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House passes gay hate crimes measure

WASHINGTON (BP)--Despite objections that it would infringe on the religious liberty of pastors and other faith leaders, the U.S. House Thursday passed a defense bill that includes historic hate crimes protections for homosexuals.

The 2010 defense authorization bill, which passed 281-146, has little if anything to do with hate crimes but is being used as a vehicle to pass hate crimes legislation, which was attached to the defense bill. The defense bill (H.R. 2647) now goes to the Senate, where a similar version already passed earlier this year.

Lobbyists for homosexual organizations for years have supported expanding the hate crimes law but have failed, either because Republicans controlled Congress or the White House, or both. But with Democrats in charge, their prospects appear good. If the bill becomes law, it would be the biggest federal legislative victory for homosexual organizations to date.

President Obama supports hate crimes protections, which, according to the text of the legislation, would give the U.S. attorney general the authority to investigate crimes that

are "motivated by prejudice" based on the "actual or perceived ... sexual orientation [or] gender identity" of a person. It also adds disability to the list of protected categories. Persons convicted of a hate crime would be subject to additional prison time and penalties than persons who commit a crime that falls outside the class of hate crimes.

The defense bill passed the House Oct. 8 largely on a party-line vote, with 237 Democrats and 44 Republicans supporting it, and 15 Democrats and 131 Republicans opposing it. An earlier effort to strip hate crimes from the bill failed, 208-216, with 34 Democrats joining 174 Republicans in supporting the attempt.

The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) sent a letter Wednesday to House Minority Leader John Boehner, R.-Ohio, urging him to support efforts to strip hate crimes from the defense bill. The defense bill that passed the House was the result of a House-Senate conference compromise. The conference committee nixed funding for the F-22 fighter plane -- funding opposed by Obama that had initiated a veto threat

-- although it left in funding for F-35 engines, also opposed by Obama. It is unclear whether Obama would veto the defense bill in its current state.

Rep. Mike Pence, R.-Ind., said on the floor that he "disdains" discrimination but that passage of the hate

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Ron Chesser Celebrates 50 years in ministry

Bro. Ron Chesser celebrated his 50 years in the ministry on August 30, 2009 (50 years to the day since he surrendered to the ministry) with Central Baptist Church, Texarkana, Arkansas and on September 20, at Bethel, Dallas, Texas. God has blessed his ministry by placing many special people in his life and having been privileged to pastor some of the greatest churches in the BMAA and now serves as director of Ministers Resource Services, the retirement agency of the BMA of America.

Bro. Ron Chesser was born in 1943 and married to Gloria Hudson in 1962. They have two daughters, Stephanie Coleman, Ronda Porter and husband Greg, four grandchildren, Heather Coleman Suddreth and husband Brandon, Jared Porter, Kristin Coleman and Elizabeth Porter and two great grandchildren, Olivia and David Suddreth. He was saved in 1952 and surrendered to the ministry on August 30, 1959 at Central Baptist, Lubbock, Texas, his pastor was Dr. John Duggar. He was ordained in November, 1962 at Central, Lubbock where Dr. E. Harold Henderson was pastor at the time. He enrolled in Jacksonville College in 1961 where he graduated with honors, earning an AA degree. Continuing preparation for the

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Jerry Kidd To Be Honored On Golden Anniversary

Jerry D. Kidd, foreign missions director for BMAA Missions (Europe,

Asia, Africa and Australia), will be honored for his 50 years in the ministry at a reception Oct. 31, 2-4 p.m., at Temple Baptist Church in Little Rock, where he is a member.



Bro. Jerry Kidd

The event is being organized by his sister, JoAnn Brown, of Hope and co-hosted by Temple's Open Door Sunday School Class.

Although he was born in the Springhill community, the family moved to Hope when he was in the second grade. He was saved when he was 12 years old and joined Unity Baptist Church. During his teen years, he served the church as music leader and Baptist Training Service director.

During his high school years, he played the baritone in the Bobcat Band and served as school photographer. He also worked after school at the Hope Star, where he learned to run printing presses and linotype machines.

In 1957, he went to Southern State College (now Southern Arkansas University) on a band scholarship and worked part-time in the school's print shop and at the Magnolia Banner News. One Sunday night before fall classes began, he went to a service at College View Baptist Church where he met Sue Hudson. She later became his wife on Aug. 26, 1960 while both were attending Central Baptist Col-

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Security course offered by BMAA Department of Missions

by Dr. John David Smith

The BMAA Department of Missions in Little Rock, Arkansas, will offer a missions security course December 15-17, 2009. The course is appropriate for anyone who is planning to serve in missions whether long or short term. The training is suggested for pastors, missions leaders, short-term team members, and anyone who travels abroad.

Topics will include travel security, code of conduct, crime survival, hos-

tage survival, dealing with government detention and questioning, counter-surveillance, rescue behaviors, minimizing exploitation and basic crisis policy - all from a faith-based perspective.

The class includes some role play scenarios for participants to apply techniques learned. To register or obtain more information please call 501-455-4977 or write jdsmith@bmaam.com

The Whirl-a-Jig

Normally I consider myself a reasoned person - that is a person with a modicum of good judgment. That may have been true until this past weekend when I attended the fair with my middle grandson. Of course the first stop was not the exhibits, the food booths, or even a bench to rest my already tired body. You guessed it - the midway!

"TonTon, let's ride that!"

"You want me to ride that thing with you?"

"Yes, TonTon, we need (notice the words "need" and "we") to ride it while the line is not too long."

Well, you know the rest of the story, almost. We proceeded (notice the "we") to snake into the line around and around the metal barriers that I now know are designed to keep sane people away from this contraption. The warning signs were posted in clearly

printed letters and easy to understand English. The warnings had to do with all sorts of possible terrible injury during the ride, all kinds



Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

of things which I know now were written in not nearly bold enough letters.

