



Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

OCTOBER 15, 2013

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BMA Ministers To Syrian Refugees

"Prayer and Financial Support Needed along with workers"

by Veteran Middle East Missionary

Tell me, what would you do if 675 refugee families crashed the door of your church because they were needy and hungry? I agree, it is a good problem, but it is a problem, none-the-less.

These families came from areas where you and I could never go. Then God, in His time and through sad circumstances, brings them to us. Can we

sit idly by and not help them? This is not an easy question to answer when you do not have a continuous flow of support to help these families. And even if we did, is it our goal only to feed them?

I have always been a fan of the sovereignty of God. I like to be responsive to His moves, especially when they

relate to the affairs of nations and men. I like to see every event as a platform for sharing the gospel. I like to be used of God to snatch people from the fire.

vival meetings at our refugee center east of Beirut and hundreds attended. Many stayed afterward to pray and seek the Lord.

Those of you who follow my Facebook



Minstering to families of refugees

Missions & LifeWord

Leaders Release Report on Vision

The Vision for the Future for the BMA of America's Department of Missions and Lifeword is becoming a reality! After two years of praying and strategizing, it is exciting to see the plan approved by the churches in April coming to fruition. We are thankful to God for His guidance and for the unity our association has maintained throughout this process of re-organization.

There are several developments since our last update. A contract was signed with Delk Construction Company of Searcy, Arkansas last month to manage the building addition and reconfiguration of the Conway campus. We sense God's favor in Delk winning the bid. Delk is a first class organization with deep roots in the BMA, and they are committed to providing the highest quality at minimal costs. Production began on schedule the first week of October, and the contractor's expected completion date is June 6, 2014. This date is nearly three months ahead of our original projection.

Thus, if we run into unforeseen problems, which are, of course, common in construction, we should have ample contingency built in to complete construction by the initial target date of August 31st. We are also thankful God has now provided all of the necessary capital for the project, and none of the

construction costs will be funded through operational income or church offerings. Further, the Little Rock property is now listed. Though the real estate market is not strong, we are praying for God to orchestrate the timing of its sale.

The process of centralizing the support services of accounting, human resources, information technology, production, and development is underway. While we have made considerable strides to this point, the new formal structure based on the model shared at the national meeting will be implemented in January of 2014.

As part of the re-organization process, we are evaluating individual skill sets and job functions of team members to determine alignment changes necessary to strengthen the organizations and reduce costs.

These evaluations will be discussed with the respective boards to garner their input regarding future action. Again, our ultimate goal is to operate with a unified vision and minimize administrative costs, resulting in more of the church's contributions going to the field.

The departmental directors and staffs are thankful for your support and for the opportunity to serve our churches. Please let us know if you have questions.



Personal one on one wormen's ministry

of funds, space and personnel. Our team is visiting every family to map their needs and then decide what type of assistance would be best. The visit is always an opportunity to share Christ.

In the last week, we have had re-

page are staying up-to-date on what's going on here. We have given out 250 blankets, and mattresses are on order. We have set aside \$14,000 for mattresses and clothes.

When you look at the faces of these dear people and see the broken pride and the tears of loss and bewilderment, you wonder what tomorrow will

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CONSIDER THIS

As George Orwell
put it:

**"The further a society
drifts from truth
the more it will hate
those who speak it."**



Larry Geraldson
Director



Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Department of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund



Bob & Edie Burch



Kenneth & Carole
Pollock



Bobby & Lesa
Elliott



Danny & Brenda
Bartlett



Sidney & Becky
Farmer



Ray & JoAnn
Boone



Kelby & Jessie
Johnson



Phillip & Dawn
Burns



Estuardo &
Yasmine Marroquin



Elvis & Wendy
Garcia



Ed & Patricia
DuVall

601.428.8616

www.bmams.org

Year in Review

On October 7th all of our State Missionaries came before the Missionary Committee for annual reviews. At the upcoming Annual Meeting of the BMA of Mississippi, to be held on 22-23 October at Southeastern Baptist College, each of our missionaries will give a report of their progress. Just before each department report, one of our missionaries will share the blessings and challenges they have experienced on their respective field. I know that you will be blessed and I hope you will rejoice with me, as we count our blessings.

Caledonia Baptist Mission, Caledonia, MS, Missionary Bob Burch -

In August 2012 average attendance at Caledonia was 9; in September 2013 their high attendance was 62. Their offerings for September 2013 were \$1,562.00.



Edie & Bob Burch

Crossway Baptist Mission, Clinton, MS, Missionary Danny Bartlett-

In August 2012 the average attendance at Crossway was 11; in September 2013 their high attendance was 13. Their offerings for September 2013 were \$1,468.00.



Danny & Brenda
Bartlett

South Forrest Baptist Mission,

Hattiesburg, MS, Missionary Sidney Farmer – In August 2012 average attendance at South Forrest was 17; in September 2013 their high attendance was 52. Their offerings for September 2013 were \$6,229.00.



Sidney & Becky
Farmer

Freedom Baptist Mission, Burnsville, MS, Missionary Bobby Elliott – In August 2012 average attendance at Freedom was 28; in 2013 their high

attendance was 45. Their offerings for September 2013 were \$1,826.00.

Grace Baptist Mission, New Albany, MS, Missionary Kelby Johnson– In August 2012 average attendance at Grace was 0; in 2013 their high attendance was 19. Their offerings for September 2013 were \$881.00.



Bobby & Lesa
Elliott



Kelby & Jessie
Johnson

New Heart Baptist Mission, Hattiesburg, MS, Missionary Ray Boone– In August 2012 average attendance at New Heart was 34; in 2013 their high attendance was 50. Their offerings for September 2013 were \$1,763.00.



