Baptist Trumpet

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A Merry Heart, God's Miracle Medicine

By Rick Balm, Pastor
Kingsland Baptist Church • Kingsland

Introduction

Dr. John Schindler, did a study several years ago on a disease known as EII (emotionally induced illness.) He performed studies in two major clinics in the United States, with some startling results concerning EII. He found that 99% of all gas and bloating is actually EII; dizziness, 80%; headaches, 80%; tiredness, 90%.

God has a medicine that will cure Eli. *"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine..."* (Prov. 17:22)

Consider three things concerning Eli (emotionally induced illness) and GMM (God's miracle medicine.)

I. A Heavy Heart

"Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad." (Prov. 12:25)

The Soul Is Burdened

Remember the old story about the man who was walking the road on a hot summer day carrying a heavy sack of grain? Another man came along in a wagon pulled by a couple of horses. He stopped and asked the man walking if he would like a ride.

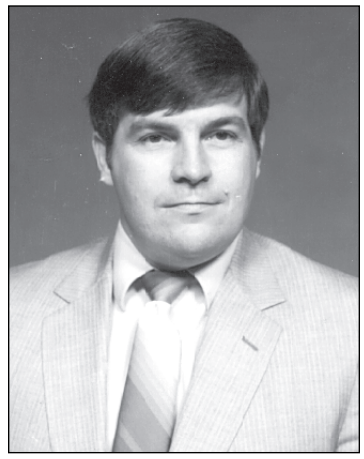
"Thanks, I believe I would" said the man, and he climbed on the wagon with his grain sack still on his shoulder. A few minutes later, the driver noticed his passenger still had the sack of grain on his shoulder. "Throw that sack of grain down in the wagon and relax," he said. The passenger said, "Oh no, it is enough to ask for you to give me a ride, let alone have to carry my load of grain also."

Many of us are as ridiculous as that fellow carrying the grain sack. We trust Jesus with our soul's salvation, but we won't let Him carry our burdens. We don't trust the Lord enough to lay our burdens on Him. We need to do as the old song says, "Take your burdens to the Lord and leave them there."

The Spirit Is Broken

"A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken." (Prov. 15:13)

I once knew a fine Christian



Rick Bolin

couple who loved the Lord and one another very much. When the husband died suddenly, the wife's heart was broken and she just couldn't accept the loss of her husband. Her spirit was eventually broken. Her health at the time of her husband's death was good, but because of a broken spirit, it began to deteriorate and within a few short months, she also passed away.

It is a terrible thing when the spirit is broken and the joy of the Lord is gone. A person with a broken spirit is like an empty shell; all the life seems to be gone.

A heavy heart will cause the soul to be burdened, the spirit to be broken, but it will also...

Slay The Body

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones." (Prov. 17:22)

The soul affects the spirit, the spirit affects the body, and the body begins to wither away. Eventually the heavy heart will slay the body because of the hardening of the attitudes. "It dries the bones!" The entire body is affected by emotionally induced illness.

I once heard Dr. Adrian Rogers tell of some cruel experiments of Frederick II who ruled over Sicily in the 13th century before the days of modern psychology. Being a cruel man, he took some newborn babies from their parents and placed them in foster homes. He instructed the keepers of the foster homes not to talk to, or in front of, these babies. They were not to hear one sound from a human voice. He wanted to see what language, if any, these babies would speak. He never found out because they all died within a year.

Another experiment was performed on 100 orphans in Germany after World War II. Fifty of the orphans were placed in one home and 50 in another home. The first home gave the 50 orphans love and a happy home life. The other home gave nothing but stern discipline – no laughter, no fun, no joy and no love.

All had the same heat, cooling, housing, clothing, exercise and food. After one year, the children who lived where there was love and joy were, on the average, two inches taller and several pounds heavier. The other group was disease ridden and sickly.

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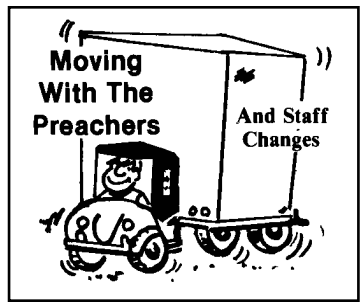


This is only a news column, and the publishing of a preacher's availability for preaching appointments or pastoral work should not be considered a recommendation by the Trumpet.

Bro. James Wilcox has accepted the pastorate of Twentieth Street Baptist Church at Batesville.

Bro. Chris Blacksmith has resigned as youth director at Eastside Baptist Church at Conway, and is available for preaching appointments and pastoral service as the Lord leads. Contact him at (501) 679-6419; 133 Donna Kay Dr., Greenbrier, Ark. 72058.

Bro. Mike McEuen, Jr., is the new director of student ministries at University Baptist Church at Nacogdoches, Tex.

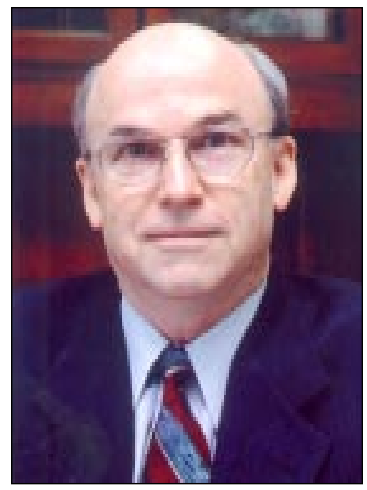
Antioch Baptist Church at McGehee is seeking a pastor. Contact Gaylen or Debbie Gilbert at (870) 222-5454; or write to the church at P.O. Box 807, McGehee, Ark. 71654.

Barney Missionary Baptist Church at Enola is seeking a bivocational pastor. Contact S.E. Sublett at (501) 849-2641; Sandra L. Brown at 849-2948; or Ruth Blake at 329-0026.

Silvey Receives D-Min. At Mid-America Seminary

James L. Silvey, executive director of Publications, received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Mid-America Seminary Dec 17. Family, friends, associates, and some BPH staff traveled to Germantown, Tenn. to attend the graduation ceremony and a reception in his honor held by his family.

Receiving the D.Min degree was a goal that Bro. Silvey set in 1996 when he enrolled at Mid-America. Quoting from a paper submitted to the Doctor of Ministry Admissions Committee, Dr. Silvey writes: "In this position (as executive director) I have the opportunity to direct curriculum development and production, lead seminars with pastors in church leadership and work with a staff committed to excellence in Christian education. My understanding of God's will prompts me to seek improvements in myself and my ministry to serve Him effectively in this role. Effective Christian ministry requires continuing growth. For that reason among others, I am seeking to refresh my skills, update my understanding and strengthen my credibility in some areas as a leader and a facilitator through the doctor of ministry program at Mid-America."



James L. Silvey

BMA Year In Review

The last year of this century was a good one for the BMA. Many churches and missions are growing and have begun building projects. Departments on the state and national level are expanding and providing new and innovative programs and services for BMA members and outreach programs for prospective members. As is always the case, God has been good to the BMA.

