

Baptist

Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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Protecting The 'Unprotected'

Editor's Note: BMA Chaplain Doug Inman is working with military personnel and their families at Grafenwoehr, Germany, while the soldiers go through training. As part of his duties, he was given the assignment to organize and publish The Vanguard's Roll Call, a newsletter that is distributed to the soldiers and their families.

Chaplain's Word

It is my great pleasure to greet the soldiers and families of 2-18 IN in our first edition of The Vanguard's Roll Call.

a little over 2 months now, and yes we have received our household goods.

With that said, I want to let you know I am very excited about being your chaplain. One thing soldiers and their families might not always know is I am not only a chaplain to the one in the ACUs, but to his/her family as well. I love to help families through those occasional rough spots they may find themselves in, so let the record show that I am here for you.

As we spend our time out here in Grafenwoehr going through some re-



This "field service" was conducted Sept. 5 by Chaplain Inman for men who had been on a firing range in Germany for three days, qualifying on weapon systems they will use in Afghanistan. "My 'pulpit time' with these guys is indescribable," said Chaplain Inman.

I will first introduce myself. My name is Chaplain (CPT) Douglas J. Inman, and I call Arkansas my "where I come from" home. I am an avid Arkansas Razorback and SEC fan. I love to hunt, fish, camp and, most of all, spend time with my family.

I married my wife, Katja, 23 years ago, and we have three great boys — Nathaniel, 13; Jonas, 10; and Caleb, 7. We have been on ground in Germany for

ally good training. I can't help but wonder if others may feel as I do at times. Sometimes I feel quite unprotected! In fact, while deployed to Iraq there were several times I felt unprotected. One of the reasons I felt that way is because, as chaplain, I fall under a non-combatant role. That is exactly right — I do not and cannot carry a weapon.

But even though I don't carry a weapon

A Letter From President Leon Carmical State Meeting Nears

by Leon Carmical
President, BMA of Mississippi
To The Churches and Messengers of the
BMA of Mississippi,

What a great time to be a Christian, a Baptist and a member of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi! Our strong convictions on the Word of God and a deep abiding faith in Almighty God, and our commitment to the Great Commission with our desire to work together, makes the upcoming annual meeting of the BMAM important.

This past year has been a year of God's blessings on Mississippi Baptists. As you come to the state meeting you will be hearing encouraging reports of what God is doing through our people. Truly we can say, to God be the glory, great things He has done.

I still go "outside the wire," in other words I go outside the safety of the compound. Without going into great details, I remember there were times when I really felt vulnerable out there!

The chaplain's branch came up with the solution for this dilemma, and that was a chaplain assistant (CA). One of the main duties of the CA is being the chaplain's security force. That's right, he/she is my protection while on patrols and such. I am really blessed to have a good CA, but that is not always enough when it comes down to needing protection from the things of this world.

Bottom line up front — sometimes we need assurance that we are protected

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It is now time for your church to make plans to be represented at the annual meeting of the Baptist Missionary of Mississippi. Let me encourage your church to send messengers to be represented at this meeting. We need your wisdom, prayers, and vote.

Our theme for this year's meeting is, "Learn It, Live It - The Life of the Disciple," Acts 18:24-28. Please pray with me for the meeting that we will truly catch the vision to disciple our people to do the work of the ministry.

Let's come together and associate for the greatest cause of all, Jesus Christ!

The time is October 18-20 at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, Mississippi. See you there!



National Missions office announces resignation of Fiodor Baraniuk

The BMAA Department of Missions wishes to inform all churches and ministry partners,

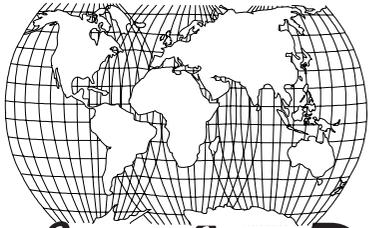
upon the request of the Missions Advisory Committee, North American Russian Coordinator Fiodor Baraniuk has tendered his resignation. Bro. Fiodor's resignation is effective October 1, 2010. Churches

who have directly supported Fiodor's ministry will be sent letters of explanation. The BMAA missions leadership wishes to express our appreciation to Fiodor for his years of service, and we pray for God's blessings on his future ministry.



