

# Baptist

## Mississippi

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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## Uprooting crosses, one by one

**Robert Knight, Guest Columnist  
from OneNewsNow**

While the furor over the proposed mosque at Ground Zero has New York Gov. David Paterson offering public land as a peace offering, a more familiar symbol -- the cross -- is systematically being uprooted around the country.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit ruled August 18 that placing crosses where Utah state troopers died violates the Establishment Clause.

The 14 crosses, 12 feet tall and bearing a trooper's name, have been erected by the privately funded Utah Highway Patrol Association since 1968. Robert Kirby, a Salt Lake Tribune columnist and former cop, initiated it. He told Newsweek, "We wanted something instantly recognizable at 75 miles per hour, something that would say, 'This is hallowed ground.'"

Not to a mirror-worshipping group, which sued in 2005. It lost in U.S. district court, which ruled in *American Atheists Inc. v. Duncan* that the cross is a symbol of "death and burial." The atheists appealed and persuaded the 10th Circuit to reverse. But a further appeal to the Supreme Court would bode well, given that swing vote Justice Anthony Kennedy, in *Salazar v. Buono* (2009) wrote: "The goal of avoiding gov-



ernmental endorsement does not require eradication of all religious symbols in the public realm. A cross by the side of a public highway marking, for instance, the place where a state trooper perished need not be taken as a statement of governmental support for sectarian beliefs."

Did the 10th's judges not read this majority opinion? Anyway, let's move on to the Buono case. In California's Mojave National Preserve, the site of a seven-foot, metal-pipe cross first erected 75 years ago by World War I veterans is bare.

In 2001, the American Civil Liberties Union sued on behalf of Frank Buono, an ACLU member, atheist and former National Park Service employee living in Oregon. Mr. Buono said the cross offended him when he returned for vis-

its. Congress authorized a transfer of the property to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The case reached the Supreme Court, which reversed an appellate court's order and kicked it back to the lower court on April 28. Writing for the court majority (and the vast majority of Americans), Justice Kennedy said: "Here, one Latin cross in the desert evokes far more than religion. It evokes thousands of small crosses in foreign fields marking the graves of Americans who fell in battles, battles whose tragedies are compounded if the fallen are forgotten."

Ten days later, someone cut down the cross, which had been covered by a plywood box lest Mr. Buono see it and start melting.

When another cross appeared a few days later, Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr.'s Justice Department ordered the Park Service to remove it.

Over in Monterey, California, someone in September 2009 tore down a 40-year-old cross on Del Monte Beach that commemorated the city's 200th birthday where Spanish explorer Don Gaspar

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## Candian Missionary Visits Haiti

**By Michel Poirier**

**BMAA Missionary to Canada**

During my recent trip to Haiti to disburse funds given by BMA people to help with the relief effort, I also had the opportunity to visit the people there who had received Christ in March and to see if they were going to church. Even with so little, they had big smiles on their faces and their hearts were overflowing with joy.

Within the first few days, I visited a friend of mine, Pastor Norcilus, and brought some financial relief for a family that had a great need for food and other items. In the afternoon I went to Bethel Baptist Church, which had been severely damaged during the earthquake, and gave them some financial assistance to rebuild the walls. The pastor was so excited to get the repairs going for the Lord!

Wednesday morning, I went to find some land to put houses on for the people that we know need a house, and was able to actually purchase some land. It is very difficult for the people of Port au Prince to decide to move outside the city, but it has to be done.

In the afternoon, I met with another friend of mine, Pastor Paul Harrigan, and we had a great time of fellowship. He took me to some places that were badly hit during the earthquake and told me the story of people from his



church who were killed and their bodies are still trapped under the fallen building. One of his members who lost her husband in the quake was in desperate need of a home. She was living with only a plastic sheet over her head and no walls around her.

Knowing that so many have great needs like her, I had to stop and pray,

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## State Association letters mailed

BMA of Mississippi Recording Clerk Danny Pitts announces that letters to the 2010 annual meeting have been mailed to the churches. Bro. Pitts urges church clerks to fill them out soon and make sure they are returned to him at Danny Pitts, 4514 Hwy 15 N, Laurel, MS 39443.

The 2010 annual meeting will be held at Southeastern College in Laurel on October 19 and 20.

# The Three Most Important Decisions Young People Will Make

Life is full of choices. The choices we make will make us. Our lives are composed of a compilation of our choices. Not everything in life is a choice we make for ourselves. Sometimes we may get sick, have a car wreck from someone else's drunk driving, or someone else hurt us. While we couldn't control these choices, the choice we make after the event on how we respond to it; still makes us who we are.

For example, if you have a tragedy happen in your life; you may not be able to control it. However, you choose your attitude that follows the event. You can grow bitter. Or you can choose to let it strengthen you and learn from it. You can respond feeling sorry for yourself and live in pity, or you can choose to allow God to lift you up and live in His power and grow on. These choices of attitude are critical in how far you will go in life.

There are three major choices,

however that you have direct control over, that as a young person, you have not made yet. I want to encourage you to pray hard about these 3 choices. You



## Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

need to let God lead you. Do not make these decisions based upon how you happen to feel. Don't make them based upon what is going on in your life at present. Let the Holy Spirit convict your heart as to what to do. These three choices will greatly help or greatly hurt your life depending upon your choice. Here are the three choices listed from least to greatest in importance:

### Number 3

Choosing your lifetime career

or calling. I call this your lifetime ministry. You may have many jobs in your life. It may have nothing to do with what you consider a ministry or calling. However, where you work in your life does determine to a great extent where God will use you to reach others. But let me tell you something about work. Work is half your life.

