

# The Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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BMAA Mission Work Suffers

## El Salvador Church Hit By Storm

by Diane Spriggs, editor  
Baptist Trumpet

"A strong storm has caused torrential rains, severe flooding and mud slides in El Salvador over the last few days, and it directly affected a community near the Pacific Coast, El Achotal, where we have a BMA church," said Phil Knott, director of operations for Latin America, when he came by my office [Baptist Trumpet] Monday. He also told me that a BMMI team, headed by Dr. Ralph Izard, had been in the same church just two weeks earlier. While they were there, they saw over 200 patients and several souls were saved. What's left of that building now has 6 ft.

of mud in it, and Pastor Abe Caceres said all the families in the church have lost everything.

At last count, 126 people had been killed and about 60 were unaccounted

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## Hate crimes law - ungodly, unconstitutional, unnecessary

**OneNewsNow** - A Christian evangelist who was once arrested, jailed, and charged under Pennsylvania's hate crimes law says the federal hate crimes bill signed into law by President Obama is one of the most dangerous laws in the history of the United States.

With the stroke of President Obama's pen (recently), the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act became law. It creates additional penalties for violent crimes motivated by the victim's "actual or perceived" gender, "gender identity," sexual orientation, or disability.

Michael Marcavage, director of Philadelphia-based Repent America, was one of 11 Christians who were jailed and charged with a hate crime for carrying Bible verse banners and preaching at a

2004 homosexual pride event in Philadelphia. The charges were later dismissed -- and in 2008, the state's Supreme Court ruled the law had been passed illegally by the Pennsylvania legislature.

Marcavage says the new federal hate crimes law is yet another move by the federal government to "silence Christians."

"What this bill does is [seek] to shut down those who dare to speak against the sin of homosexuality with the hope and freedom that is found in Jesus Christ," says the Christian activist.

"Having been charged under a hate crime, I'm definitely moved with compassion on those who the government is

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## The Mystery of Iniquity

by Dr. Tony Cleaver  
Retired U.S Army Chaplain  
Killeen, Texas

I sat alone in a darkened room yesterday afternoon. The door was locked. There was no traffic in my hallway which is normally full of students and staff on our campus. Our campus is just across the street from Fort Hood, the largest military post in the world. There had been a terrible tragedy. Our campus, like Fort Hood, was on lockdown.

A gunman had fired into a crowd of soldiers who were preparing for deployment. There is no sense, rhyme, reason to this mindless act. Several were killed. A brave policewoman, who herself was wounded in the melee, shot and stopped the gunman. He was taken into custody. Many wounded were transported to our local hospitals. Their stories are still unfolding right now and will for several months.

I, like you, am anxious to get the "real story" of what caused this to occur. I

have after many hours turned off the TV. At this point, repetition does not add any news to the story of yesterday. What happened? Why did this happen? What is the key to this puzzle? All I know is this event is a mystery.

What is a mystery? It is something incomprehensible. A mystery is something beyond finding out. Mystery can mean things like: secrecy, obscurity, ambiguity, vagueness, unknown, and other words that simply mean "I don't know and probably can't figure it out. That's why it's a mystery."

The New Testament writer speaks in Thessalonians that the mystery of iniquity is already at work in our world. Surely and certainly this is a part of that mystery of iniquity. Iniquity is a horrible word. It has shades of wicked-



Tony Cleaver

ness, evil, injustice, as well as crime or lawlessness.

Today, this morning to be exact, I, as well as my community, am no closer to solving this mystery than yesterday. The news people have crowded the gates of Fort Hood to place microphones in anyone's face that seems to be a warm body connected with this incident. It is a mystery. I sang this morning as I walked in the brightness of the Hunter's Moon, I praised God for His strength, and I asked God for His mercy to our community so tightly connected to our soldiers and military families.

Here is the message my wife, who is a department chair and instructor at our college, emailed all her students this morning. I believe it is the best I will see written anywhere regarding this event:

"I just could not go on with business as usual. This is a somber Friday morning in Killeen, Texas. As you all know, Central Texas College and Fort Hood, Texas, are adjacent to each other. Yesterday CTC was on lock-down for several hours after the tragic events unfolded at Ft. Hood.

I would like for all of us to observe this day of mourning and reflection on the events of the yesterday. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the wounded warriors, to the families of the fallen soldiers, and to all who lived through this day.

Our lives and work will go on. But let us pause in our busy days to mourn this loss and to reflect on how much we take for granted what a great country we live in and the wonderful freedom that we enjoy. May God bless America."

And now I say as a retired Army Chaplain and member of this community: Join me as we pray: Lord have mercy on those families who are struck by this tragedy. They are dumbfounded, numbed, and immobilized. They are unable to find light: give them Yours. They are unable to find solace: give them Yours. They are unable to find strength: give them Yours. They are unable to find understanding: give them Yours. They are unable to be at peace: give them Yours. Through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit both now and forevermore, world without end. Amen.

# Innovations from DiscipleGuide

By Bobby L. Hudgens

DiscipleGuide now has its own special fan page on Facebook. Become a fan of DiscipleGuide and you'll have easy access to lots of pertinent information about the many offerings DiscipleGuide makes available to you. You'll learn about current discounts, new and improved literature, activities, conferences, camps, resources available on DiscipleGuide.org, and more. Go to Facebook.com/discipleguide to become a fan. Access to our page is yours even if you don't have a Facebook account. You may also text "fan discipleguide" to FBOOK (32665) from your mobile phone, and you will be added as a fan of DiscipleGuide instantly. Standard texting charges may apply.