Although it is impossible to list all the highs, lows and changes in the BMA in 1999, these are a few items of interest which appeared in the *Baptist Trumpet* this year.

Personnel Changes

Baptist News Service Executive Director James Blaylock retired in April after serving 19 years as the department's assistant director and 11 years as director. Kenneth Vanderslice, who had been serving as assistant director, was elected as his replacement.

Dr. Philip Bryan resigned as president of BMA Theological Seminary, but continued with the college as president emeritus and professor in the theological/historical studies field. Dr. Charley Holmes was selected as the new president and began his term July 31.

In June, Ed Stephenson, executive director of BMA of Arkansas missions, resigned to accept the

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Charles Attebery
President

CENTRAL PROFILE

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(501) 329-6872 • (800) 205-6872

Spring Semester Set to Begin

Registration for the Spring 2000 semester is scheduled for Jan. 6-7 with classes scheduled to begin Jan. 10.

We look forward to our students' return to campus following the holidays and we hope they will have a great semester. Please remember them and our faculty as the semester begins.

Homecoming Reminder

Our alumni and friends are reminded of homecoming activities scheduled for Feb. 4-5. We are looking for a record number in attendance for the first homecoming of the new century.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Additional information is available from our alumni office by calling (800) 205-6872 or (501) 329-6872.

Happy New Year

The beginning of a new year is an exciting time. Among other things, it is a time for us to reflect upon our friends and what they mean to us. Please be assured that we are thankful for everyone who has a part in making this educational ministry of our churches possible and we wish for you and yours a very happy new year.

Upcoming Events

Smalley "Marriage For A Lifetime" Seminar, Jan. 21-22, Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, 12400 Interstate 30, Little Rock. For tickets, call (800) 848-6329 or on-line at garysmalley.com.

Parenting Conference 2000, Jan. 22, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Travis Plumlee, speaker, Immanuel, Beebe. Registration: $25 for couples, $15 for individuals, lunch provided.

Arkansas Galilean Officers Meeting, Jan. 29, noon, Mather Lodge Restaurant, Petit Jean Mountain.

Student Ministries Conference, January, Moscow, Russia & Kiev, Ukraine. Sponsored by Department of Church Ministries.

Student Ministry Conference, Feb. 19, First, Carthage, Tex. Sponsored by DCM.

State Galileans Meeting/Basketball Tournament, March 3-4, Antioch, Conway.

Conference on Praise & Worship, March 4, Berean, North Little Rock. Sponsored by DCM.

The Singing Hannahs, of Kinsett and **The Singing Echoes** from Cleveland, Tenn., in concert, March 10, 6 p.m., First, Bald Knob. For more information, call Pastor Johnny Wyatt at (501) 724-8446.

Developing a Singles Ministry, March 18, Arkansas (site TBA.) Sponsored by DCM.

Conference on Praise & Worship, April 1, Fellowship Mission, Dundee, Ill. Sponsored by DCM.

Revivals

Victory, Hampton, Jan. 9-12 (Sun. 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m.,) Todd West, evangelist; Horace Dunn, pastor.

Arkansas Prairie Baptist Association, Jan. 10-15, 7 p.m.: (Jan. 10) Hurricane, DeValls Bluff, Doyle Wheat, evangelist; (Jan. 11) Forks LaGrue, DeWitt, Steve Mannis, evangelist; (Jan. 12) First, St. Charles, Homer Campbell, evangelist; (Jan. 13) Sunnyside, DeWitt, Gary Steiner, evangelist; (Jan. 14) Crocketts Bluff, Crocketts Bluff, Charles Thornton, evangelist; (Jan. 15) New Zion, Tichnor, Charles Jackson, evangelist.

Bethany, Jonesboro, Jan. 30-Feb. 2, Todd West, evangelist; Phillip Allison, music; Johnny Johnson, pastor.

Greers Ferry, Greers Ferry (Super Sunday,) Jan. 30 (Sunday School 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m.; lunch at the church, followed by afternoon service which will feature a report of the pastor's mission trip to Cape Verde Islands,) G.W. Endicott, evangelist; R.B. Crawford, pastor.

Calvary, Warren, Feb. 13-16, Todd West, evangelist; Butch Shipp, pastor.

First, Damascus, Feb. 20-24, Todd West, evangelist; Tim Boatright, pastor.

Park Place, Little Rock, Feb. 27-March 1, Todd West, evangelist; Gary Lambright, pastor.

Central, Hughes, March 3-5, 7 p.m., Audley Bouri, evangelist; Lee Roberts, pastor.

Grace Temple, Paragould, March 6-10, 7 p.m., Waymon Holt, evangelist; Bill Maxwell, pastor.

Caldwell, Caldwell, March 12-15, Todd West, evangelist.

Mt. Olive, Guy, April 2-5, Todd West, evangelist; Sonny Harvison, pastor.

First, McNeil, April 9-12, Sonny Harvison, evangelist; Danny Bullock, pastor.

Unity, Hope, April 30-May 3, Todd West, evangelist; Richard Walters, interim pastor.

Twin Oaks, Clarksville, May 14-17, Todd West, evangelist; Troy Vaughn, pastor.

Deaths

Gladys Dorman Morehead, 90, of Magnolia, died Dec. 15. She was a member of Bodcaw #1 Baptist Church at Emmet.

HEART

(Continued From Page 1)

Heavy hearts slay the body, causing premature death in many cases.

II. A Merry Heart

God's medicine for the heavy heart is a merry heart. We cannot work up the joy that makes a merry heart, nor can it be received anywhere but from the Lord.

When I speak of joy, I'm not referring to the everyday circumstances of our lives. Some days our circumstances are good and that makes us happy; but some days our circumstances are not so good and that makes us unhappy. The joy I refer to is there regardless whether the circumstances are good or bad.

The Core Of Joy

"...As he thinketh in his heart, so is he..." (Prov. 23:7)

The core of joy is the heart, the very center of everything we are and believe. God always works from the inside out. The devil, on the other hand, usually works from the outside in. True God-given joy begins in the heart and cannot be obtained through possessions, friends or thrills.

The Cause Of Joy

The Lord is the source of the joy that makes a happy heart. *"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."* (John 15:11) He speaks of His joy being in us. As you study the life of Jesus Christ, you will see He was not filled with gloom and doom, even though He suffered as none has ever suffered. His joy did not depend at all on His circumstances. It was the joy of the Heavenly Father that filled His heart.

