

# Baptist

## Mississippi

# Journal

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

OCTOBER 15, 2011

VOL. 65 No. 20

## BMA of Mississippi Elects New Missions Director, Youth Director Resigns, Children's Home Challenged Annual Session Held At Southeastern College

### by the Editor

The 2011 Business Session of the Baptist Missionary Association was held Tuesday, October 18. The anticipated election of a new missions director seemed to help in the attendance at this year's meeting. Attendance was up slightly from the 2010 session. The final enrollment report showed 82 churches represented by messenger with an additional 43 by letter. 184 registered messengers and 52 visitors were recorded.

This year's meeting was the first to use the "ballot" system. This worked well and only those individuals with ballots were recorded voters.

\$5,435 was given to the minute fund with an additional \$700 given for the program fund. There were no petitionary letters, although El



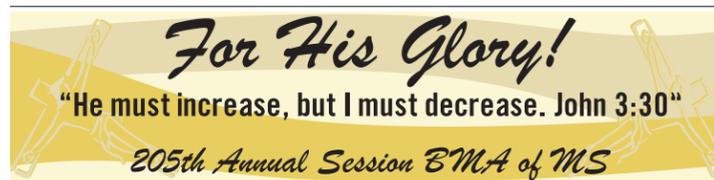
Reed Guy urges the messengers and churches to support Proposition 26.

Camino Mission in Laurel organized into a New Testament Church.

National Departments represented by Bro. Phil Knott.

He gave information about both LifeWord and Missions. Clerk Danny Pitts reported for Dr. Charley Holmes of BMA

He gave information about fice. Geraldson addressed the messengers after his election and gave an encouraging vi-



Seminary. Holmes was unable to attend due to the death of a Seminary employee's spouse.

The election of officers was presented early in the session and each of the current officers was reelected for an additional year. The photo below is from the 2010 session.

Reed Guy, a representative of the Initiative 26 proposal before Mississippi voters this November, spoke and urged the passage of this measure. It would define that life begins at conception and would legally prohibit the practice of abortion.

He indicated that Mississippi would be the first to pass such a measure, but that it is expected that 12 to 16 other states will have similar initiatives on the ballot for the 2012 elections.

### New Missions Director

Bro. Larry Geraldson was presented by the Missions and Revolving Loan Fund Trustees as their nominee for Missions Director. He was elected without opposition.

Bro. Geraldson has served as a national BMA missionary, a BMA pastor, and as an assistant director of Missions in the National Missions Of-

sion statement about his desires and goals. He called for each pastor to find himself a



Larry Geraldson

young Timothy to "pour himself into". He also said his vision was to begin 7 new churches each year with the goal of doubling the BMA of Mississippi within 20 years.

Geraldson and his wife currently live in Arkansas and it is not known by this writer their personal plans to move and to begin his work.

More information will be available in the next issue from the Missions Office.

### Departments Stress Finances

Financial conditions of various areas of the association work are less than stellar. The

economic conditions of our nation have taken their toll on many of our churches and likewise on some of our departments. Southeastern College reported operating at a deficit for the past year as well as financial concerns over the last few years.

Dr. Medrick Savell, president of SBC, addressed these in his personal report. That report is listed in this issue of this publication.

The Missions Department also is short financially. Newly elected director Larry Geraldson stated that even though the Trustees have approved a loan to operate with, he did not want to begin his work with borrowed money.

He urged each church to send a \$300.00 offering to the missions office to help alleviate the current shortage.

### Youth Director Resigns

Dwight Lindsey, who has been serving as the State Youth Director, offered his resignation after giving his report. His resignation will be effective December 31, 2011. He urged our churches to support the winter conference held be week after Christmas for our teenagers.

### Missions Report

The three missionaries currently working under the state missions office gave their reports. Each was encouraging and progress on each field was being made. The two Hispanic



2011-12 officers - left to right - President Shane Singleton, I VP Ken Riley, II VP Gary Smith, Clerk Danny Pitts, Asst. Clerk Justin Rhodes and Director of Public Information Don Brown.

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# Southeastern Baptist College

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



Dr. Medrick Savell  
President

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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BMA OF MISSISSIPPI OCTOBER 18, 2011

We are glad that you chose to meet again this year on the campus of Southeastern Baptist College. The theme for this meeting, FOR HIS GLORY, expresses the Purpose of SBC. The first part of our Mission Statement says, "The purpose of Southeastern Baptist College is to glorify God ...." I still believe that God led in the establishment of this college over 60 years ago and that He is still using it to bring glory to Himself.

This has been a year of blessings from the Lord. It has had its highs and lows, but God's hand has been seen in each

part. Progress has been made in several areas.

The Lord continues to be faithful and has assured me that there are good reasons to be optimistic about the future of the college. He has made us a lot of promises in His Word that I have believed, preached, and followed for years, and I have found that He always keeps His promises.

But we are still having a very difficult time. The economic condition of our country has affected us, like it has most people. The results from several aspects of the economic condition has caused a serious financial condition at the college. I hope you will listen closely to our report. I want to share my heart with you.

I have learned, as many of

you, that God allows or sends problems, troubles, and hard times to the faithful as well as to the unfaithful. But He always has a good purpose for our sufferings. "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." (Rom. 8:28). He tells us to "Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." (Ps. 50:15). We are taught that we have a high priest which can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities. So His word says, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Heb. 4:16). His Word also teaches us, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." Such passages as these cause me to call upon Him, trust Him to work it all out and bring us through this difficult time. We will be a better college when He is through teaching us that He is for us and wants us to wait until His purpose has been finished in us. Then we will glo-

rify Him and even be thankful for the hard times.

I am still learning. I have had troubles and problems all my life. I have been wrong many times, but He has never failed me or His people.

We are also taught that faith without works is dead. Therefore we have been working all we can to do our part and to be faithful to Him. There is a group of dedicated people working hard at Southeastern Baptist College. I appreciate their faithfulness to the college.

The following is a summary of the situation.

### RECORD OF DEFICIT THE FACTS

For the last few years, we have spent more than we received. The extra money came out of savings that we had. The amount of the deficit was lowered each year, but on June 30, 2011, it was still \$49,317.00.

#### I. THE PROBLEMS.

A. The amount received from Foundation dropped from \$40,000, to \$28,000, to \$20,000, then back to \$30,000 during these years. That was a loss of \$42,000.

B. After three years of growth in enrollment (averaging 6% each year), there was a sudden drop in enrollment this past year, a drop of 16%, with a loss of @ \$50,000.