After the first few turns in this machine, my head had snapped back to a reasonable position on my dislocated spinal column, which feels as if it is permanently damaged. I had heard the screams of the riders while standing in line waiting my turn. I know now they were not screams of joy, delight, even

any kind of fun - they were screams of sheer terror. I soon joined the chorus of those who had asked for a merciful end of this so-called ride. I do not know why our government has spent so much money on training astronauts in G-force simulators. There's one right here on the midway and it only costs twelve coupons to ride.

We all ride the spiritual whirl-a-jig from time to time. We don't make good choices when it comes to life decisions. We stand in the wrong line for the wrong things for the wrong reasons against our better judgment. Our lives get jostled out of sorts on the whirl-a-jig. God is gracious. He gives an end to our silly choices, choices we know better than to get in line to do. Lord, please give me the foresight and grace to help me avoid the whirl-a-jigs in my life.

During their second term in Bolivia, he was able to reach more people with the gospel message through preaching and by taking the "Jesus" film and an electric generator to many remote villages where the natives had never heard the name of Jesus nor seen a moving picture.

The second furlough for the Kidd family was spent living in Little Rock. It was during this year that a shift in the Missions Office personnel left a vacancy, and he was asked to become director of Foreign Missions. Throughout the following 27 years, he has traveled around the world many times, preaching, teaching, opening new fields for the BMA to enter, encouraging young missionaries in the work, trouble shooting their problems and trying to be a blessing to them. And, as his sister said, the Kidds' ministry "has truly been a joint effort with God as the Leader."

He and Sue have been blessed with three grandchildren — Brittany and Brandon Johnson and Bradley Ellis, who are all now teenagers.

Cards or letters for the Kidds can be sent to JoAnn Brown, P.O. Box 295, Hope, AR 71802. For more information, call her at (870) 777-5249. (No gifts, please.)

- Article courtesy of Baptist Trumpet & Aunt Bea

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.

Tombigbee Annual Report

The annual meeting of the Tombigbee Association met on October 3 at Hopewell, Fulton.

Eleven churches answered roll call with six visitors with a total of 51 attending.

Officers were elected as follows: Moderator, Bro. Bryan Wilson; Assistant Moderator, Bro. Gary Smith; Clerk, Bro. Hugh Dusza; Assistant Clerk, Bro. Dwight Lindsey; Treasurer, Bro. Roger Franks; Assistant Treasurer, Bro. Grover Laird; Historian Reporter, Wanda Parmer; Assistant Historian Reporter, Ester Laird.

Meeting place for the 2010 annual meeting of the Tombigbee Association will be at East Fulton, Fulton, with Bro. Roger Franks as the speaker and Bro. Hugh Dusza as the alternate.

Bro. Parmer gave report on mission work for year. Bro. Freeman gave a report on the mission work for those not present. He introduced the new missionary at Hattiesburg, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Boone. They seemed real excited about the work. Bro. Joseph gave a report on Columbus.

Bro. Matt Hudson gave the special, "The Old Ship of Zion" before the message.

The ladies had prepared a wonderful meal for those staying. Everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship. Good to see Bro. and Mrs. Tim Loden there.

Assistant Moderator, Bro. Jack Leslie
Reporter, Mildred Wilson

Harmony Association Meets

The Fifty-fifth annual Harmony Associational Meeting was held Saturday October 10, 2009 at First Baptist Church, Mantachie.

Officer elected for the 2009-10 year are Moderator Tim Nall, Asst. Bob O'Neal, Treasurer Doug Wilson, Asst. Eddie Boutwell and Promotional Secretary Tony Marolt.

There were 11 church represented with 60 in attendance.

The election of clerk and assistant clerk was suspended until the November meeting. Bro Mavious Phifer has agreed to remain until a replacement was named.

The 2010 meeting will be held at Shady Grove in Tishomingo with Bro. Dale Wyrick as the speaker and Bro. Bob O'Neal as alternate. A motion was made to honor Bro. and Mrs. Phifer for their 36 years service as clerk.

Dr John Adams reported on the CAC and Bryan Wilson gave a report on State Missions. Dr. Medrick Savell reported on Southeastern College and Missionary Charles Costa reported on his work in the country of Lebanon. The Association gave \$150.00 to the work of Bro. Costas. Dr. John Adams gave the Resolution Committee report and a motion was made a passed to send this report to the White House.

Bro. Doug Wilson brought the annual message which was followed by a hand of appreciation by Bro Rickey Johnson.

Bro. Tim Nall, Moderator
Tony Marolt, Promotional Secretary

Wilderness, Vicksburg

We had a great revival time over the Labor Day weekend the first of September with preaching by Bro. Kenneth Bobo of Hope, Arkansas. Since then we have baptized one and have received two by letter. The Lord is blessing our services with returning visitors that seem to be interested in the Lord's work.

We have scheduled a singing group, The Hockleys from Natchez, to sing at our Homecoming weekend the 7th - 8th of November. We are looking forward to a lot of good singing and fellowship. Any one in the area would be welcomed to come and enjoy with us.

Bob Conrad, Pastor

Pine Grove, Purvis, Beings Revival Services

Dr. Charlie Holmes, president of BMA Seminary, Jacksonville, Texas, will be with Pine Grove, Purvis in revival services October 25-28. Services Monday-Wednesday will begin at 7:00 p.m. Bryson Haden will be in charge of music during the revival services. Services on Sunday will begin at 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Bro. Kenneth Flynt, pastor

More Church News on page 6

Kidd Anniversary

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lege.

Although he had been aware of the Lord's calling to the gospel ministry since his first year in college, he did not surrender until Oct. 31, 1959. He enrolled in Central Baptist College the following semester.

