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Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

Maybe you should consider making a mission trip To El Salvador With Love

by John Ladd, M.D.

BMAA Missionary - Mexico

What do you get when you take six people from the United States, one from Puerto Rico, two from Nicaragua, one from Mexico, and combine them with four Salvadorans? A tremendous BMMI team that recently had the opportunity to serve in El Salvador!

Arriving at the airport at four different times, we finally got our group together and started working on how to make all the different talents blend into a team using medical care to open doors to share the gospel. The common attitude of the team members was "I've never done that, but if you'll show me how, I'll be glad to try", and with that attitude, things went from good to better to great!

Five different sites were visited

in the same number of days: Zaragoza, Achiotal, Sta. Clara, San Luis Talpa, and Majacla were unknown to all of us until we went there. Now, faces and experiences have made profound impressions on our brains, never to be forgotten.

The process was basically the same at each location. Arriving with lots of energy, boxes of medicines, witnessing tools, and the unified desire to be useful, some would start setting up the pharmacy while others began writing down names and chief complaints of the people already in line. Others set up the 'doctor's office' under the shade of a tree or in a small room with very little light or ventilation. Then the patients began to be seen by the physicians. Headache, stomach ache, coughs and colds, high blood pressure, diabetes, diarrhea, cataracts, skin lesions, and on and on with the list of ailments. Oh yes, another was all those stopped-up ears hard, black ear wax. Without an 'official' ear syringe, the necessity promoted the use of what was available and many patients went home with clean ears however, not every case was a success

story.

Even though most of the team members couldn't communicate in Spanish, they learned that a hand shake, a smile, a hug, a power band bracelet, or a gospel tract brought a ready smile in return. YES, there was communication because words are not necessary to express love.

Do you think such a trip might become boring? Forget it!! Morning devotionals in the hotel garden, learning to eat different foods, learning a few new Spanish words, blaring down the highway past volcanos in a yellow school bus with the windows down and the wind providing natural air conditioning, or a quick trip to the Pacific Ocean after a long day's work could hardly be considered boring!

Not to mention all the 'birthdays' we celebrated. It seems that several evenings when we went out for dinner, some team member



Our group from five different countries formed our team



Dr. Ladd sees patients in 'outdoor' office

would go to the head waiter and tell him that 'the man in the gold shirt' or 'the lady in the black shirt' was celebrating a birthday that day. You get the picture ... not long before finishing the meal, several waiters would arrive with a cup cake or special birthday hat and sing a birthday song in Spanish; several team members will get two years older this year!

Maybe you should consider making a mission trip with a BMMI team. The testimony of most participants is that their lives will never be the same again. Upon returning, certainly not all team members will make application to the Missions Office to become missionaries, but you will probably think twice about the medical facilities you have available, the time you spend in the waiting room, the house and living conditions you enjoy, etc. I think you should try it... It may be the best investment of time and money you ever make!

Editor's note: For information about becoming a part of a BMMI mission trip call the BMMI office in Little Rock, Arkansas at 501-455-4977.

Thank you for giving to the Lord

by Ralph Izard, M.D.

Thanks to the "CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN" projects of many Vacation Bible Schools and other groups this year, this six year old boy in Ghana, who had never owned a pair of shoes and had injured his foot, now has a new pair of sandals to protect his feet. The lives of children around the world have been touched because of the gifts for this



Children Helping Children in Ghana

project from churches across the Baptist Missionary Association of America.

CURRENT NEEDS OF BMMI:

1. Eyeglasses
2. New bars of bath soap (such as Dial, Irish Spring, Dove, etc.)
3. New bottles of Body Lotion
4. New bottles of Calamine Lotion
5. Toothbrushes and toothpaste

NEW FINANCIAL NEEDS OF BMMI:

1. \$1,000 for removal of a large tumor – (Yaa in Africa)
2. \$5,000 for eye surgery on a national missionary in Africa – (Cheremiah)

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

THE WALK OF FAITH IS HERE!

On October 23, folks from all over the BMA will take a hike to help spread the gospel around the world. Each year, the Lifeword Walk of Faith raises about 30% of the operating budget for the BMA's broadcast ministry.

Rick Russell, National Walk of Faith Coordinator, says the ministry made significant changes in this year's walk in an effort to make it easier to participate. "We've shortened the Walk to a 5k (that's just over 3 miles), and we're encouraging walkers to form teams so that one person doesn't have to do all the walking—or all the sponsoring! We're trying to change the emphasis of the Walk from 'How many sponsors can I get,' to 'How much does God want me to give in order to help Lifeword get the gospel message around the world.'" Russell says.

When asked if it was too late for a church to organize a Walk, Russell said, "Absolutely not! We have folks in some parts of the country who will be walking as late as November. Just call and register and we'll send you everything you need. We still have t-shirts in all sizes right now...although some sizes are beginning to run pretty low."

To register for the Walk of Faith call 1.800.543.1090 or log onto www.lifeword.org.

National Senior Adult

October 30 - November 1, 2006

Chateau On The Lake
Branson, Missouri

Registration \$100 Each by October 5

Room Reservations 1-888-333-5253

Double \$97 Triple \$102 Quad \$107

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Pedaling Too Fast To Be Going This Slow

I learned to ride a bicycle with great difficulty. However, once I learned, I rode my bicycle thousands of miles over my young lifetime in a small town. Last week my wife and I were at an intersection waiting for the signal to allow us to proceed. I observed a guy about my age riding a bicycle, with great difficulty.

The bicycle he was riding was very different from the bicycle I learned to ride. I think it was very different from the kind he learned to ride too. The bicycle I learned to ride was a very simple one. It had two pedals to turn to make it go, and when you put pressure backward on the pedals it operated the brakes to stop the bike. I believe the "grandfather" had borrowed the bike from his younger family member. This bicycle was not simple. It had gears, toggle switches, multiple handles, more than one gear, and other unknown devices protruding from different parts of the bike.

If Lance Armstrong had seen this guy pedaling his bicycle, he would have broken the Tenth Commandment. Lance would have coveted this man's great leg speed. The man could have won the Tour de France by a wide margin if leg speed were any indication of speed of the bike. However I think he, like this grandfather, did not have it in the right gear. He was pedaling extremely fast, but he was going extremely slow! It seems his legs were turning the little gears too fast without engaging the larger speed gears on the machine. He was probably not aware of all this machination on the bike he was riding. He was just pedaling too fast to be going as slow as he was.

