

Baptist

Mississippi

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Hillcrest to hold dedication



Hillcrest Baptist Church, Yazoo City, which was destroyed by a tornado in 2010, would like to thank the community for their prayers and support. The church has completed its rebuilding project, and along with Pastor Rayburn Freeman, invites friends and supporters to the dedication of their new church building on Sunday, November 20, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.

Tithing Hits Record Low

Churches Spend More to Make Congregants Happy

Are churches spending more on themselves than on the needs of those outside the church?

According to a new report they are, with churches keeping a larger share of their tithe-generated income for their own in-house needs.

In a report, titled "The State of Church Giving Through 2009," released Friday (October 2011) by Empty Tomb inc., a Christian service and research organization, authors found that "benevolences" – or funds used for giving outside the church including giving to charities and seminary training – hit new lows compared to

their first report in 1968.

Understandably, with the tithing amount greatly reduced over the past few years because of a bad economy, a drop in benevolences was only normal.

The report, which used data from evangelical and mainline churches including Lutheran, Presbyterian and Episcopalian churches, in

fact revealed that tithing as a percentage of income was at its lowest level in 41 years, Religion News Service noted.

Parishioners were only giving about 2.38 percent of their income to the church in 2009,

down from 2.43 percent in 2008 – shockingly low percentages.

"If Americans who identify with the historically Christian church had chosen to give 10

percent to their congregation in 2008, rather than the 2.43 percent given that year, there would have been an additional \$172 billion available for work through the church," the Empty Tomb website noted.

Though the greatly reduced tithing rates garnered much attention, what remained more surprising to the authors was the church's distribution of

"...only 4 percent of Americans gave 10 percent of their income to churches..."

Next Large DiscipleWay Training Scheduled for Little Rock in January

On January 12-14, 2012, people will be gathering from across our work to attend DiscipleWay Training at Oak Park Baptist Church in Little Rock. Originally this particular training was requested by Larry Barker to coincide with the Missions Symposium to make it feasible for the North American church planters to be trained while they are in the state. It was determined, however, since several trainers would be available that the event would be opened to anyone and everyone who would like to attend.

This is one of the last large trainings planned at this time with one more on the calendar for Missouri at the end of February. The DiscipleWay team

is instead hoping to go to smaller, more localized events utilizing people from those same areas that have already been trained.

"The large trainings have been tremendously successful," states Tommy Wallace. "Our concern is the large cost of bringing in out of state trainers and covering travel and lodging expenses for such a large group. We want to keep the fees as low as possible but at the same time break even on our cost."

Judy Wallace goes on to say, "By doing smaller trainings of ten to fifteen, we would only need three to four trainers and if those could be local people, our cost would plummet drastically. We want to be good

stewards of God's provisions so this is one of the reasons we are seriously looking at this new format." She also stated another reason for smaller trainings is that they better suit the model for the DiscipleWay premise.

When asked how churches could better facilitate the training process, the Wallaces gave these suggestions:

1. It is important that registrations are in by the deadline of DECEMBER 31. Lodging, food orders, printing of materials and scheduling of trainers are all based on these numbers. If we have several last minute registrations we may not have enough trainers on hand to insure the small group atmosphere.

2. Online information for the training can be found at www.discipleway.com. Explanations for each day as well as a tentative schedule are posted so that participants can see what parts they need to attend. This information should answer most of their questions about the training. If not, calls and email are always welcome. (Wallace@discipleway.com)

3. The Thursday night session lays the foundation for the rest of the training so if they are unable to attend that session they may consider waiting for a different training.

"DiscipleWay has the potential of lighting a fire in our churches that we haven't seen in a while. We encourage pastors across our state to make this a priority on their calendar."

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How Does the Chief Climber Confess Cheating?

Luke 19.1-10

What a man Jesus must have been! What a presence He must have had. What personal radiance must have gone forth from Him. How most of the common people were attracted to Him is without question in the New Testament. Here is an uncommon man attracted to Jesus too - Zaccheus. Yes, I must sing along with the children's Sunday School Class, with all the motions of course: "Zaccheus was a wee little man; a wee little man was he. He climbed up in the sycamore tree the Master (Lord) he wanted to see. And when the Master (Lord, Jesus) passed that way, He looked u in the tree. And He said, 'Zaccheus, you come down, for I'm going to your house today. For I'm going to your house to stay.'"

What an impression the public persona and word of mouth reputation Jesus had in His day! This tax collector wanted to see Him so much that he arrived early to the event. He knew where Jesus was to travel. He got the best possible seat in the house. He did not

want to have his view obstructed. In order to do that he elevated himself in the tree limbs. "No one with a big hat is going to block my view of Jesus!"

I wish I had this much of desire to really get a good look at Jesus. I wish I had the gumption to go to the trouble to see this man who is larger than His reputation. I want to make it my business today to get the best view I can even if it means getting somewhere early. I want to get to see Jesus today. To do this, I must be as calculating as Zaccheus. Seeing Jesus does not happen by accident. I must set aside time to do it. I must set my purpose to let it happen. I must put it in my day planner and place large letters on my PDA or phone calendar in order for this to happen!

Obviously Jesus took note of the one in the tree. He stopped on the way out of town to call him from his perch on the limb. Wow! What a heart joy event to

have your name called by Jesus! What a grace of grace to have Jesus call your name. He called "Zaccheus." Years later in a different place He called my name too. Like Zacchaeus, I responded. I hope you will too as Jesus calls your name right now.

