

# Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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VOL. 62 No. 18

## Spiritual Verbs for Missions

**Revelation 1:9-20**  
by Dr. Tony Cleaver  
prepared for  
Southwest Arkansas  
Missions Symposium

### Introduction

What are the words the churches need to hear regarding the mission of Christ in this our world today? What are the words this congregation needs to hear today regarding their task of mission? What can I say to you to give you those words? Shall I recount to you the words of the great sage and public counselor, Dr. Phil? Shall I give to you the words of the media personality and life agenda expert, Oprah? Shall I offer to you the words of the host of the families from rejection, Jerry? What are the words we must hear and obey regarding mission in our world in this our day and time? They are the words of Christ! These are the words we need to listen for today. Let us turn in our Bibles to our text for this service - Revelation 1:9-20.

Before we read our text, let's think about it for just a minute. These words were written

by John, the Beloved Apostle. He was one of the original Twelve. He was especially chosen by Jesus to be with Him. He was one of the special inner circle - Peter, James, and John - who were with Jesus on at least three very special occasions. He was in the garden with Jesus at His last prayer time. He was with Jesus in the upper room when He raised the little girl from the dead. He was with Jesus on the holy mountain of transfiguration.



Tony Cleaver

John knew Jesus! He knew His voice. He knew how He smelled after a long day's walk. He knew what it was like to lean into His bosom in the upper room. He had heard the words Jesus spoke in His ministry. He had spent months and months with Jesus. He outraced Peter to the tomb to see the place where He was not! John knew Jesus! He knew Him as well as anyone could ever know Him from an earthly point of view.

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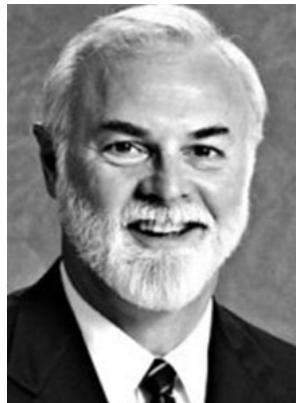
## Paschal Bible Lectures October 7 and 9

The Thirty-Eighth Annual William N. Paschal Memorial Bible Lectures will be held October 7 and October 9, 2007 in the Dorman Memorial Chapel on the campus of Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas.

The speaker will be Dr. Donald S. Whitney, who is currently Associate Professor of Biblical Spirituality and Senior Associate Dean at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He will lead three sessions on "Devoted to Disciplines and Doc-

trine" Lecture sessions will be held at 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday and at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday. Tuesday's lectures will be "Devoted to Disciplines and Doctrine - Part 1" and "The Almost Inevitable Ruin of Every Minister, and How to Avoid It." Thursday's lecture will be "Devoted to Disciplines and Doctrine - Part 2."

Dr. Whitney's educational background includes a B.A. degree from Arkansas State University, M.Div., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, D.Min., Trinity Evangelical



Dr. Donald S. Whitney

## BMA Seminary Professor Honored for 40 years of Service

Dr. Philip R. Bryan, President Emeritus, was recently recognized for his forty years of faithful service to the BMA Theological Seminary during the seminary's annual appreciation luncheon held August 21, 2008. In the past forty years Bryan has served the seminary in various positions including Dean-Registrar from 1979 to 1983 and President from 1983 to 1999. He is currently the Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies.

In 2008, Bryan was able to realize one of his dreams for the seminary - accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS). Bryan remembers the 1968 vote by messengers of the BMA of America for the seminary to seek ATS accreditation. The process resulted in associate level membership in 1971, but was delayed by the pursuit of accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

Dr. Philip Attebery, BMA Seminary Dean-Registrar observes, "Bryan's administrative leadership was essential to the receipt of SACS accreditation and set the stage for completion of accreditation with ATS." Accreditation with these entities has secured the most recognized accreditation possible for the BMA Seminary.

Bryan is a graduate of Jacksonville College, 1956, (A.A); the University of Okla-



Dr. Philip R. Bryan receives certificate from BMA Seminary President Dr. Charley Holmes.

homa 1958, (B.A.); BMA Seminary, 1962, (B.D.) and Baylor University 1966, 1973 (M.A., Ph.D.). His teaching career has focused upon Systematic Theology, Specialized Church History, New Testament and Greek studies. He and his wife Janice are members of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Texas.

cal Divinity School, Th.D. (candidate), University of South Africa.

Dr. Whitney came to Southern from Mid-western Baptist Theological Seminary where he was Associate Professor of Spiritual Formation for ten years. He has authored six books, including Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life, and is a popular conference speaker, especially on personal and congregational spirituality. He served in pastoral ministry for twenty-four years.

Dr. Whitney's website: BiblicalSpirituality.com

William N. Paschal, a successful businessman and pastor, passed away in 1978. In

1984, Dessarine (Paschal) McNeill of Waldo, Arkansas, and Kathleen (Paschal) Fullenwider of Magnolia, Arkansas, established an endowment to fund the William N. Paschal Bible Lectures in honor of their father. Among his grandchildren are the late Dr. Harold McNeill, Jr., he was mental health chaplain at Rusk State Hospital and Professor of Christian Education at BMA Seminary and Norita (McNeill) Higgs, whose husband, Grady Higgs, is Executive Director of the Department of Missions for the BMA of America, Little Rock, Arkansas.

The public is invited to attend these lectures.

# H.I.S. CHILD

I have waited three months to write this article. You see, I have had one of the greatest blessings on earth happen to me on June 8th, 2008. I was profoundly and abundantly blessed by my God with a beautiful first grandchild. I wanted to tell the world about her in this column just as soon as it happened, but it would have just been pure unadulterated pride. All I would have said was that she is the most beautiful, pretty, gorgeous, warm, wonderful, smart, soft, cuddly child I have ever had the pleasure of holding with my eyes. While this is a true statement, I needed to write a column that would not just be about how wonderful she was, but how wonderful God was in giving us this gift from above. I am now prepared to give Him all the glory with a story.

As most of my readers know, 2007 was a hard and sad journey of faith for our family. My daughter wrote an article in my column about how her faith would see her through this difficult journey of life. In 2007 she was brutally attacked by a criminal. Right after her trauma from this attack she had a brain seizure and bit off part of her tongue. Shortly after

this, she lost her first pregnancy. She said that she was blessed by her Father in Heaven and would continue to be strong in her faith because of the faith of her Father to



## Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

ward her. She wanted to share her testimony to help others know that with faith in God you can make it through anything.

Fast forward to 2008. She became pregnant again. Last Christmas, she shared with us that the child she was carrying would be profoundly retarded and have possible other abnormalities. I told her on that day to give this child to the Lord. I said dedicate this child back to the Lord and praise Him. If it is God's will for you to have a child like this, then God could not have picked better parents than you and Josh for a child

like this.

