

# The Missouri Missionary Baptist

“Holding Forth The Word of Life”

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXX

St. Louis, MO • February 14, 2017

Issue No. 2



## World Missions Day Sunday - February 26, 2016

This one-time-a-year special offering to our World Missions Fund is essential in allowing BMA Global Missions to continue to partner with 70 American missionaries/church planters and hundreds of national missionaries in 70 countries of the world. A great response on World Missions Day 2017 will also make it possible to send more of the numerous candidates who are ready now to go with the gospel.

Here is the breakdown of how your dollar is spent when you give to the World Missions fund:

40% - American International Missionaries
22% - North American Missionaries
22% - National Missionaries
7% - Missionary Care, Production, <i>Activate</i>
7% - Administration/Office
2% - Institutions - Clinics/Schools

The resources for World Missions Day 2017 have changed this year. There will be no printed prayer calendar. Simply stated, the demand for the calendars is no longer sufficient to justify the expense. However, there is good news. We will offer more information and the normal resources but in different formats. Here are the

resources and links to access them:

1) In each of the six 2017 issues of *mission:world* magazine, you will find twelve different missionaries with their prayer requests and praises. A FREE subscription to *mission:world* magazine is available electronically or in print at [www.missionworldmag.com](http://www.missionworldmag.com).

2) A daily link to a missionary video and prayer requests and praises is available by phone or tablet by texting the word “missions”

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## 68th Annual Meeting of the BMA of America

Letter From Our President...

Greetings to the churches of the BMA of America:

Well, it is nearing that time of the year when we have the opportunity to gather and conduct the Lord's business as an Association. This note is to remind each one that this **May 1-3 has been set aside as the time for our 2017 annual meeting to convene in Arlington, Texas.** It is my prayer that God will continue to bless all of our departments, agencies and churches. I hope you are already making plans for your church to be represented at this year's meeting.

Again this year you will be given the opportunity to choose between several great breakout sessions presented this year by our National departments and agencies. It is the desire of your officers and those involved in planning to provide you with materials and practical instruction that you will be able to use in your respective fields of service. Of course, these are provided in addition to the times of conducting business and opportunities to gather for worship.

Please review the enclosed preliminary schedule of this year's meeting (in next month's paper). This will help you in your planning and travel schedule.

Remember, this year's theme “Brick by Brick” is built around teamwork with the emphasis on increasing our attendance for the purpose of strengthening every area of our ministry. Make plans now to join us and may God bless every aspect of our time together.

Paul White, President BMAA

## Renewal Retreats

For Pastors and Pastoral Staff

Please Note: There will be two different Retreats, one for the BMA of Missouri Pastors and Staff and one for the Meramec Landmark Association Pastors and Staff. The details for both are the same except for the note on Camp Garwood. Please contact Bro. Ben Kingston (636-629-2526) if you have any questions and to register for either Retreat.

## BMA of MO Renewal Retreat

March 17-18, 2017 at Camp Garwood

**Note: This applies to those attending the Retreat at Camp Garwood only:** Our policy states that any adult (18 years or older) staying overnight at camp MUST fill out the adult screening form. To do this go online to [bmamissouri.org](http://bmamissouri.org) and click on the adult screening form link. This is required annually.

### The following applies to both Retreats:

Hopefully I do not have to convince anyone of this need to get together and seek God's face on behalf of our associations so that we can see and hear clearly the direction that God has for us that will allow us to accomplish the Great Commission.

There is no cost for attendees as the associations are covering the costs. There will be roughly 9-11 “elements” that will be our material to guide us through this renewal effort.

If you responded to my last inquiry as to available dates I have you down as attending. It is not too late for others to sign up. Let me hear from you.

As far as details we will start at 6:00 p.m. Friday and go through most of the day Saturday because there is quite a bit to work through. Of course if we fly through it we will leave early Saturday.

Please be in constant and consecrated prayer for this event.

Bring bedding and personal items that you would for a hotel stay. Meals will be provided.

Also please bring a few items that you can place on a table that will allow you to describe yourself and your family in 5-8 minutes so that we can get to know each other better.

Ben Kingston, Facilitator

## Meramec Landmark Association

### Renewal Retreat

March 10-11, 2017

at Meramec Retreat Center, Richwoods, MO

### News From Camp Garwood

by Chris Polk, Camp Superintendent

P.O. Box 271 • Matthews, MO 63867 • 573-380-1975

**Reminder:** If you are staying overnight at camp **in 2017** you need to go to [bmamo.org](http://bmamo.org), read the Child Protection Policy, and Complete the Adult Screening form. This is not for camp week only, but also if you plan to attend a retreat or stay overnight for any camp event. This is now required annually. Thanks for helping keep our kids safe!

There's been a lot of activity this month. Let's see, we received our land survey bill \$2,600.00; the land is prepared for the new dorm \$ 1,200.00; we have a trail around the camp perimeter \$ 1,000.00; and we had a water pipe freeze and bust on a hot water line con-

• See *CAMP* Page 5 •



# NEWS BRIEFS



Greetings from **Bethany, St. Louis**, on this first of a new month. God has been blessing us with wonderful blessings. We missed a January morning service with the ice but were able to have the evening service. We have had visitors and are thankful for them as well as those who are so faithful. Sis. Morrison said good-by to a cousin as God called him home. Sis. Ella Beeler is having a lot of medical problems and needs our prayers. Bro. Harliss Cooper is also in need of prayer. The 29th we enjoyed our fifth Sunday talent time. We were thankful for Bro. and Sis McCanless being with us as well as Rhonda Fields. We also celebrated Ezra Dunn's 2nd birthday. Please continue to pray for Bethany as we seek God's will in reaching those in our community that need the Lord. Pray for our country as we need to get back to God. Nick Dunn, Pastor • Kathy Chapman, Reporter.

Greetings to our brothers and sisters in Christ from **First Baptist Church, Potosi**. We are so excited that our part-time youth and Celebrate Recovery (CR) pastor is now full time. Bro. Kevin Smith is being used by God in many ways and his spiritual growth is so very visible in his daily walk. His wife, Kayla, supports Kevin in this new journey of their lives 100 percent and it is so spiritually filling to see them working as a team for the Lord. They have four children, Alex, Presley, Harper, and Colin. UPWARD has begun and on the first game day between 500 and 600 community people walked through the church doors and heard a message from God. The family members are able to watch the children play basketball and both children and their families receive a message about God. What a wonderful outreach program. GMA has been going strong with really good attendance; this is also a great outreach program, because many of the girls are not members of the church and their families do not attend church. Michelle Knobloch and Alisia Wright appreciate the assistance given them by Debra DeClue and Joan Dostell. I apologize if I left anyone out. Any help at all is greatly appreciated. Our Men's Fraternity is preparing to begin a new series. This is another outreach program for any man who wants to attend. From the video clips I have seen, these are powerful lessons on how to be a good Christian husband and father. The Women's Tuesday Community Bible Study is going strong as usual and is truly a blessing for those attendees. The SHINE conference for girls and women has now sold over 300 tickets. Jaclyn Rowe will be the speaker to these young ladies. It is hard to believe, but in March Celebrate Recovery will have its first anniversary of going through the 52 weeks of curriculum and reaching out and touching the lives of those with hurts, habits, hang-ups. There is no other word for this program but awesome; we are very lucky to have dedicated leaders and teachers. God is doing great work with this program. So many people help with CR that it would be impossible to name everyone; however, there are some very special people who we would not survive without. These are the women and men who keep the kitchen and security going. Brenda Wilson organizes the food supply for every week and volunteers from Sunday School classes help her prepare and serve those attending CR. There is no way possible to show them how thankful we are for their service. January was a short month since the weather was not our friend a couple of weekends; however, prayers and worship still happened in homes on those days. Sunday night we voted to make a change in our Sunday night services; we will be meeting at church on only the first Sunday night of each month for a prayer meeting, quarterly business meetings, and taking of The Lord's Supper. However, the other Sunday night services will be held in members' homes with all participants studying the same lessons. We are praying that this will make us stronger in the Lord. Please pray for us as we pray for you. Jim Ainsley, Pastor • Deborah Rauhutt, Reporter

