BMA of Mississippi

Celebrating 200 Years 1806 - 2006

On The Web at **msbaptist.org**

Email **editor@msbaptist.org**

NOVEMBER 1, 2006 **VOL. 60 NO. 21**

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

BMA celebrates 200 years of Baptist work in Mississippi

The 200th annual session of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi was held on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College October 16-18. The State WMA and Brotherhood met on Monday evening after the Brotherhood hosted a meal in the college gymnasium.

The Association business session began on Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m. A number of guests and workers from our national departments were present and reported on their various areas of work.

The Bicentennial Committee presented a video highlighting the beginning and growth of our associated work and the growth of each of our departments and commissions. Copies of the video will be made available to each of the supporting churches of the Baptist Missionary Association.

Newly elected officers for the coming year are as follows: President, Neal Murphy, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Saltillo; 1st Vice-president, Gay Smith, pastor of South Green Baptist Church, Tupelo; 2nd Vice-president, Mike Allred, pastor of Woodland Baptist Church, Columbus; Clerk, Billy Huffmaster, pastor of Skyway Hills Baptist Church, Pearl; Assistant Clerk, Sam Oglesby, Music Minister of Westover Baptist Church, Hattiesburg; and Director of Public Information, Don Brown, editor of the *Mississippi Baptist*.

2007 Meeting Information

The 2007 Annual meeting will again meet at Southeastern College. Dr. John Adams was chosen to bring the annual message with Bro. Justin Cameron serving as alternate. The midyear meeting will be hosted by Midway First Baptist Church of Sumrall. Bro. Shane Singleton, pastor of Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel, will bring the midyear meeting with Bro. Joey Harris, Vice-president of Southeastern College, serving as the alternate.

Highlights

One of the highlights of the meeting were the presentations made by five individuals representing various groups of people in our churches. The Bicentennial Committee asked these individuals to share their hearts about their membership in the Baptist Missionary Association and their involvement in the work of the Association and their local church. The five who spoke were Bro. Kenneth Flynt, a long time BMA pastor; Mrs. Ruby Wilson, a member of Union Baptist Church, Bay Springs, who celebrated her 100th birthday this past August; Savannah Smith, a high school junior, member of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Carriere and the current president of the Mississippi GMAs; Ted Quimby, a Hattiesburg businessman and member of Midway First Baptist Church, Sumrall; and Bro. Josh Spiers, a young minister who currently serves as Youth Pastor at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church,

continued on page 6

A good crowd was present at the Family Life Center of Parkview Baptist Church in Laurel for the banquet presented by the Missions Department. Missions Director Rayborn Freeman gave his report after the banquet on Tuesday evening. The Association resumed on Wednesday Morning at Southeastern College.

Newly elected officers

2006-07 officers are left to right: Don Brown, Director of Public Information; Billy Huffmaster, Clerk; Neal Murphy, President; Gary Smith, 1st Vice-president; and Mike Allred, 2nd Vice-president. Not pictured is Assistant Clerk Sam Oglesby.

Become an Effective Servant of Christ

A Preview of the Winter Adult Sunday School Study

By Bobby L. Hudgens

In 2 Corinthians 6:4 and 11:23 the apostle Paul declares that, more than anything else he wants to truly be a servant of God, a servant of Christ. The winter quarter 2006-07 in Sunday School is a study of 2 Corinthians and a defense of Paul's life of service to Christ. Lesson 1 introduces the quarter by directing all service toward Christ. Lessons 2-10 examine qualities of faithful service to Christ from the standpoint of both motive and methods. Lessons 11 and 12 expose the obstacles that Christ's servants face. And lesson 13 concludes the quarter by highlighting the rewards of serving Jesus.

The Bible studies this quarter will help you to know the background, the major themes, and the structure of 2 Corinthians, but more importantly they will lead you to insights into serving Jesus as modeled by the apostle Paul.

Gather your class together for this wonderful study, and challenge class members to become more effective in "Serving Christ."

Teachers, promote the use of the Bible Discovery Guide to your class. It is excellent for personal study during the week or to encourage discussion in your class session. Also, don't forget to order the Adult Teacher's E-Kit for just $5.99 each. This brand new addition to the adult curriculum consists of PowerPoint files of visuals in the Adult Teacher's Resource Kit and PDF files of handouts in The Advancer. Call 1-800-333-1442 for more information or to order.

State GMA President Savannah Smith speaking to the messengers of the recent Annual BMA meeting.

Savannah shared how God has blessed her while being a member of a BMA church and involved in it various ministries.

Moral Action Committee

Baptist Missionary Association of America
6273 Miller Rd., Swartz Creek, MI 48473
810-635-4845

Dr. Roy McLaughlin
Director

What Is Meant By Separation Of Church And State?

One of the most neutralizing issues of our day is that of church/state separation. The so-called law of separation between church and state has been used by many opponents of the church and religious community to restrict and reduce religious activity to the narrow confines of church property.

Christian ideas and lifestyles have been squelched by the myth of the phrase "separation of church and state" being found in the First Amendment.

It is essential that church leaders understand what is really meant by separation of church and state. The concept of a secular state, that is, one separate from the church, did not exist when the Constitution and the Bill of Rights were being written.

When the Constitution was completed at the Philadelphia Convention in 1787, it contained no amendments. The amendments known as the Bill of Rights were added to the original Constitution as restraints on the federal government.

The First Amendment, which is perhaps the most well known, guarantees, among other things, the freedom of religion and speech. It states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Notice the separation emphasis in the First Amendment occurred between the Congress (federal government) and any establishment of religion. This fact is magnified by offering a simple definition to the primary words in the First Amendment.

The word "Congress" has, from the beginning, been interpreted to mean the federal branch of government. The word "respecting" is defined as "having anything to do with." "Establishment" has historically meant "government support of a single church or government preference of one Christian creed or denomination over another." James Madison defined "religion" as "the duty we owe to our Creator."

As you can see, this amendment was designed to place restrictions on the federal government and not the states. It was meant to ensure the continuance of the Biblical foundation and the religious liberties germane to the founding fathers and the documents they penned.

You will also notice that the words "church and state" are not to be found in the First Amendment and the popular phrase "wall of separation" is also absent from the Constitution. These are contemporary terms, and many Christians today are often heard referring to "the time honored tradition of the separation of church and state." Clearly, there is a misunderstanding of the issue and the substance of the Constitution.

As people understand the First Amendment in its historical context, they can then understand how distorted this amendment has become. The Supreme Court, by ignoring the historical context for the First Amendment, has managed to nullify

continued on page 3

Dedicated to Discipline - Part One

Christian parents must be dedicated to the discipline of their children. Yet, that is the major struggling point for many parents. How do we discipline? What is too much? What is not enough? That is why parenting is the most important job people face, and often times the most difficult. I suppose what every parent needs is a child specialist guidance counselor.

Aren't you glad that God gave all Christians one of these to come into their lives and help them! He is a wonderful counselor. He is the Holy Spirit of God. It is important for Christian parents to turn to the leadership of the Holy Spirit when trying to decide how, when and why to discipline their children. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In ALL thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:5,6. Christian parents must also rely upon the best parenting book ever written - the Bible.

The Bible has all the major functions of discipline and parenting outlined in it's books. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." II Timothy 3:16

Of utmost importance, is seeking what God would have you to do in your child's life. God made your children. God loves your children more than you do. It is not humanly possible to love your child as much as God loves them. His love is perfect. You may think that you love your children unconditionally and will always do so. However, parents must realize that as human beings, none of us are perfect. We are going to mess up at some point. God never messes up. His love for your children is unending and overwhelming - Romans 8: 38,39. He created your children - Psalm 139:14. He has a special divine plan for everyone of them - Jeremiah 29:11. Our children belong to Him. We are raising the King's Kids. Our children are a gift to us from God - Psalm 127:3.

God will lead parents to know what to do on the spot, in an immediate crisis if they seek Him. He can calm their heart and quite their exploding anger. He can give you the courage and strength to set a course of discipline and stick to it. He will cause you to love your children and reach out to them even after they have broken your heart. He will give you a peace that passes your own

Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

www.travisplumlee.com

understanding on the necessity of discipline. He will bless you if you discipline your children. He will discipline the parent who doesn't discipline their child.

