

The Missouri Baptist

"Holding Forth The Word of Life"

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXIV

St. Louis, MO • November 8, 2011

Issue No. 11

Eighty-fourth Annual Session of Baptist Missionary Association of Missouri

by Don Burke, Clerk & James Hoffmann, Editor

October 22nd, the Baptist Missionary Association of Missouri met at Bethany Baptist Church in St. Louis. Forty-two messengers and six visitors represented twenty-one churches, with twelve more churches represented by letter only.

Following host pastor Jim Hoffmann's welcome to the Association, Larry Barker from the national BMAA Missions Office shared the morning devotional thoughts from Psalm 73:22-23.

Association president Jamie Haguwood then called the business meeting to order. Reports were given from the various Missouri State departments as well as by representatives from other state and national departments.

Missionary Jamie Jones showed a video highlighting the growth and other blessings at the North Lake work.

The Incorporation Investigation Committee shared that the work on the new Association By-Laws are complete and available online (bmamissouri.org).

The Loan Association received permission to investigate the possible need for a new service to help established churches as they experience financial need.

The annual sermon was delivered by Dan Wisely, speaking on We Preach Christ (1 Corinthians 1:18-31). The message was followed by a wonderful meal provided by the host church.

The Association voted to go to Landmark, DeSoto, for the 2012 semi-annual meeting, and to Ke-

wanee, Kewanee, for the annual meeting. Ted Hurley was elected to preach the annual message, with Chris Polk alternate.

It was good to have representatives from Central Baptist College, BMA Seminary, BMAA Missions, DiscipleGuide, and Moral Action present to remind us of the blessings of God upon the work of our associations and the challenges we are facing in continuing to grow in our ministries around the world.

The spirit of the meeting was that of cooperation, progress, and steadfastness in doing the Work of the Lord. Let's keep on keeping on until He comes!

Paintball Retreat at Camp Garwood

The last statewide activity for the year at Camp Garwood was the fall paintball retreat October 28-29th. It was well attended and we had beautiful weather both days.

There was some activity Friday evening following supper, but the major events were Saturday morning as more gathered for the fun. (See pictures in this publication.)

We should be thankful the Lord has given us this beautiful facility where we can gather for various events and meet new people, grow in the Lord, and reach others for Christ.

The cabins are in great shape and the grounds are well kept and we should be excited about getting others involved in this ministry.

As Bro. Chris told us at the annual meeting of the BMA of Missouri, we have spent the "extra" money we had for improvements and until we build this fund back up we can only do the necessary maintenance to keep things going.

Many major improvements have been done in the last few years and the camp is in great shape. All of this is paid for and we owe nothing on the camp. We still need to make improvements to the old boy's dorm and need to build a good work shed but these will have to wait until funds are available.

If you are interested in helping any way (labor, finances, donation of material, etc.) contact Bro. Chris Polk at 573-380-1975. He will be glad to answer your questions.

Investing in Camp Garwood is investing in the lives of our young people.

2011 Alive Conference December 29-31 Airport Hilton, St. Louis, MO

Speaker: Dustin Wisely
From Magnolia, AR

Worship Band: Broken Vessels

Entertainment:
**32One Improv &
St. Peters Rec Plex**

Make your own room reservations at the Hilton by calling 1-800-314-2117. Room are \$59/night with up to four in a room. Rate is same for two beds or one king.

Registration fee is \$45 per person (\$30 for first time churches) Register by going online at aliveyouthevent.com or by joining their Facebook group *Alive Ministries - Youth Alive Conference* or by email at pastorbradbanderman@hotmail.com.

Grumbling Street or Thanksgiving Avenue

One night at a prayer and praise meeting a good brother related a long, complaining strain of experiences about the trial and difficulties that are encountered on the way to Heaven.

At the end of his talk, another brother arose and said, "I see that our brother, who has just sat down, lives on Grumbling Street. I lived there myself for some time, but I never enjoyed good health. The air there is bad, the houses are bad, the water is bad; the birds never came and sang in the street, and I was gloomy and sad enough. But finally I moved. I moved to Thanksgiving Avenue, and ever since then I have had good health and so has my family. The air is pure, the water good, the sun shines all day, the birds are always singing, and I am happy as can be. Now, I would suggest to my brother, that he too, move. There are plenty of houses 'to let' on Thanksgiving Avenue."

Which street are you living on: Grumbling Street or Thanksgiving Avenue? You will notice great improvement in your health and happiness if you would move to Thanksgiving Avenue. Here is the way to make that move:

Give Thanks....

- For the husband who complains when his dinner is not on time, because he is home with you, and not with someone else.
- For the teenager who is complaining about doing dishes, because that means she is at home and not on the streets.
- For the taxes you pay, because it means you are employed.
- For the mess to clean after a party, because it means you have been surrounded by friends.
- For the clothes that fit a little too snug, because it means you have enough to eat. • See *STREET Page 3*

+++ NEWS BRIEFS +++

Bethany, St. Louis, is enjoying the beautiful fall weather. We were happy to host the Annual BMA of MO Meeting in October. We are saddened that Bro. Buddy Briley has gone to be with the Lord, but are glad we have confidence that Buddy is with Him. We will miss him, and extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Betty and their family. A memorial service was held November 5th at the Church under the direction of our pastor. The Ladies met at the home of Eunice Compton this past month, and the Helping Each Other (HEO) group spent an afternoon bowling and an evening meal together. Our quarterly Talent Time was held October 30th. This reminds us of all the blessings we enjoy from the talents of God's people. October 30th an unusually large crowd was present in the morning service and most stayed for a wonderful dinner in honor of Brother and Sis. Hoffmann as we expressed our appreciation for them and their service at Bethany.