The Continuance Of Joy

"All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast." (Prov. 15:15)

This verse speaks of a merry heart having a continual feast. In John 15:11, Jesus said, *"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you..."* Focus on the word "remain." If your joy is from the Lord, it is the joy that is a full and remaining joy. If your joy comes from possessions, friends, health or pleasures, it will be "on and off" joy, and probably more off than on. *"...He that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast."*

III. A Helping Heart

God gives us a merry heart so we can experience a life of joy and

See HEART, Page 4

Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee, Director

P.O. Box 2322 • Conway, Arkansas 72033

Help! I'm Overweight

Before I begin to address the issue of being overweight; I would like to speak to all Christians everywhere. Regardless of whether you are thick or thin, it is always wrong to make fun of someone's appearance because you are making fun of God's creation when you do. The one area that is singled out the most to ridicule and make jokes about is in the area of people being overweight. I have heard many husbands speak negatively about their wife's weight. I have heard many children and teenagers make fun of overweight people out in public. They learn that behavior from their parents. I have heard pastors tell funny jokes about fat people from the pulpit, and everyone laughs at the joke.

You would have to, or you would be considered a bad sport; but inside, these people are not laughing. It isn't funny. It is a terrible advertisement about the character of Jesus Christ from someone who claims to bear His image. Do you think if Jesus saw someone walking across a store parking lot who was overweight, He would burst out laughing and start making fun of the person? No! Jesus would reach out to them and be their friend. Yet, many Christians follow the pattern set by the rest of American society and ridicule someone over their physical appearance. This country worships their bodies. We need to set a different example because we worship the Holy One of Israel. If you have ever made fun of someone, set a new example in the new year and stop it. It is very unbecoming of a Christian.

An added note to husbands: there are few things more cruel than to make jokes about your wife's physical appearance. I don't care if she even laughs about it, it is still wrong. Some men in marriage counseling complain about how their wife has changed over the years. They talk about how much weight she has gained and they don't find her appearance as appealing as it used to be. That tells me you have a big job ahead of you. That is one woman who is probably discouraged and needs a great deal of support and encouragement from her spiritual leader.

You will never get a spouse to lose weight by reminding them of it. You must encourage, love and support them. Find ways to change together for the better. If your spouse never loses weight, love them anyway, unconditional love. If you start looking at her heart, and see how beautiful she is on the inside, you won't be concerned about her temporal, external appearance.

Let me encourage all of you who are overweight. Jesus loves you no matter how big you are. You may think you know that already, but you have not truly believed it. Deep down, you can't ever feel totally accepted because American society has trained you that no one can accept your body image. Get rid of your "stinkin thinkin." God loves you. Jesus died for you. He doesn't care that you are 20 pounds overweight. He cares that you are one of His children. He wants you to serve Him. He wants to see you grow spiritually.

Quite honestly, some of you don't serve Jesus like you could because you don't like getting out in public because of your poor perception of your appearance. In I Peter 3:3-4 the Word of God states that outer appearance is nothing. It is your inner spirit that God considers of great worth. Further in that chapter, it also addresses how we should respond as Christians to one another. I Peter 3:9 says we should not insult others, but give them a blessing. That gets back to what I addressed in the first part of this article. Start changing how you think. Look at what God says and not what the world says. Then, believe it with all your heart. The devil is in this world and it is the world that says your worth is in your appearance. God never does. So, whom do you serve?

Finally, there is nothing wrong with trying to lose some weight as we begin the new year if it has been prayed over, but don't say "I" am going to lose 10 pounds. Surrender it to the Lord and let Him work in you all that needs to be there to accomplish this. Remember, there are three areas you need to address when losing weight: the amount and type of calories you take in, exercise and emotional compulsion. Many people diet and forget to address the inside issues. What is it in your life that you don't deal with, but instead use

See PLUMLEE, Page 5

Arkansas WMA

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All Reports For This Column Should Be Mailed To Anita Leslie

National WMA Executive Meeting

To the national WMA officers and committeemen, the Dec. 2 meeting was a preparatory meeting for the new millennium and an open door to new adventure. Jesus has taught us to face the future with bold witnessing, compassionate giving and faithful obedience.

WMA committees are busy getting ready for an incredible year and meeting in April 2000. We do not have time to let up, back up or give up. After hearing such enthusiastic reports of hundreds of souls being saved, we came away knowing God has given the BMA of America a very unique opportunity and a gifted staff of missionaries and directors to work with. Visions are coming directly from God and He is being glorified.

April Meeting Reminders

State presidents are asked to bring something representative of their state to be placed in a "Time Capsule" at the April meeting.

All messengers and visitors are asked to bring a small flashlight, pen light or small battery operated candle to be used at the end of the program in April.

Moms, a staffed nursery will be available for your little ones so you can enjoy the WMA program. Only necessary business will be taken care of during the meeting.

Report Of Attendance, Dec. 2

There were 54 messengers and 35 visitors present, representing 60 churches in nine states. We appreciate each lady who served on the various committees.

Mrs. Marie Darst, corresponding secretary, gave an update on monies received and available: National WMA Project, $10,563.24; General Fund, $1,684.68; Youth Department, $2.30; Westbrook Endowment, $110; Benevolent Fund (Officer's Fund,) $263.14; Sunbeam Copy Machine, $227.73; and Westbrook CD, $4,000.

Recommendations were approved regarding the rules for Miss and Jr. Miss GMA selection, adopted in 1996 found on page 416 of the annual minutes:

• All references to Bonus Points in the Miss GMA/Jr. Miss GMA selection is to be omitted for the "Rules for Miss and Jr. Miss GMA Selection."

• In case there is no district for a local girl to represent, the state GMA promoter shall organize a selection committee to consider the girl's qualifications.

• In case of a tie in scores, attendance in Sunday School, morning and evening worship and Wednesday evening services shall be considered to break the tie.

• The Miss GMA selection process, purposes, benefits and rules shall be presented and explained to all girls at the beginning of each GMA year by their counselor, but the girl will not be required to sign a Personal Commitment Sheet.

These additional recommendations where also made for the YLA objectives:

• Read the Bible through in one year.

• Complete 15 hours of service for your community.

Other accepted recommendations were:

• The listing of officers and addresses will not be printed on National WMA letterhead.

• 500 program booklets will be printed for April.

• A love offering of $100 was approved for the guest speaker, Mrs. Margaret Lindsey, Ghana.

• A love offering of $25 was approved for Mrs. Judy Wallace, who provided special music.

• Standing motion passed to pay necessary nursery attendants $10 per hour for two hours.

• Love offering to be taken for General Fund. (The offering received was $169.70)

Special Blessings Of The Meeting

Maeva Thompson and Judy Wallace provided special music. Val Blackmore introduced the theme, "She Stretcheth Out Her Hand" (Prov. 31:20) and shared the preparations for the April program at the Convention Center, Little Rock. The program will walk through the 1900s to 2000 and beyond.

Linda Collins introduced the missionary speaker, Margaret Lindsey, of Ghana, West Africa.

Note

WMA pins may be ordered from Janet Widger, 7409 Rupert Ave., Richmond Heights, Mo. 63117-2456; $3 each.

REVIEW

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pastorate of Springhill Baptist Church at Greenbrier. He was succeeded by I.V. Hight, who resigned as pastor of Unity Baptist Church at Hope.

Music Department Chairman Jim Courtney retired at the end of the academic year. He had served Central Baptist College for 31 years.