In Proverbs 13:24 the Bible gives a powerful statement on discipline. " He that spareth his rod hateth his son, but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." A parent does not show love toward a child by letting them do whatever they want with no discipline. The rod definitely implies the use of physical discipline. We call it spankings in today's society. "Betimes" means you will have to do it more than once. It also means if you really do love your children, you will spank them. Only if you hate your kids will you not spank them. Your spankings must come with wisdom and love. I will say more about the specifics of these guidelines of love and wisdom for spankings later in this series of articles.

Proverbs 19:18 reads, "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying." You have to discipline them early on while there is still hope. Don't' worry about your kids crying after discipline. They will. You need to not let this deter you from your mission. To teach them right from wrong. It gets to you when they cry, but you can't let this stop you from the disciplining of them. It is better for your child to cry under the chastening hand of your discipline, than to suffer under the chastening divine vengeance of God's hand when they grow up to disobey Him.

I think one of the most profound verses to answer the question, "why do you spank your children" can be found in Proverbs 23:13,14. We can't save our children. Christ alone can give them salvation. But we can sure turn them around from heading in the direction they are heading, which is hell. We must whip them to teach them the right way to live and that Christ is the way. Otherwise, as born sinners, they are naturally headed for hell. I whip my kids to deliver their soul from hell. If you whip them, they will not die. They may cry like they are dying. But they won't. In verse 13 when it tells parents to beat their child with a rod, remember this is a leather strapping. It does not mean a piece of rebar, like we might think in the 21st century mind. Obviously, there must be safety guidelines because child abuse is evil. But there is no one that can read these verses and not realize God tells you to spank your child.

You don't need a theology degree to understand verses 13,14. You need to spank your kids. Many Christian parents will read this, and tell me, I still disagree with spanking. Then your problem is not with me and my parenting conference, your problem is with God and the authority of His Word. Part Two to follow.

Another Phase of "Children Helping Children"

Christmas Gifts for Native American Children

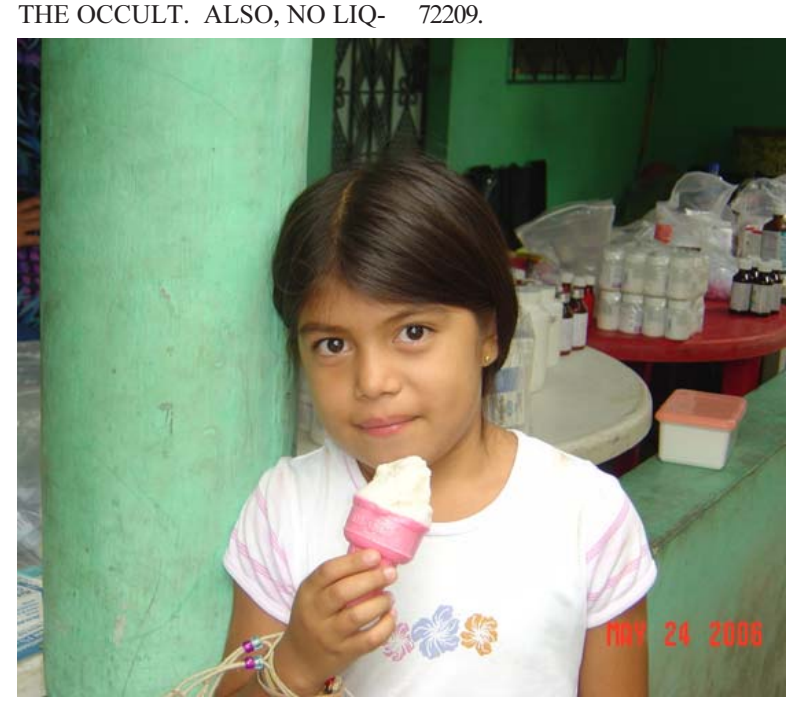
Baptist Medical Missions International is promoting a "Children Helping Children" project during the upcoming Christmas season, that of collecting Christmas gifts for Native American children at the Laguna Indian Reservation near San Fidel, New Mexico. BMMI is working with North American missionary Merritt Youngdeer, who has said that this kind of effort would not only help the children and their families, but would also help his ministry as he attempts to reach out in the spirit of God's love to the Native American families on this reservation.

Please place your gifts in a normal size shoe box. If you choose to wrap the box, please wrap the lid and the box separately. According to the gifts you choose, label the box for a boy or girl and the age for which it would be appropriate. Gifts are needed for children from pre-school through eighth grade.

Suggested gifts would include small toys such as dolls, cars, games, books, stickers, stuffed animals, balls, etc. School supplies such as pencils, crayons, coloring books, and paper, and even hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, comb, toothbrush and toothpaste would also be helpful. Other suggestions are socks, t-shirts, inexpensive jewelry or watches. If you give candy, hard candy is preferred or some type that will not melt or be easily crushed. In each box, please include a gospel tract and/or a small Bible or New Testament.

DO NOT SEND TOY GUNS OR KNIVES, OR TOYS RELATING TO THE OCCULT. ALSO, NO LIQUIDS, GLASS, OR AEROSOL CANS SHOULD BE INCLUDED.

Please enclose $5.00 to cover shipping costs for each box and mail them to:
Baptist Medical Missions International, P.O. Box 30910, Little Rock, AR 72260, or if you ship them by UPS, the physical address is 9219 Sibley Hole Road, Little Rock, AR 72209.



Southeastern Baptist College

4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440, (601) 426-6346

Dr. Medrick Savell
President

President's Annual Report
To the Association
October 17, 2006

Opening Remarks

As I complete my first year as president of the college I would like to express appreciation to you for allowing me to serve in this position. I have enjoyed serving the college for the last 29 years (part-time and full-time), and I am enjoying what I am doing now. The faculty and staff are wonderful people to work with. Each one is doing his/her part, and that makes the working conditions pleasant for me.

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

I appreciate the trustees for their faithful service and support to the college. Special thanks are in order to brethren Donnie Boutwell, Ned Hinton, and Dennis Knight who will be going off the board.

I also want to express appreciation to the individuals, churches, and associations who support the college with their prayers, good will, and finances. They have enabled us to have a successful year. When everyone does what God enables us to, it will be sufficient for our needs.

A Good Year

This past year (2005-2006) has been a good year in most areas. Our God has changed some difficulties into blessings. The enrollment remains lower than we had hoped for, but I am confident that it will begin to change. A lot of effort is being given to recruitment. It will pay off soon.

Seventeen students received 18 degrees this past spring, six bachelors and twelve associate. One other student received a Diploma in Christian Leadership, which requires 24 semester hours. Several of the students were given special recognition in the graduation ceremonies.

Financial Condition

The audit shows that we ended the 2005-2006 year in better financial condition than the year before. In spite of the added expenses for repairs and remodeling, the Lord has provided the needed finances. I believe more work was done on the buildings and grounds this year than any one year in a long time. The amount in the Foundation continues to grow. The audit of the Foundation shows $453,614 in net assets on June 30, 2006. The assets in the Foundation have provided $20,000 income to the college for each of the last two years. Income from the dormitories is up. Also, at least four more churches have begun to support the college recently and several others have increased their support. The East Central Baptist Association and the East Amory Baptist Church have each established a scholarship recently to help students attend Southeastern. We thank the Lord for all these blessings.

Special Emphasis

The response to the special projects and Special Emphasis has been encouraging. At this time, $2,780.00 has been given to begin a choir; $10,475.00 has been designated for the new sign (and some more has been promised); and $11,034.04 has been sent for special emphasis.

The choir has been established and will begin performing soon. The sign has been installed.

The Pastor's Purity Slated to be Theme at National Pastor's Conference

By Anders L. Lee
Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church
Horn Lake, Mississippi

"And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon" II Samuel 11:4. We do not need Paul Harvey to tell the rest of that story, do we?

David is not the only one guilty. What happened hundreds of years ago, still happens today. We have all at some point ended up hearing the worst; some Pastor or Youth Pastor some where had to resign because of moral failure.

Next year at our Pastor's Conference in Fort Smith, AR on April 17, we will address this touchy yet needed subject, "The Pastor's Purity". Anders Lee, President of the Pastor's Conference, said "We need not ignore this issue in our midst any longer on the Associational level. We must address openly the need for moral purity and the harm of adultery, pornography, and sexual failure in the pulpit."