James Hoffmann, Pastor
Carol McDonald, Reporter

Bethel, Sikeston, sends "Greetings" to our Sister Churches. We started our month of October off by participating in Life Chain. We were so glad to see our Sister Churches and eight other churches in this area come and stand for the unborn. God blessed us with beautiful weather that day and the reception from the public was very positive. We celebrated the beginning of a new life together as Reggie Stotts and Karen Bryant were untied in marriage. We also celebrated the beginning of two brand new lives as Sister Darcee Saucedas' baby, Andrew, and Sister Kelly's new granddaughter, Alison were born. May God bless each of these. Our brave group of paintball patrons headed to Garwood this past weekend and had a great time of fellowship and fun. We also celebrated Pastor appreciation month by giving Brother Jerry and Sister Suzan a dinner and

gift certificate. Words of gratitude were expressed throughout the day. "We Are So Blessed" here at Bethel with a pastor who studies and preaches God's Word to fill us with knowledge and understanding of who we are to be in the sight of the Lord. God's Blessings To All,
Jerry Adams-Pastor
Marcia McAfee-Reporter

Stony Point, Mineral Point, reports that October has been...well... a blur. God has blessed in ways that have come so fast and furious we still stand in awe of His bounty. Try to keep up. October 6th Brother Claude put his very life in God's hands and chauffeured Sister Bea and three other ladies to a WMA retreat in Michigan that was held on October 7-8. I can testify that "He was ready to preach" on Sunday October 9th. The Holy Spirit responded to Claude's eagerness with two young ladies being saved, Brittany and Katrina, after the morning services. October 13th we reluctantly and with sadness said an earthly "see you later" to Brother Johnny Douglas. To Sister Lorene we say, "the Grace of God is upon you, and the arm of His church is around you and your family." October 15th Stony Point hosted the Washington County Association annual meeting which was well attended. October 23rd the church participated in the Walk For the World at Elephant Rock State Park. October 29th eleven members of Stony Point went through the "Judgment House" at Southern Baptist in Potosi. God is definitely in this ministry and lives are changed because of it. October 30th, John and Anita Eley and their daughter, Hannah, were baptized and extended the hand of church fellowship. (There were also a lot of arms of church fellowship as many hugs were given.) Also, on the 30th, we had a Harvest Fellowship and hayride at the church which was a clever disguise for a surprise Pastor Appreciation night. Brother Claude and Sister Bea, we do

love you and thank God for your labor and obedience to His Word. In "Coming Events," we have the Missouri Fellowship Choirs singing as Stony Point hosts the Washington County District Fellowship Meeting December 10th at 2:00 p.m. On a final note... We are elated to welcome home Brother Jared Eye who has been working in North Dakota for the past few months. We missed him and he never left our hearts and prayers. That's all folks...we are resting for a spell...a very short spell. Bless you all and have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Claude Evans, Pastor
David Hughes, Reporter

Ozark Heights, Potosi, sends our good wishes and we hope all are well and happy! October has just flown by! We have been busy preparing for the Harvest dinner and Fall Revival; we welcome one and all. Brother Brian had a week of vacation and Brother Leonard and Sister Ruth visited us with a good message! We claim them as part of our family; and they are loved by us all. We miss Brother Josh and Brother Gary as they are working a lot right now. Both are important in the work with our youth. Brother Butch has been busy fishing as he and Sis Loretta served us with a great fish fry; so very, very good. We then had a bake sale/pie auction for the building fund, which was an amazing success. Thanks to all the members who donated pies, cookies, bread pudding and so many good sweets! We had a wonderful time at our trunk and treat on the parking lot of the church. We used Bible themes built into our cars and trucks; Moses in the bull rushes, Moses with the 10 commandments, Noah's Ark, Jonah and the whale and old fashioned home themes. We had many stop to visit and pick up their treats; what a great opportunity in the neighborhood. We are now looking forward to Brother Ben Kingston who will be our revival speaker. May our hearts be filled with joy and faith!

Brother Paul and Sister Faith Dunn have been ill and had surgery recently. We offer our prayers and support. Sisters Geraldine Warden and Gurlean Robinson are so missed and loved; we miss you both! Until next month; may God add his richest blessing and keep us all in his care.

Brian Meade, Pastor
Georgie Brokaw, Reporter

Kewanee, Kewanee, sends a warm "hello" to each and every sister church. God is truly a blessing when we look at all the wonderful things going on within our churches. News for August began with a Youth and Harvest back to school dinner and fair led by our youth with a puppet show devotional and fellowship. The circle of friends met Tuesday, August 2nd, with Sister Pam Wisely leading the devotion. This group of women meets the first Tuesday of every month. We also enjoyed a Ham and Bean dinner to support our mission walk with Life Word. Devoted to our youth, a Pizza and DVD night was enjoyed as another back to school fellowship. Brethren Caleb Houston, Bock White, and Joey Duckworth have taken turns in the month of August leading our services with messages from the Lord. We had Brother Daniel and Sister Leslie Sutton join our membership by letter, and Sister Candace Riggs and her daughter Lauren joined by Baptism. Lauren Riggs was saved during the Pizza and

DVD night with the youth. As the end of the month drew near The SEMO Annual Associational meeting was held at Kewanee on the 27th with Brother Dan Wisely being the annual speaker. Our Sunday evening services consist of Brother Dan leading a class on "Why we are Baptists." It is truly a blessing to find out why we are the religion that we are. In September we supported our Life-Word Project by holding a rummage sale on the 3rd, totaling an amount of over \$1000. Our youth held a church Lock-In on the 10th, totaling 40 children with 4 souls being saved and many other commitments made. Please keep our youth in your prayers as we continue to grow. We had Missionary Darren Lemons come to talk with us about his mission work of church planning in the US on the 11th. That evening we took of the Lord's Supper. Brother Bock White led the morning services at New Madrid Baptist Church and Bro Joey Duckworth led the evening services for Matthews First Baptist. The 25th of September, we celebrated our 76th Homecoming. The Bradfords were our guest singers for the afternoon singing worship. As September came to a quick end, autumn took over with beautiful weather allowing our youth to have a bonfire on the first of October. Youth leader Brother Caleb Houston is opening the doors of the church every Sat-

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From Our Workers

BMA of Missouri Annual Mission Director's Report October 22, 2011

I want to thank the association for allowing me to serve as your director of missions for the past year.

It is on a very bright note that I can report that our partnership work in Smithville, MO continues to be blessed of God. Bro. Jamie Jones and Rebekah have been making and building relationships that have produced professions of faiths and baptism. I will let Bro. Jamie share with you what God is doing there in his report.

At our midyear meeting I laid out a challenge that at least 5 of our churches would both participate in the Transformational Church survey and create an action plan for their church. I am happy to report that two of our churches, Bethel Baptist in Lonedell and the Lindsay Lane Baptist of Florissant have participated in the Transformational Church survey and are

progressing on their action plans to impact their community. I would be very happy to speak with your pastor and your

ally recognized International Coach Federation.