We walked by faith, and not by sight the entire pregnancy, expecting our first grandchild to be born with many special needs. We always prayed for "thy will to be done". We did request of our Father for mercy. We let our request be made known to God that He might show a mercy of healing to this baby, after our daughter remained faithful to him from the first episode. However, we were all prepared to praise Him either way. Trusting Him. Our Father knows what is best, and has a plan for all of us even if we don't understand it, or even when it doesn't make sense or seem fair to us humans.

My daughter wrote out on a sheet of paper that day the words " HIS CHILD". I told her to dedicate the baby to the Lord and she did. She said no matter what, this child would be "HIS CHILD". Hence the name came for our granddaughter. Her name is Hudson (maternal grandparents last name) Isabelle Stearns. Her initials now spell HIS. No matter what, this would be HIS child and she will bear those initials her whole life.

My little "Huddy Buddy" was born on June 8th. While she was not born retarded, she did have an external design on her spine and tests showed enlarged kidneys. Spinal abnormalities and possible spinabifida were the prognosis.

We simply prayed again for mercy and that God's "will shall be done." After her two week return to the hospital for more test, they could find no abnormalities. Mercy reigned. Jesus healed. The doctors can say the tests were wrong. I say the tests were all correct. This child had many physical problems and God and Jesus chose to heal her as a testimony of their omnipotent power. Three months later there are still no problems other than crying from the colic, praise the Lord.



the three large screens at the front of the church. They flashed family pictures of her up on the big screen.

Her name in Hebrew means "bright mind and bright spirit". As I looked upon those two ocean blue eyes, the brilliantly pomegranate red lips and the silky soft face, my thoughts turned back to December. The best of medical sciences said trauma will be the outcome. A genetic counselor told us that if we love this child we should abort this child. Of course we would never do that. But what if we had listened? What if we had aborted Hudson? I looked at her beautiful picture on the screen and thought she would never have been; had we listened to the wisdom of man.

When the best of medical science stops, God goes beyond. When counselors say "end this life", Jesus says go on because I am life. God made this child. We do not decide on life. He does. I am so glad we are God's people and never even entertained the thought of abortion.

I have a dear friend who had a Down Syndrome child at the same time. They love her so much. I also watched recently as Sarah Palin, the Vice-presidential nominee held her Down Syndrome baby. She repeatedly has stated that God has given them a beautiful, complete and wonderful child. You can see the love for this child in the family's eyes.

So, whether the outcome is a miraculous healing as it was in our case, or to have a special needs child as with these two other families, God creates life for a purpose. We humans, in our limited understanding, may not grasp an understanding of why, but God has a purpose for each life. God doesn't make mistakes. God makes His children. We are to love them no matter what because we love Him. All children give love to their families no matter what their physical condition. This is because they all possess a soul made in heaven.

Abortion never seemed so wrong as the moment I looked upon the most beautiful child I have ever seen. My Hudson. HIS child. No matter what their health condition, no matter how they grow up, all children will be HIS children. He has a plan and purpose for all people. I give all the glory to God for blessing me with something I had never experienced before. A flood of love for my precious granddaughter. No disciplining this time. No worrying about how to raise them right. I just get to lay back and rock her. And you better believe this is one rockin' granddaddy. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

## 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.

### Ballardsville, Tupelo

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

Ballardsville Church is hosting an hour long TV program the first Thursday night of each month at 8:30 p.m. Unity Broadcast, W39CD TV Fulton, Mississippi, or you can view via internet at [www.w39cd.com](http://www.w39cd.com). Various singers from the church will perform during the first half hour and Bro. Hill will bring the message

during the remainder of the program. As always, we invite you to join us and may God Bless.

Bro. Thelbert Hill, Pastor  
Teresa Nichols, Reporter

### Bethel, Fulton

This report is for the month of August. Bro. Martin is preaching from the book of Proverbs on Wednesday nights, it is really interesting.

The Harmony meeting was on the 8th at Providence in Amory. A new program for the young children called "Elevate" is held every Wednesday night at 6:30 pm and they report a good group is attending.

A good group visited the "Ronald McDonald House" on the 16th. On the 23rd we hosted a conference called, "Turning Your Church Inside Out." The speakers were Donny Parrish and John David Smith. It was enjoyed by all who attended.

A Brotherhood Breakfast was held on the 24th. There have been 9 additions since last report. If you are even in our area feel free to stop in and chat awhile.

Dr. Martin Jameson, pastor  
Joyce Cooley, reporter

### Big Creek Association report

Good Hope Baptist Church, Ovett, MS, hosted the September 11

monthly meeting of the Big Creek Association. An evening meal was served prior to the meeting which followed at 7:00 p.m.

Fourteen churches were represented by messengers and visitors. The treasurer's report was given by Bro. Robert Bynum showing a balance of \$19,448.80 in the general fund. Other reports were given by Director Fulton Lindsey of New Direction Prison Ministry and Brethren Harold Floyd and Estuardo Marroquin for state missions.

After a congregational song, Pastor Cliff Jenkins introduced Bro. Joey Harris from Southeastern Baptist College for the evening message. Bro. Harris gave a good report about the college. He reported that \$24,439.00 had been received to date for the special emphasis for the college. Bro. Harris spoke about "The Size of God." He had prepared a booklet for each one that compared the size of the stars, planets, moons, and sun with earth. We have a "great big God" who is able to take care of His children. The study was an encouragement to each one.

The next meeting will be our Big Creek annual meeting. Clerk Roger Jefcoat handed out the new church letter forms to each church present.

The annual meeting will be with Fairview Baptist Church, Laurel, on

Saturday, October 4, at 9:00 a.m. After announcements and prayer requests, the meeting was dismissed in prayer.

Bro. Arthur Smith, Reporter

### Runnelstown church to hold revival

Corinth Baptist Church at Runnelstown will hold revival services October 5-8. Bro. Grover Laird will be the evangelist. Sunday services will include morning worship, lunch and afternoon services. Monday - Wednesday services will be at 7:00 each evening. We invite all to come and worship with us.

Virgil Ainsworth, pastor

Gautier Church sets homecoming service

North Gautier Baptist Church, Gautier, Mississippi, will be celebrating its 42nd homecoming on Sunday, October 12th. Homecoming events start at 9:45 with a fellowship coffee followed immediately by special singing, a drama team presenta-

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# Spiritual Verbs for Missions

Continued from page 1

John knew the Lord!

It has been many years since John had heard the voice of Jesus. It had been a long time since the day on the Ascension Mountain where he saw Jesus taken up into heaven in a cloud. Many days passed without His being physically present in John's life. John had taken Mary to Ephesus. Probably he was living in the area when he came to be on Patmos. Now on this special day,

## Church News

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tion and homecoming message by former pastor Coy Rice.

