea - He rebuked them for not being hot or cold. And if we would nourish others, we must be one or the other.

Hot in the case for our Pop Hearts would be warm comfort offered to those around us. Cold, as in properly frozen, would be a treat to refresh those around us. And what about just plain old right out of the box? Doesn't the Bible tell us to be 'instant in season, out of season' always ready to offer refreshment from the Lord to others? Do you have a Pop Heart? Then I would encourage you - discover the flavor of your personality, determine the means by which you might refresh others, and let us each begin to supply quick nourishment to those around us in our hectic world. It's a sweet way to love - and a tasty way to live.

Eureka Springs

from page 3

Springs is a haven for gays and lesbians? Well, yes," the site says. "Eureka Springs is also a haven for families, church groups, astrologers, lawyers, artists, musicians, accountants ... we're a diverse community in every sense of the word."

The website promotes the city's "gay-friendly lodging" as well as locations and even churches which would allow a gay couple to experience a "commitment ceremony" or "holy union."

Tourism threatened

But that gay-friendly reputation is one of the things that bothers Rev. Wilson. "My sadness is Eureka Springs is being marketed more and more as a homosexual destination," he told KTHV.

Of course, no one is arguing that homosexuals shouldn't be allowed to congregate in a small town and create a gay-friendly culture, as is apparently happening in Eureka Springs. However, that reality is putting the resort town on a collision course with its huge Christian tourism base. For example, for almost 40 years some seven-million people have come from all over the world to see the nation's largest and arguably most popular outdoor drama, the Great Passion Play, which covers the last two weeks of the life of Christ.

Will Eureka Springs' decision to create the domestic partner registry cause that flow to become a trickle?

On July 12, Eureka Springs pub-

continued on page 8

Commission on Senior Adults

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



Greetings

Since my last report the time has changed and we have had our first frost here in South Mississippi. We are grazing on Turnip and Mustard greens and they are fine. The Lord is good to His people.

Visits

On October 6, we attended the annual meeting of the Big Creek Association which met at Shiloh Baptist Church, Mt. Olive. I had the privilege of preaching the Annual message. Then on Sunday October 7, we were back at Shiloh for the Morning service. I led in the dedication of two babies to the Lord. It was good to be back at Shiloh.

My wife and I, along with brother and Mrs. Mack McKee attended the National Senior Adult Conference in Branson. This was a great meeting indeed. There were over 750 in attendance. Every part of the program was great. The music was top quality and the preaching was as good as I ever heard. An offering was received for a building to house a clinic in Southern Laos. Over \$16,000.00 was given. Brother Donny Parrish told us that the young people at the last SOAR gave over

\$10,000.00 to a mission project. It is good to attend meetings like this. It will lift one's spirit, enlarge one's vision, and will change the attitude of an honest heart. I commend brother Donny Parrish and his staff for bringing us such a wonderful meeting.

New Support

We welcome the Bethel Baptist Church, Louise, to the list of regular givers to the Commission. Brother Ralph Fuller, Jr. is the good pastor at Bethel.

New Trustees

We welcome brother Bob Conrad, pastor Wilderness Baptist Church, Vicksburg, and Brother Joe Arick, member of Woodland Baptist Church, Columbus to the board of trustees.

From our house to yours

The Trustees of the Commission, along with Dot and I wish for all our churches, with their pastors a most enjoyable Thanksgiving and Christmas season. May God, the giver of all good gifts richly bless each one of you. May Christ be honored and praised by His children.

DiscipleGuide Offers Christmas Weekend December 7-8, 2007

Christmas is right around the corner! How would you like to stay the weekend in a 5-star hotel, be right at the doorstep of some of the greatest shopping areas in the south, participate in stirring worship and great teaching from God's Word, and get a weekend away with your spouse? That's exactly what Couples Christmas Weekend is all about!