Statistics have proven that a church planter who is involved

in a coaching relationship has a 90% success rate in planting his church. I am continuing my coaching education and experience as I coach Bro. Jamie Jones and many of the church planters for the BMA of America.

On a sad note, a number of our churches have stopped supporting state missions as they once had done. I realized that our current economical woes may play a part in their decision to decrease their offerings. For others, there exists a general feeling of dissatisfaction and apathy for the work of church planting in our state. I am praying that our missions funding will increase within our Association and that a renewed passion for church planting will ignite as well. I hope you will join me.

church if you are interested in knowing more how the Transformational Church process can help you to increase your church's ministry to the community.

I would also like to share with you a personal milestone that relates to my ministry as your Director of Missions. This past year I have completed core essential classroom training in Christian Coaching and also the required coaching hours to apply for my certification in the spring as a Christian and Church Planting Coach for the nation-

From Brother Jones...

Dear Friends,

We are approaching three years of being on mission in Smithville. It has definitely been a growing experience. Lots of ups, downs, and unexpected turns. I am truly thankful for the opportunity to serve and the blessings have far outweighed the tuff stuff. God continues to show Himself mighty in this mission. We see Him work daily by answering prayers, opening

doors into the lives of our neighbors, and providing new opportunities for ministry in our area.

We have just completed a sermon series on what it takes to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. We asked some tough questions, that required honest answers. The focus was on Luke 14:26,27,&33 which puts us face to face with our willingness to be a real disciple. Our desire is that North Lake Church will have a God given

part in making disciples who make disciples. Please pray for God to guide us as He teaches us with each new experience of this mission endeavor.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Jamie Jones

The class assignment was to write a short paper on "Things I am Thankful for." One fourth-grade boy put first, "My glasses. They keep the boys from punching me and the girls from kissing me."

Recruiting Basketball Players for 2012 Trip to Ukraine

The 2011 Volunteer Summer Mission Basketball team returned to Ukraine for a second year working with Missionary Laura Kanyakina and her husband Andrey. The continuity of returning with a basketball team has yielded very positive results, allowing for the reestablishing and building of relationships.

Several three man tournaments were conducted across Ukraine, as well as several exhibition games. Many contacts were made, evangelistic messages given and local church promotion accomplished. Highlights from this year's mission include speaking and witnessing to over 1000 people, participating in an area wide tournament and concert with a skateboarding exhibition, and invitations to appear on two television talk shows which allowed us to explain what the VSM mission is all about as well as promote the local Baptist church.

This year's service project was working with two Gypsy camps. These people are Romanian speaking Gypsy refugees who are considered outcast by the local population. We played games with the children, performed Bible skits, lessons and songs and providing tee shirts and Shepherd bags for over 500 kids.

Plans are underway to once again return to Ukraine in the Summer of 2012.

All interested students who love basketball but love God more are encouraged to apply to be on the team. Applications can be accessed on the Baptist Missionary Association of America's web site <http://www.bmaamissions.org>. You can also contact team leader Stan Scroggins at First Baptist Church in Magnolia, Arkansas (870) 234-3595.

• STREET From Page 1 •

- For your shadow that watches you work, because it means you are out in the sunshine.
- For a lawn that needs mowed, windows that need cleaned, and gutters that need repaired, for it means you have a home.
- For all the complaining you hear about the government, because it means we have freedom of speech.
- For the parking spot that you find at the far end of the parking lot, because it means you are capable of walking and that you have been blessed with transportation.
- For your huge heating bill, because it means you are warm.
- For the lady behind you in church that sings off key because it means you can hear.
- For the pile of laundry and ironing, because it means you have clothes to wear.
- For weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day, because it means you are capable of working hard.
- For the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours, because it means you are alive.
- And finally, be thankful for too much Email because it means you have friends that are thinking of you.

"In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

I Thessalonians 5:18

Adapted from *Exchange*

**"O Come, let us sing unto the Lord:
let us make a joyful noise
to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before His presence with
thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise
unto Him with psalms." Psalm 95:1-2**

• NEWS From Page 2 •

urday this month at 6 p.m. to allow our youth to gather with fellow Christian friends. We invite all our sister churches' youth to come join us in fun and fellowship. Kewanee's young adult class started off the month by taking a group to see the new movie "Courageous." If anyone has the chance, please take your spouse to see this movie because it is a perfect picture of how to base our lives through Christ as fathers and families in general. The young adult class has also significantly grown and had to be moved into a larger classroom to accommodate the seating. Praise the Lord for a growing generation so dedicated to the Lord!!! We will have more LifeWord fundraisers. The State Associational met at Bethany, St. Louis, October 22nd and Bro. Dan brought the annual message. We had a church Hayride for all youth October 28th and a Trunk or Treat for the little ones on Halloween night. Brother Dustin Wisely will be leading our church revival the week of November 7-11th beginning at 7 p.m. We are very excited for this revival and invite everyone to join us. Please continue to keep our church in your prayers as our youth grow and our church is led to do wonderful things for the Lord. Love in Christ.

Dan Wisely, Pastor
Jenni Duckworth, Reporter

**God
promises a safe
landing, not a
calm passage**



Pictures From 60th Anniversary Homecoming at Ohlman Baptist Church, Bunker, MO



Pastors and wives....(from left) and Bro. Dale and Sis. Juanita Blunt, Sis. Terri and Bro. Don Adams, Sis. Charlene and Bro. Kenneth Melton, Sis. Gay and Bro. Terry Sharpe



Charter member Inez Akins (pinning is her daughter Trudy Burns)



Honoring our deacon Bro Larry May Sr. for 20 years of service. (pinning is his wife Juanita May)

Paintball Retreat Pictures

The pictures below are gleaned from Camp Garwood's Facebook page. Thanks to Bro. Chris Polk for taking them and posting them for all to see.

If you have not checked lately, the Facebook page has many pictures of activities this year of the fun, worship, and work that has taken place. Check it out! On Facebook the pictures are in color and are much easier to see than what we can print here.

We thank everyone who made the Paintball Retreat a success by your attendance, cooperation, and work. It was a great time for all present. God blessed with great weather, too!



Ministers Resource Services

August 2011

Retirement Agency of the BMA of America
Ron Chesser, Executive Director

As I sit down to write an article for our BMA state papers, I am not sure what to write but I feel I must say something. These are perplexing times in our nation and world. It seems that every day more bad news is delivered to us by the media. Yet in the midst of a bad economy and the unbelievable battle going on in Washington, we as believers know that our sovereign God is still in control.

