



# Tent Makers *Bivocational Ministers Newsletter*

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



Robin Brumfield

Ken Cook

## Holloway Proposes Bivo Consultant with NAMB

By Robin Brumfield

To gain an understanding of Mississippi Baptist Bivo needs, we need to look at some of the challenges of Southern Baptist Bivocational Ministry. These challenges were presented to Bobby Welch, president of the SBC by Dale Holloway on their way to the airport following the 2006 Mississippi Evangelism Conference. The issues presented to Bobby included the following: "The Bivocational Beacon" is no longer published, the national bivocational missionary's work is limited to encouraging new church starts, other major areas of bivos needs are neglected.

Bobby Welch listened intensely as Dale Holloway went over these challenges in the SBC. Bobby said he wanted to help any way he could, and asked Dale to write a letter detailing what needs to be done. In Dale's letter he wrote, among other issues, the following: "I believe the solution is for the North American Mission Board to



*Bobby Welch, left, and Dale Holloway, right, discuss the need for a NAMB national consultant for bivo ministries.*

choose and employ a National Consultant for Bivocational Ministries. This leader would provide affirmation, encouragement, preparation and training for intentional bivocational ministers. His duties would include: communication and material development, coordination of state and regional activities, assistance in organizing state bivocational councils in each state convention." Holloway suggested that a recommendation by the Executive Committee of the SBC to the Board members of the North American Mission Board would provide the greatest strength in addressing this challenge. This action would enhance the "kingdom work" of the 17,000 Southern Baptist bivocational pastors across North America.

## National Bivo Celebration to Meet in Mississippi May 5-6 2006

Our theme this year is "Victory Through the Storms." We have accommodations secured at the Pearl River Baptist Association camp at McNeill, Mississippi.

The specific travel directions are as follows: take the

McNeill exit on I-59, go east three miles to a "T" in the road, take a left; go two miles and the camp is on the right. The cost is \$5 per person per night. You will need to provide your own pillow and linens. The phone number is 601.798.2372.

Continuing our tradition of Bivos helping Bivos, we are organizing two construction teams to assist in Katrina related reconstruction. We plan to help one church in Mississippi and one church in Louisiana. If you can help on a team days prior to or after our meeting, contact Ray Guilder at 615.371.7909 or Gary Mitchell at 318.446.3844. For more specific information contact Dale Holloway by phone (601.845.2107 or 601.292.3204) or E-mail (bivoldr@aol.com). Accommodations will be available at the Pearl River Baptist Association camp.

## Medina Elected First Vice President of the Mississippi Baptist Convention

Joel Medina was elected as first vice president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on November 1, 2005. Joel serves as bivo pastor of The Americas International Church in Carthage, Miss. His new support vocation is chaplain at Tyson Foods where he supervises one other industrial chaplain. His wife, Demaris, is very supportive in his "double duty" ministry.



*Joel and Damaris Medina*



# “What Does Holiness Look Like?”

(James 1:19-21) by Robin Brumfield

## I. Introduction

- A. We live our lives everyday for others to observe our behavior.
- B. Others see us at home, work, school, church, and on it goes.
- C. But when they see us, what do they observe?
- D. Or put another way, what may be missing in our lives?
- E. Holiness may be the key fruit missing from our lives.
- F. James talks about holiness.
- G. Read James 1:19-21.

## II. Exegesis

- A. v. 21 James tells us what to do to be holy.
  1. “receive the implanted word.”
  2. The “word” is the Word of God or the Bible.
  3. Jesus told a parable about God’s Word and the human heart.
  4. God’s Word is the seed and the human heart is the soil.
  5. Read Matt. 13:1-9 and 18-23.
    - a. Jesus described four kinds of hearts.
    - b. The hard heart – which did not receive the Word and no fruit.
    - c. The shallow heart – which was emotional but no depth to the Word – no fruit.
    - d. The crowded heart – which lacked repentance brought to light by the Word – no fruit.
    - e. The fruitful heart – which received the Word, took root, and bore fruit – only one a Christian.
  6. The final test of salvation is fruit – a changed life.
- B. v. 19a “quick to hear” – James tells us how to be holy.

