

# The Baptist

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## Jesus is Above All

Theme Sermon for SW Arkansas Missions Conference September 2010

John 3:31 *"He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all."*

### Introduction

Jesus is above all! Say those words with me: Jesus is above all! Believe those words with me right now in your heart: Jesus is above all!

When an explorer comes back from a place unknown to us and reports about the travel, we are enthralled. In last centuries explorers reported on yet undiscovered peoples and unexplored places. We wanted to know more. Even in our lifetime, when those who went into space and even landed on the moon, we sat breathless in anticipation to hear some word about what it was like.

Brothers and sisters, Jesus is from above. He is above all. He has walked in the very presence of God the Father. He is from Heaven itself. He has come to tell us what it is like. He has come that we may have life and have it abundantly. He is the one who is the messenger of God. He is the Anointed One of God. He is the Messiah. He is the Christ of God.

Say these words with me: "Jesus is above all!"

### Jesus Is Above All In His Name

Isaiah 9:6—"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Matthew 1:21—"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

Let's consider why He is above all in the name of His birth.

Jesus was the very delight of the angels in heaven. He was and is the hero of heaven. The created angels worshipped Him in the morning light before there was a sun. The angels shouted "glory" in His presence from before time was. They continue to shout that same chorus today. So shall they ever praise

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Tony Cleaver

## State Missions Director Resigns

by Rayburn Freeman

I am one of those who can say, "My life with the Lord and within the Baptist Missionary Association of America/Mississippi is a very enjoyable and rewarding journey. My only regret of life is, "I wish I could accomplished more." On October 7, 2010, I submitted to the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Missionary Committee my resignation as Missions and Revolving Loan Director to be effective March 1, 2011.

This earthly journey with the Lord is an exciting one, and I have no intentions of retiring, just adapting a little slower pace. It has been said, "choose a work you enjoy and you will never work a day in your life." That saying opens up an inside view of my inner being.

The churches of the BMA have been very kind to my family and I affording us with a quality life materially. You have also afforded me the opportunity to work with the second-to-none best Baptist churches existing. While visiting the associational meetings and various gatherings even the laymen have taken time to express their appreciation for the accomplishments of the past years as missionary and Director of Missions. From the godly men that you have elected to the Missionary Committee and Revolving Loan Fund Trustees, there has been the best of cooperation. I take this opportunity to say to each of those personally, thank you and may the Lord always smile upon you and your families.

It has also been a blessing to serve with the different department heads. Each of them have always shown the utmost of cooperation. One of the greatest privileges the Lord is affording me is to resign when Missions and the Revolving Loan Fund is at a very high point of success and stability. From a director's-view point, association I am sure I will miss each of you, but I will be serving together with you in other positions. This is not a good-bye, just a revamping according to the direction of the Master's will.



Rayburn Freeman

## Hope Survives Dark Days

Charles Reddin, DiscipleGuide Adult Editor

Winter adult Sunday School curriculum from DiscipleGuide Church Resources will continue a one-year survey of the Bible begun in the fall, and it will offer churches an option not available from DiscipleGuide previously.

The overall title of the year of survey is "God's Library of Hope," based on Romans 15:4, which affirms that God inspired the Bible "that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." The four quarters find this hope in Jesus the Savior in four phases: "Hope Takes Shape" in early

Old Testament times, "Hope Survives Dark Days" in the remainder of the Old Testament, "Hope Embraces the Savior" in the times of Jesus and the early years of the church, and "Hope Endures to the End" in later NT writings.

The winter unit ("Hope Survives Dark Days") traces God's work in preparing for Jesus' first coming even as the kingdom of Israel divides, the northern kingdom collapses, the southern kingdom struggles through alternate periods of revival and backsliding, the Jews go into Babylonian captivity, and they re-

turn to the homeland but stumble along under Persian domination. The lessons emphasize that the God Who kept the hope of the Savior alive under such adverse conditions can fill the lives of His people today with hope, no matter how dark their days.

The new option available to adult classes beginning in the winter gives them the choice of surveying the Bible in the King James Version, as in the past, or in the New International Version. The long-established adult student quarterly, the Compass, will continue to be based entirely on the King James Version. The newer publication for young adults, the Compass Point,

will contain Scripture quotations from the New International Version. The Compass Teacher will continue to use the King James Version as its Scripture source, but teachers of classes that use another version can make adaptations as needed.

DiscipleGuide will also offer options of Bible versions for children's student books. To assist churches in choosing their preference, the order blank designates "KJV" and "NIV" student books. Search (for students in grades 7-9) and Quest (for students in grades 10-12) do not have such a designation because, as in the past, they direct students to find the Scripture content in their own Bibles.

# What Do You Mean I Dropped More Than Change?

*From the unpublished manuscript of "Luke Only Stories"*

My mother-in-law lived with us about ten years. She and her husband came to be with us in our new house they helped us build. He died after a few years of residency, but she continued to flourish even after his death. Memories of her sixty plus years of marriage filled some of her days and brightened ours as she would reminisce some of the "old stories" of her winsome marriage.

One day when he had been gone about a year, she lost a necklace given to her by her beloved on the occasion of their fiftieth anniversary. Perhaps better stated she misplaced the necklace. I don't know how to put into words the utter despair she came to in trying to find that necklace. Overwhelming guilt, angst, even doubting her worthiness to be called his wife came over her in great tidal waves as she struggled with trying to find where the necklace was in her suite.

"You've got to help me find my necklace!" So the story goes

as the dutiful son-in-law I tried to help her find her priceless necklace. I quickly realized the cost of the necklace was not in question; for it was worth far more than money could measure in its value to her and the memory it provided of an occasion without parallel in her memory-rich environment of a grand relationship.

