

## Dates To Remember

October 22-24, 2007  
BMA of Mississippi  
Annual Meeting  
Southeastern College  
Laurel, Mississippi

October 30 - November 1, 2007  
National Senior  
Adult Conference  
Hilton Convention Center  
Branson, Missouri

January 7-8, 2007  
BMAA Missions Symposium  
Temple Baptist Church  
Little Rock, Arkansas

March 20, 2008  
BMA of Mississippi  
Missions Conference  
Skyway Hills Baptist Church  
Pearl, Mississippi

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

## BMAA Coordinating Council Report

The Baptist Missionary Association Coordinating Council met August 20-22, 2007 at the BMA Missions Office in Little Rock, Arkansas. Members attending were: Richard Smith, David Watkins, Philip Attebery, Roy McLaughlin, Doug Brewer, Vernon Lee and Ronald Morgan.

The council met for the primary purpose of interviewing department and agency directors as a means "to advise in the development of each department's annual budget and fund-raising activities." (Statement of the Principles of Cooperation Article VIII 3B).

Directors attending the meeting were: Ron Chesser, Kevin Clayton, Grady Higgs, Charley Holmes, Roy McLaughlin, and George Reddin.

The council was encouraged to hear of the seminary's progress with its Golden Jubilee Campaign. The seminary plans to proceed with construction of its proposed library and classroom addition as funds are received.

Each department or agency is being asked by the council to establish written trustee policies and procedures for its ministry. These policies are to include details of how budgets are derived, presented and approved by the board.

The council also hosted a leadership con-

continued on page 2

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# Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

## 201st Annual Session

## BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

The 201st Annual Session of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi will convene on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College on Monday October 22 and continue through Wednesday the 24th.

The Monday activities include the State WMA Officer meeting at 4:00 PM with the regular WMA meeting to begin at 6:00 PM in the College Chapel. The State Brotherhood will host a cookout at 5:00 PM in the college gymnasium. The Brotherhood will meet in the gym at 7:00 PM.

Regular business will begin at 9:30 AM on Tuesday. It will continue throughout the day and conclude some time Wednesday. The annual message will be brought at 11:00 AM Tuesday morning by Dr. John Adams, pastor of First Baptist Church, Mantachie.

The annual missions report will be heard

during the Tuesday evening session.  
The order of reports for this year's meeting are as follows:

Christian Action Commission  
Commission on History  
Baptist Children's Home  
Baptist Music Fellowship  
Brotherhood  
WMA  
Southeastern College  
Youth Department  
Missions Department  
(Tuesday Evening)  
Publication's Department  
BMA of Mississippi Foundation  
Senior Citizens Commission

The schedule for the meeting is listed on this page.

## 2007 BMA of Mississippi Program Schedule

### October 22-24, 2007, Southeastern Baptist College

#### Monday - October 22, 2007

WMA Officers	4:00 PM
Brotherhood Dinner (SBC)	5:00 PM
WMA - Southeastern College	6:00 PM
Brotherhood - Southeastern College	7:00 PM

#### Tuesday Morning - October 23, 2007

9:30 AM	Association Convenes <i>Southeastern Baptist College</i>	
	Worship in Song	
11:10 AM	Annual Message <i>The Moral Killers In Our American Homes</i> Dr. John Adams Mantachie, Mississippi	
12:00	Adjourn for Lunch	

#### Tuesday Afternoon

Association Continues  
*Southeastern Baptist College*

2008 Annual Site & Speaker  
2008 Midyear Site & Speaker

Adjourn

#### Tuesday Evening

7:00 PM

Missions Report

#### Wednesday Morning - October 24, 2007

9:00 AM

*Southeastern Baptist College*

Theme: *In Times Like These*

## 50th Anniversary Reception & Revival

Hopewell Baptist Church and the Family of Rev. Arthur W. Smith cordially invite you to a Revival and Reception honoring his 50th anniversary in the ministry. Your pres-

sion churches while serving as a Mississippi State Missionary - Parkview Baptist in Gautier and Calvary Baptist in Purvis. He is presently pastoring Hopewell Baptist Church, Laurel. He has been at this pastorate for over nineteen years.

In addition to his pastoral experience, Bro. Smith has also been very active in the associational work of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. He has served as National Brotherhood President, Mississippi State Association President/Moderator, and advisory council member to both the National WMA and the Missions Department. A long-time supporter of BMAA Missions, Bro. Smith recently returned from a Barnabas Touch Mission Trip to Portugal and Cape Verde.

He and his wife, the former Shirlene Hall, have four children: Mrs. Corbey (Cindy) Jones of Stringer, MS; Mrs. Matt (Lisa) Hudson of Magnolia, AR; John David (Kim) of Conway, AR; and Rhonda of Florence, MS.

They have eight grandchildren: Carey, Andrew, Cera and Bethany Jones; Kala and Jonathan Hudson; and Josiah and Seth Smith. They have one great-grandchild, Abigail Grace, "Abby" whose parents are Carey and Mellissa Jones.

The Smith's address is 730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443.



Arthur & Shirlene Smith

ence would be our special blessing. If you are unable to attend, please send a card or letter including your fondest memories to: Cindy Jones, 1067 CR 19, Stringer, MS 39481 or call 601-428-0921.

**Place:** Hopewell Baptist Church, Hwy 533 North of Soso  
**Time:** November 9 & 10th - 7:00pm, November 11th - 11:00am  
**Reception:** November 10th, 2:00 - 4:00pm

Bro. Smith will celebrate 50 years in the ministry at a reception hosted by his children and grandchildren, Saturday, November 10, 2-4 P.M., at Hopewell Baptist Church, 95 Jasper Hwy 533, North of Soso, MS.

After surrendering to the ministry November 9, 1957, he attended Southeastern Baptist College. He pastored two churches in Missouri, eight churches in Mississippi, and one church in Arkansas. He led in the organization of two new mis-

### Big Creek holds annual session

Thirty-one messengers, six alternate messengers, and several guests met on October 6, 2007 for the annual session of the Big Creek Association hosted by Shiloh Baptist Church, Mt. Olive.

