

The Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

OCTOBER 1, 2008

Vol. 62 No. 19

Restoring The Cedar

by Karen Carroll
Amory, Mississippi

Cedar trees make a statement of hope and life when most everything around them is either silently depressed from winter's fridity or painfully scorched from summer's blazes. In testifying to God's faithfulness, they proclaim a challenge to other creatures. These evergreens portray stability. Although their outer growth is often susceptible to dis-

ease, the cedar's wood is naturally preserved, being resistant to pests; and, the tree's distinct aroma is a sweet smelling savor with which many people associate endeared family memories.

Perhaps the qualities that make cedar trees unique are the drawing force that compels my husband to care so for them. In his durability, he can truly relate. Maybe their victory over surrounding death inspires him to persevere. Whatever the love, it is enduring.

The tenacity of the cedar's roots keeps it standing, but there are forces that can make it fall. During a thinning of pines near our house, I watched as a man and a monstrous machine mercilessly sliced a cedar, and for no apparent reason. It was not in the scope of trees on a particular trim row, and it was debatably near the property line that should have protected it. Purposeless destruction saddens and angers me. Knowing my husband had been keeping his eyes on this cedar, and remembering that we had even discussed its beauty, I dreaded his discovering the tragedy.

When I told my husband of the cedar's doom, he said little, but thought much. Shortly afterwards, I watched as he made his way to the tree, pondering a remedy for the damage. Before leaving the site, this man I married had been an instrument in restoring life and health. He lifted the cedar from its fall, steadied it on its foundation, and strengthened it by using a

continued on page 2

WMA & Brotherhood meeting schedule

WMA

Mrs. Jean Knight, president of the Mississippi State WMA, announces that an Executive Committee meeting will be held at Southeastern College on Monday, October 20, 2008 at 5:30 pm. The Executive Committee consists of all local WMA presidents and secretaries.

The General WMA meeting will begin at 7:00 pm at Southeastern College. All of our WMA officers and members are urged to attend this year's meeting. A special program will be presented, new officers will be elected for the coming year, projects will be chosen along with other business.

Brotherhood

The brotherhood of the churches of the BMA of MS will meet on Monday night, October 20, at 7:00 p.m. at Southeastern Baptist College. Bro. Harold Floyd will bring the evening message. Also, Bro. Floyd and his bluegrass group will be singing. We hope to see all brotherhood men there!

Important Note: The fellowship meal for the Brotherhood men and WMA ladies will begin at 5:45 p.m. Please notify one of the following men by October 10th with the total number from your church planning to attend this meal. We need to know for the purpose of food preparation!

Bro. Roger Jeffcoat - 601-426-6402
Bro. David Lawrence - 662-328-4645
Bro. Roger Akers - 662-257-9839

Movie followup to "Facing the Giants"

Behind the scenes of 'Fireproof'

Rebecca Grace - Guest Columnist
OneNewsNow

With recording equipment in hand, I boarded a plane bound for Albany, Georgia, where I would spend some time on the set of Fireproof, the third film from Sherwood Pictures, creators of Facing the Giants. During my time on set in November 2007, I had the opportunity to get to know some of the cast and crew and experience their passion for making films that glorify God. Below, they tell their own stories.

Their love for Christ was contagious on set and that love spreads to over 800 theaters Friday, September 26.

This is the first of a three-part series that will take you on a backstage tour of Fireproof. Sit back, relax and enjoy the ride.

When we finished Facing the Giants, Stephen Kendrick, my brother, and I started praying, "God, what would you have us do next?" The Lord led us to the topic of marriage. We came up with the idea for The Love Dare - a 40-day journey of unconditional love - and prayed through it.

As we started to develop the story, we shared it with our pastor and executive pastor, and they agreed that this was the direction God would have us go. So Stephen and I wrote out the story.

To begin, we put birch paper across an entire wall, and we had little square sticky notes. We'd come up with a scene or a principle or an idea, we'd write it on one of the sticky notes, and we'd start sticking them all over the wall. We had just dozens and dozens of sticky notes on this wall. Then we started putting them in a pattern.

We knew how we wanted to end the movie so we started working backwards asking, "How do we get to this point?" Over the last year, year and a half, the Lord has been giving us little pieces. The initial idea for this movie came in the fall of 2005. So even while Facing the Giants was com-

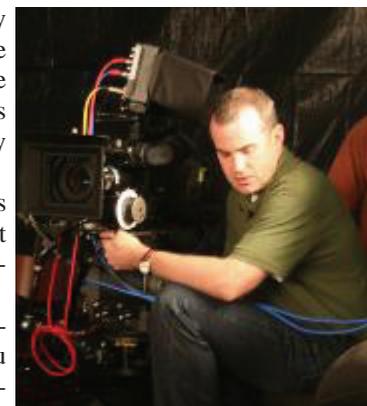
ing out, we were developing the whole Love Dare/Fireproof story. We didn't actually write the script until later.

I'll come up with the shell of a story. Stephen helps put meat on the bones. This is how I like to work with Stephen. Whereas I'm better at telling a story with elements, Stephen is better with concepts to fill the story with. So a lot of the concepts you'll see in these movies come from him. I'll have the arc of the story, and I'll direct it. But the meat comes from him. Stephen is very good with wanting to exhort the audience with these good concepts and principles.

So with Fireproof, we tried to put as many things as we could in that don't feel forced. After a two-hour period, the audience leaves and they've got a lot to think about.

You want to get to the story as efficiently as possible, but you never want to feel like you're rushing or dragging. That's the challenge. So there's a natural momentum or flow to movies if they're well told. You want to take audiences' emotions, weave in the truth and the message of the movie, and end so

continued on page 4



Movie Director Alex Kendrick

Southeastern Baptist College Alumni Breakfast Set

You are cordially invited to attend the First Annual SBC Alumni Breakfast Tuesday Morning, October 21, 2008 in the A.R. Reddin Memorial Library. Breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m.

An alumni group photograph will be taken at 9:00 a.m.

How better to celebrate our 60th Anniversary than by sharing memories with fellow SBC graduates.

Captain Son

I have not been fishing in about thirty years. In fact, it's been so long since I have fished, I have even quit lying about it. My son has been asking me to go fishing with him for the past several weeks. What father would not want to go fishing with his son-whatever his son's age or his own age? The fishing license in our state begins and expires on a certain date each year. If you buy the license one week before the expiration date, it costs the same as if you bought it on the first day of the season.

