

# The Baptist

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## Water For Christ In Cambodia

by Dr. Fil B. Tabayoyong, Jr.  
BMAA-Department of Missions Coordinator  
Cambodia's Water For Christ Ministry



Water for Christ team (front row, l-r) Dr. Fil, Bro. Bowman and Bro. Tim, surrounded by Christian pastor/missionaries and workers in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Water For Christ Executive Director Tim Tyler (a water digging specialist from Conway, Arkansas), Bobby E. Bowman (Water for Christ's international director for evangelism and discipleship) together with Doyle Moore (BMA Director for Asia Pacific Mission Ministries) made a trip to Phnom Penh, Cambodia on August 28 - September 4. They were there to investigate the feasibility of initiating a well-digging ministry that supplies clean water to depressed and rural communities in developing and low-income countries.

Over the past several years, Bro. Bowman has visited several rural villages in Cambodia, and in almost all of them he saw two things: an urgent need for clean and safe water supplies to quench the people's thirst for this basic commodity

and a need most Cambodians don't even know they have and for the gospel to quench their thirst for God.

The BMAA ministry, Water for Christ, was developed out of these joint passions of sharing the gospel and supplying potable and clean water to villages in poor countries like Cambodia. Without debate, access to clean water is a basic universal human right. In a similar vein, access to the gospel is mankind's fundamental key to eternal life through Christ-paid redemption.

The words, water, and waters, are been mentioned 683 times in the King James Version of the Holy Bible. Although there is about the same amount of water on earth as there was when the earth was formed by God, more than 2

## Southeastern College Trustees Select New President

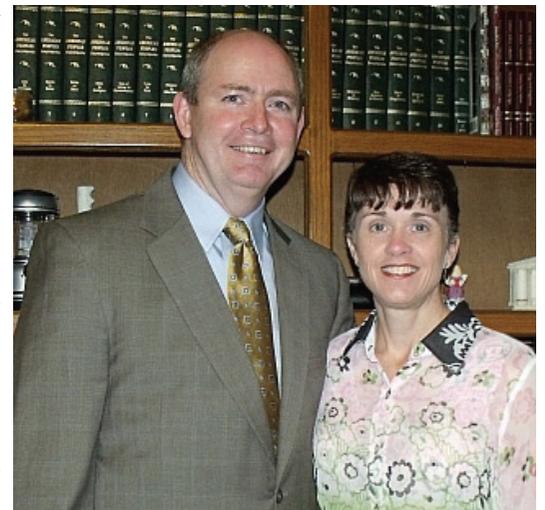
by Don Brown, editor

In a September 6 trustee meeting the Trustees of Southeastern Baptist College selected Bro. Gary O'Neal as their nominee for president of Southeastern Baptist College. After a secret vote by ballot that resulted in an 8 to 1 vote for Bro. O'Neal, the board made it unanimous by a public vote of the raising of their hands. Trustees Doug Wilson, Danny Pitts, Buck Hughes, Carolyn Hagler, Dickey Welborn, Dennis Rankin, Vernon Watts, Glenda Goodwin, and Gary Smith met for the purpose of interviewing applicants for the position. Bro. O'Neal will be presented as the nominee at the annual meeting of the BMA of Mississippi at Southeastern Baptist College on October 23-24, 2012.

According to the minutes of this meeting each candidate was interviewed extensively. The board then approved a motion to have the vote by secret ballot. Each candidate was told the results of the vote following the meeting.

billion people on earth do not have an adequate and safe supply of water. It is estimated by the World Health Organization that more than 4,000 cases of illness per year are due to drinking water contamination. Each day, almost 10,000 children under the age of 5 in Third World countries die as a result of infirmities contracted through impure

water. Bro. Gary O'Neal has pastored the Greenwood Baptist Church of Fulton, Mississippi since February 2000. He grew up in Perkinston, Mississippi, attending Paramount Baptist Church. In 1972, his pastor, Bro. George Reddin, led him to trust Christ as his personal Savior. In 1982, Gary was working in Valdosta, Georgia with Morrison's Cafeterias when he surrendered to the ministry. He attended Trinity Baptist College in Jacksonville, Florida, receiving a bachelor's degree in 1986. While attending Trinity, he met and married Lynn Smith. After graduating, Gary and Lynn moved to New Hampshire where they served for 10 years before moving to Texas to attend the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary. Gary graduated in 2000 with a Mas-



Gary & Lynn O'Neal

ter of Divinity degree. He has finished all his requirements for a Ph.D. degree from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Cordova, Tennessee and will be graduating in May of 2013.

He has been a writer for DiscipleGuide (formerly Baptist Publishing House) since 2001. He usually writes one or two Compass Teacher (Advancer) publications each year.

Gary and Lynn have four adult children and one granddaughter.

water.

I was burdened to coordinate networking and collaboration activities with important Royal Government of Cambodia's concerned bureaucratic entities for the envisioned water ministry project by the BMA. A high ranking and influential state official of the Ministry of Religion and Cults, His Excellency Rev. Dr.

Ung Vibol, deeply appreciates the cross-culture context of the Water for Christ project. He has expressed his full support of the evangelical and discipleship aspects of the ministry in the Khmer rural communities, specifically in the northeast province of Rattanakiri. That is where BMAA has planted a Baptist church in the capital

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## Water For Christ In Cambodia

from page 1

town of Banlung with a flourishing mission ministry led by John Page. Bro. Tyler and Bro. Bowman met with key officials of the government's Ministries of Water Resources and Meteorology as well as the Rural Development, and were able to garner an in-depth assessment of the water profile of the country, based on mineral, geological and soil maps.

In Cambodia, it is estimated that about 25% of the rural children under 5 years old are suffering from infectious diarrhea. The nation's current population is about 15.2 million and about 12 million of those reside in rural areas, where nearly 40% do not have access to safe drinking water. With the Water for Christ ministry project, the Cambodian

2003 National Policy on Water Supply and Sanitation's goal of providing every person in rural, impoverished villages can be harnessed with sustained access to safe water supply services by 2025.

A well-attended caucus of Christian pastors, missionaries and workers came together September 4, in Phnom Penh to discuss the water ministry project for Cambodia which was facilitated by Bro. Bowman. The event was aimed at soliciting their cooperation and assistance in the implementation of the project, which is to be launched in the later part of 2013.