Lunch will be served with afternoon services scheduled to begin at 1:00 starting with the gospel group "On Call". Pastor David K. Thomas will present a challenge to the church "Looking Back - Moving Forward" as well. All former members are invited to come and be a part of this exciting event.

### Temple, Lucedale, Celebrates 50th Anniversary

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

Temple will also be having revival services Monday – Wednesday, October 6-8, 2008 at 7:00 PM each evening. Different speakers will be preaching each night. Everyone is invited.

John is in the presence of the One he knows as his friend, Jesus. I will now read our text for today.

*I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;*

*And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.*

I ask again, what are the words the Lord's churches need to hear regarding mission in our world today? I again say with no reservation, the words we need to hear are the words of Christ, the Risen Christ, who is Lord of all ages! These words I have read in your hearing are those words for today. I note especially the action verbs of the passage. If we are looking for this answer: "What do we need to do today?" Then this answer is found in these action verbs of the passage.

### 1. Action verb number one for us today: verse 10 (On the Lord's Day) "I was in the Spirit"

"Ere you left your room this morning, did you think to pray? Did you sue for loving favor as your guide and stay. O, how praying rests the weary. I will turn to night to day. Ere you left your room this morning, did you think to pray?"

"Take time to be holy. Speak oft with thy Lord. Abide in him always and feed on his word. Take time to be holy. The world rushes on. Much time spend in secret with Jesus alone. Take time to be holy. Be calm in thy soul. Each thought and each motive beneath his control. Take time to be holy." These words badly quoted from these hymns give us the idea of being in the spirit of the Lord's Day. Let me ask you right now; are you in the spirit today?

Some congregants might sit in the pews thinking thoughts such as: "When he gets through, I will go to the supercenter. If he will hurry up, I'm going to go home to mow the yard, fix the fence, or do some other chore. My goodness, has my watch stopped? He's been speaking for over ten minutes now! Let me think, I need to call Ben, Bill, and Bobby. I need to see Mary, Monica, and Melinda."

Are you in the spirit on this, the Lord's Day? I don't mean are you pumped up to some extra-terrestrial state. You need not be worked up to some fake emotional and pseudo religious hypnotic state. You don't need to be frenzied in your religious jargon. Being in the spirit on the Lord's Day simply means: Are you

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# Southeastern Baptist College



Dr. Medrick Savell  
President

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

*Serving Christ With a Biblical World View In A Christian Atmosphere*

### Enrollment

The final enrollment for the fall, 2008, semester statistics are:	
Number of students	78
Total hours	849
(21 above last fall)	
Ministers	34

### Memorial Gifts

A contribution has been received in memory of Mr. Jeffrey Mitchell Cassels to purchase a book to be placed in the A.R. Reddin Memorial Library. May the Lord bless her family.

### Special Emphasis

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

### Associations

Capitol Association  
Gulf Association  
Oak Grove Association  
Washington Baptist Association

### Churches

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

### Church Staff Openings

**Pleasant Hill Baptist, Nacogdoches, Texas**, has an opening for a pastor. Please send resume and tape of a recent sermon to William Sowell at 2719 FM 698, Nacogdoches, TX 75964 or call him at 936-569-3340.

**Tiger Creek Baptist Church of Ovett, Mississippi**, is searching for a pastor. Any individual who feels led of the Lord is asked to call 601-422-3058 for further information.

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

Community Baptist Church, Poplarville  
Cypress Creek Baptist Church, Brooklyn  
East Fulton Baptist Church, Fulton  
First Baptist Church, Bay Springs  
First Calhoun Baptist Church, Laurel  
Forked Oak Baptist Church, Booneville  
Grace Baptist Church, Pass Christian  
Hopewell Baptist Church, Fulton  
Lebanon Baptist Church, Laurel  
Leakesville Baptist Church, Leakesville  
Little Creek Baptist Church, Perkins  
Movella Baptist Church, Lucedale  
Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Picayune  
New Bethany Baptist Church, Ellisville  
Oak Grove Baptist Church, Lucedale  
Oak Grove Baptist Church, Mantachie  
Oakland Grove Baptist Church, Laurel  
Oakland Baptist Church, Vicksburg  
Paramount Baptist Church, Perkinston  
Riverside Baptist Church, Ellisville  
Rock Hill Baptist Church, Meridian  
Skyway Hills Baptist Church, Pearl  
Springhill Baptist Church, Laurel  
Ten Mile Baptist Church, Ladies SS Class, Perkinston  
Union Baptist Church, Bay Springs  
Washington Baptist Church, Neely  
Westhaven Baptist Church, Jackson  
Wolf Creek Baptist Church, Kiln  
Zion Baptist Church, Anguilla

### Individuals

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

As of September 10, 2008, the total received toward the goal of \$60,000.00 is \$24,439.03. I know that all the churches who are supporting this 60th year of the college working for the Lord have not yet sent their contribution. We are receiving others daily. Is your church or association on the list?

## 2008 Local Association Meeting Schedule

Association	Date	Location	Speaker
Big Creek	Oct 4	Fairview, Laurel	Harold Holifield
Capitol	Sept 20	Oakland, Vicksburg	Michael Moore
East Central	Sept 13	Calvary, Leakesville	Greg Hillman
Gulf	Oct 9	TBA	TBA
Harmony	Oct 11	Corinth, Farmington	Martin Jameson
Hobolochitto	Sept 27	Hickory Grove, Lumberton	Wayne Rice
Judson	Sept 13	Oak Grove, Mantachie	Michael Yielding
Mid-Central	Sept 20	Mt. Olive, House	Bill Raines
Oak Grove	Sept 18	Main Street, Petal	Ralph Hatten
Tombigbee	Oct 4	Shiloh, Caledonia	Bobby Jerrell
Washington	Sept 20	Temple, Lucedale	Malcolm Clark



# Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

## Equipping Centers, Conferences, Workshops

I wrote recently concerning the Equipping Centers being held by DiscipleGuide to help pastors, workers and local churches in their ministry.



Don Brown  
Editor

I have attended two of these and must recommend them to all of our churches, pastors, workers and laymen. Dr. Kevin Clayton and the entire DiscipleGuide staff are doing a good job and are to be commended for their vision and leadership in helping our churches and staff.

The Big Creek Association recently sponsored a Christian Education Workshop held at Parkview Baptist Church, Laurel. Dr. Larry Silvey, former director of Baptist Publishing House (now incorporated into DiscipleGuide), was the speaker. Approximately 50 pas-

tors and teachers from the Big Creek Association attended this event.

The content was well worth the effort and expense. Dr. Silvey presented the work of Christian Education and gave great insight and advice on improving and growing churches through the educa-

tion ministry.