Fiodor Baraniuk

204TH ANNUAL SESSION - BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

LEARN IT  LIVE IT

The Life of a Disciple

October 18-20, 2010 - Southeastern Baptist College - Laurel, Mississippi

Association Schedule

Monday - October 18, 2010

WMA & Brotherhood will meet at

First Baptist Church of Shady Grove

WMA Officers 6:00 PM

WMA (Sanctuary) 7:00 PM

Brotherhood (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 PM

Tuesday Morning - October 19, 2010

9:00 AM Registration

9:30 AM Association Convenes

Southeastern Baptist College

SBC Choir

Annual Theme Presentation

11:15 President's Message

12:00 Adjourn for Lunch

Tuesday Afternoon

1:30 PM

Association Continues

Southeastern Baptist College

2011 Annual Site & Speaker

2011 Midyear Site & Speaker

Adjourn

Tuesday Evening

6:30 PM

PreAssociation Concert

Stubborn Love

7:00 PM

Special Music

7:30 PM

Annual Message

Wednesday Morning - October 20, 2010

9:00 AM

Association Continues

Order of Reports

- Baptist Music Fellowship
- Brotherhood
- WMA
- Southeastern College
- Youth Department
- Missions Department
- Publication's Department
- BMA of Mississippi Foundation
- Senior Citizens Commission
- Christian Action Commission
- Commission on History
- Baptist Children's Home

Chaplain

from page 1

from all the things that can cause us pain and suffering. I would like to share a verse with you that brings me comfort and lets me know I am never unprotected! "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them." (Psalm 34:7) I believe whoever truly fears the Lord, has nothing else to fear.

Via Baptist Trumpet

CHURCH NEWS



News articles should contain information that will be of interest to the general public who are not members of the church that is reporting.

restoring it to its Christian founding.

Music - Education Position Available

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

Big Creek Men

The men of Big Creek Baptist Church recently held a "work day" and Men's Breakfast. The guest speaker for the breakfast was Laurel's own Tom Lester.



Pastor Don Brown with Tom (Eb) Lester.

Lester is a motivational speaker and known nationwide for the character of "Eb" from TV's Green Acres program. Mr. Lester brought a devotional, gave his personal testimony and told us about his days in Hollywood and the adventures he had. Tom also spoke concerning the current condition of our country and urged us to be involved in

Lebanon Baptist Church Homecoming

Lebanon will be celebrating 105 years on Sunday, October 10, 2010. The guest speaker for the day will be former pastor, Bro. Leon Carmical. Everyone is invited to attend this special day, especially former members and pastors. Lunch will be served after the morning service, followed by an afternoon service. Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. for more information please call 601-729-2436 or 601-729-2123.

Rock Creek Church to hold Revival Services

Bro. Harold Floyd of Laurel, Mississippi, will be in revival at Rock Creek Baptist Church, Union, Mississippi, on Sunday, October 24. We will continue services through Wednesday the 27th. Services on Sunday will be at 11:00 with lunch following at 12:00. Our afternoon service will begin about 2:00 p.m. with week-night services will be at 7:00 p.m. The Mississippi Five will be with us on Sunday October 24. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Call 601-774-8236 for information.

Survey: Americans don't know much about religion

Editor's Note: I hope you will read the following article in its context. For us as conservative Baptists, I think the article stresses the point that we must do a much better job in discipling those in our denomination. Knowledge, solid biblical knowledge is vital to the success of the individual Christian and can not be stressed enough in the local church setting.

A new survey of Americans' knowledge of religion found that atheists, agnostics, Jews and Mormons outperformed Protestants and Roman Catholics in answering questions about major religions, while many respondents could not correctly give the most basic tenets of their own faiths.

Forty-five percent of Roman Catholics who participated in the study didn't know that, according to church teaching, the bread and wine used in Holy Communion is not just a symbol, but (as they believe) becomes the body and blood of Christ.

More than half of Protestants could not identify Martin Luther as the person who inspired the Protestant Reformation. And about four in 10 Jews did not know that Maimonides, one of the greatest rabbis and intellectuals in history, was Jewish.

The survey released (recently) by the Pew Forum on Religion & continued on page 3

Spread the Word

to Spanish-Speaking Congregations!

DiscipleGuide has Bible study resources in Spanish for all ages. These resources offer coordinated, Bible-intensive, life-oriented studies that equip both students and teachers. DiscipleGuide also offers additional Spanish-language resources including a fine selection of gospel tracts and a hymnal with an accompanying CD. Order online at www.DiscipleGuide.org/Spanish or by calling 1-800-333-1442.



Southeastern Baptist College

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



Dr. Medrick Savell
President

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

It is October already! That means that the fall semester is one-half gone and it is time to prepare for the annual meeting of the BMA of Mississippi.

We are thankful that the messengers accepted our invitation to meet on the Southeastern Baptist College campus. We are excited about seeing many friends and supporters of the college and all departments and areas of service to our Lord. We are praying for another meeting where unity prevails and much progress can be made in the Lord's work among the churches in this association. We would encourage everyone who can to attend. We need the time of fellowship and spiritual renewal that will be experienced if we want it to.