I have been inspired and challenged to come up with a strategic operational plan for the Cambodia Water for Christ

ministry, focusing on employing effectively and cross-culturally the project to plant indigenous churches in Cambodia.

The Water for Christ team in Cambodia also presented the ministry project to the Rotary Club of Phnom Penh-Cambodia, District 3350. The organization expressed its full support to assist logistically in the implementation of this community service-driven project through its networks. (Dr. Fil and Bro. Tim are active Rotarians.)

In order for the Water for Christ Ministry's vision, mission and goals to be realized in Cambodia, resources are needed, as well as your ardent prayers and cheerful support. If you would like to invest and contribute to this mission, please connect to: BMAA, P.O. Box 30910, Little Rock, AR 72260.

## A Better Class of Friends

"Peeeyoooouuu"! I'm not sure about the spelling, but it seems to look right. I never took a fonix...a phonex...a class that taught spelling according to the way a word sounds, but if I had to guess (and I had to guess), I would say this is the right rendition of the word. It was emitted from a good friend of mine as we were driving down the highway, apparently in response to what a skunk had emitted as he adjusted his glasses to see what the word said on the front grill of an 18-wheeler. "Peterbui..." The truck never slowed down.

Anyway, after expressing his opinion of the foul odor, my buddy got a contemplative look on his face. I could see that he was about to impart some wisdom my way because he always does when he gets reflective. I waited for the sage words that I knew would come after a moment of meditation. He always needed time to formulate just the right words that would change the philosophy of life.

"You know, Chuck? I kinda like the smell of skunk." These words have forever changed my

ment is trying to force people of all different faiths to violate their faith," Duncan said during the conference call. "This is not by any means a Catholic-only issue. Some of the drugs involved in the mandate can cause an early abortion. And many Americans who are not Catholic have a problem with this."

The suit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, asserts the mandate violates the U.S. Constitution's guarantees of freedom of religion, speech and association. It asks the court to issue an injunction prohibiting enforcement of the mandate. In a separate case in July, a federal court issued a ruling preventing the mandate from being enforced against a Colorado business whose owners are devout Catholics, but the ruling applied only to that business.

Hobby Lobby would face millions of dollars in fines if it does

way of thinking. I now think I need a better class of friends.

Most of my friends have behaviorisms that indicate a lack of hygiene, responsibility, and good manners. They tend to drive old trucks that leak oil on my driveway and feel that a good exhaust leak is their contribution to mosquito control. All of them own at least four guns, four dogs, and one flat-bottom aluminum boat guaranteed to leave your boots wet after just an hour of fishing. When we go camping and I yell for Bubba to come help me build the fire, four people come running.

Most of them have tool boxes on their trucks equipped with anything you need to extricate yourself from any emergency that arises. A chainsaw is a necessity, along with an axe, a pulley, jumper cables, miscellaneous tools (we never have the right size socket), snow chains, and honey buns.

Every now and then I find myself at a gourmet restaurant with one or more of these friends. Just the other morning, I found myself being escorted out by the maitre-de of an establishment just because Bubba decided he wanted to clean the remnants of a cow pasture off his boots while we were eating. I told him he shouldn't have taken his boots off first, but nooo, he plopped them right up on the table. That's when we were escorted out. I try to maintain an air of respectability when eating in fine bistros and always wipe the "mud" off my boots before entering. I still don't think it merited a lifetime ban from Waffles-R-Us and I told the owner that too, but we were several miles down the road and I don't think he heard me.

Looking back, maybe I do have some quality friends. Riding down the highway the other day with a new acquaintance, (he loves lump crabmeat from Billy Jo's Buffet and Chittlin Diner) a cattle truck passed us. With a contemplative look on my face, I said, "I kinda like the smell of a cow truck". If he ever calls me back, I may treat him to a fine dining experience. He's probably never been thrown out of a waffle house before.

### From The Mind of



Chuck Lee

## National Business Chain Challenges Health Care Mandate

**WASHINGTON (BP)** - Evangelical-owned Hobby Lobby has filed a lawsuit against the Obama administration's contraceptive/abortion mandate, becoming the largest business yet to take action against the rule and underscoring once again that the issue impacts more than just Catholics.

With more than 500 stores in 41 states, Hobby Lobby's owners always have made their faith a central part of their business. Their stores play Christian instrumental music and are closed on Sundays. Hobby Lobby contributes to Christian organizations and during Easter and Christmas runs full-page ads with Gospel-centered messages in newspapers.

The mandate, issued by the Department of Health and Human Services, requires businesses to purchase insurance plans that cover contraceptives, including "emergency" contraceptives that can cause chemical abortions. The latter drugs often are labeled morning-after pills and come under brand names such as Plan B and ella. They can work before implantation and -- in the case of ella -- after implantation.

Hobby Lobby is represented by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which filed the suit Wednesday (Sept. 12). There now are 28 separate suits



against the mandate, although most of them involve religious organizations that will be impacted by the rule, according to Becket.

Although Hobby Lobby's insurance plans cover contraceptives that are preventative in nature, the company won't cover anything that causes a chemical abortion, says David Green, Hobby Lobby's founder and CEO.

"These abortion-causing drugs go against our faith, and our family is now being forced to choose between following the laws of the land that we love or maintaining the religious beliefs that have made our business successful," Green said during a conference call with

reporters. "... We simply cannot abandon our religious beliefs to comply with this mandate."

The mandate went into effect August 1, but Hobby Lobby won't be impacted until January 1, when the new insurance year for its employees begins.

The mainstream media has focused most of its attention on Catholic organizations and has rarely used the word "abortion" in reporting on the controversy, but the reality is much different, said Becket Fund attorney Kyle Duncan.

"We hope that this lawsuit, on behalf of such a large and prominent evangelical Christian business, will draw attention to the fact that the govern-

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# Southeastern Baptist College

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

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

There is a plan for evangelistic outreach in the book of Acts. Prior to the ascension of Jesus in chapter one, His church asks a question about the future plans for restoring the kingdom to Israel. Jesus reminds them that they should not be concerned about Israel's kingdom status, but should focus on fulfilling the Great Commission. He then outlines the geographical plan for evangelism and states in verse eight: "...ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." As you read the book of Acts, this is the exact plan followed. In chapters one through seven, the focus is in Jerusalem and Judaea. In chapters eight through twelve,

in our Jerusalem first here in Laurel and Jones County. As you will see in the picture, God has blessed us with an opportunity to place a professional display at the Sawmill Square Mall in Laurel. Many brochures have already been distributed from this one area alone. More displays at various venues are planned for the future.

