



THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Mississippi Baptist Foundation, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 or call 800-748-1652 or 601-292-3210.

Summer 2006



Back to School A Basket of Blessings

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I would guess that most folks have been to Wal-Mart and have noticed the immediacy with which merchandise confronts customers as soon as they hear "Welcome to Wal-Mart" and pass through the security gate. The assortment of products displayed on these early shelves is varied and changes constantly. On a recent visit, the fact that these shelves contained notebook paper and other school-related items reminded me how quickly summer vacation ends and a new school year begins.

Upon entering the store, I observed two women with a young boy (probably about 6 years old and entering the first grade) and an even younger girl. I realized that these women were related to these children as mother and grandmother. Their apparent mission on that particular occasion was to secure school supplies from a list that was printed on a crisp, but soon-to-be-crumpled, piece of paper.

Inasmuch as this shopping trip may have been his first experience with buying school supplies, this little boy was thrilled to have the opportunity to participate. As I was about to pass this family, the mom motioned toward a shelf and said, "There it is."

The boy whirled around, sighted the specific school supply that was needed, smiled from ear to ear, and dashed right in front of me to scoop a jumbo roll of single-ply paper towels off the shelf. Then, clutching that prize in his tiny, 6-year-old hands, he darted back to his mom and placed the roll of towels in the basket that would soon be filled with many meaningful "blessings."

As I watched the entire sequence unfold, I could hardly conceal my amusement. In reflecting upon this event, however, I realized a much deeper truth. By securing these paper towels and the other items outlined on his school supply list, this young boy was taking meaningful and significant steps in preparing for the future.

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation serves as a money-management partner for Mississippi Baptist churches, institutions, and agencies. In this way, the Foundation is a "laborer together with God" with all Mississippi Baptists. This newsletter not only offers several examples of opportunities that promote Kingdom goals, but this material also highlights the manner in which the Foundation can offer assistance as you take meaningful and significant steps to be a blessing to others both now and in the future.



Jaunita Chandler Memorial Trust Continues to Bless Home Church

Many Christians are concerned with the support they give to the Lord's work during their lifetime. While one must be conscientious of their tithe, one can also support the Lord's work through a Last Will and Testament. This support results in strengthening Kingdom work beyond one's earthly service. Through planning and preparation, one has the opportunity to preserve, protect, and distribute their estate in a manner pleasing to God.

In 1994, Ms. Jaunita Chandler of Greenwood, Mississippi, contacted the Mississippi Baptist Foundation regarding assistance in drafting her Last Will and Testament. She wanted to make sure that the assets she had accumulated over her lifetime were used for the Lord's work through her church. Other aspects of her estate planning included a Durable Power of Attorney, and a Health Care Power of Attorney. Even though she later revised her will, her desire and commitment to be faithful to her local church remained constant.

When the Lord called Ms. Chandler into "higher service" on May 5, 2005, the Mississippi Baptist Foundation fulfilled her request to serve as the Executor of her estate. Proceeds from her Estate established the "Jaunita Chandler Memorial Trust Fund" with the earnings being directed to her home church, First Baptist Church of Greenwood. In addition, Ms. Chandler's will left instructions for her clothing to be given to the North Delta Baptist Association located in Clarksdale for distribution through the Associational Missions Office. Family members and friends who received specific

bequests from the estate have committed much of the furnishings in Ms. Chandler's home to families who have lost homes or have otherwise been displaced through Hurricane Katrina.

Jaunita Chandler was such a vibrant and delightful person. During her lifetime she worked hard, saved, and made smart financial decisions. Her zest for life, her



Jaunita Chandler

keen mind and memory, and her love for the Lord were evident. Her legacy will continue touching lives through her generous and gracious spirit. Jaunita's gift was much more than money. Her gift was a reaffirmation of her Godly spirit and vision for the future to

fulfill the Great Commission and reach the lost.

The preparation of your will is recognized as one of the most important documents produced during your lifetime. What will happen to the assets God has entrusted to you when you die? May Jaunita's example encourage you to include provisions for serving the Lord through your Last Will and Testament. Your stewardship will help empower missionaries, educate young people at one of our Baptist Colleges or Southern Baptist Seminaries, facilitate Disaster Relief work, strengthen the ministry of the Baptist Children's Village, support your local church, and sustain Kingdom ministries in Mississippi and around the world.

