

# Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

NOVEMBER 15, 2008

Vol. 62 No. 22

**MERGE MISSISSIPPI**  
*Youth Event Coming To Mississippi in January*  
*“To cause to combine... Unite!”*

January 3, 2009

Big Creek Baptist Church  
Soso, Mississippi

The theme for SOAR 2009 is Fellowship! That same theme will be the focus for a one-day winter event that is exciting, new, and fresh right here in Mississippi! MERGE Mississippi is that event! The goal of MERGE is to provide an opportunity for Mississippi BMA youth groups to “Come Together” for a day of Biblical teaching, worship, and fellowship! The conference will take place at the Big Creek Baptist Church in Soso, Mississippi.

Speaker Steven Carroll, from Forney, Texas, will bring challenging and relevant messages. twoEMPTYchairs from Smackover, Arkansas, will be leading worship and there will be a pizza lunch for everyone who attends. It is going to be a GREAT event, so don't miss it!

Registration is \$25 per person and includes all sessions, lunch and T-shirt. You may register online at [www.DiscipleGuide.org](http://www.DiscipleGuide.org) by clicking on conferences then MERGE Mississippi or download a registration form and mail it to DCM with your check. Please have your group registered by December 8, 2008 to avoid a \$10 per person increase in registration and no t-shirt. All in attendance need to register and the fee is non-refundable after the deadline.

MERGE registration will begin on Saturday, January 3rd at 9:30 am in the foyer at Big Creek Church and the first session will start at 10:30 am. MERGE will conclude by 4:00pm that afternoon.

Call the DCM office if you have any questions, 501-513-3726.

See you there!

## Activist: 'Pastor to presidents' replaced by gay bishop

**OneNewsNow** - A conservative Christian activist says it's a sad omen for the Obama administration and the United States that Barack Obama has been seeking guidance from the Episcopal Church's first openly homosexual bishop.

The Times of London reports that the president-elect sought out New Hampshire homosexual bishop Vicki Gene Robinson for advice three times during his presidential campaign. Robinson, whose ordination in the Episcopal Church has caused a deep rift within the Anglican Communion, was reportedly sought out by Obama to discuss what it feels like to be "first."

Robinson notes in their three private conversations, Obama voiced his support for "equal civil rights" for homosexuals and described the election as a "religious experience." Peter Peter LaBarberaLaBarbera, president of Americans for Truth About Homosexuality, believes Obama's consultations with Robinson show the true tenor of his upcoming administration.

"It looks like Billy Graham has been replaced by a gay bishop. We're moving to, perhaps, our first anti-Christian president; it's beyond post-Christian. Gene Robinson advocates homosexuality as part of the Chris-

continued on page 3

## Arkansas Minister Dies of Malaria

Larry Markum, 62 of Cave Springs, Arkansas, former BMA of Arkansas missionary and director of Discipleship Training and Leadership

for Evangelistic International Ministries (EIM), died November 11, 2008 of Malaria, which he contracted on a recent EIM trip to Africa. Mike Goodwin of EIM said, "Brother Larry had been in Ghana and Nigeria and

came home November 2. He was already sick before he left and went into the hospital on November 5. Although they thought he had improved Monday, something happened that I'm sure only God can explain."

He served as missionary/pastor at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Bentonville, Arkansas, and Red Oak Baptist Church in Harrison, Arkansas, and was a member of Calvary Baptist Church at Fayetteville.

Survivors include his wife, the former Sherrie Branson; two sons, Jeremy Thompson of Centerton and Aaron Markum of Cave Springs; and a daughter, Amy Markum of Bella Vista.



Larry Markum

from Baptist Trumpet

## Arkansas Pastor's wife dies of injuries

Jill (Jarvis) Attebery, 34, of El Dorado, Arkansas died November 2 following an automobile accident the previous day. She was the wife of Scott Attebery, pastor of Wyatt Baptist Church, El Dorado, and the mother of three month old Bryce Attebery, both of whom were also involved in the wreck but were not badly injured.

She graduated from Texas A&M University (B.S. in Biomedical Science); Stephen F. Austin State University (B.S. in Nursing); and University of Central Arkansas (Masters in Nursing). Jill was also active in music



Jill Attebery

the VSM Ministry.

"Jill was a passionate person who overflowed with the love of Christ," said Youth Pastor Noah Hill in the Immanuel (Camden) church bulletin. "Her joy influenced everyone around her. She loved God and she loved people and you could see that in everything she did." "To say that Jill Attebery was 'involved' in ministry is actually an understatement," said Clif Johnson, pastor of Garrett Memorial Baptist Church in Hope. "Rather, she breathed ministry with the intent of spreading the fame of God in Christ."

Other survivors include her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Al Jarvis of Lufkin, Tex.; a brother, Andy Jarvis; and her inlaws, Former CBC President Charles Attebery and his wife, Janice. Funeral services were held Nov. 5 at the church, with Jonathan Baird, Clif Johnson, and Adam Thomas officiating.

Interment was at Rest Haven Memorial Gardens. Memorials may be sent to Wyatt Baptist Church, 4621 W. Hillsboro, El Dorado, Arkansas 71730.

from Baptist Trumpet

## Missions Training Seminar scheduled

The BMAA Department of Missions will host a missionary security training seminar on December 15-17, at the Missions Office in Little Rock, Arkansas. The seminar will be presented by Fort Sherman Academy from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, experts in missionary security training.

The seminar will deal with issues such as personal safety, hostile governments, interrogations, hostage situations, and terrorist acts against you

or your family members. The cost of the seminar is \$200 and those attending must make reservations. The participants are responsible for their own food and lodging.

This seminar is vital for present and future missionaries, as well as frequent international travelers.

For more information or reservations contact John David Smith at 501-455-4977 or [jdsmith@bmaam.com](mailto:jdsmith@bmaam.com).

Almighty God, who created family and family relationships,

Many books have been written about leaving home. Tomes of scripts have been published regarding the leaving home phenomena. Most poignant dramas have as a big part the "leaving home theme" of family members. Even Dr. Luke tells the story of the Younger Son who left home. Thank God he found his way back to the father's care! What a great story of every man who has done this and who needs to return home. There is great joy in the father's house. There is a big party going on in honor of the one who left and came back!

Most of the plays, movies, and other scenarios of the leaving home theme concern young people. Certainly many young

## Leaving Home

women and men go off to college each semester. Untold numbers go off each week to marriage. Those who are industrious go to work. Some leave home to be a part of military service. There are many reasons young people leave home. Some of the reasons are positive as I have mentioned. Some are negative as in the young people "run away to join the circus."

