

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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VOL. 66 No. 19

2012 Meeting To Bring Change Participate & Attend

by Shane Singleton, President
Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Isn't it a joy to come together as brethren with our hearts focused upon Christ Jesus the Lord?

Later this month, messengers from our churches will gather at Southeastern Baptist College for some of the most blessed privileges we have - to worship, to fellowship, to associate, and to be about our Father's business. Let me encourage each church to share in this opportunity as our work is facing a great deal of change. This is cause for rejoicing, but also a call to responsibility. As we come together, let us be sure that the voice of each church is heard. To that end, we will once again be using the ballot system of voting - messengers be sure to register and so each of your three messengers may receive their ballot.

We speak of change in our work - there is a new schedule to follow. A Pastor's and Laymen's Conference has been added, some meetings (like Brotherhood and WMA) have been moved from their traditional times, and each report has been given a definite time of presentation. It is the hope that these changes will allow for a little more 'breathing room' in order to better contemplate the Lord's work and better participate in the Lord's worship. It is also a hope that it will allow for more fellowship between brethren and greater attendance among churches.



Shane Singleton

Other changes... the first anniversary of our Missions Director, the consideration of candidates for three different areas of our work - Senior Adult (Bro. Kenneth Flynt), Southeastern Baptist College (Bro. Gary O' Neal), and Youth (Bro. Kelby Johnson). There is a committee report regarding the ministry purpose of the Children's Home and there are sure to be other items of business to arise as we seek to grow in impact and influence as the BMA of Mississippi. With all of these things, with all of this change - good and different - going on around us, let me ask you to join me in doing three things in preparation for our upcoming meeting:

First, seek the presence of the Lord. Our theme is "Looking Unto Jesus" and in the midst of change, we would do well to find our strength in the unchangeable Christ. Secondly, pray. These meetings are referred to as business, but they are worship, because we deal with the holy things of God - how are we able without prayer? And lastly, participate. Our work is at its best, and certainly at its strongest when we stand together and seek the same direction. It will be a wondrous meeting, a blessed time, a joyous fellowship. I look forward to seeing you there.

Meeting Schedule Listed On Page 2

DiscipleGuide Announces New Director

by Clinton Everitt
Chairman, DiscipleGuide
Trustees

The DiscipleGuide board of trustees is pleased to announce the election of Scott Attebery to fill the office of executive director.

Brother Attebery has a clear vision for our department and a desire to resource our churches with the very best products and services we can provide. Throughout the interview process he identified several practical ways

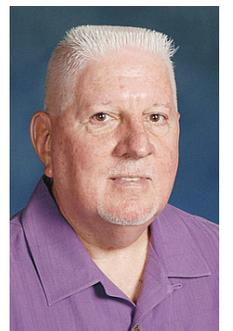


Attebery

the departments within DiscipleGuide could partner together and complement one another in promoting church health and equipping our churches to fulfill the Great Commission. Likewise, he has a clear understanding of how DiscipleGuide can be an integral partner with Lifeword and our Department of Missions in achieving the purpose and vision of the BMA of America. Please join us, the board of trustees, in our prayers for Brother Attebery and his transition into the executive director's office and for our department. We want nothing more than for our departments, our products, and our services to bless our churches and help them become all that God desires them to be.

Speer Sets Retirement Date

In other business the board received the announced retirement of Brother James Speer as director of camp ministries effective December 31, 2014. This schedule will allow us two years to train a new camp director and achieve the necessary state certifications to operate a youth camp. Candidates to replace Brother Speer have already been identified, and we are not soliciting applications



Speer

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National Senior Adult Conference 2012 to be the Best Yet!

By Donny Parrish

The 2012 National Senior Adult Conference could be the best ever produced by DiscipleGuide according to Conference Director, Donny Parrish. "When you couple the line-up of conference personalities we've assembled with the newly refurbished Branson Hilton, I don't know how you couldn't call this our best Senior Adult Conference." The conference is scheduled for November 7-9 at the Hiltons of Branson, Missouri. The Hilton took a direct hit from a tornado earlier this year and the result is a completely remodeled facility. Parrish says that BMA

Seniors will be some of the first to enjoy the new hotel. "It's a world-class facility that's been made even better."

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

their work.

DiscipleGuide is honored to present the 80 member, Singing Men of Arkansas Choir in concert. Utilizing a broad variety

continued on page 2

Mission Church Reunion

See Editorial on page 4
and ads on pages 4 & 7

Stranger Things Have Happened

It was a dark, moonless night in the winter of 1980 something when I found myself crouched down on an old logging road huddled next to a small pile of burning coals. The brightness of the blaze had long since burned down and now all that was left was a faint amber light with just enough smoke to blow directly into my eyes. Ricky Joe "Bubba" Smeltalet and I had been

From The Mind of



Chuck Lee

been abandoned so we could have a way to haul the dogs back home.

Later, upon reciting our adventure to our parents, I heard Mom mention something to Dad about something being strange. Finally, they found something they could agree with me about! They then began making subtle attempts to cause me to move out and find a place of my own, but

I just kept retrieving my clothes from the front lawn where they had been thrown.

