

## Important Dates

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

## DiscipleGuide Mails New Edition of Directory and Handbook

The 2007-08 Directory and Handbook has been mailed out to BMAA churches.

Here are some of the more noteworthy changes users will notice in this new edition:

1. It features an outside cover that is in full color.
2. A new listing was added this year featuring leaders in Hispanic ministry.
3. Information on each BMAA department is now largely consolidated into one area for easier viewing.
4. The section listing periodicals was broken into two sections – curriculum and periodicals.
5. Page headings have been enlarged for easier reading.

We are completely dependent on the support of BMAA churches to fulfill the mission given us by the association. The Directory and Handbook continues to be a valuable resource to church leaders and departments, but it's very costly to produce. We hope you'll be generous in your support of this ministry.

We thank all who regularly feed us new information and corrections as they occur. Contact us at 870-772-4550 with your corrections. You may also e-mail Linda Cary (lcary@discipleguide.org) or Bobby Hudgens (bhudgens@discipleguide.org).

## Coming Next Month!

### Special Emphasis Mississippi Baptist Children's Home

SEPTEMBER 15, 2007

VOL. 61 No.18



JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

## BMMI - Ministering Around The World

# So Similar But So Far Apart

by Dr. John Ladd

### BMAA Medical Missionary to Mexico

Late last year, I set out on a great adventure of joining a group of BMMI team members from the US and the Philippines to minister in several indigenous villages in Rattanakiri, Cambodia. The first hurdle was to get there, considering the fact that several airlines had canceled all flights into and out of DFW airport because of ice. What originally would have been a leisurely trip with at least a couple of hours between flights turned into a track meet having to run at full speed between terminals in San Francisco to catch the last thirteen and a half hour, trans-Pacific flight to Taipei; a midnight run never hurt anyone!

I have been asked to compare the work of the medical team in Cambodia with that of the Good Samaritan Clinic here in Mexico. Some might think it would be similar to comparing a VW to a BMW, but not so ... Differences, yes, but in many ways similar.

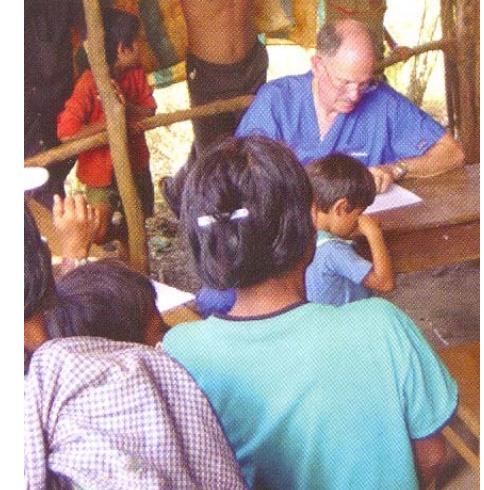
Since a physician treats people, not diseases, let's look at the people; a very friendly folk with a smile and ready to pose for a picture. As with our Huastecos here in Mexico, the indigenous people have a custom of squatting on the ground rather than sitting in a chair or standing. That really kills my knees! The ladies wear long, wrap around skirts; a long piece of colored fabric in Cambodia, a long piece of black fabric in Mexico. While our Huastecan ladies often have a crown of colorful yarn stacked on their heads, in Rattanakiri the ladies often had another piece of material wound around their heads. It could be removed at any time for use in carrying a bundle or baby just like our ladies carry their babies in their 'quil'.

Although I didn't detect any of the same words in the indigenous vocabularies, they both used similar sounds and had the custom of repeating the last phrase spoken to them before answering a question or continuing a conversation.

We, as well as others visiting our area of Mexico, recognize how many of our Huastecos have a very slight Asian squint about their eyes, and so was the case with many of the Cambodians in the villages - not

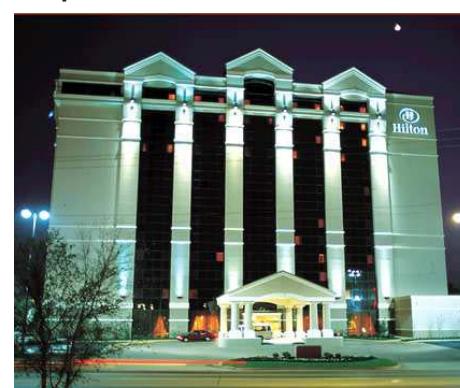
a marked typical Asian pattern. Color of the skin? Once again the two groups separated by thousands of miles share a very similar moderate to dark brown skin tone. Sounds good to me that the indigenous people groups of North America have common roots with the Asians, thanks to the Aleutian Islands and Alaska.

Whether we set up clinic in a school, a public health facility, or under the shade of a large tree, the medical problems were very similar also. Many children with coughs, colds, and runny noses. Skin lesions caused by poor hygiene, malnourished children and senior citizens, body aches and pains caused by carrying heavy loads from an early age. As in many developing countries, a mother



Dr. John Ladd, BMAA Medical Missionary to Mexico, ministers to patients during Cambodian BMMI trip.

## 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.

might tell you her child has a cough, fever, headache, lack of appetite, intestinal parasites, etc., but when examined, you find them cool as a cucumber, lungs clear as a bell, and in fairly good condition. Upon questioning the mother, her response might be something like, "Well, they don't have fever right now and no cough, but sometimes they do." It's easy to understand why Mom would like to have some medication on hand when the need does arise.