Not all family members leaving home are young people. My most recent experience of family leaving home is the older person leaving home to go to a nursing facility. Now this is poignant! The older person has to leave home due to

failing health. This is not something anyone wants to do. The older family member comes to inability for self-care. We do not plan for this in our most far-reaching thinking. Traumatic events burst into the life of the senior with no warning. Terrible and unspeakable illnesses eat the energy and mind of the older family member. Financial reversal or crisis forces the family member to leave his or her beloved home. Now this is poignant indeed!

The pathos cannot be measured in human terms. The anxieties of the senior living in a strange place are beyond computation. They are as paralyzing to the old as the same



### Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

kinds of fears are paralyzing to the young. So what I am asking today, Lord, is that You will be with those who are leaving home whether they are young or old. I ask especially for the old today. (The young seem to get over it with some life left ahead of them.)

All of us live "at home" in our comfort zone. The things around us are familiar. The sounds around us are known. Even the smells of our own home are ours—they are not mysterious. When children leave a

place, they go into some grief because they are not in their own place any more. They have lost something irreplaceable. Grief has teeth and it bites. So it is with my senior family members. They have lost place and identity. They are in a strange place. They are in grief. They hurt.

Bring dreams to fruition for my nursing home family and friends today, even as I pray. Build hope and health even when all seems hopeless and helpless. Find Your way to their rooms right now. Brighten, cheer, and buoy them today. May they know their real home is not in the nursing domicile. It is not even the place where they left at a certain street address to come to the facility. May they know their home is with You. You are preparing it as we speak, right now. Amen.

## 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.

### Hello from Ballardville.

On Saturday, October 25 Ballardville held our first "Day in the Park" Celebration to dedicate our walking track. The church sponsored a fish fry with the Dorsey/Friendship Fire Department doing the cooking. More than 150 plates were served. Games, face painting and even a little music was played. A great time was had by all. We hope this will become an annual event. Since the track was completed in June of this year we have seen many church members as well as members of the community making good use of this area.

On Saturday, November 1, our 55+ age group went on their annual trip to the Vardaman Sweet Potato Festival, beginning with breakfast at Shoney's then a fun day of fellowship at the festival.

We at Ballardville are truly blessed and feel that the Lord is preparing us for even greater things to come.

Bro. Thelbert Hill, Pastor  
Teresa Nichols, Reporter

### Bethel, Fulton

This report is for the month of October. A "Disciple Now" was held on the 3rd-4th. There were over 200 in attendance.

The Harmony Association meet-

ing was held on the 11th at Farmington in Corinth. Dr. Martin Jameson brought the message. A time of food and fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended.

A good group went to the Ronald McDonald House in Memphis on the 11th.

Homecoming was on the 12th and what a great day it was, after the morning message brought by Dr. Jameson, the church enjoyed a wonderful meal and fellowship.

On the 24th Elevate enjoyed a pizza, a hayride and then went back to the church to watch a movie. Thanks to all who made this possible.

Brotherhood breakfast was on the 26th. The children enjoyed a "Trunk or Treat" on the 26th and what a crowd turned out. Thanks to all who made this possible. Ya'll come to see us when you can!!

Dr. Martin Jameson, Pastor  
Joyce Cooley, Reporter

### Big Creek meetings

The Big Creek Association met with Good Hope Stringer in November. We will have three special events back to back. On December 11, the Children's Home rally will be hosted by Hopewell Church. Bro. Sydney Davis will bring the program. In January Lebanon Church will host a Seminary Rally. Dr. Charlie Holmes will bring the program. The Missionary committee is working on a special missions conference for February.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend these events.

Corbey Jones, Moderator

### Good Hope Baptist Church, Stringer

We saw the Lord save 20 souls in our October revival with Evangelist Donnie Guy, and have been able to baptize 16 of them. Five more have come on profession of faith since

then. God is truly blessing us. Our youth director, Bro. Blake Moss, has made known his call to the Gospel ministry and the church has licensed him. We wholeheartedly recommend him to all our sister churches. He will still continue to serve as our youth director, but we are willing to share him from time to time. Our youth department is planning a Disciple Now event in partnership with First Shady Grove on December 5-6. Please keep them and our church as a whole in your prayers.

Bethany Jones, reporter

### Harmony Association meets

The November meeting of the Harmony Associational Meeting was held Friday, November 8th at the Unity Baptist Church, Baldwin. Bro Eddie Boutwell, host pastor welcomed the churches and their delegates. Bro George Reddin of Lifeword Broadcast Ministries was introduced and brought the message using as his text Hebrews 1:1. Bro Eddie Boutwell gave Bro Reddin a hand of appreciation.

Moderator Tim Nall called the business meeting into session. There were 8 churches represented, with 54 present and 6 visitors. It was announced that the new minute books were available. Treasure report was read and approved. The December meeting will be held at Westview in Oxford, with Bro Eddie Boutwell as the speaker. The alternate is host pastor Dale Wirick. Reports were given by Bro. Elvis Garcia of First Hispanic in Ripley, and by Bro Estuardo Marroquin, of the Hispanic work in Laurel.

Bro Ray Freeman reported on Mission Projects in the state, with the possibility of new mission fields in the near future. Bro Reddin gave a report on work at Lifeword and its expanded presence throughout the

world.

We enjoyed a time of fellowship after we dismissed with food prepared by ladies of the church.

Bro. Tim Nall, Moderator  
Tony Marolt, Reporter

### Ten Mile Monthly Committee Meeting

The Ten Mile Committee Meeting was held at Ten Mile Baptist Church in Perkinston, on November 3, 2008. After an opening song and prayer Bro. Stan Bennett called for a welcome from the host church given by Bro. Chris Flynn and the response was given by Bro. Don Hilburn. After the normal preliminaries, the reading of the minutes and the treasury report, mission reports were called for.

Bro. Johnny Williams gave an excellent reported on Divine Grace Mission and Bro. Freeman gave a report on state missions. Bro. Sam Husser reported on the mission started in Slidell called Crossing Baptist Fellowship. Bro. Roger shared a good report from the State Brotherhood.

The host church invited Bro. Rene Ferret to come and share about the BEAMS ministry which distributes free bibles to foreign missionaries to give to new believers around the world. Afterwards Bro. Ferret preached from Genesis 39:1-7 about "Why was Joseph So Blessed." Invitation was given and the right hand of appreciation was extended by Bro. Johnny Williams for the message.