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation is available to assist you as you address your estate planning needs and your stewardship goals. Please contact the Foundation at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 or call 1-800-748-1652 or 601-292-3210.

The Memorial to the Missing: Blessings Given ... Blessings Received

By now, most Baptists across our state have had the opportunity to hear about a unique memorial that has been erected at the Baptist Building as a visual reminder that approximately 50 million babies have been aborted in our country since 1973. While Americans quickly recognize the death and destruction that accompanied the more recent date of September 11, 2001, our citizenry has yet to digest the impact of the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision by the U. S. Supreme Court through which abortion became legal in this country.

Recently, supporters of two opposing views on abortion gathered in Jackson to rally around their particular stance. Many of these folks came from states outside of Mississippi to make their presence and message known. Local news coverage and personal observation revealed that both sides, to some extent, were loud, boisterous, antagonistic, unloving, and unforgiving. In contrast to these rally participants, however, the Memorial to the Missing proclaims a powerful message in a quiet, reverent fashion that does not browbeat anyone or clamor for attention from the politicians.

The goal of the Memorial is to gather 50 million pennies to represent the tragic loss of innocent lives. Once collected, the value of these pennies (\$500,000) will be invested through a perpetual trust fund with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. The earnings derived from this trust will be utilized by the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in the promotion of Sanctity of Life/Pro-Life issues across Mississippi and beyond.

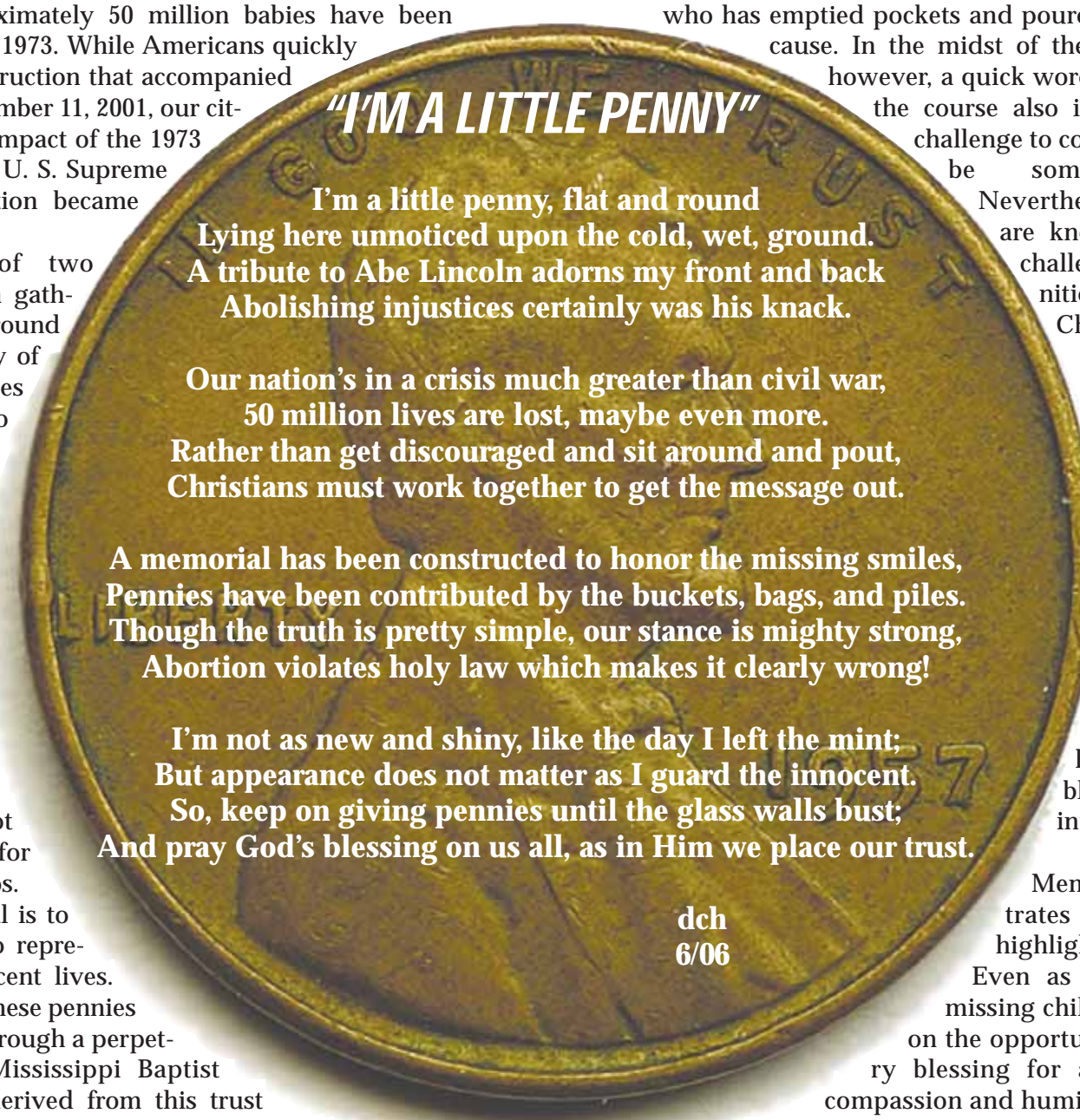
Currently, about 25 million pennies have been contributed to this