To drive home this needed message in a powerful way, Lee reports with great excitement that Singer and now Author, Clay Crosse, has been secured to be our guest. Clay will share his transparent testimony that encourages all men of God to "take heed lest (they) fall". For more than 10 years God blessed the ministry of Clay Crosse with signature songs like "I Surrender All," "I Will Follow Christ" and numerous other #1 hits. In the midst of ministry and it's busy schedule, Clay got his eyes off the Lord and fell into an addiction to pornography. Openly and honestly he confessed his sin and came off the road with his ministry. Since then God has restored his marriage to his wife Renee. The two of them have co-authored the book "I Surrender All". Now Clay travels the country to share how God delivered him from this shameful sin and restored him. "Your heart will be touched and challenged by Clay's story" says Lee. He continued, "I pray that some of our men will get victory over sin as a result of this conference!"

Pastor Rick Lemons, of Fellowship Baptist in Forney, TX, has graciously agreed to follow Clay's testimony with a message from the Word. "Though I feel inadequate to cover the subject, this is very near to my heart and important in our day!"; says Lemons. Lemons will prayerfully approach what God wishes for him to preach. Statistics, brochures, clips, and short videos will round out and put the finishing touches to the conference.

Pastor! You are invited! Pray for our meeting. See you in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

BMMI Opportunities Remaining Projects 2006

November 10-19
Ghana
November 30 - December 13
Cambodia

2007
January 22-31
Cape Verde
March 2-9
Nicaragua
April 2-11
Armenia
May
China
June 1-9
Ukraine
September 21-October 1
Jordan
October 31 – November 8
Romania

Separation Of Church And State

from page 2

300 years of true American tradition and, in the process, the Court has violated the law it was sworn to uphold.

This has provided the impetus for the religious purge that has continued to this day. This "separation of church and state" has provided the motivation for groups such as the ACLU who file more than 6,000 suits each year. The ACLU and other groups have successfully weakened the moral and spiritual fiber of our nation.

Understanding the facts regarding the First Amendment can certainly help in the fight to turn this nation around. As former President Reagan said, "The First Amendment was given to provide freedom of religion, not freedom from religion."

As Christians we should be concerned with the details of the law and how it relates to us, but we should not be sidetracked into a defensive lifestyle that wishes to comply with non-existent terms such as "wall of separation" between "church and state."

What we must do is major on what is really there within the First Amendment. That is, the guarantee of freedom of religion and the guarantee that the federal government will leave the church alone in the proclamation of the faith and the exercise of free speech. In addition, we must protect our freedom to express our religious viewpoint.

Do's and Don'ts of Political Activity for Churches and Pastors

Pastors are concerned about the legal effects of political activity on themselves and their churches. Churches are exempt from federal tax so long as they do not participate in political campaigns. Federal election law also places restrictions upon political activity by individuals and institutions, particularly corporations, both profit and non-profit. The scope of proper political activity varies from case to case, but the following do's and don'ts are applicable.

Voter Registration

Pastors and churches may engage in non-partisan voter registration activities, since such activity is not considered political for tax or election law purposes, unless an attempt is made to register only voters of a particular party.

"Political" or "Electoral" Activities

A pastor may individually, or personally, endorse candidates for political office.

A church may not endorse candidates for political office, and a pastor may not endorse candidates on behalf of his church.

A pastor's personal endorsement may be made from the pulpit if it is made clear that it is his personal view and not that of the church itself.

A pastor may allow his name to be used as a supporter of a candidate in the candidate's own political advertisements. In this connection, the pastor may be identified as pastor of a particular church. (Not very wise – RLM)

Churches may engage in non-partisan voter registration and voter education activities so long as such activities are not intended to benefit any political candidate or party.

A church may allow political candidates to speak on church premises on the same basis that civic groups and other organizations are allowed.

A candidate should not be allowed to appeal to a church congregation at a church service for support or funds to be used in his political campaign.

Lists of members of the church congregation may be provided to candidates for use in seeking support or raising funds only on the same basis that such lists are made available to other individuals and organizations. If a charge is normally made for such a list, the candidate should pay the same amount. No favoritism should be shown among candidates in providing a list of congregation members. (Not very wise – RLM)

A "church" may not establish a "political action" committee.

"Pastors and other like-minded individuals" may establish a political action committee, but care should be taken that the committee is separate from the church. Meaning, the committee should not be named the "churches" political action committee. A name like "Concerned Citizens for Morality" or the "Moral Action Committee of (your city)" should be chosen.

"Legislative" Activities

A church may not engage in "substantial" legislative (as opposed to electoral) activities. The substantiality of legislative activities is usually measured by reference to church expenditures. Expenditures of less than 5% of an organization's total budget are generally not considered substantial.

A church may give its mailing list to a legislative organization (lobby) on the same basis that such a list is made available to other organizations. If a legislative organization is given more favorable terms for receiving a mailing list than other organizations, the cost of the list would be considered a legislative expenditure.

A pastor may engage in lobbying activities in his individual capacity without adversely affecting the tax-exempt status of his church.

My Dear Wormwater.....

miniedition

Joseph Harris

I realize among conservative Bible believers and most fundamentalists, Clive Staples Lewis is not a staple in their literary diet. I certainly do not agree with or endorse everything from his pen, however, "The Screwtape Letters" stand alone as genius. This work is an account of an experienced demon instructing his novice demon nephew in the ways of sabotage and subterfuge against Christianity. Below is my version of a Screwtape letter.

My Dear Wormwater,

This is just a note of encouragement for you in your ministry. I have been hearing good reports of your evangelism for our master. Your massive, intense campaign undertaken over the past 40 years has been fruitful. It is evident that lives have been changed, families transformed, churches altered, and society affected as a whole. I notice as you have used phrases such as "reaching this generation" and "discovering felt needs", people have been encouraged to "make a decision" for our lord. Cunning is your prestidigitation indeed.

Changes in your converts are manifested in lifestyles, churlish attitudes, dress, and worship. As a demon in training, you have excelled in converting the church in your outreach program. In bringing the unconverted to our master's ways, many churches now look, act, talk, think and dress like the world. Instead of the church reaching the world, we have successfully reached the church with the world. The majority of churches today feel the pressure to conform to new and modern standards, with only a few still holding on to "the old paths", as they like to say. How thorough is your work. I commend you for focusing on burning the forest, not just cutting down a couple of trees.

Your "methods change, but the message remains the same" mantra was a stroke of genius. It has beguiled many unsuspecting churchmen into introducing worldly devices into their ministries and worship services they might not otherwise have tolerated. Your perfidy is unmatched. Our father below may even take note of your progress, if your perseverance is relentless.

Man has an insatiable desire to worship. Your mission is to always encourage worship, but incorporate small changes that steer incrementally away from their "worship in spirit and truth", but with the appearance of focusing on the enemy (and always cloaked in stained glass language), yet creating a god for them to worship who is strikingly similar to their divine, yet unmistakably different.

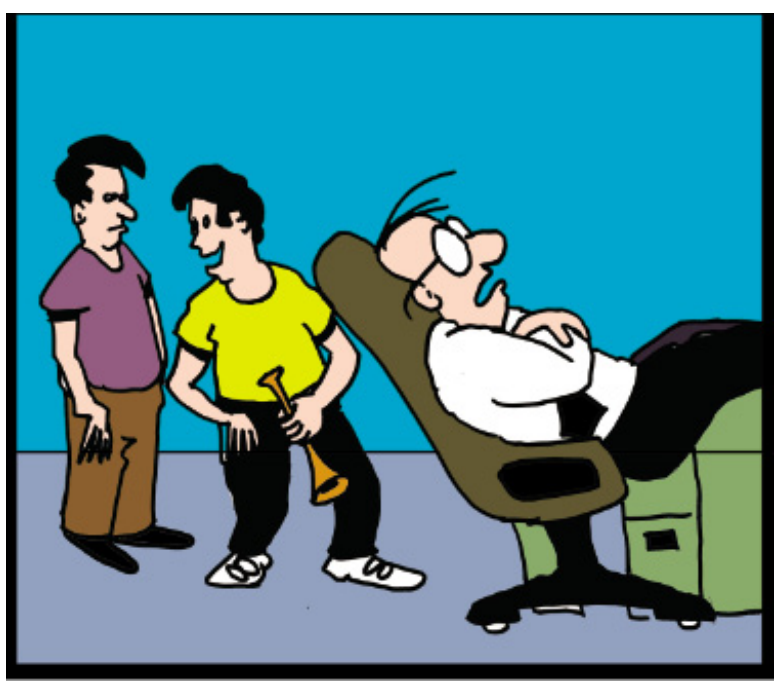
Patience, my dear Wormwater, patience. One cannot eat a whole elephant in one meal, but even the largest pachyderm can be ultimately consumed one bite at a time. Resist the temptation to change the enemy overnight, but continue with small bites.