If you work 40 hours per week, then that becomes over half of your entire adult life that you spend awake. The other half is away from work, but one third of your life you spend sleeping. So work is a huge chunk of your life that you spend up and doing. If you hate your job, if you are miserable on the job, then what kind of life do you think you will have? Miserable!

You may have to take a job at first just to pay the bills. But as you consider where you want to work the rest of your life, be sure it is something you enjoy doing. Don't think you "have

to" do something. Use the gifts God has given you. Some people are good listeners. Some like to sit and do repetitive things. Others like to be active. God gives some the gift of teaching, Serving, Helping. Pray and seek where God has gifted you and then do what you love. Life is too short to be miserable on your job.

### Number 2

Choosing your life mate. Who you marry will bless you or burden you, your whole life. It doesn't matter if you are rich and extremely happy at work, if you come home to a spouse that you can't stand, then you have a sad life. Don't marry someone because they are rich, cute, make you laugh or have money. All of that can go in a heartbeat. But even if they are rich, good-looking and successful, what good does that do if they mistreat you?

You can live in a great big home and go on wonderful vaca-

tions. But it won't help if you live with someone that hurts you, ignores you or just flat holds you down all the time. The only way you will know for sure about this is to fervently seek God in prayer before you get serious with someone. It is the second most important decision you will ever make in your life. You should spend a long time before the Lord on your knees seeking His direction. God will give you direction.

God will give you a peace that passes your understanding that this is the right person. Sometimes, God is not too direct and clear on some things we are considering. But asking about who he wants you to marry is an area that God will be very clear about. He has ordained this institution. He is the one who draws two people together and makes them one. He will absolutely let you know if this is the person for you.

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**11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
PASTORS OASIS  
OCTOBER 6 - 8, 2010  
CHATEAU ON THE LAKE - BRANSON, MISSOURI**

**“FUTURE CHURCH”**

Registration - \$75 Per Person by September 3, 2010. \$85 Late Registration and \$95 for Staying Off-site. Register online at [www.DiscipleGuide.org/conferences](http://www.DiscipleGuide.org/conferences) or download a registration form and mail to the DCM office.

Make your reservations at the Chateau On The Lake by calling 888-333-5253 by September 3, 2010 to secure the group rate of \$125 per night. Free parking and all sessions will be held on site.

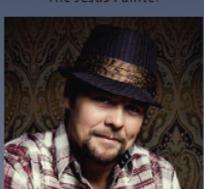


*“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine...to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!”*

**EPHESIANS 3:20-21**



Mike Lewis  
The Jesus Painter



Jason Crabb  
Guest Artist



The Burchfield Brothers  
Guest Artist



Scott Attebery  
Speaker



Clif Johnson  
Speaker



John David Smith  
Speaker



Kent Wiles  
Worship Leader



John Waller  
Guest Artist

## Haiti Mission Visit

from page 1

asking God to give me wisdom to use the resources of God's people wisely.

We arrived at the place where they make transition houses, saw the floor model and went inside the office to talk about the possibility of purchasing a couple of them. A one bedroom home is \$2,160, plus shipping and assembling; and a two bedroom home is \$2,995, plus shipping and assembling. I purchased three houses and gave the one bedroom home to the widow lady. The pastor was so glad, he was shedding tears of joy as he received the news of the house.

Knowing that the new homeowners would not have any furniture, I went and purchased the bare necessities for them. I was thinking how much we are blessed in North America — we

have lots of food and all we need to live in our beautiful homes.

On returning to his home, Bro. Harrigan also told me that there was a great need for Bibles for his people. Now that to me is a great need and I will try to do something on this end!

When I went back to my room around 5 p.m., the sun was starting to set but I had company waiting for me — Patrick and his wife, Simone. She wasn't feeling good so I asked Patrick what was wrong with her, and he told me that she had not eaten all day. He went on to tell me that they had two other couples in the car and they had not eaten yet either.

I made them all come in and fed them what I had — leftovers that were in the fridge. That's one way to clean the refrigerator out! I also gave these three families money for groceries. Food is so expensive there, but I don't have room to get into that.

I did not sleep that night, and was not prepared to see or hear what I would be facing the next day. At 8 a.m. we were on our way to an orphanage I had been told about, and getting there was very difficult due to the road conditions. Finally, upon arriving, I met with a family that has taken in 55 children who were orphaned in the earthquake. They sang French gospel songs for me, and it was beautiful to my French ears!

I asked the couple that takes care of them if they had any chairs, games or toys of any kind for the children, and they said "no." When I asked them how they fed them, they said "with the generosity of street people." But they had not eaten that day and "it would probably be the next day before they would have the option of eating," said the lady in charge. I saw the gravity of this cause and I went home that night, knowing that

## Email Addresses needed

If you would like your church and church staff to be added to a 'breaking news list', please send us the email addresses of your church, your pastor and any staff member.

From time to time there is information that needs to be passed on immediately. We publish twice per month and for certain items of interest we would like to share them with you sooner.

Email your information to us at [editor@msbaptist.org](mailto:editor@msbaptist.org) and put "breaking news list" in the subject line.

the next day I would be on a plane returning to a country of plenty.

The next day at the airport in Port au Prince, one of the guards I spoke to was not saved and was telling me that his family was converted but not him. I spoke with him for 10 minutes, trying to persuade him to repent of his sin and to trust Christ, but with no success. I gave him the address of my dear friend, Bro. Harrigan, and he said the church was only a few blocks from where he lived. The Lord took care of the situation, and I went home that day praying that the Lord would protect the people of Haiti and somehow give them the courage to go on in life and to trust Him for all their needs.

