

Dates To Remember

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

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

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

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

BMMI Response to Flood Victims

by **Ralph Izard, M.D.**
BMMI director

The area along the Chapare River in Bolivia suffered a disaster this year when a flood covered an area the size of the state of Arkansas. The villages along the Chapare River were completely flooded for weeks. All of the crops were destroyed and all the water was contaminated due to dying animals and flooding of toilets. There was no escape, because dugout canoes are the only method of transportation.

National missionary David Flores has made many trips into the area in a power boat supplying the village with clean water, rice, beans, and medicine. The flood destroyed all the plantains, which are the cash crop and a primary food for the residents. Missionary Flores has shared with us the need for more rice, beans, medicines, and vitamins for those that live along the river and in the flooded forest.

The funds for tons of rice, thousands of gallons of water, along with vitamins and medicine have largely come from donations to the "Children Helping Children" ministry. More funds are needed and if you would like to help BMMI meet the needs of these people along the Chapare River, send your contributions to BMMI, P.O. Box 30910, Little Rock, AR 72260.



NOVEMBER 1, 2007

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Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Annual meeting held in Laurel

Resolutions passed - churches added

by the Editor

The 201st session of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi was held at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, on Tuesday, October 23. The messengers were able to complete business in one day with the addition of a late night session. After the message on Tuesday evening, President Neal Murphy urged the body to stay and complete their work. All reports were heard and busi-



Joy Ulland, a member of Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, opens the 201st session of the BMA of Mississippi by singing the Star Bangled Banner.

ness was finished around 9:30 p.m.

187 registered messengers, along with 23 registered visitors, heard and approved reports from each department and commission supported by the association. We were also blessed to have a number of visitors from our National Departments to come and report on their areas of ministry. Officially, 117 churches were represented - 75 by messenger and 42 by letter only. \$5,287.50 was given for the minute fund with an additional

Photo At Left

A young boy and his mother wait out the flood in a boat as the flood water was five to six feet deep in their home on the

Chapare River in Bolivia.



\$912.50 given for the program fund.

The 2008 meeting will again be held at Southeastern College, with the 2008 Mid-year session to be held at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi.

State Missions Director Rayburn Freeman will bring the 2008 annual message with Greg Medenwald, pastor of Magnolia Church, Hattiesburg serving as alternate. Leon Carmical, pastor of Midway First Baptist, Sumrall, will bring the midyear message with Scotty Rayburn, pastor of Red Creek

Church, Wiggins as the alternate.

Officers for the 2007-08 Associational year are President, Neal Murphy; First Vice

President, Gary Smith; Second Vice President, Mike Allred; Recording Clerk, Billy Huffmaster; Assistant Clerk, Sam Oglesby; and Director of Public Information, Don Brown.

Annual Message

Dr. John Adams, pastor of First Baptist, Mantachie and Director of the Christian Action Commission, brought the annual message on Tuesday Evening on the declining moral condition of our day and the dangers facing our families and our nation.

New Churches

Three churches petitioned membership with the BMA of Mississippi. They are Walnut Grove Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi, James Wilson, pastor; Helton Road Baptist Church, Theodore, Alabama, William Oldenquist, pastor; and Wedgewood Baptist Church, Mobile, Alabama, Bobby Myrick, pastor.

continued on page 2



First Vice President Gary Smith (far right) welcomes the messengers from the three new churches to membership in the BMA of Mississippi.

Marriage Makers and Breakers by Travis Plumlee

Maker # 3 - Pride in Your Spouse

Do you love your spouse? Then, prove it! Your spouse should never have to guess that you love them. They should be told on a daily basis. They should be shown on a daily basis. Every day you should think of at least one thing to say or do to lift your spouse up.

If you want your family garden to bear fruit; then you have to water that spouse daily. Failure to do so will leave your spouse dead on the vine.

A great way to make your spouse feel special is to show others how proud you are of them. Take pride in your spouse. After your salvation, they are the greatest gift God gives you. Your children are gifts from God also. But the spouse must always be the number one human relationship in your life. Failure to put your spouse number one will cause trouble in the entire family. You can never truly be the best parent you can be until you are right in your marriage. Having a great marriage is one of the best gifts you could

ever give your children.

We all are human. Therefore, we all feel better when we know we are loved and appreciated by our spouse. We may have lots of people love us, but our spouse can set us on fire, or take us to the depths of despair. As a married couple, you should show how proud you are of your spouse to others. I think sometimes we forget how important this is. It is a great testimony to the world. Our society is falling apart. Marriage as an institution is passé, they say. What a great testimony to a transformed life in Christ to show this world that we love our spouse and are proud of it. We need to tell others that marriage is great as God made it. I have a great marriage and I am proud of it. It is not a testimony to me being great, but how great is our God. When people are impressed with your actions in marriage, or how long you have been married; you should loudly proclaim it is all God through us. It is His love. Give Him the praise.

You should first praise your spouse in front of your children. Too many parents run their spouse down. They make fun of them in front of the kids. They criticize and act disgusted by some quality in their mate. Tell your kids how much you love their mother/father. Tell them why. Just routinely in a family gathering, or at a family dinner tell your kids, "I love your mom because she.....and let the honey flow.

You should secondly be proud of your spouse in front of the extended family. That means your parents, your in-laws and all the brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles. Speak in glowing terms of your spouse. Compliment them in front of everyone at family gatherings. Tell them that your spouse is the critical difference in your life. Genuinely and

sincerely take every opportunity to show how proud you are of your spouse. Don't be sarcastic or fake, but show the love.

Next, you should show how proud you are of your spouse at church. I am always amazed at how accepted it is in our churches for spouses to just run each other down and everyone laughs. It is okay to tease each other sometimes. But where is there ever any praise? Young people need to come to church and see Christian couples who openly express love and praise for their spouse. You need to cut way back on the comments of,

"You know how men are, or You know how women are". Don't generalize and put down. I guess lifting someone up is harder than putting someone down. But lifting up is certainly more Christ-like.

You should praise your spouse at work. What a great testimony if you always speak highly of your spouse at your work place. Every marriage

has troubles. But you don't have to air it at work. Just focus on the good in your spouse at work. That is a way of letting your light shine before others. If all you ever do is gripe about men/women like everyone else, then I guess Jesus doesn't make that big of a difference in family life. He does, and you ought to show it. The quickest road to adultery is to start running down your spouse at work. There's always a devil listening & waiting nearby.

As a spouse, see the best in your spouse even when they are not showing it. Give them a hug when you think they need it, even if they haven't asked for it. A spouse should always come to your defense, no matter how often called upon or how unpopular it makes you. Bring out the best in your spouse. Let them depend upon you even when they don't deserve it. Love them even on days they are unlovable. Finally, hold your spouse up before others, and hold them up in prayer before the Father.