Your affectionate Uncle and Demon mentor,

Slewtape

Joseph Harris is the Vice President of Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS.

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"OK, Larry, when I blow the horn, you yell "RAPTURE!"

Letters From Our Readers

Former missions worker begins new ministry

Dear Editor,

Larry Geraldson has formed, with the endorsement of his home church, Central Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas, an Evangelistic and Church Growth ministry. He plans to organize evangelistic crusades and campaigns, conduct conferences and revivals, and be available for church growth seminars.

You may contact him at 501-733-3520 or email him at plant720@aol.com or through his pastor, Don Chandler at donc@conwaycentralbaptist.org or call Central Church at 501-329-9283.

"Larry is an excellent speaker, anointed of the Lord, and will inspire, challenge, and encourage those who hear him. Any church would be blessed to use this man of God".

Don Chandler
Senior Pastor
Central Baptist Church
Conway, Arkansas

EIM reports on mission work

There is still power in the blood

What can wash away my sins, nothing but the blood of Jesus! These are the words of our old hymn that we all sing and love. This was the theme of our preaching while we were in Pakistan. When people are saying that evangelism is not working and that we dare not mention the blood, let me say to those that have that mentality, "you are wrong!" It is the power of His word accompanied by the Holy Spirit that convicts and saves a lost sinner, even in Pakistan.

We were able to conduct eight crusades and three seminars on Pastoral Leadership, as well as family relationships. The believers in this Islamic republic was excited and eager to hear what the Word of God had to say. They were willing to stay all night to worship and praise the name of the Lord. This went on every night that we were there.

At the end of the stay in Pakistan our workers reported 2, 432 professions of faith. To God Be The Glory! In all of our travels this trip was one of the most spiritual trips I have ever witnessed. When you glimpse God's Glory you will never be the same.

We have made application with the government to become an N.G.O. Our organization is under revue, and if we get this it will be a miracle from God. We are asking you to please pray about this. We will be registered with the government as a Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Organization.

We are excited about what God is going to do in the future in this place. Just remember with God all things are possible. There are some great people in Pakistan that are living for Jesus under adverse circumstances. They need our prayers. The need of all men every where is the Lord Jesus Christ. It is Christ and Christ alone that takes away sins.

By this time you receive this we will have a group in the Philippines - some on one island and some on the other. The group consist of Mike Goodwin, Matt Hudson, Tim Wooley, Bro. Al Moore, Chad Stephenson, and Nathan Hill. Our grandson, Kurt Goodwin, will be going to take up residence as he studies in the Bible Institute, serve as a Basketball Coach, and help to over-see the feeding program. Pray for him. Thanks to those who are helping with his support. Kurt is an example of what God can do with a young man who yields himself to wholly unto God.

Bro. Larry Markum and myself will leave for India on November 5th. Please make this a matter of prayer.

Rocky Goodwin
EIM Ministries

November 2006
Children's Home
Special Emphasis

Mississippi Baptist

Don J. Brown, Editor
E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org
Web site www.msbaptist.org

USPS 353-960
P.O. Box 8181
Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000
(601) 426-3293
for Voice & Fax
601-342-9443 Cell

PRICE
$20.00 Per Year by Mail
$10.00 Per Year by Email
CHURCH PLAN
$ 1.20 Per Month

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the *Mississippi Baptist Paper*, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441-8000.

United States Postal Service
Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title: Mississippi Baptist
2. Publication Number:
3. Filing Date: 10-30-06
4. Issue Frequency: Bi Monthly
5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 24
6. Annual Subscription Price: $20.00
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication *(Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4)*: PO Box 8181, Laurel MS 39441
Contact Person: Don Brown
Telephone: 601-426-3293
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher *(Not printer)*: PO Box 8181, Laurel MS 39441
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor *(Do not leave blank)*
Publisher *(Name and complete mailing address)*: BMA of Mississippi - PO Box 8181 - Laurel MS 39441
Editor *(Name and complete mailing address)*: Don Brown - PO Box 8181 - Laurel MS 39441
Managing Editor *(Name and complete mailing address)*: Don Brown - PO Box 8181 - Laurel MS 39441
10. Owner *(Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)*

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
Baptist Missionary Association of MS	PO Box 8181 Laurel MS 39441

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box ☑ None

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address

12. Tax Status *(For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)*
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
☑ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months *(Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)*

PS Form **3526**, October 1999 *(See Instructions on Reverse)*

13. Publication Title		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies *(Net press run)*		4800	4800
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation	(1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541. *(Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)*	4519	4519
	(2) Paid In-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 *(Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)*	0	0
	(3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution	0	0
	(4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS	0	0
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation *[Sum of 15b. (1), (2),(3),and (4)]*		4519	4,519
d. Free Distribution by Mail *(Samples, complimentary, and other free)*	(1) Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541	0	0
	(2) In-County as Stated on Form 3541	0	0
	(3) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS	0	0
e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail *(Carriers or other means)*		—	—
f. Total Free Distribution *(Sum of 15d. and 15e.)*		—	—
g. Total Distribution *(Sum of 15c. and 15f)*		4519	4,519
h. Copies not Distributed		281	281
i. Total *(Sum of 15g. and h.)*		4800	4800
j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation *(15c. divided by 15g. times 100)*		100	100

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership
☑ Publication required. Will be printed in the 11-1-06 issue of this publication. ☐ Publication not required.
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Editor — Date: 10-30-06

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Instructions to Publishers

1. Complete and file one copy of this form with your postmaster annually on or before October 1. Keep a copy of the completed form for your records.
2. In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check the box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.
3. Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.
4. Item 15h., Copies not Distributed, must include (1) newsstand copies originally stated on Form 3541, and returned to the publisher, (2) estimated returns from news agents, and (3), copies for office use, leftovers, spoiled, and all other copies not distributed.
5. If the publication had Periodicals authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published; it must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.
6. In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.
7. Item 17 must be signed.

Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of Periodicals authorization.

PS Form **3526**, October 1999 *(Reverse)*

YOUTH DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 4247, Laurel, Mississippi 39441 • (601) 649-0502
Email - youthdept@bmaofmsyouth.org

Annual Report to BMA of Mississippi

"His Story.Our History"
Remembering.your work of faith.in our Lord Jesus Christ. I Thess. 1:3

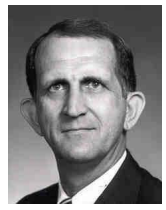
His Story

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love;
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true,
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story-'tis pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet;
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word.
I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest;
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

Chorus:
I love to tell the story!
'Twill be my theme in glory---
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and His love.

Arabella Catherine Hankey (1834-1911)



LATRELLE WINDHAM
DIRECTOR

When I think of His Story, I think of Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Genesis 1:31 "And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

When I think of His History, I think of the Jewish contribution to the world's history in many areas. Their creativeness extends through their entire four-thousand-year history.

From this people sprang Jesus Christ, acclaimed Son of God by more than 850 million Christians. From this people came Paul, one of the world's greatest missionaries.

And yet, up until 1948 for close to three thousand years, the Jews did not even have a country of their own. They dwelt among the Babylonians, lived in the Hellenic world, survived the Roman Empire, flourished in the Muslim civilization, emerged from twelve hundred-year darkness known as the Middle Ages, and rose to new intellectual heights in modern times.