He was ordained to the ministry March 21, 1961 at College View Baptist Church and, while still attending CBC, pastored Tomberlin Baptist Church at Coy and Eastside Baptist Church at Lonoke. During that time he also worked full time at the Log Cabin Democrat in Conway and found time to study enough to make the Dean's List and serve as student body president.

His first full time pastorate, shortly after graduation in 1963, was Eastside Baptist Church of Springhill, LA. During the four years they were at the church, a teenager named Fred Sterrett became their foster son.

In 1967 he became pastor of a newly-organized interstate mission church, Westwood Baptist Church in Fort Walton Beach, FL. They spent five years there and their children, Jason and Juli, were born during this time. When Jason was four and Juli was one, God

called them to serve as missionaries in Bolivia, South America.

Because he felt called to missionary aviation and there was a serious need for a pilot in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, he decided to get the training needed to qualify for that position. The young family relocated to Longview, TX, so he could attend LeTourneau College (now LeTourneau University) to receive all the technical courses he felt were needed for the mission field. While he was there, he pastored Ware Acres Baptist Church (now Camille Acres) in Longview, TX. until they started deputation.

In the fall of 1973, they left for Bolivia, along with the Marvin Loyd family, who had just finished a year's furlough. The Kidds' first term on the field was spent learning Spanish and supporting the Loyds and the M.S. Arringtons, who served the native Indian tribes. While there, he preached in many areas of the country, but did not pastor a church. The Cessna 206 airplane, "Wings Of The Wind" (from Psa. 104:3) made countless flights to bring supplies to the other missionaries and made other flights to ferry sick and wounded to hospitals in the city.

Life in High Definition

By Kirk Shelton

DiscipleGuide's Pastoral and Church Growth Consultant

Can you remember the first time you saw a television set? I realize by asking that question I immediately date myself because I do remember our first TV. It was a small black and white model which sat on a chrome cart with wheels. On top was a set of "rabbit ears" (antenna) that constantly needed adjustment. If you are old enough, you know exactly what I mean. Sometimes attaching aluminum foil to the antenna would improve the reception. We got three channels in Little Rock back in those days: CBS, NBC, and ABC. Anytime there was bad weather or when an airplane flew over, ABC would turn to snow and we would lose reception. Ahh, the good old days.

Nowadays we have television in high definition (HD). I don't know for sure what that means, but I do like it. Just when you thought a picture could not get any better, all digital, high definition comes along. The clarity and crispness of the picture is amazing, and the intensity of color is absolutely vibrant. Mr. Jerry Jones (owner of the Dallas Cowboys NFL football team) over in Arlington, Texas, really has

an impressive high definition TV. His screen is 160 feet long and 90 feet high. In addition, he has another three thousand HD screens around the house (the stadium). Now that's living!

I was thinking the other day, what we really need today is to live life in high definition. We need to upgrade to sharpen the picture and turn up the color. For many of us this thing called the "Christian life" has taken on a rather dreary, colorless display that tends to lose focus and turn to snow with every storm of life or unplanned interference. How different that looks to the unbelieving world than it did with the first church of Jerusalem two thousand years ago! Several times in Acts that first church was referred to as "people of the Way." In fact that was the first name given to them. These people were different! This fellowship of believers was unlike anything the world had ever seen. Not knowing what to call them, the world just referred to them as "the Way." It was a way of thinking, a way of seeing, a way of relating, a way of living. The message of a risen Savior infused their lives in such a

way that life suddenly took on greater clarity, crispness, and vibrancy of color. They were living life in high definition.

What would it take for you and me to rediscover what those Christ-followers knew and to experience the world-impacting influence they lived? I think five key questions, answered daily, can help us.

"What will the Center of my life be?" This is a question of worship. We were planned for God's pleasure.

"What will the Community of my life be?" This is a question of fellowship. We were formed for God's family.

"What will the Character of my life be?" This is a question of discipleship. We were created to be like Christ.

"What will the Contribution of my life be?" This is a question of service. We were shaped for serving God.

"What will the Communication of my life be?" This is a question of my witness. We were made for a mission.

I think I would like to live life in HD, how about you? Ask yourself these questions daily and let God bring crisp clarity and vibrant color to your life. The world is watching!

Hate Crimes

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crimes legislation would chill religious freedoms.

"Under Section 2 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code today," Pence said, "an individual may be held criminally liable who aids, abets, counsels, commands or induces or procures in the commission of a federal crime. Therefore, to put a fine point on it, any pastor, preacher, priest, rabbi or imam who may give a sermon out of their moral traditions about sexual practices could presumably under this legislation be found to have aided, abetted or induced in the commission of a federal crime. This will have a chilling effect on religious expression from the pulpits, in our temples, in our mosques and in

our churches."

The bill, Pence said, criminalizes thought.

"Adding hate crimes provisions in this defense bill puts us on a slippery slope of deeming particular groups as more important than others under our system of justice," he said.

Boehner, speaking at a news conference, called the attachment of hate crimes to the defense bill "an abuse of the legislative process"

"It's an abuse of power by Speaker [Nancy] Pelosi and [Senate] Majority Leader [Harry] Reid, and it's offensive," Boehner said. "It's offensive to me and a lot of my members. And that's why I will vote and urge my colleagues to vote no.... The idea that we're going to pass a law that's going to add further charges to someone based on what they

may have been thinking, I think is wrong."

Pelosi, D.-Calif., though, was undeterred, and was in a celebratory mood at her press conference.

"It's a very exciting day for us here in the capital," she said. "When I came to Congress 22 years ago, hate crimes legislation was one of the items on my agenda."

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist ERLC, asserted in the letter to Boehner that hate crimes legislation would infringe on religious speech.