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Looking for some inexpensive, biblically sound Bible studies for adults? Check out the DiscipleGuide Classics for download. They are only \$.99 per lesson, and almost 600 lessons are available. The lessons can be searched by Bible text or by topic. Download one copy of each desired lesson. You are granted permission to make photocopies for your small group. Log on to DiscipleGuide.org and you'll find DiscipleGuide Classics in the Pastors/Leaders menu.

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Are you using curriculum

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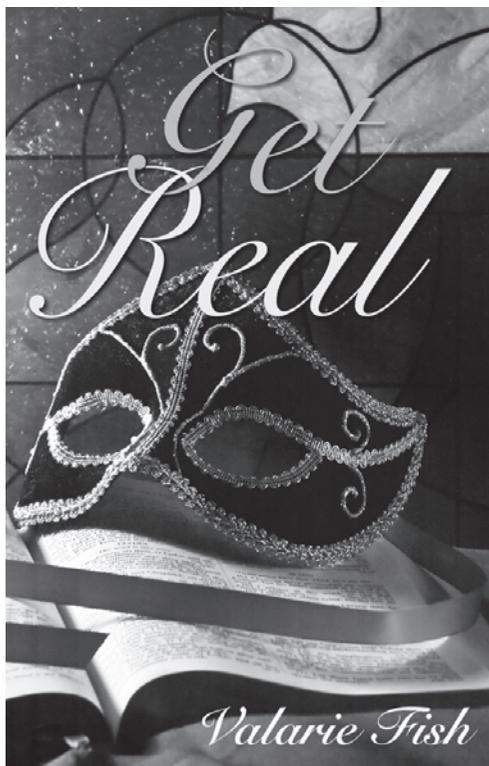
## Join the Reward Circle

DiscipleGuide will soon introduce our new Reward Circle program to show our appreciation to the loyal churches of the DiscipleGuide family. Churches that enroll in the Reward Circle will be able to order at discounted prices and enjoy other incentives. We encourage your church to enroll as soon as you receive the brochure in the mail.

## Get Real!

"This book was conceived in my search for something to keep me afloat in that defining moment of my life." Author Valarie Fish brings you the result of her search in her book *Get Real!* Her

study book will provide you with a full year of daily devotionals or group study material to guide you to a deeper relationship with God. Available December 1, 2009.



## Change in Address

For years DiscipleGuide has had a post office box in Texarkana, TX and a physical address in Texarkana, AR. We are closing the post office box so please start immediately using 4613 Loop 245, Texarkana, AR 71854. Thank you!

# El Salvador Church

from page 1

for — including members of 3 of the church families. "The church building, along with most of the town, was washed away," reported Rigoberto Jimenez, BMA national missions coordinator. BMA of Arkansas Hispanic Pastor Jorge Vasquez, a native of El Salvador, has family in the area, and his brother-in-law, National Missionary Javier Guevara, is helping with the relief efforts. "This was one of the most tragic events we have experienced in El Salvador in a long time," said Bro. Vasquez. "Around 4 a.m., Sunday, November 8, most were asleep when the nearby river reached flood stage and left its banks after six hours of intense rain from a storm system over the Pacific possibly secondary effects of the back side of Hurricane Ida.

"Pastor Caceres, Rigoberto Jimenez and Javier Guevara

worked tirelessly all day Sunday and Monday to rescue survivors. Rigoberto, who lives in a nearby community, went with his pick-up truck to assist some but couldn't return because the bridge had washed away.

"In Rigoberto's house they have given refuge to 15 people, mostly women and children. (Most of the men stayed behind, still searching for those who disappeared and trying to dislodge a dam of mud, rocks and trees in order to avoid a potential disaster in the future.) The most urgent needs now are food, water, clothes and medicine for some that are sick.

"Yet even in the midst of such tragedy, miracles still happen. A baby girl, just a few months old, was snatched from the arms of her parents and carried away by the raging floodwaters. But, because of God's intervention,

she was later found some distance away — alive!

"Please pray for our people, and also pray that God will give us the wisdom to make decisions and the spiritual strength to console the survivors and help them recover from their losses. And please help us give thanks to God for those who at one time were lost, but now have been found."

"Relief efforts are underway and many people, including members of our church, will need to be relocated," said Bro. Knott. "The shelters will need financial help in order to house, clothe and feed the survivors, and the BMA Missions Department will do what they can to provide aid."

If you would like to help with this relief effort, donations (marked "El Salvador Relief") may be sent to BMA Missions, P.O. Box 30910, Little Rock, AR 72260. For more information, contact the Missions office at (501) 455-4977.

- from Baptist Trumpet

# West Point Church supports Hispanic mission

Lone Oak Baptist Church of West Point, Mississippi, gave their 15 passenger van to Bro. Elvis Garcia and the Hispanic Mission at



Ripley, Mississippi. Pictured is Lone Oak Pastor Roger Franks presenting the keys to Bro. Elvis and his family. The Lone Oak Baptist Church loves Bro. Elvis and the people at Ripley and we pray for them and wish the best for the Mission.

# Commissioners' prayer leads to federal court

Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) is again preparing to battle a court case filed against a county in North Carolina for the mention of Jesus' name by the board of commissioners in government prayers.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed suit against Forsyth County, North Carolina, because of prayer practices at commissioner meetings. ADF attorney Mike Johnson tells OneNewsNow a federal magistrate ruled against the county, saying the prayers mentioned Jesus too many times.

"That's precisely what the finding was," affirms Johnson. "It is rather incredible to believe

that it's come to that. I mean, the court specifically recognized that this county board's selection process for invocation speakers, in the court's word, 'strived' to include a wide variety of speakers from diverse religious faiths. But apparently to this magistrate, that just wasn't enough, and the fact that Jesus' name is mentioned frequently is seemingly a problem."