**Stony Point, Mineral Point**, is thankful to report that Cheyenne Lucher presented herself for baptism Wednesday night, January 4, 2017. Cheyenne was given the hand of Christian fellowship. Praises to God for Pastor Claude's hip surgery going well. He

is feeling so much better. Several other members have had medical tests and are in need of prayer. Thank you !!!  
Claude Evans, Pastor  
Debrah Colemam, Reporter

**Landmark, DeSoto**, reports that Bro. Denver page was glad to fill the pulpit at Charity, Bismarck and at Landmark this month. Unfortunately, at Landmark because Bro. Wayne and Sis. Ruth both came down with a virus. Thankfully, the Lord has brought them back to their health and they are functioning well once again. We've had much illness, etc., going on as usual. Sis. Glenda Perry's husband, Jim, has been in the hospital and at rehab, back and forth. He definitely stands in the need of prayer, along with his family. Bro. David Burch also needs prayer, he passed out the other evening. We are awaiting news as to what the doctor thinks may have been the cause of that. Many other illnesses, etc. going on with our church members and friends that I'm sure I would leave some out, just suffice it to say that Landmark can always benefit from your prayers. Well, we have a new President, new nominees to be approved or disapproved, and new things going on in our government. Whether you voted for him or not, or agree with the things that he is proposing or not, we are obligated to pray for those in authority according to the Word of God. So, let's always remember to pray for those in authority. Until next month or the Lord's return, ( which may be soon)  
Wayne Gibson, Pastor  
Sharon Page, Reporter

Hello from **Black Creek Missionary Baptist Church in Poplar Bluff!** God still reigns and is the great physician. Sis. Caitlyn Davis had surgery to put a shunt in her head to relieve pressure on her brain. The surgery was a great success and she is doing much better. For our fourth Sunday fellowship dinner there was more food brought than people. Praise God for our ladies. Bro. Troy and Sis. Patty missed out (their fault) since they are on diets. For our family night in January, we watched the movie

"God's Not Dead II," We enjoyed hot dogs, chips, and popcorn. There were 30 people in attendance. Bro. Troy brought the message at the Fifth Sunday meeting at Bethlehem. He preached on "Why Am I a Baptist." We were small in number but great in spirit. Afterwards, we shared a wonderful meal. We are always praying for our sister churches. May God bless you all.  
Troy Sisk, Pastor • Ellen Boxx, Reporter

**Lower Doe Run, Ellington** reports that they enjoyed a blessed Fifth Sunday Singing at Ohlman last month. We were thankful to see young people singing their hearts out in praise to God. We hadn't had that many young people for a while. We were sorry that Mt. Olive didn't get to come since they woke up with ice that morning. Our Pastor has been back in the Book of Romans and we learn more each week. Continue to pray for our families that are not able to attend the services at the church. "The Girls Conference" is not sponsored by our church but we recommend it. It is sponsored by Jaclyn Rowe who has been a blessing to our Ladies Retreat. You can find her on the web. This should be a must for our young girls and sponsors from all the churches.  
Melvin Meade, Pastor • Carolyn Meade, Reporter

Hello from **Ozark Heights, Potosi**. January was a great month with inspirational services and fellowship. We had to cancel church because of bad weather. The ice was so pretty but we are glad it's gone. We had to re-schedule our Children's Program again. It is going to be February 26th, If the Lord is willing. Our Teen Standards Class is reaping a Harvest. Wednesday night following the Tuesday night meeting, Summer Bourbon came forward and ask to join the church and be baptized that next Sunday. God is good. We thank Bro. Gary and Sis Debi for opening their home to these young people and instructing them on how to be good stewards in this mixed up world! We still have much sickness and loss of loved ones. We pray for comfort for the families and may they feel God's loving arms around them. May God Bless and Keep each and every one. Until next month Pray for each other, the lost, our country and our government.  
Brian Kingston, Pastor • Naomi Geri Griggs Lawson, Reporter

Greetings from **Bethlehem, Doniphan!** If the year of 2017 is going to pass as quickly as January, then December will be here before we know it. January was a good month for Bethlehem. We hosted the Fifth Sunday Associational Meeting on the 28th of which it was very uplifting to be a part. We heard from the following speakers on "Why I Am a Baptist." Bro. Dale Fish on "We believe in the inspiration and inerrancy (lack of error) of the Scripture." Bro. Larry Edwards, Sr. on "We defended Christian liberty during the times of persecution." Bro. Brian Whitlock on "We must be born again before being a part of the church."

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## FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • January 2017

### General Fund:

Balance December 31, 2016		\$	135,945.94
January Receipts:	\$	<u>3,382.96</u>	\$ <u>3,382.96</u>
Total Available		\$	139,328.90
Disbursements:			
Web Site Fee 2017	\$	15.00	
Web Master 2017	\$	1,200.00	
Assistant Director's Salary	\$	<u>450.00</u>	
Total Disbursements	\$	1,715.00	\$ <u>(1,715.00)</u>
Balance January 31, 2017		\$	137,613.92

### From Our Assistant Director...

January in Missouri is always unpredictable weather-wise and this January was no exception with some of our churches canceling services because of ice and bad weather. Of course it was not as bad as it could have been but it did interrupt things for a while.

After preaching at Loyalty in Sparta, IL the first Sunday of the new year my wife and I did some traveling and visiting other churches, attending the visitation in Tyler, Texas, when Sis. Edith Darst passed away

and conducting the funeral of my Uncle, Perry Lee Jr., in Fort Smith, AR. It is good to be back home for a while.

It is encouraging to hear of souls being saved and baptized in our churches and to see how pastors are leading their churches to greater heights in God's service. What a blessing to see men who have been called of God surrender to His will and give themselves in service.

Let's keep encouraging one another as we have the oppor-

tunity.

Remember, **Pastors & Staff**, do your best to attend the Renewal Retreat March 17-18 at Camp Garwood. Make sure you go to the BMAMO web page ([bmamo.org](http://bmamo.org)) and read the Child Protection Policy, and Complete the Adult Screening form that is required of all adults staying at camp overnight for any activity during the year. It will take a few minutes and helps keep camp safe.

We hope to see pastors and other staff members at the Retreat.