Bro. Stan Bennett, Moderator  
Dr. Eugene Anderson, Reporter

### First, Calhoun

First Baptist Church of Calhoun, near Laurel, will host a Fifth Sunday Sing on November 30, at 5:00 pm. Guests will be the Magnolia Boys and a group from Shady Grove Church.

### Lucedale church dedicates tower

A special service was hosted Sunday, November 2nd by Oak Grove Baptist Church of Lucedale to mark the dedication of the new bell tower. Incorporated into the monument was the marble plaque which was salvaged from the original memorial commemorating the lives of the five church members who were killed in an auto accident in 1969. Former pastor Ricky Mitchell of Seminary, Mississippi, was the guest speaker in the morning worship service. After the noon meal, Pastor Dr. Jerry Rice invited former Pastors James Brown, Sr., Milford Magers, John Stegall, Ricky Mitchell, and Nathan Brown to speak.

Family members, friends, and pastors then gathered with the congregation around the tower memorial for a dedication prayer in remembrance of the five ladies: Mrs. Mazelda (Fred) Brewer, Mrs. Marion (Tom) Cagle, Mrs. Louise (J.W.) Cook, Pastor's wife Mrs. Ophelia (Ripley) Comans and unborn child, and Mrs. Betty Jean (Larry) Eubanks. The ladies had traveled less than a mile from the church enroute to Mobile to visit a hospitalized church member when the accident occurred.

Both the original and the replacement monuments were built by brick masons Burt and Buddy Keel, brothers of Mrs. Cook.

All are invited to join us for a time of singing and fellowship. Refreshments will be served after the sing.

Cherrie Dearman, clerk

### Corinth, Runnelstown

Corinth Baptist Church, 8 miles east of Petal on Highway 42, will have a Gospel Sing on Sunday, November 17, at 1:30 pm.

# 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*

On Tuesday, November 11, the college hosted a number of guests and potential future students. Our guests were entertained and enjoyed lunch along with informed about the college. Below are some candid photos of the events of the day.

If you or someone you know are interested in attending Southeastern Baptist College, we ask that you contact Ronnie Kitchens at 601-426-6346.



Food, Fun,  
Activities



& Information  
for  
interested  
students



## My Gravy Bowl Runneth Over

It is Thanksgiving, and I want to thank you God for my abundant blessings. Yes, my gravy bowl runneth over. But I don't want to thank you just for the way you supply my food, and all that I need to sustain life. I want to thank you for life itself. My life is so hectic that I go way too long some days before I stop and thank you for your bountiful harvest that you bestow upon me. Regardless of what circumstances I may find myself in this Thanksgiving; I still live in the overflow. I live in abundance. I live under the shadow of the Almighty, and there is no better place to live.

Psalm 91:1,2 " He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge, and my fortress, my God; in him will I trust." The secret place of the Most High is heaven. That is where you are on your throne. I dwell there when I pray to you. I thank you that I don't just visit with you, but I DWELL there in your secret place. I love that you have given me the ability to linger in a lifestyle of prayer. I don't have to wait until I come home to heaven to spend time with you. You have given me a way to spend time with you while I am on earth. The Holy Spirit catapults me to be seated in the heavenlies when I pray to you.

Thank you God for the great gift of prayer. How I love to pray and praise you oh God.

You are MY GOD! My favorite phrase. Thank you God that you are not some impersonal God that is unapproachable and unreachable. You are not a statue. You are not a figment of my imagination as other little, lesser gods of other faiths are. You are the one true God, and there is no other. There is but one God - you. I thank you for being MY GOD. I can say "my God" because I have

believed in YOUR SON - My Savior. God, I want to thank you for saving me. Thank you for giving me a way to get to heaven. Thank you that the way is wide enough for all my family and friends to join me if they will choose to believe in Jesus Christ.



### Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

Thank you God that no matter how much sickness we have, we still have you as a divine healer. Thank you for being Jehovah Rapha - the God who heals. You will always heal us according to your wisdom and your plan. And I thank you that your will for me is good, acceptable and perfect. Thank you God that no matter what a hectic life I lead, you always can, and always have spoken peace to my heart. Jehovah Shalom - the God of peace. Sometimes you don't give me an answer that I see or understand. But you always give me a peace that passes my own ability to understand what is going on. Thank you for that blessed assurance. Thank you for the peace that moves across my troubled soul and stills my shaking heart.

Thank you God for never leaving me, nor forsaking me. You are always a very present help in times of trouble. You are my rock. You are my fortress. You are my deliverer. You are my high tower. You are the horn of my salvation. You are my buckler and shield. You are my strength. You are my God. All I have to do is call on you, and you will come to me and do great and mighty

things for me. How great are you, oh God!

Oh God, I want to thank you today not only for what you do for me. I want to thank you for who you are. You are my creator. You gave me life. You gave me life eternal through Christ. You gave me your spirit. You saved my soul. You are my friend.

You are my helper in all of life. You sustain me.

I thank you God for Jesus. He is my salvation. He gave me a new life. He gave me the joy of knowing that all the old things in my life are passed away, and he has made all things new. I thank you God for Jesus. He is my shepherd. He is my high priest. He intercedes on my behalf at your throne. He is my slain lamb, and my mighty Lion. He is my King. Oh God, I can never stop thanking you for Jesus. If I have nothing on Thanksgiving day, I still have everything. I have Jesus. No storm, no death, no disease, no disaster, no devil can ever separate me from your love in Christ Jesus.

Thank you God for sending me a counselor to get through this old hard life that is short and full of woe. I feel His presence move on me, and it causes me to praise and thank you every time. He guides me. He gives me wisdom to your truth. He comforts me.

Thank you God for placing your spirit inside of me and then sealing me up so that it is forever. No matter what. I am filled and sealed for the day of redemption. Hallelujah!

My cup runneth over. My spirit runneth over. My joy runneth over. Yes, even my gravy bowl runneth over. My abundance of material things that you have given to me, runneth over. You are the God of exceeding abundance. I thank you that you have invited me to sit at your table of abundance, and give to me generously. My God! Thank you!

## Activist: 'Pastor to presidents' replaced by gay bishop

from page 1

tian experience," he explains. "Now Bible-believing Christians cannot accept that. Homosexual practice is sinful, as taught by the scriptures. This man [Obama] pretends to be faithful to Christianity, even as he works very hard to undermine it."