I did my best to disperse the money according to the needs of each family. The hardest thing to do was to choose which ones to give to. Thanks to all of you who gave toward this trip.

— Michel Poirier, [ostervald@axion.ca](mailto:ostervald@axion.ca)

## Plumlee

from page 2

Please, don't make a mistake here. Choosing the right spouse will be a blessing to you even if you are poor, fat and forty. There are not perfect marriages, but they are meant to be rewarding and fulfilling.

### Number 1

Choosing life. The single greatest choice any human will ever make is to choose life. There is only one choice for life - Jesus as your Savior.

To be spiritually minded is life and peace, but to be carnally minded is death. Jesus is life itself. It not only determines that you will never die but spend eternity in heaven, but He gives you a whole new life here on earth. It doesn't matter how much money you make in life, what good does that do and then lose your soul. Whether you hate or love your job, whether you have a burden or blessing as a spouse, the only way you can make it in this life is with Jesus. Apart from Him, you will never know true happiness, contentment, peace and real help.

Jesus is not "A CHOICE", but Jesus is "THE CHOICE" for life. Don't live your life apart from Christ. Believe He is the son. Believe He has risen. Believe He can save you. Ask Him to save you from your sins today. It is the single greatest choice you will ever make.

## Southeastern Baptist College

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



Dr. Medrick Savell  
President

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

### Enrollment

Enrollment for the fall semester is complete. The number of students and total number of hours are down a little from last fall.

But we are thankful for those who came this semester. Since the number who graduated in May was the highest ever, it was a challenge to replace them in one semester. It seems that we have a student body of good, quality students this time. In the fall, 2009, we had 79 students. At this time, we have 68 students.



These ladies in the pictures represent the third generation of Savells to attend Southeastern Baptist College. Maybe the young ones will be the fourth generation.

Last year we featured Bro. and Mrs. Arthur Smith and their family members who had attended

Southeastern Baptist College. There were three generations in their family that had attended. I assume there are other families who have done the same. I would like to hear from other families and will mention them. Please let me know.

### Special Emphasis

The Special Emphasis time has ended, and we expect to receive a good response as the contributions come in over the next several weeks. That which has been sent already indicates a successful project.

### We Need Your Prayers

Please pray for the college and help us as much as you can. We need extra finances to be able to take advantage of opportunities the



Chapel Service Greetings

Lord is opening up for us. We are doing all we can to improve the effectiveness of the college and be what the Lord wants it to be. God is blessing and using the college. We strive to provide the best quality of education. There is a great need for Christian, Biblical education in our nation, and the churches and associations need it in order to better reach the unsaved around us and over the world. God is using former students in many places in the world.

## Crosses

from page 1

de Portola and Father Juan Crespi landed. City officials voted to allow private funders to replace it, but the ACLU objected. After a year of legal threats, the cross will be rebuilt instead at the Diocese of Monterey's San Carlos Cemetery.

"In truth, it is no defeat for Christianity," the Monterey Herald smirked in a March 2 editorial. "It is a victory for those twin freedoms -- freedom of religion and freedom from religion." Right. Dispatching a historic cross to a cemetery is nobody's defeat. Someone should tell the ACLU folks before they pop more champagne.

The paper did admit that the vandal who cut down the cross won "a minor victory." What would a major victory look like? A torched church?

"It is frustrating to realize that some Christians will truly feel that their faith is under attack even though that simply is not the case," the Herald insisted. "It is a defeat for no one and a victory for people who want to be allowed to believe as they wish."

If that editorial writer were to have a colleague of similar ilk reporting on, say, a 16-1 pounding the Dodgers delivered to the San Francisco Giants, we might read: "It is frustrating to realize that some Giants fans will truly feel that their team lost. It is a defeat for no one. They should believe they were all winners."

# Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

## Another Friend Gone Home

Bro. Lonnie Howell, 81, died Saturday, August 28, 2010, at George County Regional Medical Center, Lucedale, Mississippi. Funeral services were held August 31, 2010, at Corinth Baptist Church, Lucedale.



Don Brown  
Editor

Bro. Lonnie Howell, 81, died Saturday, August 28, 2010, at George County Regional Medical Center, Lucedale, Mississippi. Funeral services were held August 31, 2010, at Corinth Baptist Church, Lucedale. Brethren Dennis Knight and Jeff Bass conducted the services. At the conclusion of the service, Bro. Lonnie's son, Stephen, on behalf of the family, thanked the church and all those who had ministered to Bro. Lonnie and the family during this time.

Bro. Howell was a retired minister serving nine different churches. He also served as a local missionary for the Ten Mile

Association serving at Pleasant Hill Church, Saucier. Bro. Howell was a member of Corinth Baptist Church. A native of George County and Lucedale, he had been in failing health for a short time.

Survivors included daughter, Elizabeth (Randy) Mizell; son, Stephen Howell; 6 grand-children; and 4 great grand-children.

It was noted that there were 23 ministers present for the service.

This writer notes that Corinth Baptist Church is to be commended for providing meals for all visitors and family. I have attended a number of funeral services at this church and they go above and beyond in taking



Bro. Lonnie Howell

care of the family and friends. May God bless them for their kindness.

### Personal Notes

When I became editor 32 years ago, it was not long before I became acquainted with Lonnie Howell. He was a fun-loving and unique individual.

He would always tell me that he did not want any 'frivolous' and 'puff' editorials. He wanted some 'meat'. I suspect he really wanted this editor to *stir up the brethren*. It seemed that Bro. Lonnie had the ability to do just that when he set his mind to it.