There was no hesitation on the part of Zach. He confessed his wrongs. He told the Lord his plan to make up for it. He told that he would restore more than required and more than needed. I think it is like this is Jesus' presence. Jesus calls out for our best - not the minimum for us to do for His service. Zach responded with more than the Mosaic Law required. He responded with the grace of the One he was standing before.

Sure I want Jesus in my home. Certainly I want Jesus as a guest in my residence. If that is true then my behavior must match the One who is full of grace and favor of God, the

Leave It To Cleaver



Tony Cleaver

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Tithing

from page 1

more generous toward outside giving, thus concentrating less on charities, the lost and the dying.

Ronsvalle shared that in 16 impoverished nations, 10 of them primarily Christian, little to no progress was seen in improving child mortality rates, a problem she believed could be resolved if churches contributed more.

If members contributed only a few more cents per day, churches in the U.S. could stop up to two-thirds of global under-five child deaths and engage every unreached people group, the authors previously found.

An estimated \$239 per evangelical Christian could potentially stop global deaths of children under five while only \$26 a year could fund over \$544 million in efforts toward global evangelization.

"These babies do not have to be dying, and yet nobody is mobilized at a scale that would achieve that solution,"

continued on page 4

Resources You Can Trust

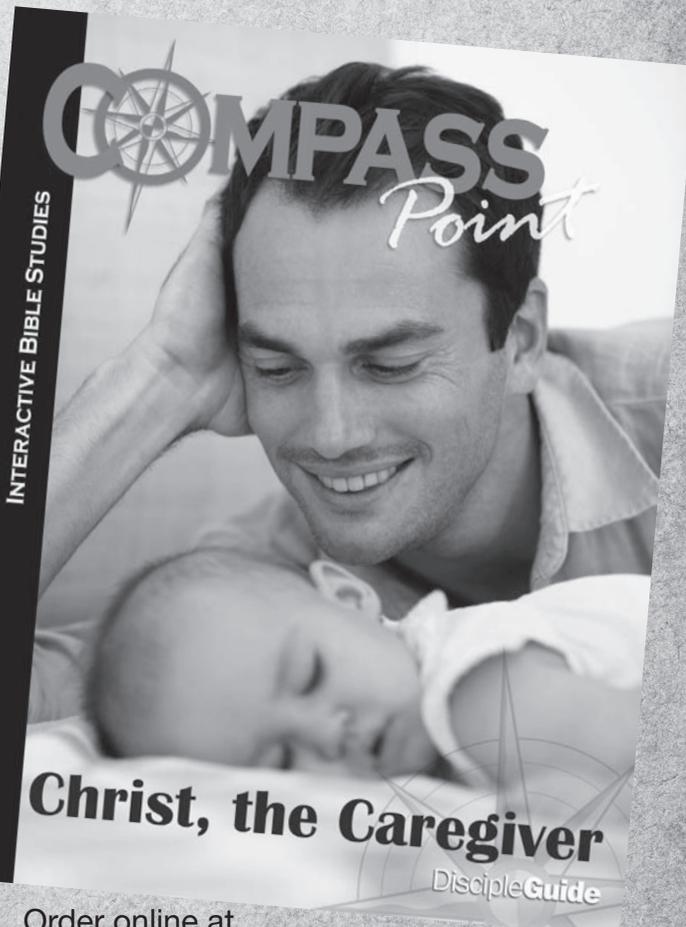
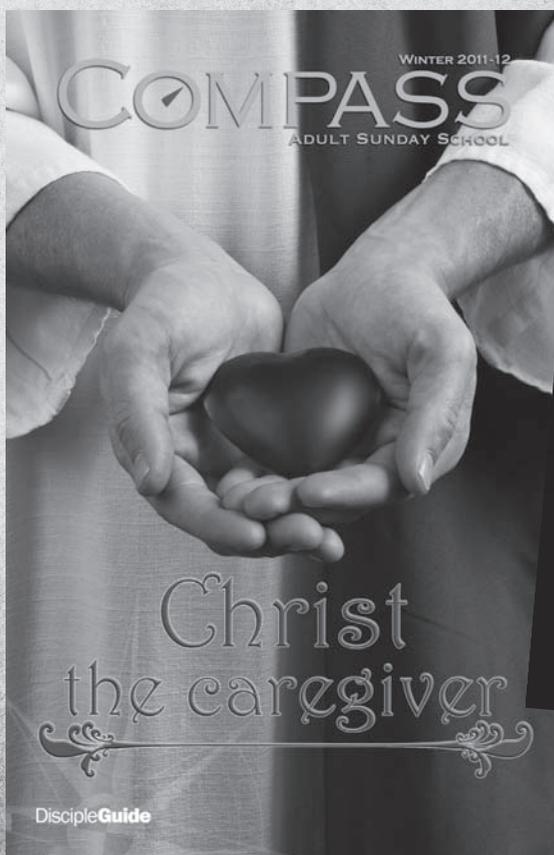
Adult Sunday School resources from DiscipleGuide offer your church a structured curriculum for every Sunday and coordinated, Bible-intensive, life-oriented studies.

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The same resource you have known and trusted for almost 60 years. King James Version

Compass Point Study Guide

Compass Point, for today's young adults, provides an interactive format of Bible study. New King James Version




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Order online at DiscipleGuide.org/QuickOrder or call customer service at 800-333-1442.

Cleaver Publishes New Book

Dear Family and Friends:

I have just published my new book, *Prayers for This Year*. It is available on Amazon.com. It is a perfect companion for your own prayer time. It is also a good stocking stuffer for family and friends for Christmas.

A description for the book from Amazon.com is below. You can get a free preview by clicking "Look inside" on the Amazon.com site.