She recounted to me, several times, "I remember having it on a certain day and certain time. I remember putting it where I always put it when I take it off." She took it off only before a doctor's visit so one of those visits was without question the distressing event; however the question was which doctor's visit and what date. She was almost beyond repair in her hopelessness of ever finding this necklace again.

I have not seen before or since that time such a thorough going through a living space to find an object. This search was way beyond the normal of looking for something. This search was



## Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

with great laser focus to find, and find quickly, that necklace. Boxes came out of the closet, even with the shelves completely attached to them. Bottoms of drawers that had not seen daylight since the thirty-first president was in office were suddenly exposed to the glare of sunshine. Again and again certain familiar places were disturbed by the whirling dervish of search as only one in unfathomable concentration can muster.

Of course I had given up the search several days before I was allowed to throw in the towel. My wife, her dutiful daughter, continued the search with her between her tasks of full time work, being a mother, grandmother, wife, and other normal

attendant duties such as keeper of medical appointments for her mother. Both of us talked in private that the search seemed more and more hopeless with the passing of time and no discovery of the jewelry. Things were in such a state that the old catch phrase, "Well, where did you lose it?" never even entered the mind of any of us.

I came home one afternoon expecting the same sadness that had crept into my bright mother-in-law to greet me as I went to her room. Instead at the sound of my pickup in the driveway, she met me on the back porch. She was brighter than I had seen her in days. "I found it!" I did not have to ask her what she found. I knew what she found. She had found the necklace!

I don't remember the exact place my mother-in-law found it. That doesn't matter. She found it. That's all that matters. May I tell you she was happy? Well, she was happy, and that is an understatement. She was beaming with joy for

days. So far as I know, the only other time she took that necklace off was the time we put her into the medical helicopter for her last ride to the hospital.

My wife still wears that necklace on occasion. As the golden links circle on her neck she remembers, and I do too, the joy that necklace brought on the first occasion of the gift and the next occasion of the finding again. It is even more precious today than the fiftieth golden anniversary occasion. It is more precious because we rejoiced with her when she found it.

Luke 15:8-10: Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

## 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.

### Bethel, Fulton

Greetings from Bethel at Fulton. On October 3, we had a reception for Margaret Bean, a Bethel member who was elected to serve as a self-support missionary to Laos. She will be leaving on October 11 to serve in Laos for two years. Bethel's annual Homecoming was October 10. Bethel will host a Walk for the World on our church campus on October 16. Bethel's Senior Saints will go on a Fall Foliage Tour to Lawrenceburg, TN, on Saturday, October 23. Bethel members will go to the Ronald McDonald House of Memphis on October 30 to prepare a meal and minister to the families of the children who are taking treatments for cancer at St. Jude. We have had three addi-

tions since last report. You are always welcome at Bethel. If you are ever in the area, stop by for a visit.

Pastor Dr. Martin Jameson  
Reporter Martha Duncan

### Westover to hold revival

Westover Baptist Church in Hattiesburg will be in revival October 31st through November 3rd. Bro. Travis Plumlee will serve as the evangelist. Sunday services begin with Sunday School at 9:30 with Worship Service at 10:30. This will be followed by lunch and an afternoon service starting at 1:30. Nightly services will start at 7:00 p.m.

Sam Oglesby, Pastor

### Tombigbee holds annual meeting

The Tombigbee Association held its 2010 annual meeting at East Fulton Church on October 2. With about 50 in attendance the association elected the following officers for the 2010-11 year. Moderator Gary Smith, Assistant Moderator Matt Hudson, Clerk Gary O'Neal, Asst. Clerk Blake McCain, Treasurer Roger Franks, Asst. Treasurer Wexford Parmer, Reporter Debbie Franks, and Asst. Reporter Wanda Parmer. Bryan Wilson was elected to serve on

the Southeastern College Scholarship Committee. Reports were heard from Bro. Joseph Oyeleye, Bro. Elvis Garcia, and Bro. Wexford Parmer on the work at Homestretch Mission in Cleveland.

The speaker for the 2011 meeting will be Wexford Parmer with Gary Smith serving as the alternate, with the meeting to be held at Maple Street Church, Columbus.

Bro. Roger Franks brought the message from Jeremiah 6:16-19 on "Old Time Religion Is Good Enough For Me". East Fulton Church served a delicious noon meal.

Bryan Wilson, moderator  
Wanda Parmer, reporter

### Tombigbee Monthly Meeting Report

This meeting was hosted by South Prentiss Baptist Church September 9. A bar-b-que pork dinner was enjoyed followed by the meeting.

Bro. Bryan Wilson read scripture from Genesis 13:8-9 about Abraham's concern for believers to be brethren. There were 54 present with 4 being visitors.

A letter was acknowledged from Boguefala Baptist Church, Mooreville, Mississippi, stating they were withdrawing the BMA of America.

Bro. Harold Holifield gave a report from the senior adult ministry. He encouraged all churches to have a senior ministry and to send their senior adults to these conferences.

It was approved to give Sarah Hebert and Margaret Bean \$1,000 each, for their work fund. Also \$500.00 was given to the evangelist conference that will be September 19 and 20 at East Amory Baptist Church.

Bro. Gary O'Neal preached "Following God's Plans, not Ours," from Romans 11:33.

## Discipleship

**Act 18:24-26**

*And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.*

## Staff Positions

### Bethel Church, Fulton seeks Music/Education Director

Bethel Baptist Church in Fulton, MS is looking for a full-time music/education director. Anyone interested in applying for this position should send a resume to: Bethel Baptist Church, Attn.: Dr. Martin Jameson, 445 Bethel Church Road, Fulton, MS 38843.

