

The Baptist

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Why abortion is the most important issue this election

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) -- On Nov. 6, America will go to the polls and elect the next president as well as members of the House and Senate. In advance of this vote, most Americans believe that the chief issue facing the country is the ailing economy. I want to make the case that this thinking is

wrong-headed and that the transcendent issue of this election is abortion.

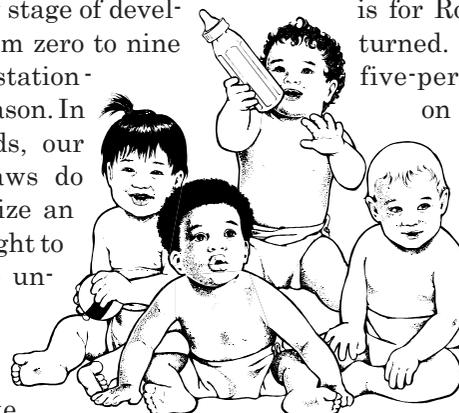
The current law of our land excludes from the human community a whole class of human beings -- the unborn. Right now, under the regime of Roe v. Wade, it is legal in our country to kill unborn human be-

ings at any stage of development from zero to nine months' gestation -

for any reason. In other words, our nation's laws do not recognize an intrinsic right to life for the un-

born. In some cases, animals have more protection under the law than do unborn people.

The Roe v. Wade decision has presided over the deaths of more than 50 million innocent human babies since 1973, and it stands as the singular legal obstacle to passing laws restricting abortion in our country. The only way for the unborn to be protected in law



is for Roe to be overturned. It will take a five-person majority on the Supreme

Court to overturn Roe. Absent such a majority, it will continue to be legal for unborn babies to be

killed.

As of now, it appears there is a 5-4 majority on the Supreme Court in favor of Roe. The candidate who wins the

presidency will appoint justices who will either bolster the current majority in favor of Roe or will make a new majority against Roe. In effect, this election is a referendum on the legality of abortion.

Neither of the presidential candidates is perfect, but they are nevertheless very different concerning the issue of abortion. On the one hand, Barack Obama has pledged his unqualified support for Roe v. Wade. His unswerving commitment to Roe even led him

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Now is the Time to Collect

Diane Ward

National Walk for the World Coordinator

Six hundred and twenty-five people came together for the Central Arkansas Walk for the World held on Wednesday evening, October 10, 2012, at the Conway High School Stadium. A great time of fellowship was enjoyed by all. Several people commented about how much they enjoy coming to the stadium each year and reconnecting with friends from other churches in the area while they support Lifeworld's International Ministry.

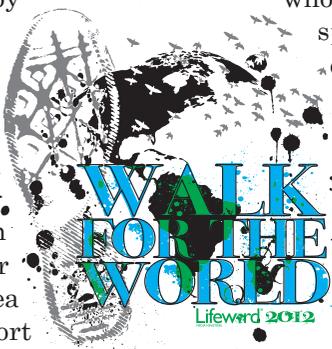
The National Walk date was Saturday, October 13, 2012, and there are a few other Walks planned for later in the month. Regardless of your Walk date, your support is crucial since this event provides over 30% of our annual budget. All donors' Walk contributions go directly toward broadcast expenses.

Now is the all important time to collect your sponsor pledges, and turn them in to your church. For those who registered online and created a Walk page, please send your page out again to the people

who have not yet responded with an online donation. Their donations will automatically be sent to Lifeworld.

In order to qualify for one of the Youth Room Makeovers all donations must be received by Lifeworld on or before December 31, 2012. Our Walk goal is \$450,000. Donations may be made to Lifeworld at anytime by going to www.lifeworld.org or by calling 1.800.543.1090.

Watch for coming information about Lifeworld's exciting new broadcast vision as integration plans with the Mission's Office continues.



Youth Department - Children's Home Committee to Meet

by Matt Hudson

The special committee selected at the bi-annual meeting in May to work with Children's Home trustees and Youth Department trustees will meet before our annual meeting on Tuesday morning. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at Southeastern Baptist College before the Brotherhood meeting at 9:00. The trustees of the Children's Home and Youth Department are encouraged to meet with this committee for the benefit of our association and its mission.

National Senior Adult Conference Hosts The Talleys

by Donny Parish

The 2012 edition of the BMA National Senior Adult Conference is proud to welcome one of gospel music's premiere groups, The Talleys. This annual event is November 7-9 at the newly reopened, Hiltons of Branson, Missouri.

The Talleys have become one of the most beloved and respected groups in Christian music. The east Tennessee family's unmistakable style of progressive southern gospel has kept them at the forefront of gospel music for many years. The hallmarks of the "Talley" sound are their lush arrangements, close-knit harmonies and powerful vocals.

The Talley's top priority in concert is to lift up Christ in their

music while presenting the message with class and excellence. Their professionalism is only superseded by their ability to connect with an audience through warmth and sincerity.

They have enjoyed 10 number one singles, with 2 streaks of consecutive chart-toppers. Their songs and recordings have received awards and nominations from the Dove Awards, Singing News Fan Awards, the Southern Gospel Music Guild Harmony Honors, the BMI Awards and SGN Music Awards. Each member of the Talleys has received individual honors for their work.

Ad and rest of story on page 5

Commission on Senior Adults

Kenneth Flynt, Interim Director
4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440

Greetings once again from the ministry for Senior Adults.