"Since the bill specifies a hate crime 'is motivated by prejudice based on the actual or perceived' 'sexual orientation' or 'gender identity' of a victim, prosecutors and judges would assume the precarious position of judging thoughts," Land wrote. "This could create a chilling effect on religious speech, connecting innocent expression of religious belief to acts of violence against indi-

Southeastern Baptist College

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Dr. Medrick Savell
President

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

BMA of Mississippi State Meeting

We welcome the messengers and visitors to the campus of Southeastern Baptist College for the BMA of Mississippi meeting October 19-21. Pray for a good meeting.

State Senator speaks in chapel at Southeastern College

Senator Chris McDaniel spoke in chapel at Southeastern Baptist College on October 13, 2009. In observance of Constitution Day, Senator McDaniel spoke on the importance of the constitution as our nation's guiding document. He is a member of the Mississippi State Senate, representing District 42 Jones County and is a member at West Ellisville Baptist Church)



State Senator Chris McDaniel

The Spring, 2010 class schedule is ready. Contact the Admissions office if you would like to have one.

Memorial Gifts

A contribution has been sent to purchase a memorial book to be placed in the college library in memory of Mrs. Gairene McDonald.

Also, a contribution has been given to the Southeastern Baptist College Foundation in memory of Dr. Jentry W. Bond. May the Lord bless these families.

Bluegrass Gospel Concert Set

Southeastern Baptist College is hosting the Gospel Bluegrass Concert from 3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. on November 14, 2009. There will be performances by The Mississippi Five, Railroad Creek, and Alan Sibley & The Magnolia Ramblers. Advance tickets are \$12, tickets at the door will be \$15. All proceeds will benefit the college's campus expansion and new music and choir rooms.

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Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Urgent Business

These words are written a few days before we gather at Southeastern College for the annual business session of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Our business is the most im-

portant in the world! Our governing officials tell us of the urgency and importance of passing this legislation and that bill or our nation is doomed. The laws do not take effect for one year, two years or for four years from now, but they are the most important item or their agenda.



Don Brown
Editor

Hate Crimes

from page 3

viduals afforded special protections. The criminalization of religious speech, such as speech against the practice of homosexuality, has already been seen in other countries with similar hate crimes legislation in place."

Land also said hate crimes protections are "unnecessary and unconstitutional" and would "afford special protections to some individuals but deny such protections to others."

"This would turn on its head the 14th Amendment, which grants equal protection under the law," Land wrote.

The hate crimes legislation was named in part for Matthew Shepard, the young homosexual who was beaten and left to die while tied to a fence in Wyoming in 1998. Although some have argued Shepard's death was the result of a hate crime, the murderers told ABC News in a 2004 interview they instead were motivated by a desire for money to purchase methamphetamine.

I do not know all of the ins and outs of the legislative process or the implementation of laws at the

most strategic time, but I do know that the business of this world is important. We are to do our business in a diligent and productive way.

Having understood this I also know the business of the next world is the only business that in eternity will really matter. Let us be diligent to do the important things properly so that one way we may hear the words of our Saviour as He says, "Well done my good and faithful servant."

Let us stand for righteousness, common sense and Biblical Morality in our dealings here, but let us give priority to the Lord's business that is at hand.

Children and exposure to violence

OneNewsNow-University researchers for the U.S. Justice Department recently found that more than 60 percent of children have been exposed to violence. Other results show that nearly half of the children surveyed said they had been assaulted in the past year, and for students between 14 and 17, one in five personally saw a shooting.

While the study did not focus on the media, Melissa Henson of the Parents Televi-

sion Council argues that many television shows contribute to the problem.

"These days," she says, "you have programs like CSI where you can actually watch the bullet hit the body and come out the back, blood spatters, and they're very gory and realistic."

Such graphic depictions, she says, often result -- particularly for children -- in confusion.

"I think for a child it's especially problematic because, to a certain stage, kids in their development are unable to distinguish between fantasy and reality," Henson explains. "So when a child sees someone being shot or murdered on television, then it is exactly the same as seeing someone shot or murdered in real life."

The survey also revealed that almost one in ten children saw a family member assault another in the past 12 months. Thirteen percent said they had been physically bullied in the past year.

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



Chesser

from page 1

ministry, he enrolled in the BMA Theological Seminary, Jacksonville, Texas, where he graduated with high honors in 1965, earning a Th.B. degree. Since then he has continued his education at Dallas Baptist University.

Bro. Chesser served as pastor of six BMA churches over a span of almost 38 years: New Hope, Streetman, Texas; River Oaks, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Parkview, Clovis, New Mexico; First, Blooming Grove, Texas; Beacon, Bryan, Texas; and Bethel, Dallas, Texas, where he served for 20 years. In December, 1999 he accepted the position of Executive Director of Ministers Resource Services for the BMA of America where he currently now serves.

Bro. Chesser served the BMA of Texas as Vice President and Chairman of the Nominating Committee, and also as a trustee for the Baptist Progress, Jacksonville College and BMA Credit Union, where he was Chairman of the Board of Directors for fifteen years. He has also served on the BMA of America Nominating Committee and as a trustee of the BMA Theological Seminary, being Chairman of the Board from 1996-1999.

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Ricky Mitchell

Bro. Ricky Mitchell of Seminary, Mississippi is available for pulpit supply, revivals and service as the Lord so leads. Bro Mitchell has been in the ministry for 39 years and served as pastor for churches in Mississippi, Alabama and Michigan. He may be contacted at 601-752-2099 or 601-310-6750.

John Grimes

Bro. John Grimes, a member of Trinity Baptist Church, Florence, is available for pulpit supply and service as the Lord leads. Bro. John is 41 years old and his wife have been married for 17 years. They have 4 children. Bro. John may be reached at 601-936-6937 or 601-717-3743.