The following officers were elected to serve during the coming year: Moderator, Bro. Steve Clark; Assistant Moderator, Phillip Burns; Clerk, Roger Jefcoat; Assistant Clerk, Jon Wood; Treasurer, Robert Bynum; Assistant Treasurer, Reuben Bryant; Reporter/Public Relations, Bro. Arthur Smith.

Committees reported and timely reports were given from the Publications Department, MS State Missions Department, Senior Adult Ministry, New Directions Prison Ministry, the Big Creek Brotherhood, and Southeastern Baptist College.

The Association approved the recommendation of the Missionary Committee as follows:

Monthly Support will be: Mississippi Youth Department, \$700.00; John David Smith Work Fund 400.00; Southeastern Baptist College, 200.00; Mike Poirier, Missionary in Canada, 100.00; Spanish

### Short Message Series by Rev. Grover Laird

#### Is Hell Real?

*"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."* (Psalms 9:17)

While the meaning of the word "Hell" may not call for more than a "place on the other side of death," the Bible speaks of a place of torment on the other side of death where sinners go that it calls Hell. And this Hell is more than the grave. Consider a few Bible verses.

Our text refers to Hell as a place where the wicked go, as well as all nations that forget God, and that hell is not the grave. More than the wicked and more the nations that forget God, go to the grave.

Look at another verse--"The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath." (Proverbs 15:24) Heaven does provide a way through Jesus whereby all can have everlasting life and escape everlasting punishment, but it has not provided a way whereby all can escape the grave.

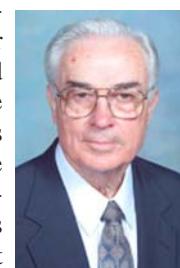
Consider another verse--"Then shall he say also unto them on the lefthand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for

the devil and his angels:" (Matthew 25:41) When Jesus refers to everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels, surely He is not speaking of the grave.

Consider another verse--"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:15) This lake of fire is first spoken of as the destiny of the Antichrist and his prophet (Revelations 19:20). It is next referring to

the eternal home of the devil that deceived the world (Revelation 20:10). Now it refers to the destiny of all who fail to get their name in the Book of Life. This is surely more than the grave. Hell is real.

To think of people who will "go away into everlasting punishment," (Matthew 25:46) is more than our finite minds can understand. But really, no one has to go there. God set man down in a beautiful paradise with all that he needed in the



Grover Laird

early days of creation (Genesis 2). And it was man's sin that caused him to lose it. But then the Lord made a way that all could have it back, and more. (John 3:16).

Since hell is so awful and God's love is so great, God made His "so great salvation" eternal. This way man can be sure to miss hell. (John 5:24) More than that, He made the way of salvation simple and free. (Romans 6:23) He also provided the grace that is needed for one to come to Jesus, making it easy for all to be saved. (Ephesians 2:8,9) Still more, God gave man more than enough time to turn to Jesus. He even works with men to help them feel a need and make the simple turn to Jesus. What could the Lord have done more than He has done, and still be faithful and true to Himself?

Those who are upset with God about permitting sinners to go to hell, surely have not considered what the Lord has done to keep people from going there. Another thing, they do not realize how sin looks to God. Our God is all-wise, all-powerful, and all-loving. We should therefore leave His work with Him, while we pray for sinners, (Romans 10:1) witness to sinners, (Acts 1:8), and live a righteous life before them. (I Corinthians 9:27)

### Ten Commandments' survey of Americans: Huh?

**OneNewsNow.com** - "Two all-beef patties, special sauce ...." A new survey finds that nearly twice as many people can name the ingredients of a Big Mac than can name the Ten Commandments.

The survey, conducted by Kelton Research, asked 1,000 Americans how many of the Ten Commandments they could name. Among the survey's findings: 80 percent knew the ingredients of a Big Mac, and 6 in 10 respondents knew the sixth

Ministry in Laurel, 100.00; New Direction Prison Ministry, 100.00; Publications, 100.00; Christian Action Commission, 50.00; Senior Adult Ministry, 50.00; Wallace Williams, Missionary at Long Beach, 500.00; for a total of \$2,300.00 per month.

Bro. Vern Holifield brought a challenging message entitled, "The Church at Laodicea." His text was Revelation 3:14-22.

The meeting place for 2008 will be Fairview Baptist Church, Laurel. The speaker will be Bro. Harold Holifield with Bro. Harry Burge serving as alternate. The November 8 monthly meeting of the Big Creek Association will meet with Bethel Baptist Church, Seminary.

Steve Clark, Moderator  
 Arthur Smith, Reporter

commandment - "Thou shalt not kill." Also, Bobby and Peter -- the least-recalled names from the early 1970s TV family "Brady Bunch" - were more familiar to respondents than the least-recalled commandments, "Remember the Sabbath," and "Do not make any false idols."

The survey was conducted in conjunction with the upcoming nationwide release of the animated feature, "The Ten Commandments." Paul Lauer is founder of Motive Entertainment, the group marketing the new movie. He says although there has been much debate in recent years over the public display of the Ten Commandments, the survey shows that God's laws are not being taught in many homes.

"I think the message is clear that we're failing, not only on a society

level, but also on a personal level, to teach and spread these most important building blocks of our faith and our morality," he says.

He points out that it is ironic that God's Laws are not well known in a nation founded on Judeo-Christian values. Lauer says he hopes the movie will encourage Americans to get re-acquainted with the Ten Commandments and the Holy Bible. The movie will be released nationwide Friday, October 19. It is the first part of a 12-part series called "Epic Stories of the Bible" from Promenade Pictures.



### Coordinating Council

from page 1

ference with the Leaders Summit organization. The conference was initiated primarily to prepare associational leaders for training pastors in elements of leadership.