Well, Bro. Lonnie, this is your editorial - *no puff or frivolity* - just serious meat for the offering. We loved you and all your family. You will be missed. We shall see you soon.

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"In the future dear, you should keep your views on politics to yourself."

## Spanish Speaking Workers Needed for EE workshop in Honduras

Bobby Bowman announces that he will lead in an Evangelism Explosion workshop in Honduras the week of November 15-20 for BMA of Honduran pastors and key workers. The four night training will be in Spanish and five or six Spanish speaking trainers are needed. If you have a valid passport, have been trained in EE and can accompany Bowman on the trip, please call 501-679-0564, 501-581-3179 or email N5DVS@windstream.net. The overall cost will be about \$700. Lodging and meals will be available.

## Letters From Our Readers

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

such as Hosanna, Chronicle, The Sullivan Family, The Riders, The Gospel Travelers, The Tanner Family, and The Sistrunk's. We have also had the opportunity to be part of the Mississippi State Quartet Convention this year in Hattiesburg. Members of the group are Becky Harrell Cole, Sherry Hollingsworth, and Steven Hollingsworth. We are members of Magnolia Heights Baptist Church, Forest.

When the opportunity arises we would like to join your church or event in a time of praise through song. For bookings or more information call Jan Hollingsworth at 601-697-4832.

## AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE

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

### Harold Floyd

Bro. Harold Floyd has resigned as pastor of Brean Baptist Church after over 4 years of service. Many people were saved and the church experienced growth during that time. He is trying to find the place where God would have him serve and see His will in his life and the life of His church. Bro. Floyd is available for pulpit supply, to lead revivals, or whatever capacity you may desire. He may be reached at 601-729-8171 or 601-344-8770.



### Dale Wirick

Dale Wirick is available for service where ever the Lord leads. He may be contacted at the following numbers - Home: 228-474-8886, Cell: 228-369-1419 or by mail at P.O. Box 256, Escatawpa, MS 39552.

## Bro. And Mrs. Wexford Celebrate 50 years of marriage

Bro. Wexford and Mrs. Wanda Parmer were honored on their 50th wedding anniversary at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Tupelo, where he serves as pastor. The celebration was held Saturday, August 14, 2010, and was hosted by their children.

We congratulate the Parmers for this milestone in their lives together. Editor's Note: We apologize to the Parmers for inadvertently leaving out their photo of our August 1 issue.



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## MORAL ACTION

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John Adams

### Sex Before Marriage Vows

Our culture has become sex-crazed. A statement that should shock each of us, yet it is so true. Today's kids face a culture that is unabashedly saturated with lustfulness, sexual attractiveness, and immediate gratification.

Teens are naturally curious and willing to try new and different "feelings." Sexual curiosity fuels the fire of lust and many young people and adults have become entrapped with "sexual experimentations." This lust, and eventual sex before marriage is not to be considered as a "harmless experience of life." Lust leads to hurt, spiritual decline, sexual addictions and fornication and adultery. Acting upon sinful thoughts can be catastrophic. I Peter 2:11 states:

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you

as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul:"

*Let's take a closer look:*

#### 1) The View of God's Word on Sexuality

A. Human sexuality is seen as very good.

B. God created sex and He wants couples to enjoy it...Genesis 2:21-25.

C. Sexual intercourse is for procreation, pleasure, and for oneness.

D. God designed sex for marriage.

#### 2) The Consequences of Sex Before Marriage

A loss of self-respect, a loss of virginity, possible unwanted pregnancy, possible illegitimate children, forced marriage, decisions regarding abortion, sexu-

ally transmitted disease are all possible consequences of premarital sex. Josh McDowell expounds upon this in his book entitled, "Handbook on Counseling Youth."

The emotional costs of sexual immorality are immeasurable. Low self-esteem, humiliation, and even self-hatred are common testimonials of those who practice "free sex." Manhattan sex therapist, Shirley Zussman says, "Being part of a meat market is appalling in terms of self-esteem."

A teenage girl describes in this open testimony her account of anguish and hurt.

"Having premarital sex was the most horrifying experience of my life. It wasn't at all the emotionally satisfying experience the world deceived me into believing. I felt as if my insides were being exposed and my heart

left unattended....I know God has forgiven me of this haunting sin, but I also know I can never have my virginity back. I dread the day that I have to tell the man I truly love and wish to marry that he is not the only one, though I wish he were....I have stained my life - a stain that will never come out."

Proverbs 5:15-21 signals a flashing warning:

"Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets. Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee. Let thy fountain be blessed; and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love. And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger? For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he pondereth all his goings."

#### 3) Helps to maintain a chaste lifestyle

A. Study God's Word. Stay close to God's Word with daily devotionals and pure thoughts. Include prayer and praise to the Lord. Focus on purity and chastity.

B. Set Godly Standards for Yourself

Determine to set specific limits for any and all types of sexual impurity. "NO" is okay and no explanation is needed.

C. Set Definite Plans when Dating

Plan your agenda ahead of time when dating. Where are you going, what are you going to do, who will be with you, when are you going home?

D. Listen to Wise Counsel

There are many older and wiser Christian examples for you to follow. Emulate those who have won Godly victories over the impulsiveness of sexuality.

Do not let sexual matters become a bondage upon you. Sex before marriage hinders one's relationship with the Holy Father. Walk with your Lord and prayer for help in time of temptations.

## The perils of higher 'liberal' education College presidents to advocate 'gay' agenda

**OneNewsNow** - News that several "gay" and lesbian-identified college and university presidents met recently to organize a push for the homosexual agenda is drawing the ire of pro-family organizations.