Sam McClure

Bro. Sam McClure was ordained into the ministry on October 3, 2009 and is available for pulpit service wherever the Lord may lead. He is a member of Red Creek Baptist Church, Wiggins, and may be contacted at 601-947-9686, 601-947-9914 or 601-508-1053 (cell).

Mississippi Baptist

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2009 Mississippi Baptist Children's Home Special Emphasis



Greetings from the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home
Pray for the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home
that we will provide children with the loving warmth of Christian life and
upbringing in an atmosphere that brings honor and glory to the Lord.

New Directions Prison Ministries Annual Report

By Fulton Lindsey, Director

May He Find Us Faithful

And foundest his heart faithful before thee... Nehemiah 9:8a

As of June, New Directions Prison Ministries began its 47th year. May we be faithful to this work until His return. Faithfulness in this ministry consists of our chaplains going into prisons and preaching God's Word to those who are locked away from society. Faithfulness in this ministry also includes prayer support and financial support by those who care about lost prisoners.

We recently concluded a revival at David Wade Correctional Center in Homer, Louisiana. Participating chaplains included John Blair, Dr. Wendell Colin, Mike Goodwin,



Fulton Lindsey

Bro. Moore and George Barnes, along with me, Mrs. Sharon and special guest E.I.M. Director Rocky Goodwin. There were twenty two (22) precious souls saved during this four day revival. We are blessed to work with Chaplain Ray Anderson at this unit.

As our chaplains preached the Gospel behind prison bars this past year, N.D.P.M. saw one thousand four hundred and six (1406) men profess Jesus as their Savior. What a joy to preach that Jesus saves! I am glad He saved me. I am glad to be the Lord Jesus Christ's prisoner; to visit Him in prison. May we be found faithful to give to Him when He was hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or

naked, or sick or in prison. Matt 25: 35, 36

I want to express my gratitude to all the churches, associations and individuals who support this ministry through their prayers and through their finances. I especially want to thank Hopewell Baptist Church of Laurel, our sending church, and the Big Creek Association, our sending association, for their support and encouragement; Columbia Association in Magnolia, Arkansas, is our sending association for Arkansas and Louisiana. Special recognition goes to Judson Association in Northeast Mississippi, which is the largest annual contributor to this ministry. As a result of your faithful support, you were instrumental in 1406 souls accepting Jesus as their Savior this past year.

A special word of appreciation is given to our chaplains who volunteer their time and resources to take the Gospel message into prisons; to Bro. Jimmy Cresswell who coordi-

nates the work at Central Mississippi Correctional Center in Rankin County and to Bro. Maniel Cockran who coordinates the work at Parchman. I continue to coordinate the work at Marshall County. Also my appreciation goes out to the men who graciously serve on our board and help direct this ministry.

We continue to need your prayers and financial support. If you have questions or would like for me to present this ministry to your church or organization, please call me at 662-862-5889 (home) or 662-610-4952 (cell).

Thank you for all you do and will do for N.D.P.M. in the coming year. It is greatly appreciated. May God richly bless each of you.

LORD, in trouble have they visited thee, they poured out a prayer when thy chastening was upon them.

Isaiah 26:16

2000 YEARS OLD

In the space of an hour the growth of 20 centuries crashed to the ground. A giant California redwood tree, estimated to be 2,000 years old, was cut down for its lumber. There was enough to build 20 five-room bungalows.

This redwood was probably a mere sapling when Christ was born.

When St. Paul was thrown in prison in 58 A.D., it was more than 60 feet high.

When Rome fell, it was about 150 feet tall and 10 feet thick near its base.

When the Magna Carta was signed in 1215, this giant of the forest stretched up 250 feet.

As this redwood tree was cut down, so are many of the great gains made through the centuries by Christian civilization being eliminated today. Many advances such as God's gift of religion, peace, freedom and culture are disappearing from the lives of millions.

A change for the better will come only when enough people like you make it your business to restore the principles of Christ to the marketplace.

Mississippi W.M.A.

Mrs. Ruby Bynum, President

43 Bear Pen Creek Rd., Laurel, MS 39440
601-428-1901

Corresponding Secretary

Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443
601-729-5638

Big Creek District WMA Report

The Big Creek District WMA met at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, on Monday, October 5. President Linda Smith called the meeting to order and Cherrie Dearman led in "We Have Come Into His House" accompanied on piano by Mary Wardell. Ruby Bynum led in prayer. Welcome was given by Joyce Holifield of Big Creek and response was given by Shirley Floyd. Shirlene Smith gave report on the State Project.

The resolution was given by Brenda Bain of Shiloh Baptist Church: "Be it resolved that we the ladies of Big Creek Association WMA individually and collectively pray for our church at this most unsettling time. During this time of financial insecurity, political unrest, and rampant sin, may we resolve to pray and seek the leadership of the Creator of the universe and not human leadership; to trust our lives and welfare to Almighty God and not those clothed in human flesh. We further resolve to give thanks to God our Father for our lives, our freedom, and the very air we brethren. Also, to give thanks for those

who have secured our national freedom with their service, sacrifice, and many with their very lives."

Kay Chisholm reported there were 11 churches represented with 43 present. We were led in another song, "Blessed be the Name of the Lord." Mrs. Bonnie Brown emphasized the theme for this year, "In God We Trust" and the verse "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes," Psalm 118:8-9. She introduced the speaker for the evening, Bro. Bo Bankston, who is a chaplain and Lieutenant Colonel at Camp Shelby. Bro. Bankston gave a presentation on the service in Iraq and showed pictures from Iraq and also Camp Shelby. Bro. Don Brown modeled some of the arm gear actually worn by soldiers. Bro. Bankston encouraged everyone to continue to pray for our soldiers and for our country. Bro. Arthur Smith dismissed the meeting in prayer. What a beautiful moon lit the sky as we all made our way back to our respective homes.