Great nations of the pagan era which at the same time the Jews did have totally disappeared. The Babylonians, the Persians, the Phoenicians, the Hittites, the Philistines all have vanished from the face of earth, after once having been great and mighty powers. The Chinese, Hindu, and Egyptian peoples are the only ones living today who are as old as the Jewish people. But these three civilizations had only one main cultural period, and their impact on succeeding civilizations has not been great. They contained neither the seeds for their own rebirth nor the seeds for the birth of other civilizations. Unlike the Jews, they were not driven out of their countries, nor did they face the problem of survival in alien lands. The Greeks and the Romans are the only other nations which have influenced the history of Western man as profoundly as the Jews.

Thus, there are three elements in Jewish survival which make the history of this people different from that of all other people. They have had a continuous living history for four thousand years and have been an intellectual and spiritual force for three thousand years without a country of their own yet preserved their ethnic identity among alien cultures. They have expressed their ideas not only in their own language but in practically all the major languages of the world.

The challenge is the Modern world itself. The appearance of nationalism, communism and facism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries has held special challenges for the Jews, in addition to a new virulent disease of the Western mind-anti-Semitism.

Jews have lasted four thousand years, have had six cultures in six alien civilizations and most likely will have a seventh.

Our History

"Success is not what we are but rather what we are compared to what we could be. It is not measured by what we have done but rather by what we have done compared to what we could have done."

As I looked and searched back through a number of pictures, slides, reports, I reviewed what God has done through our people and association. I rejoiced greatly at the number of juniors, junior-high, senior-high and college students that we had ministered to. We had youth in the harvest, camps, sword drills, retreats, teen conference and Bible tournaments. Here I saw young preachers, missionaries, teachers, lawyers, families, business people, mothers, fathers, grandkids, and great-grandkids. Praise God for working in and through our people.

Success is not what we have done but what we have done compared to what we could have done. As I looked back I thought about what we could have done. At our peak, we had twelve good activities, one per month. At our peak, we were reaching over 2,000 kids with 100 souls being saved in a particular year.

With the message we share, the program we prepare, the personal touch as we reach-out, and the training we do as churches after our activities, we should be able to continue to tell the old, old story until Jesus comes.

2006 Pastors Oasis "Best Ever!"

At least that's how some participants felt about this year's Pastors Oasis sponsored by the BMAA Department of Church Ministries. The 2006 version of Oasis featured worship led by Neil Dumas from First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Texas, special guests Dennis Swanberg, Scott Krippayne, and Steve Green, and speakers Larry and Barbara Magnuson from SonScape Ministries. Some of the other comments recorded on the many evaluation forms turned in included the following:

"We have been coming for five years straight and this year was the best yet!"
"I look forward to this time away and was ministered to spiritually and emotionally."
"Thank you so much, it was awesome!"
"You don't know how much we look forward to this. We'll keep coming
until we pass on to glory."
"Spiritually uplifting."
"I wish it could last all week!"
"I don't know when I've laughed so much."
"Great mix on the music styles this year! Those guys are great!"
"Best Oasis yet!"
"To God be the glory!"
"DCM, we rate you a '10' all the way."

Pastors Oasis is DCM's premier event for pastors and wives along with their ministry staff and spouses. This year, over 230 attended the three-day event at the Chateau On The Lake in Branson, Missouri. Several churches sent their whole staff. Plans are already underway for the 2007 Pastors Oasis that will be held in Branson once again. As soon as dates and accommodations are confirmed the information will be available through the BMAA state papers. Initial plans indicate that it will be better than ever with some new features and programs.

Pastors Oasis is scheduled to coincide with Pastor Appreciation Month, which is October of each year. Churches are encouraged to begin making plans now to send their pastor and wife to next year's Oasis. It is an investment that will pay rich dividends to the congregation!

Commission on Senior Adults

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

Annual Report to BMA of Mississippi

We have just closed the 2006 Annual Session of the BMA of Mississippi. It was indeed a historical event. It was truly a blessing this writer will remember the rest of his life.

This Bicentennial Celebration of Missionary Baptists, may I say Baptists in Mississippi, and the ministries they have begun and practiced served to remind us how God had blessed us. From the shores of the Great Mississippi River in Southwest Mississippi to almost every county in the state, the message of Christ has been heard from this group of Christians. Besides all the ministries in our present BMA of Mississippi, other Baptist groups have been formed.

The Southeastern Baptist College has helped to educate men and women on many fields of missions, as well as other parts of God's Work.

The Missions Department, especially the Revolving Loan Fund, has reached out to assist churches and other projects in many parts of the USA. This can be said to some degree about all the other Departments and Commissions in our State Association.

We must not take human pride in our BMA work. Yet, we can be humbly proud of the ministry of Missionary Baptists these two hundred years. My entire life has been connected to the Missionary Baptist work. Since 1949 when God called me into the Gospel Ministry, I have been actively engaged in our work. Our people have honored me in asking me to serve in a number of places of leadership. It is one thing to sit on the sidelines and judge and criticize the work and those who are leading us. It is another thing to get in the game, the work, and be a part of what God is doing. There is room for all who are willing to get involved.

All those who worked so hard and faithfully in preparation of the special event are to be commended for a job well done. The highlight of the 2006 Association was the Missions Banquet and the Missions report on Tuesday evening. Besides the food and the reports, the fellowship was wonderful.

Commission Report

The Commission reports and recommendations were received and passed by the Messenger Body. The income to the Commission was up last year. The expenses were also higher. A new computer was purchased, and some travel expense was approved for the Director. Our aim is to visit every Local Association at least a time or two this year. I will visit churches as the opportunity presents itself. I will assist our churches in organizing a Senior Adult Work. If I can be of help, please let me know.

Conferences

Time swiftly passes these days. The year 2007 will come on fast. We have about finalized the program for the South Conference. Mark your calender for Thursday, March 29,2007. The Mill Creek Baptist Church near Picayune will host this Conference. We expect a full house at Mill Creek. The North Conference will be held at the Hopewell Baptist Church, Fulton. The date will be announced later.

Will you pray?

Will you pray for this important work that is directed toward our dear Seniors. Pray for the Seniors in your church. If your church does not have a ministry with your Seniors, pray about it and help start one. Pray for me as I travel and promote this work. Pray for my wife Dot as she works faithfully as our bookkeeper and as she travels with me.

Prisoner's Bible Crusade Report

Our grateful thanks for your prayers and support. For the year 2006 we have given free to prisoners 5,520 Bibles; 200 New Testaments; 5,160 John/Romans 8; 333 Sunday Books; 2,216 Study helps; all totals 21,429 sent into 45 prisons. Chaplains report 848 people saved (13,035 since January 1, 2000). Six new chaplains requesting bibles for first time. I have traveled 26,891 miles, visited 31 churches, 15 association meetings and 23 prisons, one foreign country, taught 41 Bible study classes, taught one volunteer worker's class.PBC's Evangelistic Team has conducted 8 revival efforts in prisons in 2006.

Annual Meeting

from page 1

Carriere, Mississippi.

These individuals were a blessing to those in attendance as they shared their views of the work and what a blessing it has been in their lives. It was noted that Mrs. Ruby Wilson was born in 1906, when the Association celebrated its first 100 years and is currently one half the age of the BMA.

Reports

Good reports were given by each department worker and commission chairman (see each departments report in this issue). Each department head continues to serve in their position while Bro. Vern Holifield was reelected to head the Senior Adult Commission and Bro. Johnny Watts continues to serve with the History and Archives work.

Mrs. Ruby Wilson with son and pastor, Bro. A.M. Wilson. Mrs. Wilson spoke to the messengers at the recent annual meeting in Laurel. She received a standing ovation in honor of her dedication and faithfulness over the years. She recounted the many changes she has seen in her lifetime and gave a challenge to the body when she questioned if we are doing as much as we could in the Lord's work with all the modern advantages that she has seen come to pass in her lifetime.

Dr. John Adams was chosen the new director of the Christian Action Commission (see his report on page of this issue). Adams in the pastor of the First Baptist Church, Mantachie.

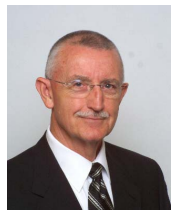
Changes

There were no constitutional changes presented at this year's meeting and no petitioning churches.