I would like to share a few things concerning our ministry. Plans are in the making for our 2013 conferences to be held at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, on Tuesday, March 26 and with Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Fulton, on Friday, May 17. Place these dates on your calendar and look forward to being present with others for a day of joy together.

I want to share with you the exciting news about our memorial for Bro. Vern Holifield. During the year funds were received to establish some type of memorial for him. The trustees felt that a flag pole to be placed on the lawn of the Missions Complex in Laurel would be appropriate for one who loved missions and was a great supporter of missions. Bro. Vern was a veteran and served his country in the United States

Army. Instead of placing one flag, we were able to get 3 flag poles with the designated funds. As seen in the photo we have the American Flag, the Christian Flag and the Mississippi State Flag. The base and a plaque should be completed by the time the state Association meets. Mrs. Holifield is pleased with this memorial and we almost had enough funds for the entire project.



Kenneth Flynt

Our books have closed and with your support we had another good year. We thank you for supporting the Senior Adult Ministry. I wish I could thank each church and individual personally, but that is not possible. Please accept our appre-



New Flag Poles honoring Vern D. Holifield

ciation for all you have done.

My wife and I have been able to attend several associational meetings in the interest of the Commission and all have received us cordially. It was a blessing to be with God's people. I have also filled the pulpit for

several pastors and some churches without pastors. Thank you for this privilege.

Continue to pray for the Commission and send all offerings to Mrs. Dot Holifield, 658 Joe Perrett Rd, Laurel, MS 39443.

Abortion and this election

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once to oppose a law that would have protected survivors of botched abortions. On the other hand, Mitt Romney has said that Roe v. Wade is a flawed decision that must be overturned.

With more than 50 million babies already dead in America, is it not clear that abortion-on-demand is the greatest human rights crisis of our time? The only reason that people do not feel the weight of this horror is that abortion is largely out of their view. The cries of aborted babies do not escape their mother's womb, and citizens don't hear the screams that would otherwise provoke the repugnance of any decent person.

Proverbs 24:11-12 talks about the responsibility that we all share to protect innocent human life: "Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, 'Behold, we did not

know this,' does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work?"

How does this text inform Christians about how they should vote this November? I would argue that it informs your conscience in at least four ways, each of which I urge you to consider prayerfully.

First, you are commanded to "rescue" innocent human life from being unjustly snuffed out. This command issues from the same God who said "thou shalt not kill" and "thou shalt not bear false witness," and it has the same authority over our consciences. How do we "rescue" the unborn? In America today, we cannot re-

duce the protection of the unborn to a matter of electoral politics. Supporting adoption alternatives and crisis pregnancy centers, for instance, are a part of rescuing the innocents being led to slaughter. That being said, while we certainly should

not reduce our defense of the unborn to electoral politics, we dare not exclude electoral politics from our concern. Thus you should use your democratic privileges to press for the defense of the unborn. If we were in China or Saudi Arabia, you wouldn't have a say in the matter. But in America you do. Why wouldn't you vote to protect life?

Second, at the last judgment you will not be able to claim ignorance about your duty to defend innocent human life. Remember, more than 50 million innocent human lives have

been snuffed out legally since 1973. If somehow you were unaware of this fact before reading this essay, you now know better. You are accountable for this knowledge, and your vote should reflect it.

Third, the Lord "weighs your heart" and will hold you accountable for the way you think about the unborn. Are you more concerned about your economic interests than you are about protecting the unborn? Are you more interested in not being associated with the religious right than you are in protecting the unborn? Are you more dedicated to your partisan loyalties than you are to protecting the unborn? The Lord knows the answer to these questions. Do you?

Fourth, do not be deceived. God will hold you accountable for how you vote. The Proverb says that God will "repay" each person according to what he has done. There are many "works" that we will have to give an answer for at the last judgment, and our voting will

continued on next page

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.

Church To Celebrate Homecoming

Trinity Baptist Church in Florence, Mississippi, would like to invite you to their Homecoming on Sunday, October 28. Bro. Mac Ray Sullivan will be our guest speaker during the morning worship hour, followed by lunch and then an afternoon of Southern Gospel singing with the Pearl River Quartet.

Thank you,
Daryl Wingo, Associate Pastor
Trinity Baptist Church, Florence, MS

Church to hold dedication

Pineview Missionary Baptist Church on Hwy. 613 near Agricola, will have Fellowship Building Dedication/Fund Raiser on Saturday, October 27, starting at 11:00 a.m. The group "Spoken For" from Branson, Missouri will sing beginning at 11 a.m. For more information call Bro. John Mills, pastor, at 601-408-0537 or 601-508-9909 or 601-947-5137. The church invites everyone to attend.

Phillis Morgan

Full Time Music Minister Needed

Immanuel Baptist, Camden Arkansas is seeking a full-time Music Minister. Anyone interest please contact Bryan Windham at 870-833-7744 or the church office at 870-231-6494.

East Central Meeting

The Annual meeting of the East Central Association was held on September 9, 2012 at Fairhope Baptist Church. After opening with prayer and a song, Bro. Shot Stinson brought the message.

During the business session reports were given by state missions. Bro. Paul Lee reported on his Prison Bible Ministry. Our business was taken care of with minutes read and treasurer's report given. We recognized those who have died during the

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Southeastern Baptist College

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

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Volunteers

We are thankful for the volunteers who have stepped forward to help out in some general maintenance and upkeep around the campus. This is the time of year where we put in a little extra effort in preparation for the annual BMA of Mississippi meeting beginning October 23.