Nine presidents of higher education entities recently gathered in Chicago and decided to form a new organization called LGBTQ Presidents in Higher Education. The group agreed that a top priority should be "to push higher education to include issues of sexual orientation when talking about diversity."

Matt Barber, director of cul-

tural affairs with Liberty Counsel, calls the meeting "bizarre," but he is not surprised by the strategy.

"This group of higher-ups within academia [is] going to be, from the top down throughout our universities around the country, pushing the political agenda of the radical homosexual activist left; we are going to see that from them," Barber warns.

But Candi Cushman, education analyst for CitizenLink, points out that most parents do not want university presidents pushing a radical agenda.

"I found it interesting that

one of these presidents even said he views advocacy as the role of a college president. I don't think most parents would agree with that," she contends. "I think the role of a college president should be to promote the highest quality environment for academic learning and freedom."

The online journal Inside Higher Ed reports that 25 openly homosexual college presidents were invited to the meeting, and the plan is to meet again in a few months and perhaps at next year's gathering of the American Council on Education.

The college presidents attending the meeting in Chicago were: Theodora J. Kalikow (University of Maine at Farmington), Charles Middleton (Roosevelt University), Raymond Crossman (Adler School of Professional Psychology), Ralph Hexter (Hampshire College), Charlita Shelton (University of the Rockies), Karen Whitney (Clarion University), Neal King (Antioch University Los Angeles), Katherine Ragsdale (Episcopal Divinity School), and Les McCabel (Semester at Sea). The partners of some of these individuals also attended and held their own discussions.

## Shoebat: Lebanon poised for attack on Israel

**OneNewsNow** - A former member of the Palestine Liberation Organization is convinced it will just be a matter of time before Hezbollah-controlled Lebanon will launch an attack on Israel.

Iran's defense minister recently announced that Tehran is prepared to sell weapons to Lebanon if Beirut asks for help in equipping its military. Those comments came a day after the leader of Lebanon's Shiite Hezbollah terrorist group called on the Lebanese government to seek military assistance from Iran.

The Hezbollah leader made his suggestion after Congressman Howard Berman (D-California), who chairs the House Foreign Affairs Committee, earlier this month suspended \$100 million of American military aid to Lebanon over concerns the weapons could be used against Israel and that Hezbollah may have influence over the Lebanese army.

Walid Shoebat is a former Muslim who converted to Christ and is now an outspoken critic of Islam. He believes Berman's concerns are well founded.

"No one knows specifically when an attack is going to happen at the northern borders of Israel by Hezbollah," says the former PLO member. "But we can know for certain that they're not amassing a massive amount of weapons and rockets and artillery for no reason. They're going to use it on Israel [and] that's going to create havoc. Israel is going to have to respond."

Shoebat laments that when Israel does respond, the world and the American mainstream media will once again regard the Jewish nation as a villain for defending itself.

### Email Addresses Needed

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## Mississippi W.M.A.

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### Lee's Chapel #2 Hosts WMA

All reports were given and approved. Five churches were present. Ministers present were Bro. Rico Lee, Wayne Rice, Vernon Watts, and Paul Lee.

The GMA Coronation will be held in September. Also Sunbeams, Missionary "Elizabeth" will be at Mt. Carmel August 11 at 7:00 p.m., telling about her missionary trip to China. All churches are invited.

Bro. Watts brought a good message from Luke 4:20.

Installation of new officers were given by Mrs. Gretchan Lee, entitled "Be Fruitful in Services. Officers are as follows: President, Wanda Morris; I Vice-president, Beverly Lumpkin; II Vice-president, Nicole Mitchell; III Vice-president, Cassie Miller; Secretary, Claudette Heasley; Assistant Secretary, Gretchan Lee; Treasurer, Cassie Miller; Assistant Treasurer, Nicole Mitchell; Historian, Jean Overton; Assistant Historian, Ollie Currie; Corresponding Secretary, Claudette Heasley; Assistant Corresponding, Gretchan, Lee; GMA Promoter, Tyanne Roche; Assistant GMA Promoter, Christy Spencer.

Our next meeting is at Mt. Calvary on October 30, 2010.

Jean Overton, Reporter

### Oak Grove WMA report

The Oak Grove District WMA met at Pine Grove Church. Our devotion was given by Debbie Patterson. After regular business, we elected officers for the new year. Our project for this quarter is support to Missionary Alisha Ramshur.

Pine Grove Church brought our program. The next meeting will be with Bethel Church.

Margie McVay, reporter

### Ten Mile WMA Report

The Ten Mile WMA met on July 12, 2010, at Temple Church in Biloxi. After opening songs and devotion Mrs. Julia Lee read the minutes and had roll call of churches.

Sister Louise Crawly presided over the installation of our new officers serving 2009-2010. She reminded all of every one of our office responsibility. Follow the Lord's lead, be faithful, do our duty, be responsible and most of all support each other.

The following WMA officer positions were filled: President Louise Crawly; 1st Vice President Myrtis Mallett; 2nd Vice President Denice Devaughn; 3rd Vice President Pat Allen; Sec/Treasure Julia Lee; Assistant Sec/Treasure Cherie Breland; Reporter Maria Ochoa; Song Leader Alana Woods; Pianist Shiela Swanzy; Assistant Jean Knight; Historian Nancy Brewer; District Project Promoter Cathy Rhodes; State Project Promoter Geraldine Necaise; Sunbeam Promoter Diana Williams; Assistant Sunbeam Promoter Angela Givens; GMA Promoter Paula Prickett; and Assistant G.M.A. Promoter Jerica Kirkland.