### Arkansas Church seeks Full Time Min. of Music\Youth

Calvary Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Arkansas, is seeking a full-time Minister of Music and Youth. Interested applicants may send your resume to the church at 1410 Porter Rd., Fayetteville, AR 72703. Attention Music Search Committee.

### Temple Church, Little Rock, seeking pastor

Temple Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas, is looking for a Pastor. You may submit a resume directly to the search committee at [tbcpastorsearch@yahoo.com](mailto:tbcpastorsearch@yahoo.com). You may also contact the church office at 501-565-4966.

Pastor Search Committee  
Temple Baptist Church  
10710 Interstate 30  
Little Rock, AR 72209  
501-565-4966

# Jesus is Above All

continued from page 1

Him with their cheers of “glory!”

Jesus announced He was going to earth to take on a human body. The angels packed their gear to get ready to go with Him. They had always worshipped at His feet and this trip would be no different. Jesus told them they could not accompany Him. He allowed them to go only so far as He took on the tent of humankind. The angels followed Him as far as Jesus would allow them to come. They reached the edge of heaven as it borders earth, and here is where the Bible tells the story of the angles continuing to shout “glory” to their Lord. They could not help but continue what all eternity past had been their habit day and night.

My sisters and my brothers, I urge us today to look up to see the angels around Jesus at His beautiful birth. Hear them shout “glory!” I urge us to look up from our banal life to join the throng of heavenly host as they look on Jesus and shout “glory!” Acts 4.12—“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Philippians 2.9-11—“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Say these words with me: “Jesus is above all!”

## Jesus Is Above All In His Aim

There are some great needs today. The political chaos has never seen such a state of bedlam. Bedlam is the name of the first insane asylum in England which came to mean uproar and confusion. Have you read the paper recently? Have you listened to the talking heads on television? Bedlam—uproar and confusion—is a kind word to describe our political situation. Yes, the political situation has a great need.

Yes, the economic need has never been greater at any point in human history than it is right now. The hucksters—that word comes from the carnival people who travelled the countryside selling snake oil—are alive

and well today on Wall Street selling snake oil like products that do no good and produce harm around the world. Certainly there is a great economic need in our land today.

What can we say of the educational needs? Is there anyone with mind who would not say our public schools are in trouble? The state legislators and the national legislators come with prescriptive ploys to fix the problem. The problem does not respond to the legislative medicine; in fact the patients—the school children—only get worse. There is no doubt there is an educational problem.

My sisters, and my brothers the biggest need is not political, nor is it economic, neither is it educational. The biggest need is spiritual! Jesus is above all! He is able to address that greatest problem. Listen to His words in Luke 19.10: For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Listen to the words of the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 1.15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.”

Angels are not the author of salvation. Otherwise we would have had a fairy tale religion of elves, pixies, leprechauns, gnomes, and goblins and not the God-Man Jesus Christ.

Man is not the author of salvation, for if humankind could fix themselves we would not be in the mess we are in right now! The Old Testament story of Jeroboam with his man-made religion is one that is replicated over and again in this 21st century.

Sin in any form has the power to harden, blind, and deceive. Sin dressed up in the pretty, fashionable, and chic is still sin. Sin dressed up in the legal, codified, and cultural norm is still sin. Sin dressed up in the popular is still sin.

Those of us who are parents have heard “Well everyone is doing it.” Parental response is usually something like: “If everyone is jumping off the roof, does that mean you do too?” I don’t think our Heavenly Father is much different when we tell Him: “Everyone is doing it.” Christ saves. Jesus is above all. He is above home remedy. Home remedy might be good for colds, flu, and occasional upset stom-

ach. Home remedies for sin do not work. He is above the power of sin. He has overcome sin. His blood excludes man made, angel made, and religion made remedies for sin. He is above all in His aim—to save us from sin. 1 Corinthians 15.3-4: ” For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures...”

Say these words with me: “Jesus is above all!”

## Jesus Is Above All In His Claim

Hear just a few of the “I Am” statements from the Gospel of John:

John 14.6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 10.9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture

John 10.11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

John 11.25-26 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father’s name, they bear witness of me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

Let’s focus on His being the Good Shepherd. Jesus is above all. He was alone, tired, hungry, and perhaps frightened in his wilderness experience. Suddenly at the point of his weakest hour, he felt the brush of an angel’s wing across his troubled face. He was reminded of the myriads and myriads of angels He once knew in heaven. Those ministering spirits had come to see Him, to look upon Him, in His hour of terrible temptation. Those angles came to minister to our Lord in His hour of need. Great questions of life hung in the balance of this experience. Enormous anxieties burdened His weakened body and burned into His crowded mind: “What about my life? What about my ministry? What if I die here in the wilderness? How shall I share the message of God?”

My brother and sister, have you been in temptation? Have you been in struggle? Have you been alone in a wilderness with the wild beasts? Have you felt the claws and heard the jaws of the beasts at your office? Be still and feel the brush of the angel’s wing across your own face. I implore you to look up to shout “glory” because of the angels

# Southeastern Baptist College

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Dr. Medrick Savell  
President

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

## Hosting State Meeting

We are pleased that the State association is meeting at Southeastern Baptist College again this year and are looking forward to visiting with many friends and supporters from over the state, other states, and representatives from the national departments. We expect it to be a good meeting in every respect. We appreciate the privilege of hosting this meeting.

## Memorial Gift

A gift was given to the Southeastern Baptist College Foundation in memory of Dr. Jentry Bond. He loved Southeastern Baptist College and served as professor and president for several years. May the Lord bless his family.

## Special Emphasis

Thanks to all who have sent in your contributions to Special Emphasis. We are listing the churches, associations, and individuals who have given offer-

ings at this time. Please consider joining in this needed project.