Directors and council members attended the seminar along with several guests of the directors: Fiodor Baraniuk, Larry Barker, Steve Crawley, Eli, Buddy Johnson, Jerry Kidd, Phil Knott, Mike Mobly, Luis Ortega, Rick Russell, John David Smith, Thom South.

The next council meeting is scheduled for January 7-9, 2008. Individuals with questions or concerns regarding the council should contact Chairman Richard Smith or a member of the council.

**October - November 2007**  
**Children's Home**  
**Special Emphasis**

## Marriage Makers and Breakers

# Maker # 2 - Wear Your Ring!

When you see the United States Flag flying in a parade, does it mean something to you? When you see the flag unfurled after a tragedy, does it give you hope that life will go on in America? Does it remind you of anything when you see a cross? Does it give you a special thought or feeling to see a baby in a manger scene at Christmas time? Do you like looking at Christmas trees all lit up and decorated? These are all just symbols. But these symbols mean something because they represent something. So does your wedding ring.

What is that I hear? Is that an excuse as to why you don't wear a wedding ring? Are you saying your excuse is more important than the meaning of the symbol behind it? If it is important, people will proudly

wear a symbol. Have you ever seen a Miss America winner refuse to wear the crown down the walkway because she is afraid it will mess up her hair? Have you ever seen a Jewish man try to come into a temple without his yarmulke (skull cap) on



### Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

[www.travisplumlee.com](http://www.travisplumlee.com)

and tell the rabbi; it is just a symbol? Can you imagine what Catholics might think if they saw the Pope not wearing his traditional symbols, but instead appeared out on the balcony

## An 'insult' to 9-11 victims? NYC honors Muslim holiday

**OneNewsNow.com** - One of America's foremost experts on Islam says New York's decision to honor a Muslim holiday (recently) shows the city has not learned an important lesson from the terror attacks of September 11, 2001.

New York's famous Empire State Building (was) lit up green (recently) in honor of the Muslim holiday of Eid, the biggest festival in the Muslim calendar marking the end of Ramadan. City officials say the lighting, which will continue through Sunday, "will become an annual event in the same tradition of the yearly lightings for Christmas and Hanukkah."

Robert Spencer, the director of Jihad Watch, says city leaders do not recognize the observance is "an insult to the memory" of the people who were killed in the September 11 terrorist attacks.

"That's because they don't think that it has anything to do with Islam in general," says Spencer, "even though the people who did kill 3,000 on 9/11 in New York City were motivated by Islamic teachings - teachings that have still, six years later, not been repudiated, not been even examined in depth or with any serious attempt at reform by American-Muslim advocacy groups."

According to Spencer, those groups need to be called to account to "act much more energetically against jihadism and Islamic supremacism." He says until those groups speak out against jihadism, those who call on them to do so will continue to be vilified.

The Jihad Watch director says the city has not learned an important

lesson from the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

"This is just part of an ongoing problem really that we assume - without evidence - that the teachings that motivated 9/11 are repudiated by Muslims and are not deeply rooted within Islam," he asserts. "And as long as we continue to assume this without evidence, there are still going to be Muslims who act on these teachings in order to recruit terrorists and to justify violence in the name of Islam."

Spencer says he expects most people who might be tempted to speak out against New York City honoring Eid "will be cowed from doing so by the prospect of being labeled bigots or racists."

### Palestinian Authority Cartoon Prays for Allah to Kill Americans

**Jerusalem (CNSNews.com)** - A cartoon published Tuesday in an official Palestinian Authority newspaper shows a Muslim man calling on Allah to kill Americans, said a group that monitors Palestinian media.

Palestinian Media Watch, an independent research group, said the cartoon shows the Muslim man kneeling before a U.S. fighter jet. His prayers are enclosed in four missiles aimed at the American plane.

He prays: "Allah, scatter them! "And turn their wives into widows!" "And turn their children into orphans!" "And give us victory over them!"

of St. Peter's at Easter in a T-shirt and cut off jeans shorts? I don't think any of us want to imagine that!

If you work around dangerous machinery, then you may want to take it off at work. If you are going to be working with your hands and it could get hung on something and cause injury; then that is a legitimate excuse. But even so, it is just a temporary condition while engaging in that function to not wear your ring. Otherwise, if you are married you should wear a wedding ring. You may say, "I don't have one. I never have worn one. I lost it." All still excuses. If your marriage is important, go out this weekend and buy you a wedding band. Even if it doesn't cost a great deal, it is the meaning behind it that matters.

Everything about our Christian faith is a public profession. That is what a baptism is. It is not salvation. It is a public profession of the fact that we have been saved. Our marriages are ordained by God. It should be a public profession of what God has done in two people's lives. He has joined them together supernaturally for His special purposes. I know a ring is meaningless if the person wearing it does not uphold the sanctity of what it symbolizes. Wearing a wedding ring will not make you a faithful, loving spouse. But to wear one proudly does show to the public that you think your marriage is important in your life. I think our society needs to see more Christian men and women who are proud of the institution of marriage as God established it.

The ring is an outward and visible sign signifying the uniting of you and your spouse in holy wedlock through the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. The ring is a token of love for each other. Wedding rings are untarnished, unbroken and that is the way God intends your marriage to be all the days of your life together.

You need to realize that the wedding ring is a seal of your vows. It is an emblem of eternity and perfection. From time immemorial the ring has been used to seal important covenants. When kingdoms and parliaments were unknown, the great seal of state was fixed upon a ring, and its stamp was the sole sign of imperial authority. Religious and political leaders have always sealed their covenants with a ring. And now, this ring has come to its most lofty prestige in symbolic significance. It vouches for the matrimonial altar.

The ring is untarnished and unique in form to become the precious tokens of the pure and abiding qualities of the marital state. The ring is a never ending circle, yet

## Southeastern Baptist College



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

Dr. Medrick Savell  
President

*Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere*

### State Meeting

The workers here at the college are preparing to host the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi annual association on October 22-24, 2007. We are looking forward with pleasure to having many messengers and visitors from the churches and representatives from the national work on campus. We hope all will feel welcome and enjoy their time together.