The Enrollment Committee reported 137 churches represented by letter and 81 by messenger. $5,545 was sent for the minute fund with an additional $1,925 for the program fund.

The messengers approved the Salary Committee's recommendation of approximately a $1,300.00 raise for each of the five department heads.

Which Joseph?



Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

My Old Testament Survey class is filled with wonderful, bright, and eager young students. They are great college freshmen eager to make their way in a new world. I assign a paper with the broad parameters of "you may write on anything in the Old Testament- any subject, character, or any Old Testament issue that has relevant application to the 21st Century." That is about as broad as I can make it in order to let the students decide on something for their own interests in order to generate a good paper.

I require the students to meet with me to discuss the topic (for which I award points on the score). I then award more points on their scores when they show me a rough draft of the paper. One young lady wanted to do her paper on Joseph. We went through the process, and she was on her way to producing her first college paper. Wow! What a great moment in life for all of us!

As I read the papers of eager students, I am always amazed at the ingenious use of language, the inventive modification of style, and the imaginative facts they can produce. This particular young lady's paper was reasonably well done on Joseph. She had her language, spelling, sentences, and paragraphs under control. Her format was in line with the style requirements.

I was very impressed as she followed the Bible story of Joseph. Her story of Joseph included the special coat, his dreams, his brothers' betrayal, and the end of the story when Joseph saved his family and brought them to Egypt. She had done a good job with the summation and application for the life of Joseph.

Her concluding paragraph was somewhat different. The young student was trying to point out the righteousness of Joseph and how we should emulate his lifestyle as 21st century Christians. She stated something like "and to show you just how good and righteous Joseph was, he even married his fiancé, Mary who was pregnant." I had to read this sentence several times to be sure I was reading it right. She had skipped at least one Testament in her Bible character!

What can I learn from this bi-testament Joseph story? I am delighted to be a teacher in a denominational college where we teach the Bible. I am honored to be able to pray in my classroom and open the Word of God with students to read the stories of the saints of God and learn from their walk with the Lord. May the Lord keep on sending us students to learn, and may God openly reward those who support schools like the one where I teach the Bible.

What a great challenge as a Sunday School teacher to have young students in my class. I must share the message of the Scriptures. All young people deserve to know Bible stories. It is from these stories that they are exposed to the grace of God. To be selected to be a Sunday School teacher or youth worker in my church is a high honor and a position of grave responsibility.

We who are gray haired owe to the next generation the legacy of Biblical literacy. The Bible is a great treasure of the knowledge of God. It is the foundational book of our society. Please understand me: I do not have to know each and every fact about Joseph - whether Old or New Testament - to get into heaven. I may know every fact of Joseph's life and still be unregenerate in my heart. It is important that I have a working knowledge of the Scriptures. For it is from the Scriptures the presence of Jesus comes to me, my family, my neighborhood, my church, and my world.

Of course by this time the young student knows she has made Joseph a bi-testament character. She and I have had a good laugh at her paper conclusion. She was right. Joseph was a good man - whether Joseph of the Old or the Joseph of the New Testament. We should follow either life in our walk with the Lord. Grant us the time to provide good preparation in Bible classes - whether at home, in formal school, or at my local church.

DCM Announces Major Student Events For 2007

Addison Crown Plaza & Central Baptist College to host events

Department of Church Ministries Student events for 2007 are lining up! Encounter 2007 will be on the campus of Central Baptist College on January 5-6 while Revolution 2007 will be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Addison, Texas, January 12 and 13.

Each conference will encourage students to become world Christians. As the DCM Student Ministry Team began to develop ideas for the conferences the predominant thought was "think globally…live locally." Acts 1:8 is the driving force behind these thoughts as Jesus gave His followers a promise and a command as He left them! The promise was that they would receive power from the Holy Spirit that would give them the ability to fulfill His Commission: "You WILL be my witnesses in Jerusalem (Locally), in all Judea (Nationally), Samaria (Places you wouldn't normally go), and to the ends of the earth."

While we must continue to send people to the nations of the world until all have heard the Gospel, we should realize that the Commission also extends to our neighbor across the street or our friend in algebra class. We should be willing to share the gospel with people in America that may be different from us or people that take us out of our comfort zone. DCM Student Conferences in 2007 will focus on the overall command that Jesus gave us. The command was to "think globally…live locally!"

Both Revolution and Encounter will be titled, "The Speed of Sound." Years ago when aviators were trying to break the sound barrier it was their passion that stirred people to push to reach their goal, even to the point of death. Why? They had a purpose! A Goal! A Passion! Our faith should be shared with that same sense of urgency! We have a Goal given to us by Christ! It should be our passion! It should be our Purpose!

Todd West will be our featured speaker at both Encounter and Revolution. He will be challenging all of us to share our faith with a sense of urgency. Todd is a well-known evangelist and speaker in the BMA and he pastors the Oasis Church in Maumelle, Arkansas.

Mission TenForty, a band appropriately named for this year's conference, will serve as worship leaders. Several members from the SOAR band make up Mission TenForty and they will do a great job leading our students in worship.

"Dave the Horn Guy" will provide a unique entertainment experience. Dave is a worship pastor and talented musician with a special way of sharing his faith with others. He attaches bicycle horns all over his body and plays all kinds of tunes. He will be providing some interesting "sounds" and fun for the conference. Revolution and Encounter will once again feature late night opportunities for fun both in Conway and Dallas.

SOAR 2007 will take place in St. Louis, Missouri July 3-5 at the Renaissance Grand Hotel and the St. Louis Renaissance Suites. The theme for SOAR this year will be "M1:8," which stands for Mission 1:8. The conference will challenge us to think about and recognize what God is doing globally, but we will leave with a renewed sense of urgency to "live locally!" The SOAR band will be back to lead us in worship along with a powerful line up of speakers, missionaries, musicians, and talent. The SOAR villages will be back with a special twist this year. The SOAR village area will feature a "Main Event" area where special guest will be performing and ministering to our students.

For more information on Revolution and Encounter call the DCM office at 501.513.3726 or email me at steven@fellowshipforney.org.

GMA Girls

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

Sunbeam Prom. Linda Dertinger
132 HowardHill Road
Soso, MS 39480
601-729-2908

Miss GMA reports

Hello!

My name is Keely Naden and I am currently serving as your Mississippi Miss GMA and your Alt. National Miss GMA. I'm getting very excited as camp is getting closer and closer! We are going to have such a blast this year. We had our first planning meeting this summer and we have some fun things planned for next year's state camp!

Our theme is "Walk and Work". Our theme verse comes from Ephesians 2:10. Our project this year is 75% Bro. David Freeman work found and 25% General Fund. Remember to save your extra change throughout the year so we can reach our project goal!

The dates for camp are March 9-10, 2007. I hope to see a lot of new faces at camp. Please continue to pray for all the GMA's as we go through our steps and also all the officers as we plan for camp. I know God has huge things in store for us at state camp next year so let's all come out and open up our hearts and let God speak to us!

Love in Christ,
Keely

November 2006 Children's Home Special Emphasis

Christian Action Commission

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

Godly Honor

I count it the highest of honors to represent the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi before our state and government elected officials.

With a prayer in my heart, I wish to honor our Lord Jesus Christ as both a moral and biblical witness.

John Adams

New Agenda

In the months ahead, I will be notifying the Mississippi churches of our new approach to making our Christian views known to our national and state legislators and judges. God has a powerful message for our nation and its officials.

Recent study on Internet Addictions

A Stanford University team took a random survey of 2,500 adults, the first ever to quantify "internet addiction" in the general population. The study found that up to 14% of computer users said they spent too many hours checking emails, making blog entries or visiting web sites or chat rooms. Sometimes they neglected work, school, families, food and sleep. The report looked for signs of internet compulsion. They became interested in this study when they started to see a small but growing number of habitual Internet users visiting the university's Impulse Control Disorders Clinic (http://ocd.stanford.edu/).

The report states "over the last two to three years, more people were coming in with the complaint, "I spend way too much time online, but I can't help it." The study characterized the problem almost like a "substance abuse problem."

Internet overuse is an easy trap because computers offer immediacy, a sense of connection and anonymity. Connections are increasingly fast and wireless.

How do Christians avoid this trap?