Prayers for This Year

Many Christians start the year by saying, "I'm going to pray more this year." After a few weeks the prayers are intermittent; then they stop. Here is a companion book to assist the Christian in a consis-

tent daily prayer time.

Prayers for This Year is a collection of 366 prayers covering a wide range of subjects written from the heart of one who tries to pray, that is be with God in quietness, on a daily basis. They are not perfect prayers, but they are prayers from the heart.

Prayers for This Year is that perfect companion for your own prayer time. It is a great gift for a family member or friend.

People need to pray. Christians want to pray to their Lord. Recent polls indicate that most



Tony Cleaver

Christians pray daily. Some of us who have lives with ragged edges probably pray more than once a day. Here are 366 prayers for this year. Use them as an impetus to spur your own prayers onward and upward!

I believe the key to prayer is more than asking God to fulfill a wish list or to listen to a list of "gimme." Praise and thankfulness are keys to prayers. Both of these elements are best practiced as we pray.

There are many aspects of praying. I remind myself of these easy-to-forget simplicities as I pray:

-Think of being in divine presence-pray that way.

-Think of being in desperate need-pray that way.

-Think of being in dire hopelessness-pray that way.

-Think of being in delirious joy-pray that way.

Lord, teach us to pray!

Church Honors Former Pastor

First Baptist Church of Windsor Park, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, recently honored our Elder Pastor and Mrs. Daisy with a surprise reception.



Bro. & Mrs. Tapp

Forty Three years ago Bro. Tapp was licensed in to the ministry. He has pastored many churches answering God's call on his life. For the past 15 years he and Mrs. Tapp have been at First Baptist Windsor Park. The church prospered greatly under their ministry.

On February 1, 2008 Bro. Larry resigned as pastor, but continued to teach the Adult Sunday School class until recently.

Our pastor, Bro. Eddie Lambert and the entire congregation congratulate Bro. Larry on 43 years in the Gospel Ministry.

Report from Dale and Celia Broom on their Ghana ministry

Editor's note: *The following is a report from the Broom's as they finalize plans for their upcoming work in Ghana, West Africa.*

We would like to begin this newsletter by thanking all of you for your support through prayer, finances, and encouragement. We are presently still working on our deputation. We have been traveling quite a bit to attend association meetings and church services. God has blessed us so much and we have almost raised the full amount for our monthly support.

Our current plan is to leave for Ghana in January. We have a few more openings on the calendar if you are interested in hearing the vision God has laid on our hearts. We would be more than happy to come to your church service, GMA, WMA, Brotherhood, Galilean group, Awana, or any other group at your church to present the work of our ministry in Ghana. If so, you can contact us by calling 601-441-6789 or 601-543-7456.

We have had some expenses that we did not realize we would have that have been rather costly at times. We received word from Ghana that we needed to file the paperwork for our permanent residence and also medical expenses to prepare us for the field. We do have a few more needs for when we arrive in Ghana. One of those is transportation, and the BMA of Africa has a truck that we can either purchase or rent. We currently have a special



Dale and Celia Broom transportation fund that some have made donations to for our transportation in Ghana. Other needs are furnishings and things that we will need for living when we arrive since we will not be sending our household furnishings in a container. For example, we will need mattresses for the bed, cooking items, etc. We will not be sending a container with furniture and such because it is too costly. So we will purchase those kinds of items when we arrive.

Please pray for the people in Ghana and that God will prepare their hearts for the Gospel. Pray also for our families that will be separated from us when we leave. Pray that we will have safe travels as we continue deputation and when we leave for Ghana. If you would like to receive regular newsletters from us, please send an email to brodale42@yahoo.com or celia_broom@yahoo.com and request to receive regular newsletters and that will give us your email address.

May God be glorified in all that we do,

Bro. Dale and Celia Broom

Ordination held for Trent Thompson

Bro. Trent Thompson, Associate Pastor and Student Minister of First Baptist Church, Mantachie, was ordained to the Gospel Ministry on Sunday afternoon November 6 at First Baptist Church, Mantachie, Mississippi.

There were 21 ordained ministers and deacons that formed the presbytery. Dr. John Adams served as the moderator. Deacon Kermit McFerrin was selected as clerk. The candidate and wife, Rebecca, were introduced by Deacon Randy Boyd. Pastor Eddie Boutwell questioned Bro. Thompson. The pastoral charge was given by Pastor Jackie Gray. The Ordination prayer was given by Pastor Hugh Dusza.

The Church gift was presented by Deacon Freddy Yielding and his wife Janice. The Ordination message was given by Pastor Tim Holsonback. Pastors Doug Wilson and Henry Jenkins led in prayer for this lovely couple. May God bless this ministry.



Trent & Becky Thompson

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.

Skyway Hills Baptist Church Seeks Pastor

Skyway Hills Baptist Church in Pearl, Mississippi, is seeking God's leadership in the selection of a new pastor. Any minister who feels God's direction to apply for this position, should send a resume to "Pastor Search Committee, Skyway Hills Baptist Church, 3790 Highway 80 E., Pearl, MS 39208" or email at "larry.welborn@comcast.net".

Tupelo Church Seeks Pastor

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Tupelo, Mississippi, is searching for a pastor. Anyone feeling led should contact one of the individuals listed here. Ricky Sandford at 662-213-1442, Eilliam Lucius at 662-842-0552, or David Langford at 662-687-1610.

Mid-Central Association holds Annual Meeting

The annual Mid-Central Baptist Missionary Association Meeting was held at Broadmoor Missionary Baptist Church in Meridian on September 17, 2011. We were blessed with a special brought by Bro. Chris Floyd entitled

"My House is Full but My Fields are Empty." A great message was brought by Bro. Harold Floyd from Revelation 3:1-6. There were 27 in attendance.