DiscipleGuide is offering this exciting, fun weekend for married couples to enjoy each other and other Christian couples on December 7-8 at the Hilton DFW Lakes Hotel in Grapevine, Texas. Besides the fact that the Hilton Lakes is a first-class facility, one of the great advantages of the hotel is that it is located right across the street from the famous Grapevine Mills Outlet Mall and one of the largest Bass Pro Stores in the world! Other wonderful shopping venues are just minutes away.

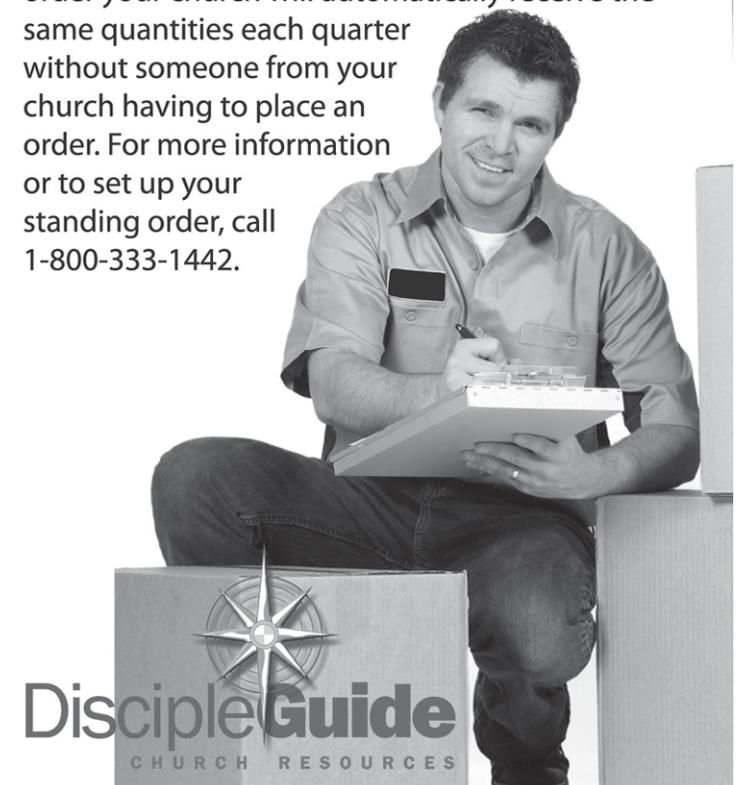
The two-day getaway will feature teaching from DCM consultants Kirk Shelton and Terry Kimbrow while worship will be led by Steven Carroll. Worship will begin late on Friday night (9:00 pm) and a second session will be held on Saturday morning (9:00 am). The rest of the day will be used for Christmas shopping. There will be plenty of relaxation and fun including the DCM version of The Newlywed Game. Donny invites you to stay over Saturday night at the group rate and be his guest for Sunday worship in his home church at Fellowship in Forney, Texas.

DiscipleGuide Conference Director, Donny Parrish, says that our goal is to give BMA couples an opportunity to get away and focus on each other for a weekend. "Christmas can be a hectic, even a sad time for some. We want to provide a ministry opportunity for Christian couples as well as allow them plenty of leisure time."

Cost for the weekend is only \$25 per couple. DCM has obtained a special rate of \$109 per night at the Hilton DFW Lakes. To register for this event online go to www.bma-dcm.org or call the DiscipleGuide Conference Ministry office at 501-513-3726. To book your room call Hilton DFW Lakes at 1-800-984-1344 and tell them you are with the Couples Christmas Weekend. Happy Shopping!

Standing Orders Are Now Available to Churches

For your convenience DiscipleGuide Church Resources now offers standing orders for your literature purchases. With a standing order your church will automatically receive the same quantities each quarter without someone from your church having to place an order. For more information or to set up your standing order, call 1-800-333-1442.