memorial fund as thousands of individuals and hundreds of churches have participated in this effort. A huge "Thank You" is due to everyone who has emptied pockets and poured out piggy banks for this cause. In the midst of these words of appreciation,

however, a quick word of encouragement to stay the course also is offered. Admittedly, the challenge to collect 50 million pennies can be somewhat mind-boggling. Nevertheless, Mississippi Baptists are known for accepting special challenges and unique opportunities to promote the cause of Christ.

In 1 Peter 3:8-9, Peter offers summary instructions for Christian living. Presented as imperatives, Christians are admonished in verse 8 to be "harmonious," "sympathetic," "brotherly," "compassionate," and "humble." Furthermore, Christians are instructed to refrain from retaliation and revenge in the face of hostility, but to offer a blessing through prayer and intercession instead (v. 9).

In a unique way, the Memorial to the Missing illustrates the instructions that are highlighted by these two verses. Even as each penny represents a missing child, each penny also focuses on the opportunity to offer an intercessory blessing for abortion supporters with compassion and humility. The encouragement to align one's conduct and character with the example of Jesus Christ is "that you may inherit a blessing" (v. 9). Thus, your participation with this memorial becomes **"blessings given ... blessings received."**



"I'M A LITTLE PENNY"

**I'm a little penny, flat and round
Lying here unnoticed upon the cold, wet, ground.
A tribute to Abe Lincoln adorns my front and back
Abolishing injustices certainly was his knack.**

**Our nation's in a crisis much greater than civil war,
50 million lives are lost, maybe even more.
Rather than get discouraged and sit around and pout,
Christians must work together to get the message out.**

**A memorial has been constructed to honor the missing smiles,
Pennies have been contributed by the buckets, bags, and piles.
Though the truth is pretty simple, our stance is mighty strong,
Abortion violates holy law which makes it clearly wrong!**

**I'm not as new and shiny, like the day I left the mint;
But appearance does not matter as I guard the innocent.
So, keep on giving pennies until the glass walls bust;
And pray God's blessing on us all, as in Him we place our trust.**

dch
6/06

Rene Sugg/Pat Alford Literacy Missions Trust Established



Pi-o-neer [pi-ə-`ni(ə)r]: 1) one who opens or prepares for others to follow; 2) one who originates or takes part in the development of;

While we are prone to think of pioneers in terms of those rugged, daring folks who blazed western-bound trails across America's unexplored and unsettled wilderness territory, the term "pioneer" has a much broader application. In fact, Rene Sugg is recognized as a modern-day pioneer as she helped prepare the way for others to follow in the area of literacy missions. Along with other committed pioneers such as Marjorie Walker and Martha Stockstill, Rene and her husband championed the cause

First Church, Jackson, literacy pioneers, Rene and Judge Robert Sugg (seated left to right) and First Church, Jackson, current leaders, Pat Marshall, and Martha Stockstill (standing left to right) at the WMU Annual Missions Celebration at Broadmoor Church, Madison, April 29, 2006, where the Rene Sugg and Pat Alford Literacy Missions Endowment was announced.

of literacy missions from the earliest days of this special mission emphasis.