In these days it is important to the Lord's work for us to be repre-



New patio area for student use

some of the changes on campus since last year. The pictures that accompany this article show some of the work in cleaning up the land that was added to our older property and some changes made to the front of the gymnasium (the tables, chairs, and small fountain).



Road built to join properties

sented and participate in hearing what the Lord has done and in making plans for the year ahead.

Let us all pray for unity in spirit, brotherly love, and a feeling of cooperation, so that we may be a part in the great work God is doing through and for His people in these last days. May this be a time of worship and revival in our hearts as the Word is presented in message and songs. The college choir is scheduled to perform on Tuesday evening.

We think you will be pleased at



Two properties joined after brush clearing  
God bless and use us as we work together.

complete. So is your marriage. So is God's love for you. So is His love for your union that He has called you to. Your rings are made out of valuable metal. They represent something of great value in your life. It is a visible reminder to the entire world that God has placed your marriage as a high priority in life.

As you look each day upon your own ring, it should remind you of the love and life God has given both of you. It is unconditional. It is unending. God will never quit lov-

ing you. It is not based upon your performance. It is based upon his nature. God loves you. God has called you two together for a life-long team ministry to glorify Him. You need to be reminded of that all the time. A ring gives constant reminders. If you still think a wedding ring doesn't mean much; try pulling it off your finger before you commit adultery. It is the most difficult little thing you will ever try and take off. Wear your wedding ring proudly. Symbols mean something. May God bless your union.

# Mississippi Baptist | Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

## Messengers to meet in Laurel

The Annual business session of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi will be held on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College on October 22-24, 2007.

The WMA and Brotherhood will meet on Monday evening with the Association proper beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday the 23rd. The complete program schedule is listed on page 1.

Each member church is allowed three messengers to represent them during the business.

There always are important issues and business to be taken care of and this year is no exception. Two separate committees

will be bringing recommendations important to the operation and future of our work.

Having a voice is important. It is the duty and obligation of each church to be present for this important business.

### Milestones

In other sections of this issue you will read reports concerning personal milestones of Miss Cherie Breland and of Bro. Arthur Smith.

Miss Cherie was recently honored for her years of service to Ten Mile Baptist Church, Perkinston.

Bro. Arthur Smith, pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church, Soso,

will be celebrating 50 years in the ministry. I don't think he is old enough to have been preaching for 50 years, but he says he got "an early start".

Congratulations are in order to both of these individuals for their faithfulness to their Lord and their individual churches and ministries. May God bless each one with many more years of service.



Don Brown  
Editor

## Ministry leader angry Israel willing to divide Jerusalem in order to appease Palestinians



Israeli leaders feeling that they can appease their enemies when we know that's impossible. So they're operating under a delusion and deception," she states.

Markell also says the Lord cannot be happy with this plan. "If we are a little bit upset over this issue, imagine how God must feel. And I tend to think that because of that, God's going to put a stop to it one way or another," she says.

Markell argues that even though the plan only calls for Arab neighbor-

hoods of East Jerusalem to be ceded to the Palestinians, God is not going to be happy if any parcel of his Holy City is turned over to Israel's enemies. The Bible, she notes, states "that the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked" - and she believes that "no amount of negotiating, no amount of giving up land, particularly to try to calm down the Arab world and the Muslim world, is going to change anything."

### Letters From Our Readers

Letters reflect the opinion of the writer and not necessarily this publication or the BMA of Mississippi

#### Amening Old Sarge

Dear Editor,

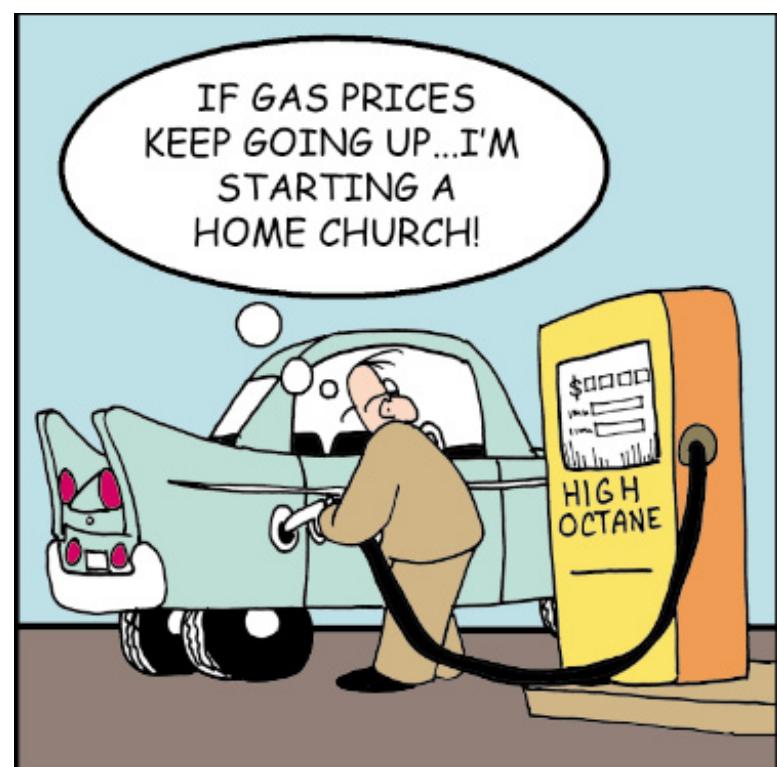
I read with interest the article in the October 1, 2007 issue by Brother Tony Cleaver, "Every Pastor a Missions Director". I agree with the subject that every pastor should be a missions director and all children of God should be missionaries. Brother Cleaver used a illustration about an "Old Sarge" and I am made to wonder about two things with this illustration.