(1) Spend more time in the Bible and prayer.

(2) Make "family time" involving all the family together.

(3) Keep the computer in an open, main area of the house.

(4) Place a "blocking filter" on the computer database.

(5) Be alert to Satan's trap.

It's Grrrrrrrreeeeeeeaaaat!

Shane's World

Shane Singleton

As we look around our world today at the events that are unfolding, as we look at the things that are going on in our own country, our state, our communities, maybe even down to our churches, our families, and ourselves, we might begin to become discouraged. We seem to be standing in days of trouble, in times of dismay, even in moments of defeat. But I want to share something with you - that even though this may be the way things look, it is not the way things are.

You see we stand in great days. People ask me how I can say this. For the same reasons that you already know. We stand in great days because we serve a great God. Because we face a great challenge. Because we have a great cause. For this we stand in great days.

Every moment of our lives, every activity of our church, every achievement of our service to the Lord should stem from the fact that we serve a great God. The world around us will be quick to try to put that idea down though questioning us as Eliab questioned David at Israel's battlefield with the Philistines, "Why camest thou down hither?" The world asks the similar question - why do you do what you do? It's an important thing to consider because the motive is more important to God than the action (read Matthew 6:1-18 when you get the time).

Notice how Jesus is not rebuking sinful things. What could be wrong about giving, praying, or fasting? No, what He rebukes is why are we doing these things? If it is to please men, then it is displeasing to God. Because we serve a great God, we need to ask ourselves about our activities and think "What's in this for God?" That leads to the great challenge we face. If the world cannot overcome our motive, they will begin to question our methods - who are you to serve the Lord?

Again, we see David on the battlefield before Goliath (who no one else will fight) and hear Saul question his qualifications - after all David was just a shepherd boy. But David reminds Saul that in that position, David had killed a lion and a bear who were endangering that which was under his care. David assured Saul that the same God that had delivered him from the paws of such animals would deliver him from the 'paws' of this Philistine (notice the 'teamwork' - it was God's power that delivered David from danger, but it was David's effort that accomplished the work - God's power and man's effort in it is unstoppable in the face of any challenge).

Who are we to do the Lord's service? We are the ones that can turn the world upside down - eleven men did it years ago and we can do so today. They had nothing available to them that we do not have available to us - they simply had Christ and that is enough. For we have a great cause - the cause of Christ. In response to the taunts of the world we find out why we do what we do and who we are to be the ones to do it, but let us also be sure of what battle we fight.

Anything we fight for which would simply gain us honor and prestige is the wrong battle. If we would be fruitful servants the battle we fight, the battle in which victory has already been assured, is the battle that is the Lord's. Such battle, such victory, reminds the world that God is indeed alive and in existence standing ready to redeem and deliver 'whosoever will'.

What root do we have in why we do what we do? What anchor holds us to who we are to do such work? What cause stirs our soul to stand? These two things - that Jesus Christ is who He says He is and will do all that He says He will do and each one of us being who we say we are and doing what we say we will do when we say "I am a Christian".

A great God, a great challenge, a great cause - we stand in great days.

Missionary resigns

The BMAA Department of Missions regretfully announces that Bro. Jamie Haguewood has submitted a letter of resignation as a BMAA missionary to Peru effective November 1, 2006. This decision was made after much prayer. Please pray for the Haguewood family as they seek further direction from God.

News release from BMA of America Missions Department

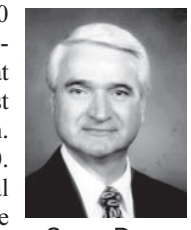
Children's Home

118 Lowe Road, Laurel, Mississippi 39443 - (601) 426-3928

Annual Report to BMA of Mississippi

His Story—Our History

The Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi began 200 years ago in obedience to the Great Commission Christ gave to His church. Matthew 28:18-20. This Bicentennial Celebration of the BMA of Mississippi recognizes the missionary outreach of the churches that has been a part of this association down through the years. We praise the Lord for the lost souls that have been saved not only in the state of Mississippi, but also around the world because the churches made Jesus Christ the centerpiece of their message of salvation. What a privilege it is to be one of His representatives to "tell the story of Jesus", because His Story…Is Our History!



Sidney Davis
Director

"Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to the garage makes you a car."

October and November Are Special Emphasis Months

October and November are the months that have been set aside by the BMA of Mississippi as Special Emphasis months for the Children's Home each year. Once again, we want to solicit your generous participation in this year's Special Emphasis. With your continued support of this ministry you can help provide the firm foundations that are needed in helping these young people as they grow up to become adults.

Food and Miscellaneous Rallies

The food and miscellaneous rallies continue to be a big help in the operation of the Home. We extend a big "thank you" to all the associations, churches, and individuals who participated in these rallies.

Christmas Sharing

Each year during the holiday season many of you share your generosity with the children at Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated and brightens the lives of our boys and girls.

Staff

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for those who serve the Lord and you as staff members of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home. They are to be commended for their work and dedication to this ministry.

Trustees

To the board of trustees I commend you for your interest and faithfulness to this ministry.

House Parents Needed

At the present time we are in need of a committed couple to serve as house parents. Pat and I continue to serve as house parents as well as my duties as Director. Join with us in prayer that the Lord would lead and direct in securing someone in fulfilling this responsibility.

Remember In Prayer

Continue to remember this ministry in your prayers. The BMA of Mississippi has been telling the story of Jesus for 200 years. May His story continue to be our story into the future!

Preparing Firm Foundations, Psalm 11:3

Sidney D. Davis
Director

Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

World's Thinnest Books

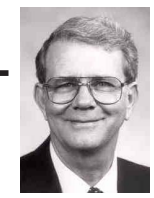
I received an email a few weeks ago (thanks Donald Ray) entitled "World's Thinnest Books". There were some doozy titles. Some of therm were: "Things I Cannot Afford" by Bill Gates, "My Wild Years" by Al Gore, "Spotted Owl Recipes" by E.P.A., "Amish Telephone Directory".

While these are funny, albeit a mite sarcastic, it set me to thinking about other possible titles of books that I might write. A few of them were: "Good Things I Have Received Because I Deserved Them", "Things I Have Done for Christ for His Honor Only", "Reasons for Omitting Bible Study", etc.

You get the picture!

BMA of Mississippi

Missions Department



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

Annual Report to BMA of Mississippi

His Story, Our History. Moses taught the people of Israel that those who TODAY fail to remember the History of YESTERDAY plan for the failure of TOMORROW.

In Deuteronomy chapter 8 there are three verses with three words that express the same. In verse 2 it is REMEMBER. Moses instructed the children of Israel "thou shalt remember", look into your history today, heed what is taught by history. In Verse 5, it is Consider. Today is the time to consider that ignoring history is to plan for tomorrow's failure and wrath of God. Verse 11, it is Beware, beware when you are enjoying the good things of life that you don't forget where you were yesterday, and by whom and how you arrived to the good things of today.

Today, in this year of 2006 we are celebrating two-hundred (200) years of associational progress, recognizing with great honor our LORD and blessed SAVOIR JESUS CHRIST. The question of where I would be, and what I would be if it had not been for those who pioneered the way from the Carolinas to Cole Creek in 1791 frequents my mind. That question I cannot answer, but I can say thank you Lord for it happening. From that movement the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi (not by name but by linage) stands in figures of two hundred churches strong, with a Revolving Loan Fund that has exceeded our financial expectation, and has gone beyond our state boundaries to serve the Lord's work nationally. Secondly, we acknowledge our Churches and faithful pastors of the past and present; also the historical leaders who have preceded us that served as Director of Missions. They are Bro. Ollie Parker, Bro. H.L. Gardner; and Bro. B. J. Knight. For the Directors or their widows who are with us in this Bicentennial celebration we acknowledge and present gifts of appreciation; they are Bro.Vern D. Holifield, Dr. Eugene Murphy, our late Bro. Arnold Knight by his wife Hazel Knight, and Bro. Stephen Howell. Gifts of appreciation are also presented to our Bicentennial Missionary Committeemen; Dr. John M. Adams, Bro. Scotty Rayburn, Bro. Thomas (Bud) Dixon, Bro. Evon Freeman, Bro. Wallace Ray, Bro. I. L. (Shot) Stinson, Bro. Warren Theriot, Bro. Johnny Watts, and Bro Cliff Jenkins. To our Bicentennial Revolving Loan Fund Trustees: Bro. Dosson L. Lee, Bro. James E. Wilson, Bro. Roy Caldwell, Bro. Billy Higginbotham, Bro. Robert (Bob) Bullock, Bro. Billy Huffmaster, Bro. Kenneth Lott, Bro. Frank Panzrino, and Bro. Robert Burkes.