Officers elected for the upcoming year are Moderator, Bro. Jimmy Harrison; Assistant Moderator, Bro. Kent Grice; Clerk, Bro. Terry Smith; Assistant Clerk, Bro. Ronnie Williamson; Treasurer, Bro. Ricky Smith; Assistant Treasurer, Bro. Wayne Stockstill; Reporter, Joyce Williamson; Parliamentarian, Bro. Chris Floyd; Missionary Committee Members, Bro. Robert Carr, Bro. Kent Grice, Bro. Bill Raines, Bro. Terry Smith, Bro. Wayne Stockstill, Bro. Ronnie Williamson, and Bro. Chris Floyd.

Reports were given by Bro. Paul Lee with the Prisoners Bible Crusade and Bro. Aaron Parker with the Southeastern Baptist College. The meeting was followed by a meal prepared by the host church. The next meeting will be held at Magnolia Heights Baptist Church.

Bro. Kent Grice, Moderator
Joyce Williamson, Reporter

Ten Mile Association Meets

The Ten Mile Association Meeting was held at Bethel Baptist Church in Wiggins on Monday the 7th of November. There were 8 churches present. The message was brought by Bro. Freddie Wegner, subject "How Churches Sell Out" text Genesis 25:30-34. The next meeting will be held Monday the 5th of December at Cypress Creek Baptist Church at 7:30.

Christopher Flynn, Reporter
Eugene Anderson, Mod.

Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Pastor “appreciates” Pastor Appreciation shown by his church

October has been designated as pastor appreciation month. As a pastor, let me say that it is nice for a church to show its love and appreciation for its pastor.

Bea and I had one of the best times of our lives at the Pastor’s Oasis in Branson this year. Exciting! Uplifting! Educational! And definitely spiritual. Dennis Swanberg, the Swan, is always a delight to hear. He had everyone bursting a gut with laughter. Dr. Voddie Baucham Jr. did an outstand-

ing job teaching us about Ephesians with the theme of unity. All the singing was outstanding! Undivided Hearts, Larnelle Harris and Crystal River were just some of the highlights. On Wednesday evening we were treated to an outstanding banquet for pastors and wives.

Thursday morning after Crystal River blessed our hearts, Steve Crawley, John David Smith and Kevin Clayton were interviewed by Donny Parrish concerning the future of the BMAA. Each de-

partment seems to be on the same page working together for a unified association with the purpose of reaching the lost for Christ. Way to go men! Is that not the reason we are here? Also note that we may be asked to make some changes in the way we do things.

Bea and I are grateful to Temple Baptist Church, Lucedale, for sending us to the Pastor’s Oasis. To our knowledge we were the only pastor and wife from this area. Hopefully in the future, this will not be the case.

Churches, please allow me to encourage you to show your appreciation for you pastor and wife by sending them to the Pastor’s Oasis in October 2012 and each year thereafter.

BJ Hudson, pastor
Temple, Lucedale

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP

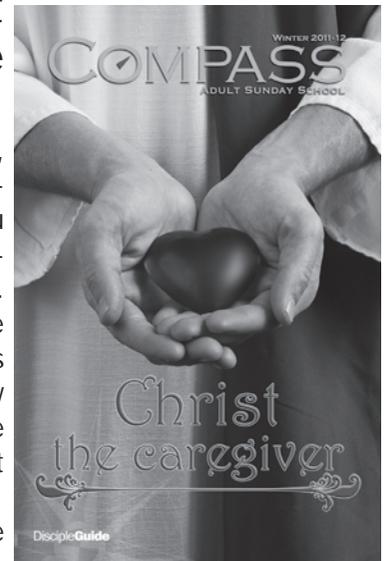


“Looks like another sermon on stewardship...”

Compass Student Book Now Available Electronically

If you own a Kindle Reader, iPad, Nook, other electronic tablet, or a major smartphone, you can download the latest Compass as an e-book for just \$3.05. For e-readers other than the Kindle, there are Kindle apps widely available that will allow you to download and use the DiscipleGuide Compass student book.

The winter Compass will be available on Amazon Kindle by mid November before the start of the new quarter on December 4. Go to www.amazon.com/kindle and search for “Christ the Caregiver.”



AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Paul Bullock

Paul Bullock has resigned as pastor of Richmond Road Baptist Church in Texarkana, Texas and is available for pastoral or staff ministry as the Lord leads. His last Sunday will be November 27. He can be contacted at 870-234-1174 or bro.paulb@yahoo.com.

Bryson Haden

Bryson Haden has resigned at Oakland Baptist Church and now is available for pulpit supply and is seeking God’s direction for his ministry. 662-251-0443

Richard C. Arceneaux

Richard Arceneaux is available for pastoring, revivals, pulpit supply, and Southern Gospel concerts. He is located in Meadville, Mississippi and is willing to travel. He may be reached by calling 601-384-5703 or 601-807-1755.

Tithing

from page 2

Ronsvalle stated. “Contempt for death isn’t the way to expect a Christian to live their life. We ought to be sacrificing, we ought to do everything in our power to make sure everyone that wants a Bible can have one.”

By increasing tithing to 10 percent, parishioners could help provide much needed relief efforts around the world and contribute to the end of many of the world’s greatest problems, while still maintaining their own church activities.

But the “lukewarmness” of the church in the United States and not a lack of resources or methods posed serious consequences to both global evangelization and the end of physical suffering, the authors had previously stressed in their reports.

If a church is turning inward and valuing the happiness of its members over service to others, it is moving on a spectrum toward pagan values, the vice

president also stated.