I was surprised that we didn't detect or suspect as much diabetes among the Cambodians as with the Mexicans. Another difference was the abusive use of tobacco; many men, women, and even children smoke -- store-bought or homemade cigarettes and cigars. We were told that family planning is not presented now as the country is still 'recovering' from the millions of lives lost at the hand of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge forces back in the 1970's. AIDS is a very serious problem, but the government is making progress with the aid of international health agencies.

Here in Mexico, we are free to witness of the Lord's grace in many forms, but in Cambodia evangelicals are not permitted to spread

continued on page 7



### Harmony Association Report

The Harmony Association met at Big Oak, Fulton, September 7, 2007. Bro. Doug Wilson led in singing, and Bro. Sidney Davis preached from II Peter 3:1-7. There were 54 present with 12 churches represented.

Reports by Sidney Davis, Children's Home; Bro. Very Holifield on Senior Citizens; Bro. Charles Costa on missions in Lebanon; Bro. Elvis Garcia on the Ripley mission; and Dr. John Adams on Christian Action. Frank Panzrino, Moderator Maxine Phifer, Reporter

### Fairhope, Beaumont

Our September 9, 2007, we honored our senior citizens with a special service. We had a total of 19 senior citizens in our service, with 17 being members of our church.

Bro. Jerry Overstreet, pastor, expressed our appreciation and love with words of encouragement and praise to each one for their many years of service to our church and to God. We had a moment of silence and a special prayer for our members and their families who were unable to attend due to ongoing illnesses in which has limited most from our church services for months.

Bro. Aubrey Cook was our guest speaker. He brought out the importance of teaching generation after generation the ways of God. This means standing firm on God's Holy Word from Genesis to Revelation (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

We concluded our service with lunch prepared by the younger ladies of our church and enjoyed by all. We were blessed to have the honor of showing our love and appreciation to all of our senior citizens and hope that in some way it touched each of you in a special way.

A thought, "Don't wait until you are a senior citizen to put this message into action, or don't stop doing so once you have become a senior citizen."

Jerry Overstreet, Pastor

### First Calhoun, Laurel

First Baptist Church, Calhoun, Laurel, Highway 84 West (behind Calhoun School) will have a Fifth Sunday Sing Sunday, September 30, 2007, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Our guest singers will be Shallow Creek from Picayune. This gospel group features three natural brothers along

with two brothers in the Lord who bring their own style of bluegrass gospel music with beautiful melodies and heartfelt lyrics. We invite you to join us for a great night of gospel singing. Refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall. A love offering will be received.

Harold Holifield, Pastor  
Cherrie Dearman, Church Clerk

### Tombigbee Association meets

On September 6, 2007, Hopewell Baptist Church welcomed seventy-six to the monthly meeting of the Tombigbee Association with a bountiful meal followed by business at 7:00 P.M. A devotional by Bro. Roger Franks from Psalm 15:1-5 opened the meeting.

The Galileans were promoted and encouraged at this meeting by Bethel's Galilean leader and Galilean members; Bro. Vern Holifield commended those with a senior adult ministry and encouraged others to organize such a ministry; Bro. Joseph Oyeleye reported steady progress in the Maple Street Mission with children's outreach, ACT tutoring, and street work as part of this progress; and Bro. Milton Wright reported that Southeastern College is doing well with the reserve fund and the choir growing.

Mrs. Anita Akers sang "The Lights of Home" prior to a serious and challenging message from Ezra 9:1-6 & 10:1-5 by Bro. Grover Laird outlining "What will give us hope in the church of today?"

Mark your calendars to meet with us at our annual meeting at East Fulton on October 6, 2007, at 9:30 A.M.

Bro. Roger Akers, President  
Beth Haden, Assist. Reporter

### Washington Association report

The 95th Annual Washington Association Meeting convened with Sand Hill Baptist Church, Lucedale, Mississippi Saturday September 15, 2007. Eleven of seventeen Churches answered roll call with 42 in attendance including 2 visitors.

Bro. Skip Holland pastor of Sand Hill gave the welcome, Bro. Colon Havard, pastor Rhymes, gave the response.

Officers and Committees for the coming year are Moderator, Skip Holland, SandHill; Assist. Moderator, Malcolm Clark, Temple;

Clerk, Leo Sketo, Midway; Assist. Clerk, Don Brown, Movella; Treasurer, Steve Goff, Movella; Assist.

Treasurer, Frank Everett, Harmony; Reporter, Wanda Holland, Leakesville; Assist. Reporter, Ann Davis, Harmony; Youth Director, Donald Brown, Movella; Assist.

Youth Director, Mitchell Havard.

The Speaker for the September 20, 2008 meeting will be Bro. Malcolm Clark with Bro. Darnell Minyard as Alternate. The Host Church will be Temple, Lucedale. Our next monthly meeting will be October 19 at Harmony Baptist Church, Hurley.

### Short Message Series by Rev. Grover Laird

## Growing A Church

"...I will build my church...." (Matthew 16:18)

It seems that the Lord often chooses weak things to do mighty things. The Bible teaches this—"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:" (I Corinthians 1:27,28) King Asa acknowledged that God doesn't have to have something great in order for Him to do something great— "And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power...." (2 Chronicles 14:11)

When God called Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt, Moses needed special help from the Lord. He needed something to convince Israel that God had called him to lead them out of bondage. He needed something to convince Pharaoh that the God he represented was the true and living God. He needed power to bring plagues upon Egypt and to part the Red sea. He needed something great and mighty that would assure him of victory when he went in battle. God met Moses's need with the common Shepherd's rod that he carried in his hand. (Exodus

4:2,17) Little David also needed something supernatural when he confronted the well-armed Philistine giant. God chose to use the common sling and stone that he also carried in his hands. (I Samuel 17)