State Meeting

from page 1

Reports were heard from each of the current state missionaries. National workers present and reporting on their departmental work were, Grady Higgs, National Missions; George Reddin, LifeWord Broadcast Ministries; Charley Holmes, BMA Seminary; Ron Chesser, Ministers Resource Services; and Kevin Clayton, DiscipleGuide Church Resources.

Missionary to India Prashant Prakash was also present and gave a report on his soon return to his native India to resume his ministry there.

Proposals passed

In the May 2007 meeting a committee was appointed to address the concern of some concerning the use of Bible translations during official BMA functions. The proposal brought by this committee was passed by an overwhelming vote. This vote adds a "Number 3" to the addendum to the state doctrinal statement. The newly added statement, along with the other 2, is not binding on the churches. It simply states the preference of the majority of our churches and members. It reads as follows: "Whereas most of our people believe in and use the King James Version as the Word of God, we ask that any speakers at any associational meeting, camp or con-

ference sponsored by any department of the association use the KJV."

A change in some of the procedures of the operation of the State Missions department was presented by the special investigative committee. This was also adopted. A few minor changes in the bylaws of the Missions Department were made to insure that the changes made would be reflected in the current bylaws.

Ministry Change

Mississippi Baptist Editor Don Brown announced that he had been called as pastor of Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi. He had been serving as interim pastor since November 2006 with the church calling him as pastor in September.

Brown also shared with the Association concerning that the decline in subscriptions to the paper, coupled with the rising cost of operation, has led to a severe financial decline. The Publications Department ended the 2007 fiscal year with a deficit of \$4,700.00. On the recommendation of the Trustees the messengers approved a decrease in salary and benefits to the current editor and allowing him to continue to serve while serving as pastor.

Bro. Brown assured the messenger body that the paper would continue to serve as a vital link between the local church and members and the departments and workings of the BMA of Mississippi and America.

Short Message Series by Rev. Grover Laird

Help The Poor

"He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise" (Luke 3:11).

Our text is taken from the preaching of John the Baptist, but many others preached and taught the same thing. Isaiah wrote, "Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh" (Isaiah 58:7). King Lemuel taught his son to help the poor and needy-- "Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy" (Proverbs 31:9). In describing a blessed man the Psalmist said, "He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour" (Psalm 112:9). To live a righteous life surely involves helping the poor.

Many of God's wonderful promises are made to those who help the poor. Several of these are in Psalm 41. The Psalm starts with the words, "Blessed is he that considereth the poor:" then we find a list of some of those blessings. First, "the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble." This could really be a help. Second, "The Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive;" this would sound good to the person who lives in fear of the perils of this world. Third, "he shall be blessed upon the earth." This

sounds like he would have a good life in this world, along with some material blessings. Fourth, "thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies." Think how much protection this would give a person. Fifth, "The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing;" This help would really be a blessing to those who have lost their vitality and strength. Sixth, "thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness." For the Lord to come and minister to us when we are sick would really be great. Think of it! All six of these blessings are promised to those who help the poor. But there are more promises.

The Bible promises that it will not cost us to help the poor. We can give and give and give, and the Lord will reimburse us. A person who enjoys helping the needy can have a good time, and the Lord will pay the expenses. Here is His promise-- "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again" (Proverbs 19:17). Consider another promise for those who help the poor-- "He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor." (Proverbs 22:9)

Not only are there blessings promised for those who help the poor, there are warnings for those who do not. Read carefully two verses. "He that giveth unto the poor shall

not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse." (Proverbs 28:27) "Whosoever stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard." (Proverbs 21:13)

The first group of poor people that Christians are to help are the poor Spiritually, those who have "no hope, and without God in the world." (Ephesians 2:12) Many Christians give thousands of dollars each year to missions in an effort to help the unsaved find eternal life. This is wonderful, and most of us could do more.

The next group of poor people that the Bible requires us to help are our Brothers and Sisters in the Lord. Galatians 6:10 tells us to "do good unto all men." But then it says, "especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Though Paul's main work was preaching the gospel, he found time to help the poor saints at Jerusalem. (Romans 15:25,26) Many Scriptures tell us that our Christian family is our first obligation, (Deuteronomy 15:7,9; Acts 11:27-29) though the poor everywhere are to be helped.

It is true that some are poor because of the way they walk (live), the way they waste, and the way they work. But most of this will be corrected if we can lead them to be a faithful Christian in one of the Lord's churches.

While we do not have a Common Treasure as the first Church had, enough love for the brethren will take care of their needs when there is some misfortune. (I John 3:17) Remember also, it will always be "more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)



Grover Laird

Moral Action Committee

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



Dr. Roy McLaughlin
Director

You Will Hate The "Hate Crimes" Law

Here is an issue on which it is imperative we take a stand, right now, today.

Federal "Gay Rights" and "Hate Crime" Laws

The Hate Crimes bill sounds good on the surface; but it gives preferential protection to homosexuals . . . whereas we should all receive equal protection under the law. And should it become law, it would open the door to prohibiting churches from preaching that homosexuality is a sin – thereby possibly subjecting churches that do so to losing their tax-exempt status, and heavy penalties. In addition, Hate Crimes legislation would pave the way for the government to later tell churches what else they can and cannot preach from the pulpit. Pastors would then be put into the difficult position of choosing to obey man's law or God's laws – not to mention all of the other ramifications of this dangerous bill.

This radical "hate crimes" law

would threaten to treat pastors as an "accessory" to acts of violence against individuals who engage in homosexual behavior. In places where it's already been enacted, such "hate crime" laws have resulted in a Swedish pastor being jailed, a Catholic bishop in Canada being hauled before a "human rights" tribunal for saying marriage should remain between a man and a woman, a dozen Christians - - including two grandmothers, one black, one white - - being arrested and facing 40 years in prison in Philadelphia for reading Bible verses on a public street during a "gay pride" festival.

Not only does this bill clearly threaten religious freedom, its very premise is an offense to the American tradition of equal justice under

law. It would literally mean that under federal law, a criminal who physically attacks a pregnant mother, senior citizen, or small child would be punished less severely – receive a shorter prison sentence – than someone who assaults a grown man . . . if that grown man engages in homosexual behavior.

On October 2, 2007, the U.S. Senate voted to attach this so-called "hate crime" law to the bill that provides funding to our American military in a time of war.

Now our only hope to stop that bill from becoming law is to urge President Bush to veto the Defense Reauthorization Act.

Please – today – urge President Bush to VETO the Defense Reauthorization Act, forcing Congress to pass it again without the "hate crime" amendment attached to it.