Magistrate Judge P. Trevor Sharp objected to the clergy's "overwhelming frequency" of mentioning Jesus during meetings, saying it indicates the board's "preference for Christianity over other religions." The issue surfaced more than two years ago, and the final federal court ruling is about a month away.

"We look forward to continuing this case so we can get a favorable outcome," says Johnson. He is confident in a positive conclusion because of past federal court rulings on similar matters.

# Hate crimes law

from page 1

trying to silence us from reaching out to," he continues, "but we're going to continue to do as we have been doing, and ministering to those trapped in the bondage of this lifestyle."

Marcavage offers three reasons why he opposes the new law. He says it is ungodly because it "seeks to shut down the gospel of Jesus Christ"; unconstitutional because it violates the equal protection guarantee of the 14th Amendment; and also unnecessary because there are already laws on the books that punish violent crimes.

*The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.*

Psalm 34:15

December 28-29, 2009

## 2009 Merge

## “look at the deep end of faith”

Last year was the inaugural year of the Merge conference and it was a great success. Merge is a winter conference that combines Encounter and Revolution Conferences for a more laid back retreat setting at Daniel Springs Camp in Gary, Texas. Student Leaders get their group away for a few days in a relaxed atmosphere before the New Year begins. Students came away last year revived; refreshed, encouraged and shared it was one of the best things they had done in a long time.

This year promises to be no different. Darren Neely will be our featured speaker for Merge. Darren is a favorite of student conferences in the BMAA as he communicates in a way that will have them laughing one minute and contemplating the next. Merge will kick off the year of Discipleship and will “look at the deep end of faith.” Darren will guide us to think about our relationship with the Lord and challenge us to realize how essential a daily walk with Christ is to all believers.

Two Empty Chairs will lead worship and concert artist Stephanie Smith, will bless you with her passion to follow after Christ through her music. Special guest speaker Micah Hoffpauir of the Chicago Cubs will address the group on Tuesday morning. A favorite from last year was the Team Competition and it will be back again this year with the mighty “Killer” and some new elements to the games. A late night bonfire will

close out Merge and promises to be a special worshipful time for all.

Merge is scheduled Monday, December 28 – Wednesday, December 29. Registration is \$90 per person by December 14 and includes all sessions, concert, 2-nights lodging, games, Monday evening meal through Wednesday breakfast (5 meals) and t-shirt. After December 14 the fee is \$100 and does not include a t-shirt. All in attendance must register and payment is non-refundable after the deadline. Register now for Merge online at [www.DiscipleGuide.org](http://www.DiscipleGuide.org) or download a form and mail it along with a check to the DCM office. All the details for Merge are located at the web site. The first session will start at 7:00 pm Monday and will conclude by 11:00 am on Wednesday.

Youth Leader: The camp must have a completed medical release form for each student as required by Daniel Springs Camp. Go to the DiscipleGuide web site and click on the link to Daniel Springs Camp where you can access all the camp information, rules, medical release form, and what to bring/leave at home.

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

Don't miss this great opportunity to get away with your youth group for a few days after Christmas. Space is limited so make sure and get your reservations in early! We will see you at Merge!

## 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*

**Thanksgiving**

As we enter the Thanksgiving season of the year, we are reminded of so many things for which we are thankful. That is true for me personally and for the college, as well as our churches and country. We are thankful for all the people and churches who support Christian education through Southeastern Baptist College. God is so good to us.

**Fall Festival**

Tuesday, November 17, will be our fall festival for prospective students who can come and be our guests. It will be a time of fun, food, fellowship, getting information about the college, and spiritual worship. All who are interested and can come on that day are welcome. Activities will begin around 9:30 a.m.

**Special Emphasis**

Listed below are the churches, associations, and individuals

**Maine churches need not fear IRS**

**OneNewsNow** - Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) is prepared to protect churches in Maine from the opposition of homosexual advocates.

Earlier this month, voters in Maine overturned a bill passed by the legislature to legalize homosexual "marriage." ADF attorney Erik Stanley tells OneNewsNow what some activists have been murmuring in retaliation.

"Maine Marriage Equality, which is a primary supporter of same-sex marriage in Maine, has recently asked its supporters to file IRS complaints against churches and religious organizations that were involved in defeating the same-sex marriage legislation in Maine just recently," Stanley reports.

Stanley says his legal firm is doing this "because pastors and churches have a right to speak freely about biblical truths and to even support directly legislative efforts such as Question 1, which was on the ballot in Maine and rejected same-sex marriage in that state. So churches and pastors have nothing to fear from the IRS or from any other state agency on this issue."

who have given to the Special Emphasis for 2009 at this time.

**Churches**

Antioch, Soso  
Bethel, Seminary  
Community, Poplarville  
Corinth, Runnlestown  
Cypress Creek, Perkinson  
First Calhoun, Laurel  
First, Bay Springs  
Forked Oak, Booneville  
Harmony, Hurley  
Hopewell, Fulton  
Hopewell, Laurel  
Leakesville, Leakesville  
Lebanon, Laurel  
Lee Chapel #2, Picayune  
Little Creek, Perkinson  
Mount Moriah, Ellisville  
Mt. Olive Community Church,  
Mt. Olive

New Bethany, Ellisville  
O'Neal Road, Gulfport  
Oak Grove, Lucedale  
Oak Grove, Mantachie  
Oakland Grove, Laurel  
Paramount, Perkinson  
Parkview, Laurel  
Parkview Crusaders

Sunday School Class  
Pleasant Hill, Saucier  
Providence, Amory  
Riverside, Ellisville  
Rock Hill, Meridian  
Skyway Hills, Pearl  
South Prentiss, Baldwin  
Spring Hill, Ocean Springs  
Temple, Biloxi  
Ten Mile Ladies Sunday  
School Class, Perkinson  
Union, Bay Springs  
Washington, Neely  
Westover, Hattiesburg  
Wolf Creek, Picayune  
Zion, Anguilla

**Associations**

Big Creek Baptist Association  
Big Creek District WMA  
Hobolochitto Baptist Association  
Tombigbee Baptist Association  
Washington Baptist Association

**Individuals**

Mrs. Marjorie Harper  
Kristina Parker, Perkinson  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Welborn

**Total \$18,574.85**

We appreciate each one who has participated in this project. It is a special blessing to the college at a time when we need extra income. May the Lord bless all of us as we serve Him.