Another area of visibility for outreach has been with the Laurel Christian Home Educators. Their annual meeting was held in August on the campus of SBC. Over 200 attended the meeting on a Friday



Joseph Harris  
Interim  
President



Southeastern College Display at Sawmill Mall in Laurel

evangelism begins in Samaria. Then in chapters thirteen through twenty eight, the gospel begins to go into the uttermost part of the earth.

At SBC, we are expanding our outreach to make the college more visible by beginning

evening which continued on Saturday morning with workshops for parents on different topics of interest for home educators. LCHE also has a basketball team, the Knights, and they rent the gym as their home court. This is their third



Laurel Home Schoolers meeting on campus of SBC

## Have you Considered Eating a Cupcake for Jesus?

by Diane Ward  
National Walk Coordinator

One youth group not only considered it - they did it. In 2011, Dan Carson, youth pastor for Temple Baptist Church in Rogers, Arkansas, issued a challenge for their youth group to raise \$1,500 for the Walk. That was the amount that had been raised by the entire church the previous year.

Dan told his youth group that if they raised that amount of money he would eat a specialty, gourmet cupcake weighing two and a half pounds complete with chocolate icing and registering a total of 5,500 calories. The terms were that he would consume the cupcake within thirty minutes and keep it down for five minutes.

Dan's idea created a lot of buzz in the youth group as well as the entire church, and I'm happy to report that everyone was a winner. The youth group rose to the challenge and raised \$1,500, Dan managed to down the cupcake in the allotted time and kept it down, and the Walk increased its offerings by \$1,500. The really good news is that as a result of the money being raised for the Walk, Lifeword was able to tell people around the world that Jesus loves them, that he died for them, and that he invites them to trust him as their personal Savior.

year to use our gym. Last year the Knights captured the title as state champions in their division. Included is a picture of main meeting held on Friday night in our gym.

There has been a concerted effort to improve visibility of the college. This continues to grow with more appearances in churches on Sundays and Wednesdays and at college days on high school campuses around the state.

Concerning the Special Emphasis offerings, there is no final tally since offerings are still coming in. However, we have already exceeded last year's amount in offerings. The final number should be ready for the next issue. I ask that you continue to hold your college up in prayer.

An additional benefit of youth fund-raising efforts for the Walk this year is that two youth room make-overs will be awarded. One make-over will be awarded to the church that raises the most money overall, and the other to the church who raises the most money per capita. The make-overs will include audio and video equip-



ment as well as a new paint job.

For those planning to participate in the annual fund-raising event we encourage you to go to [www.lifeword.org](http://www.lifeword.org) to register, set your personal goal, and send your Walk page to all your social media contacts. This method has the potential to reach more people and raise more money than ever before.

Thanks to all of our churches for your faithful support of the Walk. We enjoy hearing your creative ideas. Our hats are off to you; now, go and enjoy a cupcake.

Please contact Diane or Robyn at 1-800-543-1090 or [diane@lifeword.org](mailto:diane@lifeword.org) if you have any questions.

## Have You Found Your Church?

Have you registered online for the Lifeword 2012 Walk for the World? If not, we encourage you to do so. Please go to [www.lifeword.com/lifeword](http://www.lifeword.com/lifeword) and click on Teams to select your church. If your church name is not listed, please give us a call at 1.800.543.1090, and we will be happy to add it to the list so you may complete your registration. By clicking on the name of your church while creating your Walk page, your church will receive automatic credit for any online donations made to you. A tax receipt will also be automatically generated and sent to each of your donors.

Online registration offers the opportunity to reach out to more people than ever before in a fast and simple way through a secure website. Please give us a call if you have any questions.

T-shirts are available at Lifeword and you may purchase them at the website, by phone, or by mail using the t-shirt order form.

The national Walk for the World is scheduled for Saturday, October 13, 2012, and the Central Arkansas Walk will be held on Wednesday, October 10, 2012, at the Conway High School Football Stadium from 6:00 - 8:30 pm.

## Hobby Lobby

from page 2

not comply. If it chose simply to drop insurance for employees altogether, it would face fines of \$26 million per year, Duncan said. If it chose to offer insurance but simply not comply with the mandate, the fines would be even larger: more than \$400 million per year, he said.

"The government has turned a deaf ear to the rights of business owners," Duncan said.

Perhaps countering what critics will say about Hobby Lobby and the lawsuit, Green said the company cares about its

employees.

"That's why, unlike most major retailers, we are open only 66 hours per week and are closed on Sunday, to allow our employees to spend time with their family," Green said.

Also, the company's minimum wage for full-time employees is 80 percent above the national minimum wage, he said.

The issue is about religious liberty, Green said.

"Hobby Lobby has always been a tool for the Lord's work," he said. "... For me and my family, charity equals ministry, which equals the Gospel of Jesus Christ. ... But now our faith is being challenged by the federal government."

# Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

## A United People

On the front page of this issue is the announcement that the Southeastern Baptist College Trustee Board will be making a recommendation to the Association concerning the office of President of the college.

Such decisions are always taken with the utmost care and consideration. The Association elects trustee boards to manage each of our departments and commissions. When we choose those to these positions of trust, we must realize the burdens they carry.

I learned a number of years ago that those of us on the outside of such decisions rarely know all of the intimate details and burdens of such work. Often when we learn information that is not known to us, it helps us to understand the decision making process.

From time to time groups must consider new individuals to fill certain positions. The church seeking a pastor must be very careful and diligent in their deliberations. The church I pastor has just called a young man to minister to our youth. That decision was made with care and prayerfully seeking the will of God for our situation. It seems churches are constantly seeking God's man for certain staff positions. The decision must be bathed in prayer with a vision for the particular ministry.

I was told of a church who recently called a pastor. The new pastor thought the vote was over 80%. It was later learned that the vote was barely over 50%. This young pastor resigned the position due to the strife in the church caused by the "divided vote". Division never succeeds.

Unity is a grace and characteristic that the Lord desires. We read in scripture about how pleasant it is for God's people to dwell together in unity. The messengers of the BMA of Mississippi should approach the annual meeting with such an attitude.