White House comment line: 202-456-1111 White House switchboard: 202-456-1414
White House fax line: 202-456-2461 White House e-mail: comments@whitehouse.gov

Flag-folding recitations for vets banned because of religious content

OneNewsNow.com

RIVERSIDE, California - Complaints about religious content have led to a ban on flag-folding recitations by Veterans Administration employees and volunteers at all 125 national cemeteries. It all started because of one complaint about the ceremony at Riverside National Cemetery in California.

During thousands of military burials, the volunteers have folded the American flag 13 times and recited the significance of every fold to survivors. For example, the 12th fold glorifies "God the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost."

The complaint revolved around the narration in the 11th fold, which celebrates Jewish war veterans and "glorifies the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob."

The National Cemetery Administration decided to ban the entire recital at all national cemeteries. Details of the complaint weren't disclosed.

Administration spokesman Mike Nacincik said the new policy outlined in a Sept. 27 memorandum is aimed at creating uniform services throughout the military graveyard system. He said the 13-fold recital is not part of the U.S. Flag Code and is not government-approved.

Veterans and honor detail volunteers, including Bobby Castillo, 85, and Rees Lloyd, 59, are furious. "That the actions of one disgruntled, whining, narcissistic and intolerant

individual is preventing veterans from getting the honors they deserve is truly an outrage," Lloyd said. "This is another attempt by secularist fanatics to cleanse any reference to God."

World War II Navy veteran Castillo said it's "a slap in the face to every veteran."

"When we got back from the war, we didn't ask for a whole lot," Castillo said. "We just want to give our veterans the respect they deserve. No one has ever complained to us about it. I just don't understand."

Lloyd and Castillo are part of a 16-member detail that has performed military honors at more than 1,400 services. They were preparing to read the flag-folding remarks at the Riverside cemetery when graveyard staff members stopped them.

Charlie Waters, parliamentarian for the American Legion of California, said he's advising memorial honor details to ignore the edict. "This is nuts," Waters told the Riverside Press-Enterprise by telephone from Fresno. "There are 26 million veterans in this country, and they're not going to take us all to prison."

Nacincik said that though the flag-folding narrative includes references to God that the government does not endorse, the main reason for the new rules is uniformity. "We are looking at consistency," Nacincik said. "We think that's important."

Southeastern Baptist College

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Laurel, Mississippi 39440, (601) 426-6346



Dr. Medrick Savell
President

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BMA OF MISSISSIPPI October 23-24, 2007

Opening Remarks

This past year has been one of much activity and excitement at the college. I appreciate the privilege to serve as president. Because of the Lord's evident provision and leadership and the wonderful people to work with and the excellent relationships with the trustees, I am enjoying my work. It is exciting to me to see God working in so many ways. One example is His working so that we were able to purchase the land.

I want to thank each person, church, and association who supports the college with your prayers, encouragement, and finances. God uses your support to meet our needs. Bro. Rayburn Freeman and the Revolving Loan Fund have been a tremendous help to the college this year in their assistance in the purchase of the land and in continuing to provide money for scholarships for BMA preachers to attend Southeastern. Five of our BMA preachers used that financial aid last year. This is a good example of the departments of our association working together in missions.

A Good Year

Beginning in the Spring semester, 2007, the enrollment has begun to gradually increase, and we expect that trend to continue. The aggressive recruiting by Ronnie Kitchens and his assistants is producing results.

Rabbi Yitzhak Miller of Temple Beth El said he understands the ban. "It is a perfect example of government choosing to ignore religion in order to avoid offending some religions," Miller said. "To me, ignoring religion in general is just as problematic as endorsing any one religion."

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2Chronicles 7:14

Seventeen people received 19 degrees in our graduation in May. In this current semester, 81 students are enrolled including 40 students who are attending Southeastern for the first time. We thank the Lord for sending them to our college.

Financial Condition

The audit reveals that total revenues for the 2006-2007 year were up from the year before while the total expenses were down. This enabled us to end the fiscal year in sound financial condition. The Southeastern Baptist College Foundation is separate from the college. It continues to grow in assets. The total assets in the Foundation was \$496,581 on June 30, 2007, an increase of \$42,967 from the year before. The college received \$30,000.00 from the Foundation this past year, which is a 50% gain from the year before. We thank the Lord for His blessings on the Foundation.

A Special, Unexpected Blessing

The college recently received a check from the estate of Bro. W. R. and Mrs. Hazel Speer. Our hearts were touched by this consideration by the Speer Family. That has been put into the Foundation where it will continue to be a blessing to the work of the college.

Special Emphasis and Special Projects

The response to these special projects in the summer has once again been very encouraging. At this time we have received contributions on the following projects.

Housing Repairs	\$ 2,000.00
Remodel Music Rooms	\$ 1,000.00
Designated for	
Land Purchase	\$13,300.00
Land Clean-up	\$ 1,100.00
Special Emphasis	\$19,454.98
TOTAL	\$36,854.98

Donated labor throughout the year has been a great help to the college. We appreciate each of those who have contributed their time and skills in this way. It saves the college many dollars, and I am sure it brings blessings to them. Others have promised to help us in the future.

We were able to take \$9,000.00 from the Special Emphasis offerings and put into the land fund. We have paid the first two payments on the land.

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Dale Wirick

Bro. Dale Wirick is available for service where the Lord leads. He may be reached at 228-369-1419.

Alan Smith

Bro. Alan Smith of Laurel is available for service. He may be reached at 601-422-9641.

John Mills

Bro. John is available for pulpit supply or anywhere the Lord may lead. He has been married for eight years and has a six year-old son and a four year-old daughter. He is a member of Bethel Baptist Church in Bassfield where he surrendered to the ministry July 26, 2007. He may be contacted by cell at 601-408-0537 or home at 601-731-9810.

Donald Sims

Donald Sims is available for pastoral service and fill-ins as the Lord may lead. He may be reached at 601-528-9215 or 601-528-3295.

Larry Pierce

Larry Pierce of Lucedale, Mississippi is available for pulpit supply. He may be contacted at 601-947-3531.

Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi



Don Brown
Editor

Special Edition

The 2007 BMA of Mississippi is now history. A full report of the proceedings of the meeting begins on page one of this issue.

We continue with our practice of printing the annual reports of each of our department workers. Our readers are urged to reach each report to understand the ongoing work of the BMA of Mississippi.

We had a good meeting this year and surprisingly finished the meeting on Tuesday evening even though we had a number of visitors from our

national work.

Each state missionary reported and much of their information was encouraging.

The King James Version issue was put to rest by the passage of an addendum to our Doctrinal Statement that simply requests the use of the KJV during association sponsored meetings.