Have a good Thanksgiving.

## 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.

**Bethel, Fulton**

Greetings from Bethel Church, Fulton. We had a Children's Autumn Fun Festival on October 31, which was a great ministry opportunity. We had Trunk or Treat, Hay Ride, & Carnival Games which were enjoyed by all who attended. The GMAs had a Souper Sunday Fundraiser on November 15. The Blue Mountain College Ensemble preformed in our evening services on the 15th. The WMA & GMAs delivered fruit baskets for the elderly & shut-ins on November 14. Our Thanksgiving meal will be the 22nd at 6 p.m. We have had 3 additions since last report. You are always welcome at Bethel. If you are in the area come by for a visit.

Pastor Dr. Martin Jameson  
Reporter Martha Duncan

**Harmony Association Report**

Our November meeting was held Friday November 6th at Parkview Baptist Church in Baldwin.

The evening message was brought by Bro. Ray Boone, newly elected missionary to the Hattiesburg area.

The roll call of the churches was answered with 10 churches present and a total of 61 in attendance.

The Association honored Bro Mavious and Sister Geraldine Phifer for their 37 years of faithful and dedicated service to the association as associational clerk. A plaque was read and presented to Bro. Phifer and a bouquet of flowers given to Mrs. Phifer. The Phifers have agreed to take the clerk's position for another year.

The December meeting will be a Providence Baptist in Amory with the speaker Bro. Paul Reynolds.

Reports were given by Bro Elvis Garcia and the work at First Hispanic in Ripley and surrounding area. Bro. Ray Freeman gave a report and introduced Bro. Ray Boone, as the newly elected missionary. The Association voted to give Bro Boone \$150.00 toward his work.

**Mill Creek to celebrate 100 years**

Mill Creek Baptist Church of Picayune will celebrate its 100th Anniversary on Sunday, November 22. Services will begin at 10:00 am and a special Thanksgiving and Anniversary lunch will be enjoyed after. We are inviting all former members, former pastors and anyone else who would love to come and join us for this special time. It will be a great time of worship and celebration.

Diane Lee, reporter

**Revival scheduled**

Temple Baptist Church, Biloxi will be holding revival from November 30 through December 4 with services each night at 7:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Bro. Gary Smith, pastor of East Fulton Church, Fulton. Come join us to hear Bro. Smith deliver God's word.

Pastor Clell Allen

**Tombigbee Association Report**

East Amory Baptist Church was our host for November with 69 present. Fellowship, delicious food, and an uplifting service was enjoyed.

A congregational song by combining verses from several songs with the tune of 'On Jordan's Story Banks I Stand' was sung. Bro. Roger Akers read from Psalm 34:3 encouraging Christians to magnify the Lord.

Reports were given by: Bro. Dwight Lindsey on the Winter Camp for our youth (6th grade and up), December 30-31 and January 1st.

Bro. Rayburn Freeman reported good progress from our mission points. Please read their reports in the Mississippi Baptist Paper.

Bro. Akers gave reports on State Brotherhood. Bro. Elvis Garcia was excited about all the Bible groups, the soul winning teams, and the work being done in Ripley.

Shiloh Trio sang before the sermon by Bro. Bobby Jerell.

Our next meeting will be December 10 at East Fulton.

Moderator, Bro. Bryan Wilson  
Reporter, Wanda Parmer

# Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

## Resolutions for the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Annual Meeting

1. Be it resolved, that the messengers of the October 2, 2009, Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi in unequivocal terms state our dismay and displeasure that the 2009 White House Christmas tree will be called a Holiday tree instead of "Christmas tree" and will have no religious symbols or religious ornaments as ordered by the Administration.
2. Be it resolved that we, as a Christian association of churches, declare our sadness over our President and White House Administration not participating in the May 7, 2009 National Day of Prayer.
3. Be it further resolved that we, as an association of churches, state our strong disagreement with our President and First Lady hosting within the White House the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) group on June 22, 2009 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Gay riots.
4. Be it also resolved that we, as God's churches, reaffirm our Christian stand against pornography, gambling, the consumption of alcohol as a beverage, same sex marriages, the gay rights movement, or any like evil in the eyes of God.
5. Be it also resolved that, as God's children, we will support elected officials who recognize God, His Bible, and His Church and that we deny our support to those elected officials who fail to recognize God.

The Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi consists of 190 churches working together for the cause of Jesus Christ.

Moderator Rev. Leon Carmical, Sumrall, Mississippi  
 Clerk Billy Huffmaster, Pearl, Mississippi  
 Moral Action Director, Dr. John M. Adams, Mantachie, Mississippi

**Done in unanimous vote on Saturday, October 10, 2009 at the Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel, Mississippi.**

### Youth Department Seeks Applicants

The BMA of Mississippi Department of Youth is actively seeking to fill the position of Youth Director for our state work. The trustees will begin the interview process in late January.

We will be taking resumes until the end of December. Resumes may be sent to P.O. Box 4247, Laurel, MS 39441, or electronically to [cypresscreekbaptistchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:cypresscreekbaptistchurch@yahoo.com).