At the end of July the Dow closed at over 12,000 and six trading days later it closed under 11,000. What must one do -panic? I don't believe so; remember God is still in control. In my almost twelve years as executive director of Ministers Resource Services, I have seen the market go up and down several times. I have seen the Dow trade as low as 6,000 and as high as 13,000. During the down times folks in the BMA Long Term Growth at MRS observed that their account took a significant hit, but as the market turned around they always gained back what they had seen dwindle away plus they had a nice gain in the value of their account. I encourage you who are in LTG to be patient during these times if you have five to seven years till retirement.

There is an option at MRS for folks who cannot stand the volatility of the market. Manning and Napier Advantage Corp. of Rochester, NY manages not only our Long Term Growth but also our Fixed Income portfolio. Our Fixed Income is not tied to the stock market making it a more stable investment. We are currently paying 3% annually on Fixed Income. If a participant chooses they can diversify between LTG and Fixed Income giving them a more balanced and protected portfolio.

In the midst of all the bad news in our world, there is always some good news and things that we can give thanks to God. Our BMA Retirement portfolio has exceeded 12 million dollars, closing several days in July at over 12.4 million. In the past eight plus years we have grown over 9 million dollars in retirement assets. In the past eight years our LTG has averaged a return of 8.35% annually. In 2009 we averaged \$3,000 dollars daily being deposited to retirement accounts. In 2010 that jumped to a daily average of \$5,000 dollars and thus far this year, 2011, it has gone to an average of \$7,000 dollars daily being deposited to participant's accounts in our BMA Retirement.

You may contact Ministers Resource Services, the retirement agency of the BMA of America, at P. O. Box 2866, Texarkana, AR 75504, by phone at 870-774-2654 or email Executive Director, Ron Chesser, at RChesser6365@aol.com. If you have an account at MRS, why not contact us and let's discuss your account and financial situation for retirement. Let's see what is best for you!

God is not depending upon smoothly prepared programs but upon Spirit-filled men!



A New Name Added To the Endangered Species List

by *Travis Plumlee*, via Family Ark Ministries

The endangered species list is prepared to warn people about a certain species that is so low in number that it is about to go out of existence. The list also serves as a catalyst to get people motivated to do everything possible to help ensure that this species survives and does not become extinct. I am adding a new name to the endangered species list.

This is a beautiful creature. Strong. Intelligent. It has the ability to adapt to its environment. It has an incredible knack for survival techniques. It is fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14. It is made to look like the very image of the creator himself. Genesis 1:26. This is a majestic creature, because he has an ornament of grace and wears a crown of glory. Proverbs 4:9 Actually, he is crowned with 2 crowns. Glory and honor. Psalm 8:5. Surely, with all of these attributes that God created this creature to have: we must all work hard to see that this creature does not become extinct.

What is the name of this creature? A Godly man. Also known to be from the family of Godly husband and Godly father. Man is not endangered. There are at least a couple of billion plus men in the world. It is a Godly man that is almost extinct in the world today. The key word here is GODLY man. Our world is ever-increasing in godlessness. Our world is increasing in men that are followers of false gods and false religions. There are plenty of men in our own country and in our own churches who give lip service to Christ but fail to follow through with a lifestyle to glorify God. They may be fans of Christ, but they are not followers of Christ. Otherwise, they would follow Christ and His commands out of the Bible when leading their families. And sadly, our nation, our churches and our homes are dying for the lack of finding enough Godly men serving the Lord God Jehovah.

What does one of these creatures look like? They look like Jesus. They know they are to represent Christ in the home to their family. They have their priorities straight. That is to lead their family spiritually because Christ is number one in this man's life, and he wants that same thing for his family. He realizes that God holds him accountable for how he responds, loves and teaches his family that God gave him. Psalm 127 and 128. He makes sure that the family is focused on the things that really matter. Spiritual things are always ahead of sports, TV, entertainment, and pursuit of making more money not for survival but for worldly indulgences. Romans 8:5

They are men who see their priority as being the head of the home as outlined in Chapter 5 of Ephesians v. 23. They lead their wife in prayer and devotion time in the Word, v.26. They love their wife just like Jesus loves His bride and sacrifices his life for his bride, v.25. They don't just say it. They show it, v.27. They love their wives like themselves, v.28. They water their wives with the Word of God on a daily basis v.26. They praise their wife, Proverbs 31:28. They don't ignore their wife by focusing their mental energy and time spent on their jobs, hunting, fishing, hobbies, friends etc... They dwell with their wives. They honor their wives. I Peter 3:7. While Godly men must be good financial providers for their families, and not be lazy - Romans 12:11, they also never put their job ahead of their most important job. That of being a Godly husband and dad.

They realize that putting a roof over the head of their family and putting food on the table is something that any animal does for its

young out in the woods. A man of God has a much greater role than this. A Godly man has a high calling to provide for his family spiritually. Ephesians 5:29. Philippians 3:14.

A Godly man is one who teaches his children scripture. He prays with them. He teaches them the ways of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4. Deuteronomy 6:7 He makes sure that they have a biblical vision of manhood and womanhood memorized from scripture when they leave home. He teaches them wisdom out of the book of Proverbs. He realizes that he will have many jobs during his lifetime, but he will never have a more important job if he is a parent, than loving his children and teaching them the ways of the Lord. That is job one for the Godly man. His number one job is not showing up at every ball game and push his kids into sports and think that he is a good dad. He is a moral beacon to his kids and teaches them every night life lessons out of the Bible. He takes them to church. He spends time mentoring his kids. He interacts with them face to face, as opposed to bleacher to ball field. Yes, I am afraid that these creatures are in the minority and are a dying breed. We must all pray for men to be broken so that God can raise up a nation of men who are courageous, strong, wise and pursuing Christ in their homes. Otherwise, there is no future for America. Don't listen to me. Read the scriptures cited in this article and align your life as a man, up with the inerrant, unchangeable, unalterable Word of God. It's never too late to get started. God is on your side.

'Key Tool' Limps

Rivers of Blessing, our missionary ministry in the Bolivian Amazon, has achieved a lot during the last four years. Of course, one of the key tools in that ministry is our riverboat, the Arrington, which navigates more than 900 miles of rivers, bringing hope, help and the good news to areas accessible only

by the river.