Ray & JoAnn Boone

Day Star Baptist Mission, Sumrall, MS, Missionary Phillip Burns – Bro. Phillip is just now relocating to the field and has not yet begun to report statistical information.



Phillip & Dawn Burns

Way, Truth, and Life Baptist Church, Ripley, MS, Pastor & Hispanic Missions Coordinator, Elvis Garcia– In August 2012 average attendance at Way, Truth and Life was 111, in 2013 their high attendance was 119. Their offerings for September 2013 were \$5,299.00.



Wendy & Elvis Garcia

Way, Truth, and Life Baptist Mission, Tupelo, MS, Missionary Humberto Navarro– In August 2012 average attendance at Way, Truth and Life was 23; in 2013 their high

attendance was 35. Their offerings for September 2013 were \$354.00.

Way, Truth, and Life Baptist Mission, Oxford, MS, Missionary Erlin Pech– In August 2012 average attendance at Way, Truth and Life was 9, in 2013 their high attendance was 28. Their offerings for September 2013 were \$332.00.



Humberto & Rogelia
Navarro



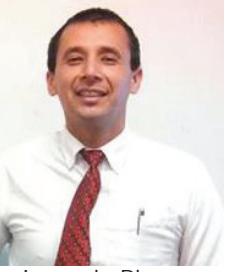
Erlin Pech

El Camino Baptist Church, Laurel, MS, Pastor & Hispanic Missions Coordinator, Estuardo Marroquin– In August 2012 average attendance at El Camino was 99; in 2013 their high attendance was 134. Their offerings for September 2013 were \$4,145.00.



Yasmine & Estuardo
Marroquin

El Camino Baptist Mission, Hattiesburg, MS, Missionary Inocenio Rivera– In August 2012 average attendance at El Camino was 10; in 2013 their high attendance was 15. Their offerings for September 2013 were \$314.00.



Inocenio Rivera

El Camino Baptist Mission, Biloxi, MS, Missionary Lorenzo Mendoza– In August 2012 average attendance at El Camino was 0; in 2013 their high attendance was 12. Their offerings for September 2013 were \$125.00.



Lorenzo Mendoza

were \$0.00.

Homestretch Baptist Church, Cleveland, MS, Pastor & African American Missions Coordinator, Ed DuVall–



Ed & Patricia DuVall

In August 2012 average attendance at Homestretch was 8; in 2013 their high attendance was 35. Their offerings for September 2013 were \$2,864.00.



Donnie & Jewel Loggins

Harvest Baptist Mission, Olive Branch, MS, Missionary James Cook – In August 2012 average attendance at Harvest was 4; in 2013 their high attendance was 15. Their offerings for September 2013 were \$125.00.



James & Delores Cook

Collectively, our missionaries reported 4,973 contacts made between August 2012 and August 2013 and 3,425 times they shared the gospel. Over 447 people trusted Christ, 52 of them were baptized and 30 joined by letter. Average weekly attendance at all of our mission works, as of the end of August 2013, was 569 as compared to 391 the year before. In September our missionaries reported 75 professions of faith, 22 baptisms and 3 joined by letter.

Missions Updates

Bro. Danny Bartlett was recently approved and recommended to serve as a State Missionary to Clinton by the Missionary Committee. The sponsoring church of this mission, Wilder-

continued on page 3

DiscipleGuide

Scott Attebery, Executive Director
 Email: scott@discipleguide.org
 Facebook: Facebook.com/
 scott.attebery
 Twitter: @scottattebery



Scott Attebery

DiscipleKids Paints a Pretty Picture

Coloring sheets, watercolors and craft projects are great. They were always my favorite part of Sunday school. I have fond memories of one of my childhood Sunday school teachers saying, "That's a pretty picture!"

Thankfully, my childhood experience in church consisted of more than activity sheets. Instead, my teachers worked hard to communicate biblical truths on my level.

That's the most difficult part, isn't it? Every time I talk to my son about Christ, I think to myself, "If he was ten years older, this would be easier to explain!" Maybe you've felt the same way. If so, you'll be glad to know DiscipleGuide offers tools to equip you for the job at hand.

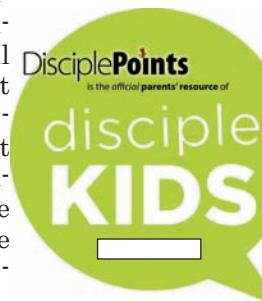
Every parent wants their child to grow up in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). That requires parents and teachers to teach God's Word, "diligently to your children" (Deuteronomy 6:7). Many parents and teachers find it difficult to teach on a child's level. Many give up and opt for having arts and crafts time with-

out much teaching.

But let's face it—a children's program that consists solely of activities and coloring sheets without solid biblical teaching will not produce young disciples. To put it another way, coloring sheets alone won't fulfill the Great Commission.

DiscipleGuide understands the need to help teachers and parents communicate Scripture on a child's level. That's why our DiscipleKids children's Sunday school line focuses on equipping parents and teachers for the task.

Don't get me wrong—DiscipleKids includes activity sheets. But, unlike many other children's literature lines, DiscipleKids places the greatest emphasis on resources in the teacher's guide. In fact, if you order DiscipleKids activity sheets without ordering the teacher's guide, you will be sorely disappointed—and your children will be short-changed! The DiscipleKids leader's guide features user-friendly lesson



plans that give specific ways kids can apply the biblical concepts they learn to their daily lives.