The college will be providing a breakfast again in the library for alumni and friends begin-

ning at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, the 19th. Please let us know if you plan to attend so we will have a better idea of how many to plan for.

The college choir will sing in the opening service on Tuesday.

Special Emphasis

Thanks to all who have sent in your contributions to Special Emphasis. We are listing the churches, associations, and individuals who have given offerings at this time. Please consider joining in this needed project.

Churches

Antioch, Soso
Berean, Soso
Bethel, Seminary
Centerville, Mantachie
Community, Poplarville
East Fulton, Fulton
First Baptist, Bay Springs

First Calhoun, Laurel
Forked Oak, Booneville
Good Hope, Ovet
Hopewell, Fulton
Grace, Perkinston
Lee's Chapel #2, Picayune
Little Creek, Perkinston
New Bethany, Ellisville
New Hope, Collinsville
Oak Grove, Lucedale
Oakland Grove, Sandersville
Paramount, Perkinston
Ramsey Creek, Saucier
Riverside, Ellisville
Rock Hill, Meridian
Spring Hill, Laurel
Ten Mile Baptist Church Ladies
Sunday School Class, Perkinston
Union, Bay Springs
Washington, Neely
Westlawn, Picayune
Zion, Angilla

Associations

Harmony Baptist Association
Oak Grove Baptist Association
Washington Baptist Association

Individuals

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

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

Scholarship recipients announced

Mary and Amanda Lavinghouse are the recipients of the Preston and Louise Cochran Scholarship for the fall, 2010, semester at SBC. They each received \$500 to assist in their tuition.

The Preston and Louise Cochran Scholarship was established in 2009 by their daughter, Mrs. Betty Turner. Bro. Cochran, assisted by his faithful wife, Louise, was a BMA minister and educator. She was an honor student in high school and took several college level classes. Bro. Cochran received his Associate degree from Jacksonville Baptist College, Texas; his Bachelor degree and Master of Education from Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas; and did doctoral studies at the University of Southern Mississippi. He pastored several churches in Texas and Mississippi, was editor of the Mississippi Baptist paper, president of Southeastern Baptist College, a high school teacher and principal, and involved in many other ministries. Mrs. Turner established this scholarship to assist ministerial students, wives of ministers, music students, and any other deserving student who needs assistance.

Mary and Amanda are sophomores at SBC. They are members of the SBC Choir and participate in many other campus activities. Mary and Amanda are from Pascagoula, Mississippi.



Mary and Amanda Lavinghouse

Survey

from page 2

Public Life aimed to test a broad range of religious knowledge, including understanding of the Bible, core teachings of different faiths and major figures in religious history. The U.S. is one of the most religious countries in the developed world, especially compared to largely secular Western Europe, but faith leaders and educators have long lamented that Americans still know relatively little about religion.

Respondents to the survey were asked 32 questions with a range of difficulty, including whether they could name the Islamic holy book and the first book of the Bible, or say what century the Mormon religion was founded. On average, participants in the survey answered correctly overall for half of the survey questions.

Atheists and agnostics scored highest, with an average of 21 correct answers, while Jews and Mormons followed with about 20 accurate responses. Protestants overall averaged 16 correct answers, while Catholics followed with a score of about 15.

Not surprisingly, those who said they attended worship at least once a week and considered religion important in their lives often performed better on the overall survey. However, level of education was the best predictor of religious knowledge.

The top-performing groups on the survey still came out ahead even when controlling for how much schooling they had completed.

On questions about Christianity, Mormons scored the highest, with an average of about eight correct answers out of 12, followed by white evangelicals, with an average of just over seven correct answers. Jews, along with atheists and agnostics, knew the most about other faiths, such as Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Judaism. Less than half of Americans know that the Dalai Lama is Buddhist, and less than four in 10 know that Vishnu and Shiva are part of Hinduism.

The study also found that many Americans don't understand constitutional restrictions on religion in public schools. While a majority know that public school teachers cannot lead classes in prayer, less than a quarter know that the U.S. Supreme Court has clearly stated that teachers can read from the Bible as an example of literature.

"Many Americans think the constitutional restrictions on religion in public schools are tighter than they really are," Pew researchers wrote.

The survey of 3,412 people, conducted between May and June of this year, had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points, while the margins of error for individual religious groups was higher.

DiscipleGuide Gives Sunday Schools New Options

Kevin W. Clayton, D.Min. Executive Director

Some exciting changes in our Sunday School and small group resources are coming, and we want you to know about them. In recent years our curriculum has seen a number of beneficial changes in each age level, but I want to focus here on some significant improvements to be introduced this winter.

The Victory Series for Children

With the winter quarter 2010-11 we will introduce dual versions of the Victory Series using the King James Version and the New International Version. If a church prefers, it can continue to use the Victory Series based on the KJV, or it can take advantage of the option to order the same material based on the NIV.