Mark Morris was selected as the new director of the BMA of Arkansas Department of Youth at the associational meeting in November.

In November, Craig Branham, executive director of Ministers Resource Services, announced his resignation, effective Dec. 31. Ronnie Chesser was chosen as his successor.

Bobby Joe Wright retired in November as adult editor at the Baptist Publishing House. He had been with the department for 42 years, and had served as adult editor since 1979.

Tragedies

The Baehr Family, missionaries to Ghana, were involved in a traffic accident Jan. 22, and Mrs. Susan Baehr and her daughter, Christen, 15, were killed.

Bob White, 71, of Mount Pleasant, Tex., died March 4 while working on a project with the Master's Builders at Fellowship Baptist Church in McAllen, Tex.

During the BMA of America meeting in Colorado Springs, Colo., in April, the nation was shocked by the shootings at Columbine High School, just a few miles away.

While CBC Professor Joyce Garrison was only slightly injured when the American Airlines plane she was on crashed at the Little Rock National Airport June 1, several other passengers were killed.

Two BMA Seminary students were killed in a traffic accident July 11: Yaw Antwi Boasiako Boahene, son of Adu Boahene , director of BMA Missions in Kumasi, Ghana; and FuMing Li, of China.

Tragedies Averted

In January, tornadoes damaged two BMA churches (Landmark at McRae and First at Newark;) but no members were harmed.

Immanuel Baptist Church at Nashville was struck by lightning during a storm May 22, but suffered no major damage.

Two Master's Builders were injured in an accident, June 12, while working on First Baptist Church at Taylor; but their injuries were not life-threatening.

A 7.6 magnitude earthquake struck Taiwan in September, but BMA missionaries Dale and Barbara Thornton, and all national

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Good News Girls

(A Column for YLAs and All Youth Auxiliary Counselors)

State Auxiliary Promoter/Youth Editor
RUBY POTEET, 8303 Middle Warren Rd., Pine Bluff, Ark. 71603

State Sunbeam Promoter
CAROLYN VEST, 1406 Chestnut St., Crossett, Ark. 71635

Central Arkansas District Meets

The Central Arkansas District GMA met on Oct. 1-2 for their annual houseparty at Spring Lake Baptist Camp at Lonsdale. Friday night, Karen Keathly conducted a Missions Bowl Quiz. The winning group was Temple, Little Rock, GMA, and they received a nice plaque. South Main, Malvern, GMAs won second place, and Rose City Immanuel, North Little Rock, GMAs came in third.

Saturday, officers were elected for the new year, and installed by Central Arkansas District Jr. Miss GMA Lauren Thompson.

The project for the year was "The Collin Jones Youth Encampment, Honduras." We set a goal of $300 and collected $318. South Main, Malvern, won the plaque for contributing the most to the project. Our goal for 2000 is BMMI, to be divided 80% to the hospital in Honduras and 20% to Collin Jones Youth Camp. Our guest speaker was Mrs. Cherita Geraldson, wife of Interstate Missions Director Larry Geraldson.

— Leslie Boyles, corresponding secretary

DISTRICT CALENDAR

United District WMA, Jan. 8, 10 a.m., Caney Valley, Plumerville.

BMA of the Ozarks, Jan. 11, Beacon, Gravette.

Southwest District WMA, Jan. 11, 10 a.m., Spring Branch, Taylor.

Central Arkansas District GMA, Jan. 22, 10:30 a.m., Rose City Immanuel, North Little Rock.

BMA of the Ozarks, Feb. 8, Bethel, Bentonville.

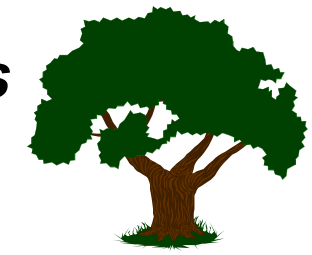
Mount Vernon Brotherhood, March 6, Rondo, Rondo; goal: Foreign Missions.

BMA of the Ozarks, March 7, Bethlehem, Centerton.

WMA Seminar

"To Know Is To Grow"

March 24-25



Worden Baptist Church

Hwy 64E • Bald Knob, Ark. 72010 • (501) 724-6268

Registration Fee: $10 Pre-registration

$12 At the Door • $8 for One Session

Registration Deadline: March 15

Cherita Geraldson, *featured speaker*

Accommodations — Hotel reservations must be made by March 1. Hampton Inn, 3204 E. Race, Searcy, Ark. 72143; (501) 268-0654 or (800) 737-0654; fax (501) 279-2640.

Workshop Groups — Bible Study, Louise Byers; Prayer, Maxine Dugger; Servant Leadership, Tammie Howell; Setting Boundaries, Kim Dillard; Keeping Journals, Renna Hight; Being Successful, Patsy Campbell.

Registration Form

Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____

Church_____

Mail to: Susie Arnold, 5201 State Line Ave., Texarkana, Tex. 75503

From Tidwell's

INKWELL

David Tidwell

Y2K Seems Okay

The new year, century and millennium have arrived without the dire problems predicted by many. The water and electricity are still flowing, no airplanes fell out of the sky, the ATM machines still dispense cash – in short, Y2K is okay. It is better than okay because Arkansas won in the Cotton Bowl!

Some Christians are scraping egg off their faces because their predictions of the Lord's return did not prove correct. I am certain enough to be dogmatic about one aspect of the Lord's return – He is coming! The time of His coming and the sequence of events are not as clear. I have strong beliefs about when Jesus will come, and those beliefs are based on the Bible, but my understanding of the Bible is imperfect. I don't know it all.

When our ego gets big enough to demand that we have "perfect understanding" (which is impossible,) we tend to develop a "hobby horse" and major on it to the exclusion of clear truth about sin, forgiveness, Heaven and Hell.

Don't let your faith in God or the Bible be shaken by predictions of "Bible scholars" who prophesied the rapture at a certain time. Such predictions about 1988, 1998 and Jan. 1, 2000 were false. We can be sure only of what the Bible says: *"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."* Matt. 24:36

REVIEW

(Continued From Page 3)

missionaries, were not injured, and the churches suffered no major damage.

Ministerial Deaths

Waymond "Wayne" Brown, 57, pastor of Temple Baptist Church at Michigan City, Ind., died Jan. 31.

Harold Wayne "Smiley" Burns, 69, of Pasadena, Tex., died Feb. 5.

D.D. Fairchild, 75, pastor of Providence Memorial Baptist Church at Perrytown, died Feb. 11.

Wassell L. Burgess, 76, pastor of Springhill Baptist Church at Greenbrier, died Feb. 14.

Clint Martin, 87, of Magnolia, died March 5.

Gordon Renshaw, 71, pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church at Morton, Tex., died March 30.

William Stanley (W.S.) Gordon, 91, of Rolla, Mo., died April. 12.

Z.W. Swafford, 84, of Houston, Tex., died April 13.

Farrel White, 70, of Bay Springs, Miss., died April 16.

Langston Lunsford, 77, of Timpson, Tex., died May 18.