A Christ Focus statement serves as a reminder of how each Bible story points to Christ. The visual pack is filled with leader-friendly resources that make teaching easy. You'll find teacher helps, visual aids, teaching pictures, and games in each pack. We even offer a DVD with corresponding video clips for each lesson and an enhanced CD with songs and extra coloring pages. The teacher's guide points out the opportunities within each lesson to use the videos and songs. The DVD and CD are totally optional—there is plenty of content to teach without them.

And don't worry—we still have activity sheets! In fact, the back of the activity sheets features DisciplePoints, which presents parents with ideas to follow up the lesson with their children. DisciplePoints online (disciplepoints.com) also provides suggestions for parents to introduce the next week's lesson.

DiscipleGuide is working to pour into parents and teachers to make disciples of our children. And that paints a pretty picture! DiscipleKids Sunday school resources are available exclusively through DiscipleGuide. To learn more, or to order, go to discipleguide.org today.

State Missions

from page 2

ness at Vicksburg, Bro. Bob Conrad, Pastor, has endorsed Bro. Bartlett and the Capital Association has reaffirmed her support of this mission project.



Bro. Kenneth Pollock, who was approved to serve as a support missionary, will now be helping Bro. Bobby Elliott at Burnsville. Bro. Elliott is involved in a building project and Bro. Pollock will be helping with some of the preaching and teaching

needs.

All of our missionaries and I were asked to reaffirm our agreement with the doctrinal statement of the BMA of Mississippi and all did so.

Revolving Loan Fund (as of Oct 11, 2013 and since August 1st, 2013)

Gross assets are now at \$17,419,094.00. Net assets are now at \$2,984,053.00. We had 0 new loans this period. Our current rate of return to our shareholders is 2.67 or 2.7 APY. We received our completed audit and the auditors issued an Unmodified Opinion which is the highest level of audit assurance. Praise the Lord! Visit Our Website and Facebook Page

Our website is www.bmams.org. Like our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/bmamsmissions>.

Arkansas Church seeks pastor

Garner Baptist Church, Garner, Arkansas, is seeking a full time pastor. Anyone who feels led or needs more information may contact K.O. Hale at 501-726-3741 after 6:00 p.m.

Lori Marrs
Church Reporter

**Bring God's Tithe
Into God's House
On God's Day
That God's Work
Might be done in
God's Way.**

Commission on Senior Adults

4226 Highway 15 North
Laurel, Mississippi 39440

Kenneth Flynt
Director

Ministering To Our Seniors

More and more people are living longer than ever in our nation's history. The centenarians in America continue to grow in number and the huge numbers are astounding. We can understand why it is so important that we provide special times meeting the needs of our senior church members.

It seems we would be wise in listening to these people as they advance in age. Enjoyment seems to be a part of their lifestyle. Senior adults enjoy life. The Bible says "a merry heart doeth good like a medicine," Proverbs 17:22a. Our senior members seem to be delighted to be connected with others and you can hear it in their gentle and kind laughter.

Conferences are provided for times of spiritual joy and Christian fellowship. It is our intent to offer times that will benefit our seniors and touch lives during their golden years. Too many of us start and fizzle at the same time. We want to follow through doing the right thing consistently by encouraging and blessing others.

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend our Senior Adult Conferences. Our schedule is as follows:

South Mississippi Conference - Tuesday, March 25, 2014 - Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi

North Mississippi Senior Conference - Tuesday, May 13, 2014 - East Fulton Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi

Address Reminder

Send all contributions to the following address, 4226 Hwy 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440

Mrs. Kim Parker, who is employed by the Missions Office, will handle all transactions of bookkeeping for the Commission.

Because of your generosity the Senior Adult Commission is doing well. Thank you for your support. If your church is not a contributor you would be blessed by joining others in doing so.

Pray for your Commission trustees and director, we want to provide the best for our people.

God bless.

**You Are Invited to a
90th Birthday Celebration
honoring
Dr. John W. Gregson**



Dr. John W. Gregson

October 31, 2013

**Dr. Gregson will preach at 10:00 A.M.
BMA Seminary Dorman Memorial Chapel
Reception to follow in the Gregson Center**

**(Best wishes may be mailed to BMA Seminary
P O Box 670, Jacksonville, TX 75766)**

**Baptist Missionary Association
of Mississippi**

www.bmaofmississippi.com

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39440 - 601-426-6346

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Commission on Senior Adults
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Laurel, MS 39440
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Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

A Walk Down Memory Lane With A Strong Spiritual Emphasis

No, I do not get a commission. Yes, I do recommend this book by a dear friend of mine.

Bro. Keith Lunceford and this editor graduated from Clarksdale High School together in June 1966. Shortly after graduation God called him into the ministry. He is a graduate of Central Baptist College, Conway, Arkansas, and pastors Park Avenue Baptist Church in Searcy, Arkansas, a



Don Brown
Editor

position he has held in 1978. I have purchased his book and have enjoyed the personal stories and the spiritual applications that are presented. I think all who get it will be glad they did.

Below is a news release about my friend's book. It is available on Amazon.com as an E-Book. You can read it on your Kindle, Ipad, Android tablet, etc. with the free Kindle app.

I believe a hard copy will be available in a couple of months. I would not wait that long. Get the E-copy and begin reading it now. I am waiting for an autographed copy when the hard copy is available.

Thanks Keith, for a good read.

Pastor Pens Historical Biography of His Years At Big Creek

Eddie Dye was a gruff, no nonsense man who had an unwavering faith in God and the human spirit. A sharecropper with three generations of family living in his home, he was a dominant influence for his grandson, Keith Lunceford, the storyteller of this compelling history.