### • World Missions Sunday From Page 1 •

to 51555.

3) The same links are available on the BMAA Missions Facebook page.

4) You may access the information at the following website: [www.bmamissions.org](http://www.bmamissions.org)

5) It will be available on the Day by Day broadcast via Facebook page: Lifeword Media Ministries.

6) A downloadable World Missions Day video will be available February 1. You may request a DVD of the video and ask any other questions by emailing Paige West: [paige@bmamissions.org](mailto:paige@bmamissions.org)

Thank you for being part of the team that has such a significant role in God's kingdom! May God continue to bless BMA Global Missions!

*Dr. John David Smith, Executive Director*  
BMAA Missions

### Please read the following Missions stories that remind us of how important World Missions Sunday is to our work.

#### Cape Verde

As the small (and very crowded) passenger van rattles across the cobblestone road, it finally struggles over the last mountain top after the hour-long trip from the tiny airport, and the destination for this trip... the small, seaside village of Tarrafal (Tare-a-fall) comes into view. Descending the mountain and entering the village brings sights of many cement-block buildings and houses that appear to be only partially complete. The village is quiet yet picturesque. The collection of buildings and houses hug the seashore as they curve around the natural bay, and a number of multi-colored fishing boats on the beach, with the setting sun across the ocean as their backdrop, provide a window into life

in this place. Tarrafal is located on the island of Sao Nicolau in the Cape Verde Islands, and it is the home of the BMA national missionary family of Eudo and Celi Rodrigues.

Eudo and Celi both came to Christ through a BMA Missions ministry on a different island in Cape Verde. After they were married, they moved to Tarrafal to preach the gospel and plant a church in this place where the only religious expressions were nominal Catholicism and a lot of animism. The move from their island was tantamount to leaving their country since they had never ventured far from their birth island. God has honored their obedience these past few years by allowing them to build a very strong church. Them and their 3 children are totally committed to making disciple makers among their people.

Did you know that the World Missions Fund allows BMA churches to partner with Eudo and Celi..... and HUN-

DREDS of other national missionaries in over seventy countries of the world? Feb. 26, 2017, is World Missions Day! Every dollar given on that day will go the World Missions Fund. We are asking churches and individuals to partner with missionaries like Eudo and Celi all around the world!

#### Armenia

The awe-inspiring view of a snow-capped Mt. Ararat (yes, the one from Noah's ark fame) is visible from almost every vantage point throughout the country of Armenia. With a population of slightly more than three million, Armenia is a land rich with biblical history and the home of a present-day church multiplication movement. It is also the home of national missionary Asatur Nahapetyan, his wife Jasmine, and their three children who live in the capital city of Yerevan. Bro. Asatur is a long-time partner with BMA Global Missions. He also serves as the leader of the Baptist Union in Armenia and the president of the European Baptist Federation.

Armenia was the first country in the world to claim Christianity as its official religion. Bro. Asatur likes to greet fellow believers with his famous, "Welcome home!" upon their arrival to his beautiful country. Since most Armenians belong to the Armenian Apostolic Church (Eastern Orthodox), it is considered a Christian country, but it is almost completely surrounded by non-Christian neighbors.

Bro. Asatur reports that in the early 1990's when the former Soviet Union fell, there was one Baptist church in all of Armenia. Today there are almost 150 Baptist churches and about sixty church plants. There is a robust church multiplication program, a well-developed seminary, and ministries to some of the creative access countries on their borders. All of these churches have been planted without the help of an international missionary and through partners like the BMAA. Bro. Asatur speaks very fondly of BMA Missions as being one of the primary partners throughout the years with key men like Grady Higgs, Jerry Kidd, and Jeff Franks having high esteem in the hearts of our Armenian brothers and sisters.

BMA Global Missions desires to continue supporting this worthy church multiplication movement! Your gift to the Global Missions Fund on World Missions Day (February 26, 2017) will make that possible. Pray and give for eternal change!

#### Bolivia

The boat slowly comes to rest near the river bank as the crewman throws the rope to one of the men in the anxiously awaiting crowd in the tiny village. The people are excited to see the boat and all that it brings to their remote population. The villagers are welcoming with a bounty of food including roasted pig and bananas. The sweltering heat, along with the dense vegetation, houses built on poles, and unique bird sounds, makes it very clear that this is the Amazon jungle. This is also the home of BMAA national missionary David Flores and the ministry of the M.S. Arrington riverboat.

Bro. David and his wife Jennie, live in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, but the riverboat ministry takes him many miles away all through the Amazon basin to multiple villages on the Bolivian/Brazilian border. Bro. David's ministry offers medical care, nutrition, and clean water assistance to the people. Of course, for these many villages on the river, this ministry offers the "living water" found in Jesus Christ. Presently, the riverboat carries on ministry in thirty-seven villages with numerous churches planted.

When you determine to be a change maker and contribute to the World Missions Fund on World Missions Day (February 26, 2017), you partner with ministries just like the M.S. Arrington and missionaries like David and Jennie Flores. Please pray and give so that BMA Global Missions can continue to help plant more churches in this remote region of the world.

#### Costa Rica

World Missions Day is very close! On Sunday, February 26, 2017, churches all over the world will unite in declaring through our prayer and giving that the mission of making God great to the nations is our reason for existence! Through gifts to the World Missions Fund on that day, we will continue to support mission-

• See **WORLD MISSION SUNDAY Page 6** •

And Bro. CH Colburn on “We teach salvation by grace through faith without works.” Then Bro. Troy Sisk brought the message. What an awesome way to spend a Saturday morning! The Youth in the Harvest, due to weather, for this month was postponed. The February meeting will be held at Zalma MBC. It will be exciting to see what they have for us. The Third Sunday Singing was held at West Doniphan MBC January 15th from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Due to illness I wasn’t able to be there, but I heard the house was full and they enjoyed the fellowship and music. Cane Creek Ladies Prayer Breakfast was well attended in January. Our theme for the month was “Bring a Friend and Come.” The fellowship is very uplifting and it was wonderful making new friends. February’s meeting is on the 18th at 9:00 a.m. at Ryan’s in Poplar Bluff and we are to bring a quart size jar decorated for a “Praise Jar” to exchange with another lady. With Valentine’s Day being in February our husbands or boyfriends are invited to attend. We were blessed in January with having the following speakers: Bro. Rob Duckett and Sis. Jo, Bro. Jerry Adams and Sis. Susanne, Bro. Ernie Cate and Sis. Becky. Bro. Rocky Houston and Sis. Debbie were with us for two Sundays. Bro. Rocky and Sis. Debbie will be with us for the full month of March getting to know all of us better and letting us getting to know them better. Please pray for all of us as we are trying to know God’s will. Keep the faith. May the Lord bless and keep us all!  
Yvonne Hill, Reporter