Thanks to Robby Walters for some spraying of weeds and grass on the back campus. He has assumed the expense and is providing the labor to kill a special Japanese grass that could take over the campus. Robby attended SBC and

played basketball here in the early seventies. He and his wife Twila and their children are members of Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church out from Ellisville.

Don Guinn is another volunteer who has been a blessing. He has been cutting grass and running our bush hog where needed around campus. Brother Don has expressed interest in getting involved in some repair jobs and he is a member at Lebanon Baptist



Joseph Harris
Interim
President

Church out from Soso.

Brother Chris Gonthier and his son Justin have been doing some weed eating, edging and poisoning of unwanted grass. They have really filled a need in this area. Brother Chris is currently a student at SBC and is the pastor of Rocky Branch Baptist Church at Sumrall.

Brother James Hall and his wife Pat are not volunteers, but have been with the college for 12 years, in charge of maintenance and custodial work. The reason there has been a need for volunteers is because we have had to cut back on the working hours of the Halls to trim expenses, but they have been busy also doing their usual work in preparation for the meeting.

We look forward to hosting the annual meeting again this year. A change in the leadership and direction of the college will be a major item on the agenda for the messengers. I ask for all to make this a matter of prayer.



Above - Don Guinn bushhogging the campus. **Below** - the Halls maintaining our buildings



During Our Darkest Moments, God Is There

by Roy Derfelt

Editor's Note: *Bro. Roy is a member of First Baptist Church, Galena, Kansas, my friend and Virginia's husband.*

Have you ever had a time in your life when you thought everything was over for you? We,

I have - on a little island called Le Shema, during WWII. This was due to a devastating occurrence in my life on June 10, 1945. A Japanese plane sneaked in, showing friendly IFF, and dropped one bomb in Mag 22 area, killing some, in-

juring several of my friends, and injuring me by falling flack. I was there and that scene often occurs to me even now. At that time I asked God for wisdom to accept what was happening. I found it at that time. God gave me directions as to how I should handle my trials.

Now my mind often returns to the familiar time (and times) of the events when I thought everything was over. That is when God gave me the instructions as to how I should handle my trials. My mind was directed to the Serenity Prayer. "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

When things over which I have no control happen, it is then I completely depend on God. When I become discouraged, I turn to God who has promised to help me through these times. God has taught me that no situation should control my happiness or my joy!

Most people believe that I am one of the happiest persons

around and many wonder how this could be with my blinded disability. It is because NO disability can keep me doing what God wants me to do. It is my responsibility to hold my head high and with God's help to just keep on keeping on and do the best I can. God is right there to help me through the darkest moments of my life. I am certain that I can do nothing of my own power, but with God, ALL things are possible.

Spiritual Sight Necessary

A little boy was born blind. At last an operation was performed; the light was let in slowly. Then one day his mother led him out of doors and uncovered his eyes, and for the first time he saw the sky and the earth.

"Mother" he cried, Why did you not tell me it was so beautiful?" She burst into tears as she said, "I tried to tell you, dear but you could not understand me."

So it is when we try to tell what is in Christ. Unless the spiritual sight is opened by the Holy Spirit, one cannot understand.

-Selected

Abortion and this election

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be one of them. Do you think a vote against protecting the unborn will be mitigated at the judgment by arguments like, "Abortion is only one issue among many," "Single-issue voting is small-minded" and "The pro-abortion candidate agrees with me on other important issues"?

Beware of such arguments. God has said over and over that He is ardently interested in protecting the innocent (e.g., Deuteronomy 10:18; 14:29; Psalm 146:9; Isaiah 1:17, 23; Zechariah 7:10; Malachi 3:5; James 1:27). At the last judgment, protecting innocent human life will be seen for the transcendent value that it is.

Will your vote reflect that?

The world is broken, and at the end of the day, we do not put our hope in our government to fix it (Psalm 20:7). Our hope is in a sovereign and just God who will one day make all things new (Revelation 21:5). But our hope in God's perfect justice in the future should never be used as an excuse to be indifferent about injustice in the present. My hope and prayer is that more people will be convinced of that truth as they go to the polls this November. And that is my hope and prayer for you. Don't use your vote to exclude a whole class of persons from the human community. Choose life.

Church News

from page 2

past year in our Obituary report. New officers were elected.

Henry Lott, reporter

Tombigbee Association Holds Annual Meeting

The Tombigbee Association held their annual meeting on October 11, 2012 at Ballardsville Baptist Church. The church served a great meal. The meeting was called to order by Gary Smith. There was special music and Bro. Gary Smith preached the annual messages. After the message the association held the business meeting and elected

officers for the new year. There were 48 present at the meeting. Bro. Bobby Elliott and Bro. Bob Burch gave reports on their mission work. There were no other reports given and the meeting was dismissed in prayer.

Moderator Gary Smith
Historian Debbie Franks

Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Politics & Association Meetings

In this issue you will find a couple of articles that address our upcoming Presidential Election.

We certainly are not endorsing any candidate, but it is so important that when God's people vote, they do so based on God's Word. Too many times people just simply vote based on loyalty to a political party. Often they don't take time to



Don Brown
Editor

review the platform of the party or the detailed plans of the individual candidate. Some justify their vote for a candidate with whom they have disagreements by saying, "But we agree on so much more".

When we ignore biblical teaching and ignore blatant moral issues, we are in danger of being judged by our Lord. How tragic for a Christian to vote and endorse a candidate who holds views contrary to

God's word and commands.