May God continue to bless our work as we push forward to preach His Word to a needy world *"In Times Like These"*.

My personal report to the Association is listed here.

Editor's Report To 2007 BMA of Mississippi Annual Meeting

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus, the Christ. It is an honor to once again report to this body as editor of your Mississippi Baptist paper. This is my 30th annual report to this great Association of churches since I was elected to this position in March of 1978.

My election as the paper's first full-time editor, was a bold step and one that the Lord has blessed. When I was elected editor there were 110 churches on the church family plan with a total of around 4,000 subscribers. The cost of the paper at that time was \$.35 per month. Gas was 63 cents per gallon and the total annual budget of the Publication's Department was just over \$21,000.

Things change. According to the 2006 Minute Book, the BMA

of Mississippi has 184 participating churches. 140 of those churches are currently on the Church Plan. As the cost of living has increased over the past 3 decades, so has the cost of doing business. Technology has made our job easier, more cost effective and more productive, but technology only goes so far. Just this past year our insurance cost has increased by 25%, our rent increased by 140% and postage to mail the paper has increased by about 20%.

A few years ago the Mississippi Baptist had 5,400 subscribers. Today that number is 4,410. This decrease is NOT due to a decrease in the number of churches subscribing to the paper through the Church Plan. That figure has continued to be stable, fluctuating only about 1 to 3 churches per year. The decrease

is due to the number of families in our churches on the church plan. I am concluding that this is in direct relation to a decline in attendance and growth in our churches. I met with the editors of the state papers of Arkansas and Texas recently and both indicated that they have experienced similar declines in subscriptions. As an association we are not growing - we are declining.

A number of years ago our National Association set a goal of "2,000 Churches By The Year 2000". We did not make it and it does not appear that we will - at least in the foreseeable future.

On Monday, October 22, a new church signed up for the Church Plan for the first time. This added 37 subscribers to our list. On the same day, I received notice from another church that had voted to discontinue their subscription. They had 37 names on their list. This was one of our oldest and very active churches. The reason for their decision - decline in attendance and finances.

The decrease in subscribers from 5,400 to 4,410, equals a monthly decrease in income of over \$1,200. This comes to over \$14,400 per year. The decrease in subscribers has been gradual. This factor, coupled with the increased cost of doing business, puts this work at a crossroads. Do we increase rates to the level to cover operating costs? Surely this is not the answer when some of our churches are also seeing a decline in attendance and income. The cost increase would be prohibitive. You approved a \$.10 increase at this meeting last year and we just implemented it the first of September. I received notice from one of our churches a few days after the statements went out that they were dropping the paper due to the increased cost. I was told by the pastor that most of their congregation was elderly and on fixed income and they felt they could not afford to continue.

How have we made it until now? Year after year I have come before this body and commended you for your generous support. The answer has been monthly donations and our annual Special Emphasis drive in January of each year. We have been able to generate a small amount of income by printing minute books for some of our local associations, our state association, and for the last 10 years the National

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



Minute Book.

Income from these type of sources is not sufficient to make any dramatic difference. If you approve the recommendations of the Publication Trustees to be presented today, then I will be resigning as clerk of the BMA of America. The production of the National Minute Book takes a great deal of time and this time will no longer be available.

You will hear in the minutes of our Trustee meeting that I have accepted the call as pastor of the Big Creek Baptist Church in Soso, Mississippi. I began serving this great church as interim pastor in November 2006 and diligently helped them search for a pastor. I made recommendations and contacted men in whom I had confidence on the church's behalf. They interviewed and contacted a number of prospects, but none felt the leadership of the Lord. The longer I was with the church on an interim basis the more I fell in love with them as a people and as individuals. I began to feel that I was "at home". On September 9th Big Creek Church called me as pastor. I told the pulpit committee, and through them the entire church, that my desire was to continue as editor. They had that understanding when they issued the call.

In these past 30 years as editor I worked jointly with Southeastern Baptist College for a number of years and was considered 'full-time' in both positions. I have served as interim pastor at five different churches on six different occasions and continued as editor. I know that

the duties of pastoring Big Creek Baptist Church are much different than those of other churches I have served, but probably not much different time-wise as when I was working at Southeastern College.

I desire to continue as your editor. This is truly a work of love. The Publications Trustees are in agreement with this move and have recommendations concerning salary and benefit adjustments for your consideration.

I have always believed that God works things out for the best. He is always ahead of us. I honestly feel that this entire scenario is the working of the Lord. He knew that Big Creek Church would need a pastor; He knew my heart would be turned toward the people of Big Creek Baptist Church; He knows of my desire to continue to serve this body as editor; and he knew the circumstances that would transpire in the Publications Department that would precipitate the need for a change.

I feel that this a good solution to all concerned. The Bible says in Isaiah 55:9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." This verse declares that there is great a difference between the plans of God and those of men. I think this is God's will for me, the Publication's Department and Big Creek Baptist Church.

My prayer is that this body thinks the same. May God be pleased with all of our efforts for the cause of Christ.



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CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION

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John Adams

State Association

We thank each church and pastor for your continued support and Godly prayers. The C.A.C. is a great work for a great God.

Porn Mainstream

In the "Focus on the Family" Magazine (1-800-A-Family) October, 2007 issue an interview with Daniel Weiss, a Senior Analyst; states that "the mainstream media often gives the idea that the public largely accepts pornography as normal." The question that comes to mind, "Is that accurate?"

Weiss cites examples in the entertainment media, such as Jay Leno who promoted porn use while being interviewed on Oprah. A reality show on television follows Hugh Hefner's three "playboy bunnies,

and "porn stars" publish best selling books. So, Christians remember to stand and fight against this obscenity. A November, 2005, Harris Interactive poll found that seventy-seven (77%) percent of Americans supported the Supreme Court/Justice Department's efforts to enforce federal obscenity laws. The High Court ruled that hardware pornography has no First Amendment protection.

If someone you know, family or friend, struggles with sexual pornography help direct them to www.pureintimacy.org. Let's fight mainstream porn by telling your cable or satellite company to remove it.

Underage Drinking

Have you heard of M.A.A.U.D?

Mississippians Advocating Against Underage Drinking has been formed by concerned Christian citizens of Mississippi, to address our youth and children drinking alcoholic beverages. They are encouraging stricter and tighter controls in regard to this crisis.

In the Yazoo Herald, October 6, 2007, issue, Sandy Parker wrote to inform parents and families of the problem. She list the following information:

"According to the SmartTrack Data for 2006-2007 (114,069 MS youth grades 6-12)

- 21,983 (or 19.27%) Mississippi youth had at least one beer during the past 30 days

- 22,189 (or 19.45%) Mississippi youth had at least one other alcohol (wine, whiskey, vodka,

mixed drinks, etc) during the past 30 days.