I told my son I would buy my license on the first day of the season so that I would get the full value for the permit. Well, that day came this past week-end. As Simon Peter once said, "I am going fishing!" Ladies, please remember guys need stuff to do anything. I had to buy some fishing stuff. I bought much fishing stuff! Being prepared is a good thing when you go fishing. You never know when Jaws might want to get into the boat.

My son was going to take his dad fishing! Captain Son had readied his boat for this day. He bought the minnows the day before, had the boat in the water for us to get to it at first light. It was one of those defining moments for any son to be the captain of the boat and his dad a passenger. I liked the concept. He did the hard work and I got to enjoy the fishing.

For the record, I caught the first fish on this soiree. Captain Son caught the other one. Obviously there were not a lot of fish with confirmed reservations to come into our boat. We decided to go home. We would have if the motor had started. Captain Son cranked and cranked on the little cylindrical mechanism. In fact he "gave out" pulling. To top all this off, the pull rope broke. After a while of my running the little trolling motor to get us in, we gave up. The



Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

I have a memory of a great day with my son! We didn't catch fish, but we fished. We were together. I believe the lesson for me is this: Harry Chapin sang these words in "Cats in the Cradle": "He'd say, 'I'm gonna be like you, dad. You know I'm gonna be like you.. But we'll get together then. You know we'll have a good time then.'" Your Word (1 John 3.1) tells me, "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

I learned a lot of my behavior from my dad who in turn had learned it from his father. I observed the conduct of my son. He learned

most of his behaviors from me. I understand how very important it is to be the positive model the Scriptures hold as a standard for me to be. The Decalogue tells me I am in the place of God to my children. "We know that we are children of God." (1 John 5.19) It is important that I act like a child of God to the most important child(ren) in the world-my own!

My son handled the day well. He did not want it to turn out this way. He was going to take his dad fishing. He wanted it to be perfect. The motor did not co-operate. He still feels bad about this event. He will get over it. I enjoyed it. I have a great memory of this perfect day with my son. What dad would not want to go fishing with his son? Better yet, what son would not want to spend time with his dad? I am honored to be asked.

Lord, thank You for the time I spend with You now. It seems You take up an inordinate amount of time with me-glory, hallelujah, and praise Your name for Your grace to me! I look forward to the time of never ending time with You.

Restoring The Cedar

from page 1

branch from another tree for support. As I witnessed these efforts, I thought of Galatians, chapter six, and prayed for God to bless the attempt and make the cedar a trophy of His mercy-in-action through the deeds of His child. I am sure my husband also prayed for God's help in this matter.

That was almost two years and several storms ago, and, although leaning a bit and bearing marks of discipline, the cedar stands nonetheless. Not once during the months that followed the near catastrophe did the green turn brown, and the branch from the other tree stayed firmly by the cedar's side. Ultimately, we are still enjoying the evergreen, and even more so now; for, this tree speaks volumes of God's working in our lives.

While my husband was attending to the cedar, I was mentally relating his actions to Scriptures. I have no idea if he knew I was watching, and he surely did not know what I was thinking. The number of times he has gone back to the tree is unknown to me, and we have not discussed the matter. Just this week, I almost asked him if he had seen how strong and healthy the cedar looked. Then, my mind and heart filled with thoughts of how this event is so relevant to my husband's demeanor, and I chose to write this story as a tribute to him.

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." (Galatians 6:1)

Believing that God remembers His servants for the good He does through them, I have to wonder just how many human cedars are living testimonies to the tenacity of God's root system and the Christians He uses for support. This restoring of the cedar reveals The LORD's work in Garry Carroll. Possessing a passion for a tree that so closely resembles fellow Christians enables him to show compassion to the broken branches God puts in his path. Just as my husband did not tell of his plans to fix the tree, or of his thoughts during or after the process, neither does he voice all his ventures in edifying the saints. Nevertheless, God's power continues to bring new life and fresh hope and continued opportunities for ministering.

Twenty-five years of preach-

continued on page 3

Two Churches Celebrate 50 Years of Ministry

Pascagoula Church Celebrates Fifty Years

On September 6, 1958, twenty faithful Christian organized Woodlawn Baptist Church in Pascagoula; September 7, 2008 the church celebrated fifty years of service to our Lord and Savior.

Bro. McMahan's message in the morning service was "Past, Present and Future" with a challenge to continue for another fifty years.

Special music was presented by Donna Holifield, Melinda Bounds and Gayle Garrett. Reid Black accompanied the piano on the violin during congregational singing. After a delightful meal in the newly renovated educational building the afternoon services began.

Bro. McMahan presented a plaque to Bro. Larry Black for his dedication and work on the renovation of the sanctuary and educational building.

Former charter members, former pastors and former members were recognized. Several making comments of their memories at Woodlawn.

Throughout the service special music was presented by Melinda Bounds, Constance Epps, Gayle Garrett and Janae Thweatt.

The devotional from John 3:16-17 was given by Bro. Charles G. Thompson.

The afternoon concluded with a Look Back (power point presentation). Gift bags of mementoes were given.

We ask your continued prayers as we look ahead to the next fifty

years.

Gail M. Gates, Church Clerk
Wayne McMahan, Pastor

Temple Baptist Church, Lucedale, Mississippi Celebrates 50th Anniversary Homecoming Day

Temple Baptist Church, Lucedale, Mississippi, will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary with a Homecoming Day on Sunday, October 5, 2008. All former pastors, former members, and friends are invited. Bro. A.W. Kirkland, a former pastor, will preach during the 11:00 a.m. service and Bro. Wayne McMahan, a former pastor, will preach during the 1:30 p.m. service. Special music will be presented in both services. Lunch will be served and there will be no evening service. Bro. Malcolm Clark, pastor, and Bro. B.J. Hudson, associate pastor, along with the members of Temple invite you to come celebrate this historic event with us.

Additionally, Temple will be having revival services Monday - Wednesday, October 6-8, 2008 with 7:00 p.m. evening services. Different speakers will be preaching each night. Everyone is invited.

Ballardville, Tupelo

On August 10, Cross City, a quartet from Corinth Mississippi provided a wonderful evening of testimony in song. The group sang a mixture of old and new gospel songs. There was also special music from visitors as well as church member. A meal followed in the Fellowship Hall. As a result

Pastor's first baptism a family affair

Bro. Terry Kelly, pastor of Canaan Baptist Church, Purvis, Mississippi performed his first baptism as pastor on September 21, 2008.

of this evening, one Profession of Faith was made.