Arkansas pastor and storyteller Keith Lunceford has authored a book about his years growing up in his grandfather's house in the cotton fields of Mississippi. Loving Life at Big Creek is a collection of 66 stories that speaks of the people of that region, their resourcefulness, work ethic, and tremendous faith.

His grandfather, Eddie Dye, was a sharecropper and three generations lived together in a small house on the banks of Big Creek outside Clarksdale, Mississippi. Eddie Dye was a rough-hewn man of the country. He was completely devoted to his family and to God.

The Dye family and their neighbors had their share of difficulty during a time of poverty, problems, and prejudice, but they were a proud, resourceful, hard-working people. Their

faith carried them through the easy times and the most difficult times.

"To his family Eddie Dye was a larger-than-life figure of a man," writes Keith Lunceford. "He was feared, respected and loved. Even my father who enjoyed success and rank in the military referred to him publicly and privately as 'Mr. Dye.' I never remember anyone calling him by his first name — not even my grandmother."

Along with Eddie Dye and his wife, Maudie, Keith was influenced by his parents, an aunt who married the governor's nephew, and Easter Johnson, his nanny, friend, and playmate. Easter was the child of freed slaves who didn't remember when she was born, but she always had the Bible by her side.

Sometime humorous, sometimes pensive, sometimes entertaining — all chapters are thought-provoking and close with a point of faith.

Since 1978 Lunceford has been pastor of Park Avenue Baptist Church in Searcy, Arkansas. He has a commitment to Jesus Christ, a love of people, and a heart for service. Keith and his wife, Rita, have two children, Kevin and Lisa, and a granddaughter, Gracie.

Loving Life at Big Creek is published by Layton-Mills Publishers, LLC, and is available on Amazon in Kindle format. Additional information and a free PDF sampler are available at BigCreekLiving.com.



Keith Lunceford

Letters From Our Readers

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

Prisoners Bible Crusade Report

The Macedonian Call from Prisons

In Acts 16:9 God gave Paul a vision of a man from Macedonia saying; "Come over into Macedonia and help us". This Letter from Chaplain Chris Athey, Huntsville, Texas, is one of many Macedonian calls we get from prisons for the Word of God.

Dear Brother Paul, I am writing to request more KJV Bibles and other literature you may have to help our offenders within the Texas Prison system. During the last three Months we've had over 200 professions of faith with 134 of those following our Lord in believer's baptism. We have also enrolled over 250 offenders in Freedom Academy Seminary Extension. We attempt to give every student a KJV Bible that enrolls.

Please send us as many cases as you can afford to send as they will not be wasted and will be used to further the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. C. Athey, Chaplain
(Note! We sent Chaplain Athey 12 cases, 288 Bibles)

As Director I make two requests at this time. 1. Please help us answer the many Macedonian calls we get for the Word of God behind bars. Consider our "Trinity Plan". For \$15.00 per month we can give 3 KJV whole Bibles to prisoners across our land. One Bible each month for the Holy Trinity describes the "Trinity Plan". 2. Chaplain K. Powell at South Mississippi Correctional Institution in Leakesville, Mississippi, has asked for 1,000 Pocket New Testaments to give at Christmas time. We can provide the New Testament for about a \$1.00 each. SMCI has well over 2,000 Men behind its bars.

Bible Report YTD 9/30/13

4,472 KJV English Bibles; 909 Spanish Bibles; Bibles totals 5,381; 100 New Testaments; Since 1973, 220,574 KJV Bibles and 59,249 New Testaments.

Prisoners Bible Crusade
Box 696, Picayune, MS 39466
Isaiah 55:11 inside prisons!

Paul E. Lee, Director PBC
Phone: 601.798.1341
Email: pcb8paul@datasync.com
www.prisonersbiblecrusade.org

The War for the Mind and Soul of Our Nation

Pro-family group challenges military's 'hate group' accusation

(OneNewsNow.com) The American Family Association is calling on the U.S. military to stop labeling it as a "domestic hate group" — a label one conservative journalist contends is part of an effort by the Obama administration to plant seeds of doubt about Christians and several prominent ministries in America.

Fox News reported Monday that during a recent briefing, several dozen active duty and reserve Army troops were told the Mississippi-based American Family Association (AFA) should be classified as a "hate group" because it advocates for traditional family values. The briefing was held at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, and listed AFA alongside groups like the Ku Klux Klan, Neo-Nazis, the

Black Panthers, and the Nation of Islam.

Bryan Fischer, director of issues analysis at AFA, says a soldier attending the briefing



tipped off both AFA and Fox News.

"A soldier who was actually in the briefing presented us and Fox News with photographic evidence that the military is falsely linking us with Fred Phelps and the Westboro Baptist Church," says the AFA

spokesman. "The sad reality is that Fred Phelps and his group actually do hate homosexuals. That's not what the American Family Association believes."

Todd Starnes, who first reported the incident for Fox News, spoke Monday afternoon with Fischer on American Family Radio. He shared that someone interrupted the briefing and challenged the information being presented.

"Apparently ... there was a chaplain in the audience who stood up and defended AFA and really questioned the instructor [about AFA being a hate group], but the instructor was adamant," Starnes related. Reportedly the chaplain kept asking the instructor Are you sure about that, son? Are you sure about that?

Another soldier reportedly

asked the instructor If we participate or if we give money to these groups [like AFA], could we get in trouble? — to which the instructor replied in the affirmative. Fischer says this is not the first time that the Army has labeled conservative Christian organizations as hate groups.