1. I wonder how many pastors said amen to this illustration?

2. I wonder if the number of "amen's" shows how strong the caste system is in the BMA of America.

Paul Lee  
Picayune, Mississippi

### Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



Pro-life group:

### *Abortion clinics inherently bring societal ills to host towns*

**OneNewsNow.com** - One of the world's largest abortion clinics has opened its doors, despite a judge's ruling and questions about how the operator obtained its permits.

Pro-life groups had voiced opposition to the Planned Parenthood facility in the Chicago suburb of Aurora, and had asked a judge to stop the opening. They claimed the abortion provider lied in order to obtain the necessary permits. A judge did delay the opening, but Planned Parenthood has since moved forward with the opening after receiving the backing of the mayor of Aurora, Tom Weisner.

Cheryl Sullenger with Operation Rescue says abortion clinics bring a host of problems -- and the community of Aurora, she believes, is making a bad mistake by allowing one to open locally. "We've seen all kinds of really bad things happen at abortion clinics," she shares. "We know that abortion, of course, tragically takes the life of an innocent human being. But it also destroys families, it destroys relationships; it causes untold heartache to all the people surrounding the woman who has the abortion."

Sullenger says abortion clinics also bring crime, such as drug use and domestic violence committed in parking lots. "So when you have an abortion clinic come into the community, you bring with it a whole bunch of societal problems. But the community is the one that's going to have to foot the bill to address [those problems] -- either through law enforcement, the judicial system, or ... social services," states Sullenger.

The Aurora Planned Parenthood facility is a 22,000-square-foot building, making it one of the largest abortion mills in the country.



# Mississippi Baptist

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## Evangelistic International Ministries A Call for Help!

Two weeks ago a major flood devastated Northern Ghana and Southern Burkina Faso. Many national BMAA pastor's and families lost everything they had.

Pastor Stephen Aganda in Southern Burkina Faso wrote, "Dear brothers, I have lost everything. I had 38 hogs, maze and corn and they are all gone. My house was even washed away. I now have nothing but Jesus."

This story is very familiar to all that live in the region. Even in the best of times many people living in this area suffer from food insecurity and malnutrition. Our brothers and sisters are in desperate need. Will you help?

EIM is very familiar with helping in relief efforts here in the states as well as around the world. We also have had large feeding programs in the past in Northern Ghana, and are presently feeding 20,000 children in the Philippines in partnership with Brother Don Newsom, so we are very familiar being able to assist in a feeding relief program. Also having worked in Ghana for the past 10 years we understand not only the needs but the culture as well.

We have in place a 3 stage plan for relief. In each stage we will be working with Brother Paul Heuermann, BMAA missionary to Ghana. Here will be the approach taken.

1. Immediately we will send a cash donation to Ghana. With the money Pastor Moses Adjekwei and Brother Heuermann will purchase food locally and distribute the food among the pastors and churches in the area affected by the floods.

2. As soon as funds are available,

and we are trusting God that we will have funds by the first of November, we will purchase rice and corn meal here in the states to be shipped to Northern Ghana and



Southern Burkina Faso. This food will be distributed in areas where the BMAA have planted churches.

3. A 40' container of Dehydrated which will be donated to us by Breedlove Dehydrated foods and will be shipped the first of January. This will help insure that food is available during the dry seasons of January through March.

All money given to EIM is tax deductible and ALL funds will be used for the purchase of food and to ship the containers.

Brother Roger Dunlap, Minister of Outreach, First Baptist Magnolia, Arkansas, and I will be traveling to Ghana in December to do an assessment of the area and the need.

Please make this a matter of prayer and help our brothers and sisters in Africa.

Donations may be sent to:  
Ghana Relief  
Evangelistic International  
Ministries  
P.O. Box 297  
Magnolia, AR 71753

## The Kings Are Alive and Well

I went to my 45th high school class reunion over the weekend. It was very pleasant. I was able to see some people I had not seen in many years. Some of those people were older than when we had graduated in 1962. Some of those people had gray hair - if they had hair at all. Some faces were recognizable. Some faces were recognizable with the aid of the name tags we all had on our chest. Some of us had more wrinkles than we had at graduation. My wife and I graduated together. We were some of the fortunate ones who were still on the top side of the sod.

I was struck after the reunion as I spent my time with the Lord the next day. I was reminded of the "king



formula" in 1st and 2nd Kings. Some of the kings did good things in God's sight. Some of the kings did evil things in the eyes of the Lord. Some were kings who honored God in their personal life and honored God in their function as king. Some were kings who went out of their way to dishonor the Lord in personal and public life.

It does make a difference in what we do with our lives. At the end of the 45th class reunion, do my classmates say of me: "He did good in the eyes of the Lord?" Or as classmates catch up with the broad strokes of

## Attorney accuses Baylor University of viewpoint discrimination

**OneNewsNow.com** - An attorney representing a Baylor University professor whose website was shut down because it promoted intelligent design says the Baptist school is guilty of viewpoint discrimination.

Baylor University electrical and chemical engineering professor Robert J. Marks maintains a website called "Evolutionary Informatics," which features links to the professor's personal publications and presentations on intelligent design. But just before the school year

began, Baylor shut down the website, claiming Marks had violated university procedure for hosting websites.

Attorney John Gilmore, however, says it had nothing to do with procedures - he claims Baylor did not like the professor's intelligent design stance. He is accusing the university of viewpoint discrimination.

"No other website that we're aware of has been shut down at Baylor," says the attorney. "The dean of his engineering department, who is a good man - but [who] I

think had pressure brought to bear on him - shut down his website without any investigation, without any discussion with my client."

Gilmore says universities claim to represent academic freedom, yet censor a viewpoint they do not agree with. "It's ironic this is happening at the same time that the dictator of Iran gets to speak at Columbia University. It's that sort of mindset; they see nothing inconsistent in having Ahmadinejad speak at Columbia, but [they] shut down Bob Marks' website because they're afraid of I.D. [intelligent design]."

