

Important Dates

September 14-16, 2007

ONE

National Singles Conference

Hilton DFW Lakes
Grapevine, Texas

September 28 & 29, 2007

Mississippi Ladies Retreat

Jackson Hilton
Jackson, Mississippi

October 9-11, 2007

Pastors Oasis

Hilton Branson Convention Center
Hotel
Branson, Missouri

October 22-24, 2007

BMA of Mississippi

Annual Meeting
Southeastern College
Laurel, Mississippi

October 30 - November 1, 2007

National Senior

Adult Conference

Hilton Convention Center
Branson, Missouri

SEPTEMBER 1, 2007

Vol. 61 No.17

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

On Behalf of Your Pastor

An Open Letter to Church Deacons

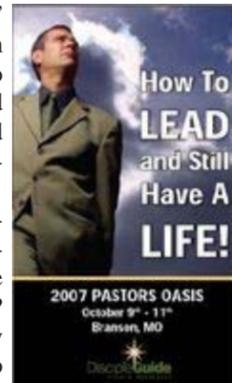
Dear Deacon Chairman,

I hope this letter finds you and your church family enjoying the very best of the Father's blessings. On behalf of Donny Parrish, Kevin Clayton and the entire DiscipleGuide staff I want to say "thanks" for the faithful service you give to Christ and His church. The churches of the BMA of America are blessed to have men like you assisting pastors in the work of ministry.

Not only has God blessed His churches with faithful laymen like you, He has also given us wonderful, God-called pastors who faithfully and unselfishly lead His churches. Many times we take for granted the sacrificial service they render to the Father and to us. We may never know, this side of heaven, how many times our names are called-out to God in prayer by our pastor-shepherd as he

"stands in the gap" for us. I, for one, am very thankful to have a God-called and God-anointed man to call my pastor.

How can we express our appreciation, thanks and love to our pastors? There are many ways but I want to mention just one. October has been designated as "Pastor Appreciation Month" across our nation. It is a special month set aside to let our pastors know how much they are loved and appreciated. In recognition of Pastor Appreciation



politically correct homosexual 'heckler's veto' that's forcing or persuading businesses to do things to decent people that they wouldn't normally do," he says.

LaBarbera states that it seems like America is becoming a "nation of cowards" due to political correctness.

"When a hotel chain is willing to cancel a Christian group's event, due to a potential protest by a homosexual activist group, it's a sad day in America," says LaBarbera.

He says that although he believes his organization has grounds for a lawsuit, they probably will not because they have "plenty of other things to do," he states. The AFT banquet will now have to find a new venue for the event, which has been rescheduled for October 5. The banquet will feature speaking appearances by former homosexual Charlotte Cothran and parents' rights advocate David Parker of Massachusetts.

Mr. Igoe did not return OneNewsNow's requests for an interview. A Holiday Inn hotel in the Chicago suburb of Crystal Lake recently succeeded in getting a judge to bar the Illinois Minuteman Project from holding a scheduled seminar at the hotel. The hotel cited concerns the anti-illegal immigration group might attract protests that would jeopardize the safety of its employees and customers.



Holiday Inn dumps Christian banquet; group says anti-Christian discrimination at play

OneNewsNow.com - Holiday Inn is being accused of anti-Christian discrimination for refusing to allow a Christian non-profit group to hold its annual banquet at one of its suburban Chicago locations.

Americans for Truth (AFT) had reached a verbal agreement with the Holiday Inn Select in Naperville, Illinois, to hold its October 6 banquet at the hotel. AFT had the reservation for several weeks, and both parties had even discussed the menu for the event.

But when AFT executive director Peter LaBarbera told the banquet coordinator the event might draw a protest from homosexual activists, general manager Dennis Igoe dropped the reservation due to what he called "potential negative publicity to the hotel." Florida-based Liberty Counsel then sent a letter to Igoe, informing him that his "cancellation of Americans for Truth's reservation raises serious concerns of unlawful discrimination under the Illinois Human Rights Act which prohibits discrimination in places of public accommodation on the basis of religion."

According to LaBarbera, Igoe's decision to reject AFT was then ratified by Holiday Inn's corporate offices. LaBarbera says he cannot imagine the hotel treating homosexual activists in the same manner. He calls this another example of Christians being treated as second-class citizens in U.S. society.

"It seems that there is now a sort of

Mississippi State Ladies Retreat September 28 & 29, 2007



You'll hear good speakers: Mrs. Steve (Kim) Dillard from Arkansas and Mrs. Lloyd (Rita) Sweat from Amory, Mississippi. There'll be good music led by Mrs. Roger (Anita) Akers also of Amory.

This Retreat will be held at the Jackson Hilton, 1001 E. County Line Road, just off I 55. You should make your own reservations by calling 1-888-263-0524 or 1-601-957-2800.

The registration fee is \$60.00 per person and should be sent to: Peggy Thomaston, 20060 Busby Rd., Vancleave, MS 39565.

Month, DiscipleGuide Conference Ministry has scheduled our annual Pastors Oasis for October 9-11, 2007. Pastors Oasis is three days of inspirational teaching, outstanding music, relaxation and wonderful fellowship. The location for this year's Oasis is the brand new Hilton Branson Convention Center Hotel in Branson, Missouri. The cost for the conference is \$50 per person by September 14 (\$60 after September 14 or \$70 off site). Additional costs for your church include: hotel (\$119 per night for 2 nights), travel, and a few meals. Hotel accommodations can be secured by calling the Hilton at 417-336-5400. Please call by September 14 to receive the special reduced rate.

Because your pastor would never ask the church to send him and his wife to the Oasis, we are asking you, as the Chairman of Deacons to lead your church in sending them. Would you please use your leadership and influence to lead your church to present this trip as a gift to your pastor? A gift such as this will mean more than anything for your pastor.

At Pastors Oasis your pastor will enjoy the inspiring teaching of Dale Burke as he speaks on the topic: How To Lead And Still Have A Life. In addition to the great teaching we will enjoy inspirational singing and a banquet to honor our pastors and their wives. We will also be having a special mystery guest that is so "top secret" we cannot even announce his presence! It's going to be a special time and we want your pastor to be a part of it.

We invite you to prayerfully consider sending your entire paid staff to the Oasis. To register your pastor and staff for Pastors Oasis, fill out the registration form and mail to DCM by September 14 or you may register online at www.bma-dcm.org. Please call the DiscipleGuide office with any questions at 501-513-3726 or e-mail triciak@conwaycorp.net. DCM will send your church a special certificate to present to your pastor during a worship service.

Thanks in advance for honoring and blessing your pastor and his wife in this special way! We look forward to hearing from you.