As I reflected on strange happenings that have occurred to me, I happened upon a strange incident that occurred in the Bible. A man, sick of the palsy, had been carried up on a roof, lowered through it, and later walked outside on his own two feet through the front door. I can imagine the looks on the faces of those forced to stay on the outside because of the throng of people. The Bible tells us that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law present, so you can imagine the stir that it caused among the "regular" folks and the interest that was peaked upon seeing a man carried up onto the roof of this house. Greater interest was undoubtedly showed when this same man walked out the door carrying the bed. Someone exclaimed, "We have seen strange things this day."

I'll say! Unlike Ricky Joe and me, it seems these people stayed around to see what caused their strange occurrence. It may be that more people need to stay around and see what kind of strange things that God can do. We might find out that it's not that strange after all.

chasing 'coons' all night when we had the bright idea to just build a fire and sit by it while the dogs chased the coons. The dogs seemed okay by this arrangement and before long had barked and howled their way out of hearing distance of us and into hearing distance of a subdivision a mile away. Since "out of sight, out of mind" was a way of life for us we decided to just stay by the fire and tell stories. Ricky Joe was a better liar than me and therefore won the storytelling contest.

As we sat there, suddenly a bright light arched across the sky in the manner of a falling star and seemed to fall several hundred yards distance from us down the logging road. Being of sound mind and judgment and not believing in UFO's, Ricky Joe and I knew it was no sense in us checking out the phenomenon, hence saving ourselves from being used as a scientific experiment in a pitre dish for some big-headed alien creature from Mars. Leaving the dogs to entertain the neighbors, Ricky Joe and I burnt rubber on the gravel road for forty feet in our haste to satisfy a hunger that had suddenly arisen for a delicious Big Man Burger. The next day we went back and retrieved the truck that had

Senior Adult Conference frompage 1

ety of repertoire, SMA endeavors to inspire and entertain audiences through dynamic choral performance.

The Bowling Family, a dynamic gospel trio will also be in concert. The Bowling Family has appeared on the Gaither Homecoming series concerts and videos, TBN, Gospel Music Week's Dove Awards, at GMA's Seminar in the Rockies and numerous other major events.

Christian Comedian, Aaron Wilburn is making his first appearance at National Senior Adult Conference. Featured on the Gaither Homecoming tour and videos, he has endeared himself to thousands of laughter-loving fans with his down-home brand of humor as he talks about his southern roots, his family, children and teen-agers as Aaron says "There is no generation gap with laughter".

Your registration includes attend-

ing the popular Haygood Family Show! This talented group of seven brothers and one sister is the REAL DEAL! The Haygoods bring the house down night after night with incredibly tight harmonies, innovative, energetic choreography and amazing performances on over 20 different instruments! With over 5,000,000 people taking part in the Haygood experience, you'd better believe that there's more to this group than buzz!!

Registration is \$125 by the October 7 early registration and includes 2 breakfast buffets, 4 concerts, 3 worship sessions and the Haygoods Show along with lots of fun. Registrations are non refundable after that date. Hilton room rates are \$127 per night and can be secured by calling 417-336-5400.

For more information about Senior Adult Conference 2012 visit the DiscipleGuide website at <http://www.discipleguide.org/nsa> or call the DCM office at 1.501.513.3726.

2012 BMA of Mississippi Schedule

Tuesday Morning, October 23

9:00 a.m. WMA (Shady Grove Baptist Church)
Brotherhood (Southeastern Baptist College)
Pastor's & Laymen's Conference (SBC)
Bro. Steve Crawley, speaker
Lunch

Tuesday Afternoon, October 23

1:30 p.m. Registration
2:30 p.m. President's Message and Presentation of the Theme
2:45 p.m. Enrollment Committee Initial Report
Enrollment of Messengers / Election of Officers
Annual Site & Speaker / Mid-year Site and Speaker
WMA
Southeastern Baptist College
Youth Department
Publications Department
BMA Foundation
Adjourn