- 13,167 (or 11.54%) Mississippi youth had at least one wine cooler during the past 30 days.

Provision of Alcohol (Code 67-3-54): The current law says it is illegal for anyone under 21 years of age to be provided alcohol with the following exceptions:

Light wine or beer can be provided to persons over 18 but less than 21 by a parent, guardian, or legal age spouse.

Military personnel at least 18 years may possess and consume on military property where consumption is allowed.

A person under 21 years of age can possess and furnish light wine and beer if in the scope of his employment he/she: busses tables, takes orders for light beer and wine or stocks, bags or otherwise handles purchases of light wine or beer in a store.

Purchase of Alcohol (67-1-81): Any person under the age of twenty-one years who purchases, receives, or has in his or her possession in any public place, any alcohol beverages,

shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine. However, the exceptions above, still apply to this code as well.

Consumption of alcohol - there is no specific law regarding the consumption of alcohol by individuals under the age of 21 in Mississippi." Here lies the problem. We would like to change the law to make it illegal for youth under age 21 to consume alcohol. So contact your State Senator and State Representative voice your concerns.

Book Recommendation

I wish to highly recommend to our readers the book by John MacArthur "The Truth War." The subtitle is Fighting for certainty in an age of Deception. It is published by Thomas Nelson and is excellent reading material. Cost is approximately \$25.00 at your local bookstore.

Highlight Supporting Churches

Rocky Branch, Sumrall
Ramsey Creek, Saucier
Sharon, Laurel
Scotland, Bentonia
Springhill, Laurel

Commission on Senior Adults

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



I am writing this article to the Mississippi Baptist on October 17. By the time you read these lines the 2007 session of the BMA of Mississippi will be history. However, today, I am praying for a harmonious and a prosperous meeting.

Very often well meaning Christians get derailed. I think I have allowed myself to get off course at times. While we debate and discuss even important matters we often take our minds, our eyes and efforts off the main thing God has called us to do. Our first love is God. Our first work is getting the gospel out to a lost and hell bound world of sinners. It is important, yea essential, that BMA Baptist people get back to the main task at hand. If we don't get back to the business of witnessing to, and winning lost sinners to Christ and then to our churches we will be in deep trouble. In fact, many of our churches are in trouble right now. Lost sinners are not coming to church. The Lord told His Church to go out to sinners and win them to Christ. Seemingly, we have reversed His orders.

Recent Visits

On Saturday Evening, September 22 we attended a Senior Adult Rally at the Oakland Baptist Church, Vicksburg. Around thirty to thirty-

five people were in attendance. A great program was arranged by some of the younger families. A delicious meal was enjoyed. I had the privilege of speaking to the group. We met their new pastor Brother Michael Moore and his wife. They were extra kind to us. The church will soon organize a ministry to their Seniors.

On Sunday, September 23 we met with the Wilderness Baptist Church, Vicksburg in their morning service. I had the privilege of preaching and presenting the work of the Commission. It was a joy to see brother Bob Conrad their pastor. Brother Bob is the son of the late Ashford Conrad. The Conrad family and I go along way back.

I was encouraged about our work in Vicksburg. The two churches have a good relationship. The pastors are working together. Please pray for these good churches.

On Sunday, October 14, my wife and I attended the Homecoming Celebration at Bethel Baptist Church, Fulton. The church had invited me to bring the Homecoming message. It was a great day indeed. Dr. Martin Jameson and the church extended a warm and kind welcome to us. What a joy to see old friends and to make new friends. My family and I served Bethel

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art.

When the Vietnam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son.

About a month later, just before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands.

He said, "Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your

Church as interim pastor back in the early sixties. Bethel is a growing church. She is also a loving church.

Financial Support

The Lord continues to lead our pastors and churches to support the Commission financially. We had a good year last year. Recently The Bethel Church and pastor Jameson placed the Commission in their budget. Thanks for your help.

The 2008 Conferences

The South Conference is scheduled for March 27, 2008. Big Creek Church, Soso will host this meeting. The North Conference is scheduled for May 13, 2008. The East Amory Church, Amory will host this meeting.

Take my Son

son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly. He often talked about you, and your love for art." The young man held out this package. "I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this."

The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture. "Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. It's a gift."

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected.

The man died a few months later. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their collection.

On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. "We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid for this picture?"

There was silence.

Then a voice in the back of the room shouted, "We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one."

But the auctioneer persisted. "Will somebody bid for this painting. Who will start the bidding? \$100, \$200?"

Another voice angrily. "We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Goghs, the Rembrandts. Get on with the real bids!"

But still the auctioneer continued. "The son! The son! Who'll take the son?"

Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the longtime gardener of the man and his son. "I'll give \$10 for the painting." Being a poor man, it was all he could afford.

"We have \$10, who will bid \$20?"

"Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters."

"\$10 is the bid, won't someone bid \$20?"

The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son.

They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections.

The auctioneer pounded the gavel. "Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10!"

A man sitting on the second row shouted, "Now let's get on with the collection!"

The auctioneer laid down his gavel. "I'm sorry, the auction is over."

continued on page 7



LATRELLE WINDHAM
DIRECTOR

P.O. Box 4247, Laurel, Mississippi 39441 • (601) 649-0502
Email - bmayouth@comcast.net

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi State Youth Department 2006-2007 Annual Report

Our theme for 2008 will be "Missions". Our scriptures will be Matthew 28:18-20. Mission's is a command not an option. It is something imperative, a must. Missions is God's will. We must go on a mission! We must wait sometimes. But while we wait on God we wait with confident expectation.

Our motives for missions should produce outward actions. God's love should be the inner impulse producing our actions. Christ's love should be another motive prompting us to go. God's love is a giving love. Mankind's need should prompt us to come.

The missionary heart of Paul comes out in Romans chapter 10. Salvation is by faith, and faith comes

by hearing the Word of God. But unbelieving sinners cannot hear unless we tell them. God needs young people who are filled with the Spirit of the Word and who ask, seek and knock for His will to be done.

The aim for the Junior Age (6th Grade & Down), will be, "A Heart for God", II Timothy 3:14, 15. At camp through the preaching of the Word of God, reliable information about God, personal truths will be learned. As growth is experienced a pattern of seeing from God's point of view will come. When the kids return home the churches will follow up with further teaching and application.

The aim for the Youth will be, "Define Your Mission In Life", II Peter 3:9. An example of defining your mission would be to know and do God's will.

This summer we had 36 professions of faith. The Word of God and the Holy Spirit are still the most powerful things we have. The arrival of our kids into the family of God is, by far, the greatest.