1. The servant is quick to hear his master’s voice.
  2. The mother is quick to hear her baby’s smallest cry.
  3. So the believer should be quick to hear what God has to say.
- C. v. 19b “slow to speak” – another attribute of holiness.
1. Think before you speak.
  2. We have two ears and one mouth, which ought to remind us to listen more than we speak.
  3. Prov. 10:19, “When there are many words, sin is unavoidable, but the one who controls his lips is wise.”
  4. We say things before we think what we are going to say.
  5. Illustration: “A Belief That Behaves” by Guy King  
“I lost a very little word, only the other day. It was a very nasty word, I really had not meant to say;  
But then, it was not really lost, as from my lips it flew,  
My little brother picked it up, and now he says it too.”
  6. Think before you speak.
- D. v. 19c “slow to anger” – still another trait of holiness.
1. Do not get angry w/ God or His Word.
  2. Proverbs also talks a lot about being “slow to anger.”

## III. Application

Thus, Peter in the Garden of Gethsemane did directly opposite of what we learned in this sermon; Peter was slow to hear, swift to speak, and swift to anger – if that identifies you, then you need to change your life.

(continued from Joe Young, page 4)

for his people. Often our fellowship was interrupted to counsel with a troubled person or to do a wedding. Sometimes he left conventions to return for funerals. His people and his family were priorities.

Sometimes I saw Calvin's pain and hurt when someone senselessly showed racism toward his people. He without a word helped me to see how ugly racism really is.

A few days ago Calvin had another surgery to remove his remaining leg. I did not know it until his beloved wife called me to tell me of his death.

He had just turned 65 in October.

Yes, Calvin was my friend. He was a man of God. For all that he meant to me, he was just typical of the bivocational pastors I know. Most ethnic pastors ARE bivocational. Like other bivocs, he made great sacrifices in the service of the Kingdom of God. It is an honor to serve alongside such great men – not widely known, perhaps, but great nevertheless.

Calvin lived with terrible handicaps. Now he has gone to a place of no more handicaps. In heaven there is no more sea. I often wondered why John the Revelator mentioned that--landlubber that I am I would never

have noticed the absence of a sea. But John was in exile on the Island of Patmos. The sea kept him from doing all the things he wanted to do in the service of God. It was his handicap. In heaven it will be gone. John will have no sea, and Calvin will have legs. Unlike bivocs here on earth, he has all the time in the world. Time management will not be an issue in eternity.

I look forward to our fellowship with our brothers and sisters when Calvin and I sit down again one day at the feet of Jesus. It will be a great bivo fellowship.

# Outstanding, Cheap Software Available for Bivos

[http://www.wordsearchbible.com/products/Mississippi\\_Custom\\_page\\_1511.html](http://www.wordsearchbible.com/products/Mississippi_Custom_page_1511.html)

*By Robin Brumfield*

Your Bivo Council is hard at work trying to bring you the best the marketplace has to offer. Things like: some of the best speakers supporting bivos to speak in Mississippi (Bobby Welch and Jim Futral at the 2006 Mississippi State Evangelism Conference), a seasoned bivo pastor and bivo leader (Dale Holloway) to represent us to the State Convention, meetings throughout the state, a newsletter that is relevant to the heartbeat of bivos, and now a GREAT software package to assist in Bible study and sermon preparation at an offer that is almost too good to pass up. This is not a solicitation for you to buy anything. We only are making this software available to you. Your Bivo Council has worked hard and spent many hours working with WordSearch to give you some software that will help you use your time more wisely to be more productive. Something every bivo we talk to tells us is that they struggle with their lack of time in sermon preparation. We listened and here is something to HELP YOU!!!

Let me tell you a little about the package, and then we will look at a "few" of the many works available with this software CD which you can purchase. The CD can be downloaded to the hard drive on your computer, or you can use the CD in your CD drive. A word processor is available and can be used with all the works on the CD. Now let's get down to business. There are 117 total volumes. These are complete works and not abbreviated texts. The library would sell for about \$1,200 if bought in paper copies. An equivalent software version would sell for \$149.95, but the Mississippi Bivo Council

is offering this package to you for only \$49.95 at the Web site above.