“That’s an offensive question even to raise, but if we are moving in that direction we need to see it now. These are alarming trends that need to be evaluated.”

Many pastors, theologians, and church leaders have also echoed Ronsvalle’s concerns about tithing and generous giving, as tithing continues to drop amid the recession.

Earlier in the year, Barna Research Group found that only 4 percent of Americans gave 10 percent of their income to churches, a drop from the previous year’s rate of seven percent of Americans.

A quarter of Americans even stopped giving altogether to churches. The president of Barna Group commented that as the recession kicked in, people began cutting back their giving to churches and nonprofits. And even when the economy started to show signs of improvement, they were reluctant to return to their previous levels of generosity.

“If ... the church in the U.S. ... should opt to be earnest and repent, then the church will reflect a change of heart as evident in increased concern for others, displayed through increased church member giving for the purpose of helping others who are in desperate need,” Ronsvalle maintained

previously.

Jordan J. Ballor, a Ph.D student at Calvin Theological Seminary, discussing the issue of tithing, expressed before that if American Christians were to focus on the simple obedience of giving back to God what is really His in the first place, the church would have the re-

sources to do great things, like the Empty Tomb study indicated.

But he believed that parishioners should not give because of the good it would accomplish for the church, others, and themselves, but ultimately because “the Bible tells us so.”

- From Christian Post



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Mississippi Baptist Children's Home

Special Emphasis Time

October - November 2011



Greetings from the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home:

First of all, on behalf of the children and staff let me express to you our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for your prayerful and financial support of this ministry. Because of your love and concern for girls and boys in need you have made a tremendous difference in the development of their lives. To this we give God the glory.

There is rejoicing at the birth of a new baby. And rightly so, because we know that children are an heritage of the Lord. Psalm 127:3. It is time for God's people to continue sending a clear message to our world that children are a gift from God. It is a wonderful thing that we can receive these gifts of God and train them up in the ways of the Lord. Isn't it an amazing blessing that we as families can give God the glory for sharing with us His gift of children? In Revelation 4:11 we are reminded that the Lord is worthy to receive glory and honour for all things. May we ever be mindful that our lives were created by the Lord to give Him glory.

October and November are Special Emphasis months for the Mississippi Baptist 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.

Pray for the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home that it may continue to be a ministry for children to the glory of God.

A Ministry for Children to the Glory of God, Revelation 4:11

Sidney D. Davis, Director

Time Will Tell

You wouldn't think five minutes could ruin my entire day. After all, what is five minutes out of the fourteen hundred and forty minutes that constitute a day? There are moments when I just blink and five minutes are gone. I chew up minutes like a four year old goes through a packet of bubble gum. I put four or five in my mouth and spit them out before getting the entire flavor from them. Then when they are used up, I wish I hadn't carelessly tossed them aside without squeezing out every drop of delicious goodness from them.

So, you can understand why the five minutes in question were very important to me. Oh,

you can't? Well, these particular minutes held something that I deemed very essential. My peace of mind. Without my peace of mind, I have the tendency to give a piece of my mind and believe me, I don't have much up there to spare.

The five minutes that held my peace of mind were the ones right before I left to carry my daughter to school. These were the priceless minutes: the minutes that were more valuable than the finest of gold. But they were gone. I had treated them with disdain and mocked their quiet pleadings to grab hold of them and cherish them. Oh if I had just listened!

From The Mind of



Chuck Lee

Planned Parenthood throws in the towel

OneNewsNow - Planned Parenthood has ended its legal attack on Arizona's "Abortion Consent Act," which had been held up in court since signed into law in September 2009.

The law, argued before the Arizona Court of Appeals in mid-June, prohibits non-physicians from performing surgical abortions and provides for women to be fully informed with accurate information on abortion including possible consequences 24 hours in advance. In addition, it protects health workers who object to participate on religious or ethical grounds and requires notarized parental consent for minors seeking abortions.

Steven H. Aden is an attorney with the Arizona-based Alliance Defense Fund, one of the groups that defended the law.

"A woman's right to make a fully informed choice is more important than Planned Parenthood's desire to profit from abortions," says Aden. "Without this legal roadblock, women will now be better protected -- and so will pro-life medical professionals whom the law protects from being coerced into participating in abortions."

The law also ensures that women receive information on abortion alternatives, long-term medical risks, and the probable gestational age of the preborn child at the time of the requested abortion.

Deborah Sheasby of the Center for Arizona Policy acted as co-counsel in the case. "Everyone deserves full and accurate information before undergoing any medical procedure," she

Because I stopped my ears to their urging, I had to pay the ultimate price. That's right. I had to wait in traffic. Five minutes earlier and I could have zipped right on through the car pool line with rapid speed. Now I had to wait behind a line of other time mongers. Two cars were the maximum that could squeeze through the light each time the light changed. Forty changes of light later and I was on school property.

Frustration mounted and began its charge. Oh, it was slow in coming, but when it arrived, it was full force. Everyone and everything was out to make my life miserable. The crossing guard deliberately put up a neon yellow hand to make my progress even slower. Kids all dressed alike in their blue shirts and khaki shorts oozed over the crosswalk like sap dripping down the trunks of trees in the dead of winter. Even the big yellow school bus was in on the plan to make my life un-

happy. Four hundred boys and girls exited the bus with the urgency of ... well, kids exiting a bus and having to go to school. Doesn't anyone skip school anymore? Not on this day. Everyone was present and ahead of me.