Ballardville Church is hosting an hour long TV program the first Thursday night of each month at 8:30 p.m. Unity Broadcast, W39 CD TV Fulton, Mississippi, or you can view via internet at www.w39cd.com. Various singers from the church will perform during the first half hour and Bro. Hill will bring the message during the remainder of the program.

As always, we invite you to join us and may God Bless.

Bro. Thelbert Hill, Pastor
Teresa Nichols, Reporter

Behtel, Fulton

A big Christian hello from all of us at Bethel. The new church year has arrived and everyone is quite busy with all the things that we do.

The Souledout and Elevate ministries are going great. What a great way to reach our children and youth for Christ. A new prayer group called "Women in Touch" meet every Monday at 6:30 pm in the choir room. If you are interested you have a special invitation to attend.

There have been one additions since last report. Come ss us when you can!

Dr. Martin Jameson, pastor
Joyce Cooley, reporter



Making the event even more significant was the candidate - his daughter Hannah Kelly. What a blessing to baptize ones own child.

East Central Meets

The East Central Association held its annual meeting on Sept. 13 at Calvary, Leakesville. Main Street Church, Petal, petitioned into the association (formerly with Oak Grove Asso.)

Bro. Greg Hillman brought the annual message. State workers were present, including Bro. Ray Freeman who presented the work of State Missions.

The next meeting will be November 6, at Bible Baptist, Ovett. The next annual meeting will be held at Canaan Church, Richton. Bro. E. Williams will be the annual speaker.

The church served a good meal and fellowship was enjoyed by those attending.

Jerry Overstreet, Moderator
David Daw, reporter

Southeastern Baptist College

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



Dr. Medrick Savell
President

Union Baptist Church, Bay Springs
Washington Baptist Church, Neely
Westhaven Baptist Church,
Jackson
Wolf Creek Baptist Church, Kiln
Zion Baptist Church, Anguilla

Individuals
Dr. and Mrs. Tony Cleaver
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Davis
Mrs. Marjorie Harper
Bro. and Mrs. Grover Laird
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Moore
Bro. Frank Panzarino
Bro. and Mrs. Mavous Phifer
Bro. and Mrs. Howard Rhoden
Dr. Medrick Savell
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Welborn

The total received is \$30,503.55. We expect to hear from many others soon. If you have not responded, please consider joining in this anniversary project as a thanks to God for His blessings. The goal of \$60,000.00 is very much needed; there are a number of pressing needs for which we do not have the funds to do.

More on the 60th Anniversary

In March, 2008, I gave a reprint of an article from the MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST by Bro. L. T. Simmons, editor, concerning the beginning of the college in which he challenged the churches to "Go Forward."

In this report I am using two more articles which are taken from the February, 1949, issue of the MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST, another by Bro. L. T. Simmons and one by Bro. L. S. Walker. These articles express the excitement and rejoicing of several brethren involved with the beginning of the college. We can look back and see that their predictions concerning the college have been realized. Thank the Lord for His blessings upon Southeastern Baptist College. These two articles are reprinted below.

Bible Department at Southeastern Baptist College Opening exceeds All Expectations

January 11, 1949, will go down in Mississippi Baptist history as a great day. We who have prayed for the

pose. I am thankful I can watch and pray as The LORD works through him in helping others, especially when He allows me to also enjoy the beauty of the tree.

"Praise The LORD from the earth...mountains, and all hills; fruitful trees, and all cedars...Kings of the earth, and all people..." (Psalm 148: 7, 9, 10)

Editor's Note: The Carrolls formerly ministered at New Hope Baptist Church, Mantachie, Mississippi

blessings of God upon our work, had not dreamed of such a wonderful day. God is a great, loving God and He is blessing Associational Baptists in Mississippi beyond what we are able to ask or think. How can we ever thank Him enough for His tender mercies?

It was a day of worship and praise. At 11:00 Elder L. S. Walker brought a message that can well be called a masterpiece. Elder C. D. Parker brought an encouraging message in the afternoon. Many lively talks were made. Every one seemed to be on fire for the glory of God and ready to go forward in His work.

Students enrolled from different parts of Mississippi and from Florida. I never saw people so eager to prepare themselves to serve God. At this writing (Saturday night, January 15th), I do not know how many have enrolled in the school, but I have 29 in my class and several are not in my class.

Parkview Church is to be commended for her noble efforts to help the school in any way possible.

A Bright Future

As I survey the future of the Southeastern Baptist College, I am indeed hopeful. I know that without Christ we can do nothing but He has promised to be with us. He is our strength. We have several men and women among us who have college degrees. A number of our young men are in college and will soon have their degrees, and these will be available for teachers if needed. We are in accord with the present work of the American Baptist Association, and can draw on all our Associational Baptists in America for teachers. Teachers, therefore, for the college will be no problem.

Our only concern is: Will our churches finance the school? I believe they will. Some of the churches have already sent in nice contributions for the school. Others will soon do likewise.

Be Not Deceived

Our enemies have done, and will continue to do, all they can to destroy our college. They have bitterly and falsely accused us. But, be not dismayed. Christ was falsely accused. Some even hired witnesses to falsely testify against Him. Are we better than He? Certainly not. We can expect the Devil's gang to falsely accuse and bitterly oppose the Lord's servants.

Success Assured

In the strength of the Lord we shall succeed. The world belittled Noah for building the ark, but it was a success. The world opposed the early Christians, but they failed not.

The walls of Jerusalem were built because the people had a mind to work. If God delight in us, we can. Therefore, arise and build. "Only be thou strong and very courageous."

L.T. Simmons

School Trustees Met

The trustees of Southeastern Baptist College met with the faculty at Parkview Baptist Church on January 11, the opening day of the Seminary. There were several encouraging factors in which your trustees rejoice and pass on to our great Baptist people of Mississippi. One thing was the large congregation in attendance for the opening service, the goodly number who registered for the six weeks term of school, the abounding fellowship, and the spirit of doing greater things for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

There were four trustees present: Elder Alfred Jones, Bro. H. E. Burks, Bro. G. L. Boyd, and Elder L. S. Walker, Chairman. Elder Alfred Jones was elected to serve the school as Publicity Director for the year. The treasurer was authorized to receive funds and to pay the expenses, such as traveling to and from school, etc. of the faculty. He was also authorized to pay from the general fund of the school the incidental expenses involved in carrying on the school, printing of stationary folders, bulletins, etc.