The one thing, I saw in our out-reach at camp this summer was the dedicated sponsors that each church sent with their kids. These sponsors prayed, studied and had fun with their kids. Thanks to our churches for your cooperation.

We always want to commit our program to God that we may have excellence in our out-reach at summer camps.

We had 700 registered campers in camp this summer with 36 professions of faith. Our visitors in each of our services during the day and at night were many. We had in all four camps about 400 or more visitors in our services. We praise God for His blessings upon us.

Camps	Enrolled	Saved
Tombigbee,		
Judson	97	13
Harmony	117	8
South Central Junior	317	11
State Jr. High Senior	156	4
TOTAL	687	36

Association of Baptist Students
Southeastern Baptist College
Jones County Junior College
University of Southern Mississippi

COMMISSION ON HISTORY & ARCHIVES

Johnny Watts, Director
288 Lonesome Pines Rd, Laurel, MS 39443
601-729-8098



Johnny Watts

Annual Report of The Commission on History and Archives October 23, 2007

Things have slowed down since last year and the Bicentennial celebration. I pray that every church will keep this celebration alive in their church and in their hearts. Were it not for these people who worked and suffered down through the years, we just might not have the fellowships we have today. I personally like to look back and identify myself with Eld. Richard Curtis, Jr. and the brave band of people who traveled from the Carolinas and put down roots near modern Natchez by organizing Salem Baptist Church on Coles Creek.

Thanks to all the churches that have supported us financially this church year. Whether you supported monthly, annually, quarterly or during the Special Emphasis, we appreciate your help so much.

Thanks to Ms. Sandy Holifield who keeps up with our funds and supplies us a Treasurer's report for the meetings. Also to Amy Hinton for her work in the History and Archives room in the Library. Bro. Glen Shoemaker is a blessing in his contributions to this Commission.

Bro. Johnny Watts -- Director
Sandy Holifield -- Treasurer
Glen Shoemaker -- Historiati
Amy Hinton -- Librarian

March 13, 2008
BMA of Mississippi
Missions Conference
Skyway Hills Baptist Church
Pearl, Mississippi

2007 State Brotherhood Report

by Roger Jefcoat

The Brotherhood of the Mississippi BMA met Monday, October 22, 2007 at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel. Brother Lavon Haden called the meeting to order. Brother Josh Spears led the congregational singing and sang a special while Brother Billy Huffmaster served as pianist. There were forty-five members present.

The following officers were elected President, Lavon Haden; Vice President, Roger Akers; Secretary/Treasurer, Roger Jefcoat; and Galilean Director, Josh Spears. The Annual Project is 75% Brotherhood General Fund and 25% Mississippi Galileans.

Brother Josh Spears gave the State Galilean Report and Brother Corby Jones gave a report on the National Brotherhood's Annual Meeting.

Brother Tommy Watts introduced Brother Scotty Rayburn to deliver the evening message. Brother Rayburn's message, "Grieve Not the Holy Spirit", was outstanding.

Prior to the meeting a chicken dinner was enjoyed by over 100 Brotherhood and WMA members. Thanks to Brotherhood members from Shiloh, Caledonia; Canaan, Richton; Hopewell, Laurel; Calhoun, Laurel; Parkview, Laurel, and Skyway Hills, Pearl for preparing and serving the meal.

New Directions reports good year

Indeed He is faithful! As I begin my 13th year as executive director of New Directions Prison Ministry, He continues to add souls of prisoners to His kingdom. He is faithful to use N.D.P.M. for the purpose which He called us into this ministry.

This year has been one of transition. After five years as pastor of Westview Baptist Church in Oxford, I resigned to devote myself to work fulltime with prisoners; therefore following God's calling for this ministry. Ms. Sharon and I have moved to our farm in the Dorsey community near Fulton, MS. We are building our house while living in the part that is finished. Commuting daily to Marshall County Correctional Facility (GEO) in Holly Springs proved too wearing, so we have moved our RV to a mobile home park in Holly Springs and stay there during my work hours.

Even though these changes have caused some upheaval in our lives, God has been faithful to bless this ministry as He has promised. N.D.P.M chaplains around the state have continued faithful in witnessing to those who are behind bars and imprisoned by sin. We have seen fourteen hundred and twelve (1412) souls come to know Jesus as per-

sonal savior. Everyone who prays for N.D.P.M. and/or gives financially to this ministry had a part in reaching these people for the Lord.

Because of my work schedule this past year, I was unable to put together a foreign mission trip. As our move and changes in our personal lives are coming together, I plan to make one in early 2008. At this time I am looking for God's leadership in where we will go.

Needs for the year ahead:

Always - your prayers. It is through prayer and sharing the Word that souls are touched.

Your financial support. Any amount is a blessing to the ministry.

We continue to need indigent supplies: soap, toothpaste, deodorant and tooth brushes. These items can be mailed to my home address:
o Fulton Lindsey
New Directions Prison Ministries
2920 Hopewell Keys Rd,
Fulton, MS 38843

If you have questions, you can call me at 662-862-5889 (home) or 662-610-4952 (cell). Please note the address and phone numbers are new. Thank you for all you do and will do for N.D.P.M. It is greatly appreciated. May God richly bless you.

In His Service,
Fulton E. Lindsey,
Executive Director

Provide Your Children the Best

"Children are the future of the church."

"Children are not the future; they are the church of today."

"The church is always just one generation away from extinction."

You've probably heard each statement above, and they are all true. Children matter to God, so they had better matter to the church. Provide the children in your church the best possible biblical training. Provide them with Bible-study resources you can trust - the Victory Series from Disciple-Guide Church Resources. Call 1-800-333-1442 to order.



DiscipleGuide
CHURCH RESOURCES

CHILDREN'S HOME

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

In Times Like These

In today's society it is so sad that many babies are looked upon as burdens to bear rather than blessings to share, tumors to be removed and destroyed, instead of persons to be received and enjoyed. It is so good that the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home is able to have a part in taking care of God's heritage "in times like these." Our reason and purpose for existing is to receive these gifts from God and to help train them up in the ways of the Lord.



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

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. Our goal this year is \$30,000 and we want to solicit your generous participation in helping us reach this goal. Your gift will help provide young people from unstable homes a life of stability

and structure that they so desperately need.

Food and Miscellaneous Rallies

The food and miscellaneous rallies continue to be of utmost importance in the ongoing operation of the Home. They help provide the extra support from the churches throughout the year that supplies the needs of the Home in a financial way. We want to say "thank you" to all the associations, churches, and individuals who participated in these rallies during the previous year.