LaBarbera suggests Robinson may possibly replace Jeremiah Wright as one of Obama's main spiritual advisers. Wright was Obama's Chicago pastor for 20 years before disassociating with the controversial preacher during the presidential campaign.

## AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

### Donald Sims

Bro. Donald Sims is available for pulpit supply and pastoral work as the Lord may lead. He can be contacted at 601-528-3295. He has pastored full time and part time churches in Mississippi.

### Freddie Mills

Bro. Freddie Mills is available for pulpit supply or pastor service. He may be reached at 601-441-4057.

## Being Born Again

Nicodemus, an influential Pharisee and a ruler of the Sanhedrin, asked Jesus this question, "How can a man be born when he is old?" Jesus responded in John 3:7 by saying, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." Jesus didn't say, "It perhaps might be nice in some unfortunate situation that per adventure you might just have a new birth." No, He said, "You must be born again." It is an absolute prime requisite. Do you know what we have done? We have begun to talk about Christians in categories. We say, "Well, he's a born-again Christian." May I tell you very plainly that saying "born-again Christian" is redundant and besides, that's the only kind there is! It's like saying female woman or tooth dentist. Jesus said, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

# Mississippi Baptist | Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

## A Thankful People

God's people are truly a people who have much to be thankful for. Regardless of our race, gender, nationality, economic or social positions, we are abundantly blessed by our Heavenly Father.

He loves us unconditionally and showers grace and mercy on us through His Son and our Savior - Jesus the Christ.

As we anticipate the bountiful tables we shall sit at, as we gather with loved ones to visit, as we enjoy the festivities of the season, and yes, the football games too, let us be ever mindful from whence cometh our blessings.

Has there ever been a people so blessed as God's people? Has there ever been a nation that owes so much to the care and mercy of our Heavenly Father? I think that we surely should take this Thanksgiving season and savor it as no other.

The economy is in turmoil, our nation's direction from both a political viewpoint and a social viewpoint is uncertain. In all of this we know we have a savior who watches over us and who has only our best in mind. Let us remember who we are and what He has done for us and what He is going to do. As Paul wrote to the people at Colosse, "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." Col. 3:15.

Have a good Thanksgiving season and let us all be thankful.



Don Brown  
Editor

## Letters From Our Readers

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

### A Christian Response to the Election of Barack Obama

Dear Editor,

As I sat watching election returns on Tuesday night, I felt, in the words of Job, as though, the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me. (Job 3:25) I was disappointed, disturbed and, to say the least, dismayed. Over the last few days I have seen that I am not the only one who has felt that way. People to whom I have talked have expressed everything from fear to physical illness (literally) over the prospect of an Obama presidency and yet that is exactly where we are. And, as is always the case, we must deal with life as it is, not as we wish it to be.

As Christians, our first duty, in every situation and circumstance of life is to respond in light of Scripture. The Psalmist said, O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments. Psalms 119:5-6) We are not free to follow our emotions or the flesh. Instead, we must look to our Bibles and ultimately to our God if we would respond rightly.

With that in mind, I suggest a Christian response to the election of Barack Obama.

#### 1. I Must Respond In Such A Way As To Glorify God.

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Cor. 10: 31 That means taking time to ask questions such as, Is it right? Does it reflect well on my Christian profession?

#### 2. I Must Give Thanks.

In every thing give thanks : for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you 1 Thes. 5:18 There are many things to be thankful for in this situation. I am thankful to be an American. I am thankful for a peaceful transition of power and I am thankful that God is still in control.

#### 3. I Must Submit.

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Rom 13:1 It

#### 4. I Must Pray For the President

## Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"I've never heard him preach a bad sermon . . . I always turn my hearing aid down."

Elect and Other Political Leaders.

1 Tim 2:1-3 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

#### 5. I Must Show Proper Respect Toward the President Elect.

Rom. 13:7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour. Whether I agree with Mr. Obama or not he occupies the most powerful office on earth. The pressures and responsibilities will be tremendous. He surely deserves my respect.

#### 6. I Must, As Much As Is In My Power, Live a Quiet and Peaceable Life.

1 Tim. 2:2-3 (Pray) 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. The words quiet and peaceable have the idea of tranquil, undisturbed and undisturbing living. We are not only to be at peace within ourselves but we are not to unnecessarily disturb others.

#### 7. I Must Rejoice With My Black Brethren at This Moment of Great Historic Importance for Their Race and Our Nation.

Rom. 12:15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. I do not have to agree with the particular black man who has been elected (and I don't) to recognize that his election is of monumental significance. The election of

a black man is cause for great joy for a people whose history has been marked by terrible sorrow, and hardship. From the crime of slavery to the injustices that brought about the civil rights movement the black man has suffered many things. That makes this election a truly historic moment. If I love my black brethren, (and I do) surely I must acknowledge their journey and understand the reason for their joy.

#### 8. I Must View The Outcome of the Election Realistically In Light of Scripture.

The election of a man and a party who openly support abortion and homosexual rights tell me that America is not an enter right country nor is she a Christian nation and may very well be past the point of no return spiritually.

#### 9. I Must Refuse to Fear or Worry.

Phil. 4:6-7 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

The election of Barack Obama is reality. Whether I like it or not, whether I voted for him or not, he is the next President of the United States of America; the country I love. I refuse to treat him the way the opponents of President Bush have treated him. I will give him the benefit of the doubt. I will assume that he wants what is best for America, even when I disagree with him. I will not take pleasure in his mistakes or failures. I will pray for his safety and success and I will trust in God who, after all, is still Ruler of all that is.

Pastor Neil Murphy  
Grace Baptist Church  
Guntown, Mississippi

## BMAA Equipping Center Locations and Schedules

### Bethel Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi

November 15, 2008	Building A Small Group Ministry/ Becoming An Effective Teacher
January 24, 2009	Mission Possible: Winning Your Community For Christ
March 7, 2009	Sunday School Materials That Work!
June 20-21, 2009	It All Rises and Falls on Leadership

### Magnolia Baptist, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

November 15, 2008	Turning Your Church Inside, Out!
January 24, 2009	Building A Small Group Ministry/ Becoming An Effective Teacher
March 7, 2009	Mission Possible: Winning Your Community For Christ
June 21, 2009	Sunday School Materials That Work!

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## CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION

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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 Chief 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,  
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 unpacked a 12-count indictment.  
"Merry Christmas to all" they just had to foreclose  
(Though they had no complaint about all the "Ho Hos").