Pray for leadership, pray for wisdom and then vote. Vote the values that are dear to God's heart and those of His people.

Association Time

Our State Association meets next week in Laurel. There are a couple of items that could be somewhat divisive if we allow them to be.

The College Trustees have made a recommendation for a new president. The Youth Department and the Children's Home are under review by a special committee that may or may not make recommendations that would bring serious discussion.

Each one of the messengers and churches will no doubt have strong views on both of these issues. It would seem to be unprofitable for us to have another situation with departments similar to the May 2011 issue regarding the Missions Director position.

That episode caused some division and seemingly broken fellowship. This is something that our work simply does not

need. We can come to decisions without division if we truly are seeking God's leadership, use the common sense He has given us and work to handle each issue in a manner that will be pleasing to Him, bring honor to His Name and take our work in a direction that will insure progress.

We look forward to this year's meeting. May God have His way in all we do.

Letters From Our Readers

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

Church seeks information on former pastors

Dear Editor,

I have been searching for information on two former pastors at First Baptist Church of Calhoun for the past several years. I am trying to locate someone that could help me with information on locating them or a family member. I am trying to get pictures to finish out our pastors wall of pictures. Bro. B.F. McMillin, who served from 4/10/1955-7/1/1956, and Bro Jeff Swinney from 6/18/1961-1/20/1963. If anyone has information on these two me I would appreciate you contacting me, Ruby Bynum, at bynumrj@comcast.net or call 601-428-1901.

Thank you
Ruby Bynum
First Baptist Church of Calhoun, Laurel, Mississippi

Preaching Conference Scheduled

Dear Editor,

Let me take this opportunity to advertise our "Reviving The Passion Of Preaching Conference" at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Saucier, Mississippi, on November 1, 2, and 3. More information may be found on our website at revivingthepassionofpreaching.com/
Thank you,
Bro. Josh Spiers

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"Man... that was a powerful sermon! It was so good I ALMOST turned you in!"

Mission Church Reunion

What - Reunion of former members of Parkview Baptist Church of Gautier, Mississippi.

When - November 10, 2012 at 11:30 a.m. for Pot Luck Luncheon

Where - Facilities of Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi

Parkview Baptist Church, Gautier, Mississippi was a mission project of the BMA of Mississippi. The founding missionary pastor was Bro. Arthur Smith. The church no longer exists physically, but it is forever in the hearts of those who were members.

All former members and friends are invited to this first annual Parkview Reunion. We will meet at Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi for food, fellowship, worship and memory sharing.



Legislators Taking Another Look At State Lottery

JACKSON, Miss. — The chairman of the House Gaming Committee says he will hold an initial fact-finding committee hearing sometime within the next three or four weeks to look at proposals for a state lottery in Mississippi.

"So many people have asked about (a lottery). Legislators put in bills for it — every year. I told them we would look at it," Rep. Richard Bennett, R-Long Beach, told The Clarion-Ledger.

Forty-three states have lotteries, including all but one — Alabama — that border on Mississippi.

Supporters say a lottery would help shore the state budget — and could be earmarked for education — and keep Mississippians from spending lottery dollars in neighboring states.

Bennett said he has the Mississippi Gaming Commission and a casinos' association gathering information for lawmakers.

In 1992 Mississippians voted, by 53 percent, to change the state constitution and allow a lottery. Lawmakers have never enacted a lottery.

"I think the people would probably be for it," Bennett said. "But just because they're for it doesn't mean it's the right thing to do."



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

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

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

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Next president could decide Roe's future

WASHINGTON (BP) -- The future makeup of the U.S. Supreme Court has received little attention this election, despite the fact that four justices are in their 70s and are divided on a whole range of critical issues - including abortion and potentially gay marriage.

But the issue could be making a comeback thanks to Vice President Joe Biden raising the issue in Thursday's debate by saying Roe v. Wade is on the line and "the next president will" get to replace "one or two Supreme Court nominees." That remains to be seen, although the odds are that with the court's age, at least one justice will retire - which would either strengthen the court's Roe majority or tip the balance to set up a reversal of Roe, the 1973 decision that legalized abortion nationwide.

Jordan Lorence, an attorney who has argued a case before the Supreme Court, told Baptist Press that three issues are at play in determining whether a justice retires: age, health and the political party of the sitting president.

Four justices are in their 70s: Ruth Bader Ginsburg (79), Antonin Scalia (76), Anthony Kennedy (76) and Stephen Breyer (74). Three of them - Ginsburg, Kennedy and Breyer -- are on record as supporting Roe. Scalia has called for its reversal. If the court currently has a 5-4 pro-Roe majority, as many court-watchers surmise, then the retirement of any one of these four could have a major impact on legalized abortion.

President Obama and Republican nominee Mitt Romney have made no

guarantees on court nominees - presidents and candidates rarely do - but both have implied they would seek nominees who agree with their judicial philosophy as well as their beliefs on Roe. Obama supports Roe while Romney opposes it.

"If Romney gets to pick Ginsburg's replacement or even Kennedy's replacement, that would be a huge shift," Lorence, who works with the Alliance Defending Freedom, said. "And if President Obama picks the replacement for Scalia, that, too, would cause a huge shift on the court."