Greetings from **Zion, St. Louis**. How is your New Year going so far? We’ve been enjoying good services at Zion. We surprised our pastor with a celebration for his 50 years in the ministry. His anniversary date was in December but with the holiday activities plus some bad weather, we waited until January. The weather was really nice as several friends and family came out to help Zion celebrate with Bro. Baker. Zion really appreciates her pastor and his wife. Some of our older members have been missing because of health issues. Others have missed a few services because of various aches, but most are back in services. We’ve enjoyed having Bro. and Sis. Allen Casey visit in a couple services. Bro. Baker received a large 60-inch TV from LifeWord. At the BMAA last April, pastors were asked to put their names in a drawing and Bro. Baker was the lucky recipient. The church was saddened to hear of the passing of Sis. Edith Darst in Tyler, TX. She was a little less than a month shy of her 102nd birthday when the Lord called her home. All our prayers are with her family at this time. Our ladies and men are looking forward to the State Auxiliaries March 4th at Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church. Hope to see a lot of you there. Pray for Zion as we remember to pray for you.  
Dennis Baker, Pastor • Norma Womble, Reporter

**Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church, Kewanee**, has had a great start for 2017. We have added one to the church roll. We welcome Jim McMillen to Kewanee. We hosted the SEMO District WMA on the 17th and had a large number of ladies present, good food, fun, fellowship and program. Our Tweens & Tots Valentine Party is February 11. They have their Valentine boxes ready for goodies. We are watching the videos from the Mission Department in preparation for the Special Missions Offering February 26th. We are saddened by the loss of one of our dear deacons, James Taylor. He will be truly missed. Please be in prayer for Sis Gloria and family. (Obituary on page 5) The week of March 6-10 we will be having Revival Services. There are five preachers in our congregation and they will each take one night to preach. Joey Duckworth, Monday...Rocky Houston, Tuesday... Caleb Houston, Wednesday...Don Adams, Thursday.. and John Beardsley, Friday. We are looking forward to a great week! Services will start at 6:30 each evening and our nursery is available.  
Dan Wisely, Pastor • Terri Adams, Reporter

HELLO TO ALL from **Oak Hill, Alton**. We hope everyone is doing great in the New Year! January 29th was the fifth Sunday in January so we had our fifth Sunday dinner. We always have GREAT food and enjoy the fellowship with our Brothers

## LifeWord Executive Director Stepping Down



After serving the past six years as LifeWord Executive Director, Dr. Steve Crawley shared with BMA staff, Wednesday, February 1, 2017, his decision to step down. He will continue to serve in his current role through the dates of the 2017 BMA national meeting (May 1-3) then transition back to his former position of chief financial officer.

“I am thankful to the churches of the BMA for allowing me to serve in this capacity. While I felt led to accept the position in 2011, I feel the assignment God gave me in the role of executive director has been completed, and it is now time to step aside and let someone with more media experience lead the ministry into the next chapter,” said Crawley.

In November of 2004, Dr. Crawley began serving at LifeWord in development and finance. Following the retirement of George Reddin in 2011, the LifeWord board appointed him as executive director. Prior to joining LifeWord, Crawley worked in the field of finance as corporate controller for Cellu Tissue Holdings, Inc. He holds a BS (Southern Mississippi), a MBA (Wil-

and Sisters in Christ. We also decided to start having our Wednesday night services at 6:30 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m. and everyone likes the earlier starting time. Events in February include starting practice for our Easter Cantata “The Night Before Easter” February 19th at 5:00 p.m., an hour before our Sunday evening worship time. Sis. Theresa will be directing the choir. We do not have a lot of events planned for the month of February but hopefully we will have more events for the month of March. Until next month I hope I will have some more good news to tell you but until then we will be praising and honoring our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God Bless!!  
Edward Casey, Pastor • Jennifer Williams, Reporter

## 50 Years In Ministry

January 21, 2017, Zion Baptist Church surprised Pastor Dennis Baker with a gathering of friends and family to help him celebrate 50 years in the Ministry.

The church presented Bro. Baker with a beautiful plaque with the scripture, I Timothy 3:1 “*This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.*”

Sis. Ladonna was given a lovely bouquet of flowers in a beautiful leaden crystal vase. Sister Ladonna has been at his side 48 years. They make a wonderful team together.

Bro. Baker was a student at Central Baptist College, Conway, AR when he felt the call to the ministry in December, 1966. He went home and talked with his pastor, Brother N. J. Gibson, and the very next Sunday preached his first message at Campbell’s Island Missionary Baptist Church in East Moline, IL. Central Baptist Church in Conway, AR licensed Bro. Baker to preach and then he was ordained to the gospel ministry by Campbell’s Island Missionary Baptist Church.

During these 50 years, Bro. Baker has pastured three churches. His first pastorate (1970-1980) was at Liberty Missionary Baptist Church in Gary, IN. After his job moved him to Texas, he pastured (1983-1988) Grace Missionary Baptist Church in Tyler, TX. Between 1985 and 1988, Brother Baker served as Director of the East Texas Missions District. Another job move in 1988 took the Baker family to California. From 1992 until 1998, he pastured the Landmark Missionary Baptist Church in Pittsburg, CA.

Bro. Baker has been pastor of Zion Missionary Baptist Church since the year 2000. Zion loves her pastor and wife. Their desire is to serve the Lord and to glorify God in all they do. Their lives show their dedication to a life of service.

Bro. Baker has a BS (Liam Carey University) in business, a MAR in religion (BMA Seminary), and a PhD in leadership (Dallas Baptist University). He was ordained into the ministry by Vardaman Street Baptist Church of Wiggins, Mississippi, in October of 2004.

During Dr. Crawley’s six years at LifeWord, the broadcast language count has increased to forty, and more than fifty LifeWord Community Radio stations have been implemented. In addition, integrated operations with sister BMA departments at the new BMA Global Ministry Center has occurred, reducing overhead costs to Lifeworld by \$150,000 annually. The ministry has also eliminated \$605,000 of debt and increased ministry expansion funds by \$700,000. Further, the Lifeworld team worked to assist in the migration of the former LifeWord Foundation to become the BMA Foundation in an effort to benefit other BMA departments long term.

Dr. Crawley will continue to be involved in the work of the BMA. “I’ve come to accept that my call into ministry is somewhat unique, as I find fulfillment working in the roles of finance and administration within the kingdom. Though I’m stepping down from my current position, my heart’s desire is to do all I can to assist the BMA with its missional mandate—making disciples.”



Bro. Dennis & Sis. LaDonna Baker

Are You  
**DEWing**  
it?  
Give a **Dollar**  
**Every Week**  
to **Camp Gawood**

• **CAMP From Page 1** •

nected to an on demand water heater. The electric bill wasn't as bad as I expected only \$ 150.00 above normal. Most of the water went down a floor drain. However there was about an inch of water throughout the camp director apartment. And the hot water was adding humidity to the air. This humidity created a lot of mold growth. After drying the space and pulling out the humidity. We removed the worst areas and treated the areas that weren't so bad.

We are also taking time to rearrange the apartment and improve the layout. This is an unexpected expense but I think we will be ok and I know that all things will work out for good. I'll put pictures on the face book page as we progress.

We spent the first Saturday of February pulling out most of the moldy ceiling and walls. We also burnt the trees from clearing land for the new dorm. Of course as the pile of trees burnt the fire spread through surrounding leaves. It was a fairly calm day so we just let it go. The fire slowly crept through the woods. The perimeter trail had just been cut so there was a 20' space which worked as a great fire break for us. We watched as the fire made its way to the trail through the woods. We were able to burn off the area from the slide almost all the way around to the shed. We put out the fire a couple hours before we had to leave for home. Then kept watch to insure it wouldn't refire. Hopefully we can do that again sometime. Its hard to catch a weekend that its not too dry, or too windy. It was a good weekend leaving 26 Saturdays until camp week.