The trustees wish to express their appreciation to Parkview Baptist Church and pastor for the use of their educational facilities as a temporary quarters for our college, also to the members of the faculty, Dr. D. N. Jackson, Elder L. T. Simmons, Elder Ollie F. Parker, and Elder J. B. Coats, who are making the personal sacrifice to do the teaching in the school without pay as far as we know at this time. Our fund at present is not sufficient to pay them. However, we wish to thank everyone who has sent donations thus far. We greatly rejoiced when we received a check from Good Hope Church for \$100.00. Let's have many more like this.

As this school belongs to the churches of the Mississippi State Baptist Association, it is not the responsibility of any one church to maintain it. Therefore, we are urging every pastor and church to send to the treasurer, Elder Ollie F. Parker, Rt. 3, Laurel, Miss. regular offerings. We need funds to care for the general expenses of the school and to buy land and erect buildings. We, your trustees, ask your prayers and financial support in this worthy enterprise.

L. S. Walker

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

We are looking forward to the meeting of the BMA of Mississippi at the college on October 20-22 and are making preparations for it. If we can assist anyone concerning the association, please let us know.

Memorial Gifts

A contribution has been received to purchase books for the library in memory of Dr. Jentry Bond. We appreciate this consideration and ask God's richest blessings upon Dr. Bond's family.

Sixty Year Anniversary Special Emphasis

An updated list of contributions received at this time is as follows:

Associations
Capitol Association
Gulf Association
Oak Grove Association
South Alabama Baptist Association
Washington Baptist Association

Churches
Antioch Baptist Church, Soso
Berean Baptist Church, Soso
Bethel Baptist Church, Hattiesburg
Bethel Baptist Church, Seminary
Center Ridge Baptist Church, Chunky
Central Baptist Church, Corinth
Centerville Baptist Church, Mantachie
Community Baptist Church, Poplarville

Creston Hills Baptist Church, Jackson
Cypress Creek Baptist Church, Brooklyn
East Fulton Baptist Church, Fulton
First Baptist Church, Bay Springs
First Calhoun Baptist Church, Laurel
Forked Oak Baptist Church, Booneville
Grace Baptist Church, Pass Christian
Helton Road Baptist Church, Theodore, AL
Hopewell Baptist Church, Fulton
Hopewell Baptist Church, Laurel
Lebanon Baptist Church, Laurel
Leakesville Baptist Church, Leakesville
Liberty Baptist Church, Isola
Little Creek Baptist Church, Perkinson
Movella Baptist Church, Lucedale
Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Picayune
New Bethany Baptist Church, Ellisville
Oak Grove Baptist Church, Lucedale
Oak Grove Baptist Church, Mantachie
Oakland Grove Baptist Church, Laurel
Oakland Baptist Church, Vicksburg
Paramount Baptist Church, Perkinson
Riverside Baptist Church, Ellisville
Rock Hill Baptist Church, Meridian
Skyway Hills Baptist Church, Pearl
Springhill Baptist Church, Laurel
Ten Mile Baptist Church Ladies SS Class, Perkinson

Restoring The Cedar

ing and giving countless hours to help people, and having little comfort in seeing many results is discouraging. Dreams of being able to labor in the ministry, without bearing the extra burden of another occupation, have faded. Efforts toward lasting peer friendships seem futile, and the aging process hinders most attempts at rendering vitality. In the eyes of many, no doubt, this man is a failure; but, I know better. I have been married to him for nearly thirty years, and, although I still know quite well that he is human—just a man, I also am acutely aware of God's working in his life.

Numerous people experience a cutting similar to that of the cedar near our house, and many of them

have found restorative kindness in my husband's dealing with them. God uses him to go to hurting souls, spending hours trying to comfort and exhort them. We do not always see the same beautiful results as those with the cedar, but we have enjoyed celebrating victory with some.

As we grow older, the cedar becomes even more significant in relation to God's working. Regardless of the surroundings, it is evergreen. When my husband finds little from which to draw strength, I pray he will encourage himself in The LORD, and in knowing that God has chosen him to restore the cedars, which in turn, will ever be a testimony of God's faithfulness in giving life and hope.

Regardless of how my husband may appear to any other person, he is a peculiar treasure, and one God has chosen for a special pur-

SBC Alumni Breakfast - October 21, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. A.R. Reddin Memorial Library

Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

It's About That Time

Dr. Gerald Kellar had a way about him when expressing himself. He always looked forward to the meeting of God's churches in Associational capacity. He enjoyed the fellowship at every level - local, state and national.

One of his favorite sayings at annual meeting time was "Well, the Bride is on the move".



Don Brown
Editor

Of course he spoke tongue in cheek concerning the churches assembling for their annual business meetings.

The time for that annual gathering in Mississippi is just a few short weeks away. God continues to bless the work of the BMA of Mississippi in a number of areas and ministries. Things have changed

over the last several years (and decades), but the work and the message is the same.

On October 20-22 the BMA of Mississippi will assemble at Southeastern Baptist College for its annual business meeting and reports. Each commission, department, auxiliary, and ministry will be highlighted and ready to report on their work.

The theme for this year's meeting is "In Due Season - If we faint not we shall reap". The theme is taken from Galatians 6:9. To quote an old American folk song, "The times, they are a changin'". We need to be aware of the times and the shortness of time and determine to "faint not". By staying loyal and dedicated to the work of the Lord, we are promised a harvest In Due Season.

Be at the meeting in Laurel later this month and let us faithfully care for His business.

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"Well preacher, I'd like church a lot more if you had a 'no preaching' section."

"Fireproof" The Movie

from page 1

that they're walking out of the theater emotionally full. They've laughed, cried, enjoyed themselves and been spiritually challenged.

I think about the Scripture verse in Proverbs 16 where it says you commit your works to the Lord and He will establish your plans. From the beginning we said we want Jesus to be Lord of Fireproof. And the plans have just laid out right in front of us.

For example, when we went to the fire department in need of equipment, we were asking, "Lord would you allow them to trust us with their reserve trucks and maybe some older equipment to shoot this movie?" We sat down and had a meeting with the fire chief, assistant chief and a deputy chief. We told them the story of Fireproof, and when we

were done telling it, they got a little emotional, and said, "If you're going to do this movie, and that's going to be your message, why would we let you use our reserve trucks instead of our brand new trucks? If you're going to represent this city, then you need to use our best equipment, our best outfits, our best trucks, our best everything, and we'll use the reserve trucks."