"This accusation on the part of the military is libelous, it's slanderous, and it's blatantly false," he emphasizes. "So we at the AFA are calling on the military to strip all of their training materials of any reference to the American Family Association as a hate group. And if they will not do that, then I think there is a possibility of some kind of legal action."

In fact, Texas-based Liberty Institute is already working with American Family Association on the matter. The legal group believes the Army has gone too far.

"We're going to investigate this and we're going to make some requests to the military to get to the bottom of this to find out who authorized this, who came up with it, and where it's occurring," says Liberty

Institute attorney Jeff Mateer. "Of course, we know that it's occurring at a couple of bases. It may be more, and we really want to get to the bottom of it."

As for soldiers being told they could face punishment for participating in or donating to groups like AFA? "There's no room for the military to do that," states Mateer. "And to take AFA and associate it with groups that are really un-American is very, very defamatory. There's no place in our military for these types of activities."

Fischer says the military seems to be taking their marching orders from the Southern Poverty Law Center, a liberal legal group the AFA spokesman said last week is dedicated to "stirring up hatred" toward groups that defend Christian values in the public arena.

"We need the military to stop using the SPLC. They are not a credible source of information about hate or discrimination," Fischer explains. "The Weekly Standard exposed them last spring as nothing more than a

continued on page 7

National Senior Adult Conference

Hilton Branson Convention Center, Branson, MO

November 6-8, 2013

Registration through October 7 - \$135 per person

Hilton Room Rate - \$127 each @ 1-800-445-8667

DiscipleGuide Conference Ministry Office - 501-513-3726

Go to discipleguide.org/nsa to register.

Neil Dumas Jerry Jolly Clay Cooper's Country Express Dennis Swanberg Babbie Mason Brian Free & Assurance

CHURCH NEWS

Riverside, Ellisville Sets Revival

Riverside Baptist Church, 383 Riverside Church Road, west of Ellisville, has set October 27 - 30, 2013 for their Revival. Bro. Larry Geraldson, director of missions for the BMA of Mississippi, will be the speaker.

Sunday services are at 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday services will begin at 7:30 p.m. We ask for your prayers and your attendance if possible.

Medrick Savell, Pastor

Oak Grove Association Plans Rally

The Oak Grove Association is sponsoring a God and Country Rally on Thursday November 14, 2013 at 7:00 p. m. The meeting

will be held at Westover Baptist Church located at 4903 West 4th Street in Hattiesburg. Dr. John Adams will be the guest speaker. A meal will be served after the meeting.

Tombigbee Annual Report

East Fulton Baptist hosted the annual meeting on October 10, 2013. We were opened in prayer by Bro. R.D. Cline. Bro. Jackie Gray brought the message from Ezra 13:3 The noise was heard afar off. A gracious meal was served by the host church. We had 11 churches represented with 47 messengers and 7 visitors. We had election of officers and reports brought by dept heads.

Moderator Matt Hudson
Reporter Debbie Franks

ONE NEWS NOW.COM

How To Respond To Aging Parents

I have always noticed in the 10 commandments, and again in Ephesians 6:2, that children are to honor their mother and father and God did not put an expiration time table on this command. All children should honor their parents all the days of their life. I realize that for some of you your parents have wronged you or lived ungodly lives. But honoring is a condition of your heart and your obedience to what the Lord has commanded you to do. It is really about obedience more than how you feel. God does not say for us to honor them if they meet certain lifestyle requirements. We are supposed to love our families unconditionally. It does not depend upon their behavior or their lifestyle. It has to do with honoring our Lord from our hearts by doing as He has commanded us to do whether we understand it or not.

Here are some things to consider when choosing to honor one's parents who are elderly:

1. Do not patronize them with a condescending attitude. It is so easy to fall into this behavior when you are having to help your parents out a lot of the time. You get quick tempered and frustrated over their behavior. You may have to

take them to the doctor or help around the house and they are being stubborn. Or they make comments. And they move slowly perhaps. You get so put out that you start talking down to them. You may even be tempted to treat them like a child. This is dishonoring. No matter how diminished they become in the physical or mental state, you must always show respect to them and treat them as an adult. Do not do things for them and treat them like a



little child. They are not. This hurts them even if they say nothing to you. Everybody deserves respect.

2. Involve them in all decisions. Unless your parent has become completely incapacitated mentally, you dishonor them when you make decisions for them and do not ask for their input. There may come a time when some adult children



**Family Ark
Ministries**

Travis Plumlee

have to make decisions that are tough, but necessary, and the parent can no longer do this for themselves. But involve your parent as much as possible in any decisions affecting their life. Even if they have memory problems, or are functioning at a diminished capacity, still respect their decisions as long as it is not putting themselves or others in danger. Driving can be one of those battle grounds. It is a huge bastion of independence for most people. They may not drive as well as they used to, or they may drive slower than you wish, but you don't take away their driving privileges unless they have become a danger to themselves or other drivers. Then, even if the parent doesn't realize how bad it has become, the most loving thing you can do is to protect them and others on the road.

But always pray and take your time. Don't be too hasty with this decision and others like it.

3. Always give your parents their dignity. It is dishonoring for you to stop caring about protecting their privacy, and humility because you are in a hurry and have to do something for them. Don't strip them like a mad maid on a motel bed. It may take longer time to button shirts or put on shoes. Deal with it. Don't get impatient and just take over dressing them. You may have to help them bathe or go to the restroom, but still try and turn your head or step out for a moment and give them as much privacy as possible. Regardless of age or mobility, all people deserve dignity.