DiscipleGuide
CHURCH RESOURCES

BMA of Mississippi MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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



Wallace Williams Divine Grace Mission, Long Beach

We are still rejoicing in the Lord for He is faithful and we are grateful. On behalf of Divine Grace Baptist Church I want to thank all of you for your prayers, support, and encouragement. September and October were good months and God has blessed. We had Bro. Gary Smith in revival the first week of September and had a lady from our deaf minis-



Bro. & Mrs.
Wallace Williams

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each week since with the last Sunday of October at 57. We also had another lady saved that was witnessed to by one of our lady members and we had one join by letter. For the month of September we averaged 41 in Sunday School, 52 in morning worship and 30 for the Sunday evening service.

In October we had another person join by letter and a couple of families have been visiting and show interest in becoming a part of this ministry. We averaged 44 in Sunday School, 51 in morning worship and 30 in

evening worship. Progress in the building is still moving forward. It is doubtful we will have the sanctuary ready by Christmas. The trim work is very time consuming and our trim man is limited to the amount of time he can work. We will be patient with him because I believe we have the best trim man on the coast. On the positive side, my office is finished and that has really encouraged me after waiting two years since Katrina. Keep us in your prayers and come visit when you can. We love you all and praise God for you.

Kevin Marr Lifepointe Mission, Hernando

One recent Sunday, I preached on Matthew 7:21-23 where Jesus talks about those that know about Him and even know how to serve Him, but have never truly met Him. It is sad to consider that some of those who are the most talented speakers and the most diligent workers will never enjoy the glories of heaven simply because they never truly knew Jesus. My hope is that those God has placed in this mission have truly met Jesus and are walking



Bro. & Mrs. Kevin Marr

lies, and weddings," he said. "And not only is this a moral issue and a marriage issue, it's an economic issue."

What now?

Rev. Wilson tried to keep the city council from making what he considers both a moral and an economic mistake. He took out ads in two local newspapers protesting the domestic partner registry and spoke out against it before the city council itself. He also tried to get other churches in Eureka Springs active in the battle. With the exception of one other church, none of the pastors wanted to get involved.

Rev. Wilson attempted to get voters involved by helping to gather signatures on a petition. That would have made the registry a matter that voters could decide in a referendum, rather than leaving it in the hands of a mayor and city council who were clearly enthusiastic for the gay-friendly measure. However, both petition drives were rejected on technical grounds by Mary Jean Sell, the city clerk.

Rev. Wilson admitted that he'd had difficulties with such matters. "I'm a preacher, not a politician nor an attorney," he said.

But AFA founder and chairman Don Wildmon said concerned citizens in the community could have and should have done more to help Rev. Wilson prevent the council's action.

"This is basically the result of a commu-

nity refusing to do anything [or to] get involved because this has been going on - it's been in secret, but it's public knowledge now," Wildmon said. "So it's going to be up to the individuals in Eureka Springs and the surrounding area to try to resolve this situation."

with Him each and every day.
We had the joy this month of hosting our first ever Fall Festival. It was called "Wild, Wild West Fall Fest" and as you can imagine it had a western theme. We had loads of fun setting it all up and then offering a safe alternative to the Halloween festivities that abound on October 31. I am thrilled to say that our festival was a great success with a large number of our people actively participating in set-up, manning booths, and clean-up, as well. We had the joy of sharing the Gospel with every child that came through the festival and enjoyed meeting a new family from the community! Praise be to our amazing God for His miraculous works!

Due to our new Fall Schedule that includes Sunday lunch and afternoon classes for adults and children, we have seen a slight increase in our attendance this month. While it may not look that big to an outsider, to us, it is exciting to see some of the "fringe" people getting more involved at LifePointe. Please continue to pray for numerical growth as we constantly look for new ways to meet people in Desoto County.

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve the great state of Mississippi as a missionary. I am praying for our mission work across the state and around the world believing that God is going to use us in some way to either start or help build upon that last great revival before His return!

nity refusing to do anything [or to] get involved because this has been going on - it's been in secret, but it's public knowledge now," Wildmon said. "So it's going to be up to the individuals in Eureka Springs and the surrounding area to try to resolve this situation."