Another Association position that will be up for a vote will be the position of Director of the Commission on Senior Adults. Bro. Kenneth Flynt will be presented as the nominee of the Commission's trustees.

Pray for our meeting and pray for those who will be given the responsibility to lead us to greater heights of work for the Lord.



Don Brown  
Editor

## Letters From Our Readers

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

### Plumlee seeks financial help for new ministry

*Editor's Note: The following letter from Travis Plumlee was forwarded to us for publication.*

Dear Friends,

God has given me a vision for a unique counseling ministry and I need your help! Please join me as a ministry partner in Mountain View Haven, a biblical counseling retreat center for individuals and small groups. A parcel of land near my home in the beautiful Ozark Mountains has recently been listed for sale. God has impressed on my heart the vision of obtaining the property for Family Ark Ministries and building several cabins for individuals and couples who are seeking rest, biblical counseling and healing.

This ministry will offer biblically directed counseling for any problem people may face. This is a rare thing to find in today's counseling arena. This counseling will be a faith based ministry as Family Ark Ministries has been for the past 16 years. People will be able to seek help for their troubles without the usual insurmountable cost associated with other treatment facilities. Through the giving of God's people and love offerings, we plan to accept anyone regardless of their ability to pay.

I receive calls daily from people needing help, including pastors and their families. I am frustrated because I have no place to offer them help and hope. Now, with your support, people will have a safe place to go, surrounded by a tranquil restorative environment. This will only enhance the sound biblical counseling they will receive. Even if no one you know personally ever uses this program, you should know that your support will help thousands of others who are in need of knowing that there is hope,

## Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"I miss the good old days when pastors wore suits and ties."

help and healing in the name of Jesus Christ.

In addition to counseling, I want to be able to offer conferences in a smaller more intimate setting for youth groups, marriage or church retreats. The first step is purchasing the land – at a cost of \$39,000 in beautiful, tranquil Mountain View, Arkansas – then we will begin the building process. Once built, Mountain View Haven would be operated and maintained by monthly support of churches and individuals who desire to provide refuge to those who are hurting.

There are a variety of ways you can give: individual donation, monthly support, church fundraisers or even a pledge of business profits. Please send all donations to Family Ark

Ministries Mountain View Haven, PO Box 163, Mountain View, AR 72560.

I pray for God to amaze and do exceeding abundantly above all we are asking.

Dr. Travis Plumlee

### Preaching Conference Scheduled

Dear Editor

Let me take this opportunity to advertise our preaching conference. Reviving The Passion Of Preaching Conference will be held at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Saucier, Mississippi, on November 1, 2, and 3. More information may be found on our website at [revivingthepassionofpreachingtrip.com/](http://revivingthepassionofpreachingtrip.com/)

Thanks.  
Bro. Josh Spiers

## Positions Available

### Youth Minister/Missions Coordinator Wanted

Vardaman Street Baptist Church in Wiggins, Mississippi, is looking to fill the position of full-time Youth Minister/Missions Coordinator. The job description can be seen on our website at [vardamanstreet.org](http://vardamanstreet.org). Please send a resume to P.O. Box 1, Wiggins, MS 39577.

### Arkansas Church Seeks Pastor

Calvary Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas, is seeking to fill the position of Senior

Pastor. Please submit a resume and a list of references to: Calvary Baptist Church, Attention: Pastor Search Committee, 1410 N. Porter Rd., Fayetteville, AR 72703, 479-442-4634.

### Texas Church Seeks Pastor

Heritage Baptist Church of Waxahachie, Texas is seeking a pastor. All interested persons are invited to contact us at [pursuingchrist.org](http://pursuingchrist.org), go to "pastor search", and complete the information requested. Also you may contact us at 1000 Butcher Rd., Waxahachie, Texas 75765, or call at 972-938-1463.



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## Bible Given Little Importance at Election Time

**OneNewsNow** - The party conventions are over and the campaign is underway for the White House and other important offices. Meanwhile, a survey has been done on the influence of the Bible and faith on one's voting decisions.

American Bible Society does an annual survey of the State of the Bible, and this year it tested attitudes toward the upcoming election. Lamar Vest serves as president of the Society.

"Of those [ages] 18 to 27, 59 percent of those in the survey indicated that faith has very little or no influence in their views on political issues," he summarizes. "Of those 64 and older, you see a higher percentage of people who say that it matters to them what people believe about the Bible."

Vest says that one of the shocking statistics was that about half of those

surveyed said they would vote for an atheist as president. Only 49 percent would vote for a candidate based on whether they use a Bible.

"Twenty-five to thirty years ago, we did a survey with Gallup that shocked us all that basically indicated that people going to church on a regular basis had little to do with the way they lived their lives," Vest laments.

What the latest survey shows is that people suggest they believe the Bible is divinely inspired, but it has little to do with the way they vote in the election.

Vest notes the Bible is still a top seller, and that people debate it and give it as gifts. "They seem to do everything but read it," he decides, pointing out that that is the challenge.

The American Bible Society is based in New York City.

## "Our Family Is So Messed Up"

I get many a call from friends that quote this phrase. Our family is so messed up right now. They are lamenting over all the problems going on in the home. This article is not about why we have problems. The Bible tells us we will all have fiery trials because we live in a broken, sinful world. This article is going to address some ideas to consider when your family is having trouble, and you don't know what to do. There are 3 groups here.



### Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

1. It is others in my family that are going through problems right now. If you are doing okay, but you are worried about some other loved ones, then let me briefly go over some things that I have covered in previous articles. You know that you have to punt and give it to God. You do know that you can't control others. You can only control your response to them. You can give advice if asked for. We always have to preach less, and love more.

When our family is in crisis, we have to show a great deal of unconditional love. Some of you spend a great deal of time trying to control the situation, when you need to release the outcome to God.

I know you feel so helpless, but don't give up hope. Jesus always gives us hope. There can always be a change in people with God. Nothing is impossible with God. Luke 1:37. The direct way to help those you love who are messed up is to pray for them. Stop obsessing over them. All that worry will not solve one problem. It will just make you sick. When you start worry-

ing, start singing Christian songs, read your Bible or pray. Read Psalm 37:5.

2. I am directly going through the problems right now because of other family members who are messed up. It isn't fair. But God is. This isn't the life you wanted, but it is the life you got. So deal with it as the Lord leads. Lamenting over what could have been if only things had happened differently never solves a problem. It only creates bitterness. You never want to allow bitterness to creep into your heart for even a second. Remove it quickly. Don't blame yourself. Don't do the "If I had only."