Miss Nikki Prickett, Missionary to Indonesia, was given \$200. We pray that the Lord be with her and protect her daily.

Sister Crawly reminded us of the BMA of Mississippi Christian Ladies Retreat September 10-11 at Camp Garraway in Clinton. She encouraged all of the ladies to attend this special time to all come closer

## Exposing the 'real' Quran

**OneNewsNow** - A minister wants to help Americans learn the "real" Quran and bring Muslims to Christ.

Usama Dakdok, founder of The Straight Way of Grace Ministry, was born in Egypt and raised in a Christian home as the son of a Baptist pastor, where he accepted Jesus at the age of 11. But despite his background, he was forced to learn the Quran in school.

After becoming a U.S. citizen in the 1990s, Dakdok felt called to bring Muslims to Christ and teach Americans the truth about the Quran. But he shares that every English translation he purchased at that time was misleading.

"They have sugar-coated the Quran so badly -- taking words out, twisting words, and putting them in wrong places," he laments.

As a result, Dakdok and several others have come up with what they feel is the most accurate English translation of the Quran, which includes the true meaning of jihad.

"[Sadly] some people in our media say... 'Jihad does not really mean to fight a holy war. Jihad is [the] struggle to do what's right,'" the minister recognizes. But he points out that "there are 37 verses in the Quran [where] the word 'jihad' is mentioned," and he quotes "chapter 9, verse 73: 'All you prophets, perform jihad against the infidel and the hypocrite and be harsh with them.'"

Dakdok warns that unless the U.S. acts now, America will follow Europe in seeing a much bigger Islamic presence. "They will build mosques anywhere and everywhere they choose to, and they are using our Constitution to say 'freedom of religion.' But Islam is not a religion that will give freedom of religion," he contends.



## Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White

### Speaking of Punch Sticks

How long has it been since you used a punch stick? (For you youngsters, it was used on wash day.)

The one we used was really an old broom handle that we used to punch the clothes as they were boiling in the wash pot and then it was used to lift them out of the boiling water and then carried to the tubs of "rinch water". Somehow that word "rinch" has turned into rinse over the years.

I was looking at a display of mops and brooms the other day at the store and I noticed that most of the handles were plastic. It made me wonder how long those plastic handles would last in the boiling water of the wash pot!

The punch stick seems to have gone the way of the well bucket, the wash tub and the kitchen range that burned wood.

It's another one of those things that the scripture seems to be speaking of when it says, "And it came to pass...."

Thank you, Lord!

together and enjoy the presence of God.

We enjoyed refreshments and a great fellowship with Temple Baptist Church. Our next meeting will be on October 12, 2010, at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.

Reporter Maria Ochoa

## 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

## National GMA Retreat News

by Addie Bender

National Corresponding Secretary

The 2010 National GMA Retreat was a success! We had a total of 415 girls and campers, which is up from last year. We raised \$19,650.10 for the Filipino Bible College, our National project. Our 2011 goal for campers is 500. If you had girls in your church that weren't able to come encourage them to come, and if your church didn't come, I strongly encourage you to come.

Our theme for next year is "The Great Physician" from Mark 2:17. Our project will be: 45% Nikki Prickett, 45% Sarah Hebert, 5% GMA Missions Fund, and 5% General Fund. Nikki and Sarah will be leaving this summer to go off as missionaries, but for the first year they will be self-supported missionaries.

The GMA Missions Fund is a fund that GMA girls can apply for a \$300 scholarship for mission trips throughout the summer. Since our project is supporting 4 different things, our goal is \$40,000. So please help out your GMA girls and make donations for the project. It is definitely worth it and will be much appreciated.

Our 2010-2011 National Officers are as follows: President- Kelsey Fagala; 1st Vice- Jessica Glasscock; 2nd Vice- Presley Jones; Recording Secretary- Olivia Erkhart; Corresponding Secretary- Addie Bender; Historian- Lauren Eyre; Miss GMA- Kelsey Fagala; Alt. Miss GMA- Teresa Broom; Jr. Miss GMA- Katy Hicks; Alt. Jr. Miss GMA- Madison McMillen.

Please be praying for these girls and GMA Camp 2011 throughout the year.

### First Vice-president reports on camp

by Charity Lee

This year, GMA camp is expected to be better than ever! Our officers have been working really hard to come up with different ways and ideas to make camp an even greater experience for you. I want to share with you what camp means to me and the girls at my church.

I started attending camp three years ago. I was introduced to the mission field when Savannah Smith gave her report on her VSM Romania trip. My heart has been for missions ever since.

The girls at Bethel Church, Bassfield, where I am a member, look forward to camp every year. It is encouraging to see so many girls coming together to worship and learn about God. They make friendships and create bonds with other Christian girls that last a lifetime. It gives us the encouragement we need to serve God yet another year.

I would like to thank everybody that is taking the time to help put everything together. It will be worth your efforts. Thanks to all who are praying for camp and I ask that you continue.

### Association letters mailed

BMA of Mississippi Recording Clerk Danny Pitts announces that letters to the 2010 annual meeting have been mailed to the churches. Bro. Pitts urges church clerks to fill them out soon and make sure they are returned to him at Danny Pitts, 4514 Hwy 15 N, Laurel, MS 39443.

The 2010 annual meeting will be held at Southeastern College in Laurel on October 19 and 20.

## Growing A Church

by Bro. Grover Laird

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

It seems that the Lord chooses weak things to do mighty things. He seems to take something that would be the most unlikely thing to succeed and uses that. When we come to the Bible we find that indeed He does do this - "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:" (I Corinthians 1:27,28).