As of now, the Arrington has made it possible to reach 36 communities with some level of missionary ministry, involving at least one or all of the following activities—evangelism, church planting, leadership training, community development, primary medical and dental care and disaster relief. In a couple of weeks they'll be conducting the third, modular

class of the Amazon Bible Institute. A teaching team led by David Flores and Buddy Johnson will be there for about 10 days in November, teaching several Biblical and ministry related subjects.

The Arrington riverboat suffered some damage in recent weeks and, after a long journey, "limped" into the northern port of Guayaramerin, on the

• See *LIMP* Page 8 •

Prisoners Bible Crusade

P.O. Box 696 • Picayune, MS 39466-0696
Free Bibles to Chaplains for Prisoners
A Ministry of the Lee's Chapel #2 Baptist Church
Paul Lee, Director-Evangelist
Phone 601-798-6431
Email: paul@prisonersbiblecrusade.org
www.prisonersbiblecrusade.org
Isaiah 55:11 inside prisons!

July 31, 2011

Praise the Lord! 202,409 Bibles to prisoners in 38 years!

A Letter From a Chaplain in San Antonio, TX

Dear Friends,

Thanks a million for the Bibles and other devotional books. It was a treat to receive the Spanish Bibles as well. We have a large number of Spanish speaking offenders on our unit. As a Chaplain I see many wonderful things that God is doing in our midst. The day after receiving the Bibles I was called by one of our officers saying that an offender had just received some bad news and needed to talk with me as soon as possible. I called the offender to my office and he told me his story. His life included years of heroin addiction and run-ins with the law. He had been locked up numerous times in the past. That day, just an hour before, he had a medical check up. They had told him that he had Hep C and was HIV positive. His world was now turned upside down. After some time of visiting with the offender, God allowed me to tell him about our Savior's love. He invited Jesus into his heart and asked God to save him. I was able to then give him the Bible (that I had just received from Prisoners Bible Crusade) that I had read moments before. I asked him to write his name in it and to write down the date that Jesus had come into his heart.

Thank you for all that you are doing. We are blessed by your obedience and faithfulness. J.S.

From Brother Paul

I echo the Chaplain's letter and a heartfelt Thanks to each one who prays for and supports this ministry.

2011 PBC Report through 7-31-2011

4,200 English Bibles; 620 Spanish Bibles; Total Bibles 2,820. All Study books, 11,647, Study helps 3,610, Total for all Bibles and materials to date in 2011 is 20,079. These were sent into 45 prisons. Chaplains report 268 people saved (20,118 since 1-1-2000). Eight new chaplains requesting Bibles for the first time in 2011. PBC's Evangelistic team has conducted 14 worship services in prisons in 2011. (Since 1973 - 202,409 Bibles; 56,449 New Testaments; a total of Bibles and Materials 604,483.)

I have traveled 5,645 miles and have seen 9 professions of faith in Jesus Christ in 2011 (336 since 1-1-2000); and 35 rededications. I have visited 5 churches, 12 association meetings and 38 prisons; taught 38 Bible study classes, taught 2 volunteer workers' classes; preached sermons in 14 prisons; sent 2,140 CD's of 46 different sermon titles into prisons.

Again, our thanks for your prayers and support for this Bible Ministry to people in prison.

WMA & GMA NEWS

Articles for this column should be sent to **EDITOR**

Shelia Polk
P.O. Box 259
Matthews, MO 63867
Phone 573-471-8885
Email: sheliapolk@yahoo.com

Send all WMA Offerings to:
STATE WMA TREASURER:

Cathy J. Fox
2142 Sunset Dr.
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901

Send all GMA Offerings to:
STATE GMA TREASURER

Norma Womble
4498 Cindy Lane
Barnhart, MO 63012

MISSOURI STATE WMA

2011-12 THEME

"LORD INCREASE OUR FAITH"

Luke 17:5

2012 State WMA Retreat

Please Note: Due to circumstances beyond our Control changes have had to be made in the place and date

To the Ladies

of the Missouri Women's Missionary Auxiliary:

Due to the closing of our meeting place for the 2012 State Ladies' Retreat, we have had to make some changes to the dates and place of the retreat.

The dates for the retreat have been changed to September 28-29, 2012. It will now be held at the Drury Inn and Suites at Arnold, MO.

The guest speaker, **Jaclyn Rowe**, has not changed.

The cost of registration for the retreat will be \$20 until August 28th, and \$30 after that date.

The group rate for the hotel rooms is \$82.95 plus tax. This is for a room with 2 queen size beds. This rate also covers free KICKBACK (supper) from 5:30-7:00 p.m. and HOT QUICKSTART Breakfast. Lunch will be catered, with the cost being \$16 per person.

Reservations can be made online at www.druryhotels.com by entering our group number: 2131031. Our group name is WMA OF MO. Reservations can also be made by calling 1-800-325-0720. Be sure to mention our group name and number. The direct line to the hotel we are using is (636) 287-3111.

The retreat committee would like to apologize for any inconvenience and confusion these changes have caused. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we have attempted to deal with this unavoidable circumstance. Please contact one of the committee members if you have any further questions or concerns.

National GMA Camp Celebrates

The Great Physician

by Susan Campbell, National Corresponding Secretary

National GMA camp was held June 14-17 at Daniel Springs Baptist Encampment in Gary, Texas. 330 girls and counselors attended this year and raised approximately \$19,000 for the National Project supporting two of our former GMA girls on the mission field. Brother Tony Crocker, camp pastor, challenged our hearts using the national theme, The Great Physician. He also shared with us information on ISHELP International which he is now directing.

The following officers were elected: President, Jessica Glasscock of Texas; 1st Vice-President, Addie Bender of Arkansas; 2nd Vice-President, Emily Luck of Arkansas; Secre-

Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee, Director

P.O. Box 163 • Mountain View, Arkansas 72560

Email: kingofthemountain@mvtel.net

WebSite: travisplumlee.com

Survival Tips With Family During Holiday Get-Togethers

The next few weeks are a wonderful time of the year. There are so many opportunities to be with family. For some of you, being with family is a daily or weekly occurrence. For others, it is one of the few times in a year that you actually get to see your family. Either way, it is a wonderful opportunity to share the love of God with those He has given us to love. But it also gives Satan an opportunity to stir up strife and hostility. Having a nice time with family is, in large part, up to you and your choice of attitude.