People are responsible for themselves and their own choices. Sure, you may have made mistakes. You failed at some things. We all do. If I fail to be a perfect spouse, parent or sibling, it still is not a license for other people to grow into an immoral monster.

Forgive yourself. Sometimes we are victims of other people's sins. It isn't our fault. We are suffering because of their wrong choices. Stop beating yourself up. Forgive others. Try and let your light shine in front of your messed up family and tell them that you are working on responding to life in a new light, now that you are maturing as a Christian. Old things are passed away and behold all things are made new in Christ. The past is the past. We must move together to the new high calling in Christ Jesus.

3. I am in a messed up family and I helped create the mess. Now when a

# Pastors Oasis 2012

## October 3 - 5

### Chateau On The Lake Branson, Missouri

A conference for Pastors,  
church staff and spouses.  
Inspirational Teaching,  
Worship, Relaxation  
& Fellowship all  
designed to minister to  
church leaders.

Registration - \$75 by September 1 at  
[www.DiscipleGuide.org/PastorsOasis](http://www.DiscipleGuide.org/PastorsOasis)

Chateau - \$125 per night @ 888-333-5253

DiscipleGuide Office: 501-513-3726  
or [triciak@conwaycorp.net](mailto:triciak@conwaycorp.net)



  
Jerry Jolly  
Speaker

  
David Watkins  
Speaker

  
Buddy Johnson  
Speaker

  
Travis Sellers  
Worship

  
Anita Renfree  
Guest Artist

  
No Other Name  
Guest Artist

  
Joe Castillo  
SandStory Artist

family is in a mess it is necessary to not tap into everyone's crisis. We have to take a step back, take a deep breath and get a new perspective on things. Don't make life altering decisions in the middle of the night. Go home and sleep on it. Pray about it. Come back in a day with a fresher outlook when possible.

When we go through a crisis we tend to be so micro-focused on the problem in front of us that we can't find the answers around us. You may want to consider a third party be brought into the situation. A pastor, or a youth minister, or a biblical counselor are examples of outside help. You can tell them your situation and see if they can give you some insight from a detached, objective opinion.

Other family members do not always make the best advice givers, because there are too many enmeshed emotions that are very intense with other family members. Ask yourself this. Are we going to solve anything tonight with everyone on edge? No. Let's split up, cool down and pray about this and come back and talk about it.

All problems are solved through communication. You cannot act like nothing is happening, or that it will all magically get better. You are going to have to do some work to put these relationships back together. It may be hard work. It may take some time. This has been a long time in coming, and it will take some time to resolve. Our goal is not winning our way, and

hurting others. It is to restore peace and resolve the problem. What would God have us do? How does each of us sacrifice to let the Lord change us? It is not about being proven right. It isn't about MY rights. It is about your responsibility to God and His ways. We must learn to respond to life from a biblical way, and not what our flesh wants us to say or do.

Be solution focused and not problem focused. We know what the problem is. Focus on what is the answer. What would God have us do to get this family straight? God wants all families to make it. He is on your side. The devil wants to cause chaos, strife and pain. Jesus offers your family healing every single day of your life. We just have to ask for it, believe in it, and be willing to do what He asks of us.

And a final note that is hard to swallow: Please consider there may be need of repentance. Messed up families often (not always) have these problems because one or more individuals are living wrong. They are running from God's ways. The way to get your house in order is to follow the plans for the family outlined very specifically in the Bible. You might start with Ephesians 4:15-32, Chapter 5: 22,33 and Chapter 6:1-18 and James 4:1-10. You may not like to hear it, but the truth is righteous living can solve a whole lot of problems families face today. God bless you on your journey towards wholeness. Greater is He that is in you, than He that is in the world.

**GMA Girls**

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

**Sunbeam Promoter**  
Linda Dertinger  
132 Howard Hill Road,  
Soso, MS 39480  
601-729-2908

## How Excellent is Thy Name

by Olivia Fairley  
State GMA President

Hello to all my fellow GMA girls! I hope that everyone has had a wonderful beginning of school! I also hope that everyone will be able to make it to GMA retreat this upcoming year! Our theme for this year is "How Excellent is Thy Name". Our theme verse for this year comes from Psalm 8:9 and it says, "O LORD, our God, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" In July the state officers had their first planning meeting and it was a great success! We have so many things planned for all of you this year! We even have some very new exciting things planned for the 'all famous' house party. GMA camp has always been such a great blessing to me in my life

and I know that it will do the same for you in your life if you let it!

This year we will also be having some new guests on campus with us! The Galilean boys will be with us this year! We are doing this to try and boost their attendance as well as ours. We are doing everything we can to get both girls and boys interested in becoming a part of these wonderful programs that our Baptist Missionary Churches have to offer. They will have their own business meeting, but we are trying to include them in most everything else that we do. We are also going to try to incorporate them in our Queen's Coronation. So look out Queens, there are going to be some new things for us this year! Once again I hope that each and everyone of you are going to be able to make it to GMA camp this year. It is a wonderful event, and definitely a highlight of my year. It is not only good for the girls to come to, but the counselors as well. Anyone who comes to camp will get a great blessing! I hope that I will be able to see ALL of your beautiful faces! I ask that everyone be praying for this year, and for all the officers as we plan this camp. It takes a great effort to get everything planned, but it is always worth every minute of it! I love you all!

**Mississippi W.M.A.**

**Blinda Lee, President**  
77 Morrow Rd., Purvis, MS 39475  
601-596-3417  
blinda.lee@lamarcountyschools.org

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

### Oak Grove WMA to meet

The Oak Grove WMA will meet at Pine Grove in Purvis on October 12, 7:00, for our district meeting. Mrs. Kristy Matthews will be our speaker. We invite all to come and enjoy the fellowship.

### Ten Mile District WMA Meeting

**2011-2012 Theme** "Committed to God", Psalm 37:5 *Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass.*

The Ten Mile WMA held their meeting on July 9, 2012, at Ten Mile Baptist Church, Perkinston. The meeting was called to order by the President Myrtis Mallett.