The next meeting of the Big Creek District WMA and Brotherhood will be on January 7 at Lebanon Baptist Church, Laurel, so let's make plans now to attend and start off the new year being in service for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Sherry Shows, Reporter
Big Creek District WMA

O'Neal Road WMA, Gulfport

Our WMA ladies met on September 20, 2009, and elected officers for the 2009-2010 year. Our officers are: President, Mabelle Brewer, Vice-president, Geraldine Necaie, Secretary/Treasurer, Mary Lou Pinkston; Reporter, Charlotte Lind; GMA Promoter,

Lou Gottlich; Historian, Megan Brewer; Teacher, Geraldine Necaie; GMA Teacher, Nancy Brewer.

In August we prepared shoebox gifts for the missions department to send for Christmas gifts for children in need overseas.

This year marked the 36 year anniversary of O'Neal Road Baptist Church. A highlight of the years passed and dinner on the ground were part of the celebration. O'Neal Road has always been a rock in the perilous days, with ups and downs in membership, but have stayed the course, fought the fight, but not finished, yet, in its most powerful fight for souls before the Lord comes.

Charlotte Lind, Reporter

Oak Grove District WMA Report

The ladies of Oak Grove District WMA met at Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church Friday, October 2, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. with two churches represented.

The meeting was opened by Sister Debbie Patterson. Sons were led by Alicia Ramshur, piano played by Janet Ramshur. Opening prayer was led by Alma Riley. Welcome was given by Good Hope, response by Bethel. Minutes and treasury reports were given by Lynn English.

We had a motion and carried to change meeting time from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. during the winter months. Our next meeting will be at Temple Missionary Baptist Church.

Our program was given on missionary trip to the country of George by Darrell Ramshur, Eric Bass and Alicia Ramshur.

We were closed in prayer.
Margie McVay, Reporter

Church News From page 2

New Bethany, Ellisville, Begins Fall Revival

New Bethany Baptist Church, Ellisville, will begin their fall revival Sunday, November 1, 2009. Morning services will begin at 10:50 a.m. Evangelist, Jim Ingram of Shiloh Baptist will be the guest speaker. Lunch will be served and return afterwards for evening service. Monday-Wednesday services will begin at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and worship.

Glenn Shoemake, Pastor

Bethel, Fulton

Greetings from Bethel Church. The annual Harmony Association meeting was Saturday October 10th and our pastor represented Bethel at this meeting. We celebrated our 134th Homecoming on October 11 with 415 in attendance. Associate Pastor Tracy McMillen brought the morning message "Back To The Future." The Lord blessed with a good attendance. A delicious meal was enjoyed by everyone.

The Primary Youth enjoyed a day out at Holley Farms in Tremont. D-Now weekend is October 23-25, with Missionary Robert Murphy from the Philippines will be the speaker. Fall Festival is October 31. We have had 12 additions recently.

Senior Pastor, Dr. Martin Jameson
Reporter, Martha Duncan

Central, Corinth

Fall greetings from Central Missionary Baptist Church at Corinth, Mississippi. We are happy to report that God has given us a new pastor, Bro. Frank Wilson. He joins us with his wife, Inez. Bro. Wilson is originally from Grundy, Virginia. He has been in the ministry for 49 years. We appreciate his great love for God and his great energy in his preaching the Word of God to us.

We are looking forward to seeing what God does through this new ministry. Please always remember our church in your prayers.

Lynda Rinehart, Reporter

Fairview, Laurel marks 100 Years of service to God

Fairview Baptist Church, Laurel, will mark 100 years of service to God and the Ruston Community on October 17, 2009. Friends, former members and a former pastors are invited to join the congregation for a day of praise and celebration.

The day will begin at 11:00 a.m. with a worship service in which the history of the church will be given, followed by former pastor, Bro. Gerald Givens, bringing the morning message..

There will be a covered dish luncheon at noon. The afternoon service will begin at 1:00 p.m. with an opening congregational song and former pastor, Bro. Howard Rogers, bringing the afternoon message.

Following the message, music will be presented by Bro. Harold Floyd and the Mississippi Five from Laurel, Mississippi. Former pastors will be given an opportunity to speak after the singing.

For more information, you may call 601-399-0911.

Britney Goodwin

This note is to introduce Britney Goodwin to our churches. Britney is the daughter of Regenae Goodwin, her grandfather is Randle Knight and great grandfather is the late Rev. Arnold Knight, and her great grandmother is Hazel Knight.

Britney is legally blind and is planning to graduate from the Mississippi School for the Blind this



Britney Goodwin

year. Britney loves to sing and loves the Lord. She blesses us every often at Berean and our people love her.

Britney does not drive but if you would like to have her at your church for special occasions, you may call her at 601-729-3251 (Mrs. Hazel Knight) or 601-580-4466.

Bro. Harold Floyd, pastor
Berean Baptist Church

Cypress Creek, Brooklyn to have Fall Festival

Cypress Creek Baptist Church in Brooklyn (Janice Community) will be having a Fall Festival on October 24th beginning at 2:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend. There will be good food, fellowship, singing, and games, and admission is free. The Church is located 9 miles south of New Augusta and 27 miles north of Wiggins on Highway 29. For more information please call 601-598-2297.

Chris Freeman, Pastor

Trinity Baptist Church

128 Hwy 49 North
Florence, Mississippi 39073
Pastor Bro. James W. Brown
Cell # 601-209-1502
Church # 601-845-2328

Homecoming

October 25, 2009
11:00 a.m.