Christmas Sharing

As you know, Christmas is not too far off in the distant future. Each year during the Christmas holiday season many of you share your generosity with the children. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated and brightens the lives of our boys and girls. If you would like to help this year at Christmas time you may contact us about your desire to help and we will be glad to assist you concerning your wishes to share with the children at Christmas.

Staff

I would like to express my appre-

ciation for the very capable and dedicated staff serving you at the Home. Our thanks goes out to Betty Turnbow and David Davis for their dependable diligent work. A special thanks to my dear wife Pat for her faithful support. She has gone beyond the call of duty in response to this ministry.

Trustees

I would like to express to the board of trustees my gratitude for their interest and dedication to this ministry. Bro. Ben Hensarling has served two full terms on the board and will not be able to succeed himself for another term. I would like to convey to Bro. Hensarling my appreciation for his faithful service as a layman in carrying out this responsibility of being a trustee.

Remember In Prayer

There is nothing that brings more excitement and joy in a loving home than the birth of a child. We rejoice at the birth of a baby, because they are precious gifts from God to us. Pray for the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home that we will provide children with the loving warmth of Christian life and upbringing in an atmosphere that brings glory and honor to the Lord "in times like these."

Children Are An Heritage of the Lord, Psalm 127:3

Sidney D. Davis
Director



Riverside, Ellisville to Hold Revival Services

Riverside Baptist Church, Ellisville, will have revival services November 4-7. Bro. Grover Laird will be the guest evangelist. The Sunday morning services will begin at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon, with afternoon services starting at 1:30 p.m. There will be no evening service. Weekday services will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Dr. Medrick Savell and the church cordially invite everyone to attend our services.

Mid Central Association meets

On September 15, 2007, the 2007 Annual Mid Central Association was held at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Meridian. Bro. Johnny Watts brought the message, "on an effort to win souls", from Phillipians 3:7-10. There were 30 in attendance. The minutes were read by Bro. Robert Carr. The Treasurer Report was given by Bro. Gene Therrell. A motion was made to add Ten Percent to the Children's Home. All officers remained the same except with the addition of Bro. Ronald Wright as Assistant Treasurer. Reports were brought by Bro.

Latrelle Windham on the Youth Department, Bro. Ray Freeman on the State Missions, and Bro. Johnny Watts on History & Archives. The meeting was closed in prayer by Bro. Ray Freeman. Those in attendance enjoyed a good time of food and fellowship hosted by Broadmoor Baptist Church.

The next Mid Central Association Meeting will be held at Magnolia Heights Baptist Church in Forest, Mississippi on November 17, 2007 at 7:00 P.M.

Joyce Williamson, Reporter
Bill Raines, Moderator

Tombigbee Association holds annual session

East Fulton Church, Fulton, hosted the 43rd session of the Tombigbee Association on October 6. There were 61 present.

Officers elected for the coming year are President, Roger Akers; Assistant Bryan Wilson; Clerk, David Lawrence; Assistant, Donna Lawrence; Treasurer, Roger Franks; Assistant Wexford Parmer; Historian & Reporter, Wanda Parmer; Assistant, Beth Hayden.

The annual speaker for 2008 is Bro. Bobby Jarrell with Bro. Gary O'Neal serving as the alternate.

Missionaries Joseph Oyeleye and Elvis Garcia were endorsed for the coming year. The Tombigbee Association supports the CAC, Senior Adults, Seminary, Southeastern College scholarship fund and of course, our local missionaries.

Bro. Oyeleye brought our annual sermon from II Thess. 2:1-3

Roger Akers, President
Wanda Parmer, Reporter

Springhill Baptist Church to hold revival

Springhill Baptist Church will begin their revival on Sunday, November 11, with guest speaker, Pastor Cliff Jenkins, from Good Hope Baptist Church. Revival will start with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., and morning worship service at 10:45 a.m. with lunch to follow in the fellowship hall. The afternoon service will begin at 1:30 p.m. with no evening service. Also, Monday, November 12, through Wednesday, November 14, services will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Steve Clark and the Springhill congregation would like to invite everyone for a great time of preaching, music, and fellowship. For more information, please call 601-729-8019.

New Beginnings revival

New Beginnings Baptist Church, Olive Branch, Mississippi, will hold revival services beginning Friday, December 7 through Sunday, December 9. The speaker will be Dr. Gray Allison, former president of Mid America Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tennessee.

Christmas Shoe Boxes on their way

by Ralph Izard, M.D.

The Department of Missions of the Baptist Missionary Association of America and Baptist Medical Missions International express appreciation to the churches of our association for responding to the Christmas Shoe Box project. Over 5,000 Christmas Shoe Boxes have been packed and placed on pallets to be shipped to Banlung, Cambodia. Thanks to every church that was a part of making this outreach to the children of Cambodia a success.

Two 40 foot containers are scheduled to depart October 17 and October 19 for Phnom Penh, Cambodia and they will then be transferred to a truck and transported to Banlung. The containers will be handled by Dr. Fil Tabayoyong in Phnom Penh and he will oversee their delivery to missionary Neil Mamon and his wife Jean in Banlung, Cambodia. They have a preschool operating with 90 students and a large donation was received to purchase equipment, school supplies, and uniforms for the students. These items will be



Volunteers helped prepare and ship Christmas Shoeboxes to Cambodia

shipped on one of the containers. Also included will be medical supplies for the indigenous tribes along the Cambodia-Vietnam border and for the Nakeo village near Pakse, Laos.

It is very exciting to know that many of the Christmas Shoe Boxes will also be distributed in Laos and

in all of these areas, will go to villages that have never heard the name of Jesus Christ.

The volunteers at the warehouse have worked many hours in preparing the shoeboxes and placing them on pallets for shipment. Thanks for caring for the children of Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam!

Take My Son

from page 6

"What about the paintings?"

I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings.

The man who took the son gets everything!"

God gave His son 2,000 years ago to die on the cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is: "The son, the son, who'll take the son?"

Because, you see, whoever takes the Son gets everything.

God loved the world so much that He gave His only begotten Son, that who ever believes in Him shall have eternal life . . . That's Love.

BMA of Mississippi

MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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



ANNUAL ASSOCIATIONAL REPORT

by
RAYBURN FREEMAN
October 22–23, 2007

Our theme reminds me of the ole hymn, "In times like these we need a savior, in times like these we need an anchor, be very, be very sure your anchor hold unto that Solid Rock. The year of 2006-07 has been another good year in missions and the Revolving Loan Fund. Never in the history of America has the church experienced a greater challenge of missions than today. We have more people, more ability, more and better facilities, more avenues of preaching the gospel than ever before. In Mississippi there are 2,910,540 million people. According to the BMA National Directory the state of Mississippi has 188 churches with a total membership of 30,930. It is challenging that the remaining 2,879,610 of the 2,910,540 are yet to hear from the BMA that Jesus saves. These numbers in a prorated equation reveals that each church has a remaining state mission field of 15,317 possibilities. These numbers are only local, but what about our national challenge of 3 million souls, or even the world challenge of 6.5 billion who yet need to hear from the BMA that Jesus loves them and want to save them.