Sharon Lindsey reminded the ladies of the 2012 Christian Woman's Retreat Sponsored by BMA of Mississippi WMA in Camp Garaywa Conference Center in Clinton. Sharon encouraged all of the WMA ladies to attend and to pass the word to other ladies of our church

Danny and Rita Ballard are going on the Mission Field to the Philippines. They are from Vardaman Street Baptist Church in Wiggins.

Sister Myrtis Mallett presided over the installation of our new officers serving for 2012-2013. She encouraged all officers to work diligently for the Lord. Follow the Lord's lead, be faithful, do our duty,

**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.

### Lebanon Baptist Church 107th Homecoming

Lebanon Baptist Church, Laurel, would like to invite you to our 107th Homecoming scheduled for September 23, 2012. The guest speaker will be Bro. Harold Floyd. Bro. Floyd pastored Lebanon for 16 years and was a tremendous blessing to those under his ministry and leadership during that time. He is now currently a member at Lebanon and is still serving diligently preaching the gospel as the Lord leads. The morning service will begin at 10:00 a.m. followed by dinner on the grounds. Bro. Floyd will be honored by guest speakers Cal Floyd, Ken Riley, and Larry Geraldson. Special music will be conducted by Chris Floyd. Services will reconvene at 1:00 p.m.

We're proud to have Bro. Floyd back as a member and honored to have him as our guest evangelist this year. We hope you will join us in honoring him during this special event.

be responsible and most of all support each other.

The following WMA officer positions were filled: President Myrtis Mallett, 1st Vice President Louise Crawley, 2nd Vice President Ashley Bates, 3rd Vice President Geraldine Necaize, Secretary/Treasurer Julia Lee, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Cherie Breland, Reporter Maria Ochoa, Song Leader Alana Woods, Pianist Sheila Swanzey, Assistant Jean Knight, Historian Charlotte Lind, District Project Promoter Cathy Rhodes, State Project Promoter Pat Johnson, Sunbeam Promoter Dianna Williams, Assistant Sunbeam Promoter Angela Givens, GMA Promoter Paula Prickett, Assistant GMA Promoter Jerica Kirkland.

We enjoyed refreshments and a great fellowship with Ten Mile Baptist Church. Our next meeting will be at 7:00PM, on October 15, 2012, at Vardaman Baptist Church in Wiggins.

Reporter Maria Ochoa

## Vardaman Street Church recommends Ballards for mission field

Vardaman Street Baptist Church in partnership with the BMAA are excited about recommending Bro. Danny and Sis. Rita Ballard to the mission field in the area of Bacolod City, Philippines. He will be working with the BMA Bible Institute and Bro. Doyle Moore. God is calling Danny and Rita to: Use their years of student experience to help equip churches to reach students for Christ, Work alongside Missionaries Doyle and Linda Moore to equip Filipino churches in discipleship, Produce disciples of Christ and disciple-makers, Produce and reproduce leaders who can plant churches, Plant churches that will plant churches. We would whole heartedly submit him to you for support. You can do this by sending it to Vardaman Street Baptist Church P.O. Box 1, Wiggins, MS 39577, or you can go to BMAAmissions.org and support him directly. If you would like for him to come and share his heart with you then you can contact him by his cell phone 601-528-1655.

Dr. Eugene Anderson, pastor



### Oak Grove Association Report

The fifty-fourth annual session of the Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Association convened at Calvary Baptist Church in Purvis on Thursday, September 13. There were fourteen churches represented by messengers and one by letter only. The meeting was moderated by Bro. Brad Stephens and an inspiring annual message was preached by Bro. Sam Oglesby. Officers who were elected to serve in the coming year are Moderator Brad Stephens, Assistant Moderator Scott Kirkland, Clerk-Treasurer Sam Oglesby, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Marion Greene, and Reporter Ed Steele.

Bro. Larry Geraldson was present representing the BMA of Mississippi Missions Office and five of our state missionaries were also present to give reports on their respective fields of labor. Other departments and ministries sent written reports and copies were available for each church. Calvary did a great job of hosting the meeting and provided

a wonderful meal at its conclusion.

Next year's annual meeting will be hosted by Midway First Baptist Church. Bro. Winnie McMahon was elected to bring the annual message with Bro. Denny Patterson being his alternate. The next meeting of the Association will be with Mount Gilead Baptist Church near Columbia on November 15.

Brad Stephens, Moderator  
Ed Steele, Reporter

### Tombigbee Association meets

The Tombigbee Association met on September 6, 2012 at 1st Hispanic at Ripley. A good meal was served by the host church. Bro. Byron brought the evening message. The music was a little different, but was very good. Elvis and the host church sang in Spanish, as the rest of us sang in English. There were 88 present with 8 churches represented. Many special reports were given during business.

Moderator Matt Hudson  
Reporter Debbie Franks

## New Northeast District WMA Officers



## Snobby Churches

by Brother Ritechus N. Dignation

Nothing gets my dander up quicker than a bunch of stuck up snobby Christians. Here is a true story that just happened over at the First Church of the Frozen Chosen. This man and woman went to church last Sunday and though no one asked them to leave, they were treated like a piano at a Church of Christ Convention. I mean folks shunned them and looked down their long sanctimonious noses at the two like they were lepers. It's true, they didn't have on nice clothes, his face was dirty, and her sweater was old and torn. They were dressed like bums. That's because they were bums...straight off the street, known as Rhino and Sunshine.

I will give this church the benefit of the doubt. Apparently, they use the ASV at that church, the Arrogant Snobby Version that quotes Jesus as saying, "For God so loved the upper class that he gave his only son, that whosoever of the upper class believeth on him, might be saved from the lower

class." I'm sure that's what it says, otherwise, those folks wouldn't have treated human beings that way. Obviously, Jesus did not die for bums, druggies, harlots and convicts or they wouldn't have shunned them. Since God doesn't love those kind of people, it's okay to treat them like dirt. After all, it would be a waste of time and energy to witness to them, plus you might catch some disease. No use to witness to them, or even offer to help in any way.



Maybe I'm expecting too much from the wrong people. Maybe the ones at the First Church of the Frozen Chosen just can't show what they don't have to show: the love of God. Maybe, just maybe, they don't have the love of God in them. How can you give away what you don't even have yourself? Just maybe the ones in the church are the ones who need witnessing to. One thing's for sure - ever'body who's talkin' about Heaven ain't goin' there. Remember, Jesus said, "Many are called, but few are chosen" and in the case of First Church, many are cold and a few are frozen.