I get this way in my spiritual journey. I seem to be pedaling fast, but



Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

going real slow. There are some simple things I must remember when I find myself pedaling fast. Time with God—there is no substitute. Perhaps my prayer is something like this, "Morning, Lord. Kinda busy today. Don't have time to talk long. Lord, make sure you bless me and my and mine today. And, O yes, Aunt Margie. Gotta go now. Bye Lord. Oh I mean, in Jesus' name, Amen." That is not much of a prayer. That is not much time with God.

Sometimes we do this prayer at night. "Wow, Lord. It was a busy day. I'm kinda tired and sleepy. Bless me and my and mine tonight. And, O yes, Uncle Carl too. Gotta go now, Lord. Busy day tomorrow. Bye Lord; I mean in Jesus' name, Amen." This too is not much of a prayer. It is not much time with God.

There is no substitute for reading the Word of God in a systematic way to keep from pedaling too fast. I am not advocating that you or I must be Bible scholars to understand the nuances of Greek, Hebrew, or Chaldean tenses. I am advocating a systematic reading of the Scriptures to let the Holy Spirit provide guidance for lifestyle remediation. As I spend time in the Word, I can have better choice as to how to walk in this Christian journey.

Pedaling too fast and going too slow are we? Until I come to the Lord's house, am in contact with the people of God in their mission of ministries in this world, and find my



place with the throngs of God's people in service, I will continue to pedal too fast. Too many times I ignore the very simple act of going to God's house to pray, seek His face, hear His Word, worship, be with the saints of God, and recommit myself to Him. People pay big bucks for counseling to someone who does not necessarily care for them. A church family, a Sunday School class, a youth group, or other church people organization is a great group session. The power of God in Christ is at work there!

In my mind's eye I still see the man at the intersection pedaling very fast and going real slow. I also see myself when I ignore some of the basic things in my spiritual life. Lord, help me to get right in my life. May my trust be in You. May I not forget You. I am tired of pedaling this fast and going this slow. Help me to get in your gear.

Appeals court urged to reinstate Faith-based program in Iowa prisons

(AgapePress) - Earlier this year, a federal judge ordered the InnerChange Freedom Initiative (IFI), a proven, faith-based prisoner rehabilitation program, to shut down in Iowa prisons. But now, several high-profile groups representing government, legal, and faith-based entities have asked a federal appeals court to allow the Christ-centered prison program to continue in that state.

The federal judge who ordered IFI shut down in Iowa prisons claimed the program was unconstitutional. The rehabilitation program was ordered to reimburse the State

of Iowa \$1.5 million - money paid to IFI by the state to run the program.

However, a number of religious, legal, and government entities feel the judge did not base his decision to close the faith-and values-based prison initiative on legal criteria. These parties, including the American Center for Law and Justice, the Foundation for Moral Law, the State of Alabama, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and others, have filed amicus briefs with the U.S. Court of Appeals, asking it to overturn the previous ruling.

Mark Earley is president of Prison

Fellowship, which oversees the InnerChange Freedom Initiative. He says its faith-based programs address a great need, as the U.S. has some 2.3 million people in prison today, and 700,000 of them get out every year and are rearrested at the rate of 65 percent.

Earley believes proven programs like IFI can have a dramatic impact on the lives of prison inmates. "And the transforming work of Christ in their life and the transforming power of the gospel can be clearly demonstrated here for the rest of the world to see," he contends. That is be-

cause the program is designed to help prisoners become prepared for life after their release, he says.

The Prison Fellowship spokesman says there are several important elements that make IFI work, including Bible studies that help prisoners learn about and grow in their faith. Also, he notes, IFI provides "some opportunities for them to get training and life skills."

Prisoners can be equipped to lead a different kind of life after prison through IFI's life-skills training, learning many of the skills involved "in being a father or a mother, being

a good parent, a good husband or good wife," Earley says. So what inmates get from the training, he explains, is "a lot of practical things as well as spiritual formation."

Among the other groups filing legal briefs in support of the InnerChange Freedom Initiative and Prison Fellowship are the Catholic League for Civil and Religious Rights, the National Legal Foundation, and a coalition of faith-based organizations that includes the Alliance Defense Fund, the National Association of Evangelicals, Teen Challenge, and the Coalition to Preserve Religious Freedom.

Lawsuit Claims Christian Professional's Pro-Family Ties Lost Him Contracts

(AgapePress) - A Christian psychologist faces a potential battle on two fronts following the second loss of contract work for public safety agencies, allegedly due to his previously with the Christian organization, Illinois Family Institute (IFI). A lawsuit has been filed against the city of Springfield, Illinois, and is being considered against Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dr. Michael Crampton is CEO and senior psychologist for Campion, Barrow, & Associates, Inc., a firm that provides a comprehensive list of psychological services to clients across the United States. The company's typical services include consultation to approximately 100 police departments throughout the nation.

Objection from the Springfield City Council to Campion's prior board membership at IFI spurred the loss of employment screening services his business provided for that city. Another city council objection in Minneapolis resulted in the psychologist's suspension, reinstatement, and then release from employment for similar public safety worker employment screenings.

This happened even though neither city nor their employees expressed any complaints about Campion's actual work performance. When his firm's contract with Springfield was terminated -- despite its impeccable reputation and a 15-year professional relationship with the city -- members of the City Council were publicly quoted as claiming that Campion's membership on IFI's board put him "out of touch with the mainstream" and that his affiliation with the pro-family group tainted him in such a way that he could not be objective in his work.

As a direct result of Springfield's actions and comments in the local media, at least one other client, a large Minneapolis police department, has recently suspended Campion and his firm. He sought assistance from the American Family Center for Law & Policy (AFA Law Center), which filed a federal lawsuit on his behalf on September 25.

Steve Crampton, chief counsel for the AFA Law Center, says Minneapolis may be the defendant in a second lawsuit, but that the Springfield case is perhaps the more key of the

two cases right now. The reason, he explains, is the first case demonstrates "that you've got a domino effect that can result from [what is] really, kind of a smear campaign against Dr. Campion."

Crampton believes it is important in this matter to show that there is a double standard being exercised against a Christian professional "because of his deeply held religious convictions, and his daring to take action on the basis of those." The lawyer views the treatment of Campion as resulting from the same type of prejudice that characterized the "red scare" era that Senator Joe McCarthy presided over in the fifties.

"It's as if now belonging to a highly respected, Christian organization is being treated as the rough equivalent of belonging to a communist organization under the so-called 'McCarthyism' of some 50 years ago," the AFA Law Center spokesman observes.

But although an employment contract may be terminated for virtually any reason, the attorney notes, "there remain constitutionally impermissible reasons for doing so." Among

the reasons for terminating a contract that are not permitted under the Constitution of the United States, he asserts, is disagreement with the employee's or contractor's conservative political or religious affiliations.