The trail around camp is going to be very helpful. Not only for a fire break. But also for a train trail. Our plan is to have a real train for camp this year. The existing train, which some call a roller coaster will continue on its current run. The new trail will carry more passengers and travel much slower around the camp property. We still have some

**Obituaries**  
*In Loving Memory of Our Loved Ones*  
*Now With The Lord*

**Edith O. Darst** made her ascent into Christ's eternal kingdom January 20, 2017, just a month before her 102nd birthday. She was preceded in death by her parents, Irvin and Anna Priscilla Parkins; her husband C. A. Darst after 55 years of marriage; her son, Alfred W. Darst; and 4 sisters, Edna M. Parkins, Christina Halbrook, Rosalie Brand and Wilma Fox. **February 15, 1915 - January 25, 2017**

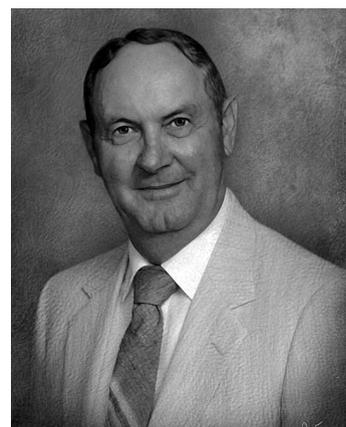


Edith Darst

Edith is survived by four grandsons: Gordon Darst of Winnsboro, David Darst of Palestine, Barry Darst of Jarrell and Clayton Darst of Winnsboro. She is also survived by ten great grandchildren: Tessa Darst, Toby Darst, Daygan Darst, Rain Darst, Danielle Darst, Gavin Darst, Liam Darst, Chandler Darst, Bailey Darst, and Halle Darst; and daughter-in-law, Marilyn Darst of Whitehouse.

Edith was born in Belgrade, Missouri, the youngest of five sisters. She met the love of her life, a young preacher and schoolteacher, Clarence Alfred Darst and they were married in 1937. For 38 years they served the Lord at the Bethany Baptist Church in St. Louis, Missouri. They later moved to Tyler, Texas in 1966 where they continued to build churches and spread the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Visitation was at Lloyd James Funeral Home in Tyler January 23, 2017, with a grave side service January 24, 2017. Edith was laid to rest next to her husband at Rose Hill Cemetery, Tyler, Texas with Pastor David Darst officiating.



Perry Lee Jr.

**Perry Lee, Jr.**, 92, of Fort Smith, AR, passed away Tuesday, January 24, 2017. He was born September 18, 1924 in Neelyville, MO. Jr. was a faithful member of Independence Missionary Baptist Church in Neelyville before moving to Fort Smith where he was a member of Old Liberty Baptist Church. He was an avid fisherman, hunter and gardener thru the years. His most loved passion was his family. He served as an EM3 aboard the USS Cleburne during WWII. He was preceded in death by his wife Vera Dodd Lee, parents Parie and Emily Lee, his brother Cephas Smith, and his sister Irene Hoffmann.

He is survived by his daughter Debra (Tommy) Tucker of work to do getting the rough spots smoothed out. But I think its going to be a good addition for us. The perimeter trail also provides a safety barrier for wandering kids. Its now impossible to accidentally wander off of our property and get lost in the woods.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at camp, which will be here before we know it!!

**We Can Help!!**

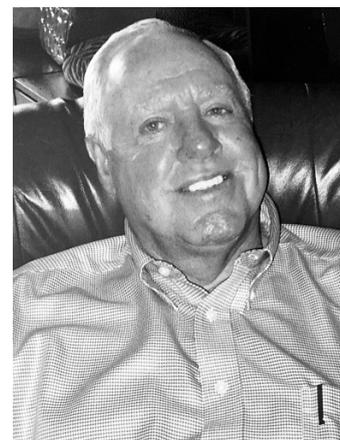
Are you looking for a project for your church or youth group? Contact Bro. Chris and see how you and your group can help camp and generate interest in the camp at the same time.

Texarkana, TX, his son Gary (Jenny) Lee of Fort Smith, six grandchildren: Warren (Tammy) Lee of Fort Smith, David (Jennie) Lee of Springdale, Melissa (Sam) Southerland of Fort Smith, Rebecca Lee Sharp of Blaine, WA, Dean (Jodi) Gardner of Denison, TX, Joseph (Angie) Tucker of Texarkana, TX and fifteen great grandchildren.

Visitation was January 26th at the funeral Home. The Funeral service was January 27th at Edwards Funeral Home Chapel with James Hoffmann officiating. Burial followed at Fort Smith National Cemetery with Military Honors.

Pallbearers were Warren Lee, David Lee, Dean Gardner, Sam Southerland, Roger Walters and Randy Walters. Honorary pallbearer will be Joseph Tucker.

Memorials may be made to Methodist Health and Rehab, 1915 South 74th, Fort Smith, AR 72903.



James Robert Taylor

October 3, 1941 - January 25, 2017

**James Robert Taylor, 75**, of Lilbourn went to be with the Lord on January 25, 2017 at his home.

He was born October 3rd, 1941 in Lilbourn, the son of the late James Park and Myrtle Fowler Taylor. He was a 1959 graduate of Lilbourn High School. January 22nd, 1961, he married his high school sweetheart Gloria Nell Ash at Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church in Marston. James devoted his life to God, his wife and family, and his love of farming.

James was a humble man, who was loved by all. He lived by the example of "Put God first, Pray and He will always hear you. Put your family second, and then your friends and everything else will fall into place."

James gave his life to God in July of 1954 and in 1965 began his service as a deacon in the Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church which he continued until his death.

Survivors include his loving wife Gloria of the home, best friend and brother Bill "Willie" (Carolyn) Taylor of Lilbourn, MO, and sweet sissy Carolyn Sue (Jerry) Hayes of Marston, MO. Three daughters and their husbands who James knew as "sons"; Kim and Ronnie Jones of New Madrid, MO, Kelly and Curt Poore of Jackson, MO, and Kathy and Kirk Palmer of New Madrid, MO.

James was Ge-Pa to his grandchildren and their families which are: Kyle and Ashley Denton of Cape Girardeau, MO, Katie and Tyler Jamison of Paragould, AR, Taylor and Matt Hamlett, James Curtis Poore, Park Poore of Jackson, MO, Makenzie (fiancé - Gage Silman) Palmer and Mason Palmer of New Madrid, MO. Great-grandchildren are Ian and Whitley Jamison of Paragould, AR, and Kwynn Denton of Cape Girardeau, MO.

James was loved by his many nieces, nephews, and a host of many dear friends. James Robert Taylor touched so many in his lifetime and he will be greatly missed!

Pallbearers were: Kyle Denton, James Curtis Poore, Park Poore, Mason Palmer, Tyler Jamison, Matt Hamlett.