His suggestion? Christians should take the issue to the ballot box. "If they want to preserve their city and what it's known for and the way it's been viewed for scores of years now, I would suggest they get busy replacing the mayor and the city council," he said. "Or at least [call for] a referendum to override this sanctioning of [what is], in essence, civil unions."

John McAteer, sales and marketing director for The Great Passion Play, said there was nothing his organization could do about the council's decision, and he hoped that Christians would not hold the Passion Play responsible.

"We are a shining light in a community of darkness," he told OneNewsNow. "And the best thing that a Christian can do is come and support and help us, and what a great mission field we have here." (See related article)

McAteer suggested that Christians could make their voice heard by supporting God-honoring businesses and events in Eureka Springs. "If everyone stays away, this shining light in this community will go out."

March 13, 2008
BMA of Mississippi
Missions Conference
Skyway Hills Baptist Church
Pearl, Mississippi
8:30 am - 8:30 pm



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara
White

Medication

I was listening to a newscast the other day and the reporter said that the United States makes up about 4.5% of the World's population BUT we consume 42% of the medications available to the world.

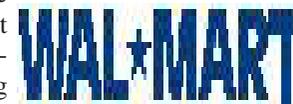
Now what's wrong with that picture? Are Americans so spoiled that they can't tolerate pain? But you know, it didn't just start with this generation. Remember seeing the path to the door of a house being outlined with colorful medicine bottles - usually blue? And we've seen bottle trees and I suppose most of those are medicine bottles.

Maybe we need to be reminded of what a wise man wrote years ago. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." Proverbs 17:22.

Modern medical researchers are discovering the value of laughter in healing. Took them a long time to discover what Solomon knew all those years ago.

Calendars in Wal-Mart create soft-porn crisis, says decency advocate

OneNewsNow.com - The head of a pro-family group promoting cultural decency says reports indicate that retail giant Wal-Mart began selling



2008 calendars that focus on sex appeal, and that many patrons found them pornographic.

Bill Johnson of American Decency Association says Wal-Mart retail patrons from several regions of the country are witness to the placing of Maxim magazine and Sports Illustrated swimsuit calendars near the check-out counters, both of which he contends feature pornographic photographs of women. "This is a great concern, and it's very important for us as Christians to be the salt and the light at this time," says Johnson.

He recalls that his local outlet did respond to his complaints last year and removed the offensive calendars. Johnson warns that if Christians do not speak out to Wal-Mart management at the local level, the retailer will continue to place such magazines and calendars in plain view year after year. "So, this is a season, this is a time of year right now [to] speak up at your local Wal-Mart, at the very least," encourages Johnson. "If there's little to no outrage, then this will become normative."

Johnson suggests speaking to store management and calling Wal-Mart's toll-free number to express concerns.

Eureka Springs

from page 7

licist Ken Rundel told KHBS/KHOG, the ABC affiliates in Fort Smith and Fayetteville, Arkansas, that he had been getting pounded with e-mails protesting the registry - at least 6,600 of which came from Arkansans who had heard about the vote from the American Family Association (AFA), a family advocacy group based in Mississippi.

"There are people making statements that they're not coming back," Rundel said. "Church groups, youth groups are not coming back because of the activities that we now promote in Eureka Springs."

The EurekaSprings.com website is a perfect example. What it describes as a sign of the city's presumably progressive attitude would make many parents very uneasy: "Walk through Eureka Springs and you'll not only see diversity, but also tolerance and respect for the differences among us. Envision a place where a gallery displaying erotic art and a Bible store stand side by side. Imagine a group of bonneted Quakers parting company politely to pass around two men kissing on a corner."

That's the kind of stuff that will scare away many tourists, according to Rev. Wilson. "The problem is that Eureka Springs is a tourist destination. And our three greatest sources of income are religious groups, fami-