Online Crafts Are Coming

Coloring sheets and other helps have been available online as supplements to the Victory Series lessons for quite some time. These have been very popular

downloads among our churches. Now there are new tools coming for churches that use the Victory Series. In the winter we will offer for purchase Online Explorer Crafts to help teachers to teach and review the Explorer Bible lessons. Included each quarter are thirteen craft ideas, one for use with each week's lesson. Each week's materials include full directions and printable patterns. Other age levels will be added later.

Adult Classes to Be Given an Option

Beginning with the winter quarter 2010-11 Compass Point, which targets young adults 18-45, will be based on the NIV. The Compass adult Sunday School book will continue to be based on the KJV. Our churches are using different versions, so we are making every attempt to provide resources in both versions so that all churches have access to DiscipleGuide prod-

ucts in a version they prefer.

Web-Based Curriculum for Students

Under the leadership of part-time DiscipleGuide Youth Editor Steven Carroll, DiscipleGuide has established a long-term goal of developing Web-based curriculum for students and their teachers. As for Bible versions, our youth resources provide the Bible reference allowing the students and their teachers to use the version they prefer.

These are a few of the exciting improvements on the way. DiscipleGuide is constantly evaluating to determine how we can provide more effective resources for BMAA churches. If your church has not seen our Sunday School and small group resources lately, we encourage you to take another look. Order a free sample packet of fall resources online today at www.DiscipleGuide.org/samples or call 800-333-1442.

www.DiscipleGuide.org
800-333-1442.

Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Guest Editorial

The Internal Battles Of Even The Best Of Pastors

by **Brandon Cox**

Truth: Your pastor is weak. He's flesh. He's human, frail and doesn't always have it all together. He may be faithful to God and thereby filled with the Holy Spirit, but there's always a secret side to him. He will probably never mention it in a sermon or a deacon's meeting. Chances are, he won't even tell his wife; but he endures battles. I've been a pastor for 13 years, and I've fought these battles for all of that time. I just want to advocate for your pastor today to tell you a few things you probably weren't aware of.

Your Pastor Battles Loneliness

Pastors are surrounded with people who love them, but who often don't know them intimately. They are celebrated on Sunday, but wonder on a slow Friday morning if they'll ever enjoy a deep friendship with anyone. Call him and encourage him.

Your Pastor Battles Feelings of Inadequacy

Most pastors today are expected to be great preachers, teachers, counselors, hospital chaplains, advisors, financial managers, publicists, apologists, scholars, organizers, recruiters and sometimes maintenance men. That's a lot of pressure. Most pastors are hard-wired to do one or two of those things well, so it's a virtual guarantee

he feels like he'll never meet your expectations in all of those other areas. Call him and encourage him.

Your Pastor Battles Uncontrollable Outcomes

Years ago, I started designing websites. It's therapeutic. I can type a few lines of code and perfectly predict how the result will work. People are different. Pastors counsel, advise, plead and beg, but some teenagers still rebel. Some marriages still end in divorce. Some addicts return to their old habits. Call him and let him know he's making a difference in somebody's life. Otherwise, he may never know.

Your Pastor Battles Temptation

All believers battle temptation, but pastors are on the front lines and Satan hates them. Pray for him daily. Never miss a day. And maybe, today, call him and pray for him over the phone. In 13 years of pastoral ministry, I prayed with hundreds of church members over the phone. Every now and then, one would surprise me and pray for me. Talk about making a pastor's day!

Your Pastor Battles Fatigue

At times, it's short term. Other times, it's long term. But your pastor gets tired in the same way you do, especially during seasons when the church

is growing and doing well. Send him to a retreat. Let him know it's okay to take a day off.

Your Pastor Battles Doubts About the Future

He has most likely read a hundred books on church growth written by guys who made it look so easy - start with five people, add water and multiply to thousands and get speaking engagements all over the country. Your pastor asks now and then, 'will I ever get there?' Call him and share with him one success story you've noticed within your church family. Remind him that it isn't about the masses of unknown people, it's about that one.

The fact that your pastor struggles with these issues doesn't make him less qualified as a shepherd, it makes Him more so. The writer of Hebrews said of Jesus, 'For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.' (Heb. 2:18) That's true of your pastor as well.

Call him. Send him a note. Send an email. Pray for him. Pastors are heroes. Show yours a little love today.

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



Bro. Eli listens intently as the committee discusses the merits of scented toilet paper over non-scented toilet paper.

THE REVIVALIST "REVIVED"

For a number of years this editor was privileged to be a part of the ministry of Bro. Grover Laird's "Revivalist" newspaper. Within the past year Bro. Laird stopped the printing and mailing of this publication. It was a blessing to so many for so long and we were one of those who hated to see its publication cease.