Honorary Pallbearers were: Gage Silman, JR Blankenship, Ray Fowler, Danny Hall, Gene Speight, Jerry Hayes, Danny Hayes, Derek Hayes, Adam Hayes, David Taylor, Jason Taylor and Noah Taylor.

The funeral was conducted January 28th at 11 a.m. at Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church with Bro. Dan Wisely officiating. Burial followed in the Mounds Park Cemetery.

Memorial Donations may be made to the Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church, Hope Exchange, and St. Jude Children's Hospital.

## WMA & GMA NEWS

Articles for this column may be sent to

**WMA Secretary:** Norma Womble  
7421 Hillsboro House Spg. Rd.  
Cedar Hill, MO 63016  
e-mail - nrwomble@juno.com

Send all WMA Offerings to:

**STATE WMA TREASURER:**

Connie Reifsteck  
P.O. Box 190493  
St. Louis, MO 63119

Send all GMA Offerings to:

**STATE GMA TREASURER**

Shelia Polk  
P.O. Box 259  
Matthews, MO 63867

### Attention Ladies!

**Our State WMA meeting is fast approaching. It is scheduled for March 4th at 10:00 a.m. at Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church.**

The project promotion committee asks that each local WMA bring a special offering for our 2016-2017 project.

The project is:

**40%.....Missouri Baptist Paper**

**30% .....Andy Lahmann Work Fund**

**20%.....General Fund**

**10%.....Youth**

Your Project Promotion Committee  
Ladonna Baker, Sheila Polk, Sharon Page

### Attention Ladies & Men

The State WMA and State Brotherhood will meet **Saturday, March 4th at Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church.** The meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. Bro. Dan Wisely will be preaching in the WMA meeting.

### More Attention Ladies & Men

The Washington County District WMA and Washington County District Brotherhood will meet **Friday, March 10th at Charity Landmark Missionary Baptist Church in Bismarck, MO.** The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m.

• **WORLD MISSION SUNDAY** From Page 3 •

aries in over seventy countries. That number includes faithful national missionaries like Carlos Olivas in Costa Rica.

After serving as a pastor for numerous years, Carlos Olivas was lead to plant a church in northwest Costa Rica when he was sixty years old. With leadership from our national association in Costa Rica and participation from BMA Missions here in the U.S., a vibrant, self-sustaining church has been planted in Esparza in a region where there are almost no churches. Now, that church is an active participant in BMA Costa Rica and their efforts to plant more churches. Recently, Carlos joined the church planting fraternity of BMA Costa Rica where it is a requirement that you have a "Timothy" in order to participate. In other words, you have to be pouring your life into another potential church planter to take part.

The church at Esparza also assists in the sending of a missionary to Mozambique, Africa. This is an example of the partnerships made possible through the World Missions Fund. We want to connect with people just like Carlos all around the world in order to partner in church multiplication. We do not seek dependence from our partners where they become dependent on outside funds. We do not even really seek independence from them where they are planted and then forgotten. Interdependence is the desire. Interdependence is where churches all over the world (including Costa Rica and the seventy other countries of BMA Global Missions) partner, lean on one another, and mutually support the multiplication of more disciples, leaders and churches! We encourage you and your church to be changemakers by connecting to these world-wide ministries on World Missions Day!

## New Spanish "Day by Day"

LifeWord's Spanish Facebook page (LifeWord en Español) is only a month old, and it will soon include the Hispanic version of Day by Day with a slightly different twist: With the blessing of their pastors, young people will be used as social media missionaries to create vlogs (video blogs) to package the work of the BMA in a culturally relevant way for Hispanics in the United States and the Americas. LifeWord's Programming Director Luis Ortega is leading this initiative, and the first broadcast will be sometime in the first quarter of 2017.

"I'm here to serve our churches and I want to serve them better by providing more information about BMA work using the translated version of LifeWord's newsletter, a synopsis of the LifeWord portion of mission:world and monthly visits to Hispanic churches around the BMA," explains Luis. He went on to say that teenagers in Guatemala and Mexico have already created the first vlogs for broadcast. "I have challenged these young people to figure out how to tell their friends about Jesus and make catchy, appealing videos of less than five minutes. They are at an age where they need to be positively engaged in social media conversations about Jesus."

Eventually, they will also be used to translate LifeWord's newsletter and *mission:world*, so all American and Central and South American Hispanics can know what's going on in the BMA and how to pray for their churches and the departments. They will travel within their countries to interview church members and others, young and old, gathering stories to share with their American counterparts.

Luis began to see this need for information among the Hispanic churches, church members, and pastors as he met people interested in LifeWord Community Radio during his media-training trips to the Americas. They often felt disconnected from what was going on in BMA departments. All print and visual media was in English, and information about BMA departments was not understandable for Hispanic church members.

"Now, more than ever, some Hispanics have fears of the unknown in the States and I need to connect with my own church members and those around our work so they can feel at peace in this country. For example, we want them to stay connected to BMA happenings by participating in World Missions Day and LifeWord Sunday, for example, so they need something in their hands that tells them about LifeWord, that we have 40 languages and many broadcast areas they can pray for."

To invite Luis to speak, individuals, churches and groups can contact him at [luis@lifeworld.org](mailto:luis@lifeworld.org) or call 501-358-3835.

**An opportunity to help on a MISSION FIELD....**

### Maximum Impact 2017

**Michel Poirier-BMA missionary to Canada and Haiti**

As we begin a new year in Quebec, Canada, we are expecting the Lord to do great things with his people, especially through Maximum Impact, where we invite people in the area to Église Baptiste Missionnaire de Lévis. Those who have previously joined us for Maximum Impact know the work involved with distributing invitations so people can hear the gospel, but we are beginning a new work in a nearby town and the task is greater than before.

Each day from Monday to Thursday, February 27- March 2, we will distribute invitations in two locations beginning at 9 a.m. After a break for lunch at noon, we will walk the streets again until 4 p.m. then have dinner at 5 p.m. At 6:00 we will begin singing and preaching. On Friday, March 3, we will visit and tour Old Quebec City. If you're interested in a mission trip to French-speaking people, learning about French culture, touring the sights of Quebec and putting your feet to the

Annual Church Survey....

## We Want To Hear From YOU!!



John Merriweather

At the end of August 2016, Annual Church Survey forms were sent to the approximately 1,250 BMA churches on record with a due date of December 31, 2016. Information Services has received updated information from almost half of them, but the goal is for a much higher percentage. **It's not too late to send in the form** or go to <http://bmaamerica.org/annualchurchsurvey/> to give up-to-date church information online.

As an added value to all BMA churches, a church search feature has been created to make it easier for people to locate BMA churches in their area. Find your church listing at <http://bmaamerica.org/church-locator-map/> and let us know of any feedback you might have.

Director of Information Services John Meriweather says, "The goal of Information Services is to build lasting and strong relationships with all BMA churches that enable us to effectively communicate, connect to and work with each other. Having accurate information from each churches is critical to meeting this goal."

If you have any questions regarding the information above, please contact Lauren Noland in the Information Services department at 501-358-4007 or [lauren@bmaamerica.org](mailto:lauren@bmaamerica.org).

work of spreading the gospel, please come and be a part of Maximum Impact. Contact us through the BMA at (844) 262-8637 or call my cell at (418) 209-3710.