God loved this sinful world and provided a way of salvation through His Son by which all could be saved. He also chose a plan by which all mankind could take advantage of this wonderful salvation. While we might could think of other things that would gather in the people and produce the desired results, God chose to use something very simple—"it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." (I Corinthians 1:21)

God not only loved the world and arranged a way to save it, He loves His Church and has a plan by which He builds it. (II Peter 3:18; Ephesians 4:11-16) The Book of Acts tells us the story of how God built the first Church larger and stronger by the day. (Acts 2:47) He seem to build it through common people praying (Acts 1:14;2:42) and living in a way that would shine out as a light in a dark world. (Matthew 5:16) He also built that first Church by moving them to fill their town



Grover Laird

with the message of Jesus, (Acts 5:28) sending this good news of Christ to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8; 8:4) They also taught the converts the doctrines of God's Word, teaching them to observe all that Jesus commanded. (Acts 2:42) Maybe this plan seems too common and insufficient, but the Lord seems to have used it to build His churches that would bring Him glory "throughout all ages, world without end." (Matthew 28:20; Ephesian 3:21)

There are other things that we could use to build a church. We could seek to gather in the people by getting some celebrity to come and speak, and surely some would come because of his fame. We could also get a group to come and entertain the congregation, and several would surely come because many enjoy entertainment. But the Bible tells us that unless the Lord builds the house, or it is built under His direction, we could be wasting our time and energy— " Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." (Psalms 127:1)

We are so blessed to have a Bible that thoroughly furnishes us with instruction to all good works. (II Timothy 3:16,17) This way we can know what the plan is, as well as see what the pattern was. Following His plan we can carry on His work in a manner that He will build His Church.

We have to admit that it looks a bit strange that a small church of common people could experience a growth of three thousand in one day, five thousand on another day, and additions every day. In addition to this, they had a service so spiritual until the house was shaken when they prayed. But it all means that the Lord who is pleased to use the "foolishness of preaching to save them that believe," is pleased to use a small, common, dedicated groups of people to build His Church. Our concern, therefore, should not be how we can build His Church, but rather what we can do to please the Lord so that He will build it.

But why does the Lord choose the weak, and "the most unlikely things to succeed" to do great things?

This question does have an answer. Just after the Bible tells us that the Lord chose to use the things that are foolish, weak, base, despised, and are not, it says, "that no flesh should glory in His presence." (I Corinthians 1:29)

The National Missions Ambassador is Ted Quinby. The Christian Action Committee Representative is Bro. Glen Pace. The Association voted to donate \$500.00 to the multi-purpose building at the Seminary.

Bro. Greg Medenwald brought the message from the Book of Revelation Chapter 2, Verse 7. The title of the message was The Overcomers, Joyce Bates, reporter

follows: Greg Bennett, Moderator; Denny Patterson, Vice Moderator; Sam Oglesby, Clerk/Treasurer; Bro. Marion Green, Asst. Clerk/Treasurer; Joyce Bates, Reporter.

The speaker for the 2008 meeting will be Bro. Ralph Hatten with Bro. John Miller as Alternate. The meeting will be held at Main Street in Petal, Mississippi.

Those elected to serve as Committeemen until 2010 are:

J.R. Hartfield, Charles Shoemaker and Richard Campbell

The Christian Committee consists of Denny Patterson and Ricky Purvis

The committee on Missionary Counseling are Bro. Kenneth Flynt, Bro. Leon Carmical and Bro. David E. Steele.

The National Missions Ambassador is Ted Quinby. The Christian Action Committee Representative is Bro. Glen Pace. The Association voted to donate \$500.00 to the multi-purpose building at the Seminary.

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# 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*

## Fall Semester Statistics

Again there is excitement on campus as the new semester has begun. The many new students make it interesting as they learn about a new environment and we try to learn the new names. The classes seem to be going well.

The official count is 81 students (15.7% increase over last fall) after the registration, changing schedules, and some having to drop out is all over. The number of first-time students here at Southeastern is 40. There are 39 ministerial students.

## Special Emphasis and Special Projects in the Summer

The following is a list of those who have given special contributions at the time of this writing. More will be listed later.

Churches  
Antioch, Soso

Bethel, Seminary  
Canaan, Richton  
Central, Ellisville  
Community, Poplarville  
Corinth, Petal  
Creston Hills, Jackson  
Cypress Creek, Wiggins  
First, Bay Springs  
First, Calhoun, Laurel  
Forked Oak, Booneville  
Grace, Saucier  
Harmony, Hurley  
Hopewell, Fulton  
Jerusalem, Lawrence  
Lebanon, Laurel  
Movella, Lucedale  
New Bethany, Ellisville  
Oak grove, Lucedale  
Oak Grove, Mantachie  
Oakland, Vicksburg  
Palestine, Bay Springs  
Paramount, Perkinston  
Parkview, Laurel  
Plainview, Poplarville  
Riverside, Ellisville

Rock Hill, Meehan  
Sharon, Laurel  
Shiloh, Kosciusko  
Skyway Hills, Pearl  
Springhill, Laurel  
Temple, Biloxi  
Ten Mile Ladies Sunday School Class, Perkinston  
Union, Bay Springs  
Washington, Neely  
Westhaven, Jackson  
Wolf Creek, Kiln  
Zion, Anguilla

### Individuals

Marjorie Harper  
Frank Panzrino  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Welborn

### Land Purchase

(Specifically Designated for Land)  
Little Creek, Perkinston  
Paramount, Perkinston  
Riverside, Ellisville

### **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

#### **DURING SUMMER**

House Moving and Repair  
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Holifield, Laurel