Don Brown
Editor

I have received word from Bro. Laird that the publication has found new life on the Internet.

Bro. Laird now has a new home for The Revivalist. It is available free of charge on the web at www.groverlaird.com.

I have taken a look at it and the publication maintains the look and feel it has had all these years. We are glad Bro. Laird has begun publishing once again. Take a look on the web at the New Revivalist format. Just a click away at www.groverlaird.com.

May God bless this new method of publication as He did the printed page for so many years.

If you wish to communicate with Bro. Laird you may do so by Email at groverlaird@nexband.com

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Virgil T. Ainsworth

Virgil T. Ainsworth is available for service as the Lord may lead. He may be contacted at the following numbers - home 601-729-8059 or cell 601-577-0924.

Dale Wirick

Dale Wirick is available for service or pupil supply. Wherever the Lord may lead. He may be reached at the following numbers - Cell 228-369-2608 & Home 228-474-8886.



2010 Annual Meeting
BMA of Mississippi
October 18-20, 2010

Southeastern Baptist College
Laurel, Mississippi

The Life of a Disciple

Mississippi Baptist

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

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

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

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Mississippi Baptist Children's Home



Sidney & Pat Davis



October 1, 2010

Greetings from the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home:

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

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

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

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

Pray for the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home that we will provide children with the loving warmth of Christian life and upbringing in an atmosphere that will help prepare them for the future.

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



Special Emphasis - October - November 2010

Mississippi W.M.A.

Mrs. Ruby Bynum, President
43 Bear Pen Creek Rd., Laurel, MS 39440
601-428-1901

Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443
601-729-5638



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

"UP"

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP? At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report?

We call UP our friends, we brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, we warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP the old car. At other times, the little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special.

And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a store in the morning, but we close it UP at night. When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP.

We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP! To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4th of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions. If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

All of these UPs remind me of a song, "Lift Up Your Eyes, Your Redemption Draweth Nigh". Thank God for that fact!

we are being efficient as well as good stewards? Even though we are still in the development of this massive campaign, we're praying and planning to step out in faith and start. Listed below is what we feel to be our plan for success.

1. Allocate an \$8.00 amount for each Shepherd Bag™. This will allow us to purchase the contents of the bag & cover the shipping and distribution charges. To ship 1.2 million Shepherd Bags™ will take sixty 40 foot containers. It will be important that we build into the cost of the bag expenses for shipping and in country distribution.

2. All bags will be uniform and exactly the same. We are phasing out girl and boy bags. This is very important for several reasons. 1) It is easier to pack & load the container by allowing us to get an equal amount of bags per box; it simplifies the ordering & record keeping process and makes distribution more organized in Honduras. 2) It insures that that no child will feel they were cheated or discriminated against. This will be important when government officials are participating in the distribution process. We do not want to show the appearance of partiality to anyone regardless of gender, race, religion, or economic standing. 3) Our target group is kindergarten children ages 5 and 6. We want to insure the children receive age appropriate bags with items that would not be a health hazard. The decision for the specific items being purchased for the new uniform bags was based upon the advice of our EIM Director in Honduras.

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2010 Mississippi Ladies Retreat Report

by Donna Lawrence
Mississippi State WMA Editor

Ladies just let me tell you if you were not at the Mississippi Ladies Retreat September 10 & 11, 2010, you sure missed a great retreat with multiple blessings. This year we had so many that had never been to a retreat. What made that such a blessing was that many of these ladies were young women which will be our future leaders of tomorrow. Thank you Lord for putting it in their hearts to come. We also had some that were above 80 years of age. I talked to one lady that was 90 years old.

Mrs. Anita Akers, from East Amory Baptist Church and wife of Pastor Roger Akers, was our speaker. She

start off this new church year more eager to pray and seek God's will for our lives, then stay busy growing up in Christ. This takes work. Nobody said that it will be easy, but it is worth it all.

The silent auction brought in \$967.50 that will go toward our project, the work of Bro. Ray Boone and the Hattiesburg mission. Thank each lady that brought something to sell or made a purchase that made the



WMA President Ruby Bynum addresses ladies

silent auction the success that it was. Remember ladies, if you haven't sent in your project money, please do this as soon as possible. It is amazing when we all work together what we can do for the glory of the Lord. The Hattiesburg mission needs our help so they can spread the Gospel to a lost and dying world

A very special thanks goes out to Mrs. Sharon Lindsey, Mrs. Chris Smith, and all their helpers for all the work that they put into making the plans and carrying them through - great job & well done. Thanks from all that benefitted from your hard work.