Under the circumstances of this case, Crampton points out, Springfield's actions not only endanger Dr. Campion's livelihood, but they also open the door for exclusion of all politically conservative or religious people from government jobs -- even where there is no evidence that the contractor's views negatively affect job performance.

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Congress' online gambling bill cuts Internet firms' stock value

WASHINGTON (BP)--Congress approved legislation restricting Internet gambling just before beginning a lengthy recess, prompting a major shakeup in the online wagering world.

News of the congressional action sent online gambling companies into a tailspin when stock markets reopened Oct. 2. Shares of PartyGaming, the largest of the Internet firms, decreased 58 percent on the London Stock Exchange, with the company losing about \$3.8 billion of its market capitalization in the process, according to The New York Times. Another online company, 888 Holdings, saw its shares fall 26 percent on the same day, The Times reported.

Both companies, which are based in Gibraltar, said they would halt transactions with American bettors if Bush, as is expected, signs the bill into law. PartyGaming receives 78 percent of its income from the United States, The Times reported.

The Senate and House of Representatives passed the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act in the early hours of September 30. Both houses approved the measure as part of a bill to provide protection for America's ports, with the Senate

passing it by a voice vote and the House in a 409-2 roll call.

The gambling measure requires financial institutions to block credit card and other payments to Internet wagering businesses, which are primarily located overseas.

Mitch Garber, PartyGaming chief executive, told The Times, "This development is a significant setback for our company, our shareholders, our players and our industry."

The private nature of Internet gambling has result in its widespread use by minors and young adults as well as addiction problems for people of all ages, opponents of the booming illegal enterprise have said. Americans were expected to pay \$5.9 billion, about half of the \$12 billion wagered worldwide on Internet gambling, to online casinos overseas this year, bill sponsors said. Online gambling sites frequently act as fronts for money laundering, drug trafficking and financing for terrorists, they said.

Rep. Jim Leach, R.-Iowa, who led the House effort in behalf of the measure, said in a written statement, "If Congress had not acted, gamblers would soon be able to place bets not just from home computers

but from their cell phones while they drive home from work or their Blackberries as they wait in line at the movies.

"Internet gambling's characteristics are unique. Never has it been so easy to lose so much money so quickly at such a young age," Leach said. "Everyone loses if this industry continues its remarkable growth trends."

The legislation requires the Treasury Department to publish regulations that would require financial institutions to bar transactions between U.S. bettors and online gambling companies. Violators could be fined or penalized.

The measure, however, does not include a provision passed earlier by the House that would have updated a 1961 law prohibiting betting over telephone wires to cover online gambling.

The lead sponsor in the Senate was Sen. Jon Kyl, R.-Ariz., who commended Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist and Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert for shepherding the measure through both houses as part of a final bill negotiated by a conference committee of senators and representatives.

Southeastern Baptist College

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Laurel, Mississippi 39440, (601) 426-6346



Dr. Medrick Savell
President

Well Into New Semester

The new semester is going well. There is a good spirit on campus. At least one person has made a profession of faith already this semester. Four more churches have begun to support the college recently and several others have increased their support. The East Central Baptist Association and East Amory Baptist Church have each established a scholarship to help students attend Southeastern. We thank the Lord for these blessings.

Memorial Gifts

Two memorial gifts have been sent recently in honor of Mrs. Carolyn Odom Macris and Thomas "Bubba" Winterstein. A memorial book has been placed in the college library in honor of each of them. May the Lord bless these families

Special Projects

The choir has been organized, they are working diligently, and will begin performing soon. Contributions of \$2,780.00 have been sent to the college designated for use by the choir. We appreciate each of these contributors for their interest and support. Those contributing to this project are:

Agnes (Conrad) and Gerald Gregory, Alabama
Bro. and Mrs. Milton Wright, Fulton First Baptist, Bay Springs
Boguefala, Mooreville
Boguefala Brotherhood, Mooreville

New Sign

The new sign has been installed in front of the college. Contributions of \$10,475.00 have been designated for the sign and more has been promised. We still need around \$3,000.00 to complete the project. A special thanks goes to all those who have had a part in making this a reality.

Arthurs' behalf, against the school. Now, says ADF senior legal counsel David Cortman, a federal court has ruled the lawsuit will go forward.

"We also filed a brief in support of a preliminary injunction motion," Cortman adds. "We are moving the court to issue a temporary ruling allowing Ben to distribute not only his 'Day of Truth' flyers, but also any other religious flyers in school."

The attorney explains that Christian students are entitled to the same First Amendment rights as other students. "Students need to be aware that they have a constitutional right to share their faith at school and to distribute religious literature during non-curriculum times," states Cortman.

Those who have contributed to this fund are:

Churches
Bible Baptist, Overt Central, Ellisville
Harmony, Hurley
Little Creek, Perkinson
New Hope, Collinsville
Paramount, Perkinson
Shady Grove, Tishomingo

Individuals

Bro. and Mrs. Don Brown
Mrs. Marjorie Harper
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hines
Mrs. Mary Lou Kellar
Mrs. V. L. McDaniel
Robby Parker
John Pearce
Dr. Medrick Savell
Carol Wooley

Associations

Oak Grove Baptist Association
Tombigbee Baptist Association

Special Emphasis

The response to the Special Emphasis in July and August has been good (\$11,034.04). The following is a list of contributors up to this point:

Churches
Antioch, Soso
Bethel, Seminary
Community, Poplarville
Cypress Creek, Brooklynn
First, Bay Springs
First Calhoun, Laurel
Grace, Gulfport
Harmony, Hurley
Hopewell, Fulton
Lebanon, Laurel
Lee's Chapel #2, Picayune
Liberty, Isola
Little Creek, Perkinson
Movella, Lucedale
New Bethany, Ellisville
Oak Grove, Lucedale
Oak Grove, Mantachie
O'Neal Road, Gulfport
Paramount, Perkinson
Parkview, Laurel
Riverside, Ellisville
Shady Grove, Tishomingo
Sharon, Laurel
Shiloh, Kosciusko
Springhill, Laurel
Sycamore, Carriere
Temple, Biloxi
Ten Mile Ladies Sunday School Class, Perkinson
Washington, Neely
Zion, Anguilla

Individuals

Bro. Frank Panzrino, Tupelo
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Welborn, Bran-

...e Lord bless each one who

Activist Sees Homosexual Agenda Trumping Canadians' Religious Freedom

-- CFAC's Rushfeldt: Defense of Religion Act's Necessary, But Not Imminent

(AgapePress) - A Canadian pro-family activist says Canada's liberal judicial system has continually stomped on the free-speech rights of religious people in favor of homosexuals. That is why he believes a "Defense of Religions Act" is a good idea. Such an act has been proposed by Conservatives and has been floating around Parliament since that legislative body came into session this fall.