C. On March 25, 2011, we received a letter from ABHE, the accrediting agency, placing the college on "Warning Status" due to the three consecutive years of net losses. At this time, that is just a warning; but a warning means "You must do something about this, or else it will be worse."

#### II. ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COLLEGE AND SOME RESULTS.

A. Back in 2008, we started implementing some things to increase enrollment.

1. Began working to get On-Line Courses. Three On-Line courses were offered in the Fall, 2010, semester with 39 hours being taken. Since then, the number of courses offered, number of students taking them, and the number of hours taken have increased each semester.

2. Began designing a Four-Year program in Business, to expand the Two-Year program to Four-Year.

The Four-Year Business pro-

gram was approved in June, 2011, and the third-year courses were offered in the Fall, 2011, semester. Seventeen students are enrolled in business Program.

3. More aggressive recruiting was begun.

Twenty-nine students were enrolled in Fall, 2011, who were not enrolled in the previous semester (more than in recent yrs.).

We believe that with three Associate (2-year) degree programs and two Bachelor (4-year) degree programs, the enrollment will increase if we are actively recruiting new students.

#### B. Efforts to Increase Income

1. A number of churches and individuals are giving faithfully to build up the revenues of the Foundation.

Contributions to the Foundation for the year 2010 - 2011 were \$109,181.

2. At the Trustee Meeting, May, 2011, I explained the situation (up to that point) to the trustees and asked them to help raise funds to erase the deficit. Almost all of them have helped.

I appreciate the interest shown by the trustees, their faithfulness, recommendations, and advice. Our October meeting was a productive one.

3. I, as president, have asked local associations and churches to pray for the college and give special contributions to lower the deficit. Eight associations have given \$4,800.00 in special contributions since June 1.

Other Special Emphasis offerings from churches and individuals has been \$8,500.00.

4. Recently, the administrators have been working on a fund raising project called "The 10 X 10 Project." It is ready to present at this time.

5. Serious efforts were begun to evaluate the budget, to cut expenses and increase income in the new year.

#### C. Efforts to Cut Expenses.

1. We limited the amount that each one can get from in-house scholarships. Those are really discounts given by the college that have no cash to cover them. The amount for those was reduced for this semester by \$3,197 from 2010.

2. We put a freeze on spending unless absolutely necessary.

3. The administrators cut expenses by more than \$60,000 from the 2011-2012 budget.

## Buddy Cameron with the Lord

Rev. Luther Lamar "Buddy" Cameron of Sumrall, Mississippi, passed away on Thursday, October 6. He was pastor of East Main Baptist Church in Lumberton. Bro. Buddy had been in failing health in recent

years. He pastored a number of churches in our association and was faithful in his service.

He is survived by his wife, Diane Cameron of Sumrall; two sons, Brad Cameron of Knoxville, Tennessee and Justin Cameron of Sumrall; a sister, Mavis Nobles of Pontchatula, Louisiana; and two grandsons, Chance and Caleb.

Memorial services were held at East Main Church.

**Editor's note:** Bro. Cameron was a trustee for the Publications Department when this editor was elected in 1978. He was multi-talented and was always available for service when his health permitted. We pray for his family.



\$125 Per Person by October 17, 2011. Register on-line at [www.DiscipleGuide.org/nsa](http://www.DiscipleGuide.org/nsa) or print the form and mail it with your check to the DCM office. Paid registration is non-refundable after the cut-off date.

Make your reservations at the Hilton Convention Center Hotel or the Hilton Promenade by calling 1-800-445-8667 or direct at 417-336-5400 by October 17. The parking garage is \$8 per day and there is limited free parking. Group rate is \$127 per night with up to four in the room.



## Commission on Senior Adults

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



### 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

#### Greetings

I bow my head and my heart to the good Lord for seeing me, and you, through another year. I count it a special honor and privilege to once again stand before the messengers representing the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. I believe we are among those left in the world who believe the Holy Scripture to be the very Word of God. We believe in the Deity of Jesus Christ. We hold dear the Doctrine of Blood Atonement. We believe in the Genesis account of Creation, and we believe that Jesus Christ is coming again. To God be the glory for things He hath done. Let it all be "FOR HIS GLORY."

We are honored to hear reports of the Lord's work here in Mississippi and also from our National BMA work. To hear and know how God is blessing the work of our BMA churches around the world is indeed encouraging. I represent a group of our people who love the work of the Lord. They love the work of Missionary Baptists. I look into the eyes of the Senior Adults in this meeting and see those who love the Lord and His work, and they still support the work with their prayers and their money.

I am proud to be an American and I am proud to be a Christian. I am proud to be numbered with Missionary or BMA Baptists here in Mississippi and around the world. Amen and Amen!

#### Appreciations

We appreciate Dr. Freeman and Brother Lee and their Trustees for providing us office space in the Missions Complex. I enjoy times of fellowship with all those who work over there. My Trustees make a great team and they are all good people. I do appreciate their cooperation and their leadership. My wife Dorothy is a faithful wife and a dedicated coworker with me. She is an efficient book keeper. She travels with me to associations and churches. I enjoy seeing my fellow workers and am encouraged to hear their reports from time to time. In my humble opinion we will rise or fall together.

#### Activities

The Lord and our churches have kept me rather busy through the year. I have assisted pastors and churches when called on. I spent quite a bit of time with Bethel Baptist Church, Louise, Mississippi, this year. Just recently the Lord gave them a good pastor in the person of Brother Jim Ingram. I would ask you to pray for Bethel and all our churches with small congregations. Many of these churches must rely on bi-vocational preachers. These good preachers and pastors need our prayers as well.

I have never made it a practice to share my personal problems with our people. However, an old health problem showed up a few weeks ago. It is called Myasthenia Gravis, which is a muscle and nerve disease. It effects about all the muscles in the body. It starts with my speech and then to my throat. I can't swallow anything. This time I spent a few days in the hospital and received five treatments. Thank the Lord, good doctors, medicine, nurses and machines I recovered nicely. My speech is about back to normal and I can swallow real well. I feel that I am able to resume my full schedule of work. When a preacher can't speak nor eat, he is in big trouble. If I can assist our pastors and churches in any way I will be happy to do so.

#### 2011 Was A God Year

With the goodness of the Lord and the faithful cooperation of God's people your Commission on Senior Adults had a good year. We have promoted and urged every church to organize an active ministry to their seniors. I know there are more churches with a ministry to their seniors that ever before. I also know that there are those who do not as yet have an organized work for their dear senior adults. We will continue to encourage the pastor and the church to get involved with an active ministry to those who have served so long.