As my daughter raced up the sidewalk, I became contemplative over the whole situation. A honk from some impatient parent behind me jolted me from my moment of reflection; so much so that my foot slipped off the clutch and stalled my truck. Boy, some people just aren't very considerate of others, and I told the guy just those very words! He was on the other side of town when I told him, but I told him just the same.

Back at home, I stopped to consider those precious minutes that I had lost. If I had started out with those minutes, my day surely would have been

different. I might have even smiled at someone. I wouldn't have had to get all tensed up in traffic. The rude man in the car pool line wouldn't have gotten my tongue lashing. My daughter wouldn't have had to scurry down the sidewalk to make it to class. I hope she made it. Life sure would have been different.

Then I began to wonder if time was not at fault at all. After all, five minutes is the same whatever time slot it fills. Could it be that I was the problem? I hate it when my imperfections cause me to examine my imperfections.

Next time I'll just have to leave five minutes earlier. If I don't, maybe this time I'll realize that these five minutes deserve the same courtesy as the earlier ones. When I enter their corridors, maybe I'll conduct myself in a way that shows how precious they really are.

says. "These types of protections have been repeatedly upheld and are overwhelmingly supported by the public."

In addition, the U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld 24-hour waiting periods.

Joining in defense of the Arizona Abortion Consent Act were the Bioethics Defense Fund and the Life Legal Defense Foundation. The measure had been scheduled to go into effect on September 30, 2009, but lawsuits filed by Planned Parenthood and by the Center for Reproductive Rights prevented its implementation.

Hobolochitto WMA report

The Hobolochitto District WMA met at First Baptist, Henleyfield. We were given a warm welcome by the church and Mrs. Watts. Reports were given and it was noted that Bro. Willie Tebo would be making a mission trip to the Philippines in November. A group children from the host church bless us with some music.

There were 6 churches present at the meeting. Bro. Rice brought a message from II Timothy. Our next meeting is January 28, 2012 at Lee's Chapel #2. Bro. Vernon Watts will be our speaker. We will have a fellowship at IHOP on December 8.

Jean Overton, reporter

Mississippi W.M.A.

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MISSISSIPPI STATE WMA CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT November 12, 2011

Amount given for the Mississippi State WMA project for 2010-2011:	
25% General Funds plus Designated Offerings \$	1,773.78
75% Maple Street Baptist Church, Columbus, MS	4,403.19
Total Received	\$ 6,176.97

Listed below are the top five churches in giving to the project:

1. Vardaman Street Baptist, Wiggins	\$ 1,349.93
2. Parkview Baptist, Laurel	1,000.00
3. Temple Baptist, Lucedale	420.00
4. Lebanon Baptist, Laurel	374.00
5. First Baptist, Calhoun	320.00

In addition to these churches, the following churches gave \$100.00 or more to the project:

1. Berean Baptist, Soso
2. Bethel Baptist, Fulton
3. Big Creek Baptist, Soso
4. East Amory Baptist, Amory
5. First Baptist, Bay Springs
6. First Baptist, Mantachie
7. First Baptist, Shady Grove
8. Hopewell Baptist, Laurel
9. O'Neal Road Baptist, Gulfport
10. Shiloh Baptist, Steens
11. Skyway Hills Baptist, Pearl
12. Ten Mile Baptist, Perkinston
13. Washington District WMA

The project selected for 2011-2012 is 25 % General Fund; 75% Shepherd Bag Ministry. Please send all your offerings for the MS State WMA project to Shirlene Smith, 730 Highway 533, Laurel, MS 39443.

Thank you for your generous offerings to the 2010-2011 project. May God be glorified as we give that others may hear about Jesus and be saved. God bless each lady as she works through WMA in her local church this year.

Shirlene Smith



Shepherd Bags™ Ministry 2011 Update and Looking Forward to 2012!

by **Fonda Norris**
EIM Shepherd Bags™
Coordinator

"We'll rest when we get to Heaven" is what we tell ourselves here at EIM when speaking of the Shepherd Bags™ Ministry! When a shipment goes out, we think maybe we'll rest up before getting ready for the next shipment but there's always too much work that needs to be done. Then we realize, "it's the bags that God uses as the tool to open the door to the Gospel of Jesus Christ" and so we gear back up, take a deep breath and start up again. It's been a wonderfully, busy year.

We've recently been asked several times about how things are going with the Shepherd Bags™ Ministry. So we thought we better update everyone.

We are amazed at what God has accomplished and the things He's allowed us to get done. In August, 35,174 Shepherd Bags™ were loaded, bound for the schools of Honduras. This is the largest single shipment we've ever had to go out in our history of making bags! To God be the glory! Combining the numbers from this shipment and the total of our October 2010 shipment, we've sent over 55,000 Shepherd Bags™ for our Honduras school campaign!

Our Honduras Shepherd Bags™ School Campaign continues to allow us the freedom to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the schools of Honduras. The invitation from the President of Honduras wife to go into the schools has opened many doors. This year we've had six Shepherd Bags™ Distribution Teams as well as two Overseas Bible Schools Teams to go into many schools to present the Gospel and hand out bags. They've gone from large schools with several hundred children to high up in the mountains to very small, poor schools to share the love of Christ. May we pray and beg for that freedom to be restored in our schools here in America!

For 2012, we have approximately 8-10 dates available for Shepherd Bags™ Distribution Teams. These teams will distribute the bags that we're sending to Honduras for the schools. If 4-6 individuals from a church would be interested in putting a team together, you can go online at our website

(www.eimworldwide.org) to see the dates available. I am currently working on updating our Shepherd Bags link and hopefully will have all of our new information available in a couple of weeks.

In addition to the largest container in our history being sent out in August, we will be loading approximately 15,000+ more bags on a shipment to go the Philippines in mid-November.