It was the same with the hospital. We go to the hospital and ask if there are any rooms we can shoot in? They end up giving us a wing of the hospital to use.

The Lord has opened the doors and given us favor in everything that we needed to do this movie. It has been a phenomenal journey, I'll say.

Letters From Our Readers

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

Missionary requests relief help for some members

Greetings from Missionary Estuardo Marroquin and El Camino Hispanic Baptist Mission of Laurel.

It's a blessing to be able to share with you what the Lord has been doing here at El Camino Baptist Mission in the last few months. We have been blessed in sharing the Gospel, winning souls, and baptized the new believers. Our attendance is doing well in Sunday school and Worship Services. We are averaging between 70 and 80. Our offerings for the building project are also growing and we expect to move our new facility by May or before of next year. We all at El Camino feel this is a good time to

say thanks to all BMA churches and individuals who have sent special offerings every month to support this general ministry and also special debt reduction project.

Recently we also had a sad situation to happen in our Hispanic community here in the Laurel area that has greatly effect our membership. Due to non-documentation we lost almost 15 male members, very good people who have become Christians through your helping El Camino. We do not encourage non-documentation, however as they come we share the gospel with them and they get saved, then we encourage them to pursue legal status, even if this means returning to their home country. Those brothers were taken away for deportation without having time to prepare for the mothers and babies who were left behind. Several of them are now waiting for an answer from the authorities. Those mothers and babies are living alone without any kind of support except for what food and babies supplies that we have

been able to help with. We share this with all our BMA churches asking for your kind help in sharing these necessities until they receive an answer. Our Hispanic mission has a list of 12 mothers with children who are waiting to receive more information from the authorities concerning their situation.

Yet with all the events about us, on Sunday September 13 our attendance was back up to around 80. The Lord is so good to us.

Please pray for us, pray for the Hispanic community in Laurel area, pray for the El Camino Hispanic Baptist Mission family. If you like to help, please send it to the BMA Missions Office at 4226 Hwy 15-N Laurel, MS 39440, or El Camino Hispanic Baptist Mission % Estuardo Marroquin at 1004 N. 10th Ave., Laurel, MS. 39440.

May God Bless you, in Christ,
Estuardo Marroquin,
BMA Missionary.

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Freddie Mills

Bro. Freddie Mills is available for service as the Lord leads. He may be reached at 601-441-4057.

Larry Pierce

Bro Larry M. Pierce is available to serve as the Lord leads. He may be reached at 601-947-3531.

Student Pastor Position Available

Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church of Nacogdoches, Texas, is searching for a Director of Student Ministries. Please submit resume and brief personal testimony to PHMBC, Attn: Student Minister Search Committee, PO BOX 632070, Nacogdoches, TX 75963.

Ron Beardsley

Bro. Ron Beardsley, of Missouri, is available for pastoral work. He is 42 and been in the ministry for 21 years. He and his wife Cathy have 3 children, 17, 14, & 9 years of age.

He may be reached at 573-667-9052 or 800-455-7826.

Nick Lientz surrenders to ministry

Bro. Nick Lientz, a member of First Baptist Church, Manatachie, has surrendered to the Gospel ministry. Nick is a 54 year old Bank/Information Support Executive. He is available to preach and may be reached at 662-282-7420 or by contacting First Baptist Church at 662-282-7425.



Dr. John Adams, pastor

Mississippi Baptist

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

Phone 601-426-3293
Fax 601-763-7404

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

PRICE
\$20.00 Per Year by Mail
\$10.00 Per Year by Email
CHURCHPLAN
\$ 1.30 Per Month

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi. Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Mississippi Baptist Paper, P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441-8000.

Mississippi Baptist Children's Home

2008 Special Emphasis



Greetings from the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home,

The Home continues to meet the needs of children in need. As a matter of fact, more than sixty years of service is a testimony in itself that supplying the physical and spiritual needs of children is our number one purpose for ministry and reason for existence.

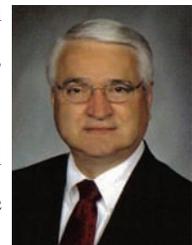
It is with sincere gratitude that we extend to you our thanks for your prayerful and financial support of this ministry. Because of your love and concern for boys and girls in need you have touched their lives in a special way and have helped make a big difference in their life that only eternity will reveal.

As you are aware, October and November are Special Emphasis months for the Children's Home each year. Your help during this Special Emphasis is important to the ongoing operation of the Home. Our goal this year is \$25,000 and we are encouraging each church to consider taking part in this Special Emphasis.

We are thankful for you, our supporters and friends of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home. You allow us to share Christ with young people who have never had the opportunity to hear in a clear and precise way that He loves them. You help provide young people from unstable homes a life of stability, structure, and a Christian atmosphere that they so desperately need.

There is nothing that brings more excitement and joy in a loving home than the birth of a child. We rejoice at the birth of a baby because they are precious gifts from God to us. Pray for the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home that we will provide children with the loving warmth of Christian life and upbringing in an atmosphere that brings honor and glory to the Lord in times like these.

Touching Lives Now and For Eternity,
Sidney D. Davis
Director



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

All About Women

Hormones. They can make you think you are going crazy. They can, at times, dominate the way you feel physically. Then there is society. Society bombards the airwaves, the movie screens and the culture with a saturation of images of what women should look like. However, that is all this is. An image. Many of the women in these magazines have had their pictures altered. Many of the women themselves who are models have had their bodies altered by surgery. Yet, if women listen to the ways of the world, they are told this is what you should look like.

If the stressors weren't already high enough, here comes the kids. Women have always had the chief role in society of raising and nurturing the children. This is the most important job in any society, for the continuity of that society. However, in the post-modern age, women have also worked outside the home. Trying to have a full-time job outside the home, while simultaneously holding a full-time job inside the home, all the while pressed to look like a woman who has been stapled, tucked, plucked, fluffed and smoothed over, while dealing with the limitations of the human body and hormones - wow! No wonder some days you feel tired, irritated and exhausted. Yet, for many women there is another large problem sitting on the couch. How do I now respond with happiness, eagerness, and energy to this guy whom I love and married?