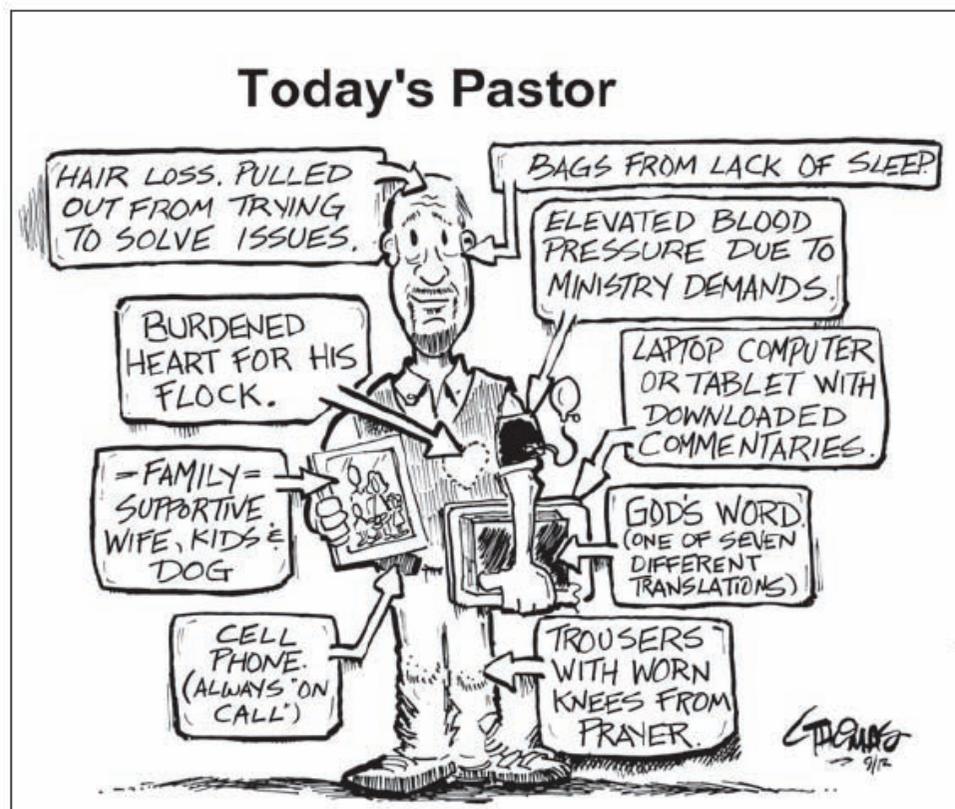
Tuesday Evening, October 23

6:30 p.m. Prelude Music
7:00 p.m. Special Music / Congregational
7:30 p.m. Annual Message
Bro. Gary Smith

Wednesday Morning, October 24

9:00 a.m. Senior Adults
9:20 a.m. Moral Action
9:50 a.m. History & Archives
10:00 a.m. Children's Home
10:30 a.m. Baptist Music Fellowship
10:35 a.m. Brotherhood
10:40 a.m. Salary Committee Report
10:45 a.m. Final Enrollment Committee Report
10:50 a.m. Nominating Committee Report
11:00 a.m. Missions / Missionary Commissioning Service
Adjourn

Subject to change to allow for national workers and local ministries



JESUS, The Way To Heaven

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6)

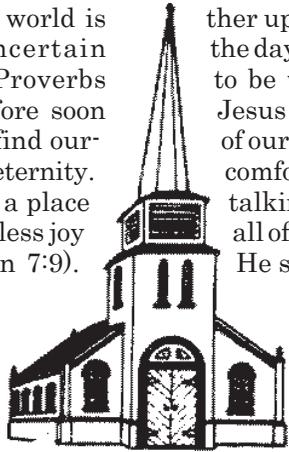
We are taught in the Bible that our stay in this world is short and very uncertain (Psalm 103:15,16; Proverbs 27:1). We will therefore soon move from here and find ourselves somewhere for eternity. Multitudes will go to a place called Heaven for endless joy and peace (Revelation 7:9). Many others will go to Hell, a place of endless suffering (Isaiah 5:14; Matthew 25:46).

The good news is, because God so loved the world He has provided a way of salvation whereby all can escape Hell and go to Heaven. The Bible tells us about this, and how we can be sure we will go to Heaven when we die. I want to explain it to you. I will make it as simple as I can.

Have you always thought of death as something dark and frightening? Most people do. While it will be dark for many, it does not have to be for you.

Only those who have rejected God's way of salvation should fear death. Let me explain.

When Jesus was upon earth, He often spoke of His Father up in Heaven and of the day He would go back to be with Him. Before Jesus spoke the words of our text, He sought to comfort His disciples by talking to them about all of this. Here is what He said, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also (John 14:1-3). So there is a place up above called the "Father's House." God the Father is there, Jesus is now there, and mansions are there. This is Heaven! And God has fixed a way that sinful man can go there when he departs this life.



When Jesus was talking about His home in Heaven and how He would go back to fix a place for His people, one of His disciples ask concerning the WAY one could get there--"Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?" (Verse 5) The answer is found in our text. Here Jesus simply said, "I AM THE WAY." Most of what I will say from here on will be said to explain how Jesus is the way to Heaven, and how one can be sure of going there.

MAN CANNOT GO TO HEAVEN AS HE IS

When God created man he was without sin. In that holy state, God placed him in a little paradise called Eden. Everything was wonderful. But God did not fix it where man could not go the other way. Man might have said, "I like all of this, but I did not have any choice in it. God did give man a choice, but also warned him of the costly results of going the wrong way. After a time man chose to go the wrong way and

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Southeastern Baptist College

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

Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere

Special Emphasis a Success

The Special Emphasis ended in August, but churches continued to send their offerings on through September. I have waited until the end of September to give a final report. Last year, only 31 churches participated in our Special Emphasis with offerings totaling just a little over \$11,000. This year, I asked for 100 churches to participate giving \$200 each for a potential of \$20,000.

Even though 100 churches did not participate, the total number of those who gave was 49 churches and six individuals. These churches combined with the individuals gave \$16,462.89. This is about a \$5,000 increase over last year, plus a total of 18 more churches participated than last year. Though we were slightly short of the original goal, I consider this to be a great success, espe-

cially from another perspective.

After becoming interim president June 1, I made a special appeal to our churches to give offerings to help with our deficit at the closing of the fiscal year. That response was overwhelming because over \$33,000 was given by June 30, and this was above the regular June income. Some churches and associations gave generously in June and then gave again in the Special Emphasis. Many have expressed to me a renewed interest and confidence in the college and this has been reflected in the amount that has been given extra in these four months.



Joseph Harris
Interim
President

26 Churches and Associations Visited

Since June, I have visited and preached in 15 churches in a Sunday or Wednesday service and have three more scheduled the first three Sunday nights in October. This is crucial since it helps to reestablish a connection with our churches and pastors and the people learn facts about the college first hand. I have also visited in 11 association meetings, most regular and some annual, since June.