Robert Preston Baumgardner, 68, pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church at Fayetteville, died June 16.

Hansel Pearce, 74, of Tyler, Tex., died July 17.

E.J. Trivitt, 76, of Elizabeth, died Sept. 4.

C.L. "Charley" Bryant, 72, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church at Mineola, Tex. died Sept. 7.

John Bryan, Sr., 77, of Garrison, Tex., died Oct. 5.

H.D. Cooper, 70, of Searcy, died Oct. 30.

Charles Walker, 76, pastor of Fairview Baptist Church at Violet Hill, died Nov. 3.

C.V. Crow, of Combine, Tex., died Nov. 28.

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Evangelist

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HEART

(Continued From Page 2)

happiness, but along with that goes the responsibility of sharing that joy with others.

Joy Is To Be Pursued

God's miracle medicine is not automatic. You may have medicine in a bottle, but unless you open the bottle and take the prescribed dosage, it will do you no good. The same is true for the joy that makes a merry heart.

"The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge..." (Prov. 15:14,) Jesus said, "These things have I spoken unto you that you might have joy." The "things" which the Lord had spoken were that we are to abide in Him and He in us. (See John 15) We are to pursue the joy that only He can give by abiding in Him and He in us.

Joy Is To Be Perceived

"A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance..." (Prov. 15:13) If there is joy in your heart, it should certainly be perceived on your face. I understand it takes 72 muscles to frown and only 14 to smile. Maybe the reason so many of us are tired is because we waste a lot of energy frowning instead of smiling.

If we are to be an effective witness for Christ, we must show the joy of our Lord in our countenance.

Joy Is To Be Passed On

We win the lost to Christ by passing on the joy He has placed in our hearts. Observe any soul-winner – I guarantee you he will be a person filled with the joy of the Lord. Real joy cannot be faked, or put on. People can see through that.

If you have a merry heart, it is a great tool the Lord has given you to share the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with those who are lost.

Many of God's people are suffering from emotionally induced illness. If you are one, won't you take God's miracle medicine by allowing His joy to fill your heart? *"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."*

– Reprinted from the Oct. 2, 1991 Baptist Trumpet

A racehorse is an animal that can take several thousand people for a ride at the same time.

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More Studies Show Gambling's A Bad Bet

By Orville Scott and Jim Newton

Jackson, Miss. – Recent studies, including some by the gambling industry itself, reveal that gambling is more destructive to society and individuals than previously known, according to psychologists and university professors speaking at the annual conference of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling in Jackson, Miss.

Keynote speaker Kay Coles James, who chaired the National Gambling Impact Study Commission, told about 200 conference participants she was not prepared for the venom, bigotry, prejudice and stereotyping she experienced in leading the congressional study commission on the social and economic impact of gambling in America.

James, a senior fellow of the Heritage Foundation in Norfolk, Va., told about 200 people she had endured more bigotry and intolerance as a religious conservative leading the study on gambling than she had as a black woman in corporate America.

James said she never took on the mantle as an advocate against legalized gambling until she had completed her responsibilities as chair of the nine-member study committee appointed by then House Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi and President Bill Clinton.

She challenged church members, anti-gambling advocates and religious leaders to study and challenge the moral impact of legalized gambling on America, pointing out the congressional committee she chaired only dealt with the social and economic impact of gambling.

Weston Ware, director of citizenship education for the Baptist General Convention of Texas Christian Life Commission, was elected chairperson of the coalition.

Another Baptist leader, James Futral of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, welcomed conference participants to Mississippi. He said Mississippi, known as the hospitality state, has welcomed both Kudzu and casino gambling inside its borders, and both have pretty much taken over the state.

"We would be a lot better off without either," Futral observed.

Robert Goodman, professor at Hampshire College in Massachusetts, presented an analysis of the final report of the National Gambling Impact Study Commission, which was released by James' committee in August.

Studies show that having a gambling facility within 50 miles roughly doubles problem gambling in a community, he said, adding that problems of pathological gamblers are likely to be underestimated.

"Government is engaged in activity which depends on people with behavioral problems," Goodman said, noting that a third of the revenue from casino gambling comes from people with behavioral problems.

National figures show criminal justice costs alone are about $5,000 a year per pathological gambler, he said.

University of Illinois professor John Kindt said the crime costs of 1.5 million new pathological gamblers, which governments created

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Baptist Trumpet

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Gleanings
From The Churches

All copy for this column must be received by Monday before publication.

Bodcaw #1, Emmet, gained one by baptism and three by letter. Tom Stevens, pastor; Marge Poindexter, reporter.

Bodcaw #2, Rosston, was blessed with one by letter. Ray Bowman, pastor.

Calvary, Fayetteville, welcomes one by letter. Dr. Gene Fulcher, pastor.

Elm Grove, Lake City, reports three by baptism since last report. Gary Goodwin, pastor.

Fellowship, Walnut Ridge, added one by baptism. Bob Smith, pastor; Barbara Daniel, reporter.

First, Bald Knob, rejoices over four by baptism since last report. Johnny Wyatt, pastor.

First, Magnolia, received one by statement, one by letter and one by baptism. David Watkins, pastor.

First, Waldo, gained one by letter. Daniel Williams, pastor.

Fourth Street, West Helena, was blessed with one new member. Matt Ackers, pastor.

Friendship, Clarendon, welcomes 12 by letter, seven by baptism and witnessed six other professions of faith. Don Lewis, pastor.

Hillcrest, Texarkana, reports one by baptism. Buddy Johnson, pastor.

Immanuel, Beebe, added two by baptism. Keith Lewis, pastor.

Lemonwood, Pine Bluff, rejoices over four by baptism. David McGee, pastor.

Lynch View, North Little Rock, received one by letter. James Ray Raines, pastor.

Mount Pleasant, Plumerville, gained two by letter since last report. Mike Cantrell, pastor.

Parkview, Trumann, added one by baptism. Paul Vincent, pastor.

Pleasant Grove, Annieville, was blessed with one by baptism. Jerry Clements, pastor.

Shiloh, McRae, welcomes one by baptism and one by statement. Jeff Haney, pastor.

Shiloh Lamartine, Waldo, reports one by letter. Ed Phillips, pastor.

Temple, Jonesboro, added seven new members in December. Jerry Jolly, pastor.

Temple, Little Rock, rejoices over two by baptism. Martin Jameson, pastor.

True Light, McDougal, ordained Curtis Barker, Mike Ward, Marshall Little and Donald Hopkins to the office of deacon, Dec. 5. Owen Little, pastor.

Valley View, Jonesboro, received three by letter and one by baptism. Elvis Brandon, pastor; Norma King, reporter.

West Race, Searcy, witnessed one profession of faith. Bill Lyons, pastor.

Wyatt, El Dorado, witnessed one profession of faith. Vernon Lee, pastor.

Calvary, Crockett, Tex., gained three by letter. Lynn Stephens, pastor.