4. Keep them as independent as possible. Independence helps them live longer and happier. Some parents want to just give up. Especially after the death of a spouse. Don't judge them or push them and tell them they should get over it. You don't get over losing a spouse. You just grow on. But let them grow on at their pace. Don't force recovery or tell them how they should feel. Encourage them. If they completely pull away from activities of daily living, then you may want to encourage them to get out more or pick up some of their routine again. If this doesn't

work, you may need to speak with their doctor – including your parent in the discussion about options for medication etc., to help them function or stay independent. Don't let your parents give up and just fall on you for everything. That's not a healthy thing for either of you.

5. Always include them in family activities as much as possible. Maybe they are not as fun as they used to be. Maybe you wouldn't be either if you had to go through all the losses they have or felt physically like they do. Maybe a family walk in the park may take a lot longer, but they are still part of the family. Help your kids slow down and include grandparents in the walk. Your parents took care of you - don't be selfish with your time and discard them now.

And if your parents didn't take care of you, you are a Christian and should serve them anyway. This shows honor. None of this may apply to you now. But please, always pray and ask God for direction in dealing with your parents. Take a step back and ask yourself, "Is what I just said or what I just did showing honor to my parent?"

Honor your mother and father.

The life of a kid in the parsonage

By Paul Gauntt
from Baptist Progress

Life as a preacher's kid is a two-edged sword—on the one hand, he or she has the potential of being placed on the fast track toward a life of service to the Lord and ministry.

The other edge of that sword is that many preacher's kids become as the prodigal and choose another path.

They may harbor bitterness and resentment for having to "measure up" in the community because of standards which have been heaped on them—standards which don't seem to be expected by children of the laity.

This statement is not from a heart of resentment—but on more than one occasion, I heard the chiding of people, "You shouldn't talk like that—your dad is a preacher!" Or else, "You shouldn't act like that—

what would your dad say?"

Often I wanted to respond, "Probably the same thing deacon so-and-so would say if he had heard the cuss-words that came out of his daughter's mouth recently."

Once, my second grade class at Libby Elementary School in Carthage had a Valentine party and all the parents were invited to attend. One of the girls in my class approached her mother, who was sitting next to my mother and, while pointing to me, exclaimed, "Mom, that boy over there is a preacher's son, and you ought to see the way he eats!"

Well excuse me, but when several of the boys at lunch begin shooting their English peas through their straws, it's

hard for a 7-year old boy to pass up joining in—preacher's kid or otherwise!

So I can identify with the preacher's offspring who felt they were held to standards just a cut above—and some-



times, I'd feel the resentment.

On the other hand—and certainly nothing in which I can boast, the Lord used my years as a kid in the parsonage to

turn my heart toward ministry during later high school years. I was my dad's music director during the last three years I was at home. The church bulletin, complete with the mailing, was delegated to me—and I was given other opportunities to be mentored in ministry in those formative years.

I look back and see that it was all a part of God's design for my life. There is a stern warning in scripture—not only for preacher's kids, but for their dads as well. There were two ungodly sons of the priest, Hophni and Phineas, sons of Eli, who were also sons of the devil (1

Samuel 2:12) "Now the sons of Eli were the sons of Belial; they knew not the Lord."

These two devilish sons of the priest abused the sacrifices the people made to God in the tabernacle. The priests were

allowed to dip a three pronged hook into the caldron and what was retrieved was for their consumption. But Hophni and Phineas wanted to choose their own cut of meat, taking it by force - and this blatant abuse of the sacrifice offerings caused men to abhor the offering of the Lord (1 Samuel 2:17).

Then, if that were not enough, they openly committed fornication with women in the foyer of the auditorium (1 Samuel 2:22)

These problems were big enough, but the real problem was revealed in 1 Samuel 2:23-24; "...why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people. Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear; ye make the Lord's people to transgress."

But by this time it was too late. Hophni and Phineas were at least 30 years old—they, themselves were priests in the

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Preacher's Kids

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temple, and old Eli's soft words were too little, too late.

Although Eli may have worked diligently, trying to be a faithful priest during the boys' growing-up years, he obviously neglected to take time to instruct them in the things of the Lord while their hearts were young and pliable.

The same sad story could be told today - I heard the testimony of a woman once, whose dad was a famous pastor and Christian leader, but she didn't find the Lord until she went off to college. What an indictment on a ministry.

The answer: preachers and laymen - train your children in the Lord from infancy. Spend a lot of quality time with them, and pour your lives into them. Church: never begrudge your pastor if you see him playing with his kids in the front yard of the parsonage, when you otherwise think he should be out doing ministry for the church. Because when he's spending ample time with his kids, he IS working for the church. And remember, if those kids go awry and end up in prison, his ministry will likely not survive.

One of the saddest services I've ever attended was during a "share time" at a Shepherd's Conference at Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California, where the renown Bible teacher, John MacArthur is pastor. During that service, a pastor, emotional and broken hearted, stood and informed the crowd that he wanted to attend one last preacher's conference before he left the ministry. As he openly sobbed, he shared how his son had committed a serious crime and went to prison. That preacher deemed himself disqualified to pastor and intended to go home, sell all his library, resign his church, and go into secular work.

Perhaps he was riddled with guilt because of regrets of not adequately training his son. Perhaps he had been torn through those years between ministering to his family - and jumping through some impossible ministerial hoops - whether real or imagined, imposed on him by his people.