It is difficult to attend every association meeting because of the conflicting times some of them meet. All total, I have been to 26 churches and association meetings since June. This has resulted in some new churches beginning to support and other churches increasing their support. Yet, in all that has been said, God is to be thanked since He has given these blessings. Thanks so much to the pastors, churches, individuals and associations for your generosity and confidence.

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

Registration - \$125 per person by October 7. Register at www.DiscipleGuide.org/nsa or print the form and mail it with your check to the DCM office.

Hotel - Hilton Branson Convention Center - \$127 plus tax per night with up to four to a room. Make your reservations by calling 1-800-445-8667 or direct at 417-336-5400.

Call the DCM office with any questions at 501-513-3726 or e-mail triciak@conwaycorp.net.



Annual BMAM Meeting
October 23-24, 2012
Southeastern College
Laurel, Mississippi

Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Former members and friends invited Reunion set for former state mission project

by Don Brown
Former Parkview Church Member

In 1973 I was transferred to Pascagoula, Mississippi, by my employer. We eventually bought a home in Gautier, Mississippi. Being good BMA Baptists we began searching for a church home. We visited most of our churches in the area, but were drawn to a fairly new congregation located just a couple of blocks from our home.



Don Brown
Editor

That church was Parkview Baptist Church, a mission project of the BMA of Mississippi. Bro. Arthur Smith was the missionary pastor. We quickly fell in love with the Smith family and this new congregation of God's people. We enjoyed many years of worship and fellowship at Parkview. This move was very special to me personally because it was at this church that I came to know Christ as my personal savior. I also surrendered to the ministry at Parkview in 1977.

This experience was not unique to me - the Lord called seven or eight men out of this congregation to the Gospel ministry. One of those is Bro. Dewitt Bain, current pastor of Shiloh Church, Mt. Olive. As a newly called preacher of the Gospel, Bro. Bain had a heart for his home town. Parkview Church sponsored Bro. Bain as a missionary to Kosciusko and the people of Attala County.

Times change and so do ministries. Parkview Church no longer exists, but the ministry of this mission effort continues to bear fruit. The building is still there and is used by another congregation.

Due to the urging and desire in his heart, Bro. Dewitt has set in motion an effort to have a Parkview Reunion. The hope is for this to become a regular event. The first reunion meeting is set for Saturday, November 10, 2012. It will be a casual affair. We will meet in the facilities of Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi at 11:30 on Saturday morning. The meal will be a "pot luck" luncheon. We will have a devotional, some musical entertainment and a great time of fellowship and remembering.

If you have any information about any individual who was a member of Parkview Baptist Church, Gautier, Mississippi, or if you had any connection with this church we ask that you spread the word. You are invited to this "reunion". For more information call Don Brown at 601-426-3293 or Dewitt Bain at 601-797-4597.



DiscipleGuide Announces Changes

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at this time. If, however, you would like for us to consider someone for the position, please forward his name and pertinent information to our office in Texarkana.

Print Shop Closure

The board also took action on the print shop run by DiscipleGuide that printed Spanish literature for the missions department. After agonizing deliberation and much prayer for God's direction, we finally came to the conclusion it was time to end this part of our operations. Due to several factors, including the decreased volume of printed materials ordered by the missions department and the cost to maintain equipment between printing runs, it has proven increasingly unprofitable for DiscipleGuide to maintain this operation, as any price increase would be an unnecessary burden on the missions department. In order for us to have prevented operating at a loss the last four years, price increases to the missions department would have exceeded the cost of contracting with a commercial printer. Also, without a substantial subsidy from other churches, individuals, or other organizations, it seemed very unlikely that another church or association of churches would be able to continue the operation for the same reasons DiscipleGuide could not. In order to satisfy the original intent for which the money was given that purchased the various pieces of equipment, the board decided to liquidate all the equipment and donate the proceeds and remaining assets of the print shop to the missions department to be designated for Spanish literature. To all who have supported this ministry directly and helped purchase printing equipment in the past, we hope you will continue to support the foreign language ministry with gifts to MLM.

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"Just to clarify... last Sunday when I preached on the 'widow's mite' I was not suggesting it as your tithe..."

Mission Church Reunion

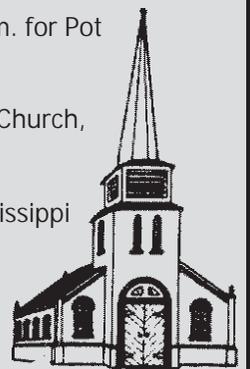
What - Reunion of former members of Parkview Baptist Church of Gautier, Mississippi.