The final straw is that women are sometimes calculating, cold and cruel to their own sex. You would think that there would be a band of sisterhood here. Women would understand the stressors of the modern day woman and support

each other. Instead, often times, women are involved in a piranha-like feeding frenzy of backbiting, sniping and gossiping. Single moms are looked down on, instead of lifted up. Moms that stay home with their kids are looked down upon, without a job out in the work world. Moms that go to a job in the work world are looked down upon for not staying home. It's enough to drive a woman to anxiety, stress, depression and exasperation. What should she do?



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

One thing that she might could do, would be to learn how to be empowered and set free from things that are irrelevant in a life lived for God. All the aforementioned things are a reality for many women. However, believing in your heart the things that God has said about women is critical if she wants to succeed in life for His glory. Women need to be

set free in a biblical understanding of who they are. I will be doing a national conference for women on November 14th and 15th in West Plains, Missouri. The entire weekend will be devoted to helping women break free of their shame, their past, their inadequacies. I will be speaking on stress, depression, shame, and building a biblical self-esteem. The physical, emotional and spiritual issues of women will also be addressed.

I am writing this in my column because I have seen this conference work. I know from my travels around the country that there are many women who need a biblical understanding of womanhood. Women need some encouragement on how to be all that God desires for them to be, while setting limits with a world of demands. In the last national women's

conference I did, a serendipitous effect was that 6 people at the conference were saved. All the women left with a revived heart and renewed sense of being a Godly woman.

You may have a sister who needs to hear this. You may have a mom or a daughter who could use this because lately they seem so down. You know a co-worker who is at the end of their rope. You want to help them, but don't know how. You can help them by bringing a car load of them to this women's conference. Even the women of your church could be set free by coming as a group to this conference. I am writing about it because I strongly feel that if it did not appear here in this column, many women who need to come would never hear about it. I want the most women reached for the greatest good of a mighty God.

It will be held at First Baptist church of West Plains, Missouri. West Plains, Missouri, is a central location about 3 hours from Memphis, Little Rock and St Louis. However, there are women already coming from Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky and other surrounding states. I know another thing the devil will use to keep women away from this important date - deer season. Yes, I know it is deer season. But this was the only time open in my schedule when it was booked last year. There are many weeks to go hunting, but there is only this one weekend to go to this conference. What are the priorities?

Hopefully, I am telling you soon enough to make arrangements, in case you have a husband who is lost, or who is spiritually weak and will not stay home and be a dad this one weekend so that you might be a better mom and wife and Christian. More info can always be attained by looking at my web page, travisplumlee.com You can register now by calling 1st Baptist Church of West Plains at 417-256-3128, Extension 202 and ask for Michelle. Hope to see you there November 14th and 15th. God will be glorified.

MORAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Baptist Missionary Association of America
Dr. John M. Adams, Interim Director
P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863
Email - fbcjmaj@yahoo.com



John Adams

Sanctity of Human Life

The MAC has ten summary statements. Number two states, "We (BMA churches) believe in the sanctity of human life, and thus support a Human Life Amendment to protect the lives of the innocent unborn." We are truly passionate about the life of the unborn and so therefore, we are aware of the challenges that faces supporters in America. As American citizens and Christians there are some fundamental issues that we cannot ignore. Of top importance, at this time, are the agendas of the Presidential candidates and their stand on abortion/pro-choice or pro-life.

Senator Barack Obama and Senator John McCain recently commented and voiced their views on the forum hosted by Pastor Rick Warren. The following is a transcript of their discussion:

Pastor Warren: "At what point does a baby get human rights"

Senator Obama: "I think that whether you are looking at it from a theological perspective or a scientific perspective, answering that question with specificity, you know,

is above my paygrade"

According to Tim Wildmon, of American Family Radio, "So Senator "O" in other words says, "Beats Me" and "that is the answer from a man who wants to be President on the most debated issue of our time"

Pastor Warren: "At what point does a baby get human rights"

Senator McCain: "I will be a pro-life President and this presidency will have pro-life policies"

The National Right to Life endorsed Senator McCain in April, 2008, with this statement:

"Senator John McCain has consistently taken a strong pro-life position against abortion, has a strong pro-life voting record against abortion and opposes Roe vs Wade."

Do Christians Need to Vote?

YES, and a thousand times, YES. In Proverbs 14:34, the Bible declares, "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." Christians, and specifically, our Associational Baptist are obligated and should take every opportunity to elect state and national leaders

who will advance and promote national righteousness.

Richard Pearcey, editor of the Pearcey Report (www.pearceyreport.com,) states, "Authentic Christianity goes to the ends of the earth, into every aspect of life, including politics. There is no wall of separation between discipleship and the voting booth.

Voting and Choosing the Right Candidate

The internet has a wonderful site to assist you with this important decision. American Family Association Journal (www.afajournal.org) September, 2008 edition has an article on page 12 -13 that list the views of both political candidates on such issues as 1)pro-life, 2) homosexuality, 3) gay adoption, 4) same-sex marriage, etc.

Pray, Decide and Vote

These are important days and we must be strong for the faith and Christian values. You must be registered and you must go out on election day and vote. May we

Christians not be listless and lazy on such important events.

Book Recommendations

The A.C.L.U. vs America by Alan Sears and Craig Osten, Broadman and Holman Publishers. The book shares how radical the American Civil Liberties Union makes its policies and liberal agenda. This is an excellent moral reading for pastors, teachers, educators and leaders. Topics are the ACLU vs Marriage, the ACLU vs Religion, the ACLU vs Christmas, etc. Cost is approximately \$15.

Entertainment Recommendation

Mrs. Adams and I joined hundreds of others as a guest at the American Family Association workers preview of the new Christian movie, "Fireproof" It is an outstanding attribute to the sacred institution of marriage. Make plans to see it with your family, a Sunday School group, your youth group or as a church outing. I ask our pastors and teachers to promote this, it glorifies our Lord.

Highlighted Trustee

Rev. James Gosnell, Michigan, has been married to Marva for 18 years and they have two daughters. James graduated from Midwestern Baptist College and has served churches in Michigan, Colorado and Missouri. He enjoys spending quality times with his "girls" He fishes

with his youngest and goes to the bookstore with his oldest. We are so glad to have Bro. James on our Moral Action Committee trustee board.

Highlighted Churches that support the MAC

New Testament, Sullivan, Missouri
Suburban Wood, Humble, Texas
Bethel, St. Claire, Missouri
Cornerstone,

Swartz Creek, Michigan
Bethany Missionary,
St Louis, Missouri

"Trying to run a church without revivals can be done when you can run a gasoline engine on buttermilk."