First, Ferris, Tex., will dedicate their new worship center Jan. 9 at 10 a.m. Dr. Bobby Adams, pastor.

University, Nacogdoches, Tex., was blessed with one by letter. Jerry Fulton, pastor.

Walnut Street, Winnsboro, Tex., welcomes five new members. David Taylor, pastor.

The safest bet is the one you don't make.

PLUMLEE

(Continued From Page 2)

food to soothe and satisfy? Sometimes, we actually have past hurts that we feel instead of deal with. Ask God to reveal this to you.

Remember, starvation diets never work. Your body doesn't know when it will get more food, so when you do finally eat, it stores much of it as fat. Eat small, healthy meals throughout the day. Don't completely cut out fats. Everybody needs some fat in their diet. Eat well balanced meals. All things in moderation here. Start walking; it will reduce your stress level if nothing else. You have to burn more calories than you take in.

Bottom line, if you are overweight, stop feeling sorry for yourself. Don't be ashamed. Jesus is not ashamed of you. He loves you just as you are. He died for you! Look forward to that day when we all go to Heaven and get a new, glorified body. God is good! Being thin will have no virtue when you get to Heaven!

GAMBLING

(Continued From Page 4)

from 1994 to 1997, are at least $15 billion to $34 billion.

"For every $1 of benefits, gambling costs $3," he said, noting that most conservative estimates of combined regulatory and crime costs are between $9,000 and $11,000 per pathological gambler per year.

Put another way, casino gambling costs about $150 per adult for every $39 in social benefits, said Earl Grinols, economics professor at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

Violent crime rates in casino counties begin to rise dramatically about three years after a casino opens in the county, and overall crime rates in counties with casinos are 8% higher than they would be without casinos, Grinols said.

Nevada has double the national average in suicides, ranks first among states in child death by abuse and has the highest dropout rate in public schools, he added.

Kindt said a 1997 study showed gambling abuse outweighed drug abuse, with more than 15 million pathological or problem gamblers compared to 13.2 million illicit drug users.

He said 3.5 million people, or 2% of Americans, became new problem gamblers from 1994 to 1997 at an annual cost to taxpayers of $35 billion. During the same period, 2.2 million new pathological gamblers were created at a cost to taxpayers of $45 billion per year for a combined total of $80 billion per year.

By comparison, drug abuse costs taxpayers $70 billion per year.

Valorie Lorenz, executive director of the Compulsive Gambling Center in Baltimore, said the scope of problem and pathological gamblers is greater than anyone had thought.

"We can only hope to prevent gambling from expanding, because the numbers of pathological gamblers are growing with the expansion of the gambling industry," Lorenz said.

— via Baptist Standard; Orville Scott writes for Texas Baptist Communications, and Jim Newton is a freelance writer based in Jackson, Miss.

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More Adults Are Single, But Fewer Singles Are In Church

By Sarah Zimmerman
Associated Baptist Press

Atlanta (ABP) — Strike one: they're young.

Strike two: they're single.

Strike three: they're college-educated.

Three strikes and today's young professionals are out — out of church, that is.

Research by pollster George Barna indicates the young, single and well-educated are the adults least likely to attend church.

Who can blame them? Churches cater to couples starting families, because that's when many young adults return to church. Many people, however, are putting off marriage until well into their 30s, if they marry at all.

More couples also are postponing childbearing or choosing to be childless. As a result, churches waiting for the stork's visit to begin ministering to young adults are less apt to connect with 20-somethings.

Stereotypes are another hindrance. Some churches view single adults as lonely people needing a life. They create ministries for misfits and consequently attract a disproportionate number of personality-challenged people who perpetuate the negative stereotype.

Churches often perpetuate stereotypes from television, which present single adults as either sex-crazed party animals or the weird neighbor next door, says Alan Corry, single-adult ministry specialist for Lifeway Christian Resources in Nashville, Tenn.

Even the innocuous Andy Griffith Show cast single-adult characters in a negative light. Andy had been married and was widowed, so though single, he was fairly normal; but consider Barney and Goober. Who wants to grow up to be like them?

Meanwhile, more and more Americans are opting for a single lifestyle. Today, 43.6% of American adults are unmarried, up from 35.7% in 1970, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Yet the single-adult population in most churches has not changed in those 30 years.

Many single adults who are establishing their careers and enjoying their independence would rather read the Sunday newspaper at home than attend a church they think values only families. They would much rather sleep in than get up early for a Bible class that resembles a special-needs group more than an adult discussion.

Tiffany Schmieder of Atlanta turned to the church initially to meet people with similar values when she graduated from college and moved to Atlanta, but church is not simply a social connection for her. She's committed enough to her spiritual growth that she gets up at 5 a.m. on Thursdays to be part of a women's Bible study.

Yet Schmieder, 24, isn't surprised to hear Barna's research indicating most of her peers are unchurched. "They're not thinking about their own mortality," she says.

Priority Associates, a Campus Crusade program focusing on young professionals, has ministries stretching from New York City to Austin, with the goal of presenting Christ and developing spiritual leaders in the marketplace.

Business people spend most of their waking hours at work or with work-related activities, leaders acknowledge, but many professionals desire more than career success. Priority Associates offers life-skill seminars on subjects such as establishing balance in life, staying focused and finding direction for living.

While many people find such guidance at churches, young single adults are more likely to look elsewhere, experts say.

One obstacle is that many view their parents' religion as ineffective, Corry says. They see Christian parents divorcing at the same rate as non-Christians. They've watched their parents work long hours to provide children with material possessions but flunk on emotional provision.

Meanwhile, as upwardly mobile adults, they are moving from an egocentric stage of life to a search for something meaningful; but many are finding it in places other than the institutional church.

"Hands on Atlanta" is one such

See SINGLES, Page 6

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BMA Children's Home

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Jack Hornaday, Director

Designate Offerings To: BMA Children's Home

Visitors

If anyone has visited the BMA Children's Home since my last report other than to return children from holiday visits, it has not come to my attention. However, I accidentally overlooked some visitors who belonged in my last report.

Tuesday, Dec. 14, a group of ladies from the Georgia Howell WMA of First Baptist Church, Springhill, La., brought money for each resident of the home.

Wednesday, Dec. 15, Kay Woodard accompanied Fay Dodson as she brought stuffed animals and baseball cards for the enjoyment of the children.

Thanks!

Every year a number of churches and individuals provide money or gifts to assure the children in the care of the BMA Children's Home have an enjoyable Christmas season. Those who send money for us to buy Christmas presents are included when we report special offerings.

Those who provided money or gifts directly to the children this year include Central, Trumann, WMA; Summers, Summers, AWANA; First, Springhill, La., Georgia Howell WMA; Bethany, St. Louis, Mo.; Lemonwood, White Hall; Lynch View, North Little Rock, Friends of His Class; First, Taylor, Dorcas Circle WMA; Cliff Wynn of Homer, La.; and Sandra Edwards of Bee Branch.