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

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

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

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



Mississippi Baptist

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Children's Home Special Emphasis

2012 Goal - \$25,000

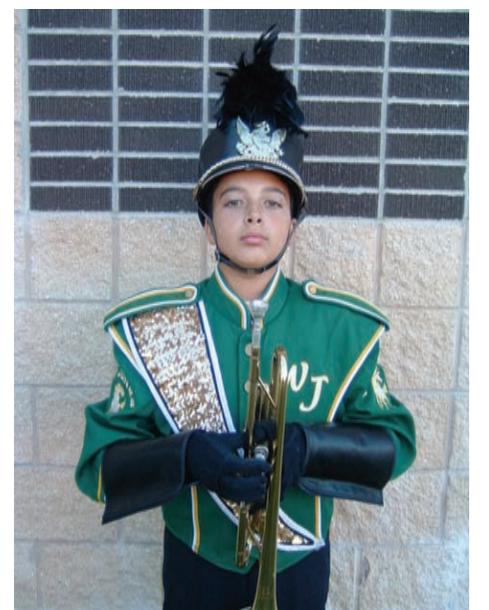
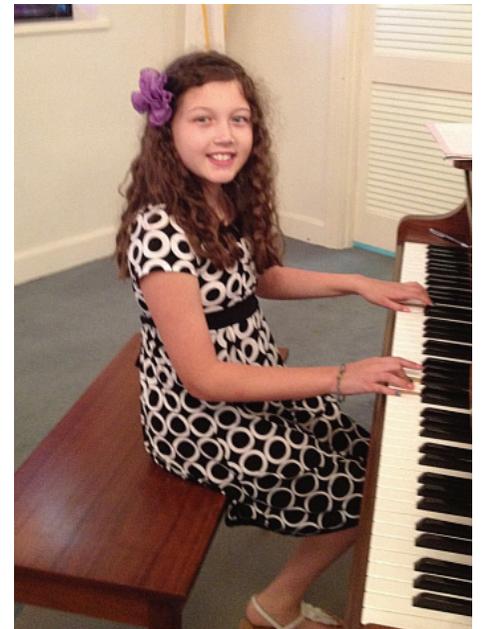


On behalf of the children and staff of the Home let me express to you our sincere thanks for your continued prayerful and financial support of the Home. Because of your love and concern for boys and girls in need you have made an eternal influence on lives that are precious in the eyes of the Lord.

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

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

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



Sidney D. Davis
Director

*Helping Young
People Grow*

Luke 2:52



Good Fellowship and Hard, Productive Work The Master's Builders Work at Northside

On September 10th, The Master's Builders arrived in Garland, Texas, to help with the remodeling of the sanctuary at Northside Baptist. This was the 119th job that The Master's Builders have had the privilege of working on since being established in 1991.

ers traveled from Alabama, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. We had 3 men that experienced their first job with The Master's Builders. Kenny Masingill and Phil Wilbanks from St. Elmo, Alabama and Dick Bittner from Saginaw, Texas. They all fit right in with



There were 13 men present on that Monday morning who were ready to begin working on removing dark paneling, putting up sheet rock, enlarging the stage, and building a foyer at the entrance to the sanctuary.

Eleven RVs were camped at East Fork Park on Lake Lavon Wylie, with two of our men staying in a motel. The work-

our "family" group.

Bro. Ken Williams and wife Kelly, were such a blessing to all of us. The folks from Northside took good care of us and fed us very well! A big thank you to all the members of Northside, but especially to Kelly Williams and Gladys Aldridge.

While we were at Northside, some of our group had the honor

and privilege to attend 2 services at The Dallas Living Word Arabic Church, which meets at Northside on Sunday evenings. Bro. Ashraf Sara and wife Jeni, are leading this wonderful congregation of believers here in the Garland area. They are very inspiring and humbling in their worship of our Lord. What a wonderful work they are leading in here. Our ladies auxiliary had the privilege of having Jeni come and give her testimony of their work in Iraq and now in the Dallas area. What a blessing to hear! May God bless you greatly!

What a joy it is to work with The Master's Builders. We are blessed in so many ways. We are volunteers who travel to churches that have building needs. We travel in our RVs or stay in motels, at our own expense. The work is hard for our men, but the Lord really blesses them and they are able to get a great job done. They love the Lord and each other and we enjoy being together. We always look forward to the next job. If you are looking for a way to serve the Lord and this sounds like something you would enjoy, we would love for you to come with us on a job and see how it goes. We would

love to have you join our "family".



Max and Wilma Adams

This was the 106th job for Max and Wilma Adams of Eldorado, Arkansas, and as we learned, this would be their last one. Because of health problems, Max feels that he would not be able "to pull his own weight", but we look forward to seeing them as they can. Thank you, Max and Wilma, for the example you have set for us all.

If your church has building needs or if you have questions about The Master's Builders, you can contact Office Coordinator, John Mangum at 318-205-5155 or 318-607-4100 (cell) or Field Coordinator, Eddie Sikes, at 903-725-6549 or 903-462-1675 (cell).

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.

Transformation Trail presented by Old Antioch Baptist

Old Antioch Baptist Church on Hwy 28 in Soso, Mississippi, will present the Transformation Trail on October 20, 2012, from 7:00 P.M. until. The Transformation Trail depicts how an encounter with the true and living God transforms lives. In an outdoor setting, there will be several stops along the trail where Bible characters share their experiences and how their lives were transformed after meeting Jesus. We encourage all who can to attend and bring friends, family members, etc. Admission is free, and we know you will receive a blessing. Childcare will be provided. If there are individuals who are unable to walk the trail, we will provide a cart so those individuals may ride. Refreshments will also be served.

The Way To Heaven

continued from page 2

found himself a sinner in a cold sinful world. (Read this story in Genesis chapters two and three.)

Though man rebelled against God after He had been so good to him, God still loved him. God did not say, "You have made your bed hard so sleep on it." In essence He said, "I still love you, and I will help you get it all back like you once had it." More than that, God promised to pay all that this would cost. He did all of this, making the way simple and fixing it where it could never be lost again. It is true however, that we do not get everything back as it was immediately. But really, what could have been done more than God did, and still be true to His holiness and deity?