Our Mississippi State WMA meeting will be Monday, October 18, 2010, at First Shady Grove, Laurel, at 7:00 p.m. We are looking forward to seeing a great crowd. Do your part to be present. There will be an officers meeting at 6:00 p.m. prior to the meeting. We will be electing new officers for the coming year.



A good crowd at the 2010 Ladies Conference

did such a fantastic job presenting 'Big Girls Growing Up in Christ'. She chose II Peter 3:18 as her text verse, "But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever, Amen." She made the comparison of the natural birth to the spiritual birth. Each birth starts as a baby to be fed and nurtured or there is a failure to thrive. Just as babies have to be fed milk at first, new Christians have to be fed the milk of the Word before they can digest the meat of the Word. It is so amazing how God has worked all this out for us. Let each of us

1.2 Million Shepherd Bags for Honduras

Not Just a Dream but Reality! - "A Three Year Window of Opportunity"

Since our initial announcement of our call to provide Shepherd Bags™ to all the kindergarten classes in the country of Honduras we have been flooded with great ideas and suggestions on how to make this a reality. We do appreciate everyone who emailed and called the office. Your interest and excitement has been a great encouragement to us at EIM. This has been just one of many ways God has confirmed to us that all of this was ordained by Him and Him alone. It has been amazing to see how many churches, WMA's, Vacation Bible Schools, GMA's, Galileans, Sunbeams, Awana clubs and individuals that have already begun to get involved. It's awesome to see how God is at work. I

have told many people that this opportunity for Shepherd Bags™ sounds so impossible that people have begun to believe it is possible. This is the kind of enthusiasm that is needed to reach such a God goal.

We have put together a three-year plan for this endeavor. Why three years? The President of Honduras can only serve a single four year term. President Lobo took office in November of 2009. His term will expire in November of 2013. Not knowing who the next President will be nor their agenda, we feel that God has opened this door of opportunity for the next three years.

How do we make this cost effective and insure that

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

Part One

Romans 15:2 *"Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification."*

As I travel around the country, I have never seen a greater need for brothers and sisters in Christ to encourage one another. Our society as a whole is so discouraged that if we start encouraging lost people in their life, I believe it gives us a window of opportunity to witness and hopefully lead them to Christ. By us reflecting encouragement to others, it gives them cause to listen to this hope that is within us. That lays the ground work for them to listen to the Word. Faith comes by hearing and hearing from the Word. So, encouragement is good to build up our family, friends, and the body of Christ. Encouragement is also good to pave the way to opportunity to witness about the hope of Jesus Christ. All of this is good.

Now you may be feeling that you need a little more encouragement. You may need a lot of encouragement. One thing for sure, I have never met anyone that says they are over encouraged from their family. I have

never heard someone tell me they need to talk about a problem followed by the statement, "I am too encouraged at work. I also am overwhelmed with encouragement and appreciation at home." Encouragement is something we can all use more of. I want to exhort you to give it away freely.

You see, if you encourage others you will be encouraged. What goes around comes around. Or as scripture teaches in Galatians 6, we reap what we sow. If you need some more encouragement, don't hold back. Don't be petty and say, I will encourage my spouse when they give me some encouragement, or whatever relationship you are speaking of. If you want to be encouraged, give it away.

Senior adults are often lonely and have a lot of problems. They need someone at church to say something encouraging to them.

Teens growing up today are discouraged. Can you imagine trying to live for Jesus in a public school today! They must meet with a lot of discouragement along the way. An encouraging word from an older person at church might spur them on

to keep the faith. 99.99999% of marriages need more encouraging words to flow between each other.

And if you don't like your pastor or youth minister, try encouraging them some Sunday and you might just get a new preacher. You'd be surprised how little some ministers are encouraged. People might think



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

it is a calling full of encouragement and thankful people. In most churches today, it is just the opposite.

I hope you are getting the idea that we all need more encouragement and we all need to give it more. Let's don't sit around waiting for it to come to us. As Christians, one of the easiest and fastest ways to let our light so shine before others is to be a person of encouragement. This world is hurting and looking for

some encouragement. Let it be found in the people who follow Jesus Christ. Here is what encouragement stands for.

E - Edify. Edify comes from the same root word of edifice which is a building. We should build each other up by our words. Find one thing nice to say each day to everyone you meet.

N - Nurture. Nurture means to cause to grow. Our words of encouragement can cause people to grow in the Lord. Did you know that the number one way to keep kids off of drugs is to encourage them? Discouraged kids are like an injured rabbit to the roaring lion known as Satan. The jaws of the drug culture peer group are ready to devour discouraged kids.

C - Courage. It takes courage to speak up to someone you don't know very well at church. It may take some courage for a senior adult to speak to a teenager. It takes courage for a co-worker to stop the work day long enough to listen and encourage someone. It takes courage for a spouse to put their arm around

their spouse and encourage them after a hard day. Ask God for the courage to encourage others.