Now here's the rest of that story. You know those bums who walked in? They were not really bums, but genuine Christians who dress and act like bums and visit churches to take the spiritual temperature of the congregation. Only the pastor knew the truth and on into the service, the preacher asked Rhino to get up and speak. As he took the pulpit, it got quite as a tomb. Rhino told how outside the church people avoided them and only ONE person invited them in, and that most churches they go to, NO ONE ever invites them inside.

When the folks realized they had been had, a few of the saved church members got right with God, but the devil and the rest of 'em just got mad. Brother John says, "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" (I John 3:17).

I say if anyone gets mad, don't get mad at Rhino and Sunshine, take it up with God. He's the one who said it.

*Joseph Harris is an instructor at Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel, Mississippi.*



## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

### Country Commandments

Ya'll have heard a lot about the Ten Commandments lately in the news where our gov'ment don't want them put up where folks can read them. Well, my humble opinion is this - Our nation is suffering because of this "ignert" thinking.

Somebody has taken the time to write the Ten Commandments in a language that us folks down here in the South can understand:

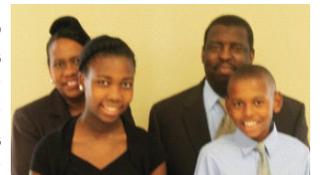
#### Country Commandments

- I. Ain't no other God.
- II. Don't worship nothin' but God.
- III. No cussin' allowed.
- IV. Don't forget Sunday go to meetin'.
- V. Honor yer Ma and yer Pa.
- VI. No killin' allowed.
- VII. No foolin' round allowed.
- VIII. Don't take nothin' that ain't yers.
- IX. Don't be fibbin' or gossipin'.
- X. Don't hanker fer other folks' stuff.

## Missions Report

from page 8

Church of All Nations (the name of the mission at Indianola) received \$400.00 in offerings. The Indianola Missionary pastor is Bro. Donnie Loggins. Please pray for Bro. Loggins. He lost his mother recently. Homestretch's mission at Holly Springs, Missionary Pastor James Cook, reported 1 profession of faith, 4 in average attendance for Worship and their membership stands at 9. The Holly Springs mission received \$125.00 in offerings. Bro. DuVall only receives support to coordinate our African American work through designated Work Funds, which presently are at \$250.00 per month. We are praying that God will lead some churches to contribute to this cause.



The Duvall Family

#### Revolving Loan Fund

(as of August 31, 2012 with activity from August 1, 2012)  
Gross assets are now at \$15,401,342.54, a decrease of \$478.09. Net assets are now at \$2,703,152.24, an increase of \$4,667.34. We have opened 2 new investment accounts totaling \$9,066.43. We have 2 new loans totaling \$26,000.00.

#### Annual Association Meetings

As you know, this is the season of annual meetings among our local associations. We will be attending as many as possible. This season of meetings culminates with the annual meeting of our State Association on October 22 & 23. I am excited about the opportunity to share what God is doing in State Missions. Please attend if you are able.

#### Visit Our Websites

The Missions and RLF website is [www.bmams.org](http://www.bmams.org). You can find links to most all of our departments and to our missionaries at this site. You can also find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bmamsmissions](http://www.facebook.com/bmamsmissions). Please take a moment to visit our site and put it in your Favorites. Also, visit our Facebook page and click on "Like."

## An Anniversary Celebration

First Baptist Church of Bay Springs, Mississippi, was blessed 10 years ago when Bro. Phillip and Dawn Burns joined our church family. Bro. Phillip serves as Associate Pastor, Youth Pastor & Music Director. To recognize their 10th anniversary with us, we will have a pot-luck dinner after the Sunday morning worship service on September 23rd. We would love to have any who can to come be with us and enjoy a time of fellowship with the Burns and our church family.



The Burns Family

**Pastors Oasis 2012**  
**October 3 - 5**  
**Chateau On The Lake**  
**Branson, Missouri**



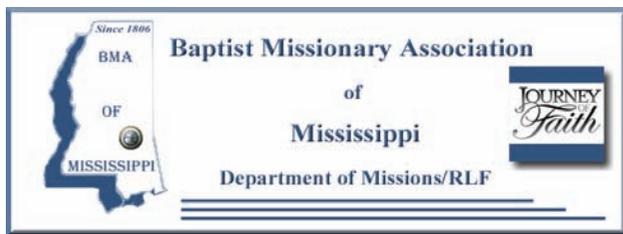
Registration - \$75 by September 1 at [www.DiscipleGuide.org/PastorsOasis](http://www.DiscipleGuide.org/PastorsOasis)  
Chateau - \$125 per night @ 888-333-5253

Worship - Travis Sellers

Speakers - Jerry Jolly, David Watkins & Buddy Johnson

Artists - Anita Renfro, No Other Name & Joe Castillo

DiscipleGuide Office: 501-513-3726 or [triciak@conwaycorp.net](mailto:triciak@conwaycorp.net)



I recently had the opportunity to visit with three of our church planters and one of our coordinators, in the field, while attending the Tombigbee, Harmony and Judson Association meetings. I enjoyed great fellowship and preaching at the association meetings. I was reminded again of how God has blessed us with such a good group of pastors and I am so impressed with the people in our churches. Each meeting was uplifting, encouraging and exciting. We are equally blessed with an outstanding group of hard working missionaries. I want, so bad, for you to know them better. So, starting with this issue, and periodically, I hope to highlight one of our missionary families and their mission project. This issue, we will feature Missionary Sidney Farmer, his family and their mission project, which is named "South Forrest," located South of Hattiesburg.



Larry Geraldson  
Director of Missions

**Featured Mission Project  
The Farmer Family**

Bro. Sidney Farmer and his family began their effort to plant South Forrest Mission April 1, 2012. Since that time, God has blessed. Bro. Farmer was saved in 1978 and surrendered to the ministry in 1997. He has pastored three churches: two in Mississippi and one in Ala-



The Farmer Family

bama. Sidney accepted the call to the mission field in March 2012. He has been married to Becky Farmer since 1987. They have three sons: Austin 19, Dexter 17, and Kyle 12.

South Forrest recently purchased 5 acres of land at 760 Churchwell Road in South Forrest County. They have already run power to the prop-

erty and acquired the necessary easements to begin doing some work on the property.