Sometime, look into the eyes of that old saint that attends your church services on a regular basis. He or she might have

## Association Meets In Laurel

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missionaries were busy establishing new works in areas close to their current field.

Interim Director Lavell Lee presented his report and thanked the association for allowing him to serve. His report is also printed in this issue.

#### Other Reports

Reports were given by each department and commission of the BMA of Mississippi. Those reports are printed in this issue.

#### Children's Home Challenged

Bro. Matt Hudson, pastor of Hopewell Church, Fulton, spoke to the messengers concerning the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home. He called for the trustees to consider a change in the ministry of the Home or consider closing it. He noted that the home currently has only 4 children and that the cost of this ministry is high for such a low number of children ministered to.

A number of individuals addressed the ministry of the Home. It was pointed out the effect that the ministry has had over the years in the lives of those residents and that the potential is there to do the same in the future.

Director Davis addressed the issue and defended the ministry of the Home and said changes could be considered, but he was opposed to ending this ministry.

Bro. Gary Smith questioned the financial resources of the home and the amount of funds on hand and amount received

been brought into the church in a wheel chair. I have a brother whose name is Jimmy. He is paralyzed from his waist down. He has no use for his legs at all. When they arrive at Springhill Baptist Church, a couple of men help get him out of the car, into his wheel chair and into the church. They do that, not for what Jimmy is able to do now, but for what he once did for the church, and because they love the Lord and they love Jimmy. Look into the eyes of that old saint and you will see some important things that have been in his or her eyes a long time. You will see love, you will see faith, you will see concern, you will see a person that prays for you every day, you will see some dollar marks, you will see some battle



Messengers praying for the work and future of the BMA of Mississippi

annually for the care of just the four current residents.

After lengthy discussion ranging from the ministry of the Home to the fairness of dealing with this issue at the end of the meeting when most of the messengers had left, a motion was made to adjourn. It received a quick second and passed without opposition.

*(More comments concerning this issue can be found in the editorial of this issue).*

#### Worship Time

President Shane Singleton challenged the messengers with his message. He said some of our problems and lack of progress could be attributed to taken our eyes off of God, losing focus and having no fire. He encouraged the churches to keep looking forward, noting that if we look backward we can not go forward. He said greater days are ahead of the BMA if we believe the fire can

be rekindled. He closed his message calling for a time of altar prayer. A number responded to this request.

The annual message was brought by Bro. James Sprayberry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Bay Springs.

His subject was Revival. Using the Book of Jonah, he demonstrated how a number of revivals took place and urged our people to be revival minded.

#### Miscellaneous Business

The Association will meet at SBC in 2012. The 2012 Mid-year meeting will be held at First Baptist Church, Mantachie.

The annual message will be brought by Bro. Gary Smith, pastor of East Fulton Baptist Church, Fulton. A.W. Kirkland will be the alternate.

The midyear speaker will be Bro. Grover Laird with Gary O'Neal being the alternate.

scars, you will likely see loneliness, look closely and you see tear marks. Oh, he or she stumbles at times, but your young people stumble too. Your young adults stumble too. Their hands are wrinkled, tender and feeble, but their heart is tender too. He or she will seldom ask for pity, but in their eyes they are simply saying, "love me, love me." Do you know anyone like that? Most every church has them. Please help us to help them, even if our help is limited.

I think we have had a drop out or two in the income, but we have added some as well. I think all the local associations that have us in their budgets are keeping us in for another year. Nine of the twelve Associations have us in their bud-

gets. We would encourage your church to join this good work by placing it in your budget giving.

#### The 2012 Conferences

The Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso and Pastor Don Brown will host the South Conference on March 27, 2012. The Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton and Pastor Jackie Gray will host the North Conference on May 1, 2012. Both days will begin at 9:30 AM and close around 3:00 PM. As you know the theme for this meeting is "FOR HIS GLORY." I would like to follow that train of thought if possible. We work and serve for His glory. We are to worship Him for His glory.

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# Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

## Some Thoughts on Meetings

Everyone has an opinion and I want to take advantage to share one with our readers. In full disclosure, this editor is a member of the Program Committee by way of my position.

I plan to make the following recommendation concerning our annual meeting.

For the past few years we have completed the business of



Don Brown  
Editor

our Association in just one day.

Several years ago our meeting lasted two full days with a Youth Rally held on Wednesday night. What great days those were with hundreds of young people crowded into the gymnasium of SBC.

We don't have that meeting anymore - although we should return to it or to some comparable alternative. That is a subject for another column.

### Time and Attendance

Near the end of our meeting this year, on Tuesday evening after the annual message, an item of business was presented dealing with one of our departments. The one who spoke to the issue made a motion to ask the trustees of the Children's Home to consider a change in the ministry of the Home or to consider closing it. (This is reported on in more detail in the general report on the recent annual meeting).

At the time this item was brought before the messengers, most were already gone. It was pointed out by the parliamentarian and the moderator that it would not "fair" to those who had already left to deal with such an important item of business. One messenger rightly

stated that just because individual messengers had chosen to leave, did not mean that the Association could not care for any business brought before the body.

Each department had ample time to report to the messengers. Guests were allowed to give reports on national departments and other ministries.

Every report was heard, however it seems to this writer that many became bored and impatient due to lengthy reports by some. It is agreed by all that we must give ample time for reports to be given and decisions to be made concerning each area of our work.

The national association addressed this situation a few years ago. They have a firm "schedule" set with time allotted to each area of work to present their reports and needs.

This is something that would benefit our state work as well. After the anticipated election of the new missions director a great many of messengers left. This is not fair to the other departments and it puts us in peril of not knowing all we need to know concerning the overall health and ministry of our association.

### Finances

Many of our departments reported financial problems this year. Every messenger was not present to hear these reports and to be made aware of the needs and plans of those particular departments.

Had the messengers voted to take drastic action concerning any particular department or work to the point of changing or discontinuing it, those who left thinking all was well would certainly be vocal in their outrage. They would also be somewhat justified that an action of this nature was taken at the end of a meeting when a

great number had left.

Those leaving would however have no valid voice in the matter since they chose to leave before business had been concluded.

Let us do our business in the daylight and in fairness to all. One suggestion, other than a set schedule with limited time for each report, would be to again follow the lead of our national work and make it a practice to have the Missions Report the last item of business each year.

## Publications Annual Report October 18, 2011

It is humbling to realize that this is my 34th annual report to this body. It has been and continues to be a great blessing to be involved in this work.