Today, not tomorrow, we should be emulated if not challenged that probably most of the 6.5 billion world population will go into eternity without Christ.

The BMA of Mississippi can not be passive while the emerging world church advances with her gospel of the postmodern mindset. Its message is one of get rich quick, no fault verdict based upon no absolutes. Where and who are they targeting? They are

targeting our homes, our children, our churches, institutions of education, our communities, and positions of local, state and national of offices.

Satan under the guise of necessity, importance, material security, retirement, and self comfort has created many enticing peripheral of distraction. His intention is to lure the BMA away from its effectiveness for Christ.

In Matthew 16 Jesus informed the Pharisees by saying they could look at the sky and tell if it was going to be fair weather or foul, but could not read the signs of time. Unless our vision is completely impaired we should be able to see that the return of Jesus is near. It is my opinion that we, God's people should bring ourselves in from the peripherals of life and focused primarily upon our purpose of existence.

Our response to these worldly allurements should be the same as that of Nehemiah. In chapter 6 and verse 3 Nehemiah said "And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?" I can't leave of the work and come down." The

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

important question for me is, what example am I leaving for those who will come behind me? Will I be remembered as soul winner, a builder of the Kingdom Work, and someone who loved the Lord? We are making a difference in lives and tomorrow holds the results!

To our pastors and churches I owe a debt of gratitude for your prayerful and moral support given in months past. Your counsel and encouragement has helped to keep focused. I love and appreciate this work the Lord has given us to do, and remain excited about what He has in store as we advance, working together for his glory.

There is so much to be said concerning the good things that are happening throughout the BMA. Since the inception of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi we have seen constant growth. An upgrading of the operation and management procedures of Missions and the Revolving Loan Fund has been a topic of previous meeting. The time has arrived and we are now in the process of upgrading the two departments. In initiating that move the Missions Office is blessed to have Mrs. Cindy Jones as bookkeeper for missions and to have Mrs. Lori Garrett to return as bookkeeper for the Revolving Loan Fund. In addition to bookkeeping, both these ladies take care of the secretarial duties of their department.

Our handouts are designed to give our church messengers a more in depth report and to reduce the length of reporting.

For thirteen years as your Director of Missions it has been a pleasure to work with our Churches, Auxiliaries, State and Local Associations, State Departments and Commissions. Only eternity will reveal what a difference the BMA is making in the world today. I am grateful that God has given me a part in this so great a work.

In closing, I want to say to our Missionary Committee, Revolving Loan Fund Trustees, Pastors, other friends, and to my family thank you for always being there.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

PROBLEMATIC SUFFIXES

I was thinking the other day about the Nation of Israel and the people who were their enemies, such as the Amonites, Amalakitites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, Hittites, Gergashites, etc. Now these different people caused a lot of problems for God's chosen people.

Then I got to thinking about some problems a lot of us have these days; arthritis, neuritis, gingivitis, bursitis, cellulitis, nephritis, appendicitis, etc.

Notice the similarities in the suffixes of the names of these nations and the ailments with which we have to do battle.

Wonder if this is coincidental?

Gordons celebrate 65th Anniversary

Bro. & Mrs. G. H. Gordon of Jackson, Mississippi, recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on September 6, 2007. Bro. Gordon has been in the ministry for over 57 years and is currently the pastor of Pear Orchard Church, Jackson.



The G. H. Gordons

The Gordons have served the Lord at churches in Texas, Alabama, Florida and Mississippi. They have always been very active in the BMA work. Bro. Gordon served as clerk for the National Association for 17 years and the Mississippi Association for 15 years.

Bro. & Mrs. Gordon have been a special blessing to us at Pear Orchard and they continue to faithfully serve the Lord. May God bless them with many more years together.

Frances M. Johnson, church clerk

In Times Like These - Author wants to "kill God"

Atheist Movie coming soon!

There will be a new children's movie out in December called "The Golden Compass". The movie has been described as "atheism for kids" and is based on the first book of a trilogy entitled "His Dark Materials" that was written by Phillip Pullman. Pullman is a militant atheist and secular humanist who despises C. S. Lewis and the "Chronicles of Narnia". His motivation for writing this trilogy was specifically to counteract Lewis' symbolism of Christ that are portrayed in the Narnia series.

Clearly, Pullman's main objective is to bash Christianity and promote atheism. Pullman left little doubt about his intentions when he said in a 2003 interview that "my books are about killing God." He has even stated that he wants to "kill God in the minds of children". It has been said of Pullman that he is "the writer the atheists would be praying for, if atheists prayed."

While "The Golden Compass" movie itself may seem mild and innocent, the books are a much different story. In the trilogy, a young streetwise girl becomes enmeshed in an epic struggle to ultimately defeat the oppressive forces of a senile God. Another character, an ex-nun, describes Christianity as "a very powerful and convincing mistake." In the final book, characters representing Adam and Eve eventually kill God, who at times is called YAHWEH. Each book in the trilogy gets progressively worse regarding Pullman's hatred of Jesus Christ.

"The Golden Compass" is set to premier on December 7, during the Christmas season, and will probably be heavily advertised. Promoters hope that unsuspecting parents will take their children to see the movie, that they will enjoy the movie, and that the children will want the books for Christmas.

Please consider a boycott of the movie and the books. Also, pass this information along to everyone you know. This will help to educate parents, so that they will know the agenda of the movie.

Submitted by Joann Bailey, Little Rock, Arkansas

Company says chaplain helps productivity

OneNewsNow.com-A Georgia company that specializes in preparing applicants for the U.S. Postal Exam says it believes a key part of its success lies in the stabilizing effect of its corporate chaplaincy program.

Exam Services of Norcross, Georgia, was founded in 2005 with two workers. It now employs 500. They claim to service more than 5,000 postal exam candidates a week with study materials and educational supplements for the U.S. Postal Services' Postal Battery Exam. Spokeswoman Jennifer Sheran says company founder Tyler Long attributes his success to a decision he made during start-up that helps workers and staff members maintain productivity in the face of life's situations that have on-the-job influences. The decision was to have a full-time company chaplain.

"Being a man of faith himself, he knew that having somebody there to address the personal issues that statistics show are the biggest downside to productivity, would greatly make his employees happier on the job as well as benefit the company," says Sheran.