Moses needed some special help in leading Israel out of Egypt. He needed something to convince Israel that God had called him to lead them out of bondage, to convince Pharaoh that the God of Moses was the true and living God, to bring plagues upon Egypt, to part the Red sea, and to give Israel victory in battle. Would you believe it?

God choose to use a common Shepherd's rod to do all of this (Exodus 4:2,17). Also, little David trusted in God to give him victory over the well-armed Philistine giant. God did it, using only a common sling and stone (I Samuel 17).

God loved this sinful, lost world and gave His Son to fix a way of salvation for it. He also chose a plan by which mankind could take advantage of this wonderful salvation. What He chose to use was very simple - "...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (I Corinthians 1:21). While we may think of other things that would more likely gather the people and produce results than the foolishness of preaching, the Bible says that this was what the all-wise God of Heaven and Earth chose to use.

God not only loved the world and arranged a way to save it, He loves His church and has a plan by which He builds it (II Peter 3:18; Ephesians 4:11-16). He built the early church larger and stronger by the day. He seem to do

it through common people who prayed (Acts 1:14;2:42), filled their town with the message of Jesus (Acts 5:28), taught the converts (Acts 2:42), got their eyes off of the world and put them on eternal things (Acts 2:44,45), spent a lot of time in the place of worship (Acts 2:1,46), bound themselves to each other and the Lord with true Christian fellowship (Acts 2:46,47), and reached out to the world with the good news about Jesus (Acts 8:1,4). Maybe this seems insufficient, but the Lord was pleased to use it to build His church and it is still here.

There are other things that it seems would build a church. We could get some celebrity to come and speak, and surely people would come because of him. We could get a group to come and entertain the congregation, and several might come because of them. But you see, "Except the Lord build the house,"

all of our efforts will some way or some day turn out to be in vain (Psalm 127:1). This is why we are so blessed to have a Bible that thoroughly furnishes us with instruction to all good works (II Timothy 3:16,17). This way, we can carry on His work in a manner that He will build His Church.

We do have to admit that it looks a bit strange that a small church of common people could experience a growth of three thousand one day, five thousand another day, and additions every day. Also, a church that could have a service so Spiritual until the house would shake when they prayed. But it just means that the Lord who is pleased to use the "foolishness of preaching to save them that believe," is pleased to use a small, common, dedicated group of people to

see page 8

### Northeast Mississippi Bible Conference East Amory Baptist Church Amory, Mississippi September 19-20, 2010

#### Sunday Evening

6:45 - 6:50 - Opening Song  
6:50 - 6:55 - Welcome (Host Pastor and Todd West)  
6:55 - 7:00 - One Congregational song  
7:00 - 7:05 - One Special Music song  
7:05 - 7:30 - Message- Jerry Jolly (Evangelist, Jonesboro, AR)  
7:30 - 7:35 - Introduction of next speaker - Todd West  
7:35 - 7:40 - One Congregational song  
7:40 - 7:45 - One Special music song  
7:45 - 8:10 - Message- Larry Barker - (Director, BMMA North American Missions)  
8:10 - Invitation song  
Closing - Host Pastor

#### Monday Morning

10:00 - 10:05 - Opening Song  
10:05 - 10:10 - Welcome & Introduction of Speaker (Host Pastor)  
10:10 - 10:15 - One Congregational song  
10:15 - 10:20 - One Special Music song  
10:20 - 10:45 - Message- Todd West - (Pastor, Oasis Church, North Little Rock, AR)  
10:45 - 10:50 - Introduction of next speaker - Todd West  
10:50 - 10:55 - One Congregational song  
10:55 - 11:00 - One Special music song  
11:00 - 11:25 - Message - John Herring- (Associate Pastor, Oasis Church)  
11:25 - Invitation song  
Closing - Host Pastor

Lunch (11:45 -

#### Monday Afternoon

12:35 - 1:10 - Pastors Only Session 1 (Todd West and John Herring)

1:10-1:25 (Break)

1:25- 1:55 - Pastors Only Session 2 (Todd West and John Herring)

#### Monday Night

6:45 - 6:50 - Opening Song  
6:50 - 6:55 - Welcome (Host Pastor)  
6:55 - 7:00 - One Congregational song  
7:00 - 7:05 - One Special Music song  
7:05 - 7:30 - Message- Jerry Jolly (Evangelist, Jonesboro, AR)  
7:30 - 7:35 - Introduction of next speaker (Jerry Jolly)  
7:35 - 7:40 - One Congregational song  
7:40 - 7:45 - One Special music song  
7:45 - 8:10 - Message - Todd West (Pastor, Oasis Church)  
8:10 - Invitation song  
Closing - Host Pastor

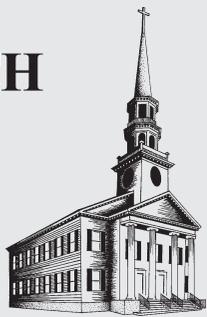
## MORE EXCITING CHANGES COMING THIS WINTER

If you haven't seen DiscipleGuide's Sunday School resources lately, you should take another look! Changes have already been made, but more will be unveiled this winter. Order a free sample packet of fall resources online today at [www.DiscipleGuide.org/samples](http://www.DiscipleGuide.org/samples) or call 1-800-333-1442.

  
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# 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.

### Fulton Church seeks full-time music & education director

Bethel Baptist Church in Fulton, Mississippi, is looking for a full-time music/education director. Anyone interested in applying for this position should send a resume to: Bethel Baptist Church, Attn. Dr. Martin Jameson, 445 Bethel Church Road, Fulton, MS 38843.