Brian Rushfeldt of the Canada Family Action Coalition says unfortunately, although the free-speech rights of people of faith are supposed to be protected by the nation's constitution, in the courts Christians' rights are frequently trumped by those of homosexuals. "And it's strictly happening because judges are interpreting it that way," he insists.

"In theory, one can say freedom of religion is protected," Rushfeldt says. "But in practice," he contends, "when it gets before a judge, it's not protected. There is no protection for religious people in Canada any longer."

Although the Canadian constitution provides "protection for free-

dom of religion, freedom of speech and freedom of conscience," the pro-family activist observes, "there's also a clause in there for protection of rights, of people." And armed with that clause, he says, liberal judges are trampling the freedoms of citizens with religious or traditional values in favor of the supposed "rights" of homosexuals.

"What's happening is judges are reading our constitution, which is our basic law, and saying that somehow, if I oppose homosexual behavior, my freedom of speech violates

homosexuals' rights," Rushfeldt asserts. But a Defense of Religions Act would protect people of faith, he says, such as -- for instance -- public officials who refuse to perform same-sex 'marriages' or church groups that refuse to rent halls to homosexual couples.

But while he supports the idea of a Defense of Religions Act, Rushfeldt thinks the point may be moot for the time being. He says he doubts the legislation will appear before Parliament any time in the near future.

Court Permits Student's Viewpoint Discrimination Lawsuit to Proceed

(AgapePress) - A federal judge has denied an attempt by a public school district in North Carolina to dismiss a student lawsuit over the district's attempts to prohibit an alternative message to a pro-homosexual observance.

Last year Midway High School officials allowed the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN) to hold a "Day of Silence" observance. The event encourages

students to be silent throughout the day as a show of support for the homosexual agenda. The following day, student Benjamin Arthurs wanted to hand out "Day of Truth" message cards to other students as an alternative to the pro-homosexual event. But school officials not only prohibited him from distributing the cards, but also suspended him.

A lawsuit was filed by the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF), on

Editorial



Don Brown
Editor

What a Celebration!

This article is being written **before** our annual state meeting at which we will be celebrating 200 years of the history of Associational Baptists in Mississippi.

Preparation is ongoing and the excitement is growing among many in anticipation of this memorable event.

Those attending the meeting and participating in the celebrations and commemorations will get the type of blessings that they anticipate. I anticipate a good time and am looking forward to our 200th Annual Session.

May we truly celebrate *"His Story in Our History!"*

Letters From Our Readers

Former State Mission project shares plans to leave state work

Former State Mission Thanks Association
To The Churches of the BMA of Mississippi

Greetings in the precious Name of Jesus!

It has been nearly 25 years since the Lord gave birth to our church through the BMA of Mississippi. We appreciate men like Arnold Knight, State Missions Director, Kevin W. Clayton, State Missionary, A.W. Kirkland, Building Superintendent, Kenneth Bobo who was pastor of the mother church and many others. We are forever thankful for all that the Association did in the time period when the church was a mission here. Nothing will ever change our appreciation to God for using the State Association to help bring about this church body. Ultimately it is God who deserves all the honor and glory. Being a mission church planted the mission mindset in our hearts. Since the church organized nearly 25 years ago she has been actively supporting many mission endeavors in the state and around the world.

For some time discussion has been held among our staff and leadership regarding the possibility of our church moving its association on the state level to the Arkansas work. There have been many factors that have made us lean in that direction. We are already members of the BMA of Memphis that has its ties to the Arkansas State work. Also, our children, teens, men & women are annually at camps, conferences and retreats in Arkansas because it is closer and easier to be involved here. In the last year the Lord has opened doors and led our missions committee to introduce our church to some thriving on going mission endeavors in Arkansas that subsequently our church has supported.

Until recently, the church has

refrained from making the move due to her former mission status within the State of Mississippi. Our hesitation to move to the BMA of Arkansas was based upon our fear that some within the state would feel that the church had forgotten what she was a product of or was unappreciative for all that was done to enable the church to begin. Brethren, we have not forgotten and ever will respect and love you! As stated previously we greatly appreciate all that was done. We have also feared that some would make other assumptions about our move. Ultimately we need to do as we know we have been led of the Lord.

Recently in a business meeting after much prayer over the matter we unanimously voted to approve our missions committee recommendation that the church petition to be a member of the BMA of Arkansas this November when that Association convenes. Our missions committee also agreed to inform the Mississippi Association via the Mississippi Baptist and officially by the state letter sent out from the Association's Clerk, that the church would be withdrawing from the State of Mississippi. The committee also agreed to thank the BMA of Mississippi for her work with our church when she was a mission years ago and that the church inform the Association that she will be praying for the endeavors that the Association makes for the kingdom of Christ.

Brethren, our thanks to you again and abiding love to you all. May the Lord bless you greatly is our prayer.

Mitch Bramlitt,
Chairman, Missions Committee
Anders L. Lee, Pastor
Calvary Baptist Church
Horn Lake, Mississippi
662-393-3239 office
662-393-5717 fax
901-258-1812 cell
www.gocalvary.org

What's wrong with the word 'Baptist'?

Recently, I passed a building with a bunch of cars outside on a Sunday evening. This building had a steeple and "New Life Center" was on the sign. I have also seen names like "Community Church", and "Bible Church" on other signs. I understand there are non-denominational churches, but some of these churches with generic signs claim to be Baptist. What non Baptist churches do is their business, but since I am a Baptist, then I have an opinion to express about Baptist churches.

Why are some Baptist churches ashamed of their heritage and name? I once confronted a pastor who claimed their church was a Baptist church, yet Baptist was missing from the sign. His response was you don't have to have the name Baptist on your sign to be a Baptist church. Technically, the sign doesn't make

the church, but why would you not identify yourself?

As we continued talking, I realized they didn't need the word Bap-



miniedition

Joseph Harris

tist on their sign. They accepted people into their membership who had not been scripturally baptized. In other words, people who had been sprinkled for baptism was okay with them. They only insisted on immersion if an individual was going to hold a leadership position in the church. Baptism was not important enough for membership, but necessary to be a leader. Personally, I think their real reason for lowering the bar was to increase membership by not offending Pedo-Baptists.

Often times, the motive for omitting the Baptist name is to get more members. These churches don't want to be seen as denominational, narrow minded, and exclusive. Fine.