Our thanks goes to Mrs. Chris Smith who accepted the responsibility and has done an exceptional job in putting together this event along with Mrs. Barbara White, Mrs. Shirlene Smith, and Bro. Roger Jefcoat. To Bro. Sam Freeman for seeking out resources and driving hundreds of miles in securing numerous products, and time spent in helping with the preparation. To Bro. David Freeman who night after night worked until the wee hours of the morning in the formatting and printing of our materials, and reproduction of the e-Sword Bible program and video. I also recognize our office staff, Mrs. Judy Lowe, our secretary, and Miss Nicki Prickett, our bookkeeper. I also acknowledge with appreciation Mrs. Faye Freeman, my wife, who is always there to assist in areas that need fine tuning. We could never forget the churches and ladies who have help by providing food and assistance in the overall preparation of this great celebration.

Attention! Attention!

There is a set time for Prayer Breakfast at the Baptist Missions office, it's the first Monday after the second Sunday of each month and each month is a joyous time in fellowship and praise to the Lord. However, due to the up coming holidays, we at the Missions Office will not be having our regular Prayer Breakfast in November or December.

To celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the BMA of Mississippi and Christ's birth, we will be having an open house and prayer time on December 11, 2006 from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00A.M.

We hope you will come by the office and share the joy of Christ's birth and lift a prayer of praise to Him for all He has done for us.

Remember the date is December 11, from 10:00A.M. to 12:00 A.M. Looking to see you there!

Baptist Missions office and Staff

Tonight it is my honor to present our Missionaries Bros. Edward Duvall, Elvis Garcia, Kevin Marr, Estuardo Marroquin, Joseph Oyeleye, and Wallace Williams. These men are pioneering the BMA work by reaching the lost and building new Baptist churches that will be added to the sending force of the gospel world wide. Pray for them as they share with you a glimpse of what the Lord is doing on their field of labor. Additional reports, and the audit were included in the missions hand outs at the annual state associational meeting.

Available For Service

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

Dale Wyrick

Bro. Dale Wyrick is available for service wherever the Lord may lead. He may be reached at 228-369-1419 or 228-474-5334. Bro. Wyrick is a member of Faith Baptist, Escatawapa.

Kennith Lofton

Bro. Kennith Lofton is available for service wherever the Lord may lead. He may be reached at 601-319-7804.

Edward James

Bro. Edward James is available for service wherever the Lord may lead. He may be reached at 601-648-2678.

Jerry Rice

Bro. Jerry Rice is available for pulpit supply or pastoral work as the Lord leads. He may be contacted at 152 Forrest Hill Drive, Lucedale, MS 39452 or by phone at 601-408-8023.

November 2006

Children's Home

Special Emphasis

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.

Mid Central Association Holds Annual Meeting

The Mid Central Association held its2006 Annual Meeting at West Hills Baptist Church with Bro. Bill Raines moderating.

Dr. Aaron Parker brought the Annual Message. There were 21 members from the five churches in attendance. The Minutes and the Treasurer's Report was read and approved. New officers were elected for the upcoming year.

The ladies of West Hills Baptist Church served a wonderful meal to all in attendance after the Annual meeting. The meal and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

The next Mid Central Association meeting will be held at Broadmoor Baptist Church, Meridian, on November 18, 2006 at 7:00 P.M.

Bill Raines, Moderator
Joyce Williamson, Reporter

Tombigbee Association Annual Meeting Report

Hopewell Baptist Church at Fulton, hosted this meeting with 69 present. Bro. Joseph Oyeleye brought the devotional.

The following officers were elected: President, Roger Akers; Vice-president, Bryan Wilson; Clerk, David Lawrence; Assistant Clerk, Donna Lawrence; Treasurer, Doyle Umfress; Assistant Treasurer, Roger Franks; Reporter & Historian, Wanda Parmer; Assistant, Beth Hayden; Annual Message, Joseph Oyeleye; Alternate, Dewitt Bain; meeting place, East Fulton, Fulton - October 6, 2007.

Bro. Sam Freeman reported about the 200th celebration of Mississippi BMA work being planned for the annual BMA meeting at Laurel on October 17-18. Also Dr. Aaron Parker reported that the new sign for Southeastern Baptist College was almost paid for.

Bro. Danny Pitts, pastor at Hopewell, brought the evening message. Our next meeting will be at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church on November 9th.

Lavon Hayden, Moderator
Wanda Parmer, Reporter

Harmony Association Annual Meeting Report

The fifty-second annual meeting of the Harmony Baptist Association met at First Baptist, Mantachie with Bro. John Adams as moderator. Bro. Frank Panzrino brought the morning devotional. Bro. Mavous Phifer read the minutes and Bro. Doug Wilson gave the treasurer's report.

The following officers were elected: Moderator, Bro. Frank Panzrino; Assistant, Bro. Thelbert Hill; Clerk, Bro. Mavous Phifer; Assistant, Geraldine Phifer; Treasurer, Bro. Doug Wilson; Assistant, Bro. Eddie Boutwell; Promotional Secretary, Maxine Phifer; Assistant, Pam Bines; Historian, Bobbye Sue Bradley; Missionary Committeeman, Bro. Fulton Lindsey. Motion these serve as Resolution Committee.

Unity Baptist Church will be the place for the annual meeting in 2007. Speaker, Bro. Horace McCombs; Alternate Bro. Neil Murphy.

The Camp officers were read. Motion to accept them. Bro. Aaron Parker gave report on the college.

Motion we dedicate this minute book in memory of Bro. Merle Bradley. Motion we continue our support this next year as this past year. Bro. Frank Panzrino offered a substitute motion to keep budget the same for one month until November meeting and the new Missionary Committee will make a recommendation on our project.

Motion we change our meeting on Friday night to Thursday night. Bro. Lavelle Smith withdrew as moderator. Bro. Thelberet Hill was elected.

Bro. Vern Holifield a report on Senior Adult ministries. Bro. Elvis Garcia gave a report on First Baptist Hispanic Church in Ripley.

Bro. Doug Wilson was the speaker and read from acts 4:36, "Barnabus." Bro. Mike Hynes gave Bro. Wilson hand of appreciation for the message. Bro. Sam Freeman gave report on State Missions. Bro. Joseph Oyeleye gave report on Maple Street church. Bro. Thelbert Hill ed the closing prayer.

Mavous Phifer, Clerk
Maxine Phifer, Reporter

Union, Bay Springs To Celebrate Family Homecoming

Pastor A. M. Wilson of Union, Bay Springs, invites you to attend their Family Homecoming on November 12. There will be three messages: 10:00 a.m. by Adair Jernigan; 11:00 a.m. by Fulton Lindsey, and Robert White in the afternoon service.

Central, Richton Homecoming Celebration

Central Missionary Baptist Church, Richton, will celebrate its yearly homecoming on October 29, 2006. Guests include Bro. Don Hilbun, morning message, Jeremy Johnson, music, and Southern Psalm in the afternoon .

Services begin with Praise service at 10:00 a.m., worship at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be served by church with afternoon singing. Everyone is invited to attend.

Howard Morgan, Pastor

Washington Association report

Leakesville Missionary Baptist Church was the host for the monthly meeting of the Washington Association on October 13, 2006. This was our first meeting and we were so excited to host those present (12 churches,55 members and 8 visitors).

Opening song was Just a little talk with Jesus led by Scottie Holland, opening prayer was offered by Bro. Skip Holland. Bro. Jeff Bass called the meeting to order. Bro. Johnny Stonecypher gave the devotional. Business was taken care of and reports heard. The evening message was brought by Bro. David Clark.

A meal was provided by the host church. I would like to say thank you on behalf of our Church for making this such a joyous meeting.

Wanda Holland, Clerk
Franklin Hodges, Moderator