O - Opine. It means to give your opinion. Sometimes encouraging someone is making a statement like, "Well, I think you are doing a good job and I am proud of you." Others may not be saying that. It is encouraging to others to show you believe in them even when they don't believe in themselves. While it is just an opinion, it is that shot in the arm of energy that we really need some days. But be sincere.

U - Understand. It is encouragement to others if you just understand where they are coming from. There are many times in my life when I can't know how it feels for this person to be going through something, because I have never had their experience. But we can all show that we understand they are in pain, or lonely, or hurting. It is empathy. Understanding the point of view that your spouse is trying to make to you can be very encouraging. Watch for the remainder of this article in the next issue.

Shepherd Bags for Honduras

from page 6

3. If you would like to assemble Shepherd Bags™ this is the new procedure. We will have standard items that would be ordered from our EIM office and shipped directly to the address you provide. Example: If you were to raise \$1,000 & would like to assemble bags yourself or with a group, this is what you need to do. Contact the EIM Warren office & provide information we will need to order and upon receiving your designated Shepherd Bags™ offering, we will order the contents for the 125 bags you will be making, (excluding the one gallon storage bag. At the present time, we are unable to get a bulk rate for the bags). Allow up to four weeks for delivery of items. It usually takes two weeks or less to receive the items but there are occasional backordered items due to the volume that we order. It's a good idea to not set your assembly work day until all of your supplies have been received.

4. We will announce in the next few weeks drop off sites for all the Shepherd Bags™ that have been assembled. We will have strategically placed these locations to cover six states. We will have

individuals that will travel to the drop off stations and collect the bags and bring them to Warren, Arkansas for boxing and/or shipping. If you or your church would be interested in being a drop off site, please contact us.

5. To make this goal achievable we are asking for 1000 churches, Sunday School classes, GMA's, WMA's, Youth groups, Sunbeams, Awana Clubs, Civic organizations, or individuals to commit to providing 400 bags per year for three years. That would allow us to ship 400,000 bags a year for three years reaching our goal. Of course, you are not limited to a specific number of bags. Some have decided to join with others as a group to work to reach or surpass this goal.

6. Some might prefer to financially support this effort instead of making bags. That would answer a great need by providing the funds for us to purchase items and assemble bags locally at our Warren warehouse. We are set up to assemble, box and store our bags until shipment. If you want to give an offering to help, designate it: "Shepherd

Bags" and mail to: EIM, Attn: Julie, P. O. Box 297, Magnolia, AR 71671.

Since its beginning in 1999, we have not changed the way we do the Shepherd Bags™. But when God grows a ministry like He has this one, many times you have to change and adapt to grow. At this time, we truly believe these changes will allow us to move forward to meet this incredible goal. We're humbled that God would ever provide an opportunity like this.

Why have so many people become excited about this? Why is EIM excited? It's not because of the Shepherd Bag™ itself, although it is a blessing to see a small child get his or her first gift or toy. It is because of the opportunity to preach an uncompromised Gospel to millions of people over the next three years. How many will be saved through this effort? Only God knows. But what I do know is that millions will at least hear the Gospel. And isn't that all we have been asked to do? The Shepherd Bags™ is only a tool we use to present the most important thing in life, and that is the

Good News that Jesus Saves. The Bible tells us in John 12:32, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." Over the next three years we will be lifting Him up to millions of people and over the next three years God will be drawing millions unto Himself. How incredible is that? What a God!!!

Please visit our web site if you have questions. www.eimworldwide.org. We are in the process of updating our Shepherd Bags™ link and will have it up and running in a couple of weeks. If the web site doesn't answer all your questions please email or call Fonda Norris at the Warren office at 870-226-3626 or email her at fnorris@eimworldwide.org.

If you would like someone from EIM to come and share with your church or group, please contact: Rocky Goodwin at rgoodwin@eimworldwide.org or myself, Mike Goodwin at mgoodwin@eimworldwide.org and we would be happy to schedule a representative or ourselves if our schedule permits.

2010 Annual Meeting
BMA of Mississippi
October 18-20, 2010

Commission on Senior Adults

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



Here we are in the Fall of 2010. The leaves are beginning to turn and fall to the ground. It seems that the years pass more quickly than they use to. One's age might have something to do with that. The time for us to be up and about the Lord's business is now. It is a joy to talk with our many friends by way of the Mississippi Baptist Paper. It is good to be able report on the Commission through the ministry of this paper as well.