They should just stop claiming to be Baptist out of one side of their mouth while denying it out of the other side. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Baptist is not only on our church sign once, but twice: Central Baptist Missionary Baptist Church. We still insist on scriptural baptism, practice closed communion, and emphasize church authority and pastoral authority. I believe if you are Baptist, you ought to say it. I also believe you should say what kind of Baptist you are. If you are Missionary Baptist, say it. If you are Southern Baptist or Independent Baptist, etc., say it. It just cuts down on the confusion of what people expect when they walk in the door. Labels identify what's inside the can. People are suspicious of unlabeled cans and should be suspicious of unlabeled churches.

Bottom line: if a church doesn't advertise that it is a Baptist church, it isn't.

Joseph Harris is Vice-president of Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, Mississippi and pastor of Central Missionary Baptist Church, Ellisville, Mississippi.

Thank You for Giving to MLM

By Bobby L. Hudgens

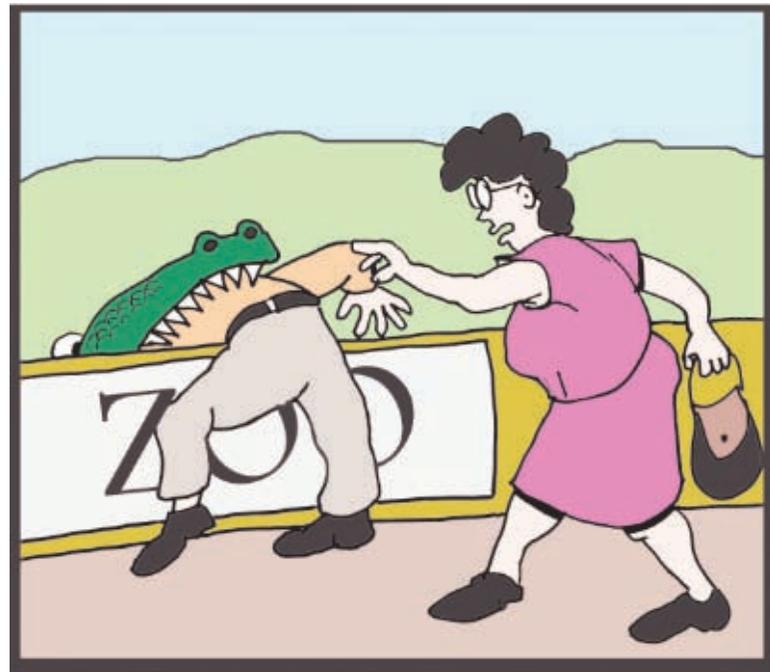
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Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"For Pete's sake, Eli...just let go of the Chicken Leg!"

Mississippi Baptist

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E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org
Web site www.msbaptist.org

PRICE
\$20.00 Per Year by Mail
\$10.00 Per Year by Email
CHURCHPLAN
\$ 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.

The Wow experience! Safety Expert: School Shootings Signal Need for Dads' Involvement

By Charles Costa
BMAA Missionary to Lebanon

You wonder at times about God's sense of humor. Here I was ready to enjoy some time off with my son before he starts college, and God allows – what do you know – war to start in Lebanon.

When we headed back to Beirut, I realized it would be a busy time of work, and that it was. We have busy with relief.

The major project in which we are involved in started in South Lebanon. We have the network of water pipes already being done in the village of Mieh-Mieh, while two artesian wells are being dug in two other villages close to the Lebanese-Israeli borders. According to the final count, we will also have four electrical generators put in these villages to supply homes and the water pumps. We have purchased the 4x4 jeep and our project manager is using it in the South.

In the southern suburbs of Beirut, we have been sending out food packages (25 lbs. each). So far, we have reached close to 700 Shiite families. Yesterday, Sept 28, we had 400 Shiite children for a "going back to school" event. We distributed School Bags (each had stationary kids need and a book of Bible stories) for kids aged 7 - 12, and Fun Packs (each had some stationary and Bible stories coloring books) for kids aged 5 - 6. WE HAD A RIOT.

We were not expecting such a large number, so we gave many IOUs. Now we are packing another 600 bags with the same content. Your prayers are needed as the Word has gone out for the harvest to be plenty.

The BMAA Missions Department has generously given for these projects with the anticipation that churches would support this great endeavor. Some other folk have been



Charles Costa
BMAA Missionary to Lebanon

supportive with funds and prayers. Reaching some of these Shiite communities is once in a lifetime opportunity. We need not miss out on it. I trust that you want to be a part of God's "Wow Experience" and reach these folks with the love of Christ.

With the advent of United Nations troops to Lebanon, we are praying and planning to reach those that come from Muslim nations

such as Turkey, Indonesia and Malaysia. All of that in a small country called Lebanon, and that's Wow... be a part of it!

Closing Comments by Jerry Kidd, BMAA Missions

I talked with with Bro. Costa after he returned from the trip to South Lebanon that he talks about in the report above. He said that they had been ministering to hundreds of families, over 1,000 people in all, and had been doing Christian music concerts.

They have received official permits as a Christian organization to minister to the Muslim people. He commented that even the extreme anti-Christian group was impressed by what the evangelicals were doing to help the people. The Bible society that has provided Bibles for purchase have run out and they have had to contract a printing company to print 2000 New Testaments. They will cost \$1 each. Bro. Charles has already spent \$8,000 for medicine, \$4,000 for children school materials and over \$5,000 for Bibles and New Testaments.

What a golden opportunity we have to minister the Word to these who have been in spiritual darkness. Let's all join in and prayer for the missionary team in Lebanon and give generously that they might continue this great ministry.

(AgapePress) - A school safety expert says if the crisis of violence in America's schools is going to be curbed, it's necessary for fathers and father figures to play a more active role in their children's lives.

James Moore is the founder and president of the Springhill, Arkansas-based group WATCH D.O.G.S. His organization encourages fathers to get involved in the lives of their kids and other children by consistently visiting their schools and being "extra eyes and ears" on their campuses.

While addressing a recent summit on school violence hosted by President George W. Bush at the National 4-H Youth Center, Moore passionately spoke of how school violence has affected him personally, recalling in particular the impact a visit to the site of the Jonesboro school massacre (of March 24, 1998 in Craighead County, Arkansas) had on him.

In the Jonesboro incident, two armed middle school students, a 13-year old and an 11-year old, reportedly stole a van, loaded it with supplies and weapons - including two semi-automatic rifles, four handguns, and a bolt-action rifle stolen from one of the boys' grandfather's house - and proceeded to the school. One boy took the weapons to a nearby wood while the other set off a fire alarm and then joined his companion.