Kirk Shelton, Pastoral Ministries & Church Growth Consultant

DiscipleGuide Conference Ministry
P.O. Box 10356, Conway, AR 72034
Phone 501-513-3726
www.bma-dcm.org

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.

Canaan to hold revival

Canaan Missionary Baptist Church will hold a fall revival September 23-26, or as the Lord may lead to close. Rev. Grover Laird of Fulton, Mississippi, will be our guest speaker. Sunday morning services will begin at 10:00 a.m., lunch will be served at noon and afternoon services begin at 1:00 p.m. Week-day services will be held at 7:00 p.m. We invite everyone to come and be a part of worshipping the Lord.

We are located in the Avera Community near Richton, Mississippi on Highway 63. Bro. Tommy Watts is the pastor. For more information please call 601-989-2617.

Bethel, Fulton

Our VBS held on the 30th-2nd was a great time of Bible teaching and fellowship. There were 150 enrolled and they all had a great time of learning about Jesus. Thanks to all who made this possible, and special thanks to the "kitchen crew" who prepared food every night. The VBS closing program was held on the 5th and the children did a great job. It takes dedicated adults to put the closing activities together, and we say a big "Thank You" to all of them.

There will be a new church directory made, be sure and sign up for this or contact Carol Rutland for a time slot on September 18-22.

The Harmony Association met at Bethel on the 10th. Bro. Tim Nall from Farmington Baptist brought the evening message. On the 13th the "Mom's After God's Own Heart" met and discussed the importance of praying for our children.

The Awana training has met the 8th, 15th, and 22nd, and on the 29th there will be a Praise Party for Awana and parents can register their kids and enjoy food and fun. On September 30th they will be putting on an Awana Choir Musical.

On the 18th there was a Sunday School Workshop and also the GMA District Meeting was held. Brotherhood breakfast met for their monthly breakfast meeting on the 26th and enjoyed fellowship and food. They will hold a fund raiser in the COC at 7:00 p.m. on September 30th.

There have been 3 additions since last report. If you are looking for a "God loving" and "friendly church" come and visit with us here at Bethel.

Dr. Martin Jameson, pastor
Joyce Cooley, reporter

Trinity, Florence

Trinity Baptist Church, Florence, will be in revival September 23-26, 2007, with Bro. Bob Burch of Laurel. Sunday School begins at 10:00, morning worship at 11:00 with lunch at 12:00. Afternoon services will be held on Sunday. Weeknight services will begin at 7:00 p.m. each evening. A nursery will be provided for all services.

For more information call 601-209-1502 or 601-845-2328.
James Brown, Pastor

Mid Central Association report

On July 14, 2007, the Mid-Central Association held it's regular

business meeting at West Hills Baptist Church in Meridian. Bro. Smith lead the congregation in singing "Standing on The Promises". Bro. Ledbetter opened in prayer. Bro. Johnny Watts gave an uplifting message from Isaiah 6:1-11. Bro. Bill Raines gave the hand of appreciation to Bro. Watts. Bro. Hickenbottom opened the meeting in prayer.

There were 22 present. Bro. Carr read the minutes and Bro. Therrell read the treasurer's report. A motion was made to give 40 percent to Missionary Bro. Joseph Oyeleye and 39 percent to the Mid-Central Association Mission Fund. Bro. Watts brought an update on the Commission on History and Archives. The meeting was closed in prayer by Bro. Ralph Hayes. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the meal prepared by the ladies of West Hills Baptist Church.

Our annual association meeting will be at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Meridian, Mississippi on September 15, 2007 at 9:00 A.M.

Bro. Bill Raines, Moderator
Joyce Williamson, Reporter

Scotland Church holds

"Back To School" Extravaganza
Scotland Baptist Church, Bentonia, recently held a Back To School Extravaganza on Friday, August 10, 2007, for local school age children. Over 70 children and adults enjoyed a time of fun, food, and fellowship. Lee Powers, a senior at Leake Academy and a cystic fibrosis patient, was the guest speaker. Another highlight of the evening was the dunking booth where children were allowed to dunk

Pastor Glenn Allen and church pianist Brenda Dearman.
Melanie Hardy, reporter

Benefit Planned for Cancer patient

Fairview Baptist Church, Laurel, is planning a benefit sing for Sharon Johnson.

The "Mississippi Five" with Harold Floyd, along with other singers, will be performing Saturday, September 8, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.

Sharon is currently in the hospital awaiting a bone marrow transplant. She has no medical insurance. Any

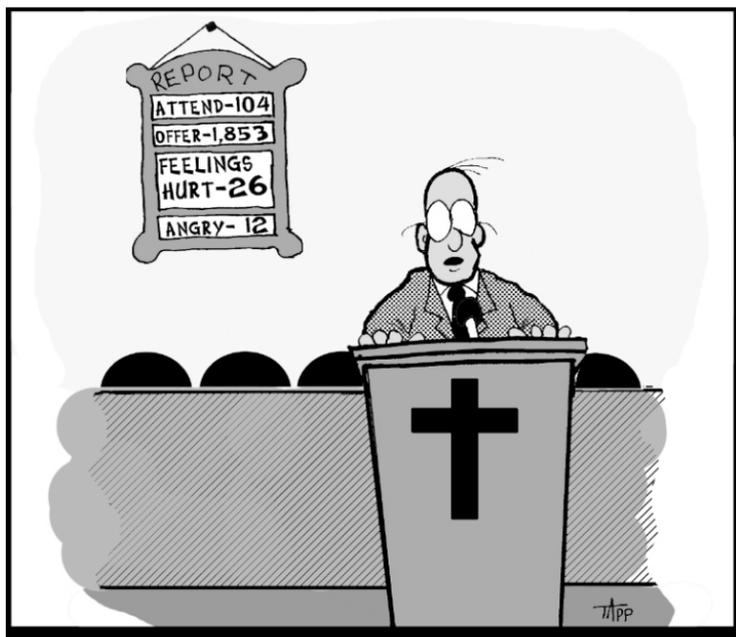
help you give would go toward her expenses. And be greatly appreciated

Anyone who would like to participate in the sing, is welcome to come. Donations may be sent to Fairview Baptist Church, 563 Poole Creek Rd., Laurel, MS 39443 and designated as "Sharon Johnson Medical Needs."



Scotland Baptist Church Pastor Glenn Allen (above) and church pianist Brenda Dearman (right) get "dunked" during a "back to school" extravaganza.

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"It's been a better week than usual..."