We've never had shipments that close before. What started out as plans to send a 20 ft. container of dehydrated food turned into a 40 ft. container of food, plus Shepherd Bags as well as bicycles to be given to pastors/workers who need them. We're excited as many of the bags will have our EIM 7 inch Frisbee with John 3:16 printed on them as well as a Gospel Story Coloring Book in Ilonggo, the native dialect where most of the bags will be distributed. So everyone is working very hard around here to make the shipment date. The work that goes into a shipment cannot be described. We have so many faithful workers and church groups that contribute.

And how can we express our thanks to the hundreds of faithful churches, WMA's, Awana, VBS, Youth, Galilean/GMA's and other church groups and individuals who have partnered with us and continue to give so faithfully so the Shepherd Bags™ Ministry can continue. We've said it a thousand times and will continue to do so, God has allowed EIM to do this but without His continued blessing and "You", EIM's faithful giver, it could not happen. It would end tomorrow.

So thank you from each of us at EIM, we couldn't do it without you! And thank you from each school, town and village that Shepherd Bags have been distributed in. They are the lives that are being changed through your burden for lost souls around the world. For a very personal testimony of how lives are being affected, I hope you take the time to read Francisco's Story, a policeman from Honduras, who had a personal encounter with the Savior while going up into the mountains with a Shepherd

Bags™ Distribution Team.

Finally, I'd like to try and answer a question we get asked all the time. Is the Shepherd Bags™ Ministry a seasonal ministry? My answer to you is this. We had a shipment of over 35,000 bags go out to Honduras in August. We're currently working on a shipment for mid-November to the Philippines. When that shipment leaves, we will start back to work on another 40 ft. container, resuming our Honduras School Campaign. I currently have supplies for over 2,000

Shepherd Bags™, including our new 7 in. Frisbee with John 3:16 in Spanish on them that we put into all of our unisex bags. I have 7,000 Gospel Story Coloring Books in Spanish sitting in the warehouse and another 33,000 books in the process of being printed. So plans are being made to get another shipment out as soon as we can build another 33-38,000 bags for a 40 ft. container. However long that may take, we'll work until it's done.

So my answer is emphatically, NO, the Shepherd Bags™ Ministry is not seasonal. I have always said and will continue to do so; we will make bags as long as we have funds and supplies to make bags. That is the only thing that determines our work load. God's people have



We Serve A Great God— Give Him Thanks

During these days of crisis we need to be reminded from time to time that we serve a great God. He is all-powerful and is greater than any problem we may face. In Deuteronomy Moses reminded the people of God of what the Lord had done for them in the past. After instructing the new generation how God had performed many wonderful miracles on their journey from Egypt to Canaan he says to them, "He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that had done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen." Deuteronomy 10:21. We serve a great God and He does great things. Let us during this Thanksgiving season take time to praise the Lord for His blessings and give Him thanks.

Expression of Sympathy

We would like to express our sympathy to the family of Bro.

been so faithful so we continue to work. And as I said earlier, I guess we'll rest when we get to Heaven. But that's not really true as Bro. Rocky and I have said many times because we know we'll stay very "busy" praising King Jesus!!

Thank you again, we love you all. Please pray for us as we continue to try and serve Him in the Shepherd Bags™ Ministry.

Ethical standards out the window?

OneNewsNow - Christian physicians are concerned over the debate connected to harvesting human organs as they review the proposed government-endorsed changes to ethical standards.

Dr. David Stevens of the Christian Medical Association (CMA) has expressed his concern in a letter to the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network. He tells OneNewsNow the proposal could change the definition of "death" for the sake of organ transplants.

"They broaden donor criteria to include people who do not have irreversible brain injury, people with upper spinal cord injuries and paralysis, [people who have] problems with their lungs [or] problems with their muscles - that they've decided that they have a life not worth being lived," he explains.

That could mean that if a person's heart stops working, for example, his or her organs could be harvested, even though the patient's heart could possibly resume function.

Previously, a hospital's primary healthcare team and the legal next of kin were to decide whether to withdraw life-sustaining treatment before the patient was evaluated as a donor candidate, but the new policy means a patient is evaluated before the family reaches a decision. Stevens warns this could incline people to stop trusting the organ donor system.

He goes on to caution that if ObamaCare goes into effect, "the cheapest form of healthcare at the end of life is a handful of lethal pills and anything that moves us closer towards that euthanasia mindset, which I think this policy does."

CHILDREN'S HOME

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

Buddy Cameron. The Buddy Cameron family is known and cherished by many. Our prayers and thoughts are with the Cameron family during their time of loss and sorrow.



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

We would also like to express our sympathy to the family of Bro. Vern D. Holifield. Bro. Holifield was a special person to all who knew him. The Holifield family has had and continues to have an influence on the lives of those with whom the Lord allowed them to minister. Bro. Holifield pastored my home church, Hopewell Baptist Church near Fulton, when I surrendered to the ministry. Our prayers and thoughts are with the Holifield family during this time of bereavement.

Recent Church Visits

On Sunday, November 6, we were with the Broadmoor Baptist Church in Meridian where Bro. Chris Floyd is the pastor for their evening service.

On Sunday, November 13, we were with the New Bethany Baptist Church near Ellisville and Pastor Glenn Shoemaker for their morning service. Then on Sunday evening we were with the Shiloh Baptist Church near Mt. Olive and Pastor Dewitt Bain. Delicious thanksgiving meals were enjoyed by all in attendance at these two churches at these annual Thanksgiving and Harvest services.

We are grateful and thankful to have had the opportunity to be a part of worshipping together with each of these churches. To God be the glory!