EVANGELIST BILLY SUNDAY

BMA of Mississippi MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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



Homestretch at Cleveland, Bro. Ed Duvall Missionary

Homestretch is experiencing steady growth spiritually, numerically, and financially according to Bro. Duvall. Their property indebtedness is down to \$20,882.02

which means they will be looking at plans for a new church plant in the near future. According to Bro. Ed their offering for last month exceeded the month before by about \$800.00. They are encouraged to have new visitors, Bro. Ed says some are seriously considering uniting with Homestretch. On the physical side, Bro. Ed has been experiencing a kidney discomfort, test results should be in by September 24. Remember Bro. Ed in your prayers.



Ed Duvall Family

Divine Grace at Long Beach, Bro. Wallace Williams Missionary

On September 7, Divine Grace enjoyed the first service in their new Sanctuary with 111 present. For that service 1 came on profession of faith, 2 came by transfer of letter, and 3 were baptized. With the help of our Debt Reduction Emphasis, the indebtedness of Divine Grace as of September 18, 2008 has been reduced to below \$190,121.83. This is an



Bro. & Mrs. Wallace Williams



Sunday School at Divine Grace Mission

encouragement for the Mission as they plan to go off mission support and organize into a New Testament Church possibly in April or May of 2009.

LifePointe at Hernando, Bro. Kevin Marr Missionary

Bro. Marr continues to be excited with what is happening at LifePointe. They are experiencing a steady growth pattern in a

spiritual, financial, and numerical way. On September 22, Bro. Kevin met with the Missionary Committee for the annual review. During the review, he shared their plans for going off mission support and organizing into a New Testament Church on January 24, 2009. Their building and property indebtedness as of September 18, is down below \$88,787.63. They would like to lower the indebtedness down to around \$50,000 by the time of their organization. Pray for LifePointe and the Marr family.



Bro. & Mrs. Kevin Marr

Maple Street at Columbus, Bro. Joseph Oyeleye Missionary

Maple Street is also experiencing an upswing in ministry. This has been a little slower than Bro. Joseph and the Missionary Committee expected, but the Lord has been good to give an increase. Even though Maple Street has experienced an upswing in growth, it has not yet reached the point where they will be able to organize and go self supporting. Therefore, the Maple Street Mission is set for a closer review in the midyear review in May of 2009. One great blessing is that at the time of this writing, together with the help of our associational churches they have been able to reduce their indebtedness down from \$200,000 to \$148,294.10. This includes property, parsonage and Church building.



Bro. Joseph Oyeleye

El Camino at Laurel, Bro. Estuardo Marroquin Missionary

El Camino remains strong and excited even after the immigration's deportation storm. This move by immigration took about fifteen male members from El Camino. These men being taken suddenly had no choice but to leave behind a number of their wives and children. Bro. Marroquin is being called upon to help to provide the necessities of livelihood for these broken families as they make prepara-



Bro. & Mrs. Estuardo Marroquin

tion toward returning back to their home country to be reunited again as a family. However, after the deportation experience, the El Camino mission continues to experience the Lord's blessing with an attendance of around 80. The Lord has various ways of spreading the Gospel. Pray for the Hispanic ministry as it spreads from Mississippi to Hispanic countries.

First Hispanic Baptist, Ripley, Bro. Elvis Garcia Missionary

Congratulations goes to Bro. Elvis and Mrs. Wendy on their new arrival, Joshua at 7 pounds and 2 ounces. Bro. Elvis shares an increase in attendance for the last couple of months from around 35 up to 50. Several of those attending Bible studies in the nearby town of New Albany are now attending the services in Ripley. Bro. Elvis reported to the Missionary Committee that for the last few weeks they have had an addition every Sunday. We are thankful to see this kind of progress being made by the First Hispanic of Ripley. The Ripley mission was not affected by the recent immigration move.



Bro. & Mrs. Elvis Garcia

Mission's in General

To the BMA pastors and Churches of Mississippi.

The Fall Season is in the air, and it is refreshing to wake up each morning to the brisk atmosphere it brings. Isn't the Lord good to us? Time has also brought us to the closing of another fiscal year, the auditors are now finished and in the process of presenting the reports to the office, the Missionary Committeemen, and Revolving Loan Fund Trustees. The work is going fine even though we have experienced a drop in missions contributions from about fifty percent of our churches for the fiscal year of 2007-08. The blessing is, while at the same time we experienced a fifty percent drop, we also experienced an increase from the remaining fifty percent. Even though the increase is not as much as the decrease, it is encouraging to know the mission spirit is active and growing. For fourteen years, we have been able to operate without a deficit. Pray with us that our finances will be sufficient to keep us from having a deficit in our current year of operation. Yet, at the same time it's a joy to report a continual upswing in our Revolving Loan Fund growth. I will take this opportunity to say, "it has been a pleasure working with Bro. Lavell Lee as Revolving Loan Fund Manager, he is truly a man of concern, character, and integrity." We will be sharing more about the progress of the

Revolving Loan Fund at our annual state meeting in October. Progress is always good news, especially when we are talking about the Lord's work. Within the near future a number of our missionaries will be leading their missions to organize into a New Testament Church. Our goal is more souls, more churches.

East Petal

Possibly by the time you receive this publication the East Petal campaign sponsored by East Petal Baptist Church and Dr. Eugene Murphy as Pastor will be history. The Campaign will begin Wednesday Sept. 24 at 2:00 P.M. and go through Sunday A. M. Sept. 28. We will be gathering each afternoon at 2:00 P.M. for prayer and direction for visitation before going out into the communities. Also at East Petal Baptist Church each evening following visitation beginning at 7:00 P.M. there will be a time filled with singing and preaching. We invite you to come and participate in going from door to door witnessing, passing out tracts, and inviting people to come and be a part of each evening worship service. This is an effort to assist the East Petal Baptist Church in reaching their neighbors with the Gospel. This could be the push that will ignite a revival in the East Petal neighborhood. If you cannot make the weekday schedule or Sunday morning service then pray with us that seeds sown in this effort will have fallen on good ground. We are expecting a good turn out for this effort. Will you be one of those who will help. If further information is needed, you can call the office at 601-428-8616, or my cell at 601-433-2694.