Chris Freeman, Clerk,  
 BMAM Department of Youth

### Expulsion of Chinese Christian reversed

**OneNewsNow** - A high school student in China, expelled because of his Christian faith, has now been allowed to return to school.

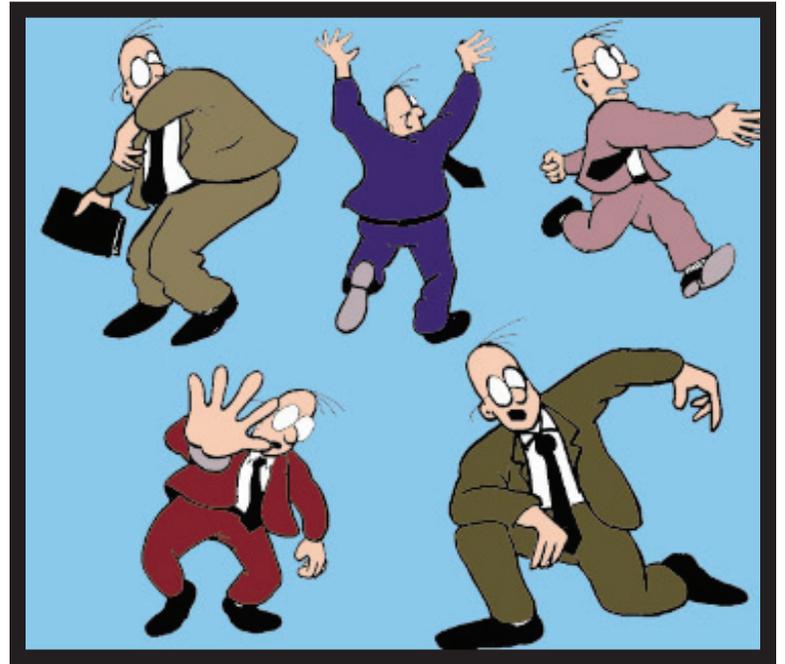
Last month, 17-year-old Chen Le was expelled after he refused to denounce his faith and sign a document confirming he was a Christian. Chen's story circulated quickly on the Internet, and Chinese communist authorities have now reversed their decision.

Todd Nettleton, a spokesman with Voice of the Martyrs, says Chen's story is all too common in the communist nation.

"What they want is for all of the Christians to operate through the registered church, which is controlled by the Communist Party [and] the Chinese government," he explains. "Many of the Christians say [that] the head of the church is not the communist party, the head of the church is Christ -- and so they refuse to follow that registration system."

News reports claim communist authorities were concerned about the international pressure caused by the expulsion.

### Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"Preacher Aerobics"

#### Retired Pastor's wife

### Mrs. Laura Thompson passes away

Mrs. Laura Thompson, wife of Rev. Charles Thompson, passed away on Saturday, October 31, 2009. She was 83 years old. Bro. and Mrs. Thompson were residents of Vancleave, Mississippi and members of Springhill Baptist Church, Ocean Springs.



Mrs. Thompson was a retired homemaker and faithful partner in her husband's ministry. The Thompsons would have celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on November 12.

She is survived by husband Charles Thompson and three daughters; Laura Ann Davis, Hurley, Mississippi; Charlene Newman, Baldwin, Mississippi; and Dollie Thompson of Vancleave.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Harold Holifield on November 3 at Colonial Chapel Funeral Home, Bay Springs.

### AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

#### John Grimes

Bro. John Grimes of Trinity Baptist Church in Florence, is available for pulpit supply and other preaching appointments. Bro. John is 41 years old. He and his wife have 4 children, ages 4, 9, 13, 16. Bro. John surrendered to the ministry of preaching God's word in June of 2009. You may contact him at 601-936-6937 or 601-717-3743.

#### Walter Hickman

Walter Hickman has resigned as pastor of the Plainview Baptist Church, Denham Springs, Louisiana, and is available for pastoral, interim-pastor, revivals, or any ministry work. He has over 42 years experience as a pastor. He may be contacted at 225-329-9663.

He and his wife Norma have two grown children. Their oldest grandson Ryan Ricks is living with them. Ryan is a ministerial student at Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel.

#### Kevin Sanford

Bro. Kevin Sanford is available for ministry as the Lord may lead. Bro. Kevin served as pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Columbia for two years. He is married to Allison Sanford and they have two children. He may be contacted at 601-408-1519.



**Don J. Brown, Editor**  
 E-Mail - [editor@msbaptist.org](mailto:editor@msbaptist.org)  
 Web site [www.msbaptist.org](http://www.msbaptist.org)

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**MORAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

Baptist Missionary Association of America  
 Dr. John M. Adams, Director  
 P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863  
 Email - fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com



John Adams

**WANTED: BOLD LEADERS**

Recently I was reading the November edition of Focus on the Family "Citizen" Magazine. An article by Tom Minnery jumped off the page. He states "I've been to many conservative conferences over the years, and I've heard many politicians speak at those meetings, but not long ago, there was a first."

Tim Pawlenty, the governor of Minnesota, was addressing the annual Values Voter Summit in Washington, D.C., and near the conclusion of his speech, he recited a very familiar portion of Scripture: 2 Chronicles 7:14. It says, "...if My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

I don't think Gov. Pawlenty realized it, but as he recited that verse, the audience of nearly 2,000 began to quote with him, until, by the end, a full chorus was under way. It was so spontaneous that I believe the people themselves were surprised.

That moment was a metaphor for the state of mind among conservatives at this point in time. They are hungry for leadership, so edge-of-the chair eager to join the campaign to restore righteous leadership to our nation that, given a chance, they'll even help a speaker with his speech."