### Remodel Music Rooms

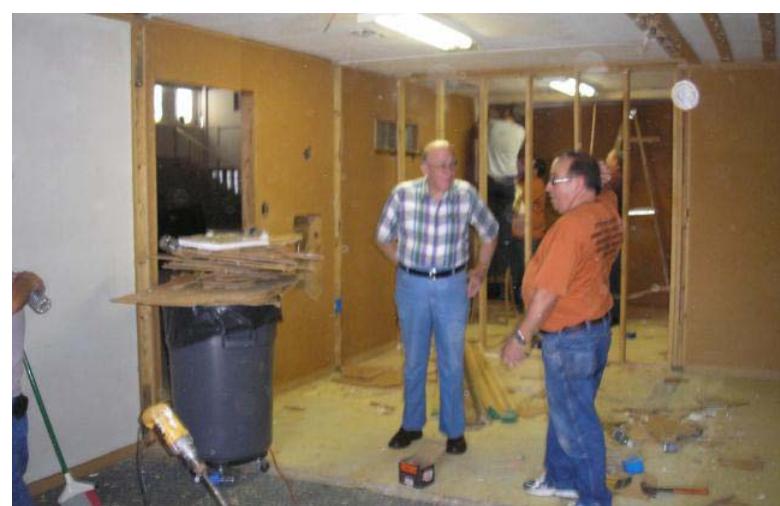
BMA of South Alabama

### Land Clean-Up

Big Creek Association

Thank the Lord for all His blessings.

Pictures Below Depict Volunteers Helping To Improve Our Campus



## AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

### David Clark

Bro. David Clark of Laurel is available for pastoral or pulpit supply as the Lord leads. He may be contacted at 601-426-6896.



## Shane's World

Shane Singleton

was so noisy, that a person on one end could yell at the top of their lungs to someone at the other end and not be heard. Especially with those earplugs in.

Since very few of us have ever been to such a factory, much less built an airplane, what does all this mean to us? Just as that airplane is built to fly among the clouds, so too were we created to possess a soaring soul. But with all the noise of the world that influences our daily thinking, we cannot always hear the instructions that we've been given.

With the 'earplugs' of complacency we cannot follow the directions we've been given. We do not hear or heed the very word of God

**Mississippi State Ladies Retreat**  
September 28 & 29, 2007

# Mississippi Baptist | Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

## Revisiting the "Open Letter"

In recent months there has been much discussion in our work concerning the usage of Bible versions in Association and Department sponsored events. At our Midyear meeting held at Midway First Baptist Church of Sumrall this past May, reference was made concerning a letter that each department worker of the BMA of Mississippi helped to draft. The letter was signed by each department worker and sent to each of our churches in Mississippi. The purpose was to clarify the position and practice of each worker concerning the matter of Bible translation preferences and use.



Don Brown  
Editor

Some attending the meeting were unaware of its existence and had not been privy to its content or purpose. While the letter was not intended to set Association policy, it did state the current practice and policy of each department worker at the time.

Copies of the letter could not be located and thus it could not be presented at the meeting in May. The letter has been found (it was stored on a computer at Southeastern Baptist College) and it is being printed in its entirety for the review of our churches and pastors. The letter is clear in its intent and reflects current practice. We hope our readers find it informative.

### AN OPEN LETTER TO THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

As leaders of the departments and commissions of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi we recognize that we are servants of the churches which compose that body. It is our desire and intent to provide direction for our respective departments and commissions in a manner that will correspond with the wishes of those churches. We also recognize that not every church, nor every individual within those churches, will agree on every detail of how our business is conducted. Accordingly, it is our intent to continue to be true to God's Word, sensitive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and in accord with the doctrinal statement of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi in the exercise of our duties with respect to decisions which determine our practices. There will be no compromise on our part with respect to the Word, the Spirit, and the doctrinal statement.

Some procedures and programs are within the scope of the aforementioned guides and are subject to being done in a variety of ways. We intend to pursue such activities with the counsel of our boards of trustees and the good of our respective ministries and those we serve in mind. Where a question of expediency exists, we intend to strive to be sensitive to the preference of the majority of the churches of the Association.

One such area of expediency is the use of versions of the Bible. We recognize that a considerable amount of disagreement exists within the Association with respect to this issue. Good godly people differ on the subject. However, we believe that a decided majority of the churches of the Association would prefer that only the King James Version of the Bible be used for official programs and functions of the departments and commissions. Consequently, without attempting to make any judgment positively or negatively upon any other version of the Bible, we affirm our commitment to encourage all program speakers, missionaries, and college faculty to use the King James Version as the English text when performing an official function of any department or commission.

This statement is made out of respect for all of the churches of the Association and out of a desire to accurately reflect their sentiments in our actions.

### Letters From Our Readers

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

#### Prisoners Bible Crusade report

Dear Brother Brown,  
Enclosed is a report on Prisoners Bible Crusade for year ending 8-31-2007

Our grateful thanks to our Lord and to each of you for your prayers and support. For the year 2007 we have given free to prisoners 4,470 English Bibles; 760 Spanish Bibles; 760 New Testaments; 2,700 John/Romans; 497 WMA Women Study Books; All Study Books 9,289; 1,027 Study helps, all totals 18,740. Sent into 55 prisons. Chaplains report 736 people saved (14,176 since 1/1/2000). 5 new Chaplain requesting Bibles for 1st time. I have traveled 9,326 miles, led one person to the Lord, visited 19 churches, 17 association meetings & 17 prisons, taught 20 Bible study classes, taught 1 volunteer worker's class. I have preached 10 sermons in churches, 10 in prisons. PBC's Evangelistic Team has conducted 10 worship services in prisons in 2007. Since 1973 we have given 173,345 Bibles; Total all Bibles and materials, 495,174.