Ginsburg seems to be the most likely one to retire. She was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2009 and underwent chemotherapy and surgery, and reportedly had a healthy recovery. Ginsburg even may have a targeted retirement date. She has said she wants to stay on long enough so that her court tenure would surpass that of Louis Brandeis, the first Jewish member of the court who was nominated at age 60 - like Ginsburg - and retired at age 82. Ginsburg, also Jewish, would surpass Brandeis in 2015.

Scalia, Kennedy and Breyer have made no hints about potential retirement.

Historically, justices have timed their retirement so that the party that nominated him or her is in power and can name a replacement. If that holds, then Ginsburg and Breyer - nominated by Democratic President Bill Clinton - would retire only if Obama wins, and Scalia and Kennedy - nominated by Republican President Ronald Reagan - would step down only if Romney wins.

But things don't always go as planned, and that's when the court's balance can change dramatically.

Liberal Justice Thurgood Marshall - nominated by Democratic President Lyndon Johnson - was forced to retire in 1991 due to poor health during the administration of Republican George H.W. Bush, who replaced Marshall with a conservative, Clarence Thomas. Marshall died two years later. Marshall had voted with the pro-Roe majority in 1973, and Thomas has since gone on record as opposing Roe.

Death also can have an impact. Chief Justice William Rehnquist passed away in 2005 while in office, although it did not have an impact on the court's ideological balance because he was nominated by a Republican (Richard Nixon) and his successor (John Roberts) was nominated by a Republican (George W. Bush). If 2004 Democratic nominee John Kerry had defeated Bush, though, then the court's balance could have been impacted.

If Obama wins, Lorence said, "I think we could see a stronger likelihood of Breyer and Ginsburg retiring, but all that would be doing is swapping a younger liberal justice for an older liberal justice."

But if Romney wins, he'd potentially have the opportunity to appoint a replacement for Scalia or Kennedy.

Naming Kennedy's successor could have huge legal ramifications because he has been a swing vote on several major cases. He is the one pro-Roe justice who - if he sticks with tradition - will be replaced by a Republican president.

The five younger justices, barring a health issue or something unexpected, likely won't retire soon. Two were nominated by Republicans: - Thomas (64) and Roberts (57) - and two by a Democrat (Obama) - Sonia Sotomayor (58) and Elena Kagan (52).

Roberts famously provided the fifth vote to uphold the health care law, but Lorence still considers him a conservative on "99 percent" of the issues.

"What he did with the Obamacare decision, in my mind, was unexpected, but I don't think he's shifted from being a solid conservative to a moderate," Lorence said.

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

Proverbs 29:2

National Senior Adult Conference News

from page 1

The Talleys perform over 100 concerts per year and their travels have taken them all over the world. Overseas tours have brought them to Norway, Northern Ireland, Italy and South Africa. They regularly appear on the National Quartet Convention stage, the Singing In The Sun and Gatlinburg Gathering. They have performed on numerous Gaither Homecoming videos and were fixtures on the Gaither Homecoming Concert Tour from 1999-2005. They have graced the most legendary stages in America including Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall, the Ryman Auditorium and the Grand Ole Opry. The Talleys were featured guests on the Billy Graham Crusade and have appeared on television with Pastor John Hagee and Dr. Charles

Stanley.

In addition to the Talleys, the conference will feature the 80-voice, Singing Men of Arkansas, comedian Aaron Wilburn, The Bowling Family, and a trip to the Haygood Family Theatre. Pastor Glen Tropp from Unity Baptist Church in Hope, Arkansas will be the guest speaker with music by Brandon Wilson, Worship Leader at Magnolia Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Registration for the conference is \$135 per person and hotel is \$127 per night with four to a room. Reservations can be made at 417-336-5400 and register at www.discipleguide.org/nsa. All are welcome so invite your friends. You don't want to miss this year's National Senior Adult Conference.



National Senior Adult Conference 2012
November 7-9 - Hiltons of Branson, Missouri

Registration \$125

Hilton Room Rate \$127
@ 417-336-5400

Office: 501-513-3726 or
triciak@conwaycorp.net
www.DiscipleGuide.org/nsa



Don't Disconnect From Those You Love

If we didn't have feelings for them, then it wouldn't hurt us in the first place. You may be going through a really rough time with someone you love. It most often times is someone in your family. It doesn't hurt us if a stranger is mean or hateful



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

to us. But I loved this person. A spouse. A child. A parent. A sibling. We give our heart away to those we love and we get it back broken. Families are supposed to be a blessing. They are supposed to validate and encourage us. We should get joy, and love from our families. But sin in the world has ruined the perfect family. For many people, the reality is a daily hurt. So, we make decisions on how to deal with the daily heart break.

The number one way that people eventually deal with tremendous hurt on an on-going basis is to simply pull away from the pain. If I am not subjecting myself to them, then they can't hurt me. Sometimes, people are not even aware of

how they are trying to escape the pain. They may busy themselves at work. If you work longer hours on the job, then you get to spend fewer hours at home with the chaos and arguing. Get busy with extracurricular activities in the evening, and then you don't have to spend as much time with the source of your pain. Some people have even found working in various roles at the church as a good escape from the reality of a broken heart and relationship. You rationalize in your mind that you are at least serving the Lord.

While the Lord wants us to work and serve the church and others, it should never be an escape route from running from pain at home. We are called as Christians to restore, reconcile, forgive and love.