By welcoming children from this home into their homes, visiting resources also provide important help in assuring happy experiences for the children during the holidays. Those who kept residents of the BMA Children's Home in their home during the most recent holidays were: Larry Isbell family and Bill Petty family of Munford, Tenn.; Kevin Giles family of Sarepta, La.; Joe Tinsley family of Huttig; Bill Gray family of Rison; Dwight Scott family of Morrilton; Rick Summers family of Plumerville; Chuck Ramage family of Ward; Steve Sowell family of Camden; and Herbert Tucker family of Pine Bluff.

Thanks to all who helped make this a very special Christmas for the children in our care!

Future Opportunities To Serve With BMMI

The following partial list, provided by Baptist Medical Missions International, gives the projected date, country and type of upcoming trips.

Jan. 24-30: Honduras; ophthalmology, possible surgery and evangelism.

Feb. 10-18: Honduras; surgery, primary care and evangelism.

Feb. 23-March 3: Togo; primary care and evangelism.

March 11-18: Honduras; primary care and evangelism.

March 13-22: Ghana; primary care and evangelism.

March 26-April 2: Honduras; surgery and evangelism.

If you are interested in serving on any of these projects, please contact BMMI at (501) 455 - 4977, fax 455 - 3636 or e - mail: bmmi@alpha-net.net.

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SINGLES

(Continued From Page 5)

place. The 10-year-old organization recruits and places volunteers in area agencies and projects. It has a mailing list of 20,000 families and singles, most between the ages of 20 and 45. Each receives a monthly calendar describing current volunteer projects. The group is not faith-based, but many volunteers are religious about their involvement.

"They're mostly young professionals who are really busy, but they really do want to contribute to their community," says Terri Heyns, recruitment supervisor. "They don't want their time wasted. They feel their volunteering matters."

Like Schmieder, who turned to church to find friends with similar values, many single adults participate in "Hands on Atlanta" to meet people who share their volunteer spirit, Heyns says.

A few churches are tapping into that desire to make a difference by incorporating mission opportunities into their single-adult programs.

"Young adults are suspicious of church. They see it as a cloistered environment that only looks at itself, and they don't want to be part of that," says Mace Hall, single-adult minister at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church in Atlanta.

More than half of the 1,500 people who worship at Hall's church are singles age 25-35. At least 300 single adults are involved in the church ministries.

The church follows the "Hands on Atlanta" philosophy with a Christian spin. "We're not a dating service or just a place for social interaction," Hall says. "Our strength is rooted in ministering to the congregation, community and the world. We are to be like Christ in and for this world."

Every year, the church's singles build a Habitat for Humanity home, and 250 single members participate in an annual one-day community service marathon. They coordinate volleyball tournaments to raise money for a children's hospital and charge a $10 admission to their Halloween party to donate to a local food pantry.

Including single adults on committees and in leadership positions helps them feel included in the congregation, but they'll run screaming in the opposite direction if the group is only a rubber-stamping body or if their input is not taken seriously.

Janet Gresham, 38, of Edmond, Okla., remembers volunteering to teach youth in Sunday School when she was in her late 20s. The church leadership hesitated, telling her they really wanted a couple because so many students came from divorced families and needed a positive role model. Gresham was allowed to teach, but only because the church couldn't find a couple to take the job. Now she wishes she had told the church leaders that maybe the youth needed a role model of a happy single so they wouldn't be in a such a rush to get married and perhaps make some of their parents' mistakes.

Gresham grew up attending church with her family, so church was also where she turned after college to "meet and socialize with people. I was turned off by the bar scene."

When she moved to a different state and left that circle of friends, however, she dropped out of church for four years. "It was too easy to just sleep in." Now she's involved in First Presbyterian Church of Edmond. Though the church doesn't have a single-adult ministry, she enjoys her involvement on the mission committee – and she teaches an adult Sunday School class.

Churches can capitalize on single adults' desire to be part of a healthy community by offering study courses in relationships, both in platonic friendships and dating relations, says Albert Hsu, author of *Singles at the Crossroads.*

"Many of today's young single adults lacked good role models for relationships due to brokenness and dysfunction in our families of origin," Hsu writes. "We have insecurities; we have trouble being vulnerable. We are shy. Relational skills, like everything else in life, require training."

Last April and May, six churches in North Atlanta sponsored an eight-week series on relationships. The congregations enlisted a Christian comedian to lead the series and secured a sports bar as the host facility. The setting drew people who would not darken the door of a church. The event was advertised as being sponsored by a coalition of churches, so there was no hidden agenda. Admission was a $5 cover charge, which gave it more perceived value than a free event.

See SINGLES, Page 7

I Wish I'd Said That

By Maggie Chandler

3515 Bay Berry Road, Conway, Ark. 72032 • mchan@cei.net

Hymns Versus Praise Choruses

Hymns and praise choruses – what's the difference?

An old farmer went to the city one weekend and attended the big city church. When he got home, his wife asked him how it was.

"Well," said the farmer, "it was good, but different. They sang praise choruses instead of hymns."

"Praise choruses," said his wife. "What are those?"

"Oh, they're okay," he said. "They're sort of like hymns only different."

"Well, what's the difference?" asked his wife.

The farmer said, "Well, it's like this. If I was to say to you, 'Martha, the cows are in the corn,' that would be a hymn.

"But if I was to say to you, 'Martha, Martha, Martha, Oh Martha, Martha, Martha, the cows, the big cows, the brown cows, the black cows, the white cows, the black and white cows, the cows, cows, cows, are in the corn, are in the corn, are in the corn, are in the corn, corn, corn,' well, that would be a praise chorus."

If that didn't make you chuckle, I'm afraid you may be taking life a little too seriously!

Me? I loved it! That's because I enjoy singing both, especially when they are blended in a worship service. The hymns combine beautiful poetic words from the Scriptures with rich nuggets of theology, and the choruses cause me to pause long enough to reflect upon the majesty of God and to sing a prayer of praise heavenward in the first person. Face it, "How Great He Is" could never replace "How Great Thou Art."

Hymns or choruses? There's plenty of room for both and no reason why the older and younger generations can't come together in worship.

So, if you've been taking things too seriously, sit back and relax. Unbutton your collar. Loosen up a little bit. Now move and stretch your neck and shoulders long enough for that chip to fall off.

Doesn't that feel better?

Smile just a little and admit it. There are times when all that matters is that "the cows are in the corn," and there are other times when it's kind of nice to know the color of those cows.

STATE MISSIONS REPORT

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Did you ever feel you were on the bottom? Here are some suggestions of how to get back on top of things. We should not settle for a dull existence when we are the children of the Eternal God. One needs to keep dreaming with a clear goal and purpose in life. Is life becoming empty for you? Then, let me encourage you:

Renew Your Vision

"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." (Prov. 29:18)

A visionary sees the possibilities and is excited about them; one who has lost his vision can only see the difficulties and be stopped by them. Did God place a vision in your heart? Did He give you a holy desire in a certain direction? Remember, Moses had a vision of delivering Israel from Egypt. The fact that God placed him on the back of the desert for 40 years of preparation didn't mean God did not have that purpose for him. God still used Moses to fulfill the earlier vision.