Oh, you think you have a messed up family. You think you are the only one that has someone who plays the role of the Maytag washing machine in your family. (The center piece of the washing machine is called the agitator and every family has at least one). If you think you have a bad family, study the Bible. Wow! You talk about dysfunctional families. Joseph has a dream and his brothers wanted to kill him for it. Job is sick and his loving, supportive wife says, "why don't you just curse God and die." I think Job's wife needed to come to one of my marriage retreats. Ha! The Bible shows us that there are no perfect families. There never has been. But we do have a perfect heavenly Father, and we do know the Prince of Peace. They are always for you. They are always wanting the best for you. Seek them first, and you will be able to not only endure your family get-togethers, you may have the opportunity to change a life with your shining light.

Here are some tips to remember with the upcoming holiday season.

1) **Let it slide.** At some point, someone always will make some comment that you don't particularly care for. They may even say something hurtful, accusatorial, or denigrating to you or your kids. You have to decide if it is worth going to World War III over. Ask yourself, "am I willing to die on this mountain for this comment?" I have always encouraged people to speak the truth in love. But is this the right time? Chances are if you have a family member that always makes you feel guilty over something, then they have a habit of doing this all year long; not just during the holidays. Our emotions are more elevated this time of the year, so watch out for letting them control you. Pray for the fruit of the spirit of self control during the holidays. Maybe it would be best to let it slide, and then if it continues; speak the truth in love privately to them at some point in the future. You will probably only incite a family feud if it is confronted with the whole family gathered around. These things never go well. Let it slide. Don't major in the minors.

tary, Cindy Meriweather of Arkansas; Corresponding Secretary, Susan Campbell of Arkansas; Song Leader, Haven Townsend of Arkansas; and Historian, Olivia Fairley of Mississippi.

Miss GMA and Jr. Miss GMA were chosen as follows: Miss GMA, Addie Bender of Arkansas; Alternate Miss GMA, Jessica Glasscock of Texas; Junior Miss GMA, Lakelan Flynt of Mississippi; and Alternate Junior Miss GMA, Karlie Crisp of Arkansas.

The 2011-2012 Project is 50% Daniel Springs, 45% Joplin Tornado Relief, and 5% General Fund with \$25,000 being the goal amount. We want to encourage everyone to raise money all year for the project. The theme for next year will be **BRB-Be Right Back** with Revelation 22:12-13 as the scripture.

Everyone had a great time and we can't wait to see everyone again next year.

2) **Be helpful.** One of the best ways to love your enemies is to help them. It is hard for people to criticize someone who is helping them. I know there are some people who actually do have that ability to criticize someone who is helping, but swallow your pride and help anyway. Find other ways to help if you are told that you are not stirring something the correct way. Let it slide. Go set the table. If you get criticized for that, go take a walk outside and find some other way to be helpful. Just remember, a family should all work together, as well as relax together. You are not a little princess. You are not a two year old boy anymore that has to be waited on. Matthew 25:40. Serve!

3) **Build in protection time.** With some families, you will never be able to please them. So, build in some time for self-preservation. This is not being selfish. This is a mental and emotional and spiritual restoration that is needed. Take a favorite book. Do a crossword. Go out on a walk. This is the easiest and best way to restore yourself, and reduce stress. Build in some holiday time where you get by yourself and re-charge your battery. You don't owe anyone an explanation. Just do it.

4) **Don't be so sensitive.** You need to work on your Christ-centered identity. Get into the Word and prepare yourself mentally. You are loved, accepted and forgiven by God. You are wonderfully made. This will help you to avoid being overly sensitive. Some of you get all hurt and pout over the holidays and it is your self-esteem that is hurting- not this other person. Some people like to pick and tease. Yes, it has to have it's limits. But often times that is how this person shows you that they love you. You may say that is a weird way of showing it. It is what it is. Don't be looking for ways to be hurt. Sarcasm and hostile humor are not good. But sometimes you may be too sensitive over a comment that a loved one made, and that is just who they are. They are a kidder. Get

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Shepherd Bags™ Ministry 2011 Update and Looking Forward to 2012

by *Fonda Norris*,

Evangelistic International Ministries Shepherd Bags™ Coordinator

"We'll rest when we get to Heaven" is what we tell ourselves here at EIM when speaking of the Shepherd Bags™ Ministry! When a shipment goes out, we think maybe we'll rest up before getting ready for the next shipment but there's always too much work that needs to be done. Then we realize, "it's the bags that God uses as the tool to open the door to the Gospel of Jesus Christ" and so we gear back up, take a deep breath and start up again. It's been a wonderfully, busy year.

We've recently been asked several times about how things are going with the Shepherd Bags™ Ministry. So we thought we better update everyone.

We are amazed at what God has accomplished and the things He's allowed us to get done. In August, 35,174 Shepherd Bags™ were loaded, bound for the schools of Honduras. This is the largest single shipment we've ever had to go out in our history of making bags! To God be the glory! Combining the numbers from this shipment and the total of our October 2010 shipment, we've sent over 55,000 Shepherd Bags™ for our Honduras school campaign!

Our Honduras Shepherd Bags™ School Campaign continues to allow us the freedom to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the schools of Honduras. The invitation from the President of Honduras wife to go into the schools has opened many doors. This year we've had six Shepherd Bags™ Distribution Teams as well as two Overseas Bible Schools Teams to go into many schools to present the Gospel and hand out bags. They've gone from large schools with several hundred children to high up in the mountains to very small, poor schools to share the love of Christ. May we pray and beg for that freedom to be restored in our schools here in America!

For 2012, we have approximately 8-10 dates available for Shepherd Bags™ Distribution Teams. These teams will distribute the bags that we're sending to Honduras for the schools. If 4-6 individuals from a church would be interested in putting a team together, you can go online at our website (www.eimworldwide.org) to see the dates available. I am currently working on updating our Shepherd Bags link and hopefully will have all of our new information available in a couple of weeks.

In addition to the largest container in our history being sent out in August, we will be loading approximately 15,000+ more bags on a shipment to go the Philippines in mid-November. We've never had shipments that close before. What started out as plans to send a 20 ft. container of dehydrated food turned into a 40 ft. container of food, plus Shepherd Bags as well as bicycles to be given to pastors/workers who need them. We're excited as many of the bags will have our EIM 7 inch Frisbee with John 3:16 printed on them as well as a Gospel Story Coloring Book in Ilonggo, the native dialect where most of the bags will be distributed. So everyone is working very hard around here to make the shipment date. The work that goes into a shipment cannot be described. We have so many faithful workers and church groups that contribute.