Our theme for this year's meeting is For His Glory and taken from John 3:30, "He must increase, but I must decrease". When we allow Jesus to increase in our lives and when we do all for His glory, then we will better understand and fulfill the message in this verse.

This is the 205th meeting of Associational Baptists in Mississippi. What astounding changes have transpired over these past two centuries. We are not where we once were, we are not where we shall soon be, and we pray that God will help us to be the people and the work with which He would be pleased.

Your Publications Department agrees that Jesus must increase. For us to have a significant part in this, there is work at hand. Psalm 68:11 says, "The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it." The scripture says in a number of places that we should publish the word of the Lord. Publish in this context means to tell or broadcast by word of mouth. Publishing or proclaiming the name of Jesus will increase His name among His followers and among those who need to hear of His wonderful love, mercy,

## Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"I miss the good old days when pastors wore suits and ties."

and grace. This will increase the size of the company that proclaim His Word. This ministry is vital, but is just one small part of the overall work of "increasing the name of our Savior".

I would like to quote from my report from eleven years ago.

"When we know about things, we are more apt to be sensitive to, or appreciative of, those things. I like to read the Clarion-Ledger newspaper from time to time. Located in Jackson and published on a state-wide basis, I find that I am more aware of Mississippi events when I look to it for information. When I read the Hattiesburg American I find that I am able to get a general knowledge of the news affecting the "pine belt" area of South Mississippi. I subscribe to the local paper, the Laurel Leader-Call. I know that when I open the paper up that the majority of the information will be about the Laurel area. The Clarion-

Ledger makes me feel more like a Mississippian. The Hattiesburg American certifies that I am a south Mississippian. The Laurel Leader-Call supports the fact that I am a resident of Jones County. With each of these publications, which I look at for different reasons, I feel a part of the State-wide, area-wide or local community. Without any one of these sources of information, I would feel less a part of each respective community.

The Mississippi Baptist is the publication that ties the members, auxiliaries, churches, departments, and associations together as a community. We find out about each other, keep in touch with the needs of each other, know the work of each other, and are made to feel a part of each other through the publishing of our state paper. This makes us a community and not only ties us together, but draws us

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Mississippi Baptist

USPS 353-960  
P.O. Box 8181  
Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000

Phone 601-426-3293  
Fax 601-763-4430

Don J. Brown, Editor  
E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org  
Web site www.msbaptist.org

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## MORAL ACTION

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi  
Dr. John M. Adams, Director  
P.O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863  
Email - fbcjdmaj@yahoo.com



John Adams

Moral Action of Mississippi  
Dr John M. Adams  
Director  
www.moralactionofms.net  
2011 Annual Report

Psalms 94:18-19..... "When I said, my foot slippeth; thy mercy, O Lord, held me up. In the multitude of my thoughts within me thy comforts delight my soul."

There are so many issues that Christians face today, that our true pleasure is, and will be, God's Word. Our God will uphold our tottering feet and help us in our anxious thoughts. God will ease our distress and cause us to trust, even when our nation seems to be in a self-destructive path.

### Moral Action Schedule and Highlights

2006-2007 Religious Freedom  
2007-2008 Gambling Industry  
2008-2009 Abortion and Pro life  
2009-2010 Homosexuality and Gay Rights  
2010-2011 Muslims and Sharia Law  
2011-2012 Value Voting

The highlighted theme for 2011-2012 will be "Value Voting." These thoughts and encouragements will be presented

during my speaking and writing engagements. Or course, the term, is self-explained. Voters are encouraged to "value vote." Many voters, including Christians, vote for a "party" and "party candidates." Christians need to start considering how their own Biblical and moral standards either agree or conflict with a "party." I will be encouraging Christians to take a look carefully at the candidates party platform. You can check out www.votevalues.org.

God's Word encourages selecting Godly leaders. Exodus 18:21 and Proverbs 29:2 are examples. Moral Action does not endorse candidates or contribute to funding for any candidates. However, I encourage each of you to study the platform of each candidate and base your decision on Godly principles.

I encourage each of you to:

1. Register to vote
2. Help register your friends
3. Vote Christian principles and not "party"
4. Pray for the election

### Moral Action Service

2010-2011 has been a victorious year as the Proposition 26 initiative has made it to the

ballot box in the November, 2011 election. Les Riley of Personhood Mississippi is to be commended for his tremendous efforts. He and many other Christians have shown true Christian character. Our stand is pro-life. Thanks to our BMA pastors and families for being so supportive and getting names on the Petition For Initiative Measure To Amend the Mississippi Constitution.

During this year, your Director has been to our State Capitol several times. I have had the opportunity to visit with Governor Haley Barbour and Lt Governor Phil Bryant. I have presented our Moral Action agenda to each of them. Ms Adams and I have had the privilege to share with our U.S. Senator Roger Wicker, ( R-MS) and U.S. Representative Greg Harper ( R-MS). We have attended the "Watchmen on the Wall" conference in D.C. in May and were able to interact with other "moralist" across our great nation. I count it the highest honor to represent you as I travel in Mississippi and Washington, D.C.

### Moral Action Support

Your faithfulness to stand with this agency has been the strength upon which we have drawn from this past year. Ms Adams and I thank you for your continued prayers as we have joyed in the work of this ministry. We wish to thank each church and association for your continued financial contributions. There have been sixty-six churches, organizations,

and associations that have pledged to this ministry.

### Moral Action Suggestions

We welcome your comments and suggestions regarding this ministry. We are dedicated to spreading the message of morality through God's word. Please feel free to contact us at: 662-231-3863, by Email at fbcjdmaj@yahoo.com. Visit our website at Wwww.moralactionofms.net or write to us at Moral Action of Mississippi, P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855

Surely, we Christians still tremble at the mighty hand of God. Isaiah stated in Isaiah 13:9, "Behold the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it." Then in verse 11: "And I will punish the world for their evil..."

We know these words are true and they will be fulfilled. So may this great association and this commission sound out the truth of God in salvation and moral values. The battle is ours until the end. We will rest later.

Things to pray for and to do:

- (1) Pray for this ministry and its director
- (2) Promote Moral Action in your church and Association
- (3) Support financially
- (4) Share your needs, ideas and concerns
- (5) Pray for our National Moral Action and Dr Adams.

## Senior Adult Commission

from page 3

Missionary Baptists need a new vision of the person of Jesus Christ. Listen to Brother John in Rev. 1: 17, "And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not, I am the first and the last." Good things happen when we seriously look at Jesus Christ. I think the Theme for the Conferences will be, "WHEN WE SEE JESUS CHRIST." I am not talking about seeing Jesus at His coming alone. I need to see Him now, today. I would like to empathize our worship of Him.