Short Message Series by Rev. Grover Laird

Tired of His Ways

"The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself." (Proverbs 14:14)

God has a plan for our lives, and so does the devil. The devil's plan for sinners is to keep them from being saved. (II Corinthians 4:3,4) If this plan fails and they get saved, he revises his plan and sets out to make the new convert a backslider. If he succeeds in turning him back to the world, and from his love and devotion to Christ, this person is in trouble. The backslider soon finds his wayward living has damaged his prayer life, (Isaiah 59:1,2) has quenched the Holy Spirit and His power in his life, (1 Thessalonians 5:19) has almost destroyed his love for the Father, (1 John 2:15)

has robbed him of his power to affect others for good, (Matthew 5:13) has made him irritable and easy offended, (Psalm 119:165) and has caused his love for the church, the Bible, the lost world, and his brethren to wax cold. (Matthew 24:12) The backslider also feels the hand of God's judgment upon his life. His life of sowing to the flesh is now reaping corruption. (Galatians 6:7,8) Some of the judgments will be with him as long as he lives. (II Samuel 12:10; 1 Corinthians 11:30) His heart is smitten with the realization that all

of the evil affects of his backsliding cannot be undone. (Matthew 12:30) It finally comes through to him that "the way of transgressors is hard." (Proverbs 13:15) He is now "filled with his own ways." What can the backslider do in order to get every thing back as it was when he first came to the Lord? Nothing! He can, however, make things much better in his life. He can get forgiveness of his sins, be restored to a life of fellowship with Christ, and live a useful life for God. One verse can point him to the way back home - "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." (Proverbs 28:13: See also Proverbs 2:19 Proverbs 6:33 Jeremiah 8:5)



Grover Laird

It's Too Hot and The Bridge Fell!

It's been more than 30 days since a drop of rain has fallen on our yard here in Conway, Arkansas. Every day for a month has been over 100 degrees, as far as I know. I usually book speaking engagements on the Gulf Coast for January to avoid ice and snow and book Northern states in August to avoid the heat. However, this summer I didn't schedule myself far enough north. I have been in Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky

for most of August and it has been just as hot as Arkansas.

What I have observed however, is that people tend to be the same no matter where you are. They love to complain. 'It's so hot today.' 'I can't stand this heat.' Yesterday as I returned home, the bridge over the Mississippi River at Memphis fell 4 inches and they shut it down. I had to drive for 3 extra hours down to the Helena bridge.

Even I joined in with the moaning and groaning on this one. Then I happened to think about the Plumlee family of days gone by. They had to endure every August without air

conditioning. They had to find a boat to go across the Mississippi River as they moved their family west. And I was complaining in my air conditioned car about driving out of the way to another bridge to cross over. I think God has blessed us so much these days, that we take it all for granted.

As Christians, we should be more positive. The same people who complain about it being so hot in August will blow into church in January complaining that it is just too cold. It is too humid in the Spring, and there are too many allergens in the Fall. As we used to say in West Texas, "I guess you would gripe if they hung you with a new rope!"

I would exhort all of us to be more positive about our lives. If we know Jesus, and God is in control, then why are we always complaining? Isn't God good? All the time?

We need to get rid of our 'stinkin thinkin.' We need to chunk the junk out of our brain. We have habits of thinking. If you get into the habit of being negative, you train your thoughts to travel that way all the time. You can also try and find the positive in all things.

I could have said, 'Thank you God that I am not broke down on the side of the road. Thank you God that they were cautious enough to close the bridge so we wouldn't all go falling into the river. Thank you God that I am not traveling in the ice. Thank you God that you have blessed me to have this ministry to travel the country and tell others about Jesus, and a car to travel in.'

We all need to do what Philippians 4:8 tells us to do. That is to think on these things. Think on the good things. The lovely, the pure. And we will have the peace of God on us. That is a wonderful state to be in.

Next time you are having a pity party, just remind yourself of how good you have it with God. Are you saved? Do you have an eternal home that outshines the sun? Will you reign in a kingdom where no one will ever hurt your feelings again? Where there will be no more illness? Do you have enough food to eat today so that you will not starve to death? Do you have a shelter to get into at night instead of sleeping out on the ground?

Do you have freedoms such as living where you want, going on vacation where you want, worshiping in a church where you want etc.?

Is God in control? Is He sitting on His throne? Will He still be there tomorrow? Will He always be there for you? Is He already out ahead of you to make your way straight? Will he answer your prayers? Will Jesus ever leave or forsake you? Will God meet all of your needs? Can you do all things through Christ? Does God love you and your family? Does He love your family more than you do? Will He not then take care of them according to His perfect will for their life? Then, what are you complaining about?

Why do you worry so? I know it is human nature to worry. But it is not our spiritual nature. The spirit should control the flesh. Release the outcome to God. Quit badgering God in your prayer life. He knows what things you have need of before you ask Him. Let your request be made known to God and then let God have it. Quit trying to control the outcome for God.

Surely you know that goodness and mercy is following you. The Lord goes out ahead of you. He hides you under His wing. He is your high tower and refuge. We need to develop the habit of memorizing these scriptural truths so that when we start complaining, we can turn our day around by turning our thoughts toward the Lord.

You are not a very good witness for the Lord if you are always complaining, griping and negative. We Christians should let our light shine before others so they can see our good attitude and glorify our Father. Sometimes in life we will be sad and cry. Sometimes we will be happy and laugh. But everyday we should have a general attitude of being positive. Looking for the good around us. This is a day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

www.travisplumlee.com

AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

Danny Pitts

Bro. Danny Pitts has resigned Hopewell Baptist Church, Fulton, after seven and one-half years as pastor. He is available for service wherever the Lord may lead. Bro. Pitts is a graduate of the BMA Theological Seminary, Jacksonville, Texas. He may be reached at 662-862-2510, 662-231-4196 (cell), and at Glen Cole, his father-in-law, at 601-582-1084.



Danny Pitts

Josh Spiers

Bro. Josh Spiers has resigned as youth director at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Carriere, after two and one-half years of service. He is available for pulpit supply or pastoral service. Bro. Spiers may be contacted at 601-798-4625 (home), or 601-337-0236 (cell).

Alan Smith

Bro. Alan Smith is available for service wherever the Lord may lead. He was licensed to preach November, 2006, and is an active member of Fairview Baptist Church, Laurel. He may be reached at 601-422-9641.

John Mills

Bro. John Mills is available for pulpit supply or as the Lord leads. Bro. John has been married for 8 years and has a six year-old son and a 4 year-old daughter. He is a member of Bethel Baptist Church, Bassfield, where he surrendered to the ministry this past July 26, 2007.

He may be contacted by cell at 601-408-0537 or 601-731-9810 at home.