Gilmore claims that Baylor University has a history of trouble with intelligent design and creationism.

## Air America targeting atheist audience

**OneNewsNow.com** - A spokesman for the Family Research Council doubts a new program on Air America radio that caters to atheists will boost the liberal network's flagging ratings.



Air America has launched a new atheist program called "Freethought Radio" that will include a regular segment called "Theocracy Alert" as well as interviews and music. The show is hosted by the co-presidents of the Madison, Wisconsin-based Freedom From Religion Foundation. Peter Sprigg, vice president for policy at the Family Research Council, says the program will pose little threat to competitors.

"I guess maybe they're trying to cash in on the atheist chic in bookstores in the last year or so with a number of prominent atheist having published books, such as Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens and so forth," he says. "But I have a feeling that they're not going to be any more successful with atheists

radio than they have been with their liberal radio in general - at least not in competing with conservative talk radio and not in competing with Christian radio."

Sprigg says the program will only reach a tiny demographic. "Atheists are a tiny minority," he points out. "Of course even tiny minorities have a right to free speech, but I would think that in the radio market where you have to satisfy a certain market share in order to really make a living, I can't see where there would be much demand for this," he states.

## Are You Ready?

*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

*Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

*Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

I Thes. 4:16-18

## Standing Orders Are Now Available to Churches

For your convenience DiscipleGuide Church Resources now offers standing orders for your literature purchases. With a standing order your church will automatically receive the same quantities each quarter without someone from your church having to place an order. For more information or to set up your standing order, call 1-800-333-1442.

**Leave It To Cleaver** The good/bad lifestyle of the kings is still available to us. It is our choice. We can serve the true and living God. We come to repent of our sins, trust the work of Christ on the cross, and receive Him into our lives. We begin a great life journey with Jesus. As we follow Him with all our heart, mind, strength, and all that is within us, it can be said of us, "He did what was right in the sight of the Lord."

**DiscipleGuide**  
CHURCH RESOURCES

## Bush restates belief that Muslims, Christians pray to same God

**OneNewsNow.com** - The head of a pro-Israel ministry is frustrated that President Bush recently reiterated a statement he made four years ago - that all religions, including Islam, pray to the same God.

In 2003, President Bush outraged evangelical leaders when he first asserted that the Muslim god, Allah, is the same as the God of the Bible, Jehovah. Jan Markell, founder and director of Olive Tree Ministries, says she is incensed that Mr. Bush reiterated that belief during an interview with the television network Al Arabiya.

"[T]o me this is complete and utter blasphemy; yes, it's ignorance," says the ministry leader. "It's his naiveness [sic] - and I don't want to get too hard on the president, but this statement is almost too much [to tolerate] for those of us who hold the Bible very dear ....," she says.

Markell says it is unfortunate that the president can influence millions of people with such statements. "When the president of the United States says this - [someone] who's going to influence tens, maybe hundreds of millions of people to think this way - it's hastening the coming of that one-world religion," she asserts. "We don't know if that's a week, a month, a year, a decade or longer. I'm just saying it's setting a stage."

Even if the president has good motives by not wanting to offend Muslims who do not support terrorism, Markell believes it is foolish to think his actions are going to change the goal of radical Islam - which she says is the complete annihilation of Israel, America, and any other nation that gets in the way of that goal.

Name change coming to DiscipleGuide literature

## Adult Sunday School Becomes *Compass*

Fascinating Scripture texts, a relevant topic for today, and title changes for adult Sunday School publications all combine to make the winter literature from DiscipleGuide Church Resources a unique quarter.

The lessons for December-February cover one of the most thrilling centuries in all of history — the lives of Elijah and Elisha. Though based on events occurring in the 800s B.C., the quarter speaks to everyday needs of modern times. The title is "Divine Light in the Darkness." The lessons show that God is neither silent nor inactive in dark days such as those of wicked King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, or today. God's light pierces the darkness to reveal truth, to judge sin, to confront sinners, to protect His own people, to call His people to revival, and to do mighty works.

The quarter will encourage believers today to reflect God's light in their personal walk with the Lord and in their outreach to people around them.

The winter literature inaugurates new titles for all adult Sunday School publications from DiscipleGuide. Without changing the content of these books, these titles will complete a realignment, begun several years ago, to name books more descriptively than by age level. The new title scheme will also key off the recently-adopted logo for DiscipleGuide Church Resources.

The adult publications and their titles are as follows.

Adult Sunday School will be-



come Compass. This title is intended to communicate that the Sunday School studies give direction for life from God's Word. Its repetition in other titles designates this quarterly as the flagship publication.

Bible Discovery Guide will become Compass Discovery.

The Advancer will become Compass Teacher.

The Adult Teacher's Resource Kit will become Compass Resources.

The Adult Teacher's E-Kit will become Compass E-Kit.

Publication covers and order blanks will tie the new titles to the old wording during a period of transition. DiscipleGuide customer service representatives will recognize requests for items in both title schemes while everyone is adjusting to the new wording.

## Pelosi urged to scrap ban on God from Capitol flag certificates

**OneNewsNow.com** - A Michigan congressman and more than 100 of his colleagues are asking Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi to reverse a decision by the Architect of the Capitol banning references to God from U.S. Capitol flag certificates.

Representative Dave Camp (R-Michigan) says getting a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol and an accompanying certificate of authenticity is one of the most popular requests he and his colleagues receive from their constituents. However, the Capitol Architect recently struck the word "God" from a certificate for a flag that an Eagle Scout wanted to give to his grandfather - a veteran -

"for his dedication and love of God, country, and family."

Congressman Camp says the policy banning references to God is foolish, an "outrage," and something that has to change.

"Now I have to tell you, in the House of Representatives, behind the Speaker's chair are the words 'In God We Trust,'" he points out. "I've joined with a number ... of my colleagues and written the Speaker [of the House Nancy Pelosi] and said we need to ... get this turned around so people can have references to faith and God."