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. The cost is 20 cents each, or \$3,982.63. I do have some funds on hand for this project. If you would like a sample copy please let me know. We have given 72,651 of these books to Prisoners and still get requests for them. If you can help with this project please mark your gift "SDL".

Prison Information? State DOC's web sites are linked at: [www.prisonersbiblecrusade.org](http://www.prisonersbiblecrusade.org).

Prisoners Bible Crusade  
P. O. Box 696,  
(Shipping 24090 Rd 269) Picayune, MS 39466

Paul E. Lee, Director PBC

#### Reader comments on 'drinking Christians' article

Dear Bro. Brown,

I read in the last issue the article concerning some Christians attitude about drinking alcoholic beverages.

**continued on page 5**

### Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



It can be lonely at the top.

### GOP White House hopefuls detail salvation experiences



Huckabee

**OneNewsNow.com** - Some of the Republican presidential candidates who took part in last night's "Values Voter" presidential debate in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, spoke candidly about when they accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee said last night's debate was unlike any other he'd ever participated in, noting he could never envision MSNBC commentator Chris Matthews opening a debate with a prayer.

Huckabee told the 2,000-plus audience members that he became a born-again Christian at the age of 10 while attending vacation Bible school at a small Baptist church in Hope, Arkansas. "And on that day [I] trusted Jesus Christ as my Savior -- it was life-changing," he said.

The former governor shared that he holds things in perspective, including his run for the White House. "Sometimes people ask me what's the greatest thing that ever happened to me, and they expect me to say being elected governor or running for president," stated Huckabee. "But the truth is, those are jobs that somebody else had before me, somebody else is going to have after me - and those jobs have a limit."

"But the greatest thing that ever happened to me was coming to know Jesus Christ, because there is no limit, there are no terms set, and it's a position that I'll hold forever and forever."

Illinois businessman John Cox said he was "reborn in Christ" in 1979 when a Christian man ministered to him on a commuter train in Chicago. Meanwhile, Congressman Duncan Hunter (R-California) joked that he has never belonged to an organized denomination - he's a Baptist.

**ONE News Now.COM**

**Mississippi Baptist**

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## Moral Action Committee

Baptist Missionary Association of America  
6273 Miller Rd., Swartz Creek, MI 48473 - 810-635-4845

### Lesbian To Become An Episcopal Bishop In Chicago

Despite the worldwide Anglican Communion's demand that the U.S. Episcopal branch pledge to stop consecrating openly homosexual bishops by September 30, a lesbian priest has been named a finalist for bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. According to The Associated Press, the Rev. Tracy Lind, Dean of Trinity Cathedral in Cleveland, would be the second Episcopal bishop living with a same-sex partner (homosexuality).

Traditional Lutherans are also facing a nightmare of their own when it comes to the values of those who represent them in leadership. The leadership of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) passed a resolution by a vote of 583\431 that urges bishops to "refrain from disciplining pastors" who are in "faithful, committed same-gender relationships." In my opinion, what they were saying was, it's okay to sin as long as you are committed to your sin.

Tragically, this sinful slide toward tolerance and acceptance of immorality is not unique to the Episcopal or the Lutheran Church. As is true in any association of churches or a local church, absolute truth must be defended by true believers

who will speak and defend church policy (based on the Bible) which is being constantly challenged by those who demand political correctness over biblical truth.



Roy McLaughlin  
Director

### What Is Radical Christianity?

Perhaps you saw "God's Warriors," the recent CNN mini-series that purported to investigate what animates the most fervent followers of the world's three major religions. The documentary is just the latest in a steady stream of books and films promoting the ridiculous theory that conservative Christians and orthodox Jews pose as much of a threat to freedom as fanatical Muslims, who preach hatred and send their children off to become suicide bombers.

## 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](http://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.

ers. I do not think that Christianity poses any threat to America, and if anything, there is a greater need for more Christianity in our nation today, than there was in the early days of our founding.

### The Gavel Strikes Again

On August 30, 2007, a judge in Polk County, Iowa, declared Iowa's marriage law unconstitutional and ordered county officials to immediately begin issuing marriage licenses to homosexual couples. The Polk County Attorney argued that this wasn't an issue for a lone judge to decide, but once again the raw political power of judicial activism proved too tempting. Now "gay marriage" has come to the heartland.

What is it about some judges that makes them think they know better than the people's elected represen-

tatives? Do their robes endow them with superhuman intellect? It's not supposed to be this way, my friends. Judges are not supposed to make law in this country. If they want to make law, they need to be legislators, not judges. The courts have no authority to impose their will on the people. The respect and moral authority of the judiciary rests solely upon the premise that its power is limited and restrained. Judicial activism violates that premise and usurps the authority of the people. There is a solution: Rogue judges who abuse their authority should be impeached!

It's worth pointing out that six states neighboring Iowa have passed their own marriage protections amendments by an average vote of 66%. Pro-family leaders in Iowa have pushed for years to get a marriage amendment through the state legislature. But last year liberal politicians successfully killed the amendment in the divided state Senate, denying the people of Iowa the opportunity to define and defend traditional marriage for themselves.

As upset and alarmed as I am about this judge's abuse of power, I appreciate that the timing of his decision came at the time when the campaign season kicks into high speed. Every candidate for President – Democrat and Republican – will have to address the proper role of judges in our society. I pray that every Christian voter will consider the dangers of liberal activism, as well as the importance of defending America's traditional values in public policy. May God help us to vote not primarily on the basis of political party or politician, but according to biblical teaching and principles.