Our BMA Work

As I travel around to the various Local Associations and observe the attitude and spirit of our people I am encouraged. It seems that there is a renewed interest in the work. My wife and I attended the three Associations in North Mississippi in September and we really enjoyed the meetings. The attendance was better in all three Associations.

The fellowship was a special blessing to us. The Judson Association held in its Annual meeting on Saturday, September 11. It was a good day. The State Department leaders were

well received. Dot and I attended the Annual Association of the Mid Central Association. These churches took a step to support the Commission. I heard Brother Doyle Moore in several meetings. He thrilled our hearts as he reported on the work on many foreign fields. The Baptist Missionary Association in Mississippi and the Baptist Missionary Association of America are not dead. The message of Jesus Christ is heard in many parts of the world through the BMA. I am humbled to be a part of such a Scriptural work.

Your Commission

Your Commission on Senior Adults enjoyed a good year. More churches are organizing a ministry to their seniors. We welcome Temple Baptist Church, Lucedale, to our family of budget givers. Brother B.J. Hudson is Temple's pastor. If your church does not support your seniors and seniors over the state through the Commission, then why not? It would be good for every church to help us help your dear seniors.

Church Visits

South Prentiss, Baldwin; Sardis, Iuka; Hillcrest, Yazoo City; Magnolia Heights, Forest; Hickory Grove, Lumberton; Springhill, Laurel; Midway, McClain; Broadmoor, Meridian.

Association Visits

Hobolochitto, Washington, Tombigbee, Harmony, Judson, and Mid Central.

2011 Conferences

The Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, and Pastor Don Brown will host the South Conference. The date is Tuesday, March 29, 2011. Time 9:15 AM till 3 PM.

The First Baptist Church, Mantachie, and Pastor Dr. John Adams will host the North Conference. The date is Tuesday, May 3, 2011. Time 9:15 AM till 3 PM. The theme for the Conferences is Discipling or making Disciples. We must teach our people how to win lost souls and how to serve the Lord in a positive way. Jesus said to His Church, GO, teach or win them, and baptize them, and to TEACH them to OBSERVE all He said to do. (Matt. 28: 19-20). It is a huge task, but Jesus said to do it.

We are praying for and believing for 350-400 to be at Big Creek, and 200-250 to be at First Baptist. I am asking every pastor to be a positive

promoter of these great meetings. Pastor, if possible you will do yourself good to attend a Senior Adult Conference in 2011. You say there is nothing exciting going on in the BMA of Mississippi? Well, you haven't attended a Senior Adult Conference. Try it and you will like it. The Conferences will be promoted through this paper and by letters to the pastors and churches.

Senior Preachers

We will give special recognition to preachers reaching fifty years in the ministry in 2011. We will mail a form to the churches and ask qualifying preachers to fill in and return to the office. It takes time to process these and to have the plaques made. Please help us when you receive the forms.

MINISTERS RESOURCE SERVICES

Retirement Agency of the BMA of America, Ron Chesser, Director

Retirement Portfolio Exceeds \$10 Million

God has blessed MRS beyond our expectations. On September 24, 2010 our BMA Retirement portfolio passed 10 million for the first time, closing that day at 10.1 million. We have been praying for a long time that God would continue to bless this ministry by allowing us to reach this milestone. We are so thankful to our Lord for the outstanding growth we have experienced in recent years. Our BMA Retirement portfolio was at 3.2 million just 10 years ago, so we have more than tripled the portfolio during the past 10 years.

Get on board. October is "Pastor Appreciation Month" throughout the BMAA. Show your appreciation to your pastor and church staff by enrolling them in the BMA Retirement at Ministers Resource Services. Our Long Term Growth retirement returns have averaged a growth of 8% each year for the past 8 years. We are only a phone call away at 870-774-2654.

We would also be encouraged by a love offering in October from your church to assist us in continuing to "Serve the Servants of God." October is our special emphasis month, by vote of the association, for such an offering. What can I say that I have not already said about this retirement ministry, except to pray, "Lord, let it continue to grow so it may minister in meeting the needs of your servants for your honor and your glory. Amen."





Jerry Jolly
Speaker



David Attebery
Worship Leader

Guest Artists



Allison Durham Speer



Ken Neders



Shiloh



**Sight & Sound
The Miracle of Christmas**

11th Annual National Senior Adult Conference

November 16-18, 2010 - Hiltons of Branson, Missouri

\$125 Per Person by October 18, 2010. Late Registration is \$135 & Off-site is \$145. You may register online at www.DiscipleGuide.org/conferences or print the form and mail it with your check to the DCM office.

Make your **reservations** at the **Hilton Convention Center Hotel** or the **Hilton Promenade** by calling 1-800-445-8667 or direct at 417-336-5400. The parking garage is \$8 per day and there is limited free parking. Group rate is \$122 per night with the meeting room on site.