Refuse To Quit Dreaming

God spoke to men through dreams in the Old Testament. Joseph had some dreams that were interpreted as his becoming the ruler over his own people. Angry, jealous brothers sold him into slavery and Joseph wound up in prison. Still, he dreamed. It was his interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams that landed him on his feet as Pharaoh's prime minister and a ruler over his own people. Joseph was a man who refused to stop dreaming and never lost his wonder of life. As a boy, as a servant in Potiphar's house, as a prisoner and as prime minister to Pharaoh, his dreams were tied directly to the purpose of God in his life. God has a special purpose for each one of us. Dare To Dream!

Return To Quiet Resolve

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." (Psa. 27:14)

Work hard and leave the matter in the hands of the Lord. He will bring things to pass in the best way. Let's ask God for a fresh vision for 2000 and continue to dream and wait as God brings His will and purpose to pass in each life.

God bless you with a spiritual and fulfilling new year of service.

Concord, Concord: Bro. Terry Whaley reports 44 present for Sunday School, 58 for morning worship and the offering was $315.09.

"The flu has hit and we had several families out this week, some sick and some traveling. Please continue to pray for us as we strive to do God's work."

Cornerstone, Bentonville: Bro. Larry Markum reports 91 for morning worship, 55 for evening worship, 55 for evening Shepherding Ministry, seven first time visitors and the offering was $2,267.

"This past week our Sovereign Lord took home Virginia Hutton. She was a great prayer warrior and a greater Christian wife. She was our organ player and she will be missed. Please pray for Bro. Hutton as he makes the adjustments that face him."

Highland Hills, Highland: Bro. Paul White reports 61 present for morning worship, 44 for evening worship, six first time visitors and the offering was $1,530.

"As we closed out 1999 and our first year here at Highland, we can only stand amazed at what God is doing in our midst. The morning and evening attendance were both new records. We also had two come by letter in the morning service, giving us a total of 30 additions in 1999. I thank each and every one of you for your prayers and support as we seek to do the Master's will."

Twin Oaks, Clarksville: Bro. Troy Vaughn reports 62 present for Sunday School, 67 for morning worship, 64 for evening worship, one first time visitor and the offering was $1,059.

Report from Supplemental Work

Chenal Valley, Little Rock, Bro. Tom Mitchell: "Happy New Year from those of us at Chenal Valley Baptist Church. We are grateful for your support, both prayer and financial, during the past year. We really request your support in this new year. Things are going well in our process of getting a building started in the next few weeks. We need more room as soon as possible.

"The first Sunday of the year we had 40 in attendance and began the 50 Days of Prayer and Giving for BMAA Missions. The commitments have already totaled $5,000, and still others have not made theirs."

Work With A Missionary!

Two work crews will be going to Honduras in March 2000. The first trip will be March 13-18 to Bajo Aguan on the edge of civilization. This trip is for real men. We will live in tents and carry in all our supplies. We will build a church on the banks of the Aguan river.

During the second trip, March 20-25, we will be working in Sula, Honduras on the Vo-tech building. It's a lot more civilized in Sula, where they have telephones, a cook and laundry service.

The airfare for both trips, from Houston, Tex., is $450. For more information, call Jerry Pommerening at (254) 578-1525.

Life As An MK

By Dalaina Jopling

The question I get asked the most often is, "What is it like to be a missionary's kid?" I guess, like anything else, it has more than one answer. Being completely uprooted from the only life you've ever known and moving to a foreign place is difficult, but I feel very lucky to have the life I have.

One thing I always thank God for is the opportunities He has given me. One project I am very involved with is the Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI) missions trips.

BMMI sends one or two mission teams to Honduras every month, and I am fortunate to have the job of translating, assisting in surgery or helping in any way I can. I have met so many wonderful physicians and ministers through this program.

These trips are never easy. Hard work is required, but the blessings that pour from these trips are unbelievable. Perhaps the most memorable experience I've had occurred recently when Dr. Talal Munasifi, a plastic surgeon from Virginia, did a cleft palate repair on a six month old little girl. After surgery, we took the child to her parents, and when I saw the unbelieving look on the mother's face when she saw her child look like a normal baby girl for the first time, I knew all the difficulties and frustrations of that week were worth it.

I have seen not only lives saved, but souls saved. These medical trips are also mission fields. People are so open to prayers and the Bible that they almost beg to hear the gospel.

I urge anyone who has any interest in doing this kind of mission work to contact us or BMMI, P.O. Box 193920, Little Rock, Ark. 72219-3920. We can arrange teams if BMMI does not have something available for you. Please remember that not just doctors and nurses are needed, but also average people who have a true concern for others. Anyone can change another's life. Even this 15 year old missionary's kid.

—Dalaina Jopling, APDO 1790, Santa Rosa de Copán, Honduras 040101; fax, 011-504-662-0974; e-mail, fjopling@sigmanet.hn.

SINGLES

(Continued From Page 6)

By the end of the series, 500 people had participated, including 120 who checked a box on a survey to say they would like to know how to have a personal relationship with God.

"It's still amazing to me that people would come to a sports bar, pay $3 to $5 to park and $5 to eat, then come in and sit down so we could tell them Jesus loves them," says Linda Pirkle, minister of education and single adults at Wieuca Road Baptist Church, one of the sponsoring congregations.

"People are looking for something that is very real, and that's what Jesus offers."

— Baptist Standard

Pope Widens Exit From Purgatory

Vatican City (Reuters) — Lest anyone think indulgences are a medieval anachronism, the Vatican issued an updated manual Friday, instructing modern Catholics how to receive them — and maybe get to Heaven faster.

Prayer, fasting, penance and acts of charity and piety have long been ways of gaining indulgences in the Catholic Church. Pope John Paul II says other good behavior can count as well — including abstaining from alcohol and tobacco, participating in religious events, visiting the sick or imprisoned and displaying one's faith in public.

An indulgence is a way to reduce the time spent in purgatory, a sort of unpleasant waiting room for people who do not go straight to Heaven or Hell after death, the church says.

Indulgences, obtained by suffering or sacrificing to purify the soul, can speed it to Paradise.

Bishop Luigi De Magistris, a Vatican official, told a news conference Friday: "If you're in a room, say a canteen, full of people who are cursing and using foul language and you make the sign of the cross to show you don't approve, that would be a way of gaining an indulgence."

The guidelines are in the new Latin-language guidebook *Enchiridion Indulgentiarum.*

Indulgences can be obtained for oneself or for souls already in purgatory.

It was the sale of indulgences by corrupt clergy and the conviction that faith, not good works, leads to salvation that prompted Martin Luther to post his 95 Theses on the church door at Wittenberg, Germany, in 1517, setting off the debate that led to the division of Catholics and Protestants in the Reformation.

The 115-page manual on indulgences is the first update since 1986.

— via The Sword of the Lord

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