Bro. Harold Floyd, Speaker
*Dinner on the ground
after morning services.*

Afternoon service at 1:30 p.m.

Look Around at Church - Someone is Hurting

I am always amazed at how many people are hurting in any given church in which I happen to be speaking. I know some would say, "Yes, but by the very nature of what you speak on in churches it brings out the problems in people." That may be true, but it still means all these people have these troubles and they usually keep them hidden.

I recently did a parenting conference at a church. As I was concluding the service, I informed the congregation that if any parents were hurting right now, to hang around after every one else left and I would pray with all those who chose to stay. I was stunned to see the number of parents that stayed. They made up every age. Some had little children. Some had teenagers. Over half were older people who had adult children who were causing them grief and heartache. My heart went out to them as I told them several things they could do to deal with their current troubles. The pastor said he was shocked to see which people stayed. He would have never guessed they were having troubles with their kids. For most of these parents, the problems were not simple. They

were profound and deep. This just reiterated what I already have come to know. The church is composed of a large number of hurting people.

On any given Sunday, sitting close to you in church are people that are crushed with pain. Some have physical pain. Some have deep emotional scars and pain. Others struggle daily with mental issues. Still others, struggle and have burdens to bear for other people that they are close to and love. If all of the people hurting in church on Sunday morning were to suddenly stand up and shout; the noise would be deafening.

The typical church service on Sunday morning does not lend itself to people openly sharing their pain. By tradition, we come and sing praises to God, and are fed the Word of God. This is a great thing. However, the avenue to express yourself and your hurt and pain is often times not available or simply not an appropriate place and time. Or is it? Is a new testament church a place where hurting people can come and share their burdens? Can they come and confess their faults one to another? And will the congregation stop what they

are doing and pray for one another because they know the fervent prayers of the righteous avails much. James 5:16.

We wouldn't have time for

Family Ark Ministries



Travis Plumlee

PO Box 163
Mountain View,
AR 72560

preaching and singing if we allowed all hurting people to express their prayer requests and discuss what trials they are going through. I Peter Chapter 1 tells us that we should not even think it strange concerning the fiery trials which are to try us as though some strange thing was happening to us. We live in a broken world. We broke it with our sin. However, so much kingdom building cannot be done because so many Christians are waylaid by their troubles. There are so many Christian soldiers who are not in the battle to fight hell because they are wounded in their battle. So, how do we address these

real battles of our fellow brothers and sisters?

One of the answers may be to develop small groups. Small groups that give a small, intimate number of people to come together and help each other. It is private and confidential. There are also many other valuable groups to help people in their Christian walk such as mentorship groups, accountability groups, and prayer groups. These afford people that avenue of expression that cannot be fully developed in the typical one hour time slot on Sunday in a congregation full of people.

Are you giving hurting people opportunities for healing in your church? Every Sunday, no matter how small your church is; there are people who are depressed, people who are grieving, people who are fearful or worried about something going on in their life, overwhelmed by circumstances or completely crushed because of a loved one's behavior.

In Galatians 6:2 we are to bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. In Matthew 25:34-40 scripture is so plain that if we want to love and serve Jesus we will love and serve others. When we do

it to any of the least of these who are in church with us, we are in fact doing it to our beautiful Lord.

Even if your church does nothing to minister to hurting people, can't you? You don't need a degree in counseling. Let the wonderful counselor of the Holy Spirit lead you. Use the Bible to build someone up by giving an uplifting scripture, but avoid using the bible as a club to beat them down further. A smile, a hug, a kind word can actually lift someone up to the point they have enough courage to go on one more day.

If you think no one is hurting around you, then you just aren't looking. Go every service and pray for God to open your eyes. Look for opportunities to encourage someone. Don't leave church until you find at least one person to encourage every service. They may not be someone you normally speak to, but they need to hear from you. Look around you. Someone is hurting. Give a helping hand. Lift them up. Every Sunday there are so many sitting nearby who are hurting. Pray with them before you leave church.

What Is Truth?

The Roman Procurator, Pilate asked the question, "What is truth?" The average, sane, level headed, common sense person of today should be able to answer this question, as well as give some qualities of truth. One of my college professors, Dr. Elmer Towns, used to say, "Truth is that which is consistent with itself and corresponds to reality." Webster gives these thoughts for a definition of truth: "The real state of things; the body of

real events or facts; CORRECTNESS."

Since God is the first cause of all things, He sets the standard for truth. All truth ultimately comes from Him. If God says something is right, it is. If He says it is wrong, it is. But man does not always agree with God. Truth stands on its own, but never apart from God. Notice also truth is absolute, not relative. The presence of truth

demands the existence of that which is false. If something is true, then the opposite of that truth is a lie. One of the first truths uttered by God to man was absolute, concerning death by disobedience in eating of the forbidden fruit. Satan tried to counter the truth of God with his "yea hath God said...?" statement, which has been repackaged and used on man millions of times since Eden.

Truth is absolute, else it cannot be truth. Truth cannot be conditional. Every time a law is broken or enforced, it is a statement of absolute truth. When truth becomes relevant because of time, culture or situation, it loses authority and becomes a servant, not a master. When any act can be wrong for me, but right for you, there can be no order or structure in

society. Murder, theft, adultery, etc. can be justified. How can we know the truth of what is right or wrong for a society? What sets the standard for that



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Joseph Harris

which is considered legal or illegal, and what is the standard for punishment? If emotion or outcome determines right or wrong, then nothing can be ultimately right or wrong, anarchy is the result and no one has to adhere to any laws or principles, since no act can be said to be wrong, malicious, immoral, degrading, sinful or illegal.

The existence of moral law demands the existence of a law-giver. Either man has given the law or it came from another source. If man gave it, then it is not absolute, for it can be changed by man. If the consciousness of right and

wrong came from another source, then who, or what, or where is that source? If it came from a source higher than man, then the law transcends man, and man cannot alter it.