## Commission on Senior Adults

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



It is good to greet the readers of the Mississippi Baptist Paper in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is all the Bible tells us He is. He is more than we can understand that He is. The more we know about Him, the more we love Him. "Jesus is the sweetest name I know."

It is always good when we can give a positive word about the Lord's Work. The Commission On Senior Adults is an important part of the Lord's great cause. One reason the Commission is important is that it is an official part of the Lord's Churches here in Mississippi.

We are pleased that more of our churches are organizing Senior Adult Ministries. One of the things we emphasize is that churches do establish meaningful ministries to their Seniors. We offer help in this area when called on.

It is good to report that the financial support continues to grow. The Financial report for this year will show a nice growth. Our pastors and churches are urged to join us by placing the Commission in their budget. There may be a false notion about the fees paying all the expenses of the Conferences. As long as I have the responsibility of planning the programs for the Conferences, we will strive to have quality programs for our Seniors. To have quality programs, we must have quality music, quality preaching, and quality food. To have all this we must be willing to pay for it. We are not cheap Baptists and we are not ministering to unimportant people. The Senior Adults deserve good

programs. About all that is expected of us is to pay the expenses for those who help us. Please help us do our best for your Seniors.

Recently my wife and I were privileged to visit the Tombigbee Association which met with Hopewell Baptist Church, Fulton. This good Association has the Commission in their budget. We visited the Harmony Association which met with Big Oak Baptist Church, Fulton. This Association does not have the Commission in their bud-

get, but several of the churches do. We visited the Judson Association which met with the Fellowship Baptist Church, Saltillo. This Association placed the Commission in their budget this year. We then were with the Shady Grove Baptist Church, Tishomingo, and Pastor Mavous Phifer on Sunday, September 9. This was indeed an enjoyable time for us. On Sunday, September 16, we were with the Mulberry Baptist Church, Richton.

The 2008 Conference dates are set. The South Conference will be March 27, 2008 and the place is Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso. The North Conference will be May 13, 2008 and the place is East Amory Baptist Church, Amory. Mark your calendar as soon as you can, and pray for the meetings.

## Letters To The Editor

from page 4

I can not agree with the statement if one says he is a child of God and things on these things he or she is yet in their sins or back-slid in one

drinks one beer. There is no place for them with Jesus. If they continue to go their way they will lift their eyes in hell. The are counterfeit.

We sure do need to get back to preaching the true Gospel and quit sugaring it down.

Homer Bexley  
Lucedale

**Editor's Note:** The article the reader is referring to was not endorsing drinking, but showing the various attitudes that many Christians have concerning the consumption of alcoholic beverages.

## Court upholds traditional marriage

OneNewsNow.com - Maryland's highest court on Tuesday (September 18) upheld a state law defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman, ending a lawsuit filed by homosexual couples who claimed they were being denied fundamental rights.

Maryland's 1973 ban on gay marriage does not discriminate on the basis of gender and does not deny any fundamental rights, the Court of Appeals ruled. It also said the state has a legitimate interest in promoting opposite-sex marriage.

The decision left open the possibility that the Legislature could still take action on the issue.

"Our opinion should by no means be read to imply that the General Assembly may not grant and recognize for homosexual persons civil unions or the right to marry a person of the same sex," Judge Glenn T. Harrell Jr. wrote for the majority.

## Family Values . . .

Have you ever had a tempting offer that seemed too good to be true? One example that comes to mind would be the work at home ads that promise you will make \$10,000 the first month and as much as you want after that. The old saying of "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is" is an axiom of truth.

Last year, I received a offer that could have been a lucrative deal, if only that pesky Christianity stuff had not gotten in the way. The casting producer for a show on ABC contacted me about being on their program. She said it was a hit show on ABC's Disney family hour. Since I do not watch much TV, and never watch regular network programming, I had never heard of the show, but everyone I asked had heard of

the show. The casting producer was looking for an illusionist and his family, and came across my web



**miniedition**

Joseph Harris

[www.miniedition.net](http://www.miniedition.net)

site. The appearance on the show, and the filming, which would take a couple of weeks of my life, would pay \$20,000.00. I admit, this amount caused me to raise an eyebrow, but if my family and I had appeared on the program, it would have been the end of my ministry. The potential to corrupt my children was assured, because of the nature of the pro-

gram. I declined and asked a few friends if they were interested, but that was before I found out how corrupt the show was, otherwise, I would have thought twice about asking them. I still have not watched an episode of the show and do not plan on it.

The offer came soon after asking God for some extra income for a specific matter. AND it was on ABC's DISNEY FAMILY hour. I was assured it was a family show. Surely, this was God answering prayer. I learned long ago that the world doesn't have a clue when it comes to real family values. I remember renting a cartoon film from a video store when my daughter was young and asking the clerk about the film. She assured me it was a clean, child friendly, wonderful animation. Five minutes into the film, curse words began. I turned it off, took the film back and with charity told the employee the film was not a children's film. (This was not a Disney film, but Disney dropped the ball long ago concerning family values)

But back to the "family" show. Just because a show is centered around a family or families doesn't mean it is fit for family consumption. After checking into the situation, it appeared they wanted a Christian family, but I suspect it was for the opportunity to mock Christianity and challenge real family values. Even though I was encouraged by some to consider it, it was never a possibility from the beginning.