### Oklahoma church seeks pastor

The Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church, Sapulpa, Oklahoma, a BMAA member church, is seeking a pastor. Brother Loy Westbrook has resigned due to health

problems. The church would like a full time pastor, but would consider bi-vocational. We would like to invite any BMA Minister to contact any of the following: Loy Westbrook at 918-357-1801; DeWayne Burke at 918-224-6078; or E. C. Bowers at 918-245-1961. You may also contact us via Email at EugBowers@wmconnect.com.

### Pascagoula church seeks pianist

Spencer Memorial Baptist Church in Pascagoula is in need of a piano player and music director. If you or someone you know has a desire to use your talent for the Lord, please contact Bro. Kenny Mitchell at 601-273-0406 or Lynne Jones at 601-508-6714.

Spencer Memorial Baptist Church is located at 3607 Lanier Ave. Pascagoula, MS 39581

### Gospel Sing set for October

Magnolia Hall Presents Kindred Spirit's Homecoming Singing on Saturday, October 16, 2010 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. The sing will be held at Magnolia Hall, Bob Logan Drive, Lake, Mississippi. Featured Artists will be Kindred Spirit, Turner Hollingsworth, The Riders, The Tanner Family, Gospel Travelers, Southern Oasis, Eternity Trio, Crossroads, The Sistrunk's, and The Price Family.

A love offering will be taken. For more

## Church honors Pastor J.T. Byrd

On Sunday, July 25, 2010, O'Neal Road Baptist Church honored their pastor J. T. Byrd. Bro. Byrd turned eighty-seven years old on July 29th. He has served the Lord forty-five years of ministry and has pastored O'Neal Road for five years. Also, he is a World War II Veteran. Bro. Byrd has been married to his wonderful wife, Dot for fifty-seven years. They have three daughters and sons-in-law; Charolette (Don), Wanda (Mark), and Laquita (Kerwin) and four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The church presented a plaque and a card for his dedication and hard work as their pastor. Following the morning service several of his friends and family joined us for lunch and refreshments to show Bro. Byrd how much he is appreciated.



information: 601-896-5091, 601-697-4832 or 601-506-6703  
mail.kindredspirit@gmail.com.

### Gospel Sings Set

Pine Ridge Church, Laurel, announces two separate Gospel sings in the near future. Andrew Ishee and The Florida Boys will be with them on Sunday night September 12 at 5:00 pm. The Harper Family from Branson, Missouri will be there on Sunday morning September 19. The church is located at 220 Service Road, Laurel. For more information call 601-319-8466.

### Lebanon, Laurel sets revival

Lebanon Baptist Church will be in revival Sunday, September 26th -Wednesday, September 29th. The guest speaker will be Dr. John Adams, Director of Moral Action of Mississippi and a former Lebanon pastor. We will have regular Sunday morning service followed by lunch and then an afternoon service. No evening service on Sunday. Evening services will Monday -Wednesday at 7:00 PM. Please come and enjoy us for a great time of worshiping God. For more information call 601-729-2436 or 601-729-2123.

### Red Creek Church to celebrate homecoming

Pastor Charles McClure and members invite everyone to join them on Sunday, September 19, 2010 for Homecoming Services at Red Creek Missionary Baptist Church of Lucedale.

Services will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a covered dish meal at noon and afternoon singing. Brother Gerald Givens will be the guest speaker. All past pastors and their families are invited to join us for a day of Praise and Worship.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is alive and on the move here at Red Creek with 11 converts this year by profession of faith and 3 by letter. We invite everyone to join us for a day of remembrance and celebration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His blessings on Red Creek Church!

### Temple, Laurel sets revival

Temple Baptist Church of Laurel will be having revival services September 19th -22nd. We will have lunch on the 19th following the 11:00 morning service. Afternoon services will be held the then weekday services will be held at 7:00 p.m. nightly.

Bro. Greg Bennett, pastor of First Baptist, Oak Grove, will be our speaker. Come join us for a GREAT time in the Lord!

Elaine Sumrall, Reporter  
Bro. Cliff Jenkins, Pastor

### Tombigbee Baptist Association Report

The Tombigbee Association met on August 5 at South Green Baptist Church in Tupelo. The church served a bountiful meal.

A roll call of 75 with 9 churches represented. Bro. Tim Loden read devotion from II Timothy 4, encouraging pastors to preach the word and be faithful in times like these.

Two young ladies, Sarah Hebert and Margaret Bean from Bethel Baptist Church of Fulton reported about their mission work. They will be self-supported and are raising money for their work fund. We were encouraged to pray for them.

Bro. Elvis Garcia and Bro. Joseph Oyeleye were present and gave reports.

Bro. Tim Loden introduced South Green's new pastor, Bro. Blake McCain, to bring the message.

Our Next meeting will be with South Prentiss Baptist Church on September 9.

## Growing A Church

from page 7

build His Church. Our concern therefore should not be on how we can build His Church, but what we can do to please God so that He would build His church (Read again Psalm 127:1).

But why does the Lord choose the weak, and most unlikely thing to succeed? This question does have an answer. Just after the Bible tells us that the Lord chooses to use the things that are foolish, weak, base, despised, and are not; it tells us why He does this. Here it is - "That no flesh should glory in His presence" (I Corinthians 1:29). Though we are prone to turn some glory toward man when Churches grow and people are blessed, we are wrong. Everything is to "redound to the glory of God" (II Corinthians 4:15). Therefore the Lord uses the things "which are not," that everyone will know Who is to get the credit and the glory.

# Spread the Word to Spanish-Speaking Congregations!

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