In almost all societies world wide, it is usually wrong to steal, kill, defraud, etc. In other words, every culture has standards of conduct considered to be good or bad. Where did these standards originate? Even atheistic humanists will usually admit it is wrong to steal, kill, etc. Where did they get this awareness of right and wrong? What is their standard of measurement? This universal awareness came from God, who put his law in the heart of all men to give them a general revelation of Him as creator who is also the divine law giver.

If there is a law and it is broken, then what? Is there accountability and punish-

continued on page 8

Gospel concert at Lebanon Baptist Church Laurel

Come enjoy a night of great Gospel music at Lebanon Baptist Church. Southern Gospel artist Terry Terrell will be with us Saturday, October 31 at 7:00 PM. No Charge!! A love offering will taken.

Oxford Church to hold Gospel Sing

Westview Baptist Church, Oxford, will be hosting a Gospel Singing on October 25th, 2009 at 1:30pm. We are located at 435 Hwy 6 west in Oxford. For more information please call 662-236-1971. Come join us for a good time praising and singing. Guest groups include "The Canaan Landers" and "The Unionaires".

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 Rayburn Freeman, Director



New Missionary

Psalm 37:7a, "Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: ..." For some time we have been prayerfully asking the Lord to send new missionaries. The Lord answered our prayers by sending Bro. Ray and wife Jo Ann Boone our way. Bro. Boone has pastored Biloxi Creek Baptist Church of Wiggins, Mississippi, for nearly nine years, and Broadmoor Baptist Church of Meridian, Mississippi for nearly five years.



Ray & JoAnn Boone

Bro. Boone and his wife Jo Ann have two sons, Carl and Joel. Carl who is 24 years of age, has earned a degree in drafting. Carl and his wife Morgan Leigh are living in the Meridian area. Joel is 19 years of age and in his first year of college pursuing a degree in Radiology Technology and presently

lives with his parents in Meridian.

Bro. Boone is forty-seven years of age and in secular life is a contractor of residential homes. His specialty is in interior design and woodwork such as cabinets, windows, doors, etc. Bro. Boone is successful as a husband, father, pastor, and businessman. Bro. Boone feels the Lord leading him to minister in the South Hattiesburg area. His wife, Jo Ann, shares the same burden and looks forward to building a New Testament Church.

Bro. Boone is considering a building in the Sullivan-Kilrain area in which to begin. The location is just south of Interstate 59 and State Hwy 11 intersection. Pray for the Boone Family and their new work for the Lord.

El Camino moves to new location

On the evening of October 4, 2009, at 5:45 P.M., before transferring, El Camino Baptist Mission and Parkview Baptist Church (the mother Church) enjoyed a joint service. This was a time when we all reminisced, rejoicing at what the Lord has done through the effort of El Camino and Parkview working together. It was also a somewhat sad occasion to think that these two congregations were observing their last service together sharing the same building.

Some tears were seen in the eyes of both congregations, but we all knew that it was necessary step forward in order for additional growth. Parkview has been more than generous to El Camino by praying and providing worship and Bible Studies space for almost seven years rent free. They have also provided a parsonage for Bro. and Mrs. Marroquin rent free for the same period of time. El Camino will surely miss the day by day blessings of their mother church. Parkview also expressed to El Camino how they would be missed.



Parkview pastor Shane Singleton and El Camino pastor Estuardo Marroquin



New Home
 of
 El Camino Mission



Sofilthy's Truth

Attic
 by Barbara White

from page 7

A favorite Sunday School teacher asked me this question several years ago. "What on earth are you doing for heaven's sake?"

Have you ever been asked that question? Have you ever asked yourself that question? Have you ever wanted to ask someone else that question?

In a conversation not long ago with one of the members of our church, who has become spasmodic in their attendance and lackadaisical in their attitude toward the church, was giving the excuse, "We work six days a week, yada, yada, yada...."

I wanted to ask them that question and I probably should have!

Think about it, "What on earth are you doing for Heaven's Sake?"

What On Earth?

ment? The accountability is to God first, then man. Notice what Joseph said in the book of Genesis when he refused to commit adultery with the wife of Potiphar: "How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" If there is an absolute law higher than man, there must be a lawgiver higher than man and if man breaks His law, man is accountable to Him. And now we have the rest of the story. Man rejects absolute truth as a higher law, thereby denying a higher power, resulting in denial of accountability to the divine judge of the universe. Conclusion? Man can now sin freely.

With the denial of a higher moral law, given by the divine law giver, the stage is set to create your own truth. Abortion is no longer seen as murder, but birth control or a woman's choice. Being male or female is no longer an absolute, determined by God at conception and validated at birth, but gender can now be chosen by the person. And since no person is necessarily male or female, then anyone can now choose which gender they want to marry, that is, if the other person has determined their own gender. If neither has determined their own gender, then whoever, can marry whatever, and become who knows what. (Can't you

Last service
 of El Camino
 Mission
 at
 Parkview
 Baptist Church



just hear that pronouncement by the preacher, "You may now kiss whatever you determine your groom-bride thing to be.") Stealing is no longer wrong. Redistribution of goods is acceptable if one has more than another, especially if the one lacking was born into poverty, the wrong ethnic background, etc..

People in the media tell us what is truth and what we should believe. Pseudo-Science creates truth and tells us the earth is billions of years old,

that it came from nothing with no design, and is slowly getting better and better. And you should believe it, because it's in a textbook.

Before taking the stand of testimony in court, a witness has to swear to, "Tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God" which is revealing. Notice, this oath is a confession of man's depravity and his dependence upon God for help in telling the truth. And man certainly needs help in being truthful.