Camp says the flag certificates are in no way a government endorsement of religion because they

are given by individuals to individuals. In addition, he says, the references to God are "very benign and not proselytizing in any way." He calls the development "a wrongheaded move by some bureaucrat" in the Capitol Architect's office.

"The Architect needs to be held accountable," the Republican lawmaker urges, "and the Speaker really has the ability to change this - and that's why over a hundred of my colleagues and I wrote a letter saying this needs to get fixed as soon as possible." Camp says he plans to send in certificates to ensure the policy does not continue.

The legislator adds that if the House can pass a resolution in honor of Ramadan, certainly references to God should be allowed on flag certificates meant for personal use.

## Taster's Choice

What is your favorite food? Has it always been a favorite? And how did it get to be a favorite in the first place? Every food you have ever eaten or will ever eat only becomes a favorite if you like the taste.

For instance, some people think coconut cake is the greatest dessert in the world. I on the other hand would rather have a huge chunk of red velvet cake. After all, coconut has a rather 'whangy' taste and reminds me of eating shavings. It suits the taste of some, but it doesn't suit mine.

Things that are pleasant to our taste are the things that come to be regarded as favorites. When I was in high school, I met a young lady from France named Anne. Coming from another country to live in the Deep South presented a lot of cultural challenges, one of which was food preference. She said she liked everything she had tried...except for 'wet biscuits'. It took some time before anyone realized what she meant was nature's perfect food - dumplin's (that actually became more perfect when surrounded by chunks of chicken . . . mmmmm). Didn't like 'wet biscuits' - this from a person whose country is famous for eating SNAILS!

Again, it is all a matter of taste. Snails may not seem the most appetizing of foods, but we have our own

quirky favorites here as well. You rarely find anyone that will line up to get a heaping helping of chit'lins (oh, but I would be in that line...especially if they were fried). I wouldn't want egg pie - but my Dad and my brother sure would. If spinach disappeared from the planet it wouldn't bother me, but Ginny sure



**Shane's World**

Shane Singleton

would miss it.

The point is this - we all have great enjoyment of different foods, not because of what they necessarily are or what ingredients are in them. We have enjoyment because

of the taste. The taste brings great pleasure in the actual taste or in the memories the taste brings to mind (that's why I like chit'lins - it reminds me of my Papaw).

We are not going to enjoy what we do not like. That seems a simple thought, but it carries a lot of worth to us today, especially in light of the Psalmist's invitation "Taste and see that the Lord is good". We always invite others to at least try the foods that bring us comfort and pleasure. Here the Psalmist is doing the same. Try the Lord, see His majesty, find His goodness, know the pleasure and comfort He brings.

There is great opportunity in trying new things. It is how we find new favorites. Taste and see that the Lord is good and may you find Him to be your new favorite today. Nothing is better or better for you. But it is, as always, the taster's choice.

*Book review by Robbie Shepherd*

## Pray, Work, Win! by Patsy Campbell

Available at DiscipleGuide publishing

Pray, Work, Win! is a motivational book that encourages the reader to study and meditate upon the Bible. It can be used as a group or personal study. The author states that it is a study that will not end while we are on this earth because it should be practiced in our lives daily - praying, working, and winning.

Pray, Work, Win! is a textbook on finding what works best for each individual in having daily devotion with the Lord. It is also a devotional book that can be used over and over because in every stages of life, God shows something new and rewarding each time the suggested studies are reviewed.

Pray, Work, Win! is an encouraging guide in leading one to read, meditate upon, and study God's Word. Without prayer there will be no genuine meditation and communication with the Lord through His Word. Without time in His Word, there will be no productive work for Him. Without productively and actively working for Him, one is not persevering and will not win. The Lord lays a foundation to build upon. Pray, work, and win!

### For Sale

Used oak pews, pulpit, and communion table for sale. For more information call 870-777-6299 or email broglen@ipa.net.

Providence Baptist Church  
108 Hempstead 161 West  
Hope, AR 71801

# Mississippi Baptist Children's Home

## Annual Special Emphasis - Our Needs - \$30,000



### Helping Children Understand Their Heritage, Psalm 127:3

Greetings from your Mississippi Baptist Children's Home:

There is nothing that brings more excitement and joy in a loving home than the birth of a child. Jewish people always rejoiced at the birth of a baby, because they looked upon children as a heritage from the Lord. Psalm 127:3; 128:3.

In today's society it is so sad that many times 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. 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.

As you are aware, October and November are Special Emphasis months for the Children's Home each year. Your help during this Special Emphasis is important to the ongoing operation of the Home. Our goal this year is \$30,000 and we are encouraging each church to consider taking part in this Special Emphasis.

Be assured that your gift will help provide young people from unstable homes a life of stability and structure that they so desperately need. Through your gift you help young boys and girls to have a safe and loving haven during their difficult growing up years. Your donation helps provide it so that children can find the loving warmth of Christian life and upbringing in an atmosphere that brings glory and honor to the Lord.

Thanking you in advance for helping us as we share together the responsibility of ministering to children in need.

*Helping Children Understand Their Heritage, Psalm 127:3*

Sidney D. Davis, Director

## Texas Church Building Destroyed By Fire

For the second time in 23 years, a Mesquite, Texas congregation's building was destroyed. In 1984, the sanctuary of Calvary, Mesquite was leveled by a tornado. The second loss was the result of a fire.

On the morning of Thursday, October 4, 2007 flames were seen shooting from the roof of what is now Calvary First, Mesquite. The congregation formerly known as First Baptist Church, Balch Springs merged with Calvary Baptist Church a few years ago and renamed the merged congregation Calvary First Baptist Church.

Part of the roof of the building located on Peachtree Street in Mesquite collapsed. Officials fought the flames trapped in the roof between the shingles and ceiling of the structure for several hours.

The church's children's minister, Penny Taylor, told local media, "We were just here so many hours ago. We praise the Lord that it happened at night and nobody was there. We just had a church full of people last night."