As teachers and children came out of the school, the boys opened fire on them, killing four female students and a teacher, and wounding another teacher and nine other students. After the incident, inquiries revealed that the young shooters were both fascinated with firearms, violent TV programs, and "gangster rap" music, and both were children of divorced parents.

Moore says about nine months ago he visited the Arkansas school

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where the two boys' committed this horrifying act of violence. "I saw where they were standing outside of the school, and they gunned down four kids and a teacher in cold blood," he notes; "and I'm watching that as a father and just thinking about the great people in that community and what they might [have been] thinking that night."

The founder of WATCH D.O.G.S. speculates that, probably, like every community that has gone through a similar tragedy, the residents of that Jonesboro community thought such a thing could never happen in their midst. That sort of thing "always happens 'over there,' wherever that elusive 'over there' is," he says. "But that night it happened in that community," Moore continues, "and I thought, 'You know, if it can happen there, it can happen in a lot of places, and what are we going to do about it?'" He says he founded WATCH D.O.G.S. Across America in response to that tragic incident.

Today WATCH D.O.G.S. is a 501(c)3 educational organization that helps thousands of men to reconnect with their children at hundreds of schools across the country. The

group urges fathers and "father figures" to come to their children's schools to eat, play, and read with their kids.

According to Moore, when dads go into the schools and connect in a positive way, their kids tend to get higher grades and interact better with their fellow students. But unfortunately, he points out, many men do not recognize the importance of getting involved.

"I, like most men in America today, have fallen prey to the lie that says dads will be the breadwinners and moms will raise the kids," the school safety expert admits. According to that line of thinking, he asserts, moms "go to school, and moms do PTA and parent-teacher conferences," leaving fathers free to concentrate on priorities other than their children.

As a result, Moore contends, "what we as fathers have done over the last several generations is that we planted seeds of inattention and abandonment in our children. And because of that action, today our nation is reaping a harvest of fatherless families and violent schools."

This is a problem that "has to stop yesterday," Moore insists. And hopefully, he says, the latest string of school shootings, tragic as it is, will serve as a wake-up call for men across the U.S., fathers and father figures alike, helping them to realize how necessary their influence is.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

FILL 'ER UP

When was the last time you drove up to a service station and said, "Fill 'er up and check the oil and the battery, please"? And when was the last time you drove up to a service station and was met by an attendant that would do those things for you?

For most of us, it has been quite a while.

I was thinking the other day that those days of saying, "Fill 'er up" has kinda spilled over into our attitude about Christian service. We sit down in our pew on Sunday morning and lean back and cross our arms as if to say, "Fill 'er up". We seem to forget that we should be the attendants who are serving others and by serving others we are serving our Saviour and Lord! Matt. 25:45 ".....Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not unto one of the least of these, ye did it not to me."

We may need to learn the fine art of saying, "What can I do for you today?"

MILITARY SERVICE PRAYER LIST - Please remember the following as they are serving in our military. You may add names to the list by mailing them to: Mississippi Baptist, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441 or by email at editor@msbaptist.org.

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Johnny Ray Hunt, *Unity, Unity, MS*
Chuck Williams, *Sharon Baptist, Laurel*
Cory Williams, *Sharon Baptist, Laurel*
Jason Cotton Hillman, *Washington, Neely*
Richard Rylee, *Richton, MS*
Jennifer Norris, *Pleasant Hill Church, Mooreville*
Thomas James Reich, *Bethel, Fulton, MS*
Adam Martin, *Clearview, Mendenhall*

When your children become parents, Learn How To Be Helpful

I have heard from so many people that when you become a grandparent, it is so wonderful. It is a different kind of joy experienced from all others in life. What a great gift from God it is to be a grandparent. But how do you respond to your adult child who themselves, is now a parent. I also have to hear from many a parent who complains about their own parents making them feel bad about their parenting skills.

Here are some things you should remember when responding to your own child who is now a parent.

The single greatest problem area is in giving advice. I can understand both points of view. As your child becomes an adult, they still remain your child. The hard part for many parents is to learn to step back and not intervene too much in their lives. You want to help them. So, your advice is coming from a perspective of just wanting to help. You don't understand why you just offering some helpful hints offend your adult child or your son-in-law/daughter-in-law. You mean it as help, and it is coming out of a motivation of love; but some times the adult children see it as interfering and criticizing. Whether this is right or wrong, too many helpful remarks will drive a wedge between you and your child who is now a parent.

A good rule to follow is, only give advice if it is asked for. If you simply feel an overwhelming compulsion to give advice on a certain issue, then at the very least, ask permission first. I know this seems ridiculous to do this to your own child, but you have to start respecting them as an adult, even if they are your children.

If you say, "May I give you some advice?" watch body language in their response. If you sense it is not welcome, then it would be better to be quiet. If they make a mistake, then you will have to understand that



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

www.travisplumlee.com

people learn from mistakes.

You are wanting them to be a better parent, but too much advice will give birth to resentment. The adult child who is now a parent, will feel like a failure. They will feel like they can never please you. They will feel like no matter how hard they try, it is never good enough for you. The young parent is already stressed out over trying to do things right, and your advice, regardless of how helpful, makes them feel like failures and sends them on a guilt trip that they just can't handle right now.

I would suggest that you give advice in a loving way, never a judgmental, condemning way. And only give it when asked. If they make a mistake, they will be just like you. Imperfect and learning through trial and error. Try encouraging your adult child who is now a parent. People are drawn closer to people who encourage them. Chances are that your adult child already beats themselves up enough over their failures as a parent. What they need

from you is a boatload of love and encouragement, not to be made to feel guiltier.

Yes, times have changed. Yes, it is true that you didn't raise your kids that way. Yes, it may be true that your kids are making a mistake with their kids. But try role modeling the behavior that you want them to take on. Don't tell them. Show them. I don't mean that you try and take over as parent. I just mean that when given the opportunity; show your children what you know to be a good way. You want to be there for your children. You want to be there for your grandchildren. If you keep on

with the constant helpful reminders and criticism, you will be driving away the very thing that you want to draw close. Your family.

Your job of raising your children is complete. You will always feel like a parent and worry about them, but the days of teaching and training are over. Now, you will have to step back and just love them and share the wise counsel you have when you are asked to help. Enjoy your grandkids. Pray for them all. I am not suggesting that you accept sinful lifestyles either. But even in this arena, you can help your family more by role modeling, loving, encouraging, praying and being there for them as a solid support than you can be by constantly pointing out all the negatives.