Don't beat yourself up for the way you are feeling. This is tough. It is difficult. We don't have all the answers. But you

are not going to be able to pick yourself up and do the right thing, if you keep beating yourself up over mishandling the situation. You actually have responded in a normal human way. When people are hurt, we want to put up a wall around our heart so we don't get hurt like that again. The only trouble is; we also keep out all the love. And a life without love is absolutely nothing. I Corinthians 13: 2,3. God is love and so we are the children of love. We cannot wall love out. That is your human response. I can't handle the con-



stant, unending, daily verbal abuse. I am so stressed out with this person. They hurt me all the time. I want to give up.

Those are the normal human responses. But we must find a way through God to show mercy, love, and to never give up. This person may or may

not change. You will have to seek God to find out what you are supposed to do. How do you respond not as a mere human, but as a child of God who has the Holy Spirit inside of them? Just don't quit your family. You want to disconnect? Then, connect! Start finding ways to connect.

At that moment when you say, "It is over, I'm through." Pray. Cry. Walk. Pray until you have peace. Pray until you hear from heaven. We can give up on things. We can't give up on people.

I'm not saying to not set boundaries. You have to set boundaries or lose your mind. And God doesn't create people for abuse. It is not selfish to protect yourself. Communication is where you start. First with God, then with others. Go back in time to a time when you loved this person. A spouse- perhaps when you

first married. A child- perhaps when they were a baby. Rekindle that love. Now, what must you do to find it again? Deep down you do love them. It is just buried under the hurt and pain. You know what? They may be hurt too, and lashing out at you in pain and push-

ing you away when you are the one person they need the most. You be the strong one. You be the one who won't give up on them. You be the one who loves unconditionally. You be the image-bearer of Christ. They push you away, yet they need you. We can throw away paper plates after they are used into the trash. God doesn't make throw away people!

Pull them towards you when they push you away. I Corinthians 13:7 tells us what true love is. True love never gives up. Love bears all things. It hopes all things. It believes all things. Here is a biggy. Love ENDURES all things. Sometimes we never consider that love is enduring something difficult. But scripture states that it is. Jesus endured a lot of pain for someone who hurt him. But he hung in there on that cross for you anyway.

Satan wants you to believe right now that it will never change. But I tell you this: "For with God, nothing shall be impossible." Luke 1:37. Running away is not the answer. Protecting yourself from pain is not the answer. Love is the answer. Jesus is the answer. Reconnecting at that critical moment when you want to pull the plug is the answer. Please, don't disconnect from this person. Never, never give up.

EIM Shepherd Bag Ministry Information

Evangelistic International Ministries would like to announce that we have put together our 2013 Shepherd Bags Distribution Team Schedule in order to allow any interested churches or individuals that would like the opportunity to reserve a date to put together a team to go distribute Shepherd Bags. All teams will travel to the country of Honduras. Each trip will last five days, Monday - Friday and will cost \$1,300 per person. That cost will cover your airline ticket, all meals in country, transportation and lodging. Team limit 4-6 people. We have six available dates left so if you are interested in reserving a date for your group, please call Fonda Norris, Mission Coordinator at 870-226-3626 or Mike Goodwin at 870-234-5319.

Dates

February 11-15	Shepherd Bags (Team Already Booked)
March 4-8	Shepherd Bags Team
March 16-23	Shepherd Bags Team
April 22-26	Shepherd Bags Team
May 27-31	Shepherd Bags Team
July 22-26	Shepherd Bags Team
October 28 - Nov. 1	Shepherd Bags Team

Fonda Norris, Mission Coordinator

Acts 17:30 -31 *The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent, because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a man (Jesus) whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead."*

The Way I Undertsand It

from page 8

would be the ones who would object to what Paul wrote.

If our concern with Deuteronomy 22:5 is modest dressing, we could get some help in I Corinthians 8:13. Here we are taught that if something has no particular value but offends someone, we should not do it. But since this generation is so accustomed to immodesty, this might not help much either. It seems the best way to deal with the subject of modest dressing would be to go to I Timothy 2:9,10. Here the Bible teaches women to dress "in modest apparel," as "becometh women professing godliness." A woman could therefore stand before a mirror and ask, "Am I dressed modestly? Do I look like one who

loves Jesus and would like to see this adulterous generation turn back to God and the Bible?

One might would think that dealing with the subject of one dressing like the opposite sex is not important and should be overlooked. However, it is not for us to decide that. And there is a word in the verse that makes it sound important. We who preach should not forget that we are under a charge from Heaven to "Preach the word" (II Timothy 4:2). In Paul's message to the Elders of Ephesus he mentioned that he had preached "all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27). Once the Lord sent Jeremiah to the Temple with a message for His people. As He sent him He charged him to "diminish not a

word" (Jeremiah 26:2). If we therefore conclude that Deuteronomy 5:22 has something for us, we should passed it on. Another thing, all of us should be like the Psalmist who was concerned about "any wicked way" that might be in him (Psalm 139:24).

Therefore, the way I understand Deuteronomy 22:5 is, along with the references in Ephesian and I Corinthians; whether it is one's place in the home, their hair style, or their clothing, God wants men and women to appear different.