**WANTED: BOLD CONFRONTATIONS**

Paul states in I Thessalonians 2:2..."we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention." We, as moral agents of God, must boldly share God's Word with our nation. There is not a place for timidity in our twenty-first century.

In 1828, Noah Webster (the Father of American Christian educators and the writer of the first American dictionary) wrote: "the moral principles contained

in the scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws. All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible."

Our bold confrontations, against the evils of our day, come from God's Word, the Bible. The Moral Action stands against homosexuality, gambling, illicit drug abuse, pornography, abortion, euthanasia, stealing, lying, cheating and so on and so on. God's Word proclaims these acts as sin. God hates the sin but loves the sinner.

**Reading Suggestions**

The Gay Agenda, approximately \$16 Dr Ronnie Floyd, New Leaf Press

Let Freedom Ring, approximately \$25 S. Hannity, Harper Collins

The ACLU vs America, approximately \$15, Alan Sears, B & H Publishing

The New Tolerance, approximately \$13, Josh McDowell, Tyndale Publishing

Pro-Life Answers to Pro-Choice, approximately \$15, Randy Alcorn, Multnomah

Culture Shift, approximately \$15, Albert Mohler, Multnomah

**WANTED: INFORMED READERS**

Moral Action recommends the following Magazines:

*Focus on the Family* with Dr. James Dobson

1-800-232-6459  
[www.focusonthefamily.com](http://www.focusonthefamily.com)

*American Family Association Journal*

1-662-844-5036  
[www.afa.net](http://www.afa.net)

*Citizen*

1-800-AFAMILY  
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# Church Orphans

A few years ago I used a term called "mall orphans". This was to describe children whose parents took them to the mall on Saturdays and dropped them off for the entire day. This was a selfish move so that the parents could do what they wanted to do and not have to fulfill the responsibility of being a parent. We still have those kids today and our society is reaping the seeds of this.

There are an increasing number of parents who have children, but do not want to take the responsibility of raising them. They drop them off at entertainment venues so that the kids are out of their hair for the day. They look for any way to push their kids aside and see them as an intrusion on their free time. How selfish. How morally reprehensible this is. What a sad commentary on the state of the American family. However, as Americans turn increasingly selfish, I am afraid this will be a growing trend.

Hence, the term "church orphans". These are the same population of children. Their parents are pursuing their own selfish desires and don't have time to be a parent. Children are picked up by someone from

the church or from a bus ministry and brought to our local churches. These kids are predominately from dysfunctional homes. And that is putting it mildly. Most of these kids have one or both parents that are abusing drugs or alcohol. Well over the majority are coming from divorced homes where there is only one parent at a



## Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

time. Often times they shuttle between several homes if there are siblings that come from a different home. There are a shocking number of these kids who live in same sex households - 2 dads or 2 moms. No one really cares about them.

The parents make a feeble attempt at caring. But honestly, they don't know how to care for anyone but themselves. They don't really want to learn how to care for their children because that would require work and sacrifice on their part.

So when some nice church folks ask them if they can take their kids to church these parents are more than happy to oblige. Most of these parents don't really care about the spiritual well-being of their children. They just want them gone.

This has given rise to an enormous number of kids at summer church camps coming from this environment. Many of the youth in our churches, and a large contingency of AWANA participants, are coming from these homes. Sometimes, I think these orphans in our churches are unseen. We know they are there, but some folks ignore them. This is sad to me. These kids are already throw away kids at home. Now they come into the Lord's house and they are rejected again. I have known of more than one church where the adult congregation has fought against these kids having a place in their church. It messes up the "neat and nice" church they are used to. These kids may misbehave. They don't look clean cut. They don't know how to act properly.

This prejudice and bigotry in some churches can reach



the point of evil. This is when a church is afraid of losing power and is more concerned about money than people getting saved by Jesus. I have known churches that have wanted to stop attracting so many church orphan kids. Their parents don't come to church. Secret unspoken message, "We are not getting any money out of these kids being here". They are disruptive and there are too many of them coming now. Secret unspoken message, "It is all about power. I am afraid I will lose voting power in business meetings if these hooligans outnumber us good folk in church". You may not want them in your church, but Jesus wants them in His!

Jesus died for these kids. Jesus desires that ALL people might live through Him. God sent His only begotten Son into the world so that the WHOLE world might live through Him. If you even slightly hinder these

little children from coming unto Him then you are acting evil. You need to repent of this sin and seek out to help minister to these kids.

The church family needs to show unconditional love and unconditional acceptance to these children. Their church home is the only home where they can find this. Shouldn't these kids be able to finally find a place where people care about them, love them, accept them just as they are? I so want these kids to see the love of Jesus shed on them. They are so hungry. They may misbehave at first.

As they receive the love of Christ given to them by Christians in the church, their behavior changes. Love always does that. Don't look down on these precious little kids. They are so messed up. They are hurting so badly. Can't you let your light so shine before them that they might see the Father and glorify Him? Their life is sad and pathetic. Can't the church of the Lord Jesus Christ be a safe haven for them? A nurturing place. A healing place. Reach out. Give them a smile. Go up and talk to them. Pray with them. Help out at a youth function.

If you love Jesus, you will feed his little lambs, regardless of what their wool looks like or how they smell.

# Stem Cell Research

The real issue about stem cell research is not usually discussed when the issue comes up. The issue is not about finding a cure for diseases and infirmities. The issue is not about whether to use fertilized embryos that will never be implanted in a uterus. The real issue is about when life begins and whether anyone other than God has the right to play God.

If life doesn't begin at conception, then when? To some, it may seem radical to believe that a fertilized human egg is more than just a microscopic clump of human tissue or matter. What's radical is to believe that a baby is not a human life until it sees the light of day at birth. It is certain that a fertilized egg one day old, or a cluster of stem cells, at six days, is not a developed, formed human being. But does that mean it is still not human life? And if it is life, which it certainly is, doesn't that mean that whoever chooses what happens to it is playing God? Let me answer. YES!