And how can we express our thanks to the hundreds of faithful churches, WMA's, Awana, VBS, Youth, Galilean/GMA's and other church groups and individuals who have partnered with us and continue to give so faithfully so the Shepherd Bags™ Ministry can continue. We've said it a thousand times and will continue to do so, God has allowed EIM to do this but without His continued blessing and "You", EIM's faithful giver, it could not

happen. It would end tomorrow.

So thank you from each of us at EIM, we couldn't do it without you! And thank you from each school, town and village that Shepherd Bags have been distributed in. They are the lives that are being changed through your burden for lost souls around the world. For a very personal testimony of how lives are being affected, I hope you take the time to read Francisco's Story, a policeman from Honduras, who had a personal encounter with the Savior while going up into the mountains with a Shepherd Bags™ Distribution Team.

Finally, I'd like to try and answer a question we get asked all the time. Is the Shepherd Bags™ Ministry a seasonal ministry? My answer to you is this. We had a shipment of over 35,000 bags go out to Honduras in August. We're currently working on a shipment for mid-November to the Philippines. When that shipment leaves, we will start back to work on another 40 ft. container, resuming our Honduras School Campaign. I currently have supplies for over 2,000 Shepherd Bags™, including our new 7 in. Frisbee with John 3:16 in Spanish on them that we put into all of our unisex bags. I have 7,000 Gospel Story Coloring Books in Spanish sitting in the warehouse and another 33,000 books in the process of being printed. So plans are being made to get another shipment out as soon as we can build another 33-38,000 bags for a 40 ft. container. However long that may take, we'll work until it's done.

So my answer is emphatically, NO, the Shepherd Bags™ Ministry is not seasonal. I have always said and will continue to do so; we will make bags as long as we have funds and supplies to make bags. That is the only thing that determines our work load. God's people have been so faithful so we continue to work. And as I said earlier, I guess we'll rest when we get to Heaven. But that's not really true as Bro. Rocky and I have said many times because we know we'll stay very "busy" praising King

Francisco's Story...An Adult Changed Forever Through The Shepherd Bags™ Ministry!

By: *Fonda Norris*, Shepherd Bags™ Ministry Coordinator

From the time it was started in 1999, the Shepherd Bags™ Ministry has always been considered a children's ministry. I believe I am beginning to change my mind about that. I believe that God is changing my mind based upon the things that I see more and more as I get the honor of "tagging" along with teams that go with EIM to hand out Shepherd Bags™ all over the world.

I want to share just one of these unique and amazing stories that I personally witnessed while recently traveling with a Shepherd Bags™ Team from First Baptist Church in Damascus, AR. This wonderful group of people traveled down to Honduras in September to hand out bags with a few men to doing some projects at the hospital.

With the exception of Sunday, a Shepherd Bags™ Distribution Team goes to four schools a day; two in the morning and two in the afternoon. We have found four to be a good number in that it allows time to spend with the children at each school after handing out bags, allots us the time to travel between what can be at times a very long distance between schools, with very rough travel that can take quite a while.

Bro. Manuel Lepe, EIM's Honduran Director has really been burdened to start going out further into unreached areas where no one is going with the Gospel. So he planned for the team in September to go up into the mountains within a couple of miles of the Guatemalan border. A lot of coffee is grown in these mountains.

He made contact with the principal of several small, remote mountain schools to take us there and arranged for an evangelist that EIM supports who works in these areas to go with us. When you travel high up into the mountains of Honduras it is always wise to take along a guard/policeman for protection. Since it was the coffee harvest, there are those who think if you are in a truck you may have been trading coffee beans and you have money so a policeman named Francisco was hired to travel with us for the day.

Let me paint a picture for you of the typical policeman in Honduras. He will wear a blue uniform tucked into neatly polished boots, a bullet proof vest, sometimes a side arm and always a semi-automatic weapon over his shoulder. Now this was the picture of Francisco when he came down the hill from where he was to get into the back of the truck to go up into the mountains to distribute Shepherd Bags™ with a bunch of ladies from Arkansas!!

We took off up the mountains in two four wheel drive trucks. One loaded with boxes of Shepherd Bags™ and Spanish Bibles and the other one loaded with one authentic Honduran policeman attired as I've described above complete with his semi-automatic weapon. Our "drive" up to these four mountain schools for me is almost indescribable and unlike anything I've ever experienced. The Bush in Bolga, Ghana wasn't as rough as this!

It is very hard to adequately describe as the team from Damascus can testify to, the drive to get to these four mountain schools. Hot, dusty, rough, deserted, narrow, washed out gullies, mountain creeks running through the middle of the road. The road was only wide enough for one vehicle at a time. The further

we traveled, I definitely felt as if we were treading into new territory. It was very exciting to feel as if we possibly were the first to be bringing the true Gospel to some very remote

Jesus!!
Thank you again, we love you all. Please pray for us as we continue to try and serve Him in the Shepherd Bags™ Ministry.

• See *BAGS* Page 8 •

areas.

So up the mountain we went with our policeman in the back of a pickup for his rough ride and after the third or fourth time of getting out of the vehicle to help get us unstuck or out of a creek, he was rather mad when we pulled up to the first two schools and they were locked up and closed because the children were helping their parents to harvest the coffee beans. Approximately four hard hours of driving and for nothing! We waited at each school for a while and he kept saying very angrily, we should just leave. He was very irritated.

I think I can speak for the entire team when I say we were not irritated, only disappointed. I know I personally questioned God and was very sad that after coming all that way, here we were with bags, the Word and the Truth but we couldn't share with the children. So back down the mountain we went to have lunch and start for another area.

While we were riding back down and also while having lunch, we were happy for the adventure and laughed and were excited to be going back out to another area. One of the ladies commented later that she felt as if it had an effect on him to see us happy and not ready to quit but to keep going with the mission.

After lunch we headed back up to the mountains in a different area. It was very rough but not quite as bad as before. But we made it to the first school and they were opened and waiting for us!! We unloaded the bags and went into the one room school. Most schools in Honduras are made of concrete blocks and have large open windows on two sides of the schools to allow for air flow. The windows always have bars across them and a metal door that is locked with a pad lock to keep thieves out. Whenever we have gone into schools whether it is in a larger town, village or a remote area like we were in that day, it is common for townspeople, young and old, or children who don't go to school; to come up to the windows or stand in the doorway to see what is going on. That is why the Shepherd Bags™ Ministry reaches not only children but adults as well. When you go into a school, the Word gets preached to all ages as well.