Children's Home Special Emphasis

2012 Goal - \$25,000

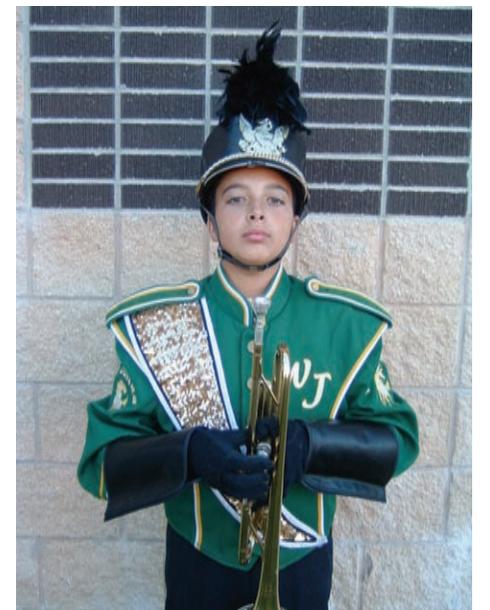
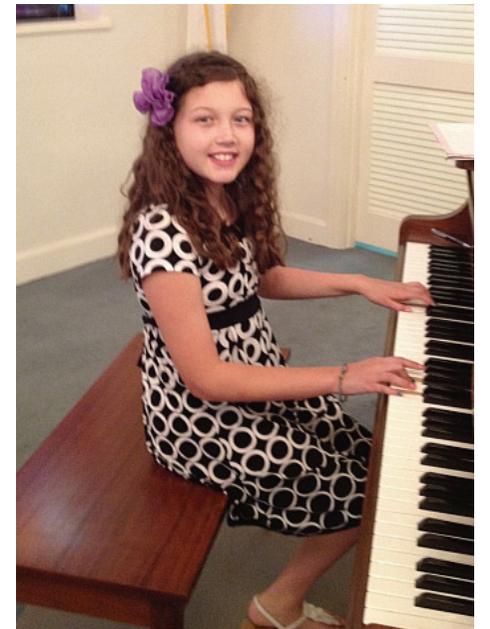


On behalf of the children and staff of the Home let me express to you our sincere thanks for your continued prayerful and financial support of the Home. Because of your love and concern for boys and girls in need you have made an eternal influence on lives that are precious in the eyes of the Lord.

We are grateful to God for the friends and supporters of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home. Your support enables us to share Christ with young people who otherwise might never have heard that He loves them. Your support provides a loving safe haven for boys and girls during the growing up years of their lives. Your support enables young people from unstable homes a stability, structure, and Christian atmosphere that they so desperately need. Your support enables certain grandparents to be freed from the nearly impossible task of effectively raising one or more youngsters they love. Your support enables children who in many cases who basically know only family tension, discord and unhappiness find a life of God honoring family life and love that is expressed in home life and church life. Your support enables us together to help fulfill God's mandate to "suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God." Mark 10:14.

October and November are Special Emphasis months for the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home each year. As you are well aware our nation is going through an economic downturn at the present time and ministries like ours are feeling its effect. This is why your help during this Special Emphasis is important this year. Our goal this year is \$25,000 and there are some specific needs that these funds will be used for to help offset the deficit in the regular operating account. These funds will be used for: 1. Replacing the A/C unit in the boys section. 2. Replace the lawn mower that stopped mowing during the summer. 3. Replace the 2001 van with a newer model.

Pray for the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home that we will be used of the Lord in helping young people grow "in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." Luke 2:52



Sidney D. Davis
Director

*Helping Young
People Grow*

Luke 2:52





Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Collards

by Bill Dickerson

I'm gittin' mighty tired of collards,
just listen, I'll tell you why.
I've et so many of the things,
'til at times I thought I'd die;
Each time we have a meal,
the collards are always there,
Sometimes cooked real done,
and occasionally, they are rare.

When Ma says "dinner's served",
I hate to take my place,
'Cause I know a pot of collards,
gonna be starin' me in the face;
I've et collards boiled,
an' I've et them fried;
I fed some to my old hound,
an' he just up and died.

It may sound kind of odd
but I ain't one to lie,
Ma pulled a new one,
an' made a collard pie.
Pa's got me worried,
'cause he looks a little weak,
Last night I heard him talkin'
'bout collards in his sleep.

I've et them in salad,
an' I've et them baked
But I'll put my foot down,
if Ma makes a collard cake;
It wouldn't be a bit surprisin',
I believe that I would scream
If I went to the table,
and Ma had collard ice cream.

They're listed in the dictionary,
as an edible leafy green,
An' I've been eatin' collards I
ong 'for I was weaned;
I've just 'bout reached the limit
as to what a fellow can take,
I wish they'd dump every collard
into the middle of the lake.

And when I get to Heaven,
I hope that good Saint Pete,
Hasn't gone and planted collards
up and down that Golden Street;
'Cause if there's collards in Heaven
there's one thing I know
I'll catch the first train out,
and join my friends below.

*(This poem was sent to me by a friend
some years ago and while I don't share
the sentiments of the poem, I realize
that there may be some who do. -
Sofilthy)*

The Way I Undertsand It

by Grover Laird

All along I hear or read where some-
one is commending on Deuteronomy
22:5. The verse says, "The woman
shall not wear that which pertaineth
unto a man, neither shall a man put on
a woman's garment: for all that do so
are abomination unto the Lord thy
God." Much of the discussion seems to
be concerning whether a verse back in
Deuteronomy has anything to do with
us in the New Testament age. Indeed
the book of Deuteronomy is given to
the old Mosaic Law. Moses is some-
what going over the laws again in that
book. This 22nd chapter does have
laws that seem strange to us, yet not
as strange as they first appear.

Many of the laws under the Old
Covenant required offerings of blood.
Those people sought forgiveness, wor-
shipped, and dedicated themselves to
the Lord over sacrifices of blood. Since
these offerings foreshadow Christ and
the shedding of His blood (Hebrews
10:1), We now do all of these things in
the Name of Jesus.