It's hypocritical for churches to impose standards on chil-

Big Foot, White-Tail Deer and Other Myths

The dawn began to stretch and yawn as the first faint touch of orange lit the eastern sky. The woods were still and dark except for the occasional mis-step of Big Foot descending upon the dry leaves. My every sense was at heightened peak as I strained to make

From The Mind of



Chuck Lee

out his terrifying form creeping up from the shadows, knowing that his favorite breakfast was a deer hunter wearing bright orange and quivering eighteen foot high from his perch on the side of an oak tree. The hairs on the back of my neck stood at perfect attention, reminding me that it was possibly time to shave the back of my neck.

The sun rose an inch higher, and to my relief an armadillo

before daylight since being a child. It's funny that this man eating creature would be scared of armadillos, opossums, and chipmunks, but every time I have heard him, he is spooked by one of these lesser animals and thus, ruins my desire to finally meet him.

But I am not here to hunt

the Saskatchewan myth, for that is what he has become since daylight has appeared - a myth. I am after the other mythical quarry, the white-tail deer. Many have made the claim that they have seen him, some claim to have taken pictures, and others even go so far as to say the heads mounted above their fireplace are those of the fabled white-tail. HA!

I am not so ignorant as to believe these fairy tales. Sure, I know they exist in juvenile form and also of the female persuasion, but never have I seen one with the antler quality of Bambi's father and I have roamed the woods for

forty...uh...thir...uh...twenty years now. I have seen videos of camo-clad hunters smiling for the camera while displaying disproportional sized head gear atop a two hundred plus pound deer, but I know Photoshop when I see it.

That is why I prefer to use genetics to display my trophies gathered while hunting the North American wildlife. Many people scoff when I pull my prize from my backpack, proudly exclaiming that the record I hold in the air with one hand could possibly be a world record. Sure, it is debatable, but it takes less space over the mantle and my taxidermy fees are nonexistent. But if you took a DNA test, it would be a world record. So far, Outdoor Life magazine has yet to call me for an interview. They probably have just lost my number.

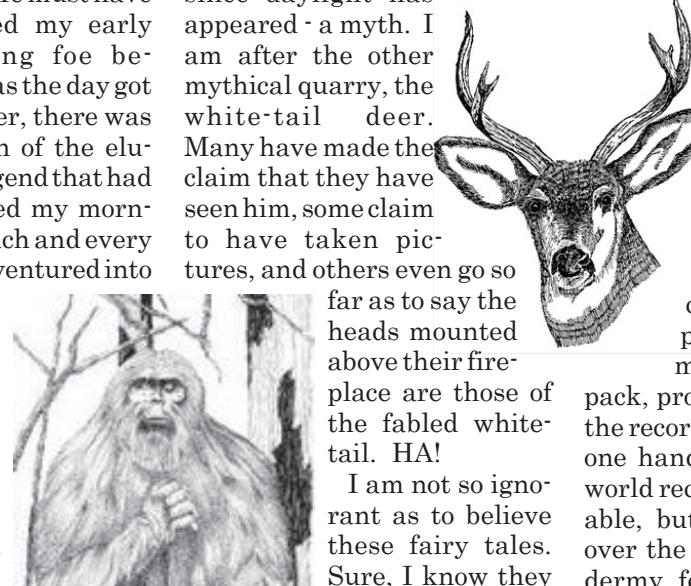
food, and fellowship.

The Master's Builders are all volunteers who have become a family. We come from different states, different churches, we have different personalities, different abilities, but we serve the same Lord. We love Him and each other and are always willing to come to the next job, if we can.

This was the 124th job for The Master's Builders, Praise the Lord! If you feel the Lord might be leading you to our group, just come one time. If it doesn't seem to be His will for you, you are not obligated at all. We will just love you while we can.

So, if your church has building needs or you feel you would like to come on a job, contact: Office Coordinator, John Mangum at 318-202-5155 or cell 318-607-4100 or our Field Coordinator, Eddie Sikes at 903-725-6549 or cell 479-462-1675.

the American people ... and imagine this down the road. If this follows through and we've got a generation of soldiers who believe that evangelical Christians are extremists, it's going to make it very easy for them to lock down the local First Baptist Church and not give a second thought about it. Because they were trained to believe that what is happening in that church is extremism."



Ministry Available For Building Needs The Master's Builders Work Continues

by Nelda Malone, reporter

The Master's Builders began arriving at Craft Baptist, Jacksonville, Texas, to begin work on September 30. We were there to help in the remodeling of their sanctuary. There were 18 RVs parked around about the church and on land across the street. Along with men from the church, the Builders met each morning at 7:00 for prayer and then began their day of work. The Master's Builders are not all master carpenters. In fact, most have done very little building. Each one is willing to learn and be used of the Lord. They are a group of men who work very hard but also love to have fun and joke around with each other.

The ladies of the Master's Builders Auxiliary, have Bible study every day. Bettye White Wilson is our study leader and



Masters Builders Crew working at Craft Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Texas

we are so blessed by her.

What a joy it was to be with the folks at Craft Baptist. They blessed our hearts in so many ways that I can not name them all! But a BIG HUG goes to their pastor and wife, Wade and Kim Holman. Thank you to the hard working Building Committee Also, thank you to

Sharon Ault who coordinated the meals for us, and all the ladies who fixed the food. You fed us well!! The Master's Builders ask for 1 meal a day from the church, if the church is able to do this. They also provide drinks for the men as they work. We had a glorious time with you, enjoying fun,

military's 'hate group' accusation

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fear-mongering, fund-raising scam. They've gotten flunking grades from the leading charity organization watchdog group in the United States because of their unethical use of donor funds."

"So the truth is the SPLC itself is a hate group."