It would be a wise move for each church and local association to invite Dr. Silvey to conduct a workshop in your area. Like the old punch line for a long forgotten TV commercial said, "You'll be glad you did!"



Larry Silvey, former director of Baptist Publishing House, leads a Christian Education Workshop recently sponsored by the Big Creek Association.

## Letters From Our Readers

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

### August 2008 report for Prisoners Bible Crusade

Dear Editor,  
Prison-Jail Population 2.3 Million  
WASHINGTON - The number of inmates housed in U.S. prisons and

jails reached a record high of almost 2.3 million during 2007, according to the Department of Justice. In the 12 month period ending June 2007, the U.S. prison and jail population increased by almost 47,000 inmates, or 2.1 percent, to 2.29 million inmates, according to an annual survey by the BJS. Break down: Federal - 199,118 Inmates; States - 1,395,916 Inmates; Jails - 780,581 Inmates. The total number of people under the Criminal Justice supervision incarcerated, on probation or on parole reached a record high of 7.2

million, according to a Department of Justice report as of June 30, 2007.

My prayer is that our Lord will continue to bless His Word in the prisons and jails across our land (Isaiah 55:11). For the year 2008 we have given free to prisoners 3,786 English Bibles; 700 Spanish Bibles; 300 New Testaments; 540 John/Romans; All Study Books 6,084; 1,258 Study helps, all total to date in 2008 is 12,168.

These were sent into 37 prisons. Chaplains report 1,191 people saved (15,429 since 1/1/2000). 5 new Chaplains requesting Bibles for the first time. I have traveled 9,625 miles, I have personally seen 17 indicated professions of faith in Jesus Christ, visited 18 churches, 15 associations meeting & 15 prisons, taught 34 Bible study classes, taught 2 volunteer worker's classes. I have preached 13 sermons in churches, 9 in prisons. PBC's Evangelistic Team has conducted 8 worship services in prisons in 2008. Since 1973 we have given 180,241 Bibles; Total for all Bibles and materials: 525,477.

Again, our thanks for your prayers and support for this Bible Ministry. Paul E. Lee, Director PBC

## Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"While I'm preaching, you keep an eye on that kid with the sling shot!"

## Spiritual Verbs for Missions

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of any doubt that it was Jesus.

We can only hear what we are listening to hear. At night when the silence seems to come, we hear strange noises in a strange house, hotel, or guest quarters. We are quiet and we hear more. How can students complete assignments with the TV going, the iPod going, and the texting going? Can they really hear the message of the homework?

What are you listening for today, dear Christian? Can you hear? Are you even listening? Jesus stills speaks plainly and lovingly yet firmly to His churches today. Listen to the voice of Jesus! The spiritual verb in this passage is "I heard." Are you hearing? This is the needed action for us today.

### 2. Action verb number two for us today: verse 10 "Iheard"

Do you think for one second John had any problem identifying this voice speaking to him? I don't think so. He knew and knew with certainty who was speaking to him. He had heard this voice so many times in his early life he could not mistake it now in his older days.

For those of you who are fortunate enough to be born somewhere in the "South," you have a middle name. For those of you who grew up with "mamma" you know when she called you, and she called you not simply by your first name but also included the middle name, you were in trouble! I believe John heard this voice of one who was his friend and Savior. He knew beyond a shadow

### 3. Action verb number three for us today: verse 12 "Iturned"

When I hear something that is demanding of my attention, I must turn to give my attention to that sound. John turned to give his attention to the sound he heard. I try to make eye contact with people I engage in conversation. Remember "your mamma" again when she would say with great vigor: Look at me! Basically she wanted your little eyes looking right into her eyes. She had something important she was telling you. She wanted you to look

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# Spiritual Verbs for Missions

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at her.

One of my favorite stories about turning is when I heard an older preacher in my youth. He talked about turning as an act of repentance. This is a true thing. We need to turn to repent. He was preaching in a lather of sweat and said: "Brothers and sisters when we repent we need to turn around 360 degrees!" Obviously he meant 180 degrees. The military command, "About face!" would be the correct wording here.

John "about faced;" he turned around; he changed his look from here to there; he turned to see. This is the action verb here for us right now. Are you willing to turn? Are you willing to turn to see what God is doing? Most of us are more at home staying with our focus on the mundane and minutiae of the world.

#### 4. Action verb number four for us today: verse 12 "I saw"

Again, as with hearing, I can only see what I am looking for and see only what I want to see. John's attention was already focused for he had heard and he had already turned. Now he was able to see. What a vision he saw! Many Christians tell me how they want to see the Lord like this. However, they are not willing to see much less turn after hearing.

Many Christians tell me they want the "spiritual life," but they are not willing to spend time alone with God. They are never "in the spirit" on any day much less the Lord's Day. I want to see the Lord. I want spiritual vision. Well, it takes some action other than normal process.

To be on point for mission, this congregation needs a new "seeing" of the Lord. John had this experience he describes in a breath taking manner. He was an Apostle. We are less. How much more we need the renewed vision than John did in his day. What are you looking for in life? Are you looking for the Lord? Most are not looking for the Lord for they spend no time in doing this very thing they say they want so

## AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

### Donald Sims

Donald Sims is available for pulpit supply and pastoral call as the Lord may lead.

He may be contacted at 601-528-3295.

desperately.

#### 5. Action verb number five for us today: verse 17 "I fell"

As I have come to read the Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, I do not find anyone standing in the presence of God. The people I read about in the Bible passages when confronted with sheer holiness, fall down on their knees sometimes prostrate, even on their face.

How long has it been since you knelt to pray? I find this posture much better for my attitude in prayer. In the presence of God, I must find my place and my place is on my knees! Some of us are not able to kneel as we once were. The bended knee does not always show a bowed heart. It is the bowed heart that God is seeking!

What a good place to be - at the feet of Jesus. What a good posture to be - as though dead. Dead people are reasonably quiet. When I am at the feet of Jesus, I need to listen and look to the One at whose feet I am now kneeling! There is not a lot I need to say. There is not a lot of religious palaver I need to spout.

When I am at the feet of Jesus as a dead man, I can then have the life He offers me through his resurrection power. That is what the passage is saying to us in this action verb right now. Church, the power is not in the Western concept of "standing tall." Church, the power is in being at the feet of Jesus! That is what this action verb is saying to us. If we want to be on mission, then we need to fall at His feet as though dead!

#### 6. Action verb number six for us today: verse 17 "he placed"( his right hand on me)

Wow! Wow again! "He touched me and O the joy that filled my soul. Something happened and now I know; he touched me and made me whole." Can you imagine Jesus laying His hands on you? That is exactly what the Scriptures tell us he will do to people he can reach. He laid His hands on John because John was in the position of being touched. If you are over there or over yonder, Jesus cannot reach you to touch you.