Rene received her training in literacy missions in the 1960s and 1970s when the opportunity first became available as a ministry of the Home Mission Board (now NAMB). Rene's passion for promoting literacy and her unwavering commitment to this effort enabled her to begin the Literacy Missions Ministry in Mississippi. With her team of fellow pioneers, Rene and company taught workshops and trained numerous other literacy missions leaders. Through their ongoing commitment to the Great Commandments and the Great Commission, numerous people have learned to read. Yet, more importantly, these previously illiterate individuals have learned to read God's Word.

Promoting literacy with the slogan "Teach Them the Meaning of the Word," the Literacy (continued, top of page 3)

(Literacy cont.)

Missions Ministry offers training in Adult Reading and Writing, Tutoring Children and Youth, Chronological Bible Storying, English as a Second Language (ESL), and English as a Foreign Language for participants of short-term mission trips. Additionally, training is available for Hispanic leaders in "Alphalit" which is the Spanish version of Adult Reading and Writing.

In memory of his late wife Pat and in honor of these literacy missions pioneers, Richard Alford helped establish the "Rene Sugg and Pat Alford Literacy Missions Trust" with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. The Alford

have had a tremendous influence on mission endeavors with Richard serving as Church and Community Missions Director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for 10 years. Since 1991, Richard has utilized his energies and expertise as Director for Language Missions and Church/Community Missions for the Alabama Baptist Convention

The earnings that are generated from this financial investment will help ensure that the

dreams and efforts of a few pioneers will expand in influence and in scope as new pioneers follow the example of Rene Sugg by investing their time, energy, and resources to "Teach Them the Meaning of the Word!"

Additional information about the Literacy Missions Ministry in Mississippi is available by contacting Paula Smith (Literacy Missions Coordinator) at psmith@mccb.org or 601/292-3336. You may register your financial support of literacy missions through your contribution to the "Rene Sugg and Pat Alford Literacy Missions Trust." Information about this endowment is available by contacting the Mississippi Baptist Foundation at 601/292-3210.



Richard Alford

Are You Searching For ...

Financial Security?

Economic Freedom?

Charitable Giving Opportunities?

If you are like most individuals, you long for the safe harbor of financial security, economic freedom and charitable giving opportunities. Through a comprehensive set of skillfully drafted estate planning documents, you can light a lamp that will dispel the darkness of an uncertain future by directing the distribution and/or the management of your hard-earned estate assets, produce a perpetual flow of financial support for your family and loved ones as well as create a lasting legacy for yourself or someone else. Other important goals that can be accomplished with a carefully crafted estate plan are:

- Control all your property including its management, accumulation, and distribution.
- Allow you to leave explicit instructions for the care of your loved ones including protective trusts for your surviving spouse, parents, young children, disadvantaged children, adult children, or grandchildren.
- Keep your affairs private and confidential.
- Provide federal estate tax planning.
- Perpetuate your lifetime giving patterns by supporting your designated charitable organizations in perpetuity.

Since 1943, the Mississippi Baptist Foundation has been a keeper of the light by assisting individuals in the highly specialized area of charitable estate planning. If you want to light a lamp and continue to brighten the lives of your loved ones and the ministries that you value, give the Foundation a call.

September is Baptist Foundation Month

Informative brochures about

- Gift Annuities
- Investing for your church
 - Planned Giving
 - Wills that Work
- Charitable Trusts
- Security Gifts

are available upon your request.



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(601) 292-3210 • (800) 748-1651
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The Mississippi Baptist Foundation Can Help

"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else." 2 Corinthians 9:11-13

Milton and Donna Wheeler: A Legacy of Love

Over five decades ago a young Earl Milton Wheeler embarked on a special love relationship with William Carey College. A few years later, a love relationship of a different sort developed when Donna Duck accepted Milton's marriage proposal in 1965. For over 40 years, this couple has devoted themselves to God, to each other, and to untiring service to their alma mater, William Carey College.