We are at the following address:

**Église Baptiste  
Missionnaire de Lévis.  
5129 Guillaume Couture  
Lévis Qc Canada  
G6V 4Z5**

**Brothers....** Dealing with men's issues  
and Promoting the Fellowship & Growth  
of Men in the BMA of Missouri

**The Journey of Faith**

by Dennis Baker, Brotherhood President

One of the faith heroes of Hebrews chapter eleven is Abraham. The characterization of Abraham's faith is based on the promises of God found in Genesis 12: 2-3. "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." God's promises were the beginning of Abraham's journey of faith, but they were also an introduction to God's redemptive plan.

Hebrews emphasizes the positive side of Abraham's journey. He answered God's call to go. He was willing to go somewhere he had never visited. He died never seeing all the impact of God's promises. He willingly surrendered to God's request to offer Isaac. Truly, Abraham deserved to be honored in the roll call of the heroes of faith. I think the Hebrew account is a description of how his journey of faith ended.

From the beginning of his journey Abraham believed God, trusted in God's promises, he understood that God would keep His promises. However, there seems to be a great awakening within Abraham's heart of just how awesome God really was.

Much like believer's today, Abraham's journey of faith had times when he was patient and impatient, other times he was relaxed, followed by fretting. Sometimes he was frustrated to the point that he tried to help God, suggesting the adoption of his servant Eliezer as an heir. Unable to see the long-range implications of his actions he submitted to Sarah's suggestion of Hagar, Sarah's handmaid, bearing him a son.

Abraham's willingness to offer his promised heir, Isaac, shows deeper confidence. He understood that God could raise up Isaac. Abraham's journey of faith had grown from the point that he believed God was a promise keeper, but God might need some help; to God has a plan and He will keep his promises. There are no obstacles too big for God! God keeps His promises.

Despite setbacks, unwise moves, and frustrations, Abraham never lost sight of the original promises of God, He would become a great nation and all the families of the earth would be blessed.

Abraham's life is an illustration of the journey of faith in the walk of the child of God. There are times when we are impatient and frustrated, resulting in our trying to help God, instead of waiting for Him to reveal His plan. But like Abraham, we must never lose sight that God is a God that keeps His promises and that there are no obstacles that are too big for God to handle!

**What Every Kid Needs:  
"A Role Model"**

By: Richey Hester • National Brotherhood Editor & Promoter

Men, as I write this article I think of one very important thing that we all need to do as men and that is to be a great role models for all children.

Steve DeVore has built a multi-million dollar company on the principle of role modeling. DeVore is president of Syber Vision, a company that markets instructional video and audio tapes on everything from golf to skiing to weight control. When DeVore was in college, he happened to watch a bowling tournament on television.

As he paid close attention to the movements of the bowlers, the thought struck him that if he could emulate their movements, he could probably achieve the same results.

After watching the bowlers closely for thirty minutes, he got in his car and drove to the local bowling alley.

He got an alley, picked out a ball, and for the next thirty minutes he did just as the professional bowlers had done on TV. He threw nine straight strikes and recorded a score of 278. His high-

**Activate: Evaluation + Implementation = Multiplication**

by Todd West, Director of Activate, DiscipleGuide

Evaluations are familiar to most of us today? Students are evaluated through testing, employees are evaluated by their employers, teachers are evaluated by administrators, and we conduct

our own self-evaluations; but have you considered the value of evaluating the ministries of your local church? Author and Pastor Dr. Hal Seed says, "To have a healthy church, you must have an intentional evaluation system."

Evaluating your church ministries is a very biblical practice. When Jesus wrote the letters to the seven churches in Revelation, he evaluated their works and encouraged self-awareness and repentance. Jesus wanted these churches to celebrate what was good but to also address what needed to improve. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said that "Every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them" Matthew 7:17-20. During Jesus' talk with his disciples in the upper room, Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful" (John 15:1-2). Jesus is clearly saying that the farmer regularly evaluates his vines to see if they are bearing fruit. As he evaluates, he takes action to cause them to be more productive. The farmer's job is to evaluate and make adjustments.

Evaluation and correction is the job of everyone who is responsible for producing fruit. Again Dr. Hal Seed makes this observation, "Whether you've been intentional about it or not, your church has an evaluation system. Every service is evaluated by every attendee. They talk about it afterwards in the lobby. They share their impressions between friends. If it's really good, others hear about it. If it's really bad, even more 'others' hear about it. We can't help ourselves; we are made in the image of a God who has evaluated everything he's ever made. Just read Genesis 1 and you'll see. At the end of every day, he graded his work."

One of the greatest surprises I've had in the past few

• See **ACTIVATE** Page 8 •

**6th Annual Men's Spring Retreat  
Camp Garwood**

**Friday, May 12, 2017 Starting at 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday May 13, 2016**

**Friday Night Speaker: Bro. Chris Polk**

**Who Can Attend?**

Men of all ages: you are encouraged to bring your friends who do not attend church.

**What is the Cost?**

There is no cost for those attending, but churches are encouraged to bring an offering to help with the expenses. We will be taking up an offering at the meeting to help with the expenses.

**What is the Purpose?**

We want to provide fellowship and encouragement for men of all ages.

**What to Bring?**

You are encouraged to bring your 22 rifles (young men), 12 or 20 gauge shotguns, personal items, sheets, blankets (or sleeping bag), and pillow. Beds, food and fun are provided. Ammunition will be furnished by the BMA of Missouri Brotherhood. If you do not own a shotgun there will be some you can borrow at camp.

**Questions: Contact the following for more information:**

**Dennis Baker** 636-461-1625, 5146 Darkmoor LN  
Imperial, MO 63052, bbsafety4332@gmail.com

**James Hoffmann** 314-277-8644, jmhoff@charter.net

**Claude Evans** 573-562-7036, cbe34@hotmail.com

To assure plenty of food is available please contact one of the men above by **May 7th**, so we can get an idea of how many will be attending.

est score up to that point was 163. By emulating a proficient role model, he improved his performance by 115 pins. But the key was that he had to do it just as the pros had done.

With that in mind, I want to ask you a question. If your children, grandchildren or kids in your church were to emulate your life as closely as Steve DeVore did professional bowlers, what kind of life performance would the child turn in? Would the child improve his life by 115 pins or would they be throwing gutter balls?

If the child acted just as you did, what kind of a person would they be? What are the things they would value in life? How would they treat other people? Would they value a relationship with God? As I've thought about that question it's prompted me to reexamine the kind of example I'm giving to my child.

And if we are going to

live lives like God, we're going to need role models to set the example on how to do it. Men, I'm here to tell you that you have the potential to be the greatest role model in the life of a child. There are three things to model for a child. That is Jesus, Purity, & Good Speech. Reference Ephesians 5:1-4.

Also, men I want ask you to continue supporting The Moral Action Agency. Dr. Adams plans to visit Washington DC for the Watchmen on the Wall Conference the week of May 22-26. Dr. Adams has made plans to meet with four new US Congressman and four new US Senators. He will participate in a prayer walk at the US Capital building. Please consider sending checks to the Brotherhood Treasurer to help support Moral Action, which is our Brotherhood project for 2016-2017 year. God Bless you All!