One lawyer objected to Santa's red clothing.  
"It's religiously tainted," he said with some loathing.  
"Poinsettias (the red ones) everybody must note, are  
A church-state offense in St. Paul, Minnesota"  
Santa's climb up each chimney (one lawyer made men-  
tion)

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

Rev. Bobby Jarrell's hometown is Fulton. He and his wife, Pearlene Lyle, has a daughter Cynthia and son, Bobby. He has been in the ministry for 30 years and has been the pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, Baldwin for the last 4 years. God bless Bro. Bobby and his family.

### Churches Supporting the CAC

First Baptist, Oak Grove, Hattiesburg  
Forked Oak, Booneville  
First Baptist, Calhoun, Laurel  
First Baptist, Windsor Park, Ocean Springs  
Farmington, Corinth

Website for CAC - [www.cacbma.net](http://www.cacbma.net)

## Cape Verde Missions

# National Brotherhood Project

The young Capeverdean church planter rises early in the morning on Friday; he needs to be at the port by 7:00 a.m. in order to catch the ferry boat for the one-hour ride to the neighboring island. He lives on one island where he is studying in the Bible Institute, and he is planting a church on the neighboring island. He arrives on the neighboring island and waits for a van to take him on the three-hour journey to his ministry area.

Upon arrival, he will spend the majority of his day visiting the people, then in the evening he will begin some of his small group Bible studies. On Saturday, he will spend the majority of the day in evangelism and discipleship groups. In the afternoon he will meet with his leadership team in order to talk about the work and to plan for the services on Sunday. Saturday evening he will attend a fellowship for the members that will go late into the night.

Sunday morning he will prepare for Sunday school and then will meet with his worship leaders for a planning session for the night service which is, in Capeverdean culture, the most important worship service of the week. He will also have time to lead a couple more discipleship studies before the evening service.

After the service on Sunday night he will normally have several people to counsel with about salvation, baptism,

discipleship, and others with major issues in their lives. He awakes at 5:00 a.m. on Monday morning to start the trip back to the island where he studies. He will arrive just in time to gather his things and go to class.

This is an actual account of the life of a Capeverdean church planter. This year the National Brotherhood has chosen to help the Capeverdean national workers by raising funds for their ministry. You may fail to see the urgency of your participation in the lives of Capeverdean church planters; however, please look again. Without our support the church planter would not have a Bible Institute, books, transportation funds, a place to meet, materials for discipleship, Bibles, a place to sleep, and a host of other ministry tools. The prospects for sending more church planters to other islands and villages really do depend greatly on our ability to partner with them in their missionary service.

The National Brotherhood project for 2008-2009 is 25% Galileans and 75% Cape Verde National Workers. Thanks to Dr. John David Smith for providing the information in this article about the Cape Verde work. Please support this very worthy project by sending your your offerings to:

Robert Bynum

43 Bear Pen Creek Road, Laurel, MS 39443.

Bro. Arthur Smith

## 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

## State WMA Annual Meeting Report

Our theme for this year has been "Hand What Doest Thou" Daniel 4:35b. Our opening song was "Take My Hand Precious Lord". We need the Lord to take our hand and lead us through these troubled times. We need to pray daily for our country and the men and women that are giving their lives daily so that you and I can live in a country like America. Pray for the leaders of our Nation that they will be responsive to the leadership of God.

There were 57 messengers, 16 visitors and 1 man for a total of 74 present for our meeting with 23 churches represented.

State GMA & YLA Promoter Beth Caldwell introduced two young ladies. The first was Mississippi State Miss GMA Megan Brewer, who also serves as National Miss GMA. Megan gave our devotional for the night. Miss Paige Williams, our State Jr. Miss GMA, presented a special in song. Each of these young ladies has represented our state well.

Our speaker for the night was Brother David Ruffin, Associate Pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Saucier. He attends Southeastern Baptist College and will graduate this semester. He plans to go to Seminary after graduation. He claimed to be a rebellious teenager and once even considered taking his life, but could always remember his Grandmother's words, "Son God has a plan for your life". He was saved at an early age and was called to preach at the age of 16. He served as one of our student Missionaries to China. While in China he met a young man named Danny, age 19, that was a Christian, he purchased a Study Bible for him and was able to work with him until he returned home from the mission field. His prayer is that God will supply someone to assist in this young man's studying. He also asked that we pray for another young man named Mike that showed an interest in Christianity that God would provide someone to aide him in his search for the truth and that he will be saved.

There will be a new team going to China in 2009 please pray for them as they prepare for the journey of their life that they will never forget. Please pray also for their safety and that God will go before them to prepare hearts to receive the Gospel.

Our state WMA officers for 2008-2009 are as follows: President, Ruby Bynum; 1st Vice President, Lisa Hudson; 2nd Vice President, Anita Akers; 3rd Vice President, Kay Chisholm; Recording Secretary, Louise Crawley; Asst. Recording Secretary, Jeanelle Burkes; Historian, Chris Smith; Editor, Donna Lawrence; Pianist, Cindy Clark; Song Director, Cindy Jones; GMA/YLA Promoter, Beth Caldwell; Sunbeam Promoter, Linda Faye Dertinger; and Project Promoters, Lynn McCoy & Dianne Rainey.

The Project for 2008-2009 is 75% EI Camino Mission Fund. The Advisory Council for 2008-2009 is Matt Hudson, Roger Akers and Arthur Smith. Our Retreat Committee or 2008-2009 is Chairperson, Peggy Thomaston, Ruby Bynum, Chris Smith All WMA Officers.

As of September 30, 2008, \$6,728.94 had given to the EI Camino Mission Fund. Mrs. Shirlene Smith will provide an update to this amount as she received some monies at our State Meeting. Please start now working toward the project for this year. Let's all try to make 2008-2009 a record year for giving to our project.