## Churches

Antioch, Soso  
Berean, Soso  
Bethel, Seminary  
Centerville, Mantachie  
Community, Poplarville  
East Fulton, Fulton  
First Baptist, Bay Springs  
First Calhoun, Laurel  
Forked Oak, Booneville  
Good Hope, Overt  
Harmony, Hurley  
Hopewell, Fulton  
Grace, Perkinston  
Lee’s Chapel #2, Picayune  
Little Creek, Perkinston  
Magnolia Heights, Forest  
New Bethany, Ellisville  
New Hope, Collinsville  
Oak Grove, Lucedale  
Oakland Grove, Sandersville  
Paramount, Perkinston  
Ramsey Creek, Saucier  
Riverside, Ellisville  
Rock Hill, Meridian  
Spring Hill, Laurel  
Ten Mile Baptist Church  
Ladies SS Class, Perkinston  
Union, Bay Springs  
Washington, Neely  
Westlawn, Picayune  
Zion, Angilla

## Associations

Capitol Baptist Association  
Harmony Baptist Association  
Oak Grove Baptist Association  
Washington Baptist Association  
Note: The Big Creek Association and East Central Association have given good contributions to other projects during this Special Emphasis time. That is special to us.

## Individuals

Mrs. Louise Crawley  
Mrs. Marjorie Harper  
Mr. and Mrs. James Moore  
Mrs. Odell Stephens  
Wayne and Vivian Parker

The total amount received is getting close to that received last year. Thanks. Wouldn’t you like to have your name on this list?

Please continue to pray for the ministry of Southeastern Baptist College.



Brittani Moss and Stephanie Ingram are SBC’s recipients of the Savell Scholarship for the Fall, 2010, semester.

looking on the Son of God in his terrible temptation.

The book of Hebrews tells us that we have such a high priest, speaking of Jesus, who has been tempted in every way. Yet our high priest Jesus is without sin. The book goes on to encourage us to come boldly to the throne of grace to find grace and help in time of need. We have a great

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# Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

## One Smooth Stone...

*A shepherd boy stood before the challenge of the giant. The boy had one shot to make a difference. He selected one smooth stone and with great precision defeated Goliath. Like that one smooth stone, a timeless truth communicated in a timely fashion can slay giants.*

## The Building Blocks of a Great Church

(Part 3 of a series focused on building true disciples)  
by Kirk Shelton  
DiscipleGuide Church Growth Consultant

How do you build a truly great church? Bold leadership? Dynamic ministries? Excellent programs? Cutting-edge technology? Gifted staff? Top-notch facilities? No one would argue the value of each of these, and most would say they are essential in building a great church and experiencing ministry effectiveness. If you have them, be thankful. But if you lack them, don't lose heart. As blessed as a church is that can boast the components listed above, they are not on God's supply list for building a great church. In fact, they sometimes get in the way!

In the New Testament, especially in the Epistles, God is very clear about what He is looking for in a church and what it takes to build it. Never forget, healthy things grow! And when a church is healthy, she too will grow both spiritually and numerically. For a church to be healthy, individual members of the church have to be healthy. That means they have to be growing and maturing into Christlikeness (Romans 8:29; Ephesians 4:11-16). To be Christlike doesn't necessarily mean that it's the person who has been saved the longest or the person who can quote the

most scripture. Instead, it's the person who is demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit and walking in obedience to God and in fellowship with God's people.

When a believer (and a church) is walking in obedience to Christ and in fellowship with God's people, he will be reflecting the characteristics of faith, hope, and love. Paul writes about these characteristics several times in his letters. God is looking for churches that are rich in faith, hope, and love! These characteristics are His measuring stick for evaluating a congregation.

So what builds up a church in the characteristics of faith, hope, and love? Programs, technology, facilities, and even great preaching can't do it! But God has given us what we need to be built up in faith, hope, and love. In the New Testament there are thirty-five specific commands which are divinely designed for that purpose! We know these commands as the "one-anothers" of the Bible. They are thirty-five reciprocal commands that, if obeyed within the context of a small group community, will do more to build up a local body of

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## Letters From Our Readers

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

## An Open Letter Churches of the BMA of America

October 7, 2010

Wednesday, September 22, 2010, a special business meeting was called to address problems surrounding Dr. Fiodor Baraniuk. In the meeting the church was informed that Missionary Dr. Fiodor Baraniuk had been asked by the Missions Advisory Committee and Bro. Larry Barker, North American Missions Director, to resign on Tuesday, September 21, 2010. The matter was brought before the body because Bro. Fiodor had been fully recommended to the BMA of America by the church to serve as Russian Coordinator over Church Planting among Slavic speaking people in the United States in 2004.

In the business meeting two recommendations were brought to the church by the Pastoral Staff and Deacon body in light of the circumstances. The recommendations were as follows: First, to remove all financial support of Bro. Baraniuk's ministry, and Second, to remove any endorsement of his ministry that the church had previously voted upon. The recommendations were submitted in the form of a motion, received a second, and were unanimously approved.

This decision has been a pro-

## Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



cess that dates back to July, 2008. During the process a group of over 25 spiritually minded men from our church and the Missions Office have worked with him. This decision came after much patience was exhibited and grace granted at different junctions of time towards Bro. Fiodor.

We ask the association to pray for Bro. Baraniuk and his family as they go forward in their lives.

Regretfully  
Pastor Anders Lee  
Calvary Baptist Church,  
Horn Lake, MS

## Missionary on furlough and available to visit

Dear Bro. Don,

I would like to inform our churches that I will be on furlough during the months of November and December. Any church wanting to hear about the educational ministry in Mexico and Central America may contact me at [tenecmisionero@yahoo.com](mailto:tenecmisionero@yahoo.com) for dates. I'm available to share about the work during a SS class, worship service, small groups, AWANA, GMA, etc.