In Christ,
Bro. Ray

Attention, Disaster Relief

A number of churches have called about a relief effort for the victims of recent hurricanes. We are putting together a load or loads of goods to be delivered from our office here in Laurel. Any church or individual who would like to help can do so by giving financially or donating supplies. If you choose to donate supplies, please bring only non-perishables. Preferable, paper products, baby supplies, toiletries, canned foods, linens, towels, wash clothes, soap, washing powder, deodorant, and etc. We need your financial help or items as early as possible. Like we in Mississippi three years ago, these people are hurting.



First worship service in new building at Divine Grace Mission



LATRELLE WINDHAM
DIRECTOR

P.O. Box 4247, Laurel, Mississippi 39441 • (601) 649-0502
Email - bmayouth@comcast.net

Another Key Word in the 119th Psalm

Our key word is keep. It implies opposition to break, holding or observing something firmly. To keep (not break) the commandments.

There are some things that should be the object of our keeping. Young people are taught in Psalm 119 to begin early in life to understand what it means to keep the Word of God.

In John 14:15-23 Jesus teaches us how important it is for us as adults to make an all-out effort to teach our kids about the commandments of God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. All three members of the Trinity are mentioned here. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth and He is truth and guides us into all truth. Earlier, Jesus called the disciples "little children." He told them He would not leave them fatherless; He would come to them. As the believer lovingly obey Christ's commandments, he or she will experience a



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

Honey

I read the other day, "When traveling the back roads, stop whenever you see a sign that reads 'Honey for Sale'."

That's good advice and while you are there, engage the bee-keeper in conversation to learn about the marvelously created honey bee. How do those little creatures know what their job is? Where is the Honey Bee University that teaches them where and when to go after the pollen?

Thinking about this will give you a whole new appreciation for our Creator.

Prov. 24:13 "My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb; which is sweet to thy taste."

more intimate knowledge of Him.

In I John 5:2, "for this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not a burden."

In Revelation 22:7, 9, God's Word reminds us that we are to worship only God. In Ephesians 4:3 all Christians are one in the Spirit. It is our duty to keep or observe that unity, recognize it as real, and act upon it.

Real faith is based upon the Word of God. Faith is the ability to act on the Word of God. The object of our faith should be the Word of God.

The truth is worthy of our trust. A young man named Timothy found this truth and committed himself to it. A young man learns about purity in the Word of God. Through the Holy Spirit working through the Word of God, it leads him to be pure and to practice purity. Keep yourself pure is a caution for Timothy.

Jude tells us to keep ourselves in the Word of God. Jude is encouraging us to cultivate our love for Christ.

What is the manner of our keeping the Word of God? The issue is the Word of God, what God has said in the Bible, what God is saying to me through the Bible, and what He is saying to me in the midst of the situation.

If we are the sheep of God, we hear His voice, He knows us and we follow Him. We will never perish, or will never be taken away.

Jesus kept the Word of God because Jesus was the Word of God. Jesus asked God to keep His disciples through His name, that is, keep them true to the revelation of God that Jesus had given them. The disciples would have a new union with the Father and Son through the future indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

What happens when we learn to keep the Word of God as we grow in Christ? What are some of the blessings? Some of the things we receive are protection, provision, preservation, perseverance, power, purity, and peace of mind.

The issue is the Word of God. God speaks, we hear, we receive, we obey, the power of God is revealed and we learn to do the will of God. Keep the Word of God.

Greetings

It is good to greet the readers of the Mississippi Baptist Paper. I know our people read this paper because many tell me they do. The Mississippi Baptist is an important part of the BMA of Mississippi.

The Commission

The Commission enjoyed a successful year. The financial support improved through the year. The Trustees and I do appreciate every church, association, and individual that give to the Commission. We promote the Commission and ask our people to join this ministry with financial support.

The Lord gave us two great Conferences. Many of our Senior Adults enjoy these meetings. These Conferences will get larger in numbers as our pastors continue to promote them and attend them. The pastor is the key. I ask for your prayers and continued support.

The 2009 Conferences are already being planned. I believe the Lord

Commission on Senior Adults

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



will give us wonderful meetings in 2009. I ask our people to join me and pray for our dear Senior Adults, and for these Conferences. The Big Creek Church and pastor Don Brown will host the 2009 South Conference. Thanks Big Creek for your cooperation.

Church and Association Visits

The Shiloh Baptist Church, Mt. Olive has ask me to continue to help them. The church is going through some difficult times. They are in the process of building a nice Sanctuary. We visited the Bethel Baptist Church, Louise. I urge our people to pray for these churches. In fact, we need to pray for all our churches and pastors.

My wife and I attended the Tombigbee, Harmony, and Judson Associations. We enjoyed these meetings. Each Association gave me the opportunity to present the ministry of the Commission.

The First Baptist Church, Mantachie and pastor Dr. John Adams have prepared the pastor's home and made it available to the Associational workers, and others to spend the night when in that area. Recently Dot and I spent three nights in the house. The WMA of First Baptist has furnished the house with nice furniture. This is a wonderful gesture on the part of a great church. Dr. Adams and First Baptist are dear friends to me and my family.

The Spirit Can Help Us to Pray

by Grover Laird

"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." (Romans 8:26,27)

When a person is born again, saved by God's grace, the Holy Spirit of God begins to live within him. (I Corinthians 6:19) He comes to enable us to do those things which a Christian is commanded to do. One of those things that the Spirit aids us in doing is pray. Consider some of the ways that He helps us.

I. He Can Give us Faith to Pray

Faith is a very important factor in reaching the Lord when we pray - "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord." (James 1:7) If the Spirit would give the sinner faith to be saved, (I Corinthians 12:3) He would surely aid the Christian in obtaining faith to pray. We should therefore ask the Lord to increase our faith, and then give the Spirit room to work.

II. He Can Put Us in The Right Spirit to Pray

Prayers that avail much are fervent prayers. (James 5:16) Elijah

stopped the rain for three and one-half years when he prayed earnestly. (James 5:17) Only the Spirit of God can put us in the condition to pray this kind of prayers. Many know this by experience.

III. He Can Teach Us What to Pray

Many times we really do not know what to pray for. But according to our text, the Holy Spirit knows and will help us to know. He can discourage us from asking for those things that are not in the will of God. He can encourage us in praying for the things that will be for our good and God's glory. Praying in the will

of God will bring more answers to our praying. (I John 5:14) This will in turn strengthen our faith, and in the end help our prayer life.

The Spirit can also help us to be humble, thankful, and faithful. All of which will make our praying more effective, and this will build us up - "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost," (Jude 1:20)



Grover Laird

Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Special Emphasis 2008
Our Needs - \$25,000