When man fell from that high and holy state in which he was created, he became a depraved being, Spiritually dead in sin.

All mankind from that day until now are in the same condition (Romans 5:12). As God now looks down upon man He sees him altogether different from the way He created him--"God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Psalm 53:2,3). Paul also wrote about man's condition after the fall--"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

A holy, righteous God could not therefore put man back where he was in that condition. If man would ever know peace, man would have to undergo a change, and God would have to be the One to fix a way it could be done.

GOD FIXED A WAY OF SALVATION FOR FALLEN MAN

Since the sin of the first man brought Spiritual death upon all the world (Romans 5:12); God fixed a way of salvation for all the world. John 3:16 is one of the Scriptures that explains what He did--"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." This verse tells us that God's love for sinful man was so great, until He gave His Son Jesus to come to this world and fix a way of salvation for him.

What Jesus did was, He "took upon himself the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men" (Philippians 2:7b). Being then found in fashion as a man, He went through the trials and temptations of this life as any other man, "yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). Having therefore no sins of His own to pay for, He paid for ours. Since "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23), Jesus took the

blame for what we had done, and by death "bare our sins in his own body on the tree" (1 Peter 2:24). As God looked upon His Son dying on that cross, He saw the travail of His soul was satisfied (Isaiah 53:11). A sacrifice had now been offered and accepted for the sins of the world.

Three days after He was buried, He arose as the Victor over death, Hell, and the grave. After forty more days upon earth, He returned to His Father in Heaven. There He lives at the Father's right hand as the Savior of the world, a Savior that is "alive for evermore" (Revelation 1:18).

After John 3:16 tells us how God loved the world enough to give His only begotten Son to come and fix a way of salvation, it then tells us how we may all obtain that salvation. Notice, "...that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Man must therefore be-

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Texas church seeking pastor

South Park Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, is seeking a pastor. Visit fortworthbaptistchurch.org/PastorSearch/ for more information about the church or to submit a resume.

Kenny Mitchell

Bro. Kenny Mitchell is available for service as the Lord leads. He may be reached at 601-798-7273 or 601-569-1896.

October - November 2012
Mississippi Baptist
Children's Home
Special Emphasis
Goal - \$25,000

A Family Gathering

Communication is the key to solving all problems. Communication is the glue that makes a family stick together. Communication is the cornerstone for the family home. Healthy, open and honest communication is the foundation for building a good, Christian home. Since communication is so important, it is absolutely essential to provide conduits of communication if you want your family to be successful. Hence, the family gathering.

A family gathering is a time once a week when the family comes together for no other



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

purpose, but to talk about what is going on in each family member's life that week. Since prayer is the most important and first avenue of expression in communication for the Christian home; this family time will obviously consist of praying together as a family. It is still true. The family that prays together, stays together. You

may think it is a tired, old worn out cliché, but a family that prays together does have the glue that holds them together.

And just a note to my readers, as a way of explanation to protect my integrity I have been, teaching families to build family altars for home worship and to have these family meetings my entire career. There is a current movie called, "Courageous" that has workbooks that go along with the movie. Many of our churches are doing these workbooks. I understand that this Courageous program also teaches families to have family altars and family meetings. But I have been teaching this for years, I have never seen the movie Courageous and my teachings are not taken from this movie or workbooks currently out. I just felt the need to share that. Now, on with some specifics.

The family meeting and the family altar do not replace nightly devotions. Those are shorter time periods used each night to instruct the children in scripture and to pray to-

gether as a family. The family meeting is once a week. It is a longer period of time used to connect with each family member.

To get started, find a place in your home to hold the meeting. Hold it there every time. Traditions are im-

portant tools for security in a child's life. Select an evening to do family meetings. Stick to it passionately. You may have to cancel other plans sometimes because it is family meeting night. This will help when your kids get older and they have to tell their friends they can't do something because it is family meeting night. On rare occasions, it may be necessary to

move the meeting to another night. Maybe there is a Christmas play at school or a special evening out, etc. These should be rare exceptions. The parents need to make this meeting a priority, and cancel other things. Nothing is more important than communicating with the family.

Each person must participate. Be flexible. Little kids



The Way To Heaven

continued from page 6

lieve in Jesus to save him if he is forgiven and has everlasting life. To believe in Jesus however, means more than to mentally agree that Jesus is the way to Heaven. It is more than believing that Jesus can save us. It is to believe in Jesus to save us.

There are other verses that teach the same thing as we have noticed here, but says it in other words. It might make our study more simple to mention some of them. To believe in Jesus is to trust in Jesus to save us (Ephesians 1:13). It is to receive Him into our heart as our Savior (John 1:12). It is to confess Him as our Savior (Romans 10:9,10). It is to turn our sinful self and whole eternity over into the hands of Jesus (11 Timothy 1:12b). It is to call upon the Lord for salvation (Romans 10:13). It is to repent and come to Jesus for salvation

(Acts 17:30). All of this means that one is saved when he turns from his old sinner life and comes to Jesus for salvation. As he comes he not only believes the story of Jesus being the Savior of the world, he also believes in Him to be his Savior.