President Ruby Bynum  
Editor Donna Lawrence

## Mississippi State Corresponding Secretary's Report

November 4, 2008 - Shirlene Smith

Thank you to each association, each WMA, and each individual lady who contributed to the MS State WMA project this past year. Following are the final totals for the 2007-2008 project:

25% General Fund (plus designated offerings).	\$ 2,709.43
75% Land Fund for Missionary	
Estuardo Marroquin	7,088.38
<b>Total received</b>	<b>\$ 9,797.81</b>

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

1. Berean Baptist Church, Soso
2. Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso
3. First Baptist Church, Bay Springs
4. First Baptist Church, Calhoun
5. First Baptist Church, Louin
6. First Baptist Church, Shady Grove
7. Hopewell Baptist Church, Laurel
8. Lebanon Baptist Church, Laurel
9. Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Picayune
10. Oakland Baptist Church, Vicksburg
11. O'Neal Road Baptist Church, Gulfport
12. Paramount Baptist Church, Perkinston
13. Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel
14. Sandhill Baptist Church, Lucedale
15. Shiloh Baptist Church, Steens
16. Skyway Hills Baptist Church, Pearl
17. Springhill Baptist Church, Laurel
18. Temple Baptist Church, Biloxi
19. Temple Baptist Church, Lucedale
20. Ten Mile Baptist Church, Perkinston
21. Vardaman Street Baptist Church, Wiggins

### ASSOCIATIONS

1. Northeast District WMA
2. Washington District WMA

The top seven churches in contributions to the project were

1. Vardaman Street Baptist Church, Wiggins	\$1,203.88
2. Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel	900.00
3. Hopewell Baptist Church, Laurel	820.00
4. Lebanon Baptist Church, Laurel	601.00
5. Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso	600.00
6. First Baptist Church, Louin	520.00
7. Temple Baptist Church, Lucedale	520.00

The Mississippi State WMA project selected for 2008-2009 is 25% General Fund and 75% Building Fund for Missionary Estuardo Marroquin, Laurel, MS. Please send your offerings for this very worthy project to Shirlene Smith, 730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443. Let's make this another record year in giving to missions through our Mississippi State WMA!

The audit for this past year has just been completed by Mrs. Della Priest. A copy of the audit follows this report. Thanks again to Mrs. Della for this service that she provides for the WMA without any compensation.

Audit Report for the Mississippi State WMA  
November 1, 2008  
Mississippi State WMA  
Laurel, MS

Ladies,

I have looked at the bank statements, check register, and the journal that our secretary uses and all balances agree with the figures that she gave to you at the state meeting in her report.

Shirlene does complete and neat entries in the books and that is so good when you go through them.

Sincerely,  
Della N. Priest, 698 Rock Hill Road, Brandon, MS 39042  
601-591-0110

## 2008-2009 State WMA Theme

*"Thou Art Come...For  
Such A Time As This."*

Esther 4:14

### Washington Association WMA report

Ladies from the Washington Association of the BMA met at Leakesville Baptist Church for their quarterly WMA district meeting on October 13, 2008. We were excited to meet for the first time at Leakesville and were made to feel welcome by their graciousness.

We were welcomed by the pastor, Bro. A.W. Kirkland. Because this was Leakesville's first time to host the meeting, Movella was asked to bring the program. The program began with a beautiful song, "In the Garden." The ladies then shared the story of the Birkenstocks. Their founder experienced several tragedies and yet learned to give thanks in spite of them. A tradition of a "thorn bouquet" was begun to remind their family to be thankful for the thorns of life and more importantly the thorns that our Christ wore as he gave the greatest and most beautiful gift in the entire universe.

After the Sunbeams and G.M.A.'s left to conduct their business, the ladies opened up their meeting. Minutes were read by Charlene Patrick and general business was conducted. Business was adjourned, and after closing prayer everyone was invited to gather in the fellowship hall where delicious food was enjoyed by all. Thank you Leakesville Church for being such gracious hostesses!

We encourage all ladies (young and young at heart) of the Washington Association to make your plans now to join us at our next meeting. The next district meeting and annual election of officers will be held at on January 12, 2009 at Pineview Baptist Church at 7:00 pm. If your church does not hold regular meetings each month, come meet with us at the district meeting where we can all fellowship and pray together. You will be glad you came!

Brenda Holland, WMA Reporter  
Washington Association



## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

## Singing in Church

I was talking to a Mom the other day and she said her children do not like to sing. I told her to give them a dose of medicine, there's something wrong with 'em!

Singing is the vehicle used to send praise and honor to our God and Heavenly Father. God isn't a music critic.

So sing on out!

*"Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises."*

Psalm 98:4.

## Kindergartners given homosexual 'pledge cards'

**OneNewsNow** - A pro-family advocate is outraged that a California public school teacher would pass out homosexual pledge cards to her kindergarten students.

The pledge cards were produced by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, or GLSEN, and featured oaths that students would not use "anti-lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender language or slurs,"

that students would intervene on behalf of homosexual students when possible, and that they would actively support safer schools efforts.

Tara Miller is a kindergarten teacher at Faith Ringgold School of Arts and Science in Hayward, California. She passed out the pledge cards to her students, which she then asked them to sign. Peter LaBarbera, the president of Ameri-

cans for Truth about Homosexuality, is outraged at Miller's actions.

"First of all, why is homosexuality as an issue being raised at all in kindergarten? These are students who don't even know what sex is yet, and this teacher is talking to them about homosexuality," he contends. "This is an abuse of these students' minds, and it's just wrong."

According to a report on FoxNews.com, one parent was angry when she found her child's signature on the pledge card. LaBarbera believes this instance highlights the real agenda of the homosexual movement.

"This is just bizarre, and it shows how the teachers with their radical sexual agenda want to start early to reprogram these kids' minds. They want to undermine the faith teachings that the kids have at home; this is part of a plan," he suggests. "To me, this is like Hitler with Nazi Germany and the Soviets wanting to get to the youth and change the kids by getting to them at a very young age."

In the same report on FoxNews.com, a spokesperson for the school agreed that the pledge was inappropriate for the kindergarten students and said that the pledges were meant for middle school and high school students.

## CHILDREN'S HOME

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

### Give Thanks

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord." Psalm 92:1. Thanksgiving is a good time to give God thanks for His many blessings. It is a time when we should take a personal inventory of our lives and express a spirit of true thanksgiving, not only at this particular time of the year but every day throughout the year.

In other words, we should not wait until Thanksgiving Day to bless and thank our God. Each day we should make it a routine of life to enter into His courts with thanksgiving and praise. "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

### Recent Church Visits

On Sunday, October 19, we were with the Bethel Baptist Church in Hattiesburg and Pastor Harold Williamson for their morning services. On Sunday, November 2, we were with the Springhill Baptist Church near Laurel and Pastor Steven Clark for their evening worship services. Then on November 9 I was with the Antioch Baptist Church near Soso where Robbie

White is the pastor.

We are grateful for the opportunity to give a report to each of these churches on the ministry of the Home during this Special Emphasis time and also enjoy a time of worship and fellowship with them.