Starnes offered his own opinion Monday afternoon as to why the military is calling out groups it considers purveyors of "religious extremism":

"I believe, at least on face value here, it looks as though the Obama administration is separating the military from

BMA Ministers To Syrian Refugees

from page 1

hold for them. I saw one Muslim lady in one of the services who dealt with that question by singing, from the bottom of her heart, "I know who holds tomorrow."

Another gentleman came to me, weeping, after hearing the message. "They killed my brother before my eyes," he said. "Can I take revenge?" Then he broke down because he knew he had to wait on the Lord, forgive and be a peacemaker. He also realized that this can only happen if his own sins are forgiven and Christ is the Lord of his life. With tears streaming down my face, I laid my hand on him and led him in prayer.

These stories are only a sampling of what we encounter every day here.



In America, we are so far removed from the sights and sounds of war. But here we see families that are torn

apart, children are killed and mothers raped. And, in many cases, it falls on the shoulders of missionaries on the field to care for them, pray with them and for them and show them the way to Jesus.

"Joujou," who is in her thirties, is the leader in one of our Bible study groups. She has always been wheelchair bound and had been limited in what she could do here. But she loves the Lord and His Word, and now, for the first time in her life, she is able to share her faith with others and help them study the Word.

We are up to three Bible study groups, with an average attendance of

15 in each one. With the way things are going, next time you read an update there will be more.

Our refugees are learning English, and we are up to two classes. Would you like to teach? Would you like to



share the Gospel in English, then give them homework to memorize John 3:16 in English and explain it? Doors are open, would you join our team?

I am ecstatic that churches of the BMAA have taken interest in what is going on here. Now is the time to show the love of Christ in action. Not only do we need funds, we need people who are willing to serve among the refugees and share Christ with them.

Let me close with two urgent needs.

Prayer — There is resistance and opposition that we cannot talk about openly in this context. Prayer can break down the barriers.

Funds — We need plenty! In the past, our churches have responded with generosity, and I am grateful. Would you do that this time also? I would like to raise \$100,000 for this project. I know we can do it. If 100 people or churches each gave a \$1,000, we could raise that amount in one day. I believe God and I have confidence in His people.

The Truth about the Government Shutdown

By Andy Comer
Pastor, Davis Street Baptist Church
Sulphur Springs, TX
(from DiscipleGuide)

At the time of this writing the Government has been "shutdown." For some people that means not getting a paycheck until who knows when. For others it only means having to change their vacation plans since all the national parks are closed. The government shutdown has caused quite a stir. Everyone is pointing the finger at someone - the Republicans, the Democrats, or the President.

Here's the truth. The Government Shutdown Effects Everyone.

You are impacted directly or indirectly by the government shutdown. You will notice. You have noticed.

Here's what I wonder. If the church in America shutdown, would America even notice? If we woke up tomorrow morning, and the church was no longer here, would it throw our nation into a tizzy? Would people go without their needs being met?

Let me make it more personal. If your church shutdown, would your community notice? It's not a matter of church size, but a matter of church impact. If your church is having an impact on the community, then her absence should affect that community. People should notice. We'd like to think they would, but do they? Every year 3,500–4,000 churches close their doors for the last time. I don't hear about it on the news, read it in the papers, or talk about it at work by the water cooler. So I have to wonder, are we making the impact necessary to reach our nation with the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Something to think about!

From DiscipleGuide Winter Compass Sunday school study guide theme "Hot Topics."

Pope Francis recently remarked that the church has become too focused on "small-minded rules" on hot-button issues like homosexuality, abortion, and contraceptives. However, he later clarified his remarks by saying, "The church's stance against gay marriage, abortion, and contraception has not changed." But he said the church must find a "new balance," adding that the "thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful."

Even the pope can get caught up in the controversial topics of the day when he attempts to apply the official position of the Roman Catholic Church to the changing attitudes of today's society. Your own pastor and your own church may encounter the same kind of reaction in your community when you seek to share what the Bible says about the key issues of the day.

Your Compass Sunday school study guide for adults for the winter of 2013-14 will help you examine the Bible's teaching under the theme "Hot Topics." The Corinthian church of the first century was unruly and worldly. The apostle Paul wrote two surviving letters condemning their ungodliness and offering corrective measures.

Churches of the twenty-first century continue to grapple with many of the same issues. How will believers and

your church respond to the attitudes of the world that stand in opposition to God's revealed standard? You and your church must decide how you will respond to today's attitudes on such issues as immorality, marriage, Christian liberty, spiritual gifts, suffering, tongues-speaking, and personal accountability. In his letters to the believers in Corinth, Paul addresses these issues and many others as God revealed His will and His standard for His church and His children. Ultimately, you will be challenged to understand, accept, and live by the Bible's position on controversial topics.

Ken Adams wrote the commentary for this series of lessons. Ken has served in key ministry roles in both the church and in the publishing ministry for over thirty-five years. He has served churches as a pastor and teacher. He ministered on the staff of DiscipleGuide Church Resources for more than twenty-five years, and he has been writing on the Compass curriculum team since 2008.

Ken's involvement in the Compass curriculum is another illustration of how DiscipleGuide is using the talents of BMAA contributors to offer quality resources to DiscipleGuide customers. To learn more about the Compass curriculum line or to order Compass products for your church visit www.DiscipleGuide.org.

Thoughts From The Scriptures

Jesus once asked, "*Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*" (Mark 8:37) It seems that in this time of their life, many wouldn't give fifty cents. Yet, if they die without Christ, they would then give this world if they owned it. O how the lost need to be saved while they have time and opportunity - "*Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:*" (Isaiah 55:6)

-Grover Laird