"Preacher, I want Jesus to touch my family, my children, my grandchildren, my home, and my business." If that is what you want then you need to be in the "getting into the right place so Jesus can touch you business." John did it. Jesus laid his hands on him.

continued on page 8

# Making Everlasting Smiles

by Ralph Izard, M.D.

The BMAA Department of Missions and Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI) expresses "A job well done!" to all churches and individuals who have participated in "MAKING EVERLASTING SMILES" this year. Many volunteers in their own churches have dedicated their time and monetary gifts to purchasing and assembling the gifts and placing them into the boxes, and then numerous volunteers have also worked diligently at the BMA warehouse in Little Rock to pack the shoeboxes into larger boxes and place them on pallets. These will be loaded on a shipping container and sent to the designated port.

The love and unselfish spirit that is evident in all areas of this project will surely be felt by those who receive them. One can only imagine the smiles of the children when they



A warehouse full of love

open a Christmas shoebox that belongs only to them (the first Christmas gift ever for many of them).

If your church was not involved

this year, please call Jamie Morgan at 501-455-4977 to find out how your church can be involved in "Making Everlasting Smiles" next year.

# Signs Of His Coming

by Grover Laird

The Old Testament is filled with prophecy of our Lord's first coming to this earth. Amidst much of that prophecy is also a message that He would later return again. The fact that there would be a second coming of Christ to earth was even preached before the flood (Jude 14,15). During His first coming Jesus would often mention His second coming to earth (John 14:1-3). One of His lengthy messages was on that subject (Matthew 24). The day that He left the earth to return to the Father, angels announced that He would one day return (Acts 1:10,11). Paul and other writers often mentioned Christ's second coming. In each chapter of the first and second letter to the Thessalonians, Paul mentions it; often taking large parts of the chap-

ter for it. There is nothing in the future that is more certain than the Second Coming of Christ.

When to expect this return of Jesus is surely the concern of many. While no one knows the day and hour (Matthew 24:36), we can know when it is near—"But ye brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief" (I Thessalonians 5:4). The Lord has given us much information to help us to know when His return is near. May we briefly consider some Scriptures that can help us to know when to expect Him.

The Bible tells us that when Jesus returns to earth, many of Israel would accept Him and be saved. The Lord will do a short work among the Jews at that time (Zechariah 12:10; 13:1; Romans 11:25,26). Ezekiel prophesied that this would take place in the same period of time that Israel would return to their land and rebuild it (Ezekiel 36:33-35). Since this has happened and is happening, we must be close to our Lord's return.

Jesus said that the last days would be like the days of Noah (Matthew 24:37-39), and like the days of Lot (Luke 17:20). Our world is looking more like those days every day. He must be close.

Paul spoke of that day and said that people would be turning from the faith, who once were true to it (I Timothy 4:1). He described the last days as being perilous, with children being "disobedient to parents." He spoke of many being proud and high-minded, and how it

*If you are  
strangers to  
prayer you are  
strangers to  
power."  
-Billy Sunday*

## Pastor warns against taking homosexuality lightly

**OneNewsNow** - A song from an increasingly popular singer is still stirring controversy as well as criticism for a pastor for openly objecting to the song.

Pastor Dave Allison of Havens Corners Church of Christ in Christian Union in Blacklick, Ohio, heard about Katy Perry's song I Kissed a Girl (and I Liked it) -- and he did not like it. As he explains, he became especially upset while he and his family arrived at a camping site.

"And as we went to check in there, there was a CNN story about how this song is literally changing behavior across America," Allison explains. "Young girls Pastor Dave Allison are acting out on it, experimenting with kisses in public and those kinds of things."

Allison was then inspired to put a message on the church's sign reading "I Kissed a Girl and I Liked It. Then I went to Hell." He contends he was just trying to get across a message on the Bible's firm statement about homosexual conduct among men and women.

"[W]e're living in a liberal culture today, a relativistic culture. They don't read their Bibles the way people used to read their Bible," Allison adds. "And the liberal churches in America have done us a great injustice by muddying the water on the issue of sin when it comes to homosexuality."

He says he intended the sign as a loving warning to young people who might be taken in by the song.

## Boltz shocks Christian community with homosexuality admission

**OneNewsNow** - There is shock and sadness in the Christian community over word that famed Christian music singer Ray Boltz has publicly announced he's living a homosexual lifestyle.

"If this is the way God made me, then this is the way I'm going to live... I really feel closer to God because I no longer hate myself." Those were the words of Ray Boltz in an interview with the Washington Blade about his decision to engage in homosexuality. Boltz, a father of four who was married for 33 years before officially divorcing his wife this year, is well-known for his widely acclaimed songs "Thank You" and "I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb."

The disclosure by Boltz was stunning news to former homosexual Greg Quinlan who is now with the New Jersey Family Policy Council.

"I'm absolutely shocked. I've got some of his CDs and cassette tapes - tells you how long it's been around. When he says he's born that way, we know now for a fact that that's false. In fact, just last year in March, the director of the Human Genome Project, Dr. Francis Collins, said this: homosexuality is not hardwired. There is no gay gene. We mapped the human genome. We now know there is no genetic cause for homosexuality."

When asked about Boltz's homosexuality, The Gospel Music Association - the group which gives out the Dove Awards - told the Blade, "We do not comment on the lifestyle choices of people in our community."

According to Quinlan, by making such a statement the GMA seems to be "enabling a behavior that is totally inconsistent, incongruent with the message of the gospel."

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Satan is using this sin to seduce our nation and to bring reproach on the name of our Savior. Let us stand for truth and reject the lie of homosexuality. Let us be firm in our stand for God's Truth.

## Nine churches attacked

**Editor's Note:** This article was forwarded to us by BMA missionary Prashant Prakash. He asks that we pray for him and the churches in India.

Bangalore: Suspected Bajrang Dal activists on Sunday

## Mississippi State W.M.A.

**Mrs. Jean Knight, President**  
27 Paramount Church Rd.  
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Mrs. Shirlene Smith  
730 Hwy 533  
Laurel, MS 39443

STATE CORRESPONDING  
SECRETARY'S REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 4, 2008

<b>Mississippi State WMA Project</b>		
25% GENERAL FUND		
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<b>RECEIVED TO DATE:</b>		
25% PLUS SPECIAL OFFERINGS FOR		
THE GENERAL FUND	\$ 1,188.74	
75% BRO. ESTUARDOMARROQUIN'S		
LAND FUND	3,148.35	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,337.09</b>	

PLEASE SEND ALL OFFERINGS FOR THE  
MISSISSIPPI STATE WMA PROJECT TO:  
**SHIRLENE SMITH**  
730 HWY 533  
LAUREL, MS 39443

BY SEPTEMBER 25, 2008.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS PROJECT.

attacked nine churches in parts of coastal and Malnad districts of Karnataka, protesting alleged conversion of Hindus into Christianity by missionaries.