### Special Emphasis

Just a reminder that October and November are 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. With your help this goal can be achieved.

### Expression of Sympathy

We would like to express our sympathy to the family of Mrs. Mary Jo Howell. Mrs. Howell was a special person to all who knew her. The Lonnie Howell family has been a blessing to many. Our prayers and thoughts has been with the Howell family during their time of loss and sorrow.



SIDNEY DAVIS  
DIRECTOR

## BMA Theological Seminary Motion Classes January 2009

### January 5-9, 2009

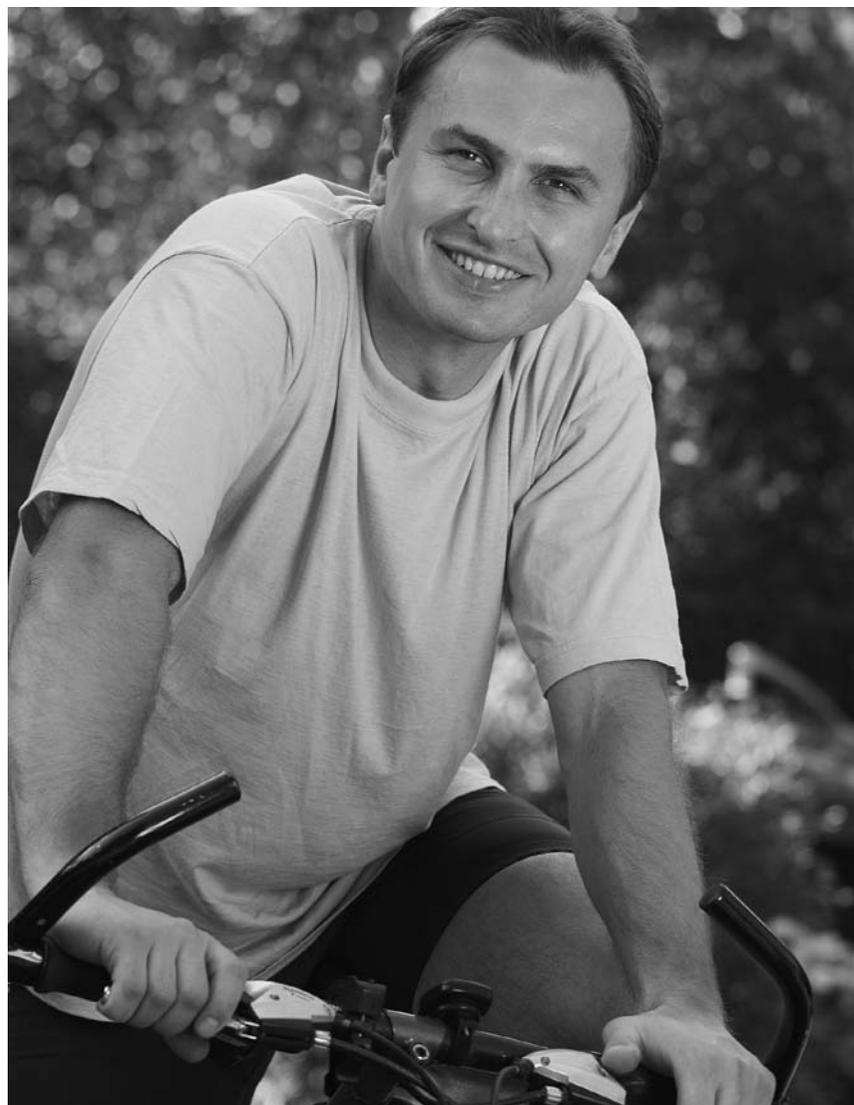
TH 612 (Systematic Theology II)  
Professor: Raif Turner

### January 12-16, 2009

MISS 312/521 (Church Planting/Selected Topics in Missions)  
Professor: Dr. Fiodor Baraniuk

Students must register by November 21, 2008 and are responsible for pre-class assignments. Also, students are responsible for obtaining a syllabus and textbooks promptly upon registration. Contact the Dean's Office for details on syllabi.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 670, Physical Address: 1530 E. Pine Street, Jacksonville, TX 75766, Phone: 903-586-2501, email: [bmatssem@bmats.edu](mailto:bmatssem@bmats.edu) Webpage: [bmats.edu](http://bmats.edu)



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## BMA of Mississippi MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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



### Missions in General

The Fall Season has given way for some cold days around the Laurel area. We know that the winter days are not far off which brings with it the Christmas season, a time to remember that our nation has a reason to rejoice. We can say Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Recently we have received several sales brochures of Holiday season cards which were filed in file thirteen, but they kept coming. After several packets arrived I returned one stating that we were interested in Christmas Cards and had no interest in Holiday cards. That probably did not help the diminishing interest of Christ to the commercial world, but it gave me the satisfaction of speaking out. Again, isn't the Lord good to us?

On November 6, the Lord blessed Faye and me to meet with the Tombigbee Association hosted by Friendship Baptist Church. Due to illness, Pastor Bobby Gerald was not present, but his people did a wonderful job of welcoming every-

one and serving a delicious evening meal. The number in attendance was encouraging with most showing an interest in each report given.

On November 1, I was able to visit with the Harmony Association hosted by the Unity Baptist Church and Pastor Eddie Boutwell. They did a wonderful job of hosting the meeting, the fellowship and food was great.

On Sunday November 8 my schedule was with LifePointe and Missionary Kevin Marr of Hernando. Bro. Marr taught Sunday School, I always enjoy hearing him teach, he appears to be well prepared and organized. Bro. Marr also brought the morning message to an attendance of around 42. I noticed one young lady sitting on the same row who appeared to be taking in everything that was preached. The Seed is being planted throughout Mississippi and we must pray that it is falling on good ground. Our goal is more souls, more churches.

### Twelve Churches of Special Emphasis

The twelve highest giving churches in the 2008 special missions emphasis are in descending order as follows; Zion, Anguilla for January; Paramount, Perkinson for February; Union, Bay Springs for March; Main Street, Petal for April; Hopewell, Laurel for May; Skyway Wills, Pearl for June; Forked Oak, Booneville for July; Harmony, Hurley for August; Boguefala, Mooreville for September; Mt. Carmel, Carrierie for October; Berean, Soso for November; Lebanon, Laurel for December all of Mississippi. The placement of each church is determined by the amount given divided by their recorded Sunday School attendance.