The importance of a stable, Godly family cannot be overstated. No single institution has been attacked as vehemently and viciously as the family has been attacked. The emasculation of the male, blurring of the roles of the sexes, and relaxation of the discipline of children, have all weakened the family in the last 100 years. Family values begin with placing value on God as the foundation of the family, led by the Father and supported by the Mother. Discipline and standards, motivated by love, will establish the children in habits, manners and a Christian world view philosophy of life that glorifies God, strengthens churches and produces good citizens.

Parents have only one shot with their children. That's why it's so important to guard them from that which would steal their innocence and purity.

**Ten Mile District  
GMA and Sunbeam  
Fallarama  
October 5th-6th, 2007**  
Ten Mile Baptist Church  
For more information call  
(601)-928-4826  
GMA District Corresponding  
Secretary, Lauren Ladner

## When God Doesn't Guide

I have prayed and prayed for God to guide me. He hasn't answered my prayer. I have asked God for direction for my life. He has not given me direction. What do I do? Gideon (Judges 6ff) asked God for a sign that the fleece to be wet and the ground be dry. Then he asked for the ground to be wet and the fleece dry. God replied as Gideon had requested. What happens when all is wet and all dry at the same time? What do I do? Here are some things we can do as we ask God for leadership when there seems to be no immediate answer:

Keep on asking. God is interested in your well being and the well being of His Kingdom. God is not annoyed at your asking direction of Him. He is honored when we truly ask direction from Him. Ensure it is His direction we seek rather than blessings on our escape plans when we are in trouble.

Look for change. Many times prayer changes me. Many times prayer changes circumstances; even those people around me. There may be movement in the condition I find myself. New insights do occur when we are open to the presence of the Living God.

Read and reread the Scriptures. The Bible is the guide for my life. It is authoritative for my journey. It is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path. There is no human condition the Bible excludes. I will find more than a hint in the Book of books.

Enquire of spiritual mentors. Some people are good guides. They are spiritually sensitive to your jour-



**Leave It  
To Cleaver**

Tony Cleaver

ney and will give you Godly and sound counsel - not "Here's what you need to do now" kind of advice.

Try a "new" path. If I am stuck at a dead end, maybe I need to go back to the crossroads to find my way. Returning to "basics" and the starting point many times reveals which end of the rope you are holding.

When God seemingly does not answer my request for direction, what do I do? I find the above tried and proven ways are most helpful rather than giving up on God.

## Freed Korean Hostages Recall Afghan Ordeal During Emotional Press Conference

SEOUL -- The 21 surviving South Korean Christian volunteers who were held hostage by the Taliban in Afghanistan for nearly six weeks have recalled how they suffered at the hands of their captors, according to a story carried on <http://english.aljazeera.net/>.

Speaking at a press conference in Anyang after leaving hospital, Yu Jung-hwa said how she and her fellow hostages felt terrified when her captors lined them up and threatened to kill them if they did not convert to Islam.

"All 23 of us leaned against a wall and armed Taliban aimed their guns at us, and a pit was before me."

"They said they will save us if we believe in Islam. I almost fainted at the time and I still cannot look at cameras."

The story went on to say, "Taliban fighters originally seized the 23

South Korean missionaries in July, but killed two of them during negotiations with Kabul and Seoul.

"The rest were eventually released after the South Korean government promised to withdraw its small contingent of troops from Afghanistan and prevent any more missionaries from working there.

### Hostage killed

Han Ji-yong, a young female hostage, described the last time she saw Bae Hyung-kyu, a 42-year-old pastor and leader of the group, who was found shot dead on July 25.

"One day, a Taliban called Bae came and checked his first and last names and took him out of the room," she said, breaking into tears.

"Bae didn't even look at us when he was leaving the room. He only said, 'Overcome with faith'."

## Mississippi State Ladies Retreat

September 28 & 29, 2007



LATRELLE WINDHAM  
DIRECTOR

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

**Help Us Minister To Your  
Students On The College Campus**

**Association  
of  
Baptist  
Students**



### Opportunities for ABS

University of Southern Mississippi  
Tuesdays 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

A Christian College Ministry Sponsored by  
Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi  
**Department of Youth**



## Marriage Makers and Breakers

### Maker # 1 - Giving Space

The two of you are as one. You are to leave your mother and father and be joined together as one flesh. However, being one flesh does not necessarily mean being joined together at the hip. I like to think of it as more sewn together at the heart. Striking a healthy, holy balance to that scripture in Ephesians 5 will take some understanding.

It is important for married couples to understand that you need to give each other space sometimes. Then, the rest of the time there needs to be a great deal of closeness. Either extreme can be sick and dysfunctional. One of the hardest things to bear in married life is a spouse who is smothering, controlling and possessive. However, it is also true that a very sad thing for marriage is when one spouse simply doesn't want to be close to their life partner. If you love your spouse, you should desire to be close to them, and connect with them at all levels. This includes a mental, emotional, physical and spiritual connection.

You need to give each other a very special gift in your marriage. That is time alone. It doesn't mean that your spouse doesn't love you. It doesn't mean they don't desire to be with you. It means that they are human, and there is nothing wrong with having some alone time.

Spiritually speaking, every Christian needs



[www.travisplumlee.com](http://www.travisplumlee.com)

#### Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee may tell you they have had a bad day at work. They may tell you that the kids have driven them crazy all day. Pay attention. A special note to guys. You are the family shepherd. You are to always be scanning the flock to make sure things are going well in the family. You are the head of the home. You are not a very good shepherd if you let your flock fall from exhaustion. Give the momma sheep some down time in a green pasture.