WE CAN BE SURE THAT WE ARE SAVED

A sinner can think he has believed in Jesus to save him, but may not be sure that he has. But there is no reason to fear. The Lord has provided ways that we can be sure. Romans 8:16 says, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." Therefore the same Spirit that troubled our heart about our need of salvation, will put our heart at ease with the feeling that all is well with us and the Lord. The Spirit can

give us assurance that Satan cannot take away.

The fact that we now have the Holy Spirit in us also assures us that we did in deed receive Jesus as our Savior: "Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit." (I John 4:13) Also, when the Spirit comes in and makes our body His dwelling place, He changes us (Titus 3:5), and fills our heart with love (Roman 5:5). We then love God (Psalm 116:1), God's people (I John 3:14), and surely God's Word (Psalm 119:89).

When we feel that we have done what the Bible tells sinners to do in order to be saved, and we know that what the Bible says will happen to one who gets saved has happened to us; we can then be sure that we are saved. We can be sure that we are a child of God, and that we will go to Heaven when it is our time to depart this life.

-Grover Laird

have a short attention span. They may not have big problems. But holding these meetings early on in their lives is training them to understand that home is where I go if I have questions or problems. This helps assure you that as teens, your kids will always see home as a place to communicate freely. We don't get upset in these meetings. It is good to take hot topics throughout the week and put them over into the family meeting for discussion after we have all had time to calm down and pray about it. If emotional issues come up, as an example during the meal on Monday night you can say, "Ok let's stop and discuss this Thursday night during family meeting." It helps avoid meltdowns in the home.

If no one has any stressors or struggles that week, then we just go around the family circle thanking God for something He has done for us or thanking a family member for help. A time of encouragement. This is where you can teach morals and behavior as well. This is when you make family plans for the future. Schedule coordination.

A family altar is not building an actual altar in the home. It is just having a designated place in your home for holding home worship. In home worship, the family actually studies the Word together, prays together, speaks of spiritual things, and sings a song or two of praise or a hymn. It is like having a church service at home. This will make a life-changing impact forever on your family. Going to church is worshiping God in a corporate setting with other like-minded believers. Home worship is doing the same thing with just your family. It is more personal and more intimate. Then for your children, going to church is no strange thing. Sunday is no different than any other day in our lives, other than the fact that we go and worship with others, besides our own family.

Communication sure helps. You solve problems. You grow spiritually through praying together. You laugh, cry and plan things out. You set a moral agenda for the home. You connect at a personal level with your family. That is sorely missing in most homes today.

National Walk For The Word

by Diane Ward
National Walk Coordinator

LifeWord Sunday

In an effort to promote the annual Walk for the World (WFW), we invite you to plan a Lifeword Sunday in your church. The WFW provides about one-third of Lifeword's annual income and the event's success is important in maintaining our Gospel broadcasts through various means of mass communication. If you have not had a Lifeword Sunday in your church yet, please schedule one very soon.

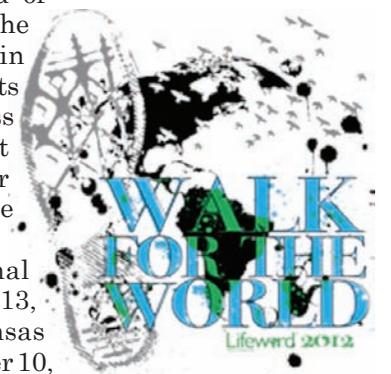
We are nearing the national WFW date of Saturday, October 13, 2012, and the Central Arkansas WFW date of Wednesday, October 10, 2012. The Walk video/promotional materials and items needed for a Lifeword Sunday may be downloaded from our website at www.lifeword.org.

Turn-In Sunday

Turn-in Sunday is another important date for those who have opted to raise funds by the traditional method of sponsor pledges. Please set this date two weeks after your Walk and encourage your people to collect their pledges and turn them in to your church so they may be forwarded to Lifeword. You will likely get a better response from donors if you approach them soon after your Walk event.

All donations must be received at Lifeword by December 31, 2012, in order to qualify for the two youth room makeovers that will be awarded to the church raising the most money overall and to the church who raising the most money per capita.

Online donations for your Walk page will automatically be forwarded to Lifeword. Please contact us at 1.800.543.1090 if you have any questions.



MORAL ACTION COMMITTEE

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



John Adams

Christians to leave any political party or political persuasion that denies God, promotes atheism and false religions, and does not support the nation of Israel, God's chosen people. Christians are warned by God's Word to be "separated" from unbelievers, abortionists, and gay rights promoters. God says "I will receive you."

II Corinthians 6:14 declares "be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." Avoid all affiliation with heathen beliefs and practices. We are to vacate the darkness.

Voice

We, God's People, are well aware that God can heal our land. Our silence has produced a secular, Godless nation. David declared in Psalms 9:17, "The wicked shall be turned

into hell, and all the nations that forget God."

One definition of voice is "the right or opportunity to express a choice or an opinion." Have we lost our voice because we are God's people? NO, a thousand times, NO. Let's voice our love of God, His Word, and our founding fathers. Do not fear the American Civil Liberties Union and the liberal media.

America cannot and will not survive on the path that she now treads. Her only salvation will be God, godly principles, moral values, and strong Christian families. Act to help lead our nation out of the politically-correct fog and into moral clarity.

Voice aloud Proverbs 14:34, "righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people." Remember God's

promise to "raise up righteous leaders and to remove ungodly leaders." We must pray and seek His face as stated in II Chronicles 7.