They also received a donation of lumber which should help tremendously with the construction of a first unit building. The Mission congregation



New additions at South

erty. They recently added two new members to the mission. South Forrest is sponsored by Paramount in Perkinston, Bro. Dennis Knight, Pas-



meets, when the weather is good, under a tent on the prop-



Lumber donated to South Forrest

tor. Paramount has been a model Mother church, giving people, time, energy and financial support to this mission endeavor.



South Forrest Meeting Under Tent

**Missionary Reports for August  
South Forrest Mission (South Forrest) www.southforrest.org**

Bro. Sidney Farmer, who serves as a church planting missionary, reported 20 new contacts made, and the gospel was shared with 14. He continues to develop a core group. Their average attendance was 17 in Worship, 11 in mid-week services time frame, and their membership stands at 8. South Forrest received \$2,189.00 in offerings during August and gave \$222.00 to State and/or Local missions.

**New Heart Mission www.newheartbaptist.org  
Ray & JoAnn Boone**

Bro. Ray Boone, who serves as a church planting missionary, reported 49 new contacts made, and the gospel was shared with 18. They witnessed 2 professions of faith. Their average attendance was 21 in Sunday School, 34 in AM Worship, 20 in the PM Service, 7 in mid-week services, and their membership stands at 34. New Heart received \$1,044.00 in offerings during August and gave \$139.38 to State and/or Local missions. Bro. and Mrs Boone need your prayers concerning her mother, Ms Caisie Barber, whose health is deteriorating.



Ray & JoAnn Boone

**Caledonia Mission (Caledonia Baptist) www.caledoniabaptist.org  
Bob & Edie Burch**

Bro. Bob Burch, who serves as a church planting missionary, reported 44 new contacts made, and the gospel was shared with 31. He witnessed 1 profession of faith. He continues to hold small group meetings during the week with an average of 5 in attendance. He labors to develop a core group and offers Sunday School and Worship service for all who attend. Their average attendance was 4 in Sunday school time frame, 9 in AM Worship time frame, 5 in mid-week services time frame, and their membership stands at 3. Caledonia Baptist received \$200.00 in offerings during August and gave \$100.00 to State and/or Local missions. A church building and approximately 4 acres was purchased recently for the Caledonia Mission. The building which was around 85-90% complete when purchased is nearly finished. Please pray that lost souls will be saved.



Bob & Edie Burch

**Clinton Mission (Crossway) www.crosswayclinton.org**

Bro. Justin Rhodes, who serves as a church planting missionary, reported 47 new contacts made, and the gospel was shared with 16. Bro. Justin continues to develop a core group. Their average attendance was 13 in Worship and their membership stands at 7. Crossway received \$836.50 in offerings during August and gave \$83.65 to State and/or Local missions. Please pray for Bro. Justin as he continues to look for a meeting place. They are presently meeting at the Hampton Inn in Clinton.



The Rhodes Family

**Burnsville Mission (Freedom Baptist)**

Bro. Bobby Elliott, who serves as a church planting missionary, reported 33 new contacts made and the gospel was shared with 16. They witnessed 4 professions of faith. Their average attendance was 19 in Sunday School, 27 in AM Worship, 19 in the PM Service, 15 in mid-week services and their membership stands at 24. Freedom

received \$1,477.00 in offerings during August. Freedom Baptist, with the help of the Revolving Loan Fund, recently purchased a piece of land just outside Burnsville. They have already paid down the loan by half and owe approximately \$8000.00. After the land is paid off, they plan to build. Read more about Bobby at <http://bmams.org/bobby-elliott/>



Bobby & Lesa Elliott

**New Albany Mission**

Bro. Kelby Johnson, who began serving as a church planting missionary August 1, reports 50 new contacts made and the gospel was shared with 12. They are in the process of developing a core group and are planning to establish a small group Bible study soon. At this point their membership stands at 2. Read more about Kelby at <http://bmams.org/kelby-johnson/>



The Johnson Family

**El Camino (The Way) www.elcaminoiglesia.org**

Bro. Estuardo Marroquin, who serves as our Hispanic coordinator for South Mississippi, reported 38 new contacts made and the gospel was shared with 53. They witnessed 20 professions of faith at El Camino. Their average attendance was 63 in Sunday School and 99 in Worship, 53 in mid-week services, 94 in Small groups and their membership stands at 65. El Camino received \$4,213.00 in offerings. El Camino's mission project, in Hattiesburg, reported 16 new contacts made and the gospel was shared with 8. They witnessed 1 profession of faith. Their average attendance is 2 for Sunday School, 10 in Worship, and 8 in Small groups. The Hattiesburg mission received \$580.00 in offerings and gave \$59.00 to State and/or Local Missions. Bro. Estuardo reports that efforts are now underway to start a Small group meeting somewhere on the Gulf Coast near Biloxi.



The Marroquin Family

**First Hispanic www.caminoverdadvida.net**

Bro. Elvis Garcia, who serves as our Hispanic coordinator for North Mississippi, reported 51 new contacts made and the gospel was shared with 45. They witnessed 3 professions of faith at First Hispanic. Their average attendance was 88 in Sunday School, 111 in Worship, 118 in Small groups and their membership stands at 63. El Camino received \$4,169.00 in offerings. First Hispanic's mission in Tupelo reported 18 new contacts made and the gospel was shared with 18. They witnessed 3 professions of faith and the membership now stands at 16. The Tupelo mission has an average attendance of 23 for Worship. They received \$700.00 in offerings. First Hispanic's mission in Oxford reported 54 new contacts made and the gospel was shared with 56. They witnessed 12 professions of faith at Oxford and have started their first Small group meeting. The Oxford Small group meeting is averaging 11 in attendance. They plan to establish 6 more Small groups and then gather for worship. Bro. Elvis reports that First Hispanic has set her sights on opening a work in the Olive Branch area soon. Bro. Elvis Garcia and I visited with the Mayor of Ripley and talked about the future ministry of First Hispanic in the area and had prayer with him.



The Garcia Family

**Homestretch Baptist**

Bro. Ed DuVall, who serves as our African American coordinator for Mississippi, reported that Homestretch had an average attendance of 30 in Worship and their membership stands at 50. Homestretch received \$3,000.00 in offerings. Homestretch's mission in Indianola reported 5 professions of faith and the membership now stands at 25. Their average attendance is 10 for Worship. The

continued on page 7