Now let's take a look at a "few" of the MANY works included in this package (the Web site above lists ALL the works available on the CD). There are 11 Bibles including KJV, NKJV, NASV, HCSB, and the Message. Commentaries are a pastor's best friend so nine works were selected among which are Matthew Henry's; Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown; and the Teacher's Commentary. To help the bivo with Greek and Hebrew, nine Greek and Hebrew helps are given with some of them being Brown Driver Briggs Hebrew Lexicon, A.T. Robertson's Word Pictures in the NT, Theological Workbook of the OT, and Vincents Word Studies in the NT. Among the other many, many books available on this CD are: Nave's Topical Bible, the Thompson Chain-Reference Bible, Spiritual Leadership, Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations, Lectures to My Students by Charles Spurgeon, Preparation and Delivery of Sermons by John Broadus, works of Josephus, works of Edersheim, Complete Works of E.M. Bounds (classic work on prayer), and outlines of the OT and NT books.

Remember, you are under NO obligation to buy anything. We are aware that other software packages are available, many of which are very helpful, but some may be more expensive. You'll be in a position to make an informed decision by clicking on the link above. Your Bivo Council talked to you and thought one of your greatest needs was help in sermon preparation time, and the fruit of their labors is the Web site, above. Your Bivo Council will continue to strive to offer you the BEST we can find available. God bless you and your ministry!

## MS Bivo Council Seeks to Affirm, Train and Enhance

In the February meeting, associational missions directors, exemplary bivo pastors and directors of the MBCB focused on ways to:

- Compliment the life and ministries of 850 bivocational ministers.
- Raise the vision and awareness of bivocational churches leading to

planting churches and rebirthing churches. Establish worship centers in multi-housing communities and ethnic people groups.

- Train and equip the laity bivocational congregations to be personal soul winners.
- Provide family enrichment events

for bivocational ministers and wives.

- Create and maintain continued effectiveness of the council.
- Discuss ways to affirm, train and enhance the ministry of bivocational congregations.
- Alert ministry students regarding intentional bivocational ministry.

Many new issues and insights surfaced and were recorded. Our next Council meeting will be at the Baptist Building on July 10 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.



*The Mississippi Baptist Bivocational Council, above, met on February 13 in the Skyroom at the Baptist Building.*





Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
**MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL ON BIVOCATIONAL MINISTRIES**  
PO Box 530  
Jackson MS 39205



## One Bivo to Another...

by Joe Young

Like many bivocs I am sitting at my computer preparing messages for tomorrow, but tonight I have an extra assignment. Monday morning I will be working with another pastor, doing the funeral of a beloved bivo. I have already notified my other workplace of my absence that day. Every bivo knows my experience. We put in long hours, and my deceased friend did as well.

Calvin Gibson was a Choctaw Indian. I met him many years ago after one leg was amputated due to complications from diabetes. He was at that time pastor of the Hopewell Church on the Choctaw Reservation, and was also in education at the Choctaw Central High School on the reservation. He was a husband and father. He was involved in his community.

Calvin used to bring a bus load of children every year to our church at Parchman for our puppet Christmas program. Their love for him was obvious. He was a role model for many children who had no father that they knew. One of his concerns was always the abandoned children of alcoholic or

drug-addicted parents. His love for young people, even troubled young people, was obvious. My own children and the youth of my church loved him. They went with me to his home a number of times.

Some years later when I was elected to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Calvin was there representing the Choctaws. We chummed at those meetings, and I got to know more of his heart.

I learned that Calvin's favorite meeting to attend was the annual evangelism conference. He and I talked about it when we last talked, just before Christmas. He was almost always there, in spite of the difficulty he had in getting around.

He had a great burden for the Choctaws. He was burdened for their lostness. And his heart was broken when the tribe voted to bring casino gambling to the reservation. He knew it brought a kind of prosperity to some of his people, but he also saw the other side of gambling, and he ministered to many of his people whose poverty only worsened when gambling came.

We walked together through a building program at Hopewell. We also worked closely in building a pastor's home. We conducted Vacation Bible Schools together. He was a busy man. But he was never too busy

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