Dr. Wheeler has been a professor of history for 42 years while Donna has provided capable leadership for 41 years in a variety of areas. Her most recent position has been as the Director of Alumni Relations. These lengthy tenures on the college's faculty and administrative staff demonstrate the Wheelers' appreciation and love for the college. As he affirmed the blessings afforded him by WCC, Dr. Wheeler declared "William Carey gave my wife and me an excellent education as undergraduates. Indeed I felt from the beginning that this was the Lord's college."

Dr. and Mrs. Wheeler expressed their continuing commitment to the university in a unique and tangible way through the recent pledge of their entire estate to William Carey as presented in their Last Will and Testament. Involvement by the

Mississippi Baptist Foundation began when the Foundation was contacted for assistance with a major gift that was anticipated for the university. In response to this request, Foundation representatives visited with WCC president, Dr. Larry Kennedy, and the prospective donors, Dr. Milton and Donna Wheeler, to discuss the Wheelers' estate plan. This meeting took place on Friday, August 26, 2005 on the Hattiesburg campus as a storm named "Katrina" was threatening the coasts of Mississippi and Louisiana.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Wheeler was asked if plans were still in place to proceed with the gift to the school or should the process be postponed until he and his family could recover from the consequences of the storm. Dr. Wheeler responded with an overwhelming affirmation of his trust in God and his continued desire to serve the Lord through the stewardship of the financial provisions entrusted to him while on this earth.

As part of their estate plan, the Wheelers established a trust with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation that will provide financial blessings for increased library resource material, scholarships, campus improvements, and Crusader athletics.

The trust fund was created with the hope of making a difference in the lives of students in the present and in the future. Dr. Wheeler expressed this goal by declaring, "I hope these funds will continue the tradition of excellence at Carey...and, hopefully, our financial under-girding will continue this heritage." Donna Wheeler echoed the sentiment of her husband by stating, "I believe in Christian education and in the mission of this school, and I believe that this college belongs to God."

In honor of this magnani-

mous gesture of generosity by Dr. and Mrs. Wheeler, the WCC Board of Trustees approved Dr. Kennedy's recommendation that the new baseball field be named "Milton Wheeler Park" and the alumni house the "Donna Duck Wheeler Alumni House." As he expressed appreciation for



The Wheelers prepare to cheer the WCC baseball team to victory at the "Milton Wheeler Park," named in his honor.

this action by the trustees, Dr. Kennedy added, "Not only is this a significant gift to the college, but also it will encourage others to remember the college in their estate planning. It's a wonderful gift on their part."

Despite the special recognitions that have been forthcoming since the announcement of their financial pledge to William Carey, the Wheelers' humble commitment to the Lord through ministry to the university is expressed in prayer as the Wheelers refer to William Carey as "your college, Lord." The historical, present, and future commitment of this couple to the Lord through the advancement of Christian higher education will provide immeasurable blessings to countless numbers of students both now and in the years to come. Truly, the Wheelers have established a legacy of love!



(left to right) Donna Wheeler, Sarah Kennedy, President Dr. Larry Kennedy, and Dr. Milton Wheeler are pictured here following the Homecoming 2006 Awards Brunch where the Wheelers were honored with Service Awards for their years of service to William Carey University.



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Back to School – A Basket of Blessings

Against the backdrop of my observation of a 6-year-old, I began to wonder how many folks who are 26, 46, 66, or 86 years of age have taken meaningful and significant steps to prepare for the future. In particular, what opportunities have been identified whereby you can make both an immediate and eternal impact in the lives of others? Additionally, what steps have you taken to take advantage of such opportunities? Would you consider offering a blessing to others by pro-

viding for the Lord's work through your Last Will and Testament, a memorial trust, or a charitable life-income trust? Although the smile of excitement on the face of that little boy was priceless, I am convinced that your provision of perpetual resources for missions and ministry through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation will add more to the basket of blessings for you and others than a roll of single-ply paper towels ever could offer.