We have seen Michael J. Fox and Christopher Reeve, before his death, paraded in



## miniedition

Joseph Harris

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front of the news cameras to pull on the compassion strings of our hearts. A cure for these guys and others would be great, but at what price? It is never right to do wrong. It is wrong to do wrong in order to do right. However, a society guided by a philosophy of situational ethics has fine tuned the art of justifying murder and calling it choice or freedom and now with the issue of stem cells, it can be called research.

So now murder is research for the good of all, at the expense of the helpless. And don't think this technology won't expand to using whoever it needs at whatever age to ex-

periment, given enough time and defusing of the American people. Eugenics is just around the corner.

If I one day become confined to a wheelchair for whatever debilitating reason, don't you dare take another person's life for a slim, unknown chance of curing me. One person's life is just as valuable and sacred as another person's life, because we are all made in the image of God. God is the One who gives life and is supposed to be the One to take it. Liberals believe in taking money from the "haves" and giving to the "have nots." We shouldn't be surprised when we see their health redistribution philosophy is consistent with their wealth redistribution philosophy.

So here is the answer to stem cell research. Tread lightly and use common sense and reverence when dealing with human life - Period. The end never justified the means. All the potential good that may come from the research does not outweigh violating God's commandment to sanctify human life.

# Obama condemned for indifference to China church persecution

**BEIJING** - As President Barack Obama prepared for his first visit to China, leaders of the unapproved churches there are condemning his administration for indifference to the increasing persecution they are facing.

The latest example of that persecution came [on a recent] Sunday as followers of an unapproved church in Beijing were again forced by the government to find a new place to worship.

Worship in China, governed by the officially atheist Communist Party, is allowed only in state-approved churches, but millions of people belong to unregistered churches that often face official harassment.

Sunday's banishment was the latest for the Shouwang church, one of the largest underground churches in China with about 800 members. It was forced to hold services in a park earlier this month after being kicked out of a rented indoor area. Photos and a video posted on the church's Web site, which was later blocked, showed hundreds of members gathered, holding snow-flecked umbrellas and Bibles.

On Sunday, police blocked church members again from meeting at the park, and hundreds ended up at a performance hall elsewhere in the city.

District police referred questions to the Beijing public security bureau, where calls rang unanswered Sunday. Calls to the State Religious Affairs Bureau also went unanswered. Another well-known underground church in Shanghai, Wanbang, also has been told to close.



continued on page 8

## 2009 Mississippi Baptist Children's Home Special Emphasis

Greetings from the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home,

First of all, let me express to you our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for your prayerful and financial support for this ministry during the past year. It is because of your support for boys and girls in need through this ministry that you have had a direct influence on helping to mold young lives for the present and for the future.

One of the greatest things that takes place is the birth of a baby. Many times as we look at these bundles of blessings from God we ask ourselves, "I wonder what is this child going to become?" You know, when God wants to accomplish His will and purposes in this world He usually sends a baby. When the nation of Israel needed to be delivered from Egypt what did God do? He sent a baby, Moses. When God wanted to prepare the nation of Israel for the coming Messiah what did He do? He sent a baby, John the Baptist. When God wanted to save sinners in this world what did He do? He sent a baby, the Lord Jesus Christ. Matthew 1:21. The parents of Moses, Amram and Jochebed, are not well known or famous people, but they had a very famous son, Moses. The distinguishing thing about them that is worth observing is their influence on the life of this little boy, because it lasted a lifetime.



As you are aware October and November are Special Emphasis months for the Children's Home each year. Your help during this Special Emphasis is important to the ongoing operation of the Home. Our goal this year is \$25,000 and we are encouraging each church to consider taking part in this Special Emphasis.

For just a moment think about the influence you are having and have had on the lives of children through the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home. Some of the greatest things we can do for children in today's society is to help them be brought up under the atmosphere of attending the Lord's house for worship, allowing them to see and hear us offer up prayers to the God of heaven, and to teach them to love the inspired Word of God. As in the case of Moses faith cannot be inherited from one's parents, but faith can be instilled when proper values are taught and lived. Our desire at the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home is to make it such an atmosphere of faith that children will grow up and trust the Lord Jesus as their Savior, that they will learn how to pray and how to read the Word of God and how to claim God's promises.

Pray for the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home that we will provide children with the loving warmth of Christian life and upbringing in an atmosphere that brings honor and glory to the Lord.

Influencing Children for a Lifetime,  
Sidney D. Davis  
Director

## BMA OF MISSISSIPPI MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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Rayburn Freeman, Director



### New Heart Baptist Mission

Newly elected missionary Ray Boone is hard at work preparing rented facilities for New Heart Mission's first worship service to be conducted on December 6, 2009 at 2:00 P.M. A cordial invitation is extended to all to come and



Plumbing work in New Heart Mission

help make this first service an historical one. The location is just south of the



Workers partitioning walls in New Heart Mission

truck stop on Highway 11 south of Interstate 59 and Highway 11 intersection. Since his election at the State meeting in October, Bro. Boone has been busy visiting the churches and association introducing New Heart Baptist Mission, the new work of the BMA of Mississippi. For churches or auxiliaries that would like Bro. Boone to speak and present the work of New Heart, please contact him at 601-934-3661 or by calling our office at 601-428-8616.