Preachers With 50 Years in the Ministry

We will recognize preachers who reach fifty years in the Gospel ministry in 2012. Forms will be sent to the churches. All qualifying preachers are urged to participate. We need your information by early February, 2012.

A Humble and Sincerer Request

Please pray for your Commission on Senior Adults, pray for our trustees, pray for my wife and pray for me. I want this work to please the Lord and I want it to please and benefit our people.

God bless,  
Vern D. Holifield, Director

## Publications Annual Report

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closer together by its very nature.

I receive several church bulletin mail-outs each week. When each member receives their church's mail-out they know that they are a part of that local church and that they matter as a member. I hope our people feel the same way about the Mississippi Baptist. It lets us know we are a part of something good - something that strives to make a difference in the world. It lets us know we are a part of the community known as the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Every member of every BMA church should receive the Mississippi Baptist. Every member should feel as if they are a

full-fledged member of our associational community."

I feel these words are as valid today as they were in 2000 and maybe even more so. We must remain tied together as one community of God's people if we are to reverse the current trend of decline in our Association. Now is not the time to pull back, but a time of determining to do what is necessary to move forward and make progress so "He Will Increase" as is stated in this year's theme. May God help us as an Association to do just that!

### Finances

We are in an economy that is struggling. The finances of our churches are hurting as the finances of our church families are hurting. This in turn is felt in every area of our work. Our national departments have felt the financial pinch as well as our state departments. The fi-

nances of this work are down somewhat this year. We ended up in the red due to one main cause - Our income was somewhat less than our needs. Monthly donations to this department were down by \$3,500.00, as were some other areas of income other than special emphasis. We are thankful that our church subscriptions remained relatively stable.

The greatest factor over the past few years is the decrease in subscriptions. In 2004 (just 7 short years ago) our total subscriptions were 4,772. As of this month our numbers are down to 3,872. At \$1.30 per month per subscription, you can see that our usable income is down by a total of \$1,170.00 per month. That is over \$14,000.00 per year. That type of decrease precipitated this work becoming less than a full-time position.

Overall, we have adequate

assets to continue to operate. We do appreciate all of the support you give this ministry and assure you we are very careful to use that support prudently.

God has blessed us financially and we are grateful to Him and to those whom He uses to minister in this area.

### Content

We feel our content should honor and glorify our Lord, promote the work of the BMA, keep us informed of our progress, inspire and edify spiritually, and make us feel a part of the BMA community. It should help us to "Increase the name of Jesus".

We still are pleased to bring you regular columns from Tony Cleaver, Travis Plumlee, Barbara White's Soffilthy McNasty and others. This past year we have added the contributions of Bro. Chuck Lee. These individuals do a good job of inspir-

ing, encouraging, teaching and at times entertaining.

We appeal to our readers and pastors to submit short, timely articles. Social and denominational commentary is welcomed. Please understand that we may not be able to print everything we receive.

### Communication

Communicating with your Publications Department is easy. Most of our submissions are by way of the internet and email. Digital cameras make submitting a photo very easy. We do request that each photo be "well lit". A photo will lose quality when it is printed on newsprint and therefore the better the original, the better it will look in the paper. Stand close to your subject. Use a flash. Do not have a dark background and usually you will

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## What Is Breast Beating?

**Luke 18.9-14**

What is breast beating? It is as old as humanity itself. It simply signifies one's feelings in the presence of Almighty God that one is unworthy. Jesus got it right in His story. The man would not even look up to heaven. He continued to strike his breast again, again, and again. He confessed he was "the sinner" of all sinners who ever lived. He was not at all confident God would even hear him. Jesus says he was wrong in his thinking but right in his breast beat-

ing. God did hear him because of his stance of the inward man.

I do not think this man went so far as the self-flagellation of some esoteric disciples of Christianity. I don't think he cut himself or gashed himself to have an outward show. I can see him in the great and grand Temple standing somewhere at an unobtrusive place and half speaking aloud, half lip moving his ardent confession to God. Somehow the physical act of bringing his hands to his breasts in abject subservience and submission to a holy God

got him caught up in the act.

He knew what he was - beyond a shadow of a doubt. He knew what and who God was - beyond a shadow of a doubt. He had to speak the same thing about himself as God already knew. Jesus goes so far as to speak the words of absolute regarding this man - and any and every female of humankind who will come to God this way. What a grand word to be spoken: "He went home justified before God!" Isn't this what it's all about?

The non-breast beating man in the Temple was quite a contrast to the justified man. He was not justified. He had a good time at the Temple telling God (and I would guess all those in hearing distance around him) how good he was. In fact God was lucky to have this "good" man on His team. After all, he was a first round draft

choice of many and he chose to sign on with the God team! His prayer reached no higher than the ceiling, if that high. His prayer was with himself, not to God - his conversation did not involve the things of God.

The non-breast beater, the braggart, compared himself with others. He used human standards to say, "I win!" God used a different standard to say to him, "You lose!" He left the Temple in the same condition he had come; he was self-satisfied with his position in the community. He was at ease with being moral and good by his own standards.

What is breast beating? It is coming to see self in utter and abject poverty in the face of God with no resources to get into God's heaven. It is giving up self-righteousness to rely upon the righteousness of Jesus

Christ. It is He who died on the cross to buy me back from sin. Only by His stripes will I ever be healed; only by His death, burial, and resurrection will I ever be on my way to my home justified. May I beat upon my own breasts like this man to go home with what my heart desires - justification with God.

*He must increase, but I must decrease.*

*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.*

**John 3:30-31**

## Publications Annual Report

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have a good photo for printing. Being in focus is a must. An out of focus photo will look twice as bad when printed on newsprint.

When submitting articles please first consider the reader. They were not at your meeting. They do not need to know who led the singing, who prayed, who was not there or that your group read the minutes and treasurer's report. All groups do those things when they meet. Tell the reader what your meeting was about, what you accomplished and what your plans are. Tell them about the blessings and they will enjoy reading about your group. Many of the articles submitted to us are just minutes of a meeting. Those detailed things that go on are usually not that interesting to the average reader. They are important to those at your meeting, but they were there and they do not need to be reminded of what they did. Be informative in your reports and consider what would be most interesting to our average reader.