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

New Semester Has Begun

By the time you read this the registration will be closed for the fall semester. Classes began on August 20. At this time the number of students is 82, a 17% increase over Fall, 2006. The number of new students is around 40. We thank the Lord for this increase. Pray that all will go well this year.

Special Emphasis

I appreciate the Good Hope Baptist Church, Stringer, and pastor Corbey Jones; Oakland Baptist Church, Vicksburg, and pastor Michael Moore; and Creston Hills Baptist Church, Jackson, and pastor Danny Bartlett, for inviting me to preach and give a report on the college during this year's Special Emphasis. I thoroughly enjoyed being with each of these churches.

The Special Emphasis contributions are coming in from churches, associations, and individuals, and these show a lot of interest and support to the college. A good amount has been designated for the

land fund. We thank all for doing what you can for the college.

Special thanks

We appreciate Westhaven Baptist Church, Jackson, and Pastor Junior Strickland, for donating a set of 24 books to the library and a new set of Bible maps and a stand for use in the classrooms.

Memorial Gift

A gift has been made to the Foundation in memory of Bro. Merle D. Bradley. It is good to remember those who have served among us, and this way it will continue to be a blessing to the Lord's work.

Annual meetings

It is the time of the year when associations will be meeting for their annual sessions. I plan to attend all of these that I possibly can and will try to have representatives from the college at those I can't attend. I pray that God will bless and lead each one as they plan for a new year.

DiscipleGuide Conference Ministry



Pastors Oasis

October 9-11, 2007

Hilton Branson
Convention Center Hotel

Branson, Missouri

Room Rate - \$119 by September 14 (417) 336-5400

Dr. H. Dale Burke, Keynote Speaker
Neil Dumas, Worship Leader
Geoff Moore, Concert Artist
The Martins, Guest Artist
Mystery Guest

Registration - \$50 per person by September 14
Register online at www.bma-dcm.org or download registration form and mail to the DCM office with your check.
Call the DCM office with any questions about the Pastors Oasis at (501) 513-3726.

Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

NFL franchise accused of aiding abortion industry

OneNewsNow.com - Pro-life activists are decrying a decision by yet another National Football League team that has donated upwards of a quarter-million dollars to the leading abortion business in the country over the past few years.

The Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation has given \$30,000 in donations to Planned Parenthood. According to the Foundation, the money will be used to help teenagers avoid pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. The executive director of the Foundation has been quoted as saying the programs supported help teens "make the right choices" by giving them "the right information no matter what they [choose to] do."

But Steven Ertelt, the editor of LifeNews.com, says the Jaguars' claim is disingenuous. "This kind of funding is what we in the pro-life community like to call fungible funding," he says.

Ertelt explains his comment. "In other words, Planned Parenthood is

getting \$30,000 for sexually transmitted disease outreach, but this is money they could of perhaps put towards abortion and they'll be able to save some money to pay for staff, supplies, and what-not to do the abortions there at their facilities," he says.

The Jaguars have donated over \$250,000 in the last three years to Planned Parenthood. Ertelt contends that the franchise is essentially funding a business that kills babies and hurts women in the process - something he says people in the pro-life community certainly oppose.

"There in Jacksonville, this is not the first time the Jaguars have supported Planned Parenthood - and there are local pro-life advocates that have protested games, have put billboards up in their community, and have spoken out to try and stop this, unfortunately to no avail.

According to LifeNews.com, the local pro-life group Gideon's Fire

began a campaign in 2005 to notify residents about the team's donations to Planned Parenthood. The group says it will stop opposing the team when the Jaguars stop giving money to the abortion provider. And a group spokesman calls the Foundation's distinction between pro-abortion and anti-pregnancy programs at Planned Parenthood "laughable."

Ertelt notes the Dallas Cowboys have a foundation similar to that of the Jaguars which has been on pro-life boycott lists for years because of its donations to Planned Parenthood in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Other sports teams that are drawing fire for similar actions include the San Diego Padres of Major League Baseball, which recently said that it supports embryonic stem-cell research.



BMA of Mississippi Set To Meet in Annual Session - October 22-24, 2007



Letters From Our Readers

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

inside of jails and prisons to better minister to inmates when I go into the jails and prisons.

We have a need and I can only turn to God's children for that need. It is time to reprint Dr. E. Harold Henderson's study book entitled; "How to Deal With Sin in Daily Life" We need to reprint about 20,000 to get a good price. I do have some funds on hand for this project but, we will need around \$4,000.00. We have given 72,431 on these books to Prisoners and still get request for them. I will be happy to send you a sample copy of this study book, please let me know if you would like a copy. If you can help with this project please mark your gift "SDL"

USA Prison Statistics, 2,245,189 as of June 30, 2006.

Prison Information? State DOC's web sites are linked at www.prisonersbiblecrusade.org.

Prisoners Bible Crusade
P.O. Box 696, Picayune, MS 39466
www.prisonersbiblecrusade.org
Paul E. Lee, Director

Letter To Editor Correction

In our August 1 issue there was a letter to the editor signed by a number of pastors. The name of Roger Franks was misspelled. We apologize for this error.

Mrs. W.R. Speer Dies

Mrs. Hazel Florence Speer, 90, of Gary, Texas, died August 20. She was the widow of BMA pastor W.R. Speer. Mrs. Speer was a retired school teacher.

Survivors include two daughters, Joyce Fagala, wife of BMA Minister Dan Fagala of Gravette, Arkansas and Mary Ceren of Houston, Texas; seven sons, Don Speer of Rogers, Arkansas; James Speer, director of Daniel Springs Encampment in Gary, Texas; Paul Speer of Pea Ridge, Arkansas; John Speer of Rison, Arkansas; Charles Speer of Little Rock, Arkansas; David Speer of Waxahachie, Texas; and Ben Speer, of Memphis, Tennessee; a sister, Cecil St. Cyr of Edmond, Oklahoma; two brothers, J. E. Hunter of Purcell, Oklahoma and Ted Hunter of West Fork; 25 grandchildren, 22 great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild.

Graveside services were held August 23 at Alex Cemetery in Alex, Oklahoma, with James Speer officiating. Memorials may be made to the W.R. and Hazel Speer Memorial Scholarship Fund at Central Baptist College, 1501 College Ave., Conway, Arkansas 72034.



Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

GOOD ADVICE

I thought of another "ol Ed'ard Sayin" the other day. I really think that I've heard that Will Rogers is credited with saying this before Ed'ard came along. But

whoever said it first was right on target. They said "Never miss a good chance to shut up." Now that's pretty good advice. I've heard it put another way, "It's better to remain quiet and let people think you are a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt."

The wise man, Solomon, said it like this in Ecclesiasties 3:7 "...a time to keep silence, and a time to speak." Oh, that God would give us the wisdom to know the difference!