Thanks, my brother.  
Ricky Williams  
BMAA missionary to Mexico



## Barton: No need for pastors to fear IRS

**OneNewsNow** - A Christian constitutional expert thinks the Internal Revenue Service's lack of response to a recent initiative shows there is no longer any reason for pastors to be silent on political issues when standing behind the pulpit.

Current law prohibits pastors from speaking on politics or endorsing a political candidate, but David Barton of WallBuilders says the IRS's intimidation of removing a church's tax exemption status is unconstitutional. Even though some pastors have intentionally crossed the line, Barton does not think the IRS wants to take them to court because it may lose.

The IRS doesn't have any interest in doing this because if they do, I believe they know they are going to lose. And if they lose, you have 370,000 pastors in America who suddenly find out that there's no restriction on them," Barton suggests.

The WallBuilders president explains that churches are guaranteed tax exemption status under the Constitution, but he believes many pastors are afraid to speak about politics because they fear they will lose their letter of tax exemption.

"You cannot lose your tax exemption as a church because as a church, you have a constitutional standing for tax exemption," he points out. "So with that basis, losing your letter means absolutely nothing -- and that's something pastors are now figuring out."

Barton argues that the pulpit was and should continue to be the news perspective for America, so he encourages all pastors to speak out and stand for truth.



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**AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE**

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

### Robert (Bob) Bullock

Robert J. (Bob) Bullock is available for service any where the Lord might use him. He will fill in for pastors, teach Bible studies, or serve as interim pastor for a church while it is seeking a pastor. He may be reached at 601-763-7675.

## E.N.C.O.U.R.A.G.E. Others

### Part Two

Scriptures for this article are I Thessalonians 5:17 and Ephesians 4:29. Last week we looked at Romans 15:2. Encouragement is what we as Christians are suppose to do. It is not an option, but a lifestyle to be embraced. Families and churches are changed for God's glory through encouragement. Everyone needs more encouragement because of the world we live in. In the last article we set the groundwork of how families are changed with encouragement from others. The word ENCOURAGEMENT is broken down this way. We started off with E stands for Edify. N stands for Nurture. C stands for Courage. O stands for Opine. Let's continue the breakdown of the word Encouragement. This article will start now with the letter "R".

R - Restore. Galatians 6:1 "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the

spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." When someone makes a mistake, when someone sins, when someone does something wrong; it is extremely encouraging to

have a family member or a friend, coworker or fellow church member come up to you and offer encouragement. It starts the healing process. It is the beginning of restoration. Notice in this verse that if someone is overtaken in a fault, it does not say "retaliate". It

says "restore". Christians are to be about the business of reconciling and restoring. Not retaliating and destroying.

The church can be one of the loneliest places on earth when you have done something wrong. People part away from you like the Red Sea for Moses. Maybe someone could actually stop their sinning and have a complete life change for the glory of God if someone from church, just one Sunday, came up and offered some encouragement to them.

We will never know unless we try it.

A - Acknowledge. To be an encourager, you need to acknowledge the person. That means notice them. Pay attention to them. Do not ignore them. There are a lot of wives that would have a jump start to their life immediately, if their husbands would just start paying some attention to them! I hear this over and over. Here I am, notice me.

How many teenagers would have a different attitude towards their parents, if their parents would just pay some attention to them. Sometimes children act out in bad behavior because they want their parents to notice them. Even sibling rivalry is often times an attempt to get the parents to pay some attention to them. It is negative attention. The parent may scream at the kids, but at least you acknowledge I exist. The worst thing families can do for one another is to ignore each other.

Finally, one of the saddest things to me is when someone comes to visit our churches and no one acknowledges them. A person is hurting, lonely or even lost without Jesus. They come into the midst of His followers and leave without any encouragement or acknowledgment. How sad. Our window of opportunity may have just been lost with that person. If you go to a church where people are not given over to warmly interacting with visitors, then appoint some people and make it their job. Greeters if you will. Don't fake it though. Make it genuine. Don't overwhelm them. But for heaven's sake, please acknowledge those around you. God put you into a world of people. Interact with them.

G - Grateful. There are two sides to this one. We should all be grateful to God for the opportunities He gives us to encour-

age others. It is an easy witness tool, a great reflection on His glory that works in us, and it is bringing honor to His name. Be grateful for chances to encourage and watch for them.

We should also be grateful towards others who have done things for us. This acts as an encouragement tool for these others to keep doing their good deeds. Faith without works is dead. Christians are suppose to work, serve and give to the church and others around them as their faith comes to life. People might be inclined to do more of it if they receive ed some encouragement.

Yes, we all need to do it as unto the Lord and not as unto men. Our motivation of good works is to please God. But I am telling you it spurs you on and puts a jump in your step, if when doing good; you receive some thanks from the people you serve. That can be family, friends or fellow church members.

It is encouraging to receive thanks and accolades for a job well done. Many weekends, I can see a handful of people work so hard to make sure a conference goes off well, with food, decorations, and other comforts. All the people come and love it. Few, if any, give encouragement through thanks to the people that worked hours ahead of time. An attitude of gratitude feeds our faith.

E - Enlighten. Enlighten another life through encouragement. You can open up worlds of possibilities to a child when they are enlightened through encouragement.

There you have a breakdown of what encouragement is. We know we need to do it. We know we all need some more of it. Why don't you pray and ask God to give you a tidal surge of encouragement, so you can give it away. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you every day to others that are around you that just need a little pick up by a hug, smile or word. You reap what you sow. If you need encouraging, first go give it away.