### Our Lifeline

The lifeline to our churches is our mailing list. We encourage you to keep your church's mailing list up-to-date. Many people move or have their addresses changed for various reasons and it is important for us to have our list as up-to-date as possible. If they do not receive their copy of the paper, then we are failing to accomplish our mission. As we stated earlier, seven years ago our readership was higher by 900 subscribers. In the past year alone we are down by 180 subscriptions. We encourage each

church to keep their list up to date. Every family in your church, even those who are not faithful, but who are still on your roll, need to receive the paper. That will let them know they are important to you, to their church, and to God. It will show them that God is still working through their church and this Association. This will surely have some impact in the Increase of our Lord in their lives and in the lives of others.

### Esubs

We can deliver each issue of the Mississippi Baptist to any subscriber by email if you so desire. You must be a paying subscriber on a church's mailing list and be receiving a mailed copy. Any pastor whose church is on the family plan can also receive the paper by email. It comes in PDF format and can be read using Adobe Acrobat. Most personal computers come with this program already installed. If not, it is a free download. With this service, your copy will be in living color. We have an on-line archive of previous issues dating back to 2005. We are missing a few, but you can do research online if you need to refer to something in a previous issue. They are in PDF format and can be downloaded for personal use and printing.

### Conclusion

I could go on all day if given the opportunity. Let me just say that we are still blessed and continue to enjoy the work. Pray for us, pray for your Publication trustees and pray for this work. May God continue to bless the work of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi and may we have the mindset of John the Baptist when he said "He must increase, but I must decrease".

### Leave It To Cleaver



Tony Cleaver

JSTMCLEAVER@EMBARQMAIL.COM



ABS \* Camp Ministry

Dwight Lindsey, Director

662- 397-6832

Fax 662- 862-2934

Email: dwightlindsey@live.com

Facebook: BMA of MS Youth

### Director's Annual Report by Dwight Lindsey, Director

*Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*

In my youth 1 Peter 5:5 seemed to be the verse I can most remember echoing in my mind. But, when my elders quoted this verse to me I can't remember them using the whole thing. I believe it truly is an important verse for all ages.

This past year has been a blessing to be able to take part, coordinate, and/or speak at 9 different camps or retreats with at least 600 in attendance and see 35 students come to a place of humility to see God's grace awaiting them in making a profession of faith. I cannot fully express my thankfulness of being allowed to be a part of

this ministry.

As encouraging as the growing number of students and professions of faith, which came from cooperation of individual churches inviting me to help with their events and not by my own power, there have been times of discouragement to how the majority of the churches in Mississippi have responded to Youth Department sponsored events. I suggest that moving forward we take wisdom from the words of God in 1 Peter 5:5 - let us all be submissive and humble towards one another with the younger generation in mind to give us a common vision and goal.

I believe God told us this in this verse not just leaving us with younger submit to the elder because He knows just as many of us have learned that the younger generation will not learn simply from our words, but from our actions. Brothers we are the elders. Should the younger submit to us? Yes! But, we must not lose sight of the fact that our maturity in Christ requires us to also submit to them in humility by putting our wisdom and patience into action and allowing a younger generation to grow.

We do not waver from the truth of God. We teach them as His spirit matures them. They will not be us for some time, for we ourselves are just now becoming who God created us to be.

In this challenge I present the possibility of a new vision, which truly is only the remainder of an old vision. For longer than I have been alive our work has talked about a site for youth camps. I propose that this is the answer to how to put 1 Peter 5:5 into practice as our work in my lifetime has not shown many signs of submission and humility towards one another as a whole.

In making our common vision and goal a place for conferences and retreats we will be uniting with a purpose and allowing for submission as churches that may not be able to agree in a singular conference would be allowed a place to hold separate conferences with the expressed goal of furthering the cause of Christ. Obviously there are many details to consider foremost the will of God, and also including location, size, cost, and paint color with the list going on and on, it is my prayer that we seek and see the will of God.

I present you with a question in hopes that it would spark this vision within you. How many conferences, meetings, camps, or retreats does our association hold in a year and beyond our association how many of these events do our local churches plan each year? Brothers and sisters there is a need. Will we cooperate to help each other?

## National Senior Adults To Meet In Branson

The DiscipleGuide Conference Ministry's National Senior Adult Conference is scheduled for November 17-19 at the Hilton Convention Center in Branson, Missouri. This annual event combines some of the finest speakers, musical guests & artists with fellowship & inspiration for the enjoyment of Senior Adults. The Hiltons of Branson are two of the finest hotels Branson has to offer. The lineup of personalities for this year's conference promises to be one of the best ever.

The guest speaker is Bro David Watkins, Pastor of First Baptist Church in Magnolia, Arkansas. Bro David's down-to-earth and genuine preaching style makes him a natural for this event. He has pastored First Baptist for the last 23 years.

Phillip Allison will serve as Worship Leader. Phillip was born and raised in Taylor, Arkansas. He has served the First Baptist Church, Springhill, Louisiana for over sixteen years as Minister of Music and Education. Phillip is an incredible singer!

Guest Artists include comedian Aaron Wilburn. A featured guest on the Gaither Homecoming tour and videos, he has endeared himself to thousands of laughter-loving fans with his down-home brand of humor as he talks about his southern roots, his family, children and teenagers ... as Aaron says, "There is no generation gap with laughter."

The Gold City Quartet has over 49 hits songs and has earned numerous awards including Album of the Year, Song of the Year, Group of the Year and Vocalists of the Year, as well as many Dove nominations including a Dove award for "There Rose a Lamb."

The Burchfield Brothers are amazing musicians. Jon and Ben Burchfield make music that inspires the soul. Classical guitar, midi-marimba, Irish whistles and recorders make these two artists sound like an entire ensemble! The stylistic diversity of Appalachian, Classical, Jazz, Renaissance, Praise, Worship and Gospel has attributed to the stunning arrangements that have put this Dove nominated duo in demand.

Also, back by popular demand is the BMAA Homecoming! Some of the best musicians in our association will be leading us in an evening of worship. Led by Mrs. Jerene Reddin, this has become one of the highlights of the National Senior Adult Conference.

Attendees will also spend an afternoon at the Pierce Arrow Theatre enjoying the popular award winning Branson show.

Speaker, Branson Show, Comedian, 2 Concerts, 2 breakfast buffets & Homecoming night, all for our Senior Adults for only \$125 per person. Registration can be made at [www.DiscipleGuide.org](http://www.DiscipleGuide.org); follow the Conference menu to National Senior Adult Conference. All the information is found there along with a downloadable registration form if you prefer to mail your registration along with a check.