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CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION

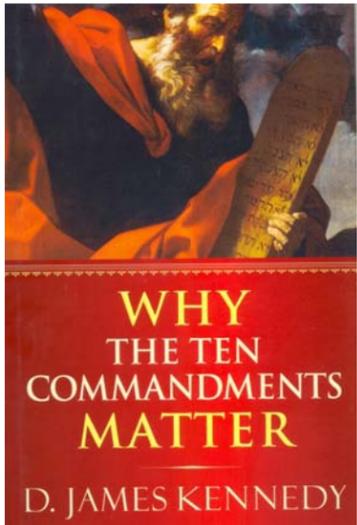
Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi
 Dr. John M. Adams, Director
 P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863
 Email - fbcdjmaj@yahoo.com



John Adams

Book Recommendation

I highly recommend to our readers and dedicated Christian workers



to read the book "Why The Ten Commandments Matter" by Dr. D. James Kennedy. Excellent material

to be used as we Christian believers relate our moral beliefs to the world around us. The book costs approximately \$17.99.

November Elections

Pray, pray, pray The BMA of Mississippi churches and pastors should take time during their morning worship services to call our congregations to pray for God-fearing, Bible-believing Christians officials that will fill our State and local political offices. Prayer does make a difference. James said, "ye have not, because ye ask not..." James 4:2.

New Year for Legislature

The Mississippi State Senate and House of Representatives will convene January 7, 2008, for the new legislative year. Because of local elections there will be new faces on the Senate and House floors. The critical moral issues and the deci-

sions that they face and make will guide our future generations for years to come.

Where Is Our Nation Going?

In an article published in The Christian Alliance Defense periodical relates to the following :

In Bel Air, Maryland:

"High school officials told the school's Bible Club members they could not post signs or announcements or distribute flyers promoting the Day of Truth, even though they facilitated such activities for the Day of Silence advocating homosexual behavior. After ADF (American Defense Fund) got involved, school officials quickly reversed course and allowed the students to equally promote the Day of Truth.

In Naperville, Illinois:

"A high school student wore a T-

shirt with the message, "Be Happy, Not Gay," after school officials permitted other students to wear shirts supporting homosexual behavior as part of the Day of Silence. During lunch hour, she was summoned to the office of the dean, who demanded she remove the shirt or be sent home. He then had a female counselor cross the words "Not Gay" off the student's shirt so it simply read, "Be Happy".

National Moral Action Committee

Mississippi Baptist people, please intercede in behalf of Dr. Roy McLaughlin, our Executive Director of our national agency, M.A.C. Also be in prayer for our state and local directors in Arkansas, Texas and Mississippi. Pray that we could each have a profound

affect on our Governors, Senators, Representatives, and Judges. We still have much to do for the Lord, and little time to do it. I Peter 2:13-15 states, "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:"

Highlighted Contributing Churches to the CAC

Mid Central Association
 Magnolia, Hattiesburg
 Movella, Lucedale
 New Bethany, Seminary
 Oakland, Vicksburg

September 28 & 29, 2007
Mississippi Ladies Retreat
 Jackson Hilton
 Jackson, Mississippi

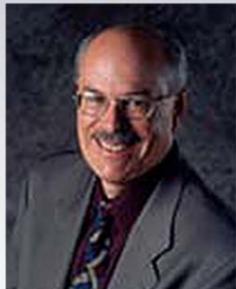
How To LEAD and Still Have A LIFE!

2007 Pastors Oasis

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Pastors Oasis is a conference designed for pastors, their wives and your church staff. Spiritual renewal and refreshment is the perfect way to honor them for Pastors Appreciation recognized nationally in October each year. Deacons and church members, make a special investment in the life of your pastor and staff by sending them to Pastors Oasis.

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 Group Rate is \$119 per night



Keynote Speaker
 Dr. H. Dale Burke



Neil Dumas
 Worship Leader



Geoff Moore
 Guest Artist



The Martins
 Guest Artists



Mystery Guest

Registration is \$50 per person by Sept. 14 and includes all sessions, guest artists, banquet meal and mystery guest. After that date the fee will be \$60. If you choose to stay at an off-site hotel the fee will be \$70. You may download brochures with all the details and register online at www.bma-dcm.org. Contact the DCM office with any questions at (501) 513-3726 or triciak@conwaycorp.net.

Modeling the Love of Christ

An old song from 1965, written by Burt Bacharach and Hal David and performed by Jackie De Shannon, has lyrics that state, "What the world needs now is love, sweet love, no not just for some, but for everyone..." The song was popular and contains a lot of truth. The whole truth is, the love that is needed is the love of God. Love is always powerful, but the strongest force in the universe is the love of God. It will reach down, heal, overcome, and empower to the fullest, in every situation. The best preaching, witnessing, singing, etc. in the world misses its mark if not fueled by the love of God. In service and ministry for Christ, it is the love of God overflowing in our hearts that motivates us or as Paul puts it, "...the

love of Christ constraineth us..." II Cor. 5:14.

Love cannot just be preached about or spoken of: it must be seen. Imagine if God had only TOLD us that He loved us, instead of SHOW-



miniedition

Joseph Harris

www.miniedition.net

ING it. Empty words would not save us. God backed up his words by sending Jesus to die for us, thereby proving His love. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ

died for us." Romans 5:8. God then raised Jesus from the dead, completing the plan of salvation, sealing it and justifying us by the empty tomb.

Seeing the love of God in Christians profoundly influenced me in my early Christianity. While yet lost, I was deeply influenced by a Godly woman, Mrs. Ann Lombardo, from New Orleans, Louisiana. I was a lost heathen living in Bay St. Louis in 1980 when I first met her. She would come to the Bay St. Louis/Waveland area and stay in a weekend home several times each year. When she walked into my place of business, I knew something was different. As I assisted her (I was a shoe salesman) she asked me if I knew Jesus Christ as Savior. I fumbled out some answer about being saved, then she said, "Oh, that's so good. Isn't He a wonderful Savior?" I mumbled something back and got away from her. The love of God in this born again former Catholic was overpowering.

The next weekend she was back. Surely she did not need more shoes. Actually, she had targeted me and was back to talk about Jesus again. Though she had already asked if I was saved, she asked again...and again....and again, because she knew I didn't have a clue about salvation, even though I professed to be saved. She was a great customer and I sold many pairs of shoes, but the love was so real and conviction of God was so strong, I actually dodged her when I could. Her words haunted me: "Isn't He a wonderful Savior?" She was the only complete stranger in my life who had ever asked me if I was saved. A few months later, I did find out that HE'S A WONDERFUL SAVIOR!