## Building Blocks

from page 4

Christ than any other activity or ministry. You might say that they are the "building blocks" of a great church! What are these thirty-five "one-anothers" of Scripture? We all know some of them, and we're even pretty good at doing a few of them. The commands to "love one another," "pray for one another," and "greet one another" are not strangers. But what about "admonish one another," "provoke one another to good works," or "confess your faults one to another so that you may be healed." For most believers, those commands are indeed strangers. They have no place in church life as we know it.

Pastor or church leader, let God speak to your heart about these "one-another" commands of Scripture. Without them your church will not grow in the characteristics of faith, hope, and love. And without faith, hope, and love your church will never be the vibrant, healthy expression of Christ that she was intended to be!

### The "One-Anothers" Of Scripture

Love one another (John 13:34)  
Depend on one another (Romans 12:5)  
Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)  
Wash one another's feet (John 13:14)  
Rejoice with one another (Romans 12:15; 1 Corinthians 12:26)  
Weep with one another (Romans 12:15)  
Live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)

Don't judge one another (Romans 14:13)  
Accept one another (Romans 15:7)  
Admonish one another (Colossians 3:16)  
Greet one another (Romans 16:16)  
Wait for one another (1 Corinthians 11:33)  
Care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)  
Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)  
Be kind to one another (Ephesians 4:32)  
Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13)  
Be compassionate toward one another (Ephesians 4:32)  
Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)  
Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21)  
Bear with one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)  
Stimulate love in one another (Hebrews 10:24)  
Offer hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)  
Minister gifts to one another (1 Peter 4:10)  
Be clothed in humility toward one another (1 Peter 5:5)  
Don't slander one another (James 4:11)  
Don't grumble against one another (James 5:9)  
Confess your sins to one another (James 5:16)  
Pray for one another (James 5:16)  
Fellowship with one another (1 John 1:7)  
Don't be puffed up against one another (1 Corinthians 4:6)  
Carry one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)  
Honor one another (Romans 12:10)  
Instruct one another (Romans 15:14)  
Prefer one another (Romans 12:10)  
Comfort one another (2 Corinthians 1:4)



### Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

## 'Political' pastor to IRS: Sue me

**OneNewsNow** - A complaint has been filed with the Internal Revenue Service against an Iowa church on the basis of political involvement.

Next month, voters in The Hawkeye State will have an opportunity to vote against renewing terms for three state Supreme Court justices who voted in favor of homosexual "marriage." Pastor Cary Gordon of Cornerstone World Outreach in Sioux City sent a letter to pastors around the state encouraging them to join in the effort to remove the three from the bench. In response, Americans United for Separation of Church and State filed a complaint against the Sioux City pastor.

Pastor Gordon tells OneNewsNow that Christians are often accused of shoving their religion down others' throats - and if they say the same things inside the walls of the church, they are accused of bringing politics into religion. "You can't have it both ways," he remarks.

"We're tired of the hypocrisy of these people because they desire to ensconce - and frankly they're doing it - ...secular humanism [as] the new state religion of the United States of America in violation of the original intent of the First Amendment," he laments.

Gordon stresses that despite complaints from groups like Americans United, he will continue to preach his convictions on Sunday.

"I have never, nor will I ever, get a message from the Holy Spirit and then go check with the IRS tax code first to see if it's okay to preach it," he states. "I'm tired of pastors submitting to this tyranny - and I'm expecting to try to get the IRS to sue us so that we can take it all the way to the Supreme Court and restore freedom in America's pulpits."

Gordon's church is represented by Christian attorneys from Liberty Institute.

## Mississippi W.M.A.

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## Northeast District WMA Report

The Northeast Mississippi District WMA meeting was hosted by Bethel Baptist Church, Dorsey, Mississippi, on August 10, 2010. First Vice-president, Patti Harlow, gave the welcome, Stacy Smith gave the response. The Bethel WMA served a delicious salad and dessert meal at 6:00. Bro. Blake McCain led the opening prayer and blessing on the food. The tables were beautifully decorated by Molly Taylor. Everyone enjoyed the meal.

Door prizes were given to those whose names were drawn. Thanks for the beautiful gifts. I won a CD of Christmas music by Mrs. Bobby Sue Bradley. I'll cherish that a long time.

At 7:00 the meeting was called to order by President Dewdrop (Dot) Emison. The opening song, *Loved Lifted Me*, was led by Stacy Smith. Minutes of the previous meeting were ready by Linda Daughtery.

Special music was by Kaley Phillipps. She gave a beautiful rendition of "Who Am I." Special guests were Margaret Bean and Sarah Hebert. Margaret gave a report on her plans of mission work in Laos. Sarah gave a report on her plans to work as a missionary in the Philippines. The project for this quarter will be Margaret Bean and Sarah Hebert. Motion was in order to give each of them \$500.00 toward their support.

South Green Street volunteered to print the 2010-



Northeast Mississippi WMA Officers

2011 year book. Thank you so much for doing that.

Officers for the new year were elected. Tammy Loague presided over the installation. The theme was "A Servant's Heart"; the scripture was I Samuel 6:7. "But the Lord said unto Samuel, look not on his countenance, or the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for man looked on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." Each new officer was given a beautiful ceramic heart to remind them of their responsibility as a servant.

The following is a list of the officers for the 2010-2011 Northeast District WMA: President, Dewdrop (Dot) Emison; First Vice-president, Patti Harlow; Second Vice-president, Elaine Smith; Third Vice-president, Shelia McDowell; Treasurer, Linda Daughtery; Secretary, Martha Duncan; Assistant Secretary, Jackie Davis; Song Director, Stacy Smith; Assistant Song Director, Lisa Hudson; Pianist, Bobby Sue Bradley;

## Jesus is Above All

continued from page 3

high priest who understands our weaknesses for he Himself knows our temptations. May we come boldly and shout "glory!"