Vote!

Pledge now to vote for Christian values. Ask God for direction and guidance in the selection of those that will govern our country. Vote as God taught Moses and the people of Israel. Deuteronomy 16:18 "judges and officers shalt thou make thee in all thy gates, which the Lord thy God giveth thee, throughout thy tribes: and they shall judge the people with just judgment."

Voting values can save our nation! Christians take up your responsibility and God given rights! God Bless the U.S.A. www.macbma.net

Voting Values Can Save America!

Join thousands of Christian Americans now as we make a solemn pledge to use our spiritual and Bible given rights of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" in voting for future leaders.

Elections will be held from the local sheriff's offices to the Presidential Office. We must obey and honor God's word. America needs YOU to vote Biblical values. I believe that

these elections will determine the spiritual and moral survival of our nation. How can you and I make a difference?

Vacate

The word "vacate" urges one to cease to hold onto, or to give up. God's Word is powerful in instructions. II Corinthians 6:17 "Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate saith the Lord and touch not the unclean things and I will receive you." It is time for

Shepherding Shepherds

by Larry Barker
 Director of Operations North America
 BMA of America Missions Department

Who is shepherding the shepherds? The reality for many is no one! Church members need to be cared for by compassionate, godly shepherds.

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." (Acts 20:28)

I Peter 5:2 continues with the shepherding theme: "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind." Perhaps the most neglected and uncared for members of the local church are the ministry leaders.

According to Scott Thomas and Tom Wood, "Every church leader needs a coach; and every church leader needs to be coaching others!" In their book, *Gospel Coach*, they say, "Coaching ministry leaders is a key aspect to their ongoing effectiveness as shepherds of the Lord's flock. We believe coaching is necessary because it is a process of imparting encouragement and skills to a leader in order to fulfill their ministry role — something every leader needs — but it is done in the context of a gospel relationship... the entire flock suffers when its shepherds are not healthy."

My good friend Danny Kirk says, "Everybody needs a coach... That's a bold statement!

Everybody? Well, if you are someone who believes God has created you for His purpose and your desire is to move forward and complete God's plan and goals for your life, then a Christian coach can help you get there. The term 'coach' comes from the transportation era of stagecoaches and rail coaches, in which the 'coach' literally transported a person from one place to another. In today's context, a coach is a person who initiates an ongoing conversation that benefits the other person and moves them forward through discovery, learning and creating a doable action plan."

Robert E. Logan (probably the guru of coaching) defines coaching as: "The process of coming alongside a person or team to help them discover God's agenda for their life and ministry, then cooperating with the Holy Spirit to see that agenda become a reality."

Steve Ogne and Tim Roehl, in *Transformational Coaching*, define coaching this way: "Coaching, as we see it, enables transformation, which in turn leads to missional ministry. Great coaches come alongside leaders so leaders can be transformed into the image of Christ and join Him on His redemptive mission." Coaching can make a huge difference in anyone's life, especially leaders, because it is shepherding as directed by Scripture.

Feeling alone and separated from others is one of the great-

est dangers to leaders. Studies have shown that the aloneness factor can lead to arrogance (I'm the only one that has figured this out), which can lead to addiction (I have to find something to fill my void of relationships) and even on to adultery (the acceptance of a cheap substitute for satisfaction.)

The other side of the equation is Eccl. 4:10: "For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up." From a recent study on church planter survivability, Ed Stetzer said: "Planters who met weekly with a mentor... led churches that were almost twice the size of those who had no mentor."

Coaching is a biblically-based way to encourage one another in the ministry that has also proven to be very effective in keeping leaders on track. More importantly, though, is the fact that it helps the one being coached to remain spiritually healthy. You can be coached and you can be trained to be a better coach.

Feel free to contact me (larry@bmaam.com), Danny Kirk (www.youneedcoaching.com) or Kirk Shelton (www.246coaching.com). Remember, every leader needs a coach and every leader needs to be coaching others. A coach helps you to remain healthy through accountability in your personal, spiritual and missional life.

Healthy churches shepherd and care for their shepherds and their sheep!

Pastors, Biblical Views and Politics

OneNewsNow.com - Leading up to the elections, Liberty Counsel is urging churches to refuse government intimidation for taking a stand on certain issues.

Liberty Counsel's purpose is to set the record straight, because "not one church has lost its tax-exempt status for endorsing or opposing a candidate for office or for supporting or opposing legislation." There are rules, however, which spokesman Matt Staver says are posted on his firm's website.

"Clearly what pastors can do is preach on the biblical issues," Staver says. "Biblical issues are never off limits, no matter whether the politicians are speaking about them. They can always preach on biblical issues, such as marriage, abortion and any other host of issues that they can address, and they can also speak about what the candidates' views are on these particular issues."

For example, a pastor can talk about President Obama endorsing homosexual "marriage," or about Mitt Romney's views on the subject.

"You can talk about the differences in your local or your state or national races. You can give out objective voter guides that are available," Staver adds. "You can encourage people to register to vote. You can actually set up voter registration in the church."

Staver goes on to add that "pastors have historically been the conscience of the community," but today's religious leaders have been backed into the corner by false threats from atheists and separation groups who claim that they will lose their tax-exempt status.

Mission Church Reunion

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

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

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

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

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