I went off to Bible college for one year at Southeastern Baptist College and the next year returned to Bay St. Louis as a summer missionary, assisting Brother Thelbert Hill, missionary pastor of Central Baptist Church. Guess who walked into church one Wednesday evening? Mrs. Ann Lombardo. She introduced me to a friend who was staying with her for a couple of months, Mrs. Minnie Jester. She loved working with children and was known to kids by her nickname, Miss Boots. These two ladies had a passion for souls and especially for children. They invited me to help in a backyard Bible school at Mrs. Lombardo's summer home. I packed every kid I could find into my car every morning the following week and watched these two ladies teach Bible and LOVE those kids, most of

continued on page 7

Mississippi State W.M.A.

Mrs. Jean Knight, President
27 Paramount Church Rd.
Perkinston, MS 39573
601-928-3764

Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533
Laurel, MS 39443

2008 NATIONAL WMA LADIES' RETREAT

Keynote speaker
Patsy Campbell

Hotel Reservation
1-800-RADISSON
or 1-901-332-2370

Theme
"Be Still, and Know That I Am God." Psalm 46:10

Retreat Registration
\$75.00 payable to "National W.M.A."

Dates
February 22 and 23, 2008
Registration 2:00 p.m.
on February 22nd

Mail to: Connie Reifsteck
P.O. Box 190493, St. Louis, MO
63119

Place
Radisson Inn Memphis
Airport, Memphis, Tennessee

Share Time – Martha Langley

Room Rate
\$89.00 plus taxes per night

Silent Auction
Everyone is encouraged to bring an item

Mrs. Patsy Campbell – a life-long resident of Little Rock, Arkansas, she had always loved working with other people. She was a teacher and a guidance counselor for forty years in the Little Rock, Arkansas, public school system. Mrs. Campbell thoroughly enjoys working in the WMA, and is active at all levels of the auxiliary. Mrs. Campbell is the author of Pray, Work, Win!, a book designed to lead you into a deeper relationship with our heavenly Father, a place of personal service, and the reward of victorious Christian living.

Bring Someone with you!

----- cut -----
Make your check for \$75.00 payable to National W.M.A. and mail to:

Mrs. Connie Reifsteck
P.O. Box 190493
St. Louis, MO 63119

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Cochran Center Room 229
1st Meeting is August 27, 2007

Jones County Junior College
Wednesdays 7:50AM-8:20AM
Museum Room Library
1st Meeting, Wednesday, August 22, 2007

Southeastern Baptist College
Mondays 12:00 - 12:45
Cafeteria Room
1st Meeting August 27, 2007

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
University / College _____

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Department of Youth

News From BMAA of America National Missions Office

Operation New Generation is Underway!

In just a matter of days Operation New Generation participants will be in place in the nation of China. What a blessed privilege they will have to represent their Lord in this far away place. They have spent the larger portion of their summer in the Philippines, and will now spend the next year studying in China. Pray for them as they embark on this marvelous adventure with God. Pray that they will be safely protected by our Heavenly Father and that they will remain healthy. Pray for a divine hedge of protection around them. You may not know them by name, but our Father in Heaven does. Pray that He will use them to His eternal glory.

Newly Elected Missionaries off Deputation

Bro. and Mrs. Justin (Crystal) Owens and their children will leave the States later this month to go to Ukraine as BMAA Missionaries. They have completed their deputation among our churches and have been through orientation at the Missions Office. Pray for the Owens Family, and ask God to give them peace, divine protection and a passion for the people to whom they are going. Pray for them as they enter language school this fall. Pray that God will enable them to grasp the language both in the classroom and in every day situations. Pray for

their families here in the States.

Bro. and Mrs. Bill Gibson Leaving for Their New Field

Pray for Bro. and Mrs. Bill Gibson as they leave for this new assignment. Pray that God will open the hearts of people and that they will be saved and help start this new work in Chile. Pray for the Gibsons and members of their families as they prepare to go.

BMMI Teams Ministering throughout the nation

God continues to put together amazing BMMI teams. 2007 has been a year of great blessings and for this we rejoice! The following trips are planned for 2007: Russia (September 14-24); Bolivia (October 10-20), Romania (October 31 - November 8); Nigeria (November 30 - December 8). There is still a need for volunteers to go with us. Any interesting person is encouraged to call BMMI at 501-455-4977.

Three 2007 Barnabas Touch Ministry Trips Underway!

There is still time for anyone interested in being a part of a Barnabas Touch Ministry Team to go. The three remaining 2007 trips include: Cape Verde/Portugal led by Dr. John David Smith - (September 13-22); Honduras led by Bro. Phil Knott - (November 26 - December 3); and Russia led by Fiodor Baraniuk - (November 27 - December 6). Barnabas Touch Ministry offers our pastors and other Christian leaders an opportunity to invest in the lives of both American International and Foreign National missionaries. Call Bro. Larry Barker at the BMAA Department of Missions (501-455-4977).

Christmas in Cambodia

Christmas Shoe Boxes are arriving daily at the Missions Office for boys and girls in Cambodia. Dr. Izard's goal is to collect 3,000 Christmas Shoe Boxes and to send them to our BMAA Missionary, Bro. Edmond Mamom to be distributed to needy boys and girls in Cambodia. The boxes need to be mailed, or delivered, to the BMAA Missions Office by September 15 so they can be mailed October 1.

Participants are asked to wrap a shoe box, (and to wrap the lid separately) and fill it with some of the following items. The contents will vary according to the age of the recipient. It is also requested that each box be accompanied with \$5.00 to help with shipping costs. Further information may be obtained by calling Jamie Morgan at the BMAA Department of Missions (501-455-4977).

Are You A Gleaner Reader?

If you are a Gleaner reader, thank you for subscribing to this bi-monthly publication. If you are not we invite you to subscribe today. The Gleaner Magazine is the official publication of your BMAA Missions Department. You will be blessed by reading stories from our Missionaries and mission teams. The annual subscription rate for individuals is \$7.50. A church plan is also available at \$6.00 per family. Should you be 65 years of age, or older, the cost of \$1.00. Why not subscribe today?

Annual Missions Symposium January 7-8, 2008

That's the time for our annual Mission Symposium which will be held at Temple Baptist Church in Little Rock, You don't want to miss this great event. Go ahead and mark the date, and determine to attend. You will be blessed by hearing, seeing and meeting several of our BMAA Missionaries. The Mission-

ary Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m., January 9.