A final note to all of you young

parents. Change your heart and attitude of how you view your parents or in-laws advice-giving. Most of the time, they are just doing this because they love you. They have been through all of this and don't want you to make the same mistakes they made. And they have wise counsel that comes with age. You shouldn't be so ready to dismiss things they tell you. Some of the old ways of raising kids is actually more biblically correct than what some modern day child psychologist can tell you. Listen with a humble heart and always honor your mother and father. Try and learn to take advice as help and not criticism. Always look to God to lead you in child rearing because He knows best. God desires you to be successful in raising His kids.

Brownback: Time to Crack Down on Porn Distributors

(AgapePress) - Senator Sam Brownback thinks the time has come to bear down on those who are distributing pornography throughout America, so he's calling for an investigative commission.

Back in March, the Department of Justice (DOJ) saw its case against one of the nation's largest distributors of porn come to a successful conclusion when Edward J. Wedelstedt of Colorado was sentenced to 13 months in prison, to be followed by one year of supervised release and 120 hours of community service. Wedelstedt was convicted on charges of transporting obscene material for sale or distribution, and engaging in tax fraud. He was ordered to terminate all of his sexually oriented businesses in Texas and forfeit all business property within the state.

Later that same month, 13 individuals in the U.S. were named in indictments and criminal complaints charging them with possession, receipt, distribution, and manufacture of child pornography in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security's infiltration of a private "chat room" on the Internet used to trading images of child pornography. Fourteen others in Canada, Australia, and Great Britain were also charged in connection with the chat room activity. U.S. Attorney General said at the time that the undercover investigation revealed "an insidious network" that engaged in worldwide trafficking of child porn, including streaming video of live child molestations.

Then just last month, the DOJ announced it had arrested a Brazilian man who they say operated

websites (hosted on web servers in Texas) that offered obscene videos for download or delivery in the United States. The videos offered by Danilo Simoes Croce and his company, Lex Multimedia, depicted



Senator Brownback

perverse activities in conjunction with sex acts and were available for delivery from a location in Orlando.

Not discounting these recent prosecutions and indictments, Senator Brownback believes it is time to ratchet-up the efforts to nail purveyors of porn. "We are seeing some prosecutions of pornography in the country in some areas, particularly on child pornography," says the Republican lawmaker. "But there has been an explosion of pornography across this nation."

Brownback says the prosecutions are not keeping up with the growth of pornography, so he is calling for a new investigative commission, similar to the Meece Commission of the 1980s, which examined the negative influences of porn. He wants an examination of how those influences are affecting society today.

"I think we need to update and look at that again, because there's been an explosion since that period of time [in the 1980s]," the senator says. "And [we need to] look at its addictive impact, its negative impact on families, [and] its coarsening of the culture, and to provide more information to local communities about that as well."

Brownback believes the best way to fight porn is at the local level. He says he wants to see communities "bow their backs" and go after pornographers.

Mississippi State W.M.A.

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Oak Grove District WMA

The Oak Grove District WMA met on Friday night, October 6, 2006, with Temple Baptist Church, Columbia, with three churches represented. The meeting was called to order by President, Celia Broom. Devotional was brought by Bro. Dale Broom, pastor of Bethel, Bassfield, from Genesis 1:1-2.

Bethel, Bassfield, extended an invitation to host the January 2007 meeting. Bethel has two young ladies who have applied to the BMA to join a VSM team to the Philippine Islands in the summer of 2007. Our group voted to support these ladies by taking them as our project for the

upcoming quarter. Lynn Privett, niece of Wanda Hartfield, gave her presentation on her recent mission trip to Malawi, Africa. She reported that there were approximately 22 missionaries on the trip and over 4,000 professions of faith among the African people. A Bible School was held and 300 - 400 children were present each day. PRAISE THE LORD!

We would like to encourage each church in the Oak Grove District to come and join us in our quarterly meeting. What a blessing you are missing.

Janice Ramshur, Reporter

Supreme Court upholds Defense of Marriage Act

The U.S. Supreme Court has rejected a legal challenge to the federal Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA. The case is known as *Smelt v. Orange County* and is one of the last remaining challenges to the DOMA. The Act allows states to reject same-sex "marriages" from other states. But in this case, says Liberty Counsel's Mat Staver, the homosexual couple who challenged DOMA had no legal union from any state. "And that would be at least a prerequisite," explains Staver, "that you have some kind of same-sex marriage license, say for example, from Massachusetts or from some foreign country."

Then, the attorney continues, when a state would be asked to recognize that license, the issue would come up about the federal Defense of Marriage Act. According to Staver, the high court's decision not to hear the case ends this specific challenge to the DOMA. "But again, that doesn't mean that someone at some other time in some other place in some other venue may [not] also file a challenge to the federal Defense of Marriage Act," he notes.

Liberty Counsel intervened in the case on behalf of the California-based group Campaign for Children and Families.

Reality TV — Get Real!

By Maggie Chandler

It's ironic. Just when reality TV is all the rage, few people know what it means to experience being their authentic selves.

Reality TV makes me want to say, "Hey, it's not real, okay? Most of it's staged." Yet, millions of viewers watch as people insult, betray and mistreat one another. Is *The Bachelorette* real love? Who would settle for being a woman's second or third choice from a long list of candidates? Is *American Idol* real recognition? These artists don't suddenly "make it big" overnight. Most of them have probably worked for years to break into the business.

What then is real? *The Skin Horse* explained it like this in *The Velveteen Rabbit*: "Real isn't how you are made, it's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but really loves you, then you become real... It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't happen often to people who break easily, or have sharp edges or who have to be carefully kept... but once you are real you can't become unreal again."

Jesus Christ is the ultimate real-

ity. He taught the power of getting real — of being our authentic selves — by consistently choosing Love over Fear. Fear is nothing more than "False Evidence Appearing Real," and it's what keeps us from being ourselves. The Skin Horse was right, then. Love has the power to make us real.

Consider these questions, if you would know what your authentic self is:

Do you still believe in your childhood dreams? What kinds of things hold your interest? Are you living in a way that's compatible with the real you? Do you often cover up how you genuinely feel based on how

you might be perceived?

Do you expend all your energy trying to live up to some fictitious image?

God doesn't expect you to be Moses or Billy Graham, but He does expect you to be yourself —

your true self. By being your true self, you'll be congruent, not fragmented. You'll stop trying to win acceptance and approval from other people. And you'll stop trying to live up

to some false image in order to be enough.

Once you become real — authentic, true, congruent — you can never be unreal again. You'll find that you don't worry so much. You'll feel more in control.

You won't be divided between who you think you should be, and



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.

Central, Richton Celebrates Homecoming

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

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. Bro. Howard Morgan is pastor.