Conference rate at the Hilton Convention Center & Promenade Hotels is \$127 per night with up to 4 people to a room. Make your reservations at 1-800-445-8667 or direct at 417-336-5400.

We are excited about this year's event and look forward to seeing you there. Please call or e-mail the office with any questions at 501-513-3726 or [tricia/k@conwaycorp.net](mailto:tricia/k@conwaycorp.net).

### Letters From Our Readers

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

#### Rocky Goowin updates ministry

Dear Friends of EIM:

As you read this letter, I will be in the Philippines with our first Barnabas Touch group. We will be doing a Bible confer-

ence as well as preaching every evening. The men that are going with Mike and I are Bro. Joel Slayton, Bro. Robert Gunnels and Bro. Danny Bullock.

Dr. Slayton is the Head of the Bible Department at Central Baptist College. Bro. Danny is pastor of First Baptist Church in McNeal, Arkansas, and Bro. Robert is pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Please pray that God would be honored and glorified and His Word will be received openly and lives

## CHILDREN'S HOME

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

### Director's 2011 Annual Report by Sidney D. Davis, Director

#### For His Glory

This year's theme of the BMA of Mississippi's annual session is "For His Glory," John 3:30. It is an amazing thought to consider that we were created by our Creator for His glory. Revelation 4:11 reminds us that the Lord created all things for Himself and is worthy to receive glory and honour because of that fact. In the light of that truth we recognize that the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home is a ministry given to us by the Lord to minister to children in need for His glory.

#### Children

The children at the Home continue to do well as far as academics in school is concerned. Last year each one was on the Honor Roll which means they had B's or better. This year's first nine weeks report indicates they are doing well this year also.

We are grateful for the spiritual blessings of the Lord on the lives of each of our girls and boys. All of them have made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and are growing in their walk with the Lord. They con-

will be changed.

Let me give you a quick update of where we have been in the last few months and how God is moving in areas around the world that EIM is involved in.

The ministry in Honduras has been a tremendous blessing. Shepherd Bags have been distributed by several teams from the states. Many have received Christ as Savior because of the bags. Children have been blessed and I might add many team members have come back to the states with great excitement about what we are doing in that part of the world.

A team has just returned from Lebanon where we were privileged to see over 100 Professions of Faith. Bro. Charles Costa is doing a tremendous job. God is blessing and people are being saved and the work continues to grow. Remember to pray for the Middle East that God will be glorified and Christ will be accepted by those

continue to be active in the church activities at our home church.

### October and November Are Special Emphasis Months

October and November are the months that have been set aside by the BMA of Mississippi as Special Emphasis months for the Children's Home each year. Our goal this year is \$25,000 and we are asking for your help once again during this Special Emphasis period. With your help and cooperation this goal can be met. Thanking you in advance for giving to this ministry for children.

#### Food and Miscellaneous Rallies

The food and miscellaneous rallies continue to be important in the operation of the Home. We want to say "thank you" to all the associations, churches, and individuals who participated in these rallies during this associational year.

#### Christmas Sharing

As you know, Christmas is



SIDNEY DAVIS  
DIRECTOR

not too far off. We want to express our appreciation to those who have shared with the children in past Christmas holiday seasons. Your generosity and thoughtfulness helps brighten their holiday season.

### Mississippi Department of Transportation

There is still no word concerning the proposed four laning of Highway 15 North from Laurel. So at the present time final plans have not been released by the Highway Department concerning this project.

#### Staff

I would like to express my appreciation for the dedicated staff serving you at the Home. Our thanks is extended to them for their dependable diligent work.

#### Trustees

I would like to express to the board of trustees my gratitude for their interest and dedication to this ministry. Your faithfulness in carrying out the responsibility of being a trustee is an encouragement to me.

#### Remember in Prayer

We would ask that you continue to place this ministry in your prayers as you pray. All of us have a calling from God to live our lives for His glory. A Ministry for Children to the Glory of God, Revelation 4:11

## VSM Basketball Returns to Ukraine in 2012

Summer 2012 will see our Volunteer Summer Mission basketball team return to work in Ukraine with missionaries Laura and Andrey Kanyakina. Returning to the same field for the third year has open many doors for ministry. The work is divided into attracting students by playing local tournaments and exhibition games, ministering to local Gypsy camps and sharing the Gospel through our testimonies, Bible stories and Bible character stories. Right now the team needs more players.

If you love to play basketball, but love God more, contact team coordinator Stan Scroggins at 870-562-9409 to find out how you can use your basketball skills on the mission field.

that hear and believe.

We did something that we had never done in Lebanon before. A Southern Gospel trio named NHim went with us to sing and they were received warmly. The guys did a fantastic job. Each day we were in several schools and they sang and we were able to preach the Gospel. In the evenings we were in churches and the guys sang and Mike and I preached. What an exciting time we had! We're making plans to do this again next year and hopefully we can go into Egypt as well as Syria.

Again I want to personally thank you for your involvement in this ministry of reaching souls for the Kingdom of God. Without you we would not be able to do what we do. From my heart I say "thank you." And pray for us that Christ will be exalted and His Kingdom enlarged.

Awaiting the Shout!

Bro. Rocky Goodwin

[www.eimworldwide.org](http://www.eimworldwide.org)

[rgoodwin@eimworldwide.org](mailto:rgoodwin@eimworldwide.org)

BMA OF MISSISSIPPI

# MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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

Lavelle Lee, Interim Director

Annual Report for 2011  
by Dossan L. Lee,  
Interim Director of Missions  
RLF Manager

John 3:30 - *He must increase, but I must decrease.*

“For His glory” is our theme for this year. What a wonderful truth is set forth in this scripture and the theme that we are stressing this year. Our passage of scripture is stated in the imperative mode “must”. If we are to grow as Christians, we must adopt the attitude of John the Baptist and give Jesus Christ His proper place in our hearts and lives. By the grace of God, John the Baptist was great in his heart; therefore, he was great in his short-lived ministry, and he set a wonderful pattern for us to follow. We live in a self-centered world, and if we are not careful, we too will fall into this self-centered trap, and in that type of attitude, we can never truly glorify Jesus

Christ. May we all be instructed by John 3:30.

It is my joyful privilege to report to you today for the Missions and Revolving Loan Fund Departments. This has been a year of much change because we are in a transitional process. But, in the midst of this time, there has been a lot of progress realized for which we give God all the glory and praise for His abundant grace and blessings that have brought good progress in our areas of responsibility.