Christmas Offering for Foreign National Salaries

For the past five years our annual Christmas offering has been used to help pay the salaries of our foreign national missionaries. We now have about 950 foreign nationals and their salaries have become one of our biggest budgeted items. The list of foreign nationals increases each year, for which we are so thankful. Also, because of the rising cost of living their needs increase. BMAA churches are encouraged to receive a liberal offering for our 2007 Christmas offering.

10,000 Visionaries Needed!

Bro. Don Collins, former Executive Director of BMAA Missions initiated our Visionary Program twenty-five years ago. Those who join the Visionary Program agree to invest \$25.00 on an annual basis. The money received by the BMAA

Department of Missions is placed in a fund which is annually divided between the North American Revolving Loan Fund, and the International Revolving Loan Fund to loan to our missionaries to help purchase land and construct buildings. (These loans are interest free for the first five years. As the funds are repaid they are available for additional loans to other missionaries.)

Your help is needed! We need 10,000 new Visionaries who will covenant to give \$25.00 each year. As you know, the cost of land and building materials is astronomical and is making it all but impossible to construct places of worship. Mission churches also have a very difficult time obtaining loans from lending institutions since they have no financial history or credit rating.

We would welcome your help in enlisting 10,000 new Visionaries! Pray about it and call the Missions office in Little Rock, Arkansas (501-455-4977).

GMA Girls

GMA Promoter Beth Caldwell
166 Twin Creek Rd,
Lucedale, MS 39452
601-947-6011

Sunbeam Prom. Linda Dertinger
132 Howard Hill Road
Soso, MS 39480
601-729-2908

GMA ENLISTMENT WEEK September 16-22, 2007

THEME

"Bearing Precious Seeds"

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 126:6

SONG

"Bringing in the Sheaves"

OBJECTIVE

To enlist new GMAs and to strengthen those that are already GMAs.

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME

It is sometimes hard to get young girls to witness. I have often asked, "Why do you not invite someone to GMAs that does not attend church?" The reply that I hear the most is, "I do not know anyone that does not go to church." Since I am at school everyday, I find that statement hard to believe. Psalms 126:6 says "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." This scripture tells us to go and bring them in. I would like for you and your girls to experience a time of rejoicing during this week. Let the Holy Spirit direct you to the person or persons you should invite to join you in

GMAs.

During this week we are going to scatter precious seeds all around. This will be a great blessing to you and your church when you see these seeds sprout into a strong young person for Christ.

A WEEK BEFORE

Have each of your girls to make a poster using the theme. Place these posters all around the church. Also, ask each girl to memorize the theme verse.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY—Girls and Counselors should sit together in the morning and evening worship services. Sing the theme song during the evening worship hour. Of course, be sure to ask permission to sing.

MONDAY—Meet on this night to learn the most effective way to witness. (This would be a great time to use a WMA lady to teach the girls) At the close of this meeting, have each girl to write the names of two girls they will witness to this week. Let the girls know that you (the

counselor) are their prayer partner, and also assure them that you are always there if they need you.

TUESDAY—Call each girl to check on their progress, and to see if they need your assistance.

WEDNESDAY—Attend regular Wednesday night church services.

THURSDAY—Make personal contact with each girl today. Maybe you could deliver them a note to school to let them know you are praying for them and anticipating great results from their witness efforts.

FRIDAY—Have a sleepover, perhaps at your home or church. This will be the time they will invite their prospects and share their week with each one. Prepare a basket of goodies for the guests beforehand. Also, take this opportunity to introduce the GMA plan of work. Have the GMAs to share the greatest blessing she received this week. Do not forget to have your camera and make lots of pictures. Be sure to plan plenty of games. An inside scavenger hunt is lots of fun. You will be surprised what is in your home.

Have a great week and let me hear from your group's efforts to win others.

Beth Caldwell
National GMA Promoter
166 Twin Creek Rd.
Lucedale, MS 39452
(601) 947-6011
roydc@datasync.com

Mini-Edition

from page 6

whom were thrown away and neglected by their parents. Miss Boots talked to those kids with finger puppets, served them drinks and cookies and hugged their dirty little bodies.

I did not realize at the time how much these ladies influenced me as Jesus radiated through them. SEEING the love of God in them strengthened me then and later, and even now as I recount these memories. I do not know where they are today or if they are still alive. I never knew much personally about either, except that Ann Lombardo lived in New Orleans and Minnie Jester, in her younger days, had been the personal secretary to J. Edgar Hoover. What I do know is that they kept the first and second great commandments and loved the Lord their God with all their heart and soul and mind and each loved her neighbor as much as herself.

God bless you ladies. Thank you for showing Jesus to me.

BMA of Mississippi

MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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



Greetings from the Missions Office,

Special Emphasis for 2007 has ended and we praise God for supplying our needs as He sees fit. The total given to Special Emphasis this year was \$18,357.30, a record over the past few years. The Churches that will be featured in the 2008 Special Emphasis Calendar are as follows: Hopewell – Laurel, Union – Bay Springs, Liberty – Isola, Skyway Hills – Pearl, Mill Creek – Picayune, Thomas Street – Tupelo, Shady Grove – Tishomingo, Fairview – Laurel, Oakland – Vicksburg, Berean – Soso, First, Calhoun – Calhoun, and Lee’s Chapel #2 – Picayune.

The twelve churches are determined by dividing their average Sunday school attendance into the amount they have given for Special Emphasis. This gives each church equal opportunity to be listed as one of the twelve highest givers.

The Missionary Committeemen and the Revolving Loan Trustees viewed property in Cleveland for Bro. Ed Duvall and Homestretch Mission on Friday, August 10. These men will also be making a decision on property for Bro. Estuardo Marroquin and El Camino Mission very soon. Bro. Ed Duvall has a little over \$20,000 raised toward property in Cleveland and Bro. Estuardo Marroquin has over \$32,000 raised toward property for the El Camino Mission. Please be in prayer about these properties.

We are currently preparing for the

Mission’s Office upcoming audit for 2006-2007. Some might receive a confirmation letter in the mail. Please complete the letter and send it to the auditor as soon as possible. Your prompt attention will be appreciated.

We are also working on the 2007-2008 yearly budget. Much time and work go into both of these projects. We pray that God’s will be done in the coming year and that the harvest will be plenteous.

**Lifepointe Mission
Missionary Kevin Marr**

Your mission has learned how to be a church over the last month. It is sometimes easy to think that we show up for church on Sunday and go home and do our thing for the rest of the week.

The problem is; God did not call us to go to church, He called us to be His church! The Greek word “ecclesia” has nothing to do with a building but with a group of people that is called out for a specific purpose. God called us to be His “ecclesia” in this world, and sometimes we have to learn on the run.