Trinity, Florence plans Homecoming

Trinity Baptist Church of Florence, Mississippi, will hold Homecoming services on Sunday October 29. Bro. Bob Burch will be the guest speaker. A nursery will be provided and the church will serve lunch after the morning service. Transportation will be provided on request. For more information call 601-503-0859 or 601-845-2328.

Union, Bay Springs, Celebrates Families and Homecoming

Union Baptist Church near Bay Springs will have a Families and

Homecoming celebration November 2. They will have three preachers for the service - 10:00 a.m., Bro. Adair Jernigan; 11:00, Bro. Fulton Lindsey, and in the afternoon service, Bro. Robby White. Lunch will be served at the church.

All former pastors and members with family and friends are cordially invited to attend these special services. A. M. Wilson is the pastor.

Bro. Charles Thompson resigns Harmony, Hurley

Bro. Charles Thompson has resigned as pastor of the Harmony Baptist Church in Hurley. Bro. Milfred Magers serves as interim pastor.

East Fulton Church, Fulton

We've had an exciting three months since my last report. In July we had a great revival with Bro. Gary O'Neal. What a blessing for our church! We had a 5th Sunday sing and really enjoyed all of our local talent who so willingly give of themselves. In July our Young at Heart met here at the church and were ministered to by Bro. Danny and Cheryl Oswalt. We had great food and fellowship.

In August Bro. Mitch and Sam McNeece treated our group to a fish fry in memory of his mother, Lillie McNeece. She was an active member and will be missed. In September we were blessed once again by the Gentry Sisters. They are as nice to talk to as their music is to minister to us. Our Youth meet once a month after the evening service for a time of fellowship and food at the parsonage. This is a great way to become acquainted with Bro. and Mrs. Bain. We look forward to your visit whenever you are in our area.

Pastor Dewitt Bain
Clerk Linda Daugherty

who you really are. You'll stop living your life just to please others. You'll no longer forfeit your dreams just to keep the peace. Instead of being stressed, anxious and unhappy, you'll be joyful, motivated and satisfied.

Lord, today I release my false self. I let go of my ego-driven frustration, depression and anxiety and desire to be made whole. I accept the spiritual freedom that comes with authenticity. Today, I choose to get real.

Christians in Hollywood

Faith and family will be the topics of two panel discussions at the upcoming Screenwriting Expo later this month in Hollywood. "Christians in Hollywood" and "Writing for the Family Film Market" are the titles of two panels slated for what is billed as "the world's largest conference and trade show for screenwriters," taking place in Los Angeles October 19-22.

The expo recognizes the importance of both Christian-friendly entertainment and family-friendly films to the industry, describing the former as needed for an "under-served market" and the latter as "the most reliable source of income in the entertainment industry."

The panels are sponsored by Movieguide and the Templeton Foundation, which is currently accepting entries from first-time screenwriters who wish to compete for the Kairos Prize for Spiritually Uplifting Screenplays.

Prize money of \$50,000 will be divided among the top three winners. Late deadline for entries is December 15, with winners to be announced in February 2007.

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 is a member of Faith Baptist Church at Escatawpa. Bro. Wyrick may be reached at 228-369-1419.

Larry Pierce

Bro. Larry Pierce of Lucedale is available for pulpit or pastoral service. He may be reached at 601-947-3531.

Billy Ferrell

Bro. Billy Ferrell of Wiggins is available for pulpit or pastoral work. He may be reached at 601-528-8669.

Westover Baptist Church to honor former pastor

(correction on phone numbers)

A celebration of Bro. Ed Steele's ministry will be held October 28th at 4:00 p.m. at Westover Baptist Church, located at 4903 West Fourth Street, Hattiesburg, Mississippi. For further information contact Carolyn Hagler at 601-264-8240 or Sam or Judy Oglesby at 601-268-1414. All are invited to be a part of this special day.

Church seeks Youth Pastor

Woodland Baptist Church in Columbus, Mississippi, is searching for a full time Youth/Associate Pastor. A full job description is available at www.woodlandonline.org, or by emailing youthcommittee@woodlandonline.org.

Mailing Addresses for Departments & Commissions of BMA of Mississippi

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Mississippi Baptist Children's Home

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State Missions & RLF

4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440

Commission on Senior Adults

Vern D. Holifield
658 Joe Perrett Rd.
Laurel, MS 39443

History & Archives Commission

4229 Highway 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440

Christian Action Commission

795 Highway 532
Mt. Olive, MS 39119

Celebrating 100 Years

Randolph "Rand" Bennett was born in northern Marion County, Mississippi, on Friday, October 26, 1906, to

Pierce and Ollie Broom Bennett. He was the first born of 16 children, nine of whom were his full brothers and sisters.

Eleven of the sixteen children are still living, and five are now over the age of 90!

Mr. Bennett says he owes his longevity to 'hard work,' which began for him as a small child as he help with the chores around the farm. Since he was the oldest of 16 children, more responsibilities were placed upon him to care for and help rear the younger children.

Mr. Bennett is proud to say that he has been a missionary Baptist for 82 years, having joined Bethel Baptist Church near Bassfield, Mississippi, around 1922. He and Mrs. Bennett united with Midway First Baptist Church in Lamar County in 1991. And until recently, he drove himself to church on Sunday mornings. Now his children have the privilege and pleasure of bringing their dad to worship services.



Randolph Bennett

Mississippi Baptist Children's Home

118 Lowe Road - Laurel, MS 39443 - 601-426-3928



Preparing Firm Foundations - Psalm 11:3

Dear Friends of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home

Greetings to you who not only love our Lord Jesus Christ dearly, but also love the Baptist Children's Home in Laurel, Mississippi and its ministry. In thinking of writing this Special Emphasis letter this year, at least two thoughts come to mind.

First, firm foundations are needed in the lives of young people in today's society. Just recently three young men made a visit to the Home who were former residents. One was in his forties, another in his thirties, and another in his twenties. The testimony that each one gave on their visit was the fact that the Baptist Children's Home gave them the necessary foundation that prepared them for the lives that they are now living.

Second, it is friends like you who are concerned about the difficulties of today's youth and are interested in being a part of helping them through life in

these difficult growing up years. One of the purposes that the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home exists is to help young people be prepared for future life by being exposed to the foundational truths of the Word of God on a daily basis.

With these striking thoughts in mind, we want to solicit once again your generous participation in this year's Special Emphasis for the months of October and November. 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.

God bless you and from all of us here at the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home we say thank you for your support of these precious youngsters.

Preparing Firm Foundations, Psalm 11:3

Sidney D. Davis, Director

October & November 2006

Special Emphasis - Goal \$30,000