### WMA of Mississippi

The Women's Missionary Auxiliary of Mississippi is to be commended for their outstanding work of missions. Bro. Estuardo Marroquin and the Missions Office take this opportunity to say thanks for your help in the amount of almost six thousand dollars to the El Camino building fund. El Camino is enjoying their new facilities and has seen a number of new families visiting in their worship services. With an at-

tendance of 85 to 95 they are now looking at removing some petitions in order to give more worship space, a good problem. Bro. Estuardo, as state Hispanic coordinator, is beginning a new mission work in the Petal area supported by the Oak Grove Association.

Bible studies are under way with several in weekly attendance. Bro. Estuardo is looking to place a couple from El Camino who will be under his direction in the Petal area. The home of the Petal Hispanic mission will be the former Main Street Baptist church property.

### Berean Baptist Church of Soso

The Missions Office and Missionary Ray Boone take this opportunity to thank Pastor Harold Floyd and members of Berean Baptist Church for a wonderful day of worship, food, and fellowship on November 8. Bro. Floyd asked your Missions director to speak to the adults during Sunday School about what is happening on the mission field and the outlook for the current fiscal year. Bro. Boone was asked to share his burden for missions and for the New Heart Mission and to preach during the worship hour. Afterwards we all enjoyed a wonderful meal prepared by the good cooks of Berean. Thank you Berean for a wonderful day.

### First Hispanic of Ripley

On Friday, November 6, Missionary Committee Chairman Bro. Bryan Wilson and I visited with First Hispanic to look at potential properties. We visited a number of locations, some of property only and some with a building. One which appears to be a good location will be looked at by the Missionary Committee and Revolving Loan Chairman Bro. Lee, on Monday November 16. We ask you to join with us in prayer for the right decision concern a location for First Hispanic of Ripley.

### Missions and Revolving Loan Fund report

Psalms 145:1 *I will extol thee my God, O King; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever.*

What a beautiful fall day we are having the privilege of enjoying here in Laurel, Mississippi. We do truly extol our God and bless his great name this very day.

We want to share a few highlights in

Missions.

Bro. Estuardo Marroquin reports that things are going well with them as they are enjoying the blessings of their new property. They are having increased attendance and souls are being saved. Amen! They are also having bible studies in the Petal area.

Bro. Elvis Garcia is also doing well in attendance and visitations. Very good property prospect is under consideration for them in Ripley. Trustees from Missions and Revolving Loan are expecting to accompany Bro. Freeman and Bro. Lee to Ripley on Monday, Nov. 16, 2009.

Bro. Ed Duvall's building project is on hold because of weather hindrances.

Bro. Joseph Oyeleye continues to be encouraged in Columbus, Mississippi.

Bro. Ray Boone is making good progress in preparing his building for services very soon, and he continues to meet good prospective attendees.

The Revolving Loan Fund closed the sale on the Jordan property in Mobile, Alabama. The Revolving Loan Fund continues to do well.

### Missionary Statistical Report

#### Homestretch

During the month of October Bro. Ed made 15 home visits, made 22 soul talks

and had no professions of faith. Homestretch had an average weekly Sunday school attendance of 16 and morning worship of 22. Their weekly average offering was \$569.13.

#### Maple Street

October was a blessed month for Bro. Joseph. He visited 37 homes, made 70 soul talks, and had 3 profession of faith with 1 baptism. Their weekly average Sunday school attendance was 20. For morning worship they averaged 30, and had a weekly average offering of \$363.50.

#### First Hispanic

Bro. Elvis did a faithful job during the month of October. First Hispanic made 69 home visits and had 6 professions of faith. They had an average weekly worship service attendance of 59. The church's weekly average offering was \$827.00.

#### El Camino

For the month of October Bro. Estuardo reached out and visited 21 homes, made 34 soul talks and had 2 professions of faith. They had an average of 64 in Sunday school, 77 in their weekly worship service. The Lord blessed El Camino with an average weekly offering of \$713.05.

## China Church Policy from page 6

Harassing the two prominent unregistered churches is likely to intimidate other smaller churches. Members of the Beijing church said Sunday they have never experienced such harassment from authorities before.

Obama, who was to arrive in Shanghai later Sunday [November 15], will be closely watched during his visit for signs he will speak out on human rights, including religious freedom. Leaders of churches like Shouwang said if Obama

doesn't speak up, the Chinese government will crack down even more.

"Sometimes before a major U.S. visit, Chinese authorities show goodwill and release someone. But this time, it's the opposite," said Yang Fenggang, director of the Center on Religion and Chinese Society at Purdue University. "I tend to think this is a test case."

Activists and others in China say the U.S. may not want to risk angering China when it needs cooperation on issues such as climate change and the financial crisis.

"I think so far President Obama has been the worst president in terms of dealing with China's human rights issue," said Fan Yafeng, an outspoken leader of another unregistered, or "house," church in Beijing.

He said the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences fired him November 3 as a research fellow at its Institute of Legal Studies for political reasons, including his church activities.

"Human rights lawyers and house churches are two of the most important powers in China's civil society, but the president hasn't made any gesture to help them," Fan said.

The Obama administration's stance has worried many since February, when Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the U.S. would not let human rights concerns interfere with cooperation with Beijing on global crises.

"The Obama administration's total silence on this issue was seen as a green light and certainly emboldens the Chinese government's resolve to carry out this sweep without worrying about international consequences," Bob Fu, founder of the U.S.-based Christian group China Aid Association, said in an e-mail Saturday.



FW

## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

## Riddles

I love riddles and I heard one the other day. Have you heard this one?

"Can you name three consecutive days without using the words Wednesday, Friday, or Sunday?"

Hard, huh? Well the answer is yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Clever, huh? And it called a song to my mind that we used to sing years ago.

"Yesterday, He died for me....."

"Today He lives for me....."

"Tomorrow He comes for me....."

Now doesn't that put a ripple of joy in your heart?