The fire jumped to buildings on the north side of the church, destroying 85-90 percent of the entire church. The damages are said to exceed \$450,000.

Smoke and water heavily damaged the



Calvary First Baptist Church destroyed by fire

office and classroom wing. The auditorium was also gutted.

Mike Woodrun, a deacon at the church said, "It's just wood and brick and roofing. The church is standing over here" pointing to a crowd of church members who had gathered near the burnt structure.

While investigators have not determined a cause for the fire, they say its origin is not suspicious.

Pastor Mac Costlow, said, "This is just a test. God is moving us.." Church member Catherine Belcher said that was "three times worse. This is terrible. I wonder why our church, the tornado and the fire. But I said, 'Well, God's got something for us to do.'"

The church met in the facilities of a local funeral home the Sunday following the fire.

- from *Baptist Progress*

## Reception held for Cherie Breland

A reception was held at Ten Mile Baptist Church for Miss Cherie Breland in appreciation of her 38 years of service as the church treasurer. On September 16, 2007, family, friends and church members gathered in the Family Life Center to honor Cherie for her dedicated service.



Cherie Breland

## Christian school advocate dispels myths about Christian education

**OneNewsNow.com** - A proponent of Christian education is dismissing two big misconceptions about private Christian schools: that they cost too much - and that children can receive a supposedly "neutral" education in the secular government schools.

Harold Naylor, Jr., is with The Christian Academy of Brookhaven, Pennsylvania, a member of Discover Christian Schools, which is the communications arm of the Mid-Atlantic Christian School Association. The group's website, [DiscoverChristianSchools.com](http://DiscoverChristianSchools.com), provides resources for parents wanting information about private Christian education.

Naylor says one of the most common objections to private school has to do with money - specifically, many parents say they cannot afford to send their child to a Christian school.

"[But] I would argue that the alternative, which is a biblical ignorance, could be even more expensive and is more expensive," says Naylor. "The first question that parents really have to ask themselves is 'do you have a moral obligation to give your children a Christian education?' And we actually address that question on our website when we say 'what does God tell us to do with our children?'"

He says another common argument from

many parents is that public schools offer a "neutral" education. But Naylor says there's no such thing.

## BMA of Mississippi MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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

Rayburn Freeman, Director



Greetings from the Mississippi Mission's Office.

October is one of our busiest months and this year has been no exception. We are wrapping up our audit for the year 2006-2007. The audit is a very in-depth and detailed process. It is always a relief to have the finished audit in hand.

I have so enjoyed traveling the state to the different local annual association meetings. I was privileged to attend the Big Creek, East Central and Hobolochitto associations. I plan to attend the Harmony association this coming Saturday. Due to scheduling conflicts, I want to thank Bro. Frank Panzrino for representing Missions at the Tombigbee meeting, Bro. Wallace Williams for representing Missions at the Ten Mile meeting, Bro. Dennis Knight for representing Missions at the Washington meeting, Bro. Wallace Ray for representing Missions at the Gulf meeting and Bro. Billy Huffmaster for representing Missions at the Capital meeting.

It was my great blessing to be with First, Midway in Sumrall on October 7th in the absence of their pastor, Leon Carmichael,

who is recovering from surgery. It was a wonderful day in the Lord and I am thankful to have been a part of their service.

Bro. Harold Holifield, pastor of First Baptist, Calhoun is recovering from surgery; also Mrs. Wallace (Mary-Lois) Ray is recovering from surgery. Our prayers are with both of these dear people.

We are proud to have Lori Garrett back with us in the Mission's Office. She will take over the Revolving Loan Fund Bookkeeping on a part-time basis. Welcome back Lori!

Please remember your State Missionaries as they labor in their respective fields. Pray that the Lord will give them health and strength and encouragement. It is such a joy to work with these fine men of God.

Please mark your calendars! The 2008 Missions and Evangelistic Conference will be held at Skyway Hills Baptist Church in Pearl, Mississippi. The date is Thursday, March 13th starting at 8:30am. We have placed the Conference in a central location this year hoping to have great participation from every direction. Start praying now for a wonderful time in the Lord.

## Prominent Palestinian Christian kidnapped, murdered

**OneNewsNow.com** - The president of Open Doors USA says the recent murder of a Christian bookstore manager in Gaza City shows the danger Christians face on a daily basis in the volatile area.

Authorities in Gaza are searching for suspects in the murder of a prominent Palestinian Christian. Rami Ayyad, 32, directed the only Christian bookstore in Gaza City. Last week, he was kidnapped near his home by unknown assailants. His body was found Sunday morning, dumped on a Gaza street. He had been stabbed numerous times and shot in the head.

The terrorist group, Hamas, took control of the area in June. Christian leaders in Gaza have called on Hamas officials to take extra efforts to protect Christians. Dr. Carl Moeller, president of Open Doors USA, explains that the situation in Gaza is unstable.

"I can tell you, despite anything that you might hear, there's been just a lot of chaotic violence in Gaza - and not always through Hamas or any other organized Islamic extremist faction," he says. "There are Muslims who are supportive of the Christian community there in Gaza, but there are many that also would desire anyone whose not an

extremist Muslim to be killed or to leave Gaza."

According to Moeller, the murdered bookstore operator will be missed by the local community of Christian believers. "The reality is, far too many of our friends are suffering like this," says the Open Doors leader. "But this particularly hits home because he's a young man, a great, dynamic Christian leader in the community - and his loss is going to be particularly hard-hitting on the Christian community in Gaza."

## AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

Listing of names does not indicate endorsement.

This column is for information purposes only.

### 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.

### Aaron Polok

Aaron Polok of Galena, Kansas, is available for pastoral service. He is a graduate of Central Baptist College, Conway, Arkansas, with a B.S. in Biblical studies and a music minor. He may be reached at 620-249-5471, or [aaronpolok@hotmail.com](mailto:aaronpolok@hotmail.com).