The attacks, believed to have been planned and executed in the morning, left at least eight persons, including two pastors, injured, police said.

The pastors were injured in Sirur and Jayapura.

Churches in Singtagere, Magodu, Jayapura in Chikmagalur district of Malnad region, prayer halls in Udupi, Sirur and Mudur in Udupi district, Kodikkal, Falnir and Afla Centre in Mangalore were the target of the attacks, they said.

Motorcycle-borne miscreants barged into prayer halls and ransacked them, they said, adding additional reinforcements have been sent in view of the violence.

Five persons have been arrested in Udupi in connection with the attacks, they said.

In Mangalore, the authorities have clamped prohibitory orders for three days from today, police said.

## Creation Museum prepares for Darwinian emphasis

**OneNewsNow** - The founder of the Creation Museum says two special exhibits are planned in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of Darwin's The Origin of Species.

The year 2009 will mark the 150th anniversary of The Origin of Species, Charles Darwin's 1859 classic on natural selection that most evolutionists consider to be the pivotal work in evolutionary biology. Creation Museum founder Ken Ham believes evolutionists will be pushing evolution in a "big way" in the anniversary year -- so the museum is planning two special exhibits to counter those efforts.

Ken Ham "We're going to have a couple [of] special exhibits opened: one on natural selection, showing that natural

## S-t-i-n-g

Lord, who made all things to include bugs and other things like that, I know all creatures are Yours. I know they have a place in Your great world. However, I have some difficulties regarding one of Your critters. A wasp stung me late in the afternoon three days ago. It was a monstrous, massive, and mature red wasp. It was the kind that sits around all day generating venom, waiting for someone like me to walk by. Well, I walked by in perfect timing with its wait!

Ouch! It popped me right in the middle of the back of my head. The despicable varmint could not have measured better to dead center of my head had he or she calculated with a ruler or some kind of satellite tracking pod. It was right there in the midpoint of the backside of my very tender scalp the stinger deposited the venom. I still have an "ouchie" there right now--three

days later. I think I "got him or her" a little later with a can of bug spray. If not the one who stung me, it was his or her close relative or identical twin.

My face flushed at the sting. My ears became red. My eyes watered a little. I got a headache. I still have some leftover of the sting. Of course I sprayed the back of head with antiseptic and immediately put an ice pack on the sting spot. That helped some. It didn't make the heat of the sting go away. I'm glad the sting was not on my nose or near my eyes or on any part of the front of my head. That would have been a really big ouch. It would have been much more serious

There is a sting to sin. Your words tell me this fact. I observe this process in the life of others. I know from firsthand experience sin has a sting for life. It hurts. It carries consequences. It can move to a scar. The scar is there even though the wound is healed. The sting of sin is poisonous to Your creation. The sting of sin brings hurtful pain to individuals, families, communities, and the world in general.

This sting is in my own life. The sting of sin, how can I deal with the pain? The sting of sin, what can I do to make it quit hurting? The sting of sin, will it get any better? My life has been swollen out of proportion due to this sting. My life is mutated; it is not as You created, ordained, nor planned it for me. I have been stung and stung to the point of death. This is a serious sting! It is not a simple wasp sting.

Lord, I ask You to hear my confession: I have the swelling of the many stings of sin in my deepest parts. I have consciously chosen the path of stinging; I have unconsciously turned many times toward the stinger of sin. I have lined up time and time again to be afflicted with this stinging by sin. Remove the sting from me. Take away my ignorance of what I am doing. Renew me as Your creation in Jesus Christ. May the Great Physician balm me with His medication to make the stinging pain go away; heal me. I know the one who is anxious to sting again is around me even now. Guard me from the stinging of sin. Amen.

selection is not evolution; and another one on ape-men, showing that they are either apes or people and not in between. But we're doing this in ready for the Darwin year," Ham explains.

Ham says since opening the museum in May 2007, they have had roughly 600,000 visitors. The museum houses many creation exhibits, including animatronic dinosaurs and a petting zoo for children.

*I've learned that it is best to give advice in only two circumstances: when it is requested and when it is a life-threatening situation.*



**Leave It To Cleaver**

Tony Cleaver

# MORAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Baptist Missionary Association of America  
Dr. John M. Adams, Interim Director  
P.O. Box 88, Mantachie, MS 38855 - 662-231-3863  
Email - [fbcnjmaj@yahoo.com](mailto:fbcnjmaj@yahoo.com)



John Adams

## Recommended Internet DVD Viewing

I wish to recommend to our readers, "Speechless...Silencing the Christians" by American Family Association. Seven complete episodes of Speechless...Silencing the Christians have now premiered on the Inspiration Network (INSP) and are available on DVD through AFA (American Family Association).

Over one million individuals have watched Speechless online and more than 2,500 DVD's have been sold to date.

The first seven episodes, hosted by Janet Parshall, present, in a vivid and factual way, how Christians all over America are being silenced. Each episode is 22 minutes long - ideal for a weekly study, Sunday school class, small group or Sunday evening presentation. A discussion guide with lessons for each individual episode is available for download at [www.afa.net](http://www.afa.net).

## Same-Sex marriage ruling

It is obvious that there is a moral decline of values throughout our society. By a 4-3 decision in May,

the California Supreme Court struck down a state ban on same-sex marriage, setting up a November showdown over a voter initiative that would, in turn, nullify the court ruling.

Pro-family groups asked the high court to stay its decision (postponing the implementation of it) until after a voter referendum on marriage in November.

But on June 4 the court refused to issue a stay, and instead ordered same-sex marriages to commence by June 17.

Pro-family groups had anticipated the potential danger of a judicial ruling striking down traditional marriage, and have been preparing for the possibility by trying to get the one man/one woman definition placed into the state constitution. Given the liberal stranglehold on the state legislature, the only option for accomplishing that was to get enough signatures to once again put the issue directly before voters.

If passed, the November initiative, called the California Marriage Amendment, could change the state's constitution to "provide that

only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." Continue to pray for Christians in California as they battle this issue.

## Recommended Readings by MAC

In American Heroes, Oliver North addresses issues of defense against terrorism, jihad and radical Islam from his firsthand perspective as a decorated military officer, nation security adviser and war correspondent. You'll thank God for freedom and the heroes who make it possible. Cost is approximately \$23

## How Would Jesus Vote?

It's important that you understand biblical principle that will help you make informed, godly decisions at the polls. This book offers clear, nonpartisan advice to voters. Cost approximately \$17.