Bro. & Mrs. Kevin Marr

One of the founding members of our mission, Randy Rutherford, died at home unexpectedly. I say unexpectedly because though he had been sick for a while, he was expected to live for some time, but God had other plans. LifePointe immediately jumped into action as his family struggled with their loss. Enough meals were prepared to keep them eating for a few weeks, plus a crew went to their house the next day and cleaned it from top to bottom. The grass was cut and the bushes were trimmed that same day. I had the privilege of going to the funeral home and helping get everything set, it was incredible. On top of that, our mission was able to give a substantial amount to help with Bro. Randy’s funeral. As the pastor of these people, I sat back in amazement as I watched the Church do what God created her to do!

Another of our members is battling cancer. He is only in his 30’s and has been told that nothing else can be done for him. Once again, it has been beautiful to see LifePointe spring into action. While much of the work was done by ladies in helping the Rutherford family, our men have stepped up to the plate in this situation. Every time I call one of our men to give them an update on Mike, they have already talked to him and prayed with him. They are on the phone daily or at Mike’s house spending some time with him. It is incredible to see how God has done such a work in these men’s hearts that they cannot help but love their brother through this very difficult time.

We have some exciting events coming up in August and September that we hope will help boost our attendance back to where it was and farther! Our Leadership Team has been praying and fasting over the need to reach more people! Please join us in this prayer!

**Missionary Wallace Williams
Bay St. Louis, Mississippi**

Greetings in the name of our God and savior Jesus Christ. The past two summer months have been up and down and God is still on time with His Blessings. We praise the Lord for all the good things He has done for us. In June we averaged about 50 in worship and in July about 35 in worship. In July, a young boy named Jarred got saved. His name was one of many we have in a prayer box that we are constantly praying for. We thank God for saving this young boy. Also, Bro. Matt and a group of young people from Woodlawn Baptist church of Columbus came and did a 3-day VBS with us. They did a great job and their youth are to be commended for their work and their kindness.



Bro. & Mrs. Wallace Williams

Our building program is still making progress. We hope to have enough of the education and dining area completed by September 1 so we can start having Sunday school. I hope to have all the building completed by Christmas. Please pray for us that everything will work together and that everyone will work together so we can see completion by then. It is very tiring working 3 nights a week and there are plenty of opportunities for the devil to interfere. I want to thank all of you who have given so much, who has helped, and who has continued in prayer for us. We need you and God loves you. Thanks again.

Pro-lifer denounces selective moral outrage over Vick Case

OneNewsNow.com - A pro-life activist is calling the outrage of PETA, the federal government, and the NFL, regarding the Michael Vick dog-fighting scandal, a clear demonstration of hypocrisy.

Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick pled guilty in court to charges that he conspired to run a dog-fighting operation. Vick agreed to a plea deal after initially denying direct involvement in pit bull fights that an indictment said took place on his property in Virginia. His plea deal came after three co-defendants in the case agreed to testify against the former Pro Bowl quarterback.

Bryan Kemper, the president of Stand True Ministries, has written a "sarcastic" commentary titled "Michael Vick should have invested his money into killing babies instead of dog fighting." He wishes opposition to the 4,000 abortions that take place every day in the U.S. rivaled the widespread public outrage over the dog-fighting scandal.

"Obviously most of us are outraged that he would put dogs through that and that they would be tortured, and torn apart, and it's a horrible thing," says Kemper. "But why aren't we showing the same outrage over the fact that [more than] 4,000 little children are

being ripped limb from limb everyday through surgical abortion? It makes no sense to me that we are outraged over a dog when little babies are dying and nobody is crying out about that."

He points out that sports commentators have been talking about how their children are disappointed over the scandal because "kids love puppies" - but notes little is said in the media about professional athletes and franchises and their support for abortion. Kemper believes that children love babies as much as puppies and "if they knew that their favorite players were involved in spending money to pay to have women kill their babies, they would be just as devastated."

A press release on PETA's website is calling for the NFL to "recognize animal abuse as an offense warranting suspension - and more." Citing several animal abuse incidents involving NFL players, PETA calls the allegations "disturbing" and that the "NFL needs to act vigorously and with authority to stamp this out immediately."

Kemper says if PETA wants the NFL to take "strong action on behalf of dogs," it should also be calling for the NFL to change its rules so players are not allowed to pay women to have an abortion.

BEAMS Rally Raises Over \$20,000 for Bibles to Thailand

On Friday, August 10th, Red Creek Baptist Church of Wiggins hosted its first BEAMS Rally. Over \$20,000 was raised to supply hardcover complete King James Bibles to missionaries in Thailand. These Bibles are provided free of charge to Baptist missionaries to give to new converts and those that show an interest in being saved.

Bible Education and Missionary Service (BEAMS) is a non-profit faith based ministry that supplies Bibles free of charge to Baptist missionaries around the world. It is through the generous contributions of Baptist churches and individuals that they are able to do this. In the last ten years the ministry has grown from serving 12 missionaries to over 1,700 Baptist missionaries and national pastors; from supplying 25 hardcover complete King James Bibles (or its equivalent in other languages) a month, to more than 10,000 Bibles a month; and from serving in three countries to 117 countries. 450,000 Bibles have been supplied to missionaries in the past 10 years.

Silver Run Baptist Church of Poplarville and Caney Baptist Church of Lumberton will both host BEAMS Revivals Sunday, Sep. 30th through Friday, Oct. 5th. If you would like to have more information about these revivals or about BEAMS you can contact Dr. René Freret at (228) 832-1096 or visit their website at www.beamsbibles.com. The ministry is located at 15444 Duckworth Road in Gulfport, MS.

Nearly half of Christians think alcohol use is acceptable

OneNewsNow.com - A new poll shows that nearly half of Christians believe it is acceptable for believers to drink alcohol - provided they don't get drunk.

The poll, conducted by ChristiaNet.com, surveyed 6,000 believers and asked if it was wrong for a Christian to consume alcohol. Participants were given choices of "yes," "no," and "unsure." Forty-nine percent believed that drinking small amounts of alcohol is acceptable, as long as the person does not become drunk. Many said consuming alcoholic beverages for "relaxation" or a "social gathering" is also acceptable.

And while many cited Christ's first miracle involved turning water to wine at a wedding ceremony, ChristiaNet president Bill Cooper says those who believe it is wrong for Christians to drink alcohol cited numerous reasons.

"Some of their concerns were [that] alcohol is a drug, [it] impairs your judgment, and it's not a good example to other potential Christians or even other people that you may be witnessing to, because our society so much associates alcohol with drunkenness," Cooper explains.

Thirty-nine percent of Christians agreed it is wrong to drink alcohol for any reason. Twelve percent said they were unsure when it came to the use of alcohol.