These many ordinances that were
written in a book were contrary to us,
or made it very inconvenient to wor-
ship. The shedding of Christ's blood
on the cross took all of these out of the
way, making it easier and more simple-
"Blotting out the handwriting of ordi-
nances that was against us, which was
contrary to us, and took it out of the
way, nailing it to his cross" (Colossians
2:14). Also, the blood of animals could
never take away sin. They could only
picture the blood of Christ that does.
(Hebrews 10:4,14)

There were other laws for God's
people back then that mainly ad-
dressed the question of how people
should live. To say that they have
nothing to do with us would be wrong.
The New Testament says, "For what-
soever things were written aforetime
were written for our learning, that we
through patience and comfort of the
Scriptures might have hope" (Romans
15:4). New Testament Writers often
used Old Testament laws to support
their teachings. Some were used with
their literal meaning (I Peter 1:15,16).
Some were used with a figurative
meaning (I Corinthians 9:9,10).

I think a key to how we should use
the Old Testament laws is found in
Paul's writing to Timothy. Some among
the people were wanting to be teach-
ers of the law, "understanding neither
what they say, nor whereof they af-
firm." (I Timothy 1:7) To help Timothy
with this problem, Paul went on in the
next verse and said, "For we know that
the law is good, if a man use it law-
fully." (Verse 8) If we would use the

New Testament to study those Old
Testament laws, we would find that
they are good when they are used
Scripturally, or lawfully. To put our-
selves where those people were will
not work. To ignore all that the Old
Testament Law said will not work
either.

Another thing. The Law tends to
put people in a bind. They did right
because the Law said, "Thou shalt
not!" The Lord wants us to do right just
like they did. But He wants us to serve
"in newness of spirit, and not in the
oldness of the letter." (Romans 7:6b)
When we are saved the love of God is
shed abroad in our hearts (Romans
5:5). This love will move us to do every-
thing the law has said (Romans 13:8-
10). There is not one of the Ten Com-
mandments that we would break if we
loved God with all that there is within
us, and loved our neighbor as our-
selves.

After God gave Israel the Ten Com-
mandments, He then broke them down
in many small laws. We might be even
tempted to think that they were too
minute and detailed. But God wanted
to be sure that Israel knew and we
know how to do right. Now that we
have read all of those laws over several
times, the Lord wants us to let love
control us rather than the law. It will
mean more to Him and be better on us.
If we will therefore walk in the Spirit,
we will do what is right (Galatians
5:16). Also, trying to make all of those
detailed laws fit different circum-
stances will no longer be a problem.
However, if we are not filled with love
and are led of the Spirit, we will need
to take a glance at the law again--"But
IF ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not
under the law" (Galatians 5:18).

But now let us go back to where we
started. Do all of those laws in
Deuteronomy twenty-two have some-
thing for us? I think so. Look at verse
eight for an example-- "When thou
buildest a new house, then thou shalt
make a battlement for the roof, that
thou bring not blood upon thine house,
if any man fall from thence." If we built
our houses like many in Israel did, it
would be important to built battle-
ment on the roof to keep people from
falling when they sit up there. This
eighth verse teaches us that we should
make our house safe for our family and
those who visit. I believe that each
verse of Deuteronomy twenty-two has
a wonderful lesson for us, either literal
or figurative.

But what about verse five that says
it is abomination for women to wear
men's garments, and for men to wear

women's garments? We do have some
help in the New Testament with this
verse. In the beginning God created
man and woman. He made them dif-
ferent. He wanted them to always ap-
pear different. Satan always wants to
mess up anything that is meaningful
to God, especially something as near
to Him as those made after His like-
ness.

In Ephesians 5:22-33, we see the
Lord arranging the home where the
man and the woman will appear dif-
ferent. Though different, both have
great responsibilities. (See also I Timo-
thy 5:14; Titus 2:4,5) There are other
Scriptures that will help us to get the
full picture here (Proverbs
16,17,18,24).

To make men and women appear
different, the Lord not only gave them
different places in the home, He gave
them different ways to wear their hair.
He arranged it where the woman would
look her best with her hair long enough
to be a covering, while the man would
look his best with his hair not long (I
Corinthians 11:6,14). However, some
think that Paul went on in verse 16 to
void all that he had just said. Surely he
would not set up a truth in several
verses and then tear it all down with
one verse. The People, he was refer-
ring to, that might be contentious,

continued on page 7

Missionary Security Training

The BMAA Department of Missions
in Little Rock, Arkansas, will host Fort
Sherman Academy and a B+ security
training event on December 5-7, 2012.
This event is ideal for present and
future missionaries, mission-minded
pastors, mission leaders, short-term
mission participants, and all others
interested in global missions. The fol-
lowing is a description of the course:
B+ level Intermediate Travel/Security
- 3 days of classroom instruction with
limited role-plays. Student limit is 50
participants. Designed for individuals
who travel a lot or to increased risk
locations, or whose responsibilities
include leading teams or responding
to teams in crisis situations. Covers
travel security, code of conduct, crime
survival, hostage survival, dealing
with government detention and ques-
tioning, counter-surveillance, rescue
behaviors, minimizing exploitation and
basic crisis policy, all from a faith-
based perspective. Class includes some
Role Play scenarios for participants to
apply techniques learned.

The cost for the course is \$250 per
person. You must register by calling
the BMAA Department of Missions at
501-455-4977.