## We are in a value war

Bill Maher, quoted on ABC-TV "Politically Incorrect," "Christians are PARASITES on the Republican Party, and like PARASITES the will kill it"

## BMAA Equipping Center Locations and Schedules

### Bethel Baptist Church, Fulton, Mississippi

November 15, 2008

Building A Small Group Ministry/  
Becoming An Effective Teacher  
Mission Possible: Winning Your  
Community For Christ  
Sunday School Materials That Work!  
It All Rises and Falls on Leadership

### Magnolia Baptist, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

November 15, 2008

Turning Your Church Inside, Out!  
Building A Small Group Ministry/  
Becoming An Effective Teacher  
Mission Possible: Winning Your  
Community For Christ  
Sunday School Materials That Work!

## Religion experts disappearing from media

**OneNewsNow** - An atheist-turned-Christian and former reporter for the Chicago Tribune says the national media keeps blurring the line between opinion and fact.

Lee Strobel worked at Chicago's Daily Herald for 14 years and became a Christian after investigating the claims of Christ. He is now a well-known author and speaker and runs an apologetics website.

Recent media coverage of the presidential campaign, according to Strobel, is troubling for a number of reasons. He believes the demise of daily newspapers is bad for democracy in America.

"We're going to get to the place where we no longer have experts – for instance, in religion – who are writers at major newspapers, covering important stories involving faith. They're being fired. We're losing them, and there's [sic] been a couple in the last few days – major religion writers who have lost their jobs," Strobel explains. "And what's that going to be replaced with? It will be replaced with a bunch of bloggers who may or may not have any credibility or any experience or know anything about journalism or ethics."

Strobel contends recent media coverage of Republican vice-presidential nominee Sarah Palin, which questioned her Christian beliefs and her ability to be both a mother and national leader, showed the bias and clear double-standard common throughout the national media.

fused the short cut of instant triumph. It will never be bought by those who dream of riches.

"Don't play the Lottery for Bethlehem Baptist Church. We will not, I pray, salve your conscience by taking one dime of your plunder, or supporting even the thought of your spiritual suicide. Let the widow give her penny and the laborer his wage. And keep your life free from the love of money."

Christians are to live by high and holy standards, rejecting the values and practices of the world. When they fail in this regard, the credibility of their lifesaving witness for Christ can be irreparably lost. Jesus said: "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men" (Matthew 7:13).

According to Family News in Focus, Pastor Scott Thomas came to understand this principle all too well. He said he faced a very difficult situation some years ago when a deacon in his congregation offered

a portion of lottery winnings for a building fund. Thomas refused the gift, arguing: "I've just always believed that God doesn't need to use chance to build his church." Moreover, he added that impoverished people largely play lotteries and the church shouldn't profit on the backs of the poor.

Despite Thomas' opposition, however, the church wanted the money and fired him. They accepted the gift and built the building. As a result, attendance dropped from 165 to fewer than 50 people a week. Thomas said that several members had called him and lamented, "The albatross around our necks is that we are now known as the lottery church."

Churches that accept gifts from lottery winnings should beware of the deal they make with the devil. They are trading power for prosperity, direction for deviation, and reputation for reproach. That's why churches should never in any fashion place their lot with games of chance, unless they're prepared to lose it all.

## Churches and lottery winnings a losing proposition

by Rev. Mark Creech  
from OneNewsNow.com

According to The Associated Press, Pastor Bernard Crabbe of the True North Community Church in Port Jefferson, New York, announced recently that an anonymous parishioner had donated a winning lottery ticket worth \$3 million to the church. A state lottery official said the independent congregation of 650 members would now receive \$100,000 annually through 2028.

Only a month ago, however, Robert Powell hit the Florida Lottery jackpot of more than \$6 million and then dropped a tithe of around \$600,000 into his church's offering. But Pastor David Tarkington of the First Baptist Church, Orange Park, politely declined and told Powell the church wouldn't accept the lottery winnings. But another pastor, Dr. Lorenzo Hall of the El-Beth-El Divine Holiness Church, was quick to say he would welcome Powell's gift to his inner city church.

The fact that churches even consider accepting gifts from lottery

winnings demonstrates how the church today has weakened its opposition to gambling. It seems some of God's people have failed to realize gambling is a form of covetousness – a violation of the Tenth Commandment of God. Covetousness may be rightly called "the mother of all sins."

Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, has written eloquently on the evils of gambling:

"The Bible is clear on this issue. The entire enterprise of gambling is opposed to the moral worldview revealed in God's Word. The basic impulse behind gambling is greed – a basic sin that is the father of many other evils. Scripture repeatedly addresses greed, covetousness, and avarice as a sin against God, and often with graphic warning of the destruction that is greed's result. The burning desire for earthly riches leads to frustration and spiritual death."

In an editorial penned by Pastor John Piper of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota,

Piper eloquently explained why churches that accept lottery winnings do so in violation of some of the most fundamental truths of Christian living:

"Christ does not build his church on the backs of the poor. The engine that delivers his righteousness in the world is not driven by the desire to get rich. The gospel of Jesus Christ is not advanced by undermining civic virtue. Let the pastors take their silver and throw it back into the temple of greed....

"Is it a 'blessing' for the church of Jesus Christ to have the backing of a social sickness that destroys marriages, undermines the work ethic, increases crime, motivates suicide, destroys the financial security of families?....

"We are followers of Jesus. He had no place to lay his head and did not accept the demonic temptation to jump off the temple for the jackpot of instant recognition. The Calvary road is not paved with Powerball tickets, but with blood. The Church was bought once by One who re-

## Think about it all!

From the Shady Grove Baptist Church Newsletter  
Danny Pitts, Pastor  
First Shady Grove Baptist Church, Laurel, Mississippi

Jude 1:1, "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called, Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

The Epistle of Jude was written to those who are in that saving relationship with the Lord. Those who are sanctified by God the Father are saved. Those who are preserved in Jesus Christ are saved. Those who are called and respond to the call are saved. All of the thirteen Epistles of Paul were written to certain churches or individuals which are named. The General Epistles are found in the New Testament following the Pauline and normally have messages that apply more to all believers. Although many would see a focus on Jewish Christians, the heading of this letter by Jude and Peter's second epistle seem to declare a broader audience intended. Since Jude was written to us, we can take his warnings very personally.

The form used by Jude to identify to whom he is writing appears to refer to the Trinity. Notice that he writes to them "sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called" (by the Holy Spirit which would be assumed). Most translations move "called" up and combine it with the Father and Son. Jude does have a custom of using triplets (three examples) often to make his point in the text, so the Trinity seems natural in this context. We are sanctified or set apart by God the Father in mystery of election. We are preserved or kept because of our relationship in Jesus Christ. We were called by the Holy Spirit which led us to salvation.