So here we were at last in a small mountain school ready to present the Gospel to the children and then hand out Shepherd Bags™. But God had something so much bigger in mind than we or Francisco ever saw coming. I've heard it said that God has divine appointments. Well He certainly had a divine appointment with Francisco that day high up on that mountain.

Francisco helped unload the boxes of Shepherd Bags™ along with others and set them by the door. We do that in order to have them ready but keep them outside the door of the classroom to keep the children's attention off of them. Francisco though didn't wander off. He stayed outside the window of the classroom just like most do. He stood there through the entire presentation of the Gospel and when Bro. Manuel asked if everyone would bow their heads to pray if they wanted. One of the ladies from our team said he bowed his head and she heard him pray and when he looked up his whole facial expression had changed. He didn't say anything to anyone at that time however.

We passed out the bags, played with the children for a while and headed to the last school for the day. It was a long way from the other one. Francisco got back up into the back of the truck. When we got at the next school, he jumped down and started helping unload the boxes. When it came time to share the Gospel, he was sitting in a chair. But when as before Bro. Manuel asked everyone to bow their heads to pray, Francisco stood up, removed his hat, and bowed his head to pray again very reverently. It was apparent something was going on with him.

There was a larger village boy at that particular school that when Bro. Manuel asked if anyone had accepted Christ to raise their hands, he raised not only one hand but both hands straight up, really high because he wanted to make sure that Manuel

knew he had accepted Christ. That was very cool that he wasn't ashamed of what he had done. Francisco though at that time had not said anything but several team members began to recognize that something was different with him.

Soon it was time to go back to the team house and so back down the mountains we went. When we made it back to the road where we needed to drop Francisco off for the day, then he told Manuel he had accepted Christ and was given a Bible. Wow, how God works in mysterious ways!

I did not know that Francisco was saved until we got back to the team house, only that he seemed different in the afternoon. Gwenda Williams, a team member shared with me as she was the one standing next to Francisco at the school.

As I lay in bed that night I think God began to tell me that even though I may never understand why we wasn't allowed to share with the children from the first two schools that He had a bigger plan and that He is the one in control. As I began to think about it, I thought to myself, if it had not been the coffee harvest time we wouldn't have even taken a policeman with us. So the very reason that the children were gone at the first two schools and didn't hear the Gospel was the exact same reason that we had Francisco with us who did hear the Gospel and accept it. So one heard and one didn't. That's God's business, not mine. I did however think about how cool it would be for Francisco to remember those children up there in those mountains and one day feel compelled to go share his story with him. Oh how I pray he shares with everyone he meets his divine appointment with God up in the "coffee" mountains.

I wanted to share Francisco's story with readers first and foremost just bring God glory and brag on Him! To remind us all of how He works in mysterious ways. We just need to be ready to go and share anywhere He leads us. And to tell all who support, make bags and most of all pray for the Shepherd

AVAILABLE PREACHERS

The following names are listed as a service to our churches in keeping you informed as to preachers that are available. The publishing of a preacher's availability for preaching appointments or pastoral work should not be considered as a recommendation by the *Missouri Missionary Baptist*. Names are published at the request of the individual and will be published in three consecutive issues unless the editor is otherwise instructed

Ray Thurman, is available for pulpit supply or to serve as a interim pastor. You may contact him at 573-438-2195. -11-

Perrin W. Seay is available for all preaching appointments. He can be reached at 314-402-0906 or 314-631-4040 or by email: papaseay@yahoo.com. -11-

Allen Casey is available for pulpit supply. He is a member of Springdale Baptist Church in Fenton and can be reached at 636-349-5524. -11-

Rocky Houston, a member of Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church is available for pulpit supply or however the Lord leads. You may contact him at home after 4 p.m. at 573-748-5879. -11-

Tim Maxwell, a member of Friendship Baptist Church in St. Clair, is available for preaching appointments or however God may use him. Contact him at 636-744-2874. -11-

Andy Lahmann, a member of 1st Baptist Church, Bourbon, is available for pulpit supply and revivals as needed. He may be reached at 573-205-6022 or lahmann08@yahoo.com. -8-

Todd Walters, a member of Bethel Baptist Church in Lonedell, made known his call to preach July 24th and is available for pulpit supply. You may contact him at 636-262-6342. -9-

Darrin Slater, the College Age Minister at Bethel Baptist Church in Lonedell is available for pulpit supply. You may contact him at 314-540-9001. -9-

John Limberopoulos is available as the Lord leads. His address is 231 Taylor St., Sullivan, MO 63080. Contact him at 573-241-5066. -10-

• LIMPS From Page 5 •

Bolivian/Brazilian border, for some much needed repairs. Work was done on the hull, mechanical parts were sent to a machine shop for rebuilding and some structural pieces had to be replaced.

We are reminded again that the Arrington operates in a very tough and remote environment that can often take its toll on both men and equipment. The total cost of these repairs is almost \$4,000. If you would like to know more about the Arrington and the Rivers of Blessing missionary ministry, please go to:

www.bmaamissions.org.

We do need some help to cover these repair costs and

Bags™ Ministry that it is not just a children's ministry. For each bag you make and send out are tools used for God to open the hearts of girls, boys, men, women and yes, even rough Honduran policeman to bring them to salvation through the precious Gospel of His Son.

Thank you for caring about the souls of people!

get the riverboat back to work. Please share this with others by email, Facebook, etc. so we can get the word out. Above all, pray for the Lord's provision, protection and for many open doors of opportunity.

— Phil Knott, director of operations for Latin America, BMAA Department of Missions, pknott@bmaam.com

• ARK From Page 6 •

over it.

5) **Be considerate.** Accommodate others. The world does not revolve around you. I know this trouble maker thinks it revolves around them. So, pray for them. I can't control others, but I can control my response to them. See them for the hurting person they are. But as a Christian, we don't treat people how they treat us. Treat them like Jesus would. He always thought of others first. What a Godly act for you to do.

Life is too short to get mad at every holiday. Love your family even when they are unlovable. Show the love of God to them and you will have a good holiday.