In our New Heart Mission, with missionary pastor Bro. Ray Boone, we purchased front property on Hwy. 11 south of Hattiesburg, MS. The land was completely restructured, and a beautiful building has been completed and put in use, even being able to put in some asphalt for parking and driveway. They are growing and doing well. We were blessed to have several local associations participate in purchasing the

property which was paid for in full by the time we closed on the purchase of the land. A lot of free labor was given by the Mississippi Classic Builders for Christ and The Master’s Builders. The members of the mission itself put in much work as well as giving sacrificially financially. We are thankful for all the support in prayers, money and labor. They are experiencing steady growth.

Our El Camino Baptist Mission, with Bro. Estuardo Marroquin, is doing well. They were organized into a church during this associational year. Their church building has been completely restructured on the inside with the end result of their being able to easily accommodate a far larger crowd. We were also blessed to have the Mississippi Classic Builders for Christ come in and do the major reconstruction along with a lot of help from several of our local churches. This work led by Bro. Estuardo Marroquin continues to do well and we are thankful for God’s blessings in all the help we received. This church continues to reach out to Petal, Hattiesburg, and other areas.

Our First Hispanic Baptist

Mission in Ripley, MS, with Bro. Elvis Garcia, is doing well. They also were organized into a church this associational year. Their attendance remains steady and they continue a strong outreach program in the Tupelo, MS area and some other areas also.

Our Maple Street Baptist Mission, with Bro. Joseph Oyeeye, also organized into a church this associational year. They have a predominately young college age membership, and they are reaching out to their neighborhood. Thank you for your good response to Bro. Joseph’s medical needs. This church continues to receive supplemental support for their property payment from Missions as well as from a local association and this is appreciated.

HomeStretch Baptist Church, with Bro. Ed Duvall, in Cleveland, MS continues to receive some financial support from some of our churches, and this too is appreciated. They are a predominately young congregation with a lot of good prospects for growth.

Souls are being won in all our work, and we are thankful.

The audit report you received in our handout indicates that the Revolving Loan Fund continues to remain strong. Gross assets grew by \$198,368.00 over 2010 while net assets grew by \$207,275.00 over 2010.

I want to thank my dear wife, Myria, for her encouragement and support this year. The added responsibility that I have been blessed to carry this year has required me to be on the road a lot, and she has accompanied me at times.

I appreciate the efficient help of our office staff, Sis. Lori Garrett and Sis. Kimberly Glenn. I also want to express my appreciation for all the encouragement from the Missionary Committee and from the Revolving Loan Fund Trustees.

I consider it a privilege to have served as your Interim Missions and Revolving Loan Fund Director, and I am also thankful to continue to serve as manager of The Revolving Loan Fund. We appreciate your continued prayers for us. God bless you, and remember, it is for His glory. He must increase, but I must decrease.

## 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.

### Harmony Annual Meeting

The annual Harmony Association Meeting was held at Forked Oak Baptist Church in Booneville on October 18. Due to the resignation of Bro. Martin Jameson, Bro. Tim Nall was elected moderator. Nine churches were represented with 60 present along with 2 visitors. Officers elected for the coming year are Tim Nall, Moderator; Asst. Moderator, Ricky Johnson; Treasurer, Eddie Boutwell; Asst. Treasurer, Doug Wilson; Asso. Clerk, Mavious Phifer; and Assistant Geraline Phifer. The Promotion Clerk is Tony Marolt. New committee members were also elected. The next annual meeting will be held at

First Baptist in Mantachie with Bro. Jerry Burke speaker, and Dr. John Adams, alternate.

We voted to return to monthly meetings starting in November 2011. Our next monthly meeting will be at Parkview in Baldwyn, with speaker Bro. Jerry Burke, alternate Ricky Johnson.

Dr. John Adams spoke for the Moral Action Committee, Bro. Vern Holifield gave a report on the Senior Adult Ministry. Bro. Bobby Elliott, gave a report on his plans to start a mission church in the Burnsville area. After the business meeting we heard a message from Bro. Elvis Garcia. The meeting was followed by a meal prepared by the host church.

Tim Nall, Moderator  
Tony Marolt, Clerk

### Tombigbee Association

The Tombigbee Association met at Maple Street on October 1, 2011 for their annual meeting. There were 8 churches and 36 present. Reports were given by Wexford Parmer and Roger Akers. After all the business and the election of officers for 2011-2012, Bro. Wexford Parmer brought a great message from

II Timothy 4:1-5 "Little is Much If God is in it". The host church served a wonderful meal. The next meeting will be at East Fulton.

Matt Hudson, Assistant Moderator  
Debbie L. Franks, Reporter

### Church calls pastor

Tiger Creek Baptist Church of Overt has called Bro. Wilkie Parker as pastor. We welcome Bro. Parker and his wife Kathy and looking forward to working with them both.

We also want to announce on October 22 our annual Harvest Supper at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Charlotte Holifield, Church Reporter  
Bro. Wilkie Parker, Pastor

### New Pastor

Rocky Branch Baptist Church, Sumrall, has a new pastor. Bro. Chris Gonthier is on the field. He may be reached at 2401 Rocky Branch Rd., Sumrall, MS 39482. Rocky Branch is in the process of rebuilding after their church was destroyed earlier this year by an arsonist. They continue to meet at the Improve Activity Center in the Improve Community.

### Available for service

Bro. Elvert Necaie is available for pastoral work or to fill the pulpit. He may be reached at 228-234-1644 or 228-223-1166.



### GMA Secretary Reports

Hey girls, this is Caitlin Dalrymple, your Mississippi State GMA Secretary. I just wanted to let y'all to know about our state camp this year. We have a lot of ideas and hope that it's a blessing to everyone. The theme for this year is "Danger Ahead" from Joel 1:15 and it will be on March 15 and 16 2012, at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. We are hoping to have a big group this year so all you GMA girls invite your friends that are not actively in GMA's to come and show them how much fun it is to grow in Christ. Even if you do not have an active GMA group at your church, we invite you to come join us for a weekend full of fun and fellowship. I hope to see a all of you there and I can't wait to see all of you girls there!

Your sister in Christ,  
Caitlin Dalrymple

## Sofilthy's Attic



by Barbara White

## S-M-I-L-E

Smiling is infectious;  
you catch it like the flu,  
When someone smiled at me today,  
I started smiling too.  
I passed around the corner and someone saw me grin.  
When he smiled,  
I realized I'd passed it on to him.  
I thought about that smile,  
then I realized it's worth,  
A single smile, just like mine  
could travel 'round the earth.  
So, if you feel a smile begin,  
don't leave it undetected.  
Let's start an epidemic quick,  
and get the world infected.