Jude stresses some key truths concerning who we are as believers. The list of benefits which we receive by the Grace of God is extremely long. We are the ones which God chose for salvation, determined to provide for our salvation, predicted the provision in the Old Testament, sent Jesus to die on the cross for us. Preserved the Good News so we could hear nearly two thousand years later, called a preacher and sent him to share the message with us, convicted us with His Spirit so we could believe, continued working with some of us who refused to receive Him, and saved us when we believed. When He saved us, He gave us a new nature by the New Birth placing the Holy Spirit within us. He removed the fear of hell and eternal death. He replaced that fear with a peace that is beyond understanding and at times amazes others and us. He put the love of Christ inside us which can minister to those around us when we submit to that love. He gifted us with gifts to be used in His service. He gave us a purpose for living and a reason to look forward to dying.

Think about it all! The list above is partial. Think about who you are in Christ. Think about what you have as a believer in this life. Think about all you will have throughout eternity. Considering all of this, how can you have a bad day?

## Spiritual Verbs for Missions

from page 5

Ordination is a sacred thing. It is the laying on of hands by the church. Here is the laying on of hands by the Risen Lord, King of Kings, and Omnipotent Sovereign! Talk about a holy and sacred moment! This is that turning point in life and eternity when Jesus lays His hands of you and your family!

What does our church need today to be on mission? It needs and it needs desperately to respond to the action verbs of this passage. Hear them now and respond.

### 7. Action verb number seven for us today: verse 17 and "(He) said"

I find it peculiar as to what Jesus tells John. He did not tell him he was the answer to all governmental problems. He did not tell him he was the key to the economic woes of the world. He did not tell John he was the solution to the educational dilemma facing humankind. He simply said, and he said it clearly, calmly, and quietly: "Stop being afraid."

Church, stop being afraid! That is what the action verbs of Jesus are saying to you now. This is the message of mission for you in your day and time - right now. Don't be fearful. Stop what you are doing. Stop the doing of being afraid.

Jesus tells us again in this service, I am living. I am the One who was dead. I am the

One who is alive, even now and forevermore; world without end! The action verbs here are trying to tell us the One we serve in mission is not temporal. The One we serve is not transitory. The one we serve is not even terrestrial. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We can serve Him because he lives to help us do His work in this world in our day and in our time.

Some churches say: "We don't have many people. We don't have much money. We are old. We are inexperienced. We are overwhelmed. We are this and we are that." Stop being afraid! Go on with what you know you need to do and I will be there to aid you!

### Conclusion

What are the words this church needs to hear today to be on target for its mission? This church needs to hear the words of the Risen Christ. They are the words that are important to this church or any of the Lord's churches wherever they may be. Hear the words of Jesus: "to the church at." Please fill in the name of this church in one of those blanks as he speaks words of action to the churches. What is the action you need to take today? What is the action you must take today? What do you need to do right now in this time of invitation as we do business with the Risen Christ?

## Politics in the pulpit: Where do pastors stand?

**OneNewsNow** - The Alliance Defense Fund is prepared for pastors to challenge an IRS rule from the pulpit this month, but a group of pastors has filed a complaint with the tax agency. At stake is a 1954 law that has resulted in silencing pastors who want to talk about political issues and candidates from the pulpit. On September 28, at least 40 pastors plan to violate the law to encourage the IRS to pursue legal action.

Erik Stanley of the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) notes that a group of pastors has complained that he is encouraging them to break the law. "Our system of laws in America allows for an individual confronted with an unconstitutional law to freely exercise [his or her] rights - and that if they are then challenged with violating that law, they can challenge that law in federal court as unconstitutional," Stanley explains.

Passage of the law was orchestrated by Senator Lyndon Johnson, who later became president. "The Johnson amendment was really a cleverly designed law that intended to silence some of Johnson's political opponents," Stanley contends. "It was never intended to apply to churches, but yet churches have been swept up in this unjust law."

The ADF attorney notes that the law has never been tested in the federal court system. "I think it's because the IRS has studiously avoided any kind of court confrontation on this issue," Stanley adds.

Stanley says pastors ought to have the right to speak out on issues and candidates, regardless if they choose to do so.

## School prohibits formation of character-building club

**OneNewsNow** - Another Bible-based Good News Club has been banned from a school campus, this time in Minnesota.

Mat Staver of Liberty Counsel is taking Elk Area School District #28 to task. He argues that school officials are saying, in effect, that matters of faith have no place in schools. But Staver says the children are just asking for a level playing field.

"Equal access is the law, and equal access means equal treatment in every respect. I don't know why it's so hard to get this con-



## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

### S-T-R-E-S-S-E-D

There's a lot of talking and writing going on these days about stress. You can seldom get through a day without hearing someone mention the stress they have in their life.

Some stress is self-inflicted. If you ignore a warning light on your car, if you fail to rotate your car's tires, if you don't follow instructions on a new tool or appliance, if you don't discipline a child, if you charge too much on a credit card, etc., etc.

Some say that "stressed is desserts spelled backwards". And there you go, some more self-induced stress. Too many desserts cause weight gain which puts too much stress on the joints which inflict pain which causes stress.

Maybe we need to ponder on Proverbs 22:3 "A prudent man forseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.

cept," Staver laments. "Equal access means equal, and schools must understand that the First Amendment protects Christian viewpoints."

He points out that schools will permit organizations such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts -- but not a Good News Club. "The only distinction between the Good News Club and many of the other after-school opportunities is Good News Clubs are Christian," Staver contends. "And these schools, for whatever reason, think that they are required to discriminate [against the clubs] because they are Christian, when in fact the First Amendment prohibits this kind of discrimination."

Staver has filed suit on behalf of Child Evangelism Fellowship of Minnesota, which sponsors the Good News Club. According to a Liberty Counsel press release, the Good News Clubs are free, after-school programs "that provide lessons on responsible citizenship, including character development, patriotism, respect for authority, and community service from a biblical viewpoint" for elementary students.

## 2008 Local Association Meeting Schedule

Association	Date	Location	Speaker
Big Creek	Oct 4	Fairview, Laurel	Harold Holifield
Capitol	Sept 20	Oakland, Vicksburg	Michael Moore
East Central	Sept 13	Calvary, Leakesville	Greg Hillman
Gulf	Oct 9	TBA	TBA
Harmony	Oct 11	Corinth, Farmington	Martin Jameson
Hobolochitto	Sept 27	Hickory Grove, Lumberton	Wayne Rice
Judson	Sept 13	Oak Grove, Mantachie	Michael Yielding
Mid-Central	Sept 20	Magnolia Heights, Forest	Ray Lott
Oak Grove	Sept 18	Main Street, Petal	Ralph Hatten
Tombigbee	Oct 4	Shiloh, Caledonia	Bobby Jerrell
Washington	Sept 20	Temple, Lucedale	Malcolm Clark