## BMAA Seminary Says “Thanks”

### Dear Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Missouri:

I want to thank you for remembering BMA Seminary with the BMA of Missouri Scholarship in memory of Kenneth Gibson.

The scholarship has been awarded to Joseph Duckworth of New Madrid, Missouri for the spring semester 2017. He is a distance education student. We have just begun the spring semester, which brings new blessings and challenges. We do not yet have final numbers from the Dean's Office, but indications are that this may be a record setting enrollment for spring semesters.

The Seminary is making preparations for the celebration this year of our sixtieth year in ministry. One thing we are planning is to begin a newsletter which will either be circulated via e-mail or USPS. If you are not already on our e-mail list but would like to be included, please send an e-mail to my assistant, Mrs. Keri Southern, at [president@bmats.edu](mailto:president@bmats.edu).

May God bless you as you continue to serve Him. Please call on me anytime to tell you personally about the work of BMA seminary.

Sincerely,

Charley Holmes, President • BMA Seminary

## Master's Builders Spring Retreat

The Master's Builders met January 17-20 at Springlake Baptist Assembly in Lonsdale, Arkansas, for their 2017 Retreat. There were a total of 27 Builders that met for our time of relaxation, fun and food. Some stayed for the whole time at our gathering place and some came and went. We all enjoyed our time together! The building has bunks, showers and restroom facilities on opposite sides of the building (ladies on one and the men on the other) with a large gathering room in the middle, with a large fireplace and kitchen.

What fun we have! We visit and eat, play games and eat, and a lot of carrying on and eating! Wayne Wimberly, of Joaquin, Texas, led in our singing and devotional time on Wednesday night. Bro. John Mangum, our Office Coordinator, came on Thursday to give us an update on our past year, upcoming jobs, and finances. Max and Wilma Adams of El Dorado, Arkansas, came with Bro. Mangum, and we all enjoyed their visit. Max will celebrate his 90th birthday on March 24th and he and Wilma are one of the couples who were the beginning of The Master's Builders in 1991.

We have 4 building projects already planned for the spring! Please pray for our men as they try to serve the Lord in this ministry.

2016 was very hard for our group as 5 of our men and 2 of our women went Home. Losing them was a deep loss for us but was definitely Heaven's gain.

Nelda Malone, Reporter

### • ACTIVATE From Page 7 •

years is the reluctance of some churches and even pastors to take a closer look and evaluate what's going on with the ministries of their local church. I am so surprised because many of these same churches are either plateaued or in a state of decline. Many churches and even some pastors seem to be content to complain about the condition of the church and lack the motivation to look closer at why the church is not moving forward. I'm not sure why this fear or reluctance exists, but we cannot deny that church evaluation is a biblical principle. Evaluation is a critical first step toward becoming a healthier church. As many have stated over the years, "Great things seldom happen accidentally."

There is a great church revitalization movement happening now nationwide. Church leaders across the board know that now is the time for churches to take a closer look. *Activate* is a BMA church revitalization effort that is available to you right now! Our goal at DiscipleGuide is to come alongside any church, regardless of size or age, to help you systematically evaluate the health of your church and provide the tools to becoming healthier.

For more information please contact [heidi@discipleguide.org](mailto:heidi@discipleguide.org) or call us at DiscipleGuide, 1-800-333-1442.

## 2017 Missions Banquet

Oak Ridge Baptist  
Church in Cassville, MO

Saturday, February 26th  
6:30 p.m.  
Cassville Senior Center  
1111 Fair St.

Tim Tyler, Guest Speaker  
“Water For Christ”

RSVP by February 20  
314-847-2552

Church Provides Catered Meal  
by John Sullivan

## Learn Spiritual Boldness This Spring

Everyone admires those who display great strength and courage. Newspapers praise firefighters who brave the dangers of a burning house to save lives. Television and cinema recreate scenes of brave soldiers risking their lives in battle. And social media proclaims the courage of cancer survivors who have “beaten the odds.”

It's easy to assume that strength and courage are traits reserved for a few select heroes. But did you know that the Bible commands strength and courage

## 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 until a request is received to remove it.

**Joseph Duckworth**, a member of Kewanee missionary baptist church is available for Preaching or however the Lord leads. Contact him at 573-521-8039.

**Rocky Houston**, a member of Kewanee missionary Baptist church is available for pulpit supply or as the Lord leads. Contact him at 573-521-6385.

**Caleb Houston**, youth minister of Kewanee is available for weekend revivals, youth events, and pulpit supply. Contact him at 573-521-7826 or [calebhouston@yahoo.com](mailto:calebhouston@yahoo.com).

**Denver Page**, a member of Landmark Baptist Church in DeSoto is available for pulpit supply as God leads. He can be contacted by home phone 636-942-3503 or cell phone 314-283-7243.

**Richard Smith**, from Matthews, is available for pulpit supply or however the Lord leads. Contact him at 573-931-0455 or through his Pastor, Chris Polk at 573-380-1975.

**James Hoffmann**, is available for pulpit supply. Contact him at 314-277-8644 or by e-mail at [jmhoff@charter.net](mailto:jmhoff@charter.net).

**Brian Adams**, a member of First Missionary Baptist Church of Matthews is available to preach. Contact him by e-mail at [bkadams27@yahoo.com](mailto:bkadams27@yahoo.com).

**Jerry Adams**, former pastor of Bethel, Sikeston, is available for pastoral service or pulpit supply as God leads. Contact Him at 573-380-0284.

for all believers? This type of spiritual boldness is not based upon trusting in ourselves but, instead, trusting in our God.

This spring, *Compass* uncovers spiritual boldness through a study of Joshua. From the entrance to the Promised Land to its possession, each story will highlight God's work and connect you to the larger picture of Scripture. This study will show how God fulfills his promises not only to Israel but to us as well. Each lesson will focus on the Christ-centered application that God's promises are true and firm. God's faithfulness in Christ Jesus is the ultimate basis of the Christian's strength and courage.

Lessons in the spring edition of *Compass* are written by Dr. Gary O'Neal, pastor of Oak Park Baptist Church



Dr. Gary O'Neal

in Little Rock, Arkansas, and adjunct professor for the BMA Theological Seminary and Southeastern Baptist College. Dr. O'Neal brings over thirty years of pastoral and teaching experience to the written page.

To learn more about *Compass* or to order, visit [discipleguide.org/compass](http://discipleguide.org/compass) or call 800.333.1442.

The deadline for turning in this information is April 1st. As we have stated before, the Association exists to serve our churches and their members.

## Lifetime Achievement Awards

by BMAA President, Paul White

There is a group of men to which all of us are indebted - the men who have given their lives in service to the ministry. This year at the national meeting, we want to recognize those brethren who have been in the ministry for more than sixty years.

But, for us to do this we need your help. We would love to have their picture with their name and the number of years they have been in the ministry. Just send this information to our clerk James Ray Raines along with your church letter or e-mail them to my office at [bmaofarkfrontdesk@gmail.com](mailto:bmaofarkfrontdesk@gmail.com). If you do not have a photograph, please send the other information.