Let's focus on another one in particular—the resurrection. Of all philosophies and religions, Christianity is the only one who can claim the resurrection. Jesus is above all! The angels looked on His dead, lifeless, cold, and breathless body. They saw the power of God at work in His resurrection and shouted "glory!" "Up from the grave he arose with a mighty triumph over his foes. He arose the victor over the dark domain and he lives forever with his saints to reign. He arose, he arose, hallelujah Christ arose."

Angels lingered near the grave to simply be in the place of triumph. This was the place where their master of kings and potentate of lords had been victorious over the worst enemy of humankind. Have you ever walked sacred ground? Have you ever been to an historic site? On such ground you feel as though you are a part of the historicity of the event itself. The messengers of God lingered near his tomb to simply be in the place where he laid. They voiced the glory of God's power—"glory!"

My brother and sister, we need to walk this morning to the sacred ground of His resurrection. We need to let our souls tread the holy place of his resounding resurrection to once again be in the presence of the one who came forth. We need to hear the angels shout and shout with great gusto, "he is not here; he is risen" to our discouraged ears.

We soon forget the prayer of Jesus in John 17.4-5. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. Where Jesus asks God to restore to Him the glory he once had before he came to the earth. I believe God the Father heard that prayer of his obedient Son. As he passed through those clouds while those men of Galilee stood gazing at Him, like the space shuttle dropping its empty booster tanks as it reaches the clouds, a change came over the Risen Christ and he was transformed to the glory he had with God the Father before his days of flesh. And the angels once again beheld Him in heaven and shouted "glory!"

My brother and my sister, I commend us to look on up beyond the clouds that hang so heavily over our lives to see the one who has passed beyond the clouds but yet communicates with us in our life right now. He is waiting to communicate with us concerning the least of our troubles, and he wants to come into our lives as our Lord to take care of us. All glory to Him as both we and the angels shout "glory!"

Say these words with me: "Jesus is above all!"

### Jesus Is Above All In His Domain

Yes, Jesus is above all! He is above all in His domain. Hear and hear deeply within your soul the words of the Scriptures that speak of His domain. He is in the domain of heaven again. He sits at right hand of God the Father (Nicene Creed)...And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not

Assistant Pianist, Teresa Taylor; Project Promoter, Stacy Smith; Reporter, Betty Moody; Assistant Reporter, Doris Bottoroff; Historian, Anita Akers; Advisory Committee, Brethren Gary Smith, Matt Hudson, Roger Akers, David Lawrence.

Bro. Matt Hudson led the closing prayer. There were forty-five members and six visitors present.



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## Second Annual Winter Camp Set

by Dwight Lindsey  
State Youth Director

"For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

II Corinthians 4:16-18 is the passage to inspire our theme, "Inside Out," for this year's Second Annual Winter Camp. We ask that you pray for all the hearts taking part in this event to be receptive to what God is going to do leading up to, during, and after December 29-31, 2010.

Winter camp will be held at Campground Baptist Church, 20577 Hwy 53, Gulfport, MS 39503. Our speaker will be Bro. Tracy McMillen and our music will be led by CenterTree. There is still plenty of time to get your youth registered. Camp will cost \$65 per camper. Your churches registration form and a non-refundable registration fee of \$35 is due in to the Youth Department by November 26. The medical/media release forms and the remaining balance of \$30 dollars per camper will be due at camp on December 29th. If you have any questions or have not received a registration packet, please don't hesitate to call, text, email, or message our Facebook page.

made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end...

His domain is that he will come again. John 14.1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

His domain is that of bodily resurrection of those who are dead. Christians believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead because Jesus told us it is so. 1 Thessalonians 4.16-18 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.

His domain is to establish the kingdom. Luke 10.17-

continued on page 7

# Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Sidney & Pat Davis



October 1, 2010

Greetings from the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home:

We would like to express to you our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for your prayerful and financial support during the past year. Because of your love and concern in helping boys and girls in need you have made a difference in preparing their lives for the future.

First and foremost, the most important preparation one can make for the future is to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. It is a joy to report that three of the boys and girls at the Home came to know Christ as their personal Savior during this past year.

There is another area that is vitally important for one's future life. And that is receiving the proper training in the basic tenets of faith as outlined in the scriptures. You have helped these young people to be placed in a better position to prepare themselves in a good home setting that promotes the building of Christian character that well equips them for their future lives.

As you are aware, October and November are Special Emphasis months for the Children's Home each year. The Lord has been gracious in giving us the ministry of caring for children who are in need. Your help during this Special Emphasis is important to the ongoing operation of the Home. Indeed, "Helping Children Prepare for the Future" has been our goal and continues to be so.

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 will help prepare them for the future.

Helping Children Prepare for the Future,  
Sidney D. Davis, Director

## Special Emphasis - October - November 2010

## Jesus is Above All

continued from page 6

18 "And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

His domain is to reign for-

ever. Handel's "Messiah" echoes the words of the Scriptures when the singing repeats and repeats: "He shall reign forever, and ever."

Yes, Jesus is back in heaven! "Glory and hallelujah and praise God" so say all the created beings there! Yet the messenger of God clearly told us "this same Jesus" that you observe going up, will come down again in like manner. "I did not see Him going up, but I will see Him com-

ing down." He is coming with clouds. Every eye shall see Him. He will come with his holy angels to gather those who are his elect from the four corners of the earth. What great shouts of glory and hallelujah from all those redeemed from all the ages will be chorused in unison to the one who is the worthy Lamb of God.