Both spouses can give the gift of rest to their partner. When husband or wife is stressed, or going through a lot, give them some PTO. This stands for Personal Time Off. We all need some unwind time. Maybe the husband has a heavy load to carry this week at work. The wife can give him 30 minutes of down time when he first comes

to have alone time. You are suppose to pray to your Father in secret. You are suppose to go into your prayer closet and shut the door. You need to have quiet time with the Lord. This is not a luxury time that you try and squeeze in. This is a must for every believer. All spouses should work to see that they help their spouse find time to spend alone before the throne of God.

A good spouse knows when their spouse is stressed. You should be able to tell by the body language, the communication or even just the physical behaviors. They

home from work. No nagging. No reminders of things to do. She keeps the kids at bay while he recharges. If he goes outside, works in the yard or on the car - let him be. Guys like to process this way.

A note to wives. Most (not all) guys need some space. You would be a wise woman to give your husband a little space each day. He may not take it. But you ought to build in a time for him to be by himself. It doesn't mean he doesn't love you. It doesn't mean that whatever he is doing is more important than you. It means he needs to be by himself to think and process what is going on. If a wife smothers her husband's time, he is going to blow a fuse. Let him re-charge his battery.

Ladies need space too. If she wants to go to the store and shop by herself, you don't have to tag along always to prove you are a good husband. Maybe she just needs to be out of the house and have a little time on her own.

There are different types of personalities by God's design. If you have children, you know that some are cuddlers and need lots of touching. Other kids from the same home love you greatly, but don't need all the constant touching. Learn that your spouse is one of these kids grown up. This is not an excuse to not show affection to your spouse. You are required to display deep affection to your spouse. However, we all have different size tanks to be filled. Be a wise spouse and learn to "fill 'er up" but not to "overflow".

If you are the type of spouse that thinks you have to be together all the time, then you are possessive and smothering. There are some other issues beneath the surface of this need in your life. It can be many things. Lack of affection growing up. Insecurity and mistrust. Rather than smothering your spouse, maybe you should spend your alone time seeking some biblical counseling for your self-esteem. Finally, love deeply. Show deep affection with lots of hugs. But a special gift to your spouse can be some down time.

### Mrs. Zuma Johnston passes away

Mrs. Zuma Parkerson Johnston, age 101 years, 8 months and 17 days, went home to be with the Lord on Friday, September 7, 2007. She was born December 21, 1905 in Montgomery Co. Mississippi to John Thomas and Ida Canon Parkerson. She had lived at Trinity Missions and Rehab for the last 3 1/2 years. She was a member of Westhaven Baptist Church in Jackson. Bro. Junior Stricklin, Bro. Bud Dixon and Bro. Danny Bartlett officiated the services.



Survivors include sons, Noble Johnston of Pearl, Colon Johnston of Clinton, and Shelly Johnaston of Smithdale; 3 daughters, Sybil Creel, of Clinton, Joyce Guthrie of Yazoo City, and Alice Faye Johnston of Jackson; 1 brother, Denton Ray Parkerson; 20 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren and 13 great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by husband, J.L. Johnston, her parents, 3 brothers, and 4 sisters.



### Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

### Wash Day

I received a "Wash Day Receipt" the other day from a person who had no idea what it was all about. (Did you, Joey?)

The first instruction was to "bild a far under the wash pot". These days I doubt there are many people who even know what a wash pot is and then would they know how to "bild a far under it"?

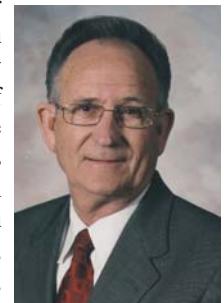
Those old wash pots turned out some beautifully white sheets and other clothes. We have a lot of modern equipment and chemicals for the same purpose today, but our sheets aren't as white.

We've come a long way, baby, in a lot of areas - especially wash day! I'm afraid we've come a long way from the teachings of our forefathers.

What do you think?

### Oakland Baptist Church to hold revival

Oakland will hold its Fall revival beginning Sunday October 21 and going through the 24th. Bro. Rocky Goodwin, founder of EIM Ministries, will be the evangelist. EIM is currently ministering in 15 countries through feeding programs, Bible distribution, Shepherd Bags, medical & evangelistic teams, discipleship training and pastoral leadership training.



Rocky Goodwin

You are invited to worship with us. The church is located at 2959 Oak Ridge Rd., Vicksburg, MS.

Michael Moore, pastor

### Tupelo Church Seeks Pastor

South Green Baptist Church, 3185 South Green Street, Tupelo, MS 38801, 601-842-8447, is seeking a pastor. Please contact Bro. Bill Collums, chairman of the pulpit Search Committee, at 662-841-9256, 1906 Bobwhite, Tupelo, MS 38801, if you are interested in this position.

Bro. Ralph Lacks  
Chairman of Deacons  
South Green Baptist Church

## National Missions Department News

### 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 at 501-455-4977.

### MISSIONS PROJECTS WHICH MIGHT INTEREST YOU

From time to time individuals, churches or groups within churches make inquiry about projects for our missionaries. Here are a few you might consider:

\$300 per month to help pay the salaries of our missionary pastors who are planting new churches in Yerevan, Armenia. There are ten of these, and they are all deserving of our support.

\$50,000 for each of these ten new churches to purchase land in Yerevan, Armenia.

\$40,000 to help pay for the ambulance BMMI recently donated to a province in China. This is one of the projects of our national WMA. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

\$8,000 to help pay for a much needed truck for Bro. Edmond Mamom in Cambodia and Thailand.

\$13,000 to help purchase a van for our missionary in Amman, Jordan.

\$10,000 for Dorcas House and other ministries of Bro. and Mrs. Don Newsom in the Philippines.