### Mission reports

*Homestretch at Cleveland, Bro. Ed Duvall Missionary*

Homestretch has experienced encouraging growth for the month of September. Through the help of our churches participation in the Debt Reduction Program their financial obligations are decreasing drastically as revealed by the Debt Reduction information. We are now looking at plans for a building of around 6,000 square feet, however there is a lot to accomplish before engaging in actual construction. Bro. Ed reports that their offering for September was \$2,585.00, homes visited was 24, make soul talks 39, Sunday school average 18, worship average 22, and mid week average was 32. They are encouraged that averages for October are looking

### Escrow Accruals

El Camino	47,304
First Hispanic	47,306

even much better. Also on the physical side, Bro. Ed is yet experiencing a kidney discomfort which is pointing toward dialysis for him. Remember Bro. Ed in your prayers.

*Divine Grace at Long Beach, Bro. Wallace Williams Missionary*

Diving Grace has enjoyed another month of overall progress for September. They were able to visit 5 homes, make 3 soul talks, enjoy 3 professions of faith, had a Sunday school average of 60, a worship average of 36, had 3 additions by letter and 3 by baptism, their offerings for the month totaled \$6,642.00. As shown by the Debt Reduction Emphasis information Divine Grace will be able to go off missions support in good financial conditions as relating to property and building. This is an encouragement for the Mission, the churches who are participating and for sure the Mission Office. Pray for Divine Grace Mission and the ministry of Bro. and dialysis Mrs. Wallace Williams as they work together in building a strong soul winning church. They will be going off missionary support December 31, 2008, but will remain on Debt Reduction until March 31, 2009.

*LifePointe at Hernando, Bro. Kevin Marr Missionary*

I was able to visit with Bro. Marr and LifePointe in the morning service of November 8. Bro. Marr as normal did a wonderful job in teaching the adult Sunday school class, he is an excellent teacher. The morning message was also challenging with an attendance of around 45. For September they visited 6 homes, made 2 soul talks, averaged 31 in Sunday school, averaged 41 in worship, 35 in midweek services, and received a total of \$ 7,378.43 in offerings. Bro. Marr will be going off missionary support on December 31, 2008, but LifePointe will remain in the Debt Reduction program until March 31, 2009. They are continuing their plans to organize into a New Testament Church on January 24, 2009. Their building and property indebtedness is steadily decreasing which will enable them to amortize their payment after March of 2009 at very low monthly payment. Pray for LifePointe and the Marr family.

*Maple Street at Columbus, Bro. Joseph Oyeleye Missionary*

Bro. Oyeleye is encouraged with the response that Maple Street is getting from the BMA of Mississippi churches. In September Maple Street Mission visited 41 homes, made 66 soul talks, had 4 professions of faith, averaged 14 in Sunday school, 28 in worship, 10 in midweek services, and received \$

1,331.00 in general offerings. Maple Street is gradually reaching a more comfortable number in attendance, the Lord has been good to give this consistent increase. The mission has not yet reached the point where they are able to go self supporting, but our prayer is that by our midyear meeting in May, 2009 we will have a progress report that will reveal otherwise. Since our last report Maple Street mission together with the help of our churches and associations have been able to reduce their indebtedness by \$5,161.10. The amount owed shown in the chart includes property, parsonage and Church building.

*El Camino at Laurel, Estuardo Marroquin Missionary*

Under the leadership of Bro. Marroquin El Camino remains strong and growing. After the move by immigration Bro. Marroquin verbally reported to me that just three weeks ago they had an attendance of 90 plus. For October they visited 18 homes, made 18 soul talks, had 2 professions of faith, an average of 67 in Sunday school, 54 in worship, 35 in midweek services, and 64 in med week cell classes, and a General offering of \$2,352.67. The plan to transfer to their new location on Highway 15 north of Laurel by May of 2009 is on target. Parkview Baptist Church of Laurel has been more than gracious to help this mission to reach her status as a New Testament Church. They have provided a space for worship services and a parsonage for Bro. Marroquin all at no cost. Parkview extended an arm of authority to El Camino under the leadership of Bro. Kenneth Flynt as pastor and has been, not only continued, but encouraged and supported under the leadership of Bro. Shane Singleton. These people remain to be excited about their mission and what the Lord is doing, visit them. El Camino has received a considerable amount which is now in escrow awaiting the closeout of their property.

*First Hispanic Baptist, Ripley, Bro. Elvis Garcia Missionary*

Sunday evening of November 8, 2009 I was able to visit with the First Hispanic Baptist Mission of Ripley and Bro. Garcia. One of his young Preachers brought an inspiring message, Bro. Walker a member of the mission counted 65 present for that service. For the month of September First Hispanic visited 5 homes, made 7 soul talks, had 3 profession of faith, an average of 49 for Sunday school, 49 for worship, 26 for midweek services and \$1,669.78 in general offerings. First Hispanic has not yet purchased property, but has an encouraging amount in escrow that they will be adding to until property is purchased.

### From Bro. Lavell Lee, RLF Manager

The Revolving Loan Fund continues to experience growth. Gross assets at the end of October 2008 are \$14,158,667.59. There were three new accounts opened during October and many existing account continue to be added to. At the present time, we have one pending loan.

The Federal Reserve Board reduced the lending rates twice during October in an attempt to encourage the slumping economy. In response to this, the Revolving Loan Fund Trustees and management reduced variable interest lending rates to 5.50% and variable interest investment rates to 3.40% effective December 1, 2008.

The Revolving Loan Fund continues to be a good place to invest money in the Lord's work. Thank you for your participation and prayers.

Listed below is the current progress of our debt reduction program. Thank you for your continued participation in this important endeavor.

### Debt Reduction Progress As of November 12, 2008

	Begining Balance	Paid					Current Balance
		Mission	Asso. Indv. Churches	RLF West Hills	Adjust. & Other	Totals	
Divine Grace	254,991	12,592	10,814	40,000	4,991	68,397	186,594
Maple Street	198,512	1,350	4,500	9,529	40,000	55,379	143,133
LifePoint	142,132	13,546	7,959	40,000		61,505	80,627
Home Stretch	69,277	2,668	12,214	40,000		54,882	14,395
New Beginings	305,725	15,469	6,266			21,735	283,990
Grace	354,598	14,516	9,408			23,924	330,674
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,325,235</b>	<b>64,641</b>	<b>56,190</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>4,991</b>	<b>285,822</b>	<b>1,039,413</b>