### Conclusion

My sister and my brother let

us look up to catch a glimpse of glory bright. Jesus is above all. In John Bunyan's great story of "Pilgrim's Progress", he told the story of the man with the muck rake. All he could do was to look downward as he raked back and forth his sticks and straw and dust. He could not look anyway but downward as he continued to rake and rake. Above Him stood an angel who proffered Him a golden crown if he would but look up. He continued with

his muck rack and attentively gave his focus to the sticks and straws on the floor while ignoring the golden crown above his head. Let us look up to see the crown being offered to us as his children. Let us look up and look from this place of benign activity to the place of the one in whose presence all join the angels in shouting "glory!"

Say these words with me: "Jesus is above all!"

## BMA OF MISSISSIPPI MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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



### God Is Good

He is good all the time. In the 1994 annual state meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi, the messenger body elected me as State Missions Director. At that time, I had been serving as your missionary to the Philippines since April of 1976. Faye and I grew to think of the Philippines as our second home and the people as our people. At the first contact from the Missionary Committee that I was being considered I needed some time with the Lord. Within the next couple of weeks something began to happen, the Lord's presence moved within me. After a strong leading of God the Holy Spirit, I accepted the position and moved back to

the United States in November of 1994.

The years of working as your Director of Missions have been rewarding. I will not reminisce other than to say it has been fulfilling to see how the Lord has blessed us with a beautiful Missions Complex, and with the expansion of Caucasian missions, while at the same time initiating a strong Hispanic and Afro ministry.

### Special Encouragement Relative to the Revolving Loan Fund

The Revolving Loan Fund is an inspirational ministry to missions. The 1994 annual audit revealed a total of all funds of \$3,280,922, and this stood as an encouragement to the BMA people of

Mississippi. It not only revealed progress financially, but showed where the hearts of our people were. The annual audit for the fiscal year of 2009/2010 reveals that our total funds are now at \$14,902,168. This amount has even grown since the July 31 close of our fiscal year.

For most of the years of my tenure as director I have had the encouragement and strength of having Mrs. Lori Garrett as our accountant except for periods of maternity leave. Mrs. Garrett has a degree in accounting from the University of Southern Mississippi and she is a very capable and responsible person. Personally, I could not think of being here without her.

My resignation has been with special consideration with the Revolving Loan Fund in mind. Bro. Lavell Lee came on board as manager of the RVLFF department almost three years ago. He was selected as manager due to his tenure as trustee and chairman, his financial experience, and his show of deep concern for the responsibilities of that department. Bro. Lee has agreed to remain as manager of RVLFF during this transition period. Bro. Lee's tract record validates his worthiness and ability of such position of responsibility.

### Missionaries

Bro. Joseph is realizing growth in the areas of the attendance, offerings and spiritually. According to his report plans are in motion to organize Maple Street into a New Testament Church in the near future. Please pray for them.

### Homestretch Baptist Church of Cleveland, MS

On September 25, 2010, at 2:00 P.M., Bro. Ed and the people of Homestretch were excited that they were able to organize into a new Testament church in their new building with 22 charter members. The participation of nearly 90 of our BMA people was an encouragement to this new church. Bro. Ed and Homestretch chose Bro. Mike Lefler to bring the organization message. Bro. Lefler was the pastor of Liberty Memorial of Memphis, Tennessee, when Bro. Ed came into the BMA. I just got off the phone with Bro. Ed, and he said he baptized two Sunday and have others that will be baptized soon.

### New Heart Mission

The office just received a call from Bro. Boone that the correction of Mrs. Boone's foot surgery was healing as expected, but another complication has developed and at this moment she is in surgery. Pray for her speedy recovery. The effort of New Heart to purchase about 7 acres of property about 4/10 of a mile south of their present location is now in motion.

### First Hispanic Mission, Ripley

Bro. Elvis plans to organize First Hispanic into a New Testament Church on Saturday, November 27, 2010, at 2:00 P.M. We ask for your presence at this very special service.

### September Statistics

*El Camino:* For the month of September, in Laurel, Bro. Estuardo reached out and visited 13 homes, made 23 soul talks and had 13 professions of faith. They had an average of 76 in their Worship service. The Lord blessed El Camino with an average weekly offering of \$677.41. They rejoiced with 8 baptisms.

*Petal Mission:* Bro. Estuardo's Petal Mission was very successful in September. In Petal there were 4 homes visited with 8 soul talks. He had 1 profession of faith. They had an average Sunday School attendance of 6. They were blessed with a very good offering.

*Maple Street:* September was a blessed month for Bro. Joseph. He visited 25 homes, made 62 soul talks, and had 6 profession of faith. Their weekly average Sunday School attendance was 21. For morning worship they averaged 32, and had a weekly average offering of \$398.67.

*New Heart:* Bro. Boone has had a blessed month of 163 home visits and 24 soul talks. New Heart saw 1 professions of faith. Their weekly average Sunday Morning service was 37 and evening worship 29. The Lord blessed with an average offering of \$285.67. The mission was also blessed with 4 members by letter.

## Homestretch Mission Organization Photos



**Above** - These two photos include the men who served on the presbytery at the Homestretch Mission organization.



**Left**  
The congregation present at the organization meeting.

**Right**  
A luncheon followed the organization service.



## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White



## The Blame Game

You know, as well as I do, that most married couples play the blame game. If something goes awry, both partners automatically know the other one is to blame.

I always knew that if a tissue was left in a pocket and became shredded in the washing machine that my husband was the one who did that dumb thing! Well, he has been living with Jesus for eleven years now and he still occasionally will come back and put a tissue in the washing machine!

The blame game won't last forever as Paul wrote to the Ephesians and told them, "...that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." Eph. 1:4b