Special Emphasis Reminder

The Special Emphasis period for the Children's Home for 2011 is about to come to a close. We are thankful for the response already for this emphasis time. Let me encourage you to give to this special emphasis as the Lord blesses you and leads you in your giving.

Remember in Prayer

Continue to remember our girls and boys and the ministry of the Home in your prayers each day.

Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Editor's Note: *The following is not original with Sofilthy, but she submitted this for her column and I think it is a most precious, tender and eye-opening piece of writing. I hope you will read it and then share it with others in your church.*

92 Year Old Preacher

While watching a little TV on Sunday instead of going to church, I watched a church in Atlanta honoring one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years. He was 92 at that time



and I wondered why the church even bothered to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age. After a warm welcome, introduction of this speaker, and as the applause quieted down, he rose from his high back chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a sliding gait to the podium. Without a note or written paper of any kind he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak....

"When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50-odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials.. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heartbreak and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me... the only thing that would comfort was this verse....

*"Jesus loves me this I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong,
we are weak but He is strong.....
Yes, Jesus loves me....
The Bible tells me so."*

The old pastor stated, "I always noticed that it was the adults who chose the children's hymn 'Jesus Loves Me' (for the children of course) during a hymn sing, and it was the adults who sang the loudest because I could see they knew it the best."

"Here for you now is a Senior version of 'Jesus Loves Me',

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him.

(CHORUS)

YES, JESUS LOVES ME.. YES, JESUS LOVES ME..
YES, JESUS LOVES ME, FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.

(CHORUS)

When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song..
Telling me in words so clear,
"Have no fear, for I am near."

(CHORUS)

When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won.
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love.

(CHORUS)

I love Jesus, does He know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day.

(CHORUS)

Practice Being A Turkey

I don't mean to be an ornery little fat thing with feathers. What I mean, is that we all need to get the right attitude for Thanksgiving. It will make this holiday much better for you. Being a turkey is to practice being a T.U. R. K. E. Y spiritually!

T - T stands for "Thanking God".

II Thessalonians 5:18. "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." Scripture states that it is God's will for all of us to be thankful. To have an attitude of gratitude. To be thankful in every thing. Thanksgiving is not just the 4th Thursday in November for the believer. It is every single day of our lives.

This Thanksgiving, spend a lot of time thanking God for everything that you have. For everything that you are. For everything that you shall become, because of your salvation through Jesus Christ. Have at least one prayer per week that is only one subject - thanking God. It really changes your mood and lifts your spirit to even utter a one minute prayer of thanks to God. Pray nothing else but thanks.

Thank Him not only for what He has done for you, but thank Him for who He is. He is the one true God, Alpha and Omega, Rock and Fortress and Deliverer. You can have an instant attitude adjustment by praying prayers of thanksgiving. How ironic to have a national day of thanks set aside and then we fail to act upon it. More important than football and eating, should be for all Christian families to set aside time to thank our eternal God.

U - U stands for Understanding who we are in Christ.

You can take a lot of criticism, a lot of family harassment and stress in your life when you let it slide off of your shield of faith. You understand who you are in Christ. It doesn't matter what other people say. It only matters what the Word says. Study the Word so that you have an Understanding of who you really are in Christ. II Corinthians 6:18. "And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

If you are saved by grace in Jesus Christ, then God is your Father. That makes you a son or daughter. You have been adopted into royalty. God has an eternal throne. Jesus has a kingdom. He is the King of Kings. That is your family



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

now. It isn't by what you have done. It isn't by who approves of you. It is only because of what Jesus did for you on the cross.

Because of His death on the cross, He has now made you holy, unblameable and unreprouable in God's sight. Colossians 1:21,22. Study the Word and truly receive into the depths of your heart who you are. You are an heir apparent to a kingdom that has no end. Hallelujah!

R - R is for Repenting.

To experience the joy of Jesus, and to have close fellowship with the Father, it is always necessary to have an on-going self examination of our sin, followed by repentance. Some people never experience abundant life or true peace and joy because of their unwillingness to repent. Mark 1:15. "And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

Repentance is not just confessing our sins. It is turning from our wicked ways. Ask God to give you the strength and courage and desire to gain victory over any sin in your life.

Now that makes for a day of thanksgiving!

K - K is for Knowing God loves you.

God loves you 100% once you are in Christ Jesus. Not 99%. Even after you sin, He still loves you. Because it is unconditional. He can in no way cast you out. Romans 8:38,39. "For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers nor things present, nor things to come, nor height,

nor depth nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Did you get that? God always loves you. He loves you more than you love yourself. It is the kind of love our souls long for, and we have it forever when we are in Christ. I am full of thanksgiving that God loves me every moment of every day through eternity whether any one else does or not.

E - E is for Edifying.

I Thessalonians 5:11. "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and Edify one another, even as also ye do." Edify means to build up. Edify means to encourage. If you want to quickly improve all family relationships, to have your family respond to you in a more loving way, then encourage them.

Each day find one person in your family to encourage. It is one of the greatest gifts you can give. No one is over encouraged. And you will find that God will encourage you back when you do this. Encouragement is the building block for a happier home.

Y - Y is for Yielding to the Holy Spirit.

John 16:15 "All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you." Die to your desires, your thoughts your emotions. In every thing, every day, yield to the leading of the Holy Spirit and your life will change dramatically. He can't lead you wrong. Proverbs 3:5,6.

If you want to be happy this Thanksgiving - be a T.U. R. K.E. Y!

*Sing unto the
LORD, O ye saints
of his, and give
thanks at the re-
membrance of his
holiness.*

- Psalm 30:4